sole purpose of submitting her case to the enlightened justice of the
United States.

Believing, therefore, that the United States could not, under the
circumstances disclosed, annex the islands without justly incurring
the imputation of acquiring them by unjustifiable methods, I shall
not again submit the treaty of annexation to the Senate for its con-
sideration, and in the instructions to Minister Willis, a copy of
which accompanies this message, I have directed him to so inform
the provisional government.

But in the present instance our duty does not, in my opinion, end
with refusing to consummate this questionable transaction. It has
been the boast of our Government that it seeks to do justice in all
things without regard to the strength or weakness of those with
whom it deals. I mistake the American people if they favor the
odious doctrine that there is no such thing as international morality,
that there is one law for a strong nation and another for a weak one,
and that even by indirection a strong power may with impunity
despoil a weak one of its territory.

By an act of war, committed with the participation of a diplo-
matic representative of the United States and without authority of
Congress, the Government of a feeble but friendly and confiding
people has been overthrown. A substantial wrong has thus been
done which a due regard for our national character as well as the
rights of the injured people requires we should endeavor to repair.
The provisional government has not assumed a republican or other
constitutional form, but has remained a mere executive council or
oligarchy, set up without the assent of the people. It has not
sought to find a permanent basis of popular support and has given
no evidence of an intention to do so. Indeed, the representatives of
that government assert that the people of Hawaii are unfit for popu-
lar government and frankly avow that they can be best ruled by
arbitrary or despotic power.

The law of nations is founded upon reason and justice, and the
rules of conduct governing individual relations between citizens
or subjects of a civilized state are equally applicable as between
enlightened nations. The considerations that international law is
without a court for its enforcement, and that obedience to its com-
mands practically depends upon good faith, instead of upon the
mandate of a superior tribunal, only give additional sanction to the
law itself and brand any deliberate infraction of it not merely as
a wrong but as a disgrace. A man of true honor protects the
unwritten word which binds his conscience more scrupulously, if
possible, than he does the bond a breach of which subjects him to