

highly prepossessed in his favour, I was not prepared to find him so easy and gentlemanly in his manners as he now appeared. He was alone when he received us, and in a few minutes, we found that he was able to express himself very intelligibly in English, and was quick in comprehending what was said to him.

He was found at one end of the large grass-house built for him by the Governor Kekuanaoa.\* He received us in a friendly manner. From the representations that had been made to me, I had been led to believe that the king was not only dull of apprehension, but had little disposition to engage in or talk of the affairs of government; I found him, on the contrary, exhibiting an intimate acquaintance with them. He entered fully and frankly in the discussion of all the matters in relation to which disputes had arisen between him and foreign nations; and I, on the other hand, was desirous to elicit his views with regard to the difficulties he had for the last year or two encountered, and learn the feelings he had experienced in the arduous situations in which he had been placed.

He spoke of the manner in which foreigners had obtruded themselves into the affairs of his government, so that no one of its acts was permitted to pass without his being called, in a rude and uncivil manner, to account for it. He stated that he found great difficulty in acting correctly; for foreigners, whom he and his chiefs had treated with every possible attention, had from interested motives, urged measures upon him which he knew to be wrong, and had, in many cases, abused the confidence he had placed in them. He expressed the strongest desire to do right, and to protect his people from evil influences and the encroachments of designing persons, by wholesome laws and regulations.

The treaty which he had been compelled to sign by Captain Laplace, of the French frigate *Artemise*, was alluded to by him in terms of mortification: he regretted that he had done an act and yielded to a measure which had rendered nugatory his municipal laws and regulations.

To explain this part of the conversation, it will be necessary to relate some particulars of the circumstances which led to this interference of a French commander with the laws and ordinances of a weak, and, as I think it will appear clearly, an unoffending people.

There has always been a party among the foreign residents op-

\* This building is about sixty feet long by forty feet wide, and contains only one room, which may, however, be divided by movable screens into several apartments. The floor was covered with mats. The whole was well adapted to the heat of the climate, and the smell of the sweet-scented grass was agreeable and refreshing.