

an opportunity was afforded for determining whether Christianity had permanently affected the minds of these islanders, or whether it was a forced state, in obedience to example and commands of their chiefs, for political purposes. A state of unbounded licentiousness certainly prevailed at the period of our visit, and some attempts were making to revive the native games, dances, &c. for many years entirely suppressed; but no one could walk through the streets of Honorara, especially on a Sunday; without being convinced that a permanent change had been effected in the religion of the island. Once, in a council of the chiefs, the question of the abolition of Christianity was started, but it was opposed by all those of greatest weight, even by the old *Neva-neva*, or high-priest himself, whose influence has suffered such a blow by the new religion, and who, consequently, might have been supposed most interested in its extinction. Till, however, the sacredness of property is secured by positive laws, these islands can make few or no advances in civilization; the question was in agitation when we were there, and it was said that an enactment to that effect was shortly to be passed.*

I took advantage of the ten days that we staid in Oaho to make a pedestrian tour through the interior of the island. The results of my observations I take the liberty of presenting to you, in the brief physico-geognostical sketch appended to the letter, as far as the island has been opened to my inspection. It is very imperfect, chiefly for three reasons: the hasty progress of my tour; the unfavourable influence of a tropical sun on geognostic pursuits; the density of vegetation, which, in many places, concealed the subjacent rock from view. But, as being the first of the kind on this interesting group of islands, it may be deemed worthy of notice. Any errors in the designation of mineralogical characters you will be able to rectify, by means of the series of specimens I now send you, per the Ganymede barque of the Hudson Bay Company.

We arrived off the bar of the river Columbia on the 1st May, and, on the 4th, reached Fort Vancouver where I have

* I pass over unnoticed the differences between the white residents, with the British and American Consuls at their head and the Missionaries, and refer you to the Rev. Mr Stewart's recent work, whose observations, as far as my knowledge extends, are generally correct.