

of water; but this is not a serious obstruction; for it could be deepened at small cost." General ALEXANDER, who has bored the reef at the bar, thinks that the opening of the harbor would cost nearly \$2,000,000.

"As a naval station," he says "the importance of the islands must in time increase, and the possession by the United States of the bay called Pearl river would be equivalent to and far better than our possession of the islands. We should have the use without the care of them. Surveys show it to be possible, I am told, to lay a submarine cable between San Francisco and the islands, and if this were done this point would no doubt become a centre of communication for the rapidly growing commerce of the Pacific Ocean. There was not a man-of-war of any nation in this port when the late King suddenly died. The *Benicia* arrived after the popular election; the *California*, Admiral PENNOCK's flagship, followed, and an English man-of-war came down later. Admiral PENNOCK had time, and used his opportunity to get the 'inside track' with the new King, taking the lead in receiving him with such salutes and ceremonies as are usual, and on Wednesday he is to sail in the *Benicia* to Hilo with the King, who wishes to show himself to some of his people."

Generals SCHOFIELD and ALEXANDER had at last accounts just returned from a trip with Admiral PENNOCK in his flagship, the *California*, to the island of Ka uai, where continued rains interfered with his observation. Of his presence on the island another *Tribune* correspondent says :

This skilful officer is carefully spying out the capabilities and the nakedness of the islands. It is said that he came here for his health, but, of course, we don't believe a word of that. He is the picture of rosy, robust health; and then it is curious that an invalid should be telegraphed to at a remote station to hurry on board a war-ship, and come here without a single package of his baggage. He came here, no doubt, on account of the supposed political ill-health of this country; and this military doctor was very likely disappointed to find his patient apparently restored by having swallowed a Lunaliilo pill. But the political health of the country is only apparent, and nothing short of an annexation to America or an intelligent republican order of government will cure it. It is announced that King Lunaliilo will accompany Generals Schofield and Alexander, and Admiral Pennock, on board the flagship *California*, on a tour round the islands. This courtesy to the king is considered politic; but I and others who know the natives consider it impolitic in respect to the interests of the United States. It gives more prestige to this mock royalty. In fact, all the importance it gets is from the salutes, manning of yards, and other parades of our American war-ships. American officers seem to delight in this fuss over our toy monarchy. It adds to the conceit of the Kanaka, and makes him think that his kingdom, which is about equal to a New York city ward, is a big thing. Every salute fired costs your government about \$60 in cartridges alone; and the two ships, the *California* and the *Benicia*, have wasted about \$2,000 worth of ammunition since they have been here, in doing honor to a little State which they could squelch at one broadside.

Army & Navy Journal
March 15-1873

THE New York *Tribune* has sent a special correspondent, Mr. CHARLES NORDHOFF, an "old salt," on the track of the officers now looking after our interests in the Sandwich Islands. At Honolulu he informs us, public opinion states that Admiral PENNOCK, General SCHOFIELD and General ALEXANDER, have been quietly examining the bay called Pearl river, in Ewa Harbor, about ten miles from Honolulu, which it is proposed to cede to the United States in recompense for a treaty of reciprocity. It has, he tells us, "sufficient space and depth of water to make it one of the finest and most commodious harbors in the world; it is so well protected by nature that its waters are smooth as a mill-pond; and I am assured that it is thoroughly and easily defensible against an attack from sea. There is a bar—a coral bank, I think—in the channel, which has now only 12 feet

Article on Pearl Harbor from the Army and Navy Journal, March 15, 1873.

Included by King Kalākaua in His scrapbook.

MS KC Kalākaua Box 1.3.

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