

### Annexation in the Pacific.

Manifest destiny and the horizon move together. The national progress is best described as expansion. It stretches in every direction. There is no game too remote for its acquisitiveness. The individual who thirsts for freedom in the furthest ends of the earth finds it here without money or price. In the matter of glorious hearts and noble natures, the whole world is tributary to America. All the roads of the universe lead hitherward, and the roads are crowded. We are the passive recipients of earth's better population. A wide-armed welcome is tendered to all. Whether they come empty-handed, or bringing their wealth, is a question of no moment. The genius of American institutions is by no means a surly porter; the want of a better country is the only requisite passport.

At the present moment there is a whole nation craving admission into our confraternity; and it becomes imperative to apply the principles so thoroughly understood with relation to individual demands for citizenship to an extraordinary case. Texas was, by consanguinity and position, one with ourselves before the formulas of annexation had been complied with. The Hawaiian kingdom presents, therefore, an anomalous case. Cast midway in the Pacific, nearly three thousand miles from the Californian coast; peopled by a race who have nothing of language, manners, or religion, in common with the Saxon race; the form of government monarchic; civilization of as delicate growth as as any other ungenial exotic—the Sandwich Islands propose an extremely embarrassing question, when they demand yea or nay to an application for unity with us. And yet Mr. Jarvis, their agent, is here, pressing the point, and urging instantaneous decision. How shall he be answered? Is it one of the matters with which the Ministry at Washington have nothing to do? Will the President omit all mention of it in the Message, doubtless already written? We shall see presently; and, in the meantime, we venture upon a few unofficial considerations of our own, as to the right treatment of the proposal.

The Sandwich Islands, ever since their discovery, by Cook, and the introduction of Christianity, have steadily declined in population. The presence of merchants and missionaries, and the annual visits of navigators, stopping *en route* to the Northern Pacific, have forced in, necessarily, some of the results of Christian enlightenment; and the physical effect appears to be seriously injurious. The nation has lost Paganism, to be sure, and, in receiving the Gospel substitute, gained very little in moral or intellectual advancement. They are a conquered race—conquered by superiority of arts—and the moral fate of a subjugated people falls heavily on them. They fast disappear before the Caucasian race. The American Indian vanishes no more rapidly. Another century, and where shall the normal inhabitants be? And, unless we at once meet their wishes, and secure the survivorship, who shall possess the depopulated islands?

The urgent reason for the application now made is the vexatious behavior of the French Government. In despite of all treaty stipulations, they persist in disturbing the island Government, and, according to Mr. Jarvis, there is every reason to believe new attempts upon the independence of the kingdom are at present contemplated. It is to guarantee themselves against any further molestations that they offer to place themselves under our broad flag; and is it consistent with our national tenderness for the weak and down-trampled suppliant to drive him away comfortless and succorless?

Fortunately, interest in this matter harmonizes musically with the dictates of benevolence. The sound policy of securing a right of property in that oasis in the water-desert; that outpost upon our own exposed frontier; that resting-place to the mariner after a year or more of toil in the northern whale fisheries, strikes us as too evident for argument. Mr. Jarvis estimates the American (literally) floating population touching at the island every year at 15,000. It is well known we differ from official authorities as to the propriety of neglecting our citizens abroad; and we do certainly regard the propriety of securing them a mid-ocean haven as beyond all dispute.

Besides, American commerce is clearly destined to reach the East Indies by the Pacific route. A way station will be absolutely necessary for the voyage: and that station will have to be in the Sandwich group. It lies happily very nearly on the same parallel with Tehuantepec and Macao. Is not the policy as manifest as the destiny?

The present resident population deserves consideration. There are now eight or nine hundred Americans engaged in the cultivation of coffee and sugar; and we are told a citizen of Boston has \$90,000 there invested in the latter staple. Mr. Jarvis refers to the fact, that the American Board of Missions has spent some \$1,500,000 in their various operations, amongst which is the settlement of "fifty or more families upon valuable homesteads." Thus has a peaceful army of occupation prepared and indicated the course we ought to take in reference to the prayer of our humble orator. Is there any point of view, in which the tender appears disadvantageous and meritorious of rejection?

We cannot but be reminded by this Hawaiian supplication, of the days when dying kings appointed the Roman Republic their executors, or bequeathed their wealth to the Roman people. The Sandwich Islanders beseech us in the language of a people, soon to be extinct, to become the executors of their will and the inheritors of their wealth. In view of the fact that we are proximate causes of their dissolution; that every year of association with us will accelerate their decline, the obligation resting upon us to accept the proffered trust is inevitable without dishonor. We cannot in decency reject it. In other times, should we do so, we shall probably fight madly, for what we now madly throw away: and buy with blood, what is now offered gratuitously. Or is an outlay of blood, necessary to every bargain for Territory? Is nothing worth having that we are not obliged to pay for with lives?