Three thousand people grilling in the sun watching the parade.
The report of Judge Hartwell’s and W. G. Smith’s speeches in this issue is a ver-
batin one.
An old resident states that he has never seen such a crowd in Honolulu, except,
possibly, at the funeral of Kamehameha III.
One of the policemen on duty last night at Palace Square states that he had never
seen such an orderly and well-behaved crowd.
The column was so long that when the head of the battalion reached the corner of
Fort street and Beretania one company was still on Richard street.
A number of fireworks in the executive grounds were “homemade.”
The green and red lights that so beautifully lit up the grounds made a scene not
soon to be forgotten by those fortunate enough to see it.
The Portuguese procession was a great success.
C. S. Bradford deserved great credit for his arrangement of the speakers and press
stand.
Notwithstanding the fact that orders were received by the officers of the men of
war in port not to call officially at the president’s reception, a number of them did
so, though in plain clothes.
The fireworks that were being fired from the roof of the executive building acci-
dentially caught fire and went up in one big blaze. It was hard on the boys, but it
was a beautiful sight while it lasted.
The flag pole of No. 1 engine company was gaily decorated with lanterns last
evening.
In front of the engine house No. 2 an evergreen banner was stretched across the
street containing the word “Annexion.” In the evening the flag pole and house
were illuminated with lanterns.

[The Pacific Commercial Advertiser, Thursday, January 18, 1884.]

The celebration of the 17th of January was the most enthusiastic and successful
festival ever held in this city. The programme of the day went off without a jar.
The Government and the Annexation party stand more strongly entrenched and more
united in feeling now that they have turned to review the events and mark the
progress of this stirring year.

A VICARIOUS APOLOGY.

A great deal of indignation is felt at the discourtesy, to use no stronger word,
shown by the diplomatic corps towards the Provisional Government yesterday. This
indignation is directed towards the U. S. minister plenipotentiary and envoy extra-
diary, Willis, who as the head of the diplomatic body, is of course responsible
for the course taken, the other members merely following his lead.
We feel no sympathy for this indignation, which appears to us quite unfounded.
At the same time it is so natural that it should be felt, and expressed too, that we
take the liberty of suggesting some considerations in explanation of the apparently
extraordinary course of the American minister.
In a nutshell, the truth is that Mr. Willis found himself in a dilemma. The entire
sovereignty and independence of the Hawaiian Government having been fully recog-
nized by the United States, the American war ships should have fired a salute. On
the other hand, the United States having demanded the surrender of the Government,
a salute should not have been fired. As a free and independent nation, we should
have been saluted, but as a private dependency of Mr. Cleveland, we should not.
As we are at peace with the United States, the minister should have bowed and
smiled at the Executive building; but as we are at war, he should have barred his
front gate, rolled himself up in the American flag, and gazed around with an air
of gloomy and forbidding defiance. Who shall “rede” this riddle; who shall resolve
these contradictions? Whatever course Mr. Willis had pursued, he might have
cited chapter and verse for it. Whatever he had done he would have been right.
Is this Government at peace with the United States or not? Does the United States
recognize its sovereignty or not? Who shall say? Does Mr. Willis himself know?
We think that the foregoing facts should teach us to be patient and forbearing in
our relations with the United States minister, and to withhold our judgments. Whichever
way he turns he finds himself confronted with the bristling horns of a dilemma.
Everywhere bloody prospects of impalement, and no way of escape. If he has not
found a way out of the difficulty consistent with the usages of diplomacy, the ordi-
nary requirements of courtesy, the dignity and power of the great nation which he
represents, the fault is not his, but his master’s.
The whole situation is an extraordinary commentary upon the foreign policy which
has brought things to such a pass. Mr. Cleveland disowning the acts of his prede-