

any thing was carried to or from the king, his life was the forfeit. Property, if possible, was more insecure than life, as the death of a king or of a landlord, or even a mere caprice, would produce a change of owners throughout; yet theft was punished more severely than murder.—The king sometimes took the advice of the principal chiefs, but he was responsible to no one.

A great change has gradually taken place. In 1839 a code of law, prepared entirely by a native, was adopted by the king and chiefs, which, though in many respects injudicious and defective, and having no lawyers to expound it, or judges skilled to execute it, removed a great abuse. The next year, the chiefs, under the instruction of Mr Richards, adopted a brief constitution for the nation, and in the two or three years following, a new and better prepared code of laws took the place of the first. It was now proclaimed, that no enactment was binding, unless printed with the king's signature. This was a death-blow to the universal tyranny and deception that had so long crushed the people. In 1846, the different departments of a general government were organized; the organization of the judiciary soon followed; and within the last two or three years a criminal code has been formed, and considerable progress has been made in the formation of a civil code. The new constitution which has just been adopted, and which has been prepared with great care, will, it is hoped, lay a solid foundation for a more complete development of civil and political rights.

The government is now a constitutional monarchy. There is a Kuhina Nui, or premier; a cabinet consisting of a Minister of Foreign Affairs, of Finance, of Public Instruction, &c.; a Parliament composed of a House of Nobles, who are for the most part hereditary, and a House of Representatives, chosen by the people. The first election took place in 1851. The administration seems to be quite efficient, and the government is one of the very few which is out of debt.

The Hawaiian Churches are coming up to the help of the Lord against the mighty, and we risk nothing in engaging on their behalf, to support the native part of the Micronesian mission. We are persuaded, from the present indications of Providence, that there will be a religious community on these islands who will take an interest, and an active part in the missionary operations of the day, especially in such as may be undertaken for the salvation of the islanders in these seas. Facts, which are given, fully substantiate this hopeful view. At Hilo, the contributions averaged, through the year, more than \$90 a month; and at the semi-annual female festival, \$40 were contributed for the micronesian mission, in addition to which, more than \$2,000 in labour, materials, and cash were expended on meeting-houses. At Kau, besides aiding in building four meeting-houses, the people have given about \$300, chiefly for the new mission, which is nearly twice as much as in any former year. The contributions at Kohala were \$744 83, and this too in a year of almost unprecedented adversity. At Molokai, in a church of 1,095 members, \$171 50 were paid for the support of their pastor, \$1,809 in cash, and \$1090 in labour and materials for meeting houses,—not including labour and materials for houses of prayer,—and \$622 at the monthly concert. The total amount of contributions from the first church in Honolulu, was \$2,153 10, of which \$1,000 was for the support of their pastor; and from the second church \$1,374, of which \$417 was for their pastor. In the first church \$138 was paid to the Hawaiian Missionary Society, and in the second \$175. The people of Ewa contributed in nine months, \$150 for their pastor, and for foreign missions during the year \$90. An effort to raise \$2,500 for the repair of their church prevented these sums from being larger. At Waialua \$1,000 11 were contributed for various objects. The people of Kahuku, besides building a stone wall, a tenth of a mile in length, to aid in closing the parsonage, and erecting and paying for a good framed meeting house, with doors and windows, have paid \$175 75 towards the support of their pastor. The contributions at Kanohe, were \$757 60, of which \$100 were at the monthly concert, and at Waiohi, \$521 36, of which \$121 56 were at the concert.—*Jour. of Mis.*

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

EDUCATION.

From the beginning of the mission the great importance of schools has never been lost sight of, and they are now found in every nook and corner of the Islands. The whole expense of the common schools, and also of the seminary at Lahainaluna, is borne by the government, to which the Minister of Public Instruction makes a yearly report of their condition. Of the 15,482 who were in the schools last year, more than 8,000 were readers, and more than 5,000 writers. These schools are doing a great and good work for the nation. A decided advance has been witnessed within ten years, in the intelligence and mental capacity of all classes of the people. An increasing value is set on education. Parents are more desirous of having their children educated, and more ready to furnish them with books and other means of improvement. The seminary at Lahainaluna has had 70 scholars. A class of 25 is to be admitted the present year. A class has also been selected, who are, to some extent, pursuing the study of Theology, with a view to the Christian ministry. Among the studies are Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Surveying, Navigation, Hawaiian Laws, History, Sacred and Ancient, Chronology and Geography.—The Royal School, to which formerly the children of the chiefs alone were admitted, is now open to the children of all foreign residents. A building has been erected for it during the

year, in a desirable situation, at an expense of \$8,000. Its pupils number about 60, a large part of whom are from families once belonging to the mission, but now occupying stations of great influence and importance in the nation. The mission school at Punahoa has averaged 39 scholars, not excluding, however, children of missionaries. A growing necessity is felt for a higher institution, one which will afford all the facilities for a thorough education. It would be difficult to name anything which would be more auspicious in its bearings on the welfare of the Islands, than the founding of such an institution.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Under the influence of the Bible the people have been casting off the garments of darkness, and putting on the robes of light. This change is moving onward. As fast as they are able, they are adopting institutions of enlightened nations. Roads are in a process of construction in every part of the Islands, built by a tax of six dollars on every taxable inhabitant. Some substantial bridges have also been thrown over difficult streams at important points. In the district of Waialua, five such bridges have been built, at a cost of nearly \$8,000. The coasting vessels have more than doubled their speed within twenty years. At Honolulu many of the old thatched and adobe houses are giving place to others, built of lumber, the yards are enclosed with picket fences, gardens are cultivated and fruit trees planted. Most important of all, the Commission appointed to settle land titles, have nearly completed their work. The titles which they give, are intended to be as perfect as those which are enjoyed by the people of any nation on earth. They will invest the people with rights hitherto unknown to them. So long as they had no property in the soil, they could be expected to do little in the way of bettering their condition. Now that they have substantial ground for exertion, and stand in the condition of men, new energy will be infused into them, and the work of improvement will go rapidly forward.

RELIGION.

The Sandwich Islands mission was established in 1820. At the end of five years, the native church members numbered only 10; and in twelve years no more than 577. Eight years afterwards they had swelled to 20,120. The number of churches is 22. The whole number received into them on profession of their faith from the beginning is 31,271. The present number of church members is 20,118. The number received on profession last year, is 1,404, which is an increase of 544 over the preceding year. More than usual interest has existed at several of the stations. In these places the cases of discipline have been few, no outbreaks of gross immorality have occurred among the people, and several of the prisons are nearly destitute of inmates. At some of the stations, moreover, there are signs that cannot be mistaken, of abounding more and more in the fruits of the Spirit. A more consistent and enlightened piety is becoming manifest, and many professing Christians, both male and female, would not suffer, if brought into comparison with those of any country whatever, on the score of benevolent and efficient action.—*Jour. of Miss.*

RIO DE JANEIRO—BRAZIL.

Few portions of our globe possess more interest in a natural point of view, than Rio de Janeiro, the capital of the Brazilian Empire. There is no city in the world more favoured in its situation and climate. On the southern verge of the tropic zone, it enjoys a perpetual spring and summer. No wintry blasts ever sweep rudely from the stormy and frigid region of Cape Horn. No cold "sear and yellow" autumn strews the ground with dead trophies of rustling foliage; but gentle breezes blow, and perpetual verdure blooms, and fruition reigns in this favoured land. The heat of the warmer months is tempered by cool currents of air from the ocean and the mountains, and there is not, as in other tropic regions, a rainy season with its torrents and gloom, and dampness, but a kind Providence waters the earth at all times in the year with refreshing showers and copious dews.

The immense Bay of Rio, which can float the combined navies of the globe, is more than thirty miles in extent, and, although of great depth, it is diversified with many beautiful Islands, whose bold shores permit navigation in their immediate vicinity to be free and unimpeded. The entrance to this magnificent sheet of water is flanked by precipitous mountains, which form an impassable barrier to the blue Atlantic which rolls beyond. So near is the city to this portal of old ocean that it receives the constant benefits of the refreshing breezes. Rio de Janeiro much resembles Naples, though it is more picturesque, from the fact that many island hills (if I can so say,) rise in the midst of this vast metropolis, like the elevation upon which the castle of St. Elmo is situated in the latter city. These hills form with their verdure and flowers a most beautiful contrast with the walls and vermilion tiles which border their bases and sides.

From Rio de Janeiro the stranger gazes upon an amphitheatre of lofty mountains, some of them covered to their very summits with flowering trees and innumerable tall waving palms, of which there are in the Empire of Brazil alone more than one hundred species. The mountains instantly recall Switzerland, and indeed some one has felicitously named the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro, the Southern Helvetia. The scenery is truly Alpine, though mountain summits tipped with snow, which form a part of every landscape in the land of Tell, are never seen here. Nature has been gigantic in her efforts here, as can be seen in a most