

Reply of the council Assembled to the petition

July 3d, 1845

To His Majesty and to the Nobles of the Council assembled, and to the delegates of the common people.

This is our reply to the petition of the common people of Lahaina, and Wailuku and Kailua, and it is submitted for your approbation or disapprobation.

1. "Concerning the independence of your kingdom."

This is the meaning of independence;—that Kamehameha III. be King of the Hawaiian Islands, and there be no other King over him. This is the reason of the independence: Great Britain and France, America and Belgium say that "the Hawaiian government are qualified to transact business with foreigners."

How can they transact business with foreigners? In th's way only; let His Majesty select persons skilful like those from other lands to transact business with foreigners."

2. "That you dismiss the foreign officers whom you have chosen to be Hawaiian officers."

If these shall be dismissed, where is there a man who is qualified to transact business with foreigners? There is no one to be found at the present time; hereafter perhaps the young chiefs will be qualified when they have grown up to manhood, and shall have completed their education.

3. "We do not wish foreigners to take the oath of allegiance and become Hawaiian subjects."

Shall foreigners who become officers take the oath? If not, then they have a chief in another land, and Kamehameha III. is not their proper sovereign, and they will not act righteously between the King and their own countrymen. But if they take the oath of allegiance to Kamehameha III., will they not be faithful to him. And will they not cease to have regard for the chief they have forsaken?

Shall other foreigners take the oath of allegiance? This is a land which lies where ships in the Pacific ocean often come. Shall not foreigners come on shore? They do come on shore. Can they not be permitted to live on shore?—According to the treaties they can. Who shall be their proper sovereign? Will not difficulties arise between some of them and the Hawaiians? Difficulties will arise, formerly there were many difficulties, and the land was taken; it was not taken because the government was really in the wrong, but because evil was sought. Here is the difficulty which ruins the government, viz: the complaint of foreign governments followed by the infliction of punishment. Foreigners who take the oath of allegiance can apply to only one sovereign. viz: Kamehameha III.; he will adjust their difficulties in a proper manner, and they will render important services to Hawaii, their land.

Some say, let none but good foreigners take the oath of allegiance. How then shall it be with those who are not good? Shall they not live on shore? How can they be driven off? Shall they be put on board another man's ship? If so, the owners will forsake the ship, and the government must pay the damages. Messrs. Bachelot and Short were thus treated, and the result was a fine of \$20,000.

Let no one have apprehensions concerning those who take the oath of allegiance. If they conduct properly, then the land is blessed by them. If they transgress, here are laws to punish them, and there is no other nation which will interfere in behalf of wicked foreigners, when we punish them. Here is wherein other nations will favour us; they will not take the part of their people, who transgress our laws, neither will they punish us without a cause, as they did formerly.

4. "We do not wish you to sell any more land pertaining to your kingdom to foreigners."

This is our opinion: it is by no means proper to sell land to aliens, nor is it proper to give them land, for the land belongs to Kamehameha III.; there is no chief over him. But we think it is proper to sell land to his Majesty's people, that they may have a home. But if these persons wish to sell their lands again, they cannot sell to aliens, for there is only one sovereign over those who hold lands; but if the people wish to sell to those who have taken the oath of allegiance, they can do so for Kamehameha III. is King over them. If his Majesty thinks it expedient to sell lands to his own people, is it proper for him to refuse another, who has forsaken the land of his birth, and his first chief and become a Hawaiian subject? By no means, for this would be using partiality. There has not been much land sold by foreigners have heretofore occupied lands through favor, without purchasing. It is better to sell. The people have not thought much about purchasing lands; but those who have been to Columbia River, see the advantage of purchasing land, and they will hereafter wish to purchase lands.

If the common people had petitioned that land should not be sold to sailors, would not the petition be unjust? It is proper to sell small farms to natives and also to foreign subjects, and let them cultivate alike, that the skilful may instruct the ignorant in the work.

5. "We do not wish taxes in a confused obscure manner to be imposed in your kingdom."

That is right, they are not thus imposed. They were so indeed, formerly, to the injury of the common people; but now this matter is regulated by law, and so it will hereafter should new laws be enacted.

This is our reply to the petition laid before you, with due reverence.

JOHN YOUNG.
JOHN II.

This reply was corrected and approved by the assembly of chiefs and delegates of the common people in the hall of legislation, on the 8th of July, 1845, with no dissenting voice.

KAMEHAMEHA
