COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEC. 16, 1857.

We offer but a brief report on the state of trade this week there being but little worth noticing. Business continues dull, and prices of most every description of goods much depressed. Auction sales continue to be the principal feature of trade and prices realized are unusually low

The firm of Williams & Jones made an assignment for the benefit of their creditors on Friday last; this is one of the most disastrous failures in a small way that has occurred in Honolulu for years—the liabilities of the firm are between $7000 and $8000; the assets are estimated at $500 to $700.

The hull of the whaling bark *Neptune* was sold at auction last week for $500. We understand that she will be broken up. Her inventory was sold separately, and brought very high prices. *as also* did the whaling gear from the wrecked ship *Natchez* sold on Tuesday.

Shipwrights are very busy just at present fitting out the barks *Faith* and *Metropolis* and the brig *Antilla* for whaling, and repairing the *Cynthia* and *Hawaii*. This latter vessel has been very extensively repaired—receiving a new bowsprit and main mast.

Whaling vessels are rapidly leaving port and our harbor begins to look deserted again.

BREAD—The supply is running short and both pilot and navy are enquired for—the total amount sold this season has exceeded all expectations—reaching probably 600,000 lb.

SUGAR—Since the departure of the *Yankee* no new lots have come to hand; the stock now in Honolulu is small—prices are unchanged.

LUMBER—Boards continue scarce and in demand; jobbing freely at $40 ₩ M. Scantling and pickets are abundant and selling at $30 @ $35—a supply is expected shortly from Puget Sound.

FLOUR—The stock continues heavy with a light demand; we hear of no change in prices.

CORDAGE—The supply is still heavy—prices this season have been extremely low.

RICE—A heavy stock on hand—No. 1 China is jobbing at 4¾ @ 5 cts.

LATEST DATES, received at this Office.

San Francisco - - -	Nov. 5	Paris - - - - - -	Sept 20
Panama, N G. - -	Oct. 15	Hongkong - - - -	Sept 10
New York - - -	Oct 7	Melbourne, N. S. W.,	Nov. 3
London - - - -	Sept 23	Tahiti - - - - -	Aug. 27

Ships Mails.

For SAN FRANCISCO—Per Vaquero, in about a week.
For LAHAINA—Per Maria, on Saturday.

PORT OF HONOLULU, H. I.

ARRIVALS.

Dec. 8—Brig Emma, Wilkinson, from Kauai.
9—Am wh bk Fanny, Boodry, from Lahaina.
10—Sch Mary, Berrill, from Kawaihae.
10—Am wh ship Northern Light, from Hilo, outside.
10—Sch Moi Keiki, from Kahului.
11—Sch Kamoi, Chadwick, from Lahaina.
11—Am wh bk Wavelet, Swain, from Hilo, off and on.
12—Am wh bk Mary Frazier, Rounds, from Lahaina, off and on.
12—Sch Manuokawai, Beckly, from Hilo.
14—Sch Warwick, from Lahaina.
15—Sch Keoni Ana, from Koloa.
16—Sch Alice, from Kelepolepo.
16—Am sch Vaquero, Newell, 41 days from Melbourne.
16—Sch Ka Moi, Chadwick, fm Lahaina.

DEPARTURES.

Dec. 9—Am bk Yankee, Penhallow, for San Francisco.
9—Sch Alice, Spanyarn, for Kalepolepo.
10—Am wh ship Braganza, Jackson, for Margarita Bay.
10—Sch Kinoole, for Kona, Hawaii.
10—Sch Excel, Antonio, for Kauai.
10—Sch John Dunlap, for Kau and intermediate ports.
10—Am wh ship Montauk, French, Margarita Bay.
10—Am wh ship Philip Ist, Sisson, Greenport.
11—Am wh bk Phoenix, Hinckley, to cruise.
12—Venice, Gardner, New London.
12—Minerva, Crowell, cruise.
12—Parachute, Corey, to cruise.
14—Sch Moi Keiki, for Kahului.
14—Sch Kamoi, for Lahaina.
14—Sch Kamehameha, for Kohala.
14—Sch Mary, for Kawaihae.
15—Waverly, West, New Bedford.
15—Kauai, Mammen, cruise.
16—Gladiator, Williams, New Bedford.
16—Kutusoff, Wing, to cruise.
16—Frances Henrietta, Drew, cruise.
16—Oahu, Fehlber, cruise.
16—Coral, Manchester, cruise and home.
16—South Boston, Randolph, Fairhaven.
16—Northern Light, Chapel, Ascension.
16—Brig Emma, for Kauai.
16—Sch John Young, for Koloa.

MEMORANDA.

We have received from Capt. Whiteside, of the whaleship Condor, the following account of the accident which occurred to that vessel during the past season. The Condor is now undergoing repairs at this port:

The ship Condor, commanded by Capt. Whiteside, was cruising, early in June, among the floating ice in the Ochotsk Sea. On the 8th of that month, when about 1½ miles from Sugar Loaf Island, it was discovered that the ship had sprung a leak, and that the hold was full of water to a level with the lower deck. The pumps were immediately manned, and sail made for the shelter of Felixtoff harbor, the wind blowing a violent gale from the northeast. In spite of the utmost exertion the water gained on the pumps, and we found it necessary to bale from both hatches. In the mean time, we ascertained that her starboard bow was badly stove by the ice, and, by wedging in quilts, old canvas and oakum, the leak was gradually stopped. At the expiration of 17 hours, having gained the shelter we sought, we anchored. The crew were unremitting in their exertions, and, after 30 hours of constant labor, the hold was sufficiently freed from water to make it prudent to proceed to Ayan, which port we reached in about 8 days. On examination it was found that the starboard bow had been stove for about 7 feet in length and 3 feet in width, which was repaired by fitting in plank and nailing heavy boards over all.

☞ The Vaquero reports having spoken, Nov 23, whale ship Newburyport, Crandall, 1 sperm whale; 20th Tahmaroo, Robinson; and 30th Sharon, King; all from these islands. The Vaquero was becalmed during seven days in 12° north.

AMERICAN SHIPS AT MELBOURNE, NOV. 3.

From New York, Continent, Gibbs, arrived Oct. 20, for Iquique soon.
From Boston, Jumna, Martine, for Calcutta in a week.
" Wm Sprague, Bowers, for Calcutta soon.
From Liverpool, Albion, of New York.
" Florence Nightingale, of Boston.
" Monarch of the Sea, arrived Nov 2.
" Carrier Dove, "
From London, Souter Johnny, ready for sea.
" Linda, discharging.
" Beatrice, for Hong Kong soon.
The Wilhelmine arrived Oct 5.
The Schiller arrived at Sydney Oct 6 and at Melbourne Oct 19.

VESSELS IN PORT.—DEC. 9.

U. S. S. St. Marys, Davis.
H. B. M.'s steamship Vixen, Meacham.
British bark Gambia.
Ship John Marshall, Pendleton.
Haw brig Advance, Robbins.
American bark Bhering, Morse,
Hawaiian brig Antilla, Buschman.
British brigantine Elizabeth Barter, Pentreath.
Russian ship Cesarewitch, Jorgan.
Am clipper sch Vaquero, Newell.

WHALERS.

Ship Sheffield, Green	Bark Warren, Huntley
South Benson, Norton	Italy, Babcock
India, Long	Isabella, Lyon
Calisto, Howland	Fortune, Anderson
Condor, Whiteside	Vernon, Bumpus
Sylvander, Chandler	Faith, Wood
Daniel Wood, Morrison	Brig Hawaii, Rabe
Bark Cynthia, Sherman	Schr Fisi, Fish.
Harmony, Austin	Ship Chas. Phelps, Eldridge

Vessels Expected from Foreign Ports.

American ship Elizabeth & Ella was to sail from Boston for Honolulu, Oct. 25, with cargo mdse to B W Field.
Am bark Merrimac (fitted as a whaler) is due from New London, with cargo of mdse to C. A. Williams & Co.
The Fanny Major will be due from San Francisco from Dec. 20 to 25.
Am brigt. L. P. Foster, Moore, with cargo of lumber, is due soon, from Puget Sound.

EXPORTS.

For NEW BEDFORD—Per Waverly, Dec. 14—39,352 galls wh oil, by A. J. Cargy.
For NEW BEDFORD—Per Coral, Dec. 15—5,769 galls wh oil, by Thos. Morrison; 33,651 galls wh oil, 1006 do sp do, 13 bbls pork, by E. R. Ashley.
For NEW BEDFORD—Per Gladiator, Dec. 16—28,581 galls wh oil, 6,925 do sp do, by A. Milton; 12,457 do wh do, 2,202 do sp do, T. H. Norton; 22,337 do wh do, S. H. Whiteside; 32,284 do wh do, E. T. Hinckley; 34,915 do wh do, 6,925 do sp do, 12,588 lbs whale bone, by Thos. Swift; 11,424 lbs whale bone, C. G. West; 2 trunks, D. P. Penhallow; 10,095 galls wh oil 5,574 do sp do, 1 cak skins, 3 bbls slush, J. Lyons; 52,067 galls wh oil, 2 bbls slush, S. H. Whiteside; 470 lbs walrus teeth, D. C. Waterman.

INTER-ISLAND TRADE.

For LAHAINA and KALEPOLEPO—Per Alice, Dec. 9—4 cs prints, 4 do soap, 4 doz pails, 2 cs mdse, 2 doz prs ox bows, 13 passengers on deck.
From KAUAI—Per Emma, Dec. 8—41 cords firewood, 12 head cattle.
From KAWAIHAE—Per Mary, Dec. 10—41 head cattle; 48 sheep, 100 bbls Irish potatoes, 10 caks beef, 6 caks tallow, 7 bdls goat skins, 11 kegs butter, 7 bags bullock horns, 8 hogs.
From KAHULUI—Per Moi Keiki, Dec. 10—150 bbls Irish potatoes, 125 bbls pot, 330 goat skins, 5 hides, 25 sheep, 2 buckets eggs, 1 keg butter, 2 pkgs specie, 83 bgs oats, 3 coops chickens, 3 bbls walnut oil; 2 foreign and 16 native passengers.
From LAHAINA—Per Ka Moi, Dec. 11—[illegible] 6 pigs, 3 bbls slush, 11 bullock hides, 40 bunches [illegible], 30 bunches bananas, 6 empty boxes.
For KAWAIHAE—Per Mary, Dec. 14—3000 feet lumber, 20 cases beef, 13 bags oats, 1 plow, 5 bbls cement, 1 grindstone, 33 pkgs mdse, 2 horses.
For KAHULUI—Per Moi Keiki, Dec. 14—1 iron pump, lot hand plows, 10 pkgs mdse, 600 lbs flour, 50 kegs nails, 1000 shingles, 2 doz yr on hours, 1 pkg specie, 2000 laths, 4 bbls bread, 1 keg pork, 2 bbls oil, 18 cases, 2 coils rope, 1 cak hams, 1 pkg window sash, 1 stove, 12 iron pots, 2 doz brooms, 17 demijohns, 1 bbl ale, 1 horse-hide, 100 lbs twine, 9 empty bbls, 12 doz Hingham buckets, 5 bales prints, 12 box soap, 47 pkgs mdse.
For KOLOA—Per Keoni Ana, Dec. 8—10 cs dry goods, 600 ft lumber, 30 bdls shingles, 1 bbl tar, 1 do flour, 8 bags do, 40 passengers, 1 prisoner.
From KOLOA—Per Keoni Ana, Dec. 15—5 bbls molasses, 15 do sweet potatoes, 500 oranges, 14 bbls salt pork, 26 hides, 12 bbls tallow, 5 cords firewood, 5 hogs, 50 chickens, and 10 passengers.
From KALEPOLEPO—Per Alice, Dec. 16—350 bbls Irish potatoes.

DIED

In Honolulu, Thursday afternoon, Dec. 10, of consumption, James J. G. Kapena, of Sumas, California, aged 42 years. His funeral will take place this afternoon at 3 o'clock, from the Seamen's Chapel. The friends of the family are invited to attend without further notice, and the friends of the deceased, and members of the Hawaiian Band, are invited to attend the funeral, by the order of the Band, and the friends of the family, by the special request of the deceased, respectfully invited to follow the Masonic pall.

PASSENGERS.

EASTWISE.

From KAUAI—Per Emma, Dec. 8—T Gandell, Miguel Mears.
From KAWAIHAE—Per Mary, Dec. 10—S Allen, Mr Cooper, and 10 on deck.
From LAHAINA—Per Ka Moi, Dec 11—P H Treadway, lady and 2 children, Capt Mitchell, Dr Bates, A Russell, 3 others, 7 white prisoners, 70 natives.
From MAKAWAO—Per Moi Keiki, Nov. 28—Miss Kate Grey, Miss Irwin.
For KAHULUI—Per Moi Keiki, Dec 14—W Enos and wife, Baron Walncy, J Antone, J Ferra, and 28 on deck.
For KAWAIHAE—Per Mary, Dec 14—H C Leonard, J N Travis, and 20 on deck.
For LAHAINA—Per Ka Moi, Dec 14—H M Whitney and 2 children, Miss Kate Grey, C F Judd, Dr Bullions, Mr Pratt, H Turton, Mr Clifford, Rev A Bishop, Rev S E Bishop.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

SEAMEN'S BETHEL—Rev. S. C. Damon Chaplain—King street, near the Sailors' Home. Preaching on Sundays at 11 A. M. and 7½ P. M. Seats free. Sabbath School after the morning services.
FORT STREET CHURCH—Corner of Fort and Beretania sts., —Pulpit temporarily occupied by Rev. Lorrin Andrews. Preaching on Sundays at 11 A. M. and 7½ P. M. Sabbath School meets at 10 A. M.
METHODIST CHURCH—Nuuanu avenue, corner of Tutui street—Rev. Wm. S. Turner, Pastor. Preaching every Sunday at 11 A. M. and 7½ P. M. Seats free. Sabbath School meets at 10 A. M.
KING'S CHAPEL—King street, above the Palace—Rev. E. W. Clark Pastor. Services, in Hawaiian every Sunday at 9½ A. M. and 3 P. M.
CATHOLIC CHURCH—Fort street, near Beretania—under the charge of Rt. Rev. Bishop Maigret, assisted by Abbe Modeste. Services every Sunday at 10 A. M. and 2 P. M.

SPECIAL BUSINESS NOTICE.

Papers ready for mailing can be procured at our counter, neatly done up in wrappers, five copies for 50 cents or twelve copies for a dollar.

TERMS.—Six Dollars per annum.
Single Copies 12½ cents each.

AGENTS FOR THE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

Lahaina, Maui - - - C. S. BARTOW, Esq.
Makawao, E. Maui - - - L. L. TORRERT, Esq.
Hilo, Hawaii - - - Capt. J. WORTH.
Kawaihae, Hawaii - - - Capt. JAS. A. LAW.
Kona, Hawaii - - - THOS. H. PARIS, Esq.
Koloa, Kauai - - - Dr. J. W. SMITH.
San Francisco, Cal - - L. P. FISHER, Esq., Mer. Ex.
New Bedford and U. S. - - B. LINDSEY, Ed. Ship List.

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17.

THE last news from the United States reported most of the large cities and many of the inland towns as convulsed with a financial "panic," caused by the withdrawal of that public confidence which has given to the credit system such unlimited power in all business transactions. Up to the first day of October, 116 banks, and from 500 to 600 mercantile firms, involving several hundred millions of dollars, had been suspended or failed. The origin of this panic is in a great measure attributed to want of confidence. When public confidence becomes shaken in a bank from any cause whatever, as in the case of the Ohio Life and Trust Company, to which institution the public had entrusted, in the way of deposits and loans, an aggregate estimated as high as $7,000,000, there commences a run on it by those who have confided their money to its keeping, or who hold its promises to pay. Banks do their business largely on credit, and when confidence in them becomes impaired and their specie basis is exhausted, they fail or become bankrupt. Their failure invariably carries with them those mercantile firms who have relied on them or are their creditors to any large extent; and the failure of these in turn perhaps carries down other banks or firms who may be their creditors. Thus a panic commences, the extent of which depends on the degree to which confidence is withdrawn between man and man in business transactions. How far the money crisis in the United States will extend itself, or whether it will appear in England and France, with both of which countries the business relations of American merchants are intimate, remains to be seen.

"Too much of the business of the world," says a cotemporary journal, "and therefore too much of its wealth, prosperity and happiness, is made to rest only upon promises to pay. Any fabric built on such a basis or rested partially even on such unsure props and pillars, cannot be secure. And as the relations of commercial life are so intimately interwoven and so endlessly ramified, we may judge how fearful must necessarily be the shock which they receive by the giving way of a link or two in any part of the complex chain of connections and dependencies. Those who have read the American papers and have watched the present financial difficulty and embarrassment have seen how the alarm, the feeling of insecurity, which is called a 'panic,' pervades the whole trading community. They have seen how the sudden failing of one house has thrown down ten or twenty more and shaken hundreds which have just escaped ruin by 'the skin of their teeth.' They have seen, too, how this evil of over doing credit, which in turn causes business to be overdone, bears its own penalty with it, in the necessity to rely on forced loans, at enormous rates of interest, at moments when a general crisis comes and money is hard to be got at any price by those who have to meet heavy engagements and carry through speculative operations. These things should teach men to borrow less and lend less; to trade less, in short, on credit. Of late years the amount of trading and speculation that is done purely on paper, endorsed and unendorsed, has increased immensely, and unless our progress in this direction be checked it will inevitably lead to terrible disaster. The personal misfortune and distress, and the consequent public inconvenience that result from these excesses in commercial dealings, is not the worst effect. The habit of operating on unreal capital, of plunging deeper and deeper into debt, and of resorting to all sorts of shifts to postpone the day when the bubble must burst, engenders false ideas of integrity, corrupts the principles of mercantile honor, and lowers and deadens the moral tone of the entire trading community. Hence, too, those contrived failures by which the bankrupt, paying nobody, goes into retirement upon a splendid competency, beyond the reach of the sheriff."

Although business in these islands is not done so exclusively on credit as in England and America, yet as the system of seeking and giving extended credit is yearly gaining ground, and apparently without yielding benefit, we take the occasion of the present panic to say a few words on the evils attending the credit system which must develope themselves wherever it is followed, and generally to the extent that it gains ground. That a large proportion of the failures occurring in any place arise mainly from giving or receiving credit, which might have been avoided, is generally conceded. A firm that does business on the cash principle seldom becomes embarrassed or fails. The same may be said of a man not engaged in speculative business, whatever may be his circumstances in life, rich or poor; if he deals only in cash and for cash, he runs no risk of embarrassment. His business, though more limited, is safe, and his profits, though less, are sure; while he who continually seeks credit for what he buys, wears, eats and drinks, has a load on his back that creates discontent and, if allowed to increase, wears on his mental faculties and brings ultimately too often disgrace and ruin.

Yet there must be credit to some extent here and everywhere. And as long as this is the case, as long as every firm must extend some trust to those who deal with it and who seek credit, we must impress promptness in all engagements. Where a man gives his promise to pay a sum on such a day, he should consider his honor at stake and honorably satisfy the claim the moment it falls due. Where custom, as in Honolulu, requires a quarterly settlement of accounts, a man who buys on credit binds himself to such quarterly payment of his debts as fully as if he made an open agreement so to do. In all such claims, promptness should be the rule, for it saves a deal of vexation and anxiety to debtor and creditor. A man who buys on credit, or borrows money with no intention of paying the debt, is as much a thief and robber as though he stole the same articles. While he who buys *to pay at his convenience*, without regard to the rights of his creditor, is hardly less at fault.

There are cases where the giving of credit and the contracting of debt are a positive good, and result in a benefit to both creditor and debtor. A loan may often be the means of bringing into active employ the capacities of muscle and mind, which but for it might lie for a lifetime undeveloped, and which but for its aid would never have been developed. A few hundred or a few thousand dollars timely lent to an earnest and intelligent worker, who only needs a "lift" of that kind to put into profitable play his mechanical or inventive genius, which is a capital of itself, and which only requires, like Archimedes, a fulcrum in order to make its powers effective, has often achieved a munificent fortune for the individual to whom the sum was advanced, while bestowing incalculable service and advantage upon the world. So also in mercantile business, where credit is kept within safe bounds, its influence is purely beneficial. In all such credits the character of the party seeking a loan should be considered.

But it is also certain that there are instances, every now and then occurring, (which we need not instance) in which debts have obviously been too readily and recklessly contracted, and credits given with too much facility,—instances which lead often to the perpetration of the meanest frauds. If more caution was exercised in this matter on both sides, and the evils ever liable to happen were more frequently and attentively considered, the condition of every neighborhood would be to some extent ameliorated, and the minds of thousands saved from the most carking of cares and the most irritating of annoyances.

Foremost among these evils may be ranked the bitter and resentful feelings which not unfrequently spring up between debtor and creditor. The debtor, finding difficulty in meeting the demand against him, commences his downward career by dreading and shunning the sight of the one he owes. This seldom fails to result in a want of mutual confidence, and ultimately in hatred, as soon at least as measures are resorted to to hasten or compel a settlement. Too frequently, as all may have seen, after avoiding his creditor and experiencing much vexation and perplexity, the debtor gives free scope to his revengeful feelings; forgets the justice of the debt in the unpleasantness of his situation, and schemes and labors much more how to evade than how to cancel the just claims against him. Too often his ill feelings lead him to study not only evasion but even injury and revenge, rather than payment.

On the other hand, the creditor being disappointed in his expectations, put to a great amount of trouble, and in danger of losing what is his due, becomes equally irritated. The worst part of his nature is drawn out. He loses patience, self-control and confidence, and pursues his claims, not with calmness and justice, but under the excitement of passion. He indulges in the most rigorous and uncompromising measures the law will allow—friends and good neighbors are changed to enemies; and those, whose peace and happiness were dependent on their mutual good will and good offices, are provoked to harm rather than help each other to the utmost of their power.

Even when such difficulties are not carried to these extremities, there are minor evils scarcely less important to the peace and comfort of both the parties concerned. They become subject to fears and anxieties which tend to destroy much of the comfort and happiness of life, and which, while they sometimes stir up men to make uncommon efforts, are quite as likely to discourage or overwhelm them with despair. The dread of unwelcome and urgent calls for payment, of losses and sacrifices both of property and reputation, are far from being favorable either to composure or concentration of mind. A dark cloud rests upon and oppresses the faculties and energies, and care consumes many of the finer feelings of the heart. If such considerations, together with the fact that the payment of debts almost always proves more difficult than was anticipated at the time of contracting them, were duly weighed, debts would be contracted less frequently and less foolishly than they too often are.

Dr. Johnson said a very wise thing when he advised his friend to pay cash for everything he bought, ready money being a check upon the imagination. If the retail dealer who is tempted to buy largely, had always to count out the "cash on delivery," his bills at the end of the year would probably be only hundreds instead of thousands. And so in all kinds of business, and among all classes of buyers—abolish the credit system and you do away with extravagance and the attendant risk of carrying on business, whether on a small or large scale. It is so easy to run in debt, when one has only to say "charge it," that even prudent persons who mean to be economical, and never go beyond their ability to pay, are constantly led into the purchase of articles they do not need, and for which they sometimes find it difficult to pay.

The London *Times*, in commenting recently on the failure of two young men in Ireland, who had gained the confidence of an English linen merchant to a large amount and swindled him out of nearly the whole sum, speaks in strong censure of the present system of indiscriminate and injudicious credits, and says:—"Mere lads set up in business, as it is called, with the very ruler and wafers in their office obtained upon credit. Upon credit, too, they obtain goods, which they either pledge or sell at one-half or one-third of their value, and by this little manœuvre gain possession of money, which is soon destined to be dribbled away in over-expenditure or engulfed in speculation. Two or three years generally suffice to bring their operations to a conclusion, and then there is nothing for it, but the bankrupt's disgrace, or flight more disgraceful."

In the fluctuations of a business based wholly on credit, comparatively few know how they are coming out at the end of the year. The merchant who has sold his thousands on time cannot tell whether his house is founded on a rock or on the sand; and there are no men whose property is so securely invested that their "riches may not take to themselves wings and fly away." No man who runs largly in debt to-day is absolutely certain of his ability to pay to-morrow—much less three or six months hence. The doctrine of chances and probabilities may favor his hopes; but any one of a thousand accidents may upset all his calculations.

The more we reflect, therefore, the more are we convinced that not money, but credit, is "the root of all evil," and the only wise system of trade, the only sure remedy for a multitude of social evils is to be found in the golden maxim: PAY AS YOU GO. Let those who have the cash in hand, begin the reform TO-DAY; and every vein and artery of trade would feel a glow of quickening vitality, prompting to benevolent actions, and leading to the most blessed results. The bondage of the debtor is the worst kind of bondage—more galling than African slavery itself. Excess of credit anywhere, especially when extended to those who prove themselves unworthy of it is the source of a vast amount of the wrongs of society, and is almost as prolific in evils as

——"The fruit of that forbidden tree,
Whose moral taste brought death into the world,
And all our woe."

FAST DAY.

Thursday, December 31st., has been appointed as a day of fasting and prayer, as will be seen by the following notice, which we insert *gratuitously*, as the state of the public finances does not allow of the notice being fully proclaimed in all the journals of the day:

BY ORDER OF THE KING.

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED that Thursday, the 31st of December ensuing, be kept as a day of solemn fasting and humiliation for sin, and of thanksgiving to Almighty God for numberless unmerited mercies and blessings received during the year that expires on that day. L. KAMEHAMEHA.

Office of the Interior, 10th Dec., 1857.

The above is a singular notice indeed. Though professing to be issued "by order of the King," it does not appear over his signature, as is customary in such cases. The notice, as it now appears, would convey the idea that the matter of a public fast or thanksgiving (whichever or both, as may be intended) is not of sufficient importance to receive the special attention of the king, but is deputed to a ministerial officer, and issued from the office of the interior, when his Majesty is still on the island, and within ten hours ride of the metropolis. We do not know that it will generally be viewed as such here, but in England or America the form of issuing the proclamation would be considered as little short of an insult to the public. But, aside from its informality, the notice itself is perfectly ridiculous. The idea of having a solemn fast day for sin, united to a day of public rejoicing and thanksgiving to God for his care and goodness, is an absurdity that could only have originated in the brains of the present Hawaiian Ministry.

Let us look at it a moment. A day of fasting, according to the old Jewish ritual, and according to all modern religious customs, is considered as a day of humiliation, prayer and withdrawal from active business, to remember our national and individual unworthiness in the sight of the Creator. A day of thanksgiving is, on the contrary, observed everywhere as a day of *feasting* and rejoicing. A union of the two is inconsistent and absurd, and will be viewed abroad as quite ridiculous.

How the day is to be kept, we are puzzled to know. Perhaps another proclamation is to issue from the "Interior Office," giving the fullest particulars for the proper performance of an Act, which, without a programme, must tax the ingenuity of the public. We do not see how the day *can* be observed at all, and do not think it will be unless the notice is so modified as to make it possible.

But really the 31st December, the day chosen for either a fast or a feast (in this case uncertain which) is not appropriate. The day selected last year—Christmas—was exceedingly appropriate for a day of thanksgiving. It is observed among the English and Europeans as a day of feasting, and the appointment of it in 1856 gave general satisfaction.

Wherever, in any country or state, a day of general thanksgiving is appointed, it betokens in the ruler and the people a spirit of reverence, thankfulness and humility. It is a spectacle of moral sublimity to see a people thus returning thanks to the All-bountiful Providence, and asking for a continuance of His blessings. And surely the Hawaiian nation and its rulers owe a heavier debt of gratitude to an over-ruling Providence than any of the nations on the earth.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

DEBATING SOCIETY.—It may not be generally known that there is a society of this description in Honolulu, whose members meet weekly to enjoy the "feast of reason and the flow of soul." It commenced with a few—but four or five—of the young men of the city who wisely thought the most sensible way of spending their evenings, was *not* in bar-rooms and billiard-saloons, but in the attempt at mutual improvement. They commenced their sessions in the room over Dr. Judd's office some twelve months ago, and have persevered, in spite of all the difficulties such an institution is liable to meet with from the sneers of some and the "masterly inactivity" of others, until at the present moment their number is quatrupled, and they are in the full tide of successful experiment. We know of no city of its size that will exceed Honolulu in the number of young men of real talent to be found within its limits; opportunity only is required to bring them out, and the debating society is just the desideratum. They meet on Friday evening of each week, and the subjects of discussion are always admirably adapted so as to interest all, and at the same time, combine instruction with amusement.

"They'd undertake to prove, by force
Of argument, a man's no horse.
They'd prove a buzzard is no fowl,
And that a lord may be an owl,
A calf an alderman, a goose a justice,
And rooks committee men and trustees."

We understand that the Hon. D. L. Gregg has consented to address the association, of which due notice will be given. The question proposed for discussion on next Friday evening, is to this effect. "Should ministers preach politics?" To add to the interest of their meetings, a monthly newspaper has been established, called the *Anonymous*, the editor of which is elected every four months. Some of the articles are a decided credit to their authors, and display a talent for polemical writing which evinces an advanced degree of literary culture, as gratifying as it is unexpected. They meet at present in the vestry room adjoining the Bethel. Success to the Honolulu Debating Society.

RUNAWAY COOLIES.—One of the three who escaped from the gang last month, while the dredge was at work near Charlton wharf, is still at large, the police not having as yet succeeded in getting upon his track. This fellow was recently sentenced to imprisonment for a term of eighteen months for burglary of Mr. Waterhouse's premises. Natives say that he has been seen in the neighborhood of Waianae, and that he was armed with a knife. It is barely possible that we may have a repetition of the murderous affair by which Hoopii lost his life in July of last year; and to prevent it an efficient police force should be sent after this desperado, and a thorough search made for him. The second of these coolie convicts, named Akoni, who was sentenced to six months imprisonment for stealing at Kalauao, was on Tuesday taken at Waianae. He denies all knowledge of the whereabouts of the other. Who wouldn't hold up both hands for another cargo of *cheap* Chinese laborers?

REPORTED SALE OF THE BARK YANKEE.—The rumor has been current about town for a few days past, that this favorite California packet has been sold and will be fitted out for the whaling business on her return from San Francisco. Her sale, if any has been effected, is still a private transaction, and we trust the rumor may prove incorrect. A withdrawal of this vessel at this time, when she is no doubt paying a fair profit to her owners, would be a serious inconvenience to the trade and travel between this port and California. It is no easy matter to get so fine a packet placed on any route, and if she is withdrawn, the business must be left to second rate vessels. However well the *Yankee* may pay in her present trade, she would undoubtedly pay a much larger profit as a whaler, for there is no business in the world that, properly conducted, pays a larger premium.

A GOOD START.—The *Yankee* sailed on Wednesday 9th, at 12 M. with a good freight and about forty passengers. She had a stiff trade on starting, which increased during the night and next day to a "whole topsail breeze," and Capt. Penhallow without doubt will improve the opportunity to get over the worst part of the passage to San Francisco, which is the first half. Capt. P. knows the road between this and California—we remember his making the trip from Honolulu and back in thirty-seven days, including stoppage at San Francisco, during the spring [illegible] while in command of the schooner *Restless*.

THE INDIA-RUBBER MAN.—It is admitted by all in the community who have seen him perform, that Mons. Devani is a complete prodigy—a human puzzle. Our medical men have been utterly at a loss to account for the pliability, not only of his muscles, but of his bones, particularly those of the spinal column, rendering the cognomen of "India-rubber man" no misnomer. Devani is twenty-four years of age, and as his countenance would seem to indicate is of Italian extraction, though on the maternal side he is British. While traveling with Prof. Risley in Europe, the medical fraternity of both London and Paris solicited the privilege of a private examination of M. Devani's physical construction, which was readily granted, and the result was that they declared he set all the laws of nature at defiance—made, as he was, like other men,—and they could not account for his extraordinary performances. It is asserted, and without the fear of contradiction, that his feats are without a parallel in the world; even the wonderful jugglers of the East Indies never attempted to put the human form into such unheard of, and yet always graceful positions, as does Devani. Prof. Risley's Book of Autographs is now in the hands of His Majesty, and on his return to town will be left at this office, where the curious may inspect the handwriting of many of the aristocracy and *elite* of Europe, before the courts of which country Prof. R. has had the honor of appearing—a sufficient passport, it might be imagined to any audience in the theater-going world.

STEAMBOAT DISASTERS.—The article alluding to this subject, published in our last paper, taken from the N. Y. *Journal of Commerce*, has called the attention of one of our readers to the numerous steamer disasters in this ocean since 1850, who has handed us the following list. It reports, in all, twenty sea-going steamers as lost, eight of which were large and fine vessels of from 1000 to 2,200 tons burthen. It may not be complete, but it exhibits a fearful loss of property and lives:

Steamship Independence, coast of Lower California, 150 lives lost.
" North America, near Acapulco, about 50 died of starvation and exposure during the journey from the wreck to Acapulco.
" Winfield Scott, on Anacapa Island, all saved.
" Yankee Blade, coast of California, 25 lives lost.
" Tennessee, near San Francisco, all saved.
" Southerner, Puget Sound, all saved.
" Ohio, near San Francisco, all saved.
" America, burnt at Crescent City, all saved.
Propeller Arispe, lost near Humboldt, all saved.
" Pioneer, lost on the coast of California, all saved.
" City of Pittsburg, burnt in Valparaiso harbor, all saved.
" S. S. Lewis, near San Francisco, all saved.
" Monumental City, voyage to Sydney, 100 lives lost.
" General Warren, on Clatsop Spit, mouth of Columbia River, all lost but five.
" Fremont, coast of Calinifora, all saved.
" Chesapeake, Humboldt Bay, all saved.
" Constitution, coast of California, all saved.
" Sea Gull, coast of California, all saved.
" Commodore Preble, Humboldt, all saved.
" Union, coast of Mexico, all saved.

KIANI, A TRADITION OF HAWAII, is the last work from the fertile pen of James J. Jarves, author of the History of the Sandwich Islands, Parisian Sights, &c. But one copy has been received in town, though we presume more has been ordered. From a hasty examination the story would seem to be essentially the same as that which appeared some fourteen years ago, while the distinguished author was editing the *Polynesian*, though rewritten with many additions and improvements in style and plan. *Harper's Weekly* thus speaks of the work:

Mr. Jarves is one of the most graceful and pleasant writers of the day. In this little book he has woven a romance out of the threads of a story he picked up at sea, or on the Sandwich Islands. The tradition was that superior beings once visited the islands. He supposes this to have originated in the fact that a Spanish vessel was driven over to them in the sixteenth century; and out of this slender material he contrives, with the aid of his refined imagination, to give us a very beautiful and a very finished story, abounding in those brilliant sketches of scenery and descriptions of human emotion for which all his writings are so justly celebrated. His *dramatis personæ*, Olmedo, a priest, Beatriz, a Spanish lady, Tolta, an Aztec, and all the others as well, are drawn with a delicate pencil. The work is eminently one of imagination, and is a most successful effort.

A STAMPEDE.—Last Saturday afternoon a jackass laden with poi, standing on Merchant street, had his equanimity disturbed by something in that crowded thoroughfare that alarmed him, and kicking off his load, started up street on the run. Jack had however made a mistake in his calculations, for one of the bundles, being fast by a rope to the pommel of the saddle, stuck close in his rear, and brought up slambang at every jump he made. The way in which he "sloshed about" the street was a caution to those in his road. We doubt if ever poi traveled faster, even down a hungry kanaka's throat, than did that bundle, and the last we saw of it was near the steam mill, when it was in the act of scattering a Chinaman's cake stand, the jackass still about two feet in advance.

COCK-FIGHTING.—We think there is no probability of this practice becoming popular amongst us, though we were not a little amused a few mornings since to observe a crowd of the *habitues* of Merchant street, gathered around a pair of "early birds" at the junction of Fort and Hotel streets, who were plugging into each other in a style that would have done a Mexican padre good. It was a perfect impromptu affair, but betting of a humorous character was freely indulged in, and many a hearty laugh enjoyed. No doubt several who took their walk that morning with languid pulse and no appetite, went back with a cheerful countenance and a quick-set zest for breakfast. Our lives are made up of trifles—let no one then despise them.

LEGAL NOTICES.—Notice is given in the *Polynesian* to the creditors of Messrs. B. F. Bolles & Co. of Lahaina, that James W. Austin and A. P. Everett of Honolulu, have been appointed commissioners of the estate. Notice is also given of a Sheriff's sale on the 7th January next, of the household property of Chas. H. Butler of Honolulu, to satisfy the demand of Savidge & May for $54 57. Probate notice is also given of the will of the late Stephen Reynolds, and the 20th January is appointed for hearing proof of the will, at the Court House in Honolulu.

HAWAIIAN TRACT SOCIETY.—This association held a meeting on Monday evening last in the Bethel, for the purpose of hearing the report of their colporteur, whose term of engagement expires on the last day of this month. Mr. Bicknell's report was a modest, but extremely interesting document, and will no doubt be printed. It was voted that an appeal be made to the public for the sum of $100, balance due the colporteur for four months services among seamen; when the Society adjourned.

FROM HILO.—On the 27th ult., a very heavy rain storm occurred at Hilo, the streams rising in a short space of time to a great height. The house of Sheriff Coney, at Piihonua, was for two hours completely inundated, driving out the inmates. We hear of no further damage being done. The report of a new eruption of the volcano on Hawaii is incorrect, as near as we can learn.

EXODUS OF LITERATI.—The *Yankee* carried away a larger number than usual of our professional men. Whether we can afford to spare so many at one time, there will be a difference of opinion. We notice two lawyers, (Messrs. Campbell and Poe) one clergyman, (Rev. J. D. Strong) and one doctor, (Broy).

INDIA.—On our last page will be found a very interesting article on the British rule in India, and the present troubles between the Indians and British.

☞ We were in error last week in stating that the fever now existing among children here is the *typhus fever*. It is called by physicians an infantile remittent fever.

☞ With the fresh trades which have been blowing for a week past, the *Fanny Major* ought to be due by Wednesday next. She left this port on the 9th November, and ought to leave San Francisco as early as the 5th or 8th of December.

HULK AT AUCTION.—The hulk of the whaling bark *Neptune* of New London, having been condemned, was sold at auction on Friday last for $500, to be broken up. The *Neptune* is something over thirty years old.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Tu