

THE DAILY CRESCENT.

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NEW ORLEANS.

MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 27, 1849.

Cuba and the United States.

The facts of geography precede the languages in which they are described, and islands, continents and nations which inhabit the earth. Hence the reason why natural causes, more enduring and indelible than moral and social influences, should be chiefly consulted in the formation of States. Therefore, Cuba, though differing from us in language and in social organization, has been for some time regarded as of right constituting one of the United States; and we accordingly have a very strong desire to see it become part and parcel of our Confederation.

It is clear that this strong and reasonable desire of our fellow-citizens for the acquisition of Cuba has had a tendency to make them believe that they were forcibly taken away from our territory. The apparent mystery attending the departure of Key, owing altogether to the man's wish to conceal his movements from those interested in keeping him here, was eagerly seized on by the speculators in public passions; and the instinct of our people for the possession of Cuba was actively used by unscrupulous agitators for the purpose of keeping up the impression that the Spanish authorities had violated American soil. Persons who take their opinions from the editorial articles of newspapers, having either no time or no disposition for an examination of the facts on which opinions should be founded and promulgated, were led astray partly under the influence of false statements, and partly by the ardent desire they had that the allegations against the Spanish Consul might be true.

If, however, people will take time to reflect, they must see that the Key excitement will have a tendency to retard, and not to hasten Cuban annexation. The believers in the abduction have shown more zeal than knowledge, and led away by shallow thinkers, vaunting themselves patriots, have permitted passion to get so much the better of reason that they were incapable of seeing the injury they were doing to the cause they desired to advance. It is not by producing a quarrel between this country and Spain that we are to aid either the efforts of Cuban patriots for Cuban independence, or the efforts of the United States to get possession of the island. More is to be done by compromise and conciliation than by war and bloodshed. Nay, we are confident that if an American force were to invade the island of Cuba, the expedition would be successful only after an immense loss of blood and treasure. And if the Spaniards were, as we feel assured they would, to declare the negroes free as soon as the invasion was made, the island would, after all, be a worthless acquisition purchased at an untold and incalculable price.

As patriots, then, and more especially as Southern men, we ought to aim at the acquisition of Cuba by peaceful and friendly means. If we wish to keep up an eternal agitation of the slavery question between the North and the South, then let us conquer Cuba after the Spaniards shall have emancipated the negroes and declared the island to be, in the cant of the times, "free soil." If we want to have the Cuban patriots, about whom so much has lately been said, butchered in their beds or smothered in the smoke and scorched in the flames of their burning mansions—if we desire to witness new St. Domingos murders and assassinations—then let us land a force on the island and provoke the Spaniards to call to their assistance the savages lately imported from Congo and the Guinea coast.

If it is desirable, then, to acquire Cuba by treaty and not by conquest, let us beware how we irritate the Spanish Government. Like a decaying noble, the Spanish Crown is jealous of insult, and its pride increases with its poverty and imbecility. We will find it as delicate a matter to regulate our intercourse with Spain as we lately did with Mexico. Nay, the difficulty will be increased; for Spain has been great, and she cannot forget that she once looked down on the nation that possessed the United States as colonies. How then would the Spanish Government be affected, if it were aware of the language which has been used towards it in the last few weeks? Knowing the disposition of the Spaniards, how silly and ridiculous, not to say unscrupulous and unbecomingly, was it for the American Consul at Havana, to send the Captain General of Cuba the printed and published libels issued in this city against himself as Governor, and against the Sovereign from whom he holds his power? We venture to say that no gross violation of propriety and good sense was never before committed by any foreign agent of our Government. It furnishes, of itself, a good cause for the removal of Gen. Campbell from the office, of whose duties and responsibilities he seems ignorant and regardless.

As to the men who were chiefly instrumental in getting up the Key excitement, they thought merely of how it might affect themselves, incapable as they are of perceiving, or even of desiring to perceive, the influence it might have on our relations with Spain, and ultimately on the acquisition of the island of Cuba. We are sorry that our citizens were carried away, for a time, by statements which, if they had attempted to analyze, they would have found to be preposterous. But the tide of opinion is turning, and the deceivers of the people may be thankful if they do not suffer from the rebound of popular feeling which must inevitably occur.

THE SECRET EXPEDITION.—Every paper has its own idea of the secret expedition. The Boston Herald thinks it is intended for Canada, and in commenting on the President's proclamation says: "That the organized force referred to by the President, is in fact destined for the invasion of the Canadas, whenever the inhabitants of those provinces can agree upon a concerted plan of action to throw off their allegiance to the British Crown. The late movements of several persons known to us, who were formerly officers of the volunteer division of the U. S. Army in Mexico, and who are engaged in this affair, lead us to believe that the object of the expedition is yet the same as when first projected, and that the hints thrown out of the President to make a descent upon Cuba or the Mexican States are but folioes intended for the purpose of blinding our Government to the real designs of the leaders in this undertaking."

PREPARATIONS AT PITTSBURGH.—Cholera at Birmingham.—A dispatch from Pittsburgh, dated the 17th, contains the following: "The city is busy in making the most extensive preparations to receive Gen. Taylor to-morrow, in a manner that is due to the eminent position he occupies, and to manifest a proper feeling of gratitude and admiration for the memorable services he has rendered in the battles of the country. Walter Forward has been appointed by a preparatory meeting to be welcome, in the name of the citizens of Allegheny, the hero of many battles. The military promise to turn out in great strength, and will add to the pageant of the day.... The borough of Birmingham, on the other side of the river, is almost deserted. Business of every description is suspended, and the stores are closed. The inhabitants are leaving the borough in large numbers. Charcoal fires are kept up continually in the streets, to purify the atmosphere. The disease, however, is still confined where it broke out, on the hillside, a little above the town. Twenty-one cases have occurred there during the past 24 hours."

BENTON AND THE MISSOURIANS.—Judge Birch, it is said, has prosecuted Col. Benton in an action of slander, for charges made against the former by the latter, during the large discussion between these leading democrats in upper Missouri. In return it is asserted, that Benton has intimated the determination to institute a similar suit against Birch, for charging Benton with being an abolitionist. The temperance Society of which Judge Birch is a member, and the Methodist church, have both examined into the imputations cast upon Birch by the Lexington (Mo.) Journal, and entirely free him from the charges.... Strong resolutions were passed by the mass meeting at St. Joseph, on the 8th inst., in favor of the course pursued by Col. Benton on the slavery question. Judge Birch has made several appointments to speak in the same county, at different places, during the first week in September.... The Plate City Argus of the 10th inst., asserts that "at Weston Col. Benton said, that he had led down a slip-pag, for all the 'old sows and pigs' to get out at; but those who refused to go out, he 'intended to kill without fattening'.... The Metropolitan of the 15th inst. says that there is a rumor at Jefferson City, that Samuel Treat, of St. Louis, has been recommended to the Governor as a suitable person to succeed Judge Blair, on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas of St. Louis county; and that with a view of killing him off, he has been charged by a writer in the Inquirer, with being the author of certain communications in the Metropolitan against Col. Benton. The Metropolitan relieves Mr. Treat of the imputation, by saying that he was the writer of the articles complained of."

ME. VAN BUREN.—Ex-President Van Buren, who was chosen a delegate to the Rome Convention, declined the appointment, being at the Bradleborough Water-cure establishment with one of his sons, who is ill. He says in his letter declining the appointment: "I have not, on any proper occasion, hesitated to avow my earnest desire for the re-union of the democratic party on the well ascertained principles of its illustrious founders. No sincere, disinterested friend of those principles can, I think, fail to see and appreciate the advantages to the country in general, and the great State in particular, from such a re-union; nor can I advisedly resist the existence of any well-founded and insuperable obstacle to its accomplishment in our own State, in a way consistent with the honor of both sections."

STEAMSHIP FOR THE PHILADELPHIA AND CHARLESTON TRADE.—The Philadelphia North American says: "The steamship Philadelphia, which is to be the second vessel on the line of the Charleston and Philadelphia Steam Navigation Company, is so nearly completed that she will be ready to be launched in a few days. Her model is spoken of by those competent to judge, as being admirable; and there is no doubt she will stand the closest test; as regards beauty of model and swiftness of motion with the finest steamships that have been launched at New York. Her rigging will be of a new and improved character; and we must, in justice, say that to the energy, successful waterworks, extensive inquiries into the best modes of building and rigging, given by Mr. Thompson, the able President of the Company, Philadelphia is indebted for what promises to be one of the finest steamships that ever floated on the Delaware."

THE RUSSIAN EMPEROR AND THE JEWS.—A Russian-Polish Jew, who has recently arrived in England, informs us that the Emperor of Russia has recently ordered prayers to be read in the synagogues for a successful issue of the Russian campaign in Persia. According to the Jewish custom, the psalms are chanted on such occasions. "Indeed," said our informant, "we did read psalms, and wept and cried, and from the inmost recesses of our hearts invoked salvation from Heaven, not, however, for the defeat of the Hungarians, because we deeply sympathize with those brave men, but for our own redemption from Russian slavery and tyranny." This Russian Jew is one of the hundreds who now emigrate with their families and families to England and other parts, for the purpose of proceeding to the United States of America, their present condition under the Russian Government being insupportable.— Jewish Chronicle.

COMBAT OF WILD BEASTS.—There is to be another grand combat of wild beasts at Madrid in a few weeks. The King, the Queen and the Court are to be spectators. The bull will have to contend, not against a half tamed tiger, but against a superb lion of the most savage species, lately brought from Africa by M. Edouard, the famous beast tamer. M. Charles, the owner of the tiger defeated on the last occasion, is to supply a reinforcement of a lion, a magnificent tiger and a panther.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.—Russia and the Ottoman Porte have regulated the affairs of the Danubian Principalities in the following manner: 1. The Hapsburgs of Moldavia and Wallachia shall be nominated for seven years by the Sultan, who shall take care to nominate a person of the same religion as the Sultan. 2. The organic regulations of 1831 shall remain in vigor. 3. All laws and regulations shall be issued in the name of both the Sultan and the Emperor, and shall be countersigned by the Sultan and the Emperor. 4. The two powers will agree to the time and place of the Diet, and the Sultan shall be represented by a Divan composed of members of the Sultan's army who shall be nominated by the Sultan. 5. The national militia shall be organized so as effectively to maintain the public safety. 6. During the time of the occupation two extraordinary commissions, respectively appointed by the two powers, shall meet the two plenipotentiaries in the city of Constantinople, and shall agree upon the treaty of the Danube. 7. The duration of the present treaty is fixed for the term of seven years.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JEWS.—The Austrian Lloyd's states that the Austrian Commandant of Buda and Pesth has ordered the Jewish community of the two cities to supply, at its own cost, within six months, the following articles to the Imperial army: 48,000 cloaks, 70,000 pairs of trousers, 25,000 pairs of shoes, 60,000 shirts, 60,000 pairs of drawers, 26,000 cravats, 16,000 yards of gray cloth, 20,000 yards of white cloth, 150,000 yards of leather for shoes, and 1000 horses completely equipped. These articles are to be delivered at intervals of 15 days, and any delay is to be punished with a fine of 100 florins. It is stated that when the Russians and Austrians entered Pesth 25,000 of the inhabitants left the city.

FOREIGN NEWS.—Both Houses of the British Parliament were convened on the 14th inst., at a Queen's Drawing Room. The Queen left London on the 23 inst., for Ireland. In Parliament, on the 31st ult., Lord Palmerston referred to Gen. Haynau's infamous proclamation at Pesth, and that the Government had read it with the deepest pain, but most reserved to themselves a proper and legitimate discretion to act as they might deem fit, as circumstances arose. Trade was very much depressed in London. Fourteen hundred tailors are now in London totally unemployed. Nine hundred shoemakers out of work have names on the books, and 1700 are working for half wages. The carriers and leather dressers are in the same situation. There were never known so many working jewellers out of employ, and meetings of the trades are now held to petition Parliament for protection against the competition of foreign labor. The Lord Mayor of Dublin has issued his proclamation for an illumination, on the occasion of the visit of the Queen.

Foreign News by the Hibernia. We extract from the Northern papers the most interesting portion of the foreign news brought by the Hibernia. It relates principally to Hungary, and the military movements in that country. Reports in the Northern papers have been confirmed, and the Wiener Zeitung publishes an official account of it. This account states that the Ban advanced from Verbach to Hegyes for the purpose of attacking the Magyars. He arrived during the night, and after some success at first he was overpowered by superior force, and compelled to retreat fighting to Kis-Ker. The lords of the Thebes and Folydar were severely attacked on the same day by the Magyars, but were maintained by the superior troops, and accounts were received to give the Ban's loss as amounting to 500 killed, wounded and missing, and concludes by saying that the Ban's head quarters are at Roma. The Vienna correspondent gives a few details of the Ban's defeat. According to the Journal, which gives his loss at 500 men, the Ban of Croatia learned on the 10th ult., that vast bodies of troops had been forced down upon him. He determined to retreat to the table-land of Thebes, and to act on the defensive, but first to strike a surprise at Hegyes. This intention was kept so secret that the Ban's troops did not the slightest idea of what was to take place. At 6 in the evening of the 11th they began their march, but two of the Ban's officers, who were sent forward to reconnoitre, confessed that the Ban's intention was already known in the Hungarian camp. On reaching Hegyes, where the Ban expected to meet his associates, all was found to be quiet, and it was supposed that the Hungarians had fled, when on a sudden some single rockets were observed to ascend. The very next moment the Ban's front and flank was assailed by a tremendous discharge of grape and canister from the hidden batteries of the Hungarians. The change was striking and was in vain, and the Ban's army was compelled to retreat to Verbach, and thence to Kis Ker. Here the exhausted troops, believing that the pursuit would not be continued, attempted to obtain food and rest, the Hungarians, however, pursued them, and drove them across the Roman entrenchments to Kacz, where the Ban's rear guard arrived at 10 o'clock, a. m., having been 36 hours on their legs. 10 of which had been passed in hand fighting. The Vienna papers of the 23rd speak of private accounts from the south, to the effect that the Ban, or the Generals Oettinger and Kuegmann had defeated the Magyars between Peterwardein and Yllow, or near Tild, and had captured two Magyars. Hungarian guns, the Hungarians are said to be led by Ben or Guyon. Later accounts from Vienna state that the Hungarian commander, who defeated the Ban of Croatia's troops, is not Gen. Ben, as has been supposed, but Gen. Guyon, an old soldier of the Hungarian army. Gen. Ben, it is stated, has taken up a strong position between Bistritz and Klausenberg. General Position of the Main Army.—The Magyars are going on well. It now appears indubitable that Dembinski is at the head of a powerful corps d'armee based on the Middle Thebes, and operating from the south against the line of Paskiewitch, whilst Georger with his back against the wall of the Carpathians, forced incessantly by those Alpine heights, is assailing the same line from the north. The outposts of Dembinski are in the heights of New Kassa, while those of Georger menace the Russian columns between Erlau and Kaschau. Thus nothing can be more secure than the position of the Hungarian leaders, while that of their Russian adversary is in the highest degree precarious. The whole respect of the Ban of Croatia, the Ban of Slavonia, having launched several about proclamations to keep the Poles from stirring during his absence, marched with the bulk of the Austrian army, on the 14th ult., from Kassa, and towards the Danube, where they are to be met by the Ban of Slavonia, who is reported to be on the left bank of the Danube, and he is reported to be on the right bank of the Danube by the corps of Schlick, whose outposts are pushed up to Stuhlweissenburg. Meanwhile, the Ban of Croatia, at Kalocza, there is a strong Magyar corps under Vetter, which is backed by the victorious troops of Guyon in the Backa, who have just crushed the Ban.

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