

DAVID KALAKAUA,  
KING OF THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

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It is with feelings of profound sorrow that we record the death of the most distinguished member of our society—David Kalakaua, King of the Sandwich Islands. He was the son of the Honorable C. Kapankea, and was born on November 16th, 1836. On the death of King Kamehameha V., with whom he is supposed to have been a blood relation, he, with William Lunalilo, became candidates for the vacant throne. Lunalilo was elected, but after a twelve month died. Kalakaua again put forward his claims, and in February, 1874, was by an Act of Legislature declared king. The validity of the election was contested by the widowed Queen. The dispute which followed verged on civil war, and Kalakaua's life was threatened. Fortunately, in consequence of the intervention of foreign powers, a settlement was reached and his rights were admitted. In 1874 he visited the United States with the object of negotiating a reciprocity treaty, and became a guest of the Great Republic. The mission was successfully accomplished, and in 1875 he returned home. We met him in 1881, while on a tour around the world, and although our acquaintance was short, his dignified manners, the fluency of his language, and the intense interest he took in matters scientific, made a lasting impression. Although before attaining his royal rank he had been an administrator in several public offices and in consequence his attention had been chiefly directed to govern-

mental administration, like Dom Pedro of Brazil, he had a keen appreciation for everything that tended to the development of scientific knowledge. When he was abroad he sought for that which might be of benefit at home. Born in a land of earthquakes and volcanoes, he was familiar with the literature which threw light upon their workings and was intimately acquainted with all that scientists had done for their investigation. He made close enquiries about the status of our Society, visited our laboratories, and showed his appreciation of our work by allowing us to add his name to our list as an honorary member. He saw that the investigations we were engaged upon were novel, he wished to know what we had done, and he encouraged us in farther work by his royal patronage. Although naturally dignified in appearance, his manner was unreserved and open. His questions were short and to the point, and in a few minutes by a legal method of cross questions he would obtain information which others might not obtain in many hours.

His death took place on January 20th, 1891, while he was on a visit at San Francisco.

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