

He ascribes the fancied evils of which he complains to the evil course of the American missionaries, and charges the king with having been misled by "perfidious counsellors."

How far this opinion was well founded, will appear by a letter addressed on this subject to the king, by the American consul, and his reply. I deem it an act of justice to the American missionaries, that these official documents should be made public, as the most authentic testimony that can be procured on the subject, and which I am of opinion must command full belief.*

So far as can be learned from Captain Laplace's manifesto, his instructions had reference only to the subject of religious toleration; he was to insure the future good treatment of French Catholics, and of the natives converted by them. He demanded, in addition, as surety for the future good conduct of the king and chiefs, the sum of \$20,000, for which it has been alleged he has not accounted; and the French consul contrived to turn the intervention of Captain Laplace to his own personal advantage, as will presently be seen.

The promulgation of this manifesto, and the exorbitant demand with which it was accompanied, produced great consternation at Honolulu, and throughout the island of Oahu. The foreign residents were in alarm for their property, which was exposed on the one side to the dangers of a bombardment, and on the other to the pilfering of the natives; the natives were dismayed at the demand of a sum they were unable to pay; while the missionaries, with their wives and children, were the objects of a proscription, from which, the American consul was informed, their national flag should not be a protection, nor guard them from insult and injury.

Until the demands of the French captain should be complied with, the port of Honolulu was declared by him in a state of blockade, and no advices were allowed to be sent from it except with his knowledge.

The conduct of the foreign residents, at this juncture, was most extraordinary. So far from aiding, by their advice and countenance, the government under whose protection they had been living and making fortunes, they organized a committee to look to their own safety in the threatened crisis, formed a company of minute-men, not to act against the invaders, but against the natives; and actually applied to Captain Laplace for the loan of arms and ammunition, to be employed against those to whom they were in so many ways indebted. They thus took part against the native government, which they deserted in its utmost need; and it is with regret that I am compelled

* This correspondence will be found in Appendix II.