

dulum observations, and some in the local surveys of the islands; so that, although our stay at Honolulu had the name of relaxation, I found it myself one of the busiest parts of the cruise.

The house, though convenient, was seldom occupied by its owner: they invariably prefer the grass-houses, which are more convenient for their mode of life, and better adapted to the climate; and if they could be preserved in the state they are when first built, they would be exceedingly pleasant residences.

The chiefs have much ambition to own an European house, which are built of coral blocks, taken from the reefs to the westward of the town: of this there appears to be an inexhaustible supply. It is found in layers of from one to two feet in thickness, and by cutting through them, a block of almost any dimensions may be obtained. I understood a foreigner had obtained a lease of this profitable source of revenue from the government.

In my first interview with the king, he spoke of the decrease of the depth of water in the harbour, imagining the quarrying of the coral had been in part the cause of it, and asked me to direct my attention to it, and to point out a remedy if possible to obviate it; for they were very desirous to preserve the harbour as it was, free from obstructions. Within these last fifteen years much alteration has taken place, by the deposit of mud, which will in time close it entirely up, if not removed or prevented. The stream coming down the Nuuanu valley, though small, makes a considerable deposit; this, with the wash from the town, and the dust and earth that are daily in motion from the violence of the wind, though imperceptible, will in time produce effect: much of this may be obviated by the construction of a wall on the reef, near the inner edge of it, which would intercept a great part of it, and prevent the deposit from taking place in the deep water, which it now does. It will be very easy to direct the discharge of the Nuuanu in a direction towards the sea, by damming, and this could be done at very little expense.

The naturalists were not idle, but usefully employed in rambling over the islands, so that we had every opportunity of becoming acquainted with the productions, soil, climate, and inhabitants.

We had a good opportunity of observing the advance they were making in civilization under the new organization of the government and laws, and the amount of good the missionaries had done; of which I shall speak hereafter.

From my long stay at the different islands of this group, many opportunities were afforded me of examining their establishments in