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516 FORT STREET,

New Brewer Block,

Honolulu, H. I.

The Independent 50c. per Month

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

While our epidemic was with us Bishop Willis said that the order to close the churches made by the Board of Health was comparable to the ancient Papal Interdict. He further said as quoted by S. E. Bishop in the Friend:

"For an order so unprecedented, so unconstitutional, I fail to find any authority except in the 'sic volo, sic jubeo' of Mr. W. O. Smith. Perhaps Mr. Smith is of opinion that this community will graciously submit to papal usurpations when they proceed from New England Puritanism. If so he needs to be reminded that the Christian people of this city are not all steeped in Puritanism. How little the Honolulu Puritan cares for the Christian religion was publicly demonstrated in January last when the worship of Almighty God was suspended in the Central Union Church, and that edifice converted into a barracks and mess-room. But all the Christians here are not Puritan. There are those to whom it is the greatest privation at the present time to have an interdict put upon the ministrations of religion."

That reverend gentlemen comments as follows:

"The above reference is to the use made of the at the time of an insurrection, with which Bishop Willis sympathized. It is to be regretted that political animosity should be thus obtruded at a time when all parties are working together so earnestly and cordially for the common safety. Papal interdicts forbade all ministrations of religion. The Board of Health prohibited only public assemblies, leaving all private ministrations untouched, such as the Holy Communion, solemnization of matrimony, funerals, etc., which a Papal interdict forbade. That comparison does not seem to have proceeded from a temperate state of mind."

Whether Bishop Willis "sympathized" with the insurrection we don't know. And we have never heard or even seen any evidence of it. But it is of a piece with S. E. B.'s mind to try and prejudice the case by asserting that he did. And as in the following paragraph he classes the celebration of the "Holy Communion" with private ministrations it is probable he is equally ignorant in both cases.

Says the Reverend Editor of the Friend S. E. Bishop, of much notoriety in Honolulu, in regard to the contributions to the Hawaiian Relief Society:

About \$9000 was promptly subscribed for the good work. \$6600 were in sums of from \$200 to \$500. While the greater part was given by supporters of the Republic, who form the great majority of our business men, three leading men of the other party contributed \$500 each. Thus again was shown an absence of partisan spirit, as was to be expected.

We deprecate this attempt to bring politics into the affair. But as S. E. B. has done it we will endeavor to correct his misstatements. Government officials from President Dole down (who contributed \$50) to G. C. Porter, secretary of the Foreign Office (who contributed \$1) drawing an aggregate of \$36,400 per annum in salaries from the Republic contributed a total of \$127 out of over \$10,000 collected. Supporters of the Royalist cause, when there was one to support, contributed \$3600 between 13 of them, in sums ranging from \$100 to \$500, without counting the numerous small subscriptions. In fact it is said one small tradesman, not long started in business, and his wife between them, contributed \$50 to the fund and numerous other examples might be pointed out. More than two thirds of the fund was contributed by alleged Royalists and sympathizers; and the men and women who have fattened on the Hawaiian were conspicuous by their absence from the list.

To close them out Shirt Waists, formerly selling at \$1.50 each, have been reduced to \$1; and Pith Hats, which were selling at \$2, from this on will be sold at \$1 each. Call early before the supply is exhausted. A. Barnes, New Republic Building, King street.