

to others to nurse. Although I observed this frequently, yet I was told that, since the institution of marriage, a change for the better has taken place; but all admit that this has not been to any great extent.

There are certainly instances in which many members of a family are united and live in harmony, and I can readily believe that the wish to have families is daily increasing, as the laws now protect and hold out inducements to those who have large ones. For these laws the natives are indebted to the missionaries, who have certainly effected this desired change. This change will do more to improve the character of this people than any other circumstance; and, by care and watchfulness over the wants and pleasures of the rising generation, the parents will lose some of that selfishness, which is now so predominant a characteristic, that a very short time spent among them suffices to show its general prevalence.

According to the missionaries and residents, a native is content if he can obtain a little *poe* and fish, and regards nothing beyond. This, however, according to my experience, is rating them too low; and probably proceeds from their unwillingness to be taught, or become passive to the will of the missionaries, or to exert themselves as much as those doing business for money, and seeking for profit out of their labour, desire. Thus, with different ends in view, they arrive at the same conclusion. In regard to the energies of the natives, as far as my own observations extended, they are always willing to work for a reasonable compensation; and it is not remarkable that they should prefer their own ease to toiling for what they consider, in the one case, unnecessary, and, in the other, for an inadequate reward.

Having little motive for industry, they expend their physical energies in various athletic sports. A favourite amusement of the chiefs was sliding down hill on a long narrow sled: this was called *holua*; it was not unlike our boys' play, when we have snow. The sled was made to slide on one runner, and the chiefs prostrated themselves on it. For this sport they had a trench dug from the top of a steep hill and down its sides, to a great distance over the adjoining plain. This being made quite smooth, and having dry grass laid on it, they were precipitated with great velocity down it, and, it is said, were frequently carried a half, and sometimes a whole mile. Diamond Hill and the plain of Waikiki was one of these localities for this pastime.

Playing in the surf was another of their amusements, and is still much practised. It is a beautiful sight to see them coming in on the top of a heavy roller, borne along with increasing rapidity until they suddenly disappear. What we should look upon as the most dangerous surf, is that they most delight in. The surf-board which they use