

wards, the repeal of so much of the law as authorized the infliction of corporal punishment, was effected through the instrumentality of the missionaries, and religious toleration was proclaimed. If any blame is to be imputed to them, it is because they did not at an earlier period take steps to obtain the withdrawal of an ordinance so much at variance with the institutions of the country whence they came, where alone, of nations professing Christianity, toleration is an unknown term, because all sects stand upon an equal footing. It is possible that they had warm and excited feelings to contend with; but if they had it in their power to obtain the repeal of the law, under which they must have heard that much severity was practised, at an earlier period, there can be no excuse for their delay. This supineness, whether apparent or real, has naturally excited censure, both in Hawaii and in the United States, and has served to give a shadow of probability to the numerous falsehoods and misstatements that have been published in relation to their conduct in other matters. Even the severity that was reported to have been practised while the law continued in force, was far less than is usually represented, and the reports in relation to it seem generally to have been much exaggerated.

The arrival of Captain Laplace, in the French frigate *Artemise*, brought about a crisis, for which it appears that no party was prepared. It was generally supposed in Honolulu, that the mission of this officer was the consequence of representations made by a secret agent of the Romish missionaries, by the name of Murphy, who is suspected of having informed the French government that a persecution was still going on against French Catholics and citizens. How far this could be true will appear from the fact that the number of the subjects of France in these islands is *four*, including the consul, but excluding his family, who are English; how valuable the commerce which required a frigate to protect it, will be properly appreciated, when it is stated, that only three French vessels had visited the islands during the two years previous to the mission of Captain Laplace, and that the value of their cargoes was no more than \$20,000 or \$30,000. Only one French vessel arrived in the year which followed the transactions I am about to refer to.

That some gross misstatement had been made, is evident from the tenor of Captain Laplace's manifesto,* in which he states that he had been specially sent to put an end to the ill-treatment received by French subjects, and to secure them the free right of their worship.

* This will be found in Appendix I.