

It BEGINS to look very doubtful now whether the scheme for annexing the Hawaiian Islands will be carried through under this administration. A feeling that a matter of such importance should not be decided with a rush is making itself felt in the Senate. Ex-President Harrison would have acted more wisely had he delayed his message until after the arrival in Washington of the representatives of Queen Liliuokalani. His not doing so has given his course the appearance of precipitation, and however natural it may be for him to wish to round off his term with the glory of an extension of the republic's territory, the American people like fair play. The appeals of the deposed Queen and the Princess Kaiulani, too, have touched the popular heart and imagination. They are women, royal women, and in distress. However, it is not probable that these forlorn ladies will be ultimately considered except to the extent of making suitable provision for her maintenance. Neither will the pictures of the mourning native Hawaiians, bereft of their monarch and independence, long continue to be a factor. It is rather late in the day for America which in a century of Christianizing effort has nearly wiped the Kanaka race off the face of the earth to begin sentimentalizing about them. The monarchy can never be restored, and the greatest kindness that can be done these gentle, harmless dying people is to give them a stable and just government.

Annexation is now inevitable whether by this or the incoming administration. Ourselves or some other nation must give security to life and property there, and since the United States would tolerate the intervention of no European power, the duty is upon us, whether we like it or not.

Annexation would, of course give us complete free trade, with the islands, and what free trade in the reciprocity form, accomplished is a matter of fresh history. In 1876, the year before the treaty went into effect, our exports to Hawaii were only \$809,257, and our imports \$1,382,592. In the first year under reciprocity our exports rose to \$1,460,492 and our imports to \$2,631,763. In the same year the tonnage engaged in the trade increased from 19,571 to 27,441 tons. In 1890 the trade had expanded into \$5,259,154 exports and \$13,021,907 imports, and in that year 224 American vessels cleared from Hawaiian ports. The Hawaiian business in 1890 amounted to less than one-fifth of San Francisco's foreign commerce—for, of course, this city gets the lion's share of the trade. The American tonnage engaged was really much greater than the quoted figures show, for some of the principal vessels of the fleet carried the Hawaiian flag.

Now and again in several of the countries of Europe, notably in France and Germany, absurd as persons are made by the malicious or ignorant on the patriotism of the Hebrew race. A fair exemplification of the spirit of national pride

that moves the Jewish people of this country was contained in the invocation of Rabbi J. L. Levy during the memorial services in honor of James G. Blaine at Sacramento on Washington's birthday. A portion of his appeal to the Almighty contained these eloquent and patriotic words:

Yet we know, O God, that Thou dost expect more, if this demonstration of affection is to be more than a sterile tribute. We know that Thou wouldst have us become inspired with his devotion, and we, therefore, beseech Thee to aid us to love what he loved, to struggle and fight for what he defended, to seek and strive for this great nation to set America above our chief joy. As he was in all things actuated by a pure love of our country, as he was inspired with a deep and earnest longing to see her traditions honored, her institutions supported and her people united, so, O God, may we be moved by loyalty, integrity and patriotism.

THE killing of a young woman at San Diego by another young woman who had "playfully" pointed a gun at her is but another instance of criminal stupidity so gross as to be wholly without excuse. There is an appalling list of murders due to this habit of "playfully" pointing guns. Guns were not made to play with. It is, in fact, difficult to believe that any one would point a gun at a friend and pull the trigger in a playful spirit unless the offender was at least in part imbecile. No one poisons food in jest, or joyously throws vitriol. There should be a heavy punishment meted out to the pointers of guns. It is true that after having slain a friend or two such people seem to regret their acts, but this neither mends the matter nor suggests to other weak-minded individuals having access to guns the desirability of refraining from slaughter.

It is rumored that Mr. Cleveland has decided not to occupy the White House as a home during the early part of his administration. This is said to be because he wants it placed in thorough order and arranged to suit the needs of his family, and also on account of his hesitancy in bringing Mrs. Cleveland and their little child into the house while there is the remotest danger of infection from the case of scarlet fever from which the grandchild of ex President Harrison has recently recovered. It is stated that he has in consequence concluded to lease a private residence in this city for a few months at least, and that he will probably select the residence of the late Admiral Porter, which is located in a fashionable and desirable section of the city.



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