

House.) But, Mr. Speaker, it is not of the inaccurate reporting that I so much complain, as of the circumstance of the reporter having made me spake in italics. (Rounds of laughter, which continued for some time.) I appeal to you, Sir, and to those hon. Members who heard me, whether I spoke in italics. (Renewed bursts of laughter from all parts of the House.) You know, Mr. Speaker, and so does every gentleman in this House, that I never spake in italics, at all at all. (Shouts of laughter.) But, Sir, allow me to say, that this, bad as it is, is not worst of the matter. Will you believe it, Sir?—will any hon. Member in the House believe it—that when I went to the reporter to ask for an explanation, he told me, with the most perfect coolness, that if I felt myself aggrieved, I knew my remedy, at the same time handing me his card, Sir? The short and long of it is, Sir, that this reporter wants to fight a duel with me.” Peals of laughter, such as were never before or have been since heard within the walls of Parliament, followed the conclusion of Mr. Martin’s speech. When these had in some measure subsided, he moved that Mr. O’D—be called to the bar of the House for having committed a breach of the privileges of the House; but there being no one to second the motion, it of course fell to the ground.

From Channing’s “Self-Culture.”

I proceed to another important means of Self-Culture, and this is the control of the animal appetites. To raise the moral and intellectual nature, we must put down the animal. Sensuality is the abyss in which very many souls are plunged and lost. Among the most prosperous classes, what a vast amount of intellectual life is drowned in luxurious excesses. It is one great curse of wealth, that it is used to pamper the senses; and among the poorer classes, though luxury is wanting, yet a gross feeding often prevails, under which the spirit is whelmed. It is a sad sight to walk through our streets, and to see how many countenances bear marks of a lethargy and a brutal coarseness, induced by unrestrained indulgence. Whoever would cultivate the soul, must restrain the appetites. I am not an advocate for the doctrine, that animal food was not meant for man; but that this is used among us to excess, that as a people we should gain much in cheerfulness, activity, and buoyancy of mind, by less gross and stimulating food, I am strongly inclined to believe. Above all, let me urge on those, who would bring out and elevate their nature, to abstain from the use of spirituous liquors. This bad habit is distinguished from all others by the ravages it makes on the reason, the intellect; and this effect is produced to a mournful extent, even when drunkenness is escaped. Not a few men, called temperate, and who have thought themselves such, have learned, on abstaining from the use of ardent spirits, that for years their minds had been clouded, impaired by moderate drinking, without their suspecting the injury. Multitudes in this city are bereft of half their intellectual energy, by a degree of indulgence which passes for innocent. Of all the foes of the working class, this is the deadliest. Nothing has done more to keep down this class, to destroy their self-respect, to rob them of their just influence in the community, to render profitless the means of improvement within their reach, than the use of ardent spirits as a drink. They are called on to withstand this practice, as they regard their honor, and would take their just place in society. They are under solemn obligations to give their sanction to every effort for its suppression. They ought to regard as their worst enemies, (though unintentionally such,) as the enemies of their rights, dignity, and influence, the men who desire to flood city and country with distilled poison. I lately visited a flourishing village, and on expressing to one of the respected inhabitants the pleasure I felt in witnessing so many signs of progress, he

replied that one of the causes of the prosperity I witnessed, was the disuse of ardent spirits by the people. And this reformation we may be assured wrought something higher than outward prosperity. In almost every family so improved, we cannot doubt that the capacities of the parent for intellectual and moral improvement were enlarged, and the means of education made more effectual to the child. I call on working men to take hold of the cause of temperance as peculiarly their cause. These remarks are the more needed, in consequence of the efforts made far and wide, to annul at the present moment a recent law for the suppression of the sale of ardent spirits in such quantities as favor intemperance. I know, that there are intelligent and good men, who believe, that, in enacting this law, government transcended its limits, left its true path, and established a precedent for legislative interference with all our pursuits and pleasures. No one here looks more jealously on government than myself. But I maintain, that this is a case which stands by itself, which can be confounded with no other, and on which government from its very nature and end is peculiarly bound to act. Let it never be forgotten, that the great end of government, its highest function, is, not to make roads, grant charters, originate improvements, but to prevent or repress crime against individual rights and social order. For this end it ordains a penal code, erects prisons, and inflicts fearful punishments. Now if it be true, that a vast proportion of the crimes, which government is instituted to prevent and repress, have their origin in the use of ardent spirits; if our poor-houses, work-houses, jails and penitentiaries are tenanted in a great degree by those, whose first and chief impulse to crime came from the distillery and dram-shop; if murder and theft, the most fearful outrages on property and life, are most frequently the issues and consummation of intemperance, is not government bound to restrain by legislation the vending of the stimulus to these terrible social wrongs? Is government never to act as a parent, never to remove the causes or occasions of wrong doing? Has it but one instrument for repressing crime, namely, public, infamous punishment, an evil only inferior to crime? Is government a usurper, does it wander beyond its sphere, by imposing restraints on an article, which does no imaginable good, which can plead no benefit conferred on body or mind, which unfits the citizen for the discharge of his duty to his country, and which, above all, stirs up men to the perpetration of most of the crimes, from which it is the highest and most solemn office of government to protect society? \* \* \*

It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with superior minds, and these invaluable means of communication are in the reach of all. In the best books, great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours. God be thanked for books. They are the voices of the distant and the dead, and make us heirs of the spiritual life of past ages. Books are the true levelers. They give to all, who will faithfully use them, the society, the spiritual presence of the best and greatest of our race. No matter how poor I am. No matter though the prosperous of my own time will not enter my obscure dwelling. If the Sacred Writers will enter and take up their abode under my roof, if Milton will cross my threshold to sing to me of Paradise, and Shakspeare to open to me the worlds of imagination and the workings of the human heart, and Franklin to enrich me with his practical wisdom, I shall not pine for want of intellectual companionship, and I may become a cultivated man though excluded from what is called the best society in the place where I live.

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30, 1841.

In this number we shall bring to a close, our remarks on the influence of foreigners upon the natives of Polynesia. The many different circumstances under which it has been extended, with the diversity of opinions prevalent upon the subject, has led us much farther than we originally intended, and the field grows more extensive as we advance. Yet it would be impossible to do it full justice within the small space of our columns, without incurring the charge of prolixity, sameness, and crowding out other matter of more general interest. To some it would be interesting to examine into the subject more in detail, and to trace the gradual development of that incipient civilization which now exists among the tribes of the Pacific. We have endeavored in previous essays, briefly to show its connection with commerce, and those engaged more particularly in that pursuit; we shall in this, revert in general terms to the labors of missionaries, and their influence in developing this principle.

On their arrival they found the islanders victims to most cruel and debasing superstitions. These the untiring efforts of years have uprooted to a great extent, with their accompanying vices and crimes, and planted in their stead the worship of the one Jehovah. Religious instruction occupied their attention mostly at first, but as soon as the minds of the people had become familiar with the doctrines of the Bible, schools and seminaries were established, in which all the common branches of education were taught. But before this could be done, the language was to be reduced to writing, and books translated, a work of labor, little appreciated, but arduous in the extreme. The translation of the Bible is in itself a monument of industry. The missionaries have always furnished gratuitous medical advice and medicines to the natives, and have endeavored to destroy their barbarous custom of treating diseases, by the dissemination of correct knowledge upon this subject. Too little credit has been given them for the attempt to teach the mechanical arts, and introduce agricultural improvements. A farmer and his family were among the first body of missionaries that arrived at Hawaii, but owing to the indifference of the chiefs, were obliged to suspend their labors and return home.

Many of the mechanics that we have met with were instructed by missionaries, and in consequence were able to earn a good living. They have established manual-labor schools, and their precepts and examples tend directly to the encouragement of industry and the introduction of the trades and manufactures of civilized life. In the female seminary at Wailuku, in Maui, the girls are taught to sew, spin, braid, knit, and other employments suitable to their sex. In all the other schools, these branches are taught as far as practicable. Every assistance and encouragement has been given to the natives, to enable them to find a profitable market for their produce, and to create exports for the purchase of foreign goods. As far as missionaries, without compromising their characters as such, can go in affecting these desirable changes, they have done so; but their success depends more upon individual wants and interests, and requires the co-operation of the merchant and agriculturist. The missionary has endeavored to civilize the natives, by inducing them to live in better houses, and forsake their old habits. If any one doubts this, let him visit the habitations of those who are under their immediate influence, such as servants, schoolmasters, scholars and the like, and he will witness the truth of the assertion. Look also at the improved manner of living at the High School, and all the boarding schools. We there find that the essentials of civilization

are rigidly enforced. Tables, seats, benches, suitable clothing, and regular meetings with their teachers, take the place of the mats and the calabash. It is by examining into the minutiae of the daily life of those under these and similar influences, and comparing it with the uneducated, that we can rightly judge what has been accomplished. But it is needless to descend further into particulars. The labors of the missionary have been directly employed in christianizing the natives, and indirectly in civilizing. They have done this, and that the results are gratifying in the extreme, none can deny. They also are educating them, and have introduced the same system of free schools which has raised New England to her high pitch of intellectual power. Coming as they have from the most free and enlightened countries, and educated in the bosom of democratic church, their influence has been to extend human liberty and thought, and introduce those institutions which have crowned their native lands with so much honor. They have laid a broad foundation for national happiness and greatness, and their influence, whether upon natives or whites will cease only with the end of things. Their character, like that of the Puritans, will leave its impress upon all ages, and there are few of the present who do not award that sect the just praise, sowing those seeds of individual and national freedom, which have operated so powerfully in rendering America what she is. We do not mean to say that their system is faultless, or that, what has been done in some instances might not have been done better. The same truth holds good of all other human means; imperfection and decay are but too closely united with humanity.

The two principles of christianity and civilization, modifying each other, give knowledge and freedom to the world. They are the choicest gifts of Providence to man, and his greatest happiness lies in the proportion of the two. For their advancement distinct professions are necessary, though each is essential, to the healthy existence of the other. Mankind have moral and intellectual wants, as well as physical. Let not the professors of either narrow down their views to the horizon of the selfish interests, but look about upon the world as the common field of their labors, its improvement as their common task. Their pursuits are all necessary, all noble and should expand the soul, and make us grasp at brighter things than the mere possessions of some trifling gratification, or per triumph to their particular opinions or signs.

The Kahalaia brings intelligence of the complete success of Captain Williams in ascending Mouna Loa, with all the necessary apparatus for establishing an observatory on its summit. It was a great task, and required the services of several hundred men to transport the instruments, small framed buildings, (which are so constructed that they can be taken apart and put together in a few minutes,) tents, stores, &c. But the energy and perseverance of the commander and his officers overcame every difficulty, and they were rewarded by finding a field of even more interest than they anticipated, and also successfully accomplishing all the objects of the expedition. It will add much to the laurels they have already won in the several departments of science, and though it may not be attended with much eclat as the discovery of the Antarctic Continent, it cannot fail of interesting the public generally, besides being of great utility. The whole active volcanic region of that portion of Hawaii has been thoroughly explored, and the heights and positions of the mountain