

secretly in the night became a common form of execution. The last instance of this occurred in 1822.

The king sent an ili-muku in the night, who found the criminal fast asleep, his wife by his side; and it is said that the ili-muku gently pulled the woman's head on one side, and with a broadaxe instantly severed the head of the husband from his body.

In 1824, an officer at Hawaii was guilty of high treason in attempting to give up the fort (in which he was serving) to the rebels. By the order of Kalanimoku, he was taken on board a vessel, under pretence of being sent to Oahu; during the passage, at night, he was taken on deck, stabbed, and thrown overboard. This is said to have been the last punishment in the form of assassination. Since then, capital offences have been regularly tried by jury, and executions have been by hanging, of which the first instance was in 1826.

The whole number of executions for murder since 1826, have been as follows:

On Kanai . . . . .	3
Oahu . . . . .	7
Maui . . . . .	2
Hawaii . . . . .	1
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In all . . . . .	13

Besides another murder on Hawaii, in which the culprit committed suicide; thus averaging one a year in the whole group, besides two cases of manslaughter.

The mythology of the Hawaiians is extensive and complicated; but their gods are fast being forgotten, and few are willing to spend much time in attending to them. Little information on this subject is to be derived from any one with whom I had an opportunity of conversing. What is known is contained in published accounts.

Traditions were extremely numerous, and many have been already published in the Hawaiian Spectator.

The Hawaiians appear to have but little knowledge of astronomy. Hoapili, who died a short time before our arrival, was accounted one of their most skilful astrologers. They had some knowledge of the planets, with five of which they were acquainted, viz.: Mercury (Kawela), Venus (Naholoholo), Jupiter (Hoomanalonala), Mars (Hokolapinaau), Saturn (Mukula). There was a class of persons whose employment was to watch the motions of the stars, and who from practice became tolerably accurate observers of many celestial phenomena. They were in the habit of telling the hour of the night quite as cor-