HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

Mr. Stevens to Mr. Blaine.

No. 1.]  

AUGUSTA, ME., July 12, 1889.

SIR: Under the date of June 24 last, I had the honor to receive from the Secretary of State the official information that the President had appointed me United States minister resident to the Hawaiian Islands, inclosing therewith the necessary blank for me to take the oath of office, with the instruction to return the same to the Department of State.

On the reception of that communication I immediately complied with its directions by taking the oath of office before Judge Andrews of this city, and made the proper return to the Department of State. I now beg leave to say that I am making all the necessary preparations to leave Augusta with my family for my post at Honolulu about August 22, hoping to take the steamer which is to leave San Francisco September 13 for Honolulu. Presuming that my commission and instructions will soon reach me,

I have the honor to be, sir, etc.,

JOHN L. STEVENS.

Mr. Merrill to Mr. Blaine.

No. 253.]  

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Honolulu, July 26, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that, on the 15th instant, I received confidential information to the effect that a few half-caste native Hawaiians were organizing a scheme whereby they contemplated deposing His Majesty the King, installing his sister, Her Royal Highness the Princess Lilinokalani, in his place, and proclaiming a new constitution.

On the following day, in an interview with His Majesty's minister of foreign affairs, I learned that he had recently heard similar disquieting rumors, and further that the contemplated change was to be attempted after the departure of the U. S. S. Adams, which was then intending leaving forthwith for Samoa, and before the return to this port of H. B. M.'s. S. Espiegle, then on a ten days' cruise among the islands.

While the minister of foreign affairs did not place much credence in such a change being attempted, and expressed a confidence in the ability of the regular authorities of the kingdom to defeat any such attempt, yet he thought if the Adams would remain until the return of the Espiegle, so as not to leave the harbor without a naval vessel, the probability of any riotous action would be greatly reduced.

I informed him that if he would make a written request in regard to the matter, I would communicate the same to the commander of the Adams and ask him if possible to remain a few days.

Accordingly, on the 17th instant, I received an unofficial note from the minister of foreign affairs, a copy of which I at once transmitted to the commander of the Adams, accompanied by one from myself. Copies of the correspondence I inclose herewith.

Commander Woodward, of the Adams, being also detained on account of the sickness of his surgeon, determined to defer his departure, and on the 23d instant H. B. M.'s. S. Espiegle returned to port.