Mr. Merrill to Mr. Blaine.

No. 254.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Honolulu, July 29, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that on the 22d instant His Majesty, the King, appointed Hon. Samuel M. Damon minister of finance, vice Hon. William L. Green, resigned.

The resignation of Mr. Green is owing to advanced age and ill health. Mr. Damon is a native of this Kingdom, his parents being citizens of the United States, and has been connected with the banking house of Bishop & Co., at Honolulu, twenty years or more.

The appointment is regarded by all parties here with much favor.

I have, etc.,

GEORGE W. MERRILL.

Mr. Merrill to Mr. Blaine.

No. 255.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Honolulu, August 1, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose a very full account, from the "Bulletin" of Honolulu, of an attempt made on the 30th ultimo, by about 100 half-castes and natives, under the leadership of Robert W. Wilcox and Robert Boyd, two half-caste Hawaiians, to overthrow the present Government of Hawaii and depose the King.

This is supposed to be their purpose, although their exact intention is not yet fully known.

About 6 o'Clock a.m. a message from the King informed me that an armed party, led by Mr. Wilcox, was in possession of the palace grounds, and soon thereafter it was learned that insurgents were in charge of the building containing the Government offices.

As soon as possible I had communication with Commander Woodward of the U. S. S. Adams, and at once all necessary preparations were made to land a force, if found necessary for protection of the people and property interests.

Soon thereafter I met His Majesty's minister of foreign affairs, who informed me that a cabinet council would be held forthwith.

Soon after the news of the affair became generally known, the British, Portuguese, and French commissioners called at the legation, and while comparing information regarding the situation, Mr. Damon, the newly appointed minister of finance, arrived and stated that it was the desire of His Majesty's ministers to meet the foreign representatives at once. It was deemed advisable to comply with this request without delay. On meeting the ministers they stated that they desired to fully inform us of their contemplated action in the present emergency, and that they had determined to occupy the tops of the buildings commanding a view of the palace grounds with sharpshooters, for the purpose of preventing the use of the cannon which were known to be in the possession of the insurgents inside the walls enclosing the palace grounds, gradually surround and finally dislodge them with other forces.

After learning the intention of the Government to operate at once with an armed force, I suggested the propriety of Mr. Damon, one of the members of the cabinet who speaks the native language fluently, endeavoring to communicate with Mr. Wilcox, the leader of the insurgents, and ascertain if possible the cause of his action and what his demands were,