

THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

J. J. JARVES, EDITOR.]

SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1844.

[NEW SERIES, VOL. 1.—No. 7.

POETRY.

For the Polynesian.

TO A LADY.

Lady, when thought is abroad on the wing,
And o'er thee its shadowy mantle doth fling,
And hopes of the future, and thoughts of the past,
Crowd over thy vision, thick coming and fast;
Say hath not the wish e'er arisen to thee;
To trace the dim outlines of destiny:
To read the dark future, the hopes and the fears,
Which will bear thee on through the lapse of years?
And has not one doubt like a cloud of night
E'er darkened the picture, where hope was so bright?
Oh! would that the future might ever be,
A vision of beauty and light to thee;
But what it may bring thee, oh! seek not to know,
And ask not what measure of bliss or of woe
Shall fall to thy lot, e'er the summons come
To hear thee hence to thy heavenly home,—
Yet let me but breathe one prayer for thee,
Nor seek vainly to scan futurity:—
May the guardian care of One above,
Watch over thy path with the eye of Love,
And the blessing of Him who can never fail,
Support thy steps through the shadowy vale.

From the Friend.

NOTES.

On the Shipping, Trade, Agriculture, Climate, Diseases, Religious Institutions, Civil and Social Condition, Mercantile and Financial Policy of the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands, viewed in relation to other groups of islands, and to the natural and acquired advantages of the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands. By ROBERT CRICHTON WYLLIE, Esquire.

5. CUSTOM-HOUSE, UNDER THE BRITISH COMMISSION.—I have already stated that the duties paid in 1843 were larger than they had ever before been. This was in some measure, but not wholly accounted for, by the one per cent. additional duty charged by the British Commission, whose administrative functions commenced on the 25th of February, and ceased on the 31st of July. Against that additional duty, I find a protest, duly recorded at the foot of the entry dated 24th July, of the brig Delaware, from Boston. It is in the following terms:—"I, _____, do solemnly protest against Lord George Paulet and John Frere, or the British Commissioners, in consequence of the payment, by compulsion, of the extra-duty of one per cent. laid upon all importations by order of said commissioners, as being contrary to the express laws of the Sandwich Island government, and hold them responsible for all damages which may accrue to me in consequence thereof."

This protest applies to a duty of \$54 61 cents, and is formally authenticated by his excellency Kekuaanoa, governor of Oahu.

I do not find any similar protest appended to any other entry, not even to one of the same brig, of the same date, comprised of articles in forty-six lines, of which the total value was only carried out at bottom, rendering it impossible to affix a precise value to any one article.

The duties are calculated "ad valorem," upon the principle of adding the charges to the invoice cost. I here give a practical illustration of this, in the last entry of the brig referred to, viz:

Total amount carried out, -	\$5,513 13
Charges, - - - - -	66 20
	5,579 33
Government duties, - - - - -	\$167 38
Br. Comm. ditto, - - - - -	55 79
	223 17

If the government continue to permit such entries, in mass, it will be impossible to check any undervaluation of goods that may be made.

6. EXPORTS FOR 1843.—It will be seen by that part of the above table that refers to exports of native produce, that their whole amount for five and a half years, from 1835 to 17th Aug. 1841, was only \$481,389; averaging yearly \$96,278, against an average of imports of \$265,854. This would leave a balance of \$278,331, on an average, every year, to be provided for, by specie or bills, or in some other way, not very apparent.

I have taken some pains to ascertain the quantities of native produce exported during the year 1842. They appear to have been as follows:

Sugar, 1,145,010 lbs.; valued at 4 cts.;	\$45,800
Molasses, 64,320 galls.; " 20 cts.;	12,864
Kuku oil, 8,620 galls.; " 40 cts.;	3,448
Goat skins, 10,685 " " 2 cts. each;	21,372
Buff skins, 29,800 " " 18 cts.;	5,364
Arrow root, 35,140 lbs.; " 4 cts. per lb.;	1,405
Mustard seed, 39,700 lbs.; " 2 1/2 cts.;	992
	\$91,245

7. DECREASE OF POPULATION.—It appears, therefore, that the productions of the islands are upon the increase. This is a matter of the utmost importance to the government, the people, and all foreign merchants established here. To improve and extend the agriculture of the country, ought to be the great aim of the government. It will be found to be the best means of checking the lamentable decrease in the native population, of attracting and employing foreign settlers, of extending commerce, and of augmenting the revenue. But, little good will be done, until the government enact new laws regulating the tenure of land, and encouraging all industrious inhabitants, whether native or foreign, to lay the waste land, which every where abounds,—under proper cultivation. This is clearly the interest of the king and chiefs; for their present policy of retaining the land in their own right, and of granting only short leases, will depopulate the islands in a few years. It may also become dangerous to persist in it, with a people every day becoming more enlightened, knowing more wants, and desiring more comforts.

8. NECESSITY FOR INCREASE OF POPULATION.—The increase in the population of the islands must go hand in hand with the development of their agricultural resources. For these islands cannot at present calculate much upon foreign markets for the consumption of their surplus produce. In Europe, Asia, Australasia, North America, Chili, Peru, Ecuador, New Grenada, Central America and Mexico, they will be undersold by similar produce from other countries, or from some of these countries themselves. The only foreign markets that the Sandwich Islands, so far as I can judge, can reasonably count upon, are the settlements

on Columbia River, Kamscatka, Sitka on the N.W. Coast, and perhaps California while the Mexican government does not extend their prohibitive system to that department.

The stream of population which is now directing itself, by hundreds and by thousands, into the Oregon Territory, is likely to establish the largest and the best market for the produce of the Sandwich Islands, which again will consume the lumber, salmon, flour, &c., produced in that territory. In this commerce, Messrs. Peilly & Allan, agents for the Hudson's Bay co., are extensively engaged, and the Americans are likely to participate largely in the trade. Its increase will be commensurate with the increase of the population of Oregon, and of the Sandwich Islands.

9. CONSUMPTION OF GOODS IN THE ISLANDS.—The consumption of goods in the Sandwich Islands is not to be measured by the native population, numerically considered. Regard must be had to the foreign population, which is now very considerable, and the rates of whose consumption is much greater than that of the ill-clad and poor natives. Nor must we overlook the floating market arising from the immense fleet of whalers that touch yearly at these islands during the two seasons of spring and fall. Each of these whalers is supposed to purchase vegetables, beef and other produce of the islands, to the yearly amount of \$200, on an average, and from 600 to 13,000 dollars in other articles bought from the stores. I take this wide range, because some old residents estimate the total consumption of each whaler at \$800, while others estimate it as high as \$1500. I have been assured that when the English whalers frequented this port, the average consumption of each used to be from £250 to £350.

10. DEPENDENCE OF THE ISLANDS ON WHALERS.—But, even were the consumption much less, it is obvious that the prosperity of these islands has depended, and does depend, mainly upon the whalers, that annually flock to their ports; many of them coming twice a year. Were the whale fishery to fall off, as seems in some measure to be the case, or were the vessels engaged in it to abandon these islands for some others in this ocean, or for ports on the Main, the Sandwich Islands would relapse into their primitive ignorance. The government seems to be aware of this; for, as I have shown in the notes to my Table of the 25th March, published in the "Friend" of the 1st instant, there are exceptions in favor of whalers, both in the duties and port-dues. My only doubt is, whether these exceptions have been carried far enough. I incline to the belief that whale-ships should be exempted from all port-dues, and that the police regulations towards sailors ought to be the most liberal that the maintenance of public order will permit.

11. VISITS OF SHIPS OF WAR ADVANTAGEOUS.—The frequent visits of ships of war tend also greatly to promote the commerce and wealth of the Sandwich Islands. The officers of H. B. M. ships *Dublin*, *Hazard* and *Modeste*, generally prefer Honolulu to any port in the Pacific excepting Valparaiso. I am told the same partiality exists amongst the American officers who have visited this port; and as an agent of the United States government has arrived to establish a naval depot here, frequent visits of their ships of war may be expected; and this will be a new source of prosperity to these islands.

12. PROBABLE TRADE WITH FRENCH SETTLEMENTS.—The French settlements of the *Marquesas* and the *Society* Islands, are also creating fresh markets for the produce of the Sandwich Islands.

13. POPULATION AND EXTENT OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.—What the Sandwich Islands are capable of, under good government, is evident from the following table, from data in Mr. Jarvis' recent interesting work on the Sandwich Islands:

	Length.	Breadth.	Square miles.	Population as estimated in 1823.	Census of 1842.	Census of 1846.
HAWAII.	88	73	1,000	85,000	45,792	39,364
MAUI.	48	50	620	20,000	35,062	24,199
LANAI.	17	19	190	2,500	1,600	1,200
MOLOKAI.	40	7	190	3,500	6,000	6,000
KAHOOHLAWE.	11	8	60	50	80	80
OAHU.	46	25	530	20,000	29,755	27,809
KAUAI.	22	24	500	10,000	10,377	8,934
NIHAU.	20	7	90	1,000	1,047	993
	292	193	6,090	142,000	136,315	108,579

If the above calculation be correct, the whole population of the Sandwich Islands is at present less than 18 to the square mile; while if the celebrated British navigator Capt. Cook is to be believed, the population in his day (1778) was nearly 66 to the square mile.

As his calculation was founded only on the crowds of natives whom he saw at the ports he visited, and not upon any accurate computation, it may have been exaggerated; but the above table shows a decrease of 33,471 in 13 years from 1823. From this fact, it may reasonably be inferred, without taking into account the pestilence which raged in 1803 and 1804, during the reign of Tamehameha I., and the loss of life arising from his wars, that the population has decreased at least to the extent of 200,000 since 1778.

It appears from the above table that the decrease, since 1823, has been confined to six of the islands; and, that in the two islands of Molokai and Kahoolawe, there has been an increase of 2,530 since that year. This is some measure warrants the hope that the decrease is not the necessary effect of causes permanent and irremovable in their nature, but rather of something wrong in the habits, morals, government of the people or laws affecting marriages.

One of the missionaries, the Rev. W. P. Alexander, in 1838, calculated that there were annually, in the group, 6,858 deaths, and only 3,335 births. I have conversed with other well-informed missionaries, who all agree in stating that the yearly deaths still greatly exceed the yearly births, and that little more than one-half, if so many, of the marriages lead to offspring.

As the climate is of surpassing salubrity, and as the means of subsistence are abundant and easily procured, the results I have mentioned are the more surprising. Most of the missionaries and of the medical men attached to the mission, particularly Dr. Chapin, have ascribed them to the almost universal prevalence and uncontrolled progress of a disease said to have been introduced by the first white men who visited the islands. There no doubt has been, and I fear still to a great extent exists a cause, in the laxity of native morals, why that disease should be propagated with unusual universality, and that very cause will add to the effect of the disease in preventing offspring; but the outward appearance of fat and health, more general here amongst the natives, than amongst the Indian tribes of Mexico, or any other country in South America, is opposed to the belief of such an inward rotteness as could render the race unprolific, without the influence of other causes.

14. POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT.—What these other causes are, it behoves the Government carefully to investigate, with the view of applying a prompt and efficient remedy. The primary concern of every Government is to secure the existence and promote the increase of their people. It is satisfactory to find that the Government of King Kamehameha III. has not neglected this duty in their recent legislation. Laws have been enacted to discourage idleness and laziness, to extend agriculture, and apply to each soil the peculiar cultivation to which it is best adapted. But agriculture is a practical science; it is not to be taught by precept, but by example; and it would be expecting too much from the natives to suppose that they can carry into effect the improvements recommended by the government, without the example of foreign agriculturists, and without the aid of foreign capital. To obtain these advantages, new laws regulating the tenure of land are required. Laws have also been enacted, abating the taxes and labour days for the king and landlord, according to the number of children, or of old, weak and infirm persons which every man has to support. These exemptions certainly do hold out inducements to marriage, and for parents to take care of their children; but they have not yet been sufficiently long in operation to produce any visible effect in staying the great evil of depopulation.

15. FOOD CHEAP AND ABUNDANT.—Under favorable circumstances, the population ought to increase here more rapidly than in almost any other part of the world. A native, in the country, can support himself in health and vigor at an expense of little more than a cent per day. The staff of life amongst the natives is the *taro* or *kalo root* (*Arum Esculentum*) prepared in the form of paste, and eaten either alone or with dried fish. It is a wholesome food and highly nutritious. It is cultivated on sloping grounds, where refreshed by frequent showers; but the best is that which grows wholly immersed excepting only the large green leaves. In an interesting paper on the resources of these islands, from the pen of William Ladd, Esquire, published in the *Hawaiian Spectator*, under date 30th January 1838, it is stated that 40 feet square of land planted with *taro* will support a man for a year; and that one mile square so cultivated, would feed 15,151 individuals, while not more than one twenty-fifth of that number would be required to cultivate it. Mr. Ladd still upholds the correctness of his calculations, but there are others who admit its truth only as applied to the very best lands and the first year of their cultivation. It appears that *taro* very soon exhausts the land, and that to ensure an equal crop the ground must be frequently changed. Nevertheless, it is not to be denied that a given extent of land cultivated for *taro*, will produce a far greater quantity of food for man than if cultivated for any other plant. This would be a great advantage in a country over-populated, but in these islands, where population is the great want, it may be doubted whether the facility of feeding themselves on *taro* does not obstruct other modes of cultivation, more laborious, but also more promotive of industry. Thus, I am not sure that the very cheapness of living here, which ought to augment the population, has not an opposite effect through the habits of indolence which it perpetuates.

16. CHIEF PRODUCTIONS OF THE ISLANDS.—The islands produce maize, wheat, rice, potatoes, yams, bananas, arrow-root, beans, peas, melons, pumpkins, cabbages, onions, radishes, lettuce, grapes, pine-apples, papayas, oranges, lemons, figs, straw-berries, gooseberries, cucumbers, olives, tomatoes, chirimoyas, sugar, coffee, mustard-seed, cotton, indigo, silk, hemp, cocoa, tobacco, ginger, turmeric, kukui-nuts, and cattle of all kinds; so that they afford a wide range of products for the reward of native industry; but I repeat, foreign example and capital are wanting to stimulate and direct that industry.

17. EPIDEMIC DISEASES, &c.—While the means of subsistence are most abundant in the Sandwich Islands, the diseases to which the natives are subject are few and simple. After consulting two able papers, published by Dr. Judd and Dr. Chapin, I may state that the chief diseases are asthma, croup, cutaneous eruptions, apoplexy, diarrhea, dysentery, catarrhs, whooping cough, dropsy, fevers, phthisis, influenza, inflammatory and rheumatic affections, scrofula, syphilis, ulcers, teething and other infantile complaints. In a valuable manuscript paper of Dr. Rooke's, to which I have had access, he adds purperal fever, as very common and very fatal. Excepting that disease, apoplexy, croup and dropsy, the others are stated to be generally mild, yielding easily to proper care and medical treatment,—two comforts, however, which the natives cannot easily procure in their present condition. Dr. Chapin considers that most of the diseases to which the natives are subject arise from cold, bad houses and bad clothing. The means of preventing the operation of these causes, are to be sought for only in the diffusion of wealth, created by general industry, for which there are superabundant elements.

18. DISEASES OF SEAMEN, &c.—I have taken some pains to ascertain the diseases common amongst foreign seamen who visit this port, and the facilities which exist for their care. The following letters, from Doctors Wood, Rooke and Gibson, will be read with interest by all friends of seafaring men. I have personally visited the houses where the sick American and British sailors are now accommodated, and I fully concur with these gentlemen in thinking that a regular hospital for seamen is much wanted in this place. I think it would be the policy as well as the interest of the government to grant a site for the erection of hospitals, in some favorable situation. Supposing only an average of 20 sick seamen in hospital, every year, their support and medical attendance, at the rate of a dollar a day, would amount to \$7,300 yearly, of which the country would receive the full benefit. Besides, the native assistants employed would acquire knowledge and experience, fitting them to be useful among their own countrymen.

Dr. Wood's remarks upon the diseases of American seamen, and the want of an hospital for seamen.

"HONOLULU, May 11th, 1844.
"My dear sir,—In the enclosed list of cases of disabled seamen, those only are included, which have been chargeable to the United States consulate, established at these islands.

"No record has been kept of the cases of seamen not destitute,—or for whose support provision has been made by the masters of vessels from which they were discharged. The number of this class does not much exceed that of the cases described as destitute.

"In the classification of the diseases of the above mentioned list of sick and destitute seamen, no account has been made of cases of sickness incurred by them during their residence in this port.

"No record has been made of the termination of the above list of cases, excepting the deaths; nor has this been deemed a matter of much interest—as nearly all, with the exception of a few cases of incurable diseases, have recovered and re-shipped, or been sent home.

"In those cases classed under the head of *accidental injuries* (to which whitemen are especially exposed) are included fractures, dislocations, ruptures, wounds, contusions or injuries of important vessels.

"Under the head of *mercurial rheumatism* are class-

ed those cases in which the rheumatic affection appeared to have been induced by the injudicious administration of mercurial remedies during exposures incidental to, or but little heeded by, sailors.

"There is no public hospital or infirmary (properly so called) at Honolulu; no suitable buildings having been erected with special reference to the accommodation of the sick. Buildings have been rented for the reception of sick and disabled American seamen, where they are provided with board, lodging, washing, nursing and medical attendance, at an expense to the U. States government of about one dollar per day. And although the accommodations are the best which the town of Honolulu at present affords, there are few ports where a well regulated hospital would contribute more to the relief of disabled seamen.

"The want of such an establishment is in part compensated for by the salubrity and uniform temperature of the climate; and to this circumstance may be attributed the recovery of as large a proportion of cases as appear in the reports of well-conducted infirmaries in other countries.

"With the respectful regards of
"Your friend and ob't serv't,
" (Signed,) R. W. Wood.
"R. C. Wyllie, Esq., Honolulu."

Table of the number of admissions into the hospital for sick and destitute American seamen, at Honolulu, from April 1st, 1839, to April 1st, 1844, condensed from the table furnished by Dr. R. W. Wood:

YEARS.	Admissions.	Discharges.	Deaths.
1840, year ending 31st March,	40	24	3
1841, " " " "	46	47	1
1842, " " " "	35	29	1
1843, " " " "	43	51	5
1844, " " " "	100	65	5
	266	216	10

Of these, there were 38 cases of injury by accident; 36 cases of mercurial rheumatism; 31 of common rheumatism; 26 of secondary syphilis; 16 of phthisis pulmonalis; 11 of scurvy; 19 of chronic dysentery; 10 of stricture; 10 of fistula; 8 of bronchitis; 8 of chronic gastritis; 7 of hepatitis; 7 of pericarditis; 7 of scrofula; 6 of hydrocele; 4 of fever; 4 of lumbago; 4 of paraplegia; 4 of ophthalmia; 4 of insanity; 3 of chronic enteritis; 2 of hemiplegia; 2 of nephritis; 2 of dropsy; 1 of epilepsy; 1 of cerebritis; 1 of cataract; 1 of thoracic aneurism; 1 of lumbar abscess and 1 of cystitis.

Dr. Rooke's remarks on the diseases of British seamen, and suggestions for the erection of an hospital for British seamen, in Honolulu.

"HONOLULU, May 13th, 1844.
"Sir,—In reply to your enquiries respecting the provision made for sick and distressed British seamen and others of her Majesty's subjects not being seamen, during the fifteen years past, I beg leave to forward you the following statement, which though short, I hope will convey the necessary information.

"Previous to the year 1833, or thereabouts, the sick and distressed British subjects and seamen were boarded by such different individuals as could be found to undertake the care of them—sometimes in the hovels of natives, and sometimes in those of foreigners. At or about this period, their board was contracted for by an Englishman keeping a public house, with whom they were placed until 1840. During this time, their abode was miserable in the extreme; although as good as could be procured; the hotel they were lodged in being scarcely more than shelter from the rays of the sun—but really, hardly any from the rain or wind, without any conveniences or comforts necessary for invalids, except such as were supplied by the medical attendant and charged to the British government as medical comforts. Those who recollect the squalid filth of the abode they then inhabited, can only wonder that cures were ever effected or health regained in such a place.

"On my return to practice in 1841, after an absence of two years, from ill health, the sick and distressed English seamen were placed under the care of the person who now victuals them. Although their situation from this time was much improved to what it was during the previous eleven years, still much remains to be amended. From this time (Apr. 1841) they have been lodged in a thatched building, perfectly pervious to the winds—so much so, that in cases requiring particular attention, they have to seek the shelter of an old garment or mat, hung up against the side of the house, to ward off the damp wind, during the inclement season. It is also situated in the same enclosure with a common grog-shop, in the most noisy part of the town; subject to the noisy and often dangerous intrusion of drunken sailors, with all the concomitant evils and disturbance to the patients; mixed also with casual boarders from different ships, who come and go almost daily, rendering it almost impossible to keep secure the bedding and other effects belonging to government. In respect to their diet, they are well and amply provided. Soap, washing, nursing, and other incidental expenses, are provided as medical comforts, when the cases urgently require them. The accompanying list of admissions with medical treatment, will show the nature of the cases which have occurred during the last 37 months.

"There have been 77 men subsisted during the last 37 months, for 7129 days; giving an average of nearly 92 and a half days for each man. Previous to July 1842, the charge for subsistence was 43 cents each man per diem; but this not being found adequate, it was increased to 50 cents per diem, which is the rate now paid.

"The average expense of each man to the government, for medicine, board, lodging, clothing, funeral expenses, &c. &c., may be obtained by reference to the official documents in Mr. Sea's possession.

"During the last fifteen years, I have represented on different occasions the evils arising from the manner in which the men were lodged, stating that a saving might be made by having a proper building erected, for the abode of the sick, and under the charge of the medical attendant. I have also offered to be at one half the expense of such building, provided I might have the privilege of using the vacant beds for others than distressed British subjects.

"I have the honor to be, sir,
"Your most ob't servant,
"J. CHAS. BYDE ROOKE.
"To Robt. C. Wyllie, Esq."

The admissions to medical care above referred to, during the 37 months ending 30th April 1844, were 71; of these, 8 were cases of casualties; 7 of ulcers; 5 of dysentery; 5 of dyspepsia; 5 of syphilis; 4 of fracture; 4 of pneumonia; 4 of rheumatism; 3 of hernia; 3 of hydrocele; 3 of stricture urethrae; 2 of cyanosis; 1 of abscess; 1 of arthritis; 1 of cystitis; 1 of febrile intermission; 1 of gastritis; 1 of hemiplegia; 1 of hepatitis cum abscessu; 1 of intussusception; 1 of mania; 1 of ophthalmia; 1 of periostitis; 1 of phthisis; 1 of diseased prostate; 1 of diseased rectum; 1 of tabes; 1 of poison; 1 of vulnus; and 1 of cancer pylori.

Of these, the case of cancer pylori, that of hepatitis cum abscessu, and that of phthisis, ended fatally.