

to state that the Americans as a body did not form an exception, but that some of them left the native rulers to struggle as they best could with a powerful enemy.

The missionaries who were proscribed, declined to involve the king and chiefs in further difficulties by giving advice, which, coming from them, would have been obnoxious to the French commander, but silently awaited the suffering which they seemed called upon to undergo.

The regent, Kekauluohi, and the governor, Kekuanaoa, succeeded after some negotiation in obtaining a delay of the threatened hostilities, until the king, who had been sent for, should arrive from Maui, or until a sufficient time should be allowed for his so doing; and Haalilio was sent on board the frigate as a hostage, for the execution of the treaty they were required to sign. The time which was thus allowed to intervene, was spent on the side of the foreigners in creating alarm, and holding up in dismal colours the prospect of the bloodshed and rapine that were to fall on the devoted community, in case the demands of the French captain were not complied with; and on the part of the chiefs in forming an efficient police to suppress any intestine commotion. Their conduct ought to have put to the blush those whose property they thus prepared to guard, and I can conceive nothing more disgraceful than the conduct of the foreigners on this occasion. Even the American consul fell in the first instance into an error, in not asserting the right of his flag to protect all Americans, and in not throwing back upon the French commander the unmanly threat he had uttered against the missionaries and their families. He, however, fully retrieved his error before the affair ended.

It would appear that the sum demanded by Captain Laplace had been made so large by the advice of the French consul, who knew that the resources of the native government would not enable them to raise it, and who hoped that, in lieu of it, any commercial arrangements he might choose to dictate would be granted, or that a good pretext would exist for the occupation of the island by the French, either of which might be turned to his (the consul's) pecuniary advantage. The same reasons operated in a different manner upon the other foreign residents; for after their first alarm had somewhat subsided, they became aware of the injury to which the latter alternative would have subjected them, while from actual hostilities they would be the greatest sufferers; and thus, to the great disappointment of the French consul, they determined to lend the demanded sum to the government. The king did not arrive at the specified time; but the regent and governor, being thus furnished with funds, at a high rate of interest, signed the treaty.