

A SHAMEFUL CONSPIRACY

IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES WAS MADE TO PLAY A PART.

QUEEN LILUOKALANI'S DETHRONEMENT.

It Was Accomplished by the Aid of United States Marines.

POLITICAL CRIME OF THE CENTURY.

How Minister Stevens Betrayed His Trust in Fomenting and Supporting the Revolution in Honolulu—The Boston's Troops Quartered in a Hall Opposite the Palace to Intimidate the Queen and Her Followers—Stevens Promised Recognition to the Provisional Government Before It Was Formed—The Queen Surrendered with the Understanding that Her Ultimate Fate Should Be Settled in Washington—Extracts from Commissioner Blount's Preliminary Reports to the State Department.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Special Commissioner and Minister Blount has made several reports to the State Department on Hawaiian affairs. These have been printed for the State Department in different volumes, one making up what is known as the final report, covering all his investigations. One report, however, is even more interesting than the final report, and that is the one containing his current dispatches, informing the State Department of the condition of things in Hawaii, as he learned it by his inquiries.

This volume of "current" reports shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that the revolution in Hawaii in January last was accomplished only by the most shameful intervention on the part of Minister Stevens, then our diplomatic representative at Honolulu. It shows, from the testimony of members of the provisional Government who took part in the overthrow of the Queen, that this revolution was accomplished as the result of a conspiracy which they had formed, with the assistance of Minister Stevens, and in which he, as the representative of the United States, bore a most conspicuous part. It shows that, but for Minister Stevens's abuse of his power, the revolution could not have been accomplished, and that his position and the presence of the marines and machine guns from the Boston overawed the Queen and her supporters, and that nothing else but the intervention of the United States in this manner would have induced the Queen to yield, which she did with the express understanding, accepted by President Dole, of the provisional Government, that the case was to be reviewed at Washington, and justice done her by the President of the United States.

Commissioner Blount's report will further show that Minister Stevens landed the troops from the Boston long before there was any valid excuse for their presence on Hawaiian soil; that he declined to remove them when requested to do so by the Government, and when informed that the authorities were willing and fully able to preserve order and to protect American interests; that these troops were stationed across the street from the Government building in which Minister Stevens knew the revolutionists were about to read their proclamation, and that the revolutionist committee relied upon the American troops to protect them in this act of rebellion; that Minister Stevens recognized the provisional Government according to a pre-conceived programme, before that Government had obtained possession of the departments and military power at Honolulu, and that the military power was surrendered as the Queen surrendered, only through awe of the superior force of the United States.

A more disgraceful conspiracy against a friendly and independent power was never carried on in the name of the United States. To all intents and purposes it was the armed forces of the United States, led by a Minister trained in the Jingo school of the late James G. Blaine, that assailed the Hawaiian Government and overthrew it. These facts have already been set forth in brief in the letter which Secretary Gresham sent to the President, and which was published on the 11th inst. But the report of Commissioner Blount, with the affidavits and testimony, its originals or copies of official documents, and the admissions made by the very men who co-operated with Minister Stevens to overthrow the Queen, will show that Secretary Gresham, anxious, perhaps, not to convict American citizens and officials of this Government of such enormous crimes against a friendly power, understated rather than magnified the nature and extent of the offense committed by Minister Stevens, assisted by Capt. Wiltse of the Boston. When the people of this country learn the whole truth, they will applaud the Administration for its decision to right a wrong inflicted in such a shameful manner, and where the President and Secretary of State are now criticised for their act of reparation, they will soon be commended.

For information as to the nature of the conspiracy engaged in by Minister Stevens it is not necessary to take the word of Secretary Gresham, nor that of Commissioner Blount, nor yet that of friends of the deposed Queen. Enough appears from the admissions of the revolutionists themselves and from the documentary evidence to establish beyond question the grave nature of the crime committed in the name of the United States—a crime which President Cleveland and Secretary Gresham have been brave enough to atone for in the only way open to them, even at the risk of popular disapproval while the whole truth is unknown.

Commissioner Blount did his work with great thoroughness. During the five or six months of his stay in Honolulu he worked with a single purpose to ascertain the truth. He secured statements from members of the Cabinet of the deposed Queen, from members of the Committee of Safety which brought about the revolution, from officers of the Boston, and from other persons, including the Queen herself. Some of these persons were examined by Mr. Blount, a stenographer being present. Gradually, little by little, Mr. Blount was able to reach the bottom of the affair, and when he did so he had not the slightest hesitation in giving a verdict that the diplomatic representative of the United States had been con-

victed of conspiracy against a friendly Government, and that he had afterward lied about the facts.

In one of his reports to the State Department Commissioner Blount said: "I send you a written statement from F. Wunderberg, who says that his information is derived from being personally present in all the conferences of the Committee of Safety, and that his utterances are based on his personal knowledge. He appears to be an intelligent man. He says he acted with the committee in good faith till the American flag was hoisted, and then he ceased communication with them. He is at this time (April 26) Deputy Clerk of the Supreme Court."

As evidence of the esteem in which Mr. Wunderberg is held in Honolulu, Commissioner Blount mentions that the provisional Government had just tendered him an appointment as Collector of Customs, a place which Mr. Wunderberg declined. One of the Honolulu newspapers in sympathy with the provisional Government mentions the offer of this place to Mr. Wunderberg, and highly praises him as a man of strict integrity and high reputation. The statement of Mr. Wunderberg is as follows: "The Committee of Safety met at the office of W. O. Smith, in Fort Street, at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, the 16th day of January, 1893, for the purpose of discussing the steps necessary to be taken in the formation of a new Government. Shortly after the committee met they decided that they were not ready for the landing of the American troops, and a committee of three, with Thurston as the Chairman, was at once dispatched to the American Legation to prevail upon Mr. Stevens to delay the landing of the Boston's men. The committee returned shortly, and said Mr. Stevens had said to them: 'Gentlemen, the troops of the Boston will land at 5 o'clock this afternoon, whether you are ready or not.' The Committee of Safety adjourned to meet the same evening at the house of Mr. Henry Waterhouse, at 7 o'clock."

"The American troops landed at 5 o'clock, as Mr. Stevens had told the committee they would, and marched up Fort Street to Merchant and along Merchant Street, halting in King Street between the palace and the Government Buildings. At the time the men landed the town was perfectly quiet. Business hours were about over and the people—men, women, and children—were in the streets, and nothing unusual was to be seen, except the landing of a formidable armed force with Gatling guns, evidently fully prepared to remain on shore an indefinite length of time, as the men were supplied with double cartridge belts, filled with ammunition, also haversacks and canteens, and were attended by a hospital corps. The people on the streets were aroused, and the youngsters more particularly followed the troops to see what it was all about. Nobody seemed to know, so when the troops found quarters the people dispersed, the most of them going to the band concert at the hotel, which was fully attended, as it was a bright moonlight night. All who were not in the secret were still wondering at the military demonstration.

"When the committee met at Mr. Waterhouse's residence that evening at 7:30 o'clock, the formation of some sort of a Government was under discussion, and it was decided then that a Commander in Chief of the forces supporting the proposed new Government should be appointed. The position was offered to John H. Soper, who demurred, not seeing any backing whatever to support the movement. Mr. Soper was answered by members of the committee that the American Minister would support the move with the troops of the Boston. Mr. Soper still doubted, so a couple of the committee escorted him over to the Legation, which by the way, was in the adjoining premises, and the three came back after a time, reporting that Mr. Stevens had given them full assurance that any proclamation of the Government put forward at the Government Building, or any other building at Honolulu, for that matter, would receive his immediate recognition and the support of the forces of the Boston. This assurance seemed to satisfy Mr. Soper, and he accepted the position.

"On Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 17, the Committee of Thirteen, or Committee of Safety, proceeded from the office of W. O. Smith (now Attorney General in the provisional Government) to the Government Building and there read the proclamation of a new Government, at 2:40 o'clock, there being practically no audience whatever. As the reading proceeded a dozen or so loungers gathered, and near the close of the ceremony about thirty supporters, variously armed, came running into the side and back entrances to the yard, and gathered about the committee. At this moment the United States troops, which had temporary quarters in the rear of the Music Hall, less than 100 yards from where the committee stood, appeared to be under arms, and were evidently prepared for any emergency. During all the deliberations of the committee, and in fact through all the proceedings connected with the move up to the final issue, the basis of action was the general understanding that Minister Stevens would keep the promise to support the movement with the men from the Boston, and the statement is now advisedly made, with full knowledge of the lack of arms, ammunition, and men, also the utter absence of organization at all adequate to the undertaking, that without the previous assurance of support from the American Minister and the actual presence of the United States troops no movement would have been attempted, and if attempted it would have been a miserable failure, resulting in the capture or death of the participants in a very short time. Having been present at the several meetings referred to in the statement, I hereby certify that the same is correct in every essential particular."

Nothing could be more clear and convincing, in the opinion of Mr. Blount, than the foregoing statement of a reputable man, who was a member of the Committee of Safety and who acted with that committee till it went further in the direction of annexation than he was willing to go.

Commissioner Blount sends to the State Department a long interview had by him with S. A. Damon, who is President of the Advisory Council of the provisional Government and whose natural desire is to put the best possible appearance on the events of last January. Mr. Damon's interview was reported stenographically and signed by him as being correct. He was one of the men who went up to the Government House Monday afternoon, Jan. 17, to read the proclamation declaring the Queen deposed and a new Government in control, the proceeding which Minister Stevens had suggested as the easiest way to accomplish the end in view and as a thing which he would be glad to recognize as establishing a new and de facto Government. Mr. Damon, though a somewhat unwilling witness, was forced to corroborate the statements made by Mr. Wunderberg. He described the starting from Smith's office, on Fort Street. There were about eighteen men in all. Damon says they divided into two bodies, taking different streets, because they were afraid they might attract attention. They were afraid of being interfered with by the police, he says, showing that the Queen's Government was still in possession of the city.

The men straggled so as not to attract attention, for they knew they were simply a band of conspirators. At the Government House Damon says they found few persons, no one save the porters and officials employed there. In other words, the Government was in possession, and was carrying on its affairs in the regular way, without any excitement and without any attempts to organize for defense.

Mr. Cooper read the proclamation, and as the members of the committee, who had assembled for this purpose, felt anxious about their personal safety, they sent word to Col. Soper, in command of their forces, for guards. Then it was that men came running in with rifles in their hands.

"How many troops came in?" asked Mr. Blount.

"Enough to make us feel decidedly more at ease than before they arrived."

"What did you do after the reading of the proclamation?"

"We adjourned to the office of the Minister of the Interior, and commenced to formulate our plans and get ourselves into working order. Mr. Dole was at the head. While we were there, Mr. Cornwall and Mr. Parker came up from the station house and held a conference with us. (Cornwall and Parker were members of the Queen's Cabinet, on whom the revolutionists had been working to induce them to join the scheme to overthrow the monarchy.) The station house was the point at which the troops of the Queen were centred, and which was still in possession of Marshal Wilson, the Queen's trusty follower, who has been falsely accused of being her paragon. The station house was still in possession of Wilson. In response to Mr. Blount's questions, Mr. Damon said that he and another member of the revolutionist committee went to the station house to

hold a conference with the Queen's representatives.

Mr. Blount endeavored to draw from Mr. Damon an admission that the argument used to induce the Queen's Minister to surrender was that the United States troops were across the street from the Government Building and in full sympathy with the revolution. Mr. Damon unwillingly admitted that this was true, saying: "While I was in the station house a man named Bowler said to me: 'We are all prepared to resist, but I will never fight against the American flag.'"

"Being again pressed for information as to whether the sympathy of the United States Minister was talked about, Mr. Damon replied: 'I cannot remember any definite thing, but from Mr. Bowler's remark they must have thought the United States troops were here to some purpose.'"

"Did you say anything to indicate that there was sympathy on the part of Capt. Wiltse or Minister Stevens with the movement to form a new Government?"

"I cannot remember. I may possibly have said so."

"What was your impression?"

"My impression was, seeing the troops landed here in this time of excitement and turmoil, that—well, I suppose I might say that they could not stand it any longer—the Americans could not stand it any longer."

"Your impression, then, was that the American Minister and Capt. Wiltse were in sympathy with you?"

"While we were in the Government Building and during the reading of the proclamation, and while we were extremely nervous as to our personal safety, I asked one of the men with me there: 'Will not the American troops support us?' Finally I asked one of the men to go over and ask Lieut. Swinburne if he was not going to send some one over to protect us. The man returned and said: 'Capt. Wiltse's orders are 'Remain passive.' I was perfectly nonplussed at not receiving their support. I could not imagine why we were there without being supported by the American troops. We were there fifteen or twenty minutes without their supporting us in any way.'"

Mr. Blount then drew from Mr. Damon the statement that the American troops, with Gatling guns, were across the street, and that Mr. Damon was pretty badly frightened. He feared the Queen's forces would descend upon them and capture them. Though the troops were within a short distance and no danger threatening, Mr. Damon wanted them to come closer, and, under the arrangement that had been made with Minister Stevens, he was surprised that the American marines did not invade the Government Building and protect them with their bayonets. Other members of the Committee of Safety seemed to think the presence of the troops across the street quite sufficient.

Being asked what was accomplished by the first visit to the station house, Mr. Damon at length replied: "The Queen's Ministers virtually gave it up. They said if they had only the provisional Government to contend with, and the forces of the provisional Government, they would not surrender. They felt that they could meet the emergency so far as the provisional Government was concerned. But, as it was, they were willing to yield, if the Queen was. Then I went along with them to the palace. We all met in the Blue Room. There were present the Queen, two young Princes, four Ministers, Judge Widemann, Paul Neumann, J. O. Carter, E. C. Macfarlane, and myself. We went over between 4 and 5, and remained until 6 o'clock, discussing the situation. We asked for a surrender, and the Ministers advised it. At first Judge Widemann opposed, but yielded when Mr. Neumann did. It was the Queen's idea that she could surrender pending a settlement at Washington. It was on that condition that she gave up. I told her she could surrender or abdicate under protest."

"And that the protest would be considered at a later period at Washington?"

"Yes, at a later period."

"Was the Queen advised by her Ministers to surrender because the sympathy of the United States was with the revolutionists?"

"I know it was the Queen's idea that Mr. Stevens was in sympathy with this movement. The Queen was reluctant to sign the abdication, but did so on the ground that it would all come up for review at Washington. I told her so myself. It was the best terms of settlement we could get. I took it to President Dole, and he received and indorsed it."

"Was anything sent to the Queen after that? Anything rejecting the proposition for a settlement of the dispute at Washington?"

"No."

"The surrender, then, was made on that proposition?"

"Yes. Then the Queen sent down word to the station house that they should surrender. That wound up the whole affair. We took possession. It was not delivered up till after this conference."

"Now, how long after that was it before the provisional Government was recognized?"

"Mr. Stevens sent Cadet Pringle, his aid, and Capt. Wiltse sent one of his officers to personally examine the building and report if the provisional Government was in actual possession. That was done between 4 and 5 in the afternoon. The interview with the Queen took place between 4 and 6."

"Now, when this interview was going on between you, the Cabinet Ministers, and the Queen, it was known then that the Government had been recognized?"

"I do not think that the Queen was told. I do not remember it being spoken of."

"Didn't you know it?"

"I think I knew it."

"What I mean is this: Before you took the message of the Queen back—this protest—the provisional Government had been recognized?"

"Yes."

"Had that been done at the time you left the Government House to go with the Cabinet Ministers to talk with the Queen?"

"If my memory serves me right, it had."

Commissioner Blount had a long interview with Mr. Waterhouse, who was also a member of the Committee of Safety, and who, though an unwilling witness, corroborated Mr. Wunderberg and Mr. Damon in most of their statements. He was asked by Mr. Blount: "The night the meeting was held at your house was anything said indicating that Mr. Stevens knew of the move to take the Government Building the next day?"

"I don't remember."

"Do you think he knew of your movement?"

"I did; I was in hopes that he did."

"Did you all understand that Mr. Stevens's sympathies were with you?"

"Yes."

J. O. Carter, another of the prominent men engaged in the revolutionary effort, addressed to Mr. Blount, under date of May 3, a letter giving his version of the incidents of the 15th of January, as follows:

"At 6:30 o'clock of the evening of that day I was called to the Government Building. I met there Judge Dole, Charles Carter, S. M. Damon, and twenty or thirty other leading men. There was a great deal of excitement. They told me that Minister Stevens had recognized the new Government. I was asked to go with a committee to the palace to inform her Majesty that she was deposed. I joined the party headed by Mr. Damon, and proceeded to the palace. Mr. Damon informed her Majesty of the establishment of a provisional Government and of her being deposed, and that she might prepare a protest if she wished to. An awkward pause followed, which I broke by addressing her Majesty, expressing sympathy, and advising her that any demonstration on the part of her forces would precipitate a conflict with the forces of the United States; that it was desirable that such a conflict be avoided; that her case would be considered at Washington, and a peaceful submission to force on her part would greatly help her case.

"H. A. Wideman addressed her Majesty, saying that he believed that the result would be a repetition of the scenes of 1842, when the sovereign and flag were restored to Hawaii by Great Britain. I was moved to advise her Majesty as I did because it was reported on the streets that Minister Stevens had said that if the revolutionists obtained possession of a Government building, he would recognize them as a Government. I saw that the building was in possession of armed men, and I knew that the forces of the Boston were near at hand and that recognition was a fact. Word was sent to Marshal Wilson to disband the force at the station house and surrender the building, arms, and ammunition. Marshal Wilson refused to give up the station house except upon the written command of her Majesty. The order was prepared, signed by the Queen, and sent to the Marshal. The protest of the Queen was placed in the hands of President Dole, and I saw that he indorsed the document as received in due form. J. O. CARTER."

The fact that Minister Stevens recognized the new Government before it was in possession of the station house and before the abdication of the Queen, that recognition being used as a weapon with which to intimidate the Queen, is established by an affidavit of Charles L. Hopkins, who carried a letter from Antonio Kosa to Minister Stevens at 2:45 P. M. Jan. 17. A reply from Minister Stevens was handed him, ad-

dressed to Samuel Parker, Minister of Foreign Affairs. In this letter Minister Stevens recognized the provisional Government as the de facto Government of the Hawaiian Islands. This is confirmed by Minister Stevens himself, as will be shown by the following extract from the records of the United States Legation:

HONOLULU, Jan. 17, 1893.

About 4 to 5 P. M. of this date the note on file from the four Ministers of the deposed Queen inquiring if I had recognized the Provisional Government came to my hands while I was lying sick on the couch. Not far from 5 P. M.—I did not think to look at the watch—I addressed a short note to the Hon. Samuel Parker, the Hon. William H. Cornwell, the Hon. John F. Colburn, and the Hon. A. P. Peterson—no longer regarding them as Ministers—informing them that I had recognized the provisional Government.

JOHN L. STEVENS,
United States Minister.

In his report to the State Department dated May 6, Commissioner Blount describes at some length the difficulties which he encountered in obtaining from Minister Stevens copies of his correspondence with the Hawaiian Government. Mr. Stevens made various excuses for not producing the documents or records. Mr. Blount adds, "This same difficulty occurred when I called upon him for the communication from the Committee of Safety, asking for the landing of troops from the Boston. When Mr. Stevens finally turned over the records of correspondence he admitted that he had recognized the provisional Government before the barracks and station house had been surrendered; that he did not consider their surrender of any importance.

"In my last dispatch Lieut. Swinburne fixes the surrender of the station house at about 7:30 o'clock. This morning he called and informed me that Lieut. Draper had said to him that the station house was not surrendered until after dark. I inclose Lieut. Draper's statement.

"I consider that it is now established beyond controversy that Mr. Stevens recognized the provisional Government before the barracks and station house had been surrendered, or agreed to be surrendered.

"Before the Committee of Thirteen went up to proclaim the provisional Government they sent a gentleman to see if there were any troops in the Government Building. On learning the fact that there were none the committee quietly went up in two or more squads, and, uniting at the Government Building, read their proclamation. Without making any demand for the surrender of the palace, in which were the Queen and her friends with some fifty soldiers, the barracks, a little beyond the palace, with about eighty men, well equipped with small arms and artillery, and with the station house, some 600 yards off, occupied by 200 men well armed and equipped, they asked and obtained from the American Minister recognition as a Government de facto. On this basis the minds of the Cabinet and Queen were operated upon to give up the barracks and station house, and to have her surrender to the provisional Government. In this way the revolution reached its solution."

Commissioner Blount submits the original of Mr. Stevens's note, dated the 16th, asking for the use of the Opera House Hall for Capt. Wiltse and his men. The agent of the hall declined to grant the use thereof, because the building had been damaged during the Wilcox insurrection of 1889. Commissioner Blount continues:

"This building, Lieut. Swinburne informs me, was agreed upon on board the Boston before the troops were landed as the best place for the location of the Boston's men. He suggested on shipboard that the troops be quartered near the wharf so as to be near to their base of supplies, the same having been so done when Admiral Skerrett landed troops in 1874. Capt. Wiltse and Mr. Stevens thought it was better that they should be situated in the Opera House. Failing to get this building, Arion Hall, which is on a line with it, and adjoins it, and is across the street from the Government Building, was obtained for the troops. The men were placed in the rear of Arion Hall, but in full view of the palace. A street intervened between the Government Building and the palace. It was about 350 yards from one of these buildings to the other. The American troops were on the same side of the street with the provisional Government troops, which did not probably number 100 men. If the Queen's troops should have attacked the provisional Government's troops, our men were in danger of being injured, which might have brought them into collision with the Queen's troops. The same is true if the provisional Government's troops had advanced on the palace. If the American troops were landed to protect American property and the persons of American citizens, their location at this place unfortunately signified a different purpose.

"The Queen, her Cabinet, and her followers undoubtedly believed from the location of the American troops, and the quick recognition of the provisional Government by Mr. Stevens, that the United States forces would aid the provisional Government forces in the event of a conflict.

"Under date of May 20 Admiral Skerrett addresses the following letter to Commissioner Blount:

"Sir: I have examined, with a view of inspection, the premises first occupied by the force landed from the United States steamship Boston, and known as Arion Hall, situated on the west side of the Government Building. The position of this location is in the rear of a large brick building known as Music Hall. The street it faces is comparatively a narrow one, the building itself facing the Government Building. In my opinion, it was inadvisable to locate the troops there if they were landed for the protection of United States citizens, being distinctly removed from the business portion of the town and generally far away from the United States Legation and Consul General, as well as being distant from the houses and residences of United States citizens. It will be seen from the accompanying sketch that, had the provisional Government troops been attacked from the east, such attack would have placed them in the line of fire. Had Music Hall been seized by the Queen's troops, they would have been under their fire, had such been their desire. It is for these reasons that I consider the position occupied an ill selected one.

"Naturally, if they were landed with a view to support the provisional government troops, then occupying the Government Building, it was a wise choice, as they could enfilade any troops attacking them from the palace grounds in front. There is nothing further for me to state in reference to this matter, and as has been called by you to my attention, all of which is submitted for your consideration. Very respectfully,

J. S. SKERRETT,

Rear Admiral, United States Navy, Commanding United States Naval Force, Pacific Station."

One of the clearest statements as to the part played by Minister Stevens as to the conspiracy to dispossess the Queen is that made by Mr. Cornwell, who was a member of the Queen's Cabinet. After describing the prorogation of the Legislature on the 14th; the effort of the Queen to induce her Cabinet to sign the new Constitution, for which thousands of natives had petitioned; their refusal to do so, and the Queen's final yielding to their wishes, and public proclamation abandoning the new Constitution programme, Mr. Cornwell says:

"On Sunday morning, Jan. 15, Mr. Thurston, the head of the revolutionary party, called upon my colleagues, Ministers Colburn and Patterson, and asked them to join with himself and others in deposing the Queen, assuring them that such movement would be perfectly safe, as Minister Stevens had promised them the support of the United States forces, and also that he would recognize and support a provisional Government as soon as such a step could be taken. My colleagues naturally refused to entertain the infamous proposition of

Mr. Thurston, and immediately, with myself and Minister Parker, the Cabinet held several consultations, and, knowing the strength of our forces, we felt confident that we could easily cope with any insurrection of the few malcontents.

"On Monday, the 16th, the Queen issued a proclamation to the people, in which she explained her reasons for desiring to promulgate a new Constitution, and at the same time assured them that she would not make any further attempt to gain that object. At 11 A. M. the proclamation was printed and distributed all over town. Assurances to a similar end were also sent to the foreign representatives and accepted as satisfactory. We had stated to the members of the Corps Diplomatic what we intended to do, and were told that it was considered a wise step, which they believed would be satisfactory. Present at the consultation were the representatives of England, France, Japan, and Portugal. Minister Stevens declined to be present, which did not surprise us, knowing his sympathy for the revolutionists.

"At about 4 P. M. we were informed that the United States forces were landing. Ministers Parker and Peterson immediately called upon Minister Stevens, and gave him to understand that the Government was able to take care of the situation, and requested him to keep the troops on board. He answered that he had landed the troops for the protection of American life and property, and proposed to keep them ashore. It is noteworthy that the Arion Hall and all the buildings in the immediate vicinity are not American property, so that if the troops were landed solely for the protection of American property, the placing of them so far away from the centre of the property of Americans and so very close to the property of the Hawaiian Government was remarkable and very suggestive.

"On Tuesday, Jan. 17, we were informed that the insurgents would proclaim a provisional Government in the afternoon, and the Cabinet called upon Minister Stevens, asking him if he would afford any assistance to the legal and lawful Government to which he was accredited, in case such assistance should be required. He refused in unmistakable terms, and made us understand that he should acknowledge and support the revolutionary Government as soon as it was established."

Mr. Cornwell explains that the Government did not place forces in the Government Building, because the presence of the United States troops across the street would increase the danger of conflict, and the Government desired at all hazards to avoid giving Minister Stevens any excuse or pretense for his hostile action. Mr. Cornwell corroborates the Hopkins affidavit and other witnesses, as to Minister Stevens's recognition of the new Government about the time that the committee of thirteen walked into the Government Building and read the proclamation. "We realized then," adds Mr. Cornwell, "that any steps from our side to dislodge and arrest the rebels would unavoidably lead us into conflict with the United States forces, and we decided to surrender, with the full understanding that such surrender was under protest, the United States Government to decide if the action of their Minister and the use of their forces to destroy a friendly Government was justifiable and according to American principles. It was after 7 o'clock P. M. when the arms and ammunition of the Queen's Government were turned over to the provisional Government, or about three hours after Minister Stevens had recognized the revolutionary Government."

On Saturday, the day the Legislature was prorogued, Minister Stevens returned to Honolulu and called at the Government building, where he saw Minister Parker and Mr. Cornwell. He asked if the Queen had signed the lottery bill. When answered in the affirmative, Mr. Cornwell says he became very excited, and, striking the table with his clenched fist, he exclaimed over and over again: "Gentlemen, this is a direct attack on the United States Government." Other witnesses corroborate Mr. Cornwell's account of Minister Stevens's excitement on this occasion, with the exception that other accounts have it that, instead of striking the table with his fist, he pounded the floor with his cane.

In a letter to the State Department dated June 17, 1893, Commissioner Blount says to Secretary Gresham:

"It may be of interest to you to know that in an examination this afternoon of Col. Soper, commanding the military forces of the provisional Government since the 17th of January last, he stated that at a meeting at the house of Henry Waterhouse on the night of the 16th of January, composed of members of the Committee of Safety and some persons called in, he was offered the command of the military forces; that he declined to accept it until the next day; that in this meeting it was accepted as true that Mr. Stevens had agreed that if the persons seeking to dethrone the Queen got possession of a Government building and proclaimed a new Government he would recognize it as a de facto Government; that he (Soper) never accepted the command until after he had knowledge of this fact; that he is a citizen of the United States and claims allegiance thereto.

"In a report to the State Department dated May 24, Commissioner Blount says: 'There frequently occurs in Mr. Stevens's correspondence with the State Department the allegation that the Queen has for a paramour ex-Marshall Wilson. Ordinarily, such scandalous statements would be unworthy of attention. Its use to prejudice the minds of the American people against her in connection with the question of annexation has caused me to make some inquiry into the subject. A number of reputable gentlemen have stated in writing their utter disbelief in this allegation. She has been received with apparent admiration through all the years of her reign, in the most refined circles in the city. The white population have resorted eagerly to the palace to participate in its social enjoyments, without any reserve on account of the Queen's character. On April 19, 1892, the American Minister gave her a breakfast, to which a number of prominent persons were invited.

"Wilson is ten years the junior of the ex-Queen. He married a girl who was reared by her, and who lived with her at the time of his marriage. He has never lived in the palace. He lived in the palace grounds with his wife, in a building seventy-five yards from the palace where the Queen resided. They were moved into this building after the death of the Queen's husband, at the instance of the Queen. Wilson is universally recognized as a brave man and loyal to the Queen. The frequent doubts here on the part of the whites doubtless caused her to make him Marshal and put him at the head of the police force, which was the real military force of the kingdom. Because of his marriage with a native woman and her connection with the Queen an dher confidence in his courage and fidelity, she trusted him rather than any of the whites in this position. I forbear any further statement on this subject at this time. Evidently, this charge against the Queen has for its foundation the looseness which comes from passionate and vindictive partisan struggles in Honolulu."