

pilot Adams that he was required to pilot this ship to sea, (which pilotage the consul had paid in advance,) he came on board in the morning, (the wind being fair,) remained a short time, and left, refusing to pilot the ship to sea.

During his stay on board, at which time I was *absent on shore*, he behaved in a manner totally unworthy of one who holds such an *employment under your Majesty*, until my first-lieutenant checked him; and I was obliged to act as my own pilot.

It was the opinion of my officers, that he was under the influence of liquor, and unable to do his duty.

Frequent complaints have been made to me, that vessels were detained in port in consequence of his being drunk and not able to do his duty.

I have now to request of your Majesty, that you would dismiss him from the responsible situation he holds as pilot of your port. I do not think him a safe person to trust vessels to, and on my stating this in the United States, it will affect the insurance of vessels bound to your port.

I deem it a duty you owe to vessels bound to Honolulu, to provide them with a safe and sober pilot. There are many other persons fully capable of the trust, and I think it behoves you to take the proper measures in relation thereto.

I am well aware that it is only necessary to mention these circumstances to your Majesty, to have the abuse corrected; and I would recommend Captain John Meek, of Honolulu, as a suitable person for the office of captain of the port and pilot. I am confident his appointment would be acceptable to all the merchants and masters of vessels residing at and visiting Honolulu; I hope, therefore, that this arrangement may be made without delay.

I have the honour, &c.

CHARLES WILKES,
Commanding Exploring Expedition.

THE KING'S ANSWER.

My salutations to you, Captain Wilkes:

I have received your letter respecting the pilot at Honolulu, and am well aware that your complaints are not groundless, but are well founded. I have, therefore, given attention to the subject; but John Meek has declined the appointment. I have not, however, given up the subject.