

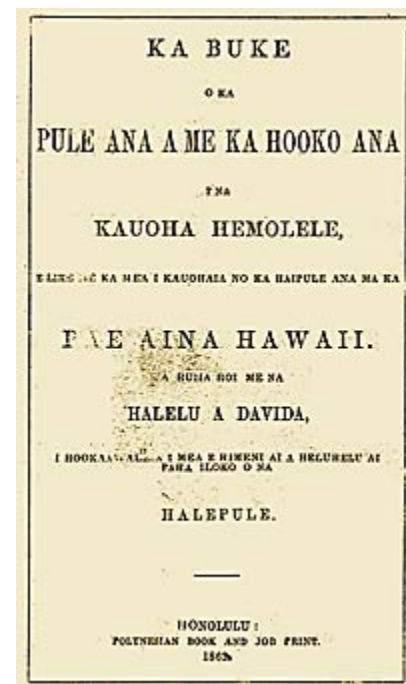
CHAPTER XLVIII

THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

THE Hawaiian Islands are the extreme north-western group of Polynesia. They were discovered by Captain James Cook in 1778. Some thirty years later, in 1821, the first English missionaries, Revs. George Bennett and Daniel Tyerman (died 1828), of the London Missionary Society, and the Rev. William Ellis, of the same society (1794-1872), then a missionary at Tahiti, came to the islands, and through their efforts and those of early American missionaries the language was put into a written shape, a task of no little difficulty.

The Church of England did not consider it a mission field until the year 1861, when Bishop Thomas Nettleship Staley, together with the Revs. George Mason and Edmund Ibbotson, the first two missionaries of the S.P.G., left England, August 17, 1862. The inhabitants, a fine race of the Malayo-Polynesian stock, were ruled by several generations of a remarkable family of kings, one of whom Kamehameha II, in 1819, destroyed at a blow all the idols in his dominions and abolished tapu. His successor, Kamehameha III, dying on December 15, 1854, was succeeded by Alexander Liholiho Iolani, son of Kinau, the daughter of the founder of the dynasty, Kamehameha I. He ruled as Kamehameha IV. He and his wife, Emma, adopted the religion of the Church of England and in 1860 asked that a bishop should be sent to them. Already the king had nearly completed a translation of the Morning and Evening Prayers into Hawaiian. This version was brought into use on November 9, 1862. An edition of the Liturgy was printed, omitting the Athanasian Creed, the Psalter and the Ordinal. Its title reads: Ka Buke o ka pule ana a me ka hooko ana i na kauoha hemolele, e like me ka mea i kauohaia no ka haipule ana ma ka pae aina Hawaii. Ua huiia hoi me na halelu a Davida, i hookaawaleia i mea e himeni ai a heluhelu ai paha iloko o na halepule. Honolulu: Polynesian Job and Book Printing, 1862, 397 pages, 8vo. The book contained the Morning and Evening Service, Litany, Prayers and Thanksgivings, Collects, Epistles and Gospels, Communion Office and the Occasional Services. It was [the king's own translation, to which he](#)

[Griffiths 50:1](#)



added a preface of 20 pages. This latter was also published separately: “Preface to the Book of Common Prayer, composed by the late king of Hawaii.” London, 1866, 20 pages, 8vo. After a reign of nine years, honoured because of his perseverance in the principles of civilization, Kamehameha IV died on November 30, 1863. The death of the king was a heavy loss to the Mission and to the people generally. No one loved the church services more devotedly or attended them more regularly than he did.

In 1867 a new edition of the Liturgy was published by the S.P.C.K. In this the Epistles and Gospels were omitted, and the Psalms and the Ordinal were added. It was the joint work of William Hoapili Kauwoai, an ex-officer of the Hawaiian army who had been ordained deacon in 1866, and of Edmund Ibbotson. Griffiths 50:3 (1866)

In 1870 Bishop Staley retired, and two years later, on February 2, 1872, the Rev. Alfred Willis was consecrated second bishop of Honolulu. In the face of financial and other difficulties, the new lord bishop of Honolulu remained at his post until the year 1902, when upon the annexation of Hawaii as a territory to the United States of America, the work of the S.P.G. and the Church of England was transferred to the American sister, the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. Since 1902 Willis has been missionary bishop in Tonga, diocese of Polynesia, and is living at Nukualofa, Friendly Islands.

In 1883 the S.P.C.K. published for Bishop Willis a revised and enlarged edition of the Liturgy, being the entire Book of Common Prayer, excepting the Articles, entitled:

* Ka Buke | o ka | Pule ana a me ka hooko ana | i ka |
Lawelawe ana | na Sakarema a me | na oihana e ae o ka
Ekalesia | e like me ka mea i Kauohaia e ka Ekalesia |
Enelani. | A me | ke ana a me ka oihana o ka hoolilo
ana, ka poni | ana, a me ka hoolaa ana | na Bihopa, na |
Kahuna, a me na Diakona, | i unuhiia iloko o ka olelo
Hawaii no ka Ekalesia | ma ka | pae aina Hawaii. | Na |
Halelu a Davida, | i kikoia i mea e himeni ai a heluhelu

ai paha | iloko o na halepule. | (Prayer Book in the
Hawaiian language for use in the Sandwich Islands.) |
Ladana: Hoolaha ana | ka Naauao Kristiano. 1883.

xlii, (1), 468 pages, 24mo.