

AMERICAN DIPLOMACY.

Strong Defense of Cleveland's Policy in Hawaii and Elsewhere.

The North American Review for April contains an article from the pen of Senator Geo. Gray, of Delaware, entitled "Two Years of American Diplomacy," a reply to an article from Senator Davis, entitled "Two Years of Democratic Diplomacy," both articles as a matter of course bearing upon the Hawaiian question.

It is said that "the proceedings of the present administration respecting Hawaii form a composite of blunders, cruelty and usurpation."

More than fifty years ago the government of the United States, acting upon what was then understood to be an American doctrine, recognize the native government of Hawaii "as a government sui generis to the condition of the people, and resting on their own choice."

By the documents which accompanied the President's message it for the first time appeared, after they had been printed and considered, that United States Minister Stevens and the forces landed from the ship-of-war Boston had been to some extent, but to how large an extent could not then be known, active in deposing the Queen.

President Cleveland, immediately after his inauguration, was confronted with this situation. There was more than enough in the facts, as disclosed by the papers, to put him upon inquiry as to how far the honor and good name of the United States might be involved in this unusual and precipitate proceeding.

(Senator Gray then reviews the testimony collected by Mr. Blount, quoting the documents showing that the Queen yielded to the superior forces of the United States, that Minister Damon recognized her appeal to the President of the United States, and that President Dole and other officers of the Provisional Government applied to Minister Stevens for the protection of the United States forces and, later, of the United States flag.)

To this appeal Minister Stevens responded by raising the United States flag over the government building, and occupying the same with United States sailors and marines. This was continued for three months, and until the flag was removed and the troops withdrawn by special Commissioner Blount.

The trouble has been that this evidence has been so voluminous to be read by the general public, and the opportunity has thus been made to prepossess the public mind with biased and partisan views in the interest of the annexation conspirators.

Let any honest and fair-minded American examine this evidence, or at least read President Cleveland's message of December 18, 1893, and ask himself wherein the President was wrong in regard to this shameful business, when he says: "I mistake the American people, if they favor the odious doctrine that there is no such thing as international morality, that there is one law for a strong nation, and another for a weak one, and that even by indirection a strong power may, with impunity, despoil a weak one of its territory."

It is charitable to believe that if President Harrison had possessed all the information disclosed by the investigation set on foot by President Cleveland, the treaty of annexation would never have been concluded by him in such hot haste.

Every impulse springing from sensitive regard for his country's honor and fair fame, must have constrained President Cleveland to seek how he might undo the wrong that had been done this feeble people under the sanction of the power and name of the United States.

Senator Davis charges the Administration with exhibiting a "malign disposition" in ordering the U. S. S. Philadelphia away from Honolulu "against the warnings of a most competent officer, which subsequent events justified with the accuracy of the fulfillment of prophecy."



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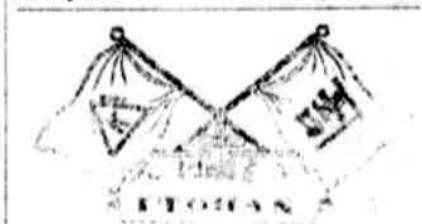
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