

COMMERCIAL.

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser.

SATURDAY, MAY 20.

Our last trade seems to have revived somewhat. We have to note the arrival of the American bark Steamer of the Hawaiian Packet Line, from San Francisco, on the 16th, with freight and passengers...

The D. C. Murray of the Hawaiian Packet Line, sailed promptly on Thursday, with a full freight and passenger list, taking the most valuable cargo of island produce ever shipped from this port, amounting to \$22,412.50.

The big Kentucky of this line is to leave on Thursday next, to be followed by the Smyrna with dispatch.

The Whistler of the Regular Dispatch Line, leaves today, on freight and passengers.

Our San Francisco correspondent has supplied us with the quarterly statistics of trade with these islands, which we publish.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARTERLY STATISTICS OF TRADE WITH THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

The quarterly statistics of the trade between San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands have been published, and I enclose the following for your readers. The data, in its excellent digest, to which I would call the attention of your merchants, thus requests.

The trade with the Sandwich Islands has also been progressively developed. The value sent thither in the first quarter of 1855 was \$25,000, and in the second \$22,000, and in the third \$20,000. The increased agricultural production and industrial industry of these islands greatly increase the demand for such commodities as well as general supplies, are in growing demand, notwithstanding the decline of the native population.

The subject of the education of the masses, was very naturally, a primary and leading idea with those who, coming from Puritan ancestors, planted the Christian faith on the then heathen shores of Hawaii. This primary work was to reduce the language, as they found it spoken by the people, to a written form, then to prepare the necessary elementary books; and then patiently, perseveringly, in the face of great difficulties, the work of educating the people was begun and carried on.

In the midst of the total darkness which then overspread the nation, such a feeble rushlight as they could show, one might think would be very long in penetrating the gloom, but in a remarkably short period multitudes of all classes and ages could read and write, and the palapa became the fashion; and schools, such as they were, spread all over the islands.

From the outset the multitudinous and severe labors of the missionaries in preaching, translating, etc., they could not give to the schools the close degree of personal supervision they no doubt desired, and so it was resolved at a general meeting in 1831, to establish a high school, the design of which was declared to be to disseminate sound knowledge throughout the islands, embracing general literature and the sciences and whatever might tend to elevate the whole mass of the people from the then state of ignorance and degradation, and cause them to become a thinking, enlightened and virtuous people.

A more definite object of the high school was however declared to be to train up and qualify school teachers for their respective duties; to teach them theoretically and practically the best method of communicating instruction to others; together with a knowledge of the arts, usages and habits of civilized life, with all their train of social blessings.

With such earnest care and upon such sound principles were the common schools commenced by New England men, while yet a Hawaiian Government did not exist, and the chiefs lacked the intelligence to appreciate the importance of popular education. When at length the leaven began to work and a government was organized, able and willing to take charge of the national schools, the pioneers in the work of schooling the nation, having meantime become gray in the work, readily and gladly relinquished the self-imposed task and returned to their legitimate occupation, having taught some 70,000 of the population to read and write, and having established a system of education which, considering the materials with which they worked, has done wonders. Under the direction of the government the education of the people has gone on for years, having started on the basis then laid, and to-day it may be said without fear of contradiction that in no nation under the sun will there be found fewer individuals unable to read and write their own language than among the Hawaiians.

In our generation, the dormant intellect of a nation has been awakened, trained, directed and invigorated. The solid fruits of the common schools began forty years ago, are seen and felt to-day in whatever of mind, intelligence or thought we find among the Hawaiians, be they "Reformed Catholics" or Calvinists.

There are some, however, who, for their own selfish ends, are constantly striving to underrate the value of the services thus rendered to the people. Catching and holding tenaciously at the exceptions that are inseparable from general rules, they sneeringly denounce our common school system as not only a failure and "no good," but unhesitatingly declare that it is positively a nuisance that ought to be abated. And from time to time the Government newspaper—that wonderful organ with such a funny variety of tones—gives unmistakable symptoms that these would-be "reformers" have squirmed and wriggled themselves into the editor's chair, and then the Government policy as to the public schools is set forth with a frank simplicity and clearness that was refreshing, were it not impudent. We refer more particularly just now to the issue of April 29. "A certain denomination of Christians" is there treated to a priestly sneer, and their labors in the cause of Hawaiian education, ignored. A gentle hint is given that the laws should be altered so that persons "in holy orders" may be eligible to the office of President of the Board of Education and Inspector General of Schools. Meantime until such a consummation, which is no doubt very devoutly wished, the public schools, together with pestilent Lahaianai, where John Calvin is worshipped, are all to be swept away, and then no doubt we will have "a temple of Reason in Honolulu, paha."

And then as a matter of course must follow three or four large boarding schools for boys, after the plan so vividly portrayed by Dickens in "Nicholas Nickleby," paha, together with the excellencies of the higher schools and universities of England, including the infamous "fagging" system of which the Edinburgh Review remarks, "It may impair the boy's character for life, and

make him, according as he is the bully or the sufferer a tyrant or a slave." And yet the headmaster of the Westminster School, testifying before a Royal Commission, says: "If you had not a recognized fagging system, you would have a bullying system." For the native girls, we are to have a few boarding schools in different parts of the islands, managed by Nuns brought from England, of course.

The Inspector-General, (unhappy indeed!) is pretty plainly told that he must heretofore select his employees from a certain religious sect, and the "polydiox" public are warned in equally plain terms, that their wishes in regard to the management of the schools will not receive the least degree of attention!

The plain intention to be drawn from such editorial articles as the one, the leading points only of which are here touched upon, is that the present Ministry are openly and undisguisedly in favor of a line of policy which tends directly to the establishment of priestly dictation and rule, and a state church! To be forewarned, is to be forearmed.

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