

### BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES.

The president has withdrawn Mr. Harrison's Hawaiian treaty from the senate and now the matter stands just where it did when the commissioners reached Washington, barring one point.

That point is to be found in the increased knowledge of Hawaiian affairs possessed by the people and the United States government. Mr. Harrison was in for taking the islands right away, whether he or the senate knew even the number in the group, its population or resources. Of all the things diplomatic that Mr. Harrison did or attempted to do, this was the worst.

Washington advices say that Mr. Lorin Thurston, the head of the provisional government's commission, was very much dejected last night when he heard of Mr. Cleveland's course. They also say that the foolish little princess, Kaiulani, who has no more royal blood than a pumpkin, went to see Digby Bell and laughed heartily, so pleased was she at the performance and at Mr. Cleveland's decision in withdrawing the treaty from the senate.

Just why Mr. Thurston should be dejected or why the princess should be jubilant is beyond understanding. Did either of these Sandwich islanders for a moment suppose that Mr. Cleveland would allow that preposterous jingo treaty of Mr. Harrison's to remain in the senate as long as he had the power to take it away?

The Hawaiian question is back to first principles. That is all there is to it. Mr. Cleveland and the cabinet are now going to consider the question from every point of view and not take action until they are quite sure that they are right.

It is already seen that the investigation to be made is to be thorough. Several naval commanders from the Pacific station, familiar with every phase of Hawaiian life, have been ordered to Washington by Secretary Herbert. Information as to the exact state of affairs on the islands, politically and socially, may thus be had from first hands. When a question arises an expert will be on hand to answer it.

No jingo about this administration.

The trouble that Mr. Lorin Thurston is having is the fear that Mr. Cleveland will take all of the commission's glory by sending a United States commissioner of his own down to Hawaii to make investigation for this government. In that event, the work of annexation would be accomplished without the assistance of the five gentlemen now in Washington from Honolulu.

As to Princess Kaiulani, that foolish little Kanaka would better make the most of her present glory. She may yet rise to queenly heights, but from the present outlook she can do no better than to go back to England and finish her education before the appropriation runs out. If she were only a prince instead of a princess, she might marry a rich American, for empty titles are worth much more in this country than they are in Honolulu.

If one wants an example of a truly dignified and statesmanlike course in the handling of an international affair, let him follow Grover Cleveland in his disposal of the Hawaiian question.

MR. THEODORE DAVIES, the Englishman who is backing Princess Kaiulani for place in the present race for the Hawaiian throne, rises to remark:

'We intend to see this thing through, and I am greatly surprised if the justice loving people of the United States do not stand by us.

Yes, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Cleveland will see you through with it, too, in his own way. The people of this country do love justice, and that is the reason that they feel like establishing some sort of government at Honolulu that will please the nation for more than a year at a stretch.