DEATH OF THE LEPER PRIEST.

THE SUBLIME UNSELFISHNESS AND HEROIC DEATH OF DAMIEN.

His Own Story of His Devoted Work in the Leper Prison-Hospital of Molokai, to Which He Bravely Sacrificed His Life—His Willing and Worthy Successor in the Humane Work of Ministering to the Minds and Bodies of the Victims.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9.—The barkentine W. H. Dimond, which arrived yesterday from Honolulu, brought word that the Rev. Father Damien, widely celebrated as the leper priest of Molokai, died at Kalawao, Hawaii, on April 10.

The story of Father Damien is one of the most impressive of any time or age. In 1873, when he was but 33 years old, in full possession of health and fortune, a man of education and refinement, "a Prince coming to his kingdom," Damien deliberately offered himself as missionary to the outcast lepers of the Sandwich Islands, knowing full well that he, in time, would become a leper, too. In 1884 the first symptoms of the horrible disease manifested themselves in Damien, and since that time the heroic priest has been dying the most lingering and frightful death known to man—the death to which he willingly condemned himself. His decease has been daily expected for months past. Damien's story has been often told to the world, but never before as THE SUN tells it to-day. THE SUN prints Damien's own story of his life among the lepers as he wrote it, with unthinking heroism in a cold report to the Hawaiian Government. This is the first and only account ever given by Father Damien of his life at Molokai. The story of Damien, as told by himself, is, of course, the record which history will preserve of his noble life; while the modesty, the humility, the gentle and kindly spirit of the man, utterly forgetting itself in love and care for others—in a word, Damien's absolutely ideal heroism, is here fully though unconsciously displayed.

Molokai, which is generally spoken of as the leper settlement, is an island of the Hawaiian group, and Kalawao, a village on the island, is the lepers' home. As is well known, the settlement is simply a prison hospital, none of the people living there being permitted to depart. A prison in name, Kalawao is a prison in reality. So far as isolation is concerned, no better place for the leper settlement could have been imagined. Kalawao is simply a tongue of land, washed on three sides by the ocean, and thrust out there from a line of cliffs four thousand feet high. No one has ever escaped from Kalawao. The little peninsula is three miles long and a mile wide. It is treeless and exposed, naked, to the full force of the northeast trade wind. During the winter months the climate of Kalawao is bleak, cold, and rainy. In the summer time the sun beats down fiercely. The mountains hang over the little peninsula like giants.

The lepers were brought here in 1865. For decades before 1860 leprosy had prevailed in the Hawaiian Islands, but not extensively. In 1860 the disease became a scourge, and a few years later the leper colony was established and all the lepers on the Sandwich Islands were ordered to be removed thence. Parents were separated from their children, husbands from their wives, and brothers and sisters from each other. The friends and relatives of those infected with the disease in many instances secreted the sufferers, and the officers charged with enforcing the "law of segregation" often had to capture their victims by stealth in the dead of night. In nearly every case the officers had to use force. In April of last year there were 749 lepers there.

ORGIES OF DESPAIR.

The lepers first taken to Kalawao were in a condition little better than that of the hapless seamen who had been "marooned," or put ashore by their comrades upon desert islands. They had no houses but flimsy huts, no decent clothing, no medical attendance worthy of the name, and but the poorest kind of food. The oldest of the miserable creatures sank into a kind of apathy and laid down and died. Among the youngest after the first few years had killed hope in their hearts, began what may only be termed the orgies of despair. They abandoned themselves to excesses. They made native alcohol and ki-root beer. The outrageous hula dances were matters of continual occurrences. The Hawaiian Government paid no attention to them. In the opening sentences of his story Father Damien has told what he found there. It is doubtful if there was upon the face of the wide earth at the time of Damien's coming in 1873 such a scene of madness, wretchedness, and despair as at the settlement at Kalawao.

Father Damien arrived in Honolulu at the time of the beginning of the segregation of the lepers in 1864. He went out to join the Catholic missioners in Hawaii. He was 24 years old, a native of Belgium, and a member of the Society of Picpus. He had labored for some time in England. He was looked upon as a young man of ability, and his superiors predicted for him a great future. Nine years after going to Honolulu he one day heard his Bishop wish that some priest would volunteer to go out among the lepers at Molokai. Damien pondered over the matter for a week, during which time it was clearly brought to his attention that if he went to Molokai he must not only stay there forever, but must, in all human probability, die a leper's death. He offered himself for the place, and his offer was accepted. In a few days he was landed at Kalawao. He had no money or no means of providing for himself. He had to trust entirely to the kind-hearted ones among the lepers. The horrible scenes he met with at first appalled him. There were so many people in the last agonies, and Damien spent so much time with them, that for a time he was not able to build himself a hut, and he had to sleep at night under a tree. The Hawaiian Government treated him with sternness. Damien was not permitted to go out to any of the islands near by to meet a brother priest for confession, and the Sheriff at Molokai had orders to put the priest in jail if he stirred off the gloomy peninsula on which the lepers were. Damien became at Kalawao, as he wrote himself, "physician of the soul and body, magistrate, school teacher, carpenter, joiner, painter, gardener, housekeeper, cook, and often undertaker and gravedigger." The poor lepers came to look upon him as their friend and assistant in every possible way. He moved among them and lived with them as one of themselves. His influence became unbounded. He was the arbiter of all disputes, the final resource in every trouble. Finally the Hawaiian Government came to look upon Damien kindly. They put him on the same footing as the medical inspector who at times visited the colony, and allowed him every privilege. Damien did not leave the island, but remained constantly laboring among the lepers.

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SETTLEMENT.

In Damien's story, which follows, there is a constant comparison between the leper settlement as he found it and the leper settlement a dozen years later. Now there are at Kalawao and the adjoining villages good frame houses, built of lumber, which was, of course, brought there from remote parts of the island; several hospitals for both males and females, attended by an efficient corps of physicians; generous supplies of food and clothing given by the Government; good schools for the children, and an increase of comfort in every way. But more surprising than this, there is a strange change in the life and habits of the lepers. The licentious dances are no more heard of. Comparatively little of the native alcohol is distilled. The lives of the people are much more moral, and the lepers have taken to cultivating garden spots around their homes. Kalawao is a peaceful and apparently a happy community. With characteristic modesty, Damien merely states these wonderful changes without accounting for them. But that they were due almost entirely to himself alone is the instant verdict of all who have been conversant with his life and work at Kalawao. Damien speedily saw when he went among the lepers that he could do little for their spiritual welfare until they were better off temporarily. In their miserable, hopeless condition they jeered at God and man and rioted in a frenzied attempt to drown the thoughts of their end. Damien immediately began to write letters to the Government, detailing the horrible state of affairs on Molokai. He sent letter after letter unceasingly. Finally committees of the Board of Health and of the Hawaiian Legislature appeared on Molokai. The devoted priest, his eyes filled with tears, pointed out to the officials what was needed. Medical men in Hawaii began to pay a great deal of attention to the study of leprosy, and the leper settlement at Molokai was much discussed. One by one the bad things at Molokai were measurably remedied. He did not relax with little benefits given the settlement, but pushed ahead seriously, continually demanding governmental aid. He finally had the pleasure of seeing the most hurtful of the evils entirely removed. And when this was done he found, too, that the leper settlement had become, in a great degree, a God fearing and Christian community, looking to him as its head.

All this was the work of years. It came slowly, inch by inch, as the result of a man's self-devotion and indomitable will. When Queen Kapiolani visited the peninsula in July, 1884, her officers showed her the neat white cottages standing among the cultivated fields, the barns filled with produce, the orderly streets—a community showing everywhere the hand of industry and religion—and then pointing to Damien, who stood humbly at a distance, said: "He is the father of it all." Later the Queen visited the school for incurable leper boys and girls, personally founded by Damien, and heard the children singing.

DAMIEN'S DANGER.

Damien was with the lepers, of course, daily and hourly. He was in contact with lepers of all grades, including the most severe cases. He had some knowledge of medicine, and before the advent of the physicians was medical adviser to half the settlement. Until 1884 he felt fairly well. In that year pains in the left foot troubled him. These continued to get worse, and in the absence of any other signs were attributed to rheumatism. Toward the close of '84 Dr. Arning, a physician at Kalawao, diagnosed Damien's trouble as leprosy. In May, 1885, the doctors, after a careful examination, found no signs that the disease was spreading in Damien; but in August of that year leprous tubercles plainly manifested themselves in his face, and poor Damien knew that his doom was sealed. But the heroic priest did not relinquish his work. He still walked and talked with the lepers, ministering to the sick, teaching the children, living the same old life of poverty and hardship, and thinking only of alleviating the lot of the lepers and working for their souls. His only reward was in seeing that he had benefited both the souls and bodies of his charges in abundant measure.

GOING TO DAMIEN'S AID.

In the spring of 1886 arrived an assistant to Father Damien, Father Conrardy, a native of Oregon, and a young man in full health. Father Conrardy, like Damien, volunteered to go among the lepers, and hastened his departure when he learned that Damien had been stricken with the leprosy. Father Damien willingly received Conrardy, knowing that he himself would soon be too sick to work, and that he must have a successor. In a few months there also arrived seven Sisters of the Franciscan Order to serve as nurses in the leper hospitals. Two of the Sisters—Cyrilla and Irene—came from Syracuse, in this State. That Conrardy is a hero of the same stuff as Damien may be seen from this extract from a letter which he wrote in 1886 to Archbishop Gross:

> It is true, so far, that no cure for leprosy has been found, but, after all, we have to die, and to me it is a matter of small importance whether I die a leper or not. I willingly like Paul, "I have the desire" "my ambition is to live and to die" in the service of the lepers of Molokai; my only regret would be that I came here so late, but I may live some twenty years among the lepers. My prayer has been heard, and I got what I prayed for, a place which few only cared for on account of the disease itself. Time will prove the sincerity of the place and will I came here to live and die. I hope with God's help to be able to stand it to the last. Will I ever see my friends again? This is very doubtful, although poor Father Damien, who a few weeks ago were down for dead, now seems that has taken a new grasp on life. Every day you might see him working in the new church with a blouse, like a common laborer. He says sometimes that my health and strength compared to his are nothing; by that you see how well he is, except for the leprosy, which is eating him up slowly. Father Damien and I are living under the same roof, but I hope next spring to have a house built for myself in the centre of the graveyard. They say it is not healthy to have a house there, as many poor lepers have been buried not very deep, but it is the best location near the church. My little house will be standing over a number of graves. We have been thinking several times to stop burying so close to it, but that is stronger than talk. Three Sisters of St. Francis have arrived, and Father Wendelin with them. They are located at Kalaupapa, two miles and a half from us, at the other end of the leper settlement. I have just been writing for a funeral service. I hear the big drum; a poor lad of 20 to bury."

By this time the world was ringing with Damien's fame. The King of Hawaii made him a Knight Commander of the Order of Kalakaua L., but the priest never wore the glittering decoration of the order. He said that it would spoil his worn and patched cassock. In England, Henry Labouchere started a subscription for Damien in his paper, which came to $1,500. This amount was forwarded to Damien by Cardinal Manning. Shortly afterward, the Rev. Hugh B. Chapman, a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, the vicar of St. Luke's, Camberwell, London, forwarded to Father Damien a draft for $5,000, the contribution of himself and some of his parishioners. Shortly after this, Mr. Edward Clifford, Treasurer of the Church Army, an English Episcopal institution, visited Damien, bringing presents and many letters and wrote of his visit, to the *Church Army Gazette*:

> Damien is just what you would expect him to be, a simple, sturdy, hard-working, devout man. No job was too menial for him, building, carpentering, tending the sick, washing the dead, and many other such things form part of his daily work. He is always cheerful, often playful, and one of the most truly humble men I ever saw. The leprosy has disfigured him a good deal, and I never feel it a more great pleasure to look at him; and already the garlon oil which I brought is making a manifest difference in his face and hands, and in his powers of sleeping. How far the cure will reach, it is of course impossible to say. He is such a busy man that I sometimes fear he will not find time to do the medicine full justice. The Engineer (a convert) is amazingly fond of him, very much indeed. Pray for him, for there must be many times when he is tempted to be discouraged and over sad at all the sickness and misery which seems around him. I was very glad to be here at Christmas. You would have enjoyed the hearty way in which the lepers sang, "O come, all ye faithful."

There is one final picture of Damien, that disclosed in a letter written by Father Conrardy to friends in this country a few months ago.

> I am going to give you a few lines about the dear Father Damien, who will soon be no more, as he is falling a victim to his charity. In England and America they call him the here-martyr. It is my privilege to be near him, to live with him. Leprosy has done its work in his ears, his eyes, nose, throat, his hands, and his lungs. The poor Father has suffered dreadfully. He is completely disfigured. His voice is almost extinct. If you could only see him as he lies in his bed of suffering tears would come to your eyes at the sight of that man who has done so much for thousands of lepers, now himself reduced to so terrible a condition, with so little that can be done for him.

Damien's own story, which THE SUN herewith prints, was written by him in the form of a report to Walter M. Gibson, President of the Board of Health of Hawaii, in March, 1886. At this time there was compiled by the Hawaiian Board of Health, to accompany the annual report of its President, a large special appendix on the subject of leprosy. All the physicians at the leper settlement were asked to write reports for this appendix, and Damien was especially requested to contribute the story of his personal experiences during his thirteen years' residence and labor among the lepers. Damien complied with the request, though he begrudged the time it took him from the lepers. It is the only article he ever wrote descriptive of his life at Kalawao. He never referred to it, save that at the time Damien wrote the article he was himself a leper, with but a few more years to live. It is not the most excellent English, for Damien had to write in a foreign tongue. Here is the simple and modest recital of a life of the most complete bravery and self-abnegation.

LIFE OF THE LEPERS.

By special providence of Our Divine Lord, who during His public life showed a particular sympathy for the lepers, my way was traced toward Kalawao in May, A. D. 1873. I was then 33 years of age, enjoying a robust good health—Lunalilo being at that time King of the Hawaiian Islands, and His Excellency, L. O. Hall, President of the Board of Health.

A great many lepers had lately arrived from the different islands; they numbered 816. Some of them were old acquaintances of mine from Hawaii, where I was previously stationed as a missionary priest. To the majority I was a stranger.

The Kalaupapa landing place was at that time a somewhat deserted village of three or four wooden cottages and a few old grass houses. The lepers were allowed to go there only on the days when a vessel arrived: they were all living at Kalawao—about eighty of them in the hospital, in the same buildings we see there to-day. All the other lepers, with a very few kokuas (helpers), had taken their abode further up toward the valley. They had cut down the old pandanus, or puuhala groves, to build their houses, though a great many had nothing but branches of castor oil trees with which to construct their small shelters. These frail frames were covered with ki leaves (*Dracæna terminalis*), or with sugar cane leaves, the best ones with pili grass. I myself was sheltered during several weeks under the single pandanus tree, which is preserved up to the present in the churchyard. Under such primitive roofs were living pell-mell, without distinction of ages or sex, old or new cases, all more or less strangers one to another, those unfortunate outcasts of society. They passed their time with playing cards, hula (native dances), drinking fermented ki-root beer, home-made alcohol, and with the sequelae of all this. Their houses were far from being clean and decent on account of the scarcity of water, which had to be brought at that time from a great distance.

Many a time, in fulfilling my priestly duty at their domiciles, I have been compelled to run outside to breathe fresh air. To protect my legs from a peculiar itching, which I usually experienced every evening after my visiting them, I had to beg a friend of mine to send me a pair of heavy boots. As an antidote to counteract the bad smell, I made myself accustomed to the use of tobacco, whereupon the smell of the pipe preserved me somewhat from carrying in my clothes the obnoxious odor of the lepers. At that time the progress of the disease was fearful, and the rate of mortality very high.

These are a few of my recollections of what I have seen and experienced at the beginning of my labor here. The miserable condition of the settlement at that time gave it the name of a living graveyard, which name I am happy to state, and hope to prove hereafter, is to-day no longer applicable to our place.

The accession of King Kalakaua to the throne up to the present time, his Majesty's Government, assisted by Christian charity, has endeavored, little by little, according to means and circumstances, to improve the situation of the lepers, and to make them more comfortable.

Consulting my own observations and experience only, without any memorandum book or register, I intend to show here what contributes much toward the comforts and benefits of lepers, and what is obnoxious or injurious to them, and will prove these two statements by putting our good situation and comfort in parallel with what I found here at my arrival, as already explained.

THE DIET OF THE LEPERS.

The food on which a leper has to live exercises a great influence on the disease. Our Hawaiian taro, containing a great quantity of starch, and being easy of digestion, is our best vegetable. So far, I have never seen any bad effects from it, even in favers and other temporary ailments to which our lepers are so often subjected. Hawaiian people in general, but especially our lepers, cannot go well without it. I remember that, some ten years ago, the place having been about three months without taro on account of the scarcity of that vegetable, several deaths occurred in consequence of it, and the majority of the people looked emaciated, although they had plenty of rice and sweet potatoes.

* * * * * * * * *

Unfortunately, some of our Hawaiians are much addicted to the use of a certain beverage made of sweet potatoes, which they allow to ferment, and thus obtain an obnoxious, intoxicating drink. They are very fond of it, but it makes them excited, and has a bad effect on their system, as have all other alcohols; and I wish to express here my sincere thanks to our local administration for having wisely prohibited the use of it.

Besides their regular food, a pint of good milk provides them advantageously with a wholesome, nourishing beverage in the line of diet. The question naturally occurs to the mind of the reader, how can a sufficient quantity of milk to supply such a number of people be procured? May I be allowed to explain my views on this point?

This settlement, in the greatest part, affording the best kind of grazing for stock, I would suggest to the administration with all my might to increase as much as much as possible the number of good milch cows. Unfortunately, on account of the great amount of meat wanted, some 5,000 pounds a week, and the frequent failure of the arrival at the regular time of beef cattle, our butchers are sometimes obliged to kill off more or less of our valuable milk stock, which keeps the latter on a decrease, and therefore lessens terribly the supply of milk.

Let me regretfully state, it is now several years up to the present day, that not one-tenth of our lepers outside of the hospital yard have been enabled to enjoy the benefit of a small daily ration of fresh milk.

I beg leave to be allowed to make here a suggestion for the benefit of the Board of Health and for the lepers. May it be proposed at the next Legislature to make, besides the regular appropriation for the support of the lepers, an additional one, such as to provide the necessary means for buying, where as many head of cattle as our beautiful plain for grazing can support—say from 500 to 1,000 head—of which a certain number should be used for breeding and milk, and the rest for beef cattle. In regard to salmon as a substitute for meat, I simply will state that it may do once in a while, but the less the better.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE SETTLEMENT.

From the landing place of Kalaupapa up to Kalawao we have no regular water stream. Fortunately at the upper part of the Kalawao valley there is one, but this water is not very abundant, though sufficient, if properly managed, to supply this one village. When I first arrived here the lepers were obliged to carry their water in oil cans from that gulch on their shoulders or on horses with the greatest difficulty; there, also, they used to wash their clothes. The scarcity of water at that time accounted, to some extent, for their living very dirty.

On studying this question of water supply, I was informed that at the terminus of the valley called Waihanau (water arise), which valley is located about one hour's walk east of Kalaupapa, is a natural reservoir. At one time, in company with two of our intelligent white men and some of my boys, I went to investigate the truth of it, and, after 2,000 feet of travelling in the gulch, we arrived at this truly beautiful reservoir, built by nature's hand in the rock, which, we circulating balls; its diameter in one direction is 72 feet and 55 in the other. On sounding its depth we found twelve feet of water at a short distance from the bank and eighteen feet toward the centre. The water being ice-cold, none of my boys dared to venture to swim across to fix a pipe depth close to the high cliff, where probably it is deeper. The water looks very clear, and has an excellent taste.

Now, instead of going to Waikolu to obtain a water supply for Kalaupapa, as was intended, which would be, besides the difficulty of labor of building a road, very expensive for laying from such a distance, say over five miles, the amount of pipes required for that purpose, a very large expense to the Government, therefore I simply recommend the laying of good pipes from this Waihanau reservoir. The question of supplying water for Kalaupapa has been for a long time under discussion and never thoroughly investigated, under the impression that it would cost too much, and there the matter rests at present.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE LEPERS.

Good ventilation being in general one of the first conditions of hygiene, it is much more necessary for our lepers on account of the fœtid exhalations from them being much greater than from any other disease.

In previous years, living in houses but small, damp huts, nearly the whole of the lepers were prostrated on their beds, covered with scabs and ugly sores, and had the appearance of very weak, broken-down constitutions. In the year 1874 the great question was, how to improve the habitations of the unfortunate people, the Government generously building at that time barely enough to provide them with food.

During that winter a heavy south wind blew down the majority of their half-rotten abodes, and many a weak leper laid there in the wind and rain with his blanket and clothes damp and wet. In a few days the old grass beneath their sleeping mats began to emit a very unpleasant vapor. I at once called the attention of our sympathizing agent to the fact, and very soon there arrived several schooner loads of scantling to build solid frames with. All lepers who were in direct need, I gave on requisitions the necessary material for the erection of the frames, with one-inch square laths to thatch the grass or sugar cane leaves to. Afterward rough N. W. boards arrived, and also the old material of the former Kalihi hospital. From private and charitable sources we received shingles and flooring. Those who had a little money hired their own carpenters; for those without means the priest, with his leper boys, did the work of erecting a good many small houses. Besides, some newcomers who had means built their dwellings at their their own expense.

In 1878, after the inspection of the settlement by a special committee, of which your Excellency, then a member of the Assembly, was Chairman, sent by the Legislature to Kalawao, the Board of Health, having obtained a larger appropriation by a special recommendation of that committee, at once erected a good many comfortable houses, and also provided several other comforts for the lepers, of which they were greatly in need.

Lime has always been supplied by the Board of Health gratuitously for whitewashing the cottages, and thus, little by little, at comparative small expense to the Government, combined with private or charitable resources, were inaugurated the comfortable houses which constitute to-day the two decent-looking villages of Kalawao and Kalaupapa. I estimate the number of houses, at present, both large and small, somewhat over 500, nearly all whitewashed, and, so far, clean and neat, although a number of them are not yet provided with good windows. These houses, of course, cannot have the proper ventilation they need, and naturally create an unpleasant and unhealthy smell. I therefore humbly pray that the Board be kind enough to take steps and see that this still existing evil be soon remedied. In conclusion, I am happy to remark that, if I compare the present with the past, the unfortunate people of to-day are not only more comfortable and better off in every respect, but their disease in general is a great deal milder and less progressive, and, in consequence, the death rate is not so high. This is greatly due to the improvement in the houses.

THE CLOTHING OF THE LEPERS.

The settlement being situated at the northern side of the island, and backed at the south by very high and steep mountains, the climate is naturally cool. The winter season brings forth generally a long spell of cold weather. The disease, too, at a certain stage, interferes much with the free circulation of the blood, and therefore our lepers often complain of cold. Those who have suitable and warm clothes to protect themselves from the inclemency of the weather resist it generally very well; but for those who, through neglect or destitution, have barely enough to cover their nakedness, the cold and damp weather has a bad effect. They then begin to feel feverish, and cough badly; swelling in the face and limbs sets in, and if not speedily attended to, the disease generally settles on the lungs, and thus hastens them on the road to an early grave. On my arrival I found the lepers in general very destitute of warm clothing. So far they had received from the Administration a suit of clothes and a blanket; but some of them, being very careful and frugal, in a few months nothing remained but rags. Those who had friends in the outer world were fortunate in receiving from time to time a few articles of clothing, but the friendless and the poor suffered greatly. There was no store at the time within the limits of the settlement where they could buy a new garment or other necessaries, and those who received or could earn some money had to intrust it to the Captain of the schooner to buy for them what they were in want of.

We all greatly felt the necessity of a suitable market store, and, on a very sound principle, the Molokai store was inaugurated by the Board of Health in the summer of 1873. To start with, a thousand dollars out of the appropriation was invested to lay in the first stock, and with a certain percentage above the cost price to cover current expenses, the store has since then been running on its own account, supplying our people with any article they may wish to buy. Every year the Board issues an order for $6 to each leper, to enable them to buy at the said store what they are in want of, especially in the line of clothing. So far, this store has proved to be a success and a great convenience to the people here, and we could not do very well without it.

Besides the allowance by the Board of Health, Christian charity has given us a helping hand in the matter of clothing, and assisted us to our great satisfaction. In previous years it was nothing unusual to receive from time to time a cart load of clothing for distribution to the needy; for instance, such as was received a year and a half ago from the hands of her Majesty Queen Kapiolani and those who assisted her in filling the leper subscription. Thanks for aid in the past, and the future prove that untiring perseverance of charity continues to assist the Board of Health in supplying the unfortunates of Molokai with all their necessities—especially with warm clothing, because, may I here remark, that the yearly allowance of $6 to provide clothes and other indispensible articles is quite insufficient for those who have no private means, and no friends or relatives to give them a helping hand. I beg to lay this statement, based on a long experience, before the honorable Board of Health for future consideration.

The allowance granted by the Board, combined with Christian charity and some private industry, of which I intend to speak hereafter, has greatly ameliorated the condition of our lepers, and provided them with comparatively good clothes.

EXERCISE FOR THE LEPERS.

Leprosy is a constitutional disease by which, generally, the circulation of the blood is partially obstructed, the nerves and muscles more or less paralyzed, and the limbs are often disabled in one place or the other, which varies in almost every case.

A person afflicted with leprosy, who quietly gives himself up to the ravages of the disease, and does not take exercise of any kind, presents a downcast and sloughy appearance, and threatens soon to become a total wreck. Therefore exercise, as a daily occupation, is highly commendable to invigorate the circulation, give impetus to the general movement of the muscles and to the free circulation of the blood, thus averting many pains, sores, and other consequences of a prostrated constitution.

In former days (from 1866 to 1873), all the lepers being collected at the rather small village of Kalawao, the majority of them passed their time in sleeping, drinking, and playing cards, while only a few others cultivated the fields; and horses being limited at that time, a minimum nuber only of the inmates could enjoy the exercise of a horse ride.

Later on, all that tract of land at Kalaupapa having been annexed to the leper settlement, travelling was at once increased to a great extent; going from one village to the other became not only a healthful exercise and pleasure, but of frequent necessity; horses, too, were numerous, and are easily procured. This tract includes a very fertile piece of cultivable land; over two hundred acres are fenced in along the foot of the mountains. Every leper is privileged to occupy any vacant portion of it he may choose to cultivate, as some were already accustomed to do in the Kalawao fields, for buying as many head of cattle as our beautiful plain for grazing can support—say from 500 to 1,000 head—of which a certain number should be used for breeding and milk, and the rest for beef cattle. In regard to salmon as a substitute for meat, I simply will state that it may do once in a while, but the less the better.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE SETTLEMENT.

From the landing place of Kalaupapa up to Kalawao we have no regular water stream. Fortunately at the upper part of the Kalawao valley there is one, but this water is not very abundant, though sufficient, if properly managed, to supply this one village. When I first arrived here the lepers were obliged to carry their water in oil cans from that gulch on their shoulders or on horses with the greatest difficulty; there, also, they used to wash their clothes. The scarcity of water at that time accounted, to some extent, for their living very dirty.

On studying this question of water supply, I was informed that at the terminus of the valley called Waihanau (water arise), which valley is located about one hour's walk east of Kalaupapa, is a natural reservoir. At one time, in company with two of our intelligent white men and some of my boys, I went to investigate the truth of it, and, after 2,000 feet of travelling in the gulch, we arrived at this truly beautiful reservoir, built by nature's hand in the rock, which, we circulating balls; its diameter in one direction is 72 feet and 55 in the other. On sounding its depth we found twelve feet of water at a short distance from the bank and eighteen feet toward the centre. The water being ice-cold, none of my boys dared to venture to swim across to fix a pipe depth close to the high cliff, where probably it is deeper. The water looks very clear, and has an excellent taste.

Now, instead of going to Waikolu to obtain a water supply for Kalaupapa, as was intended, which would be, besides the difficulty of labor of building a road, very expensive for laying from such a distance, say over five miles, the amount of pipes required for that purpose, a very large expense to the Government, therefore I simply recommend the laying of good pipes from this Waihanau reservoir. The question of supplying water for Kalaupapa has been for a long time under discussion and never thoroughly investigated, under the impression that it would cost too much, and there the matter rests at present.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE LEPERS.

Good ventilation being in general one of the first conditions of hygiene, it is much more necessary for our lepers on account of the fœtid exhalations from them being much greater than from any other disease.

In previous years, living in houses but small, damp huts, nearly the whole of the lepers were prostrated on their beds, covered with scabs and ugly sores, and had the appearance of very weak, broken-down constitutions. In the year 1874 the great question was, how to improve the habitations of the unfortunate people, the Government generously building at that time barely enough to provide them with food.

During that winter a heavy south wind blew down the majority of their half-rotten abodes, and many a weak leper laid there in the wind and rain with his blanket and clothes damp and wet. In a few days the old grass beneath their sleeping mats began to emit a very unpleasant vapor. I at once called the attention of our sympathizing agent to the fact, and very soon there arrived several schooner loads of scantling to build solid frames with. All lepers who were in direct need, I gave on requisitions the necessary material for the erection of the frames, with one-inch square laths to thatch the grass or sugar cane leaves to. Afterward rough N. W. boards arrived, and also the old material of the former Kalihi hospital. From private and charitable sources we received shingles and flooring. Those who had a little money hired their own carpenters; for those without means the priest, with his leper boys, did the work of erecting a good many small houses. Besides, some newcomers who had means built their dwellings at their their own expense.

In 1878, after the inspection of the settlement by a special committee, of which your Excellency, then a member of the Assembly, was Chairman, sent by the Legislature to Kalawao, the Board of Health, having obtained a larger appropriation by a special recommendation of that committee, at once erected a good many comfortable houses, and also provided several other comforts for the lepers, of which they were greatly in need.

Lime has always been supplied by the Board of Health gratuitously for whitewashing the cottages, and thus, little by little, at comparative small expense to the Government, combined with private or charitable resources, were inaugurated the comfortable houses which constitute to-day the two decent-looking villages of Kalawao and Kalaupapa. I estimate the number of houses, at present, both large and small, somewhat over 500, nearly all whitewashed, and, so far, clean and neat, although a number of them are not yet provided with good windows. These houses, of course, cannot have the proper ventilation they need, and naturally create an unpleasant and unhealthy smell. I therefore humbly pray that the Board be kind enough to take steps and see that this still existing evil be soon remedied. In conclusion, I am happy to remark that, if I compare the present with the past, the unfortunate people of to-day are not only more comfortable and better off in every respect, but their disease in general is a great deal milder and less progressive, and, in consequence, the death rate is not so high. This is greatly due to the improvement in the houses.

THE CLOTHING OF THE LEPERS.

The settlement being situated at the northern side of the island, and backed at the south by very high and steep mountains, the climate is naturally cool. The winter season brings forth generally a long spell of cold weather. The disease, too, at a certain stage, interferes much with the free circulation of the blood, and therefore our lepers often complain of cold. Those who have suitable and warm clothes to protect themselves from the inclemency of the weather resist it generally very well; but for those who, through neglect or destitution, have barely enough to cover their nakedness, the cold and damp weather has a bad effect. They then begin to feel feverish, and cough badly; swelling in the face and limbs sets in, and if not speedily attended to, the disease generally settles on the lungs, and thus hastens them on the road to an early grave. On my arrival I found the lepers in general very destitute of warm clothing. So far they had received from the Administration a suit of clothes and a blanket; but some of them, being very careful and frugal, in a few months nothing remained but rags. Those who had friends in the outer world were fortunate in receiving from time to time a few articles of clothing, but the friendless and the poor suffered greatly. There was no store at the time within the limits of the settlement where they could buy a new garment or other necessaries, and those who received or could earn some money had to intrust it to the Captain of the schooner to buy for them what they were in want of.

We all greatly felt the necessity of a suitable market store, and, on a very sound principle, the Molokai store was inaugurated by the Board of Health in the summer of 1873. To start with, a thousand dollars out of the appropriation was invested to lay in the first stock, and with a certain percentage above the cost price to cover current expenses, the store has since then been running on its own account, supplying our people with any article they may wish to buy. Every year the Board issues an order for $6 to each leper, to enable them to buy at the said store what they are in want of, especially in the line of clothing. So far, this store has proved to be a success and a great convenience to the people here, and we could not do very well without it.

Besides the allowance by the Board of Health, Christian charity has given us a helping hand in the matter of clothing, and assisted us to our great satisfaction. In previous years it was nothing unusual to receive from time to time a cart load of clothing for distribution to the needy; for instance, such as was received a year and a half ago from the hands of her Majesty Queen Kapiolani and those who assisted her in filling the leper subscription. Thanks for aid in the past, and the future prove that untiring perseverance of charity continues to assist the Board of Health in supplying the unfortunates of Molokai with all their necessities—especially with warm clothing, because, may I here remark, that the yearly allowance of $6 to provide clothes and other indispensible articles is quite insufficient for those who have no private means, and no friends or relatives to give them a helping hand. I beg to lay this statement, based on a long experience, before the honorable Board of Health for future consideration.

The allowance granted by the Board, combined with Christian charity and some private industry, of which I intend to speak hereafter, has greatly ameliorated the condition of our lepers, and provided them with comparatively good clothes.

EXERCISE FOR THE LEPERS.

Leprosy is a constitutional disease by which, generally, the circulation of the blood is partially obstructed, the nerves and muscles more or less paralyzed, and the limbs are often disabled in one place or the other, which varies in almost every case.

A person afflicted with leprosy, who quietly gives himself up to the ravages of the disease, and does not take exercise of any kind, presents a downcast and sloughy appearance, and threatens soon to become a total wreck. Therefore exercise, as a daily occupation, is highly commendable to invigorate the circulation, give impetus to the general movement of the muscles and to the free circulation of the blood, thus averting many pains, sores, and other consequences of a prostrated constitution.

In former days (from 1866 to 1873), all the lepers being collected at the rather small village of Kalawao, the majority of them passed their time in sleeping, drinking, and playing cards, while only a few others cultivated the fields; and horses being limited at that time, a minimum nuber only of the inmates could enjoy the exercise of a horse ride.

Later on, all that tract of land at Kalaupapa having been annexed to the leper settlement, travelling was at once increased to a great extent; going from one village to the other became not only a healthful exercise and pleasure, but of frequent necessity; horses, too, were numerous, and are easily procured. This tract includes a very fertile piece of cultivable land; over two hundred acres are fenced in along the foot of the mountains. Every leper is privileged to occupy any vacant portion of it he may choose to cultivate, as some were already accustomed to do in the Kalawao fields, for buying as many head of cattle as our beautiful plain for grazing can support—say from 500 to 1,000 head—of which a certain number should be used for breeding and milk, and the rest for beef cattle. In regard to salmon as a substitute for meat, I simply will state that it may do once in a while, but the less the better.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF THE SETTLEMENT.

From the landing place of Kalaupapa up to Kalawao we have no regular water stream. Fortunately at the upper part of the Kalawao valley there is one, but this water is not very abundant, though sufficient, if properly managed, to supply this one village. When I first arrived here the lepers were obliged to carry their water in oil cans from that gulch on their shoulders or on horses with the greatest difficulty; there, also, they used to wash their clothes. The scarcity of water at that time accounted, to some extent, for their living very dirty.

On studying this question of water supply, I was informed that at the terminus of the valley called Waihanau (water arise), which valley is located about one hour's walk east of Kalaupapa, is a natural reservoir. At one time, in company with two of our intelligent white men and some of my boys, I went to investigate the truth of it, and, after 2,000 feet of travelling in the gulch, we arrived at this truly beautiful reservoir, built by nature's hand in the rock, which, we circulating balls; its diameter in one direction is 72 feet and 55 in the other. On sounding its depth we found twelve feet of water at a short distance from the bank and eighteen feet toward the centre. The water being ice-cold, none of my boys dared to venture to swim across to fix a pipe depth close to the high cliff, where probably it is deeper. The water looks very clear, and has an excellent taste.

Now, instead of going to Waikolu to obtain a water supply for Kalaupapa, as was intended, which would be, besides the difficulty of labor of building a road, very expensive for laying from such a distance, say over five miles, the amount of pipes required for that purpose, a very large expense to the Government, therefore I simply recommend the laying of good pipes from this Waihanau reservoir. The question of supplying water for Kalaupapa has been for a long time under discussion and never thoroughly investigated, under the impression that it would cost too much, and there the matter rests at present.

THE DWELLINGS OF THE LEPERS.

Good ventilation being in general one of the first conditions of hygiene, it is much more necessary for our lepers on account of the fœtid exhalations from them being much greater than from any other disease.

In previous years, living in houses but small, damp huts, nearly the whole of the lepers were prostrated on their beds, covered with scabs and ugly sores, and had the appearance of very weak, broken-down constitutions. In the year 1874 the great question was, how to improve the habitations of the unfortunate people, the Government generously building at that time barely enough to provide them with food.

During that winter a heavy south wind blew down the majority of their half-rotten abodes, and many a weak leper laid there in the wind and rain with his blanket and clothes damp and wet. In a few days the old grass beneath their sleeping mats began to emit a very unpleasant vapor. I at once called the attention of our sympathizing agent to the fact, and very soon there arrived several schooner loads of scantling to build solid frames with. All lepers who were in direct need, I gave on requisitions the necessary material for the erection of the frames, with one-inch square laths to thatch the grass or sugar cane leaves to. Afterward rough N. W. boards arrived, and also the old material of the former Kalihi hospital. From private and charitable sources we received shingles and flooring. Those who had a little money hired their own carpenters; for those without means the priest, with his leper boys, did the work of erecting a good many small houses. Besides, some newcomers who had means built their dwellings at their their own expense.

In 1878, after the inspection of the settlement by a special committee, of which your Excellency, then a member of the Assembly, was Chairman, sent by the Legislature to Kalawao, the Board of Health, having obtained a larger appropriation by a special recommendation of that committee, at once erected a good many comfortable houses, and also provided several other comforts for the lepers, of which they were greatly in need.

Lime has always been supplied by the Board of Health gratuitously for whitewashing the cottages, and thus, little by little, at comparative small expense to the Government, combined with private or charitable resources, were inaugurated the comfortable houses which constitute to-day the two decent-looking villages of Kalawao and Kalaupapa. I estimate the number of houses, at present, both large and small, somewhat over 500, nearly all whitewashed, and, so far, clean and neat, although a number of them are not yet provided with good windows. These houses, of course,