

THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

J. J. JARVES, Editor.]

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1844.

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POETRY.

For the Polynesian.

MUSIC.

Music, to thee the power is given,
To charm on earth with strains of heaven;
To calm the mind in passion's strife,
And wile away the cares of life;
To fire the soul in battle hour,
When dangers round us darkly lower;
In maddening pain or drooping grief,
To thee we fly for quick relief;
Or, in the hour of mirth and joy,
We find in thee no sad alloy.
Music 'tis thine to tame the heart,
And soften with thy moving art;—
For gentle conqueror Music, say,
Who here below owns not thy sway?

When Sol had lost his torrid power,
In softest shades of even hour,
And mountain, flood, and distant heaven,
Were clad in the brightest hues of even;
Genius of Music, then full well,
I loved to seek at eve thy cell,
And there beguile a truant hour,
Charmed by the magic of thy power.
While toils and cares were yet afar,
I loved to hear the sweet guitar;
O then the trembling notes would roll,
In floods of joy upon the soul.
But ah! what boots it now to tell,
How much I loved thee and how well?

Honolulu, June 1, 1844.

Z.

COMMUNICATED.

For the Polynesian.

RECOLLECTIONS OF OREGON.

Mr. Editor.—Since the following remarks were penned, large accessions have been made to the population of the Willamette valley, from the United States, across the Rocky Mountains. About 1,000 souls arrived last autumn, accompanied by 120 wagons, and a large herd of cattle. This company was composed of farmers, artisans, laborers, a few professional men, and some limited capitalists.

Lieut. Fremont, of the Topographical Engineers, with a small protecting party, accompanied the emigrants, to make observations for the information of the government of the United States. An indelible road has been tracked across the mountains, and wagons, from the state of Missouri, have reached the Columbia River; and it is confidently estimated that from one to four thousand will be added, the current year, to the population of Oregon.

Under the jurisdiction of no foreign power, the necessities of the colony required the organization of a temporary government, which was effected in 1842, and, up to the date of last advices, was working well in practice. Of the details of the organization I am uninformed, but understand it to be upon the simplest plan of a republic, with feebly offices.

This infant colony has the reputation of being a moral and well-ordered community; and there is good reason to hope, if this character is justly awarded, that it will prove the germ of an enterprising state, which will soon exert an influence upon affairs in the Pacific.

On arriving in the Columbia River, on the 25th of March, we found spring fairly established in the seat of old winter, who had been completely ousted by the mild advances of his more genial supplanter. The woods were vocal with the songs of innumerable warblers; and the air was filled with the cheerful humming-bird, whose joyous twitter and rapid, darting movements, seemed to infuse into every animate object, something of its own restlessness. The air was bland, the grass had started from its long sleep of months, and the trees had put forth their tender leaves to woo the gentle kisses of the

balmy breeze. In short, all nature gave indication of a much earlier resuscitation, from the effects of winter, than in the same latitudes on the Atlantic side of the continent. Notwithstanding these appearances, frosty nights occur as late as May, I believe, almost every year.

The banks of the Columbia, from the sea inland to a distance of about 150 miles, are thickly wooded. The principal timber is of the evergreen kind; fir, spruce, cedar and pine. There is also a small portion of oak, ash, soft maple, birch and alder, and some other kinds, of less importance. After passing out of the heavily timbered country, there is still some timber of the various kinds mentioned; but it becomes thinner and thinner, and finally, at a distance of 250 miles from the coast, the banks are bare, and timber is only seen on the distant heights of land, and on the small streams which empty into the Columbia.

In passing up the river, we find it divided into several channels by a great number of islands, some of which are miles in length, but so low as to be overflowed almost every year by the freshets, and rendered useless for agricultural purposes; though I doubt not some of them would afford excellent fisheries for salmon. We also observe on the banks, and contiguous to the river, prairies of various dimensions, from a few acres, to thousands of acres in extent. These are covered with a rank species of grass, of a poor quality for cattle; and many of them are overflowed occasionally, though not every year, by the rise of the Columbia. The beautiful prairie on which Fort Vancouver is situated, is sometimes overflowed to the very gates of the fort, notwithstanding an embankment has been thrown up on the river's side, to guard against such an event; and the crops on that prairie are often injured, or entirely swept away, by the flood.

Although a river of great length, the Columbia can only be ascended, by a ship of 300 tons, a distance of about 100 miles from the ocean; and the head of tide water is but a few miles higher, or at about 120 miles, 125 miles from the sea, occurs the first rapids, and in this vicinity the first portage, where all goods, and even the boats and canoes, have to be carried over by land, a distance of half a mile. From this point, the river is again navigable about 100 miles, where another portage has to be made; and from this, to the highest point of my observation, rapids occur frequently, but no other portage has to be made,—except at the falls,—for a long distance.

At a distance of 80 miles from the sea, the Willamette or Weeltnomale river enters the Columbia. There is however, another branch which enters the Columbia about 20 miles below, forming a long island of that length, between it and the Columbia. It is upon this river, at a distance of 50 or 60 miles from the Columbia, that the principal settlement in the whole country is located. The river is navigable for salmoners and small brigs to the falls, 25 miles up from the Columbia. About the same distance above the falls, commences the settlement, which is continued along the river, for an equal distance. And many have also taken up land back from river, on the beautiful prairies which are found in the broad valley of this stream.

The valley of the Willamette is beautifully diversified with prairies and woodland, well watered, with a good soil, and affords facilities for agricultural operations rarely surpassed. But it is yet questionable whether the climate is equally favorable with the soil. The winter and spring months are usually very wet, and frosts occur as late as May; while the summer is exceedingly dry, and

most crops suffer more or less from drought.

Wheat and peas are the crops which appear best adapted to the soil and climate, and are raised of an excellent quality, though in a moderate quantity, as a general yield.

But whatever may be the advantages or disadvantages in relation to the agricultural prospects of the valley of the Willamette, there is no question but it is admirably adapted to the raising of herds and horses. These thrive and multiply with remarkable facility; and as no provender has to be provided for the winter, the cost of a herd is a mere trifle; consisting only in the necessary oversight of the herd, and the occasional trouble of getting them together to mark, etc.

I cannot pass over this branch of the subject, without dwelling a moment longer on the country immediately under consideration. The natural facilities afforded by the peculiar nature of this valley, render the procuring of the mere necessities of life, extremely easy. The prairie soil is considered of a good quality, and is ready for the plough, without any preliminary preparation. The usual course pursued by the settlers is, to erect a log house on the edge of the prairie, enclose a few acres at first with a rail fence, plough it up, put in the seed, and then turn their attention to other improvements. The enclosures are enlarged as the ability of the occupant will admit. These prairies are surrounded with timber, which is convenient and valuable for buildings and for fencing; and many are skirted with a scattering growth of oaks, which resemble, in some places, an orchard. Some of them are also intersected with a stream of water, which falls into the river, and affords a site for mills and other machinery. Many of them are rolling, or undulating, on their surface; and from some of them eminences arise, which built upon, would overlook a large farm. (To be Continued.)

FROM OUR AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT.

NUMBER 2.

BOSTON, ———, 1843.

My dear Editor.—Speaking in my last of the plants in the National Conservatory at Washington, reminds me of the beautiful exhibition of the Horticultural Society of Philadelphia, in China Hall, beneath Peale's Museum. Fruits, flowers and vegetables were there displayed in the greatest richness and profusion, and arranged in excellent taste. Could one have had the privilege of plucking and eating, the enjoyment would have been perfect. The beauty and fashion of Philadelphia frequented the hall, so that the rival charms of nature and art were fairly at issue. It was a pretty spot for lovers to saunter in; flowers strewed their way, and piles of luscious fruits looked temptingly into their faces.—But like the fruits of the tabued trees of Eden, they were forbidden to touch and eat. The moral was very good, if they took the pains to interpret it, and would serve them for good counsel through life. The names of those who raised the fruits were attached to their several piles. I noticed some fine grapes from Andalusia, the princely country seat of Nicholas Biddle. Some one, with more truth than feeling, had written on the label,—“watered by widow's tears.” The puny specimens of our noble tropical trees, the banana, pine-apple, palms, &c., were the chief objects of attraction. The taro looked the best, and my appetite yearned strongly towards it. In truth, all exhibited much attention and care, but to me were of minor interest, when compared with the fully developed productions of our own soil. Many were strangers to me; some

such as the egg plant, could be usefully introduced into your islands.

Perhaps there is as little interest in the Sandwich Islands, in Philadelphia, as in any other city of the Union. They have no trade in common, and the Friends, or Quakers, as others call them, look with an unfavorable eye upon the Pacific Missions. I endeavored to explain to some—and I believe to some extent succeeded—the beneficial results of their operations thus far. But like all other sectarians they are strongly wedded to preconceived opinions, and loth to leave the well-beaten track of their fathers. Yet in action, none are more benevolent. They were the best friends the aborigines of America ever had, and I see no reason to doubt, that had their duty led them to the Polynesian islands, the result would have been similar.

In New York I was quite surprised to find our exploring friend J. P. Couthouy. He has refused all offers of further employment from government in connection with the publication of the scientific details of the Expedition, and, with a partner, established himself in a lamp store in Broadway. However, he finds time occasionally to give the world some of the results of his valuable observations on natural history, through the pages of Silliman's Journal of Natural Sciences. He is indeed a man of wonderful energy and aptness, in whatever he applies himself to. I send you his pamphlets on the coral formations, icebergs, &c., and his reply to certain strictures on the part of Mr. Dana, the mineralogist. The latter is rather caustic,—but both are well able to defend their respective views. I wish Mr. Couthouy could reside at Honolulu, and devote himself to the examination and observation of the volcanic phenomena, and the several departments of natural history appertaining to the group. You need some close observer for this purpose, both for your own sakes and that of the world. There is much that is curious and valuable to be gleaned at Hawaii in particular, and he is the man for the work.

One would think by the Daguerreotype signs about the streets, that the world had gone portrait-mad. The faces of one's friends stare one at every hour. It is a beautiful art, and when well done, they give the most perfect miniatures—true to life—the minutest feature not escaping the accuracy of the lenses—even the figures of a muslin cape, a riband or breast-pins are all given. There is no opportunity for flattery. In these likenesses one perceives his friends as they really appeared at the time they were taken. The process of transferring them through the agency of light, is peculiarly interesting. The Americans have made great improvements in the art, since Daguerre first discovered it. At present I am too busy to write further. Remember me to our old circle; I think much of all of you, particularly when Jack Frost covers the windows, and pulls at my nose and fingers. The old fellow seems to have grown more crusty since my boyhood. Happy Oahuans! oblivious to all his charms.

Yours, as ever,
WAKEBY.

PHILOSOPHY OF HEAT.—“Well, my little fellow,” said a certain Principal to a juvenile philosopher, whose mamma had been teasing the learned Knight to test the astonishing abilities of her boy,—“what are the properties of heat?” “The chief property of heat is, that it expands bodies, while cold contracts them.”—“Very good, indeed—can you give me a familiar example?” Yes, sir; in Summer, when it is hot, the day is long; while in Winter, when it is cold, it becomes very short.” The learned Knight stopped his examination, and was lost in amazement that so familiar an instance should have so long escaped his own observation.—*English paper.*

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1844.

Certain French writers in their zeal for creating an interest among the commercial classes of France, in Polynesia, have not unfrequently been led to put forth exaggerated or distorted statements. Individuals, as well as the nation, will meet with disappointment, if from statements like those we give below, they have been led prematurely to embark in commercial or colonial enterprises. It is pleasant to witness the extension of civilization in these seas, by a nation so wise and powerful as France, but the pioneers in the undertaking will reap suffering and disappointment. Whether the government itself will consider the acquisition of the few islands the French have already occupied, as worth the treasure expended upon them, is yet doubtful. It is evident from a variety of documents which we have seen, that their present importance has been greatly magnified. Our readers will smile at the mistakes in the following article, and the author will find no better sources from which to correct them, than the valuable statistical tables prepared by R. C. Wylie, Esq., and published in the May and June Nos. of the Friend. In reference to this subject, we extract from Hunt's Merchant's Magazine, for Aug. 1843, a few remarks which we prepared in the United States for that periodical:

"The Sandwich Islands have abundant resources within themselves, to support a population tenfold greater than the present. To be a flourishing kingdom, they must become both an agricultural and commercial nation. Whether the indigenous population are of themselves capable of sustaining such relations successfully, when in competition with the grasping policy, the avaricious spirit, and chivalrous enterprise of older nations, remains to be proved. The aggregate wealth, refinement, and respectability of the Hawaiians, have made, of late years, slow, though sure and progressive advances. Their population, which was rapidly hastening towards extermination, has now a tendency to recover itself; and, although depopulation is still going on, the ratio is small, when compared with former years. The present native population numbers about one hundred thousand, being about one-third of what they were in 1778. Heathenism, however, has now ceased to claim its victims for its horrible religious rites—the wars in which tens of thousands were either slain in battle, massacred, or perished by famine, are now ended—the fearful diseases introduced by white men have either exhausted themselves, or been checked by medical aid—the onerous taxes, which crushed the bone and sinew of the nation, are discontinued; and a beneficent and humane legislation, based upon the principles of Christianity, is now pouring a fresh stream of life blood into the arteries of the nation."

"The natural resources of these islands, both in fertility, population, and products, are too inconsiderable to produce any sudden and rapid commercial growth. Their prosperity will chiefly be commensurate and cotemporary with the progress of the coasts of the neighboring continents, and the civilization of the southern archipelagoes. A fair proportion of increasing trade in that quarter must necessarily, from their peculiarly advantageous situation, fall to their lot. The completion of the Panama canal, which is destined to unite the waters of the Pacific with the Atlantic, would greatly increase their commerce. Already are they the stopping point, the resting-place of the valuable trade between Mexico, Peru, and China. Let the canal be finished, and it would be found that much of the prosperity which the French so confidently predict for the Marquesas and Society groups, which they have so recently seized, would centre at the Sandwich islands. The course of the trade-winds and the currents, so favorable for vessels bound from the western coasts of America to China, the Philippine islands, or the East Indies, are equally so for their touching, for purposes of trade, refreshments, or repairs, at these islands; while the other groups cannot be reached except by a departure from the ordinary track, and a consequent delay."

From the N. Y. Jour. of Commerce.
COMMERCE OF POLYNESIA AND OCEANIA.

"Documents transmitted to the French Government anticipate a considerable extension of commerce with the islands of the Pacific, consequent upon the recent political changes effected there. The soil of the

Sandwich Islands is represented to be of remarkable fertility, yielding with comparatively little labor sugar, coffee, indigo, cotton, and nearly all the tropical products. Ebony wood is abundant; and wheat, sown upon the heights of Maui, is said to yield rich harvests. The country is well stocked with cattle.

"Between three and four thousand tons of sugar are annually exported from the Sandwich Islands. Upwards of a thousand coffee trees have been planted there, which will soon be in a condition to yield. The estimated burden of the vessels which entered the port of Honolulu during the year ending July 1, 1842, was three hundred thousand tons; the value of their cargoes was \$2,180,000. The merchandise discharged there amounted to \$572,000, a large portion of which, \$250,000 in value, was re-exported to Mexico, through the vessels engaged in that navigation. The favorable situation of this port renders it a very suitable entrepot for goods destined for California and Mexico, as well as a convenient shelter and refreshing place for vessels bound from the western coast of this continent to the China seas.

"Certain articles of French manufacture are said to be preferred in these islands to that of any other nation, especially unbleached linen and printed and white calicoes. The reports recommend the sending there of assorted cargoes, composed chiefly of wines, brandies, fruits of Provence, light woollens, linens of Jony, silks, perfumery, women's shoes, and fancy articles, all of which are sure to find a ready sale, provided the market be not glutted. The return cargo may consist of sugar, coffee, precious woods, hides, mother of pearl, and shell.

"The Paumotu Archipelago and that of the Gambier Islands are capable of furnishing an abundant fishery of mother of pearl. Coasting vessels equipped at small expense are best calculated for this business; and it is expected that the Marquesas colony will soon see mother of pearl and pearls brought in decked launches or small schooners in rich profusion to its markets. The course pursued by the American schooners, which from time to time try their fortunes in these fisheries, is thus described: they commonly visit the Society Islands, where, among the southernmost of the group, they hire some of the natives to embark with them as divers. Thence they repair to Gambier or the Paumotu Islands, where they establish themselves in the fishery, and at the same time purchase of the natives there, with cloths and hardware, the mother of pearl and pearls which the latter have gathered on the reefs. These vessels are often extremely fortunate, according to the missionaries of Gambier, notwithstanding they are subjected to heavy charges, which, it is alleged, the proximity of the French establishments will greatly diminish, and in regard to some of them altogether annul.

"The information which these vessels have in regard to the localities richest in pearls is very imperfect. Great advantages over them are expected to result to the French coasters, from the knowledge to be obtained through the operations of their Government marine, which it is proposed to employ in sounding all the coral banks, and in ascertaining the channels admitting of entrance for the coasters into the lagoons, where the fishery can be prosecuted without exposure to the sea, and the position of the reefs which promise to be most profitable to explore.

"The reports propose to render the Marquesas Islands the mart for mother of pearl, pearls, tortoise shell, and sandal wood, for which the demand is always great in China; so that vessels despatched from home ports for the South seas, after having disposed of their cargoes so far as desirable in Peru and Chili, and obtained a sufficient quantity of Peruvian copper, an article highly prized by the Chinese, may complete their lading at the Marquesas for the China market."

A FACT WORTH THE ATTENTION OF THE COMMUNITY.—The New England Farmer states that straw saturated with white-wash or a strong solution of lime, is incombustible. Living as we do amid so many thatched buildings, liable at any moment to be consumed by the carelessness of their owners, or by the torch of the incendiary, the experiment is well worth trying—and if successful, we should have a cheap and easy method of protecting our most combustible building material to a great extent, from the ravages of fire. Will some individual make the experiment and give us the results, that we may publish them for the benefit of all concerned.

ROBERT BOYD has been appointed by His Excellency, the Governor of Oahu, High Sheriff, in place of F. W. THOMPSON, resigned.

FOREIGN NEWS.

H. H. M. schooner Hoikaika arrived on Tuesday, from Mazatlan, and brought us intelligence from Europe to March 1st, and from the United States to April 4th.

News of a highly satisfactory nature in regard to the foreign relations of the Hawaiian kingdom with other powers, has been received at the office of the Secretary of State. We also understand that the products of this kingdom are admitted into France at rates reciprocal with the duties charged here upon French produce and manufactures.

The Representatives of H. H. Majesty, Messrs. Haalilio and Richards, are now on their return.

The news from Europe is not of much moment, except in relation to France and Tahiti. The French Ministry, sustained by a vote of 46 majority in the Chamber of Deputies, has disavowed the act of Vice-Admiral Dupetit Thouars, in taking possession of Tahiti, and have recalled him. For the present the island will remain under the former conjoint Government of the Queen and Protectorate. In another article, written previous to the receipt of this news, it will be seen that we expressed the opinion that it was doubtful whether France could make her recent territorial acquisitions in the Pacific permanent. This doubt is confirmed by the tenor of the present intelligence. France may continue to hold one port for her shipping, but probably will not incur the heavy expense necessary for an extensive military colony, when the occasion so little justifies the outlay, and her people are at last awakening to the egregious deception which interested writers have put upon them. The disavowal of the acts of the Admiral has created a great ferment in the opposition prints, which are unsparing in their abuse of Louis Philippe and Guizot, attributing the step to the remonstrances of England. The following extract from the London Times, shows the nature of this feeling:—

"The anticipations which the character of the Sovereign and the Ministry of France led us to entertain have been realized. To the moderation of LOUIS PHILIPPE and his Ministers is due the praise of having prevented the great dangers of a little squabble. The occupation of Tahiti has been disclaimed on the part of the French Government, and the sovereignty of a region neither productive to commercial nor convenient for warlike enterprise has been rejected by the French Monarch. The absurd expedition and the gasconading despatch of Admiral DUPETIT THOUARS have thus received a castigation which was well merited by the aggression which invaded a small island of defenceless savages not less than by the vanity which magnified the exploit into a triumph of the French nation.

"In taking this decisive step we are not unaware that both LOUIS PHILIPPE and M. GUIZOT have exposed themselves to the violent imputations of two strong parties. Treason to France—treason to the memory of the past, and the hope of the future—submission, base and ignominious, to the capricious dictates of domineering and perfidious Albion—such will be the battle-cry of the Legitimist and the Democratic factions. The grand omission of settling a colonial balance in the South Sea—the impolitic and sluggish neglect of an opportunity so favorable for rearing a settlement which should be a counterpoise to New Zealand—the indifference which such a neglect proved to the naval greatness of France—these and similar charges will be flung at the heads of M. GUIZOT and his colleagues, with a spitefulness which we believe is unknown out of French politics, and which far exceeds, both in frequency and effect, the simultaneous carpings of our Whig journals, or rather journal, at LORD ABERDEEN'S "truckling subserviency" to the interests of France.

"In adopting the course which he has had the moral courage to take, the King of the FRENCH has imitated the conduct of the English Government on an occasion precisely similar—viz., when the Sandwich Islands were occupied by the ambitious freak of an adventurous frigate. The dependency thus annexed to the British Government was repudiated as soon as it was announced; and the State was thus saved the expense of retaining a conquest which would have been costly without honour, and invidious without profit."

Affairs between France and Mexico look belligerent. We give an Extract from a letter of our French correspondent, dated Mazatlan, April 30th, 1844:—

"We are at this moment on the eve of a rupture with Mexico. A courier arrived yesterday, and brought the news that this event had occurred. Notwithstanding that this news is not official, one may perceive that it is very likely. The differences between France and Mexico result from the decree of 23d Sept., last, by which Mexico interdicts the recent commerce of strangers, and has given them six months to shut their shops. After six months of ineffectual negotiations, the French Secretary of Legation went to Paris bearer of the formal refusal of the Mexican Government to modify the decree of 23d Sept., which at the hour of its passage was put into execution in the greatest portion of the Republic. We want at present the decision of France. Judging from the very energetic and discreet manner of M. Guizot in the discussion which has taken place upon it, France will be quite decided to sustain her rights. On the other hand, the official Mexican papers are very belligerent—speak of only victory or death."

Negotiations are in progress between United States and England in regard to the Oregon, but nothing definite has as yet transpired. In the mean while England is increasing her naval and military forces on the American and Pacific stations. Troops and military stores are also being sent to Ireland.

In regard to Texas, nothing is as yet known. Much confidence is expressed in the ability of Mr. Calhoun, the new Secretary of State for the U. S., to honorably conduct the negotiations with Mr. Packenham, in regard to the Oregon, and with Texas; but it is impossible, from any intelligence that we have received, to express an opinion as to the final termination of either question.

On the 28th of Feb., ult., a shocking catastrophe occurred on board the U. S. steamship Princeton, at Washington, by the bursting of one of Captain Stockton's mammoth guns. Upwards of 400 people were on board. The gun was charged with but 25 lbs. of powder—30 being her full charge. Immediately around it, were the Secretaries of the several Departments, Capt. Stockton, and a crowd of other distinguished individuals. President Tyler had just left the spot, and at the request of a lady to hear a favorite air sung, had retired into the cabin. Judge Upshur, Sec. of State, Gov. Gilmore, Sec. of the Navy, Commodore Kennon, Col. Gardiner, Virgil Maxey, and a servant of the President, and five seamen, were instantly killed, and their mangled remains thrown among the crowd of spectators. A number of others were more or less wounded, among whom was Capt. Stockton. The accident is said to be owing to a defect in the iron used in the construction of the gun.

Gen. Bertrand and Nicholas Biddle, died during the winter; which has been in the U. S. one of unusual severity—the cold having been intense. Boston harbor was frozen over ten miles below the city, and 1500 men employed in opening a passage for the English mail steamers

Calhoun has withdrawn his name from the Presidential canvass, and the field now lies between Clay and Van Buren. Great confidence is felt in the election of the former—a confidence in the continuation of the tariff; and the very general business activity throughout the country, has caused a great rise in cottons—the raw material having advanced one third, since Nov. 1843, and domestics risen 20 per cent. 1200 buildings were erected in Boston in 1843, and the present year the number will be greatly increased.

Proffit is recalled from Brazil, and Henry Wise succeeds him as Minister. He sails in the Constitution frigate, Capt. Percival, for Rio; thence she goes to the East India station. It is intimated by the Chinese Commissioner that Mr. Cushing will not be allowed to proceed to Pekin. Private advices

