MEXICO.

Important Order from General Mejia.

The Citizens of Matamoros Required to Swear Allegiance to Maximilian.

Great Expectations of the Liberals from the United States.

Determined Opposition of the Masses to Monarchical Rule.

Maximilian's Desperate Financial Condition.

THE PROJECTED LOAN IN EUROPE.

RECENT LIBERAL SUCCESSES.

THE BARBARITIES IN MEXICO.

The Important Correspondence on the Subject in Full.

NAPOLEON'S REPUDIATION OF MAXIMILIAN.

&c. &c. &c.

We are in receipt of interesting news regarding Mexican affairs from our Mexico city correspondent and also by the way of New Orleans, which we publish below, as well as the official correspondence *in extenso*, called for by a recent resolution of the United States Senate, in relation to the decree issued by Maximilian on October 3, 1865, directing all partisans of the Mexican republic to be summarily executed upon capture.

The New Orleans Despatch.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 6, 1866.

General Mejia has issued an order forbidding all communication with the American side of the Rio Grande. The order also requires all citizens of Matamoros to take an oath of allegiance to the Emperor Maximilian.

Our Mexico City Correspondence.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 13, 1865.

The imperial government of Mexico is at present waiting with great anxiety to see what action the United States will take in Mexican affairs after the meeting of Congress. The appointment of a minister alarm among President Juarez ha'ney seem to be making defensive preparations, as a large force of French soldiers has already arrived and others are expected.

Louis Napoleon appears desirous to sow the seeds of despotism and monarchical rule deep in the soil of this free republic. Notwithstanding that the people are striving to uphold their independence the natural elements of the country are becoming exhausted, while the invaders possess means whereby to keep down the patriotic efforts of the defenders of the country. The government at Washington does not apparently comprehend that this invasion is an attack upon republican institutions everywhere, and especially in the country of Mr. Lincoln, whence they emanate.

THE IMPERIAL EXCHEQUER.

The financial question is also disturbing Maximilian's peace of mind; for he has made away with about one hundred millions of dollars, this being the amount of the debt with which he has saddled Mexico by the various loans negotiated by him in Europe.

During the past fifty years of revolution Mexico has not spent half that amount, of which the archduke has devoted only eight millions for the nation's benefit, the remainder having been expended in improvements at Miramar and Chapultepec, banquets, commissions and financial agents, presents to his favorites, &c. But after this resource is exhausted what will the imperial government do? Not even the government officials themselves can say. They have framed a number of laws, but these will have to remain mere paper enactments; for in the existing rebellious state of the country they cannot be carried into effect, nor can the taxes imposed be collected.

It is contemplated to raise a new loan in Europe, but can it be effected? Possibly it may be; for all the despots of the Old World are acting in unison in order to extinguish the republic. Would that the nations of the Western continent were as united in the opposite direction as are the transatlantic monarchies.

The existing war is another subject of anxiety to the usurper's government. We have had four years of constant warfare, with alternate victories and reverses, yet the Mexicans are full of energy and still unconquered by their formidable enemies, despite their cause, which is that of all America, has met with so little real support.

THE MURDER OF ARTEAGA.

After the defeat and cold-blooded assassination of Arteaga and his companions in arms, the Army of the Centre was given to General Regules, who had previously gained several victories over the invaders. With the three thousand men under his command he remains master of nearly the whole State of Michoacan, and threatens Queretaro and Guanajuato. He will shortly have with him the gallant General Tapia, recently an exchanged prisoner of war from the Belgian forces—an officer who has ever been an honor to the cause, whether in the hands of the foe a prisoner, or in the field at the head of his men. General Riva Palacio has been entrusted with the political administration of the State of Michoacan. The eastern lines continue invincible. Near the town of Tlapacaya, in the district of La Sierra, a bloody combat has recently taken place. Two thousand Austrians attacked six hundred Mexicans, who, after a heroic defence, were forced to fall back, being unable to stand before the artillery fire of the Austrians; but they did not retire before inflicting a heavy loss upon the enemy, including two hundred wounded. The Mexicans had to deplore the loss of General Torres, who met his death so valiantly that the Austrian commander ordered him to be buried with all the funeral honors due to his rank, and offered, himself, a large sum for his sword.

San Luis is being fortified, and the forces that were in Durango are beginning to arrive at the former place, en route to Queretaro, and perhaps to the capital.

THE BARBARITIES IN MEXICO.

The Official Correspondence on the Subject in Full.

The following is the message of the President of the United States, communicating, in compliance with the resolution of the Senate of the 11th ult., information on the subject of a decree of the so-called Emperor of Mexico of the 3d of October last:—

TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—

In answer to the resolution of the Senate of the 11th inst., requesting information on the subject of a decree of the so-called Emperor of Mexico of the 3d of October last, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State and the documents by which it was accompanied.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1865.

MR. SEWARD TO THE PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1865.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred a resolution of the Senate of the 11th inst., requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate, if not inconsistent with the public interests, any correspondence or other information in the possession of the government in regard to a barbarous decree issued by the so-called Emperor of Mexico, under the date of October 3, 1865, ordering all Mexicans who bravely defended the sacred cause of their independence, either on the battle-field or otherwise, to be shot without any form of trial," and to inform that body "what reports, if any, have been made by this government on that subject," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of all the correspondence on file in this department upon the subject of the instrument indicated in the said resolution, which correspondence contains all the information concerning the matter in possession of this government.

Respectfully submitted, WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To the President.

LIST OF ACCOMPANYING PAPERS.

Mr. Otterbourg to Mr. Seward, October 19, 1865, with two accompaniments, namely:—A proclamation of October 2, 1865, and a decree of October 3, 1865, by the so-called Emperor of Mexico.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, October 25, 1865, with ten accompaniments.

Mr. Corwin to Mr. Seward, October 25, 1865.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, November 20, 1865, with an accompaniment.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow, November 3, 1865.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow, November 28, 1865.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward, November 30, 1865.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, December 10, 1865.

MR. OTTERBOURG TO MR. SEWARD.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE, MEXICO, Oct. 19, 1865.

SIR—Enclosed I have the honor to transmit a translation of a proclamation and decree, which may be read with interest at the Department.

I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

MARCUS OTTERBOURG, United States Consul.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD.

PROCLAMATION OF HIS MAJESTY THE EMPEROR.

MEXICANS—The cause which Don Benito Juarez defended with so much valor and constancy has already succumbed under the force, not only of the national will, but also of the other law which that officer invoked in support of his pretensions. To-day even the faction to which the said cause has degenerated is abandoned by the departure of its chief from his native soil.

The national government for a long time was lenient, and exercised great clemency, so as to give those misled and misinformed men an opportunity to rally to the majority of the nation, and to place themselves anew in the path of duty. It has fulfilled its object; the honorable men have assembled under its banner and have accepted the just and liberal principles which regulate its politics. The disorder is only maintained by some leaders carried away by unpatriotic passions, assisted by demoralized persons, too ignorant to comprehend political principles, and by an unprincipled soldiery, the last and sad remnants of the civil war. Hereafter contests will only be between the honorable men of the nation and the gangs of criminals and robbers. Clemency will cease now, for it would only profit the meb who burn villages, rob and murder peaceful citizens, poor old men and defenceless women.

The government, resting on its power, from this day will be inflexible in its punishments, since the laws of civilization, the rights of humanity and the exigencies of morality demand it. MAXIMILIAN.

MEXICO, Oct. 2, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO:—

Having heard our Council of Ministers and Council of State, we decree:—

ARTICLE 1. All persons belonging to armed bands or corps not legally authorized, whether they proclaim or not any political principles, and whatever be the number of those who compose the said bands, their organization, character and denomination, shall be tried militarily by the courts martial, and if found guilty even of the only fact of belonging to the band, they shall be condemned to capital punishment within twenty-four hours following the sentence.

ART. 2. Those who, belonging to the bands mentioned in the previous article, will be captured with arms in their hands, shall be tried by the officer of the force which has captured them, and he shall, within the delay never extending over twenty-four hours after said capture, make a formal inquest of the offence, hearing the defence of the prisoner. Of this inquest he will draw an act, closing with a sentence, which must be to capital punishment, if the accused is found guilty, even if only of the fact of belonging to the band. The officer shall have the sentence executed within the twenty-four hours aforesaid, seeing that the criminal receives spiritual assistance. Sentence having been executed, the officer shall forward the act of inquest to the Minister of War.

ART. 3. From the penalty established in the preceding articles shall only be exempted those who, having done nothing more than being with the band, will prove that they were made to join it by force, or did not belong to it, but were found accidentally in it.

ART. 4. If, from the inquest mentioned in article 2, facts are elicited which induced the officer holding it to believe that the prisoner was made to join by force, without having committed any other crime, or that he was found accidentally in it, without belonging to it, said officer shall abstain from passing sentence and send the accused, with the respective act of inquest, to the proper court martial, in order that the trial be proceeded with by the latter, in conformity with article 1.

ART. 5. Shall be tried and sentenced conformably with Article 1 of this law:—First, all those who will voluntarily assist the *guerillenos* with money or any other means whatever. Second, those who will give them advice, information or ground. Third, those who voluntarily, and knowing that they are *guerillenos*, will put within their reach or sell them arms, horses, ammunition, subsistence or any articles of war whatever.

ART. 6. Shall also be tried conformably with Article 1:—First, those who will hold with the *guerillenos* such relations as infer connivance with them. Second, those who voluntarily and knowingly harbor them in houses or estates. Third, those who, by words or writing, will spread false or alarming reports, by which the public order may be disturbed, or will make against it any kind of demonstration whatever. Fourth, all owners or administrators of rural estates who will not give prompt notice to the nearest authority of the passage of some band through some estates. Those included within paragraphs first and second of this article shall be punished by imprisonment from six months to two years, or by hard labor from one to three years, according to the gravity of the case; ascendants, descendants, spouses or brothers of the parties concealed by them, shall not suffer the penalty aforesaid; but they shall remain subject to the vigilance of the authorities during the time the court martial shall fix. Those included in paragraph third of this article shall be punished by a fine of from twenty-five to one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment from one month to one year, according to the gravity of the offence. Those included in paragraph fourth of this article shall be punished by a fine of from two hundred to two thousand dollars.

ART. 7. The local authorities of the villages who will not give notice to their immediate superiors of the passage through their villages of armed men, will be ministerially punished by said superiors by a fine of from two hundred to two thousand dollars, or by a seclusion of from two months to three years.

ART. 8. Whatever resident of a village, who, having information of the proximity or passage of armed men by the village, will not give notice of it to the authorities, shall suffer a fine of from five dollars to five hundred dollars.

ART. 9. All residents of a village threatened by some gang, who are between eighteen and fifty years, five years, and have no physical disability, are obliged to present themselves for the common defence, as soon as called; and for failing to do so, they shall be punished by a fine of from five dollars to two thousand dollars, or by imprisonment from fifteen days to four months. If the authorities think it more proper to punish the village for not having defended itself, they may impose upon it a fine of from two hundred dollars to two thousand dollars, and the said fine shall be paid by all those together, who, being in the category prescribed by this article, did not present themselves for the common defence.

ART. 10. All owners or administrators of rural estates who, being able to defend themselves, will not prevent the entrance in the said estates of *guerillenos* or other malefactors, or after that they have entered will not give immediate information of it to the nearest military authority, or will receive on the estates the tired and wounded horses of the gang without informing the said authority of the fact, shall be punished for it by a fine of from one hundred to two thousand dollars, according to the importance of the case; and if it is of great gravity they shall be put in prison and sent to the court martial, to be tried by the latter, conformably with the law. The fines shall be paid to the principal administrator of rents to which the estate belongs. The provision of the first part of this article is applicable to the populations.

ART. 11. Whatever authorities, whether political, military or municipal, shall abstain from proceeding in conformity with the provisions of this law, against persons suspected or known to have committed the offences provided in said law, will be ministerially punished by a fine of from fifty dollars to one thousand dollars; and if it appear that the fault was of such nature as to import complicity with the criminals, the said authorities will be submitted, by order of the government, to the court martial, to be tried by the latter and punished according to the gravity of the offence.

ART. 12. Thieves shall be tried and sentenced in conformity with Article 1 of this law, whatever the fin ort, nature and circumstances of the theft.

ART. 13. The sentence of death pronounced for offences provided for by this law shall be executed within the delays prescribed in it, and it is prohibited that any demands for pardon be presented in favor of the sentence to suffer death and the criminal is a foreigner, even after its execution the clemency may use towards him the faculty it has to expel from the territory of the nation all obnoxious strangers.

ART. 14. Amnesty is granted to those who may have belonged and may still belong to armed bands if they present themselves to the authorities before the 15th of November next, provided they committed no other offences subsequently to the date of the present law. The authorities will receive the arms of those who will present themselves to accept the amnesty.

ART. 15. The government reserves the faculty to declare when the provisions of this law shall cease.

Each one of our Ministers is charged with the execution of this law in the part which concerns him, and will give the necessary orders for its strict observance.

Given at the Palace of Mexico, 3d of October, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN.

JOSE F. RAMIREZ,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, charged with the ministry of State.
JUAN DE DIOS PEZA,
Minister of War.
LUIS ROBLES PEZUELA,
Minister of Improvement.
JOSE MARIA ESTEVA,
Minister of the Interior.
PEDRO ESCUDERO Y ECHANOVA,
Minister of Justice.
MANUEL SILICEO,
Minister of Public Instruction and Religious Worship.
FRANCISCO DE P. CESAR,
Sub Secretary of the Treasury.

MR. ROMERO TO MR. SEWARD.

MEXICAN LEGATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY—Accompanying my transmission to your department of the principal documents that can give the United States government an idea of the principal events now taking place in Mexico, I now have the honor to send to you those mentioned in the enclosed index, some of which were brought by the last steamer from Vera Cruz, and others of older date, I think important.

As most significant, I must call your attention to the usurper's proclamation, dated in the city of Mexico, the 2d inst., and to his so-called decree of the 3d of the same month.

In the first the ex-Archduke supposes, contrary to the fact, that the Constitutional President of the Mexican republic had abandoned the national territory, and from this false hypothesis he asserts that the defenders of independence, whom he calls bandits, in obedience to the orders from the French, have no leader.

It is nothing new for the usurper to call those patriots who sustain the cause of independence and the institutions of Mexico, bandits; nor is it new for him to treat them as such, with a severity that would be called excessive if applied to criminals of the lowest order. He showed the same determination in his proclamation of the 3d of November last, of which I sent you a copy. Now Maximilian wishes to regulate this established system of assassination by a decree, issued on the 3d inst., creating most informal military tribunals, extending their jurisdiction to every person in the country found armed without license from his so-called government, regardless of the number and character of the party he belongs to. In this decree, excessively tyrannical, he condemns to death every armed man who is not a French soldier or traitor; and even those who, with proper information, which may aid the defenders of their country, and sanctions severe penalties for the mere act of concealing a patriot, or circulating alarming news; and it has been carried on by his French directors, who have been, by the system of courts martial, sending to the scaffold the captive patriots called *guerillenos*, and even military officers of the national army, who could not be called so.

This extraordinary severity is in open contradiction to the studied, mild promises made in his first proclamation on landing at Vera Cruz, which I also send you, dated 25th of May, 1864.

If the Mexican patriots have been waging a legitimate war during the existence of the national government on Mexican territory, in the usurper's opinion, what must be thought of his conduct in lending himself as a blind instrument in this war, and in declaring, when there is no change of circumstances, that those fighting in a legitimate war are bandits and must be exterminated.

Under number ten I send a copy of the usurper's address, delivered the end of last month, on the occasion of the erection of a statue to Morelos, in Guardiola square, city of Mexico. All the charges he makes upon that distinguished leader in the first war of independence, are now literally applicable to the citizens defending the independence of their country, and this second war of the same kind, and equally as just and sacred.

First, with unexampled inconsistency, the usurper now declares those patriots bandits, and going then to be assassinated within a certain time by means of courts martial.

I also enclose two protests, made at Tacambora on the 10th and 24th of May last, signed by several French officers, prisoners of the republican forces. In them you will perceive the generous and philanthropic conduct of the Mexican troops toward their prisoners, contrasting strangely with the decrees and barbarous conduct of their enemies.

I also inclose a general order from the Army of the Centre, showing the most recent organization of the national forces in that part of the territory of the republic. In conclusion, you will see among these documents two acts, one passed by the town and county of Longolica, in the State of Vera Cruz, and the other by the town and county of Juchitan, in the State of Oaxaca, in which the inhabitants declare their hostile sentiments toward the so-called empire.

I take advantage of this occasion to renew the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

To the Hon. WM. H. SEWARD, &c.

DOCUMENTS SENT FROM THE MEXICAN LEGATION TO MR. SEWARD.

The following is a list of the documents sent by the Mexican Legation in Washington to the Department of State of the United States, with his note of the 25th of October, 1555, on events which have recently taken place in Mexico:—

No. 1, July 26, 1865.—Act passed in the town of Songolica, in the State of Vera Cruz, protesting against the intervention and the empire, and offering obedience to the President of the republic.

No. 2, July 7, 1865.—Act passed in Juchitan, State of Oaxaca, protesting against the establishment of an empire in Mexico by the French army, and acknowledging the republic.

No. 3.—Order from General-in-Chief of the Army of the Centre, regulating the First division of the Army of the Centre operating in the State of Michoacan.

No. 4, April 11, 1865.—Protest of an officer and several soldiers of the Foreign Legion, expressing their determination to remain as prisoners-of-war in Tacambaro, and not fight against the republic.

No. 5, May 24, 1865.—Various French prisoners-of-war protest to remain in prison at Tacambaro, until exchanged according to the laws of nations.

No. 6, May 28, 1865.—Proclamation by the usurper to the Mexicans, published in Vera Cruz on landing at that port.

No. 7, November 3, 1864.—The usurper to Valasquez De León declares that the people are in his favor and his adversaries must be persecuted and punished as bandits.

No. 8, October 2, 1865.—The usurper to the Mexicans; proclamation asserting that President Juarez had quitted the territory of Mexico and all defenders of the republic were outlaws.

No. 9, October 3, 1865.—The usurper to the Mexicans; decree ordering prisoners of war to be executed within twenty-four hours, and those who aid the republicans, or do not inform on them, &c., and imposing severe penalties on citizens who do not or cannot resist them.

No. 10, September, 1865.—The address of the usurper on the erection of the statue of Morelos in Guardiola square, in the City of Mexico. IGNO. MARISCAL.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25, 1865.

MR. CORWIN TO MR. SEWARD.

EXTRACTS.

LEGATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, MEXICO, Oct. 28, 1865.

SIR—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches Nos. 105 and 106, dated respectively September 14 and 30. They were both received by me yesterday morning.

In my despatch No. 13, of September 10, I informed you that M. F. Maury, formerly of Washington, would probably be appointed by Maximilian "Imperial Commissioner of Immigration." Since that time he has received this appointment, become a naturalized Mexican citizen, and been named Honorary Counsellor of State. J. B. Magruder, formerly an officer in the regular army of the United States, and lately a General in the Confederate army, has also become a Mexican citizen, and been charged with the supervision of the survey of lands for colonization. Their scheme for bringing planters from the United States to Mexico, promises even thus early, to prove almost a complete failure.

I mention these gentlemen, on account of the prominent positions, which one of them at least, has held in the United States government.

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On the 13th of this month Colonel Romon Mendez, with four hundred infantry and three hundred cavalry soldiers, overtook and defeated at Santa Anna Amatlan, the liberal forces, amounting to two thousand men, mostly infantry, under the command of General Salazar, the Centre; Salazar, the General commanding and Governor of the Department; four colonels, five lieutenant colonels, eight captains and many other subaltern officers were taken prisoners. They also captured four hundred of the troops, the armament, horses and park.

It has been reported here for the last three days, and generally believed, that on the 21st inst. Generals Arteaga and Salazar and the four Colonels were shot in Uruapan. No official account of the disposition made of them has been published.

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The 2d of this month Maximilian issued an address to the Mexican people, which he begins by saying—"The cause which Don Benito Juarez sustained with so much valor and constancy has now fallen, not only by the national will, but before the law itself, which thus he invoked in aid of his titles. To-day even the little band into which the said cause degenerated, is abandoned by the departure of its chief from his native country." He even goes on to say that the national government for a long time has been indulgent and prodigal of its clemency, in order to allow those who have been misled and do not know the facts, to unite themselves with the majority of the nation and place themselves again in the path of duty; but that this indulgence now ceases, as those alone who burns towns and who rob and assassinate peaceable citizens, miserable old men and defenceless women, would profit by it.

In accordance with the idea contained in the above mentioned address, on the 3d inst., a decree was published the first article of which decrees that those who may belong to armed bands, which may not be legally authorized, whether they claim or not any political pretexts, and whatever may be the number of those who formed the band, their organization and the character and denomination which they may give themselves, shall be judged by courts martial, and if found guilty, although it may be only of the fact of belonging to the band, shall be condemned to capital punishment and executed within twenty-four hours. other articles provide for the punishment of those who may have corresponded with, secreted, or in any way aided, those mentioned in article 1; but I refer particularly to article 1, as it shows that all those belonging to the armies fighting for the republican government will be shot if taken prisoners by the imperial troops. Article 14 grants an amnesty to those who may have belonged, or who may now belong, to such armed bands if they present themselves to the authorities before the 15th of next month.

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Some time next month, probably on the 5th, the Emperor will leave this city to visit Yucatan; the Empress will accompany him as far as Jalapa. Your obedient servant, WM. H. CORWIN.

Wm. H. Seward, Sec. of State of the U. S., Washington.

MR. ROMERO TO MR. SEWARD.

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, Nov. 20, 1865.

MR. SECRETARY—In my note of the 25th of October last I sent you a copy of a decree dated the 3d of October, issued by the usurper who pretends to be the ruler of Mexico, authorized by his signature and those of his accomplices, members of his Cabinet, in which Mexicans defending the independence of their country, and even those who conceal or aid the patriots in any way, are ordered to be punished without trial or judgment of any kind. This barbarous and bloody decree, the most cruel ever yet seen, is already being executed.

It is now my painful duty to inform you that on the 13th of October last the Generals Arteaga and Salazar, and Colonels Diaz Paracho, Villa Gomez, Perez Milicua and Villanos, five lieutenant colonels, eight commandants and a number of subordinate officers were surprised and taken prisoners by the French forces, in the town of Santa Anna Amatlan, State of Michoacan, as appears from the official despatch sent to the usurper, of which I enclose a copy in French. These generals and colonels belonged to the regular army of the republic, were officers of education and profession, and had fought for the independence of their country from the time the French first landed in Mexico. General Arteaga had reached the highest rank in the Mexican army, and had recently succeeded ex-General Uraga in command of the Army of the Centre. He was thoroughly loyal, a patriot without blemish and enjoyed a high reputation for honesty and probity among his fellow countrymen of all political shades. His constancy and suffering in the campaign against the French, Austrian and Belgian invaders in the State of Michoacan for the last two years would suffice to give him a great reputation, if he had not already possessed one. His humanity was proverbial, as the French, Belgian and Austrian soldiers who were taken prisoners by his forces at different times can testify. The other chiefs and officers who were made prisoners with General Arteaga, though they had not arrived at the high position of their leader, were not less respectable and worthy.

These distinguished Mexicans were executed in accordance with the above mentioned bloody decree of the usurper of Mexico. I have information—of the truth of which, unhappily, there is no doubt—that the two generals and four colonels were barbarously sacrificed in flagrant violation of the laws of war and every principle of justice. But the consequences of these sanguinary murders must finally be favorable to the cause of Mexican nationality; for such acts of barbarism will not be tolerated by the Mexican people, who will punish the invaders and their instrument, so openly violating the customs of nations and every principle of justice.

In communicating to you the news of these unpleasant events, I embrace the occasion to renew the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., Washington, D. C.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. BIGELOW.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 3, 1865.

SIR—I am directed by the President to request you to call the serious attention of the French government to the military proceedings in Mexico, by which native Mexicans, taken captive while adhering in war to their own republican government, are denied rights which the law of nations (verbally) accords to prisoners of war.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

W. H. SEWARD.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. BIGELOW.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 28, 1865.

SIR—With reference to my despatch of the 20th inst. (No. 297) it is now my painful duty to acquaint you that information has been received from the Minister of the republican government of Mexico accredited to this government to the effect that the sanguinary policy referred to in the above named despatch has actually been inaugurated, by the execution of several distinguished officers of the liberal forces, who had been surprised and captured by the imperialist forces in the town of Santa Anna Amatlan, namely:—Generals Arteaga and Salazar, Colonels Diaz Paracho, Villa Gomez, Perez Milicua and Villanos, five lieutenant colonels, eight commandants and a number of subordinate officers.

It devolves upon me to instruct you again to call the serious attention of the imperial government to this subject, and to inform Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys that these reports have been received with the most profound concern by the government of the United States. If, upon investigation, they should prove, as there is too strong ground for believing that they are well founded, we cannot suffer ourselves to doubt that, so far as the government of France is concerned, it can never countenance proceedings which are so repugnant to the sentiments of modern civilization and the instincts of humanity. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c. W. H. SEWARD.

MR. BIGELOW TO MR. SEWARD.

Extract.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, PARIS, Nov. 30, 1865.

SIR—

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He (Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys) here referred to the representation I had made in regard to the shooting of the Mexican prisoners taken in war, and also to the case of Madame de Yturbide. "Why," he said, "do you not go to President Juarez? We are not the government of Mexico, and you do us too much honor to treat us as such. We had to go to Mexico with an army to secure important interests, but we are not responsible for Maximilian nor his government. He is accountable to you as to any other government if he violated its rights, and you have the same remedies there that we had."

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I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient servant, JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. BIGELOW.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1865.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 25th of October last, and the ten enclosures which accompanied the same, which you communicated for the information of the government of the United States. You are pleased to call my particular attention to the most significant of these documents—namely, to the proclamation dated October 2, 1865, and to a decree of the 3d of the same month, issued by the so-called Emperor of Mexico, in the latter of which the penalty of death is to be imposed upon all Mexicans who are in arms against his authority in that republic.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that your despatch and its accompaniments, for which you will accept my thanks, have received the consideration to which they are justly entitled from this government.

You will accept, sir, the assurances of my renewed and very distinguished consideration.

W. H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., Washington, D. C.

OBITUARY.

Gerard Hallock, the American Journalist.

We announced on Friday last the demise, at New Haven, Conn., of Mr. Gerard Hallock, formerly one of the proprietors and editors of the *Journal of Commerce* of this city, and who, at one time—more than a generation ago, however—had the reputation throughout the country of being not only an able editor and writer, but as one of the most enterprising journalists of America. This reputation resulted from his connection with the *Journal of Commerce*, which at one time, in the hands of himself and David Hale, not only exercised a considerable influence on political parties, but stood first among the newspapers of the country at that period. Mr. Hallock's history is the story of early newspaper enterprise in this city, and will be found to be highly entertaining.

He was born in Plainfield, Mass., March 18, 1800, and was the son of Moses Hallock, a man famous in that locality for his upright and godly life as a minister of the Gospel, and whose career, published some years since, is a curious picture of the struggles of a poor parson in a rich country. Although very poor, Moses Hallock was enabled to give his four sons a collegiate education. Gerard Hallock entered Williams College in 1815, and though he had but a few months of preparation—having devoted most of his time to the farm, and not expecting to enter college at all until seven months before doing so—he took at once a high stand, especially in languages, and college men will appreciate the compliment which was often paid him by his classmates in summer weather when they did not care to work, but called class messages, of whom he was the centre, and to which he read and expounded the knotty passages of Sophocles and Euripides which some of the members had not the patience to unravel. He graduated in 1819, with the Greek oration and a poem, two of the highest honors. Having spent two years in teaching at Amherst, he went, in 1821, to Andover, where he enjoyed the instructions of Professor Stuart, and also gained a knowledge of German under Professor Upham. In 1822 he opened a private school in Salem, Massachusetts, where, in addition to his pupils in Latin and Greek, he had a class of seven clergymen whom he instructed in Hebrew. This class consisted of Rev. Elias Cornelius, D. D., Rev. Brown Emerson, D. D., the late Professor Worcester, Rev. Professor Muenscher, Rev. John Whiton, Rev. Mr. Oliphant and Rev. Mr. Williams. He also instructed in German Dr. Abel L. Pierson, then a young and promising physician, who, after a brilliant career, perished in the terrible accident on the New Haven Railroad at Norwalk.

In 1823 Mr. Hallock heard of an opening in Boston for a weekly newspaper, and being encouraged by the friends of the enterprise in that city undertook its establishment. His capital was three hundred dollars, loaned by these friends in small sums, no one loan exceeding twenty dollars. On this he established, in 1824, the Boston *Telegraph*, a weekly, partly secular and partly religious, which was so successful that before the end of the year he was invited by the proprietor of the Boston *Recorder* to unite the two papers. This was done in 1825. Two years later he sold out his half of the Boston *Recorder* for seven thousand five hundred dollars, and purchased one-half of the New York *Observer*, into which establishment he was invited by Professor Morse and his brother, then its proprietors, and of which well known paper Mr. Hallock became the sole acting editor, and so continued until 1828, when it was returned to the hands of Professor Morse, who, about four years ago, left it to his son and Irenæus Prime, who still edit it. Mr. Hallock left the *Observer* to enter the *Journal of Commerce* office.

The *Journal of Commerce* was started as an avowedly abolition paper in 1827 by the late Arthur Tappan, then the high priest of that order in New York. Davis Hale, however, appeared as his representative in the concern, Mr. Tappan not wishing to be publicly known as the proprietor. He gave the sum of thirty thousand dollars to start the paper, his conditions being that it should be first, absolutely abolition in principle, and secondly, strictly moral, excluding all theatrical and similar advertisements. Mr. Hale imported editors from Norfolk, Va., and Hartford, Conn. (one being named William Maxwell and another afterwards became known as the Rev. Dr. Bethbridge), to whom he paid large salaries. The paper originally had little of enterprise about it, and Mr. Tappan's thirty thousand dollars were sunk in a short time, as were also the original principles of the paper, which gradually became what would now be called conservative republican, thus conservative democratic and finally strong pro-slavery democratic. Mr. Hale was not left free to carry out his enterprises, and the *Journal* was fast losing money and gaining no reputation, when Arthur Tappan concluded to retire from its control, and made a proposition to Mr. Hallock to enter into partnership with Mr. Hale in the publication of the paper. After some hesitation Mr. Hallock accepted the proposition and became the editor of the paper, while Mr. Hale left off reporting the money markets and assumed the business management.

The first developments of the *Journal's* enterprise immediately followed the formation of this copartnership, and hence Mr. Hallock received the credit for infusing the new spirit and life into it, but the truth is that the credit of its enterprise was due to Mr. Hale; that of its character for conscientious regard for truth to Mr. Hallock. Mr. Hale, as a business manager, had all the tact, industry, courage, foresight and independence requisite to success at that time, though he would be doubtless considered "a slow coach" in this more "rapid" age. Mr. Hallock as a writer was earnest, logical and forcible, and soon gave to the paper the character as a political and financial journal which it once enjoyed. Associated with Mr. Hallock in the editorial department of the paper was Mr. Richard Houghton, who was a wonderful hand at arranging and calculating election returns—an important department of great papers in all days. These two editors, with Mr. Hale, soon made the *Journal* a necessity to every merchant and politician of old New York, and the other old papers, belonging to the Siberian period of the city journals, such as the *Gazette*, edited by Lang, the *Daily Advertiser*, edited by Theodore Dwight, and the *Mercantile Advertiser*, published by Amos Butler, soon found that a new era in the existence of the press had been inaugurated. These old papers had not the genius to successfully compete with the *Journal of Commerce* and the *Courier and Enquirer*, which had also developed considerable enterprise, and they gradually dropped out of existence to give place to a new and more enterprising class of journals. Some of them held on for a long time, but with feeble grasp. The *Gazette* was about the last to give up the ghost; and it need to be said that it continued until it had but one subscriber left. Near the *Gazette* office was the eating house of G. W. Brown, familiarly known to all the old merchants. About the time that the *Gazette* finally ceased publication, Brown's principal assistant left him and established an eating house in the Tontine buildings, and being struck with a happy idea, bought of Mr. Lang, the proprietor of the *Gazette*, the figure head of Franklin which had for years graced the front of the *Gazette* office, and placed it over the door of his restaurant. His happy idea appeared in the inscription which he placed beneath it—"Old Long Syne"—(Old Lang's sign). The caring house was ever afterwards known by that name, and it and its figure head of Franklin will doubtless be remembered by old frequenters of the vicinity of Wall and Water.

The enterprise of the old *Journal of Commerce*, as we have said, inaugurated a new era in journalism. Papers previously had not been newspapers; they were mere personal organs, and aimed to influence public opinion, not to enlighten the public mind with facts. The first development of Hale and Hallock's enterprise consisted in the organization of a plan to obtain the earliest European news. It was in the troublous times of 1830, when the great revolution in France was approaching, that the idea first struck them of obtaining foreign news ahead of the other papers. They built and equipped two small schooners, which were called the "Journal of Commerce" and "Evening Edition," and placed them in the lower bay for the purpose of cruising for the packet ships, which, in those days, brought all our European news. The other papers had only row boats as news boats, and the new idea of Hale and Halleck was laughed at as a species of extravagance which would soon result in the ruin of the *Journal*. The result proved otherwise. The paper not only by this means obtained its news ahead, but its enterprise advertised the paper all over the city. The Semaphoric telegraph, which was then in existence, would make such announcements, in various parts of the city, as that "the Journal of Commerce is in the offing, standing in," and later, "the Journal of Commerce is passing the Hook." Thus the whole city would be notified of the approaching news boat, and crowds of interested merchants would collect in the office to hear the news. When the arrivals occurred in the day no news would be delivered until an extra evening edition could be printed, when Mr. Hale would sometimes mount the counter and read it to the bystanders. There was also an associated press at that time, exclusively for the procuring of shipping news. The *Daily Advertiser*, *Courier*, *Enquirer*, *Gazette* and *Mercantile Advertiser* combined against the *Journal of Commerce* and bought the pilot boat Thomas H. Smith, and the rivalry was great between the boats of the two parties.

None of the other papers, except the *Courier and Enquirer*, however, had the energy to compete with the *Journal* in its enterprises. Though combining with the other papers, the *Courier and Enquirer* possessed all the energy of the association, and fought the *Journal* with much boldness. The rivalry between these two ran high, and neither hesitated at its means for defeating the other. Stealing each others news was considered legitimate and was practiced by both papers. On one occasion the *Journal of Commerce* was badly sold by the *Courier and Enquirer* with bogus European despatches. Whenever one paper had exclusive news ahead, the other paper would delay going to press until the other had been printed and distributed throughout the city. A copy would then be obtained, the exclusive news hastily set up, and the other paper would appear a few hours late, but still with the news in it. This trick had been played several times, when a trap was set for the *Journal of Commerce*, and it fell into it. The ship had arrived and the *Courier* had its news exclusively. General Webb, then its editor, had a small edition printed containing a long batch of highly important but bogus news, concocted in his office, and had it distributed in such a way as to ensure that one copy should fall into the hands of the *Journal* editors. The consequence was that the *Journal* appeared with the bogus news. The *Courier* gathered up its bogus edition and circulated the true news, at the same time exposing the trickery of its rival.

Pony expresses were run by both the *Journal* and *Courier* as early as 1829. The *Journal of Commerce* has also received credit as the originator of the famous "pony express" which was at one time run between Washington and this city in the interest of the newspapers. The credit is not deserved. The credit for the origination of the enterprise belongs really to the *Courier and Enquirer*, but the *Journal of Commerce* subsequently beat that paper at its own game, and for that matter beat the government express, too. A combination of the papers, headed by the *Courier and Enquirer*, started the regular pony express from Washington, and ran it for some time; but finding that the *Journal's* better organized line always beat them, they sold out to the government, which kept the line up for many years. So admirably did the line work that papers in Norfolk and Richmond could obtain Washington news through the New York papers by sea sooner than direct from Washington. Before this, however, Richard Haughton, formerly of the *Journal*, but who, in 1830, severed his connection with that paper and established the Boston *Atlas*, had been highly successful in similar enterprises. He established a system of "pony expresses," by which, with the aid of the few railroads then in Massachusetts, he was enabled to publish the election returns from every town in the State about nine o'clock on the next morning after an election. This enterprise was wonderful thirty-five years ago, and it made the *Atlas* the first paper of Bo