

and municipal regulations, and had not rather allowed them to do their worst. The only justification he could offer to himself for his submission was, that by yielding he had saved much trouble and distress to others.

To return to the Laplace treaty. A commission has been sent to France with letters to its government, containing a statement of the transactions of which we have spoken, and asking that the commercial treaty might be annulled as injurious to the morals of his people, and the king expressed his hopes that this appeal to the magnanimity and moral sense of the French monarch would be successful.

With the Catholics, to whom this treaty has given free entrance, I had no direct intercourse. I saw however that they were zealous in their exertions to inculcate their peculiar tenets; they have already several places of worship, and were busy in erecting a large chapel of stone. All the chiefs, however, and the great body of the people, are still Protestants. The existence of two different creeds has caused some difficulties. One relating to the school system took place during the stay of our squadron; and another relative to marriages between native converts of different persuasions.

I cannot but indulge the hope, that the competition of the teachers of different creeds, if they be actuated by proper motives, will, by stimulating their efforts, tend to the improvement of education and the advancement of civilization. The Protestant missionaries have already done so much good, that it is much more a matter of wonder that there should be so many signs of piety, and so many instances of strict obedience to the moral law, than that vice and sensuality are still to be seen in existence in this community, so recently redeemed from barbarism.

Among the most obvious benefits of the missionary labours, are a code of laws and a written constitution; the last of which was promulgated on the 8th October, 1840. It is, no doubt, far from being perfect, but it is as much so as circumstances would permit, and is a proof of the sincerity of the interest the king and chiefs take in the welfare of those whom they govern; for in it they have made a willing sacrifice of their power to what they deem the general benefit of the nation.

I was furnished with a copy of this constitution by Mr. Richards, and I insert it, as perhaps the best mode of contrasting the present state of the Hawaiian people with that of the inhabitants of the other Polynesian islands, and of exhibiting the advance which they have made towards complete civilization.