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American Minute with Bill Federer

Gospel to Hawaii & The Marquesas Islands, and the end of Pele volcano worship, human sacrifice, cannibalism & leprosy

British Captain James Cook discovered **Hawaii** in 1778, naming them "**The Sandwich Islands**" in honor of John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich -- the acting First Lord of the Admiralty



A kahuna showed him a 50 foot tower with nearby skulls and graves of sacrificed war captives and those that broke a kapu (taboos).



In 1779, on his third visit there, **Captain Cook**

was killed.

News of Captain Cook's voyages inspired William Carey to take the Gospel to India in 1793.

King Kamehameha I united the **Hawaiian Islands** in 1810.





In the early 1800s, whaling ships began visiting the Hawaiian Islands.

An orphan, **Henry Opukahai'a**, was being raised by his uncle to be a pagan priest, but became disillusioned with rituals and chants.

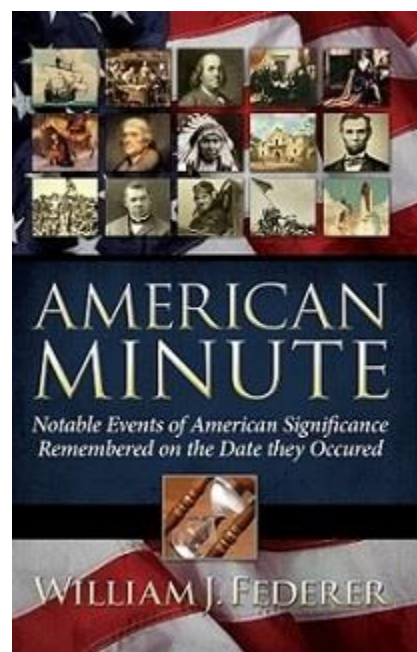
Together with his friend, **Thomas Hopu**, **Henry Opukahai'a** fled Hawaii on the American whaling ship *Triumph* in 1807, which sailed for **New England**.

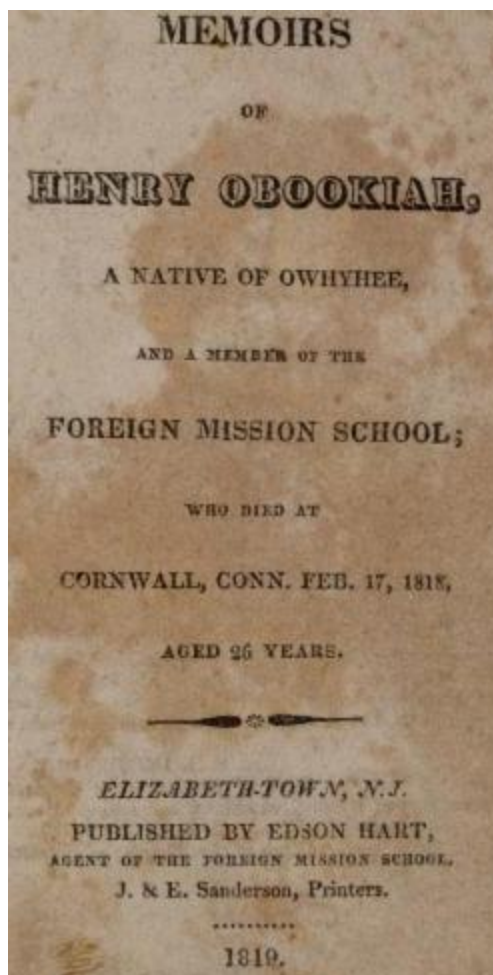
They were befriended by **Christian students at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut**, who instructed and prayed with them to become **the first Hawaiian Christians** in 1815, during the time of the **Second Great Awakening**.



Henry Opukahai'a studied Greek and Hebrew and attempted to **translate into his native tongue** the Book of Genesis and other parts of the Bible, though none this survived.

[American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred](#)





In his *Memoirs*, which sold 500,000 copies after his death in 1818, **Henry Opukahai'a** wrote:

"O what a wonderful thing is that the hand of the Divine Providence has brought me from the heathenish darkness here the light of Divine truth never had been.

And here I have found the name of the Lord Jesus in the Holy Scriptures, and have read that His blood was shed for many ..."

**Henry Opu
kaha i'a**
continued
:

"My
poor coun
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e world, have no Bible to read, no Sabbath."





Thomas Hopu met **General Andrew Jackson**, whom he accompanied to New Orleans.

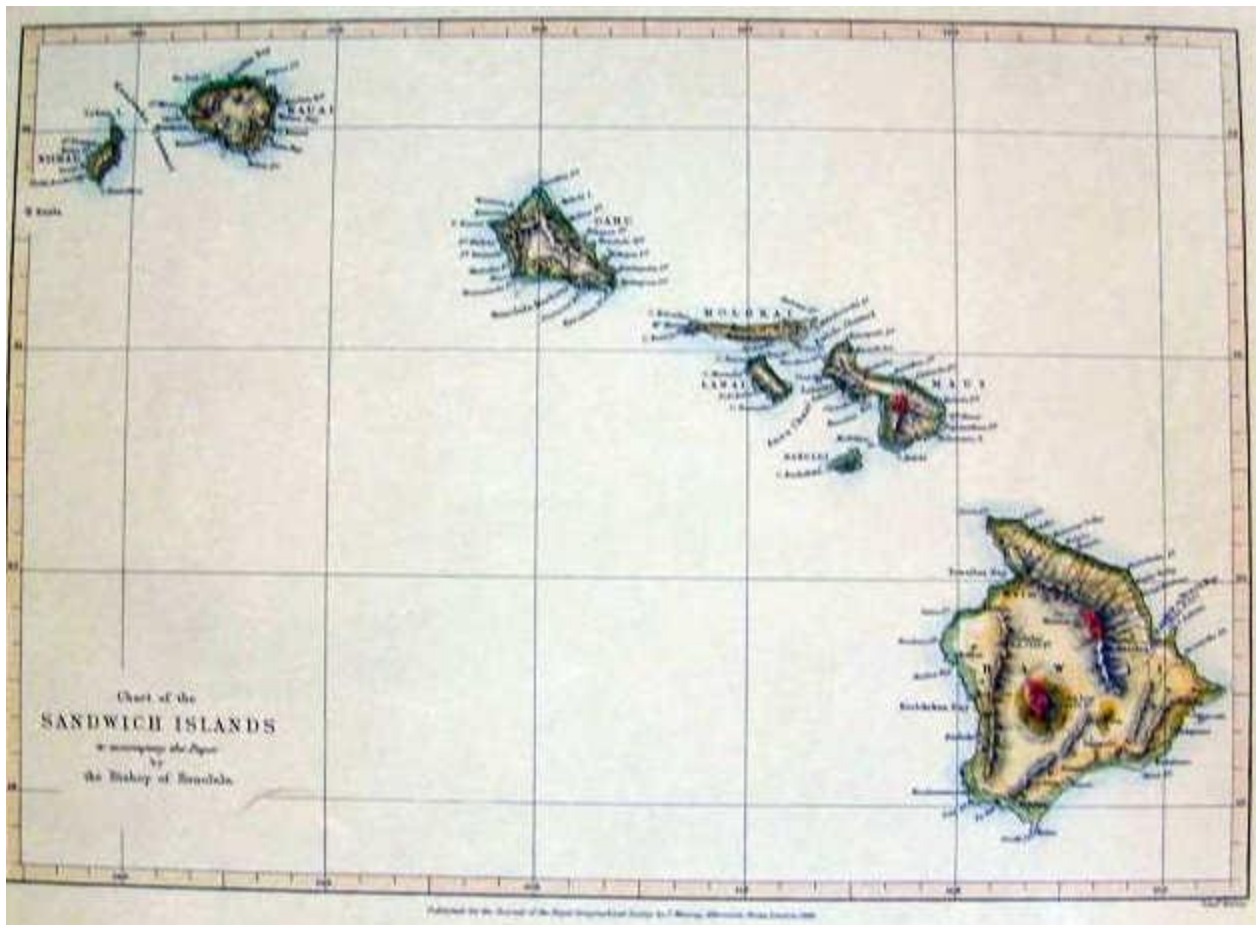
Hopu fought the British during the **War of 1812**, resulting in him being perhaps **one of the first Hawaiians to serve in the United States armed forces.**

An excellent swimmer, **Hopu** saved several crewman after a shipwreck.

Five times he taken prisoner by the British in the West Indies.

Once starving in prison, **African slaves** gave **him food and water**, affecting **Hopu** to forever detest the enslavement of **Africans.**





Two years after **Henry Opukahai'a's** death from typhus, **Thomas Hopu** went as a missionary with **Hiram Bingham** and **Asa Thurston** back to the **Hawaiian Sandwich Islands**, serving as their translator.

Hiram Bingham's grandson, **Hiram Bingham III**, discovered the Inca city of **Machu Pichu** in 1908 and was elected **Governor of Connecticut** and a **U.S. Senator**.





Hiram Bingham IV was **U.S. Vice Consul in France** during **World War II**, where **he helped 2,500 Jews escape** internment camps of Hitler's National Socialist Workers Party.

Hiram Bingham and **Asa Thurston** were sent to **Hawaii** by the **American Board of Missions** on the ship, *Thaddeus*, arriving at **Kailua** on **MARCH 31, 1820**.



The missionaries not only spread **Christianity**, but confronted drunkenness and vice which had been introduced into the islands by **sailors, whalers, and convicts from Botany Bay**.



The missionaries created a **12-letter Hawaiian alphabet** and reduced the **Hawaiian language** to **writing**.

They translated the Bible, began a newspaper, set up schools and

churches, and convinced the **Hawaiian women to wear dresses**.

In 1823, **Betsey Stockton** (1798-1865), a young **African American woman**, sailed with the second group of missionaries from New Haven, Connecticut, to **Hawaii**.

She had been born a slave but was given her freedom.





A strong Christian, **Betsey** had attended classes at **Princeton Theological Seminary** before sailing to **Hawaii**.

She set up **schools** and taught islanders English, Latin, history and algebra. In two years, over **8,000 students** attended **200 schools**.

Idolatry and **human sacrifice** had previously been ended by **King Kamehameha II** and his **Queen mother Ka'ahumanu**.

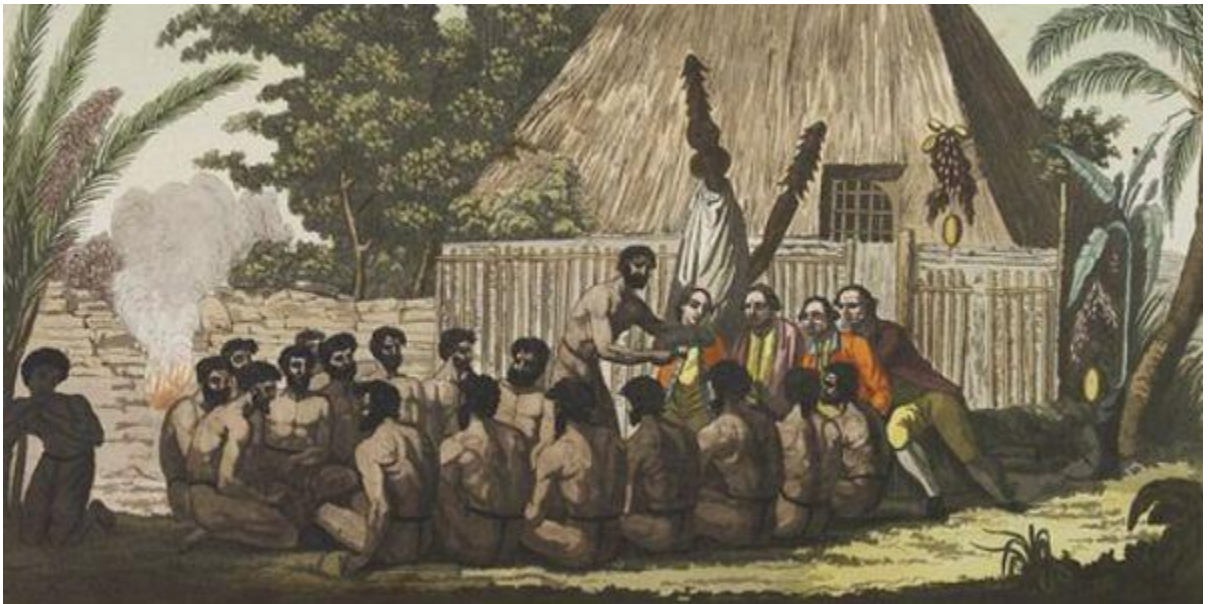
Queen Ka'ahumanu and six high chiefs requested to be baptized in 1823.





She then banned prostitution and drunkenness, resulting in sailors resenting the missionaries' influence.

Queen Ka'ahumanu helped spread the Gospel



in the islands, beginning a "**Great Awakening.**"

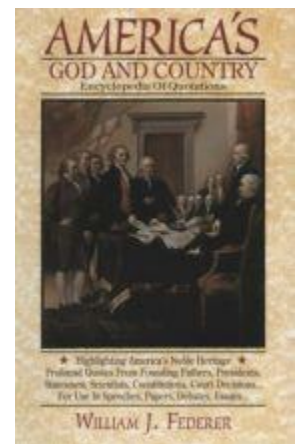


She was presented with the newly completed **version of the New Testament** in the **Hawaiian language** just prior to her death.

Her last words were:

"I am going where the mansions are ready."

[America's God and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations](#)



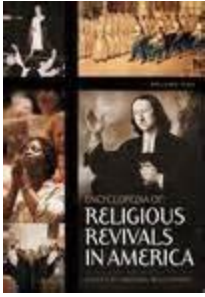


The cousin of Kamehameha I, **Chiefess Kapiolani**, in 1824. **defied** the **volcano goddess Pele** by saying a Christian prayer, climbing down into the lava crater and returning unharmed, then eating the forbidden Ōhelo berries.



Chiefess Kapiolani then praised 'the one true God', proclaiming:

"Jehovah is my God. He kindled these fires. I fear not Pele. All the gods of Hawaii are vain."



The **son-in-law of Hiram Bingham** was missionary **Titus Coans**.

Coan's account of evangelism is recorded in ***Life in Hawaii: An Autobiographical Sketch of Mission Life and Labors, 1835-1881*** (NY: Anson D. F. Randolph, 1882, 49-52; Michael McClymond, *Encyclopedia of Religious Revivals in America*, 2006):



"Among these converts was the **High Priest of the volcano**. He was more than six feet high and of a lofty bearing. He had been an idolater, a drunkard, an adulterer, a robber, and a murderer.

For their kapas, for a pig or a fowl he had killed men on the road, whenever they hesitated to yield to his demands.

But he became penitent, and appeared honest and **earnest in seeking the Lord.**



... His sister was more haughty and stubborn. She was **High Priestess of the volcano.** She, too, was tall and majestic in her bearing.

For a long time she refused to bow to the claims of the Gospel; but at length **she yielded, confessed herself a sinner and under the authority of a higher Power, and with her brother became a docile member of the church."**



Alfred
Russell
Wallace
wrote
*(The
Life
and
World
of
Alfred
Russell
Wallace)*

n, Vol. 12, 1892):

"**Kapiolani** was a great chieftainess who lived in the Sandwich Islands at the beginning of this century. She won the cause of

Christianity by openly defying the priests of the terrible goddess Peele'.

... In spite of their threats of vengeance she descended the volcano Mauna-Loa, then clambered down over a bank of cinders 400 feet high to the great lake of fire (nine miles round) - Kilauea - the haunt of the goddess, and flung into the boiling lava the consecrated berries which it was a sacrilege for a woman to handle."

Tennyson wrote in his poem
"Kapiolani":

"Noble the Saxon who hurl'd at his Idol
a valorous weapon in olden England!

Great and greater, and greatest of
women, island heroine, **Kapiolani**

Clomb the mountain, and flung the berries, and dared the Goddess,
and freed the people

Of Hawa-i-ee!

A people believing that Peelè the Goddess would wallow in fiery riot
and revel

On Kilaue-ä,

Dance in a fountain of flame with her devils, or shake with tier
thunders and shatter her island,



Rolling her anger

Thro' blasted valley and flaring forest in blood-red cataracts down to
the sea!



Long as the lava-light

Glares from the lava-lake

Dazing the starlight,

Long as the silvery vapour in daylight

Over the mountain

Floats, will the glory of Kapiolani be mingled with either on Hawa-
ee.

What said her Priesthood?

‘Woe to this island if ever a woman should handle or gather the
berries of Peelè!

Accurséd were she!

And woe to this island if ever a woman should climb to the dwelling
of Peelè the Goddess!

Accurséd were she!’

One from the Sunrise

Dawn’d on His people, and slowly before him

Vanish’d shadow-like

Gods and Goddesses,

None but the terrible Peelè remaining as Kapiolani ascended her
mountain,

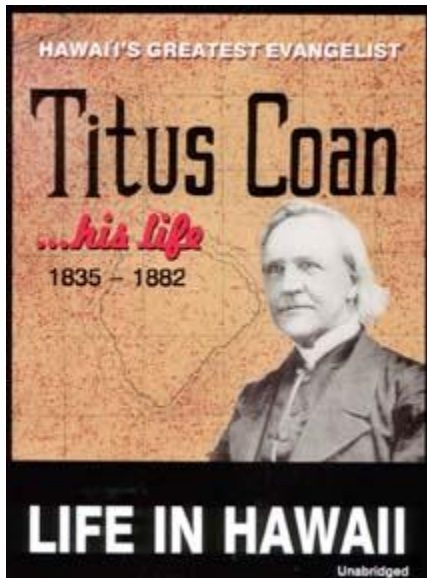
Baffled her priesthood,

Broke the Taboo,

Dipt to the crater,

Call’d on the Power adored by the Christian, and crying ‘I dare her,
let Peelè avenge herself ’!

Into the flame-billow dash'd the berries, and drove the demon from Hawa-i-ee."



Titus Coans, considered **Hawaii's greatest evangelist**, continued his missionary account:

"I set off Nov. 29, 1836, on a tour around the island ...

On reaching the western boundaries of Puna, my labors became more abundant ... They rallied in masses, and were eager to

hear the Word.

Many listened with tears, and after the preaching, when I supposed they would return to their homes and give me rest, they remained and crowded around me so earnestly, that I had no time to eat, and in places where I spent my nights they filled the house to its entire capacity, leaving scores outside who could not enter.

All wanted to hear more of the 'Word of Life.'

... At ten or eleven o'clock I would advise them to go home and to sleep. Some would return, but more remain until midnight.

At cock-crowing the house would be again crowded, with as many more outside.



... At one place before I reached the point where I was to spend a Sabbath, there was a line of four villages not more than half a mile apart.

**The Reverend Titus Coan, 1801-1882
Fidelia Church Coan, 1810-1872
Seventh Company, Arrived December 1834**

"Mr. Coan's parish extended by coast line on the eastern and northeastern shore of Hawaii, one hundred miles, and included Hilo and Puna. Fifteen thousand natives inhabited these districts . . . Only twenty-three were members of the church in 1836."

**"MY GOOD WORKS NEED COVERING;
MY PRAYERS NEED PRAYING FOR;
MY REPENTANCE NEEDS REPENTING FROM;
IN MY SIN, I DON'T ASK TO BE FORGIVEN,
BUT TO BE DELIVERED FROM IT"**

TITUS COAN

**"These souls, - these perishing souls! What I have mind, body and heart, I am ready to devote to them."
T. Coan**



Every village begged for a sermon and for personal conversation.

Commencing at daylight I preached in three of them before breakfast, at 10 a.m.

When the meeting closed at one village, most of the people ran on to the next, and thus my congregation increased rapidly from hour to hour.

1837
Tsunami & Revival
November 1837 – 10 Day Protracted Meeting

“God wrought for us. I opened the meeting with a sermon from the text, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’ Great effect was produced. On the second day of the meeting God came in terror. The sea rose suddenly to perpendicular height of fifteen or twenty feet, and fell in one mountain wave upon the shore, sweeping away nearly one hundred houses with all their tenants. All was sudden as a peal of thunder. No premonitions were given. None had time to flee. The scene was awful. Hundreds were engulfed in a moment. Cries of distress were heartrending, and the roar of the raging sea was deafening. To the people the event was as the voice of God speaking to them out of Heaven, ‘Be ye also ready.’

“Time swept on; the work deepened and widened. Thousands on thousands thronged the courts of the Lord. Everywhere the trumpet of jubilee sounded loud and long, and as clouds and as doves to their windows, so ransomed sinners flocked to Christ.” T. Coan

... Many were 'pricked in their hearts' and were inquiring what they should do to be saved.

Sunday came and I was now in the most populous part of Puna.

... Multitudes came out to hear the Gospel. The blind were led; the maimed, the aged and decrepit, and many invalids were brought on the backs of their friends.



There was great joy and much weeping in the assembly.

Two days were spent in this place, and ten sermons preached, while almost all the intervals between the public services were spent in personal conversation with the crowds which pressed around me.

Many of the people who then wept and prayed proved true converts to Christ; most of them have died in the faith, and a few still live as steadfast witnesses to the power of the Gospel ..."



This courage of **High Chiefess Kapiolani** inspired many **Hawaiians** to be missionaries to other islands, such as **Samuel Kauwealoha**, who sailed in 1853 to the **Marquesas Islands**.

Rev. Samuel Kauwealoha planted churches and schools in the **Marquesas Islands**, and helped end cannibalism.



He was mentioned in **Titus Coan's** 1882 missionary account ***Life in Hawaii***, Chapter 13, "The Marquesas Islands ... The Hawaiians Send a Mission to Them":

"The missionary at this station was the **Rev. Samuel Kauwealoha**, a native of Hilo, and a member of the Hilo church ...

We landed on a beautiful beach of white sand, and walked half a mile through a charming grove of tropical trees, along the margin of a crystal brook ...



... We found **Mr. Samuel Kauwealoha** living in a stone house ... all built by himself ...

Here, amidst the shade of lofty trees, he was living with his devoted wife, teaching the children to read and write, and preaching 'Christ our Life' to 149 savages; and here, under the shadow of a towering tree, I spent one of the happiest Sabbaths of my life.



... The almost naked and tattooed savages came out and sat quietly in semicircles under the tree, with the bright-eyed little children in front, all seeming to love their teacher, and to welcome the stranger, to whom they listened, **Samuel Kauwealoha** interpreting ..."



Missionary Titus Coan continued:

"We had also a Sunday-school, where the pupils recited the Lord's prayer and the Ten Commandments, with some other lessons, in tones and inflections of voice which were soft and melodious ..."

At 11 A.M. **Captain Brown** and his mate, **Captain Golett**, a good Christian man, who had commanded many a ship, came on shore with the crew of the Morning Star, and we had service in English."

Another missionary from **Hawaii** to the **Marquesas Islands** was **James Kekela**.

The Marquesas Islands were first visited by **American Maritime Fur Trader Joseph Ingraham** on the brig *Hope* in 1791, who named them **Washington Islands**.





Photo # NH 47384 Commodore. David Porter, USN

In 1813, Commodore David Porter claimed the islands for the United States, but the U.S. Senate never got

around to ratifying it.

This delay gave time for **France**, beginning in 1842, to incorporate the Islands into **French Polynesia**.

In **French Polynesia**, missionary **James Kekela** wrote that **Hawaii** was fortunate to have become a possession of the **United States** rather than a possession of **France**:



"**The French government** is celebrating the 14th of July in **Papeete**, as America does on the 4th of July.

What Americans do to celebrate is to give speeches, worship God, do things to strengthen the body, and so on.

The French are pleasure lovers, acting as in the old days ... the dances of Tahiti, Tuamotu, Rurutu, Tubuai, and Atiu ...

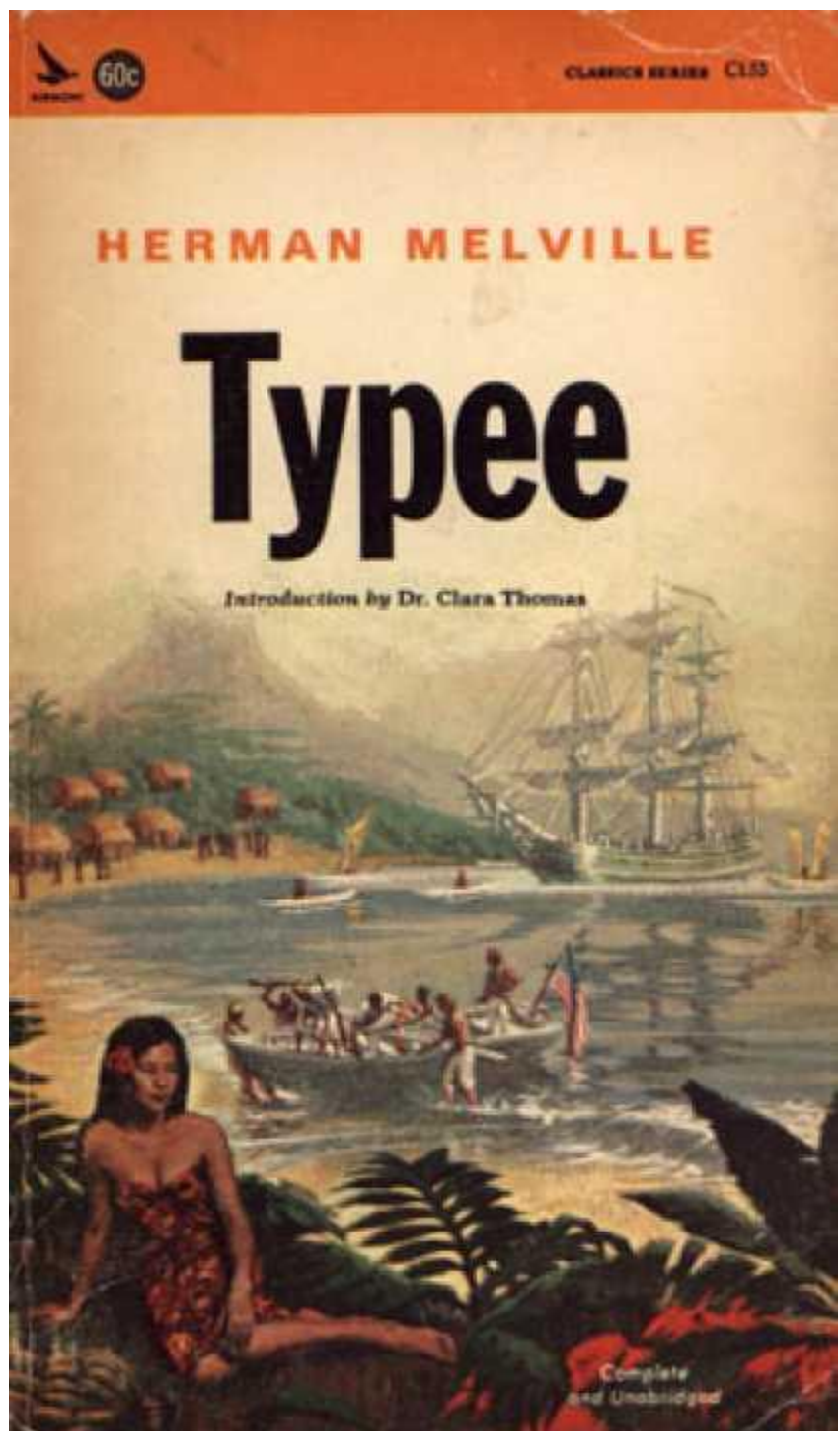
What is done is like what the (filthy arioi?) did.

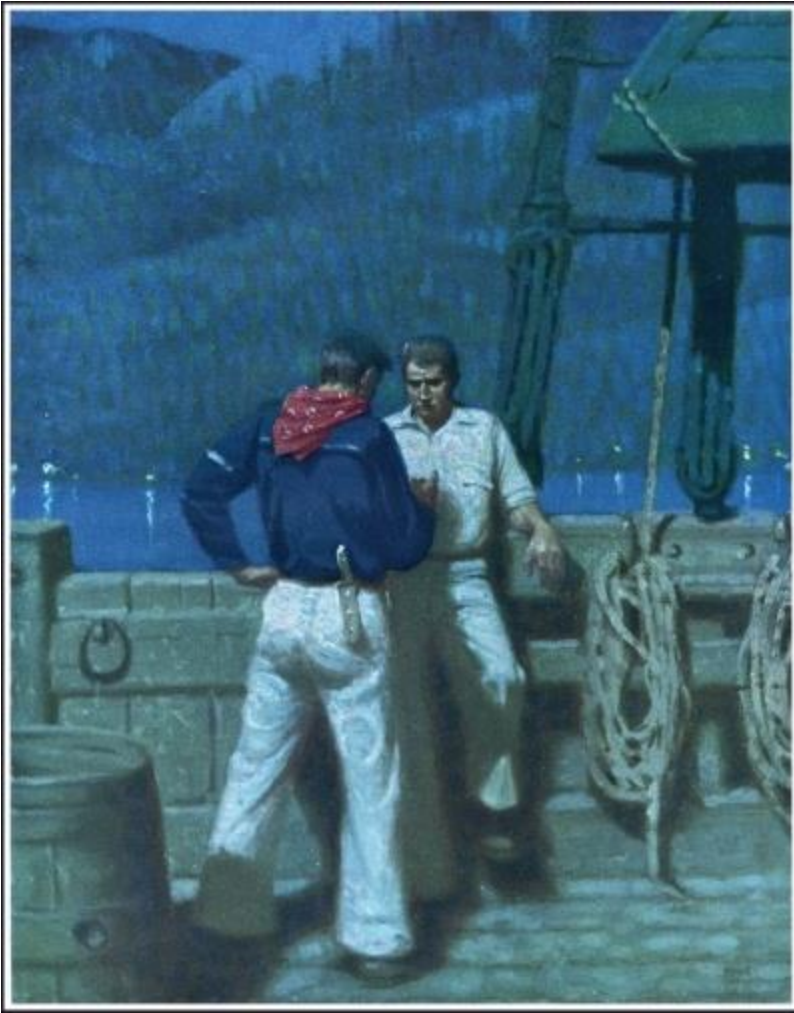
It is a very painful thing for our eyes to behold, because all kinds of liquor are allowed on the tables on this day-beer, soda, wine, whiskey."



In 1842, a 23-year-old American sailor named **Herman Melville** was on a ship that visited the **Marquesas Islands**.

Soon after, **Melville** wrote first book, a semi-biographical novel titled *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life* (London; New York: 1846).





Melville described how he and a companion deserted the ship *Acushnet*.



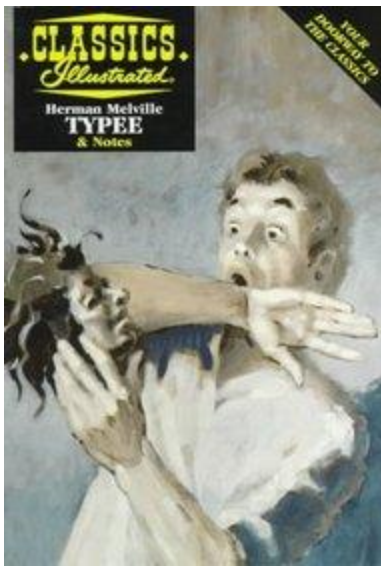
They stole up into the mysterious island mountains, waiting for their ship to depart without them.



His companion fell and was injured as they descended a steep ravine into the **Typee** valley.



They were captivated by the sensual beauty of this island paradise until shortly after, his companion disappeared.

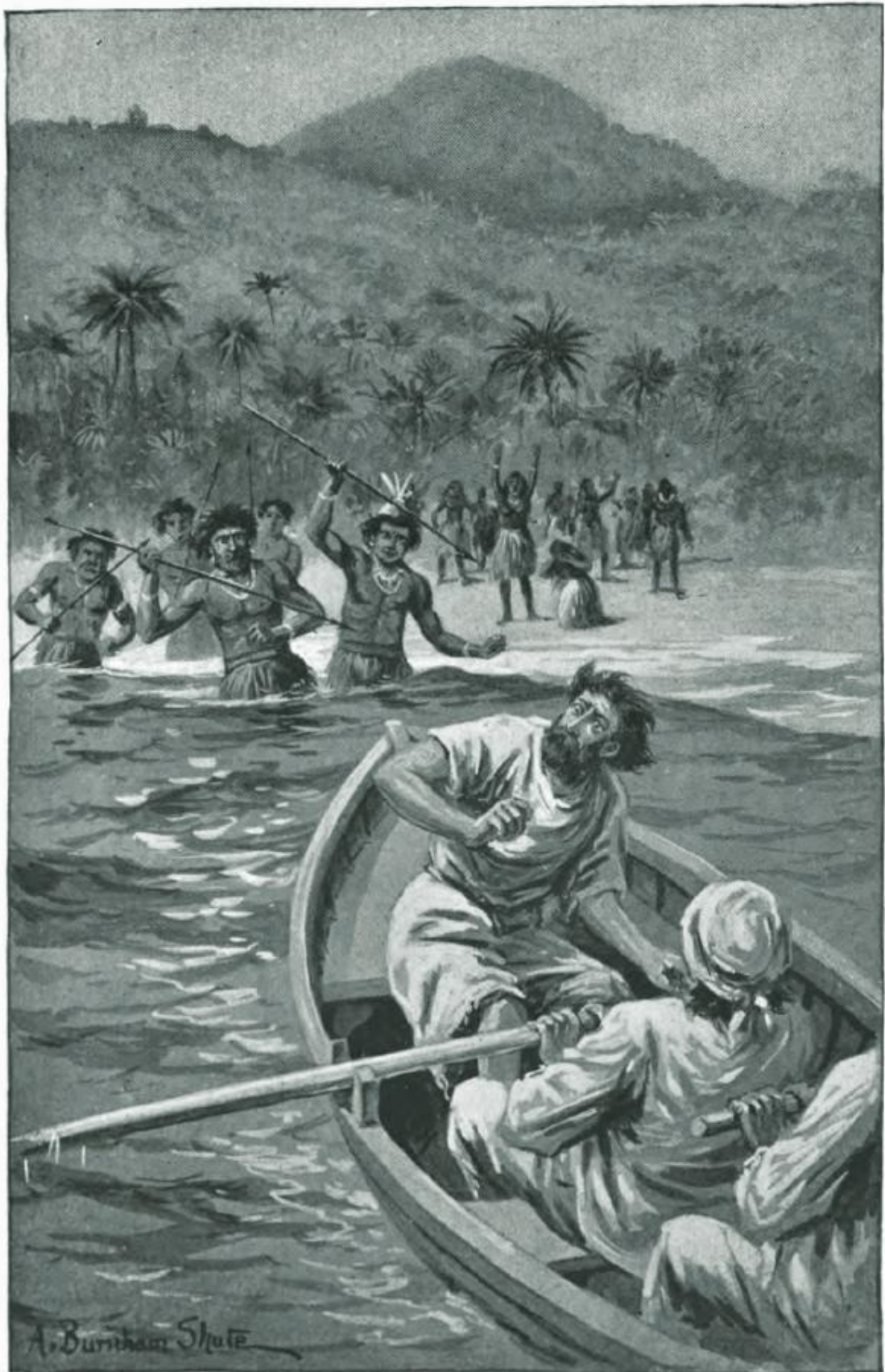


When **Melville** asked the natives what happened to his friend, they were strangely silent, leading him to conclude that he had been eaten.

The natives forbade **Melville** from going anywhere near the coast.

Nevertheless, three weeks later, **Melville** barely escaped with his life.

Melville wrote at the end of book *Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life*:



“Mow-Mow and some six or seven other warriors rushed into the sea.”

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