MYTHS AND TRADITIONS OF THE HAWAIIANS.

Contrary to Popular Belief These People Never Were Cannibals—In Education, Cleanliness and Virtue They Compare with Many People of the Old and New Worlds—Every Physical Feature of Nature Has a Legend Connected with It—Those of Ancient Greece No More Beautiful—The Creation, Paradise, Leuther and the Flood All Included.

(A paper read by Prof. S. Cluff, principal of the B. Y. Academy, Provo, at the fourth Annual Re-union of Polynesian Missionaries, held at the Lagoon, Davis county, Utah, July 14, 1899.)

The Hawaiian people, contrary to popular belief, never were cannibals. The only crime worthy from the following decalogue: Thou shalt not be found in the narrow or boat; nor shalt thou be a evildoer, the land spoiled; a double falsehood thou shalt not utter; neither the heart nor tongue shalt thou deceive; a double adulterer thou shalt not be; a double heart thou shalt have not; neither the heart and tongue shalt thou be for the heart of a jealousy.

The civilization of the people before the advent of the white man compares favorably with many peoples of both the old and the new world, while in horticulture and in education they were superior.

LEGENDS AND MYTHS.

I doubt that ancient Greece furnishes more, or more beautiful legends and myths than are found among the people of the Hawaiian Islands. The Hawaiian legends may lack the motives and sentiments which have found place in Greek, but for simplicity and grandeur, for striking situations, bold actions, and sublime thoughts, they are equal to all of the creation of the world of the organisms of their forefathers as supernatural beings, and of the deeds and wind of the chiefs and kings whom they worship separate from the gods themselves. Every stream, and wind, every gulch and cliff, every peculiar object in nature of extraordinary size or possessed with it and is peopled to the mind of the native by spirits, fairies and demigods.

Some legends refer directly to the creation, and according to a well written and interesting book by the late Kalakaua, King Kalakaua, the Hawaiian ancient religious creeds with their priests, etc., in Hilo. According to the former a trinity of gods exist under the names of Kane, Kanaloa and Kanaka. These are the heavens, then the earth, the sun, moon, and star. From their spirits they created a host of other gods and spirits.

In creating man, Kane formed his body out of red clay mixed with saliva, while Lono formed his head out of bones, and brought from the four corners of the earth. Then the breath of life was breathed into his nostrils and he became a living soul. The first woman, called Kumulonoa. Afterwards from the rib of a woman was created Kanaka-Kihoiwa, and from the rib of a man, Kanaka-Kiheiwa, and from the beautiful paradise called Paliuli.

Among the chiefs was one, Kanaloa, the Creator, who, when man was created demanded a sacrifice from him.

This man, whose name was Kanaloa Kanaloa resolved to create a man himself, who would worship him. He formed a man out of the earth, called Kanaloakuhi, but was unable to breath into him the breath of life. Attempts failing, he rebelled, and endeavored to destroy the man created by Kane. In his form as a Moo, or lizard, he entered the garden of Paliuli and there caused Kumulonoa and his wife to do something which caused the gods and they were driven out.

The story of Cain and Abel is also found among the Hawaiians in the time son of Kumulonoa, one of whom Lono, slew his younger brother.

ALSO HAD A FLOOD.

The Hawaiians also had a flood, one account of which corresponds closely with that given in the Bible. Man at the command of the gods built a boat and with his wife, family and domestic animals, taking with them a male and female of every living creature. When the waters which covered the earth receded, he offered the gods some and received the favor of the gods, who ever after the rain