

KALAKAUA'S PALACE.
When the Profrigate Ruler of the Hawaiian Islands...
The royal palace—called "Ialailani"—occupies a square of about five hundred feet in the center of the city, and is surrounded by a high wall formed of stone and cement. Just outside of the palace wall are the barracks for the handful of native troops, of which the Royal Highness can boast. The palace itself is a large and imposing structure, two stories high. It is a very handsome building. The throne-room is a large and beautifully finished apartment. The throne for His Majesty and the Queen is on a raised dais at one end of the apartment. The wood-work is of koa or native wood. The hangings are of red damask. The state dining-room is also very large and elegant. It is hung with portraits of foreign sovereigns, notably one of Louis Philippe. The state reception-room is hung with blue, gold and green predominating throughout the palace. Opposite one of the gates in the palace wall is located the government building. This is a handsome stone structure. In front of this stands a bronze statue of Kamehameha I, founder of the kingdom. He was King of one of the islands and conquered all the other Kings and gathered the Hawaiian group into one dominion.

The present King, Kalakaua—meaning Day of Battle—is not of Kamehameha descent, but was elected to the throne in default of an heir apparent, one having been named by the sovereign. He is not a man who commands the respect of the better classes of people on his islands. He is much more at home with his native singers and dancers at Kailua than in managing and conducting governmental affairs at Honolulu. In June last his actions became so intolerable that the leading citizens of Honolulu inaugurated a bloodless revolution forcing the King to dismiss the entire cabinet and appoint citizens whom they named, and also to sign a new constitution virtually modeled upon that of the United States. The Queen is of good demeanor and possesses more or less dignity. They have no children, and their appearance is Mrs. J. O. Dominis, wife of the Governor of the island. She is the King's sister. Her husband is white, and not counting for much in that country. The royal Hawaiian band, in the employ of the government, is one of the attractions. It is composed of thirty-three members, all natives. They play as well as any first-class band in this country. They perform every Monday morning in the palace square and in the public squares three times a week. Their singing of native songs is a notable feature of their performances.

The distances in Honolulu being great, many liveries are in use. They are immaculate and are all alike, only the horse being used in drawing them. I think Honolulu uses as many liveries as does Detroit. The Chinese problem is coming to the front in the Sandwich Islands as well as elsewhere. In Honolulu whole streets are occupied by the Chinese. They work at the laundry business in part and also waiters and servants. Many small shops in all the islands are run by Chinese. Almost all the pot is made by them, and the white pot flag is seen everywhere. Poi? Oh, the poi is a vegetable, gray in color and about the size of our beet. Raw it is unfit for food, but baked it forms a large proportion of the food of the islands. It is cooked and pounded with iron mallets. It is then mixed with water until it assumes about the consistency of starch, when it is put into barrels and allowed to ferment for about twenty-four hours. It has then acquired an acid taste, and is then to the native islander what rice is to the Chinaman.

The government of the Sandwich Islands now may be said to be in the hands of the Missionary party. The descendants of the old missionaries form a very important part of the financial and intellectual strength of the islands.—Detroit Free Press.

NEW YORK'S HOTELS.
The Capital Invested in the Caravanerics of the American Metropolis.
The amount of money invested in hotel property in New York is variously estimated, but according to a fair allowance the land and buildings are worth \$15,000,000—that is, an averaged valuation of each piece of property at \$241,935.50. Of course this amount would be largely in excess of the value of more than half of the regular hotels within the city limits, but it is also away below the just assessment of nearly twenty of the big hotels now in business. The furniture in the hotels is estimated as having a value of \$2,000,000, with an average value of \$32,259. Several of the large houses have expended \$250,000 on their interior decorations, and three or four even more than this. All of these estimates are placed exceedingly low, yet they show that simply to build and furnish the good hotels it required an outlay of \$17,000,000, after all, is an exceedingly small investment when compared with the amount of money required to accommodate the guests.

At the legal rate of interest this investment should return \$800,000 a year. It does all this and much more. The total income of the number of hotels mentioned is estimated by good authorities as \$14,750,000 a year. How much of this is figured out in this way: There are accommodations for nearly 30,000 people in the hotels rated as respectable. There are at least two-thirds that number of persons who are counted upon as regular patrons. It costs a hotel keeper on the average about \$1.25 a day to feed and attend to the needs of one guest. This amount on an average patronage of 25,000 would represent an outlay of \$31,250,000 a day, or \$9,025,000 a year. When this is added to the interest on the original investment of \$17,000,000, it brings the amount of servants, which represents an outlay of \$1,352,000 more up to the respectable total of \$11,237,000. This deducted from the estimated total receipts gives \$5,513,000 as the profits to be divided between sixty-two establishments, and would be an excellent chance for capitalists to go right to work and pile up more capital with the rapidity and persistency of the everlasting snow-ball.

Such profits would easily explain the reasons for the great number of big new hotels in contemplation or already under way. But, unfortunately, when the noses of the guests of a big New York hotel are counted, they don't always mean a weekly or monthly settlement of the bill. The number of "hotel beasts," despite all the precautions taken to detect them and to avoid giving them credit, is a matter which is exceedingly grave to the hotel proprietors. There are at least a thousand persons who practically live upon the hotel proprietors of this city. Not the same ones all the while, of course, but the loss represents the loss of the board of that number of individuals. This at once makes an inroad into the big profit of \$1,095,000 at an average of three dollars a day. Then come the breakers in dishes and the investment in new cutlery, which in a properly managed house amounts at the average to \$5,000 a year. This draws another \$310,000 from the profit, and then come the thousand and one other items of expenditure—gas, coal, damage to furniture, and the like which run up to the big total of \$1,026,000 a year, and again here the profit down, leaving it in the neighborhood of \$1,062,000 to be divided among the sixty-two hotels, giving each an average profit of \$17,453. When one considers that this profit has to be divided in most cases among three or four partners, the little hotels are not coiners of money, and the student of finance as applied to hotel keeping continues to wonder why it is that the big hotels are still going up in various parts of the metropolis.—N. Y. Times.

Graceful Princesses Gowns.
For stout figures are shown some very gracefully made Princess gowns, in rich, lustrous, black corded silks—Bengalines, failles and Victoria robes—with full but closely compressed drapery at the back, falling nearly straight from the waist. The corsage portion is nearly covered with jet garters, the trimming including V-shaped pieces on the shoulders, heavily fringed with jet, a vest piece, a slender V ornament at the back extending from the neck to the waist, with smaller devices in the same style still going up various parts of the skirt. Between the bands are set detached ornaments of like design. Although this is a familiar style of dress, the exceptional quality of the silk, the simple style, and the whiffly new beauty of the garnitures render the gowns themselves much more novel than their description.—N. Y. Post.

—Lovers of onions will find that by boiling them in two waters and draining them much of the objectionable odor will be removed; and a little milk to the second water. Then put them into a stewpan and simmer for a few minutes in a sauce made as follows: Put butter in a sauce made into a saucepan, and when it bubbles stir in a scant half teacupful of flour and stir well till cooked; add two teacupfuls of thin cream, some salt and pepper, and stir over the fire till smooth.

—A surveyor who was caught in a thunder storm while engaged in the woods at Orlando, Fla., left his compass on the jackstaff while he took shelter under a tree. During the storm a tree very near the compass was struck by lightning, and the effect upon the instrument was to reverse it so as to make the north point of the needle change position and point south. The surveyor unaware of the change, on starting for home with his compass for a guide, wandered eight or ten miles in the wrong direction before he discovered the fact.

AMONG THE MUTES.
Curious Superstitions and Beliefs Existing Among the Natives of Alaska.
A belief in the presence of evil spirits constitutes the only religious idea among the Mutes. There are among them individuals called tonrachs, corresponding to the shamans of the Siberian tribes. If a person is sick before the whaling season commences, or a child is born before going on a journey or building a house, the services of the shaman is called into requisition. The motifs observed in every case is similar. The shaman, after a long spell of silence, suddenly begins to roll his eyes, convulsive shakes prelude his frame, and he gives utterance to various groans and sighs intermingled with sentences pertaining to the subject upon which he is engaged. (During the time of his performance a continuous beating upon a drum is kept up. Toward the end prostrations, or rather convulsions of exultation similar to what have been described as prevailing at the finale of a shaker meeting, are exhibited by the shaman. Froth exudes from his mouth, his eyes glare and roll, and his whole frame is convulsed. Perspiration pours from his face, and he is entirely exhausted. The loud invocations to the evil spirits to drive them away from the sea or to enable the whales or seals to arrive, become gradually subdued, dying away into incoherent mutterings. Then after awhile he regains his composure, complacently smokes his pipe, and receives his pay for services performed. If the operation is performed over a sick person and recovery does not ensue, the payment made is returned, a custom that might be advantageously adopted among civilized persons.

Some curious superstitions are also to be noted. If a person is sick, iron tools, such as axes or knives, can not be used in the house. Upon a man's grave his sled is placed, but broken to pieces, and his kayak meets similar usage. Furs, spears and rifles are also deposited, while if the individual has killed many whales the long jawbones of the balansa are placed in an upright position to mark the spot. Those people bury their dead upon the ground, raising a number of pieces of driftwood in the shape of a tent over the remains. Owing to this inhuman mode of burial the wood soon falls down and affords entrance to foxes and dogs, which make havoc with the body. But little regard is paid to the burial place, although these Mutes are very much incensed whenever attempts are made to take away any skulls or bones from the graveyards. They also make a long detour in passing the resting place of the dead, and will on no account touch any thing once deposited at a burial.

A woman's grave has her clothing, sewing gear and various household utensils placed upon it. One of the most peculiar acts I heard of took place in the month of May, during the whaling season, at Point Hope. A woman died and her body was carried out to the edge of the ice. Three old women cut her heart out, wrapped it in a covering of seal intestines and threw it into the sea through a hole in the floe. This was done in order to bring good luck to the catch.—Alaska Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

QUEER CUSTOMS.
Interesting Facts Concerning November Marriages in Holland.
Of the twelve months in the year November is reckoned in certain villages in Holland to be by far the most important. The four Sundays of the month are known respectively as Review Sunday, Decision Sunday, Purchase Sunday, and Possession Sunday, names which sufficiently explain the purposes to which each is put by the young people. On the first Thursday in November all the villagers turn out in their best attire to be present at the village fair and watch the respective couples perform the country dance, which is the invariable opening of such events. On Review Sunday the unmarried girls and young men, after the morning service, walk up and down staring at one another to their hearts' content. Having made up their minds who to select on the following Sunday, the youths, with the politest bows imaginable, salute the fair ones, and judge from the way in which their courtesy is responded to whether success or defeat is to be their lot. The third Sunday is devoted to the less romantic task of obtaining the consent of the parents and arranging in business-like fashion the details of the marriage settlement. The stern hearts of those in authority having been satisfactorily subdued, the following week the parson is busy at marrying; but not until Possession Sunday comes round are the happy betrothed permitted more than an affectionate gaze, or at most a tender squeeze of the hand.—E. H. Coleman, in Notes and Queries.

—When Senator Stanford goes to Washington at the beginning of a session he deposits \$50,000 at a local bank and he and his wife check against it. If anything remains at the end of the session, which happens rarely, it is left as a nest egg for the next year's expenses.—San Francisco Chronicle.

TRY GINKGO FOR BREAKFAST.
The woman who married a no-legged man says she wanted a husband who wouldn't "run" after other women. This is rather a lame lesson, but it is better than none.

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THE POWER OF GAB.
How It Advances the Schemes of Loose-Mouthed Politicians.
"Talk is cheap," affirms one of the practical proverbs of the day. We beg to differ. Talk is not cheap; it is an expensive commodity, and too often a commodity of little value. The ability to express one's thoughts in a concise, intelligible and effective manner, is a valuable accomplishment, but the rhetorical art of making a spread-sheet of superficial bombast, can almost be taught as a vice. Many a man has elevated himself to a responsible position, of public trust, with no fitness for the proper discharge of his duties. But he could make a nice speech, he could shake up his auditors with some side-splitting anecdote, or melt them to tears by reciting some pathetic incident. No one stopped to inquire whether in the management of his own affairs he was a success or a failure. Nobody carefully considered whether the ideas he advanced were sensible or practical. He could sway an audience and that was considered a conclusive test of his ability. Isn't this a fair presentation of the manner in which we select men to administer our public affairs? A man of admitted executive ability who has made a success of his own business, but has no rhetorical gifts, will stand no show against the mealy-mouthed candidate who has failed in every thing he has tried to do, but who can talk.

Talk is cheap, is it? Look over the records of Congress and see what it costs the country to print and publish the useless talk, talk that hinders useful legislation and serves no better purpose than to advance the personal interests of ambitious politicians. The country has to pay for all this talk, at a big round price too, but the man who has been sent to Congress to furnish his constituents some evidence of his great value, and nothing is more conclusive than a long-winded speech.

Great is the gift of gab.

Silk must never be ironed, as the heat takes all the life out of it, and makes it seem stringy and lumpy; but if you wish to press out odd bits of silk into moderately stiff, and place two thicknesses of paper between that and the silk.

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