

Perhaps these details may prove tedious to the reader, but the importance of schools and the interest we feel in the welfare of the rising generation about us, is our only apology for giving them. At another time I hope through your paper to say something more to your readers on the subject of schools.

R. ARMSTRONG.

To the Editor of the Polynesian.

Sir,—In Nos. 12 and 13 of your paper, I notice two short articles referring to the Silk Plantation of Mr. Titcomb at Waikiki. I am happy to affirm that the main statements in those articles are correct, but I am sorry to see such a mistake as appeared in No. 12. It is in the following words, viz: "has now eighty acres under cultivation."

The trees are planted not more than one yard apart, or one tree to each square yard. Now if there are 80 acres under cultivation there must be 337,200 trees, instead of 100,000 I suppose there are about 20 acres now covered with trees, which at one tree per square yard would amount to 96,000 trees, about the number on the ground.

Mr. T. has 80 acres that he hopes before long to get covered with Mulberry trees, and from this fact may have originated the mistake above referred to.

It may be thought unwise to place the Mulberry trees so near together. The reason that the owner of the Plantation has given, is that the soil is rich enough to support the trees thus nearly in contact; hence the time and labor of running over double the ground is saved.

That the owner of the Plantation judges rightly with regard to the strength of the soil, no one can doubt who sees the weight and beauty of the leaves with which the trees are loaded.

That one can see the trees grow would be considered a large story to tell, but by actual measurement a stem of the Canton tree grew 4 feet in 39 days.

I have made these corrections that those who have seen the Plantation may know how to understand the statements before referred to, and that those engaged in the same enterprise, may judge correctly of its real state. Yours, &c. A Resident of *Kauai*.

## THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14, 1840.

We frequently hear it said by strangers, "What a pity that so much ill-feeling should exist between the missionaries and other foreign residents in these islands." We agree that it is a matter of regret, but at the same time, we think that it has been exaggerated, and not a little heightened by the partial and ill-judged representations that have been given to the world. Every writer, of late years, who has treated on the subject, has thought it necessary to dwell upon this point. If his tastes and connexions lead him to favor the missionaries, his pages are filled with eulogiums on their zeal, disinterestedness, wisdom and purity, and with diatribes against the vice, selfishness and violence of their opponents. If, on the contrary, he forms his ideas from intercourse with the residents, he lauds, in equally strong terms, their liberality, enterprise and intelligence, while he accuses the missionaries of bigotry, worldliness, ambition and many other bad qualities. Now in these, as in all partisan accounts, there is a mixture of truth and error, and the latter is particularly conspicuous in the high coloring which is given to the animosity which prevails between the two classes. In our opinion, it is little, if any, stronger than that between the political parties in our own country. At the present moment, there is less of it than we have before known, and it may therefore afford us a good opportunity for examining into the respective merits of both in advancing the cause of improvement and civilization not merely here, but through the islands of Polynesia. We begin with that class whose influence has been least understood and greatly misrepresented even by writers friendly to their cause—we mean the foreigners, distinct from the missionaries.

To present this subject in a proper view, we must draw the attention of our readers to the actual condition of the savages of Polynesia, before their character became modified by intercourse with foreigners. Then by showing what causes have operated to effect the many changes which have since occurred, resulting in their present state of semi-civilization, we shall be able to judge how much of this can be attributed to the influence of that class of individuals to which we have referred. It will also be necessary to advert to the missionary operations, and their results.

All the early navigators found the natives disposed to treachery and plunder, characteristics which have been repeatedly experienced even to this day, by those whose duties or interests have led them to visit groups either wholly or partially unknown. When exceptions occur, they appear to be rather the result of fear or cupidity, than of a friendly spirit. A supreme selfishness dominated in the breasts of these savages, affording a painful contrast to the hospitality which the American Indian exercises towards those whose necessities are greater than his own. Tasman and Marion were attacked at New Zealand, Wallis at Tahiti, Hergeest commander of the *Dedalus*, with Mr. Gooch the astronomer were massacred at this island. This very year we have to record the murder, in a most treacherous manner, of two of the officers of the U. S. Exploring Expedition, at the Fiji, evidently done with no other motive than to possess themselves of their arms and clothing. There is scarcely a group of islands which has not been the scene of some deplorable cruelty, at the commencement of intercourse with the whites. The first impulse of the natives at sight of a ship appears to have been to surprise and capture it, and it has been only by repeated defeats, or prompt and efficient punishment, that they have been taught their own weakness. In some instances the natives have regarded their first white visitors as gods, and as such, revered them. While this opinion obtained, they were civil, hospitable, and obsequious. But this deportment was the result of their fear of disastrous consequences to themselves, should they offend the deified strangers, and continued no longer than their belief. They were kind or cruel, as their immediate selfish interests might direct. Even at this day the Fiji islanders consider the shipwrecked mariner and his property as lawful prizes—the one to grace his cannibal feast, and the other to gratify his vanity. No other right than that of the strongest or most artful, is acknowledged. Neither must we suppose that this spirit is shown only in their relations to foreigners. Selfish and cruel as savages are towards strangers, they are none the less so to their own race. Navigators differ somewhat in their respective accounts of the various tribes they have visited, but not more so than would naturally arise from the different circumstances under which their acquaintance was made. No one can peruse their pages, without being convinced that the savages of Polynesia were at the date of their discovery, a 'desperately wicked' and vicious race. Incest and sensuality were universal, and produced no shame. Lying was not considered a fault. Child murder was common, and not regarded as a crime. Human sacrifices were required by law. Cannibalism extensively prevailed. None were superior to theft. Cruelty was the boast of the warrior, and not even the ties of kindred were proof against treachery. Intoxicating or rather stupefying drinks were in daily use. Always at war, their vilest passions were ever dominant. The chiefs practised the most grinding tyranny, and the common people had all the meanness and cunning of slaves. Their most attractive quality, it cannot be called a virtue, was a kind of easy and listless good nature, never

to be depended upon, when any of their passions were called into play. If indeed a better disposition was sometimes displayed, and their dark characters occasionally enlivened by touches of humanity, they were sufficient only to redeem their claim to that title. And when we meet with individuals enabled by the force of their natural talents to rise superior to the common vices of their race, it marks but more strongly the degradation of the remainder. La Perouse though fresh from the Rousseau school of innocence of savage life, writes, "The most daring rascals of Europe are less hypocritical than these natives. All their caresses were false. Their physiognomy does not express a single sentiment of truth. The object most to be suspected is he, who has just received a present, or who appears to be the most earnest in rendering a thousand little services."—*Vol. I. p. 377.*

If such then, in plain reality is their character, it must be a worse than heathen corruption that could add anything to their villainess. Still we have heard much of the sad results which have followed from the introduction of the vices and mal-practices of civilized nations among the simple inhabitants of these secluded isles—but until some proof is adduced, more cogent than the sighs of poetic sentimentality, we must be permitted to doubt the correctness of the opinion. We believe, in fact, that so far from any deterioration having resulted from foreign intercourse, that its influence has been decidedly beneficial. In future numbers we propose to pursue the subject further, and to trace its progress and results to the present day.

A number of documents have been handed to us, relating to the atrocious treatment of foreigners in California last spring. They contain in substance, the same statements certified to on oath by a large number of witnesses, which we published in No. 2 of our journal. They were addressed to Capt. Forrest of the U. S. Ship *St. Louis*, and by him forwarded to his government, which no doubt will act promptly and effectually in the case. The following are the principal causes of complaint on the part of the American citizens.

That transient vessels are not fully authorized to redress our wrongs.

That our persons and property are at all times unsafe.

That we are at all times obliged to submit to any imposition put upon us by the authorities, having no one to represent or sustain us.

That American citizens when arrested, are allowed no judicial trial and therefore are obliged to suffer according to the whims of the powers that be.

That many have been threatened, with being compelled to labor at public works, without having violated the laws of the country.

That property to a large amount has been taken from American vessels to satisfy the demands of a party or the government, and no restitution as yet made.

That the general opinion is, that the government of California is not responsible for any overt act it may commit, the General Government of Mexico being alone liable; also that the U. States' government will take no notice of any insults to or damages done to one of her citizens.

That the amount of property here belonging to Americans at this time, from actual calculation, is worth one million of dollars, the whole of which is liable to be confiscated at any moment.

That hasty and arbitrary alterations are made in laws, relative to trade, much to the injury of business, after vessels have passed all the forms and requisites of the customs.

It is our opinion that the French government being prompt in the redress of wrongs done to her citizens, has conducted much to their well being and that they enjoy much more uninterruptedly than Americans their rights and privileges, many proofs having been given of their determination to protect her citizens in any emergency.

The following Resolutions were addressed to Capt. Forrest, of the *St. Louis*, by the

citizens of the United States, then in California.

Resolved, That the opportune arrival of the *Saint Louis* at this Port has tended much to lessen the evils and distresses of the American Citizens as well as British subjects arising out of the late political disturbances in this Territory.

Resolved, That Captain Forrest is entitled to our warmest acknowledgments for his prompt arrival at this Port and for his patient investigation of the causes of our recent difficulties, and for demanding of the public authorities, redress of past wrongs and future security and protection to American residents.

Resolved, That Captain Forrest be requested to represent to the Commander in Chief of the U. States naval forces in the Pacific, the necessity of the more frequent visits of the ships of war under his command to this coast and that the Government be informed of the importance of a consul or other authorized agent to reside permanently in this department of California, and that he be respectfully solicited to leave a competent officer in temporary charge of such consular duties, until the pleasure of the Government be known, as without such an arrangement this meeting have great reasons to fear additional outrages upon their persons and property.

Resolved, That the appearance heretofore of our ships of war has been too transient to afford any protection or security to our fellow countrymen residing on this coast (only one ship and a schooner, exclusive of the *Saint Louis* having ever entered this Port) and we cannot but indulge the hope, that the increasing commercial interest of this section of the country considered with reference to its unsettled condition, as well as the importance of securing the rights and privileges of settlers in the neighbouring territory of Oregon, may immediately induce the Government to employ a permanent naval force on this coast.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings signed by the Chairman and Secretary be immediately presented to Captain Forrest, with the request that the same may be transmitted through Commodore Claxton to the President of the U. States.

U. S. Ship *St. Louis*, Monterey, July 4, 1840.

Gentlemen, Your letter of yesterday enclosing the proceedings of a meeting held in Monterey, setting forth the necessity for a Consul or other authorized agent at that place, and requesting me to leave an officer capable of protecting the interests of our countrymen, and to whom they could appeal in any case of emergency, &c., &c., together with a communication upon the same subject from other respectable citizens of the U. States, residing in this territory, has been received. I have to reply, that the recent political disturbances, added to the present excited and unsettled state of the country, fully demonstrate the importance of some one clothed with official authority to grant the interests of such a numerous class of respectable, industrious, and enterprising American citizens, and I have accordingly appointed E. Estabrook, Esq., Consular Agent to remain among you, until the pleasure of the Commander in Chief of our squadron be known.

For the kind manner in which allusion has been made to my services in the settlement of the recent outrages upon the rights of our citizens, &c. &c., allow me to make a tender of my acknowledgements.

I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

F. FORREST.

To the Chairman, &c.

By the *Aleiope* we have received Chinese papers and the Repository up to June last. They contain much of local interest, with the usual quantum of 'special edicts.' Business is at a stand, and every thing wears a gloomy aspect. The papers hope for the best, but fear the worst. The Chinese were busy fortifying the approaches to Canton, though they pretend to disbelieve the coming of the 'British Expedition.' Opium smuggling still prevailed extensively on the coast. The *Empress of China* "went to ramble among the immortals" in February last. The Repository is filled principally with discussions upon the opium trade, and the growing difficulties between China and England. At California all was quiet.

Much curiosity has been excited both among the natives and foreigners, at the