JAPAN.

Manifesto of the Mikado and Constitution of the New Government.

HOW SOCIETY RANKS IN THE EMPIRE.

SENTENCE OF A MILITARY OFFICER.

Our mail reports from Japan, dated at Yokohama to the 7th of March, embrace the following interesting details of the executive and social situations as affected by the late civil war.

The Mikado's Manifesto—Government Platform of the Confederated Daimios.

[From the Japan (Overland Mail), Feb. 1.]

The manifesto, of which we published the principal portion in the latest intelligence column of our *Overland Mail* on Thursday last, we have reason to believe thoroughly authentic. It is a document which amply repays careful examination, as being a sketch of what, with certain modifications of detail, the confederation of Southern Daimios will introduce to the country as their new form of government, should they be successful in sustaining and finally defeating the attack which the friends of the Tokugawa family are preparing. The changes proposed are large, liberal and eminently attractive to the minor nobility, and should be so to ourselves; for not only is the oppressive and purely selfish tyranny of the Shogoonate altogether abolished, but the power of the Mikado and his *kuges*—those councillors of his whom we have always found the obstructives of Japanese politics—is also modified by associating with the dignitaries of the imperial court in both of the new councils a sufficient number of men of larger experience and fuller sympathies with the whole body of the nation. We can only regard it as a large measure of reform, a great move towards representative government. The strengthening and enrichment of the mercantile body by the increase of foreign trade will gradually raise up a middle class, which in due time will demand representation and probably be able to enforce its request. The change now proposed is from an autocracy to an oligarchy on the widest possible basis. The admission of the aristocracy of wealth to companionship with the aristocracy of birth will inevitably follow and the government of Japan will then be as liberal in its character as the polity can require for many years.

The following is a complete translation of

THE MANIFESTO.

The restoration, henceforward (into the hands of the Mikado), by Tokugawa Naifu (Naidaijin (a), of the government committed to him and his resignation of the office of Shogoon are accepted. Moreover, seeing how the mind of the late Emperor was for many years afflicted by the unwonted troubles which have arisen in the country since 1853 (b) onwards, and in compliance with the desires expressed in Council, the following resolutions have been made:—

1. That in order to the laying of a foundation for the restitution of the government to its ancient state (c), and restoring the power of the country, the offices of Sesshô (d) and Kwambaku (e) and the Baku-ia (f), be abolished, and that now the three offices of Sôsai, Gijiô and Sanyo (g) be instituted; and orders on all matters be issued by them.

2. That in all matters the institutions of Jimmu (h) be reverted to as a basis; that without distinction of Court dignitaries and the military class, or *of noble and vulgar*, upright counsels be exhausted (uniformly and unreservedly pursued), and the Emperor, along with the empire, rejoice and sorrow together.

3. That in the spirit of these resolutions each one put forth effort and wash away the polluted practices customary, discharging his duties with true loyalty and patriotism.

The offices of Nairan, Chiokumon, Kokuji Goyôgakari, Gisô, Buke Tensô, Shitugoskioku and Shoshidai are all abolished. (k)

The occupants of the three new offices are:—

THE SÔSAI—Arisugawa no Mia.

THE GIJIÔ—Ninnaji no Mia, Yamashima no Mia, Nakayama Dainagon, Okimachi Dainagon, Nakamikado Chiunagon; Owari Dainagon, Echizen Saki no Saishô, Aki Shôshô, Tosa Shôshô and Satsuma Shôshô.

THE SANYO—Ohara Saishô, Mate no Kojiben, Hase Sammi, Iwakura Shôshô, Hashimoto Shôshô, and three retainers of each of the Daimios sitting in the Gijiô, Owari, Echizen, Aki, Tosa and Satsuma.

Beginning with the great officers of State hereafter the other offices will be announced.

(a.) Stotsbashi, the ex-Shogoon, or Tycoon of the Treaties.
(b.) Commodore Perry's arrival in Japan.
(c.) Before the usurpation of the Shogoons.
(d.) First officer of the Mikado's Court, when he is a minor—Regent.
(e.) Same office when the Mikado is of age—Vizier.
(f.) Shogoon's government.
(g.) Prime Minister, as understood in Europe, with first and second divisions of a council to assist him.
(h.) The First Mikado.
(k.) The first five of these were held by Kuges, and the most noticeable among them was the Kokuji Goyogakari, appointed about four years back for the purpose of receiving the complaints of *rônins* and other disaffected persons.

The Shiugoshioku was an officer appointed by the Shogoon, and his title signifies "Protector of Kioto." It was last held by the Prince of Aidzu. The Shoshidai were also Shogoon's officers resident at Kioto.

Effect of the Manifesto.

THE DEMOCRACY LOOMING UP—WHO IS THE GENTLEMAN?

[From the Japan Overland Mail, Feb. 15.]

The abolition of the Shogoonate and of the offices of Sesshô and Kwambaku, here decreed, indicate clearly the resumption of executive power by the Mikado. No longer will the power of the sword be vested in the family of Tokugawa or edicts be issued under the imperial seal by an almost irresponsible regent or vizier. The greater and lesser Daimios, Tozama and Fudai alike, will all be represented in the council chamber at Kioto, and the desires of at least the whole Samurai class will be able to find expression.

The phrase we have italicised in the second clause of these resolutions—"*of noble and vulgar*"—is remarkable as by no means expressive to a Japanese of the same idea which it suggests to an European. The Japanese "vulgar" is not our mob, nor does it even include the bulk of the population of the country—agriculturists, artisans, merchants are all even below the "vulgar" in Japanese, and so far below as to be beneath mention or consideration. The "vulgar" are the rank and file of the *Samurai* class, the chief of the four classes of Japanese society; the others being, in order of rank, as we name them:—*Tillers of the soil and miners, who raise the produce of the earth and are therefore held to be the original creators of wealth; artisans who manufacture the raw material into clothing, arms, houses and furniture; and lastly, merchants, the brokers between the producer and the consumer, whose toll is lightest and profits a mere increase upon cost.* The "dignity of labor" has never been so clearly recognized in any so-called civilized country, as in this classification of the people of semi-savage Nippon. *After the god-descended Samurai, the Adam who delves is the gentleman in Japan.* The *samurai* has yet to learn that he is a less useful member of the body politic than even the despised merchant, but a great revulsion of feeling, a complete revolution of thought, must take place before this idea can be ever preached among such a people. It has always appeared to us a principle part of our mission here to elevate the *status* of the merchant, by showing them how we regard him among us; capital has its dignity as well as labor, and it has always, too, been the greatest mistake made by the successive representatives of Great Britain that they have done nothing to advance this truth among the official classes of the Japanese. On the contrary, on more than one occasion, they have studied to depreciate the importance of the trading class by permitting themselves to malign us to the native authorities and have never taken the opportunities which have offered of showing in what position we really stand in our own country.

When we turn to the consideration of the new offices created we find much to admire. The Sôsai is clearly an attempt at imitation of our Prime Minister, with the addition that he appears to have the final decision of matters brought before the Chief Council, the Gijiô, of which he is, perhaps, the President; he has a casting vote, in fact. The characters composing the new title signify, first, to unite, combine in one whole, general; second, to cut, to decide, to settle—and together appear to mean the person to whom the full consideration and final decision or settlement of questions is to be referred. The title of Gijiô is composed of two characters—first, to discuss and settle; second, to settle, to fix—and the function of this council is to discuss all questions and suggest the method of their settlement to the Sôsai. The characters which form the title of the second council, the Sanyo, may be rendered "Associate Council." There is evidently an attempt made here at imitation of the upper and lower houses of Parliament in European countries.

The first occupant of the dignity of Sôsai, Arisugawa no Mia, is a relative of the Mikado, believed to be a brother, in fact, of the last emperor, and, as he will necessarily have great influence over his nephew's mind, a great deal depends upon his character and disposition towards us. We have as yet been able to learn nothing more of him than his name and rank. The Gijiô, First Council, at present consists of ten members, the five first named being *kuges* of the Mikado and the others well known Daimios. We may note here that to any one with a knowledge of the forms of Japanese State papers the fact of these Daimios being named by their Territories instead of their family names is a proof of the manifesto coming from the Mikado's court, and from the Shogoons. Another is the use of the term "Baku-fu" as applied to the Shogoonate. Of the five Daimios sitting in the Gijiô Owari represents the first of the Gosankei families, and Echizen is the descendant of the eldest son of Iyeyas, who was adopted by Hideyoshi; and thus Gongen-sama and Takosama may still look down from their heavenly seats with favor on the Council in which their descendants hold places of honor. Geyshiu, Tosa and Satsuma cannot expect to enjoy the smiles of Gongen-sama at all events, representing as they do the confederacy of the Southern Daimios which has broken the power of his ancient race; but they are practical men, of advanced ideas, and the imaginary frown of a dead hero will not disturb them. Neither Chiosiu nor Stotsbashi assist in the new council—it would be against all Japanese etiquette to admit either at present, but we hope to see the undoubted talents of the latter made use of on the first vacancy, as will most probably be the case, if he acquiesce in the new order of things. Whether he will so submit, or rather whether his retainers and allies will allow him so to submit, this is the important question of the moment, for the answer to which we are most anxiously waiting. The whole influence of our representatives should be used to induce his remaining quiet, for the parties are most equally matched, and if civil war break out the struggle will be long and disastrous and an entire suspension of trade with us will be the immediate consequence of the first blows struck.

The most noticeable point in the constitution of the Sanyo is that it is the illustration of the second resolution—the return to the old governmental system of the early Mikados, when there was no distinction in the matter of the public service between court dignitaries and the military class, between "noble and vulgar." The first five named are nobles of equal rank with some of those sitting in the Gijiô, but associated with them are fifteen retainers of the five Daimios, Owari, Echizen, Geyshiu, Tosa and Satsuma. It is the germ of a popular assembly, and in due course of time we may see representatives of the real "people" sitting among the delegates of the now absolute military class. When this real "equality between noble and vulgar" is established, when before the majesty of law the distinction between the sworded man and the peasant is abolished—when in the social scale the former shall fall and the latter shall rise to the same level, where the energies of each have fair play in his several avocation, it will be a happy day for Japan. The new system of government proposed in this manifesto is a great advance in the direction of this point of enlightenment and freedom, and that the evil influences which threaten to check its development may fail in their action, that the revolution may be peacefully accomplished and a fair trial be given to the new *régime*, these should be the aspirations of every patriotic Japanese, as they are of every sympathizing freeman of the West.

An Indiscreet Officer.

SENTENCE OF DEATH ON HIKITA LEWAKI, RETAINER OF BIZEN NO SHOSHO.

[From the Japan Herald (Yokohama), March 7.]

On the occasion of your passing through Kobe, weapons were used against foreigners on the pretext that they had broken your ranks, and in aggravation of this the Americans and French who were trying to escape and also the Foreign Ministers were fired upon, nor was any attempt made to arrange the matter there. This is an outrageous and criminal act. The reformation at present in course of being carried out causes much anxiety to the Imperial bosom, especially in the case of foreign relations, in which is greatly concerned the stability of the nation. His Majesty is determined, whilst preserving his own dignity, to act in accordance with the public law of the universe and to perform those things which are right and proper. To have disregarded this state of things and to have, on the contrary, acted in a way calculated to cause shame to His Majesty is a flagrant crime and one which cannot be passed over. The man who gave the order to fire is therefore condemned to perform hara-kari in the presence of witnesses of the different nationalities.

Dated 2d month.

American Neutrality in the War.

NOTIFICATION.

Having been officially informed that war exists in Japan between his Majesty the Mikado and the Tycoon, and being desirous of taking measures to secure the observance of a strict neutrality on the part of citizens of the United States of America, I give notice to such citizens that active participation in this war, by entering into service, the sale or charter of vessels of war, or transport ships for the transportation of troops, military persons, military despatches, arms, ammunition or articles contraband of war, to or for either of the contending parties, and similar acts, constitute, according to international law, a breach of neutrality, and may therefore be treated as hostile acts.

Persons in such military service would subject themselves to the rules of war, while ships, and other means of conveyance engaged in a breach of neutrality, would render themselves liable to capture and confiscation, which rule may extend to cargo belonging to neutrals.

Such breaches would also involve the citizen and vessel in the danger of forfeiting claim to the protection of their government as well as the rights and privileges granted by the treaty between the United States and Japan. R. B. VAN VALKENBURG,

Minister Resident of the United States in Japan.

Legation of the United States in Japan, Hiogo, Kobe, February 18, 1868.

NEWS ROUND THE WORLD.

The Report of the Burlingame Mission.

[From the Shanghae (China) Recorder, March 9.]

The rapidity with which the intelligence of the appointment of H. E. Anson Burlingame as Chinese Ambassador was transmitted to Europe, the United States and back again to China, is a noteworthy fact.

The news was sent from Pekin to Kiatcha, a distance of 1,800 miles, by special courier of the Russian government; from Kiatcha to St. Petersburg and thence to New York and San Francisco by telegram, and from San Francisco back to China by Pacific Mail steamer, the whole being accomplished in the space of eighty-one days, during which the news travelled round the world.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Great Tempests—Marine Disasters—Volcanic Eruption—The Insult to the American Navy—Interference with Foreigners.

HONOLULU, April 3, 1868.

In common with other parts of the world we have had our proportion of gales, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. For the past six weeks the wind has blown a gale from the northeast and from that point to east, at times making frame buildings shake to their foundations. Trees and shrubbery in the town, but more particularly in the suburbs, have suffered much. Our coasting fleet has made but little running, several vessels have had sails more or less blown to pieces and suffered some in rigging and spars. As an instance of the severity of the gales I note the case of the schooner Annie, a Hilo packet, which left here the same day with the steamer Idaho, bound for Hilo, the steamer for San Francisco, and both returned to this port together. The Idaho had sailed four thousand two hundred miles and discharged and loaded in San Francisco, while the schooner had but five hundred miles to accomplish—a trip which in good weather could be made in twelve days. The Hawaiian bark, R. W. Wood, left here for San Francisco during the height of the blow, and the first night out had a full suit of sails blown away, and carried away the foretopgallant mast. A young German who was aloft at the time was blown overboard and never seen again. The bark being deeply laden with refinery grades of sugar in bags, labored heavily, and started a leak, upon ascertaining which the captain determined to return. A second suit of sails was bent which shared the fate of the first in less than twenty-four hours, and the bark was six days in making to windward what had been run off in as many hours. To cap the disaster the bark was found to be on fire the second night after her return to port, and the water which was thrown into her to extinguish the flames damaged a large quantity of the cargo.

Arrivals from Hawaii report the crater of Kilauea to be very active; and a later arrival reports a new volcano and lava flow, which promises to equal if not exceed the flow of 1859, and from what I have gathered it is in about the same locality. The new eruption occurred on the 27th of March, at half-past five o'clock in the morning; and, until the view was obscured by clouds and smoke, the sight was magnificent. A column of fire was thrown into the air to a great height, and smoke was rolling out in dense clouds. The Kona side of the island was treated to a succession of shocks of earthquake, from Friday morning to Saturday night, which did considerable damage to stone walls and buildings. A large portion of the high bluff which rises almost perpendicular from the bay of Keala Keakua was detached, and fell into the bay, making a great commotion of waters. Considerable anxiety and curiosity is manifested in regard to the news which will reach us by to-morrow's steamer.

This city was also treated to a mild shake yesterday afternoon, which caused some little fear and wonder. The vibration was northwest and southeast, and lasted some thirty seconds.

The astronomical clocks were stopped by it at six minutes of four. It is somewhat singular that four clocks in different parts of the town showed the same hour and minute.

If Secretary Seward really wishes to purchase this group he should close his bargain as soon as possible, as we have shown ourselves fully up to every qualification for a first class purchase.

In my last I gave the gist of a report which had reached here from Hilo in regard to the outrageous treatment of Captain Reynolds and officers of the Lackawanna. The ship returned to this port on the 28th of March, and the report is verified. The *Gazette* (official organ) makes a few remarks touching the matter, as follows:—

Some of our friends have inquired why objection has been made to permitting the petty officers and men of the Lackawanna to visit the shore at Hilo. The objection has been made simply on account of the gross misconduct of a portion of the crew at Puuloa, some time ago, and which is too notorious to require further allusion. Evidence in regard to it was carefully taken and placed in the hands of General Smith, who intended to furnish it to Admiral Thatcher. The police force at Hilo is quite inadequate to restrain any excesses by the men on shore, and consequently the Lieutenant Governor was directed to object granting permission to the crew to land on liberty. By referring to the extract from the regulations of the United States navy, it will be seen that the case is not involved in any diplomatic difficulty.

The *Advertiser* (anti-ministerial) comments on the explanation as follows:—

The above is the very lame apology which the ministers have felt constrained to publish in vindication of an act that justly excited the indignation of every person who heard of the discourteous proceedings. Minister Hutchison takes the responsibility to order that the port of Hilo shall be closed to an American war vessel, and "that the petty officers and men of the ship shall not be permitted to visit the shore on liberty," assigning as a reason that the conduct of some boats' crews of the vessel had been most improper. And we are furthermore told by the government editor that the "objection has been made simply on account of the gross misconduct of the crew at Puuloa some time ago, and which is too notorious to require further allusion." It is somewhat singular that in a city where news items are so scarce, so eagerly and so persistently sought for as in Honolulu, neither of the papers should have contained the slightest allusion to or intimation of what either would have considered legitimate news for publication had it occurred. So far, therefore, as regards the alleged "misconduct" being "notorious," we deny the statement of the government paper as absolutely false, and we do not believe that a dozen persons in Honolulu ever heard of the affair, or at least knew its details, until since the allusion to it in the government organ. Since the issue of the *Gazette*, after diligent inquiry we can find but two persons who know anything of the details, and from one of them we learn that some six weeks ago several officers of the Lackawanna, with a boat's crew, visited Puuloa Salt Works on a pleasure excursion, and while there the sailors took a stroll among some of the native houses. The native men being mostly absent fishing, the women became frightened at the sudden appearance of the sailors, ran out of their houses, and took to the water. But, so far as we can learn, not the slightest indignity or injury to person or property, in any way or shape, was done, and the men shortly after returned to Puuloa and Honolulu. Mr. James I. Dowsett happening soon after to visit his country seat near by Puuloa, heard the natives expatiating on the unexpected visit of the seamen, and how some of the women were frightened at the sight of man-of-war's men and took to the water; but he heard of no injury or damage done. The next day, meeting the Governor, he asked him to say to Captain Reynolds, who was staying at his house, that when his officers or men wanted to visit his place at Pearl river, he should be very happy to be there and entertain them, but that he did not wish them to go down and frighten his natives.

It is possible that Ragsdale, who was staying at Puuloa at the time, may have written up a glowing and flowery statement of the case to his friend the Minister of the Interior; at all events, owing to some exaggerated story, an investigation was made, and a report prepared, which is understood to have been delivered to General Smith, to give to Admiral Thatcher or the authorities at Washington. If this report and evidence were based on the statements and affidavits of Ragsdale and others brought forward by him, its value may be judged from the fact that he is now unfortunately an inmate of the Insane Asylum. Whatever the report was, it was an *ex parte* investigation, got up with the sole purpose of injuring the Lackawanna, and without affording to Captain Reynolds an opportunity to furnish the statements of his officers and men. The above, so far as we can learn, appears to be the sum and substance of what has led the ministers to set aside the highest law of the land, violate its treaty with the American government and people, and offer as a weak apology for so doing that the American navy regulations require a commander to prevent his men from going ashore (if requested to do so), where no treaty distinctly provides otherwise, or where sickness ashore or other local circumstances may render it inadvisable to give them liberty. In this case there does not appear to have been any formal complaint of misconduct on the part of the seamen, nor the slightest ground for the issuance of the above order. On the contrary, Captain Reynolds has been very strict with his men during the thirteen months he has been here, checking every exhibition of lawlessness; and although the crew is what may be called a jolly set of tars, yet our authorities cannot point out an instance where a crew has been in port the same length of time and conducted itself with more uniform decorum. In marked contrast is the conduct of the Clio during the stay of that ship in port in 1865. Had the Lackawanna's men been allowed the same liberties and the same insubordination prevailed the town would have been burned down long before this. The real cause of the issuance of this extraordinary order must be looked for outside of the alleged "misconduct at Puuloa." Not the slightest grounds exist for it there, and it may well be asked if the real cause is not to be traced to the hostility of the present Ministry to the Lackawanna and every one connected with the vessel, and to Americans and American interests at the Islands? Any ministry that will allow public harangues against the officers of a war-vessel of a friendly power, as was seen and heard here on election day, cannot be very friendly to that government and people. It is currently reported that Captain Bridge, of the Chanticleer, remarked that if any of her Majesty's officers and vessels had been treated as the Lackawanna's have been, the Hawaiian government would have heard of it very shortly from headquarters.

The same issue of the *Gazette* publishes the correspondence between Admiral Thatcher and his Majesty's Minister of Foreign Relations, together with the resolution of the United States Senate authorizing the acceptance of the order of Kamehameha I. by Admiral Thatcher, and comments upon it as follows:—

It will gratify the numerous friends of Rear Admiral Thatcher, both here and elsewhere, to read the following letters and documents. It will be remembered that His Majesty some time ago intimated his desire to present to him the decoration of the Order of Kamehameha I., but the stern republicanism of the United States prevented his acceptance of it without the assent of Congress. That assent has now been obtained, and the decoration will be sent to the Admiral by the next opportunity, unless he should visit the islands in the meantime.

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We need not add that if the Admiral's engagements permit him to pay us a brief and parting visit, he will be heartily welcome—as, in fact, American officers generally are. The visit of Captain Stanley in the Tuscarora was a most acceptable one to our community; and Commander Browne, of the Lackawanna, although hardly sailing at present under his American commission, has been most kindly received. The intimate relations between this kingdom and the republic of the United States are daily strengthening, and we hope that nothing may occur to interrupt a state of entire and constant good feeling.

This is intended as an insult to Captain Reynolds, of the Lackawanna, and it is reasonable to suppose that if the Admiral and other officers named were knowing to the facts, they would have too much *esprit de corps* to permit such fulsome praise and flattery at the expense of a brother officer.

Our community have about given up hopes of the ratification of the Reciprocity treaty by the United States Congress. The Ministry affect to believe in its ratification, but after reading their leading articles in the *Gazette* I am led to believe that they, too, give it up.

In my last I noted the death of the Rev. Asa G. Thurston, since which death has taken off one whose settlement on these islands preceded that of the first American missionaries. The following is from the *Advertiser*:—

Another of the pioneer foreign residents, Mr. John P. Parker, of Waimea, Hawaii, died in this city on Wednesday of this week, at the advanced age of seventy-eight. Mr. Parker may be said to have been one of the remarkable men of these islands. He was born at Newton, Mass., and at the age of seventeen commenced a seafaring life on one of the vessels trading with the Northwest coast and China. After visiting these islands a number of times he finally took up his residence on Hawaii about the year 1815, being in the immediate employ of Kamehameha I., who appreciated his integrity and talents. Subsequently to the death of this king Mr. Parker lived at Walapuka, in the fine well watered region of N. Kohala, distinguishing himself, meanwhile, among the people by his skill in fishing and cultivating the soil, and also as a hunter of wild cattle among the mountains, being the first one who was permitted to use his gun in this latter service. He removed about the year 1835 to Waimea, first building up the premises now known as Paulona, and subsequently a little farther towards Kawaihae, in Hamakua, where for nearly twenty years he has lived, the hospitable prince of the mountain, the care of his vast herds of cattle and sheep giving abundant employment to himself, his worthy sons and a numerous band of retainers.

Mr. Parker has been known always as an upright and strictly temperate man, always a hard worker, shrewd in his dealings and at the same time so adapting himself to the ways of the people as to be as beloved of them as if he were one of their own chiefs. He always treated Hawaiians with that respect which won their confidence, and coming to this land when the marriage ceremony was totally unknown he took as a companion one who was always an honor to her race, to whom he was true, for forty years, till the day of her death. About six months since he made a profession of his Christian faith, receiving the sacrament of baptism at his own house and at the hands of two American missionaries of North Hawaii, whom he had always treated with respect and even affectionate interest. Travellers now in all parts of the world will remember his hospitality and no place on these islands will lack sincere mourners for his death.

A nice little dish has just been served up by Madame Rumor, the which I wish to lay before your readers:—Wm. P. Ragsdale, who was the tool of the ministry during the late election, and through whose aid the American ticket was defeated, has been roundly berated by his American friends for perfidiously turning upon them, and has often insinuated to his more intimate friends that when his little game was played to a conclusion Americans would regret that he had been so fiercely maligned by them. Even after the election the government officials seemed particularly anxious to impress the community that Ragsdale was insane, and knowing his weakness they plied him with means to gratify his appetite for liquor until he certainly did act singularly. To get him into the Insane Asylum it was necessary that he should be proved as a dangerous character, and having in one of his frequent sprees threatened to fire somebody's house, this was hit upon as evidence of his being unfit to enjoy liberty and into the asylum he went. It is now patent to the world why the ministry felt satisfied that he was insane and should be put away for a while. Ragsdale has furnished proof that the ministry, through a lawyer, who shall be nameless, and Ragsdale worked upon the captain's clerk of the Lackawanna in order to procure from him copies of Captain Reynolds' despatches to the United States State Department, and did so secure the coveted documents. The captain's clerk is confined on board, and Ragsdale is still in the asylum. Having resided on the islands over twenty years my mind naturally reverts to the various ministers who have advised the Kamehamehas, and I am forced to say that the present lot can take the premium for antipathy to a government which has always been friendly. It is difficult now to say what indignities the presence of the Lackawanna has not shielded Americans from, and it is eminently proper that the United States should secure respect from this government, even at the point of the bayonet if necessary.

Some time since I intimated that the enmity of the ministry was so fierce that individual Americans were selected upon which to vent their spleen, and instanced that Americans were not permitted to choose the particular branch of business in which they might embark if by hook or crook the Minister of the Interior could prevent it. Two Americans applied for licenses to sell liquor and were both refused, even after the aid of General McCook, the United States Minister, had been invoked. A Frenchman (who was obnoxious to the same Minister) lately applied for a liquor license, and was peremptorily refused. The applicant laid before the French Minister the facts of the case and was told to give himself no uneasiness—that he should have it. After a few days the applicant was notified by the Minister of the Interior that a license was awaiting his acceptance. What potent argument was used by the French Minister I am at a loss to know. I have before said that Hawaiians and South Sea Islanders generally only respected those whom they had occasion to fear.

The most of the whaling fleet has been in and is off again for the northern cruise. As near as I can learn about ten vessels will go into the Ochotsk Sea; the balance will visit the Arctic Ocean. About 70,000 gallons of sperm oil and 150,000 gallons of whale oil have been left here for shipment to the Eastern States, which will go forward by the American ship Syren, of Brewer & Co.'s Boston line of packets, to sail in about two weeks.

The R. W. Wood will repair with despatch and continue her voyage to San Francisco, and on her return to this port will be laid on for Hamburg, to sail in all the month of June.

The Idaho, of the C. O. and M. S. S. Company, is meeting with success as regards freights, having refused freight on her last two trips. The passenger traffic is small as yet. With two vessels, leaving every twenty days, the company would soon control all the freight and passengers.

Arrival of the Ram Stonewall—Deaths of a Noted American Missionary and a Hawaiian Noble—Political—Insult to an American Man-of-War.

HONOLULU, March 18, 1868.

The principal topic of remark for the past few days has been the ram Stonewall, or Japan, which arrived here on the 13th instant, in forty-one days from Callao. The natives are continually inspecting her, and have already given her a name, the Elephant; where they see the resemblance I am at a loss to discover. The ram looked quite rusty and anything but tidy inboard; but a coat of paint outside and a scouring inside has wrought a wonderful change. I am told that when in a head beat sea the waves roll up on her beak and over the forward turret, and go out over the taffrail. She is the last conveyance I should want to go to sea on, and unless on soundings I had rather not fight on board.

The Rev. Asa Thurston died in this city on the 11th inst. The Rev. S. C. Damon communicates the following to the *Commercial Advertiser*:—

Another of the American pioneer missionaries to the Hawaiian Islands has passed away. The Rev. Asa Thurston was born in Fitchburg, Mass., October 12, 1787, and died in Honolulu, March 11, 1868, at the advanced age of eighty years. He graduated at Yale College, in New Haven, in 1816, and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1819. Among his classmates at Andover were his associates, the Rev. H. Bingham; the Rev. Cyrus Byington, missionary to the Choctaw Indians; the Rev. Dr. King, missionary to Athens, Greece; the Rev. Dr. Orville Dewey and several others, who have become distinguished for their talents as divines and scholars. Soon after leaving the seminary he was married to Miss Lucy Goodale, of Marlborough, Mass., who has ever been his faithful wife and companion in all the toils, labors and privations of missionary life. They embarked at Boston, October 23, 1819, with their missionary associates on board the brig Thaddeus, Captain Blanchard. Before sailing Mr. Thurston made a farewell address in Park street church. The vessel reached the islands March 30, 1820, and Mr. and Mrs. Thurston were assigned to the station at Kailua, Hawaii, the old residence of the kings of the islands. There they resided for more than forty years, until through infirmities of age they removed to Honolulu. Here he has spent the few closing years of an eventful life, respected and esteemed, honored and beloved. As a missionary of the American Board of Missions, he has ever labored with great usefulness and success. His knowledge of the native language and character was most thorough. As a preacher, he was ever much beloved by the native Hawaiians, as he spoke their language with great purity and idiomatic accuracy. In the early years of the mission, his labors as a translator were arduous and successful. In this great work he was associated with Bingham, Richards, Bishop, Green, Andrews, Dibble and others. It fell to his lot to translate parts of Genesis, Numbers, Deuteronomy, and the whole of Samuel, Second of Kings, and some other parts of the Bible. His funeral was attended on Thursday last, by both Hawaiians and foreigners, from the First church in Honolulu. The following were the order of exercises:—Prayer, in Hawaiian, by Rev. L. Smith; address, in English, by Rev. E. Corwin; address, in Hawaiian, by Rev. L. H. Gulick; prayer, in English, by Rev. S. C. Damon; benediction, by Rev. H. Bingham, Jr."

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The Hon. Iona Kapena died in this city on the 10th inst., after a lingering illness. He was a member of the House of Nobles and Privy Council of State.

His Majesty's ministers have held to the idea that no political parties existed here until of late, when a new light seems to have dawned upon them. They have supposed that those who differed with them on questions of policy did so from envy or other selfish motives. At last, however, they are forced to the conclusion that at least one party exists and is fast becoming a power in the land; that the party has ideas and champions who dare to proclaim them; that it is a powerful opposition and must be looked after. The ministers represent a party who are opposed to a government of the people, right of suffrage and liberty of speech and press; in fact, every exploded idea of the past century—veritable, despotic old fogies. The liberals first of all desire a constitution, in the construction of which the three estates shall each and all have a voice, an extension of the right of suffrage, two chambers in the Legislature and the full and free enjoyment of liberty of press and speech. For the ministry to concede that parties do exist is one point gained, and for them to say through their organ, "We are glad to see the 'liberal party' put forth a platform, and whether we differ or not from them on 'two chambers' or 'universal suffrage' may be a matter of future discussion." This is evidence that they recognize the necessity of yielding gracefully to some of the issues.

In a late issue of the ministerial organ, published in the vernacular, a writer, who is said to be a Hawaiian, presents his ideas on the subject of annexation:—

It is worthy and right, and it manifests a truly laudable zeal, that every patriotic heart should pour forth its whispered love for the land of one's birth and unchanging home; and every true child of the race will always speak affectionately of the country where he has lived in safety and been tenderly nursed and brought up. Yes, it is our habit, from our ancestors down, to linger lovingly in thought upon the beloved fields and the hills that we have always admired, and to cherish most carefully all patriotic sentiments. And, as we have said before, the love of country is no creation of man, but an unseen hand has planted this feeling deep in the hearts of the race. In certain newspapers which we have perused we have seen expressions of opinion by those who are earnestly desiring to bring about the annexation of this kingdom to one of the great Powers. But in directing our somewhat disconnected thoughts to this subject, suspicions have entered our minds that the benefits would not be for the mass of the people, but for a few, and so it is doubtless true that these few are aiming to a high position; and when they attain to that height, then who will have anything to say? Time will show, however. We are a race concerning whom all sorts of evil has been prophesied; that in a few more years we should cease to exist, and strangers would occupy our soil. Let not, however, our steadfast thought be disturbed by these false prophesies, but let us turn toward the heavens, which will bring to naught these ill-boding prognostications. Fear, moreover, is a very poor comforter and sustainer. It would appear from the papers of the neighboring coast that especial attention is now directed to us. One paper states the case thus:—"Neither the chiefs nor the people can realize how great are the benefits that would accrue to them if this kingdom were to be annexed to some foreign nation." It may be very true that, as is said, our state would be improved should we fall into the hands of a foreign Power; our neglected fields be furrowed by the fertilizing plough, our little town spread forth into a large city; we should have representatives who should speak in Congress, and we would assume the semblies of the nation we choose as our bosom friend; and our commercial prosperity might be greatly increased. But, on the other hand, do we expect that, after we have thus become one with a foreign Power we shall continue to hold our heads as high as in the days of our ancestors? Will we not bow meekly as we go? And shall our beloved sovereign be allowed to become a mere object of disrespectful curiosity to them (the foreigners)?

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A certain paper in this place expresses the opinion that America does not care much for this country, because we are so remote. Indeed! Very strange, because, as a government, does not desire annexation, but her young sprigs are stirring up the subject, and by their perpetual agitation of the matter the attention of the government will be turned this way with sinister intent. For the progress of all nations is westward, especially at the present time. In past centuries the Powers of the East have migrated into Rome and all Europe; in later time to the continent of America and the United States, with whom we now live on friendly terms. The kingdoms of the East have grown to full size, and diminished again to their present medium place on the scale. So the United States is now ascending to its highest point of power, to which, indeed, it has arrived. The lesson of the time is that the progress of empire is westward; and now the lines of steamships are going to and fro between the golden shores of California and the shores of the "flowery land" of Asia. And we see the result of this movement in that the Emperor of China has sent an American Commissioner (Burlingame) to re-arrange the treaties. Thus the hands of time move, and the western regions may rise in prosperity. The day dreams that some have indulged in they are endeavoring to realize by turning hither their plans and their hopes, to these western islands. Thus turning to the west, undoubtedly some are endeavoring to obtain a foothold here in this great ocean, and as we stand at the important centre, so their glances are directed to us here. It is certainly so, and it is a most barefaced defiance, and utterly unsupported, this assertion of some that there is no plan of this sort.

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It is a significant fact that the subject of annexation was first opened by the ministerial organs, and that they are willing to discuss the subject on its merits.

The United States steamship Lackawanna left here on the 3d inst. for Hilo, and reached that port on the 5th. The first arrival from there brings startling intelligence, to the effect that permission to give the crew liberty was peremptorily refused, and the government officials had declined extending the usual courtesies. A letter states that soon after the ship arrived the Lieutenant Governor of the island, Rufus A. Lyman, signified his intention to pay an official visit to the ship, and preparations were accordingly made. While proceeding to the boat a letter was placed in his hands, which he perused, and turned back, sending word that he should not visit the ship. When an explanation was asked for his singular conduct he stated that he had received orders from the Minister of the Interior not to extend any courtesies to the ship and officers, nor allow other government officers to do so, and furthermore that he was to notify Captain Reynolds that the petty officers and crew would not be permitted to land for liberty. Captain Reynolds proceeded on board, and had not, at latest advices, landed again, naturally feeling highly incensed and indignant. It is well known here that the Minister is bitterly opposed to Reynolds, and in fact to all Americans, with but one or two exceptions, and these dance attendance on him

And crook the pregnant hinges of the knee,
That thrift may follow fawning.

The Hawaiian schooner Prince left here on the 9th instant on a secret expedition. From what I can gather she will proceed to the island of Aton, which forms a part of Secretary Seward's Russian purchase, and establish a depot for trade. The island is said to be quite large, and the climate about like that of Victoria, British America.

The whaling fleet report themselves slowly this spring, and with poor catches, remaining in port but a few days. The ships, with a few exceptions, will go into the Arctic Ocean. Captains are afraid to risk the Ochotsk Sea on account of fears of Russian interference.

The Syren, of C. Brewer & Co.'s Boston line of packets, is receiving an oil freight for New Bedford.

Trade is very dull, and the prospect for a summer's trade is anything but flattering.

Died, at Hilo, March 2, Henry Smith, of dysentery. He had a mother and stepfather in Nantucket when he last heard from them.

SALE OF FERRY LEASES.

The leases of the ferries which ply between James street and Hunter's Point and Jackson street and Navy street, Brooklyn, having expired, Comptroller Connolly yesterday disposed of them by auction for a term of ten years each from the 1st day of May, 1868. The former was purchased by Oliver Charlick at a rental of $4,600, and the second was purchased by the Navy Yard Ferry Company at a rental of $50 per annum. Besides the ordinary terms of such a lease a covenant is prescribed requiring each ferry boat to have attached to its engine a fire apparatus or force pump, with not less than 400 feet of hose of the quality and dimensions as that used by the Metropolitan Fire Department of the city of New York, and to be used for the extinguishment of fires whenever required by the Chief Engineer or his assistants of the Metropolitan Fire Department of the city of New York, for which services the lessee shall receive $20 per hour for each hour engaged, and no time to be counted less than one hour.

MEXICO.

Particulars of the Failure of the Late Revolution in Sinaloa—The Battle at the Presidio—Ignominious Flight of the Revolutionary Leaders.

MAZATLAN, April 15, 1868.

Another Mexican revolution is dead and buried. By special telegrams to the HERALD the reader has already been informed of the sudden and overwhelming defeat of the revolutionists in this State on the 8th inst. and of the ignominious flight of its leaders. The battle fought on that date, the particulars of which are now forwarded by first mail for New York, was one of the briefest and most decisive that has ever occurred in this revolutionary republic. At half-past eight o'clock in the morning a detachment of cavalry from the Guard of Honor, under command of Commandante Antonio Parra, opened the fight, and at nine o'clock Martinez and his army of 3,000 were shattered as if struck by lightning. So violent was the shock that the revolutionary leaders were utterly amazed, each in his newly born agony shrieking with Richard, "My horse! my horse! my kingdom for a horse!" Colonel Granados, the so-called Sherman of Sinaloa, and Colonel Adolfo