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THE PACIFIC
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.

Tuesday, July 1, 1884.

NICE STANDARD BEARERS.

Whatever of honesty, whatever of decency, and whatever of just, earnest purpose there may be in the Opposition, is being nullified by the character of the newspapers which claim to echo its sentiments. They are not really entitled to be called newspapers, for they are essentially the receptacles of a mass of falsehood, misrepresentation, and scurrility. We refer now to the *Bulletin* and the *Gazette*, both characterless organs which, unfortunately for the Opposition, have taken up its fight, and are making it with a rank indecency which robs it of all sympathy.

When a party is formed upon honest principles, and when its members act conscientiously and with principle, we cannot but respect their motives, no matter how much we may differ from them. But when a brace of yelping and indecent newspapers fling themselves into the breach, pile filth upon everyone who is not as offensively radical as themselves, fill their columns day after day with coarse personalities and exaggerated lies, then we say it is time for the Opposition, if it would retain the respect of this community to disown its connection with such infamous sheets. The *Bulletin* is a journalistic bastard with no responsible proprietors, or no recognized editor which goes about hungry for every description of nasty vituperation any sorehead and disappointed office-seeker who has brains enough to string a few English phrases together may dump into its columns. And it is such as this which attempts to win general sympathy for an anti-Government party. It is not a newspaper, because it never gives an honest report of a meeting, never places an item of information before its readers that is not daubed with the brush of its own dirty prejudice. The *Gazette* is of the same stripe—possibly less slanderous than its companion; but still too nasty to claim brotherhood with any decent newspaper. Both are a disgrace not alone to the party they claim to represent, but to the community in which they are published.

Every man who is willing to fall into line under this ragged, sorehead leadership is a patriot of the grandest type, the soul of honor, the embodiment of all that is good and pure in politics. Every man who insists upon his independence, and who will not imperil his respectability by training with such a tattered and disreputable crowd is denounced as the creature of some secret influence, a corporation tool, a paid dependent whom those irresponsible scribblers dare to weigh according to their self-constituted standard of right and wrong.

Within the last few days those circulars have been talking of an appeal to His Majesty to make the changes in the Government which they, in their wisdom, deem necessary to the welfare of this Kingdom. This is an illustration of their colossal audacity. An appeal to His Majesty! Why, for months past their columns have been charged with abuse and ridicule of the royal household. They have spoken of the head of this Kingdom with a disregard for common decency, which should not have been allowed to pass unnoticed. They have not lost a single opportunity to revile His Majesty, and publish their contempt for him, and their disapprobation of his personal conduct, apart altogether from political criticism.

And now they talk of an appeal to that Sovereign who has furnished them with material for brutal and mendacious assaults. But this is only in keeping with their unparalleled impudence, their ignoble disregard of all that is proper and dignified in the discussion of political affairs.

We believe in a healthy and honest opposition, and we know that the party antagonistic to the present government has many earnest and true men within its ranks. But we cannot believe that they will allow themselves to be represented by the *Bulletin* and *Gazette*, or endorse the sentiments and policy of those scandalous circulars. We are all looking towards good government. We believe in holding the Ministry accountable for its acts, but we do not believe in being mustered in with a scaly regiment of soreheads, and disappointed office hunters, with such whippers in as the *Gazette* and *Bulletin* as grand inquisitors on the motives and honesty of the members of an opposition party. And so long as they are allowed to carry the standards of that Opposition, we have no faith in its motives, and no belief in its honesty.

WHEN THE WAR IS OVER.

What a relief it will be to the newspapers, when all the political hubbub is over, to turn to the discussion of theological subjects. In a strictly religious community, such as this, it is delightful to ponder on the solemn truths of Christianity, to exchange views on the eminent characteristics of Biblical history, to improve the morals of the people, if, indeed, there be any room for improvement, and a wish that one could attend divine service every day in the week. "What," says the psalmist, "does it profit a man to gain the whole world if he lose his own soul?" What, indeed? Ah, this is something for those giddy, heedless politicians to reflect on. What does it profit the entire Opposition should they have ousted the Ministry, and should every member of their party obtained an office, if, when the last fearful day arrives they be found wanting, and be cast into the bottomless pit amidst wailing and gnashing of teeth? This is the sort of talk we should like to see in the newspapers. There is too much frivolity, too much trifling with worldly matters, too much rattling about in carriages on Sunday, too much smoking, profanity and neglect of morning and evening prayers, too much politics, and too little attention to the objects for which we are placed in this world. We want to see all this sort of thing changed, and we hope that on the adjournment *sine die* of the House the *Bulletin*, *Gazette*, *Hawaiian* and *Saturday Press* will fall into line, and write things which will be good for the immortal souls of their readers. The *Bulletin* may find it difficult to fumigate its office, and thoroughly expel the fumes of brimstone, but prayer and penance combined may force Jack Satan to surrender his mortgage on that plant.

OVERHAULING AN EXPERT.

The Hon. Chairman of the Finance Committee has been most energetic in his investigation of the accounts of the Ministry. He has looked under every blotter where an error might be supposed to linger, and has been as lucid as he could in showing the community the mistakes of the Government accountants. While giving that gentleman all due praise for his industry and zeal, it is with the greatest reluctance we assert that his own methods of bookkeeping are open to the gravest criticism. Mr. Godfrey Brown is responsible for the system in which the Treasury Loan Fund books are kept, for it was he who opened the books, and laid out the plan by which the accountants should be guided. Yet, although the act creating the loan may have been literally complied with, the books are not in conformity with sound accounting. The system lacks that perspicuity which should mark treasury accounts. In our opinion accounts should have been opened with each one of the items embraced in the first schedule of the Loan Act, as a loan

fund account, to which should have been credited all money borrowed for each specified account. The Interior or other departments drafting against the loan fund accounts should set forth in the draft which account the draft was against, and the amount thus drawn for should be at once debited to that loan fund account.

In no other way can the will of the Legislative Assembly be complied with, and in no other way can a Ministry be held to any accountability. We go farther and say, although the Loan Act may not demand it, that when the bonds are issued under this Act, they should bear across their face an endorsement setting forth the account for which they were issued. This endorsement would serve the purpose of a check, and also prevent any question that might arise in the future touching the legality of issuance. We confess that the Loan Act of 1882 does not reflect much credit upon the person who drafted it, nor upon the Assembly that discussed it.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

The long and bitter campaign against the Ministry, terminated on Saturday in the defeat of the Opposition. Perhaps if we had said the campaign against Mr. Gibson, we would have been nearer the fact, but now that the smoke of battle has disappeared, we hope that all those bitter personal animosities will be allowed to die out, and the Legislature will apply itself to promoting the interests of the country, and giving us a good start for the next biennial period. Meanwhile we think that Saturday's defeat should not result in a disorganization of the Opposition. We have deprecated the personal spirit that actuated a portion of its membership, but we have held that a vigorous, healthy Opposition is necessary to good Government, and we hope the set back it has received will not paralyze its vigilance. Because it did not succeed in ousting the Ministry, because it failed to show that Mr. Gibson and his colleagues, had violated the Constitution, or been wasteful in their handling of public moneys, it did throw light upon some serious defects in the present Government machinery. All this we cheerfully place to its credit, and we feel that the community owes the members of the Finance Committee its thanks for showing where the necessity of prompt, and energetic reform existed.

The department of the Minister of the Interior is sadly in need of reconstruction. We have criticised the loose system of accounting which exists in this department. We have coincided with the Finance Committee that this is most reprehensible, and we have urged that measures be taken at once to straighten out those errors, and place the affairs of that department on a business-like basis. This should be attended to without delay, and the speediest and most effective method would be the introduction of a resolution to that effect in the Legislature. The immigration accounts are perhaps the most faulty of all, but it is only fair to state that to place all this immigration business on the shoulders of the Minister of the Interior, gives him really more than one man can conscientiously attend to. There should be a Board of Immigration consisting say, of three Commissioners, appointed at the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, who would be ex-officio President of the same. Of this body but one need be salaried, and to him would be entrusted the detail business of the board, keeping accounts, etc., while the others would be honorary positions. The one salaried member would be directly responsible to the Government, and would have the immediate direction of immigration affairs, acting, of course, under the general supervision of this Minister of the Interior. This we think would ensure the proper conduct of the most important public matter, and would be a source of direct economy to the Government.

The expenditure for roads and bridges and letting out of contracts were objects of the dissatisfaction of the Finance Committee. To avoid abuses in the matter we would suggest the appointment of a Road Commission in each island. Its members, selected from the property holders, would certainly serve with-

out pay, for the opportunity of watching over their own interests would be ample compensation for the slight labor the position would involve.

It is in the consideration of matters of this nature that the Legislature should employ the remaining period of the session. The Opposition, while good-naturedly accepting its defeat, should apply itself to urging the correction of those shortcomings it has pointed out, and not relax its efforts because of the personal chagrin that any of its members may entertain. In all this it will have the hearty co-operation of the ADVERTISER. Our course from the opening to the close of this investigation has been purely and simply an independent one. We have not taken a suggestion from one side or the other, preferring to judge the case on its merits, to censure where we believed censure was deserved, and to praise where praise was due. We held that if it were proven that the Ministers had violated the Constitution, they should suffer for tampering with the only safeguard of any Government. We have deprecated the personal feeling that was allowed to enter into the struggle which should have been a movement in favor of good Government, and not a combined assault on any individual member of the Cabinet. In any case the country is safe. Those ripples on the surface of the political sea are not dangerous to general or individual interests. The Government stands just as it did before the decisive vote of Saturday, the perfunctory business of "weighing the Ministry," is completed, and the last sparks of the hot fire that blazed during the past week should be allowed to expire without further fanning by orators or newspapers.

VARIGNY'S "FOURTEEN YEARS IN THE SANDWICH ISLANDS."

The writer of this book spent the best years of his life in this country in which he resided from February, 1855, to July, 1868, a period which covers a large part of the reigns of the two last Kamehameha's. Engaged for some time as chancellor of the French Legation and subsequently as acting Charge d'Affaires, he was, on the accession of Kamehameha V, invited by that monarch to become a member of his cabinet. First as Minister of Finance and afterwards as Minister of Foreign Affairs. He occupied this position until his departure for France, which was necessitated by failing health. Occupying these positions, it is natural that he should have enwoven with the purely personal part of his narrative a large amount of discussion of Hawaiian politics. He took part in some stirring times, and was the colleague of men who have left a well marked impress of their own upon the history and institutions of this country. The very first scene of the political drama in which he was called upon to take part was the memorable convention of 1864. The next was the promulgation by Kamehameha V, on his own sole authority of the constitution under which the country is now governed.

The contents of the book before us are therefore full of interest for residents in these Islands, and especially so for the large number who themselves remember the times of which they give a history. Nevertheless it seems to be little known here, even by repute. This is probably because it has never been translated. It is hardly of sufficient calibre to render its translation into English likely to be a profitable undertaking. The little attention paid to it may in part also be because it would be naturally assumed by many that certain portions of it, which deal with the social and political condition of this country at the epoch when M. de Varigny took part in its affairs, were not likely to be very palatable reading. The author had his own ideas about various matters and especially about "American influence" in these Islands which he evidently thought it was his mission to counteract to the best of his ability. He took no pains to conceal his views on this and other subjects when here, still less, it might be supposed would he hesitate to give them prominence in a book written in another hemisphere. As a matter of fact however, there is in this volume a manifest attempt at impar-

ality—an endeavor to suit party and personal feeling and give every individual and every section of the community its due. In the attempt to write contemporary history such an endeavor can of course but be very partially successful, however fair-minded the historian may be. In the case of one who has been actually mixed up in the political strife he attempts to portray there is still less chance for success. All the same it is creditable to M. de Varigny that he made an effort (which must be palpable to every unprejudiced reader) to deal fairly with friends and antagonists alike.

The title of the book by no means represents its contents which are not confined to a relation of the events of the period during which the writer was here. The book was evidently written with an object which could not be attained by confining attention to so narrow a period. The history of the Islands from the days of Kamehameha I is sketched in such a manner as to show the causes of that state of affairs amidst which the writer found himself during his residence here. The social and political conditions of a country at any given time are the natural consequences of all its previous history and cannot be thoroughly understood or explained without some knowledge of that history. Of course there are various ways of judging both the present and the past, but from whatever point of view we look at them it still remains evident that the one is the product of the other. M. de Varigny has shown his skill as a writer by the manner in which he has made his prefatory history lead up to the days in which he himself took a part in the making of the Hawaiian history, and support the ideas of which he was the champion.

The best parts of the book are undoubtedly those which are neither political nor historical. M. de Varigny is a sharp observer and has a happy facility in description. The account of his visits to the other Islands which are interspersed through the book are bright and pleasant reading. The last year of his residence here, 1868, was signalized by the most disastrous earthquake and volcanic eruption of which we have any record. With the King, Varigny visited Hawaii to carry succor to those who were rendered homeless and otherwise to render what help was possible. Arrived at Hilo he and the King were the guests of one who, whilst these lines are being written, is being borne to his last long home. They found the town almost in ruins; everything built of stone had been thrown down, springs were dried up and wells were empty. The history of the measures taken to assist the frightened population of the Island is graphically told and full of intrinsic interest.

Varigny's last political battle was fought over the question of giving a subsidy for regular steam communication with San Francisco. The arguments he had to combat seem to have been almost identical with those which are brought forward to-day on the same subject. On this point and perhaps on many other of the questions which are agitating the community to-day, there is probably a good deal for our politicians to learn from the record of the past times which M. de Varigny has given us in his book. That such lessons may not be wholly lost, we propose to furnish our readers with a translation of those parts of his story which are most likely to prove interesting and instructive. We have also another reason for undertaking the task. We know of no book from which any history of this country at the time Varigny was here can be culled. We hope that by publishing what he has to say about those eventful times, some or other of those who took part in, or watched, the events related, will favor us with their own views and recollections. M. de Varigny's pungent criticisms and his charming egotism are both calculated to incite many to retort and among those who knew the man and the times with which he is identified there are several who are quite competent to give us their own version of the story in a manner that will be extremely interesting to their fellow citizens of to-day.

The shaft of the Onomea Mill, Hawaii, broke down last Saturday, the top roll being broken. Mr. Hitchcock arrived on Saturday by the S. S. Kinan, bringing with him the damaged shaft to be repaired.

*Quatorze Ans au Iles Sandwich, par C. de Varigny. Paris, 1874.