

they use a kind of gourd, which grows to a large size, and seems peculiar to these islands; these are thin and brittle, but with the care the natives take of them, are extremely serviceable: they are used for almost every thing, as dishes, for carrying water, &c. It takes two gourds to make one of the baskets used for transporting articles; and the smaller one being turned over the opening cut in the larger one, effectually protects the contents from rain. Some of these gourds will contain upwards of two bushels. For travelling on these islands, they are almost indispensable.

The gait of the Kapaka moving with his load is a quick trot, and he takes very short steps. The loaded calabashes, when suspended from the sticks, have the see-saw creaking sound that is heard from an easy old-fashioned chaise.

Besides the carrying of burdens, there are many natives engaged in the same employments as the lower classes in the United States.

Almost every profession of civilized nations is represented here, except that of law, of which, as yet, there are no practitioners either in Honolulu or at the other islands.

There is no great beauty in the location of the town of Honolulu, nor any taste displayed in its plan; yet there are a number of comfortable habitations, surrounded with young trees, intermixed with the grass-houses of the natives. The roads, or streets, are entirely destitute of trees, and the natives and foreign residents here seem to have no inclination to plant them in the town: this surprised me, for it would tend more than any thing else to their comfort. The high adobe walls, which have been introduced from South America, however convenient they may be, certainly do not improve either the beauty or comforts of Honolulu; being suffered to fall into decay, they, in so dry a climate, add not a little to the discomforts of the inhabitants, from the quantity of fine dust that the trade-winds put into circulation for a few hours each day. But these dusty roads and barren plains can, in a few minutes, be exchanged for one of the most agreeable and delightful climates in the world, by a short ride to the valley of Nuuanu. The contrast is like passing from the torrid to the temperate zone. In this valley a number of the gentlemen of Honolulu have cottages, that form pleasant retreats during the hot season.

The valley of Nuuanu is formed by a break in the central volcanic ridge of Oahu: it ascends gradually from behind the town, and is about seven miles long, by half a mile wide at its entrance. It contracts until it reaches the northern side of the ridge, where it suddenly terminates