all parts of the world, temporarily stranded on these shores, were
attracted by all sorts of impossible promises of official employment as
soon as the move became a success. The "Honolulu Rifles," a battalion
of four companies, wholly composed of Europeans, armed and equipped
at the expense of the Hawaiian treasury, was organized and drilled
incessantly. Arms and ammunition in large quantities were imported
and distributed. Mention should not be omitted of the fact that dur-
ing all the excitement of these stirring times the quality of thrift was
not for a moment lost sight of by the saints, as they generously
imported military equipments, costing $6.50 per man, which they sup-
plied to the members of the league and such others as they thought
could be trusted at $18 and upwards.

Nor must it be lost sight of that the sentiment of self-preservation
was always strong in the breasts of the saints, and on this occasion
was developed in a rather quaint and amusing way. When their com-
mmander began making assignments to duty he overlooked this quality
in a portion of his band and made a pardonable mistake of distrib-
ting to some of our friends tasks the fulfillment of which might be
attended with a possibility of personal danger. He was quickly
reminded that in great enterprises affecting the fate of nations it was
not usual to expose the Marlboroughs and Napoleons of the movement
to the possibility of being snuffed out; in other words, our friends
recognized themselves as the brains of the crowd, and they did not pro-
pose to run any personal risk, but would at all times hold themselves
in readiness to give chin music in unlimited quantities, seasoned from
time to time with small allowances of coin.

The organization of the conspiracy was much more complete perhaps
than movements of this kind usually are. It had its military com-
mander; council of thirteen, otherwise known as the committee of
"public safety," and which was the fountainhead for all orders; its
military force, uniformed, fully equipped, and drilled, ready at a
moment's notice to obey without question any orders from the com-
mitee of "public safety;" a large body of citizens, fully armed and
supplied with ammunition, who had familiarized themselves with the
use of their weapons by frequent target practice during several months
past—in fact, it was as completely organized as the Hawaiian Gover-
ment itself, and, as it turned out, much better handled. Of all the fore-
going the Government was from time to time fully informed, and the
indifference or pretended disbelief of Gibson in the existence of any-
thing out of the usual course, or which would be likely to make trouble,
is difficult to reconcile with his habitual astuteness.

However, this was about the condition of things during the latter
days of June, 1887. Fully prepared as the organization was for
immediate action, the leaders were at a loss just how to begin. The
country was apparently at peace with all the world, and more especially
with itself. All the functions of the Government were being performed
as usual, the courts were disposing of the business brought before
them without interruption, and to a stranger just arrived nothing
unusual would appear to be in the wind. Consequently, it was not
quite clear how to proceed. A committee of public safety was bent
double with the weight of an indefinable responsibility, and yet it was
not quite apparent just what they were called upon to save, as the
public peace and safety did not somehow appear to be in any immediate
danger, unless from the committee themselves and their satellites.
But something must be done, and that very soon, as it would never do