binding (if not more so) as a Constitution proclaimed by a self-consti-
tuted committee and maintained by bayonets against the will of both
the Sovereign and people.

The committee of safety met at the office of W. O. Smith, in Fort
street, Honolulu, at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, the
16th day of January, 1893, for the purpose of discussing the necessary
steps to be taken in forming a new government.

Shortly after the committee met, it was decided that they were not
ready for the landing of the American troops, and a committee of
three, with Thurston as the chairman, was immediately dispatched to
the American legation to prevail upon Mr. Stevens to delay the land-
ing of the Boston's men. The committee returned shortly, and
reported that Mr. Stevens had said to them: "Gentlemen, the troops
of the Boston land this afternoon at 5 o'clock, whether you are ready
or not." The foregoing report of Mr. Stevens' reply to the committee
is as nearly literal as can be remembered, and gives a correct idea of
the meaning conveyed. The committee of safety adjourned to meet the
same evening at 7:30 o'clock, at the house of Henry Waterhouse, in
Nuuanu valley. The American troops landed at 5 o'clock, as Mr.
Stevens had told the committee they would, and marched up Fort
street to Merchant, and along Merchant street, halting in King street,
between the Palace and Government buildings.

At the time the men landed the town was perfectly quiet, business
hours were about over and the people, men, women, and children were
in the streets, and nothing unusual was to be seen except the landing
of a formidable armed force with Gatling guns, evidently fully pre-
pared to remain on shore for an indefinite length of time, as the men
were supplied with double cartridge belts filled with ammunition, also
haversacks and canteens and were attended by an hospital corps with
stretchers and medical supplies. The curiosity of the people on the
streets was aroused and the youngsters more particularly, followed up
the troops to see what it was all about. Nobody seemed to know, so
when the troops found quarters the populace dispersed, the most of
them going to the band concert at the hotel, which was fully attended
as it was a beautiful moonlight evening, all who were not in the
secret still wondering at the military demonstration.

The committee met at Mr. Waterhouse's residence, according to
adjournment, at 7:30 o'clock p.m. of the same day, January 16. The
formation of some sort of government was under discussion and it was
decided that a commander in chief of the forces supporting the pro-
posed new government should be appointed. The position was offered
to Mr. John H. Soper, who demurred, as he did not see any backing
whatever to support the movement. Mr. Soper was answered by mem-
bers of the committee that the American minister would support the
move with the troops of the Boston. Mr. Soper still doubted, so a
couple of the committee escorted him over to the legation, which, by
the way, was in the adjoining premises, and the three came back after
a time, reporting that Mr. Stevens had given them the full assurance
that any proclamation of the Government put forward at the Govern-
ment building, or any other building in Honolulu for that matter,
would receive his immediate recognition and the support of the Boston's
men. This assurance seemed to satisfy Mr. Soper, and he accepted
the position.

On Tuesday afternoon, January 17, the committee of thirteen or Com-
mittee of Safety, proceeded from the office of W. O. Smith up Merchant
street to the Government building and read the proclamation of a new