# THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

## Important Diplomatic Correspondence.

### Napoleon's Reasons for Not Withdrawing the French Troops at the Time Stipulated.

### Mr. Bigelow's Interview with the Emperor.

### Instructions of Our Government to Gen. Sherman and Minister Campbell.

### Our Mission to Mexico Eminently Satisfactory to the French Emperor.

&c., &c., &c.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE HERALD.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1866.

Secretary Seward has been for two days in attendance upon the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, testifying principally in regard to the Mexican imbroglio. He has laid before the committee the correspondence of this government with that of France, and other important State papers bearing upon the subject, all of which will afford the public a much clearer insight into the Mexican business than has hitherto been accorded. It will be seen, from the official documents which follow, how perfectly accurate have been the statements furnished to the HERALD from this city on the subject. The documents furnished the committee by Mr. Seward embrace, first, a despatch from Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward, of May 16, 1866, covering extracts from French journals in regard to the propoped Austrian interference in Mexico. Then follow these papers, in the order given:—

**Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.**

[No. 328.]
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PARIS, May 31, 1866.

SIR—I have your despatch No. 459, marked "confidential," and had proposed to discuss its contents today with the Minister of Foreign Affairs. His Excellency, however, had received a summons to the palace, which compelled him to terminate his reception of the diplomatic corps abruptly. He remarked, with a smile, as I entered, that he knew what I came for; that I had a harsh message to him. "Am I not right?" he asked. I told him that I had been instructed, as he was aware, it seemed, to acquaint him with the disquiet which certain reports in regard to the transport of fresh troops, from different quarters of the world, to Mexico had occasioned in the United States, and I expressed my fear that these reports, unless met promptly by some satisfactory assurances, might develop discussion upon another theatre imperfectly informed of the actual situation and of the dispositions of the imperial government, thereby aggravating the difficulties with which both governments already had to contend. I then said that, as he was called elsewhere, I would wait upon him at any other more convenient hour that he would name. He proposed that I should call again on Saturday, at half-past one, P. M. Meantime he wished me to be assured, as he had assured me on several previous occasions, that the troops reported to have sailed for Vera Cruz were to replace others whose term of service had expired and in numbers less, rather than more, than were there before. He believed also that the orders for their shipment were given before the proposed recall of the army was announced. Upon all these points he expected to have more precise information from the Minister of War to give me on Saturday. As I was going out his Excellency repeated what he has often said—that they were but too anxious to withdraw their troops from Mexico; that they would be withdrawn certainly not later, but probably sooner, than the time proposed. I then took my leave, without alluding to the other subjects about which I was specially instructed to confer with him.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

**Mr. Hay to Mr. Seward.**

[No. 357.]
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PARIS, August 10, 1866.

SIR—There have recently appeared paragraphs in the journals of Paris announcing the contemplated departure from Mexico of the wife of the Archduke Maximilian. These paragraphs naturally created some degree of discussion and comment, generally unfavorable to the imperial cause in Mexico. To check this injurious line of remark the *Memorial Diplomatique*, the organ of the so-called Mexican empire in Paris, in its last issue published the following formal announcement:—

We are authorized to contradict, in the most formal manner, the rumor that the Empress of Mexico is on her way to Europe. The same report was circulated at the time of her Majesty's departure for Yucatan, and it is known that the Emperor Maximilian, on a solemn occasion, denounced as an infamous calumny the mere supposition that either he or his august spouse could ever be false to their duty.

The *Pays*, a journal in the same interest, published on the following day this additional denial of the same rumor:—

A journal tormented with the desire of producing sensation news has mentioned in reference to Mexico a completely absurd rumor, started at Paris, by no one knows whom, some days ago. There is not one word of truth or reason in the assertion.

Yesterday, to the confusion of these positive and indignant friends, the lady in question arrived in Paris, and alighted at the Grand Hotel. She was immediately waited upon by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, who passed in her company the greater part of the afternoon. To-day the morning papers publish the following extract from the official journal of Mexico of the 8th of July:—

The Empress leaves for Europe, where she is going to treat of the affairs of Mexico, and regulate different international matters. This mission, accepted by our sovereign with real patriotism, is the greatest proof of abnegation that the Emperor could offer to his new country. We give this intelligence that the public may know the real object of her Majesty's absence. The Princess is accompanied by Mr. Martin Castillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs; the Comte del Valle, her Grand Chamberlain; the Comte de Bouchelles and other officers and attendants. The most unfavorable conclusions are deduced from this visit, especially by those who are so unfortunate as to hold large amounts of the Mexican loan. It is generally regarded as a final effort to obtain by personal influence and solicitation that indispensable aid for the Mexican empire which has been refused to its accredited diplomatic representative.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN HAY, Charge d'Affaires *ad interim*.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State, Washington.

**Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, August 16, 1866.

SIR—I have the honor to call your attention to two orders or decrees, which purport to have been made on the 26th of July last by Prince Maximilian, who claims to be Emperor in Mexico, in which he declares that he has committed the direction of the Department of War in that country to General Osmont, chief of the staff of the French expeditionary corps, and that he has committed the direction of the Department of the Treasury to Mr. Friant, Intendant-in-Chief of the same corps. The President thinks it proper that the Emperor of France should be informed that the assumption of administrative functions at this time by the aforenamed officers of the French expeditionary corps, under the authority of the Prince Maximilian, is not unlikely to be injurious to good relations between the United States and France, because it is liable to be regarded by the Congress and people of the United States as indicating a course of proceeding on the part of France incongruous with the engagement which has been made for the withdrawal of the French expeditionary corps from that country.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Marquis DE MONTHOLON, &c.

Here follow Maximilian's decrees appointing French officers to Cabinet positions.

**Mr. Hay to Mr. Seward.**

[Extract—No. 358.]
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PARIS, August 17, 1866.

SIR—According to a suggestion of Mr. Bigelow, who is spending some days with his family at Ems, I called yesterday upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs. I spoke to his Excellency of the reports which were currently published in the journals of Paris in reference to the visit of the Princess Charlotte to France. These reports, stating that the stay of Maximilian in Mexico had become conditional upon a modification of the course of action adopted by the French government, and announced in his Excellency's recent communications to the Marquis de Montholon and to Mr. Bigelow. Several journals further intimating that the Princess had succeeded in obtaining a change of that programme, I asked the Minister if there had been any modification, or if there were any intended, of the policy of the Emperor's government towards Mexico, heretofore declared. He replied that there had been "no modification of our policy in that matter, and there is to be none. What we announced our intention to do we will do. Of course," he added, "we received the Empress with courtesy and cordiality, but the plan heretofore determined upon by the Emperor's government will be executed in the way we announced."

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN HAY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.**

[No. 517.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, August 24, 1866.

SIR—I transmit herewith, for your information, copies of the President's proclamation of the 17th inst., declaring null and void a decree of Prince Maximilian closing certain ports in Mexico.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c.

Here follows the proclamation of the President, heretofore published in this country.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.**

[Extract—No. 535.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Oct. 8, 1866.

SIR—But the point you mention was not distinctly presented to me, namely, what this government would think of the withdrawal of the whole French army in the coming year, instead of its being withdrawn in three contingent detachments, commencing next November. What I have said is this—that the arrangement proposed by the Emperor for a withdrawal of the troops in three detachments, beginning in November next, was in itself, quite likely to be forgotten here in the political excitement which attends all Mexican questions, before the execution of the agreement should begin; that frequent incidents of various kinds presented by the press in France and in Mexico as indicating a disposition on the part of the Emperor to depart from that engagement have unavoidably produced a wide popular mistrust of even the Emperor's sincerity in making the engagement and of his good faith in fulfilling it; that by circumstances of this character this department was kept continually under an apparent necessity of protesting against proceedings which were thus weakening public confidence in its very just and well defined expectations; that the government, on the contrary relies with implicit confidence upon the fulfilment of the Emperor's engagement, at least, to the letter, and it has even expected that, overlooking the letter, it would be fulfilled with an earnestness of spirit which would hasten instead of retard the evacuation of the French forces in Mexico. At present, however, we are waiting for the beginning of the evacuation. When that beginning shall have come the government will cheerfully hear suggestions from any quarter calculated to reassure the restoration of tranquillity, peace and constitutional domestic government in Mexico; but until we shall be able to refer to such a beginning, any proceedings toward negotiation would only tend to confound public opinion in the United States, and to render the situation of Mexico more complicated. Of course it is unnecessary to inform you, that the speculations which are indulged in by a portion of the public press concerning relations supposed to be established between this department and General Santa Anna are without foundation.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c.

**Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.**

[Extract No. 374.]
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PARIS, Oct. 12, 1866.

SIR—The Marquis de Moustier received the diplomatic body yesterday for the first time. He asked if it was true, as reported in the journals, that our official relations were soon to terminate; expressed his regret to learn that it was, and his desire to have co-operated with me in cultivating friendly relations between our respective countries. In reply to a question of mine, he said that the policy of his government towards the United States and Mexico would not undergo any change in consequence of the change of his department. His Excellency then went on to say that he was using what leisure he could command to master the various American questions with which he had no previous occasion to make himself familiar, and as soon as he was prepared he would be happy to talk with me or with my successor more at length. Meantime he wished me to understand and to report to you that he saw the Emperor at Biarritz; that his Majesty expressed his desire and intention to retire from Mexico as soon as practicable, and without reference to the period fixed in the convention with Maximilian, if a shorter time will suffice. His Excellency then went on to say that the "dissidents," according to late reports, are gaining ground, but that it is not the intention of the Emperor to undertake new and distant expeditions to reduce them; that there was some talk of retaking Tampico, but what was decided upon had not yet transpired in Paris. He said the position of France was a delicate one, and that there was nothing that the Emperor desired more than to disembarrass himself of all his engagements with Mexico as soon as he could with dignity and honor, and that, with our aid—upon which he counted—the time might be very much shortened. To this I made only the general reply that I had no reason to doubt that the future intercourse of the United States with France would be marked by the same friendly consideration which had characterized it heretofore. I did not ask him what kind of aid from the United States he had in his mind, presuming it was forbearance rather than any active co-operation upon which he counted.

I may as well mention, in this connection, that I returned yesterday morning from Biarritz, where I was informed by Mr. Pereire, the owner of the Franco-Mexican line of steamships, that the contract had been finally signed, by his agent at the ministry of war, for the repatriation of all the French army in Mexico in March next that shall not have returned previously. The letter advising him of the fact had been received, as I understood him, only the day before. Some of the troops, he said, would be repatriated this fall, but all the remainder before the end of March. I have reason to think he was instructed to make this communication to me.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.**

[No. 3.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Oct. 20, 1866.

SIR.—You are aware that a friendly and explicit arrangement exists between this government and the Emperor of France, to the effect that he will withdraw his expeditionary military forces from Mexico in three parts—the first of which shall leave Mexico in November next, the second in March next and the third in November, 1867, and that upon the evacuation being thus completed the French Government will immediately come upon the ground of non-intervention in regard to Mexico which is held by the United States. Doubts have been entertained and expressed in some quarters upon the question whether the French government will faithfully execute this agreement. No such doubts have been entertained by the President, who has had repeated and even recent assurances that the complete evacuation of Mexico by the French will be consummated at the periods mentioned, or earlier if compatible with climatical, military and other conditions. There are grounds for supposing that two incidental questions have already engaged the attention of the French government—namely, first, whether it should not advise the departure of the Prince Maximilian for Austria to be made before the withdrawal of the French expedition; second, whether it would not be consistent with the climatical, military and other conditions before mentioned to withdraw the whole expeditionary force at once, instead of retiring it in three separate installments, and at different periods. No formal communication, however, upon this subject has been made by the Emperor Napoleon to the government of the United States. When the subject has been incidentally mentioned this department, by direction of the President, has replied that the United States await the execution of the agreement for the evacuation by the government of France at least according to its letter, while they would be gratified if that agreement could be executed with greater promptness and despatch than are stipulated. Under these circumstances the President expects that within the next month (November) a portion at least of the French expeditionary force will retire from Mexico, and he thinks it not improbable that the whole expeditionary force may be withdrawn at or about the same time. Such an event cannot fail to produce a crisis of great political interest in the republic of Mexico. It is important that you should be either within the territories of that republic or in some place near at hand, so as to assume the exercise of your functions as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to the republic of Mexico. What may be the proceedings of the Prince Maximilian in the event of a partial or complete evacuation of Mexico, of course cannot now be certainly foreseen. What may be the proceedings of Mr. Juarez, the President of the republic of Mexico, in the same event cannot now be definitely anticipated. We are aware of the existence of several political parties in Mexico other than those at the head of which are President Juarez and Prince Maximilian, who entertain conflicting views concerning the most expedient and proper mode of restoring peace, order and civil government in that republic. We do not know what may be the proceedings of those parties in the event of the French evacuation. Finally, it is impossible for us to foresee what may be the proceedings of the Mexican people in case of the happening of the events before alluded to. For these reasons it is impossible to give you specific directions for the conduct of your proceedings in the discharge of the high trust which the government of the United States has confided to you. Much must be left to your own discretion, which is to be exercised according to the view you may take of political movements as they shall disclose themselves in the future. There are, however, some principles which, as we think, may be safely laid down in regard to the policy which the government of the United States will expect you to pursue. The first of these is that, as a representative of the United States, you are accredited to the republican government of Mexico, of which Mr. Juarez is President. Your communications as such representative will be made to him, wheresoever he may be, and in no event will you officially recognize either the Prince Maximilian, who claims to be Emperor, or any other person, chief or combination as exercising the executive authority in Mexico, without having first reported to this department, and received instructions from the President of the United States. Secondly, assuming that the French military and naval commanders shall be engaged in good faith in executing the agreement before mentioned for the evacuation of Mexico, the spirit of the engagement on our part in relation to that event will forbid the United States and their representative from obstructing or embarrassing the departure of the French. Thirdly, what the government of the United States desire in regard to the future of Mexico is not the conquest of Mexico, or any part of it, or the aggrandizement of the United States by purchases of land or dominion, but, on the other hand, they desire to see the people of Mexico relieved from all foreign military intervention, to the end that they may resume the conduct of their own affairs under the existing republican government, or such other form of government as, being left in the enjoyment of perfect liberty, they shall determine to adopt in the exercise of their own free will, by their own act, without dictation from any foreign country, and of course without dictation from the United States. It results, as a consequence from these principles, that you will enter into no stipulation with the French commanders, or with the Prince Maximilian, or with any other party, which shall have a tendency to counteract or oppose the administration of President Juarez, or to hinder or delay the restoration of the authority of the republic. On the other hand, it may possibly happen that the President of the republic of Mexico may desire the good offices of the United States, or even some effective proceedings on our part, to favor and advance the pacification of a country so long distracted by foreign combined with civil war, and thus gain time for the reestablishment of national authority upon principles consistent with a republican and domestic system of government. It is possible, moreover, that some disposition might be made of the land and naval forces of the United States without interfering within the jurisdiction of Mexico, or violating the laws of neutrality, which would be useful in favoring the restoration of law, order and republican government in that country. You are authorized to confer upon this subject with the republican government of Mexico and its agents, and also to confer informally, if you find it necessary, with any other parties or agents, should such an exceptional conference become absolutely necessary, but not otherwise. You will by these means obtain information which will be important to this government, and such information you will convey to this department, with your suggestions and advice as to any proceedings on our part which can be adopted in conformity with the principles I have before laid down. You will be content with thus referring any important propositions on the subject of reorganization and restoration of the republican government in Mexico as may arise to this department, for the information the President. The Lieutenant General of the United States possesses already discretionary authority as to the location of the forces of the United States in the vicinity of Mexico. His military experience will enable him to advise you concerning such conditions as may arise during the transition stage of Mexico from a state of military siege by a foreign enemy to a condition of practical self-government. At the same time it will be in his power, being near the scene of action, to issue any orders which may be expedient or necessary for maintaining the obligations resting upon the United States in regard to proceedings upon the borders of Mexico. For these reasons he has been requested and instructed by the President to proceed with you to your destination, and act with you as an adviser, recognized by this department, in regard to the matters which have been herein discussed. After conferring with him, you are at liberty to proceed to the City of Chihuahua, or to such other place in Mexico as may be the residence of President Juarez; or, in your discretion, you will proceed to any other place in Mexico not held or occupied at the time of your arrival by enemies of the republic of Mexico; or you will stop at any place in the United States or elsewhere, near the frontier or coast of Mexico, and await there a time to enter any portion of Mexico which shall hereafter be in the occupation of the republican government of Mexico.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

LEWIS D. CAMPBELL, &c.

**The President to the Secretary of War.**

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 26, 1866.

SIR:—Recent advices indicate an early evacuation of Mexico by the French expeditionary forces, and that the time has arrived when our Minister to Mexico should place himself in communication with that republic. In furtherance of the objects of his mission, and as an evidence of the earnest desire felt by the United States for the proper adjustment of the questions involved, I deem it of great importance that General Grant should, by his presence and advice, co-operate with our Minister. I have therefore to ask that you will request General Grant to proceed to some point on our Mexican frontier most suitable and convenient for communication with our Minister, or, if General Grant deems it best, to accompany him to his destination in Mexico, and to give him the aid of his advice in carrying out the instructions of the Secretary of State, a copy of which is herewith sent for the General's information. General Grant will make report to the Secretary of War of such matters as, in his discretion, ought to be communicated to the department.

Very respectfully yours,
ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

**The President to the Secretary of War.**

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 30, 1866.

SIR—General Ulysses S. Grant having found it inconvenient to assume the duties specified in my letter to you of the 26th instant, you will please relieve him from the same and assign them, in all respects, to William T. Sherman, Lieutenant General of the army of the United States. By way of guiding General Sherman in the performance of his duties you will furnish him with a copy of your special orders to General Grant, made in compliance with my letter of the 26th inst., together with a copy of the instructions of the Secretary of State to Lewis D. Campbell, therein mentioned. The Lieutenant General will proceed to the execution of his duties without delay.

Very respectfully, yours,
ANDREW JOHNSON.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

**Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.**

[No. 384.]
LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
PARIS, Nov. 8, 1866.

SIR—The Minister of Foreign Affairs informed me on Thursday last, in reply to a question which certain newspaper rumors prompted me to address him, that it was the purpose of the Emperor to withdraw all his troops from Mexico in the spring, but none before that time. I expressed my surprise and regret at this determination, so distinctly in conflict with the pledges given by his Excellency's predecessor (M. Drouyn de Lhuys) both to you, through the Marquis de Montholon, and also to myself personally. The Marquis assigned considerations of a purely military character, overlooking, or underestimating, as it seemed to me, the importance which this change might possibly have upon the relations of France with the United States. My first impulse was to send him a note on the following day, asking for a formal statement of the Emperor's motives in disregarding the stipulations of his foreign minister for a withdrawal of one detachment of his Mexican army during the current month of November. I concluded, however, that it would be more satisfactory to the President that I should see the Emperor himself upon the subject. I accordingly waited upon his Majesty yesterday, at St. Cloud, repeated to him what the Marquis de Moustier had told me, and desired to know what, if anything, could be done by me to anticipate and prevent the discontent which I felt persuaded would be experienced by my country people, if they receive this intelligence without any explanation. I referred to the early meeting of Congress, when any change in our relations, either with France or Mexico, would be likely to come under discussion, and my fear that his Majesty's reasons for postponing the repatriation of the first detachment of his troops might be attributed to motives which our people would be disposed to resent. The Emperor said that it was true that he had concluded to postpone the recall of any of his troops until spring, but that in doing so he had been influenced by entirely military considerations. At the time he gave the order the successors of the dissidents, supported as they were by large re-enforcements from the United States, seemed to render any reduction of his force than perilous to those who remained behind. He accordingly sent a telegram to Marshal Bazaine, who had already embarked a regiment (the Eighty-first, I think he said), but which had fortunately been prevented from sailing by unfavorable winds, directing him to embark no troops until all were ready to come. This despatch, his Majesty said, was not sent in cipher, that no secret might be made of its tenor in the United States. The troops were then disembarked and returned to Orizaba. His Majesty went on to say that he sent General Castelnau to Mexico about the same time, charged to inform Maximilian that France could not give him another cent of money nor another man. If he thought he could sustain himself there alone, France would not withdraw her troops sooner than had been stipulated for by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, should such be his desire, but if, on the other hand, he was disposed to abdicate, which was the course his Majesty counselled him to take, General Castelnau was charged to find some government with which to treat for the protection of French interests, and to bring all the army home in the spring. I asked his Majesty if the President of the United States had been notified of this, or if anything had been done to prepare his mind for the change in his Majesty's policy. He said that he did not know; that M. de Moustier ought to have done so; that, as these events occurred during the *interim* of a change in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was possible that it had been neglected, though his telegram to Marshal Bazaine was purposely sent in a way to show that there was nothing in his plans to disguise. I remarked that my government was constantly under the necessity of protesting against acts done in the name of his Majesty, and the effect of such protests was always to weaken public confidence in the representations which the government had felt itself authorized to make in regard to his Majesty's intentions. I then explained to him briefly the grave inconveniences liable to result from any unexplained departure from the stipulations already given in his Majesty's name to the world. His Majesty replied that we had the telegraph now, and that any misunderstanding of that sort might be readily rectified. His Majesty appeared to realize the importance of having an understanding with the President upon the subject, and I left with the impression that he intended to occupy himself with the matter at once. There is but one sentiment here about the determination of France to wash her hands of Mexico as soon as possible. Nor have I any doubt that the Emperor is acting in good faith towards us, but I did not feel sure that the change in his plans upon which I have been commenting would receive so favorable an interpretation in the United States. In view of recent successes gained by the imperialists in Mexico, and in view of the somewhat turbulent state of our politics at home, I feared that the course of the Emperor might possibly awaken suspicions in the United States which might seriously prejudice the relations of the two countries. To prevent such a calamity, if possible, I thought it my duty to take the precautions of which I have here rendered you an account. The fact which the Emperor admitted in this conversation, that he had advised Maximilian to abdicate, has prepared me to expect every day the announcement of his abdication; for such advice, in Maximilian's dependent condition, is almost equivalent to an order. That it would be so regarded is, I think, the expectation of the Emperor, and ample preparations for the early repatriation of all the troops have, I believe, already been made by the Ministers of War and Marine. The Emperor stated that he expected to know the final result of Castelnau's mission towards the end of this month. A telegram has appeared in the London *Star* and *Post* quoting a report circulating in New York on the 6th that Maximilian had abdicated. As despatches received on the 7th made no reference to this report, I presume it was, at least, premature.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.**

[No. 545.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 1866.

SIR—I have been unable until this moment to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of October 12, No. 374. The President is pleased with the liberal and friendly disposition which is manifested by the Marquis de Moustier in regard to our international questions. Mr. Campbell proceeds to-morrow, with Lieutenant General Serman, to Mexico, or its vicinity. I give you a copy of the instructions of this department to our new outgoing Minister to Mexico. It is not intended that they shall be formally or officially communicated to the French government, but at the same time we affect no secrecy on the occasion. You may therefore make such use of them as you find necessary or expedient in making known the policy of this government as affected by the anticipated retirement of the French military forces from that country. I thank you for the information you have given me concerning domestic questions of interest in the French Empire.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, &c., Paris.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Stanton.**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 1866.

SIR—I herewith submit a correspondence which, under the direction of the President, has taken place between this department and the government of France, and also a copy of instructions relative to the matters discussed which have been given to Mr. Campbell, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Mexico. It is submitted for your consideration whether in this new emergency any special instructions are necessary for the government of the army of observation of the United States to prevent premature disturbance of the peace while maintaining the safety of the United States.

I have the honor to be, &c.,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Campbell.**

[No. 4.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1866.

SIR—I give you a copy of a despatch which has just been received from Mr. Bigelow, from which you will learn, as we have learned with surprise, that the French government has postponed its stipulated withdrawal of a detachment from Mexico in November, with a purpose, as is avowed, of withdrawing the whole of the forces at some time next spring. I give you also a copy of my reply thereto, announcing that this resolution of the French government is unsatisfactory to the President. The same papers will inform you that the President does not think it necessary or advisable to modify your instructions. We are not without confidence in anticipating a satisfactory resolution upon the subject from France.
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. CAMPBELL.

**Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.**

[No. 550.]
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 1866.

SIR—Your despatch of the 8th of November (No. 384), in regard to Mexico, is received. Your proceedings in your interview with M. Moustier, and also your proceedings in your interview with the Emperor, are entirely approved. Say to M. Moustier that this government is surprised and affected with deep concern by the announcement now made for the first time that the promised recall of one detachment of the French troops from Mexico in November current has been postponed by the Emperor. The embarrassment thus produced is immeasurably increased by the circumstance that this proceeding of the Emperor has been taken without conference with and even without notice to the United States. This government has not in any way afforded reinforcements to the Mexicans, as the Emperor seems to assume, and it has known nothing at all of his countermanding instructions to Marshal Bazaine, of which the Emperor speaks. We consult only official communication to ascertain the purpose and resolutions of France, as we make our own purposes and resolutions known only in the same manner when she is concerned. I am not prepared to say, and it is now unnecessary to discuss, whether the President could or could not have agreed to the Emperor's proposed delay, if he had been seasonably consulted—if the proposition had been then put, as the proceeding is now, upon the ground of military considerations alone, and if it had been marked with the customary manifestations of regard to the interests and feelings of the United States. But the Emperor's decision to modify the existing arrangement without any understanding with the United States, so as to leave the whole French army in Mexico for the present, instead of withdrawing one detachment in November current, as promised, is now found in every way inconvenient and exceptionable. We cannot acquiesce, first, because the term "next spring," as appointed for the entire evacuation, is indefinite and vague; second, because we have no authority for stating to Congress and to the American people, that we have now a better guarantee for the withdrawal of the whole expeditionary force in the spring than we have heretofore had for the withdrawal of a part in November; third, in full reliance upon at least a literal performance of the Emperor's existing agreement we have taken measures, while facilitating the anticipated French evacuation to co-operate with the republican government of Mexico for promoting the pacification of that country, and for the early and complete restoration of the proper constitutional authority of that government. As a part of those measures, Mr. Campbell, our newly appointed Minister, attended by Lieutenant General Sherman, has been sent to Mexico in order to confer with President Juarez on subjects which are deeply interesting to the United States, and of vital importance to Mexico. Our policy and measures thus adopted in full reliance upon the anticipted beginning of the evacuation of Mexico were promptly made known to the French legation here, and doubtless you have already executed your instructions by making them known to the Emperor's government in Paris. The Emperor will perceive that we cannot now recall Mr. Campbell; nor can we modify the instructions under which he is expected to treat, and under which he may even now be treating with the republican government of Mexico. That government will of course most earnestly desire and confidently expect an early and entire discontinuation of foreign hostile occupation. You will therefore state to the Emperor's government, that the President sincerely hopes and expects that the evacuation of Mexico will be carried into effect with such conformity to the existing agreement as the inopportune complication which calls for this despatch shall allow. Mr. Campbell will be advised of that complication. Instructions will be issued to the United States military forces of observation to await in every case special directions from the President. This will be done with a confident expectation that the telegraph or the mail may seasonably bring us a satisfactory resolution from the Emperor in reply to this note. You will assure the French government that the United States, while they seek the relief of Mexico, desire nothing more earnestly than to preserve peace and friendship with France; nor does the President allow himself to doubt that what has been determined in France, most inauspiciously, as we think, has been decided upon inadvertently, without full reflection upon the embarrassment it must produce here, and without any design to retain the French expeditionary forces in Mexico beyond the full period of eighteen months originally stipulated for the complete evacuation.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., Paris.

### The Very Latest—Cable Despatch from Minister Bigelow—Napoleon Specifies the Time for the Withdrawal of the French Troops, and is Satisfied with the Mission of our Government to Mexico.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1866.

A cable despatch was received yesterday from Mr. Bigelow, which has convinced the government of the good faith of the French Emperor. The late change of plan which excited our suspicion arose solely from military reasons, and the Emperor has distinctly specified the time when his army will embark to the last man.

The Emperor further expresses his satisfaction at the mission to Mexico by our government, and proposes cordially to co-operate in promoting the restoration of the republican government. His Majesty suggests as the shortest road to a solution that an election shall be brought about by the joint influence of the United States and France without any dictation as to the choice of candidates; but he thinks it will devolve on the United States to maintain the government thus created.

This despatch has removed apprehensions of any further misunderstanding with France.

### Maximilian Still at Orizaba—The French Impatient for His Departure—More Rumors of Maximilian's Insanity.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1866.

A gentleman of distinction arrived here to-night from Mexico, who states that Maximilian is still at Orizaba coquetting with the conservative and clerical parties at the capital, who entreat him to resume the control of the government in order to prevent the return of Juarez, who is held in great aversion.

The French authorities are waiting with manifest impatience, our informant asserts, for the departure of Maximilian, whose continued stay is an embarrassment and an annoyance.

The desire of Bazaine is to enter at once into negotiations with the American mission with a view to save Mexico from pillage and anarchy on his embarkation with the French army.

At the moment our informant was leaving Mexico it was whispered that Maximilian was beginning to exhibit frequent symptoms of the same mental disorder that revealed itself in Carlotta before she left. Some discoveries had led to the suspicion that the Empress and her husband had both been poisoned, the subtile effect of which was first to produce insanity, and finally death. It may be recollected that the Empress constantly declared, after her insanity broke out, that she had been poisoned. This strange story revives the horror of the Middle Ages. Investigations are being made that will enable us soon to form some opinion of this odious denouement.

### Removal of General Sedgwick.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1866.

Orders have been sent to General Sheridan to relieve General Sedgwick of his command and send him forthwith to Washington to undergo a court martial for disobedience of orders in the Matamoros affair.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6, 1866.

General Sedgwick has been removed from the command on the Rio Grande. The order for his removal is said to have been forwarded to General Sheridan from Washington by General Grant. He will probably report at Washington.

### THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS.

**Action of the State Association.**

The following resolution was on Wednesday last adopted by the State Associated Press:—

Resolved, That the State Association will continue their present relations for news reports with the city Associated Press.
A. M. CLAPP, President.
E. H. ROBERTS, Secretary.

**The Ohio Press.**

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 6, 1866.

The majority of the newspapers in the State of Ohio, outside of the cities of Cincinnati and Cleveland, and some papers of the other Western States, in convention to-day, resolved to adhere to the New York Associated Press and take their reports from them.

**The New Orleans Picayune Adheres to the Old Association.**

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 5, 1866.

The *Picayune* of this city has refused to have any connection with the outside arrangements on foot for the destruction of the long existing news facilities of the New York Associated Press, and in future it will stake its fortunes with the old association.

### NEWS FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 6, 1866.

United States Commissioner Sullivan has dismissed the charge of piracy against Gaston Dartois for seizure of brig Basso at Cape St. Lucas.

Thomas N. Cazeneau has been retained to prosecute for the city of San Francisco and contractors of the monitor Comanche, and is about to enter into a suit against New York underwriters for damage caused by the sinking of the ship Aquila at the time she was laden with the Comanche. The amount involved is $90,000, of which $60,000 is due the city.

Steamer Active arrived to-day from Victoria, V. I., with $80,000 treasure.

## WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION.

### The Ballot for Woman and the Negro—Speeches by Mrs. Anthony, Mrs. E. Cady Stanton, Miss Emma Hardinge and Colonel Morse, of Missouri, &c.

The Woman's Rights Convention, now holding their session in this city, met at the Cooper Institute last evening for the purpose of making their views and objects public and organizing an Equal Rights Association in this city. The Convention met at half-past seven o'clock, a very slim audience being present, a fair proportion of whom, however, were women, attracted by the novelty of hearing the much mooted question of woman's rights discussed by the veteran ladies who have made it their specialty. There were but few of the lights of the association on the platform, excepting the venerable President Mrs. Anthony, Mrs. Stanton and Parker Pillsbury. The proceedings were opened by the President.

REMARKS OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

The President, Mrs. SUSAN B. ANTHONY, in opening the meeting, said that the republican party at the close of this second revolution proposed to establish so much of the republican idea as will enable them to maintain the unity of the nation, and some people say the unity of the party, viz., that the black race shall be brought on to a level with the white race. We believe that this is the hour to establish the equality of every individual who is subject to the government of the United States. Not the hour for races, but the hour for human beings to be established in equality. Thus, we occupy a position above that of any other organization in the country. We have impartial suffrage organizations. We have at Washington a United States Equal Rights Association, and in Boston an Impartial Suffrage Association, of which Governor Andrew is the president. All over the country, North and South, we have impartial, universal, and equal suffrage organizations, but it never means anything but men. Women are never thought of in this whole question of reorganizing the government any more than if the whole half of this community lived in Lapland or beyond the seas. This association is established for the express purpose of reminding the American nation that women form a part of the people. This meeting is called for the special purpose of inaugurating a thorough canvass of the State of New York, in view of the constitutional convention which is to be held during the next year, for the purpose of securing an amendment to the constitution which shall guarantee the right of suffrage equally to all men and women of the State. We think that the work is best to be begun at home, and therefore we are commencing in this way. Our plan of work is to be thorough. We intend to hold conventions in every county throughout the State, to send lecturers and circulate tracts, and also a petition to go up to the constitutional convention, making our demand there. We ask the co-operation of every man and woman in the land. We have had the "glittering generality" that all men are created equal long enough, and now we propose to have the actual fact. If men will talk in Congress and out of it of impartial and universal suffrage, we mean to have them understand that women are to be included in the impartiality and universality too.

The officers of the Convention were then announced as follows:—President, Susan B. Anthony; Vice Presidents, Henry B. Blackwell, Robert Dale Owen and Mrs. Margaret Winchester; Secretaries, Ed. M. Bunker and Anna Rice Powell; Business Committee, Parker Pillsbury, Mrs. Francis D. Gage, Charles Lenox Remond, Lucy Stone, Mrs. E. Cady Stanton, Mattie Griffith, Dr. E. D. Hudson, Dr. Robert T. Halleck.

Mrs. E. CADY STANTON was next introduced, who proceeded to read a lecture which fell like a wet blanket upon the audience. The subject of equal rights was hardly touched upon in the style which it is usually treated by the feminine advocates thereof. She wanted to know why negroes and women were debarred from the professions of political, offices, of trades, and all the the profitable and honorable employments, and why in the branches of industry into which they are permitted to enter was it that they were less paid and remunerated? If there was any philosophical reason for this outside the ballot, she would like to hear it. She looked to the ballot as the power by which women were to be lifted from degradation, and raise her to a higher moral status. The woman must have equality, that at the bar of justice she may plead for erring women—in the pulpit preach the gospel of equality—in the hospital, a minister to the sick and dying of her own sex. When the black and women hold the ballot they will take their places by the side of white men in the profitable pursuits of life—not till then. Then marriage will be dignified and men will seek for wives, for women will be fortunes in themselves—(applause)—and women will not marry for bread as now. Forty thousand women are now employed at starving prices at the needle, and below in the lower depths are the mighty multitude over whose follies and crimes society draws the veil of forgetfulness, or before that inexplicable problem stand appalled. The objection to giving women the ballot is that women do not know enough to vote. Mr. Jenks, member from Rhode Island—a most ephonious name is Jenks—the father of one of those base propositions against