

# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14, 1903.

## BRIGHAM AT IT AGAIN.

W. T. Brigham, the very eccentric curator of the Bishop Museum, has again traduced the good name of the late Father Damien, this time voluntarily and without any provocation or excuse. His auditors were strangers in the country, but men who had heard of the world-famous sacrifice of Father Damien and who had learned to love him for his remarkable work in the cause of humanity. They could hardly believe their own ears when they heard a man who is also noted, as the head of one of the most important museums in the Pacific, revile the memory and name of one who had won the admiration and affection of all Christians.

The two visitors to the museum were H. and S. B. Boulton, prominent Englishmen who had been visiting the Islands for the past two weeks. They called on Monday. One of the gentlemen is a Catholic and the other a Protestant. It was while showing them through the museum that the Satanic impulse in Brigham's make-up began to assert itself and his serpent tongue began to discharge its venom. As usual, Father Damien was the object of attack. The visitors were greatly surprised, but that surprise increased to amazement when the curator followed his initiatory remarks with several minutes of bitter and false aspersions upon the character of the great priest. The story was so

different from what the visitors had always heard that they were greatly exercised about it and left the place with the new idea that Father Damien was not as he had been pictured to mankind. On the same day two ladies stopping at a leading hotel were warned not to visit the museum on account of the eccentricities of the curator and his notorious mania for lying about Father Damien.

The Catholic Church in Hawaii has repeatedly protested to the trustees of the Bishop Estate against the calumnies heaped upon the name of Father Damien by the curator, but none of these protests were properly heeded. A few months ago the abuse became so persistent that a strenuous protest was filed, together with a request that Brigham be discharged from service at the museum. To this note the trustees responded with a refusal to dismiss the offending curator on the plea that his services were of such great value that they could not be spared. It was intimated, however, that an effort would be made to induce Brigham to cease his wholesale abuse of Father Damien.

The refusal of the trustees to discharge Brigham had the effect of making him feel safer in his position, and a greater volume of calumny was the result. In place of the protest of the church and the rebuke of the trustees having a staying effect, it made the curator all the more malicious and bitter and the situation became much worse instead of better. In view of this fact, the only course for the trustees is to let the trouble-maker go. He is doing more harm to the museum—an institution that has been the pride of Honolulu and the Islands for so many years—than anything against which it has yet had, or may ever have, to contend. The trustees owe it to the community, to themselves, to Bernice Pauahi Bishop and to the museum to relegate this fossilized curio to the scrap-heap of cranks and trouble-making agitators.

### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

The Portuguese have a "rough house" way of doing politics. A principal cause of the friction and trouble between them at the present time, however, is the effort of a certain clique to gain control and run the vote of the colony. It is a Republican conspiracy, set at work by the Central Committee, and sailing under the guise of being a purely Portuguese movement. But there are Portuguese, withal, with sense enough to detect the color of the cat in the jute, and they object to being deceived.

W. R. Castle took occasion in the land court yesterday to throw a few bouquets at his former law partner, Judge Philip L. Weaver. He neglected to recall, however, that Weaver made a lengthy tour and stay at Boston for the purpose of learning facts with which he had been supposed to be familiar, at heavy expense to the people. The land court is probably a good thing; but it would have been more in keeping with the condition of the treas-

ury to have imported a competent judge from Boston in place of sending a second-rate lawyer back there to be educated.

George R. Carter's press agents and henchmen are flaunting his work in connection with the loan bonds in the face of the public as a great card in his favor as a candidate for the office of Governor. Aside from spending a lot of the people's money for a political junketing tour and unintelligible cablegrams, dining with the President and making an arrangement whereby the Territory will have to pay about one and one-half per cent more for money than was necessary, we fail to see what Carter has done. A High School boy could have done as well or better.

In yesterday's issue of this paper Mr. P. F. Ryan took Superintendent H. E. Cooper to task for employing Japanese to do work in the Government nursery, while numerous white and native workmen are out of and seeking employment. Mr. Ryan is right as far as he goes, but he does not go far enough. Ever since Mr. Cooper has been in his present position he has made a practice of either employing Japanese or tolerating their employment in public positions in his department. Just what his object is it is impossible to say, unless, indeed, he is, as our correspondent suggests, an enemy of citizen labor and is in league with the Advertiser in its fight against our own people.

People of Hawaii and the Pacific Coast have no good reason for sympathizing with Japan in her pillkia with Russia. Japan is a country to be feared in an industrial and commercial way in the future more than any other on earth. It is a kind of fad to abuse and hate the Bear, but it is only a fad, unsupported by any business or sociological reason or any legitimate sentiment. America (including Hawaii) has nothing to fear from the prosperity and progress of Russia, and all to lose in the further enlargement of the head of pompous but silly little Japan. If Russia would get in and wipe Japan off the face of the earth it would be the best thing that could possibly happen to this mid-Pacific Territory of the United States. It would mean that the present-day children of Honolulu will be rid of a competition already set out in a yellow cloud on the western horizon, and that modern civilization would speedily recover from the set-back it has received in the past few years in these Islands. No absurd sentiment should be allowed to override reason and fact in the contemplation of this subject.

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