Mr. Bayard to Mr. Merrill.

No. 53.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 22, 1887.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your No. 126 of the 5th instant, concerning the recent political changes in the Hawaiian Islands, and to say that your course in maintaining communication and consultation with the commanding officer of the U. S. S. Adams, with a view to promptly meeting an emergency affecting the lives and property of American citizens in Honolulu, anticipates the Department's instruction No. 52 of 12th instant and is approved.

I am, etc.,

T. F. BAYARD.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Merrill.

No. 55.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 16, 1887.

SIR: I have forwarded a copy of your dispatch No. 132 of July 15, 1887, touching the presence of naval vessels in Hawaiian waters, to the Secretary of the Navy, calling his attention to your recommendation that an American man-of-war be permitted to remain in that vicinity for several months, at least.

I am, etc.,

T. F. BAYARD.

Mr. Bayard to Mr. Merrill.

No. 61.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 30, 1887.

SIR: Your No. 134 of the 25th of July last in reference to an oath required of foreign residents in the Islands is received.

This question was brought to the notice of the Department by Mr. Putnam in his No. 125 of the 1st ultimo, and in reply he was instructed on the 18th ultimo that citizens of the United States who take the oath of fealty prescribed by the new constitution of Hawaii remain citizens of the United States, and are entitled to be regarded and treated as such by our consular and diplomatic officers.

That such a result is contemplated by the Hawaiian Government appears evident from the last sentence of the oath, which reads:

Not here by renouncing, but expressly reserving all allegiance and citizenship now owing or held by me.

This Department is informed that the oath is indiscriminately required of citizens of other nations, who are nevertheless understood by their own governments to retain their nationality of origin. Inasmuch, also, as this oath is a requisite condition for exercising any political privileges on the Island, it is evident that a refusal on the part of this Government of the assent to taking it granted by other Governments to their citizens would result in the destruction of any political power previously possessed by our citizens and its transfer to citizens of other assenting nations.