

of *Distichopora coccinea*, often mistaken by purchasers for Precious Coral (*Corallium rubrum*), and spurious imitations of native implements manufactured for sale, are disposed of, at exorbitant prices, to passengers by the mail steamers. It is said that a Chinaman is even employed to manufacture facsimiles 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. Thirty 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.

On this tract the bare volcanic rock shows out everywhere, and the only conspicuous vegetation is a Prickly Pear (*Opuntia*) introduced from America, which has spread far on either side from the town and multiplied exceedingly, so as to form in places a dense impassable growth, and constitute a most conspicuous feature in the landscape. These barren parts of Oahu resemble somewhat the rocky tracts of Tenerife with their growth of *Euphorbia canariensis*. The Guava, another introduced American plant, has spread in all directions, in places forming dense thickets from which it is difficult to drive out the half-wild cattle.

The whole town of Honolulu has a thoroughly American aspect. Americans are supplanting the rapidly decreasing native population; American plants are, as has been said, covering the ground, and American birds have been introduced and bid fair to spread and oust the native fauna, which has no single land bird in common with any other Polynesian island group. The only vigorous opponents of the Americans in the struggle for existence seem to be the Chinese.

Behind Honolulu is the Nuuanu Valley (see fig. 266), with precipitous walls in its upper part, which becomes greener and greener as the ascent is made by the road leading up it. The difference between the rainfall in the valley and in Honolulu is most remarkable. At Waikiki, near Honolulu, at sea level, the rainfall in 1873 was 37·85 inches, whilst in the Nuuanu Valley, $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles inland, and at an elevation of only 550 feet, the fall in the same year was 134·06 inches. Captain Wilkes says that even certain streets in the town of Honolulu are said to be more rainy than others. The leading native trees in the valley are the malvaceous *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, the *Acacia kou*, and the Candle Nut (*Aleurites triloba*). The *Hibiscus* forms curiously tangled impassable thickets, while the *Acacia* grows only high up on the cliff tops. The Candle Nut trees, by the peculiar glaucous colour of their foliage, give a characteristic appearance to the vegetation seen in the far distance, for these bluish green trees appear as rounded bushes, dotted over the high ground above