

a small quantity of brandy; that, were not his honour concerned, he would willingly sacrifice the twenty thousand dollars which Captain Laplace held as security for the faithful performance of the treaty, if by so doing he could prevent the demoralization of his people; that the commercial treaty had been forced upon him by Captain Laplace and the French consul, who threatened to renew the war and destroy Honolulu; that they refused him time to consult with his chiefs or any other person, and insisted on receiving his signature the next morning. Having no one with whom to advise, his own impulse was to do any thing that might serve to preserve peace and prevent injury to his people and the foreigners under his protection.

He said further, that this was not the only instance in which his consent had been extorted by threats, to measures of which he disapproved, and that there had been instances when he had been called upon to perform alleged promises which he had never given, for there were some of the foreigners who misrepresented every thing that took place in their interviews with him.

I at once pointed out a simple remedy for this, namely, that he should hereafter transact all business in writing, and have no verbal communication with people of this stamp or indeed with any one; telling him that by keeping their letters, and copies of his own, he would always be in possession of evidence of what had passed. I assured him that I considered his government to have made sufficient progress towards a position among civilized nations to authorize him to require that official business should be carried on in this manner, and expressed my belief, that should he adopt this method, the "bullies" of whom he had spoken would give him no further trouble.

I now found that his principal object in requesting an interview with me was, that he might renew and amplify his treaty with the United States, for which purpose he thought it probable that I might have had instructions. When he found that this was not the case, and that I had no official communication for him, he was evidently disappointed; for he appeared most desirous to enter into a close friendship with the United States, and spoke in the highest terms of the kind manner in which he had ever been treated by our consul Mr. Brinsmade and the commanders of the United States vessels of war that had visited his islands. In conclusion, he intimated his hopes that the United States would acknowledge his people as a nation, and enter into a new treaty with him as its ruler.

All this was well and intelligently expressed by him, but the main subject of the conversation, which lasted for three hours, was his regret that he had ever permitted foreigners to interfere with his laws