

SOUTH AMERICA.

URUGUAY AND CHILI.

Diplomatic Relations Suspended.

The Spanish Blockade of Caldera Raised.

Concentration of the Spanish Fleet at Valparaiso.

BUT LITTLE WAR FEELING IN PERU.

GREAT GOLD EXCITEMENT ON THE ISTHMUS

Gold in Abundance Eighteen Miles from Panama.

THE PRECIOUS METAL AT BARBACOA.

The steamship Henry Chauncey, Gray, from Aspinwall the 19th inst., arrived at this port on Tuesday morning with passengers, mails and treasure, to T. W. G. Bellows. On the 19th inst., at 97.28, long 84.14, passed a bark bound North, showing a signal, white square on blue ground. On the 20th, lat. 36.47, long 74.32, passed a brig showing signal, white with red diagonal stripe, letters O. T. in it. The following is her specie list:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Bank N. America, Bank of America, Bank of England, etc.

From Our Special Correspondent.

PANAMA, Feb. 12, 1866.

By the arrival of the steamship Chili, we have later dates from the South Pacific. Political matters in South America are becoming more and more complicated. A difficulty has arisen between Uruguay and Chili, caused by the superabundant zeal of the Chilean Minister at Montevideo, in demanding that Spanish merchantmen captured by the Chilean cruisers should be permitted to enter the ports of Uruguay and there be condemned, adjudicated and sold. To this proposition the Montevideo Government refused its assent. The Chilean Minister protested against this decision, and in the heat of the discussion, used language which in diplomatic circles would be considered more energetic and forcible than polite. The result of the matter was that the Government of Uruguay cancelled the credentials of Señor Lestarrin, and the Republic of Chili is no longer represented at Montevideo. Whether the Chilean Government will promptly disavow the acts of Señor Lestarrin, and admit that he was acting as a private citizen, or whether it will support the former in the position he has taken, remains to be seen.

THE BEAVER-ST. TRAGEDY.

Close of the Testimony in the Case—Summing up of Counsel To-Day.

Yesterday in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, before the Hon. George G. Barnard, was concluded the examination of witnesses in the trial of James F. Oram for the murder of Joseph Van Dorn, and to-day will be occupied by the counsel for the prosecution and defense in summing up the case. On resuming the case yesterday morning the prosecution called as a last witness Dr. Ludkin, the physician of Mr. Oram, who testified that a week before the murder his wrist was disabled by a severe sprain, so that his food had to be cut by his son. The witness, on cross-examination, said he need not have testified to the fact that he was unable to seize a man who was about to attack the city of Valparaiso, or not. I cannot guess. No intelligence had been received indicating the whereabouts or intentions of the allied fleet. It is certain that the squadron has not gone far from the coast of Peru since the departure of the last mail. War is declared against Spain, and the Peruvian fleet placed under the Chilean flag and in Chilean waters. Frudo has again turned his attention to the reformation of internal abuses and frauds hitherto existing in the various departments of the Government. The declaration of war now being an accomplished fact, the Peruvian public are not half so content and enthusiastic as before. The people are urgent with the Government that it should take more energetic measures to carry out the reforms which they have demanded, but they do not seem to care whether conflict actually ensues or not. The seizure of the Chinese by the Spaniards would probably "fire up" the Peruvian heart, but of this there is not the remotest possibility.

COLOMBIA.

By the arrival of the coasting-vessel from the South, we have intelligence of the discovery of new gold mines in the State of Cauca. They are said to surpass in richness and extent anything heretofore opened up in the country.

A later mail has arrived from Bogota. The following is an official dispatch from General Mosquera, relating to propositions now pending in London for the purchase of the Panama Railroad at the expiration of the privilege for 99 years, and the terms of the contract, which include the following conditions: The Government shall receive \$5,000,000 to pay the present Company in 1874, as price of the railroad, according to the terms of the contract, to be paid in 1874, and \$1,000,000 in cash, instead of the same sum in shares. Colombia shall have the right to purchase the railroad at any time, and the Government shall have the right to purchase the privilege for the time which is still unexpired for the present use, and prolong it for 99 years, after which period the railroad shall be the property of the nation. In these terms of the contract, and I suppose that they will bring them to the knowledge of the American Company, in order to enable them to give to the Government the conditions. I shall bring with me all the data of this transaction. Mosquera.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The steamship Sacramento, which arrived from San Francisco this morning, brought 89 miners for Barbacoa, and 100 more are to follow in the next vessel.

George H. Matthews, esq., has been reappointed Minister to Central America by the British Government. Mr. Dunch has been accredited to Bogota, vice Matthews.

They yesterday, esq., and party return to New York by the Henry Chauncey.

There is nothing later from Central America.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

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There is some talk of a mine about 12 miles from the present concentration of the fleet, and it is said to be very rich. It is some forty miles from the port of Valparaiso, and is reached by a route of three days, as the coast makes slow progress against the strong current.

Thus far no quartz mines have been discovered, though working by placer diggings, which exist extensively over the country. The party of five Californians, who have been here for some months ago, are now doing very favorably. At first they took out from four to fifteen pounds per week, but since they commenced tunneling, they are realizing from fifty to sixty pounds per week. Of these who have already gone there, several have been laid up with fever, while others were well.

About 15 miles from Panama, and two miles from the railroad track, a very rich tract of gold region has been discovered, and the present concentration of the fleet, in order to prospect, they visit the mine in the morning, and return to the city at night, and in the evening of the party, at least, are very successful, and produce far beyond the average yield of good mines.

A pearl from the Pearl Island in this bay, was sold a few days since for \$3,000 in gold, and on the same island a very rich mine has been discovered, and it is said to be very rich. It is some forty miles from the port of Valparaiso, and is reached by a route of three days, as the coast makes slow progress against the strong current.

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Some of the most interesting news from the Southern States is contained in the following:

Files of the Valparaiso and Santiago papers have been received here up to the 15th of January.

The news of the various negotiations of France and England in the Spanish-Chilian war has not been repeated with much favor in Chili or deemed of great importance. It is not expected that Spain will voluntarily relinquish her pretensions.

There is an enormous diplomatic quarrel going on between Chili and Uruguay. The latter Power refuses to allow Chilean privateers to bring the Spanish prizes, and to capture them during the war, and to demand that the Chilean Government should revoke the execution of the Chilean Minister, and issued a decree prohibiting the arrival and sale of prizes, and threatening with severe penalties all who should infringe upon the neutrality provisions of the Convention.

The approaching retirement of Mr. Nelson, the United States Minister to Chili, is much regretted. He was the senior member of the Diplomatic Corps, and he was the only one who had been in the country for more than twenty years.

The Spanish fleet has raised the blockade of Caldera, and the vessels engaged in it were at latest accounts at anchor off Valparaiso. The object of this naval movement was not known.

An attempt had been taken place at Caldera between a part of the blockading force and the Chilean garrison there. The assaults were repulsed.

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THE MURDER OF POLICE OFFICER DURVEA.

Trial of Cahill Continued—Opening Argument for the Defense—Examination of Witnesses—Counter Swearing.

The trial of Cahill for the murder of Police Officer Durvea, was resumed yesterday morning in the Court of General Sessions before Judge Russell. When the jury had answered to their names Mr. Clinton opened for the defense.

OPENING ARGUMENT FOR THE DEFENSE.

GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY: This case is one of the most extraordinary that has ever been my fortune to be engaged in. The charge is the most serious known to the law. The prisoner is accused of shooting down in cold blood one of the guardians of the peace of the city, at a moment when he was engaged in the discharge of his duty. The case is extraordinary in more than one respect. The officer was shot in broad daylight, in the presence of some fifty people, many of whom were close by the person who perpetrated the deed, and yet not one of those persons who saw the offense and had ample opportunity to point out the identity of the man who committed the deed, did so. The officer was killed on the 10th of May, and on the same day a young man named Cahill was arrested and charged with this perpetration. An investigation was held before the coroner, and the witnesses were examined, and none of them identified him. About the 20th of June, John Cahill was arrested and charged with this offense. He was examined, and yet none of them identified the prisoner in any respect. Some of them said emphatically that he was not the man.

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bound thitherward, and about 30 more have already gone. They are, apparently, intelligent men, and just the kind of men that the mines demand.

There is some talk of a mine about 12 miles from the present concentration of the fleet, and it is said to be very rich. It is some forty miles from the port of Valparaiso, and is reached by a route of three days, as the coast makes slow progress against the strong current.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The Celebrations To-Day—Programme for the Evening—Gen. Grant His Reception by the Union League—The City Hall—Military Receptions and Balls.

Washington's Birthday will be celebrated for the first time as a legal holiday in this State to-day, in accordance with the law passed to that effect by the State Legislature, in March last.

Perhaps never before was this very universal holiday celebrated under such singular circumstances as to-day. Yesterday afternoon the thousands of cannon spoked in the Park and elsewhere in celebration of the downfall of the Freedmen's Bureau bill; to-day, an equal number of cannon will be fired, with equally thunderous pomp and circumstance, in honor of George Washington, who is termed by all as "the Father of his Country," and who fought for the dearest principle of the freedom and equality of mankind. But holidays, no matter what their import, are celebrated by "the masses" thoughtlessly, and without any special preparation.

PROGRAMME OF TO-DAY consists of military parades and civic demonstrations during the day, and a number of "receptions," balls and meetings to place in the evening.

All of the public offices will be closed to-day, and the programme of arrangements for the celebration by the CITY GOVERNMENT, will, according to advertisement, be as follows:

A salute of 100 guns will be fired at Union-square at noon, and the salute of the City officers will be given a series of salutes. A grand display of fireworks will be given at the City Hall, Madison-square, Jackson-square, Tompkins-square, and other public places, to be commenced at 7 o'clock, and to continue until midnight.

The display at the City Hall will be especially fine, and will consist of the following: 1. A salute of 100 guns at 12 o'clock. 2. A salute of 100 guns at 1 o'clock. 3. A salute of 100 guns at 2 o