

The afternoon was fine, and the snowy peak of Mauna Kea was quite distinct: by running a base line with the patent log, and obtaining the requisite angles, we made its height thirteen thousand six hundred and fifty-six feet.

At midnight, being nearly up with Kahoolawe, we hove-to, to await daylight, as I wished to look for a shoal that was supposed to exist off its southern end. I passed within two and a half miles of that point, and had nothing less than seven and a quarter fathoms water. By half-past nine we had entirely lost the trades, owing to the high land, and, after being becalmed for an hour, we took a light sea-breeze from the southwest, which slowly brought us to an anchorage in Lahaina Roads, abreast of the king's palace.

The island of Maui is divided into two oval-shaped peninsulas, connected by a low isthmus, only a few feet higher than the beach. Although on a first view the peninsulas resemble each other, on closer examination they are found to be very different. East Maui is the largest of the two, and rises in one unbroken mountain ten thousand feet in elevation, which falls almost perpendicularly towards the sea. West Maui has many sharp peaks and ridges, which are divided by deep valleys, and which in descending towards the sea open out and form sloping plains on the north and south sides of considerable extent. The highest peak of West Maui was found, by triangulation, to be six thousand one hundred and thirty feet.

An officer was at once despatched to wait upon the king, who signified his desire to see me in the afternoon. I accordingly had the honour of waiting on him, and was received with great warmth and kindness. I paid him a long visit, in which the conversation turned principally on the business of his islands.

On my way back after leaving the king's house, I was very much amused with the sight of a number of little children, that could but barely creep, crawling into the deep water of the enclosed spaces along the path, and paddling about with as much confidence as if it was their native element, and seemingly more at home than on the land. They reminded me of ducklings. No regard seemed to be paid to them by the older ones or their parents; and it was a matter of surprise to them that I should think it any thing extraordinary. Although these young children could not exactly swim, yet by the movements of their arms and legs they contrived to make progress and keep their heads well above water. I returned on board before sunset, where I found a handsome present of fish, that had just been sent off by the king.

The most remarkable building to be seen as the bay of Lahaina is