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STONE IDOLS FROM NECKER ISLAND.

[The Hawaiian Government on the 27th May, 1894, took possession of Necker Island, the little spot proposed as one of the Stations on the contemplated telegraphic cable line from Vancouver to Australia. The island is situated about 450 miles W.N.W. from Honolulu. The interesting thing connected with it is the discovery of some stone idols, showing that the island was inhabited at some time, and, judging from the workmanship, by people not belonging to the Polynesian race. The large ears on the idols remind us of those on the stone figures from Easter Island. It is to be hoped that the Hawaiian Government, in the interests of Science, will have a thorough exploration of the island made.

Through the kindness of Professor W. D. Alexander, of Honolulu, we are able to publish a picture from a photograph of some of the idols, and also to print an extract from the "Commercial Advertiser," of Honolulu, giving a brief account of the island.—Editors.]

"THE trip was not a sensational one, although full of interest for those on board. The island was found to be a barren lava rock about 260 feet high. Evidences of human habitation were discovered, idols and stone walls, resembling monuments, abounding. Several of these idols were brought back by Captain King and Captain Freeman, and were exhibited last evening to an admiring audience. Birds, fish and turtles were thick, and, although the voyagers stayed only a few hours, they found time to catch a few fish, and Captain Freeman shot a large seal, the skin of which he brought back with him.

"Captain Freeman's log is substantially as follows:—'Left Honolulu at 5.10 p.m. May 25, bound to Necker Island, in lat. 23 degrees, 35 minutes and 18 seconds North, long. 164° 34' west. Made the island of Kauai at 1 a.m., bearing W.N.W. Took our departure from a point of land in lat. 22 degrees, 10 minutes North, long. 159 degrees, 45 minutes West, bearing east by south, and continued on the same course until noon, when we found our position by sights. At 7 p.m. we passed Bird Island to the north-east distant three miles, and hauled the ship up for Necker Island. Sighted the island at 9 a.m. At 11 a.m. arrived at the island and dropped anchor in 18 fathoms of water. We lowered a boat and proceeded to land at once with His Excellency Captain J. A. King, Captain Freeman, C. B. Norton, and nine sailors, leaving the vessel in charge of the second officer. After considerable difficulty the party was safely landed. A hard climb up a rugged cliff 260 feet high was successfully accomplished, when His Excellency Captain King hoisted the Hawaiian flag, read the proclamation, and took possession of the island in the name of the Hawaiian Government.

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"The island is a large lava rock, and was formerly inhabited, as there are square walls about 3 feet high, 4 feet wide, and from 30 to 40 feet long; on the top of which are large flat stones standing on end and about 2 feet apart. It was first thought that some shipwrecked crew had made a landing here. After a search, however, nothing could be found to indicate that such was the case. Captain Freeman found several old images and idols in a good state of preservation, except for the injuries received by exposure to the weather. A number of these idols were brought back by us as curios. One great curiosity that we found looked like a piece of stone, but, on close inspection, it was thought to be petrified flesh. It was found on a stone altar, and must have been an offering to one of the ancient gods. Birds and fish abounded.

“After a stay of about four hours on the island, we left at 5.30 p.m. for home, steering E. by S., arriving at Honolulu on Tuesday evening.”

