

ASTONISHING RECORDS.

Downpours in this City and on the Other Islands.

MR. EDITOR: As this appears to be a time for rain stories, the following figures may prove interesting:

In December, 1864, the record kept by Dr. G. P. Judd, at the family residence on the corner of Nuuanu avenue and Judd street, 140 feet above sea level, and one and a quarter miles from the Post Office, read as follows, each day at 8 A. M.:

Table with 2 columns: Date (December 4-16) and Inches (2.80 to 12.00). Total: 38.03.

The rainfall for the same period at Oahu College, Punahou, was 15.20 inches.

On the 10th of May, 1885, the rainfall at my residence at Punahou, two miles from the Post Office, was 10 inches for the 24 hours. At the same place in 1887, each day at 9 A. M.:

Table with 2 columns: Date (November 17-19) and Inches (5.40 to 4.75).

Or 16.15 inches in three consecutive days.

At Luakaha, Nuuanu Valley, four and a half miles from Honolulu Post Office, there fell in the same year 185 inches.

It should be stated in all fairness that these figures do not represent our climate; for at Kapiolani Park, the same year, and not seven miles in a straight line from Luakaha, only 32 inches fell. In 1891 Honolulu town had 16.80 for the year as against 119.32 at Luakaha, only four miles away, as above mentioned. Mahukona, on the lee side of Hawaii, probably has at times less than five inches per year.

In January, 1890, Hon. G. N. Wilcox, of Lihue, Kauai, reported a fall of 12 inches in less than five hours.

Mr. Meyers, of Molokai, on December 9, 1890, had 16.25 inches in 16 hours, and probably more, as the container overflowed. The station is 1600 feet above sea level.

Dr. Charles Wetmore, of Hilo, a careful and educated man, as we all know, reported 55 inches in one month in that village. I have not the date at hand.

An engineer on the old Kaupakua Plantation, Hilo, informed me in 1877 of 16 inches falling in one night in an open sugar cooler.

Ookala Plantation, near Laupahoehoe, Hilo, furnished the following figures in 1890:

Table with 2 columns: Month (July-December) and Inches (30.78 to 26.06).

In the Waipio Mountains, Hamakua, Hawaii, in forest swamps, 3000 feet elevation, 154 inches fell in seven months in 1889-1890.

Mr. W. H. Rogers, Pepeekeo, Hilo, residence near the sea, reported for 1890, 205 inches. Paauhau Plantation, Hamakua, Hawaii, for the same year reported 152.85 inches.

Trusting that the above will at least be seasonable reading, CURTIS J. LYONS, February 7, 1893.

A Cold Snap.

Most extraordinary weather was experienced in Hongkong and South China during the week ending January 19, says the Hongkong Press. Saturday was fine, but cold, and as the day wore on the temperature fell rapidly. On Sunday rain fell in frequent showers and on Tai-mo-shan and the ranges of hills to the westward what was supposed to be snow was seen, but, judging from subsequent experience in Hongkong, it was probably ice. On Monday it was again showery, but a hard frost had set in at the Peak, with the result that the rain froze as it fell, and every tree, shrub and leaf became coated with ice; icicles hung from the eaves of the houses, the water pipes were frozen, and the tackle at the signal station was so firmly encrusted with ice that for two days no signals could be shown. At Canton and Macao similar weather has prevailed and great suffering has been caused amongst the poorer classes by the intense cold. At Canton charitable relief in the shape of food and clothing has been dispensed to the beggars, but the lepers, it is reported, have been refused participation in the distribution and have been left to die from starvation. No such weather has been experienced here within living memory.

MORE RAINFALLS.

Some Interesting Statistics Resuscitated.

MR. EDITOR: Looking over some old files of the COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER, I came across the following items:

Table with 2 columns: Date (Dec 1-15) and Amount of rain measured at Punahou from December 1st to 15th, 1864.

Total.....15.200 -Com. Adv. Dec. 17, 1864.

Taken by Dr. G. P. Judd at Nuuanu Valley, from Dec. 4 to 16, 1864:

Table with 2 columns: Date (Dec 4-16) and Amount of rain measured at Nuuanu Valley.

Total.....38.03 -Com. Adv., Dec. 24, 1864.

Handed in by Dr. G. P. Judd to Com. Adv. of Jan. 26, 1867:

Table with 3 columns: Month (Jan-Dec), HONOLULU, and HILO.

Total.....39.90 55.63 182.17

Honolulu, 1867, February, 22.49 ins. -Com. Adv., Mar. 2, 1867.

These items may be of interest as there has been some talk of rain-falls of late. G.

A GHOST STORY.

"Do you believe in ghosts?" "No, never did; but I'll tell you a strange story."

There was a cellar in my father's house, and one day as I was at work in the room above, H. went below with a basket to get some potatoes.

A boy about ten years of age followed him, and sat on an empty box while the other picked up the potatoes. Grumbings and ejaculations, more and more pronounced, greeted my ears, and I gathered that he was being annoyed by a spirit, for his remarks were not addressed to the boy; yet there was no element of fear in his voice, but rather of resolute antagonism.

Finally, on hearing a savage "Get out of the way!" I dropped my work impatiently, and exclaiming "What on earth is the matter with you?" I started to see for myself.

Well, the stairway was not finished. For instance, you understand, the floor joists were not mortised into the beams, but rested on top of them, and they were end on to the side of the stairway, leaving a space of four inches between the floor and the beam that crossed there, and this space was open.

As my shoulders came nearly down to a level with the floor, in my decent, a large coarse, but almost invisible hand was thrust out before me from this space on my left, and grasped my right hand. Of course I tried to withdraw it, but the grip tightened with resolute severity, and my efforts to draw off, dragged the invisible form of the hand's owner after it, and as this form emerged from the space it swung round upon my back and gripped me powerless with its crab-like arms and legs, uttering fiendish sounds of triumph at having got me in its power. Me, who never believed in spirits and had an utter contempt for the whole subject, in the grip of an invisible but powerful body! Horror!

I awoke, and 'twas all a dream. "Ate too big a dinner, eh?" No, quite the contrary, I ate very moderately.

Ate a small piece of mince pie to be sure, but mince pie never troubled me, and I believe this stuff about mince pie making bad dreams is all nonsense. JIM, HIGH.

[The foregoing was sent to the ADVERTISER from another island. The reader will at once say that the author ought to try duck egg cake next time to see how that will act on his mind.]

Several native correspondents, writing from North and South Kona, say that peace and quiet reign there, and they are satisfied with the new government.

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