

of an expensive kind; but on a closer examination, the dresses proved to be tapas, printed in imitation of merino shawls, ribands, &c.

The tender making her appearance in the harbour, our gentlemen received notice to repair on board in the evening. Mr. Knox had circumnavigated the island, and made surveys of its small harbours: there are none of these fit for a vessel to ride in; that of Waimea, as I said before, is the safest, but Halelea is frequently used; and although much exposed to the winds, it has more pretension to the name of a harbour, than the rest. It is remarkable from having been the place where the pride of Salem, "Cleopatra's Barge," was wrecked. The west coast of the island was found destitute of harbours or anchorage, having a perpendicular cliff rising from the sea for the greatest part of the distance.

The Halelea river is navigable for canoes about three miles; it is from one to two hundred feet wide, has but little current, and is slightly affected by the tide near its mouth.

The highest point on the island, which is estimated at six thousand feet is called Waioli. Mr. Alexander stated, that it had been ascended on its eastern side from Waioli. I regretted afterwards I had not despatched officers to ascend it, but our naval duties were so pressing upon all, that I found it impossible to spare any one at the time I ordered the party to Kauai. I also partly indulged the hope, that those who were to cross over the centre of the island, would have been led near it, and thus tempted to make the ascent. From the information I have received, it is supposed to have a crater on its summit, like many of the other high mountains in the group. It is said, that when the weather is clear, the natives ascend it for the purpose of getting a view of Oahu, one hundred miles distant.

The population of this district has been for several years decreasing, and Mr. Alexander estimates the decrease to be one-hundredth annually for the last nine years. In 1837, the population was 3024; the proportion of the sexes was—males, 1609; females, 1415. In 1840, population, 2935—males, 1563; females, 1372.

The census taken in 1840, is no doubt much more accurate than any heretofore made, and as far as the ability of the king's officers go, it may be depended upon. Mr. Alexander is inclined to impute the decrease to former licentiousness, as well as to the barrenness of the women. Those who have children, lose them at a premature age, and abortion is produced sometimes, from fear of the pains of parturition. Mr. Alexander has known of only five cases of the latter description within six years, the time of his residence here; so that this latter