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CURRENT TOPICS.

Should the reports which reach us by way of Victoria, B. C., respecting late events in Honolulu, prove true, the situation there is strangely complicated and must be specially embarrassing to President Cleveland. According to these reports Minister Willis has called on the Provisional Government of Hawaii to make way for the restoration of the Queen; President Dole, on behalf of that Government, has refused, flatly denying the right of the United States, or any other foreign power, to interfere in the internal affairs of the Islands; and British marines have been landed, by permission of the Provisional Government, to protect the British legation and the property of British residents. It seems hardly likely that President Cleveland would run the risk of making himself ridiculous by instructing the American Minister to take such a course,

unless he was prepared to use compulsion in case of refusal. On the other hand, there is great force in the reply which President Dole is said to have made. It must be a nice question of international law, whether even the fact of the previous unwarranted interference of American authorities and forces to bring about the revolution, would warrant a second armed interference in order to undo the wrong already perpetrated. It is not strange that the situation as reported should have created a good deal of excitement at Washington, and indeed, all over the Union, and that further news and official announcements are being waited for with impatient anxiety.

Among Canadian events of special importance last week, the Toronto Board of Trade banquet is entitled to first place. The completeness of the preparations, the excellence of the bill of fare, and the artistic taste displayed in the arrangements and decorations, left little to be desired. Much credit is due to the members of the Board of Trade for the enterprise and liberality which are year by year making this banquet an event of national importance. The limits of our space forbid entering into details, or referring particularly to the part taken by individual officers and members of the Board in making the banquet so eminently successful, but a word of tribute is due to the tact and good judgment displayed by President Wilkie, as chairman. The speech of the Governor-General, notwithstanding the touches of anecdote and humour which were freely interspersed, was of a kind which we are coming already to recognize as characteristic. We refer to the deep sincerity, the true loyalty, and the lofty moral purpose which pervade it. Apart from the two or three leading thoughts which formed the framework of his necessarily brief address, his incidental cautions against fostering "professional patriotism," and falling into the use of highly coloured pictures and bombastic utterances in describing our country and its resources, are sensible and timely, and show that His Excellency is a keen observer. So, too, nothing could be better timed than his deprecation of everything savouring of the spirit of religious bigotry and intolerance. The speech of Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick, too, brief though it was, was happily conceived and replete with wise, practical hints.

The moderate and thoughtful article on "The Regulation of Athletic Sports in Col-

leges," which appears in another column, will be read with attention by all who are interested in the really important and difficult problem, how to combine physical with mental culture in due proportions, in our educational institutions. Many of the reforms of existing methods proposed by our correspondent are sadly needed and must commend themselves to the sober judgment of athletes as well as of College authorities. Most of the serious evils which attend contests in the United States are due to the fact that these contests take place outside of College bounds; that they are carried on mainly with a view to money-making by gate receipts and, still worse, by gambling; and thus far too much stress is laid upon the mere fact of winning, by fair means or foul. If to these causes, with which our correspondent deals, be added the fact that the free use of intoxicants adds very largely to the disgraceful roughness characteristic of many of these contests, the path of reform becomes tolerably clear. Without venturing to discuss the details of the scheme for the government of the athletics of the Colleges, which Mr. McKenzie has so carefully wrought out, and without yielding to any one in our sense of the importance of proper physical recreation and training for College students, we may just mention what has always seemed to us to be one of the chief objections to all athletic games which involve the competitive element and, consequently, the selection of "teams." What of the many students who fail to obtain places on the teams, and whose personal interest in the games is likely to fall to zero in consequence? Proper physical culture is needed for every student. Often those whose want of prowess excludes them from the "teams" are the very students who stand most in need of vigorous exercise. Is it not an almost inevitable result of the competitive system that while the few are in great danger of injuring themselves, both physically and mentally, by too much athleticism, the many are equally in danger of injury in both respects by too little of it. We speak subject to correction. Possibly the number of those who hold aloof from campus games for the reasons indicated is much smaller, and the danger of over-training, over-exertion, and lack of application to study on the part of the few, much less than we suppose. We should be glad to be informed by some one who knows, in regard to the matter.

The deplorable affair near Warina, in which five officers and six privates belong