

P.C. Advertiser
April 9, 1864

WAIKAPU.

At the base of the West Maui mountain that we have descended, and just before a deep ravine or gorge, lies a little village with the above name. Four years ago, when we last rode past it, there was nothing here to attract a stranger, - a few thatch houses with one or two frame buildings, scattered among taro-patches were all that one would notice in passing. Now a tall chimney attracts for miles the eye of the traveller, and the dark smoke, curling up in clouds from its top, tells plainly of the industry, capital, and enterprise that center here. It is only about two years since Mr. James Louzada, happening to be in the vicinity, heard that there was to be an auction sale of the estate of the late John Richardson, and attracted by curiosity attended it. A good frame house and lot was put up for sale, but nobody wanted it. Seven hundred dollars only were bid, and Mr. L. thinking it a safe investment, took it at a few dollars over that sum, and for a few hundreds also purchased the taro lands belonging to the estate. Thus, without any intention of buying when he went to the sale, he found himself possessed, for the paltry sum of \$1,200., of a good dwelling house and some of the finest cane land on the island. He was not long in finding out that he had located over a mine destined to be as productive as a gold mine, nor in making his plans for the future. Associating himself with his brother-in-law, Henry Cornwell, Esq. formerly of this city, he set to work to erect a mill and commence the manufacture of sugar, the natives and foreigners in the village promising to plant cane on their own lands. Two years have passed since the lucky purchase

of this property occurred, and already he has sent to market some 400,000 pounds of sugar, worth perhaps \$25,000, though his mill has been in operation only about eight months. ...

THE WAIKAPU MILL.

Riding through the trash field to the mill, we dismounted, and entering met a hearty welcome from Mr. Cornwell and his son William, who were hard at work turning cane juice into gold. The mill consists of a large building in the form of an L, on a hill-slope, which facilitates the work very much. The machine is driven by a 36 horse engine, built by Mr. Henry Hughes of this city, who also constructed all the machinery used on this plantation. Everything about the mill is of Hawaiian manufacture, which can be said of but few sugar manufactories on the islands. The capacity of the mill is about four thousand pounds of sugar per day, though, by working nights, which is sometimes done, five thousand pounds can be got off. To obtain this product, Messrs. Louzada & Cornwell employ about seventy field and mill laborers, of whom forty are females, who are engaged on account of the scarcity of men.

In the cooling-house, which as yet is only half the size it is to be, what will first attract the eye of the visitor is the little donkey-engine that drives the centrifugals. It was made also by Mr. Hughes, and is one of the prettiest toys imaginable, works as smooth and noiselessly as a sewing machine. Near by is one of Makee's steam molasses pans used in boiling down the molasses, which works admirably. We shall describe it when giving an account of Capt. Makee's mills.

THE CANE-FIELDS.

The land at Waikapu consisting of a gentle slope from the base of the mountain to the road, irrigated by the Waikapu river, is admirably adapted to sugar culture, producing, when well cared for, very heavy crops. The extent of land suitable for cane is limited only by the amount of water obtainable for irrigation. The proprietors of the mill have purchased land largely since they began operations and have now some two hundred acres. They purchase cane from the natives, paying generally about one hundred dollars an acre for the standing crop, taking it off at their own expense. The sugar-boiling department is under the charge of Wm. Cornwell, who possesses all the activity, industry and perseverance of his father and uncle. The high reputation of the sugar made at this mill, is the best recommendation that is sugar-boiler can wish. ✓

A PLANTER'S HOME.

About a mile back from the mill, and on an elevation overlooking the whole country, stands the house of the late Mr. Richardson, the sale of which we have already referred to, now occupied by Mr. Cornwell and his family. It has been much improved, by additions, and forms one of the pleasantest residences we have ever seen. From its front verandah, a most beautiful scene is had - the village and mill buildings, the plain, Kahului Bay at the left, Kalepolepo Bay at the right, and the whole of Mt. Haleakala, with its villages on its side - are all in view. Were we to select a site for a country home, it would be this charming spot in Waikapu, and we congratulate Mr. and Mrs. C. and their family on possessing so healthy and delightful a home, where in and around the dwelling every comfort and luxury is provided. The traveler, who enjoys, as did we, the pleasure of a short sojourn here, and an acquaintance with those

who show such refinement and taste, and who welcome visitors with such cordial hospitality, will leave their pleasant home with many regrets. Such residences and such homes we trust will spring up in every district.

What a change has taken place in Waikapu within two years! Where were a few taro-patches, half cultivated by lazaroni, a village has sprung up, with its sugar mill and buildings, its waving cane fields and busy laborers, scattering industry, thrift and contentement everywhere. Here where a few hundred dol-ars' worth of taro was formerly raised, forty thousand dollars worth of sugar may now annually be made and sent to market.

A planter's life, however, is no playspell. Messrs Louzada and Cornwell, and every one else engaged on the estate work hard - up early in the morning, and late at night, they earn every dollar they receive. Although the first outlay in commencing a plantation is heavy - and few estates are set in operation with less than forty or fifty thousand, and from that to one hundred thousand dollars - yet when once completed, the income promises to be large, and on most plantations will amount to at least twenty-five per cent on the investment, when well managed. This estate, thus far, has cost its proprietors nearly \$ 50,000. and it is safe to say that it will produce annually at least \$ 40,000, at present prices of sugar.