

THE POLYNESIAN.

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COMMUNICATED.

For the Polynesian.

HONOLULU, Oct. 1841.

MR EDITOR—The next point in order which calls for particular notice is the transaction concerning M. Maigret. In the Supplement the following oath is recorded as taken before the British Consul. "I, Louis Maigret, do hereby make oath that I never attempted to conceal from the authorities at the Sandwich Islands that I am a priest. Nor did I ever directly or indirectly endeavor to make it appear that I was not a subject of France." His statement as to the point of attempted concealment is essentially the same in the history as in the above oath. Kaahumanu says in her letter to M. Dudoit respecting M. Maigret, "He concealed from me his country and his being a priest as tho' he wished to land privately and dwell and we could not remove him and when he could no longer conceal, he stated that he was a Frenchman wishing to go to the Marquesas. We know however that vessels do not sail direct from these islands to the Marquesas, and if they do they usually touch at the Society Islands whence he came. I cannot therefore by any means confide in his word." Upon this the Supplement remarks: "It will be observed in the letter of the governess that she accuses the Romish priest Maigret of concealing his country and his being a priest, &c. Knowing as we do that this charge is without a shadow of truth, we pronounce it a base calumniating libel, invented for the vilest purpose, and calculated to do the deepest injury." It may be well to insert the correspondence here which took place upon the arrival of the Europa, (except what is published in the Supplement) and an account of what passed at an interview between her highness Kaahumanu II, and M. Dudoit, that our readers may have the means of judging of the merits of the case for themselves.

Upon the arrival of the Europa, Nov. 2, 1837, having on board five passengers, viz. three Spanish Refugees, a French Catholic Priest and an Englishman said to be connected with the Catholic Mission, the following correspondence ensued.

[No. 1.]

KAUWILA HOUSE, Nov. 2, 1837.

This is my order to the captain of the ship called the Europa. I have heard by Capt. Bruce of the British ship Imogene, that you are expected to bring teachers of the religion of the Pope. If this is true, and they have really come, I say to you by no means allow any of them to land, till I give you permission in writing, then you may do so. And if you act contrary to this order, this is the forfeiture, ten thousand dollars, to be paid by you and by the ship Europa. This is what I make known to you, for their practises are tabu (forbidden) within the dominions of my king. But if you have not brought the said persons you are at liberty to enter the harbor without any obstruction.

By me,

(Signed) KAAHUMANU II.

[No. 2.]

I, Kaahumanu II, make known the determination of my king, and also my own determination respecting you the propagators of the religion of the Pope, who have arrived on board the ship Europa. You must not land in this country until I have received written bonds for the protection of the kingdom of my king from you, and for our satisfaction that you will speedily go away out of the kingdom for

your ceremonies are forbidden in this kingdom—Therefore you will remain on board the vessel, and unless you receive a written permission from me to be entertained here you must not land, but go away to other countries, and if one of you lands contrary to this order he will be subject to a fine of two thousand dollars, and he will be imprisoned until he shall go away to other countries. By me,

(Signed) KAAHUMANU II.

The above were sent off by the pilot and the following answers received:

[No. 3.]

Ship Europa, Nov. 2, 1841.

TO THE GOVERNOR—We the subscribers, citizens of the Republic of Chile, have the honor to show to you that political difficulties of state have obliged us to flee from our country. We have taken passage to the continent of North America by the direction of these islands with your permission. We only wish to remain here as long as is necessary to obtain a passage. We protest to you that we have not come as merchants or of any other profession to this port. Be pleased Sir, to accept the consideration of esteem and respect with which we subscribe ourselves,

(Signed) { SALVADOR PUGAR,
VINCIENTE OBISTANDO,
PABLO FUERTAR.

[No. 4.]

The undersigned, passengers on board the Europa, promise not to interfere with the laws and regulations of the Sandwich Islands during their sojourn and to leave the islands the first favorable opportunity.

[No date.]

L. MAIGRET,

(Signed) J. C. MURPHY.

[No. 5.]

Salutations to you Chilian passengers on board the Europa. I have seen your writing of the 2nd Nov. 1837, and it is evident from your writing that it is proper for me to give my consent to you in writing in friendship to dwell awhile at this place, and then leave when you obtain a vessel. As you have testified in the said writing so will I bear in mind while you sojourn here, and no one shall molest you if you observe the laws and regulations while you dwell as strangers in the kingdom. (Signed) KAAHUMANU II.

To S. PUGAR,

V. OBISTANDO,

P. FUERTAR.

[No. 6.]

Salutations to you L. Maigret and J. C. Murphy on board the ship Europa. I received your writing to day and have seen what you have made known, but you have not stated definitely to me in the writing what countryman you are and what your employments and how long you wish to stay. You have not informed me in your writing to what country you wish to go by the first favorable opportunity. On this account I request you to make a clear statement of these points in writing, and if you or either of you are priests of the religion of the Pope or of any other office make it known to me, do not hide it from me, for this only is the reason why I hesitate to allow you to land: I do not desire propagators of that religion to dwell here. That is tabu.

(Signed) By me, KAAHUMANU.

HONOLULU, Nov. 2, 1837.

The next morning Mr Dudoit brought the following to Kaahumanu:

[No. 7.]

OAHU, Nov. 3, 1837.

This certifies that I Louis Maigret, a Frenchman, came on board the ship Eu-

ropa as passenger at Valparaiso, and my object was to remain here until I could get a passage to the Marquesas or the Dangerous Archipelago Islands, and that I will conform to the laws and regulations of government at all times.

(Signed) L. MAIGRET.

Kaahumanu earnestly inquired of Mr. Dudoit if Mr. Maigret was a priest, and he frankly declared that he was. She said he had concealed that fact. Mr Dudoit said Mr Maigret told him he was afraid he should not be permitted to land if it was known that he was a priest: says Mr D. I told him he ought not to have done so.

A long conversation here ensued, substantially as follows:

Mr Dudoit. The refusal on the part of government to allow a French subject to land is an infraction of the treaty, inasmuch as citizens of other countries are allowed to come and go freely.

Kaahumanu. I do not consider it so. The laws forbid the landing of Roman Catholic priests, but do not forbid the landing of Frenchmen. I do not consider the clause in the treaty to mean that the government have no power to prevent for any cause a subject of France from coming to these shores. It was not so understood when signed.

D. That question I cannot settle.

K. I will allow Mr Maigret to land and stay any reasonable time provided he gives bonds to go away within the time specified and not to teach his religion whilst here. D. I presume no such terms will be complied with. It is never expected that a man should give bonds in such a case. Mr M. only wishes to stay a short time until he finds an opportunity to go to the Marquesas. K. Why then did he not stay at the Society Islands? that was on his way. D. He heard that Messrs Bachelot and Short were imprisoned here and came to see if he could not aid them. K. Then let them procure a small vessel and go away together. D. They have no means, they cannot do that. K. I think he has no intention of leaving the islands. Mr Walsh a British subject landed under the same pretext, and has resided here a long time and we cannot get rid of him. D. I give you my word he will leave as soon as he finds an opportunity. K. Vessels never go from here to the Marquesas. Will you give a bond? D. No, Madam, I could not do that; I could not agree to pay my money; I give you my word that he will go away.—K. Within how long a time? D. I cannot say; just as soon as he gets an opportunity. K. Cannot he get bonds in the village? D. I think not. Nobody will expose themselves in this way. K. Will you give your word in writing officially as Capt. Petit Thouers did in the case of M. Bachelot, that he will go away in any definite period, or in case no other opportunity occurs that he shall be received on board of a French ship of war. D. I will guarantee that he will go by the first opportunity, but no ship of war would take him unless he is willing to go. K. Are you a French Consul? D. I have been nominated to that office, and Capt. Petit Thouers said I should have it. He was authorized to appoint consuls. K. Did he appoint you? He authorized me to act as consul until papers arrive from France. K. Did he give you the appointment in writing? D. No. K. It seems then you can only give your word in the case as a private citizen, and are unwilling to give any other bonds. D. Yes. K. That would not be according to the

terms laid down by this government. D. It seems then Mr M. will not be allowed to land. K. Not unless he complies with the conditions. D. I consider it an infringement of the treaty. K. We do not. D. We shall see. It is then of no use to talk any longer. I will write you a letter and you can answer it, and then the matter will rest for the present. I shall send both to the king of France. K. Very well. D. Be so good as to give the terms in writing. Mr Dudoit then requested the interpreter to write down the terms for him. The interpreter declined, but upon the urgent solicitation of Mr D. and the statement that he could not write English, he complied, read them to Mr Dudoit, and interpreted them to Kaahumanu, both of whom declared the memorandum correct, and Mr D. took it to carry to Mr Maigret saying perhaps he would assent to them. The memorandum was as follows:

— may land on the following conditions. 1st. Observe the laws and regulations of the country and not teach his religion whilst here. 2nd. Leave the islands within a definite period. 3rd. Give bonds for the fulfilment of these terms.

After this conference followed the correspondence published in the Supplement. Mr Maigret not acceding to the terms was not allowed to land, but transferred to the schooner Honolulu which he says he purchased, (probably for his mission.) Mr Murphy being declared by the British consul not a priest was allowed to land.

The public will judge whether the statement of the governess that an attempt was made at concealments by Mr Maigret was "a base calumniating libel invented for the vilest purpose without a shadow of truth." It would appear from the correspondence and also by the admission of Mr Dudoit that he did not frankly declare that he was a priest, a point upon which the governess most desired information, and this certainly looks like an attempt at concealment. If he sought a passage to the Marquesas why did he come to the Sandwich Islands from Tahiti directly out of his route and to which place he would probably be obliged to return in order to reach his destined port. It would be thought very singular that a person in Liverpool should take passage to the Orkneys for the purpose of awaiting a conveyance to New York, when the chances would be a hundred to one that he would be obliged to retrace his steps to reach his place of destination. A vessel rarely if ever sails from these islands direct to the Marquesas. When bound there they generally take the Tahitian group in their route. Neither does it appear reasonable that he came for the purpose of aiding Messrs B. and S. in any other than the work of their mission. He doubtless heard of their circumstances. If free they needed not his assistance. If in duance we cannot conjecture how he could have rendered their situation more tolerable. The same causes which operated against them would be equally so against him. We would wish to put the most favorable construction possible upon the statements and acts of Mr Maigret, but circumstances strongly indicated some other than any avowed object in his visit to these islands. The chiefs could not but suspect this as Kaahumanu plainly says to Mr D. and a permit to await a direct passage to the Marquesas, would virtually have been liberty to stay during life. But further it was known at Valparaiso that their destination was the Sandwich Islands and they were advised not to come. We be-