vibrate for a time, gradually decreasing at each oscillation, until it attained its usual level.

The scene of distress which this phenomenon produced was great. Hundreds of natives were at a meeting near the sea-shore, when the wave rushed upon them, and left them struggling amidst the wreck of their worldly effects. Some of them were carried to sea, while others were dashed upon the shore, surrounded by the fragments of their houses, which had been broken to pieces, together with the timber, frames, calabashes, &c.

Cries of distress came from all sides, as well from those who were struggling for life, as those who had come down to their relief. Parents were rushing to and fro, looking for their children, husbands for their wives, children for their parents, each inquiring for the other, with wailings and hallooings. The whole, combined with the loud roar of the sea, rendered the scene one of thrilling interest. Fortunately, an English whaler, the Admiral Cockburn, of which James Lawrence was commander, was lying in the bay at the time. He in a most praiseworthy manner lowered his boats, and kept them cruising about the bay, in search of the natives, many of whom were picked up, wearied and exhausted, and by this timely aid their lives were preserved. Not a canoe was left on the shore to assist in this work.

The master of the Admiral Cockburn affirms that the water ran past his ship at the rate of eight knots an hour, and that the soundings were reduced from five to three and a half fathoms, which left a great part of the bay dry.

At Oahu this phenomenon was likewise noted by Dr. Rooke, who has given an account of it in the Hawaiian Spectator, Vol. I., January, 1838. The time of its occurrence, as given by him, was six o'clock, P. M., and the sea continued to vibrate until the next day at noon. The time of commencement at Oahu preceded that at Hilo by half an hour.

It appears, from the facts that have been stated relative to a like phenomenon at Tutuila, that although the two were not coincident, yet they were so closely allied in point of time, as to leave no doubt of the same cause having produced both. It is certain that the phenomenon took place first at the Samoan Group, and supposing that the two watches by which it was noted were both correct, as the difference of longitude is thirteen degrees, the elapsed time from the first wave at Tutuila to that of the observations at Oahu, allowing for the difference of longitude, was two hours, thirty minutes. The actual distance is two thousand two hundred and fifty miles, on a course N. 20° E., which