

THE POLYNESIAN.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1844.

Sufficient perhaps has already been said to explain the objects of the Polynesian. Yet a few words more may not be amiss. We are aware that there exists in the community an erroneous judgment of our purposes and designs—a feeling of suspicion,—as if the paper was to be an instrument of evil, a thing of doubtful good. This we conceive to be premature, and though we prefer to be judged according to our works, yet we shall devote a few lines to briefly stating what our aims shall be.

Since the year 1840, great and radical changes have occurred. The Hawaiian people have been raised to a rank among earth's nations. A general elevation of character, a greater increase and diffusion of wealth, and the luxuries and enjoyments of life have accompanied, or more properly speaking have been some of the causes of this moral revolution. In the general increase of knowledge, the foreign community has also participated. In wealth, numbers, refinement, and that which makes civilization pleasant and desirable its advance has been rapid. The progress of all classes has been onward. Isolated as we are, this community, while it possesses some advantages peculiar to its situation, has also its disadvantages. No civilized or even semi-barbarous community of the present age considers its means of communication with other communities perfect, until it has its newspaper,—that being universally allowed as the best medium for rapid interchanges of thought and communication of news. It is proper and necessary that the wants, feelings and actions of the natives or denizens here, should be represented abroad, and so represented that they shall command the respect of other nations, particularly those with which there exist commercial relations. This is one of the objects of the paper. To lessen as far as is practicable that degree of isolation which has hitherto existed. To accomplish this however, the aid of intelligent and liberal-minded men must be invoked, and articles of real and permanent interest prepared. As the paper is sustained in this respect so will the reputation of the islands be enhanced abroad. The sentiment which has so long existed, that the Sandwich Islands are barbarous, will then exist no longer.

Among ourselves, it has uses no less valuable. The news that interests one can readily be conveyed to all; the same with any discovery or invention serviceable to the agriculturist or mechanic. It is particularly desirable that the experience of those engaged in developing the vegetable resources of the kingdom should be mutually examined and compared,—the wheat sifted from the kernel, and what has really proved useful to one or many be recorded for the advantage of all. Every public-spirited man will rejoice in the opportunity to be beneficial to his fellow men. We trust and hope that a praiseworthy emulation will be effectually aroused to develop the resources of soil or talent which are now lying to great extent fallow. Pride should be felt for the country in which we reside. To add to its beauty, to increase its advantages—moral, social and physical—and to feel a deep interest in renovating its inhabitants, are all objects worthy of the best among us. If the Polynesian is calculated for such purposes, we know that it will receive the cordial support of all who have the ability to appreciate its designs. As an individual the editor can have no greater interest in such matters than others, but his best energies will be given to such ends, and he begs those who are the most prompt to detect errors in its columns, to unite charity to their criticism, and aid him in sustaining a journal which shall "do good in its day and generation."

We have been given to understand that exception has been taken at our rule in regard to the publication of marriages. To those who are determined to be captious we have nothing to say—but to our subscribers

we would observe that in this respect we follow the example of standard journals in Europe and America, and the same rule existed in the old Polynesian. Moreover it is a just one—the marriage of private individuals is of concern only to their friends. It has not even half the interest to the community that exists in a new advertisement of goods. The object with the parties concerned is purely a personal one; to make known to their friends that a life-copartnership has been formed. To do this by letter would occasion a great outlay of time and trouble. By the payment of a dollar the news is conveyed at once to all interested, and in the cheapest and most expeditious manner. It is as reasonable that the printer should be paid for his time and labor, as that any other class should receive a recompense for theirs. As soon as the contrary is proved, we will cheerfully alter the regulation.

The 24th. ult. was the Birth day of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Long may she live to reign over that glorious country, whose flag has braved the breeze and battled the storm for a thousand years. On this occasion the Modeste, Capt. Bailly, now lying in our harbor, was tastefully decorated with banners and flags, and at noon her guns pealed forth their thunder in commemoration of the glad event. H. B. M. Consul General W. Miller, Esq. gave a dinner entertainment, which added much to the pleasures of the day. Two parties enhanced the gaieties of the evening.

The first number of our paper was given to our distributor to be left at the places of business of all the Foreign residents. If any were omitted it was through the neglect of the native whom we employed, and if they will give us information, we shall be happy to supply them.

A TYPOGRAPHICAL CURIOSITY.—We have in our possession, a book to which the attention of the curious is invited. It is a Latin work printed in 1495, but forty years after the invention of printing. Both in type and paper it far transcends many modern works, and is in excellent preservation. The pages are not numbered, and the title and imprint as was the custom then, are at the end of the book.

☞ We are requested to state that LELEIOHOKU, or WILLIAM PITT, has been appointed acting Governor of Hawaii, Gov. KUAKINI being too ill to attend to the duties of his station. It is feared that he will not long survive.

☞ T. A. LARKIN, Esq. has been appointed by the President of the United States, Consul for the port of Monterey, California. BLADEN FORREST, Esq. for Chagres.

☞ *Naval*.—The U. S. ship *Levant*, Capt. Page, left Callao 42 days since, for this place, via Tahiti, and may shortly be expected.

☞ The Annual Conference of the Missionaries of the American Board, will commence shortly. Most of their number have already assembled from their several stations.

COMPLIMENT TO NEW ENGLAND.—In a speech made by Mr. Lyell, the eminent geologist, at a late meeting of the British Geological Association, he said:—

"Were I ever so unfortunate as to quit my native land, to reside permanently elsewhere, I should, without hesitation, choose the United States for my second country, especially New England, where a population of more than two millions enjoys a higher average standard of prosperity and intellectual advancement, than any other population of equal amount on the globe."

NEW ARTICLE OF EXPORT TO CHINA.—Two passengers per ship *Bazaar*, Captain Kilham, who sailed a few days since from New York for Canton, have taken with them forty tons measurement of "Connecticut clocks."

COMMUNICATED.

For the Polynesian.

WOMAN.

AN ESSAY IN THE STYLE OF CHATAUBRIAND.

How imperfect was the plan of creation, when man was formed sole but social in his nature: possessing thought and feeling and sentiment, with the power of communicating his ideas, and of imparting as well as receiving happiness, otherwise than by the harder energies of his physical body. His ability was unlimited among the other wonders of divine workmanship. He could subdue and tame the tribes with which he was surrounded, who regarded him as their unquestioned master; could cultivate the soil and adorn it with botanic splendor. The materials for inventive genius were furnished to his hand and the field for its exercise was exhaustless and as yet untried. Much rare knowledge and amusement were expressly concealed from his senses, that they might stimulate him to employ means for their development. Sound was yet to be accorded into music; color, combined into printing; the quarry to be wrought into polished marble; the beauty of his form was yet to be enriched with other forms of beauty. Courage, vigilance and activity, doubtless in constant requisition to keep the subordinate creation in their places with regard to himself and his happiness, must have tended to employments greatly congenial with his comfort, and may have suggested the idea of Government. With all these the prerogative of speech was also indispensable, since the thoughts which they produced, must have been infinite: for, with the eye to see, the ear to hear, and the mind to think, the human intellect, without vocal organization, must have exploded. The cares of his minutely various charge would have found no alleviation, and man would have been a brute, encasing within himself, like the deaf, dumb and blind, a divine intelligence, consciousness of himself, with reason, judgment and skill, and the power of applying them; but without a visible object. The power of God had not yet extended to this, nor had it yet been determined, whether it was good for man to be alone in his representation of the Divine Image. He, like the vegetable kingdom, could have been formed bisexual and perfect in himself for all the purposes of perpetuity; the pleasures of mental refinement dispensed with and the admiration of beauty in the form and color of surrounding objects rendered unavailing. But thus isolated, he would have had no use for those emotions and passions, which now furnish most delight to the human race. Cheerfulness, joy and gladness, would perhaps have given place, even in Eden, to the counter emotions of melancholy, sorrow, grief and discontent; reverence and adoration would have clung to man, but by the holiness in which he was created. "It was not good for man to be alone."

What needed he, surrounded by material uses for his faculties? Man was spiritual as well as material. Could he not commune with God and with etherial beings? Devotion would have been entire, but, without an example and a measure. The passions and emotions of the mind lose their stimulus, when directed wholly to unequals. Pride and jealousy in the human heart, look up with hatred; contempt and superiority, down with dissatisfaction; and hope and fear, are measured by the physical and mental enjoyments of life combined.

Man needed then an equal, formed in his own image and endowed with all the wondrous properties of his own mind. One, who could participate with him the cares of life; admire with him the beautiful and the sublime, and unfold his mind, by the richness and ingenuity of her own. The poetry of nature was yet to be formed, and refinement and taste taught man in the school of love. To give mutual respect and equality, the being in question, should be taken out of man and self-interest would become his motive for her defence. Her sphere should be created with her, and strife precluded from the addition of another intelligence by putting it out of her power to usurp his dominions. Man exhibit-

ed the necessity of love, gratitude, sympathy and hope; omnipotence resolved to create association for their display, and thus give birth to a new world of thought and feeling, without which, incorporated mind would be in exile.

"Till Hymen brought his love-delighted hour,
There dwelt no joy in Eden's rosy bow'r.
In vain the viewless seraph ling'ring there,
At starry midnight, charmed the silent air;
In vain the wildbird carolled on the steep,
To hail the sun, slow-wheeling from the deep,
In vain, to soothe the solitary shade,
Aerial notes in mingling measures played;
The summer wind that shook the spangled tree,
The whispering wave, the murmur of the bee;—
Still slowly passed the melancholy day,
And still the stranger wist not where to stray;—
The world was sad! the garden was a wild!
And man, the hermit, sighed—"till woman smiled."

Woman is the head of a social world adapted to her government, for which the passions are her peculiar reins. These, her intelligence is refined and polished to wield, in subjecting mind and force to her dominion. By combining mental strength with beauty, tenderness and delicacy, love smiled upon the material world in her formation, and man was taught order and propriety in his external person; refinement and modesty in thought and feeling. He paid homage to the soul which God had breathed, when beholding life and intelligence in the human countenance, presented to his view in its most beautiful shape. With what rapidity must the uses of surrounding objects have been explained, and how eager must he have been to point them out. The cooling shade now furnished him refreshment, for he had become an admirer, and from its calm retreat could partake the richness of Elysian landscape: love was present to adorn it for him. The verdure of nature became at once soft and pleasant to the eye, and the herds that sported there, gave the delight of a comparison. The fruits of earth, had an additional relish,—the pleasure of participation. The music of the woods became enchanting: the voice of woman gave it symphony. The conveniences of life now had their uses, and he the object of their development. Pride and ambition had their useful ends—and heaven descended to the comprehension of man, in an exhibition of—the living soul. Z.

New Publication.

In accordance with the editorial fashion elsewhere, we shall notice, as they are sent to us, new works,—particularly those relating to this quarter of the globe, or whose subject-matter may prove of interest to our readers. In this department of labor we should be thankful to receive the criticisms of others who have time to write more extended notices than we may be enabled to.

Remarks upon Coral formations in the Pacific; with Suggestions as to the Causes of their Absence in the same parallels of latitude on the Coast of South America. By JOSEPH P. COUTHOUY. Boston, 1842.

Our thanks are due to the author for the above valuable treatise. As a contributor to science, Mr. Couthouy is doubly welcome, for to accuracy of research and indefatigable perseverance, he combines the power of presenting his subjects in clear and forcible language. In argument he is convincing, and his descriptive powers are often exceedingly good. Whatever he undertakes is sure to be done well. His acquirements both in literature and science are varied, and his mind—thanks to a prodigious memory—well stored with knowledge. And yet his former profession, that of a mariner, one would have thought little favorable to the pursuits which in him have borne such good fruit. He has always been a hard working man, but by a diligent use of all the opportunities to acquire information, he has made himself what he is. In this respect he is a worthy example to all, whether of his profession or not. But ship-masters in particular have it in their power to aid the advancement of science and general diffusion of knowledge, by noticing accurately all the varied phenomena and scenes which pass under their observation. By attending to these