

world, and at the same time giving valuable geographic data in the South Seas for navigation and commerce.

The Honorable Mr. Sifton, Minister of the Interior, authorized the work to be done, and it has been successfully carried out under my direction by Mr. Werry and myself.

As I shall not refer to any of the technical part of the work this evening, I may say here, however, that the first astronomic girdle of the world closed with an error of only one-fifteenth of a second of time. ✓

An evening is too short to enter the field of discovery and exploration on the great Pacific or South Sea mostly bathed under a tropical sun; however, among the many brave and daring navigators who with their puny ships ploughed these waters and charted their myriad islands, one name stands out so pre-eminently conspicuous that I cannot refrain from mentioning it,—it is that of Captain Cook,—the greatest exploring navigator of all times, and who met such a lamentable death in the Sandwich or Hawaiian Islands in 1779.

We will now turn our attention to the natives met with during my many months stay in the Pacific.

I must admit, that I was overwhelmed by a thousand and one questions that presented themselves to me when thrown midst these tropical scenes,—there were so many peoples, whence came they originally, do they all speak one language or are there several or many, what are their habits and customs, what do they eat, to say nothing of the rampant flora presented to one. Verily one may exclaim with Plato—"For I, too, agree with Solon, that 'I would fain grow old learning many things'". By a slow process of evolution and losing no opportunity of gathering information from many sources, I feel myself somewhat disentangled from some of my original queries.

The first greeting I received in Polynesian was "Aloha" in Hawaii or Honolulu,—the word being equivalent to our "Welcome" or "Good-day," but literally meaning, "Love to you," a rather pretty greeting. The preponderance of vowels in this word as well as in most Hawaiian words gives the language a softness foreign to those of Teutonic root. As we sail the Southern Sea, "o'er whose blue bosom rose the starry isles," and encounter the Sam-