

BOOK REVIEWS

- The Place of Captain Cook's Death.* By W. F. WILSON and W. A. WALL;
- The Pae humu of Heiaus Non-sacred.* By THOMAS G. THRUM;
- The Death of Captain Cook: some account of the contemporary illustrations.* By STEPHEN W. PHILLIPS;
- Captain Cook's First Visit to the Hawaiian Islands.* By GEORGE GILBERT. In the Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Hawaiian Historical Society. (Honolulu, Hawaii: 1927. Pp. 56-72.)

In August next the people of Hawaii will commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of their islands and of the death of Captain Cook—the date chosen lying midway between the two events. It is not surprising therefore to see the above-listed articles—a sort of outcrop of the general interest in Captain Cook's association with Hawaii. By photographs and a map Messrs. Wilson and Wall have striven to identify the exact spot where the Great Circumnavigator fell on 14th February, 1779. They claim that a white cross painted on the rocky beach at Kaawaloa, Kealakekua Bay, and frequently stated to be the place, is in reality only a surveyor's mark. Mr. Thrum's article consists of a quotation from native writers to show that these pae-huma images which adorn the heiau (temple) were not sacred; were mere ornaments; and were frequently used as fuel by the natives themselves. The object is to refute the oft-repeated statement that the natives were enraged by the insult to their deities when Cook took such images for fuel. Mr. Phillips shows that there are four contemporary illustrations of the death of Captain Cook, viz., those by John Weber, John Cleveley, C. Carter, and D. P. Dodd. The sources from which they drew their materials are indicated and a reproduction of each is given. Gilbert's Narrative of Captain Cook's last voyage is a recent acquisition by the British Museum. This is the second selection therefrom that has been issued by the Hawaiian Historical Society. It relates to the arrival at Kauai, or, as Captain Cook called it, Atooi. The other contained Gilbert's account of the sad occurrence of February 14, 1779. Perhaps some of the other interested historical societies will undertake to publish the complete manuscript.

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