Mr. Blaine to Mr. Stevens.

No. 17.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, March 4, 1890.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential dispatch (No. 17) of the 7th ultimo, touching the result of the late election in the Hawaiian Islands, and its probable effect on the interests of the United States. It has been read with attention.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Blaine to Mr. Stevens.

No. 19.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, March 6, 1890.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 18 of the 10th ultimo, by which I learn that, contrary to the indications of the first “returns” of the late elections in the Hawaiian Islands, the result throughout the islands proves favorable to the “reform party” and the present ministry.

I am, etc.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

Mr. Stevens to Mr. Blaine.

[Confidential.]

No. 20.]

UNITED STATES LEGATION,

Honolulu, March 20, 1890.

SIR: The archives of the Department of State are conclusive evidences of the interest which the Government of the United States has long taken in the affairs of the Hawaiian Islands. That these territories are of great importance to the future development and defense of American commerce in the Pacific, hardly will be questioned. To secure the influence over them which the United States so long has considered its right and duty to maintain, some decisive steps must soon be taken which, in the past, were not of pressing necessity. For more than half a century the American Missionary Board, with the agencies and influences in its control, has served as a strong fortress to the United States in these islands. The large financial contributions, amounting to nearly one million of dollars, which that organization obtained through innumerable channels of American benevolence and religious zeal, and the large number of educated and resolute agents which it sent to these islands, secured an influence over the ruling chiefs and native population which held them as firmly to America as a permanent military force could have done.

But a change of facts and circumstances in recent years is bringing near the time when this well-sustained power must be strongly reinforced. In a large and increasing degree other influences have come in to counterbalance and relatively to decrease the American missionary influences. The native population of sixty years ago is reduced to