

THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

Summary of the Constitution of Venezuela, as settled in 1859, and in Force at the Present Time.

The Republic recognizes a territory all that which, before the year 1820, was comprehended in the jurisdiction of the Captains General of Venezuela; and this territory is divided into provinces, these provinces into cantons, and these cantons into parishes.

The position of Venezuela is acquired either by birth or naturalization. In order to be a citizen he must exercise his political rights. He must be married, or be twenty-one years of age. He must either possess a freehold property which yields an annual rent of fifty dollars, exercise some species of industry which will produce him double that amount, or be a native-born subject of the Republic.

It is judged expedient to adopt a form of government that should be intermediate between centralism and federalism. With this view, on dividing the exercise of the supreme power into judicial, legislative and executive, there was a fourth power introduced, which may be called a municipal power.

The executive power is under the charge of a magistrate, who is called the President of the Republic. The legislative power is exercised by a Congress of deputies of the people. This Congress is divided into two chambers—the one that of the representatives, the other that of senators.

The judicial power is vested in the Supreme Court, the Superior Court, the Judges of First Instance and the other inferior tribunals. The municipal power has also its part in the legislative and executive powers. The provincial legislatures have also certain legislative powers, and the governors of the provinces have also certain executive powers.

Three secretaries are necessary organs of the executive power, and these secretaries are responsible officers; and in their respective connections with the acts of the executive, authorize those acts by their signatures, in order that they may be obeyed. When certain arduous and important cases present themselves, it is the duty of the executive to consult the opinion of an advising board, composed of the Vice President of the Republic, an officer of the Supreme Court, chosen by the court itself, four advisers to be named by Congress, and the three Secretaries here alluded to. These three secretaries are, the Secretary of State and Foreign Affairs, Secretary of the Interior, and Secretary of War and Marine, and are selected by the President himself.

The President's duties are to preserve the peace and security of the Republic, to see that the laws are executed, to command the forces by sea and land. But in order to command them in person, he must have the consent of Congress, as he must also have in order to call the militia into active service, and declare war in the name of the Republic. He directs all public employes when they are guilty of negligence or gross incapacity; and, finally, he can commute capital sentences, provided always that they were not imposed by the Senate, when, under certain circumstances hereafter to be mentioned, it is considered expedient to do so.

The President, by himself, can grant letters of naturalization, nominate persons to all those civil, military, or State appointments, whose filling is not provided for by other means; suspend from their offices all public employes, and, in the absence of the proper tribunals, when it can be proved that they have broken the laws; and grant retirements and leave of absence, according to the rules applicable to the case.

It is left to him to call on Congress, and to select the officers for the superior courts, and from other lists presented to him by the provincial legislatures he selects the provincial governors. It is left to him to see to the collection and investment of the public funds, and, finally, that justice is promptly and duly administered to the people.

It was considered that many circumstances might arise in which, these ordinary powers of the executive, would be insufficient to meet the exigencies of the Republic, and, therefore, it was provided that, in such cases, the President should be empowered to call on Congress, and to select the officers for the superior courts, and from other lists presented to him by the provincial legislatures he selects the provincial governors.

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Our Washington Correspondence.

Dr. Gardner, I understand, arrived at New Orleans on the 26th ult., en route to Mexico, in order to procure additional evidence and proof of the existence of the mine upon which the Mexican Commission granted him an award. Before leaving here he had been asked to accompany the Commission which had been raised at the instance of Mr. Soule. The correspondence upon that subject has already been published in the Herald. Upon arriving at New Orleans, he called upon the Collector, and presented a written order from the government to give him a passage on the United States steamer Fulton to Tampico. He was then informed that contrary to his subsequent belief, issued by the government not to afford him the promised passage, and notwithstanding the written order in his possession, all the promised facilities were denied him. The Fulton sailed on the 26th with the "Gardiner" Commission, and he was obliged to seek some other means of reaching Mexico.

Although the country expects that if any fraud has been committed by Gardner it will be fully exposed and punished, it does not require that harsh or unjust proceedings should be adopted towards him in advance of his trial. If the facts above given are correct, some explanation of the extraordinary steps adopted by the government is necessary, and the inference to be drawn is that Dr. Gardner is the victim of a cruel persecution.

The news from New Orleans, of the treatment of the Crescent City, on her recent trip to Havana, is just what might have been expected from the view taken by the President of the former outrage. You will remember I telegraphed you at the time what I understood to be the real opinion of the government in the matter. The despatch was copied into the Union here, and the Republic was dared to contradict it if not correct. Instead of doing so, however, the Republic contented itself with a vague denial that the government intended to back out of its duty. So. Some days after an announcement appeared that the difficulties were all settled, and the Intelligence and Republic hastened to indulge in a little burst of enthusiasm at the unparalleled statesmanship of our government, which had wrought such a happy result. It now appears that all this rejoicing was premature, and that, so far from the matter being settled, it has assumed, if possible, a more offensive attitude than before.

The President and the members of his cabinet are expected to express their astonishment at the conduct of the country should be so extremely ignorant as to suppose Cuba violated any of the courtesies of nations in excluding not only Mr. Smith, but also the steamer, if she sees fit to do so. It is not necessary to say that the Republic is not prepared to admit vessels into the Havana, and consequently the exclusion of the Crescent City by the Captain-General is simply a "port regulation, which we must grin and bear. How long we are to be expected to grin, is another matter. The honor of our flag will be vindicated, and the Republic understand it, "a vindication of our flag" simply meant that the Captain-General, having acted as he had an undoubted right to do, in this matter of excluding the Crescent City, was to be commended, and not censured.

It is understood, however, that the Spanish Minister here, Don A. Calderon de la Barca, views the exclusion of the Crescent City as a violation of the rights of nations, and he is exerting his influence to induce the Captain-General to relax the rigor of his severity. Whilst the exertions of this able and enlightened gentleman are deserving of all praise, it is to be regretted that the American people should be so ignorant as to suppose Cuba violated any of the courtesies of nations in excluding not only Mr. Smith, but also the steamer, if she sees fit to do so. It is not necessary to say that the Republic is not prepared to admit vessels into the Havana, and consequently the exclusion of the Crescent City by the Captain-General is simply a "port regulation, which we must grin and bear.

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Our Quebec Correspondence.

Our Quebec Correspondence. DEPARTURE OF ROYALTY.—Determination of the House of Assembly to Adjourn—Commercial Policy still in Abeyance—Quebec and Halifax Railroad—Propellers between Liverpool and Montreal and Portland—American Fishermen with False Colors and Papers.

The cholera has apparently suddenly left us, after having, for the most part, been limited to the Marine Hospital and the lower town. The members of the Assembly were, however, a good deal startled by the death of one of that body, and two of its messengers, and therefore erroneously imagined that the disorder had located itself in the Parliament building, without reflecting that the deceased had lived in various parts of the city, and had probably contracted the disease there. A motion was consequently made, on Saturday, to adjourn to a distant day, but which was negatived by a large majority, and the House adjourned over till Tuesday—Monday being All Saints Day, which is kept here, by the Roman Catholic inhabitants, with great solemnity, their shops and places of business being closed, and the churches being opened from early in the morning till a late hour in the evening. Tuesday, being All Souls' Day, was observed much in the same manner; and when one reflects on the number of deaths which have occurred, it is not to be wondered at that the members of the Assembly were so startled.

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ARRIVAL OF THE GLASGOW.

These might be included in the possibility of a Hispano conflict, it would be a very false policy to let the recognition of that truth stand as it did. There is some reason to believe that the Spaniards are not so much opposed to the recognition of the independence of the Republic as they are. England will not obtain any safety in a troubled time, except that which she can secure for herself. The distribution of arms or alliances may affect the facilities of that insurance, but a timely effort to secure the independence of the Republic is the only policy which will be successful in the long run. England, if she cannot defend herself, and all that is prone to do, it might prove the most paying policy to declare herself politically insolvent, at once, and give up her place among the nations to some other power, who would be willing to give her on reasonable terms. There may be commercial men who would jump at this suggestion; we trust there are few statesmen who cannot look beyond it.

The Liverpool cotton market on Monday, the 25th ult., was animated. Owing to a variety of circumstances we have not obtained full files of papers from England. This is the first time we have received news by any of the Glasgow steamers. Their passages have been remarkably short and regular, but the side wheel steam ships have generally anticipated the propellers. The paddle wheels are in danger; however, the submerged screws are rapidly improving in speed. The Liverpool cotton market on Monday, the 25th ult., was animated.

What Would be at Stake in a General War? The question of a general war between France and England is a subject which has been discussed in various quarters. Conversations in Vienna, as well as in London and Paris, in Berlin, Brussels, and Rome—in New York and Washington—to say nothing, also, of Cape Town, and the Australian capitals—are all concerned with the probability of a general war. The continental veterans of the last war, the Germans and Austrians especially, are speaking as if their old experience were rising to a premium, and they are laying down the law as to the probabilities of success in such a contest. They are, however, considering the probable results of this or that combination when the outbreak may happen. Louis Napoleon, they say, will not be able to stick to peace by his own will; his army and entourage will force him to hostilities. An insurrection in France, and England would be pleased to Austria, especially if Prussia joined England; then Austria might make war in Germany, and strengthen her own empire. We attach no great importance to the speculations of these kind, but we think it is worth our while to consider the state of affairs thirty or forty years ago, and who find great difficulty in bringing the understanding of 1815 to bear upon 1852 or 1853. The general tendency, however, to talk of subjects, although they are not connected with the place or time, becomes clearly significant, as soon as it extends over successive years and many countries. If people in places so far apart as those which we have mentioned, for two or three years persevere in discussing an insurrection in France, and all but certain that they are moved by some common impulse resting upon reality. If a Viennese general, an Italian patriot, a Cape rebel, an Australian colonist, a "cute Yankee," a French adventurer, a London politician, and a Glasgow merchant, all run upon the same idea, there must be some real and solid fact at the bottom, upon which they all really stand, and of which they are conscious. It does not matter that the fact may be below the surface, and difficult to see; it is the common cause of the common thought in so many different communities and understandings. The general concurrence, therefore, of superficial signs, and the fact that the same ideas are running upon this war is a thing to be, at no very distant day, but if war is to fall upon the world, what does it involve? What are the main points at stake if Europe should be involved in a general contest? It is a subject which has been discussed in various quarters. Conversations in Vienna, as well as in London and Paris, in Berlin, Brussels, and Rome—in New York and Washington—to say nothing, also, of Cape Town, and the Australian capitals—are all concerned with the probability of a general war. The continental veterans of the last war, the Germans and Austrians especially, are speaking as if their old experience were rising to a premium, and they are laying down the law as to the probabilities of success in such a contest. They are, however, considering the probable results of this or that combination when the outbreak may happen.

Our Belize Correspondence. BELIZE, Honduras, Oct. 14, 1852. The September Hurricane—Disasters to the Shipping—Sickly Season—Murders—The Mahogany Trade, &c.

I avail myself of the sailing of the brig Hope, to inform you that the American brig Lotbera, Bentley, master, went on shore on the reef of the Island of Coramal, on the night of the 22d of September. The captain and crew were taken off, and brought to Belize, where the wreck and cargo was sold, as they might be found, for \$785. The brig was stripped by the schooner True Blue, and her materials brought on here and sold.

This vessel was sent from New York, in June last, to Navy Bay, thence to Chagres, thence to Belize, where she was loaded with mahogany, and was on her passage to Boston, when she went ashore. The day before she was lost was a very dirty day; and the evening on which she went ashore, we had a hurricane here which caused great damage to the plantations in this neighborhood—blew down a large number of trees in this town, committed some trifling damage to the shipping loading at the southward, and caused the American brig Hope to drag both anchors, and put her on the bank, near the harbor's mouth, in four feet of water, from whence it took several days to get her off, and after her captain had discharged the cargo he had taken in, and put out every thing on board to lighten her.

We have had unusual weather for the last three months, and the floods have brought down all the mud in a quantity which has not been known for many years. We are expecting a very sickly season. The Board of Health has been re-organized, and are now at work with untiring energy, making rules and regulations, which, if they do not go well, will put the health of the community in a very precarious position. Their rules, regulations, and orders, printed and posted, (in Spanish and English), on every wall and fence in town. The Board are nearly all M. D.'s, and as they advise all to be vaccinated, and caution against the use of water, and the use of cold and wet clothes, and as nearly every child and three-quarters of the adults are being vaccinated—many being members of the Board of Health, puts money in their pockets.

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THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

Attempt to Assassinate the President of the Tuscan Ministry. ANIMATION IN THE COTTON MARKET, &c., &c., &c.

The screw steamer Glasgow, Captain Craig, arrived at this port yesterday afternoon. She left Glasgow on Tuesday afternoon, the 20th ult., thus making the passage in fifteen days. Owing to a variety of circumstances we have not obtained full files of papers from England. This is the first time we have received news by any of the Glasgow steamers. Their passages have been remarkably short and regular, but the side wheel steam ships have generally anticipated the propellers. The paddle wheels are in danger; however, the submerged screws are rapidly improving in speed. The Liverpool cotton market on Monday, the 25th ult., was animated.

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This vessel was sent from New York, in June last, to Navy Bay, thence to Chagres, thence to Belize, where she was loaded with mahogany, and was on her passage to Boston, when she went ashore. The day before she was lost was a very dirty day; and the evening on which she went ashore, we had a hurricane here which caused great damage to the plantations in this neighborhood—blew down a large number of trees in this town, committed some trifling damage to the shipping loading at the southward, and caused the American brig Hope to drag both anchors, and put her on the bank, near the harbor's mouth, in four feet of water, from whence it took several days to get her off, and after her captain had discharged the cargo he had taken in, and put out every thing on board to lighten her.

We have had unusual weather for the last three months, and the floods have brought down all the mud in a quantity which has not been known for many years. We are expecting a very sickly season. The Board of Health has been re-organized, and are now at work with untiring energy, making rules and regulations, which, if they do not go well, will put the health of the community in a very precarious position. Their rules, regulations, and orders, printed and posted, (in Spanish and English), on every wall and fence in town. The Board are nearly all M. D.'s, and as they advise all to be vaccinated, and caution against the use of water, and the use of cold and wet clothes, and as nearly every child and three-quarters of the adults are being vaccinated—many being members of the Board of Health, puts money in their pockets.

The cholera has apparently suddenly left us, after having, for the most part, been limited to the Marine Hospital and the lower town. The members of the Assembly were, however, a good deal startled by the death of one of that body, and two of its messengers, and therefore erroneously imagined that the disorder had located itself in the Parliament building, without reflecting that the deceased had lived in various parts of the city, and had probably contracted the disease there. A motion was consequently made, on Saturday, to adjourn to a distant day, but which was negatived by a large majority, and the House adjourned over till Tuesday—Monday being All Saints Day, which is kept here, by the Roman Catholic inhabitants, with great solemnity, their shops and places of business being closed, and the churches being opened from early in the morning till a late hour in the evening.

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THE ESCAPE OF FRENCH PRISONERS FROM GUYANNE.

The following particulars respecting the escape of a batch of French political prisoners from Guyanne are given in the Independence of Brussels.—We have received from Paramaribo, the chief town of Dutch Guiana, under date of Sept. 20, a letter signed Riboulet, and of which we cannot guarantee the accuracy, but which contains a number of interesting facts, and which we deem it our duty to us to be of sufficient interest to be communicated to our readers. The facts are as follows:—Twelve persons, transported for political offences in the month of August, 1848, were confined in the prison of French Guiana, called Ile de la Noire, resolved to attempt to recover their liberty. On the 4th of September, at midnight, after the imposition, and of them, provided with a small bundle containing their arms, they were taken to the beach, and landed upon the shore. Four boats, not guarded, were moored at a short distance from the shore. They swam towards them, and getting into one, they set the others adrift, in order to remove the means of pursuit. Without chart or compass they ventured thus upon the ocean. For twenty-four hours they proceeded, under a burning sun, and in the midst of the greatest peril, without a drop of water to quench their thirst. In passing near the coast of the island of Cayenne, and were chased for five hours. The night came on, and they were obliged to navigate, did not permit their partners to come up with them. It may be said, therefore, that they were in a very precarious position. A few hours afterwards they were upon a sand bank, and but for a high wind that came on with the tide, they would not perhaps have been able to get clear of the bank. On the following day they were again chased, and were obliged to land at length in reaching a Dutch port called Brandwacht. At first they were taken for escaped convicts, but they succeeded in making their real position known. The commandant, who is of French origin, the presence of the prisoners in his port. After spending three days with this excellent man, they were sent to Paramaribo, where they were in the first instance put into prison, but subsequently put on board the Dutch vessel, the Holding, and 45 hours afterwards they were permitted to land in the town of Paramaribo, where they were addressed to us by one of the persons who escaped, and we would give it if it were only to tranquillize the families of the persons whose names are mentioned in the letter, and to speak in high terms of the kindness of the Dutch officers. They hope that they will not be given up to the French government, the letter even says that they have received the assurance of the contrary in the name of the Dutch government. They are as follows:—Riboulet, professor (Jura); J. Rouze, merchant (Paris); J. Biot, landowner (Alic); G. Billard, do. (Alic); Lemaitre, founder (Nero); A. Fourhais, do. (Alic); Ardoche, do. (Alic); Brullat, do. (Alic); Claret, do. (Alic); H. Billard, do. (Alic); L. Cattedo, do. (Alic); J. Berthelemy, baker (Basas Alpes); Niel, coachman (Ardeche).

THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA. [From the Glasgow Mail, Oct. 23.] Thousands in the United States have been longing eagerly for a cause of quarrel with the Spanish government, and it is at length that the refusal of the Cuban authorities to allow the mail-steamers Crescent City to enter the port of Havana. The reason given for this bold step is the retention of Mr. Smith, an officer peculiarly obnoxious to the Spanish government, as purser on board the Crescent City. We are glad to see the authorities at the Havana may be able to make in self-justification, there can be no doubt of the insulating nature of the measure to which they have had recourse. The Crescent City is in the pay of the United States government, and it is the duty of the government to make it as safe as possible. The subsequent proceedings are narrated in a statement made on the authority of the captain.

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