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Hawaiian Gazette
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TO EXECUTE ALL ORDERS
For Plain and Fancy Printing,
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
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(Late Surgeon U. S. Army.)
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AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
Queen Street, Honolulu, H. I. [1y6

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GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS.
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And all kinds of Building Materials, Fort Street, Honolulu. 1y6

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Will continue the General Merchandise and Shipping business at the above port, where they are prepared to furnish the justly celebrated Kawaihae Potatoes, and with other Produce as may be required in exchange, at the lowest notice and on the most reasonable terms. Firewood always on hand. 8-1y6

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GROCER AND SHIP CHANDLER,
Lahaina, Maui.
Money and Specie furnished to Ships at the most favorable rates. [1y6

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Machinery of Every Description,
Made to Order.
Particular attention paid to Ship's Blacksmithing.
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[Nearly opposite Messrs. Dillingham & Co.]
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CHALLAMEL & CO.,
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COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
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Fire-proof Stores on Fort St., above Odd Fellows' Hall. 37-1y6

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Agent for the Dresden Board of Underwriters.
Agent for the Vienna Board of Underwriters.
7-6] [1y

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IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS
In Fashionable Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes and every variety of Gentlemen's superior Furnishing Goods. Store in Makee's Block, Queen Street, Honolulu, H. I. 16-] [1y6

AUONG & ACHUCK,
Importers Wholesale and Retail Dealers in General Merchandise.
And China Goods, in the Fire-proof Store on Nuuanu Street, under the Public Hall. 42-1y6

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M. BENFIELD,
WAGON AND CARRIAGE BUILDER,
76 King Street, Honolulu.
Repairing done with care and neatness. Also, particular attention given to Blacksmithing and Horse-shoeing. Orders from the other Islands promptly executed. 40-1y6

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Practical Braziers,
COPPER & TIN SMITHS, make every description of work in their line, used on Plantations or elsewhere. They also keep on hand a full assortment of
Sheet Copper, Sheet Tin,
Sheet Lead, Sheet Iron,
Iron Wire, Copper Wire,
Soft & Brass Solder, Pail Ears,
Pressed Bucket Covers,
Black and Tinned Rivets,
Copper Rivets, etc.
Also on hand, a few more of
THOSE SPLENDID COOKING STOVES,
Received by the "Syren."
"Cotton Plant" and "Gray Jackets," together with a variety of Japanned Ware, and many articles useful in the Kitchen. Work on Buildings, such as gutters, spouts, water pipes, &c. Ship-work will meet with prompt attention at No. 2 Kaahumanu Street. 13-1y6

JAMES L. LEWIS,
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At the Old Stand, corner King and Bethel Streets.
A large Stock of Old Bourbon and all kinds of Coopering Materials constantly on hand. He hopes by attention to business to merit a continuance of the patronage which he has heretofore enjoyed, and for which he now returns his thanks. 1-3m

J. H. THOMPSON,
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Queen Street, Honolulu,
Has constantly on hand and for sale at the Lowest Market Prices, a good assortment of the Best Refined Bar Iron, and the best Blacksmith's Coal. 33-1y6

F. H. & G. SEGELKEN,
TIN, ZINC AND COPPER SMITHS, AND SHEET IRON WORKERS,
Nuuanu Street, between Merchant and Queen.
Have constantly on hand, Stoves, Pipe, Gal-vanized Iron Pipe, Plain and Hose Bibbs, Stop-cocks, India Rubber Hose and Cloth, in lengths of 25 and 50 feet, with couplings and pipe complete. Bath-Tubs, and also a very large stock of Tinware of every description.
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Carriage and Sign Painting.
THE UNDERSIGNED having procured the services of a competent workman, is now prepared to execute all orders in the line of CARRIAGE and SIGN PAINTING
In a Manner to Warrant Satisfaction.
M. BENFIELD,
20-3m 76 King Street, Honolulu.

R. RYCROFT,
HOUSE AND SHIP PLUMBER,
King Street, next to the Seamen's Bethel.
Has on hand, Bath-Tubs, Water-Closets, Wash-Basins, Force and Lift Pumps, Lead and Galvanized Iron Pipes, and Plumber's Brass-works. Being the only Plumber in the city, he will execute all orders entrusted to him in a workmanlike manner. 1-3m

BANK EXCHANGE.
THE UNDERSIGNED beg to notify the public that they have re-opened the above well-known and popular Saloon, where will always be found an assortment of the
Best Wines, Liquors and Ales,
that the market affords, and customers may be assured that they will find an experienced bar-tender, and every attention to their comforts.
The Billiard Room, which is the largest and coolest in the city, contains
THREE SUPERIOR BILLIARD TABLES!
With all the Latest Improvements.
G. C. SIDERS. } Proprietors.
J. C. CLUNEY. }
Honolulu, Sept. 27, 1870.—37 3m

CALIFORNIA RED BRICK, received per "D. C. Murray," and for sale by
BOLLES & CO.

FOREIGN NOTICES.

H. W. SEVERANCE & CO.,
General Shipping & Commission MERCHANTS,
405 Front Street, corner of Clay, San Francisco
32 1y6

The Australian Steam Navigation Co's Patent Slip & Engineering Works,
SYDNEY, N. S. W.
All classes of Engineering Work, Iron Ship-building and general ship's repairs, executed cheaply and expeditiously. Vessels of the largest tonnage can be taken up.
21 1-6 FRED. H. TROUTON, Manager.

LEARMONTH, DICKINSON & Co.,
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General Commission Agents,
Will attend to the sale of Sandwich Island Produce, and arrange for advances on same.
REFER TO— W. L. GREEN ..... Honolulu
MACFARLANE, BLAIR & Co. .. San Francisco
28 1y

B. J. DORSEY,
COMMISSION MERCHANT
AND INSURANCE AGENT,
41 and 42 Merchant's Exchange, California Street, San Francisco, California. [1y6
46]
—REFERENCES—
Messrs. Brown & Co. ..... San Francisco.
Messrs. C. Adolphe Low & Co. ..... San Francisco.
Messrs. Holladay & Brenham ..... San Francisco.
Messrs. H. Hackfeld & Co. ..... Honolulu.

H. E. WILLIAMS. H. P. BLANCHARD. C. S. MORGAN.
WILLIAMS, BLANCHARD & CO.,
SHIPPING AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
46] No. 218 California Street, San Francisco. [3

JOHN M'CRAKEN, Portland. J. C. MERRILL S. F. Cal.
M'CRAKEN, MERRILL & CO.,
FORWARDING AND
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
Portland, Oregon.
Having been engaged in our present business for upwards of twelve years, and being located in a Fire-proof Brick Building, we are prepared to receive and dispose of Island Staples, such as Sugar, Syrups, Rice, Pulu, Coffee, etc., to advantage. Consignments especially solicited for the Oregon Market, to which personal attention will be paid, and upon which cash advances will be made when required.
—REFERENCES—
Charles W Brooks ..... San Francisco
J C Merrill & Co. ..... "
Fred Ikes ..... "
Badger & Liedenberger ..... "
James Patrick & Co. ..... "
Wm T Coleman & Co. ..... "
Stevens, Baker & Co. ..... "
Allen & Lewis ..... Portland
Ladd & Tilton ..... "
Leonard & Green ..... " 1-1y6

FLINT, PEABODY & Co.,
SHIPPING AND
Commission Merchants,
AND AGENTS OF
PACIFIC BARREL AND KEG COMPANY.
Are prepared to furnish Kegs and Barrels Shooks in any quantity required, and respectfully solicit consignments of Sugar and Island Produce.
—REFER TO—
Messrs Bishop & Co. ..... Honolulu.
Messrs H Hackfeld & Co ..... Honolulu.
Messrs Castle & Cooke ..... Honolulu.
Messrs Walker & Allen ..... Honolulu.
OFFICE:
No. 498 California Street, San Francisco.
(27-1m)

E. M. VAN REED,
COMMISSION MERCHANT
Kanagawa, Japan,
Having the best facilities throughout, in intimate connection with the Japanese trade for the past eight years, is prepared to transact any business entrusted to his care, with dispatch. 17- 1y6

LANGLEY, CROWELL & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS,
32] Cor. Battery & Clay Sts, San Francisco. [6m

RIMMEL'S CHOICE PERFUMERY
PATRONIZED BY ALL THE WORLD.
RIMMEL'S IHLANG-IHLANG, VANDA, HENNA, Jockey Club, Frangipane, and other perfumes of exquisite fragrance.
RIMMEL'S Lavendar Water, distilled from Mitcham flowers.
Rimmel's Toilet Vinegar, celebrated for its useful and sanitary properties.
Rimmel's Extract of Lime Juice and Glycerine, the best preparation for the hair, especially in warm climates.
Rimmel's Dugong Oil Soap, perfumed with Australian Eucalyptus.
Rimmel's Glycerine, Honey, Windsor and other Toilet Soaps.
Rimmel's Rose Water, Costume and Floral Crackers, very amusing for balls and parties.
Rimmel's Violet, Rose-leaf, Rice, and other Toilet Powders.
A liberal allowance to shippers.
EUGENE RIMMEL,
Perfumer to H R H the Prince of Wales, 96, Strand, 128, Regent Street, and 24, Cornhill, London; 17, Boulevard des Italiens, Paris, and 16, King's Road Brighton.
Sold by all Perfumery Vendors. 37-1y6

H. VOSS,
No. 5 Merchant Street, opposite the Sailor's Home,
GENERAL UPHOLSTERER,
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES,
HAS CONSTANTLY ON HAND a variety of HOME-MADE FURNITURE, which he offers for sale *AT THE LOWEST MARKET PRICES*, consisting of Sets of
BEST BLACK WALNUT PARLOR FURNITURE,
Spring-Back Easy Chairs, Lounges and Mattresses.
Hair and Spring Mattresses, Window Shades and Slip Covers made to order.
Old Furniture Re-Upholstered,
Repaired and Varnished, with satisfaction warranted.
Call and examine my stock before purchasing elsewhere.
Terms Reasonable. All orders from Shipmasters and the other Islands, will be promptly attended to. 5-1y

PHOTOGRAPHY!
Improvement is the Order of the Day.
HAVING CONSTRUCTED A NEW SKYLIGHT, and made various other improvements, I hope now to be able to suit the most fastidious with
A Photograph of any Size,
From a Crystal to a Mammoth, taken in the Best Style of Art, and on the most reasonable terms.
Also, for sale, views of the Islands, Portraits of the Kings, Queens, and other Notables.
H. L. CHASE,
32-1y Fort Street.

C. W. CREY & CO.,
Hawaiian Soap Works,
At Lolea.—Manufacturers and Dealers
In all kinds of Soap. Beef, Mutton, and Goat Tallow Wanted.
Office, 30 Fort Street, where orders will be received and promptly attended to. [39

GEORGE WILLIAMS,
LICENSED SHIPPING AGENT,
Office on James Robinson & Co's Wharf.
Continues the business on his old plan of settling with officers and seamen immediately on their shipping at his office. Having no direct or indirect connection with any outfitting establishment, and all such dealers being excluded in his office, he hopes to give as good satisfaction in the future as he has in the past. 1-3m

SUGAR & MOLASSES.

1870 1870
THOMAS SPENCER PLANTATION, HILO, H. I.
Sugar and Molasses,
CROP NOW COMING IN, and for sale in quantities to suit purchasers, by
1-3m WALKER & ALLEN, Agents.

ONOMEA PLANTATION.
Sugar and Molasses—Crop 1870
COMING IN, FOR SALE IN QUANTITIES to suit purchasers, by
1-3m WALKER & ALLEN, Agents.

PRINCEVILLE PLANTATION.
Sugar and Molasses—Crop 1870
COMING IN, FOR SALE IN QUANTITIES to suit purchasers, by
1-3m WALKER & ALLEN, Agents.

MAKEE PLANTATION.
New Crop of Sugar & Molasses
NOW COMING IN, AND FOR SALE IN QUANTities to suit purchasers by
1-3m C. BREWER & CO., Agents.

WAILUKU PLANTATION.
NEW CROP NOW COMING IN. FOR SALE in quantities to suit purchasers, by
1-3m C. BREWER & CO., Agents.

SUGAR of SUPERIOR QUALITY,
IN QUANTITIES TO SUIT PURCHASERS and at Reasonable Prices, for sale by
6 2m F. A. SCHAEFER & CO.

COASTERS.

For Kona and Kau, Hawaii.
Schr. Active,
P. MELLISH, ... Master,
Will run as a regular packet to the above ports. For freight or passage apply to
1-3m WALKER & ALLEN, Agents.

Regular Packet for Molokai.
Schr. Pauahi,
BALLISTER, ... Master,
Will run as a regular packet between Honolulu and Molokai, touching at Kaunakakai and Pukoo. For freight or passage apply to the Captain on board or
1-3m H. PRENDERGAST, Agent.

INSURANCE NOTICES.

THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.
OF NEW YORK.
Cash Assets, over...$36,000,000!
Cash Dividends in 1868,....$3,257,137.26.
The Largest Life Insurance Company
IN THE WORLD!
Premiums must be Paid Semi-Annually or Quarterly.
ADAMS & WILDER,
14-1y6 Agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY
Of London.—Instituted 1803.
CASH CAPITAL, $5,000,000 in GOLD.
THE UNDERSIGNED are prepared to issue policies on Fire Risks (with or without the average clause) on Plantation Buildings and Machinery, Private Dwellings, Brick, Stone and Wooden Stores, Merchandise, Goods, Lumber, Ships in Port, &c., on the most favorable terms.
All Losses Adjusted and Paid for here.
For particulars apply at the office of
WALKER & ALLEN,
32-1y Agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

MERCHANTS' MUTUAL MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY
Of San Francisco.
THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to issue Policies on Cargoes, Freights and Treasure.
WALKER & ALLEN,
1-3m Agents, Honolulu.

SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS.
THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agents for the San Francisco Board of Underwriters, comprising the
California Insurance Company,
Merchants' Mutual Marine Ins. Co.,
Pacific Insurance Company,
California Lloyd's, and
Home Mutual Insurance Company,
Beg leave to inform Masters of Vessels and the public generally, that all losses of vessels or freight, or loss incurred by either of the above Companies, against perils of the seas and other risks, at or near the Sandwich Islands will have to be verified by them.
1-3m H. HACKFELD & CO.

CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE UNDERSIGNED, AGENTS OF THE above Company, have been authorized to insure risks on Cargo, Freight and Treasure, from Honolulu to all parts of the world, and vice versa.
18-1y6 H. HACKFELD & CO.

CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE UNDERSIGNED, AGENTS of the above Company, have been authorized to insure risks on Cargo, Freight and Treasure, by Coasters, from Honolulu to all parts of the Hawaiian Group, and vice versa.
8-1y6 H. HACKFELD & CO.

HAMBURGH-BREMEN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE UNDERSIGNED having been appointed Agents of the above Company, are prepared to insure risks against Fire, on Stone and Brick Buildings, and on Merchandise stored therein, on the most favorable terms. For particulars apply at the office of
5-1y6 F. A. SCHAEFER & CO.

Insurance Notice.
THE AGENT FOR THE BRITISH Foreign Marine Insurance Company, (Limited), has received instructions to reduce the rates of Insurance between Honolulu and Ports in the Pacific, and is now prepared to issue Policies at the *Lowest Rates*, with a special reduction on Freight per Steamers.
THEO. H. DAVIES,
45-1y6 *Agent Brit. For. Mar. Ins. Co. (Limited)*

BARTLETT SALOON,
—BY—
WILLIAM HUGHES,
Corner of Hotel and Fort Streets.
THE CHOICEST AND BEST OF ALES, WINES and Spirits always to be found at the Bar. 27-1y6

A Defense of Captain Cook.

WASHINGTON, July 16, 1869.

To the Editors of the Evening Post:

It is said that Spaniards had visited the Sandwich Islands before the days of Cook, even as Scandinavians had gone to America before Columbus. This is very true in both cases; and yet there is no proof and no probability that either of the great discoverers knew any thing of these accidental visits of men who made no record of what they saw.

In the case of Cook, those who wish to detract from his merit as a discoverer like to parade a Spanish chart found by Anson on board the Spanish galleon Nuestra Signora de la Cabadonga in 1745, upon which are traced a group of islands many degrees east of the position of the Sandwich Islands, and named Isla de San Francisco, Los Monjas, La Mesa, Uiva, La Disgraciada, Roxa Partida, Isla de Passaros and others. A multitude of imaginary or doubtful islands fill the old Pacific charts. There are no names here that in the slightest degree resemble any of the Sandwich Islands, or have any reference to them, except Passaros, or Bird Island; there being a Bird Island in the Hawaiian group.

But this is a common name for scores of small islands in the Pacific and Indian oceans. There are several Pulo Burung or Bird Islands in the Malay Archipelago; several in Central Polynesia. Captain Cook gave the name of Bird Island to Hekuera, one of the Paumotu group. This name is most commonly suggested, inasmuch as all small islands in the Pacific and Indian waters are the resorts of innumerable flocks of sea-fowl. The Bird Island of the Sandwich Islands was called by Kanakas Modoo Manu, or Moku Manu; and only so named, and seen by them, subsequent to the discovery of the group by Cook. Yet an American naval officer has produced a map of the Sandwich Islands, published by the Hydrographic Bureau at Washington, in which the Moku Manu or Bird Island of this group, is named Passaros Island, to make it appear that it is identical with the island on the Spanish chart, leaving it to be inferred that Captain Cook merely rediscovered the islands, in consequence of information derived from this chart. Now, the imposition of the Spanish name Passaros upon one of the Sandwich Islands could only have been influenced by a disposition prevalent among certain parties in the Islands, with whom this officer sympathised, to deny to Captain Cook all the honor of his great discovery.

If Gaetano, as it is contended, or any other Spanish officer, had visited the Sandwich Islands, we surely would have some evidence showing a knowledge of such large and populous islands, lying in the track, as laid down on the Spanish chart, of the galleons sailing from Acapulco to the Philippines. The Spanish knew not of any such important recruiting station. How rejoiced, as Cook says, would Anson have been, in his weary cruise across the Pacific, had he known of such a beautiful island as Owyhee, to enable him to recruit the Centurion.

There was no such knowledge in the procession of civilized men. To Captain James Cook, the scientific and faithful officer, the brave commander, the enterprising man, the genius that sprang from a collier boy, belongs all the glory of the discovery of this important group of islands.

It is, however, true that the Kanakas had some faint traditions to the visit of strangers before Cook; but so faint and imperfect that when the discoverer's ships first appeared in their seas they called them mokuas or islands. As the vessels appeared to them so enormously disproportioned to any floating craft they had ever seen or heard of, they supposed that these great apparitions must be islands, that had sprung up out of the sea; and the name for island and ship are the same at this day among the Kanakas.

The wonder and surprise of the barbarians of Owyhee and Attooi, the modern Hawaii and Kauai, were not confined only to the ships, but the beings on them were objects of especial wonder. They saw skins not red like their own, like the clinkers of their volcanoes, but white and rosy-tinted, like the pearl shells of their seas. These beings came from the great depths, from whence came their canoes, skuas, or gods; and they hailed Cook as a god, their wandering hero Lono, the Ulysses of Owhyhee, and they fell down before him with reverential awe, as the Caribs did before Columbus.

The Kanakas wondered on seeing Cook and his men, as we would wonder to see beings shaped like ourselves, and of superior brightness, coming to us upon an asteriod or Laputan island, poised in space; or rather their wonder must have been greater than ours would be under such circumstances; because they had no recorded facts or speculations to assist them to understand the strange beings and powers that appeared before them. They eagerly felt of the new men when first seen on Atooi or Kauai; they opened their vests to touch their flesh underneath; they wondered to see them eat; and every act of the new men was strange and startling, to be repeated from mouth to mouth by a wonder stricken people.

The roar of guns and the crash of shot were terrors that threw the Kanakas flat upon their faces, and it was not strange that they should bow down to those who controlled these powers. The objects of this reverential awe could not, for want of sufficient language, dissipate all these terrors by explanation, nor was it wise to do so. As Columbus pretended to inspired knowledge in foretelling an eclipse in order to control a barbarous multitude, so did Cook let wondering Kanakas, awaed at his floating islands and thundering guns, indulged in a homage which it was not easy to restrain and would have been unwise to decline. It was only such fear that preserved the life of a handful of men in the midst of thousands of savages.

You know that Cook, shortly after landing at Kealakekua Bay, or "Kirekakoon in Owyhee," was waited upon by priests. He had a robe of colored tapps placed upon his shoulders; the people prostrated themselves before him; he was proclaimed an eastern, or asiatic, the hero-god Lono; he was led to some wooden images; he was placed between them; a long oration or prayer was uttered, and a cooked pig was offered to him, with portions of which he was fed.

They saw that he ate and drank, and suffered heat and fatigue, and other inconveniences, as they did; and they were accustomed to offer homage to men as skuas or gods, when they fed, and clothed, even as they do at this day. I have seen such skuas or deified fellows on the islands of Maui and Lanai. I have seen one called Keoni Pupule, upon his arrival on the beach of Lanai, led on horseback to a cabin prepared for him. I have seen the tobacco smoke puffed into his nostrils, the food chewed by another and placed in his mouth, and many other acts of a ridiculous homage offered to his person. They doubt not the mortality of the men they so worship, as they often change their minds, and beat and slay the objects of their veneration, as they did Cook. They offer this homage as a mere act of hero worship, like the chairing of a political favorite in England, or like the toadying and boot-licking that attends the man worship of the day in many civilized countries.

The meaning attached by Kanakas of the days of Cook, and even by those of this day, to the word *akua*, which we translate god, is a powerful, or perhaps crazy man, a curious fish, a strange bird, a remarkable stone, or any ghost or hobgoblin of their imagination. This reverence of men as centooas or akuas was common throughout Polynesia. Cook had met with instances of this sort of Polynesian homage before in the Society Islands. He deemed it not only impolitic, but improper under the circumstances, to rebuke their extravagant barbarous courtesies. He must, too, have felt something of the impossibility, with his slight knowledge of the language of the people, to convey proper impressions of a supreme, spiritual, almighty God; since such an impression is not yet fully conveyed to the minds of Kanakas, even at this day.

Vancouver, who is esteemed by the critics of Cook as a man of strict religious sentiment and superior moral tone, yielded acquiescence to a pagan ceremonial, like his great commander. This is not reported by others, but he very deliberately makes the statement himself, without a word of excuse or exculpation. In his "Round the World," volume 3, page 52, he says: "On Sunday evening, agreeably to my promise, I accompanied Tamaahmah (Kamehameha) to the Morai, or temple, and submitted to all the forms, regulations, and restrictions of the taboo. * * * I was not on this, as on the former occasion, purely an idle spectator, but was in some degree one of the actors. * * * Much conversation took place on many subjects (especially the cession of Owyhee) when not otherwise engaged in functions of a religious nature."

Cook, like Raleigh, belongs to the English speaking race. His story of adventure in the path of duty is as pleasant to the generous boyhood of all this race as the invention of Defoe. There should be erected monuments to commemorate his achievements in the land of his birth, and also in this land, which derives so much benefit from the islands he discovered. Moreover, there should be a monument to his glory in the land where he died.

The form of Cook, in eternal bronze, should rise up on the rock of slaughter at Kealakekua; which, looking calmly and benignly on the sons of those who slew him, should seem to say, "I am he whom you called Lono. I brought to you knowledge from other worlds. For the duty I fulfilled in doing this, my name rises up eternal in your midst. You slew me through ignorance. My bones are in your bay; but my soul is in the abode of our Everlasting God, where I and your fathers meet in peace!" G.

Wonderful Commotion on the Solar Surface.

A writer in the Pittsburg *Commercial*, dating from the "Observatory, Allegheny," 26th inst., contributes the following observations:

The appearance of spots on the sun, large enough to be visible to the naked eye, is a rare occurrence, but it may be noticed by any one who takes the trouble to observe them. The aspect of the sun through a large telescope, is one, just now, of singular interest, and it seems to claim special attention from observers.

Here, where the remarkable changes of the solar surface have formed the subject of repeated observation, daily maps of the position of the spots are made, and their singular variations have been the object of most interested scrutiny.

The side of the sun now turned towards us is today covered with hundreds of them, of all sizes, and in all the stages of growth, while the opposite side, to be presented to us a few days later, is comparatively bare.

The area of one of the large spots which is now near the centre of the disk, has been computed from careful measurements and found to exceed 2,300,000,000 square miles. Such immense numbers convey no very definite impression, and perhaps a more vivid idea of the size may be gained by comparing it with that of the earth, whose entire area is less than a tenth part of that just given.

This is the area of the penumbra—an immense expanse of variegated forms, crossed by channels and convergent streams of luminous matter, all shifting under an action like that of some whirlwind which is twisting them from one position to another, and changing their forms from hour to hour. The current sometimes appears to rush downward, carrying with it great masses of the luminous matter to lower depths, and opening as it does so black cavities of a size commensurate with the scale on which this action is carried on.

The largest of these cavities is seen to be overhung with parts of the brilliant surface, which visibly break away in enormous portions and sink in it, out of sight; indeed, it is quite within the truth to say that a globe the size of the world might be dropped in without touching either side. It is impossible to convey an adequate idea of the impression of infinite and exhaustless energy, of which one is conscious, while beholding this with adequate optical aid. Masses, the size of whole continents, are utterly changed in shape or disappear from one day to another, sometimes while the observer watches them, and the whole "spot" is to all appearances being slowly rotated by the cyclones which are visibly working there.

This is only one of many centres of similar action, not all on the same scale, but baffling the eye by their number and incessant change of form, which the draughtsman labors after in vain, and which even the photograph can but imperfectly render. At one of our largest observatories, the photograph is employed to make a daily chart of these changes, and an inspection of its truthful and unbiased record will convey a more conclusive sense of the almost awful magnitude and energy of the solar forces than the most vivid description.

One who has been accustomed to watch them must feel the inadequacy of any attempt to describe these "spots," and still more so of the futility of trying to convey his own impression by any extravagance of description or comparison.

The wonder must lie in the consideration of authentic measurements, which are left to tell their own story.

The public may not share the interest of the professional observer in such matters, but our own planet is too intimately connected with these phenomena not to make them claim some interest from all of us. Why these magnetic needles move responsively to these great changes in the sun, or why aurorns will light up our winter sky, at intervals more frequently repeated as this solar action is more violent, are questions which astronomy is now trying to answer. The fact that they do so is certain; the cause is still wholly unknown to science.

THE SUN'S RADIANT HEAT—REMARKABLE EXPERIMENTS.—The *Engineering and Mining Journal* contains a drawing of a "calorimeter" contrived by Capt. John Ericsson, who says:

Preliminary experiments, conducted very carefully, having disclosed the the startling fact that the real intensity of solar radiation marks a point on the thermometric scale several hundred degrees below the freezing point of water, I resorted to the expedient of concentrating the sun's rays by such a method that the degree of concentrating could be accurately measured. Investigations conducted in conformity with this method of determining the true intensity of the radiant heat proved the temperature to be nearly identical with that shown by the preliminary experiments referred to. The extraordinary fact was accordingly established that the intensity of the sun's rays before gaining by terrestrial tradition is no feeble that fluid mercury contained in an exhausted shallow vessel covered with a thin lens of about 50 inches focus, and exposed to the full power of a clear sun, will very rapidly become solid, provided the vessel is prevented from receiving heat from surrounding substances. It little whether the molecular action within the mass of mercury necessary to keep it in a fluid state is checked by the slower undulations of the ray, as waves of a rapid motion are checked by mingling with waves of less motion; or whether the molecular action within the mass of mercury is communicated to the surrounding cold vessel. In either case the reduced molecular force within the freezing mercury proves the inadequacy of the action produced by the sun's rays to maintain the metal in a fluid state.

Incidentally the experiments thus instituted to demonstrate the feeble power of solar radiation before its int