

They thought that much of their success depended on working in unison with the heavenly bodies; yet, as I before said, they had not the slightest notion of the most simple astronomical calculation.

The first little book published that contained some of the true principles of astronomy, awakened their surprise very much; and the almanac published afterwards by the mission, predicting the phases of the moon, eclipses, tides, &c., excited in them great interest, and as was natural, raised the missionaries very much in their estimation.

They were very slow in adopting the idea of the earth being round, and Hoapili was known to have argued the point with many of them, insisting on their not being too precipitate in condemning the foreign theory, as he himself was aware that in some of his fishing excursions, he had observed that the beach was always lost sight of first.

There is proof, however, of their connecting the action of the tide with the moon, and from her appearance they were able to tell the state of the tides.

In their navigation they never, if they could avoid it, subjected themselves to get out of sight of land, and were never so except by accident. When they found this to be the case, they made use of the heavenly bodies, if visible; and being accurate observers of the weather and atmospheric changes, they were enabled to find their way back again; for the various changes of weather about the Hawaiian Islands, and the appearance these changes brought about in the clouds over and in the vicinity of the land, afforded them a sure guide. From all accounts, it is supposed that but few persons have been lost, by being driven or sailing off (through mistake) from the land. Many disasters, however, have arisen, from the frailty and smallness of their canoes, although their good management of them was proverbial, particularly in the surf. Of late, and since they have possessed foreign vessels, they have lost much of their skill. These vessels they manage after their own way, and although many have been lost by wreck on the islands, I did not hear of any having been blown off. Some amusing anecdotes were told me of their negligence and inability to keep awake during the night.

They are quite fearless on the water; all swim, and have little fear of loss of life by drowning. They appear quite as much at home in the water as on land, and many of them more so.

Many remarkable instances of their patience under this kind of fatigue, were mentioned to me. One of them, which happened the year of our arrival, is well authenticated, and will also tend to show very great attachment and endurance in the female sex.

As the Hawaiian schooner *Kiola*, commanded by an American