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ROUND THE WORLD,

Run through the OCCIDENT, the ANTIPODES,
and the ORIENT.

(Extracts from a series of letters written to the employés of
the Massey Manufacturing Co., by W. E. H. MASSEY, Esq.)

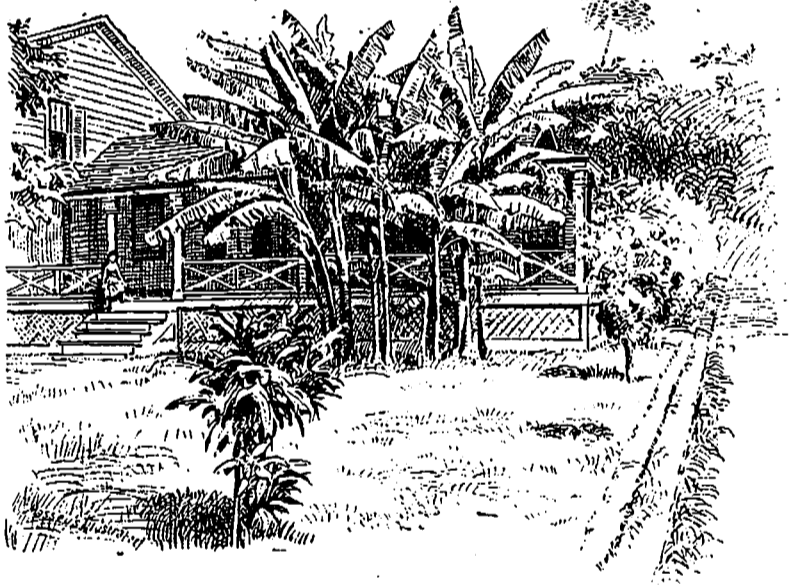
THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Third Letter, dated S.S. "Zealandia," Dec. 7, 1887.
(Concluded.)

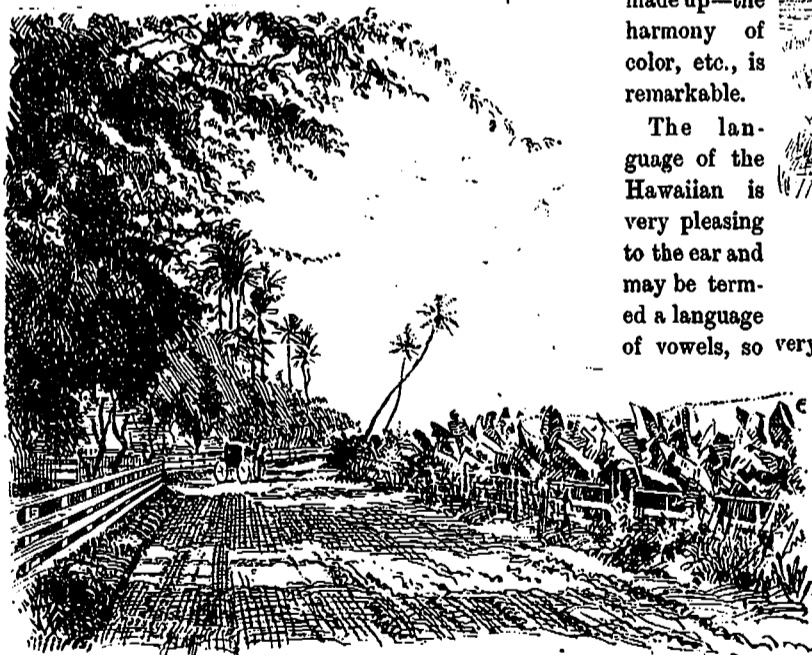
The natives of these islands, like the North American Indians, the aborigines of Australia, the Maori Tribes of New Zealand, and other black races, have rapidly declined since the invasion of the white race upon their territory; and so rapid has been their decadence that it would seem the race is to become extinct at no distant time. Upon Cook's visit they were roughly estimated at the probably exaggerated figure of 400,000, while the returns of census of 1832 placed the population of both natives and foreigners at 130,313. The last

larly fine musical organization of 35 to 40 pieces, and would not fail to delight the most critical. Whenever it is announced to play in the public parks, which it frequently does, crowds of these music-loving people assemble to hear it. Their love for flowers is evinced in a peculiar and very pretty custom of decking their friends or relations who are departing on a journey, be it long or short, with leis or garlands of ferns, leaves, and especially of flowers. Not only at departure but on other occasions these leis are presented, and not well-to-do people alone but the poorest of the poor will be seen going about the streets wearing around their necks or on their hats leis or wreaths of the choicest flowers which there abound. The taste, too, with which they are made up—the harmony of color, etc., is remarkable.

The language of the Hawaiian is very pleasing to the ear and may be termed a language of vowels, so very



"OUR COTTAGE," AND BANANA TREES, HONOLULU.
(From a Photograph by Mr. W. E. H. Massey.)



ON THE ROAD TO WAIKIKI, AND BANANA FIELD.
(From a Photograph by Mr. W. E. H. Massey.)

census (1884) showed a fearful decrease of Hawaiians, the natives only numbering some 40,000. Of the causes for this I will speak later.

Far from being savages the Kanakas (natives) are a peace-loving, quiet, easy-going people and hospitable to the last degree. Their passionate love for music and flowers is most significant of their characteristics. The Royal Hawaiian Band, which I had many opportunities of hearing, is a particu-

larly fine musical organization of 35 to 40 pieces, and would not fail to delight the most critical. Whenever it is announced to play in the public parks, which it frequently does, crowds of these music-loving people assemble to hear it. Their love for flowers is evinced in a peculiar and very pretty custom of decking their friends or relations who are departing on a journey, be it long or short, with leis or garlands of ferns, leaves, and especially of flowers. Not only at departure but on other occasions these leis are presented, and not well-to-do people alone but the poorest of the poor will be seen going about the streets wearing around their necks or on their hats leis or wreaths of the choicest flowers which there abound. The taste, too, with which they are made up—the harmony of color, etc., is remarkable.

The language of the Hawaiian is very pleasing to the ear and may be termed a language of vowels, so very extensively are they used in its construction—a direct contrast to the language of the Russians. The word for truth, for instance, is *oiaio*. In the alphabet proper there are but twelve letters, though others are used in case of foreign names. The language is rich in delicate epithets and the people are very fond of poetic allusions. An Hawaiian orator would speak of the Hawaiian Islands as "the islands of the eight seas, from the rising of the sun over the famous promontory of Kumukai, to its last lingering rays as it sinks below the waves behind the lovely, lonely isle of Lehua." (Mai ka la mi ai ina Kakanoni i ka lae kaulaua o kaulaua o Kumukahi, a ka la welo i ka ilikai malalo aku o ka mole

oiaio o Lehua i ka wai huna a ka Paoo.") This will serve as a specimen sentence. The vowels are pronounced as in French. Names of persons are sometimes quite long, the worst sample I ran across being that of a former high priestess—Kalanikaukikilokalaniakua.

There is no word for weather in the Hawaiian language, which is a significant fact. Perpetual sunshine is the rule, and it is said work can be performed out of doors in most localities 352 days out

of 365. This tropical climate, with its invariable, warm temperature the year round, has a debilitating influence with which even foreigners are affected. Added to this the fact that living can be had with so little effort, tropical fruits being so abundant, easily accounts for the natural and generally predominant indolence and listlessness of the race.

Fish, too, are very abundant about the island coasts and the Kanakas are good fishermen, and at rowing, boating, and swimming in particular, they excel—indeed, they are almost amphibious. Some kinds of fish they eat raw and say it is no worse than our eating raw oysters. But, while fish and fruit are so largely eaten, *poi* is the great national dish, and without this it would seem that Hawaiians could not exist. *Poi* is made from *taro* root and is veritably their "staff of life," no wheat whatsoever being raised. The *taro* is like a beet root in shape and size, and when baked and cut in two the cross-section looks like the cross-section of a large, coarse, sweet potato, and it tastes not un-