

Hawaii in 1855

from *Borta är bra, men hemme är bäst*, by C. Axel Egerström
translated from the Swedish by Caroline Bengston
edited by Agnes C. Conrad

Records in the Hawaii State Archives list "Charles Egerstrim" as a passenger on the Fanny Major, arriving in Honolulu on March 29, 1855. His statements concerning names, dates and places can, for the most part, be substantiated from other sources. However, some statements are incorrect and it would appear that he either wrote from memory or incomplete notes, or he included events that he read about after he left Hawaii. These have been noted.

This translation, which includes only the portion of the book dealing with the visit to Hawaii, was made in 1931 and has been in the library of the Hawaiian Historical Society for many years. It was brought to the attention of the editors by the Translation Committee, Friends of the Library of Hawaii.

With a torn top sail and a strong northwest wind blowing the *Fanny Major* approached Hawaii, or the Sandwich Islands, on March 28, 1855 after an unusually long trip,¹ caused by violent shifting of the winds which required much change of sail. Our attention was first attracted by snow-covered mountain top of Mauna Haleakala on the island of Maui which rose above the thick foggy air. Soon we were gazing upon the numerous small streams and beautiful waterfalls which found their way down mountain ravines, though heavy rain clouds kept us from seeing the green valleys and the shores of the island. Toward evening the sky cleared somewhat, and the strong winds pushed the vessel into considerable danger as it went into a sound between Maui and another island [Oahu] to the north of Molokai. There the eye was gladdened by the sight of waving coconut palms and green fields, behind which a cloud-covered range of mountains shut off the horizon. As dark came it was clear that it would be best to turn, and this maneuver accompanied by frightful rolling of the ship, happened twice in the course of the night. Early in the morning the island of Oahu where streams of lava from the now quiescent volcano had formed a projection into the sea, lay before us. After we had passed Cape Leahi, or Diamond Head, there could be seen dimly desolate conical-shaped mountains, beyond which several large vessels were cruising.

The sky cleared, the wind slowed down and the waves became soothingly

quiet. The majestic sun rose high over the waters throwing its beams upon the houses of the principal town of the Hawaiian islands, Honolulu. As we came nearer everything at the foot of the crater became more distinct and the city with its tropical surroundings made a lively picture. A pilot came on board and shortly thereafter the *Fanny Major* dropped anchor at the roads between an English naval vessel [HBMS *Dido*] and an American one [USS *Decatur*] whose officers politely hailed us. Some even came on board for American and European news. From an English officer we learned that the corvette *Dido* to which he belonged, was lying here awaiting a squadron which this boat was accompanying to Petropavlovsk. Presently several boats carrying white-clad gentlemen arrived and also a countless number of natives with their narrow canoes, pointed at the ends, with outriggers for holding them level.

A customs officer, who happened to be an American, came on board and told us that we had the right to land, but we could take no belongings with us until permission had been granted by the collectors of customs. Although the ship, which lay for several hours about a mile from the town, was going into port, the passengers descended the sides to be taken to land by boats lying near.

The people of the islands are called Kanakas and the men are of Herculean size, well formed, with black hair. That they very efficiently managed rowing was apparent when we passed through the coral reefs at the entrance to the harbor. It was highly impressive to see the waves and hear them roar against the barriers which were crossed one after the other. Having run over these the boats quickly passed over the calm waters in the harbor, and we landed at a small dock. Here we were met by bell boys who assured us that their hotel was the most comfortable of them all. After we had pushed our way through a crowd of these noisy Kanaka fellows, and had reached the custom house, a two-story stone building, each secured for a piaster² his note of permission to land.

In company with a fellow passenger I immediately took a walk about the city streets which cut each other at right angles and which were very wide. Along these ways which looked like ordinary country roads there stood at irregular intervals buildings of the greatest possible variety. Those belonging to the outlanders were made of lava or coral blocks, fine establishments with balconies and porches under the roofs. They were surrounded by palisades for a pleasure place where on occasion there flew the Hawaiian flag or that of the country from which the owner had come. Other houses were made of wood or tree trunks fastened together with rushes, all provided with high slanting roofs which projected far out over the walls so there would be a cool, shady spot. The greater number of these houses were protected by low walls within which flowers grew, rivaling the tropical vegetation in gaiety.

Having walked through several streets, which had both Hawaiian and English names, such as Nuuanu, Kaahumanu, Fort, Beretania, and Hotel Street, my companion and I, a German merchant, engaged lodgings at the place last named with Mr. Russell. These accommodations consisted of two rooms, furnished in the manner here customary. The host attended to securing our belongings, and since the increasing heat forbade further walking, we

seated ourselves under the projecting roof and watched those who passed by. A chief greatly burdened with avoirdupois came and his expression indicated that he was thoroughly satisfied with himself. Then a plebeian came strutting, usually carrying his cap in his hand and two calabashes which hung on a pole over one shoulder. Clothing varied greatly and some of it had been quite costly. There were men in the costume of primitive Adam, and different ones were neither dressed nor undressed, since they were only what was unnecessary, a vest or a coat. The majority were provided with breeches of thin light cloth. The Hawaiian women invariably wore loose-fitting smocks of beautiful colors and their thick black hair was decorated with flowers and grasses. Their bronzed faces showed good profiles and the natives generally had countenances which were friendly and open.

Across the corner from us was a wall of sun-dried brick painted white and within were houses overgrown with great green tropical plants. These buildings were the headquarters for the departments of agriculture,³ finance and education. Over the public entrance was a gilded crown covered with a black veil because King Kamehameha III had died three months earlier [December 1854]. Some of the most prominent foreigners wore signs of mourning, and on many occasions during my sojourn on the islands I saw indications of real sorrow because of the death of a noble and good-hearted king. Farther away from Hotel Street were several neat bungalows between which high palms lifted their splendid crowns. The broad leaves of the bananas waved back and forth in the gentle breezes of the evening. At this time the foreign population began to promenade but for the greater part they were riding or in carriages. The short twilight was indescribably lovely. At the western horizon the setting sun was surrounded by a sky of purple and gold from light overhanging clouds.

Invited by the king of the country who was followed by princes and courtiers, the Royal Theatre was giving a play presented by an American group of players,⁴ and naturally we attended. We found the theatrical furnishings in a building made of planks painted yellow, much like the playhouses of our small towns. On the right hand side, however, was the royal box. After the first act of the performance there entered into this box five gentlemen in civilian clothes who received no particular attention at the hands of the audience. A Kanaka who sat opposite me informed me in the English language that the one who was in front at the right, distinguished for his lively and easy bearing, who often used his opera glasses, was His Majesty, King Kamehameha IV, ruler of the Hawaiian realm. He was formerly called Alexander Liholiho. The white-haired elderly gentleman sitting beside him who had a long narrow face and sharply marked features, was his father, His Excellency Mathew Kekuanaoa, Governor of Oahu. Two others in the box were elder brothers of the king, Prince Lot Kamehameha, general of the troops of the islands, and Moses Kaikieva, governor of the island of Kauai, while the third was the king's adjutant, an American. The boxes nearest the king were occupied by persons close to the king in authority and by higher officials. The general public behaved decently.

The orchestra which consisted of the king's musicians, were all Kanaka boys. Under the leadership of a German professional [William Merseberg], they handled their brass instruments fairly well. Whether the actors carried out their roles properly, as well as in regard to the play itself, I can not be certain, because my interest was attracted by the black-brown Hawaiians. Because of their rapid civilizing they are the most remarkable of the widespread Polynesian peoples of the Pacific Ocean. The stranger marvels and considers it peculiar that these Hawaiians only thirty years ago were wild, chained in heathen darkness, slaves held in tyrannical despotism, but now are good Christians and citizens of a well ordered government which has been recognized by European countries since 1843.

The next morning I visited the consul for Sweden and Norway, Mr. [Heinrich] Hackfeld of Bremen, who received me in friendly fashion. He had the kindness to introduce me to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. [Robert Crichton] Wyllie, Scottish by origin, but now a naturalized Hawaiian, and according to many, the real king of the country. Through another naturalized citizen I learned to know a fellow countryman, Mr. [Abraham] Fornander from Kalmar, who left Sweden thirty years ago, to which he had no hope of returning. He was highly respected and was the editor of the Honolulu newspaper, *The Argus*, which was issued in the English language. At his neat bungalow in Nuuanu Valley I spent many pleasant hours, and despite the fact that he had well nigh forgotten his mother tongue and we were compelled to converse in English, it was evident that he had many relatives and friends in the fatherland of whom fond recollection still remained. He was married to a Hawaiian woman⁶ and had three fine children who joyously played about among the fig, banyan and coffee trees pursuing butterflies of indescribable brilliance which flew from flower to flower. His attitude concerning the past Mr. Fornander kept concealed and there never was opportunity for me to lift the veil.

Any one who traveled from California to Hawaii need lack none of the comforts of life, but he must have in his possession plenty of money for prices were as high here, if not higher than in San Francisco. There was no lack of shops and restaurants and for any kind of traveling horses could be secured. My companion and I hired horses for a trip up the road north of the city through the Nuuanu Valley. The eye was delighted with the surrounding landscape, the most beautiful I have ever seen. Numerous houses built in English style stood on both sides of the road. They were enclosed by well ordered parks and gardens, and between them at some distance from the highway were groups of Kanaka houses looking like hay stacks next to rectangular granaries of earth in which the natives stored their food, mainly taro. This grows with a tuber, like horse-radish. Many kinds of palm trees, mulberry and bread-fruit trees are flourishing in the vicinity of these houses whose inhabitants, men, as well as women and children, were dressed in the simplest manner possible, some of them being satisfied with what nature provided. On the left side of the road there wound around behind the dwellings the small Nuuanu River, here and there forming beautiful waterfalls,

one of which was called Victoria Fall. Near at hand was a fine bathing basin which the dowager Queen Kalama, owner of the adjoining tract of land, had graciously provided with well equipped bath houses. Furthermore she had designated them for the use of foreigners living at Honolulu. Every morning great crowds of people came there.

For half a mile the road showed no perceptible increase in elevation, but the valley became more and more narrow. Then we climbed higher and higher among the mountains, crossing with difficulty many hollows of a drainage area until we were at a deep ravine about one mile and a half from the city. In the history of the island this is called Pali Pass. We were then more than two thousand feet above sea level and had the ocean before us, both on the north and on the south. On both sides were high cliffs whose tops were concealed by heavy cloud masses. It was said that in clear weather the views from this height were most splendid and grand since it has the Nuuanu Valley on one side and the not less fruitful Koalu [Koolau] on the other. At this time practically all of the tract was veiled with a thick layer of cloud and we saw only the hills about us with their moist clumps of sweet smelling trees. The rain fell frequently and since the wind rushed in violently through the north-east pass we were compelled to turn back through the Nuuanu Valley to the city. Before doing so we looked back at the cliffs covered with climbing vines to a height of seven or eight hundred feet along the rocky road. Here eighty years ago the chieftain of the islands, Kalanikupule, with his followers was defeated by Kamehameha the Great, and destroyed themselves rather than submit to the conqueror who united all of the islands after this victory. Of the heroism of this leader of their forefathers the Hawaiians talk much and he is often mentioned in their songs and orations.

As I have mentioned, Consul Hackfeld secured the opportunity for me to meet the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. [Robert Crichton] Wyllie. The first time was on the 31st of March at the department of national defense, where he sat in the midst of a great mass of papers as if he were in a huge waste basket. His Excellency who received me very graciously, talked first with the consul about different matters, and as soon he had departed, his Highness, Prince Lot Kamehameha and his father, His Excellency Kekuanaoa, arrived. To them Mr. Wyllie stated that I was a Swede who wished to visit several of the islands. His Royal Highness extended his hand and conversed several minutes. The frigate *Eugenie* which had sailed around the world in 1852 and which had visited Honolulu, was accurately remembered by the prince, who recollected not only its chief but a number of its officers, for all of whom he had the highest consideration. Prince Lot was a finely built man of some years over twenty. He spoke English fluently, also French. He was friendly and approachable though he took heed of the honor due his rank.

On the afternoon of that day as on other Saturday afternoons, many of the natives as well as foreigners, gathered on a level place between the city and Point Leahi where there were races in which the Hawaiian women displayed their skill. We saw larger and smaller groups of these amazons riding at a gallop to the plain. On the saddle or blanket they sat astride like the men and

wore riding clothes [*pa'u*] which not only covered their whole bodies but which trailed beneath their feet. A satin or velvet jacket with an embroidered collar hung over the shoulders and upon their heads were small hats trimmed with flowers and ornaments. The sight of these riding Kanaka ladies who sat well on their horses laughing when in full gallop and showing the greatest of joy, seemed to a European most unusual. If a Kanaka lady won the race joy was at its height, particularly if a sea captain or a ship's officer was among the contestants. The most prominent people of the city took part in these affairs, even the princes, and the king who died recently, had enjoyed them greatly. The horse which I was using temporarily soon showed that it was well trained for speedy movement, for no sooner had I questioned a group of brown beauties whether I might race with them, which brought them the greatest pleasure, than they accepted the challenge most politely. The horse immediately became restless and set off in a lively way, galloping on all its four feet. The wind came off and my hat blew off to the end of the field, to the amusement of all. Willing or unwilling I came in at the head of the line at the goal, a Kanaka house in a palm grove by the seaside where the foaming waves roared threateningly.

In the evening the city was unusually quiet, and as I wandered about the empty streets there could be heard in the houses of the natives the sounds of religious services, hence one is compelled to admit that missionaries have spread much that is blessed over this land.

Sunday was kept in exactly the same way as in civilized countries. Indeed churchgoing and its pious practices were even of more consequence than in many other places. Although some insisted that the natives were not deeply impressed with the true worth of Christianity, I saw on this day five churches filled with attentive worshippers. East of the city upon a block of coral stood the royal church [*Kawaiahao*], the entrance being protected by palisades. Outside was the model of a large ship, also with a fence which carried a large loft. In this roomy church which contained no ornaments the Hawaiian nobility most frequently worshipped, carrying out the rites of the most independent of the Anglican churches.

The Catholic Church [*Cathedral of Our Lady of Peace*] was splendidly decorated with paintings and statuary but lacked seats. The devotees knelt with palm branches⁷ in their hands. The singing and the ceremonies at the altar appeared to make deep impression upon the Kanakas, about one-sixth of whom profess this faith. Farther to the west rose the Kanaka Church [*Kaumakapili Church*], a wooden building with a very high roof. The Seaman's Chapel is a fourth church. Both inside and outside it was a very fine edifice. Here the foreigners of the city were provided for and the cushioned seats indicated that the worshippers were lovers of comfort.

On the inhabited Sandwich Islands which number seven, there were not only churches, but many higher and lower schools. In the vicinity of Honolulu a kind of university called Oahu College had been founded. Although only in its infancy, it had a faculty of instructors, and the students were divided into three groups, candidates for philosophy, licentiate and master. The

college president, Mr. [Edward G.] Beckwith, served as a professor and taught mathematics, natural science, English literature and philosophy. Another professor, Mr. [Daniel] Dole, taught Latin and Greek, besides living languages, moral philosophy, geography and history. Before entering upon the candidacies just mentioned the students must show that they have completed two terms in the gymnasium department and that they have passed certain examinations.

Among the numerous folk schools, or schools for little children, I visited two. The children were from five to twelve years of age and appeared pleasant and joyous. One of the teachers, a young man of high intelligence, informed me that the children were accustomed to be examined by visitors. The book he gave me was Bishop's "English and Hawaiian Spelling Book" which is exceedingly difficult for the foreigner to master, if not an impossibility. Still for more than an hour I was an examiner. I was very well pleased with the brown Kanaka children who seemed to have great ability and capacity in learning the English language.

What I have indicated plainly is that the native people despite born indifference and aversion to all kinds of labor, have made significant progress in the understanding of religion and civilization. When strangers came to Honolulu they could secure all the comforts and luxuries which were offered in the large cities of Europe and America. At Honolulu House which belonged to the bookdealer and postmaster, Mr [Henry] Whitney, was a fine stock of books, the contents of which showed that the community had a taste for good literature. About the Sandwich Islands there were the works of Jarvis, Bingham, Dibble, Simpson, Wyllie and Hunt, and the earlier travel writings of Cook, Vancouver, Kotzebue, La Place and DuPetit-Thouars, in which one found that this small island nation had frequently distinguished itself. Even in the Swedish language there were dependable descriptions by two different authors, C. Skogman and N. J. Andersson, which were concerned with the world tour of the frigate *Eugenie* two or three years ago. Not an insignificant contribution to literature were the five newspapers of the country: The *Polynesian*, The *Friend* and The *Argus* in English, and the *Ka Nu Hou* and The *Little Missionary News* in the Hawaiian language.

The ancient, and in many cases, benevolent order of the Free Masons had in Honolulu a lodge which had meetings and fine celebrations. It was remarkable that this order despite all the opposition that it has encountered, had constantly increased the length of its chain of members. In California when opposition was the strongest there was formed the Grand Lodge of Free Masons with its seat in San Francisco, and there were also lodges in most of the towns of the mining area. It seemed to be the policy of the order, aside from charity, to set up something similar to a castle in which the best things of the community, religion, honor and education might have a secure fortress in case of attempt to overthrow them.

The palace of the king stood at the east end of the city in a park encircled by a wall. It was a one story building with a high roof surrounded by galleries. From a staff floated daily the flag of the nation with its red, white and blue stripes, seven in number, representing the islands. Within this park were a

number of small insignificant buildings, and while I was in the locality, they were occupied by the dowager queen and her court. Strangely enough there was also on these grounds the burial places of the kings, a rectangular white building in which I saw the coffins containing the bodies of King Kamehameha II and his queen, both of whom died in England, that of Kamehameha III which was placed there January 15, 1855, Kaahumanu, Kinau, Haalilio and various other chieftains. Peace be to their ashes! Up against the east side of this mausoleum there was a great stone within an iron fence, marking the grave of the head boat man, John Young, who came to the islands at the age of fifty on the American brig *Eleanor*, and with Isaac Davis, boatswain on a yacht schooner, were held prisoners by command of Kamehameha I. Young lived here forty-six years during which time he became the trusted friend and advisor of the king, while Davis was made a member of the court because he improved the government. Young died in 1835 and Davis in 1810.

On the 6th of April there was a Chinese funeral which was remarkable for its peculiar ceremonies. Many Chinese live on the islands, a number being merchants and plantation owners, but numbers of them are coolies doing the labor at which they excel the natives. The dead man [Tyhune] lived on the islands for forty years as a merchant and had become a very rich man. Feeling himself near death, he had, despite all his wealth, taken upon himself the work of preparing his own coffin from the trunk of a sandalwood tree. After having spent four months in providing a place for final rest, the old man's life was taken by the Beings with the scythe. To the sounds of drums and bassoon the corpse was moved through the streets in a hearse decorated with white draperies, and next to it walked the two daughters [Akini and Uwini] of the deceased in long white blouses with trains. Their long black hair hung in locks over their shoulders and in their hands they carried bouquets of white roses and lilies. After them came nearly one hundred Kanaka women, all in white garments, and following a large number of Chinese.

Now and then the procession stopped to carry on mourning ceremonies, such as the reading of certain masses, and the burning of gold and silver papers which were thrown while still in flame over the dead body. East of the city the Kanaka women separated themselves from the procession and returned to the house of mourning, but the Chinese together with a large number of Americans and Europeans continued their wandering until they came to the Manoa Valley lying four miles to the east where the Chinese had a fenced burying ground. A joss temple, similar to the one in San Francisco, had been constructed and about the idol burned a huge number of wax tapers and joss sticks. When they came to the grave they found that it had not been properly placed to the east so that the first thing done was to dig the opening over again. During this delay the Chinese went to a house which belonged to them for refreshment, and they invited the foreigners present to partake also. Many tables were handsomely laden with food and drink, such as champagne, English ale, a drink prepared from rice called samch [sam jing], tea, birds, steaks, fish, pastry and desserts of sweet things, all very good. Everything tasted so delicious that an epicure could have made speeches about it, but the

Chinese felt that they must show their hospitality. They themselves did not partake of the food, but diligently filled glasses and served the various courses. After we had been richly provided for and we were perspiring in a temperature of eighty-three degrees Fahrenheit, we heard sounds of music, and the ceremonies of burial, which we desired to see, began. The Europeans watched attentively the placing of the body in the grave, after which a Chinese priest came forward who read certain religious proverbs written in gilded characters upon strips of white cloth. While the grave was being filled there was cast into it unceasingly burning gold paper, joss sticks, rice confections and all things pertaining to a Chinese toilet. It was all remarkable to see but meaningless and bare of effect.

The Manoa Valley where the cemetery lay is famous for fine stately views. Most of the heights are covered with green impenetrable woods through which several streams find their way. At the cliffs these form pretty but almost invisible waterfalls, and finally they unite to form a small river which waters the small Waikiki plain. After several palm groves were passed the waters fell into the blue immeasurable sea whose violently swelling waves struck upon the colossal coral reefs which surround the whole coast. These are the work of an insignificant creature called the coral insect.

On the 7th of April for the first time after the death of King Kamehameha III, the parliament was called together. This is divided into two chambers and naturally I availed myself of the opportunity to see the formal opening of the law making body. Invited guests, the ministers, representatives of foreign countries, consuls and officers of English and American naval vessels lying in the harbor, took reserved seats in the Royal Church. Then came His Majesty King Kamehameha IV at eleven o'clock, followed by the princes of the land and the courtiers, all on horseback, with his sister, Princess Victoria Kamamalu, who rode with a court lady in a drosky. The king was escorted by Hawaiian cavalry and at the church lines were formed by companies of the guard. His Majesty escorted his sister, dressed in black, to her place at the left beside a high throne which had been improvised above the altar. He himself wore red embroidered trousers and a blue frock coat richly ornamented. His decoration was different from those which gleamed on the breasts of the other functionaries. In his hand he carried an embroidered three cornered hat with great white plumes. Regalia, weapons and banners surrounded the throne in which His Majesty seated himself with his elder brother Lot Kamehameha on the right. After the minister of religion [i.e. Education] Mr. [Richard] Armstrong, had said a prayer, His Majesty the King, read a long speech from the throne in the Hawaiian language which indicated a high appreciation of the responsibilities of his royal position as well as great interest in the welfare of his kingdom. Since it contained discriminating statements about conditions on the islands, I will take the liberty to give its main contents.

After he had made statements expressing in a respectful way love and gratitude to the late king who had united the people under a constitution which he had given, His Majesty explained that since the representatives had come to the conclusion that the prime minister or Kuhina Nui should resign as

minister of the interior, he had appointed the Princess Victoria to the office [of Kuhina Nui]. Particularly he referred to a proposal of the chancellor to improve the laws so that there would be proper and strict interference with extravagant and careless ways of living since disease was threatening to destroy the natives of the country. So far as His Majesty knew the higher courts were functioning properly and there were hopes that criticisms of the district courts would diminish. However weak and powerless was the ruling of the islands it had to be admitted, at least in the mind of His Majesty, that there was no country in which there was greater security for life, liberty, persons and property than upon the Hawaiian Islands.

With reference to the War Department and its necessary reorganization, he mentioned the report of Prince [Lot] Kamehameha, chief of the military forces, as well as that of the secretary of war, and stated that details of placing these important departments of the government upon firmer and better footing could not be delayed.

Among affairs at home which needed attention there was the improvement of the harbor of Honolulu, as well as providing places for stores and other needed buildings for a city which was a seaport. These projects, since they were national and were for the benefit of the islands as a whole, deserved strong support, because there was no question that all the people of Oceania must come to Honolulu when their ships needed provisions, coal and water.

Relations with foreign powers were of the most peaceable sort and assurances from the greater ones left no doubt in His Majesty's mind that the rights and nationality of the country would be respected. By way of emphasizing this statement, His Majesty said that an agreement had been made with the United States providing that in the event of war the neutrality of the Hawaiians would be respected and that all regulations would be obeyed, in the same fashions as in a treaty between Russia and the United States which had been ratified at a convention on the 22nd of July preceding. There had also been ratification on April 5, 1855 of an agreement with his good friend His Majesty King Oscar of Sweden and Norway concerning friendship, commerce and seafaring, and the minister of foreign affairs was ready to inform the public about the arrangements which had been made in regard to privileges granted to all. As envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary at Washington, His Majesty had accredited the chancellor and the chief justice of the courts, Mr. Wm. L. Lee and the expenses of this important mission should be appropriated.

Concerning reports of the minister of finance, His Majesty declared it inevitable that measures should be taken to improve conditions. It was desirable to increase both commerce and the land under cultivation. This would develop the nation physically, spiritually and morally. Finances of the country must be managed so that income was increased and any free country had the right to put tariffs on luxuries coming from foreign regions. Through the customs officials the resources of the country could be materially increased and it was necessary to make provision for this by law. In addition there should be a tax on liquor, and if such had been collected during the past years

the resources of the country would have been considerably augmented. Whether it was worthwhile to add to the national income by taxing property the representatives of the people must decide.

In order to dispose of the defects of education, the minister of this department advised that there be more instruction in English for this was the only way that it would be possible to keep pace with foreign cultures. Teaching of the English language should be universal. It was evident that people with capital were not inclined to take up agriculture, which was lamentable since money was the very thing needed in order to increase the production of the staples of the islands such as sugar, coffee and tobacco. It was absolutely necessary to eliminate all hindrance to the development of agriculture and that everything possible be done to encourage this calling so important in national well being. In order to impress the lawmaking body with the necessity of developing trade in the islands, His Majesty said: "Without trade our agricultural products will decay at the warehouses, roads and communications between the islands will be unused, the buildings at the wharves will be useless and the opening and closing of shops will be an empty ceremony."

The most important matter was to stop the hand of desolation which threatened the population of all of the islands and which had already materially diminished the population.* His Majesty considered it important to diminish the frightful course of sickness both by means of public hospitals where those afflicted with common dangerous illness could be cared for, as well as by making provisions for foreigners who were ill and had no place where they could be cared for. Some of the latter brought epidemics and dangerous forms of sickness. In order to give some hope that the devastation would be arrested, His Majesty read reports from areas where the number of births had exceeded the deaths.

Experience covering a considerable length of time showed that the immigration of Chinese coolies which had been induced by much effort on the part of the islanders, was not the proper kind to meet the needs of the country in the matter of workers nor population. They were less inclined to work than had been expected and they had no inclination to unite themselves with the rest of the population. The king proposed that inducements be made to persuade the inhabitants of other Polynesian islands to migrate and that measures be taken to bring this about. Since these people were of the same race as the Hawaiians, these colonists would soon talk the Hawaiian language and their acclimatization could be accomplished before the vessel which brought them left the harbor. Their women could also come and would be

* In 1778-1779 the population was considered by Captain Cook to be about 300,000. In 1850 this had decreased to 84,165 of which about 2,000 were foreign immigrants. The deaths in 1849 were 4,320 and the births only 1,422. Mr. Skogman contends that the chief reason for this decline lies in the fact that the natives were destroyed by the diseases of the whites and that social diseases were the worst in this respect. These were still more destructive because of improper food, carelessness about dress, dirty dwellings and the lack of doctors and medicines. Sterility was common on the islands and many children died from lack of proper care.

a gain to the islands since they were said to be more fruitful than those of Hawaii. Only by such an immigration could the labor needs of the islands be met and this was the only way to keep the island populated by natives, to whom the immigrants had great similarity.

After the king had made at length his speech in the Hawaiian language, the principal statements of which have just been given, Mr. Wyllie read the same thing in the English language so that it could be understood by foreigners, after which royalty and representatives betook themselves to the palace.

The mild air, the even moisture,* the delightful excursions to the valleys about the city together with diligent seabathing greatly improved my health and already on April 7th, I decided to take a trip to the islands of Maui and Hawaii, the largest of these islands. Communications were carried on regularly by means of two steamers, the *Kalama* and the *Kamehameha*, as well as by various boats with covered decks, some managed by foreigners and some by natives. Along toward evening I went on board one of those last mentioned, the sloop *Haalilio*, and I will never forget the strange company which was made up of two hundred natives of all ages, to say nothing of the large number of lap dogs which the Kanaka ladies assiduously toddled about. Bowls and bottles formed from calabashes contained various articles of food and drink, but the leading one was the national dish, called "poi." On the deck they stood eating in strange fashion. They stick their fingers into the mess, put it into their mouths and licked off what clung to them.

There was constant chattering which was as tiring as it was incomprehensible. The original Hawaiian alphabet consisted of only twelve⁸ letters and the missionaries sought to enrich it by adding ten more, so that it lacks now only c, q, x, y and the last three umlauts of the Swedish. A serviceable grammar of this language was published in 1844 by the Missionary Printing House of L. [Lorrin] Andrews, and Mr. A. [Artemas] Bishop is the author of "Hawaiian Words and Phrases," both of which deserve to be read by professors and other students of philology. Undoubtedly some time in the future these works will be looked upon as Polynesian curiosities. Idols and the war clubs commonly used on these islands before the landing of the white men were already considered rare when missionary work began. The English language will undoubtedly crowd out the Hawaiian, even if the people succeed in preserving their race.

On the little craft everything was life and action. The natives talked, ate and smoked, and in monotonous songs told the ancient history of the islands. Meanwhile they related long stories about former times, and a very old woman who was present at the arrival of Captain Cook on the islands in 1778 spoke ponderously of the manner in which the inhabitants had worshiped him as a god. She told also of the sorry doings at Kealakeakua Bay on Hawaii, where the great navigator unexpectedly aroused the natives who killed him on

* *The highest temperature of the Sandwich Islands is eighty degrees Fahrenheit, the lowest fifty-eight degrees and the average is seventy-five degrees. The climate is considered excellent for persons suffering from rheumatism or diseases accompanied by fever.*

February 14, 1779. In the English language, a well read native unceasingly interpreted the conversation for foreigners.

A cooling wind filled the sails and pushed the *Haahilo* speedily over the forward rolling waves. When darkness came my newly Christianized neighbors gave a beautiful demonstration of their piety, for all fell on their knees and said aloud solemn prayers to the Almighty. It was really a sacred hour of prayer after which all went to rest on deck, where the spray from the waves disturbed their sleep very little. The dawn of the following day was announced by a flaming aurora. When the sun rose out of the deep it flooded with marvelous daylight the wooded heights of the island of Molokai, which was covered with a fine mat of grasses down to the shores. After the various passengers had made themselves as neat and exquisite as possible, during which many humorous scenes were enacted, prayers were said with all decorum and several hours later we sailed into the Kai-Naehene Sound [Auau Channel]. The delightful little island of Lanai was at the right and the eastern side of Maui on the left. On the shores the cocoanut groves were filled with fine palms. We passed a considerable number of vessels going out for whaling while others lay at anchor. Then the houses of Lahaina came plainly into view and our boat anchored some distance away. Many canoes paddled out to us and there ensued much noisy gossip between acquaintances from the capital and those who dwelt on these shores, which probably was about everything unusual and striking which they had seen.

A canoe took me to a landing place where there were several store rooms belonging to an American firm, Gilman and Smith, the largest business establishment in the city. They were friendly to strangers who visited the islands. The streets were like those of Honolulu and were lined with beautiful rows of sycamores⁹ and palms. Among these stood the rush huts of the natives and the more substantial wooden or stone houses of the foreigners. Salt baths and a saloon were not lacking and a fine church with a cemetery protected by a wall where several graves were provided with monuments reminded us that society was well ordered. Indeed everything in the way of property which was to be seen in these famous islands had so much material for writing that it was astonishing. The rising civilizations was causing island customs to disappear since the natives were rapidly acquiring all European customs and practices.

During the eight days I lived at Lahaina, I took many walks into the valleys lying nearest the town where native huts were surrounded by taro plantings, coconut and bread-fruit trees about which vines twisted themselves. The meeting places of mountain and lowland were covered with an impenetrable tangle of other tropical growths. One day I got a canoe rowed by two Kanakas who took me to Kalepolepo on eastern Maui where I wandered up several hills followed by one of these men. It was very difficult to penetrate the thick shrubbery. After four and a half hours of exertion we were at least eight thousand feet above sea level and great snow masses prevented us from coming nearer to the top of the high mountain Mauna Haleakala. In the fresh cool atmosphere I could revel in the glorious views about me. The rays of

the sun threw a weak reflection from the gleaming snows, part of which, melting into water, formed small crystal clear brooks. Farther down they united into streams which rushed down shady valleys.

Out in the azure blue sea lay the islands Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe like small green woods, and between a sail slipped through now and then. Nearby were glimpses of Oahu and Hawaii. Deep in the valleys thick woods appeared like billows. Having a lively appreciation for the riches and marvels of nature, as well as having been brought up in belief and knowledge of the wonderful works of God, I have often wondered why so many human beings regard these things as a closed, unimportant book, or as a useless imposition to be neglected. I am far less astonished that love of nature and attention to its mysteries has become a real worship among many peoples and individuals. Going down the steep mountain was more difficult than climbing up. After the struggle with the tangled bushes I was very well satisfied to rest in the trough-like canoe. As soon as the slumbering companions therein were wakened, they quickly and skillfully paddled through the heaving sea to the harbor at Lahaina.

North of the city there stood at the foot of the mountain the Lahainaluna high school, where already a number of Kanaka youth were taking studies preparatory to Oahu College. Among the instructors were two natives, Messrs. Joseph Mawae and D. Nahiuu who had recently been ordained ministers.¹⁰ The latter of these two gentlemen showed me many courtesies and secured for me an introduction to the governor K. Kapaakea whose wife was a princess of the blood royal.¹¹ They resided east of the town in a villa lying between shady palms. The place was really an immense grass hut and under the triangular roof, which was very high, there was a low shady veranda. When Mr. Nahiuu and I came to this unassuming princely dwelling, we were met first by a number of young girls who ran playfully about in the palm grove. In a shady spot we found the governor himself seated in an American rocking chair where he solemnly watched the foaming breakers. He was a stately young man of cheerful mien and good appearance. Clad in light summer clothes he was passing the day in the rocker, disturbed by an indisposition which had compelled him to leave the meeting of Parliament in Honolulu, whither he intended to return as soon as possible to take his place in the upper house.

As soon as I had greeted the amiable chief and had received a friendly handclasp I was taken to the house where I had the honor of bowing before Mrs. Kapaakea and two lady relatives. The high born dames sat upon soft cushions which covered the floor along with fine carpets. The three ladies were fine types of the islands' gentler sex but their great fat figures verged upon the grotesque. They greeted me easily with bows after which I left them for conversation with the chief concerning the latest news about which he asked many eager questions. I was invited several times to be the guest of this friendly family and partook of meals occasionally. The courses consisted mainly of poi prepared from taro, with fish and fruits. We squatted down around the calabashes and it seemed an interminable length of time before

the company satisfied its appetite. After a meal everybody took a few whiffs from a pipe which was circulated through the whole company.

The sloop *Haalilio* had settled on the date April 14 for the continued journey to Hawaii but a severe storm from the southwest came up and all ships in the bay found it necessary to heave their anchors in order to lie in the open sea during the blast which lasted thirty-six hours and which was followed by squalls of rain from the heavy clouds. Then came most glorious weather and the trade wind blew steadily on the island. The breath of balsam was spread by the freshened vegetation. On the 16th the journey was to be continued, and during the morning among others, the whole family of the governor came on board for they were to visit their estate on Hawaii. The worthy Mrs. Kapaakea, perspiring much, settled herself on a heap of cushions and mats which were spread upon the poop. People showed the high born travelers the greatest consideration. Gossip and laughter were not nearly so loud and vigorous as they were when we went from Honolulu to Lahaina. In the gentle fresh morning breeze, the sailing through the narrow sound between the islands Kahoolawe and Maui was very pleasant. In the middle of the sound lay the cold cliff Molokini where the surf roared and foamed, and between the steep mountain clefts of Maui we could see the valleys with rich shifting greens. On board joy reigned and the women made wreaths for Mrs. Kapaakea, who was very amiable. She asked me about my native land and why I had come to visit these distant islands. I won her favor to such an extent that she decorated my hat with fresh roses with her own royal hands.

Toward evening we were becalmed and this was also the case the following day so that it was the 18th in the morning when we reached the harbor of the village Kawaihae on Hawaii. The sloop *Haalilio* was destined for Kealakeakua but a boat was sent out in which Kapaakea, the skipper and I, with a pair of rowers entered the harbor while the ship lay outside. Kawaihae was an insignificant place with a store belonging to an American who was also the postmaster. A pilot and some Kanaka families lived there also. The place lay in a bay on the western side of the north part of the island, and it was here that the first American missionaries landed on March 30, 1820 from the brig *Thaddeus* of Boston. Since I wished to travel from here across the island to Hilo, I bade farewell to the friendly Kapaakea. He had the kindness to give me a letter of introduction to Mr. J. Morsini who lived on the island.

Guided by a Kanaka I left Kawaihae and went on foot along a road winding between cool, sandy heights to the Waimea mission which lies in the midst of a great plain, three or four thousand feet above sea level and seven miles from the shore. On this plain great herds of cattle grazed and fine buildings of great ranches belonging to foreigners could be seen. The keen winds and the snow covered tops of high mountains such as Mauna Kea could be seen. The latter reaches fourteen thousand three hundred feet. The wild growth of the vegetation all reminded me of colder and more northerly tracts, but the whole fertile plain was clad in flourishing green garb. The beauty of the landscape was heightened by the fine church of the mission and the still more attractive town where the workers lived. It seemed to me that it resembled a

lordly manor. Now and then my conversation could not refrain from expressing the apparent desire for material gain.

Scattered about were isolated Kanaka huts with their usual surroundings, where sweet potatoes grew and the highland taro. There are two varieties of this plant, one of which grows in water and the other which is called the dry land type which flourishes on higher land. I passed by the mission and slept at night in a Kanaka hut belonging to my guide. Like many other Hawaiians he had gone with the whale fishers some years before and he had now returned to his heart's desires, his wife, his village and his hut. Joyously they embraced each other and the woman cried aloud like a child. After an hour the tears ceased to flow and the feelings of the overjoyed pair calmed down. Before this I had realized that family sanctity and inward faithfulness can be found among so-called wild or heathen people. Actually most of the Hawaiians are neither one nor the other, but I insist that the sight of this unalloyed joy astonished me as well as making a deep impression. In the evening various neighbors came in to hear the stories of the widely traveled person. They boiled goat's milk in a kettle, brought out calabashes with milk and poi and partook of a meal by the light of burning nuts from the tree *Aleurites triloba*,¹² after which they smoked, sang and gossiped. In my blankets, which were spread over the mats covering a dirt floor, I slept soundly. The next morning at sunrise I continued my journey on horseback accompanied by another guide.

We rode all day long, now over hills, now through valleys richly covered with young thickets of sandalwood, also guava with fruits of excellent flavor. Here and there was a mountain banyan¹³ tree under which were the upright stalks of bananas. This flourishing growth existed for the most part on projections into the sea and contrasted strongly with the naked cliffs of lava. These were surmounted by cold foggy clouds which rose above the snow-covered top of Mauna Kea, gleaming in the sun. Near the wooded path upon which we rode lay an isolated hut occupied by two Kanakas and a white man who were cutting sandalwood higher up in the mountains. For this there was a considerable market in China and other places, but there was little demand for it on the islands. We rested here an hour where they explained to us carefully the caverns on Mauna Loa. On this mountain, whose strange heights have been formed in a peculiar fashion by volcanic forces, there are to be found long paths or grottos in which inhabitants of the islands formerly buried their dead which petrified in standing, sitting or lying positions. Among these ossified bodies there can be found forms really gigantic. One of these was about eight feet in height and was secured by an English tourist. He was permitted to send it to London where it is now in an anatomical museum.

We had hardly left the hut before we ran into a rain cloud. We saw everything in a desolate fog in which the trees with their crowns stood like dark shadows. Bewildered dogs let their roars be heard and out of the thickets ran frightened pigs and other farm animals. A strong northeast wind soon drove the clouds to the heights and the sun lit up the splendid rich plant growth. The pendant water drops hung from the leaves glistening like diamonds. Our journey proceeded through more open country where the huts of the natives

were scattered about. These lay in the midst of growing banyan, citron, orange and bread-fruit trees. Toward evening we were detained at the house of a newly settled American named Parker¹⁴ who had been happily married for more than twenty years to a Kanaka woman. We then came to a deep valley and to a larger town Laupahoehoe lying on a bay.

The arrival of a stranger to this town appeared to be an unusual and long sought for event. From all the huts around the shore, protected by cocoa palm trees, appeared men and women, boys and girls, offering either lodgings or fruit, all at the same shamefully high prices. Thanks to the knowledge of English possessed by my guide and the dictionary of Hawaiian by Bishop, I refused everything. A kind of auction enterprise was proposed in which I declared my intention to abide with the man who offered at the lowest price a decent place in his hut and meals of eatable food. After some discussion this had the effect of lowering prices from the five piasters first demanded to two and a half. At the house of a colossal son and his mother, I took lodgings and their neat grass hut with its high triangular roof was a good stopping place.

A piece of cloth divided the middle of the hut into two parts and about the walls were the usual household utensils: some calabashes, a kettle and a frying pan. Upon poles near the roof hung pieces of tapa and other articles. As the sun had already gone down the neighbors came to visit and by lamplight they laughed and gossiped freely. Poi was set out and the usual finger dipping began and meanwhile fish was being broiled on coals. Dessert consisted of bananas and when the meal was ended my company began a monotonous song which would have lasted for hours had I not indicated my desire that they cease. Upon the soft mats which were spread as usual over the dirt floor I was soon asleep, lulled by waves beating on the coral reefs outside.

At daylight on the 20th I left Lapahoehoe and passed from one valley to another upon a road which had been constructed with difficulty over steep declivities. It often ended because in several places there were roaring streams which must be waded. Numerous beautiful waterfalls with their spray delighted the eye and the heights with their magnificent vegetation had such a grand panorama of changing views that I consider my journey through Hawaii as my most pleasant travel recollection. A dinner of boiled hen's meat, poi, bread-fruit and bananas I secured at the seashore village of Puohai. In the afternoon as I rode along a path shaded by palms and rustling plantains, I met an elderly man, dressed in white summer clothing and with an unusually broad brimmed hat. He was followed by a considerable number of Kanakas of all ages who greeted me in friendly fashion. We began to talk and I was informed that the man was the Reverend Mr. [Titus] Coan, a missionary at Hilo who was now on his way to Lapahoehoe, where he would hold divine services the next Sunday. Before we had parted I received an invitation from the good shepherd to use his house which was free to all strangers.

The landscape was amazingly beautiful and after passing groves of fragrant coffee trees with fields of sugar cane in bloom, I reached Makahanaloa by sun down. In a merchant's shop I unexpectedly met a fellow countryman, who like myself had long wandered about many lands. He had now settled down

to trading tamely in diverse wares which he exchanged for coffee produced by the natives. Not far away by the roadside lay a well built house inhabited by a Captain Eldretz,¹⁵ who had been born in Germany. He controlled a large tract of land belonging to one of the ministers of state and carried on extensive raising of cattle, besides owning a plantation consisting of several thousand coffee trees.

Mr. Eldretz, whom I met in the village, courteously invited me for a considerable sojourn on his plantation and for three days I enjoyed his hospitality. With fleet footed horses we made various trips to the coffee and sugar plantations of Americans, Chinese and Kanakas who lived in the vicinity. The interesting coffee trees grew from fourteen to eighteen feet high and at the time were full of fragrant white blossoms not unlike the flowers of the myrtle. They gleamed like small stars among the leaves.

The ripe sugar canes were being cut and brought together in heaps where carts came to haul them off to the presses. These were run by water power and kept busy a large number of young and older Kanakas of both sexes. The juice pressed from the cane ran from cylinders into a copper apparatus which was arranged in a house. After several hours of boiling and skimming it was taken out and placed in great barrels to cool and settle. After three or four days the coarser material floating on top was skimmed off and made into a syrup of poorer quality, while the raw sugar was spread out on mats to be dried in the sun.

On the evening of the 23rd I came to Hilo which was the third city of the Hawaiian kingdom, but in appearance and location, is the first of them all. Across a considerable river which comes foaming down there was an expensive bridge. Houses of natives and foreigners were surrounded by numerous varieties of trees. They formed a semicircle along the shores of Byron's Bay which was a good harbor where a number of ships lay at anchor. A very large church like that of the Kanakas at Honolulu rose above the other buildings. At Mr. Ros' hotel where I took lodgings I met a number of newly arrived foreigners, Germans, French, Americans and Chinese who passed the evening playing billiards and with songs and music.

Assuredly the 24th [April] was a very rainy day with a strong wind but that did not keep me from going thirty miles from Hilo to see the great volcano. The area nearest the town was full of bogs, but after that the road for four or five miles ran through a forest of great tall trees intermingled with a growth of thick bushes. About fifteen miles from the city a few scattered Kanaka huts formed a village whose inhabitants had their taro plantings in a marsh near by. They also supported themselves by keeping sheep and goats which pastured between the lava cliffs, and by keeping travelers who came to look at the volcano since most of them traveled that way. I also spent the night in the village but continued my journey early on the morning of April 25 followed by two Kanakas who carried my blankets and the calabashes for food.

The vegetation began to show more and more need of water, and the farther we proceeded along the gradually rising road which had been made by the wear of walking and riding over the naked sharp lavas, the more desolate was

the appearance of the region. About noon my guide shouted, along with gestures of fright and warning: "Look! Look!" He pointed at the same time to various places where gas and sulphur vapors were rising out of the ground by steaming and snorting. I laid my hands over several large cracks which sent out no steam and I could feel heat coming from the depths of the mountain. At one o'clock we had come to the great crater Lua Pele o Kilauea, itself, lying upon the northeast side of the mountain Mauna Loa whose snow-covered top rises fourteen thousand feet above the sea.

Up against the crater a prominent merchant of Hilo, Mr. [Benjamin] Pitman, has erected a house for the comfort of travelers. There we left our superfluous belongings and went to the only place where it was possible to go down into the crater. One is amazed here by the strange sight of perpendicular walls three or four hundred feet high which seem to encircle a lake above whose dark flaming waves there seemed to hang a heavy black cloud. However, as we descended with difficulty the rough steep slopes where brake ferns grew in the declivities it was apparent that this lake consisted only of congealed waves of lava in which were great gulfs and gaps. Along the edges lay great strips of sulphur and an atmosphere of its fumes was in evidence. Within the chaos-like cavern six or seven miles in circumference, formed by fires underneath the earth, there was yet one more phenomenon like an oasis in the desert. At the foot of the east wall of the crater an exquisite spring of clearest fresh water gushed forth. We drank much and also filled a bottle we carried.

Followed by my guides who had staves in their hands and sandals fastened by cords on their naked feet, like pilgrims we continued our wanderings among the lava blocks in the huge crater. In this place during the days of heathendom the greatly feared goddess Pele had her dwelling place. For more than an hour we cruised among the wave-like lava which had been lying here more than twenty years. It was hard and was covered with a dark glassy substance which had sharp edges. During these years violent shakings and upheavals had produced many new crevices, three pyramid-like lava hills having been thrown up. Out of one of these later heaps there now appeared a dark cloud of ashes from the heat underneath which had been increasing since February 1854.

A low rumbling could be heard and the ground shook. My guides explained that a great eruption was expected at any moment and they were unwilling to take the risks involved in further wandering. I realized perfectly that my boldness in desiring to make closer observation of this remarkable work of nature could push me into a lake of fire. I hoped that the lava crust, within which such great changes were prophesied, would hold together during the hours of my visit. However as I was certain that wherever I went, my life was dependent on the will of a higher Being, I trustingly continued the difficult paths, though fear of vengeance had caused the Kanakas to go on ahead.

We were richly rewarded for our exertions because when we reached the southwest side of the immense crater, we saw two or three hundred feet below us a smaller crater about two thousand yards in circumference which was full of floating fire and gases. The guides tore off pieces of their clothing and threw them into the mass, since they wished certainly to appease the wrath of the

angered spirit since it was said that within the volcano lived a goddess. Deeply stirred by the frightful majesty of the sight we were likely to see in a few seconds, I felt a confusion which was indescribable. The hard rough lava cliff upon which we stood quivered under our feet, and below in the kettle the fiery mass moved up and down, now swelling up, then falling back. Then the power was augmented by the force of imprisoned gases. The frightful solemnity of this sight was increased by a fearful unearthly thunder which developed a strong odor of sulphur, shaking our nerves and arousing a feeling of awe. Words came involuntarily to my lips but they could not be uttered.

As soon as we came to consciousness, which the unusual sight had taken from us, we realized the danger of remaining longer to gaze upon the fire which could easily break through the crust of lava and plunge us into an abyss. Such a thing had actually happened in connection with a great volcanic eruption. For a time eyes and thoughts were actually enthralled by the sight of the great boiling kettle over which a thick black cloud soon spread itself and a darkness came in which fire and chained lightning flamed. For a few minutes a heavy rain fell, but in an instant the sky was clear and a most beautiful rainbow was arching over the shaking and thundering deep. Through this bow the last purple colors of the setting sun shimmered over the snowy point of Mauna Loa, and we then tore ourselves away from the dangerous place.

While we jumped over clefts in the settled lava fields, we could see the glowing lava sputter and boil in the depths. At the wonderful spring we again took a refreshing drink, and assuredly I was the last to slake my thirst in this cool stream, for on the following night it came to an end through volcanic force. Exhausted and dripping with perspiration we crawled up the steep sides of the crater and finally reached the shelter. We had no notion that it would be entirely filled by natives and a white man who were upon their knees with folded hands saying an evening prayer. The weak light of the lamp revealed the pale perspiring countenance of the Caucasian while he lead the prayers loudly and distinctly in the Hawaiian language. After the period of worship, during which no one stirred, the white man who was an American, came to me in friendly fashion and asked me to partake of the meal which had been set out, consisting of milk, poi, meats fried on the coals, and fruits. The company came from the west side of the island and were on their way to Hilo with hides, tallow and goat meat. By marriage with the daughter of an influential native the American had come into control of a large tract of land upon which he raised cattle. A considerable group of men and women who were with him were relatives of his wife with their friends.

While we were holding conversation, two French Catholic priests came riding to the shelter. They addressed the natives in their language, and announced that they were on a journey to the district of Kona in order to hold a service at a chapel there. They also made their night quarters at the house and the contents of the calabashes appeared to taste good. After the meal, the Catholics in their long robes lit candles they were carrying protected by long sticks which they pushed into the ground. They fell upon their knees

and made a prayer so long that the American and his following who were Methodists calmly slept upon their outspread mats and blankets.

Sleep did not last long because the mountain shook violently. A fearful rumbling and cracking suddenly caused everybody to rise and there was great confusion in the camp. Shouting noisily we rushed out of the shelter, some to take care of the restless animals belonging to the company, while another group hurried to the crater to watch the coming eruption. Astonishment and anxiety possessed us all, white and black, of different religions, and we all made common prayer to God, of whose wonders we were witness. Within the perpendicular walls of the great crater whose circumference is seven miles there was a frightful uproar. Glowing lava was thrown to the heavens and fell back again into the billowing mass. The hardened lava upon which we had walked three hours earlier was broken up like ice in a spring storm. This mixed with glowing lava flowing forward, and at the same time a frightful cloud of steam, smoke and ashes rose out of the volcano.

I am unable to describe accurately the changing scenes and the marvelous wonders of the first great outbreak of the volcano Kilauea after a rest of twenty years,¹⁶ and I will give up attempts to do so, only adding that the gigantic perpendicular walls surrounding the crater, the snow fields of Mauna Loa, and all the other features of the area were grandly painted during the eruption by the glowing flames in the depths. According to my recollection the sight was the most remarkable of my whole journey which included views from monuments in Boston and Calcutta, the big trees of the Sierra Nevadas of California, the raging storms of Cape Horn and of the Cape of Good Hope, ocean waves against rocky coasts, and the fragrant forests of the tropics. None of this beauty, grandeur and danger has more perfectly shown the greatness of God and the insignificance of man, nor has anything made deeper impression upon me than the sight of the burning volcano Kilauea. Mankind has fortunately made unheard of progress in material culture, and he has compelled many forces of nature to do him service. While my studies have been superficial they have greatly strengthened my religious convictions. For progress mankind should give God the glory, and human beings should beware of exaggerating the estimates of their own power.

Mankind, ignorant of future desolation
Like the flying meteor, the fleeing cloud,
The flaming lightning, the falling wave!
He goes through life to death!

The volcano poured forth lava streams for several months and where they broke out, towns, woods and fruitful fields were destroyed. They ran down to the sea some miles from Hilo and many of its frightened inhabitants moved to locations more distant from the volcano.

Rich in recollection of the marvelous night at Kilauea, like the rest of the company I broke camp, and after spending a night at the hut of a guide, I arrived about noon on the 27th at Hilo. Having an invitation from Pastor Coan, I visited him and his devoted family the same day. They lived in a neat

villa, English cottage in style, in the midst of a fine grove of trees where a large collection of plants native to the islands flourished. Within the house was an elegance which only refined taste and a keen sense of beauty can bring about. The courtesy of Mr. Coan and his wife and their fine hospitality made my visit most delightful. I was particularly interested in Mr. Coan's excellent collection of fossils and other curiosities of the islands.

While we were carrying on a lively conversation about the volcano and its eruption, in came Captain Randolph of Kentucky, commander of a whale fishing ship, to pay a farewell visit to the Coan family. The captain had fixed on the South Pacific Ocean as his destination, partly to carry on whale fishing and partly to attempt trading on these islands. His plan to return to the Sandwich islands after three months to await further orders from the owners of his ship, immediately gave me inclination to ask if he had any objection to taking me as a passenger on the trip. I received as an answer a most friendly welcome. It was necessary to shorten my visit of the kindly Pastor Coan and soon thereafter with my traveling bags I was on board the boat lying by the shore which brought me and the captain to the ship where I was introduced to the first and second officers.

....

When anchor had been heaved we cruised out of Byron Bay. Already the next morning the island of Hawaii was out of sight.

Later in his book, Egerström states that after a voyage through the South Pacific, he returned to Honolulu on July 15, then sailed to San Francisco on July 21. No record can be found of this. He remained in California as a gold seeker until 1856, then moved on to Australia where he worked as a miner, cattle driver and store keeper. He returned to Sweden in 1858. At the end of his book, he stated that he hoped to return to Hawaii. There is no record that he did so, but it is reported that he later lived in Fiji.

NOTES

¹ This voyage was 26 days from San Francisco; 12-15 days was the usual time. (Harbormaster, Records of arrival and departures, 1855. AH)

² "Piaster" probably referred to a Mexican peso, valued at 50¢, the fee for a permit to land baggage.

³ Probably the office of the Royal Agricultural Society as there was no "Department of Agriculture" at this time.

⁴ The group of players cannot be identified. Edwin Booth and company had left Honolulu the day before Egerström arrived.

⁵ This statement concerning the King's elder brother, Moses Kaikieva, cannot be explained. The King had an elder brother, Moses Kekuaiwa, adopted son of Kaikioewa, and governor of Kauai for a short time, but he died in 1848. The adjutant was probably Henry A. Neilson, the King's secretary.

- ⁶ Mrs. Fornander was Pinao Alanakapu, a chiefess from the island of Molokai, who died in 1857. They had four children, three girls and a boy, of whom only Mrs. Catherine Brown survived her father, who died in 1887. (HHS Report, 1906.) Translator's note.
- ⁷ April 1, 1855 was Palm Sunday.
- ⁸ The Hawaiian alphabet as originally established by the American missionaries had 12 letters and no more were ever added.
- ⁹ Lahaina did not have sycamores. The author must have seen the *kukui*, an indigenous Hawaiian tree which resembles the sycamore in some respects.
- ¹⁰ D. Nahiuu, usually spelled Nahinu, and Joseph Mawae were licensed to preach but were not ordained ministers.
- ¹¹ Caesar Kapaakea (1816-1866) was not the official governor of Maui, but may have been acting in that capacity. His wife was Ane Keohokalole, and two of their children, David Kalakaua and Lydia Liliuokalani, later became rulers of Hawaii.
- ¹² *Kukui*, now known as *Aleurites moluccana*.
- ¹³ The banyan had not been introduced to Hawaii in 1855. He may have seen the *'ohi'a lehua* which has aerid roots, and mistaken it for a banyan.
- ¹⁴ John Palmer Parker (1790-1868) was rather recently settled in the area, at his home in Mana, but not in Hawaii as he arrived in 1815. He had married Kipikane about 1818. Their son John Jr. also lived there, but he had been married for only a few years.
- ¹⁵ Probably Johannes Elderts, who arrived in Hawaii in 1854. His obituary refers to him as "Captain."
- ¹⁶ There is no record of an 1855 eruption of Kilauea. There was, however, an eruption of Mauna Loa on August 11, 1855, almost four months after the author left Hawaii. (*Volcanoes in the Sea*, by Gordan Macdonald. Honolulu, 1970.) Furthermore, an eruption on the southwest side of Kilauea would not endanger Hilo, which is northeast. The Mauna Loa eruption did endanger Hilo. He may have added this description in order to enhance his story, but confused his volcanoes.