Mr. Blount. How long have you lived in these islands?
Mr. Bishop. Since October 12, 1846.
Q. You have spent your life here since then?
A. Mostly. A year and four months is the longest time I have been away. I was here twenty years before I went away at all. I was married in 1850.
Q. To whom?
A. Bernice Pauahi. She was a high chief’s daughter. Her mother was a descendant of Kamehameha I.
Q. You have large landed interests here?
A. Yes; I owned considerable land at times. I had control of large land interests.
Q. And your wife had large interests?
A. Yes; you might call it large interests. Quite large interests by inheritance not very long before she died.
Q. You have had occasion then to give more than ordinary attention to lands in the kingdom?
A. Yes; I think so. I was intimately associated with Judge Lee, who was president of the land commission. We came here together. We roomed together.
Q. You spoke of the land commission; for what purpose was it created?
A. It was created for the purpose of giving title to all the people who had claims to land—the chiefs and the people.
Q. On what principle did they act in giving title?
A. The King and chiefs made this division in 1847. It was then agreed that the people should have the small holdings which they had occupied and cultivated since 1839. That was conceded by the King and chiefs on the advice of the foreigners in the Government and the friends of the natives outside.
Q. Why do you say it was occupied since 1839?
A. That date was fixed upon because it was the year in which the first draft of the constitution defining the rights of the people was made at Lahina. That is the reason why they took this date as a starting point. That was only the draft made there as I understand it. The land commission was for the purpose of giving titles to the chiefs and to the people for the lands which belonged to the chiefs, and which came to the natives under this concession.
Q. What was the principle upon which the lands were divided?
A. The chiefs had been given lands by former kings—by Kamehameha I, especially. They could not sell or lease them without the consent of the King and premier. There were other lands supposed to be the King’s private lands. When the division was made these lands which he claimed were his own were set apart and called crown lands. That was his private estate really, and the others belonged to the chiefs and the people—the Government, the chiefs and the people. The people got their’s out of the Government land and out of the King’s land and out of the chiefs’ land. These Kuleanas—it did not matter whether in the King’s land, the chiefs’ land or the Government land—they got them all the same by putting in a claim and having them surveyed. There were days set for them to come to prove claim. The