

# ANNEXATION OF SAMOA.

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**German Flag Hoisted at Apia.**

**Deputation of Chiefs to New Zealand.**

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By the arrival of the mail steamer City of Sydney we are placed in possession of fuller and later details of what has been transpiring in Samoa. From our own correspondent's letter dated 26th January, and other sources, we obtain the following narrative of events:—The German man-o'-war Albatross has been lying at Apia, on the island of Upolu, and under its approval and protection the German flag was, on the 23rd January, hoisted there by the Consul, Dr. Stübel. At the same time he issued the following

## **Proclamation.**

“Be it known unto all Samoans that for a long time past the Government of King Malietoa has done that which produces bad feeling and disrespect towards the German Government, and has repeatedly broken the agreement between the German and Samoan Governments. On this account I have thought fit to take steps for the protection of the persons and property of Germans, and consider it proper to take possession of (*Jaamau*) the town and district of Apia, in which are Malinuu and the harbour of Apia, and to hold them as by the authority of the Government of Malietoa and the German Government, in proof of which the flag of the Emperor of Germany has been hoisted at Malinuu; and to declare that the German Government only has at this

AROHANews, VOLUME II,  
JUNE 89, 14 FEBRUARY 1885

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time authority in the places before mentioned. Samoans, I state distinctly to you that only the land called the *Éleele Sa* (neutral territory) has been taken possession of, and that no other part of Samoa has been taken possession of; and it is well for you to know that what has been done has not been done in unkindness to Samoa. The German Government is desirous that the Samoan Government should be strong, and continue friendly towards the German Government. After the present difficulties have been removed, the land at present taken possession of will be given up again (*tatalaina*). I request you not to be anxious, but to put confidence in the German Government, and in me, in which case Samoa will prosper.

(Signed)

DR. STUBEL,  
German Consul-General.

23rd January, 1885.”

The proclamation is made in the Samoan language only, and the above is a translation giving the substantial purport of the extraordinary document. It is considered at Apia that the German Consul has violated the rules of the municipality, and the English and American consuls at once issued the following protest, and had it posted all over the town :—

“ We, the Consuls of the United States and Great Britain, do hereby make known that we will insist upon the rights of the Convention being observed, and deprecate force being used.

(Signed) T. CANISIUS, United States  
Consul.

W. CHURCHWARD, Consul for  
Great Britain.”

Our correspondent says: "From these proceedings there is likely to be a lively time at the meeting on Friday of the municipality, and the end will be that the Germans will withdraw the German consul from the municipality. The Germans here are doing all in their power to dethrone the king, and dispute the power of the chiefs. From an interview I had with Swemon, the governor of the island of U'polu, and a number of other chiefs, they said they intend to go to Auckland in the schooner Fleetwing with Mr J. London to see the Governor of New Zealand. Whether they will carry out that intention or not I am not in a position to say, but there is some likelihood of their going to Auckland. The Fleetwing will leave here for Auckland in about 14 or 16 days from the 26th of January. At the date of writing, it was believed in Apia that the Germans intended to take similar steps to the above at Tonga, the object being to intimidate the natives and pave the way for annexation to Germany. The effect at Samoa, however, will be to drive them to seek British protection, and it was expected that the native Parliament and King would sign a petition to the Government of New Zealand praying for annexation to this colony."

WELLINGTON, February 9.

It is rumoured in political circles that as an outcome of the recent Anglo German negotiations on the subject of annexation in the Western Pacific, England would be willing and is a little anxious that Germany should give up her vested interests in New Guinea, and take the supremacy at Samoa. Some of the Australian colonies, no doubt, would gladly accede to such an arrangement; but others, among which New Zealand is of course included, looking upon New Guinea as a white elephant compared with other groups, are strongly inclined to resent any such arrangement. Communications are passing between the several Governments on the subject, and it is likely they will combine to formally protest against such an agreement being entered into. The New Zealand Government have already taken action in this direction, and through the Agent-General have entered a protest against any steps being taken in the direction indicated.