

**HAWAIIAN CLUB  
PAPERS;  
OCTOBER, 1868**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649478606

Hawaiian Club Papers; October, 1868 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**HAWAIIAN CLUB  
PAPERS;  
OCTOBER, 1868**



# HAWAIIAN CLUB PAPERS.

EDITED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB.



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OCTOBER, 1868.

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BOSTON:  
PRESS OF ARNER A. KINGMAN,  
1868.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1868, by  
**THE HAWAIIAN CLUB,**  
in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

**EDITIONS**  
FOUR HUNDRED AND EIGHTY COPIES PLAIN;  
TWENTY CLUB COPIES FINISHED.

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## HAWAIIAN CLUB PAPERS.

### *THE HAWAIIAN CLUB.*

THE Hawaiian Club was formed in January, 1866, by a few gentlemen, who having, at different periods during the last forty years, resided at the Hawaiian Islands, felt that strong attachment for them which is so general among those who have once lived there. Their object was partly to revive pleasant associations by occasional meetings to discuss the past and present condition of Hawaii, and partly to advance the prosperity of the country and the interests of the United States and her citizens there, by calling attention to the great importance of the group, political and commercial, and by collecting and diffusing information in regard to its past history and present condition.

In furtherance of these objects the Club has met once a month, usually in the city of Boston, but occasionally in a more social way at the country residence of some one of its members.

It has corresponded with the friends of Hawaii, resident at the Islands. It has sought, through delegations at Washington, and through newspaper publications and personal interviews of its officers and members with men of influence, to further every measure which would benefit the Islands, such as the establishment of steam mail communication between San Francisco and Honolulu, and the negotiation and ratification of a treaty of commercial reciprocity between the United States and Hawaiian Governments.

Interesting facts relating to the past and passing history of Hawaii have frequently been called forth at the meetings of the Club. Many of these facts have never been recorded, and it has been proposed that they should be reduced to writing by their narrators, and that such of them as may be deemed of sufficient interest and value should be printed for the use of the members of the Club, and of those who take an especial interest in Hawaiian affairs.

In pursuance of this purpose, the present sheets are published as an experiment; and it has been determined to publish in this form, statistics and other material relating to the Islands which might be useful to members of the Club, and which at present is in a much less accessible form. It is hoped that in this way valuable information may be conveniently preserved.

In an appendix will be found the articles of organization of the Club, and a list of its officers and members.

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#### *EARLY WELLS OF HONOLULU.*

The first attempt to dig a well at Honolulu was made by Wm. R. Warren, an American, about the year 1820, in the central part of the village as it then was, and in nearly the highest part. He went down through the yellow loam and volcanic sand some eight or nine feet, to the great bed of coral that underlies the whole town. The loam caved in, making a frightfully large hole. The superstitions of the natives were aroused by some foreigners who were hostile to anything American, and that fearful hole had to be abandoned.

The first successful effort to dig a well was made some two years later, by Joseph Navarro, a New Yorker, in his yard, afterwards owned by Stephen Reynolds, not far from the Bethel, if my reckoning is correct (and not far from my old sandal-wood storehouse, not a vestige of which has been seen for upwards of forty years), some three or four hundred feet from the shore. He went down about eighteen feet; eight or ten feet through loam and vol-

cautic sand, and some eight feet through the coral bed, the upper surface of which was very uneven. The bottom of the coral bed was as uneven as the top, and the whole was full of cavities and channels through which the fresh water ran towards the shore.

Through the coral the well was hewn with an ordinary American woodaxe. Near the middle of the bed, a hard, projecting lump was found, which required several blows of the axe to part it from the surrounding mass, and in falling, it drew with it what at first seemed to be a knot several inches long, but on examination proved to be a bone of the size and shape of a human thighbone. I, with others, handled it, and, at the time, was of opinion that it was a human bone, and this opinion was strengthened by the fact that from one of the cavities before mentioned in the coral bed, the skull of a human being was taken, in good order and preservation, but darker than a new skull. It evidently had some strength in it as it was kicked about by boys. The cavities did not communicate with the surface. Neither myself, nor any who saw these remains, were naturalists, and the opportunity of describing and preserving these most interesting fossils was neglected.

The second well was dug in 1822, I think, on a part of the Holmes premises occupied by Captain Wm. H. Davis, nearly opposite the main entrance of the estate now (1868) owned by Charles Brewer, Esq., and I think near the northern line of the present Fort Street. The ground here is a very little higher than where the Navarre well was located, and this second well was three or four hundred yards from the first in a northeasterly direction. The substrata proved to be the same as in the former case, and the coral was full of cavities, from which were taken a number of small bones, which I, with several others, examined and considered the bones of a man's hand or foot.

From the facts related and on reflection, I am led to the conclusion that the Islands were inhabited by man, before and during the formation of that vast body of coral that underlies Honolulu.

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Many of the present wells, especially those on the plain east of Honolulu, towards Waikiki, pass through the coral bed, which is full of cavities and cracks, and is permeated with streams of fresh water from the mountains. They are usually sunk nearly to the sea level. In one well on this plain a strong current sets constantly from the mountains to the sea.