Q. Any petition to the Legislature on the subject of the constitution?
A. There had been many petitions.
Q. What was the substance of the petitions; what was wanted by the petitioners?
A. A large reduction in the property qualification or abolition of it. My recollection is that there were other important changes wanted to which I paid little attention.
Q. Where did these petitions come from?
A. The natives.
Q. From all the islands?
A. I can hardly say. It was deemed that the oath to support the constitution among legislators preclude a constitutional convention.
Q. The opposition to the constitutional convention was placed by the opponents on the ground that there was no authority to call a convention?
A. Yes; that there was only one way—to amend it—and that was specified in the constitution itself.
Q. And that was by a vote of two successive legislatures?
A. Yes.
Q. Are you familiar with the affairs of Saturday afternoon?
A. I was simply a spectator. I left my office half an hour after the legislature closed, rather wondering why the band continued playing at the palace. I passed legislature hall. I saw men talking. I said to myself the circus has begun. I saw soldiers drawn up in line from the palace gate.
Q. How many of them?
A. I should say 75, or about that number. The palace yard was full of natives waiting on the grass, and many out in the street. I saw a small flag held at the foot of the palace stairs.
Q. What kind of flag?
A. A small Hawaiian flag. The flag of the Hui Kalaiaina (the last word means statesmanship). A man met me at the palace gate. He said the ministers had just resigned. In fact, that they had just fled from the palace over to the Government building.
Q. How do you know they had fled?
A. I do not personally know. That was what was always stated and never contradicted.
Q. Do you mean that somebody was trying to arrest them, or that they went away from the Queen because they were unwilling to cooperate with her in this movement?
A. The general statement made was that they were intimidated; that there were threats made in case they did not yield to the command of the Queen to assent to the constitution.
Q. What sort of threats?
A. That they would be placed under arrest, and there was an opinion that the natives might use mob violence.
Q. Whose opinion?
A. That was understood to be the fear of the ministers then.
Q. Do you know of any of them having said so?
A. I do not know. I should say, from their general demeanor that afternoon, they were very much perturbed. They appeared like men who were afraid. I went immediately down town. The news was just spreading that the crisis was taking place at the palace. Citizens came up to the Government building to see what was going on.
Q. Do you mean by citizens white people?
A. Yes. I saw Mr. Cornwell, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Colburn. I