

# THE POLYNESIAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, AT HONOLULU, OAHU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

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## POETRY.

For the Polynesian.

### OTHER DAYS.

Much lov'd companion of my childhood's years,  
Most fondly memory lingers round thee still—  
In our bright early spring time, dear to me  
Thou wast—as my young hopes:  
Each joy that lighted up a smile on thy sweet face,  
Sent pleasure's thrill through my own bosom;—  
And not a sorrow clouded thy fair brow,  
But my heart felt it too.  
Think not absence has diminished aught of this affection—  
The wanderer can appreciate a sister's love,  
And all home's soft endearments.  
What heart that's human yearns not for solace,  
From at least one, who owns the blind god's influence?—  
Longs not for one, to throw over his errors, and his follies,  
Not the thin veil of charity, but the impervious one of love?  
If 'twere to teach me affection's worth,  
That I have roamed the earth—  
My task is done—the lesson learned—  
And shall the toil be vain? Shall I ne'er again enjoy,  
What I've so dearly learned to prize?  
I will not think it—  
But still hope, that I once more shall meet, shall greet,  
Shall dwell again, with thee, my sister.

### Literary Notice.

*A Brief Account of the Discoveries and Results of the United States Exploring Expedition.* From the American Journal of Science and Arts, vol. xlv. New Haven: Printed by B. L. Hamlen. 1843.

We have been much gratified by a perusal of this well-written pamphlet. It is by far the best account which has as yet been given to the public of the labors of the U. S. Exploring Expedition. It bears the marks of a scholar and scientific man, and will do much towards disproving the statements and opinions of those who look upon such enterprises as a useless expenditure of the national funds. We heartily thank the accomplished author for this contribution, and feel assured that when his own labors and researches are made public, they will confer upon him honor which older heads in science might well covet. By reference to the pamphlet, it will be seen that these islands are by no means deficient in treasures of natural science. In botany alone, they furnished 883 species; in number, only exceeded by the Oregon and Brazil. Of fishes, they furnished 100 species; Rio Janeiro and the Fijis alone giving a greater number. Of reptiles, but 4 were to be found. These we are all acquainted with. But we shall let the pamphlet speak for itself, promising the reader that he will be amply paid for the perusal of the matter we extract.

"The number of islands surveyed during the cruise of the exploring expedition, is about two hundred and eighty, besides eight hundred miles on the streams and coasts of Oregon, and one thousand and five hundred miles laid down along the land and icy barrier of the Antarctic continent. Numerous islands of doubtful existence have been looked for, shoals have been examined, reefs discovered and laid down, harbors surveyed and many for the first time made known, and the latitudes and longitudes of the points visited have been determined with all possible precision. Very many of the doubtful points in the geography of the Pacific have been cleared up, and the expedition is prepared to supply our navigators with the most complete map of the ocean ever published.

"Next to Oregon, the Feejee group may be considered the most important of the unexplored regions visited by the squadron. This group is a perfect labyrinth of lofty islands and coral reefs, and many disastrous accidents have already occurred to our trading vessels in those seas. The islands are visited for biche-da-mar,\* tortoise shell, and sandal-wood; and there is no part of the year in which there are not some Yankee cruisers threading their dangerous way among its thousand reefs. The whole num-

\*The biche-da-mar is a kind of sea-slug—a sluggish, cucumber shaped animal, that lives about the reefs. It is boiled and dried over a smoking fire, and carried in ship-loads to the Chinese market, where it is esteemed a great delicacy.

ber of islands in the group, is about one hundred and fifty; one of these contains about four thousand square miles, and another is but little smaller. They are rich and fertile, and will one day rank first in the Pacific for resources, as they are now first in extent and number. The harbors are numerous and convenient.

"Much might be said of Samoa or the Navigator Islands, which, though less extensive, are more beautiful than the Feejees, and contain at least five times as much fertile land, in proportion to their extent, as the Sandwich Islands. But our remarks would lengthen out beyond allowed limits, should we speak even cursorily of the various regions that have been examined.

"A few unknown islands were fallen in with, and one was discovered at midnight, just in time to avoid its reefs. But many such discoveries are not to be expected at this late day. At the island referred to, the natives were so completely ignorant of white men, as to believe them inhabitants of the sun; for they thought that the great ship, or "floating island," as they called it, might sail off from the sun when it comes to the surface of the sea at night, or leaves it in the morning. All their little property was brought out by the terrified people, as a peace-offering to their imagined deities; and when the boats shoved off from the shore, they pointed to the sun and asked in their language, "you going back again?"

"The number of sketches of scenes and scenery amounts to more than five hundred, besides five hundred others of head-lands; the number of portraits is about two hundred."

"It has been long known that the inhabitants of the principal groups, scattered over the Pacific to the east of the Feejee islands—those usually included under the general name of Polynesia—belong to one race, and in fact are one people, speaking dialects of one general language closely allied to the Malay. Materials have been obtained for a comparative grammar and dictionary of the most important dialects, (including those of the Sandwich, Society, Friendly, Navigator, and Hervey islands and New Zealand,) and from this comparison and from the traditions of several of these islands, it is believed that the original seat of the population—viz. in the Navigator Islands—has been satisfactorily determined, and the course of the migrations has been traced out by which the different groups were peopled.

"The vast island or continent of New Holland has heretofore been generally supposed to be inhabited by numerous tribes speaking languages entirely distinct. An opportunity however was found of obtaining a grammatical analysis of the languages of two tribes living more than two hundred miles apart, and ignorant of each other's existence; which has resulted in showing a clear and intimate resemblance, not merely in the great mass of words, but in the inflections and minute peculiarities of the two languages. By the aid of several vocabularies, the comparison has been extended across the entire continent, and has afforded fair grounds for believing that the inhabitants of New Holland, like those of Polynesia, are one people, speaking languages derived from a common origin. Much information was obtained from the missionaries and others, concerning the character, usages, and religious belief of this singular race.

"The inhabitants of the extensive and populous Feejee group have been viewed with peculiar interest, from their position between the yellow Polynesian tribes on the east, and the Oceanic negroes on the west. The result of enquiries, pursued with care during a stay of nearly four months, has been to throw new and unexpected light on the origin of this people, and their connection with the neighboring races. A mass of minute information in regard to the customs, traditions and languages of these islanders, including a grammar and a dictionary of about three thousand words, will be given to the public.

"The Kingsmill Islands are another interesting group, first accurately surveyed by the vessels of the expedition. They lie in the western part of the Pacific, directly under the equator. They are sixteen in number, all of coral formation, the highest land on any of them rising not more than twenty feet above the level of the sea, and their united superficies not exceeding a hundred

and fifty square miles. They afford no stone but coral, no quadrupeds but rats, and not more than thirty species of plants. Yet on this confined space, thus scantily endowed by nature, was found a dense population of more than sixty thousand souls, in a state not inferior, as regards civilization, to any of the other islands of the Pacific. It is obvious that the character and customs of this people, as modified by their peculiar condition, must have presented much that was novel and striking. By the aid of two sailors who were fortunately found living on these islands—one of whom had been detained there five years without an opportunity of escaping—these points were minutely examined, the relations of the language determined, and the probable origin of the natives ascertained.

"In the territory of Oregon, vocabularies have been obtained of twenty six languages belonging to thirteen distinct families—a surprising and unexampled number to be found in so small a space. In general, where a multitude of unrelated idioms have been believed to exist, more careful researches, by discovering resemblances and affinities before unperceived, have greatly reduced the number. On the northwest coast of America, however, this rule does not hold good, and careful investigation, instead of diminishing, has actually increased the number of languages between which no connection can be proved. On the other hand, traces of affinity have been discovered where none were supposed to exist; and it is worthy of note, that one family of languages has been found extending from the vicinity of Bheering's Straits to some distance south of the Columbia River.

"At Singapore, the expedition procured from an American missionary there resident, a collection made by him with great pains and at considerable expense, of valuable Malay and Bugis manuscripts, relating to the history, mythology, laws, and customs of the East India islands. Since the loss of the splendid collection of Sir Stamford Raffles, which was burned along with the vessel in which it had been shipped for England, this is believed to be the best in existence. It is likely to be of great service hereafter, not less to the historian, than the philologist."

"Of the six hundred new species of crustacea, about two hundred are oceanic species, of many of which, even the genera or families are unknown. The ocean swarms with minute crustacea, and it is seldom that a hand-net is thrown in good weather without bringing up some novelty. In some seas they are so numerous as to color the ocean red, over many square miles of surface, as was observed off the South American coast near Valparaiso. These are the red or bloody waters that have been described. When thus numerous, these animals are often called whale's feed, and it is believed that they are actually the food of the "right whale." Each animal is not over a twelfth of an inch long, yet they swarm in such numbers as to afford subsistence to these monsters of the deep. The fibrous net-work of whalebone, in the roof of the whale's mouth, is fitted to strain out these animals from the water which passes through and is ejected by the spout-holes. Many minute dissections have been made of these and other crustacea, and some interesting physiological facts brought to light. As the species are often transparent, nearly all the processes of life, even to the motion of every muscle and every particle that floats in the blood, are open to view."

"On one of the high ridges of Tahiti, (Society group,) about six thousand feet above the sea, the summit edge is so sharp, and the sides of the mountain so very vertical, that the adventurous traveler may sit astride of it, and look down a precipice of a thousand feet on either side. In no other way except by thus balancing and pushing himself along, is it possible, for about thirty feet, to advance towards the summit before him—yet a thousand feet higher—for the bushes which are growing on the crest elsewhere, and serve as a balustrade, are here wanting."

"The Sandwich Islands contain basaltic rocks of all ages, from the most recent volcanic to the most ancient in the Pacific, besides coral rocks and elevated reefs; and they are full of interest, both as regards the structure and formation of igneous and limestone rocks, and geological dynamics. The lofty precipices and examples of shattered

mountains before the eye, are astounding to those who see only the little steeples, of a few hundred feet at the most, in the surface of our own country. There is evidence that the island of Oahu is the shattered remnant of two lofty volcanic mountains. A precipice on this island, upwards of twenty miles long and from one to three thousand feet high, is apparently a section of one of these volcanic mountains or domes, along which it was rent in two, when the greater part was tumbled off and submerged in the ocean.

"Oahu is fringed in part with a coral reef, twenty five feet out of water; and similar proofs of still greater elevation are met with on the other islands.

"New Holland afforded the expedition a collection of coal plants from the coal region; the coal is bituminous and the beds are extensive. Large collections were obtained of fossil shells and corals, (about one hundred and eighty species in all,) from the sandstone next below the coal. The geology of the coal region, and of the overlying sandstone, and the fossiliferous sandstone below, together with the trap dykes and beds, will prove highly interesting. These are the only rocks observed."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN:—

Sir,—No danger need be apprehended to a state from Foreigners born, who take the oath of allegiance and who on their oaths renounce allegiance to their mother country. These by the existing comity of nations cease to be aliens, and become from thenceforth completely amenable to the laws of the adopted country, without danger of interposition from foreign agents and foreign flags. These are supposed to and ought to feel the obligations of their solemn oaths and interested for the Government they have sworn to support. They are capable of that enormous crime called high treason which an alien abstractly cannot commit, because it "imports a betraying, treachery, or breach of faith. Treason is indeed a general appellation made use of by the law, to denote not only against the king and Government, but also that accumulation of guilt which arises whenever a superior reposes a confidence in a subject or inferior, between whom and himself there subsists a natural, a civil or even a spiritual relation; and the inferior so abuses that confidence, so forgets the obligations of duty, subjection and allegiance, as to destroy the life of any such superior or lord." This need not result in the actual killing but is construed to extend to all attempts upon the King's political life, aiding, succoring and abetting his enemies and those of the state. These last shades of the crime of treason an alien might commit and be punished for, but not as a traitor, which nefarious crime is only attachable to him who is born in the king's allegiance, or who voluntarily swears it.

With these guarantees in view wise and liberal nations like Great Britain, France, and the United States of America have seen the impolicy and narrow-sightedness of prohibiting the ingress of foreigners and of restraining them too much when admitted in the enjoyment of the main privileges of subjects. These nations have even gone so far within the last century as to make it comparatively easy for foreigners to acquire the rights of naturalization. To encourage their emigration they are enabled by legislative enactments when naturalised to purchase, hold, sell and to transmit real estate, and to vote and hold office in those nations. In this way, particularly the United States, has received accessions of talent, genius, enterprise, ingenuity and industry from other countries, which have greatly tended to enrich their literary annals and perfect the arts and sciences in her dominions. Hence we yearly read of hundreds of thousands that ooze from every pore of the old world and these through the inlets of the United States, her coasts, her rivers, her hills and her val-