

is barren; the plain on which the town stands is almost destitute of verdure, and exhibits only a few scattered houses. This plain extends both east and west from the town, while behind it the land gradually rises towards the Nuuanu Valley. Several crater-shaped hills are in sight, one of which, called by the foreign residents "The Punch-Bowl," stands out in bold relief on one side of that valley.

The entrance to the valley, with the green taro-patches, affords an agreeable relief to the eye, after it has dwelt upon the scorched and dusty aspect of all that is seen elsewhere. The fort, with its numerous embrasures, and the shipping, lying in the contracted reef-harbour, give an air of importance, that could hardly be expected in a Polynesian island or harbour. The roadstead is safe, except during the winter months, when a southwest gale may happen; but such gales have seldom been felt during the residence of the missionaries, for the last twenty years.

Mr. Brinsmade, our consul, kindly sent off our numerous letters, which were indeed a treat, as we had been upwards of a year without any news from home. I went on shore to make arrangements for taking the ship into the harbour, and choosing a suitable position for our anchorage.

On landing, a great uproar prevailed, and groups presented themselves to view, so motley that it would be difficult to describe their dress or appearance. There are, indeed, few places where so great a diversity in dress and language exists as at Honolulu. The majority were in well-worn European clothing, put on in the most fanciful manner; but upon the whole, I should say that the crowd were scantily covered, some being half-dressed, many shirtless, none fully clothed, and numbers of them with nothing on but the maro. I had been led to expect a greater appearance of civilization. The women were all clad in long loose garments, like bathing-dresses, and many of them were sporting in the water as if it had been their native element. Some of these natives wore the simple tapa, thrown over their shoulders, which gave them a much more respectable appearance than those who were clothed in cast-off garments. I was told not to form an opinion of the people too hastily, for this was not a fair view of them; but it is as well to give one's impressions on the first appearance.

The place showed much stir of business, owing principally to the work of repairing vessels, and the attendance on them by the natives. The landing is upon a small wharf, erected on piles; and there appeared to be sufficient accommodation for the vessels that were in the harbour at this time. The number was nine.