

The Rain.

Over half an inch of rain fell in this city Thursday. Between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. it came down at intervals in sheets, forming ponds all over the town and cooling the air. The rain was welcome to the people and of infinite good to the vegetation.

A Sad Accident.

Mr. David Adams met with a most melancholy death on Tuesday afternoon. He was riding on a lumber wagon, from which he fell and the wheels passed over his chest. He died from the result of his injuries on Wednesday last, and was buried Thursday. We tender our sincere sympathy to his bereaved family.

Bishop Hermann's Departure.

His Lordship the Bishop of Oiba left last Tuesday per S. S. Iwalani, for Kapaa, Kauai, for the dedication of the new church there, which took place on Sunday last. His Lordship will be absent for about three weeks, during which time he will make an extended tour of the Island of Kauai, and visit all the parishes established there.

An Unlucky Chinaman.

An unfortunate Mongolian, ambitious to secure a load of lumber cheaply, drove a double team, Tuesday, into an alley leading from King street, between Fort and Nuuanu streets. The lumber was worth about \$1.50, but in backing in the Chinaman broke a window, smashed an express wagon, demolished an outhouse, and, after loading up, came upon a cesspool, which gave way, and he had to unload before he could leave the alley. This may fairly be called a chapter of accidents.

Interesting to Planters.

The Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company's Superintendent, in a letter to Mr. John D. Spreckels, states that this year's crop yielded 7,077 tons. He says "We started running two mill and made 1678 tons sugar, and burnt 155 1/2 tons of coal. We then started the third mill and made 5,414 tons of sugar with two tons of coal, and we have dried off everything, and, as you saw when here, we have hundreds of tons of trash to spare."

The Remenyi Concert.

A large audience attended the third concert of the great artist Eduard Remenyi. The Royal Hawaiian Band played the original March, composed by Remenyi, splendidly. It was heartily encored. Miss Downing and Mr. Rudolph Himmer both contributed numbers which brought them out again to respond to encores. Mr. Luckstone's solos, and also the accompaniments, were played in a masterly style, and he received an ovation on each appearance.

Fire Insurance.

We have been afflicted with two serious conflagrations recently. In all such cases insurance companies, as a rule, get hit. We are pleased to announce that in the last fire the companies for which Mr. C. O. Berger, in this city, is agent, and in which he is interested, will promptly respond to the amount which the policies call for. Mr. Berger is thoroughly convinced that the burning of Mr. Dias' store was purely accidental. Mr. Dias loses everything, and has, in an honorable manner, transferred his policies of insurance for the benefit of his creditors. We trust to see Mr. Dias in business again shortly. His action is a credit to the mercantile community of Honolulu, as also is that of the Insurance Agent.

The Compensation of Pilots.

Captain Babcock, pilot of this port, desires to correct our Legislative report on the question of the compensation of pilots. The bills, as three reporters heard it, was as we gave it, and the Captain's report does not substantially differ from our own, except that he adds the words "draught of water" in two places, and inserts an item which possibly we missed. However, as Captain Babcock assures us that his version is O. K., and as he is presumably better posted than our reporter, who grappled with the subject for the first time during a noisy debate, we give the gentleman's version of the bill as it stands, and have no doubt that it is perfectly correct. It will be useful for reference:

- All mail steamers, 1000 tons register and upwards, \$50 in, and the same out.
- All steamers under 1000 tons register, 5 cents per ton in, and the same out.
- Transient steamers upwards 1000 tons register, \$75 in, and the same out.
- Vessels of war, \$2 per foot draught of water.
- All sailing vessels under 200 tons register, \$1.50 per foot draught of water.
- All sailing vessels 200 tons and upwards, 5 cents per ton in, and the same out.
- All vessels anchored outside by pilot, \$20; and if coming into port, afterwards reduced to \$10.

AT APIANG, GILBERT GROUPE.

After swinging around and around during the night with light winds and calms and counter currents, the breeze set in fair from the west on Saturday morning, and by 11 o'clock we were opposite the passage through the lagoon reef. The Captain took his place at the foremast head, from where he could look out and down upon the clear waters, and trace the channel through which the Julia was to be steered.

On either hand as we drew into the lagoon was a low flat bar of red sand. A small pile of coral rocks on the starboard hand indicated to us that we were in the true passage, through which the Julia smoothly glided, followed by a half dozen canoes; whose occupants had been fishing outside. The lead was kept going as we passed in, the soundings growing less and less until on top of the bar there was but 19 1/2 feet. As the Julia drew only 10 there was plenty of water, and once over the bar the depth suddenly increased to four and five fathoms, which was found all over the lagoon.

The colors displayed in the water as we passed into the lagoon were very beautiful. As the water shoaled the intense deep blue gradually grew lighter, and being dashed with yellow became opalescent, and then assumed a lovely green tint. This tint strengthened and deepened into superb emerald, which here and there, as some rounded mass of coral rose above the general surface of the lagoon floor, changed to a lighter shade of green, or in some deep spots shaded off to a purplish black. Across these masses of color there shot streaks of brilliant pearly light, reflected from smooth patches of snowy coral sand, and where the heads of huge madrapores rose nearly to the surface, there was a confused mingling of various colors.

Obedying the sharp, quick orders of the Captain at the masthead, the Julia threaded her way amongst the surrounding shoals, and finally was anchored safely opposite the settlement. 'Twas Saturday by Honolulu time, but, we having crossed the 180th meridian west of Greenwich, and being now in east longitude, we dropped what was left of Saturday, August 18th and took up the local time, which was Sunday the 19th.

Apiang is a typical coral atoll, the lagoon, as a whole, containing plenty of water, yet also holding an abundance of mushroom-shaped mounds and "heads" of madrapores, just awash at low tide. As these are characteristic of the lagoon growth, and as this island is, as I have said, a typical one, a short description of it, taken for the most part from Dana's *Coral and Coral Islands*, will give a good general idea of the whole of the group.

"The reef of the coral atoll as it lies at the surface still uncovered by vegetation is a platform of coral rock usually two to four hundred yards wide, and situated so low as to be swept by the waves at a high tide, the outer edge, directly exposed to the surf, is generally broken into points and jagged indentations, along which the waters of the resurging waves drive with great force. For ten or twenty yards from the margin, the reef is usually very cavernous or pierced with holes or sinuous recesses. Further in are occasional pools and basins, alive with all that lives in these strange coral seas. A cross section of a coral island would show a shallow sea bordering the island and abruptly deepening a few hundred feet from the line of breakers to many hundred of fathoms. It is in this shallow sea that the corals are found growing, except when the depth is over fifty feet. From this shallow sea rises the shore platform already mentioned, and from the platform, usually two or three hundred feet wide, there is a rise by a steep beach of six or eight feet to the wooded part of the coral belt. This beach, owing to its whiteness, and the contrast it affords to the verdure above is a remarkable feature of these islands. Beyond the beach the emerged land is covered with blocks of coral, so blackened by exposure and from encrusting lichens as to resemble the clinkers of Mauna Loa. Coral sand finds lodgement among these blocks, until the island stands some six or eight feet above the water. The surface is thinly covered with vines, purslane and a few shrubs,

amidst which tower coconut palms and the *pandanus odorissimus*. The width of the whole rim of land varies from three hundred yards to three quarters of a mile. There is but little depth of coral soil, although the land may appear to be buried in the richest vegetation. The shore of the lagoon is generally low and gently inclined, and a platform of reef-rock sometimes extends out into the lagoon; this, when submerged, is covered with growing corals, though in some places—as at the landing place at Apiang—the bottom is covered with a fine white sand, in which nothing grows. The lagoon itself is like a large clear lake, it being encircled on the leeward side by a barrier reef, seldom more than reaching the surface of the water, although in spots it is dry at low tide; and it is through this barrier reef that openings are generally found through which vessels can sail into the lagoon. These lagoons are but seldom circular, but rather long and narrow. Still they approach near enough to a circular form to cause a wide disparity to exist between the area embraced within the outside reefs and the habitable land. For instance, the area of Apiang is about 100 square miles, while that of the habitable land is less than five. Four of the islands of the Gilbert group have an aggregate area of 525 square miles, with an aggregate habitable area of 25 square miles. As Sir Boyles Roach would say, nineteen-twentieths of the whole land is water!

The little settlement opposite which we anchored is called Koinawa, and is the most important on the island. There is a neat two-story house near the shore with a flagstaff in front, from which floats the English flag. Captain Randolph has lived here for a long time, and has won the respect and esteem of the natives by his kindness and firmness. The house he lives in, as is usual amongst the traders in this group, two stories high, the lower floor being used as a store room, and the upper as a dwelling. The approach to the second story is by an outside staircase, and when we enter the front room from the small landing outside, we are agreeably struck with its coolness and neat appearance. We are made to feel "at home" at once, and have a very pleasant chat with our host. Later in the day, strolling out for a short walk, we arm ourselves with the stout midrib of a coconut leaf to keep off the dogs, and for an hour wander about among the palms and pandanus trees, admiring the luxuriance of their growth. It is a walk of but three-quarters of a mile to the opposite side of the island, and one is free to wander as they will over the land, there being no fences or enclosures of any kind outside of the slight screens put up around some of the dwellings. Paths lead in every direction, winding about the base of the coconut trees, or skirting the edges of numerous pits dug some ten feet deep to the so-called fresh water that is found everywhere at that depth. In these pits grow a species of *arum*, somewhat like that used so universally on the Hawaiian Islands. The Gilbert Island plant is much inferior as a food plant, though growing to an immense size. We often found leaves measuring six feet in length by three in breadth, a cluster of ten or fifteen all springing from one root, and standing nearly upright in the shallow pools. The root, which is baked or boiled, is very compact and hard, and a very poor "vegetable" in every respect. The Hawaiian missionaries who have located here for thirty years, have done their best to make their beloved "kale" grow, but without success. In our wanderings we came to the native church. It was a plain building of thatch with latticed sides, and at one end a tower had been erected, in which hung a bell, and above the belfry rose a spire quite after the style of New England. The frame work was of course entirely of coconut and pandanus logs lashed together with coconut fibre cord, and the thatching was of the long leaves of the pandanus doubled over the midribs of the palm branches, and skewered through with slender ribs of the leaflets or pinnales. Not a nail was used in this or any other native building that we saw in the group, and very ingenious was the system of bracing employed to give stability to the structure. No service was being held in the building the Sunday we visited it, as the mission-

aries were all gathered together on their vessel, the *Morning Star*, that was on her annual trip through the group at that time.

But if there was no sign of the Sabbath about the church there was everywhere else on the island. All the people, save a few whose improvidence or urgent needs had driven them forth fishing, were quietly resting in their houses, intensifying their natural habits of doing nothing, by not even pretending to do something. They slept in easy tranquility; even the "old women" on whom the burden of life falls heaviest here, had dropped for the day their shuttles and bone needles and let the unfinished net or mat alone. The only signs of life and animation were those displayed by the native teacher and his Sunday-school class, who were assembled within a schoolhouse standing in the same yard with the missionary's dwelling. This latter building is a comfortable two-story frame house, shaded by palms. In the house-yard were growing a few bananas, a solitary tamarind tree, a clump of *papaia*s, and here and there a flowering shrub. Nothing can better illustrate the unkindness of the soil to anything except the scant vegetation, indigenous to the group than the fact that the few plants I have mentioned are all that have survived after thirty years of trial with a large variety of trees and shrubs that have been planted here by the missionaries. Earth from the Hawaiian Islands has been brought here, in which to grow a few "home" plants, but it has all been in vain. The air is so laden with saline particles that imported plants languish and die. "Gray's Botany of the Paumotu" contains descriptions of only 28 or 30 species of land plants indigenous to the group.

Captain Randolph has an enclosure near at hand in which are growing a few imported plants and trees, but their struggle for life is a hard one.

Not far beyond his "garden" is a small plat, neatly enclosed, in which rest the mortal remains of two sisters who ended their life work here. There is something inexpressibly mournful in the thought of the sacrifice thus made. The first one came with her husband, a devoted missionary, to these islands, and was his gentle companion and co-worker as long as her life lasted. And when, at length worn out, as much by the loneliness and isolation of this spot as by any decided malady, she laid down the burden of life, her sister took her place, and for a while bravely encountered the trials and privations inseparable from the lot of strangers who make their homes here, and then was laid by the one who had gone before. As one stands beside the graves of these two, buried but just beyond the reach of the restless waves, whose monotone of sound was ever in their ears while living, and now, as it will for all time, murmurs a restful requiem at their feet, while the tall palms' swaying fronds scatter light and shade upon their graves, who will say that she who was last laid here did not feel a thrill of joy at the thought that after the unutterable solitariness of her woman life on this island, her body would have a sister-companion in death?

AUSTRALIAN TOPICS.

Annexation, Confederation, and the Mails.

Sir Henry Parkes, Governor-General of New South Wales, said, when in San Francisco, in discussing Australian politics, that the annexation of New Guinea, or at least an English protectorate over the island, was an important question in Australia. New Guinea is the next largest island in the world to Australia, and at present is in the hands of the aborigines. There is danger that some European country will make it a colony for felons. Sir Henry said that the question of the confederation of the colonies of Australia was not a matter of much importance; that it had not yet begun to be seriously discussed in Australia. The colonies are reluctant to give up a portion of their authority, as they would have to if a general government was formed. In regard to the transportation of mails, Sir Henry said that the Colonies pay the Pacific mail \$300,000 a year. There are, however, five steamship lines from Australia direct to England, and unless the United States joined in paying the subsidy to the Pacific Mail, he thought the Australian mails would probably be sent to England by one of the direct lines.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY. SESSION 1884.

NINETY-SECOND DAY.

TUESDAY, August 26, 1884.

The House met at 10 a.m. Minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

Mr. Dole, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, reported back another opium bill, recommending that it be tabled. Agreed to.

Mr. Dole asked for a report from the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the expenses of coining the Kalakaua money. The session was near its close. A report had been promised and the honorable member wanted it.

His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs said he had been led to believe that no such report was expected. Therefore he had none ready. To-morrow he would submit one. At present he was unaware what the profits of the Government agent had been. The agent had been neither promised nor paid anything.

Mr. Kalua offered a resolution that the Minister of the Interior be instructed to advertise for tenders for the publication of the laws made during the present session.

The Attorney-General moved that the resolution be laid on the table.

Mr. Kanukou said the law required this to be done.

Mr. W. O. Smith thought previous printing bills had been excessive, and spoke at length to try and prove that such was the case.

Mr. Gulick said before the motion was put he would like to make a few remarks. As soon as laws were approved he had them issued in Hawaiian and English, and every law was also put in book form, or was now awaiting publication. Inside of two weeks the laws of the present session would be ready and issued.

Mr. W. O. Smith asked at what rates per page the 500 copies spoken of had been arranged for.

Mr. Gulick said he did not have the figures but could easily refer to them. The price was to be on the same basis as that of similar work for two years past. The laws passed had already been officially published in the *Gazette*.

The question was put, and the motion to lay on the table carried.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The question of the compensation of pilots came up in order, and the bill was read a third time. It is the measure recommended by the Chamber of Commerce. The charges for pilotage are fixed as follows:

- Mail steamers, 1,000 tons and upwards, each way, in and out, \$50, and on transit steamers \$75.
- Vessels of war, \$2 per foot.
- Sailing vessels, \$1.50 per foot.
- Anchoring vessels, \$50; detaining a pilot all night, \$10; and for a longer period \$12 for each day of 25 hours. Carried.

INDEMNIFICATION.

The bill came up to indemnify the Minister of Finance for certain expenditures not authorized by the Legislature.

Mr. Cecil Brown moved separate action on each item.

Mr. Kanukou thought this would be waste of time. Every member was familiar with the items. They had the bill before them, and could object to it as they pleased.

Mr. Dole believed the Ministry should be asked for an explanation of every item, and without this the record of the present Legislature would go down to posterity as infamous in the eyes of our people.

Mr. W. O. Smith said that this bill called for an indemnification of \$174,000, which was all utterly without authority.

Judge Widemann followed in a bitter invective against the legality of any and all cabinet appropriations, and was answered at length by the Attorney-General, who claimed that more than half of the indemnity asked for really belonged to the Loan Fund should come out of it, and needed no request for indemnity.

The discussion was lengthy and more personal than useful. The questions of a private conversation, and of the public contest in the political arena, also came up.

Mr. Dole gaining the floor said he wanted every item discussed *separatim*. Never had this country been asked to shoulder such an indemnity before, and he hoped it never would be again, in the face of such a huge appropriation. The Attorney-General had acknowledged that there were two items that he did not understand, and which of necessity he could not understand, as he had only come here a few months before the expiration of the last biennial period.

After Mr. Dole finished speaking, the motion to order the bill to engrossment was put and carried by the following vote of 22 to 20:

Ayes—Gibson, Gulick, Neumann, Bush, Kaae, Kanoa, Walker, Macfarlane, Kanukou, Keau, Liliakalani, Baker, Amara, Kaulia, Aholo, Kamakele, Gardner, Nahinu, Palohau, Kupihea, Nakaleke, Kaunamane. Ayes 22.

Noes—Bishop, Dominis, Wilde, Isenberg, Dowsett, J. Mott Smith, Widemann, Martin, Cecil Brown, Kalua, Kanealii, W. O. Smith.