

for the inhabitants fast sometimes for days together, and then gormandize to the greatest excess.

There has been no case of infanticide, to Mr. Whitney's knowledge, during the last ten years, and he does not believe that the law interdicting sexual intercourse is promotive of this crime; for from all his inquiries, he has not been able to learn a single fact that will tend to warrant such a conclusion: on the contrary, he thinks that the law in question has rather acted to prevent its commission.

Intoxication certainly forms no part of the cause of diseases, for Mr. Whitney bears testimony, that he has not known six cases of intoxication within the last thirteen years. A spirit, however, is distilled from the ti, potatoes, watermelon, &c.

The marriage law has had a good effect in this district, and will probably be the means of arresting the desolation that is now sweeping over the land. From thirty to forty marriages have taken place yearly. I have been thus particular in the population of this district, as it is generally reported to be that wherein the causes of decrease are most active. This cannot be owing to the climate, which is very similar to that of the leeward portions of the other islands, and the atmosphere is considered dry and healthy. Can it be owing to the fact, that the original virus of the disease was here first spread, and that it has continued to be more virulent here than elsewhere?

As respects agriculture, there being no market for the sale of produce, the supply seldom exceeds the wants of the district. Some attempts have, however, been made to produce cotton and the sugarcane; but, for want of encouragement, the produce has not yet been sufficient to clear the expenses.

The improvement in the morals and instruction of the natives is very considerable. There are sixteen schools, all taught by native teachers, at the expense of the people. Two-thirds of the adult population read, and many of them can also write. The instruction is now confined to the youth and children, of whom about three hundred attend the schools regularly, and six hundred more occasionally. Much improvement has lately taken place in their habitations, and in the manufacturing of their wearing apparel, consisting of tapa, &c.

There is one church, and one hundred and fifty-nine communicants: the number that attend worship in the morning is about a thousand, and in the afternoon about half that number.

The island of Niihau was not visited by any one belonging to the squadron; but it seems proper that in giving an account of the Hawaiian Islands, it should be spoken of. It is situated sixteen miles southwest of Kauai, and is eighteen miles long by eight broad. There is an