

Charles R. Bishop's Long and Honorable Career

Something About the Grand Old Man of Philanthropy Whose Ninetieth Birthday Is Near at Hand--His Marriage to a Princess.

By WALTER G. SMITH, in San Francisco Chronicle.

Charles Reed Bishop, vice-president of the Bank of California, was, for many years, a conspicuous and useful figure in Hawaii, where, in the development which long preceded annexation, he bore the part of a banker, a philanthropist and an adviser and friend of the throne. Coming to San Francisco in 1894, and selling his Hawaiian properties, he has since been identified with the material welfare of this city and deeply interested in the administration of trusts, created by himself and his late wife, the Princess Bernice, a descendant of Kamehameha I, for educational and religious purposes in Hawaii.

Mr. Bishop, who is now in his 89th year, was born at Glen Falls, Warren county, N. Y., in 1822. On his mother's side he came of Revolutionary stock. His parents died in his childhood, and he had a village bringing up, being cared for by his grandparents, and taught in district and select schools. At the age of 15 young Bishop went to work for a man at Warrensburg, a neighboring town, who kept a general store, was Postmaster, tilled a farm and ran a sawmill and gristmill. There was plenty to do, and the youth got a wider experience than most boys of his age, and stored up knowledge of human nature which stood him in good stead in years to come.

Moved to Sandy Hill.
In 1842 Mr. Bishop moved to the near-by town of Sandy Hill and became head clerk and bookkeeper of a general store, where they bought everything the farmers had to sell and sold them the supplies they needed. At Sandy Hill Mr. Bishop had in William L. Lee, a connection by marriage who was yet like himself to cut a large figure in the affairs of distant Polynesia. At the time Mr. Bishop went to Sandy Hill Lee had just returned for his summer vacation from a Vermont institution, the University of Norwich. The young men, meeting for the first time, struck up a warm friendship, which continued as long as Lee lived.

During the remaining period of Lee's collegiate studies Bishop stayed at Sandy Hill, and thereafter until his friend had taken a course in the Harvard Law School, had spent a year as principal of Virginia Institute, and returning north had opened a law office at Troy, N. Y. There young Bishop went to visit Lee, and the event became a turning point in the career of both.

Starting for the Pacific.
Neither was satisfied with his outlook. They felt the stir of the westward movement and saw no signs of large opportunities in the staid old communities in which they lived. There was, at the time, much interest in the new Territory of Oregon because of the boundary dispute with Great Britain. "Fifty-four forty or fight!" was the popular slogan, and everybody, in posting himself on the possibilities of war, had learned that Oregon was a region worth struggling for. Lee had the emigration fever, and he quickly gave it to Bishop. They talked Oregon over and made up their minds to go there. Details were soon arranged. The papers said that the brig Henry was about to sail from Newburyport, Mass., with passengers for Oregon City, Williamette, stopping at Honolulu to discharge freight. Bishop and Lee took passage, leaving Newburyport February 23, 1846.

Stormy on Atlantic.
It was the stormiest part of the year on the Atlantic, and the two young fellows, who had never been at sea before, often wished themselves back on dry land. Head winds and gales buffeted the little brig, and progress was slow. It was eighty-four days before the Henry reached St. Catharine's, Brazil, where she put in for supplies, and where the youthful fortune-seekers got their first glimpses of the tropics of which they were yet to see so much. Leaving St. Catharine's shortly the voyage was still unpleasant, and it was the Fourth of July by the time the Henry reached the Falklands. When she left Newburyport the captain had said they would spend the Fourth in Honolulu harbor. But there was yet the frozen Horn to negotiate and the vast stretches of the Pacific.

The month after the brig had left Newburyport the ship Brooklyn left New York for Honolulu with a company of Mormons headed by Sam Brannan. The Brooklyn had a fast passage, beating the Henry by three months and arriving at the Hawaiian metropolis about July 4, where Brannan, who was to have such a conspicuously varied career in California, delivered the Independence day address.

Arrival at Honolulu.
Early in October the lofty peaks of Hawaii hove in sight; the off-shore birds and the schools of flying fish appeared, and finally the natives in their queer outriggers came with their little cargoes of fruit. A white man piloted the brig into Honolulu port. Anchor was dropped on the 12th of October, nearly eight months from Newburyport. The vessel was leaking and in need of general repairs.

Bishop and his friend Lee found themselves in an ideal spot, an Arcadian village where the cedonatus threw their created shadows into water as blue as the sky; where the simple and kindly native people gandered and gazed, made them welcome, and where a New England community of merchants and missionaries provided the home comforts to which they were used. October was a beautiful month; the spell of peace was on the green vistas of the landscape; cool breezes stirred the strange leafage; unknown birds nested in the branches of the kukui and the palm, and everything beckoned to new joys. So neither youth steeled his heart against entreaties to stay. Why go on to Oregon, a wild land with a hostile winter? Why leave in a leaky ship to brave tempestuous waters and the fatal entrance to the Columbia? What for? Was there not work to do in Hawaii? There was a growing trade for young Bishop to find employment in if he so desired; and as for Lee, surely this young lawyer with a Harvard diploma; this bright and attractive and well-read counselor was just the man to help the overworked Attorney-General undo some knotty legal questions. Why not stay?

They Take Office.
There was, indeed, much need of legal advice, for the government was not only in trouble with the important firm of Ladd & Co., but with the Consuls. John Ricord was attorney-general, and needed aid. The other members of the government, headed by the famous Dr. Judd, were of the laity and the law practice of the islands was in few and indifferent hands. Expert help must be had.

Lee was asked to write some opinions, which he did, and with so much acceptance that he was induced to stay until spring and help the attorney-general out. Bishop, who had determined to stick to Lee, soon found employment in the office of the minister of the interior, to write up books that had got behind. In a little while Lee was made superior judge and then chief justice, and also president of the land commission, while Bishop, finishing his work in the interior office accepted the position of secretary to the United States consulate.

Settled in Honolulu.
The young men were now settled in Honolulu and seasons came and went without renewing their plans to visit Oregon. Both were content and prosperous. Chief Justice Lee did most useful service to Hawaii, but broke down under it and had but eleven more years of life.
In the spring of '49 when the gold-hunting rush to California began, Mr. Bishop grew restless for the mines, but his affection for Judge Lee kept him from going, though at one time he had so nearly made up his mind to leave that, following the law and custom of the period, he had published his intention to depart. While Consular secretary he had saved money and invested it, and at one time he sent Chinese-grown sugar to the Coast and got his pay for it in gold dust. Then, unexpectedly, he was offered the collector-generalship of customs for the port of Honolulu, which he accepted, and from that on, for over forty years, he was a resident of Hawaii, becoming one of its wealthiest and most influential men.

Starts Bishop Bank.
In 1858, after being in trade for five years as partner of W. A. Aldrich, the two started a bank. General business was growing. California had become an important market for Hawaii's agricultural products, and Honolulu and Lahaina were the mid-pacific rendezvous of whalers. Money of all nations circulated; there was need of a secure place of deposit and of all the machinery of a banking system. Mr. Bishop, whose business acumen had grown with experience and whose reputation for integrity was such as to inspire confidence in him as a conservator of his own and other peoples' money, had no trouble in associating with him such interests as would make his bank a success from the start. But he took no undue chances. He began in a small room in a building on a narrow street, where he and his partner were their own bookkeeper, cashier, receiving and paying teller and janitor. Business grew rapidly. The firm soon had to add another room and a clerk, and finally a room or two more were called for to accommodate the increasing clerical force. Early in the sixties the firm, whose banking house was known as Bishop & Co., a name which it still bears, built a two-story modern structure about a block from the first site, and today the establishment, the controlling interest of which is held by Samuel M. Damon, an early banking associate of Mr. Bishop, does in some respects the largest business of its kind in the Territory of Hawaii.

Marries a Princess.
Mr. Bishop had been cordially received in Honolulu society, both white and native, and was especially welcome among the Hawaiian chiefs or "Aliis," as they were called. At the

Young Chief's School, where the Princess and Princesses and the native aristocracy were educated, he was a frequent and well-liked visitor. One of the pupils, Bernice Pauahi Paki, a beautiful Hawaiian girl with the blood of the Kamehamehas in her veins, admired the young American, as he did her in return, with results which were forecasted in this letter from Mrs. Amos Cooke, a missionary, to her sister, Miss Montague. The letter appears in "The Memoirs of Bernice Pauahi Bishop," a work written by Mary H. Kroot.

"HONOLULU, Oahu, S. Is., February 25, 1859.—Saturday night I wrote a hasty line to C—, but as it did not get off yesterday, I have thought I would fill another sheet to you. * * * Juliette and Miss Bernice are engaged, in sewing and Mr. Bishop is reading to them from the 'Life of Hannah Moore.' Probably you are aware that Miss Bernice has an admirer who calls every evening and probably will until they have a home of their own. He is a fine young man and is collector-general of customs. We much prefer that she should take up with such a man as he, than with either of the young Princes now absent with Dr. Judd in Europe."

Paki, the father of Bernice, wished her to marry either of the two Princes who afterward became King, but the young girl had her way and on June, 1859, in the parlor of the Young Chief's School, then situated on Palace Walk, a narrow street skirting the abode of the reigning family, she became Mrs. Charles Reed Bishop. But few are now living who were present at the ceremony, and they describe it as very simple, the bride wearing white muslin with a jasmine wreath in her black hair. And then began a wedded life not less useful to Hawaii and Hawaiians than it was happy to the participants.

Enters the Government.
It was natural that a man of Mr. Bishop's business reputation should be sought by high office in a community where the King and chiefs realized their own deficiencies in public administration. Some time after he had inter-married with the royal line and had retired from the collector-generalship of customs, Mr. Bishop was invited to accept a seat in the ministry. Kamehameha IV, offered him a portfolio. But as the managing partner in a banking house, he wanted all his time to attend to his private business and he found, every year, a larger responsibility—more to do. Finally he made some exception to his rule against taking office by accepting a seat in the lower branch of the legislature, but that did not require much of his time. In 1860 he was made a noble for life, thus becoming a member of the upper legislative chamber, but only with biennial duties. But as time went on and he was able to leave more of the details of the banking business to others, Mr. Bishop yielded to the public desire that he should identify himself with the administrative branches of the government. Having a keen interest in education he became president of the board of public instruction, and as such participated in an era of school building and of modern ways of teaching which had much to do with making the Hawaiians the most literate aboriginal people in the world. There was also work to his taste in the Privy Council, where he held a seat during three reigns.

In the Ministry.
The last of the enthroned Kamehamehas was Lunalilo, who lived to reign about one year. Of Lunalilo's personal stability there was some doubt, and the responsible elements in the country wanted to guide him with a strong hand; so Mr. Bishop was induced, for the public good, and with the King's eager assent, to accept office under him and form a ministry. In the resultant cabinet, Mr. Bishop, retaining his place as noble in the legislature, became minister of foreign affairs, his colleagues being white men of character, E. O. Hall, Robert Stirling and Albert F. Judd, the latter a son of Dr. Judd, the missionary-statesman of the early period, himself a future chief justice and chancellor of the kingdom.

Pearl Harbor Negotiation.
It was while at the head of the ministry that Mr. Bishop entered into the preliminaries to a negotiation with the United States for the cession of Pearl Harbor. Ulysses S. Grant was then President, and like Abraham

Lincoln, who had sent an agent to spy out Hawaii with a view to future acquisition, he felt that the interests of this country required a naval station in the Hawaiian group. Pearl Harbor ranked with Sydney and San Francisco harbors in its accommodations for ships, except for the need of dredging at the entrance, and if fortified and provided with a navy yard, it would give the owner and possessor a base from which the command of the North Pacific trade routes might be held. So Washington sought to acquire Pearl Harbor by treaty and sent Generals Schofield and Alexander there to report on boundaries.

The Hawaiian ministry was agreeable to this project, feeling, as did the responsible American residents, that it meant security for Hawaii from Old World aggression but the English residents had other views, and Walter Murray Gibson, the Mormon adventurer who, later, became premier of the kingdom, was bitterly opposed. He ranged the natives against the treaty and undecided the mind of the King, who had at first been favorable. Nothing had been settled up to the time the King died, and then the negotiations were dropped.

The Cabinet also made a determined effort to carry out the law for the segregation of lepers, and over 530 confirmed cases were sent to Molokai, despite the protests of their friends. This made a very bitter feeling among the natives, who personally have no fear of the rotting plague and have never been reconciled to the banishment, even to the comforts and medical care of the Molokai settlements, of their incurable kindred.

Crown Offered Mrs. Bishop.
The sovereignty which Lunalilo

held, had been offered by the latter's predecessor, Kamehameha V, to Mrs. Bishop. But she declined it. When Lunalilo began to fail in health, his Cabinet urged him to exercise his prerogative and name his own heir. This the dying King refused to do. "They elected me," he said, "let them also elect my successor."

What followed was eventful. English influence supported Queen Emma, the consort of the late Kamehameha V, for the throne, and the American residents, among whom Mr. Bishop was a conservative leader, centered on David Kalakaua, a young chief of exalted rank, and a man who was believed to be "safe." The Legislature met and elected Kalakaua, but the election brought on a riot which compelled the captain of an American war ship in the harbor to land his bluejackets and restore order.

A Time of Travel.
After twenty years of busy life in Hawaii, during which time Mr. Bishop had made a fortune to which his wife's estate did not largely contribute, he took Mrs. Bishop on her first visit away from the islands. They did not go farther than California, the chief natural attractions of which state they saw. They returned to Honolulu in a sailing vessel which carried Anson Burlingame to China. In 1871 Mr. and Mrs. Bishop made a tour of the Eastern States, visiting, among other places, Glen Falls and Sandy Hill, where Mr. Bishop had spent his early boyhood. While visiting in Maine the Indian chief at Oldtown reservation, on the Penobscot, mistook Mrs. Bishop for one of his race and asked her tribe. She talked to him in Hawaiian and he then asked where her country was and how it was governed? She showed

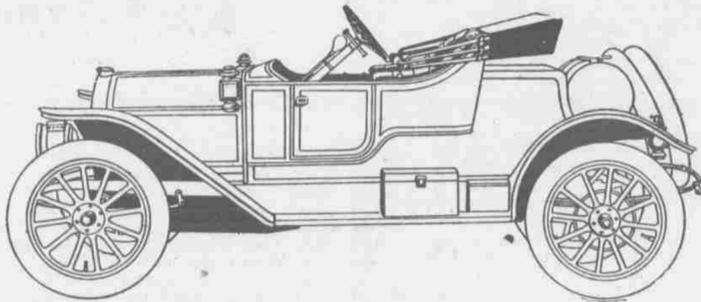
Hawaii on the map and told him it was ruled by a king. "Now me speech a little," said the chief. "I think a king no good, for if he is had you have him as long as he lives, but if you have a bad President in four years you can get another."
In 1875 the Bishops went to Europe, where they were presented to Pope Pius IX and to Queen Victoria, and were splendidly entertained in many countries.

Presentations at Court.
Mrs. Bishop's letters from Europe, which Miss Kroot included in her book, contain much interesting matter. In a letter from Genoa, dated February 13, 1878, she describes her visit to the Vatican as follows: By the by, did I write you about our being presented to the Pope? Well, we sent in our request to that effect as soon as we arrived in Rome through our friend, the Marquise de Campenari, who kindly offered her services. After a week or so the permit came and we presented ourselves with about sixty or seventy others on the day appointed. After ascending about a dozen staircases, passing soldiers dressed in striped uniforms of all the colors of the rainbow—we were ushered into the ante-chamber, where we laid aside our wraps and took off our gloves, for this is one of the prescribed customs; another is that ladies appear in black with veils over their heads, gentlemen in evening costume, white neckties, etc., written, or I ought to say, printed on the permit. We were ushered into another apartment called the loggia by a servant in splendid livery of crimson silk with long, hanging sleeves and crimson stockings.

Pope Finally Entered.
"After an hour later than that specified by the note, the Pope finally entered, preceded by several priests. We all went down on our knees, and as he came tottering by he passed in front of us and gave his hand to each one to be kissed. C— merely held it. I bent my forehead over it, so his blessing is on my head, not on my lips, for I could not make up my mind to kiss his hand. A Yankee lady—a strict Presbyterian, who knelt a little distance from me, took his hand, hesitated a moment, evidently not wishing to kiss it, and dropped it. Her

friend, who was kneeling by her side, thought it her duty to help her out of the dilemma. She took the old Pope's hand and carried it to her friend's lips to be kissed; but the Connecticut lady, who was too much of a Protestant to do that, moved her head back and shook it, her face as red as a lobster. At this moment I had to look away, I was so embarrassed. I heard the old Pope murmur something in French, but all I understood was the word 'suspicien.' Of course the whole performance lasted but a moment, but to the poor lady (I told her afterward she was a heroine), it no doubt seemed an age."

Presented at Court.
Following is the portion of a letter which describes the presentation of the Bishops at the English court:
"The Duke of Edinburgh presented C— (Mr. Bishop and the Marchioness of Salisbury, me. As my name was announced by the Lord Chamberlain, Queen Victoria, much to my surprise, came forward and bowed with a kind smile of recognition, which, of course, pleased me very much. I bowed next to the Princess of Wales and to others of the royal family, and when I was opposite the Duke of Edinburgh he extended his hand to shake hands with me, and he did the same with C—, who was behind me. W then, with the rest, went to the outer rooms and did not see the royal family again."
"The rooms were soon filled by the ladies as they came out and we stood and watched the elegantly dressed company—ladies and gentlemen—as they went to and fro. And such sights. Such toilettes and display of jewels—coronets, diamonds, pearls and all other precious stones, satins, silks, velvets and brocades of all shades and colors, with feathers, flowers and laces. It was a sight I never expect to see again. It was, I have been told, the most brilliant drawing room of the season—and the last."
"My dress, I dare say you would like to know, was silk in two shades of rose color—light and dark. The dress was made in Paris, but the train, which was three and three-quarters of a yard long, and the low bodice, I had made here for the occasion. I had plumes the color of my dress, flowers and lappets in my hair,



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