

politeness, beating, out and out and over again, all that we had seen in California, in every respect; in room, in furniture, in equipage, in viands, in cookery, and in dress. Nor were our native companions themselves so decidedly inferior as civilized vanity might fancy. The chiefs, especially our host, were men of excellent address; and as they spoke English enough to be understood, we soon forgot that we were sipping our coffee in a country which is deemed uncivilized, and among individuals who are classed with savages.

Some of the chiefs have houses built in the European fashion, of wood, stone, &c., occasionally of two storeys, with tinned roofs, balconies, verandas, and jalousies; and these are enclosed within small gardens of ornamental plants. The native houses, on the other hand, are so light, that it is common to remove them from place to place. They are made of a frame-work of bamboo, covered with grass; and having pointed roofs, and no opening but a single door, look like hayricks. 'The houses are commonly separated into sleeping and sitting compartments, by means of curtains hung across from wall to wall; but everything, whether exposed to view or not, whether within the house itself or merely within the surrounding enclosure, is scrupulously clean and neat, presenting in this respect a wonderful contrast with the filth and confusion of most of the native lodges of the continent. At whatever time of the day we dropped into a house, we found no difference in any of these particulars; there was never any unpleasant smell about the premises, all the refuse of fish, vegetables, &c., being regularly carried to a distance.' The furniture consists of straw mats laid on the earthen floor, and piled upon each other when meant to serve as beds; together with a few gourds or calabashes for dishes.

The dress of the females is now according to the somewhat ascetic taste of the missionaries, consisting of a single garment, like a bathing wrapper; but, by way of a contrast, they retain a coiffure of flowers and leaves, which is described as elegant and becoming. On Sunday, however, they are caricatures of the English and American ladies of the place—flaunting in silks and satins, bonnets and parasols, and, above all, shoes and stockings; while a belle of this distinction is not unfrequently seen arm-in-arm with a gentleman whose entire walking costume consists of a *malo* twelve inches by three. This scantiness of apparel, however, is usually caused by scantiness of cash. When the treasury is replenished, these same gentlemen, 'so long as their cash lasts, lounge and saunter all day in the sun-shine, habited in military surtouts, with frogs, &c., all complete, in white trousers, which fit them like their skins, in fashionable boots, in round hats, and in kid gloves of some gay or delicate colour, with their snowy wristbands turned back over their cuffs, the whole dandy being finished off with cane and eye-glass. In process of time these bucks relapse, as a matter of course, through all the stages of worse-for-wearishness, shabbiness, and dilapidation, down to the *malo*, with perhaps a garland on the head and a *kupa* on the shoulders.

'In form they are commonly handsome, strong, and well limbed; while in height, they are in general something above the average standard of Europeans. On the whole, they are, as a race, considerably above mediocrity both in face and in person. The women in particular are decidedly pretty. They have a most lively expression of countenance, and are always smiling and attractive, and their figures may even be admitted to be beautiful and feminine, seldom inclining when young, either to corpulency or to the opposite extreme; limbs and busts well-formed, and hands, feet, and ankles small and delicate; while their gait and carriage, though somewhat peculiar, are yet, on the whole, noble and commanding.' This description, however, applies to the mass of the people, the aristocracy being remarkably tall and corpulent. With the latter, shampooing stands in place of exercise, promoting circulation and digestion without exhaustion or fatigue; and under such treatment they thrive so surprisingly, that they remain in perfect health, even when they have become so unwieldy as to be unable to walk. The people are gentle and harmless, obedient and submissive, faithful, courageous, and singularly industrious.

The Sandwich group contains 1000 square miles, or 640,000 acres of productive land, to which there is only a population of 88,000. This population is mainly supported upon *poi*, a preparation of the root of the *kalo*, of a brown colour, but otherwise resembling in appearance beet. 'It is reared in small enclosures, which, with great care and labour, embanked all round, and constantly covered with six or eight inches of water; for, like rice,

the *kalo* will not flourish in dry land.' And so productive is the plant, that a single square mile is said to be capable of feeding 15,151 persons; or, in other words, the whole population might be subsisted on six square miles; and thus by the labour of one twenty-fifth part of their number. Supposing, however, that every person, without distinction of age or sex, required half an acre, 'there would still remain, even on that liberal and extravagant supposition, about 600,000 acres for objects not immediately connected with the maintenance of the natives.' The value of the land may be imagined from the fact, that an acre yields an average of a ton and a-half of sugar; so that the whole country is capable of producing several times the quantity consumed in the United Kingdom. But it is the position of the islands which has made, or will make, their fortune. 'For all practical purposes, the Sandwich Islands are on the direct route from Cape Horn to all the coasts of the Northern Pacific. With respect to Kamschatka and the sea of Ochotsk, this is evident at a glance; with respect to Japan, when its ports shall be opened, vessels will find their advantage, even with regard to refuge or refreshment, in deviating to the right of their straight course, in order to make the north-east trades above the equator as fair a wind as possible; and with respect to California, and the north-west coast, the apparently inconvenient deviation to the left is rendered not only expedient, but almost necessary, by the prevailing breezes which have just been mentioned.....But the group as naturally connects the east and the west, as the south and the north. Lying in the very latitude of San Blas and Macao, with an open sea in either direction, it crosses the shortest road from Mexico to China; while, considering its great distance to the westward of the new continent, but more particularly of its southern division, it may, without involving any inadequate sacrifice, be regarded as a stepping stone from the whole of the American coast to the Celestial Empire.....The position of the Archipelago as just described, is the more valuable on this account—that it neither is, nor can be shared by any rival. If one makes no account of the comparative vicinity of mere islets, which are worthless alike for refuge and refreshment, the Sandwich Islands form perhaps the most secluded spot on earth, being at least twice as far from the nearest land as the lonely rock of St. Helena.....Already have the Sandwich Islands begun to be a common centre of traffic for some of the countries which they serve to link together.....When the ports of Japan are opened, and the two oceans are connected by means of a navigable canal, so as to place the group in the direct route between Europe and the United States on the one hand, and the whole of eastern Asia on the other, then will the trade in question expand in amount and variety, till it has rendered Woahoo the emporium of at least the Pacific Ocean for the products, natural and artificial, of every corner of the globe. Then will the Honolulu be one of the marts of the world, one of those exchanges to which nature herself grants in perpetuity a more than royal charter.'

It is melancholy to think, however, that this brilliant future is predicable only of the islands, not of the islanders. These are vanishing, as elsewhere, before the advance of civilization. New luxuries have awakened new wants; and in order to satisfy these, the lower classes have been ground down by the chiefs to such a condition of starvation, that they have come to look upon their children as rivals and enemies. 'In 1824, Mr. Stuart wrote thus:—"We have the clearest proof, that in those parts of the islands where the influence of the mission has not yet extended, two-thirds of the infants born perish by the hands of their own parents, before attaining the first or second year of their age." Since then, the tyranny has been more in form of law, and regular taxes have taken the place of capricious exactions: but the effect remains the same. The diseases of Europe, and the depravity of the women, contribute likewise to thin the population; and the result is the extraordinary and pitiable spectacle of a nation rapidly vanishing from the face of the earth, 'because its ordinary wear and tear is not recruited from the ranks of a rising generation.' Our author's account of these interesting islands is the most intelligent and comprehensive we have yet received; although it certainly occupies a space singularly disproportioned to the general subject of the book, filling as it does more than a third of the second volume.

From the Sandwich Islands Sir George sailed for Sitka, the chief seat of the Russian-American Company, where he had a long journey before him of five months through the dominions of the czar! Hitherto he has been in England. 'I have seen the