

Honolulu, March 7th 1843

Dear Sister

Yours of June 22nd 1840 is now before me, and it seems strange to me and probably more so to you that it has not been answered long before this time. But so it is, and it must be put down to my negligence. For though I will not say that my time has not been employed in some way, more or less profitably than it might have been in writing letters, yet I do say that the same excuse might be given for not answering any of my letters. Because I can always find enough to do and more than enough to occupy ^{all} my time without writing a single letter and perhaps my friends could say the same. Charlotte & myself visited Kanaia about three months since accompanying Bro. & Sister to their station at Koloa. Whilst with them I wrote five letters viz. to Bro. Jared, Father Close, a family letter directed to Joseph Rev. C. Wilson. & Rev. Thos. Lafon M. D. I recollect however that the last was ~~manus~~ written after our return to Honolulu. They were sent by the ship Victoria. After hearing so much about home as we did by Brother & Sister it seemed more attractive than ever and I could easily imagine myself with my friends there. And perhaps this is one reason why I have been content with writing so little to send home. We now have the pleasure of writing to and receiving letters from Brother & Sister quite often. Like all the missionaries at the out stations they are anxious to get the news from the metropolis and the news from foreign lands which comes here first. And let me tell you, we have had much to write about for a few weeks past. There have been exciting times in this noisy city. These islands have ^{been} recently ceded over to Queen Victoria and we are now under the British Flag. Lord George Paulet Captain

of the British Frigate Caryfont took possession on the 25th February in the name of Her Britannic Majesty Queen Victoria. He had been here but a few days when he proceeded to this movement, and probably he would have done it sooner had the King not been absent at Maui. As soon as His Hawaiian Majesty arrived here a private interview with him was demanded which he did not choose to comply with. On the ~~24~~^{17th} Feb. the English Captain Lord George Paulet informed Capt. Long of the American man of War lying in the harbor that he should be prepared to make an immediate attack upon the town on Saturday the ~~24~~¹⁸th at 4 o'clock P.M. We had visited with Capt. Long that evening at Mr. Dimonds. Probably he nor any the rest of us had any suspicion that he would receive information of that kind on his return to his ship at 10 o'clock in the evening as he did. We did not however feel much apprehensive on receiving official information on the subject. We thought they only meant to awe the King into compliance with their demands, without firing upon the town. The following were some of their demands viz. that an Englishman by the name of Simpson should be acknowledged ^{acting} "Consul" during the absence of their Consul, Charlton, and that the property of Charlton which had been attached should be restored &c. These demands were complied with and the following day a salute was given from the fort and returned from the ship. We then thought the troubles were over. Lord George and some of his officers attended meeting on the Sabbath in the native congregation and also at the seamen's chapel. But the business of the following week shewed that they were not satisfied and that they did not mean to rest till the islands were in their possession. Their demands were such that the King considered it impossible for him to comply with them and consequently made a provisional cession of the islands to the Queen of Great Britain.

He had sent his ministers, Mr. Richards & Sir George Simpson to England on business of the nation hoping thereby to secure its independence. If they succeed in their embassy the islands will be restored to Hauikewanoli, the doings of Lord George Paulet being subject to any arrangement which they may have made or may make with the government of Great Britain.

We have some hopes, though but little expectations that the islands will ever again become independent. Perhaps it is best they should not be independent. If they must be subject to either Great Britain or France, we should prefer to be as we are under the British flag. The Foreign residents consisting of chiefly of Americans appear to be very much dissatisfied with ^{the idea of} being under the jurisdiction of England. They probably have more regard to their own private pecuniary concerns than to the welfare of the natives. And as the political policy of the French (were the islands in their possession) would be more liberal towards them as they think than that of the English, they seem to have a preference for the French, notwithstanding the outrage of Captain La Place to the people and to the mission a few years since.

They have been under great excitement, but it is now more quiet. Perhaps you are not aware that Dr. Judd withdrew from the mission nearly a year ago and connected himself with the Government of the islands as financial agent. The Board however have not approved of his doing so. He was strongly urged to it by Capt. Ch^rl^s Wilkes of the U.S. Exploring Expedition and some others, Mr. Richards in particular who was about to leave the islands for a voyage to the U.S. & England & France, and wished the Dr. to supply his place with the chiefs. Lord George refused to have anything to do with him for a long time, and the foreigners have blamed him very much as being the cause of the islands passing into the hands of the English. They would also be glad to make it appear that Mr. Armstrong has had something to do with it. He says, as

Probably all the mission would say that we should prefer to be under the English rather than the French. It is to be hoped that the former will encourage our operations, whereas the latter would no doubt oppose them, as their missionaries the Catholic priests have been and are ^{now} doing. I must now close this letter as I expect to send it by the U. S. Ship Boston which is to sail tomorrow for Charleston near Boston.

Recd Aug. 14th 1843

SHIP

Miss Mary C. Knapp

Round Hill Post Office

Fairfield County
Conn.

BOSTON
AUG 14 1843

My health is good as is also Mrs. Knapp's. Dr. Smith has been very ill of Dysentery but is now recovered. I believe Sister's health is good. They have a pleasant station and kind neighbours. We hope to see them at Gen. meeting in May next but ^{we} may be disappointed. He sent a letter for Sister Eunice requesting me to direct it to her as he had forgotten the name of the place where she lived. The same is the case with myself, but I think we shall find it in some of our letters. - As ever
Kind & affectionate regards to Mother & all the family
Yours aff. brother
H. C. Knapp