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"SPEAK UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THAT THEY GO FORWARD."—Exodus xiv., 15.

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Religious Intelligence.

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Situation.—The Hawaiian Islands were brought to the knowledge of the world by Capt Cook, in 1778, when on his second voyage of discovery. The name, Sandwich Islands, was given them by him, in honour of Lord Sandwich, at that time first Lord of the Admiralty; but the appellation by which they were known to the natives is *Hawaii nei pai aina*.—These Hawaiian Islands,—a term derived from Hawaii, the largest, and which is fast supplanting the other name. They lie in the Pacific Ocean, between 18° 50, and 22° 20, north latitude; and 151° 53, and 160° 15, west longitude. This position is one of commanding importance, it being about equally distant from the great States that will grow up on the west coast of North America, on the one side, and from China, Japan, and the Philippine Islands, on the other. They are twelve in number, of which eight only are inhabited. The extent of these, in the order of their size, is as follows:—Hawaii, 88 miles long, and 73 broad, contains 4,000 square miles; Maui, 48 long and 30 broad, 620; Oahu, 45 long and 25 broad, 530; Kauai, 22 long and 25 broad, 500; Molokai, 40 long and 7 broad, 190; Lanai, 17 long and 9 broad, 90; and Kahoolawe, 11 miles long and 8 broad, contains 60 square miles. The number of square miles in all, is not far from 6,100; which is about three-fourths the extent of Massachusetts.

General Appearance.—As the Islands are approached, they present little that is attractive to the eye, particularly on their western shores, where rain seldom falls. No trees, no appearance of vegetation cheers the voyager; but instead, there rise up before him bare lava rocks, steep volcanic ridges, running inland, and lofty mountain peaks. On the opposite side of the Islands, where rain is frequent, vegetation clothes the surface throughout the year, wherever there is nourishment for its roots, and cataracts are seen "leaping from precipices of a thousand feet, and waterfalls hanging like ribbons fluttering in the air; but these sea walls are of great extent, sometimes rising up sheer, three thousand feet, and the ocean dashes against them with stunning violence. Unlike most islands of the Pacific, they are not surrounded by a reef of coral, but there shore, for the most part, is free from every obstruction. Their surface is exceedingly diversified. Mountains everywhere present themselves, some them of the height of 14,900 feet. Over the whole group they afford scenery of a peculiar and beautiful character, their base being covered with green-sward, whilst higher up are found the densest forests. The largest active volcano known, is on Hawaii. The craters of numerous others, of every age, size and shape, the most of them extinct, are scattered over the islands. The lava which has, from time to time, poured out of them, lies in vast and rugged masses on the high grounds, sometimes extending to the sea; and whole plains are met with, the soil of which is composed of cinders and ashes. Plains abound, often broken however, by steep ravines, and valleys are somewhat frequent, affording at times a bed for some stream, which having leaped down into it, all of a foam in its hot haste, is taken captive, and made to exhaust itself before reaching the sea, in clothing the entire surface with the richest verdure. There are some rivers of considerable depth and size, formed by the union of several cascades. Four miles west of Honolulu, and a

mile back from the ocean, is a salt lake, in the heart of an old crater, nearly oval in form, and about a mile in circumference. It is probably connected with the ocean, as though in general, only a foot and a half in depth, yet near the centre there is a hole twenty-five or thirty feet in circumference, to which no bottom has been found; it is also in some degree affected by the tides. At times a stratum of salt crusts it over of sufficient strength to bear a man.

Climate.—The climate varies with the situation and elevation. In some places, as at Honolulu and Ewa, it would seem to be as near perfection as any that is known, the heat being so moderated by the trade winds as to bring the mean temperature very near the point which physiologists have given, as most conducive to health and longevity. At Honolulu the greatest heat in the shade for twelve years, was 90°, and the greatest cold 53°, while the mean temperature was about 75°. In the interior, the climate is more like that of the temperate zone; and on the mountains may be found any degree of cold which is needed to brace up the system.

Productions, Animals, &c.—A comparatively small portion only of the surface of the Islands is fit for cultivation on Molokai, for example, according to Com. Wilkes, not more than one-eighth. Some of the valleys, these however being of limited extent, are exceedingly fertile.—The soil, generally, being formed of decomposed volcanic rocks, sand, mud and ashes, is poor, and better adapted to grazing than to cultivation. It needs constant irrigation, but with this, it may, by much labour, be made to yield good crops. The kalo,—commonly known as the wild Indian turnip,—the sweet potatoe, (these two being still the principle articles of native food) the banana, yam, bread-fruit, cocoa-nut, arrowroot, sugar cane, strawberry, raspberry, *ohelo*,—a berry,—and *ohia*,—a juicy red apple, but of poor flavour—are native to the Islands and abundant. Numerous products, both of tropical and temperate climates, have been successfully introduced, such as oranges, pine apples, peaches, grapes, figs, coffee, cotton, rice, mulberry, miligo, tobacco, potatoes, and wheat. Animals, birds and insects were very few at the time of the discovery of the Islands, being confined chiefly to dogs, hogs, rats; domestic fowls, wild geese, ducks, snipe, plover, owls; caterpillars, spiders, and a wood louse. Domestic animals have been extensively introduced, and much pains are taken to improve their quality. The first American cow arrived in May, and was of great interest to the natives. Mosquitoes, fleas, cockroaches, scorpions and centipedes have also been imported, and no lack is found in their number. The forests are usually very dense, and the trees being overgrown with ferns and parasitical vines, thickly interlaced, and spreading their shoots in all directions, it is exceedingly difficult to pass through them. The sandal wood, once sought for so eagerly to be carried to China as an article of commerce, is nearly extinct. The koa, the Hawaiian mahogany and capable of a fine polish, is found on the mountains, where it attains such a size, that a canoe has been hollowed out a single trunk, seventy feet long and three deep, and which would carry seventy men. The cocoa-nut palm tree, adorned at the same time with both blossoms and fruit in every stage of growth, springs from the sand by the sea side, and from clefts of lava, where nothing else will thrive. Fish are found in great variety; some of delicious flavour, are kept in artificial ponds.

Inhabitants, Language, Government.—The Islands were originally peopled, it is highly probable, from south-eastern Asia, and by the Malay race. The language spoken by the inhabitants, in which a striking affinity can be traced with the Malayan, is soft, flowing, mellifluous, not copious, not rich, but adapted to the tender and the pathetic. One of the first labours of the missionaries was to reduce it to writing; something of a body of literature is already formed in it, at the foundation of which lies the Bible.

The government was formerly a complete despotism; and what made it worse, the despots were as numerous as the kings and chiefs. The kingly authority extended over life, liberty, and property. The people were attached to the soil, and were transferred with it like the serfs of modern times. Respect to their persons or property was unknown, when in conflict with the whims or the desires of a superior. If one of them made use of any consecrated property belonging to a chief; if he walked in the shade of a house of a chief, with his head besmeared with clay, or a wreath about it, with it wet, or wearing a kapa mantle; or violated any one of numerous other regulations, equally whimsical and absurd; or if his shadow fell on the king; or if he did not prostrate himself when