

of discovery, and repeated cession by the native chiefs. Its virtual subjection to American rulers was self-evident; and the danger of its being seized upon by the naval squadrons of France imminent. Thus influenced, I, unhesitatingly, took a prominent part in the bloodless *coup de main* by which the sovereignty of the group was, in February 1843, placed at the command of Her Britannic Majesty.*

Immediately after its consummation, I took my departure for Britain,† charged with the self-imposed mission of personally representing to the Members of Her Majesty's Government, the importance of the acquisition thus made to Her Majesty's dominions.

Unknown, unfriended, utterly unacquainted

* Of the circumstances connected with this affair, I have given a full detail in a pamphlet, "The Sandwich Islands," published by Smith and Elder, in October 1843.

† My first progress was in a very small schooner, commanded by a very young midshipman of the Carysfort frigate, to Mazattan on the west coast of Mexico. I traversed the Republic to Vera Cruz. There I was much disposed to have taken passage *via* the United States, but *luckily* found a Spanish coaster which landed me at Cuba. I say luckily, because the intense feeling excited in the States, by the receipt of intelligence of the measure in which I had been concerned, would have ensured me at least much insult, perchance in the Southern districts drawn upon me the tender mercies of Judge Lynch.