tion with the Tahitian half-white palace favorite weakened the hold of
the Queen on the natives nearly as much as the official confidence she
gave to the American and Australian adventurers of the lottery and
opium rings.

Information from all the principal islands of the group is favorable;
more so than could have been anticipated. The local government
affairs are moving on with little friction, and the courts are transacting
their regular and customary business. The interruption to private
business and labor is comparatively little, while the hope of annexation
is exerting an invigorating financial influence. As soon as it can
become a certainty that these islands are to remain under the United
States flag as a part of American territory, there is little doubt that
all the principal native leaders will wish to become American citizens,
and their assistance can be had to help bring the native people into
ready obedience to American law and fidelity to the American flag.

As stated in my cipher telegram of this date, the conduct of Capt.
Wiltse, of the Boston, and of the officers and men under his command
has been admirable. Their deportment on shore and in public places,
whether on duty or otherwise, has been such as to command the favor-
able comment of all. The time of Capt. Wiltse here is understood to
expire February 10. I have no doubt it would be a just gratification
to him could he remain on duty here until the question of annexation
shall have been substantially decided.

I am, etc.,

JOHN L. STEVENS.

Mr. Foster to Mr. Stevens.

[Telegram.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 14, 1893.

Your telegram of the 1st instant has been received, with coincident
report from commander of the Boston. Press telegrams from San Fran-
cisco give full details of events of 1st instant, with text of your pro-
clamation. The latter, in announcing assumption of protection of the
Hawaiian Islands in the name of the United States would seem to be
tantamount to the assumption of a protectorate over those islands on
behalf of the United States, with all the rights and obligations which
the term implies. It is not thought, however, that the request of the
Provisional Government for protection or your action in compliance
therewith contemplated more than the cooperation of the moral and
material forces of the United States to strengthen the authority of the
Provisional Government, by according to it adequate protection for
life and property during the negotiations instituted here, and without
interfering with the execution of public affairs. Such cooperation was
and is within your standing instructions and those of the naval com-
manders in Hawaiian waters. So far as your course accords to the
de facto Sovereign Government, the material cooperation of the United
States for the maintenance of good order and protection of life and
property from apprehended disorders, it is commended; but so far as
it may appear to overstep that limit by setting the authority of the
United States above that of the Hawaiian Government in the capacity
of protector, or to impair the independent sovereignty of that Govern-