

On the 3d of March the instruments were all embarked, and the observatory duties broken up.

On the 4th of March, at 9 P. M., an attempt was made to get under way, but the land-breeze failed. We made another attempt the next morning, but were again obliged to anchor near the end of the reef. I mention these circumstances, in order to show the difficulties that sometimes occur in getting to sea from this port. This is in consequence of the land-breeze frequently failing near the shore, so that a vessel is sometimes becalmed for more than half a day between the two winds. Fortunately, there is little or no current here, and, therefore, no danger to be apprehended, although it is a disagreeable situation to be placed in.

As respects the bay of Hilo, I cannot but view it as a safe anchorage. We were detained there about three months, and never had a gale strong enough to ride to our anchors, though these were the winter months, December, January, and February. At times, however, there was a considerable swell rolling in, so as to make it uncomfortable on board ship. The weather we met with was not so rainy as I had been led to expect from the accounts given me, and during the month of February we had some of the most delightful weather I ever experienced.

Provisions can be obtained, though not in abundance, and the markets are not well supplied. The prices are the same as those at Honolulu, although the demand is not so great. For wild cattle we were asked thirty dollars. Kanuha, the chief, has the character of wishing to impose upon strangers: I must, however, do him the justice to say, that this imputation seems undeserved. Like all the rest of the natives, he will ask double; but it is only requisite to bargain for the articles required, and for services beforehand, and to insist on them complying strictly with their engagement; when this is done, no difficulty will be experienced.

The best landing is at Waiakea, which gives its name to the bay, although it has been called Hilo and Byron's Bay. The latter name was conferred on it, in compliment to Lord Byron, by Kaahumanu; but the native appellation cannot be set aside, and the bay is now scarcely known among the natives when called Byron's.

Excellent water is to be had in abundance, and with great ease, within the mouth of the Wailuku river; but it requires some care in passing in and out the river when the surf is high.

Although I have spoken of the landing on the eastern side of this bay as being the best, yet it is feasible to land on the beach in proper