THE PACIFIC
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☞ Communications from all parts of the Pacific will always be very acceptable.

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Commercial Advertiser.

Rural Sketches
Of the Hawaiian Islands.

A RIDE THROUGH PELE'S DOMINIONS.

The country lying between Kealakeakua Bay and Kau is probably the most barren and uninviting portion of the island of Hawaii. Frequent volcanic eruptions from Mauna Loa have sent streams of lava down its sides, leaving utter devastation behind. Over this rocky waste, attempts have been made to construct a horse-road, which in some places is perhaps better than no road at all, but nowhere throughout its length is it what it ought to be, or what it might be made with proper skill.

It was for a ride through this district that we set out for an early start on the morning of the 5th ult., well prepared for a tedious journey by a hearty breakfast at the generous table of our friend Capt. Cummings, whose quiet and peaceful domicil no one can leave without breathing warm *alohas* to its kind-hearted host and hostess. The sun was already up—such a sun as only shines over the sweltering Kona districts of these islands. Our mules started off at a good pace, but as there was no danger of their running away on those roads, we gave them slack reins. For the first ten miles the road runs along the coast, then gradually rises up the mountain till it enters the woods at an elevation of some three or four thousand feet. The heat and dryness of the lower roads are here exchanged for constant showers and cold, damp atmosphere. Rapid traveling is out of the question, and the traveler unaccustomed to the road must be content to move along at a slow pace.

A Night in the Woods.

We had progressed some twenty-five miles from Kealakeakua Bay, when, about 3 P.M., we reached a cluster of native houses, which appeared to offer a good stopping-place for the night. Dismounting, we entered a newly-erected grass house, into which the owner had not yet moved, but where we were invited to make ourselves at home. Hardly had we seated ourselves before a cheerful fire, when we recognized two faces, which we had frequently met in Honolulu. We soon learned that this hamlet was located in the midst of the *fungus* district, and that these natives, formerly residents of the metropolis, were engaged in gathering this article. No sooner were we recognized, than they sat about preparing a meal for us, and a fine cock, which jumped on the raised sill of the door to greet us with a cheery welcome, was the next moment dancing about—his head here, his body there. A short hour found us seated around a semi-civilized meal, consisting of stewed chicken, taro, bananas and poi, all which were enjoyed with the keenest relish. Here we were, on the side of Mauna Loa, four thousand feet above the level of the sea, in the midst of the dense forests that cover the mountain, the chilly air and constant rain making fires a necessity—here, twenty-five miles perhaps from any foreign dwellings, we were enjoying the hospitality of native Hawaiians. Say not that these rude natives are uncivilized, or that they have not planted in their bosom the first principles and the true spirit of Christianity. We say it with pride, and point to it as an evidence of the progress of civilization here, that nowhere else in the world have we ever met from strangers a kindlier hospitality or had our wants more cheerfully supplied, than among these rude mountaineers.

About Fungus.

We were now in the *fungus* district, and improving the few hours of daylight that remained, took a ramble in company with the natives, to observe the mode of collecting this article, which is becoming so important an export. Perhaps all who read this may not know that *fungus* is an edible excrescence growing on the trunks or limbs of decaying trees—a sessile protuberance or wort, from one to three inches long, so much resembling a human ear in form, shape and appearance, that the only name by which it is known in the Hawaiian language is *pepeiao iaoa* or *tree ear*. This excrescence grows on the trees as mushrooms grow on a manure heap, a crop of them starting up after each soaking rain. A few days only of wet weather are sufficient to produce a large crop, and the natives told us that they generally went over the same ground once a week, gathering a larger or smaller quantity, according to the amount of rain that has fallen. The gathering of *fungus* is the easiest work imaginable—a child picking the "ears" as rapidly as a man. When the *fungus* is picked it is thrown into a bag which hangs from the shoulder or is carried in the hand. When gathered it is generally wet. The *tutui* tree yields by far the larger portion of the *fungus* gathered, probably three-fourths. Besides this, some is gathered from the *koa*, *aila* and *hau* trees, but the product of these is not considered equal to that of the *tutui*. It is only on the *dead* trees that it grows, consequently many trees are cut down for the purpose of supplying the article.

It would seem hardly possible that the gathering of fungus could be made profitable, yet a little inquiry satisfied us that those engaged in it received better compensation for their labor than natives living in Honolulu. An active man can easily gather one hundred pounds a week, but generally each laborer does not average over fifty pounds, owing to the fact that rainy days are frequent, and there is no incentive to spur them to constant industry. The fungus, when gathered, is carried by the natives to their houses nearer the sea, where a hot sun effectually dries it. Here it is packed in large, bulky bales, and shipped by the schooner *Kekauluohi* to Honolulu, one-half cent. per pound being paid for freight. On reaching Honolulu, it finds a ready market, and is eagerly bought up by the Chinamen, who pay seven and a half cents per pound in cash for it. Thus it will be seen that an active native can earn *seven* dollars per week at this new and almost unknown branch of industry.

What is done with Fungus.

Fungus is an article of food—a luxury—consumed by the Chinese in and about Canton. It is used by them in soups and broths, as we use maccaroni, and also serves as a medicine, of which a kind of tea is made and used in some cases of sickness. To look at these "ears," as they lie all shriveled and dried up, one would not dream that they could be used as food. Yet who has not relished sweet and tender mushrooms, when properly cooked, which are considered a dainty in large cities! So, too, with fungus, when cleaned and prepared in the hands of skillful cooks, no luxury is more relishing. It is so expensive that only the higher classes in China can afford to indulge in it. Formerly, this article was brought from the Northern provinces of China to supply the Canton market; but of late years the troubles of the rebels have so deranged trade that only small quantities are obtained from thence. The Chinese fungus grows mostly on the mulberry tree, and is far superior to any that is imported, being much more tender and sweet.

The Fungus Trade.

When the fungus is bought by the Chinamen in Honolulu, for which cash is generally paid, it is taken to a storehouse, and, after being thoroughly dried, is packed in clean white cotton bales, about four feet in length, but, owing to the nature of the article, very light, the bales weighing generally about 75 lbs. It is then stored to await the arrival of the Hongkong packets, which call at this port from San Francisco now pretty regularly every month. Last week 49,283 lbs. were shipped off to that port. In China our island fungus commands now about $20 per picul of 133⅓ lbs., or about 15 cents per lb., the price frequently dropping to 12, 13 and 14 cents. It thus affords an excellent remittance for our Chinese merchants, better than gold or silver, which can only be sent at a loss. The China fungus, as we have before remarked, is a choicer article, and commands $40 per picul, or about 30 cents per pound.

Our readers will thus see that we have opened here a new and novel branch of industry, affording a livelihood to a considerable number of the natives on each of the islands, though Hawaii supplies by far the larger portion. The amount of fungus exported this current year will probably not be less than 500,000 lbs., of the value of $35,000. The crop is, however, an uncertain one, depending wholly on the rains and a wet season for its success; but probably twice that amount could be sold if gathered.

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(SUCCESSOR TO A. F. AYERSETT.)
At his late rooms, Queen Street. 202-1y

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Kaahumanu street, Honolulu, Oahu.
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Lumber and building materials, Fort St. Honolulu. 105-tf

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Dealer in Dry and Fancy Goods, Hotel Street, between Nuuanu and Mauna Kea streets. 11-tf

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Importers and dealers in hardware, paints, oils and general merchandise. 188-tf

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Cloths, Cassimeres and Vestings always on hand, and clothing made up in the best style. 217-1y

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Corner Queen and Kaahumanu streets.
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Will receive deposits, discount first-class business paper, and attend to collecting, etc. 112-tf

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Keep constantly on hand a full supply of every description of merchandise required by whale ships and others.
Money advanced at the lowest rates.
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Office, corner Kaahumanu and Merchant streets, and residence at Dr. Wood's Mansion, Hotel street.
Medical and Surgical advice in English, French, Spanish, and Italian.
Office hours from 11 A. M. to 2 P. M.; at other hours inquire at his residence. 1-tf

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Honolulu, August 12, 1857. 59-1y

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Continues his old business in the fireproof building, Kaahumanu street.
Chronometers rated by observations of the sun and stars with a transit instrument accurately adjusted to the meridian of Honolulu. Particular attention given to fine watch repairing. Sextant and quadrant glasses silvered and adjusted. Charts and nautical instruments constantly on hand and for sale. 44-tf

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ACCOUNTANTS AND CONVEYANCERS, HONOLULU.
N. B.—Averages adjusted, Protests extended, Legal Documents executed, with neatness and dispatch; Commercial Books opened and closed, and Custom House Brokerage done; Accounts made up and Collections faithfully attended to. 197-3m

J. H. WOOD,
Manufacturer, Importer and Dealer in Boots and Shoes of every description. Shoe Findings, Pump, Sole, Rigging, Harness, and Patent Leathers. Calf, Goat, Hog, and Buck Skins, Trunks, Valises, Sparring Gloves, Rolls, and Masks, Black ing, Brushes, Hosiery, &c. &c. Brick Shoe store, corner of Fort and Merchant sts., Honolulu, H. I. 1-tf

JOHN RITSON,
DEALER IN
WINES, SPIRITS,
ALE AND PORTER,
Honolulu. 272-1y

DUDLEY C. BATES,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
Merchant Street, Honolulu.

ALLEN & BERRILL,
SUCCESSORS TO
George W. Macy,
KAWAIHAE, HAWAII.
Will continue the General Merchandise and Shipping business at the above port, where they are prepared to furnish the justly celebrated Kawaihae Potatoes, and such other recruits as are required by whale ships at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms. 215-6m

MELCHERS & CO.,
Importers and Commission Merchants,
STONE STORE, KAAHUMANU ST., CORNER MERCHANT.
AGENTS FOR THE
HAMBURGH-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE CO.
PACKETS FOR MILAS, SAN FRANCISCO.
Sale of ASHOTT & REINHARDT'S SALT BEEF.
Sale of SUGAR, MOLASSES AND OTHER HAWAIIAN PRODUCE.
Consignments respectfully solicited, and all orders from the other islands and abroad, promptly executed.
GUSTAV C. MELCHERS. J. D. WICKE. F. A. SCHAEFER.
Bremen. Honolulu. Honolulu.
270-1y

THOS. SPENCER,
SHIP CHANDLER!
Dealer in General Merchandise, Island Produce, &c., and Commission Merchant.
Byron's Bay, Hilo, S. I.,
Will keep constantly on hand an extensive assortment of every description of goods required by ships and others. The highest price given for Island Produce.
Money advanced for Bills of Exchange at reasonable rates.
Hilo, February 3, 1861. 246-1y

INSURANCE CARDS.

CALIFORNIA
Mutual Marine Insurance Company,
SAN FRANCISCO.
THE UNDERSIGNED HAVING BEEN appointed Agents for the above company, beg leave to inform the the public, that they are now prepared to issue
MARINE INSURANCE POLICIES
on Cargo, Freight and Treasure.
H. HACKFELD & CO.
Honolulu, Aug. 21, 1861. 274-6m

FLORENS STAPENHORST,
Agent for the Bremen and Dresden Board of Underwriters. All average claims against the said Underwriters, occurring in or about this Kingdom, will have to be certified before him.
1-tf

AGENT FOR THE
New York Board of Underwriters.
The undersigned takes leave to notify Merchants, Ship Masters, &c., that he has been duly appointed as Agent for the New York Board of Underwriters.
ALEX. J. CARTWRIGHT.
15-tf

HAMBURGH-BREMEN
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE UNDERSIGNED, Agents of the above Company, are prepared to insure risks against fire in and about Honolulu.
For particulars apply at the office.
MELCHERS & CO.
Honolulu, Oct. 11, 1857. 68-tf

DRUG STORE!
THE UNDERSIGNED, HAVING received by the latest arrivals from the United States and Europe, a new and large assortment of Drugs, Medicines and Toilet Articles, now offers them for sale. Being supplied from the best sources, first rate articles will be sold at less prices than heretofore.
Physicians and others will have their orders promptly filled at satisfactory prices.
Prescriptions made up accurately and from the best materials, particularly from Thayer's celebrated fluid extracts, a great improvement on Tinctures.
MEDICINE CHESTS refilled at the cheapest rates, according as voyages to different countries require.
Also, Direct from Paris,
LUBIN'S CELEBRATED EXTRACTS
Comprising 24 different kinds.
Best quality JEAN MARIE FARINA COLOGNE,
Sandal wood extract,
Burnett's cocoaine and oriental tooth wash,
Combs, scurf brushes, (patent,) tricopherous,
Hyperion fluid, hair oils, assorted.
COSTAR'S RAT POISON.
Now supply of
R. R. R.
WEST'S REAL RHEUMATIC REMEDY.
Tolu Anodyne, Universal Cough Remedy
Also—Graefenberg Medicines.
259-tf E. HOFFMANN, M. D.

Mechanical Cards.

M. R. HARVEY,
Painter, Glazier, Gilder and Paper Hanger.
Shop in King St., next door to Duffin's Market. 254-6m

SAIL MAKING!
W. G. WOOLSEY BEGS LEAVE to inform his friends and the public generally, that he is prepared to do any work entrusted to him, in the best manner, and at
REDUCED PRICES!
Persons interested will do well to get a list of his prices before ordering work elsewhere. W. G. WOOLSEY.
219-6m

HENRY ALLEN,
Carpenter, Builder and Undertaker!
THE UNDERSIGNED BEGS LEAVE respectfully to inform his friends and the public generally, that having recently enlarged his premises, he is now prepared to do all work in the above line, with dispatch and in a workmanlike manner.
Koa and Pine Coffins always on hand.
FURNITURE REPAIRED.
Jobbing done on reasonable terms.
HENRY ALLEN, Fort st.,
255-6m Opposite the Family Grocery and Feed Store.

JAS. J. O'DONNELL,
Practical House and Ship Plumber.
HYDRAULIC RAMS, LIFTING Force Pumps, Bath Tubs, Wash Stands, Water Closets, etc., fitted up in the best manner. All work done at the very lowest rate and perfect satisfaction warranted.
Jobbing punctually attended to.
Workshop on Kaahumanu Street, nearly opposite Mr. J. F. Colburn. 271-3m

W. CROCKETT,
SHIP SMITH!
TAKES THIS OPportunity of informing the public, that he is prepared to execute all kinds of work in his line, in a workmanlike manner, and will endeavor at all times to give entire satisfaction to those who will favor him with their patronage.
☞ Ship work, cart work, and all other kinds of Blacksmith work attended to with dispatch.
Blacksmith Shop in the Shipyard of Messrs. J. ROBINSON & Co. 262-4m*

HAWAIIAN SOAP FACTORY!
—BY—
WM. H. HUDDY!
—AT—
LELEO!
HAVING RECEIVED A LARGE AND FULL stock of material, is prepared to supply his customers and the public, with the best Yellow and Brown SOAP, —ALSO— SOFT AND OIL SOAP.
In large or small quantities to suit.
P. S.—Soap grease always wanted. 257-3m

Honolulu Soap Works!
W. J. RAWLINS.
THE PROPRIETOR HAVING MADE considerable improvements in the above Establishment, begs leave to announce to his Customers and the Public in general, that he is prepared to supply them with genuine YELLOW SOAP!
equal, if not superior to the best imported.
☞ Orders from the other Islands punctually attended to.
N. B.—SOAP GREASE WANTED. 248-1y*

HONOLULU
IRON WORKS!
THE UNDERSIGNED IS PREPARED TO furnish IRON and BRASS CASTINGS, and all kinds of Machinery and Smith's Work at the Shortest Notice and Cheapest Rates.
STEAM ENGINES AND BOILERS
MADE TO ORDER.
☞ CONSTANTLY ON HAND—A supply of Anvils, Cart Boxes, Forge Backs, Chain Stoppers, Sash Weights, Stove Plates and Linings, Dumb Bells, &c., &c., &c.
222-6m THOMAS HUGHES.

LOCK AND
GUNSMITH.
THE UNDERSIGNED BEGS LEAVE to state, that he has taken the shop formerly occupied by G. Siders, and is ready to execute all orders in his line with neatness and dispatch.
P. S.—Particular attention paid to repairing Sewing Machines
JAMES A. HOPPER,
219-3m-231-e283 Kaahumanu street.

JAMES LOCKWOOD,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
Tin, Sheet Iron & Copper Ware,
KAAHUMANU STREET, HONOLULU, H. I.
Summer Bakers, Tin and Copper Pumps, Bathing Tubs, Foot and Shower Baths, Tin and Zinc Roofing, and a general assortment of Tin Ware, &c.
Ship Work executed with Neatness and Dispatch.
208-e312

GEORGE THOMAS,
Mason.
WOULD CALL THE ATTENTION OF the public to his stock of materials, consisting of Hawaiian and American Lime.
Bricks,
Cement,
Fire Clay,
Fire Bricks,
Plaster of Paris,
California Sand,
German Tiles,
Try Pots.
Composition and Gravel Roofing.
TRY WORKS repaired at lowest rates. COMPOSITION and GRAVEL ROOFING put on buildings and warranted tight.
☞ Orders to be left at the Lime House, on KING STREET, or with F. C. Jones, at Messrs. Richards & Co. 205, 258

Coopering!
JAMES A. BURDICK
IN REMOVING HIS BUSINESS to his new COOPERAGE on the Esplanade, Fort street, takes this opportunity of returning his sincere thanks to his friends and the public in general, for the support and patronage he has which they have been pleased to grant him for the past two years, and hopes that by attention to business and promptness in the execution of all orders intrusted to him, he will merit a continuance of their favors.
He has on hand for sale upwards of 1000 bbls. of Casks of all sorts and sizes. 175-1y

LEWIS & NORTON,
Coopers and Gaugers,
Corner of Bethel and King Streets,
AND
FORT ST., TWO DOORS BELOW DR. JUDD'S DRUG STORE,
ARE NOW PREPARED TO EXecute all orders in their line promptly and at reasonable rates.
Thankful for past patronage, they confidently rely upon their old customers for a continuance of their favors, and trust that their endeavors to please, and extreme low rates of charges, will insure to them a fair share of business in their line.
N. B.—New and second hand casks and shooks always on hand, which they will sell at the lowest market rates. 197-293

C. E. WILLIAMS,
Cabinet Maker and Turner.
THE OLD STAND, HOTEL STREET, NEAR the corner of Fort.
Furniture of all kinds made and repaired.
On Hand and for sale, READY MADE FURNITURE, Koa Boards, Joist and Plank, Cedar, Black Walnut and Cherry Boards; Rosewood and Mahogany Veneering.
A large assortment of Gilt Moulding, and large sized Glass.
A variety of Rocking, Dining, Office and Children's Chairs.
Polished Coffins on hand and now to order. 158-1y

WM. H. WRIGHT,
OF
KOLOA, KAUAI,
WOULD RESPECTFULLY INFORM THE public that he is prepared to Manufacture
Turbine or any other kind of Water Wheel,
and warrant them,