

## GIVES HIS REASONS.

The President Explains His Action with Reference to Hawaii.

Feeling That the Queen Had Been Overthrown by Reason of Unjust Intervention, He Deemed It His Duty to Right the Wrong.

TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: In my recent annual message to the congress I briefly referred to our relations with Hawaii and expressed the intention of transmitting to the Senate and the House of Representatives a copy of the original bill of the Senate when additional advice permitted. Though I am not able now to report a definite change in the actual situation, I am convinced that the difficulties lately created both here and in Hawaii will now be removed by the way of a solution through executive action of the problem presented render it proper and expedient that the matter should be referred to the broad authority and discretion of congress with the concurrence of the emperor thus far made to deal with the emergency and a statement of the considerations which have governed me in this. I suppose that the right and duty should determine what will be followed in treating this case. It is natural to say that the more advantageous to the islands, and the cheapest and least embarrassing to the United States, with an implied or expressed stipulation that the former to be the better, that will prove the more advantageous to the islands, and the cheapest and least embarrassing to the United States. It was wise for the United States through Secretary Marcy thirty-eight years ago to offer to expend \$10,000 to secure a treaty of annexation. It certainly cannot be expected that we will be compelled to expend \$100,000 to secure a confirmation in the form of a treaty. It is said that the United States has five times the wealth she possessed in 1854, and the reasons now existing for annexation are much stronger than they were then. I will refrain from the expression of opinion with emphasis that the golden hours are near at hand.

### The Annexation Treaty.

When the present administration entered upon its duties the senate had under consideration a treaty providing for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands to the territory of the United States. Surely under our constitution and the principles of our government the annexation of the highest attribute of sovereignty and it entered upon as an executive act all things relating to the transaction should be clear and free from suspicion. Additional import is attached to this proposed treaty of annexation, because it contemplated a departure from unbroken American tradition providing for the addition to our territory of islands of the sea more than 2,000 miles removed from the mainland.

### Instability of Provisional Government.

These considerations might not of themselves call for interference with the completion of a treaty entered upon by a previous administration. But it appears from the documents accompanying the proposed treaty that the senate that the ownership of Hawaii was tendered to us by a provisional government set up to succeed the constitutional ruler of the islands, who had been deposed, and it did not appear that the provisional government had the sanction of either popular revolution or suffrage.

### History of the Revolt.

Two other remarkable features of the transaction naturally attracted attention. One was the extreme difficulty of ascertaining the significance of all the facts in the transaction associated with the treaty. It appeared that a selected committee of safety, ostensibly the source of the revolt against the constitutional government of Hawaii, was organized on Saturday, the 14th day of January, 1893, and the United States forces were landed at Honolulu from a naval vessel lying in the harbor; that on the 17th the scheme of provisory government was perfected, and a proclamation naming the officers was on the same day prepared and read at the government building; that immediately thereafter the United States minister recognized the new government, on the 19th day of January, commissioners representing such government sailed for that country in a steamer especially chartered for the occasion, arriving in San Francisco on the 20th day of January and in Washington on the 31st day of January. The next day they had their first interview with the secretary of state, and another on the 11th, when the treaty of annexation was signed, agreed upon, and that on the 14th it was formally signed and on the 15th transmitted to the senate. Thus between the initiation of the scheme for a provisional government in Hawaii on the 14th day of January and the transmission of the senate of the treaty of annexation, including the government, the entire interval was thirty-two days, fifteen of which were spent by the Hawaiian commissioners in their journey to Washington, and not even the date of the signature of the treaty was known to the senate, the transaction appearing as if it had been an issue of fact of the most vital importance.

### Harrison's Message.

The message of the president accompanying the treaty declared that "the overthrow of the monarch was not in any way promoted by this government," and in a letter to the president from the secretary of state, also submitted with the treaty, the following passage occurs: "At the time the provisional government took possession of the government buildings no troops or officers of the United States were present or to be found, however, in the capital." No public recognition was accorded to the provisional government by the United States minister until after the queen's abdication, and when they were in effective possession of the government buildings, the police, the treasury, the treasuries, and the postal service, all the potential machinery of the government."

### Protest of the Queen.

But a protest also accompanied said treaty, signed by the queen and her ministers at the time of the creation of the provisional government, which explicitly states that the queen, in the superior forces of the United States, whose minister had caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu and declared that he would support such provisional government.

The truth or falsity of this protest was surely of the first importance. If true, no but against the concealment of its truth could induce our government to create, or to enter into a treaty resulting from the actuated in the protest have been knowingly deemed worthy of consideration by the senate. Yet the truth or falsity of this protest had not been investigated.

### White's Bill.

It was voted to be no duty, therefore, to withdraw the treaty from the senate for examination and meanwhile to cause an accurate and impartial investigation to be made of the facts attending the subversion of the constitutional government, and to take such action in its place of the provisional government I selected for the work of investigation on January 14, 1893, of Georgia, whose services of eighteen years and whose experience as chairman of the committee of foreign affairs in that body and his consequent familiarity with international topics, joined with his high character and honorable reputation, secured for me the most distinguished duties entrusted to him. His report detailing his action under the instructions given to him and the conclusions derived from his investigation accompanied this message.

### Commissioner's Report.

These conclusions do not rest for their acceptance entirely upon Mr. Bown's honesty and ability as a man, nor upon his acumen and impartiality as an investigator. They are accompanied by the report of the commissioners who were sent to Hawaii, and which it is assumed, which comes with the report, was transmitted, and from which it seems to me no other deduction could possibly be reached than those arrived at by the commissioner.

### President's Private Answer.

The report of the commissioners accompanying the treaty states that "the overthrow of the monarch was not in any way promoted by this government," and in a letter to the president from the secretary of state, also submitted with the treaty, the following passage occurs: "At the time the provisional government took possession of the government buildings no troops or officers of the United States were present or to be found, however, in the capital." No public recognition was accorded to the provisional government by the United States minister until after the queen's abdication, and when they were in effective possession of the government buildings, the police, the treasury, the treasuries, and the postal service, all the potential machinery of the government."

### The Appeal for American Support.

On the same day, and immediately after such action was taken by the commissioners, the president, in a letter to the secretary of state, also submitted with the treaty, states that "the protest of the queen and her ministers at the time of the creation of the provisional government, which explicitly states that the queen, in the superior forces of the United States, whose minister had caused United States troops to be landed at Honolulu and declared that he would support such provisional government" I selected for the work of investigation on January 14, 1893, of Georgia, whose services of eighteen years and whose experience as chairman of the committee of foreign affairs in that body and his consequent familiarity with international topics, joined with his high character and honorable reputation, secured for me the most distinguished duties entrusted to him. His report detailing his action under the instructions given to him and the conclusions derived from his investigation accompanied this message.

### Admiral Skerrett's Statement.

Admiral Skerrett, the officer in command of our naval forces on the Pacific station, had transmitted to the secretary of state two telegrams on the 14th of January, 1893, in which he reported that the queen had been overthrown by the people of the islands, and that the United States forces were landed at Honolulu for the protection of American citizens whose residence and places of business, as well as the legation and consulate were in a critical part of the city, and that the government of the islands was in a state of anarchy and disorder, and that the queen had been overthrown by the people of the islands, and that the United States forces were landed at Honolulu for the protection of American citizens whose residence and places of business, as well as the legation and consulate were in a critical part of the city, and that the government of the islands was in a state of anarchy and disorder, and that the queen had been overthrown by the people of the islands, and that the United 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