

It was my first intention here to part with the Flying-Fish, for the reports of her commander led me to believe that she was becoming unseaworthy. She was, therefore, thoroughly examined; but the report made upon her was sufficiently satisfactory to determine me to retain her until we had passed through our explorations in the Sooloo Seas. She was refitted and put in as good condition as possible for service. Captain Hudson superintended these duties, while I had my time fully occupied in making the magnetic experiments for the third time, and attending to the rates of the chronometers.

Honolulu showed signs of improvement, but I regretted to perceive that during the year the morals of the place seemed to have declined. The number of grog-shops had apparently increased, and the sailors' dancing-halls, with their music, were allowed more license than at our first visit. Yet, as far as the prompt execution of the law went, I did not find the authorities deficient. Indeed, at times, Governor Kekuaaoa is rather too precipitate in his decisions, of which we soon had an instance.

During our stay of ten days, the crews were allowed in turn, recreation on shore. Among the number was Lewis Herron, the cooper. In the course of his liberty, he was desirous of entering one of the sailors' boarding-houses, at the door of which his progress was arrested by a coloured man, who was on guard with an old cutlass, and who threatened Herron with violence if he attempted to enter. This, Herron, though usually a very quiet and orderly man, at once resented; and the altercation finally came to an angry dispute as to who was the better man. Herron, determined to prove that he was, laid hold of the sentry, overthrew him, took the rusty cutlass away, and struck him with it so as to give the man a slight scratch on the leg. Herron now brandished his weapon in victory; but being told by the bystanders that it was unlawful to carry weapons, he determined to take it himself to the governor at the fort, and deliver it up. On his way thither, and just before he arrived, he was met by some soldiers, who at once seized and carried him before the governor, with the sword in his hand, which he had refused to give up to any one else.

The governor had a kind of trial held by himself, and not according to law, (which provides for trial by jury,) to which he summoned the very man who had caused the quarrel, as a witness, without any formality or oath, and sentenced Herron to fifty dollars fine, and to receive one hundred lashes; while the person who had been guilty of using the arms, received but a nominal fine. One of the officers hearing of the circumstance in the afternoon, went to see Herron,