

## THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1858.

Dr. Samuel Johnson, whose dictionary was so well thought of in its day, had, as every body knows, a masculine mind that could grapple with any topic very readily. Being consulted on the subject he one day dictated the following note upon the registration of deeds:

"All laws are made for the convenience of the community; what is legally done should be legally recorded, that the state of things may be known, and whenever evidence is requisite evidence may be had. For this reason the obligation to frame and establish a legal register is enforced by a legal penalty, which penalty is the want of that perfection and plenitude of rights which a register would give. Hence it follows (he went on to say) that this is not an objection merely legal; for the reason on which the law stands being equitable, makes an equitable objection."

Whilst we sat in court the other day listening to arguments as learned as they were long upon various points connected with the registration of deeds, we almost shuddered when we thought what a chaos-come-again there would be if the Registrar's office and books were destroyed by fire. After such a disaster the robbery in the Custom House would be remembered as grown up men remember with a smile the sense of ruination that overcame them when in their juvenile days they dropt a sixpence in the gutter. Heaven knows that robbery was bad enough, but should such a calamity as we allude to befall, it would be heard of with dismay in nearly every parlor in the kingdom. Next to the desire of acquiring property, which, not to mince matters, is very essentially in this community "our being's end and aim," comes the aspiration for security. The guerdon of labor can never be complete, and no country can flourish, where nothing exists to promise a permanency of possession. But we need not repeat the A B C of an alphabet which every one has got by heart.

When the number of recorded sales, mortgages, leases, and contracts of all kinds is remembered, there is no room left for surprise that so many persons feel a lively interest in the books in the Registrar's office. Some instruments are lost or burnt and then the record acquires additional value. But suppose the records of those instruments should be lost or burnt and all other records along with them, at one fell swoop! Aye, there's the rub! Such a thing may be improbable, but so far as the extent of human ingenuity will admit, it ought to be rendered impossible. The safe now used may be in fact what it is in name; if so, all well and good. But a gentleman who has had a very great deal to do with the registration of deeds has told us times and again that until a detached and thoroughly fire-proof building was constructed for their repository he should never consider those books, of more than sibylline value, to be guarded with the caution they warrant. They are jewels that deserve a casket of their own.

Amongst those about to meet to consider what is for the good of the nation there are many intelligent men, and if one of them descending from his eagle flight and bird's-eye view of the weightier matters of the law, would stoop to this humble topic and call attention to it, the result might be the prevention of a disaster which may one day, besides causing inconvenience to many, prove the ruin of not a few.

Some ten of the gentlemen elected to represent constituencies in the approaching session of the Legislature have addressed to his Majesty a communication couched in very respectful terms, in which they beg to be informed as to when it may be the King's intention to convoke the two Houses. The reason of this request will be apparent, they say, when they state that some of them had come from remote districts, leaving the pursuits by which they support themselves and families, and that others had arranged their business so as to devote the months of April and May to the duties of the Legislature. To this the King very promptly and politely replied through his Private Secretary, expressing his regret, in terms, that they did not wait till the session was convened, and also that their precipitancy had subjected them to any inconvenience. In answer to their question he informed them that, although the Government was not at that moment quite prepared to enter upon the business of the session, the convention would, nevertheless, not be deferred beyond the time deliberately prescribed by the three Estates.

Than this nothing can be more harmonious. On both sides we have the kindest feelings and the softest words. So far as the signers of the letter are concerned we cannot but indulge a hope that as seven out of the ten are residents of this place and appear now, at the latter end of one of the two months consecrated to the session, to be pursuing their avocations in precisely their usual way, the inconveniences alluded to seriously affect only the remaining three. These latter, in the way in which they have come here, remind one more than anything else of those feudal retainers who in the times of old were obliged to meet at such place of rendezvous as their lord might indicate with their weapons in their hands and a certain number of day's provisions at their backs. If this supply was consumed before any fighting took place all they had to do was to return to the places from whence they came, for such were the terms of their service. Only they did not come together till they were called.

This correspondence suggests some other matters for consideration, as for instance, the propriety of electing, as a general thing, only members who are independent in more than one sense of the word, and who having property of their own to protect, would be the most likely to respect the vested rights of others. But this merely as a matter of policy, for we have no property qualifications either in regard to him who gives or him who receives a vote. But space would fail us were we to go into such speculations as this and others of a similar kind, we will only add, therefore, our hope that the announcement this day made of the day for the meeting of the legislature, will give satisfaction by allowing some people, with an easy mind, to go back to their own places and particular business till that day arrives, and by clearly informing all when their public duties will begin to encroach upon their private time.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN.

LONDON, 4th February, 1858.

SIR:—I certainly cannot plead a want of events as an excuse for not writing of late. Europe and the world in general have rather presented an *embarras de nouvelles*. Ah! it was not so when you and I were young, dear Trans-Pacific. How quietly things used to jog on then. How jolly dull it used to be. No news, markets flat, no railways, no electric telegraphs, Tractarianism not begun and steam navigation in its infancy. In our comparatively short lives the population of these Islands (how different from yours!) has increased from ten millions to twenty-four millions; and two millions and a half of human and inhuman beings are crowded together in this overgrown confluence of towns, London. And now, wars are commenced and finished with a rapidity quite modern. The great blow relating to India having been struck, and a series of brilliant and heroic acts having shown that this country was equal to her best days—Delhi having been taken, and Lucknow relieved, we began to look for excitement nearer home. Internally, we had the monetary crisis or panic to enliven us, and with our mouth full of this we still wanted something to fill up the monotony of the scene, so we amused ourselves by talking about a new Reform Bill, about the abolition of the Hudson's Bay Company, ditto ditto the East India Company, and enlivening the winter with a royal marriage. On the continent we find the tranquility of France and of Europe threatened by an attempted assassination of Louis Napoleon; and across the Atlantic we find a question open, which we had every right to expect would by this time have been quite settled and at rest, viz: the Central American business. The American panic was older than our own, and quite as good. The first and original cause of these panics is over-trading. It has little to do with the amount of currency in circulation, although it may be admitted that when we are driving an enormous trade it would be more convenient to have a greater quantity of the circulating medium, just as it would be if you were vigorously to set to work to make and repair the roads of Hawaii and were to employ ten times the usual quantity of laborers, it would be of some moment to have, for the time, an increased number of wheelbarrows and of spades and picks to carry on the work you are about, although it might be strictly true that you could get on with the work without the additional utensils, only less conveniently. Now we are convalescent—and like convalescents, obliged to keep very quiet. Your islands have never gone through a monetary crisis, and so you no more know what it is than a gentleman does a confinement. In both, the excitement keeps you up and enables you to bear it. The crisis had an incidental advantage in calling people's attention to political economy as a science. We thought and talked more of banking, currency, commercial legislation, and kindred subjects than ever was

talked before. The two great divisions of opinion were on the subject of the Bank Act of 1841, commonly called Sir Robert Peel's Act. The abolitionists pointed it out as restrictive and not in accordance with free trade; the supporters pointed to it with honest pride as the *Aegis* of English commerce. At last, on the 12th of November, the Act was broken by the Government sending a letter to the Directors of the Bank of England authorizing an extension of the paper issue. No sooner was this done than some how or other confidence began to return, the price of money, which had been at 10 per cent. as a minimum, fell immediately, and although the extent of the over issue was only two millions sterling, and in a fortnight was in process of being reduced again to ordinary limits, the "breach" was in this case more honored than the "observance," at least it had a summary and almost unlooked for result. Well, sir, what do you suppose happened? Each party was discontented. The abolitionists would have liked to see the Act abolished, not infringed; and the supporters said, What is the value of a legislative act that has already in thirteen years been twice broken through? And the latter party even went so far as to say that they would rather have upheld the Bank Act in its strictness, and have let bankers and merchants and tradesmen all go indiscriminately in one universal smash. But I am tiring you with panics, and therefore will merely ask when your own government is going to establish a Bank of Honolulu, and consolidate all the scattered debts owing by the State into one stock at six per cent. interest per annum. It would give simplicity and facility, and after a time, by raising a standard of interest of money, would tend to reduce interest to more moderate proportions.

The diabolical attempt on the life of the Emperor of the French, and on the Empress, for she was at his side, though it has called forth much sympathy and good feeling, has given rise to unpleasant thoughts and words in the heads and tongues of some of our French friends. They say that England harbors those conspirators, and that if we are what we profess to be, friends, we ought to turn them out. Now this is vain talk. England is a free country, and as long as people behave themselves here as quiet subjects we cannot disturb them, though we grieve to see our hospitality taken advantage of by political scamps. The Emperor remembers that he lived in England, and that from England he made the premature descent on Boulogne. The French police ought to remember that when they purge their own land by sending the scum of Italians and other bad citizens out of it to our shores, they are heightening the evil by their own act. The system of passports and police espionage in France have not it seems availed to prevent the introduction of assassins.

On the 25th of January the Princess Royal was married to the Prince of Prussia's eldest son, heir presumptive after his father to the throne; so that, if she lives, she will one day be Queen of Prussia. It is a good and satisfactory match in most respects; but the poor girl is but seventeen, and the parting between the royal parents and their child was a sad one, and the grief of crowned heads was sympathized in, I may almost say, by bare feet. Could the Queen have seen the unaffected tears that her subjects shed when they read the touching scenes of the family parting, it would have been more gratifying to her than the presents of gold and gems that poured in on the bride. May she be happy. She went away from London the day before yesterday in the Royal steam yacht in the midst of gloom and snow; and yesterday, at 11 A. M., reached Antwerp in safety, on her way to Berlin. The going of this young thing, happy in her marriage, but necessarily so separated from the home of her childhood and the affections of her family and former friends, puts into our mouths the charming stanzas of T. Hood, entitled "Fair Ines."

"I saw thee, lovely Ines,  
Descend along the shore,  
With bands of noble gentlemen,  
And banners wav'd before;  
And gentle youths and maidens gay  
And snowy plumes they wore;—  
It would have been a beautiful dream,  
—If it had been no more!

Alas, alas, fair Ines,  
She went away with song,  
With Music waiting on her steps,  
And shoutings of the throng;  
But some were sad, and felt no mirth,  
But only Music's wrong,  
In sounds that sang Farewell, Farewell,  
To her you've lov'd so long.

Farewell, farewell, fair Ines,  
That vessel never bore  
So fair a lady on its deck,  
Nor danc'd so light before,—  
Alas for pleasure on the sea,  
And sorrow on the shore!  
The smile that blest one lover's heart  
Has broken many more!"

Yours, dear Editor, FLEET-STREET.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

HONOLULU, April 19th, 1858.

Captain L. J. MOORE, H. B. M. S. S. *Vixen*.  
Sir—Having been tendered a Complimentary Benefit, at the Royal Hawaiian Theatre, by a number of my friends, in the absence of a regular Dramatic Company in Honolulu I am compelled to request your permission for the Amateur Company of your Ship to perform on the occasion of my benefit, they having expressed their willingness, provided it met with your approbation. Should the slight knowledge you necessarily must have of me warrant you in granting me this important favor, I can only say, Sir, that you will confer a lasting obligation on me, and I shall endeavor to prove myself grateful, if not worthy. Hoping you will pardon this intrusion on your time and good nature, and grant me an early reply,

I have the honor to be,  
Your Obedient Servant, J. F. ROWE.

H. M. S. "VIXEN,"

Honolulu, April 21st.

Sir—In answer to your application for the Amateur Company belonging to this vessel for a Complimentary Benefit on your behalf, I think that it is due to you for your assistance to the Company at our private Theatricals.

I shall be very glad to let them take a part for your Benefit, if it will not interfere with our speedy departure from this place, as the vessel is about to sail the early part of next week.

I wish you every success and a full attendance on that occasion.

I remain yours, obediently,

LEWIS J. MOORE.

To Mr. J. F. ROWE, Honolulu.

Departure of H. B. M. S. *Vixen*.

Dispatches having been received by the last mail for the *Vixen* to proceed to Valparaiso with all convenient speed, she will leave this port on Thursday next. The new Admiral on the Pacific station, Baines, in the *Ganges*, having arrived at Valparaiso from England, it is possible that the smaller vessels composing the squadron are ordered there also, to pass muster and pay homage to their chief. It leaves this port without a man-of-war, however, either English, French or American, and the dull season will promise to be doubly dull.

The *Vixen* has been in our port six months, and has come to be looked upon not only as one of the tutelary saints of Honolulu, but a jovial, good-natured, mirth-provoking saint to boot, that has done more to enliven the place and produce peace on earth and good will to men, than any other naval apparition that we remember.

We would say something civil on the occasion of the *Vixen's* departure, but our heart is too full, and we beg them to "take the will for the deed."

## Errata.

In Mr. Wyllie's questions published last week occurred two typographical errors which changed the sense of the questions. We therefore reprint them as corrected.

25. How the moral and physical health of the natives is affected by excessive unpaid labor, exacted of them.

118. Believing it to be altogether impossible to preserve the native race in existence so long as the native females continue to be unchaste, what means can you suggest in aid of parental authority or otherwise, to prevent them, and especially those that are young, from resorting to the seaports, where their immediate contamination is a matter of certainty?

FRENCH TREATY WITH THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—For some time past the French Government has been negotiating for a new treaty with the Sandwich Islands, with a view to having the duties on several articles of French merchandise modified. For instance, the duties on French wines are proposed to be reduced from five to three dollars per gallon. Our Government should watch these negotiations, and see that no foreign power secures advantages in the Sandwich Islands that we do not possess. If the United States co-operate with European governments in opening trade with China and Japan for the mutual benefit of all, it certainly stands us in hand to prevent any power from interrupting our commerce with so near a neighbor as the Hawaiian Kingdom.—S. F. *Prices Current*.

How the French treaty does trouble our neighbor across the pond! Do they not know that any privilege which the French, or any of "the most favored nation" may have obtained, will by their own treaty be also granted to them? And do they for a moment suppose that the U. S. Commissioner is not better posted on these subjects than any "on dits" of San Francisco?

## Public Lecture.

Last evening Dr. Guillou delivered a lecture, at the Fort-street church, by request of the Honolulu Lyceum. The subject was, "What are the measures best adapted for the efficient distribution of medical relief among the inhabitants, native and foreign, of these islands, and how are such measures to be originated and carried into effect?"

As we shall have the pleasure to publish the lecture in our next number of the *Polynesian*, we will not now either do him the injustice or ourselves the disingenuousness of a hasty critique or a rash judgment, delivered in the first flush of the favorable impression which the lecture produced. The subject chosen is of too absorbing an interest and touches every home in the country too nearly, and was withal so ably, so thoroughly and practically treated by the lecturer, for us only to notice it on the spur of the moment, with the stereotyped flippancy of common newspaper critics. With the *litera scripta* before us, we hope to do justice to the lecturer and make an application or two of some of his remarks that either his time, his inclination or his courtesy did not permit him treat more minutely.

## Her Majesty's Health.

We are happy to be able to announce that her Majesty continues to enjoy good health and spirits, although the happy event which is looked forward to with so much interest and with so many loyal wishes, is not expected to be delayed beyond next week.