MEXICO.

The Government Harassed by Pronunciamientos and Congress.

Important Action of Minister Romero Regarding Mexican Bonds.

Proposed Repudiation of the Interest on the Foreign Debt.

INTERESTING DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

Aspect of the Queretaro Rebellion—General Situation—Adventures of a Cubano-Venezuelan Patriot—Railroad Schemes Postponed—The Mexico and Tuspan Road.

MEXICO, May 20, 1868.

How great a portion of the readers of the HERALD will interest themselves in Mexican news now that excitements consequent upon a Presidential campaign are being experienced it is impossible for one at this distance to judge correctly; yet there must still be very many late friends of Mexico who will desire to be well kept up in what is transpiring here.

There must be a large shipping, railroad and commercial community who desire to know from time to time what Mexico may do herself or allow others to do towards improving her geographical position, which exhibits such a narrow strip of land between the Mexican Gulf on the east and the Pacific Ocean on the west. We have been enjoying since my last letter our usual quota of *pronunciamientos* and petty revolutions; but, happily for the country, they do not promise the immediate overthrow of the government or serious disturbance of the country. Troops are returning from Sinaloa eastward, which were employed there in suppressing General Martinez. General Arce has sent northward towards this capital a portion of his command to join in the pursuit of Rivera and Negrete, and will himself very shortly arrive here. The two latter, it is believed, may attempt to join their small forces. The revolutionists in the State of Querétaro, said to number five hundred men, at first declared for Marquez, but have since proclaimed Santa Anna as Dictator for five years, after which an election of President. They are said to be well armed and equipped, and recognize as their leader and have for their war cry, "Religion and force." On the 10th they occupied the Punto de Mazazintia, where they commenced to fortify their position. The same day they attempted to raise money by kidnapping the Alcalde Juan Rubio and Mr. Vicente Santos, demanding $3,000 ransom.

The *Monitor*, of the 14th of May, the paper which denounces the HERALD for stating that Mexico was not altogether peaceful, says that during the preceding twenty days there had been ten citizens of Zoluca kidnapped by bands which require a ransom in total of $37,900. The editor further remarks:—"Occurrences like these need no comment, as the government takes no steps to follow up these bands of robbers and kidnappers." Manuel Ruiz, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court, still remains in prison here.

General Ochoa and many late officers of the liberal army are also in confinement.

Dr. Larriazabal, the Venezuelan patriot, has been liberated, having been imprisoned for complicity with Aureliano Rivera. By some he is accused of having written the latter's famous proclamation, a copy of which I send accompanying the letter. Others declare the author to have been Judge Manuel Ruiz. I am informed. I cannot say how correctly, the following represents something of the history and character of the Doctor and of his record since being here. He appears to be a man about fifty years of age, although he represents himself to be sixty, possibly in order to give an appearance of consistency to his statement that he was secretary to Simon Bolivar, the great liberator of South America. He is from Venezuela, where he is very well known. He was once sent as ambassador from Venezuela to Holland, but the consul of the latter country in Venezuela, sent such records of his character and history to his own government that he was not received, and was compelled to return to Caracas. Thereafter he sought to become a revolutionist, and especially a liberal South American, and established a fair reputation as a writer among his people by publishing a history of Bolivar. Dr. Larrazabal is undoubtedly a man of talent, but too readily carried away by the enthusiasm of the cry of "Liberty!" He is a good musician, and in his travels through the various countries which he has visited he has not unfrequently, so it is said, felt the pinchings of pecuniary distress. His intentions towards Cuba on his first arrival here, perhaps, did not meet with accord of those with whom he aspired to unite himself, and he must therefore have felt a little sore towards the "powers that be" in Mexico. It is possible that had he made less pretensions in regard to his intimate relations with the President, Cabinet and Senators of the United States, and had he, generally speaking, "romanced" less, he would have enjoyed more intimately the confidence of these people. It is stated here, by those who should know, "that while lately in the United States he was intimate with Cubans who are known as friends of the freedom of the ever faithful Island," who gave him money which was to be employed in an expedition against Cuba, which resulted in a failure in consequence of the squandering of the funds. Subsequently, some five six or months since, Dr. Larrazabal appeared in Mexico, and, having failed likewise here in the "card" of an anti-Cuba movement, he has rather arrayed himself against peace, and has been intimate with those who have been plotting revolution. He is accounted, among other things, with having acted prominently in several meetings of conspirators which have taken place in the Hotel Bazar in this capital. The government having decided that he comes within the category of "pernicious foreigners," and having released him from prison, have notified him that he will be accompanied by a military escort to Vera Cruz. The doctor begs off from the escort, and has, with some leniency, been permitted to escort himself away from the city of Mexico. He will go immediately by the first steamer, and New York will soon enjoy the doctor, while he will felicitate on Broadway, west side, and thank his stars that he was not shot and his ghost sent hunting after that of Maximilian, up and down through freedom-shrieking Mexico.

On the 17th of May Colonel Piata, who commanded the troops guarding the roads south of Mexico, between Pialpan and Cuernavaca, pronounced against the government and joined General Rivera. Captain Romero, who commanded a similar force in Ajusco and vicinity, also pronounced in favor of Rivera. President Juarez had accordingly issued an order declaring them to be deserters and traitors, cancelled their commissions and ordered them captured and dealt with according to the law of 25th of January—shot. Rivera has up to date made a few forced loans, amounting in all to but a few thousand dollars. A telegram to the *Siglo XIX.* of to-day, May 20, from Querétaro, announces that the revolutionists there are getting stronger and the political situation more complicated—San Juan del Rio invaded, and money and horses taken. The despatch further says that the protection of the State requires the speedy and effective interference of the forces of the general government, and should this not be done the responsibility must rest where it belongs.

In Sinaloa Colonels Palacio, Paz, Toledo and Granadas have been taken by Lozado.

On the 15th of May Francisco Velez, General commanding the troops against Negrete, officially informed the government that his forces under Generals Rodriguez Bocardo and Cravoto had succeeded in surprising Negrete and so nearly captured him that he escaped only in his drawers and shirt.

There were several men killed in the battle which took place and some munition taken. There was a decree issued a day or two since in Tototlan, that no more corn should be planted in the mountainous country for the reason that food is thereby furnished to robbers, bears severely upon the poor people who inhabit those parts. The right to live is, up to the present time, so far as your correspondent knows, permitted, provided it can be done without corn.

The series of falsehoods which appeared in the late German paper, in regard to Father Fisher, has been toted to this country and, we regret to see, translated and published in the *Diario Oficial*. The infamous document is so void of truth and correctness that not even the prominent feature in his history, his having been educated in the United States at the University of Virginia, is even mentioned. It is a simple matter to explain the origin of the paper, when it is known the number of German butters and palace brokers, whose swindlings were so frequently exposed by Father Fisher, and who hope to forestall the truth, and to save themselves the disgrace of being held up to public shame by adopting the military tactics of attack. The cloven foot of a German who swindled the late Maximilian is evident in this document.

The "so-called" Mexican Congress, which has now been in session since last fall, is very soon to close its arduous labors and will return to their homes to be admired by wondering children and ignorant Indians. We doubt not their proud crests will adorn many a rostrum while they expound liberty and the law, true elements in human government much talked of in Mexico, but little practiced if we except the liberty to act and to be the sole judge of one's actions and the law of natural powers.

These wiscacres have, after incubating for six months or more, brought forth a bill—and that bill a railroad—a road with rails; yes, a real, live, jackass road; and Congress is as proud of their bantling as any mother ever dreamed of being of her first born. One of the Congressmen remarked to your correspondent that Mexico proposed to test the practicability of a jackass power road and to prove that all the rest of the world were mistaken in supposing steam power to be A1, and therefore Congress has given origin to its first born, a cross between a jenny jackass and a fool. This road is to run between Vera Cruz and Jalapa, has received a subvention and will probably be looking for capital in the New York market soon. It is whispered that its projectors count upon a change in the government and consequently a change in the concession; that steam will be ultimately used and that the "animal power attraction" was merely a pretext to blind the eyes of those who have already become sightless by beating their empty heads against the commerce and industry of the people. So moveth this great nation, this republic.

The steam railroad enterprises have all been knocked in the head. The proposition of Mr. Anson Bangs to build a railroad with government aid from the United States border to Mexico city and the Pacific, after having been tediously trifled with, has been most provokingly knocked in the air like a foot ball. The representative of the jackass road is a Spaniard or a Mexican.

In the matter of railroads, as in politics, the people of the United States must learn that Mexico will not surrender herself or her enterprise or open up her country to their capital. It is but too recently that she whipped the armies of civilized Europe, and even though sore boasted that her spurs are too long and her sword too sharp to admit that, aided by the United Seates, all this was accomplished and the republic restored. If not elsewhere, then here can possibly be discovered the secret of the extraordinary decisiveness and acrimony with which all proffers of commercial, industrial and mechanical aid have been refused by Mexico when coming from the United States. Mexico prefers to accept nothing from the United States—her official paper has said not even money—and as she has not the educated and skilled labor, she proposes to retrograde and to die game. What great cure can alchemy reveal for this fatal illness which afflicts poor Mexico?

Gentlemen who represent the projected road from Mexico to Tuspan have arrived here, but there are too many Americans in the party to save the enterprise from being annulled at the earliest moment, as these concessions were given by President Juarez before the existence of the Congress.

No action has yet been taken by Congress up to the present moment toward the restoration of rights to the American and Mexican Railroad Company, and the final action has rather been taken with reference to the Mexican and Vera Cruz Railroad concession, though great hopes are entertained in favor of the latter. It is contemplated that at the closing moment of the session the Congressional arena will be strewn with the carcasses of defunct railroad projects, leaving the jackass road the "monarch of all it surveys."

I noted in the budget of expenses for the current year that in article six, which appears in the official paper of to-day, the two largest sums are one of $200,000 for repairs upon the gates and the national palace, and the other of $308,400 for draining the valley of Mexico. The extraordinary sum of the former has occasioned much comment and the latter is supposed to be the "old saw." Formerly, when Santa Anna, Miramon or Maximilian required money to buy up a few disquiet generals or a few genteel road agents (called in some countries robbers and murderers), it was found convenient to have some "desague" or other fund from which to borrow a few thousands.

Congress a Stumbling Block—Dismantling of the Vera Cruz Works—The Queretaro and Other Pronunciamientos—The Threatened Matamoros Rebellion—Mr. Romero's Action on the Mexican Bonds—American Bank Project—Earthquake.

MEXICO, May 29, 1868.

The situation has somewhat changed since my last letter, so far as the increase of *pronunciamientos* and the indication which they furnish can go. While they do not threaten the government now in existence with immediate destruction, yet they evince a state of disquiet which promises to ultimately require determined efforts to harmonize. It is evident that the President and his Cabinet appreciate the necessities of the hour; but the Congress, unhappily, contains too little common sense to calculate upon results which threaten the country. The determination to declare their independence, even of the opinion of the world, is daily becoming more manifest, and Mexico moves headlong without considering the necessary issues of certain lines of policy pursued. If the world is united in the opinion that the geographical position of Mexico gives her an influential position if she chooses to assume it, and if aid be offered to take advantage of the situation, then there is too great a disposition on the part of public men here to glorify themselves and their country and at the same moment utterly and almost insolently refuse aid in improving her position, although, from the want of capital, machine shops and skilled labor, she is unable to help herself. This spirit of defiance and of challenge has become a decided mania, and we despair of the future unless it be an element in the "grist" which the Great Jehovah may be grinding out toward the regeneration of a race which has emasculated itself by inertia.

The recent order dismantling the works upon the land side of Vera Cruz may readily be considered indicative of a want of faith in the security of the hour on the part of the Secretary of War, General Mejia, if the view be taken that thereby, should Vera Cruz pronounce she will be unable to defend herself immediately against a force marching against it from the interior. Why should Vera Cruz not follow the example of so many of her sister States and cities and provinces?

The revolutionists in Querétaro continue to make their loans of money, corn and animals. They are reported to be increasing in numbers, and declare they are not robbers, but patriots, and that they will not lay down their arms till constitutional Mexico be restored. They still declare for Santa Anna as dictator for five years, after which an election. It is supposed that the troops moving eastward, and which have been recently employed in suppressing Martinez in Sinaloa, will be sent against these "disturbers of public order" in Querétaro.

Negrete would not stay whipped, and although the official paper announced many days ago that he was surprised and his forces were killed, captured and routed, and he barely escaped—that he was a wanderer flying from justice unaccompanied—yet we just hear of him at the head of a force, and that the government troops had just had another profitless and unsatisfactory engagement with him.

The whereabouts of General Rivera are not accurately known. It would appear that the government has some fear of a formidable movement of the revolutionists less than three miles from Mexico, from the fact that General Velez, who has been commanding the expedition against Negrete toward Tulancingo, has been relieved from duty in that quarter, and now commands at Tacubaya. There have been whisperings that immediately upon the adjournment of Congress some desperate revolutionary movements will take place.

The special excitement of the day is the *pronunciamiento* of Genaral Jesus Betanzas, late of the liberal army, who has pronounced in Pachuca, not many miles from the capital (sixty-five miles), for Porfirio Diaz. He claims to have already in the field three hundred and eighty soldiers, and is making forced loans in that vicinity. He had issued a proclamation much similar to that of Rivera, and declares he is contending for the constitution and that Diaz is the President. Fragoso, who has also been making forced loans throughout the country, has, so the papers announce, indicated his preference for Diaz. We have then, at least, Negrete, Rivera, Betanzas and Fragoso in the field against the peace of the country, beside many lesser but more cruel disturbers.

On the 8th of this month a most serious revolution was threatened at Matamoros. The merchants to whose knowledge the contemplated movements became known hastily sought some safe place of deposit for their funds and papers as there was every reason to believe that a successful revolt against the authorities would take place that day and a change in officials and plundering of property follow. Happily the want of a few thousand dollars, which the troops demanded as their reward for pronouncing, prevented or delayed the disturbance. At what moment the funds, which are a great motive power in Mexico, shall be obtained and so all of the seaport towns pronounce against the general government remains to be seen. There has been for a few days not a little excitement resulting from a report widely circulated that Camargo and other small towns near the Texas border has been occupied by filibusters from Texas. It has been reported here that for a long time the Mexicans are accused, on the Texas border, of having crossed over and driven back and sold many thousands of cattle, horses and mules, and that the occupation or visit to Camargo or other towns may be by armed parties in search of their stolen property. The whole story needs confirmation. However two days since Congress called for information from the War Department as to the action, if any, taken by that department in pursuance of a late act of that body establishing military colonies on the northern frontier. By the by, the late news from Washington city to Mexico up to the 27th of May came from San Francisco. This is a comment upon the country in these latter days of telegraphing.

The proposition of General La Barra and Mr. Wm. Pritchard to establish a line of steamers from New Orleans to Vera Cruz and seeking a subvention of $2,000 a trip has finally come up before Congress. These gentlemen thought they had every reason to expect a favorable issue to their business, but like all other projects which have been presented to the country it has been most unmercifully snubbed, and received forty-three votes in favor and seventy against it. Mr. Mata argued that the nation was too poor to aid a line to New York and to New Orleans both; and having already given aid to the New York line he favored doing nothing for the New Orleans line. Mr. Mendiolea, the Congressman who has such a dislike for a people who have "light hair," "blue eyes" and say "Yes, sir," opposed the bill because it would ruin the interests of the small Mexican sailing vessels. The same argument appeared in the discussion of railroad questions that the latter are an infringement on the jackasses, the animals which have for so many years carried the freights of this country.

On the 20th of this month during the discussion of Mr. Romero's Appropriation bill there occurred a discussion which will interest all who hold Mexican bonds of the United States (Corlies & Co.), English six per cent or three per cent, or Spanish bonds, or who hold the bonds of the internal debt. Mr. Romero proposed that Congress should appropriate $1,500,000 for the *amortizacion* (purchase) of these bonds and made no estimate for money to pay the interest on them. This called out Mr. Zamacona and Mr. Mata, who sought further explanations from the Secretary of the Treasury, and so at last it became necessary for the government, through Mr. Romero, to expose more fully its policy. Mr. Romero stated that the government had hopes that some negotiation might be entered into with the representation of the foreign debt which would result to the benefit of the Treasury and that if any appropriations were made to pay the interest on it now such action would render any negotiations possible. Mr. Romero also remarked "it is undoubtedly better," and "The opinion of the Executive is that in no manner ought the interest to be paid;" and again, "In regard to the debt due in the United States it will not be inconvenient to strike out of the bill that part providing funds for the interest on it, and as for the other debts they can remain the same as the English." Mr. Lerdo de Tejada, Minister of Foreign Relations, remarked during the discussion as follows, speaking of interest on English debt:—"The interest on the debt ought not to be paid for the reason that justice does not require it. I say justice, for in regard to the debt contracted in London it cannot be claimed that the law of the 14th of October, 1850, remains in force because by joining in the intervention, the holders of their bonds have gravely prejudiced their rights and require a new treaty. May 29 there was also presented to Congress a petition by the gentlemen who have lately arrived here from the States and who are understood to have in charge the construction of the road from Mexico to Tuxpan. These gentlemen apply for a charter for a bank to be established here, and to have branches to various parts of the republic, to consist of American and Mexican managers, capital $10,000,000, a portion of which shall be silver and balance paper money. No action has been concluded with reference thereto by Congress, nor has a final resolution been reached with regard to the amendments to the Tehuantepec grant, which Mr. La Lere is here still seeking. The English company which has established gasworks in the city at an expense of half a million of dollars has not as yet been able to effect a contract with the city government. The old system of lighting by oil has so many endearments in consequence of its being such a valuable "milch cow" that so great an improvement as gas cannot be introduced without meeting the opposition of those interested in the "milch cow."

On the morning of the 27th quite a large delegation left Mexico for their homes in the United States, among whom were Mr. Anson Bangs, of the Mexico and United States Railroad, Colonel Gray and family, Mr. Tollin and others. Their testimony will bear witness to the present deplorable condition of Mexico and the decided indisposition of the people to permit or encourage any business relations with Americans. Mr. Romero has been hoping to get off on this steamer, but the delay on the part of Congress in acting upon the appropriation bill and the opposition which it has had to contend with may occasion his remaining over until the next steamer. Romero says he goes to Washington to marry.

Jiminez is announced to be on his way to Mexico, and Alatorre to have arrived at Vera Cruz. General Diaz remains at home in Oaxaca.

On the 22d of May, at half-past twelve M., we experienced another earthquake. The tremulous motion, which was of very brief duration, was followed by several rockings, which were repeated and continued a minute or more. Citizens were running to the street and falling upon their knees, imploring to be spared from a speedy and horrible death. No destruction of property resulted. The shock was felt over many portions of Mexico, and occurred just four weeks from the last one, which was equally severe. There are no indications of an eruption of any volcanos of our neighborhood, which have been sleeping so many years.

The *Atalaya*, the paper of Montery which dared to tell the truth in regard to the recent outrages upon American citizens at that place, has been suspended; cause not known. We only know that the press at the capital and elsewhere has denounced its editor for publishing the article, which it is declared may cause some serious international complications. Mexico boasts of a free press, and as she cannot openly suppress the publication of a paper, not a little speculation has been indulged in here as to whether the Governor of the State interfered or in any way contributed to the suspension of the paper.

At last moment it is announced that Rivera is within twelve miles of this city since last evening, and about midnight the government sent a large force in pursuit of him. It is rumored that the government have confidently said they expected to capture him this morning.

On the 8th of May an attempt at revolution was to have taken place at Tampico. The merchants sought a place of safety for their funds and awaited the outbreak. Money was demanded by the troops for their expected overturning, and not being supplied amply the entertainment was postponed.

Minister Romero and S. S. Cox—Efforts to Compromise Between Romero and Fremont on the Ochoa Bond Question.

The following are extracts of the official correspondence of Mr. Romero, Minister of the Mexican Republic in the United States, to the Minister of the Republic in Mexico, published in the *Diario Oficial* of February 22 and 28, 1868:—

* * * Mr. Cox has been my friend and a friend of our cause. While he was a Congressman he rendered us very good services. Now it seems to me that he is interested with Mr. Fremont, although he seems to be a disinterested friend of us both, who only seeks for a satisfactory solution to the pending difficulties in favor of the same. Mr. Cox told me afterwards that the said project had been written at the suggestion of General Fremont.

APRIL 28, 1866.

On Monday, the 6th instant, Mr. S. S. Cox came to see me in the name of Mr. Fremont in order to state to me that the General desired that the points contained in my letter of the 28th of last month should be put in the form of a contract. I answered him I had no objection to do so, and having asked me the interpretation I gave to certain points in my letter, he commenced to draw up the project of a contract, containing the same words as my letter, together with the evplanations I had just given him, which he wanted me to sign immediately, in order to take it to Mr. Fremont the same day. I enclose herewith a copy and translation of said project of contract, marked Nos. 1 and 2.

Of course, I refused to sign it in such a hurry as he desired, but offered him to examine it and return with my remarks as soon as possible. On examination I found the object to be to make me tacitly recognize the validity of the contract signed by General Sanchez Ochoa, receiving the $3,000,000 that I offered him, not as pay for the services of General Fremont, but as a credit for the six millions which were offered to him in said contract. The haste with which Mr. Cox desired that I should sign said contract appeared to me suspicious. To-day I have written a counter-project, a copy of which, together with translation of same, are transmitted (Nos. 3 and 4). In this, without yielding the points agreed upon, I cleared up all doubts which could arise with regard to them. I forwarded them to Mr. Cox by mail of to-day, with the letter, a copy of which I inclose with translation, marked Nos. 5 and 6. Mr. Cox, in his hurry while here on the 6th, left his pocketbook. In it I found one or two blank powers of attorney, which probably he desired me to sign, copies of which I also forward with translations, marked Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10, from which it appears that they desire to have a greater interest in the loan than I am inclined to admit.

Renewing to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration, MATIAS ROMERO,
Minister of Foreign Relations.

Minister Campbell and the Juarez Government.

The following document will throw light upon the considerations which kept Minister Campbell from joining the Juarez government. The correctness of the appreciation therein made of the policy and statesmanship of the Mexican government can now be more easily tested than when the document was written:—

[CONFIDENTIAL.]
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, July 9, 1867.

SIR—In the supposition that the department has come to no positive determination as regards our representative here, I consider it my duty to offer the following suggestion, which in the present juncture of affairs in Mexico appears to me of the highest importance to our relations with this country in future. The time appointed in his instructions, October 25, 1866, for Mr. Campbell's arrival has passed. The circumstances which rendered our Minister's presence in Mexico desirable immediately after the evacuation of the French expeditionary corps have changed, both in regard to the situation of the country, its relations with European governments, and the disposition of the people towards foreigners in general.

President Juarez will arrive in a few days, and reorganization in all the branches of administrative policy, &c., is said to be the task devolving on those who are at this moment charged with the government of Mexico. The question then is, whether our government is prepared to place its representatives in a position where we must unavoidably take an active part in the organization of this country—a serious responsibility in itself, and one for which we may hereafter have to account should the result be other than anticipated—or where he must continue a passive spectator, to be charged with no less serious responsibility of a course of measures which his character as a foreign Minister would not permit him to control or direct. The basis for the subsequent organization of Mexico has been settled in San Luis Potosi, where we had no representative, could use no influence and have accepted no responsibility.

The department, in possession of these facts, can determine whether it were better to stand aloof and await the development of the policy of those who to-day are endeavoring to shape the destinies of Mexico as a sovereign and independent nationality, or to incur the danger of sharing hereafter in the failure of Mexican statesmen to regenerate their native land. It will not attract particular attention should our Minister not present his credentials during the prevalence of the vomito at Vera Cruz.

The reasons which prompt the foregoing suggestions are to be found in the results of an experience, during six years' residence, of the character, habits and disposition of the people and of political parties in Mexico, and that I am not more explicit is due to the difficulty of expressing as thoroughly in writing what can only be explained orally, and of the danger of entrusting to the mails subjects of this delicate nature. While, then, it is my duty to give information, I feel a certain reluctance in so far submitting the results of an experience which might even prove available for the benefit of government, from a doubt as to the manner in which an unsolicited opinion might be received in matters of so grave an importance, and from an unwillingness to overstep the limits marked for the intercourse of a consul with that department under whose instructions he is acting. If I have, nevertheless, ventured to write the foregoing, it was because I felt that there was, under the circumstances, no option, and that, the department once acquainted with the motives which actuate me to-day, would not censure if they did not approve this effort to present a true and impartial statement of affairs at the capital of Mexico.

I can more satisfactorily and perhaps more advantageously explain should the department by return of mail consent to my absence from Mexico, in consideration that the business of this office during a lengthened period of extraordinary trials and exertion has previously affected my health, to the restoration of which a change of climate and life has become absolutely necessary. My desire is to leave as soon as the season permits (end of September) for the United States.

I shall, if the department do not determine otherwise, leave Mr. Crepps in charge until some one else be appointed. He is a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with the duties of the office and acts under my responsibility while the department is making those dispositions which it shall deem proper. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedient servant, MARCUS OTTERBURG,
United States Consul in charge of United States Legation.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD, Assistant Secretary of State of the United States, Washington, D. C

MEXICAN BONDS.

NEW YORK, June 10, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD—

Your article of this morning on Minister Romero and Mexican finance is worthy the attention of the commercial community. It is certainly well timed and may have the effect of preventing many of our citizens from being legally robbed out of their hard earned greenbacks. The repudiating procedure which you mention has been gone through in my case, and in hopes that it may save some other "brand from the burning" fire of Mexican robbery I will, with your permission, briefly recount it. In the summer of 1866, when Maximilian and the Mexican republican forces were fighting in the provinces, through the representations of some gentlemen in this city I invested in some Mexican bonds issued by President Juarez and countersigned by the Legation of the United States of Mexico at Washington. When the interest (according to the coupons) became due I applied for it, but was quietly informed that there was no money to pay it in the agent's hands. The Mexican war closed, the bonds were formaly acknowledged by the first Congress at the city of Mexico, and then, surely, with all the other bondholders I thought that some appropriation would be made to meet the interest then due; but no such thing was done; on the contrary, propositions were actually made by the Treasury Department (Mexican) to a gentleman from this city in Mexico endeavoring to get some money for the bondholders, to buy in the bonds here at about ten cents on the dollar. These facts will, perhaps, show that there is more than a rumor in your telegram from Havana, of Sunday last, which says that Mr. Romero, Mexican Minister of Finance, had left there in the Columbia to arrange the details of a scheme to wrong American citizens who hold large amounts of Mexican bonds which were taken in payment for war material furnished Juarez during the war with Maximilian. MEXICAN BONDHOLDER.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Five Minutes' Conversation with Senor Don Romero.

The amiable and patriotic representative—Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary—from the republic of Mexico to the government at Washington, Señor Don Matias Romero, is in this city, stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel; but it is probable he will leave to-day for the national capital, where it is his intention to present to the President his letters of recall and thus retire from a position which he filled with credit to himself and government during the most critical period of the history of Mexico since the conquest.

The Señor, during an interview which lasted five minutes yesterday afternoon, informed us that next to Mexico there was no country he so much admired as the United States. He had resided here many years and claimed to have some knowledge of the people, and the more familiar he became with their idiosyncrasies, which to a stranger were peculiar if not striking, the more desirable they seemed to him. If he should ever be driven into exile by the misfortunes of his own land, to whose future he proposed devoting whatever ability he possessed, he would choose the United States for his home.

His leave of six months' absence having expired, he had returned to the States to perfect or close private matters, and then on formally ending his diplomatic career return to Mexico, where he thought in the present condition of affairs he might prove of some use.

Mexico, he remarked, was gradually growing out of her troubles. Her people were more law abiding than many here and in Europe supposed; and as the military and political chieftains of to-day were better educated than their predecessors, they were not so hotly disposed to raze society to its foundations to gratify personal or political animosities, or by the strong hand hold governmental power.

With regard to the revenues, he hinted that sufficient was collected to meet, without resorting to arbitrary measures, the current expenses of the government, which were moderate. With peace among the people and economy and consolidation in the executive and legislative departments of the government fully demonstrated, he was persuaded that the capitalists of the North and of Europe would be inclined to invest in enterprises which would develop the grand resources, mineral, agricultural and commercial, of Mexico; and these in time would not only repay them fully for the use of their money, but add immensely to the aggregate wealth of the world. Mexico possessed much wealth in her mines and her lands, in her harbors and on her sea coasts, and as her climate was of that character which permitted the cultivation of the vegetable products of the temperate equally with the torrid zone, he saw no reason why the country, the laws enforced and respected, should not be fully developed.

Senor Romero is a man of exceedingly prepossessing manners. He is short in stature, but is possessed of a magnificent head. His eyes have a gleam in them which bespeaks dauntless courage and unswerving purpose. He is evidently a man of patriotic impulses and of that singleness of purpose which makes him ambitious to serve in any capacity, from the highest to the lowest, that may be found most consonant with the best interests of his country.

During the interview the Minister spoke with the utmost frankness of his own position and the intentions of the Juarez government. He answered unhesitatingly every question propounded, of which the above is the substance.

SOLDIERS' MESSENGER AND DESPATCH COMPANY.

OFFICE OF THE SOLDIERS' BUSINESS, MESSENGER AND DESPATCH COMPANY, No. 2 PARK PLACE, NEW YORK, June 11, 1868.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I am instructed by the Board of Directors of the Soldiers' Business, Messenger and Despatch Company to reply to the article in your issue of this date concerning the management of this company.

Without attempting to premise the motives which prompted you in publishing such an article permit me to say that the allegations against the company are a collection of falsehoods. First, the soldiers employed are not "defrauded in a measure of their earnings," but on the contrary receive every cent which is agreed to be paid. Second—The soldiers are not "compelled to purchase their clothing of the company." Third—The soldiers are not charged "several hundred per cent advance on garments that are not superior in quality of cloth or make to those on sale at the slop shops," but on the contrary the company have never yet received the first cent for any clothing furnished the employés. Fourth—The Superintendent's salary is not $7,000 per annum; the President's salary is not $5,000 or any other sum; the Secretary's salary is not $3,500; the Inspector of Booths' salary is not $2,400, or any approximation to the amounts named. Fifth—A reduction of $2 per week has not been made nor attempted to be made in the pay of the men in the booths, but on the contrary an increase of fifty cents per week has been made. Sixth—No employé has ever been told by the President or Superintendent that $3 per week "was as much as a cripple was worth, and if he would not take that he ought to beg or starve," but on the contrary crippled soldiers have always been preferred for such work as they could perform, and none have received less than $7 50 per week. Seventh—No order has been promulgated, signed by the President, to strike $2 per week from each man's wages until the amount of $23 should have been paid for garments furnished them.

We invite the closest scrutiny into the management of the company, and if any respectable citizen will call upon the President or any other officer he may soon satisfy himself that the objects and intentions of the company, as set forth in the charter, with a view to the employment of soldiers, are being faithfully carried out. ALEXANDER SHALER,
President S. B. M. and D. Co.

MURDER OF A NEGRO SENATOR IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Particulars of the Unfortunate Affair—Trouble Brewing.

[From the Columbia (S. C.) Phœnix, June 7.]

We are informed that while a negro man, one Dill and his wife, were sitting in Dill's house, they were fired upon. The negro man and Dill were killed and Mrs. Dill wounded. Dill, we believe, was the Senator elect for Kershaw district, under the recent constitution, and a violent radical, exerting much influence among the negroes of Kershaw district. At whose hands these parties met their death we do not know. In any event we regret the occurrence and the necessity that devolves upon us of recording such an outrage in our usually quiet and law-abiding community. Since writing the above we learn that quite an excitement prevails in the neighborhood of the killing, which is near Longtown, in Fairfield, and not far from the Kershaw line. We believe that the military authorities here have sent a guard to preserve the peace. It appears that some time ago Dill made a speech to the negroes, wherein he told them that if he should be killed they must avenge his death upon the whites and kill them "from the cradle up." The negroes, we are informed, have stopped work in that locality and threatened mischief. But we take it for granted that the military will easily put down any violence on their part.

CUBA.

Strange Proceeding of an Officer of the United States Steamer Gettysburg.

HAVANA, June 6, 1868.

It was commonly remarked and commented upon that when the United States steamer De Soto entered this harbor last week she did not salute the Spanish flag. We believe it is a rule that all American war vessels below ten guns do not salute, and the De Soto has but nine; yet there are reasons for surmising that the salute would have been rendered notwithstanding had there not been other causes in the way supposed to be well understood between Commodore Boggs and Acting Consul General De la Reintrie, who was received on board with the usual cordiality.

On Monday Her Catholic Majesty's war steamer Churruca returned here from Carthagena. Thus there only remains two war steamers, Vasco Nuñez and the Guadiana, in port to watch the movements of that old fillibustering hulk, the Rayo (formerly the R. R. Cuyler.)

A military commission was lately sent to Sagua la Chica to put down the evildoers in the district of Taguayabon. In seven days no less than thirty-six individuals were apprehended, accused of a diversity of crimes. Among them are the well known bandits Zanchas and Guanche, the terror of the district. They have both confessed to a number of robberies and murders and there is no question of their being ere long garroted, with others of the thirty-six. In the district of Sibanicu a similar commission has caused the arrest of twenty-eight malefactors. The energy and activity of these military commissions are beyond all praise, and soon the many bandit infested neighborhoods of the island will gather in a most beautiful vintage of peace and tranquility, the production of their untiring labors.

The pleasant reunions of the Mexican refugees and their abettors, at the fashionable residence of the Countess de la Palma, have rather unpleasantly terminated. The most prominent Mexican refugee in Havana, his *Excelentisimo* Senor ex-President Santa Anna, was said to have been guilty of the impropriety, to use the mildest appropriate word, of introducing into the assembly his then favorite "friend," Zolia Lopez, as his niece. The Countess soon learned of the fraud practised upon her and her guests, and at once forbade the entry of her house to his *Excelentisimo*. This, it has been said, was the cause of the breaking up of the reunions, much to the regret of many Mexican refugees, who highly condemned ex-General Santa Anna's conduct.

It is stated that the President of the International Ocean Telegraph Company has decided that no more commercial telegrams can be sent from here in ciphers or other combinations of abbreviation. A scheme was reported not long ago, which tended to economize enormously in the cost of telegraphing by the cable, and an agent of the Associated Press was said to be offering to receive and transmit the messages from the merchants at an enormous reduction on the Company's rates by means of his key. At first it appeared quite a temptation to a few of the smaller firms of this city, to profit by such an important scheme of economy; but upon after considerations most of them seem to have comprehended that the promised economy might, sooner or later, cost them very dear. The action of the President has, however, removed all further doubts upon the subject.

On account of deficits during the past year in their financial reports most of the interior cities are curtailing expenses; but benevolent and charitable institutions are made to bear the main brunt of these retrenchments. The municipality of Holguin, for example, has struck out all appropriations for the Santiago hospital and the city high school, and made no allowances for the repairs of streets and roads.

Trinidad city and vicinity from one extreme has gone to another—from the drought to a semi-diluvial condition. The whole country for miles around was visited on the 26th ult. by a heavy rain storm that lasted two days and a half, filling the river, creeks and works to overflowing and flooding the greater part of the land. The growing crops of minor articles of production were destroyed, and a large number of horses, mules, cattle and sheep drowned. On one single estate six horses, eight mules and forty-eight head of cattle were thus lost. There were other serious damages to property, and altogether the dry spell was succeeded by a vast superabundance of water. The effects of the rain storm extended as far as Sancto Spiritu, but were not so disastrously felt.

The place of a clerk having become vacant in the military administration of this department, no less than fifty-eight persons applied for the position. The selection, it has been decided, shall be the result of a competing examination. The United States, after all, are not the only country furnishing wide fields for the wild hunt after office.

We learn from the last number of the "Gazette of Medical Sciences," a periodical lately started here and which displays great abilities in its editorial department, that there were two deaths in the government hospital of Havana during the past year from hydrophobia. One was that of a young mulatto boy and the other of one of the night watchmen. Both were bitten by mad dogs in the night hand, both remained forty days without showing signs of hydrophobia and both died forty-eight hours thereafter. Rather strange coincidence, wasn't it?

Smallpox is reported to have almost entirely disappeared from Puerto Principe. The journal of Holguin denies its ever having been there.

The government has authorized the formation of a savings bank at Trinidad, with a capital of $50,000.

A free mulatto, named Tiburcio Izaguirre, died at Bayamo on the 27th ult., aged 110 years and eleven months. He continued in good health and vigor until a few days preceding his death.

The Spanish actress, Ramona Garcia, died at Guantanamo on the 25th ult., of yellow fever. She was the most prominent actress now on the island, and last December was a member of the Valero troupe, playing at the Tacon theatre.

The Captain General Opposed to the Gold Speculators—Religious Celebration of the Month of May—The Captured Slaves—Another Vessel Fined.

HAVANA, June 2, 1868.

The iniquitous measure inaugurated by the municipal authorities here, and immediately afterward adopted by other authorities and nearly all the merchants and business men of Havana, to refuse receiving Spanish American gold coin, without regard to their weight or value, has been very severely but justly reprobated by the Captain General. The *Official Gazette* of last Saturday evening contained a proclamation of his in which the measure is denounced as the production of an unworthy spirit of speculation, and all departments under his control are ordered to continue receiving and paying out the coins in question, and good citizens are asked to assist in putting down so reproachful a move. The results of the proclamation were almost instantaneous, all authorities and parties guilty of the iniquitous repudiation at once backing down from their positions, and to-day Spanish American gold coins again circulate freely among all classes. The action of the Captain General has considerably enhanced his popularity. The paper, *La Prensa*, which from the jump made itself the champion of a measure contemplated to drive out of circulation over $3,000,000, merely because it was not Spanish coined, published the proclamation, but has not a word to say on the subject. General Lersundi appears to have rendered it dumb.

On the 6th of July the contract for carrying the mails between this city and Vera Cruz, and also between here and Porto Rico, will be allotted to the lowest bidder, under sealed proposals made in conformity with the order of October 29, 1867.

On Sunday terminated the religious ceremonies called "Feasts of the Flowers of May," vouchsafed during the month to the Vir