

Hawaiian Gazette
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THE existence of a Japanese League in Honolulu and Hilo, though organized for political purposes, need alarm no one. The avowed objects of the Association are entirely legitimate and the character of a number of the gentlemen who, according to the Liberal, are prominent promoters, is a guarantee that the avowed and the real objects are the same. Whatever objections there may be to the extension of the franchise to these islands, no one will deny the right of the Japanese to seek by all peaceful and lawful means to obtain the admission of their nationality to the ballot. We do not believe that any but peaceful means will be attempted or even thought. The character of several of the gentlemen said to be connected with this new Association is a high one, as all who are acquainted with the leaders of the Japanese colony can testify. The existence of an organization with the objects named bears out the declaration of Mr. Fujii, when he said Japan hoped to obtain the franchise for her subjects in Hawaii.

A CHEAP TRICK.

One of the commonest frauds perpetrated by anonymous correspondents is their practice of varying their signatures while still harping on the same theme. This produces the same sort of illusion as does a palace of mirrors, adding a couple of ciphers to the one recurring. Readers are naturally led to believe that there is a different writer for every signature, and suppose that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. A single indefatigable writer thus comes to stand for the sentiment of a whole party, when no party at all exists outside of his own brain.

The trick referred to is exemplified by the anonymous letters which appear occasionally aimed against the cause of annexation. We have reason to believe that a single individual really stands sponsor for a number of these, though he hides his identity behind a multitude of pseudonyms. The fraud thus practiced is not an honorable one, and the newspaper which connives at it must share the burden of dishonor.

A GOOD SIGN.

We publish this morning a graphic account from the pen of our Kohala correspondent of an enthusiastic annexation meeting which has lately been held in Kohala. The meeting, which was participated in by natives, is an interesting and encouraging sign of the times, and as an evidence of a better tone of feeling among the natives it stands by no means alone. The cause of annexation is making more progress among the Hawaiians of the country districts than it is in this city, and this is only an expression of a constant tendency in Hawaiian politics. The country natives have always been less subject to the influence of demagogues and more open to rational views than those of Honolulu. Advices from other quarters indicate that the cause of annexation is gaining in popularity, among the Hawaiian element, as it comes to be better understood.

NOT TRUE.

There was an absurd rumor circulated Tuesday afternoon to the effect that the British flag was to be raised on the island of Nihoa. To those who perhaps may not be informed in these matters it may not be amiss to state that the private ownership of an island, whether by an individual, a corporation or a government, does not carry any sovereignty or jurisdiction with it. The owners of Nihoa have a perfect right to raise the British flag

on that island if they see fit, but the act carries no more consequences with it than the flying of the American flag at a place of business on Fort street or on a private residence at Waikiki.

We mention this rumor, not merely for the purpose of contradicting it, but also as an illustration of the absurd stories which so easily get afloat, and as a warning against the too easy credulity which is so general. Nine-tenths of the idle tales which pass from mouth to mouth are born of somebody's hopes or fears—"the brood of folly without father bred"—and have not even the suggestion of any foundation. They are in most cases without the semblance of probability, and yet they are current, and what is more remarkable—they are believed. In times like these it behooves men of sense to set a watch upon the door of their lips and check that propensity to hand on mere speculation as fact, from which even rational men are apt not to be altogether free. Street-corner gossiping is the fruitful parent of rumor, one form of idleness begetting another, but it is a practice deeply rooted in the habits and propensities of the male kind and will not cease until human nature changes.

THE FRANCHISE FOR HAWAIIANS.

Our new evening contemporary, the Hawaiian Star, is doing a good work in calling the attention of Hawaiians to the fact that there is no intention to exclude them from the franchise. As a matter of fact the statement that the natives were to be deprived of the franchise is simply a fiction of the Government's enemies, invented in order to make it and its cause odious to the native population. In this they have shown a very just idea of Hawaiian feeling, for nothing is so repugnant to the Hawaiians as the prospect of being deprived all voice in the management of what they regard as their own country. The fear of this is the deepest root of their opposition to the proposed change, and when they are well assured that their rights will be respected under the new order, such hostility to it as many of them feel, will in a large measure cease.

The difficulty with annexation in the minds of Hawaiians is that it is to them a terra incognita. They are utterly ignorant as to what their new status will be, and many of them entertain the most extravagant fears in regard to it. Of the common people many suppose that their lands will be taken away from them, or that they will be reduced to a state of slavery, while others again imagine that they will be driven to the mountains, or deported altogether. These foolish fancies are nourished by the papers of Mr. Bush and Liliuokalani, which abound in unblushing falsehoods and abuse without stint the simplicity and credulity of the natives.

Hawaiians of the better sort are, however, coming to a fuller knowledge of the meaning of annexation, and many of them are already heartily in its favor. The best Hawaiians in the last Legislature are squarely registered on the annexation side, and their course is serving as an example for many others. The Annexation Club lists have received signatures from many Hawaiians not only in Honolulu, but throughout this island and in Maui and Kauai. It is safe to assume that when the natives have once tasted the practical benefits of annexation, reactionaries and royalists will be a very scarce article.

THE SAD FATE OF J. WAIAMAU.

(From Daily, April 6.)

The Hawaiian Evangelical Association is now in session. The Kaunakapili Church is represented by that pillar of monarchy and light of heathen orthodoxy, J. Alapai, who has lately been acquitted on a charge of superstitious practices by the votes of a number of his brother heathens. Alapai does not love the pastor of the church, Rev. J. Waiamau, and he is the

head of a party in the church which is trying to get rid of him. Yesterday these individuals, to the number of about a hundred, presented a petition asking or demanding the dismissal of the pastor. The grounds alleged constitute a very varied assortment. They are, first, a difference of opinion in regard to church management; second, the alleged fact that Mr. Waiamau has made some false and deceitful statements (which the petition does not further specify). In the third place these pious churchmen complain because Mr. Waiamau received from them and receipted for certain moneys which they should not have paid without a vote of the church. Finally, the petitioners allege as the chief and all-sufficient ground for Mr. Waiamau's dismissal the fact that "the Church is in debt to him." The last reason will undoubtedly be conclusive to the whole debtor class. We all know, particularly during the first week of the quarter, the noxious and damnable nature of creditors. If Mr. Waiamau sustains this cruel and unchristian relation towards his defenceless parishioners he should be deposed from his pastorate without a moment's delay. As the Evangelical Association is to act on his case this morning, it is safe to assume that his doom is sealed.

The sad fate of the Rev. J. Waiamau should serve as a warning to his brother Hawaiian pastors throughout the group. There is probably not one among them all who has been able to collect his salary. The beloved pastor of Kawaiahae we know to be one of the very chief offenders in this regard, and what makes his course more contumacious is the fact that he has continued in it for years. If the attitude of Alapai and his fellow deacons is to be a model for all Hawaiian Christians, about the only person qualified for a Hawaiian pastorate will be Mr. J. W. Luning.

THE SHELDON CASE.

The hearing in the Sheldon case took place at the meeting of the Executive and Advisory Councils April 3d, and occupied the whole of the afternoon. A full report will be found in this morning's issue. The proceedings were of course in open session and the spirit of the Council was one of fairness, good temper and moderation. President Dole, who occupied a position analogous to that of a Judge presiding at a jury trial, gave the defendant the benefit of every doubt, and generally ruled in his favor. The prosecution called several witnesses to prove the fact of publication, and Sheldon's editorship. The defense called no witnesses, and Mr. Sheldon did not take the stand.

At half-past four the question of guilty or not guilty was put, all voted "Guilty," except Mr. Cecil Brown whose objections were of a technical nature merely. A motion to fix the penalty at 30 days imprisonment was lost, and the sentence remains in suspension.

We believe the course of the Council in this matter to have been necessary and wise, but it accomplishes nothing of its object as long as the publications objected to are allowed to continue. Journals of the Holomua stripe would be stopped by a mob, and its editors lynched, if it were issued in a time of political excitement anywhere in the United States. The hotheads of Honolulu are ready at a word to mete out like measure here. We would earnestly dissuade them from anything of the sort. The party of the Government should be first in its respect for law and countenance nothing which savors of illegality or violence. It is the Executive which should adopt a course which by its firmness will remove the temptations of the impatient. The fullest scope should be allowed to free discussion, and the right of dignified criticism in no manner abridged, but disloyalty to the existing Government, whether in individuals or in the press, should be put down with a firm hand.

THE JAPANESE QUESTION.

The attitude of Japan towards Hawaii and the Hawaiian question has been the subject of as much rumor and counter-rumor, assertion and denial, as can well be crowded into an otherwise busy month. The allegations which were published in the ADVERTISER a fortnight since brought a flat denial from the Japanese Consul-General, and those to which currency has again been given have encountered a similar fate. It is not really hard, however, out of this mass of conflicting matter to evolve a certain unity, and to form a pretty consistent notion of the real policy of Japan.

The Naniwa is one of the finest cruisers in the Japanese navy, and she was sent here to protect the Japanese interests in Hawaii, which are more important than those of any other power except the United States. The mission was as legitimate as the mission of a warship could well be, and the explanation of it vouchsafed by Mr. Fugii is all sufficient. On the other hand it is more than likely that Japan has entertained—with more or less vagueness—ambitious designs in regard to these islands, which she is not now altogether pleased to see balked. In her new national life she is a young and enterprising power reaching out into the Western world, and very willing to play a leading role there. Her position in the North Pacific suggests naval control of its waters, and Hawaii is a convenient point at which to establish an outpost for the new Japanese power and civilization. Her great emigrating population, quick to seize new ideas and adapt itself to new situations, offers her a simple and easy means of conquering Hawaii by absorption. In this state of affairs she cannot be well pleased at the turn affairs have taken, and it is an open secret that she is not.

On the matter of the foreign policy of Japan, the denials of Consul-General Fugii may be taken in a Pickwickian sense. There would be an end of all diplomacy if the professors of this ancient calling did not enjoy a special dispensation for the offense of saying things which they do not mean. Like ourselves at this moment, they diplomatically employ a circumlocution. Mr. Fugii is a man of the world, who understands his business thoroughly, and who therefore understands thoroughly that it is no part of this business to share the secrets of the Japanese Foreign Office with reporters.

Will Japan then attempt any interference in Hawaiian affairs? Not at all. The notion is perfectly illusory. As long as the United States makes any claim to a voice in Hawaii, Japan will remain strictly quiescent. There may be some impulsive young officers on board the Naniwa who would like to match their ship against the Boston, but their wishes will have about as much influence on the movements of the vessel as incantations on a flock of sheep. The policy of the Japanese Government is undoubtedly, as Mr. Fugii asserts, one of strict non-interference, and it will remain so as long as the traditions of the State Department at Washington remain what they have been ever since the days of Daniel Webster.

MORE OPIUM MISSING.

Five Tins are Taken From the Finance Office.

The Minister of Finance has made the interesting discovery that five tins of opium have been abstracted from the box of the stuff which Mr. Bush captured while in the Legislature. The Registrar of Public Accounts, Mr. F. S. Pratt, receipted for this opium to the Secretary of the Legislature, but it appears that he did not take the precaution even to seal the box, much less lock it up. This is a fine specimen of the methods of doing business which have hitherto prevailed in the Finance Office. There were originally about fifty tins of opium in the box. Minister Porter seems very much alive, and is making a number of interesting discoveries.

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