

of ecclesiastical positions for political purposes. If this is disappointing to those who rather would find something to bring up against the people, they will have to bear the disappointment as best they can. The Mormons are not going to break faith or pledges.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President McKinley's message to Congress will be read with interest, especially the paragraphs relating to currency reform, the Cuban insurrection and the annexation of Hawaii.

On the first of these questions the President points out that the great difficulty the government has to contend with is that it must redeem notes in gold, while not receiving gold in payment, and the natural consequence of this is that gold must be borrowed to make up the difference between the receipts and expenditures. He recommends that every note redeemed in gold by the treasury be set apart, only to be paid out in exchange for gold. If put out in any other way it may return and necessitate another bond issue for its redemption. He also recommends that national banks be authorized to issue notes to be redeemed in gold.

The troubles of Cuba are reviewed at some length. Spain's warfare is severely criticized, but the fact is emphasized that the understanding between Spain and the United States now is more satisfactory than it was with Sagasta's predecessor. What the Spanish government has promised to do for Cuba is set forth and the recommendation made that Spain be given time to carry out her intentions. The President argues against the recognition of the insurgents as belligerents and any intervention by this country at the present time.

Concerning Hawaii President McKinley urges annexation without further delay.

In the paragraph devoted to the report on the mission of Messrs. Wolcott, Stevenson and Payne to Europe in the interest of bimetalism, the message states that negotiations are still pending, and the hope is expressed that they will ultimately lead to international agreement.

A recommendation likely to meet with opposition is one that quarantine regulations in states be entrusted to the authorities in Washington. It is not claimed that the measures adopted by the states have proven inadequate, and those jealous of state rights will regard legislation in this direction with suspicion.

Other subjects treated on are our merchant marine, international arbitration, the Paris exposition, our navy, legislation for Alaska, the condition of Indian Territory, the sale of the Union Pacific and the estimated expenditures of the government.

The message is not a very lengthy document. It states the views of the administration clearly and sometimes with great force.

#### AGAINST ANNEXATION.

The presence in this city on Thursday last of four envoys of the native Hawaiian Islanders is a matter of more consequence than the simple announcement of it conveys to the average reader. The gentlemen themselves are all natives, well educated and thoroughly informed regarding the political situation as between their own and this country, and learning of the probability, almost certainty, of the United States Senate taking early action regarding the annexation of the islands, they are on their way to Washington to do so much as they may to prevent affirmative measures being taken.

The case of the commissioners is an

object lesson in the study of one's relations to his country. It shows at a glance how narrow and indistinct at times is the line between patriotism and treason, might, opportunity and sagacity not infrequently being the arbiters. For contending for the continued possession of the land of their nativity by those to whom, apart from legal abstractions, it would seem to belong, these men are arrayed against the government of the islands and therefore in a condition of insubordination which may be variously defined and enlarged in accordance with the views and the will of the ruling power; while those who look at the beginning of things and follow them along in a spirit of equity are likely to hold that the "recalcitrant" Hawaiians are imbued with the spirit of genuine patriotism. The reader can make a selection to suit himself.

It should be borne in mind, when considering the case "from the ground up," that these men are the race as well as the official representatives of 40,000 people, nearly all of whom are opposed to a union with this country or any other. These constitute about one-half of the entire population of the islands and are fifteen times as numerous as the American residents there. It is undoubtedly true that the Hawaiian senate ratified a treaty of annexation, but it is also a fact that only members of that body who were likely to vote that way were permitted to have the opportunity. But before this took place a great mass meeting of natives was held on Palace square, Honolulu, to protest against what was declared to be the "open-handed robbery of their country." Two of the speakers at this meeting are members of the commission now in Washington. One of them, Mr. J. K. Kaulla, president of the Aloha Alua society, said:

"We have been told over and over again by some people what a good thing annexation will be for these islands, the land of our birth; I tell you, if we ever get annexation to the United States, we may consider ourselves in the position of being buried alive. Foreigners will pour in here, and then, my friends, to what place will we be scattered? (Answer from the people: 'To the mountains.')

"If we are annexed today, the morrow will bring us no good. Not so with the rich people, the men in power today. They will reap the harvest. Our profit will be where? Our gain will be from what source? Let us stand apart and against this measure that is so obnoxious to us, for if the people with the white skins come they will take everything. You know that. It is the history of all times."

There is nothing fanatical, bigoted or unreasoning in that, surely, and this is what the other, Mr. Kalauokalani said:

"This is our land, we are the people and this is where we belong. Are you in favor of giving your country to another, to allow yourselves to be swallowed up by another and lose your identity without a protesting voice? In other words do you want annexation? (Cries of 'No, no!') Shall we remain independent? (Cries of 'Yes, yes!') To tell you truly, it shall profit us nothing to be annexed. We are under a republic now and we are getting no good. If we go under another republic, we may get worse. (Whispers of 'The Fate of the Indians.')

When we are thrown in the United States, then the deluge."

Both the speakers, and doubtless a great majority of the audience were friendly in their feelings toward the United States, and if they had to be annexed to some foreign power would probably choose this country in preference to any other, but the "fate of the

Indians" is evidently not what they covet. There is a great deal of information regarding the history of this country, together with no little pathos, disclosed in that short sentence; and when we are made to know that the islands fully comprehend how they are looked upon by their white neighbors—as an inferior race, possessing no rights which their superiors are bound to respect—the pathetic feature of the case rounds out into a protest against what they can only consider as an unfair use of greater strength first to confiscate their possessions, then reduce them to serfdom, and finally to obliterate the race entirely. They are not likely to be altogether quiet or inactive under such circumstances.

#### THIS IS FAIR.

Some days ago the "News" took occasion to correct a statement in the *Ida County, Iowa, Pioneer*, by the editor, Mr. Geo. T. Williams, which was thought liable to give a wrong impression of the belief of the Mormons on an important point. The correction was made in a friendly spirit and under the conviction that the gentleman had been misinformed. It is pleasing to learn that Mr. Williams has accepted our criticism in the same spirit in which it was made. In a communication to the *Utonian* he says:

"I notice in the 'Deseret News' of the 30th ult., a friendly criticism on one of the statements made by me in my correspondence to the *Ida County, Iowa, Pioneer*, my paper. I am pleased to see the correction and invite all the papers in Utah to make any criticism they see proper upon my correspondence, as I assure them, I will be only too glad to republish all their corrections in my paper, for it is my desire to present matters to the public pertaining to this country as they really exist.

"The source from which I obtain my information may not always be reliable but probably as nearly so as that which comes to the average newspaper correspondent.

"Respectfully,

"GEO. T. WILLIAMS."

There would be less misunderstanding and consequently less strife in the world, were the moulders of public thought generally, in their utterances, guided by a desire to be fair to all concerned. The Mormons court investigation and ask only that matters pertaining to them be presented as they really are. It is only wilful misrepresentation they resent.

#### EMANCIPATION IN EUROPE.

It seems to be the fate of every good movement for the advance of the human family to have its counterfeit to contend with, often more detrimental to success than open opposition. The idea known under the name of emancipation of woman is no exception to this rule.

Not long ago a congress called in the interest of the cause was held at Paris. The presiding genius was a teacher in boxing, and one of his propositions was that the members should pledge themselves to work for legislation to abolish matrimony. It was urged that any covenant concerning fidelity between man and woman must be considered immoral because impossible to keep inviolate. Probably the supporters of this proposition believe in the old gnostic philosophy of reducing man to the level of an animal as a sure road to exaltation.

Another congress in the same spirit was held at Stuttgart. The deliberations here were less dramatic but hardly less radical. The refrain was the injustice of man in exacting