

with politics and with politicians, my representations, though received with every courtesy, I may say kindness, by Lord Aberdeen and his colleagues in the Cabinet, were without effect. A recognition of the Sandwich Islands as an independent kingdom(!) was the decision arrived at. "That decision was taken," to use the words of the organ of the Foreign Office, "not from any want either of right (*of sovereignty*) or power to defend that right; but simply because it was held to be *inexpedient* to found a colonial establishment, and to awaken the jealousy of other countries for no purpose that cannot be equally secured by the maintenance of the independence of the country."

I considered then—still stronger reasons have I for considering now—that this was a most "untoward" decision. It was, as we have seen, formed avowedly on the ground of *expediency*; and was, I have the strongest reasons to believe, the result of interference in the matter by the Government of the United States. There the value to Great Britain of this acquisition of territory was at once appreciated. A naval station in the Pacific which should completely command the northern part of that ocean, including the western route to China, and the shores of the coveted