

The Islander.

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THE ISLANDER.

THE events of the past week are neither many nor of significant importance. True a Samoan princess has come and gone with whatever opportunities of political alliance with that archipelago her presence afforded. We do not know whether the dinner given on board the yacht which conveyed Her Highness, carried with it any civil significance or not; albeit, it was attended with unusual and unexpected difficulties, the common fate of diplomacy and statecraft.

THE prevailing topics of street conversation since our last issue have been the weather and the refiners. For some days past the more enterprising portion of our population have ventured out-of-doors without the erewhile necessary protection of umbrellas and overalls; and the not unnatural feelings of surprise and distrust with which this change in the policy of the elements was viewed has been promptly allayed by the discovery, set forth in a recent morning bulletin, that careful consideration of the best authority on the subject would suggest the vernal equinox as having had something to do with the matter.

WE do not attach much importance to any of the melodramatic arguments advanced by the Western refiners in their first touching appeal to Congress. Their reference to the prodigal son was hardly a happy quotation for them, for devout Senators at Washington, upon investigation, will ascertain that the prodigal son was received back with open arms in spite of the jealousy of the elder brother. That they are a pure-minded and patriotic set of citizens is highly possible, and the way in which they combine a knowledge of scripture with a disinterested refining of our raw sugars for everyone's benefit but their own commends our highest admiration; so, too, does the subtle and logical style of presenting the question seen in such argument as this:

"But, admitting for the sake of illustration, that reciprocity would cheapen the price of sugar to the consumers of the Pacific coast, why should they be favored more than those of the Atlantic and all other portions of the Union?"

* * * These queries are asked only to present the subject from another point of view; for * * * the result would be quite the reverse if reciprocity should be adopted. * * *

But even if reciprocity is to be prevented, we fear that these virtues will not in the present worldly and practical age constitute its principal obstacle. Meanwhile the counter-petition of the Californian merchants presents some of the arguments in favor of the proposed treaty which may reasonably be supposed to claim weighty consideration on the side of American interests.

An interesting article in the *Gazette* of last Wednesday, cites some information with respect to possible prejudice to relations with other states on the part of two nations enter-

ing in reciprocal treaty with each other; and, as (we believe) the information was originally collected when the subject of reciprocity was on a previous occasion under consideration, it probably disposes of one argument advanced by the Refiners.

But by this time probably the fiat or non fiat has passed; wherefore we will no longer discuss what we cannot alter.

It is with much pleasure that we note the cooling presence of ice once more in our community. The race between the two opposing ice interests was terminated day before yesterday by the triumph of the faction presided over by R. Rycroft Esq., who reports himself as prepared to reduce the temperature of the population at one half the old rates. We breathe freer, and now calmly look forward to the approaching Summer Solstice.

WE sympathize deeply with the *Advertiser* upon the endless difficulties and "peculiar responsibility" of newspaper editing. Have we not been labored with by grave and senior members of society for occasions of "extreme levity," have we not been closeted with injured individuals with solemn expostulation and unexpected information as to our sins of personal hostility and disregard of human feelings. We know all about these "arduous and delicate" duties. But when that paper, moralizing further, upholds, as the correct newspaper principle, that it is for journals to follow rather than lead and control public opinion; that "as in other trades" the journalist must please his customer to succeed, and be ready to advocate what he believes to be impracticable and fallacious, if demanded by the tastes and beliefs of his readers,—we are surprised, not so much at the low standard of newspaper morals adopted by our contemporary, as at his willing and public confession of it. Verily, the *ISLANDER* has never once thought that journalism was a trade, but has been under the somewhat positive impression that it was a profession of high and honorable responsibilities, and that as well might a clergyman preach what he does not believe to please his audience and for the sake of his salary, as a journalist act in the same way to his readers from financial considerations. We further hold that while it may be unnecessary to the world's progress that any particular journal should continue, it is necessary that whatever is spoken or published, should be honest and manly.

H. B. M. S. *Reindeer* sailed on Saturday last, taking with her those who remained of the gallant and learned observation party. The weather, after much hesitation, admitted a few final chronometer-observations to be made just before the vessel sailed, for comparison with time in San Francisco. Honolulu has been much favored, intellectually and socially, by the visit of these gentlemen and of the vessels of war detailed for the same service; and we hope that our successors a century hence may be as lucky, if indeed anything then remains to be found out.

THE Rev. Mr. Doane concluded his lecture on Micronesia last Friday evening, speaking of the ethnology of the islands and their fauna and flora, and pointing out that the history and natural features of the Pacific afforded a most

interesting field for study and research. At the commencement of the evening a short concert of vocal and instrumental music was afforded by the kindness of Miss Castle, Dr. Hoffmann and Captain Tupman. The latter gentleman sang from "Il Trovatore," Miss Castle accompanying him on the pianoforte; a pianoforte duet by Miss Castle and Dr. Hoffmann followed, and then Miss Castle and Captain Tupman sang an exceedingly pretty duet from "Lucia de Lammermoor."

Apropos, why, with such an amount of resident and transient musical ability in our town, have we no musical society?

THE band of the *Pensacola* played a very good but somewhat short selection of music on Tuesday evening under the trees in front of the Hotel; and for this treat (which we hope, may be repeated) we are indebted to the kindness of Admiral Almy.

If the treaty fails as seems somewhat probable from the latest news, what are we, LITTLE HAWAII, to do about it. Are we to give up in that event, and gathering together our household gods, flit to easier shores, and leave the poor little archipelago to its fate? It is not a question of rats leaving a sinking ship but of sailors leaving it. What chance is there for a deserted vessel! Who is so chivalrous and honored as the man who stands by to the last for the sake of the general safety, and if the rescue of all is impossible, goes down with the rest!

Hawaii, now perhaps more than ever before needs the help of brave, patriotic and wise citizens. Perhaps heretofore we have trusted too much to our advantageous circumstances which have brought easy wealth to our pockets, and now shorn of these, we struggle for other special advantages in the way of privilege, perhaps too easily satisfied with conditions which favor individual wealth without assuring national growth or laying foundation stones for future state prosperity and stability. If the treaty fails, it may be for the sake, under providence, of leading us to devote ourselves more directly to those resources which may be made the causes of a permanent national prosperity. While, on the contrary, if the possession of the treaty should tend to make us forget the future in our absorbing interest in the present, it might not in the end prove a blessing. The treaty cannot make us securely prosperous without people, while a large population would bring independence with or without foreign assistance. Whatever the importance of reciprocal measures with our neighbors, it does not compare, as a state necessity, with the subject of population or *Hooulu Lahui*, as our King terms it. And this so far as any immediate or practical result is obtainable can be effected through immigration only; this above all other questions, is at the present time, the fullest of promise, as well as of the first importance to Hawaiian politics.

KING ALFONSO has received his "baptism of fire" on the battle fields of Navarre, and will probably shortly present with appropriate solemnities, sundry flattened bullets to the image of the Virgin Mary at Madrid. Late dispatches give the impression that the dawn of the monarchy in Spain has rather stimulated than discouraged Carlism, as we hinted in a late number, would probably be the case. Three Carlist victories are reported in Lorca, Lacar and Guipuzcoa. Before it was Republicanism or Don Carlos, now it is Alphonso or Don Carlos, and we know no reason why Spaniards should be particularly enthusiastic over either of the present rivals.

NEWS.

Local Jottings.—March 18th. Willful desertion of a bullock from a herd, while being driven past the Soap Works, for the express purpose of maliciously injuring a horse which it did then and there gore on the premises of Mr. W. Rawlins so effectually that it (the horse,) died the same night.—19th. Arrival of Am. Sch. *Fanny*, 11 days from San Francisco, bringing our News Agent's mails, en route for the Ochotsk; followed a few hours later by the Am. Sch. *Peerless* from the same port, with the Post-office mail, reporting 10 days passage, en route for Samoa.—Pressing desire of the populace for a glimpse at the Samoan Princess on her landing.—Second and closing lecture by Rev. E. T. Doane on Micronesia at the Lyceum, preceded by some choice vocal and instrumental selections by Capt. Tupman, Miss Castle and Dr. Hoffmann to a better house than the former, considering the inclement weather.—20th. Haw'n. Bk. *W. C. Parke* sailed this a. m., for Port Gamble, in ballast; also the Am. Bk. *Delaware*, for Victoria, with cargo of domestic produce valued at \$18,390.00.—H. B. M. S. *Reindeer* took her departure at 5 p. m., for San Francisco, taking a mail, also several male favorites of Transit fame, and a "lost child."—Auction sale by E. P. Adams of real estate (Kalo land) at Waikiki; knocked down to Mrs. A. S. Cleghorn for \$122.50.—Sudden exhibition of the Pugilistic art between a native and a chinaman on Nuuanu street, and early terminating thereof through the arrival of Police, who pressingly invited their company to McDuff's headquarters. 21st. Str. *Kilauea* reports picking up a spar off the Kona coast, evidently a schooner's mainmast. It was towed to Kealakekua to be brought down by the *Prince*.—22nd. Arrival of Am. wh. Bk. *Mt. Wollaston*, (off and on) from a cruise on the line, with 110 bbls sperm.—Considerable spread of bunting among the shipping and throughout the city in honor of Emperor William's birthday.—23rd. Am. wh. Bk. *Onward* arrived, from a cruise on the "off shore ground," with 140 bbls sperm.—Am. Sch. *Flying Mist* sailed for a cruise North.—Am. Sch. *Peerless*, sailed for Samoa.—Death of Abraham Russell, of New Bedford, aged 65 years, long a resident of these Islands.—24th. With the return of "the trades" this a. m., the public are favored with Ice from the new factory; Query—Is this what our trade winds have been waiting for?—Funeral of the late Capt. Abraham Russell.—Wh. Bk. *Onward* is discharging her oil at Brewer's wharf for shipment on the *D. C. Murray*.—Am. Sch. *Fanny* sailed on her northern cruise.—25th. Social entertainment by Admiral Almy on board the *Pensacola* this afternoon to a number of invited guests.—26th. Good Friday.—Lookout for "Hot + Buns."—Government offices closed.

Prospective.—27th. Bk. *D. C. Murray* will probably get off for San Francisco.—Administrator's sale of real estate by C. S. Bartow.—28th. Easter Sunday.—Praise service in the evening at Fort Street Church.

POLITICAL APATHY.

In Arnold's lectures on modern history he refers to the unfortunate condition of a country in which the best men decline to accept public office, or to take an active interest in public affairs. That such is the chronic difficulty in this realm has long been a common observation. It is difficult to assign very satisfactory reasons for this apathy, for such it is, in the minds of an intelligent community like this. People come here, it is true, with the idea of making money with which some day to return to their early homes. As we all know, large fortunes made here have been withdrawn from the country, and their fortunate owners have gone with them. But it is also true, that many of foreign parentage are born here, who have no such affiliations abroad as naturally would lead them to emigrate; on the contrary, are devotedly attached to the land of their birth. Hardly the aboriginal Hawaiian clings more tenaciously to the idea that there is no country like Hawaii in beauty or goodness, as do the foreign children who were born here. Even those who have been long years away, and who have received a large

share of success, still think regretfully of Hawaiian cascades, valleys, horses, skies, and freedom from "carking cares." There is beyond doubt, a strong love of Hawaii in this large and increasing portion of the community.

The varied nationalities here, leading to distrust or jealousy of each other, is often alleged as the principal cause of a want of common interest and pride in acting for the public good, in our narrow political arena. But the same cause elsewhere does not prevent political homogeneity. All nationalities are soon Americanized in the United States, and we doubt not that in all countries of reasonably good government, permanent immigrants attach themselves to the soil and institutions of their adopted land.

It used to be said that the tyranny of the Kamehameha dynasty was so unendurable that foreigners here would compromise themselves in advancing the interests of the country no more than they could thereby advance their own interests. However that may be, the present and last preceding reign have not given serious cause of alarm on any such grounds. It has seemed to some, that quite another extreme, of too great yielding to the clamor of many, was possible. Why then we ask is the general feeling of hopelessness, apathy and indifference kept up? We propose to recur to this subject hereafter.

STRAY THOUGHTS—IMMORTALITY.

Why do we believe in immortality? "Because the soul is immaterial," say some. But has the soul existed from eternity? Thus believed some of the old philosophers, "for boys when pursuing difficult studies grasp many things so readily that they seem not to get a knowledge of them for the first time, but rather to recall them to mind." And thus believe some of the Beechers. But our experiences of what took place before we came into this world, or into our present bodies, do not influence us to believe in the pre-existence of souls. But, admitting that the soul is immaterial, if it had a beginning, why may it not have an end?

Some believe that the soul is immortal because of its capacity for acquiring vast treasures of knowledge. But is it not often the case that this knowledge is forgotten in old age, and the mental powers fail until there is scarcely any evidence of the existence of mind? There is animal life, but where is the soul?

Some liken death to sleep; and because the soul in dreams goes forth into the future and foretells coming events, and catches a glimpse of scenes surpassingly lovely and fadeless, they believe that it is immortal. But dreams are often worthless vagaries not to be told.

These and other arguments for immortality were lately pronounced inconclusive by a clergyman, but he brought forth an argument which satisfied many minds, and his own perchance. It was substantially this: man, as a work of God, is but partially finished in this life. His noble powers are only partially developed. Neither the sculptor nor the painter leaves his work half done. Each is satisfied with nothing short of perfection, and the ancient poets composed for immortality. Will then the great Artificer, whose resources are infinite, suffer man, his most glorious work, to perish when apparently the development of his powers has only commenced? No, he will not leave his work half finished. Man was made for immortality.

And why is not this argument conclusive? Simply for this reason, that if it were carried out to its logical results, it would favor the doctrine of universal salvation, which the reverend gentleman would be one of the last to support. As "Jesus Christ has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel," what is the need of an argument to tell us that the soul will never die?

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

About fifteen years ago a work was published giving the results of certain experiments by which it was supposed to be shown that alcohol passed unchanged through the body. The alleged discovery has been from that time up to the present, one of the big guns of the teetotalists; they arguing very plausibly that such being the case, alcohol can only be regarded as a disturbing element in the system,—a poison not only unserviceable, but inevitably hurtful. This hypothesis, so opposed to universal experience, led many to seek for the truth by experiments of their own. Among others, Drs. Anstie and Dupre instituted and carried on for years a series of experimental investigations which have resulted in proving the falsity of the proposition alluded to above. They have shown beyond a doubt that alcohol in less than narcotic doses is almost entirely disposed of within the body. The question now arises "does alcohol play the part of a food"? A very large part of the available energy of the body is developed by the oxidation of hydrocarbon, like fat. Now, being a highly oxidizable hydrocarbon, there cannot be any doubt that it is by its oxidation that alcohol disappears within the system. We must therefore class it, where Pavy and universal experience put it, among force-producing foods, its usefulness depending upon the rapidity of its transformation and the promptness with which it supplies available energy.

We are happy to announce to our lady friends that it is probable that they will be able ere long to buy sewing-machines for about one-half of the existing prices. The "feed motion" patent which has heretofore been controlled by the six leading companies of the United States has recently expired, and the application for an extension has been denied. It therefore, becomes public property and can be used by any one without the payment of the heavy royalty hitherto demanded.

There are doubtless many mighty mysteries in the domain of natural science of which man as yet has not the slightest conception. The recent investigations of a Prussian scientist, Prof. Landois, go to show that ants have an articulate language, which their high degree of intelligence would lead us to believe must be quite extensive. They possess organs of speech, but the sounds they produce are on too high a pitch to be audible to human ears. If some inventive genius would get up an acoustic microscope we should probably have ere long a formic dictionary and grammar.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We take the liberty of publishing the following encouraging letter, which explains itself;

LAHAINA, March 15th, 1875.

THOS. G. THURM;

Dear Sir:—I see that you have commenced issuing the "ISLANDER."

Your enterprise has my best sympathies, and, if within the literary scope of the journal, I should be glad to see articles from competent hands, touching upon the past of these Islands and of this people; a past as varied in fortunes and frequently as interesting in details, as the past which Homer sang to listening Greeks, as the past which fired the hearts of the northern Vikings and furnished a theme for a Niebelungen Lied, as the past of any other people that had intellect enough to appreciate, and grace enough to commemorate, the deeds of their ancestors.

Very truly, &c.,

ABR. FORNANDER.

PUT IT OUT.

It was the custom in the camp life of the late American war to make known by the bugle signal the hour in the evening when all lights were to be extinguished. The following beautiful stanzas by a true poet, although unknown, were suggested by this practice:

The clear notes rising, climb
A ladder of sweet sound,
And from each golden round
The ascending angels nearing heaven do chime
"God's watch begins; put your dim lanterns out."

Put out each earthly light:
It is God's shadow falls
Along the darkening walls,
Closing us round, when men say "it is night"
He draws so near it shuts the daylight out.

Forbear each scheme of ill:
Good angels walk the ward,
And heaven is all abroad
When twilight falls and earth is hushed and still:
Room for the angels! Put the dark deeds out.

Put out all thoughts of care:
Rest gently aching head:
He stands beside the bed,
Who brings in peace and healing unaware,
And sends soft-footed sleep to shut pain out.

Put out,—quite out—the light!
Hark! as the notes grow faint,
Was that a new voiced Saint
Who climbed with them and scaled the starry height?
Has from among us any soul gone out?

God's love falls as a screen,
When lamps turn dim and pale.
No flickering flame shall fall,
For with his hand held steadfastly between,
No wind can blow to put the life-lamps out.

Through Earth's long night he waits,
Till to the Soul's glad eyes,
Filled with divine surprise
Heaven opens wide her golden morning gates;
Then, day being come, He breathes the candle out.

FROM GREVILLE'S MEMOIRS.

The independent, impartial spirit of our author is shown in the following: "Lord Mount Charles then talked to me about Knighton, whom the King (George IV) abhors with a detestation that can hardly be described. He is afraid of him, and that is the reason he hates him so bitterly. When alone with him he is more civil, but when others are present, he delights in saying the most disagreeable things to him. He would give the world to get rid of him, and to have either Taylor or Mount Charles instead, to whom he has offered the place over and over again, but Mount Charles not only would not hear of it, but often took Knighton's part with the King. He says that his language about Knighton is sometimes of the most unmeasured violence—wishes he was dead, and still it appears there is some secret chain which binds them together, and compels the King to submit to the presence of a man he detests, and induces Knighton to remain in spite of so much hatred and ill-usage. The King's indolence is so great that it is next to impossible to get him to do even the most ordinary business, and Knighton is still the only man who can prevail on him to sign papers, etc. His greatest delight is to make those who have business to transact with him, wait in his ante-room while he is lounging with Mount Charles or anybody, talking of horses or any trivial matter. He makes them wait on purpose, and likes it.

This account corresponds with all I have before heard, and confirms the opinion I have long had that a more contemptible, cowardly, selfish, unfeeling dog does not exist than this King on whom such flattery is constantly lavished. Princes have only to behave with common decency and pru-

dence, and they are sure to be popular, for there is a great and general disposition to pay court to them. I do not know anybody who is proof against their seductions when they think fit to use them in the shape of civility and condescension."

This sketch of James Macintosh will interest: "November 12th.—At Roehampton at Lord Clifden's from Tuesday, the 10th, till today; Sir James Macintosh, Moore, Poodle Bying, and the Master of the Dolls. I never was in Macintosh's society for so long before, and never was more filled with admiration. His prodigious memory and the variety and extent of his information remind me of all I have heard and read of Burke and Johnson, but his amiable, modest and unassuming character makes him far more agreeable than they could either of them (particularly Johnson) have been, while he is probably equally instructive and amusing. Not a subject could be mentioned of which he did not treat with equal facility and abundance, from the Council of Trent to Voltaire's epistles; every subject, every character, every work, all were familiar to him, and I do not know a greater treat than to hear him talk. I could not help reflecting what an extraordinary thing success is in this world, when a man so gifted as Macintosh has failed completely in public life, never having attained honors, reputation, or wealth, while so many ordinary men have reaped an abundant harvest of all. What a consolation this affords to mediocrity. His virtues are obstacles to his success; he has not the act of pushing or of making himself feared; he is too *doncereux* and complimentary, and from some accident or defect in the composition of his character, and in the course of events which have influenced his circumstances, he has always been civilly neglected."

This sketch of Wordsworth: "I have just come home from breakfasting with Henry Taylor to meet Wordsworth; the same party as he had at Southey—Mill, Elliot, Charles Villiers. Wordsworth may be bordering on sixty; hard featured, brown, wrinkled, with prominent teeth and a few scattered gray hairs, but nevertheless not a disagreeable countenance; and very cheerful, merry, courteous and talkative, much more so than I should have expected from the grave and didactic character of his writings. He held forth on poetry, painting, politics metaphysics, and with a great deal of eloquence. He mentioned that he never wrote down as he composed, but composed walking, riding, or in bed, and wrote down after."

"July 4th.—At court yesterday, and council for a foolish reason. The King has been (not unnaturally) disgusted at the Duchess of Kent's progresses with her daughter (Victoria,) through the kingdom, and amongst the rest with her sailings at the Isle of Wight, and the continual popping in the shape of salutes to her Royal Highness. He did not choose that this latter practice should go on, and he signified his pleasure to Sir James Graham and Lord Hill, for salutes are matters of general order, both to army and navy. They (and Lord Gray) thought it better to make no order on the subject, and they opened a negotiation with the Duchess of Kent, to induce her of her own accord to waive the salutes, and when she went to the Isle of Wight to send word that as she was sailing about for her amusement she had rather they did not salute her whenever she appeared. The negotiation failed, for the Duchess insisted upon her right to be saluted, and would not give it up. As she declined to accede to the proposal, nothing remained but to alter the regulations, and accordingly yesterday, by an order in council, the King changed them, and from this time the royal standard is only to be saluted when the King or the Queen are on board."

This of Thiers was written September 10th, 1833.—"At Gerhambury on Saturday till Monday. Dined on Friday with Talleyrand, a great dinner to M. Thiers, the French Minister of Commerce, a little man, about as tall as Thiel, and as mean and vulgar looking, wearing spectacles and with a squeaking voice. He was editor of the *National*, an able writer, and one of the principal instigators of the revolution of July. It is said that he is a man of great ability and a good speaker, more in the familiar English than the bombastical French style. Talleyrand has a high opinion of him. He wrote a history of the revolution, which he now regrets; it is well done, but the doctrine of fatalism which he puts in it he thinks calculated to injure his reputation as a statesman."