

**LECTURE AND SKETCHES
OF LIFE ON THE SANDWICH
ISLANDS AND HAWAIIAN
TRAVEL AND SCENERY**

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Lecture and Sketches of Life on the Sandwich Islands and Hawaiian Travel and Scenery by C. C. Bennett

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C. C. BENNETT

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LECTURE AND SKETCHES
OF
LIFE ON THE
SANDWICH ISLANDS

AND
Hawaiian Travel & Scenery

BY
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A WEEKLY PAPER PUBLISHED AT HONOLULU,
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
IN WHICH HE GIVES HIS EXPERIENCE OF SIXTEEN YEARS
RESIDENCE AND STUDIES ON THE HAWAIIAN
OR SANDWICH ISLANDS

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The Lecture

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS (falsely called Sandwich), are situated in North Latitude, between the parallels of nineteen and twenty-one degrees, and West Longitude, one hundred and fifty-six. They are 2,200 miles from San Francisco and being in the ocean highway between the northwest coast of North America and the English colonies of New Zealand and Australia and the rich countries of Asia, they are of great and growing importance to the interest of commerce. Their number is eight. Their total area is 7,060 square miles. Their names are Hawaii, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Oahu, Kauai, Niihau and Kahoolau.

They were originally peopled by one of the most peculiar races that ever inhabited the earth, in fact their like is not on the earth. They believe that they were created on the Islands, the name of their creator was Wakea, but as our bible gives no account of Wakea, we are compelled to go back to former ages. All of the northern part of the American Continent bears unmistakable signs of a pre-historic civilized race who cut the mighty roadways through the mountains of Arizona; some of these roadways are a hundred miles in length and in places a mile in depth. Who built the immense canals that water the plains and valleys west of the River Gilla? Who built the houses that were found in the clefts bordering on these canals and discovered over three hundred years ago by the Spaniards? It is thought by visitors that when those houses were built, they were near a level with the water, but they were built so long ago that the water has worn the rock and earth down

over a hundred feet below the houses. How many years must have rolled into eternity since those houses were built. Who made the sword that was found at Negro Hill near Mormon Island?

This Island, in early mining days, was taken up by the Mormons. A colored man came along one day and visited the prospect. The whites told him the Isle was all taken up, and if he wished to prospect he must go on to the west side of the river, where he could sink a shaft and might find gold. He went to work and sunk a shaft. It was thirty feet deep to the bed rock. In the bottom of that shaft, on the bed rock, he found a sword. It was two feet and a half in length, and two inches and a half in width. Everything but the metal had decayed, and that was a great deal rusted. They ground it up and found it composed of the very best of steel, and best of temper. Now who made that sword?

When I was mining in Coonhill I sunk a shaft called "The Last Chance." When ninety-five feet deep I came upon a stratum of charcoal; went through that and five feet more of sand and gravel, and came to the second stratum of charcoal, and four feet further to the bed rock. Now, how did that charcoal get there?

I sent a bag of it to the blacksmith in Hangtown, who burned it in his forge. He said he never burned better coal in his life. It was almost equal to stone coal, it had been buried so long.

I might go on the whole evening producing evidence of a prehistoric civilized race, but I deem it superfluous, as I am addressing a learned audience, which is well posted in all the mighty evidences that go to substantiate the existence of a prior man. The Spanish give an account of a civilized race that lived on the Northwest Coast as early as five hundred of our Lord. They lived there till one thousand of our Lord, when they emigrated to the river Gilla and table lands of Mexico, and there by some means they became extinct—probably by some mighty upheaval of the earth. The houses and fortresses, churches and villages, that are being unearthed

by the Smithsonian Society would lead one to believe that this race was destroyed by an earthquake.

They were followed by Aztec races who handed their traditions down to the Mexicans who wrote them up, a published account of which can be found in the old Spanish archives at Guam. This race was known as the Nahoia race or Toltec family.

Until lately the Hawaiian race have been supposed (but not proven), to have descended from the Malay race. They might just as well say we sprang from the Malay as that the Hawaiians did; they bear not the least resemblance. The Malay has a very low, sloping forehead, with the hair or bristles down nearly to the eyes. They have very large cheek bones, long and peaked chins, with more of the animal than human. The Hawaiians have high foreheads, long black hair, the men have very strong beards, are quick to learn trades and all manner of work. The ladies have very long hair. Some of them have hair that they can place beneath their feet and stand upon erect. Zula, the pride of Honolulu, stands five feet, four inches and has very fine hair, and can place her hair four inches beneath her feet and stand upon it.

They used to live to a great age. I have conversed, myself, with an old chief that remembers well Captain Cook, and told me many things that took place at that time or at Cook's visit and death, and was hardly ever sick, knew nothing of unmentionable diseases, until the arrival of the whites, and were a very powerful and athletic race.

I spent ten years hard work and some money to find out the origin of the Hawaiian race, and by comparison of color and the physiognomy of the two races, I could find no resemblance of one race to the other. On examination of the head of Hawaiians, I found a large analogy to the Circassian race, while with the Malay I found a large analogy to the brute creation.

The winds and ocean currents set directly from the northwest coast to the Hawaiian Islands; logs and wood

drift are constantly being borne from California and Oregon to their shores; none is borne or could be borne from any other direction except by the way of the Japan current which unites with the California current a little north of the latitude of these islands. And it is supposed that some of an anterior race as the Toltic race were out in their canoes and on a sailing or fishing excursion, got blown off from the shores, got into the current and were carried to the islands. And that the Hawaiians came from the northwest coast of America is supported by such an array of probabilities and possibilities that they exclude any other hypothesis. When I was in Hilo in 1880 a log drifted into Hilo Bay that we know grows in no part of the world except the northwest coast, and the bark on that log was still green, and the scar where it was cut off was still white, so anything getting into the current, it takes but a short time to be carried to the Island.

I have compared skulls that were found in mining on the coast, with the Hawaiians, and found them to agree exactly. Their theology is one of the most striking found among all the heathen tribes. In the first place, they believe they were created by a God, and they lived in obedience to priests who offered prayers and sacrifices to their god. When addressing a god of wood or stone they did not address that image, but each of those images contained a spirit which they addressed, which took their petitions to their god, Wakca. When they die they go to Wakea. He is very kind to them, and lets them return to the earth as often as they wish, or as long as they have friends they wish to visit or enemies they wish to punish. When done with earth, if they have been good and obeyed the priest, they remain with their god throughout eternity. If they have not been good and obeyed the priest, Wakea drove them out over a precipice into misery.

This theology of itself proves that they are of high origin. The Malays, on the contrary, believe in nothing; have no idea or conception of a God, or future state of

existence. This people have been separated from the parent stock for hundreds of centuries, and their language, as their manners and customs, have undergone great changes.

In the year of 1869 there was a large controversy as regarded their rightful discoverer. In hunting up material for my work there were so many things came to the surface that went to prove that they had been visited by some party from the outside world previous to the arrival of Captain Cook, that I was a great deal staggered about his being the rightful discoverer.

Where did the pigs, turkeys and chickens come from that fed Cook's men? They were all over the group at the time Cook was there, and very numerous. They well knew, also, the uses of iron, and were willing to barter anything they possessed for a little piece of hoop iron or a nail. They knew well its value.

Where did they obtain this knowledge? But having no positive proof but that Captain Cook was the discoverer of the Islands, I gave him the credit, with a very large doubt. Before issuing my second edition of historical sketches, I engaged Captain James Long to visit Guam and ascertain, if possible, the truth or falsity of a report that the Spanish had knowledge of these Islands previous to the arrival of Captain Cook. He found there a record that Gaetano discovered the Hawaiian Islands in 1642. Mandana laid down the correct position of Kauai in 1567. The Marquesas was discovered by Mendana in 1595, while Quiros saw Tahiti in 1606, which goes to prove most conclusively that the Spanish were the pioneers of discovery in the Pacific Ocean. The Hawaiian Islands were probably often seen by the early Spanish navigators, as they were right in the pathway of the Spanish Galleons to Acapulco by way of Guam, in the Marian Islands, to Manilla.

In 1527 "Hawaii" received by misfortune of shipwreck its first accession of European population. In that year Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, fitted out three vessels in Ziguatlan, a port in Sianola, destined for the Moleceis.