THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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THE PLATE WAR.

Interesting News from the Hostile Armies.

RUMORS OF PEACE UNFOUNDED.

The Paraguayans Acting on the Defensive.

NAVAL CONFLICT IMMINENT.

BRAZIL REINFORCING HER ARMIES.

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THE HERALD IN SOUTH AMERICA.

&c. &c. &c.

Our Buenos Ayres Correspondence.

BUENOS AYRES, Nov. 25, 1865.

UNFOUNDED PEACE RUMORS.

At present there are strong rumors of peace here; but as troops are hurried up to the frontiers, where the allied army is now, the rumors of peace are, without doubt, destitute of foundation. Besides, the allies have no interest in making peace; they intend to finish with the barbarian who invaded by surprise two of his neighbors at the same time, thinking to make a "grand coup" before they could get their resistance organized. The allies now have possession of all their own territory; and they have Paraguay so blockaded that she cannot pass with a canoe, and they can, therefore, wait at their leisure to augment their army with men and material, and their squadron with gunboats. Two iron-clads belonging to Brazil have just gone up to reinforce this squadron, and others are shortly expected from Rio Janeiro.

PARAGUAY MUST FALL.

Paraguay must fall, even if no more fighting be done; her army is demoralized, and her tyrant, Lopez, has no confidence in his officers, and they have none in him, and they are both perfectly right in their estimate of each other. Two of the Paraguayan generals are now in prison—one for drunkenness and one for "suspicion of treason."

LOPEZ'S DETERMINATION.

Lopez says that every man and woman in Paraguay shall perish before the allies shall be allowed to take the country; but the men and women may not be so anxious to sacrifice themselves as he is to sacrifice them. It is only a question of time. Paraguay must fall, fight or no fight.

THE AMERICAN MINISTER TO PARAGUAY.

Mr. Washburne, our Minister to Paraguay, with his lady, arrived here about three weeks ago. No one can imagine why government sent out a Minister to Paraguay at this time. The government probably had no particular object except to fill up an appointment authorized by law. As to the Minister himself, it was doubtless the salary that brought him out.

THE HERALD IN SOUTH AMERICA.

The HERALD is now well known and acknowledged here as an authority. Heretofore the London and Paris journals have had the field all to themselves.

ESTIMATE OF MR. JOHNSON ABROAD.

The most wonderful man of the age appears to be our President, Mr. Johnson; nobody knew him—at least in these far off countries; but thanks to the HERALD we are getting to understand him now.

When, by the sudden and violent death of the lamented Lincoln, the destinies of a great country at a most critical moment became confided to the hands of an unknown and untried pilot, it was natural that we should have fears; but with consummate skill, and a wisdom that is above all praise, Mr. Johnson has shown himself fully up to the requirements of his elevated and important position—by very far the most important for the future welfare of mankind that is occupied at this time by any human being on the face of the earth.

Our Buenos Ayres Correspondence.

BUENOS AYRES, Nov. 26, 1865.

THE EMIGRATION MOVEMENT.

The plans and projects for sending out from the United States large bodies of emigrants hardly meet with such attention at home as they do here. It is certain that in this country there is such a desire for immigration that any promise of it is eagerly seized. It is also certain that there is no country in the world from which this government would be so glad to receive colonists as from the United States. These facts, to me, make all Americans interested in any movement on foot for colonizing these pampas with American laborers.

THE FIRST ATTEMPT.

Not long since General Wood, with a few others, visited Brazil, and provided for a settlement near the mouth of the Tocantins river. Occasional arrivals in this city, from any part of the United States and Canada, indicate that the eyes of distant and diverse regions are fixed on South America. I wish in this letter to serve my countrymen by giving them some correct information as to the attractions and promises of these regions. Let the result send multitudes to this country or deter them from it; but let the truth be known and let it be the basis of every enterprise.

A VERY VALUABLE INTERIOR PRODUCT.

The staple product of this country was first the product of the herd—hides, horns, hoofs, hair, tallow, bones. When the pampas first produced for foreign lands hides only were exported, but gradually the other parts of the animal have appeared in commerce. At present the flesh is still the least valuable part for export. It is made into jerked beef, by cutting in long thin slabs, drying and salting, and is then exported, chiefly to Cuba and other Spanish islands. There it is not used except by the poor and by the slaves. For any market yet opened for the hard product there is no place where the cattle can be reared except where the land has very little value; accordingly all the cattle farms are on the frontier, where the land has not yet been in market or where the squatter pays no rent. At times we find farms of immense size on which cattle still abound, but they are farms lately brought under cultivation, and the cattle are kept in them to eat down the coarse grass and prepare the land for sheep. No satisfactory method yet appears for preparing South American beef for the foreign market. The hens that eat the animals fed only on grass, that the killing season is in the end of summer, and that most of animals killed young, prevent that solidity necessary in beef destined for packing. It is hoped that some method will be devised for preparing our beef for Europe. Where fine or desirable breeding can be pursued on good farms. The sheep is the staple animal and food the staple product of South America. They are kept in flocks of two, one thousand to fifteen hundred, and, as land is owned by the privilegiados, frequently in extensive tracts, they are put on the vacant square leagues. Shearers are procured, by the great growers, for the season, in the city, about 18 to 20 in number, for each establishment, at a fixed price. A fine shearer can handle thirty in a day, for which he receives $1 50 each. The price of wool is brought to about $1 50 gold. The price of labor is very high, and also increasing. Monthly wages are about $15 to $20 in gold, and board, and, for a square league, a good overseer, improved land, wages, all the way up from this point to five times the sum, through for rent, sometimes for the range of a flock of sheep, including a small house for the shepherd and a large pen for the sheep at night, can be had at from $110 to $200, silver, per annum.

Sheep are often given on shares. The shepherd must buy one-third, or one-fourth of the flock, and receive the same fraction of the wool and the increase. The shepherd is sometimes obliged to pay a part or all of the value of the rent.

CAPITAL REQUIRED FOR SUCCESS.

There is no kind of beginning in any of these directions that invites a man without capital. The time was when, with little competition, few immigrants, cheap land and labor, a man with no capital could work his way into wealth in a few years. But that time has gone by. There are openings for hired men, great call for hired labor; but the chances are quite as few as in the United States for the hired laborer to become a capitalist. Indeed, if we reckon his expenses of voyage and settlement, which at home would be ready capital for investment, the disadvantages of acquiring a new language and of forming new habits and modes of life, the difference would seem to be in favor of remaining in the United States.

IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.

At length the dawn of agriculture is rising on the River Plate. Colonies from various parts of Europe—peasants accustomed to hard work and poor returns—have been induced to take small tracts of land and cultivate with the industry and economy acquired on a sterile soil amid great competition. In every place where it has been fairly tried agriculture has succeeded. The chief product is wheat; but Indian corn and potatoes are also produced abundantly.

In the province of Santa Fé, near the old city of that name, there are two agricultural settlements, now about ten years old, including together about five hundred and fifty families, chiefly from Switzerland; but some are from Germany and some from France. They have farms of about eighty acres each, and each colonist acquired a certain number of oxen, cows, implements and seed for beginning. The harvests have been uncertain, and various events have retarded the progress of these colonies. But the mud ranch is rapidly disappearing before the brick farm house; wagons and horses and milch cows are among the sources and signs of their wealth. In every case where a man has had health, and with sobriety and industry has carried on his work, he is on the way to wealth.

NO WINTER FOR THE FARMER.

In this climate there is for the farmer no winter. His garden is green in the coldest month, and his cattle can subsist on wild grass, except as it is cut off by a rare drought. There is no climate where wheat grows better or is easier tilled and stored. It is reaped by machines and thrashed in the open field, making barns useless.

EMIGRANTS' COLONIES.

Into the province of Entre Rios there have gone several colonies. One, called "La Colonia de Urquiza," is, perhaps, the most prosperous. If so, it is because it has the best men, the most energetic farmers. It is located near the city of Parana, the former national capital, and is spread over a tract of land three miles square. This square league is divided into farms of about thirty acres each, every one of which must have a road around it; but there is no limit to the number of improved farms that any one man may own. The average crop of wheat varies from twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre. Cotton grows as well as in Georgia or Mississippi, but labor is so dear and scarce that hands cannot be found in the right time to save it. Wheat can be cut and thrashed by machinery, and the Parana river at the foot of the hill is as good as a canal for conveying it to a market, where it brings $1 25 per bushel.

Within a short time some enterprising Americans have gone to that colony and have given it new life. The little farms have risen in price; there are to-day ready for the reaping machine over 2,500 acres of good wheat, and last year there were some fifteen tons of cotton gathered.

NATURAL PRODUCTIONS.

The climate produces apples, peaches, lemons, oranges, quinces, grapes, figs and plums in great abundance. As an indication of the price of land, these little farms of thirty acres each, with a ranch, corral, and the whole farm fenced, can be had at from $160 to $700, silver. Oxen are worth about $25, silver, a pair; milch cows $10 each; horses $12 each. The land is rich, undulating, has shallow wells of water, and the outskirts are studded with trees.

THE WAR ABOUT OVER.

The war with Paraguay is regarded as about over. The Paraguayan forces have all retired to their own bounds, and there are rumors of a proposition for peace coming from them. Meantime there is a suspension of recruiting, and there is a general expectation that the war is over.

Wool being to come in by tons and tons. The prices continue low, ranging from 50c to 85c for 25 pounds for good mixed wools, with currency at 250c to the silver dollar. Money continues abundant and cheap. Interest is low. A good deal of wool will be shipped this year to the United States.

War or Peace.

[From the Buenos Ayres Standard, Dec. 8.]

The packet from the River Plate has brought us the intelligence that the Paraguayan Dictator President had sent down, under flag of truce, sealed documents to General Mitre, the President of the Argentine Confederation, and public expectation has generally ascribed this mysterious missive to a desire on the part of Lopez to come to terms of arrangement, if not with the allies unitedly, at least with the Argentine Confederation. Coupling this fact with the tenor of Lopez's manifesto to the neutral Powers, there seems to be reasonable grounds for the belief so generally entertained that Lopez, finding himself overmastered, is anxious to treat while yet powerful, rather than run the risk of events which might prostrate Paraguay powerless at the feet of the enemies he has provoked, and which would, beyond doubt, oust him from his present position as dictator over that State.

In anticipating on the result of proposals on the part of Lopez at the present moment it is worthy of consideration what is the attitude in which the respective combatants stand to each other, and what are the conjoined and separate interests which may be supposed to sway the allies in their response to proffers of peace made to them now.

It must be evident to all impartial observers of the rapid development of the allied Powers of offence that the withdrawal of the Paraguayans from the province of Corrientes and the district of Missiones has operated most disadvantageously for the former, because, had the Paraguayan army awaited them and accepted battle, attacked as it would have been by a force superior both in numbers and equipment, a victory could reasonably have been expected by the allies, and the victory, if vigorously and effectively followed up, must have resulted in the capture of almost the totality of the Paraguayan troops and cannon, flanked as these would have been by the Brazilian fleet, which would have at once obtained the demolition of the lower Parana, and probably have been enabled to defeat an escape by the crossing at Paso de Patria.

The conjoined allied cause has therefore suffered by the retreat of the Paraguayans; not so, however, that of the Argentines, who, to their great and most agreeable surprise, find themselves not only with their territory freed from an insulting force, whose presence was menacing alike to their union and their integrality, but actually discover themselves in unexpected possession of the fine district of Missiones, which, though claimed by them as part of the Confederation, can be made an integer of Paraguay, and as such unconditionally held and governed by Paraguayan authorities.

So far, then, the Argentine Confederation may reasonably judge that its entity and its losses by the ravaging of Corrientes are amply repaid by a certain increase of unity of feeling among the members of the Confederation, such as the exhibition of power by the general government and some degree of success in the results of the war must effect; and by the extinguishing of the Paraguayan pretensions to Missiones and the obtaining thereby of the Upper Parana as the frontier line in that direction, and it thus may feel inclined to meet any propositions of Lopez on the basis of uti possidetis.

On the other hand limit has gained in the course of events little of immediate and separate advantage to herself, for the invasion of Rio Grande was not a direct attack upon Brazil, but was merely incidental upon Lopez's plans for the spoiling of the Blanco and federal partisans in the Banda Oriental and Entre Rios—plans which the battle of Yatay and the surrender of Uruguayana disconcerted and destroyed.

The bloody engagement of Riachuelo, fought with Brazilian vessels and won by Brazilian gallantry and blood, protected her allies more than herself, and saved the Argentine Confederation and the Banda Oriental from invasion by Paraguay. Had that battle been lost by the Brazilians what would have been the result? The Plata dominated by the Paraguayan fleet, and the great power at the mouth of its channel, the powerful Blanco party in the Banda Oriental upraised, the discontented Entre Rios in arms, and both leading material aid to the Paraguayans, who would then have been in a position to dictate terms of peace and annexation at Montevideo and Buenos Ayres, the seats of the Oriental republic and the Argentine confederation.

Brazil was thus, once more, the saviour of the Banda Oriental and of the unity and the independence of the Argentine Confederation. Brazil has, once more, carried the gratitude of the Confederation for preserving it from division and despotism; and she might fairly have expected more courteous acknowledgment of her services than the jealous disparagements and invidious comments of the Argentine officers and journals.

The President of the Confederation and many of the other officers of state are, however, men of enlightened views and progress—men far-seeing in their policy and honorable in its pursuance; men such as, it cannot be doubted, will not abandon their ally at the moment when their overpowerments in the war are superbly achieved, but will cordially encounter to carry out the provisions of the triple alliance treaty, extensively from the seat of Lopez, and likewise from the conviction that, in the destruction of the Paraguayan power of Paraguay they will rid the Confederation of a source of dangerous ambition which was always menacing to the unity and peace of their country.

Should, however, Brazil have to enter upon the most arduous phase of the struggle—the expulsion of the Paraguayans from Mato Grosso, the opening of the navigation of the Paraguay and the exaction of security against similar violation in the future—she may with lukewarm allies—a what position would she stand to effect her objects in this war?

Lopez is now standing on the defensive behind a wide and generally deep river of difficult navigation, his army concentrated and investing an strategic points, his flotilla protected behind heavy batteries and ready to issue when occasion offers. His losses, however, have been severe, and Riachuelo, Yatay and Uruguayana, with the smaller engagements, have cost him several thousands and at the lowest computation sixteen thousand men in killed and prisoners, or, allowing for those put *hors de combat* by disease, fully one half of the fifty thousand men with which his captured field officers report him to have commenced the war. These losses are irreparable, for the population of Paraguay is small and the extremes of age among the prisoners taken show that he had taxed its powers to the utmost. Paraguay also is not a great horse and cattle raising country, like its neighbors on the Parana and Uruguay, for the existence of a fly pest ruins that business in great districts of Paraguay proper; and though large numbers of horses were collected in the plunder of Corrientes, the destruction of horses by the Gaucho riders is so fearful that even the allied cavalry, with so many regions to draw upon, is already almost two-thirds dismounted and forced to await supplies, while the Paraguayan cavalry, known for some time to have been in a wretched condition, has no resources of the kind, and this want will be most sensibly felt when trans-Parana Paraguay is invaded and its territory open to the raids of the enemy's cavalry.

On the other hand Brazil has now marching through Matto Grosso some three thousand well equipped and drilled men, with twelve rifled cannon, who, with the aid of several thousand of the national guards and others, under arms at Cuyaba, should be able to render account of the diminished number of Paraguayans who hold the Upper Paraguay as far as S. Lourenco, and either capture them and the three small steamers they have or force them to abandon that country and retreat to Paraguay.

On the south side of Paraguay Brazil has now assembled some fourteen war steamers, including an iron-clad, small but powerful for attack or resistance, and some forty thousand troops, chiefly infantry, all well disciplined and armed with rifles, a weapon which the Paraguayans are very deficient in. Every week is adding one or two thousand to the number; thousands are ready for transport, and two more iron-clads are about to join her fleet.

The Banda Oriental and Her Probable Future.

[Montevideo (Nov. 20) correspondence of the Buenos Ayres Standard.]

For more than fifty years the Banda Oriental has pretended to be an independent nation. If the word "independent," when applied to a nation, means freedom from the control of others and ability to maintain and defend itself, then that word never has had any right to be applied to the Banda Oriental. During the whole of these fifty years of miscalled independence she has merely been a little national shuttlecock, bandied about by the different players, native and foreign, that have had alternate possession or control of her.

The Portuguese had possession of her for a short time. Rosas, through Oribe, had possession for eight or nine years of all her territory, except Montevideo. Since then she has been half a dozen different times in possession or under the control of each of the factions into which her native population is divided. The total population of the Banda Oriental does not exceed, if it amounts to, one hundred and seventy-five thousand souls. It is impossible to ascertain exactly the number of her population, because there are no reliable statistics. We can only arrive at an approximation of her numbers; and all approximations, based on suppositions, are extremely liable to be overrated. The Brazilian population, residing almost exclusively in the provinces of the republic that limit the Brazilian empire, is estimated at thirty thousand souls. The European population, consisting of French, Italian, English, German, the emigrants from the Canary Islands, and the Spanish, including Basques, may be set down at seventy-five thousand to eighty thousand souls. This class of population, besides being spread over the country upon estancias, constitutes the chief population of Montevideo and of all the river towns of importance. They are the wholesale merchants, and form a large part of all those engaged in the retail trade. The shipwrights, caulkers, carpenters, masons, plasterers, turners, blacksmiths, hotel and tavern keepers, grocers, bakers, coppersmiths, tinsmiths, shoemakers, tailors and hatters, all belong to this class of the population. The river navigation, in all its ramifications, is exclusively in their hands, and it is this class of the population that cultivates all the "chacras and quintas" in the neighborhood of all the important river towns. It is the bone and sinew of the country; it is, *par excellence*, the producing and paying population. More than half of all the duties, taxes and imposts, of every name, nature and description that are collected in the republic is paid by this class of the population. The native population does not probably exceed, if it reaches, sixty thousand souls. In the Argentine portion of the population he is quite distinct from the Oriental, the latter does not probably exceed fifty thousand souls. Many persons suppose that it does not exceed forty to forty-five thousand. But, no matter whether it be forty, fifty or sixty, or one hundred thousand, it is alike utterly impossible for such a handful of people to maintain an independent government. It is on the face of it a simple absurdity, and does not require the confirmation of its practical impossibility, which the experience of the last fifty years in the Banda Oriental so conclusively furnishes. The native population contains a great many intelligent and intelligent men, considering how enfeebled and ignorant in total numbers that population is. This may be accounted for in part by the fact that all governing of employment, including the representative and judiciary, is exclusively in their possession by virtue of citizenship. Of course it is natural that a considerable portion of them should be educated sufficiently to enable them to occupy creditably the positions they have so exclusive right to. Whatever may be the reason, it is certain that the native population contains a large proportionate number of intelligent men.

The great producing and paying class have no voice whatever in the government of the country. But it is this class of the population that must ultimately pay all the expenses of wars, and all the devastations, usurious loans and robberies, great and small, that must occasion.

Direct taxes and custom house duties are constantly augmented, and those augmentations will continue to exist and continue to increase until the country be annexed to some larger nationality, capable not only of affording protection and security for life and liberty, but also capable of affording the inhabitants protection in their business, by abolishing unjust burdens, establishing reasonable imposts, and promoting and protecting all industrial and commercial pursuits; a protection the weakness and the constantly increasing accusation and indebtedness of the Banda Oriental government never can afford.

It is not probable that the Argentine republic would be willing to assume the payment of the twenty million patacons, more or less which the Banda Oriental government now owes, and the ten millions additional which she will owe when the Brazilian reclamations are adjusted and the Paraguayan war concluded. Besides, the Argentine republic does not require the Banda Oriental in order to give her territory a natural geographical boundary—a point of the very highest national importance, since it diminishes the chances of discord, and powerfully tends to the preservation of peace between contiguous nations.

The Emperor Louis Napoleon proposed that the inhabitants of the Schleswig-Holstein provinces should be allowed to choose the government they prefer. This proposition seemed so reasonable that it was not agreed to, and the Schleswig-Holstein question remains unsettled, and may yet produce a war.

If the inhabitants of the Banda Oriental were allowed to choose the government they prefer—and no power has a right to prevent them from doing so—they would, by a very large majority, prefer being annexed to Brazil.

The Brazilians living in the republic would all vote for annexation to their own country, and of the 75 or 80,000 other foreigners residing in the country, nine-tenths would vote for annexation to Brazil.

Some few, who thrive by contracts with weak governments, and others who know how to thrive when ruin and desolation overwhelm the community, may be opposed to annexation, but the great mass of the community, who live by honest occupations, are in favor of annexation; they are tired of war and its unspeakable miseries, and desire peace, security and tranquillity.

For Brazil the Banda Oriental would be a most valuable acquisition than for the Argentine republic, and she would not feel the assumption of the thirty millions of patacons so sensibly as the Argentine republic would, not only because she has larger resources, but because half the amount would be owing where to her government or her citizens.

The annexation of Banda Oriental to Brazil would give the latter a navigable water boundary for nearly the whole extent of her empire, besides adding a territory a magnificent and beautiful region of country, capable of producing vigorous and handsome men and women, that should hereafter furnish a large part of the soldiers destined to be required in the government of this immense empire, which is only just now dawning into importance.

Such annexation would also greatly and immediately benefit the Banda Oriental. All real estate would double in value, and capital and population, by reason of the security and protection thus afforded, would flow into this highly favored country in a copious and uninterrupted stream. The great natural advantages of the Banda Oriental would then be developed as they deserve to be, but as they never have been, because her unlucky governments have always kept her plunged in civil wars and overwhelmed with debt.

Since the introduction of steamers, railroads and telegraphs, it does not matter much in what part of an empire the capital be placed, provided it be in undoubtedly healthy part and, if possible, accessible to all nations. It is, therefore, not at all improbable that Montevideo should become the capital of the empire in case of annexation to Brazil.

Brazil is a constitutional representative monarchy. She is free enough and republican enough for all practical purposes of good, and the hereditary form of her Executive gives her stability. Perhaps, property and liberty of opinion are guaranteed and efficiently protected, and the constitutional rights of all scrupulously respected. This probably accounts for the well known enthusiastic attachment of the Brazilians to their government and to their Emperor, who is a sensible and honorable man, and richly merits the ardent attachment of his subjects by devoting himself assiduously, intelligently and constitutionally to the promotion of their interests.

Sailing of the Moravian.

PORTLAND, Jan. 21, 1866.

The steamship Moravian, Captain Alton, sailed at her usual hour this morning.

The Steamer Raleigh at Charleston.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20, 1866.

We notice in your paper of this date that the steamer Raleigh put into Charleston in distress. This is not correct, as she went to Charleston to take the cargo of steamer George Cromwell to New Orleans. Will you please correct this and oblige.

J. FERGUSON, FOX & CO.

MEXICO.

Return of President Juarez to El Paso from Chihuahua.

Reoccupation of the Latter City by the Imperialists.

DECREES OF THE PRESIDENT.

Extension of His Term of Office and Censure of Ortega.

The Late Execution of Liberal Prisoners.

Protest to Maximilian from Belgian Prisoners in the Hands of the Liberals.

Energetic Appeal to the Belgian Representatives.

IMPORTANT FROM THE WEST COAST.

Application of the French Minister for Information Regarding the Capture of Bagdad.

Nothing Official Relative to the Affair Received in Washington.

General Sheridan Instructed to Punish Any United States Soldiers Implicated.

&c. &c. &c.

The Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21, 1866.

Official news from El Paso to the 23d of December has been received here.

The French marched in great force against the city of Chihuahua, and the Mexican government had to abandon it.

On the 9th President Juarez left Chihuahua with his Cabinet and his army, and came to El Paso, arriving there on the 18th.

The French occupied Chihuahua on the 11th.

The Mexican forces under General Jesurez retreated fifty miles from Chihuahua, annoying the French.

President Juarez was very well received by the people of El Paso.

The news from the interior is represented as very good for the national cause.

The French Minister has made a demand upon the State Department for information relative to the recent affair of Bagdad, Mexico, by Yankee filibusters. Up to last night no official information relative thereto had been received at the department; consequently M. de Montholon could not be gratified. Instructions were telegraphed to General Sheridan immediately on receipt of intelligence of the affair, requiring him to make a thorough investigation and punish the offenders.

Several prominent French officers, direct from the Maximilian government in Mexico, passed through the capital to-day, on their way to France, and give flattering accounts of imperial prospects without giving any specific details.

Our San Francisco Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29, 1865.

The friends of Mexico are stirring energetically in the matter of introducing arms into the republic and preparing for a new campaign against the invaders. I have just left General Don Pedro Ogazon, commander of the Department of Jalisco, who, after an absence of over a year, during which he has visited New York, and made numerous efforts to reach Guadalajara, the capital of his State, without success, leaves for that city by the Juan L. Stephens on Sunday next. The recent revolution in the State of Lower California enables him to this reach the point he desires, as he can, and will, land at Cape St. Lucas, and from thence it is an easy matter to reach the main land of Mexico by a small coasting vessel, which will put him ashore at some point on the coast not occupied by the French. He carries out with him the means and authority for organizing a force against the French in Jalisco, of which he will at once assume command in the name of the liberal government. As the French are on the watch for him out there, and his photograph has been distributed among the commanders of their naval and land forces, he goes in disguise, and under an assumed name. To take any other course would be to court certain death, as this would be his fate should he fall into the hands of the invaders. He and his friends are very confident of the complete overthrow of the imperial government at an early day. The report of the occupation of Chihuahua by the French—received here by telegraph from New York to-day—is known to be a forgery. The date of yesterday has the following concerning affairs in the Department of Durango:—

Mr. William Coleman, who left here a year ago for San Blas and other Mexican towns, in pursuit of health, came up from Acapulco on the steamship Sacramento. He brings very late news from the forces of General Alvarez. In fact, he left his camp at Providencia, twenty-eight miles east of Acapulco, as late as the 20th ult. Our informant left the city of Mexico on July 17, and has been travelling leisurely southward since that date. He spent four days very pleasantly in the camp of General Diaz Alvarez. He first found him, however, at Atoyac, only eight miles from Acapulco. The general believes the liberal party will certainly succeed, whether or not they get substantial assistance from Americans. He expresses great and serious hopes that the government of the United States will interfere, and drive the French at once from the land. He is willing to give our people everything, almost, to insure immigration to the country and a protectorate over it. The General says that he is terribly harassed by the French at Acapulco. It is so hot that they can't sleep by day, and at night his men continually make raids into the town, and succeed invariably drive them to the ships and forts back of the town. In truth, they do not give the subjects of Maximilian any rest. So reduced is the garrison that but three hundred men remain fit for duty. Many have left sick and all are disgusted. They cannot get a pound of provisions from the back country. Alvarez says that in an emergency he could raise ten thousand seven hundred men. The entire country between Acapulco to within a short distance of the city of Mexico is in the possession of the liberals. They have arms, ammunition and provisions in abundance. General Pierro is deemed the finest cavalry officer in the service. He has about four hundred horsemen, and is continually scouring the country. A portion of the family of General Alvarez is with him at Providencia. Alvarez is constantly in the saddle, and makes frequent and thorough explorations of the adjacent country.

Interesting Official Documents.

We have received the *Periodico Oficial*—the official organ of the republican government of Mexico—published at El Paso on November 9. The sheet is filled with a lengthy decree from President Juarez and a circular from the republican Minister of the Interior, the former extending the presidential term until a general election can be held, and showing the necessity for the measure, while the circular refers to the prolonged absence abroad without leave of General Ortega, the former President of the supreme Court of Mexico and constitutional successor to the Presidency in the event of the office becoming vacant during the term. General Ortega is severely censured for abandoning the republican cause, being charged with deserting from the army in the field, and ordered to report himself forthwith for trial.

The Republica, a liberal journal representing the interests of the republican Army of the Centre, and issued at Nocupetaro, in the State of Michoacan, has published the following documents in French and Spanish:—

TO THE GENERAL COMMANDING THE REPUBLICAN ARMY OF THE CENTRE.

GENERAL—Our hearts were filled with indignation upon learning the outrages committed upon officers of your army by Colonel Mendez; and we cannot do less than send the following protest to Maximilian, which we are convinced will be concurred in by all our brothers. We beg, therefore, General, that you will cause it to be sent to the other Zitacuaro prisoners, who will hasten to sign it, in order that it may be laid before Maximilian's Cabinet as speedily as possible. Accept, General, the expression of the respect of your prisoners.

BREUER, FLACHAT,
GUYOT, VAN HOLLENBECK.

TACAMBARO, Oct. 23, 1865.

SIRE—We have learned with horror and dismay of the act committed by Colonel Mendez, who, in violation of all the laws of humanity and war, has executed a number of officers of the liberal army taken prisoners by him. In all civilized countries military officers respect prisoners of war. The liberal army—to which you refuse to accord even the name of army—pays a greater respect to those laws than the leaders of your forces; for we, who are prisoners, are respected by all, from generals down to private soldiers. Were we not with a genuine liberal force the act of Colonel Mendez might provoke a bloody revenge; and we Belgians, who came to Mexico solely in order to act as a guard to our princess, but whom you have forced to fight against principles identical with our own, might have exploded with our blood the crime of a man who is a traitor to his country. We hope, Sire, that this act of barbarity will not remain unpunished, and that you will cause the laws existing among all civilized nations to be respected. We protest most earnestly against this unworthy act, hoping that the Belgian name will not much longer continue mixed up with this inquitous war.

BREUER, FLACHAT,
GUYOT, VAN HOLLENBECK,

and two hundred others.

TACAMBARO, Oct. 24, 1865.

TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BELGIAN NATION:—

GENTLEMEN—The Mexican question has frequently been discussed by you, but the chief point has been the legality or illegality of recruiting for the Belgian Legion. Now, however, an event of great gravity obliges us to call your attention to it anew. The lives of two hundred Belgian prisoners are involved. Considering the question some time back, the force was intended solely as a guard of honor voluntarily offered for the protection of a Belgian princess. The Emperor, disregarding the special service for which the legion was destined and the neutrality of the Belgian nation, ordered us to take the field, and, being Belgian soldiers, we obeyed, and marched to the front cheerfully, animated by the love of war. Although we achieved triumphs, we also, unfortunately, sustained reverses, and two hundred of us Belgians are prisoners. Without taking our position into consideration the Emperor recently issued a decree which may cause terrible results. It announces to the republicans that after the 15th November all persons caught with arms in their hands would be shot. At the commencement of this month an imperialist colonel, named Mendez—an ex-republican, who sold himself to the empire—a man hating the Belgians, took a large number of prisoners from the republican army in a fight, including two generals and several officers of inferior rank, whom he caused to be shot, without regard to military law and without waiting for the expiration of the period fixed by the decree, stating, after the execution, to persons who remonstrated with him upon the enormity of the deed, "What matters it? They can only be Belgians!" Thus all hope in the fate of the other (French) prisoners has been extinguished.

We expected that all the Belgian prisoners would be put to death in the republic of Mexico, being great and generous enough to show nothing deserved to act until after learning the action of the administration of the empire towards Mendez.

The Emperor never liked this man. He has already punished our brave colonel and he may imprison the officer of all the Belgian prisoners.

Gentlemen, it is moment upon you to intervene. The Belgian Legion desired long since to return to its native country. It did not wish to take part in this intoxication, or to serve longer under a flag to wherein great doubt are allowed to be committed.

Representatives of the nation, your duty calls you to act whenever the Belgian name is at stake. This is not a question of party, but of nationality.

Representatives of Belgium, remember our motto, "Union and strength." It behooves you to speak. We call upon you in the name of Belgium, whose honest confidence has been abused. Representatives of Belgium, it behooves you to see that the blood of Belgians is not sacrificed. In the name of the country do your duty.

BREUER.

On behalf of the Belgian prisoners taken by the republican army.

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Opening of Steam Communication Between San Francisco and Honolulu.

OUR COMMERCE WITH THE ISLANDS.

&c. &c. &c.

Our San Francisco Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 30, 1865.

The steamship Ajax departs for Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, on next Saturday, January 6. She is the pioneer ship of a regular line to ply between this port and Honolulu, owned by the California Steam Navigation Company. Her dimensions are as follows:—Length over all, 225 feet; depth of hold, 25 feet; breadth of beam, 35 feet 4 inches; registers 1,524 tons; carrying capacity, 2,000 tons. Accommodations for two hundred first cabin passengers and several hundred steerage. Passage $75 and $40.

The passage is expected to occupy eight days. One link of the great chain of communication around the world was wanting—viz., the connection of the Western shores of the United States with that vast Eastern continent, beginning at the Amoor and ending with the Hooghly. This line of steamers will partially supply that want, and open fresh field for California enterprise. Five thousand miles of steam communication to Japan and China is now open. A few years ago the commerce with Honolulu was limited to about one vessel a month; now there are three lines of packets plying, and clipper ships, bound for China, find it worth their while to stop for refreshments and passage to Honolulu.

It is proposed to despatch two steamers each month, and from the large amount of passenger and freight carrying there can be no doubt the business will be remunerative, as the trade is constantly increasing. Coal, water, fresh meats and vegetables can be procured during the trip from San Francisco to China. The contracts for carrying the Chinese and Japanese mails to leave from San Francisco, with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, come into force in about six months, but before that time arrives we hope to hear of some of our merchant princes at Hong Kong or Shanghai having established a line of steamships in conjunction with those of the California Steam Navigation Company, and running from Japan and China to Honolulu; or may be the company itself, encouraged by the success that will attend their enterprise, will carry their line of ocean steamers to the Eastern Hemisphere.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

REPREHENSIBLE CONDUCT OF RAILROAD EMPLOYES.

On Saturday afternoon William Troy, employed by the Harlem Railroad Company, discovered the dead body of Hugh Shelly, foreman in the employ of the company, lying on the track in the mouth of the tunnel at Ninety-second street and Fourth avenue, his body evidently having been crushed beneath a train of cars, as it was horribly mutilated. Officers Buckley and Miller, of the Twenty-third precinct, were notified, and proceeded to convey the remains to the station house. The officers found it necessary to pass through the tunnel, which extends from Seventy-ninth or Ninety-seventh street, and to impede them from the danger of being run down by passing trains while making the underground passage the officers stated that they requested John Mellerney, foreman of a gang of laborers on that section of the road, to flag the trains for them, but he refused. He also refused them the use of a hand car on which to convey the remains to the station house, and utterly refused to render any assistance whatever. The Coroner was notified to hold an inquest over the remains. Deceased was fifty-five years of age and a native of Ireland. He lived at Ninety-third street.

Last evening Coroner Wilkey held an inquest upon the body. From the evidence, it would appear that deceased went into the tunnel for the purpose of ascertaining if everything was all right, and seeing a New Haven train approaching on the down track, stepped aside to allow it to pass. Unfortunately he had not noticed that a Harlem train was coming from an opposite direction, and from the fact that the only mark of violence is a bruise upon the head, it is conjectured that he must have then been struck by some portion of the train. A verdict of accidental death was rendered.

The Eaton and Hamilton Railroad.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 21, 1866.

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars in bonds of the Eaton and Hamilton Railroad, held by the city of Cincinnati, were sold yesterday for one hundred thousand dollars cash.

SHIPWRECK.

Loss of the Steamer Charles Benton.

She Becomes Disabled in the Gale of the 7th and is Abandoned Off Hatteras on the 15th.

&c. &c. &c.

We are indebted to the purser of the steamer Charles Benton for the following interesting particulars of the abandonment of that vessel at sea on the 15th inst.:—

The steamer Charles Benton sailed from Newbern, N. C., on her return trip to New York, on the 6th inst., at 5 P. M., with a full cargo and deck load of cotton and six days' fuel, the average length of the run being about three days. On the 7th, at 10 A. M., passed through Hatteras Inlet, and headed northward, with a fine southerly breeze, vessel going about eight knots. At 4 P. M. a heavy gale sprang up from the north, which continued with terrific violence, accompanied with snow and sleet, until Wednesday evening, the 10th, when the wind somewhat abated, the sea, on the contrary, rising, for the strength of the gale had made "a long sea," which did not have much effect on the ship. At this time were steering N. E., sea running very high. About 6 P. M. lost the rudder; but by setting the foremail, reefed, managed to keep her head to wind. The next morning (11th) all hands set to making a new one, using for the purpose a topmast and as heavy planking as could be obtained. At noon found by observation that we were about one hundred miles northeast of Hatteras, having been blown across the Gulf Stream and out of the usual track of vessels. In the afternoon tried the new rudder, which, however, was smashed up in a few moments.

Next day (12th) rigged another one on the small principle, which would not work. As may be well imagined all on board were in a high state of alarm from the fact that, besides being without any steering power, but very little coal and provisions remained. In the afternoon took down one of the boat's davits and commenced building a third rudder, but found it would not be strong enough to stand the heavy seas. About 5 P. M. sighted a schooner, the Robert Colver, the first vessel seen for some days, which, on our hoisting the signal of distress, came alongside and made as if she would lay by us all night. By this time it had been concluded to abandon the steamer in the event of our not being able to get a tow, which the schooner could not do; so the next morning were much distressed at her not being in sight, she having left us during the night.

On the morning of the 13th took work of the evening before to pieces, and got out a large two and a half inch iron grating from the engine room, which, after being clamped on to the davit, was planked over strongly and bolted. In order to be able to work at this had to heave overboard the deck load of cotton. Also on this day began using rosin—part of cargo—as fuel, which, however, would burn well.

14th (Sunday).—Got the iron rudder fixed, and it seemed to answer as well as expected. Steered W. by N. Found that there were but three days' provisions left. Vessel leaking considerably, but kept the leak down with the steam pump.

15th, 4 A. M.—Lost one of the rudder guys, but fixed up another. Noon, lat. 34 29, lat. 36 29, sighted a brig steering W. N. W., and signalled her; she still running very high. One P. M. steering rope parted, leaving the vessel completely helpless. Two P. M., brig alongside,