

Hawaiian Gazette

EST MODUS IN REBUS.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1887.

To cap the climax in the opium matter, the Attorney-General proceeds to acknowledge that the money was paid over by the Chinese, for after the reference made to the matter in the GAZETTE, he informed a gentleman interested in getting the money back, that he would never accomplish his object as long as he allowed the newspapers to speak of the affair. The Attorney-General then sees that there is no use in denying the receipt of the money, but suggests that if a quiet tongue is kept in the matter the cash received for the bribe may be returned. This is a pretty piece of morality for the Attorney-General to put forth, and shows the obliquity of vision of all who are connected with the government.

The manner in which the roads are attempted to be repaired is indeed worthy of Hawaii and no other country. Mr. Alapai has lately been showing his admirable fitness for his position as road supervisor by doing a piece of so-called macadamizing on Beretania street. Macadam's theory and practice with regard to roads, a theory and practice which has been acted upon in every civilized country in the world, was to break up the stones for the road to the size of a walnut. Mr. Alapai is of opinion that stones of such small size are perfectly unsuited to the dignity of this Kingdom, and has consequently laid down a series of boulders, over which carriages had to pick their way at imminent risk to the springs of the vehicles and the necks of the riders.

Another feature with regard to the roads is well worthy of attention. The train of carts bringing in road material, is as well known and as amusing as a circus. The first enters a narrow street, deposits a load, and then waits patiently till every one of the dozen or more is unloaded, then there is some general conversation among the drivers, the prisoners read over choice paragraphs from the Government paper and exchange cigarettes, and then the line leisurely returns to the quarry, where a like performance is gone through in loading. The work could be more expeditiously done with less cost, were any management used. It is hardly necessary to state that the carting is done by contract, and that the more carts employed, the more money there is, while the less road material obtained, the longer the contract will last. It is a beautiful system.

The Hawaiian Mission in Samoa has found a friend, who has undertaken to enlighten us as to the position of affairs, in a letter to the Bulletin. It is curious to contrast this letter with an interview published in the daily Herald, and it is very plain, from internal evidence, that the writer to the Bulletin has been "tuned."

We shall however, comment on but one remark. The writer says: "The people here are fully alive to the fact that the annexation of Samoa to Hawaii would be a great advantage to the place." That stamps the writer and shows where he obtained his inspiration, viz: the Hawaiian Embassy. Samoans have only to make a careful study of Hawaiian affairs to know that the very worst thing that could happen to them would be annexation to Hawaii. If their Consular Court is as bad as the letter makes out, to come to Hawaiian methods of governing would merely be jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. We smile when we read "Samoa might be made to support a good but not an extravagant government." Better stick to the Consular Court than fall into the hands of Hawaiian harpies.

The affairs of Samoa are going to be settled by the three great powers and Hawaii is not likely to have much say in the matter. A Hawaiian clique may have been formed, due no doubt, to a liberal supply of square face gin, but square face, however liberally supplied, will have little effect upon the result of the deliberations of the powers, except to show that Hawaii is unfit for the position to which she has put forth her puny claim.

For what end is all Government? It is for the good of the people and not that of the individual. Kings, princes, presidents and ministers are where they are but by popular sufferance. The notion of a divine right of any ruler or set of rulers has been knocked into a cocked hat before the march of education and the advance of true liberty. If those whom their good or evil fortune puts in high places, fulfill their duties properly, they receive their reward with an un stinted hand. If however they disgrace their office, no cloak of power that they may try to wrap themselves in can avail them. Neither stone walls, nor Gatling guns, nor soldiers are any help to them. They are amenable before the people whom they have wronged, and the people have the sovereign right of trying them and condemning them for their crimes. The higher a man is placed the more guilty is he if he does wrong.

These are trite truths, however unpalatable they may be to some ears in this community, and the logical results of them must be patent to every one who can read and use his thinking powers. We have cause enough for complaint, and we have complained respectfully enough. Our grievances have been set forth time and again, but no more attention has been paid to the protests of our earnest thinkers and our most influential and respected citizens, than if they had emanated from the most worthless of the nation.

Our grievances are real. We have had piled on our shoulders a mountain of debt, and we have no public works to account for the burdensome increase. Our roads throughout the country are going from bad to worse and are seriously adding to the cost of sending our produce to market. Our harbor is in so bad a condition that we shall not be able to take advantage of a trade which is on the point of passing our shores, and instead of coming to Honolulu it will almost infallibly go to Hilo. The money which we pay in taxes, direct and indirect, is wasted upon ostentatious follies. While everything is at sixes and sevens in our internal administration, while our treasury is bare of cash for any useful purpose, thousands of dollars are being lavished upon an embassy to Samoa, and a royal trip to the United States and England. A useless tub of a vessel has been converted into a so-called man-of-war, and has been officered and manned chiefly by men of a doubtful character: a captain who was tried by a court-martial in the English service, midshipman who has been spending three years as an inmate of the Reformatory School and a section of the crew who have been convicted for larceny at the Police Court. And on this more money has been poured out. Charges of a most serious kind have been made against the Ministers and many of the public officials, bribery and misappropriation of funds are known to have been practiced, and the whole fabric of the government is patently rotten to the very core. There have been attempts at land grabbing which sound more like incidents culled from the feudal period, than events happening in this nineteenth century. The list is black enough, and we need not extend it. It is black enough to show that the present state of things cannot be allowed to last; that to be true to the traditions of the great races from which we have sprung we must have some radical change. The most conservative, and as well, the most advanced are agreed upon this point and it only needs a little decision of character and a determined front to make this fabric of iniquity, debauchery, bribery, drunkenness and corruption fall like a pack of cards into the gutter from whence it sprang.

The opium bribery scandal has long been before the public. Those whose sworn duty it is to enforce the law, are in possession of all the facts. The reason why they do not take action must be, either that they are in collusion with the bribe takers, or by reason of the bribe takers having the appointing power, they are afraid of losing their offices if the law is enforced.

This matter is such a degradation to the country that we have hesitated heretofore to state the cold facts; but the chief actor in the business has assumed such a defiant attitude, apparently glorying in his infamy and the country's shame, that we think that a longer silence of a free press would be wrong, and that it is our duty to state the facts clearly and plainly, that each member of this island community may thoroughly appreciate them.

The facts are these: Early during the session of the last Legislature a bill was introduced to license the sale of opium. It was proposed to have two licenses at \$40,000 per annum each; and if there were more than two applications the licenses were to be put up at auction. This bill was referred to a select committee, and near the close of the session the committee reported back a new bill, radically different from the former one, proposing but one license at \$80,000 per annum to be given to whom the Minister of the Interior chose. In spite of the most strenuous opposition, the bill was forced through by what was known as "the King's crowd," by a majority of one, and became a law by the King's signature. This ends chapter one of this history. Chapter two is a worthy sequel to its predecessor.

Early in November, 1886, one Junius Kahe, heretofore conspicuous for nothing except being a "Palace hanger on" (since promoted to the office of Registrar of Deeds,) went to a Chinese rice planter named Aki, and asked him if he did not want the opium license. Aki said he did. Kahe then informed him that he could help him to get it; and that the first step necessary was to pay to the King the sum of \$60,000; but that he must hurry up about it, because there were others trying to get the King to give it to them. After some discussion, Aki agreed to act upon Kahe's suggestion. About the 6th of December, in the afternoon, \$20,000 were taken to the Palace in a basket. The King, seeing others around, told the bearers to come in the evening. They came in the evening, and met the King, who directed them to see Kahe. Kahe being present, conferred with the King, then went to the King's private office, and he there received the \$20,000, and put it in the King's private table drawer. A few days after the King stated to the owner that he had received the \$20,000. Shortly after a check on the bank for \$10,000 was handed to the King personally. The same day Kahe returned it, saying that they preferred coin to checks. The same evening the coin to that amount was delivered to Kahe. A day or two later \$30,000 in gold coin and certificates of deposit, in two baskets, were taken to the Palace and delivered together with a present of a little baked pig to the King personally. This completed the \$60,000. Finding how easily \$60,000 was made, probably there were some quails of conscience about letting the license go so cheap. Aki was therefore informed by Kahe that John S. Walker was backing another Chinaman, and that unless \$15,000 more was forthcoming,

Walker's Chinaman would get the license. Aki reluctantly raised the amount, and it was paid to the King personally. Shortly after he was horrified by hearing that Chun Lung had received the license.

Since then repeated efforts have been made to have the money returned. Its return has been promised by the King, but after various subterfuges he has refused to have anything further to do with Aki, and the money has not been returned.

These are incontrovertible facts. They are backed by sixty odd pages of sworn affidavits, by fourteen persons, establishing them beyond a possibility of doubt. The only question is whether Kahe got any of the money, or whether the King kept it all. Both admit that the money was paid, but each points his thumb over his shoulder at the other and says "he did it."

The hope of the nation is in the Hilo boarding-school—not in the Kaimoio, as many suppose. The Grand Duke must have very few friends who would not place as many commissions in the keeping of one individual. Government promotions are granted for gallant conduct—at state funerals.

A box of illustrated pamphlets, entitled Gynberg Ballads, the property of Mr. A. T. Atkinson, arrived by the steamer Mariposa. On application for a permit at the Custom House, the owner was informed that he could not have his property, it having been shipped by order of the Attorney-General. On Saturday Mr. Atkinson, through his attorney, W. R. Castle, Esq., brought a writ of replevin against the Collector of Customs the Hon. A. S. Cleghorn, and obtained an order from the Court for the Marshal to take possession of the goods. The order was served by Marshal Kanihoku, with promptitude, and after consultation with the Attorney-General and approved of Mr. Atkinson's bondsman, Messrs. W. R. Castle and Sandford B. Cole, the offending box was assigned to the Marshal's custody by the Collector of Customs.

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THE FLANEUR.

Holy Moses tells me that he is busily engaged on a very difficult horoscope for "Pa," in which there is foreshadowed a snit for damages, in which "the gay old fraud" will figure on the wrong end of the string. Moses says it is hard to say just how it will come out, but it looks a little dusky for Nosi-bi.

Bliff, says he saw Nosi-bi skimming over Celso Cesar Moreno's last thing (see Specials, dated Washington, 17th inst.), in which he pitches into "the gay old fraud" in dead earnest. Nosi-bi, after reading the affair through, went out into the back yard and had it out with himself. Celso seems to be mad to think that Nosi-bi got the bug on him, and now there is no show for Moreno to get even. Bliff, says the Grand Duke ought to get Celso out here and let he and Nosi-bi "have it out" together—but perhaps they might both get killed, and then what would the Grand Duke do for some one to hatch up devilry for him.

Bliff, had a short letter from "the brother of the late" who had the long hair, and says that having a good chance to go across the continent on the cheap, with the royal crowd, and have a splendid time in the east with royalty, he just embraced the opportunity. He says he will meet Gage in New York and bring him home—that right; this city can't afford to have all the smart chaps away at the same time. After Gage left London he told the Prince of Wales he would have Col. I. Bottle call on him, which reassured the Prince, and there is now reason to suppose that his H. will soon regain his wonted buoyancy of spirits.

By invitation of Admiral Griseley, Bliff and I went out to Palama to the Admiral's little farewell ball on Thursday evening. I supposed thought it would be a one-horse affair, but I tell you I found several magnates on hand, who always put in an appearance on such occasions, besides the prominent officers of the King's "Naves." We were met at the entrance by the Admiral and a number of the freedom of the house. I looked around for the Grand Duke, but did not see him. Griseley said he had been down at the Navy Yard directing the boys how to "splice the main brace," and felt somewhat fatigued, and that the Duke had no objection for a much-needed rest. Bliff and I and Lieutenant Maikimo and Chief-Engineer Mcbuster had a splendid time—lots of everything, just what one would look for at an Admiral's. When the health of the Grand Duke was proposed, Griseley called on Bliff to respond, which the boy did in grand style, doing him justice in every respect, and winding up by saying he was a good deal worse than those who had so much to say about him. Bliff sat down amid cheers.

Bliff, and I attended Major Heap Saver's "reception" on Saturday night at Pow-wow, near Waikiki, and it was a "buster," and no mistake. We found the rooms well filled with the "magnates" of the Kingdom, including Foolscap, the Governor, the General, his late Majesty, the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Dkedom, the Grand Duke's Private Secretary, a poet, and other minor lights—all bent on having a good time, and "bracing" the seaboard for what it is worth. Some of the boys were round, and one of them, "where's the Grand Duke?" "Oh, says he, "the Grand Duke is indisposed—had a bad attack of rheumatic gout—has taken a big dose of Jahn's specific (square face)—he'll be all right in the morning. Well, pretty soon the late Majesty, the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Dkedom, the Grand Duke's Private Secretary, a poet, and other minor lights—all bent on having a good time, and "bracing" the seaboard for what it is worth. 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