

himself sadly, "Shall not these poor heathen also hear the gospel? Ships sail by carrying missionaries to other lands, but for these poor brethren, lowest in the scale of humanity, no man cares."

Under the influence of a strong north-west wind the Pacific Ocean proved anything but pacific, and for several weeks the weather was very stormy. When it became fair, the interpreter made his first humble attempt to benefit the sailors by giving tracts to some of them when he brought his books on deck to dry. He records with pleasure that they were thankfully received.

June 30th the lofty mountains of Hawaii appeared. Wearied by the monotony of the broad Pacific, the voyagers gazed with delight upon those verdant, sunny isles of the west. It was the sabbath-day when they passed Marakai, so near the land that those on deck could hear the gongs, which serve as a substitute for bells, and see the white-clothed natives hastening to church. What a contrast to those poor naked women who were left diving for shell-fish in the Straits of Magellan! The next day signals were made for a pilot, who soon came on board, bringing the information that the 'Enterprise,' which had not been seen since April 21st, had been at anchor there four days, and sailed yesterday morning. This was startling intelligence: there was much to be done before the 'Investigator' could follow; masts and sails had been lost during the stormy weather in April, and a quantity of provisions spoiled by sea-water and heat. By ten in the morning, July 1st, the 'Investigator' was anchored in the harbour of Honolulu.

Mr. Miertsching gladly availed himself of permission to go on shore, where he received a fraternal welcome from the American missionaries, and a kindly greeting in his native tongue from a Hamburg merchant. In the evening his heart was gladdened by news from afar; a ship arrived from Panama bringing letters and papers from England, and for the German wanderer, from the dear ones in his fatherland. The missionaries kindly invited the stranger to take up his abode with them, and took pleasure in showing him all that was worthy of note. One day was devoted to exploring the country, which he terms a "paradisaical land." Honolulu contained then about thirty thousand inhabitants, among whom were many English, Germans, Americans, Chinese, and Jews. It was increasing almost daily; houses of wood and iron being brought from England and America, which were put together and ready to be inhabited in a few days. There was a fort which presented a doleful appearance, having been recently shattered by the guns of

a French frigate, sent out to convert the people to Romanism. The fourth of July, being the anniversary of American independence, was not forgotten by the American dwellers in Honolulu. The missionaries had arranged to hold a festival at one of their schools, about an hour's journey from the city. Mr. Miertsching cheerfully accepted an invitation to join the party, but his pleasure was damped by receiving that morning a note from Captain McClure, desiring him to be on board by four o'clock, instead of remaining a fortnight; he had decided upon sailing that day. Letters were hastily finished and left in the care of the English consul; and at one o'clock the guest sat down to dine with the mission circle. After the meal, a farewell service was held, in which earnest prayers were offered, not only for the Christian brother present, but for all his companions in danger and hardship. Then children crowded round, offering flowers and books as farewell gifts, their parents uttered fervent blessings, two of them accompanied him to the boat which was waiting for him, and cheered by their kindness, though sad at parting, the voyager returned to his ship. "By five o'clock we were out of the harbour, and as the wind was favourable, the city of Honolulu soon vanished from our eyes. The captain's presence being required on deck, I went into his cabin and sang to my guitar:—

'Give me thy strength, O God of power,  
Then let winds blow or thunders roar;  
I need not fear by sea or land,  
For thou, my God, wilt by me stand.'

The captain had been advised by an experienced seaman not to take the usual course to reach Behring's Strait, but the most direct, by the Aleutian Islands. This proved perilous on account of the strong currents, the incorrectness of the charts, and also the prevalence of fogs. The 'Investigator' entered the Strait July 27th. On arriving in Kotzebue Sound, guns were fired as a signal for the 'Enterprise,' which were answered by the appearance of the 'Plover,' Commander Moore. The enquiry, "How long since the 'Enterprise' passed?" received the unexpected answer, "We have seen nothing of her."

Two days later, beyond Cape Lisburne, H. M. S. 'Herald,' Captain Kellett, hove in sight. The 'Plover' had been stationed in Kotzebue Sound as a depot ship for Sir John Franklin in case he should succeed in the object of his expedition; and the 'Herald,' which was engaged in surveying the coast of Central America, paid a yearly visit to the 'Plover' with a supply of provisions, remaining three months cruising about in the hope of fall-