

on the penultimate), and Molokai. These islands of the Hawaiian group are most remarkable for the extremely barren aspect which they present as viewed from seawards. In this respect they differ from all other Pacific Islands which were visited during the Voyage of the "Challenger"; no trees or shrubs form a feature in the view, but the hill slopes are covered with a scanty clothing of grass and low herbage, which in the summer season is yellow and parched.

Only one scanty grove of Cocconut-trees is to be seen on the shore of Oahu Island, to the east of the town of Honolulu, whilst westwards the barren plains and distant bare hills recalled almost St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, in their sterility. Here are no thick belts of Cocconut-trees fringing the shores as at Tonga, with littoral vegetation overhanging the very surf; no dense forests clothing the mountains from the summits to the shore as at Fiji, or the Admiralty Islands.

There is little more show of vegetation in the general appearance of the islands, as seen from seawards, than is to be seen on the bleak Marion Island in the Southern Ocean.

The harbour of Honolulu is entered by a narrow channel in a not very extensive fringing reef. The town lies on an almost flat expanse immediately adjoining the shore, and is not very conspicuous from the distance. It is composed of streets of very various widths, laid out at right angles to one another, lined on either side by very irregular rows of houses of all kinds, mostly wooden shanties, the greater part of them occupied as general stores.

There is a large shop of Chinese and Japanese curiosities, and two photographers' shops, where corals, imported mostly from the Marquesas, and spurious imitations of native implements manufactured for sale, are disposed of, at exorbitant prices, to passengers by the mail steamers. I was told that a Chinaman is even employed to manufacture *fac-similes* of the stone gods of the ancient Hawaiians for sale as genuine curiosities; the forged deities being represented as having been dug up in taro-fields.

The business streets are very hot and dusty, but around the hotel and villa dwelling-houses on the east side of the town are pretty gardens, filled with the usual imported tropical garden plants, shrubs, and trees, which are maintained alive only by constant irrigation; hoses from the town supply-pipes being kept playing on them day and night. Twenty years ago, where these gardens now are, there was not a single tree, and now the gardens form only a small oasis in a dry parched desert, which extends along the coast east and west, and is soon reached on leaving the town in either of these directions.