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THE DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1886.

**HARBOR MATTERS.**

In the *Advertiser's* article on harbor matters, partly dealt with in yesterday's issue, the *HERALD* is misrepresented as saying that "the answer to all this [its talk about Honolulu harbor] was to be found in the opening of Pearl harbor to the world's commerce, and the founding of a rival seaport to Honolulu." A journal that is capable of such wilful distortion of the utterances of a contemporary is perhaps hardly worth noticing. Still, there are some people, whose good opinion is not valueless, who have a weakness for believing anything they see in print until it is effectually contradicted, and, rather than give an appearance of despising this class, we shall set their minds at rest regarding the position of the *HERALD*.

This paper said no such a thing as that attributed to it in the above quotation. Our argument, in the first place, was that it was folly to carp at harbor improvements already accomplished which could not be countermanded, and, in the second place, that the capacity of Honolulu harbor was capable of immense enlargement without reversing the plans hitherto followed. We said distinctly in effect that, when the vast commerce anticipated by our contemporaries was within grasp, the harbor of Honolulu could be made available for it by doubling the width and depth of its entrance and cutting down the extensive reefs in the environs, at least as cheaply as the space built over could have been excavated to accommodate sea going vessels. Then, when all that had been accomplished, the reasonable presumption was that the colossal commerce capable of accommodation in the new Honolulu harbor would be out of proportion to the size of the town plot available for business purposes, and it might be worth while to seek a safety valve in the adjacent waters of Pearl Harbor.

Excepting the Pearl Harbor suggestion, the scheme advocated is in the line of the plans adopted by the Hawaiian Government since about 1856. A slight error made in the article criticized by the *Advertiser* was in assuming that the Government owned all the reefs in the harbor. Under the unique laws relating to water privileges in this country, the fact is that the private fishing rights take precedence over the national commercial interests in our harbor, so that the extensive reefs running down to deep water can only be utilized for harbor extension by Government expropriation. The time must come when it will be necessary for the Government to acquire all the territory washed by the tide within the whole lagoon, no matter what the cost may be. Therefore, our argument is not made void by the erroneous assumption referred to. When all the possible works of harbor extension are completed, it is doubtful if there will be more trade than can be accommodated in this port. The suggestion as to Pearl Harbor was thrown out in view of a very remote contingency.

There is, however, a word due to each of our daily contemporaries in regard to the Pearl Harbor question. The *Bulletin*, with an air of transcendental wisdom and an assumption of thorough information that it did not possess, thus expressed itself: "The idea of a commission of engineers to report upon the cost of deepening the entrance to Pearl Harbor does not appear to us as possessing remarkable

merit, considering that competent officials of the U. S. Navy went thoroughly into that question over a dozen years ago." Will our evening contemporary, then, be good enough to publish the result of the American naval investigation? By so doing it would confer a great favor on the Hawaiian Government, that has never been able to ascertain the nature of the United States' naval commission's report. Our contemporary might as well endeavor to boom Egyptian bonds on the Honolulu market on the strength of a British secret service investigation of those securities which never saw the light outside of Downing street.

Next we have our morning contemporary showing off its stupidity in the same regard. It says that the question whether a foreign Power makes a good or a bad bargain in acquiring property in Hawaiian territory "does not come in, although the *HERALD*, by a strange confusion of ideas, appears to think that this is the only point at issue." As the *HERALD* did not discuss this point, except to draw an inference from known facts regarding the international phase of the matter, it required pretty sturdy assurance to say that we thought it the only point at issue. From the facts, that the cession of Pearl Harbor for a consideration to the United States has been openly discussed in and out of the Hawaiian Legislature; that the United States sent a commission of "competent officials" to thoroughly inspect the locality, and that a dozen years after that commission made its confidential report to Washington, a clause was inserted in a proposed revision of the Reciprocity Treaty between the two nations, providing for the cession of Pearl Harbor to the United States, what was the clear inference, in fact the only one in that regard? It was undoubtedly that Pearl Harbor was capable of being made a capacious port for deep sea traffic, otherwise American statesmen would not entertain, much less put in writing, the idea of acquiring it; and, further, that Hawaiian legislators, knowing that nothing could ever be made of the harbor, would not waste their time over an assumption that the United States would even take a gift of the place.

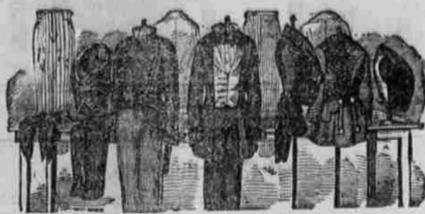
Another misrepresentation of the *Advertiser*, in the same connection, is when it says that the *HERALD* argues that it would be a good stroke of business to cede Pearl Harbor to the United States. There was not the faintest hint at such an argument in the *HERALD*. The object of such a bald perversion of fact is, however, apparent from the empty boast that follows, in these words, "We do not think so; but it is needless to argue this point any further, as the views of the *Advertiser* regarding foreign acquisitions in the Hawaiian Islands are too well known to require repetition in this place." There our contemporary gives its readers the left-handed compliment of assuming that their memories are very short. Anybody who has watched that paper's course during the past year will believe that its views on any question require very frequent repetition to be known at all. Its views within the past few weeks are very different in respect to the ruling clique in this Kingdom, from what they were during a long period previously, although there has been no material change in the management of affairs since April last. Moreover our morning contemporary's course during the past six months would lead anyone to credit it with readiness to acquiesce in the sale of Hawaiian territory, independence, or anything else, provided the reward is glittering enough.

Last evening's *Bulletin* carps at our remarks of yesterday, by putting forth the information that some material was dumped on the harbor front which was not taken out of the harbor. All that was done in that way was a help to making the land, but no detriment to the harbor, and, when the settling of fresh earth and dredging is considered, quite likely our statement would still be substantially correct, that each cubic foot of new land represented an equal amount of water gained. Our main contention is, however, that the harbor works have not encroached on the space available for sea going vessels, and our contemporaries should wrestle with that or cease trifling with their readers by advancing side issues and puerile objections.

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