

**SCENES IN HAWAII
OR LIFE IN THE
SANDWICH ISLANDS**

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Scenes in Hawaii or Life in the Sandwich Islands by M. Forsyth Grant

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LIFE IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS

BY

M. FORSYTH GRANT.

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31 & 33 KING ST., WEST.

1888.

TO MY HUSBAND.



PREFACE.

As I have been induced by kind friends to give publicity in this form to my notes and observations while on my journey to Hawaii and stay there, I must ask them and others who may care to read them, to be lenient in criticism, and to remember my only wish is to interest by telling them a little of this small Kingdom in the Pacific, generally known only as the most encouraging exemplification of the noble efforts of missionaries to civilize and christianize a savage and voluptuous race. Alas, for this, the finest example of self-sacrificing men and women, for the boast is, sad to say only a boast; and alas, as the group of Islands which Captain Cook discovered in 1776—and on one of which, Hawaii—he was murdered on his second visit in 1778, at Kealakekua Bay.

On Captain Cook's first visit his large ships and cannon so worked on the natives superstitious minds that they regarded him as a god, he and his crews were given everything they desired. On his visit in 1778, being struck by a stone or spear, he gave a cry of pain which not agreeing with the native idea

of a god, they immediately murdered him. The spot is marked by a granite monument brought by a man-of-war from England.

The Hawaiian Kingdom formerly known as the Sandwich Islands, lies between the 20th and 22nd degrees of latitude, a group of seven inhabited Islands, viz :—Oahu, on which is Honolulu, the Capital and seat of Government; Hawaii, the largest, on which are active the Volcanoes; Maui, Lanai, Kauai, Nihau, and Molekai, on which is the leper settlement. It is now of some importance from its position, owing to the anxiety of many nations to possess it as a strong strategical point and their consequent jealousies. It is about 2000 miles from San Francisco, and 4000 from Auckland, in the direct route to Australia from North America. Its independence was guaranteed in 1847 by England and France, and the year following the United States joined them; as two of these nations regard treaties as binding, the Hawaiian Kingdom is likely to retain its independence, unless war in Europe overthrows the balance of Power, or to the time Seward thought of when he said "The Pacific Ocean is destined to become the theatre of the world's greatest events."

The cable between British Columbia and Australia, for which soundings are now being made, will bring into notice Honolulu, near which is to be a landing station for the cable; or, perhaps, a rise in sugar may again make prominent her fertile lands.

The Government is carried on by King, Lords and Commons—Lords and Commons meeting and voting together in one Legislative Hall with a Cabinet of five to advise His Majesty—His Majesty had the power, by the Constitution, of vetoing any Bills his faithful Commons sent him, lately much curtailed. When I was in Hawaii the King practically controlled all measures or rather the power behind the throne, for the King, though well educated and intelligent, was credited with the Hawaiian trait of extreme indifference to matters of importance, or matters of any kind, if they in anyway interfered with his own personal comfort.

The population is about 80,000, of which the natives number some 35,000, Chinese 20,000, Portugese and Japanese 15,000, the rest British subjects, many of them Canadians; United States subjects; German, French, Danish, Swedish and