

it has apparently been formed by volcanic action. At its entrance it is about half a mile wide, and decreases in width as it approaches the mountains. At its head is a beautiful waterfall, of which Mr. Agate succeeded in getting a correct drawing.

The basaltic rocks and strata, as it will be seen, have been much reversed and upturned, and present their columnar structure very distinctly to view, inclining in opposite directions. Although the volume of water in this cascade is not great, yet its form and situation add very much to its beauty: it falls into a quiet basin beneath, and the spray being driven by the wind upon each bank, affords nourishment to a variety of ferns which grow there. At its foot it forms a small river, which passes down through the centre of the valley. This whole scene is very striking, the banks forming a kind of amphitheatre rich in foliage, and with rills of water coursing down them in every direction.

The water of this stream is used by the natives to irrigate their taro-patches, and the soil of the valley is exceedingly fertile, producing sweet-potatoes, pumpkins, cabbages, beans, &c. The whole district is almost entirely supplied with food from the Hanapepe and Waimea valleys, which occasions the population for the most part to centre in these two places: throughout the remainder of the island, the huts and inhabitants are but sparsely scattered.

The district of Hanapepe forms a mission station, and is under the care of the Rev. Samuel Whitney. He states the population in 1838 to have been 3272. Mr. Whitney informed me, that for some years past he has kept a register of births and deaths, which shows that the latter is to the former as three to one. Other late authorities make the decrease in this district as eight to one for several years; but a resident of such standing as Mr. Whitney must be reckoned the best authority.

Mr. Whitney imputes this rapid decrease to former vicious habits, and both native and foreign authorities attribute the introduction of the venereal to the visit of Cook. This infection, brought to these islands by the first voyagers, may now be said to pervade the whole population, and has reduced the natives to a morbid sickly state; many of the women are incapable of child-bearing, and of the children who are born only a few live to come to maturity.

Mr. Whitney assigns as another cause of the decrease in the population, the recklessness of human life, brought about by the despotic government under which they have been living, which has destroyed all motives to enterprise and industry, rendered precarious the blessings of life, and produced a corresponding recklessness as to the future. Much of the sickness is owing to over-eating and irregularity in meals: