

AFFAIRS AT HONOLULU.

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An Interesting Interview With the Captain of the Klickitat.

Port Townsend, Wash., Dec. 5 –

In an interview, today, Captain Cutler of the barkentine Klickitat, which arrived from Honolulu yesterday, said :

"The declaration of Minister Willis allayed public feeling to a considerable extent. The queen's supporters continue, however, to aver that the American minister should be severely reprimanded for not obeying the instructions of the state department, which, as it emanated from one or two of Lilioukalani's closest advisers, was to the effect that Willis had imperative instructions to restore and recognize the monarchical government. These assertions, together with Willis' remarks that unexpected contingencies had arisen of which the American government or himself had no knowledge, and which were of sufficient importance to cause him to alter his plans and send dispatches to Washington for further instructions, were taken as indicating that Willis had orders to restore the queen.

WHY WILLIS CHANGED HIS MIND.

"It was believed in Honolulu that Willis went there prepared to abolish the provisional government, and that his instructions were based upon an existing condition of affairs, which, on investigation, Willis found did not exist. This supposition is further verified by a remark made to me by Willis when he said he was surprised to meet so many broad-minded, law-abiding and thoroughly intelligent people in Hawaii. Willis is religiously inclined, and to a considerable extent associated with the missionary elements in the islands, and came in contact with the ablest men in Honolulu, all of whom are strongly opposed to the restoration of the monarchy, and especially the queen, on account of her supposed unchaste conduct. This class of citizens were careful to see that Willis was correctly informed of certain facts that Blount did not choose to consider.

A SPIRIT OF UNEASINESS.

"After the steamer Alameda sailed for San Francisco, and up to the time the Klickitat departed for this port, a spirit of uneasiness prevailed, lest Willis would try to throw the friends of the provisional government off their guard and permit the Royalists to get in possession of the government buildings. While I was visiting Commander Baker of the United States man-of-war Philadelphia, November 17th, an officer came aboard from the Adams and asked if shore leave was to be permitted. Barker replied 'No,' and that the crew should be held in readiness to land at a moment's notice. From his general demeanor it was easy to see that the commander of the Philadelphia anticipated some trouble, as ashore the friends of the provisional government reported that the Royalists were holding secret meetings at Washington place, where the queen resides. Nothing was learned regarding the object or decision of the meeting. Next day many of the queen's supporters were offering wagers of \$500 that she would be restored in less than one year.

"Willis told me just before. I sailed that the United States ought to take decisive and immediate action, as the present policy was ruining the business interests of the islands.

A PRACTICAL PROTECTORATE,

The Honolulu Commercial Advertiser of November 18th, two days after Willis made his statement to the public, relative to his instructions from Washington and his determination to await further advices before attempting to execute his orders, contained the following editorial: "United States Minister Willis was no doubt accurately reported the other day when he declared that until be heard from Washington no change will take place in the present situation, nor will any be allowed. He added that any attempt made by any person or persons to make trouble would be promptly checked and punished. Were the representative of any other power near the Hawaiian government to make such a declaration, there is no doubt that not only this government but that the United States would resent it in a most energetic manner as an unlawful interference with the internal affairs of this independent nation. We do not question the propriety of Mr. Willis declaration; we simply point out that the government of the United States holds itself charged with the special duty of maintaining public order and security to Hawaii. To this extent at least America already exercises a partial protectorate over this country."

WILLIS WORSE THAN STEVENS

The editorial further says : "Ex-Minister Stevens was merely performing and obeying the standing order of the state department, issued by Secretary Bayard to the American minister in Honolulu, and caused to be given to the naval forces there whenever necessary for the maintenance of public order. Stevens has been abused by the present American administration for obeying President Cleveland's explicit orders. If Minister Stevens is to be blamed for his interposition last January, then much more is Minister Willis to be censured for threatening to punish disturbers of the peace, which Stevens never did."

Los Angeles Herald, December 6, 1893, p. 2. Chronicling America:

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042461/1893-12-06/ed-1/seq-2.pdf>