

and without a passport, sailed for France, having no other credentials than letters of introduction from Thomas Jefferson and Governor McKean. In Paris he saw Talleyrand, and obtained some assurance that France was willing to negotiate for peace. In truth, his services were valuable, and shortly afterward led to permanent peace, but when he returned to this country his course so exasperated the Federalists that the law was passed, since known as the "Logan act," forbidding and punishing all such private diplomacy.

OUR HAWAIIAN POSSESSIONS.

There is one thing in connection with territorial expansion—sometimes called "imperialism"—that is not at all times fully understood even by the power making such acquisitions. This is the inevitable fact, that there is always more of the new territory than was looked for or known of. It was so with Alaska and it is already beginning to be manifest regarding our most recent addition, the Hawaiian group. This is proving more of a group than even the geography advises us of, but it is hardly to be expected that there will be any complaints on that score. As no boundary lines have been fixed, it may become a difficult matter to determine where the Hawaiians end and some other territory begins.

The question has been made more conspicuous through the recent lease by the former government of one of a chain of deserted islands stretching out westerly and of course belonging to the group. The lessees are Hackfeld & Co. and the island's name is Laysan, and it is stated as quite probable that others will find lessees and tenants. Laysan is nearly 700 miles from Kauai, and Hackfeld & Co. have placed twenty-five Japanese under an overseer on it. It is said to be rich in guano and the lease is expected to prove very profitable. Bird Island, which is only 115 miles from Kauai, is also being investigated and is deemed rich enough will be leased. Other islands in the long group are known to be very rich. Bird Island is one of the rugged rocky sentinels of the Pacific. It was visited in the last century by both Douglas and Vancouver. One of the most interesting islands in the group is Midway. It is 90 miles from Bird Island and was once used as a midocean coaling and supply station by the Pacific Mail Steamship company, but was abandoned years ago. A revival of the plan has been suggested at various times, and it is certain that it would prove handy at times.

Thus it goes. The United States, which a few months ago had no coaling stations except by sufferance, will soon have enough and to spare by reason of legitimate acquisition. Great changes occur within very brief lapses of time and frequently without notice at all, in these rapid-paced days.

INDIANS MOVING SOUTHWEST.

Some time ago there was considerable comment on the fact that certain Indian tribes in Indian Territory were not satisfied with the government procedure there, and proposed to move en masse into Mexico, where they hoped to find conditions more favorable to their ideas of conducting affairs. A committee of aborigines was selected and made a tour of Mexico, reporting thereon. It was understood that the commission favored a site in the state of Sonora; but the matter was of such serious importance that even after concluding to remove from the Indian Territory the question of destination was one that called for the exercise of much care, and took considerable time to decide.

Now, however, it is announced in the columns of *La Civilizacion*, a newspaper published at Hermosillo, Mexico, that the agents at that place of the colonization company of the Yaqui have received definite information that the Cherokees and Delaware Indians of the Indian Territory, who have been negotiating to purchase the canal and lands of the Sonora & Sinaloa Irrigation company on the lower Yaqui, will move from their present location to their new home in October. They will bring more than one thousand head of fine cattle. One of the Cherokees who visited Yaqui is quoted as saying that they could not find a better climate than that of the Yaqui region, and he expressed an opinion that with the new immigration that region will in five years become one of the most important centers of population in the republic. It is further remarked that the capital of the Cherokees to be devoted to cattle is raised is stated to be not less than \$500,000, which will enable them to raise that business to one of great importance.

The transfer of this large body of Indians to Mexico, as proposed, is an undertaking of considerable magnitude, and their progress will be noted with much interest. If successful, it will have a marked influence toward the further civilization of the natives, as well as of the aborigines in the country selected.

HONOR TO WHOM IT IS DUE.

The published order of Admiral Sampson, relating to the disposition and management of the squadron which blockaded Santiago harbor, is one that sheds new and important light upon a subject of grave consequence. In most respects, the Battle of the Third of July was the most remarkable ever fought on the sea. Never before was so much destruction wrought in so short a time, and never before—with but one solitary exception—was it the case that the destruction was all on one side. History makes no mention of any water fight even remotely approaching either Dewey's or Sampson's victory over the Spanish, as relates to method, execution, achievement or new developments in the awful game of warfare; and certainly the latter contained some features of an unusual character which the former did not. It is unnecessary to engage at this time in a recital of the details so familiar already to nearly every reader. Suffice it to say in conclusion that what is set down should be corrected where correction is needed, for the details are yet fresh and susceptible of ready and easy adjustment; whereas, if permitted take an oblique course as to any feature and continue so too long, the obliquity may by default become so interwoven with history as to become unchangeable; thus would future generations be misled and the chronicles of our time be misleading chapters.

There has been some little question and not a little friction regarding the question as to where the honors properly fell on the memorable day spoken of. It is not enough to say that they fell everywhere, even to the unremembered stoker down in the submarine inferno; while this is strictly true as relates to prompt, faithful and capable discharge of duty, the distinguishing feature of the case is still wanting. In every great battle there is some one who more than any other is made to bear the onus of defeat or receive the meed of praise for victory. That he had good support, that each auxiliary performed its functions perfectly, instead of detracting from the honors of the chief, rather adds to them. Napoleon lives and will always live in history as the hero of all his battlefields save a few where reverses were sustained, and this despite the fact that he was surrounded at all

points by generals whose greatness in perception and execution would have dimmed the lustre of any supreme commander less than himself. He knew and often gave expression to the knowledge that but for the marvelous intuition, rapidity of action, precision of movement and tenacity of purpose possessed by such of his field marshals as are nearly (but not quite as well known to readers of history as himself, there had been no Wagram, nor Marengo, nor Austerlitz, nor Friedland, nor any of numerous other scenes of triumph. But the greatness of Ney, Lannes, Soult, Moreau, and many others only served to make the great Corsican the greater, just as the view of a planet's satellites tends to impress upon the mind of an observer the greater consequence of the primary sphere.

So, it seems, it was with Sampson. Those who read the systematic, careful and business-like attention to details which characterize the admiral's order arranging the blockade and the perfectness shown in every line of detail, the abundant caution enjoined and the exemption from any kind of surprise maintained throughout, will surely have no trouble in recognizing the master hand. Where defects existed they were pointed out and the means of overcoming them most effectively suggested and enforced. All was in readiness for the Spanish ships when they made their fatal exit from the harbor, and through whose management was it that such was the case? Not primarily that of any one of the splendid officers through whose immediate and effective action the day was won, but that of Admiral Sampson himself. The small part which he took in the actual conflict is not a matter of much concern in computing the whole question; those who took the greater part, who did practically all the work it may be said, only worked along the lines which the chief had prepared, using their own judgment at all times of course. They were not automatons, else they could not so comprehensively have worked in concert for the attainment of a common object thoroughly understood.

As previously suggested in these columns, it is invidious to mention any of the leaders of that contest at the expense of any other. Current events will be correctly recorded as to the great event of July 3rd when they show that Admiral Sampson's fleet won a great victory, and history will read properly if it be recorded that Sampson's victory was the result of his plans being so splendidly worked out by Schley and all the others who were there.

A JUST DECISION.

The Supreme Court of this State recently dealt with a question of great importance to many people, relating as it does to the construction and operation of the homestead law. In the case spoken of, Elias S. Kimball and wife had temporarily absented themselves from their home in this city, he being engaged in missionary work in the Southern States and his wife and children accompanying him at times. The whole period of absence was four years, but the place here was occupied by them at least a month in each year and they had always regarded it as their home. A year ago last March the premises were sold under execution pursuant to a judgment properly rendered, and as soon as the defendant was advised thereof he instituted proceedings for recovery and to remove the cloud from his title. He lost the case in the trial court and appealed from the judgment to the Supreme Court, with the result of the lower tribunal being reversed.