

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

The United States is on the eve of a departure that comes sooner or later in the history of potential nations. Power comes from territorial possession—for out of the earth comes all wealth. Our growth from the original colonies—a mere coast strip on the Atlantic—has been by accretion mainly till it occupies the whole central continent. This accretion has been by both purchase and conquest—but even conquest has been ratified in the passage of title by payment in money. We have no real blood-title to any of our possessions.

There are two divisions in American sentiment on the question of territorial acquisition: One is that we should only acquire contiguous possessions, so as to make lands continuous. This was technically broken in the case of Alaska, which is strictly a colony. But it was made a strong argument against San Domingo, when General Grant sought to acquire it.

The contiguous theory goes on the assumption that all our possessions must ultimately be represented in the senate as states. So far in our history we have had no colonies in the sense of the law of nations. Our incipient commonwealths have been "territories." The other school, or "manifest destiny" people, as they were called at the time of the Ostend conference, when Mr. Buchanan was minister to England, are for the extension of the power of the flag in the Western hemisphere, or anywhere else that its interests and justice demand.

At the risk of being tedious, we can best give our ideas in this regard by restating the position of the JOURNAL on this subject during San Domingo agitation, and in reference to this very Sandwich island question itself. It is the plan of commercial colonies, or the protectorate of the flag over any islands, ports or coasts that the resident people desire—if our own interests so demand—rather after the old Roman system of consulates. For example: We can conclude a treaty of "annexation" with the Sandwich islands, Cuba or other like peoples, guaranteeing them peace, protection and all the advantages of the flag, leaving the people to organize and conduct their local affairs for themselves. We could thus accord them representation at Washington like our own territories have, but in all else they could be independent. How far we would have a voice in the executive department, would depend on the condition of the resident people in intelligence.

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The United States can never acquire countries to be ruled by the home power, as monarchical colonies are governed—but always on the idea that local or home government must be free and self-controlled. In this way we can extend the dominion and jurisdiction of the flag to any quarter of the globe for commercial uses—protection or extension—and not only keep intact the great principle of self-government, but make it the most efficient of all methods for the propaganda of free government and its working.

There seems to be in this Hawaiian incident the opportunity never before presented for the initiation of a new territorial policy by the United States, and the extension of our popular methods of government to other portions of the globe. The extension of modern civilization by colonial action among primitive races has been the work of kings and emperors, but now is the opening opportunity for the same work by a republic—giving to a weak and defenseless people all the advantages of the protectorate and unvexed trade of a powerful nation with perfect freedom for self-government at the same time. □

Of course England will protest, will bully and bluster—but she has Egypt, India, Africa and a dozen places to look after, and, while she may threaten, we have only to remain firm. If she fires on our flag at Honolulu we can fire on hers in Manitoba and Ontario. The real danger is in the want of nerve and statesmanship at Washington, and above all in Wall street.

We can now take a new departure, establish a precedent that will make us first among the nations of the globe as to commerce, but first, also, as to the money control of the world. And this Europe sees more clearly than we do.