

pects while he is about it.

NO WAR OVER HAWAII.

With the positiveness of a man who understands that he will never be called to account for his words, Mr. Harrison says: "We can not allow any other country to take possession of Hawaii, and so long as I am president of the United States we shall not do so." Mr. Harrison's language would probably be a trifle more diplomatic if his term of office did not expire early next month. Still there is no doubt about the first part of the president's declaration. We surely can not allow any other country to take possession of Hawaii. If any nation is to assume ownership of that country or establish a protectorate over it, we must be that nation. Thoughtless journals have made merry over the prospect of war on account of the islands, but the danger of losing them to another country would be a greater reason for conflict than the causes of half of the world's great wars. Not only is Hawaii invaluable from a strategic point of view, but her commerce alone is worth fighting for. The government, even though the head of it has been a civilized but extravagant barbarian, has not run in debt since the death of the reckless Kalaakaua. The revenues have always been largely in excess of the natural expenditures. In 1890 the foreign commerce was worth \$20,244,930, or \$225 for each inhabitant. No other nation on the globe shows such a large per capita trade with other countries. When it is understood that over one-third of the population is made up of lazy aborigines, one can scarcely calculate the growth of commerce that would follow emigration of industrious whites to the islands.

Hawaii only needs a good government to bring out its wonderful resources. Whites have developed the sugar industry, the principal one of the islands. There are many other pursuits that may be followed with more success in Hawaii than in any other part of the world. Certain fruits grow better

there and coffee planting is a thriving industry.

It will be seen that there is good reason for the present annexation clamor at Washington.

Some cautious congressman has suggested that it will not pay to go to war with England over the Hawaiian group. This precious fellow can imagine that he already hears the belching of the men of war in Pearl harbor. No one need be frightened by the demonstration that Great Britain is beginning to make in the South Pacific. It will be like the story of the king of France and his 20,000 men, who made their famous march up the hill and down again. England will have her war ships on hand and her marines will protect British interests on shore if they need protection; but they won't. Uncle Sam's men are already on hand preserving perfect order. Why, lights are out at 9 o'clock in the evening and all folks abroad must give an account of themselves. There's naval discipline for you.

England won't touch Hawaii. The statesmen of Great Britain hesitated before they bombarded Alexandria. They will not even think of raising a row with us. The British sailors can not fight as our men can, and the British navy would not stand a ghost of a show by the side of the ships that the United States would get into the field before the war was half on. We showed the world some navy building in 1861. But this is all a waste of words, for Hawaii need not cost us a pound of powder or the life of a marine. If we want it we can have it, for she is begging at our doors. If England wants it she will have to wait and buy it from the United States.

The most likely outcome of the present situation will be the establishing of a protectorate over the islands by this country. Annexation may follow when time for it is made riper by closer commercial union.