

SELF-CONVICTED.

The *Journal* has at last made the final utterance upon the Hawaiian question. It declares that ex-Minister Stevens "has made a complete answer to the unfair, wilfully misleading and ex parte report of Commissioner Blount on the Hawaiian question."

This, of course, is the verdict of the *Journal*, and inasmuch as the public generally expects the *Journal* to be wrong upon every question, it will doubtless accept this verdict as conclusive against Mr. Stevens. Those, however, who take this view of Minister Stevens' defense will be denominated by the *Journal* as "shamefully malicious." This epithet from the *Journal* will hurt nobody, because it always succeeds in convicting itself of being "shamefully" mendacious. The sum and substance of ex-Minister Stevens' so-called "complete answer," a fair digest of which was given in THE TIMES, comprised the charge that Commissioner Blount was prejudiced, and had voluntarily submitted himself to influences in Hawaii hostile to Mr. Stevens' course.

If there are any respectable influences not hostile to Mr. Stevens' course in Hawaii or elsewhere, outside the ring of conspirators who are responsible for the Hawaiian revolution, the most careful search by friends and opponents of Mr. Stevens alike has failed to discover them.

Mr. Stevens can not expect to clear away the charges against his conduct by buncombe talk and jingo bluster. What the people looked to see in his long-expected "answer" was some evidence, some reference to facts which would contradict, or at least have a tendency to contradict, the damaging testimony submitted by Mr. Blount.

Surely he could not plead lack of time or want of resources. His residence in Hawaii as American Minister and his part in the Hawaiian revolution as chief actor must have given him personal knowledge of everything connected with that conspiracy and of every actor who took part in it. All documents were in his hands and under his control, and the record which he himself had an opportunity to make up and to which he might readily have referred, as well as to all of the facts outside of the record which would support it, if it were a true one, would be all that is necessary to vindicate him before the American people. But even his most partisan Republican friends have been grievously disappointed in his defense.

They expected evidence; they have received bluster. They expected a dignified offer to meet with facts all charges made against him and which he has so loudly denounced as false. They expected a request for an investigation, a statement of what he denominated the true case, with references and authorities to sustain its alleged truthfulness; but in place of these things they received vague vaporizations about the policy of Mr. Blaine and his predecessors and about the value of American interests in Hawaii and the necessity of their protection, as though this administration, or any other had proposed to withdraw its protection; and finally he sums up and hurls against Mr. Blount as a finishing charge the accusation of prejudice and submission to "foreign influences."

If, as he states, Mr. Blount has made a false report and an ex parte investigation backed by the testimony of suborned, irresponsible and uninformed witnesses, it would be the easiest thing in the world for Mr. Stevens to impeach that report, and to impeach those witnesses. If Mr. Blount has misrepresented the record and the facts concerning this revolution, either wilfully or because of his incompetency, or because of his having been innocently imposed upon by knaves and liars, Mr. Stevens, who claims to be so much better informed, and who, on account of his alleged experience, ability and competency, should be able readily to command the necessary proof of the truth of his assertions, should be able with little trouble to place before the American people such an array of facts and evidence as would utterly overwhelm Mr. Blount, discredit his report and enshroud Minister Stevens with a blaze of glory.

All these things should be easy for Mr. Stevens, and it might be well to state just here that the American people will be satisfied with nothing less, and their sense of justice will compel them to award him their sympathy whenever he shall fairly and fully show that he has been maligned or misrepresented by any agent of this administration.

Until that time, however, they will justly hold him responsible for the acts performed in his official capacity which were calculated to bring discredit upon the government which he represented, and which he now seeks to make responsible for those acts by declaring that they were in line with the policy and faithful to the instructions of the last administration.