I. O. O. F.

History of the Origin and Progress of the Order.

THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

CELEBRATION OF THE DAY.

To-day is the fiftieth anniversary of the institution in this country of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It will be celebrated by all the lodges throughout the United States, and especially at Philadelphia, where the arrangements are made for a grand national celebration, in which, besides the members of the order resident in that city, representatives and delegates of a majority of the lodges in other States will participate. The day will also be festively commemorated in this and other cities, though the festivities will not, except in Philadelphia, be of a public character, the "brethren" of our local lodges having concluded to abandon the idea of a procession in the streets and to confine the celebration to concerts, meetings, dinners and balls.

The fiftieth anniversary! The members of this order may well feel proud of the astonishing progress they have made during these years. It has not only kept pace with the gigantic general development of the country at large, but it has far exceeded it. It was on the 26th day of April, 1819, that "one" Thomas Wildey, of Baltimore, uniting with himself four others, instituted the first lodge of Odd Fellows in the United States. They were Englishmen, and attached their lodge, which they named the Washington Lodge No. 1, to the "Manchester Unity," the main body of British Odd Fellows, and received a charter from there, under which they began to work and expand. And now, fifty years after, the "Independent Order of Odd Fellows" rivals, in point of numbers, of wealth and intelligence, any other similar organization—even the Masonic fraternity—and may be considered as one of the most important institutions of the land.

The origin of the Odd Fellows, like that of the Masonic order, it has been attempted to trace back to remote antiquity. It is stated by some that a brotherhood like the Odd Fellows, for mutual entertainment and succor, had existed among the Goths and Huns and other Northern and Eastern nations as early as the fourth century; that it was introduced into Spain in the fifth, to Portugal in the sixth and to France in the twelfth century, and was transplanted to England by Sir John De Neville and other associated knights, where, in the eighteenth century, the name was changed to "Odd Fellows" from "The Loyal Grand Lodge of Honor." Others ascribed to it a still more ancient origin. If these are to be believed Adam, the first man, according to Moses, was the founder of the order and the first "odd" fellow. This account may perhaps have been suggested by the fact that before Eve was created to make a pair Adam undoubtedly must have been the "odd" one. Still another account states that among the soldiers of Nero, the Roman Emperor, the brotherhood was first instituted for reciprocal protection and assistance, and that the order took its shape and name during the reign of Emperor Titus, and was gradually carried through the then known civilized world by the Roman soldiery and others who had become initiated.

But all these imaginary tales have now been discarded as mere inventions of enthusiasts. It is quite impossible that the origin of the order should date so far back into antiquity, and yet neither sacred nor profane history make any mention of its existence. Hence in the United States the Grand Lodge was not misled even by an emblem procured from a British lodge in 1826, on which Adam is represented as laying the foundation of the first lodge, and it declared all the accounts mentioned of the putative origin and antiquity of the Order of Odd Fellows to be absurd and idle stories, unworthy of credence. The true origin of the order is given as follows:—

Towards the close of the eighteenth century a number of mechanics and laborers had formed into lodges, calling themselves the "Ancient and Honorable Loyal Odd Fellows." The object of their association was mutual support in case of need or sickness, and with the example of the Masons before them they adopted secrecy for their meetings, a certain system of ritual, with grips and passwords, and a subdivision into degrees, with a view to better internal government. Their meetings were held in taverns and generally ended with a convivial feast, which, in fact, was also one of the original purposes of the confraternity. The weekly contributions for charitable ends were small, commensurate to the means of the members, and seldom more than from a penny to twopence a week. It was about this time that James Montgomery wrote the song for a London lodge, which is still sung by the lodges even in this country, commencing with

Where Friendship, Love and Truth abound,
Among a band of Brothers.

And the words, "friendship, love and truth" still form what may be called the shibboleth of the order, and it is expected that all brothers live up to the dictates of these three "cardinal virtues." From London the order soon extended to other cities, particularly to Liverpool and Manchester. A central organization was then formed, uniting the several societies or lodges in one "Union Order of Odd Fellows," the chief or governing organization or grand lodge being located at London. By the year 1809 the order had already spread over nearly the whole of England, and some discussion arose within it as to the continuance of the system of convivial gatherings of the brothers, the minority insisting that they should be omitted. The agitation of this question lasted for four years, giving often rise to heated debate and angry discussion. At last the "reformers" finding themselves still in the minority, seceded from the organization and at a convention held at Manchester formed the "Independent Order of Odd Fellows" and the central committee located there and the subordinate lodges under its control, and known as the "Manchester Unity," is still regarded as the main body of British Odd Fellows.

It was, as has already been stated, under the authority of this "Manchester Unity" and by force of a charter obtained from its grand lodge a "movable central committee" that, on the 26th April, 1819, Thomas Wildey and his four associates started Washington Lodge No. 1 at Baltimore, the first regular lodge of Odd Fellows in the United States. It is not doubted that there were some Odd Fellow organizations before that in this country, but they were managed upon the original London plan and convivial meetings were most in order, the charitable purposes being second in degree only. The new organization of Mr. Wildey, however, adhered strictly to the system of the Manchester reformers, making aid and assistance to poor and needy brothers the chief object, their burial after death and help to the widow, and hence Mr. Wildey may truly be said to be the father of the order in this country. Its original charter from Manchester is said to be still in existence, naming it as the Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for the State of Maryland and the United States. Under this authority the order soon extended. Not only did the first lodge itself increase rapidly in numbers, but others were instituted in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, from whence it spread to the West, taking root and expanding wherever a brother from the East went to settle.

The constitution of the order is very simple. The primary body is the subordinate lodge. Five persons are necessary to constitute a lodge to entitle it to a charter from the Grand lodge of the State in which it is situated. Outside of this and a few other general regulations as to the fundamental rules and principles of the order, prescribed by its constitution and guarded over by the Grand Lodges, the subordinate lodges are independent in the management of their own affairs and make their own by-laws and their own regulations. Hence the initiation fees and monthly or quarterly dues are different in amount in every lodge, just as the members themselves may choose to determine, the first being from ten dollars to one hundred dollars, the latter, from three dollars per year to twelve dollars, and in some few lodges even higher. Every male person of good repute, twenty-one years of age or over, may become a member by making a written application through a brother and depositing the initiation fee. A committee is then appointed to inquire into the character and reputation of the candidate, and if the report be favorable, a ballot is had, at which generally three black balls are sufficient to reject the applicant. If he be received, he is notified, and at the next regular meeting of the lodge he is initiated into the first or white degree. There are five degrees in all—the white, the covenant, the royal blue, the remembrance and the scarlet. There is also a female degree (that of Rebekkah, instituted in 1851), for the wives of those brothers who had reached the scarlet degree. The officers of a subordinate lodge are the Noble Grand, or President; the Vice Grand, the Treasurer, Permanent and Recording Secretaries. When a Noble Grand has served a term in office he becomes Past Grand, and may be elected to the past grand degree, to which only Past Grands are specially eligible, and from among whom the Grand Lodges of the States are formed, presided over by a Grand Master. The United States Grand Lodge is composed of representatives of State Grand Lodges, and its president is named Grand Sire. There is also an Encampment of Patriarchs, to which only such brothers as have received the scarlet degree in subordinate lodges can be raised. A Chief Patriarch is the presiding officer of an encampment, aided by the High Priest, Senior and Junior Wardens, a Scribe and a Treasurer. Each State has its Grand Encampment, under a Most Worthy Grand Patriarch, a Most Excellent Grand High Priest, a Right Worthy Grand Senior Warden, Right Worthy Grand Junior Warden, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer and Grand Representative.

The principles of the order are highly meritorious. Charity and benevolence, "peace on earth and good will among men," the essential features of all creeds and religions, are fully represented and inculcated by the daily teachings and practice of Odd Fellowship. It makes no distinction of rank, of creed, of nationality, nor of wealth, but embraces all within its charitable fold. Among the principal objects of the order, as now constituted and as it has been organized ever since its introduction into the United States fifty years ago, are relief to distressed members and their families, aid and pecuniary assistance in cases of sickness, visiting the poor and needy, watching at the sick bed of a brother, burying the dead, succoring the widows and educating the orphans of deceased members, all of which are most worthy and humane purposes. It excludes all sectarianism and bigotry and alms solely at the improvement and moral and social elevation of man. With such principles, it has been asked, why should the order adhere to its machinery of secrecy and seclusion? But it is but just to state that the secrecy and mystery connected with the order are but incidents—means to prevent fraud and imposition. Certain signs of recognition, of proof of membership and of identification have been found necessary, and this is all that there is secret about it. Its actions shun not the light of day and its proceedings are generally known and published to the world.

The order is eminently popular in the United States. Its members are, for the greater part, found among the middle and industrial classes, though it numbers many men of wealth and commanding position among its brothers. A large majority, however, are professional men, business men, mechanics and farmers. Especially is this true among our German population. It is estimated that fully one-fourth of the entire membership of the order is composed of Germans, who in every large city have a number of lodges of their own, where the proceedings are conducted in the German language. As an indication of this it may be mentioned that last summer a convention was held in this city of delegates from a number of German Odd Fellow lodges, for the purpose of initiating a movement looking to the accumulation of a fund to build an Odd Fellows' Hall to accommodate the German lodges. Such lodges are very numerous in this city and throughout the West.

In the year 1860, according to the official returns, there were in the United States 3,548 lodges, with 173,818 members. The amount paid for relief in that year was $648,746, and for other charitable purposes $72,450. The whole amount thus expended for the thirty years prior to 1860 was $8,478,528, quite a regal sum, considering the small beginning in Baltimore in 1819. Since 1860 the order has again largely increased, and it is estimated that there are now over 4,000 lodges in existence, numbering probably 300,000 members; the annual income of the order for the year 1868 is rated at $2,500,000, of which over $1,200,000 was expended in relieving the necessities of sick or needy brethren and otherwise employing it in charitable objects—a truly munificent contribution, which cannot fail to elicit the highest praise. One writer, in commenting upon this and upon the general tendencies of the order, says:—"American Odd Fellowship is eminently progressive. It was the pioneer of the great reforms that now occupy the attention of the public. Its founders in this country removed from it the more convivial features that mark the system in England and imparted to it the characteristic elements of benevolence and practical philanthropy."

The anniversary exercises to-day promise to be worthy of the order. The grand national celebration will take place, as already stated, in Philadelphia, when the 23,000 members in that city will march, in full regalia, in procession through the streets, accompanied by numerous delegations from all the principal cities and towns, east, north, south and west, and it is expected that not less than 50,000 brethren will participate. At St. Louis the Mayor has issued a proclamation requesting the citizens to suspend business between nine and three o'clock to-day, in order that all may participate in and witness the procession which is to come off in that city, and which will also be a splendid affair, judging from the extensive preparations made for it. All the great centres of trade, besides sending their delegations to Philadelphia, will also celebrate the day, and in Boston, Cincinnati, Louisville, Chicago, New Orleans and Charleston the arrangements are made in a style commensurate with the importance and wealth of the order.

Thus will pass the fiftieth anniversary of Odd Fellowship in the United States. As the country itself has expanded from a mere handful of people between the eastern slopes of the Alleghanies and the Atlantic to a grand nation, covering the continent from ocean to ocean, and second to none in power, influence and wealth, so have also increased all the institutions among the people, and none more rapidly nor to a greater degree than the order of Odd Fellows. Where on the day of its birth in America it numbered but five people, who ventured to father its introduction, it numbers now a million and a half of souls, directly or indirectly interested in its welfare and prosperity. As time rolls on and the country grows larger and more prosperous still, so will this order grow with its prosperity, and it will present a still more glorious and grander spectacle, when, on the 26th of April, 1919, it will celebrate the centennial anniversary of its existence and beneficient working among us.

The Celebration in Philadelphia—Arrival of Delegates from Abroad—Preparation for a Grand Ball in the Skating Rink.

PHILADELPHIA, April 25, 1869.

A very large number of strangers have arrived here to participate in the Odd Fellows' celebration to-morrow. The weather promises to be fine. After the parade the grand feature will be a ball in the skating rink. The capacity of this building allows three hundred sets to dance at once. Nearly $3,000 have been expended in decorating the interior.

The Celebration in Portland, Maine.

PORTLAND, April 25, 1869.

The Odd Fellows of this city will celebrate their semi-centennial anniversary to-morrow, and lodges from several neighboring cities will be present.

ST. DOMINGO.

Progress of the Annexation Idea—Counter Influences at Work—Napoleon's Plan for a West Indian Confederation.

ST. DOMINGO, April 2, 1869.

The idea of annexation to or some form of protection from the United States is taking possession of the Dominican mind to an incredible extent. In a recent trip into the interior sections, where the African population largely preponderates and where we least expected such an exhibition of interest, we were overwhelmed with inquiries as to when the Americans were coming. Almost everybody has something he expects to sell to the Americans for their "beautiful gold and silver." Lands, cattle, horses, pigs, poultry even are to find a cash market when the "Americans shall take charge of Dominican prosperity."

There is a secret but steady counter current at work, however, which will take a distinct form should Congress refuse to authorize the President to effect the annexation. One and all deny the soft impeachment, but it is not the less true, nevertheless, that at least two of the European consuls have united in urging a counter plan upon the Dominican Cabinet, and that one member (but one, I believe) decidedly prefers the European plan to the policy of annexation to the United States. Some members of the Senate say that while the vote for annexation would undoubtedly be unanimous, if proffered by the United States, the counter plan is equally sure to work out the independent prosperity of the island. It is even asserted, but not on official authority that I can learn, that the inspiration comes from the Tuileries, because a gentleman from Paris has been the chief advocate among the Dominican merchants of non-annexation.

The counter plan looks to the confederation of Cuba, Hayti, Porto Rico and Jamaica, possibly, under a European recognition which shall amount to an efficient protection of the Republic of the Antilles. It is thought here that such a pressure could be brought upon Spain by France, England and other powers, that Spain would give up Cuba to the Cubans for a few million francs upon the condition that Cuba shall remain an independent State and agree to grant something like permanent free trade for Spanish ships. If the Dominican republic will renounce the idea of annexation to the United States and declare the ports of Samana and Monte Christo free and neutral ports, valuable aid and countenance will be rendered the Baez government through a bank which parties stand ready to establish, taking the mining rents as a security for the loan now in abeyance.

The mere discussion of annexation has done much for the relief of Baez, coming up as it did contemporaneously with the Cuban revolution. It became evident to the alert consular agents of Europe that the Grant administration would have the power to add these three islands—Cuba, Hayti and Porto Rico—to the Union, whether Europe was pleased or not; no nation on the other side of the water would venture beyond a little quiet intrigue to prevent it; but should the United States be disinclined to annex just now, what then? *Why, endeavor to make future annexation impossible.* Can this be done? Here it is believed by many that it is not only feasible, but in some degree pre-arranged to defeat the annexation of the Antilles by means of St. Domingo. If the ocean cable should suddenly flash the intelligence that Napoleon had forestalled the Grand Cabinet in recognising in Cuba "a whole people struggling for their existence as a distinct nationality," and in asking Spain to grant them the political boon of independence, both Spain and the Cubans will be apt to heed the advice of this strong mediator. In advance of this the Dominican republic will have learned exactly what it has to expect from the United States. If the flat should be free acceptance into the Union Cuba will not hear of any other destiny for herself than annexation. Neither will France waste much diplomacy to rescue Cuba from Spain if the island of Hayti—second only to Cuba in importance—is given over to the United States. But with both islands amenable to European influence, with all their products and tariffs arranged to meet the interests of European manufactures and commerce, the affair is worth managing.

Baez himself is very dubious on the subject of annexation. He doubts much whether Congress will authorize the Executive to proceed immediately, and any other course will be very uncertain of success here. That failing, the counter plan of free ports at Samana and Monte Christo and European mediation for Cuba and a confederation of the Antilles on free trade principles, are the next things on the cards. Baez has always leaned that way. He was educated in Europe and has travelled in the United States. He knows that an able, far-sighted and not over-scrupulous European minister is apt to see his point and make it, while a Washington Cabinet is twaddling over a bit of tangled red tape which some cunning diplomat has, with a solemn show of seriousness, invited him to unravel. They may turn and twist the question as they like, but it comes to this at last. Shall St. Domingo lead the van in adding the three Antilles to the United States, or shall it take position as the nucleus of a free trade confederation under European patronage? Incredulity may sneer, but a few months will prove that this is not stated lightly nor on mean authority.

The Negotiations Between Washington and St. Domingo—Public and Private History—Schemes and Counter Schemes—Present Attitude of the Annexation Question.

ST. DOMINGO, April 10, 1869.

There is a wonderful rattling of dry bones among the fossils of Dominican officialdom. The European consuls are searching into all manner of old documents to prove to their respective governments that the omnivorous American eagle is about to swoop down on the round circle of Antilles, and that nothing short of a general combination of all the crowns of Europe can keep this terrible bird of prey from clutching them all, leaving the aforesaid crowned heads without a single coffee, sugar or spice island in the American seas.

It is probably known to you before this time that the so-called mission of M. Angerard from this government to Washington was, not to put too fine a point upon it, a clever ruse of M. Landais, the French Vice Consul, to entrap the annexation party here into showing their cards at Washington, and so place the whole affair within the cognizance and manipulation of Napoleon's Minister at that point. The trick was so well played that even that wary old rat, Secretary Seward, was caught by it. Grant's friends seem not to have liked any part of Seward's jumble and quietly took measures to make up their own game at both ends of the line. To clear the table and learn exactly what was before and behind them, a competent person—probably more than one—was sent here to study the records and maintain a close correspondence with Washington. Minister Fabens has come and gone two or three times to collect "ravelled ends" and bring up the missing links of data, and all the foreign consuls are busy unearthing buried documents and forgotten letters to make out their chain of evidence against the "designing and ravenous" United States. No power is better entitled to the truth, and the whole truth, than the permanent fourth estate of republics—the independent press—and so at least a month before any of them get the whole of the facts together the HERALD may have them all before its readers.

To begin with the beginning of the Dominican republic—that is to say at its birth, in 1844. The Washington Cabinet assumed a most singular position. When the Eastern or old Spanish division—comprising two-thirds of the island of Hayti—broke away from its forced union with the strictly negro government of the French end, Mr. Caminero—a most accomplished white gentleman—was sent to ask the United States to recognize the infant Dominican republic as a member of the American system. Caminero pressed as reasons for the friendship and moral support of the Washington government these considerations:—

First—That its central position in the Antilles and its proximity to the United States would make it always desirable to have it a free and republican State, independent of European domination. The Dominican republic was the only American State in the West Indies, all the other islands being European colonies except Hayti, which was almost as African as Dahomey.

Second—He urged that this republic, having rescued its independence from the yoke of exclusive negro dominion, proceeded not only to establish the equal rights of all races to its fundamental law, but had by express conditions in its constitution opened its public domain, its valuable forests and fisheries and its extensive mineral deposits to the use and occupation of foreigners as freely as to the natives of the soil; that, in brief, by accepting the Dominican republic as a member of the American system the United States would gain thereby all the advantages of so much additional territory without the cost or responsibility of maintaining it.

Mr. Caminero's mission failed for reasons peculiar to the time. An idea was entertained by many leading men that we must have somewhere in or about the United States a purely negro State, and to them the island of Hayti seemed the divinely appointed spot. They did not wish white men there at any price. They thought and said the whites already there must be crowded out; that an Anglo-African empire might rise to absorb the rule of the entire circle of West India islands, Cuba included. The negro supremacy party was, if not strong in itself, active and always on the alert to serve their model negro government in Hayti. To aid Hayti the Dominican republic was quietly ignored at Washington until about 1850, when the Cuban Junta renewed the subject with certain Senators. The Cuban Revolutionary Junta of 1847 conceived the plan of obtaining, under the guise of a commercial charter, the control of a maritime depot on the fine bay of Manzanillo, which deeply indents the north coast of the island of Hayti exactly on the line between Dominican republic. They hoped, by subsidizing one or both of the rival governments, to purchase immunity, if not assistance, in their revolutionary projects on Cuba. A member of Congress who had solicited the confidence of the Cuban leaders mentioned the plan to a member of the Washington Cabinet, who thought it his duty to notify the Spanish Minister. The Cuban plan was foiled, of course, but it had the result of making Spain, France and England very kindly and careful in protecting the Dominican government and keeping it under European tutelage. In 1853-'4 the Dominican question was revived at Washington, if not directly by the Cuban revolutionists, certainly by those warmly and openly in favor of annexing that island to the United States. General W. L. Cazneau, of Texas, seconded by the Senators and the entire State delegation in Congress, submitted to the Pierce Cabinet the project of acquiring a naval station in the bay of Samana for the bay of Manzanillo. Secretary Marcy was not in favor of outside acquisitions, but Guthrie, of the Treasury, and Davis, of the War Department, were earnest in its favor, and Cazneau, after a preliminary visit to examine the ground, was sent to St. Domingo in 1854, in the United States frigate Columbia, to treat for a naval station at Samana. George B. McClellan accompanied Cazneau on this mission to select the site. He went round to Samana Bay in the Columbia, examined the bay and designated the place, which, a few years later, the Spanish engineers declared to be "the unequalled natural Gibraltar of the Caribbean sea." It is a matter of historic notoriety that the French and English squadrons in these seas were ordered to present a sufficient naval force in front of St. Domingo "to check the conclusion of a treaty which would place such a dangerous Power as the United States at the most commanding point of the Antilles." Cazneau protested—(the HERALD published all the particulars at the time)—but the Washington Cabinet, really caring little about St. Domingo in those days, dropped Samana as an affair of more trouble than value.

When the United States government threw aside the consideration of Samana, Cazneau proposed to the Dominican president a plan for declaring Samana or Manzanillo a free and neutral port, and ceding to a private company the public domain and full use of all harbor privileges within the ceded district; but from the day Santana saw an American negotiation cut off and abandoned at European dictation that single-head old Indian lost all faith in Yankee courage or statesmanship.

On the accession of Mr. Buchanan the original project of the lease of a United States naval depot at Samana, with the conditions precedent of the bay and peninsula being declared a free port, forever neutral of war, was again brought forward by Cazneau. Unfortunately the most energetic advocate of the plan was Senator Douglas, and that for a time disinclined President Buchanan to act upon it. Meantime Spain had taken the alarm and her agents, assisted by those of other European Powers, were intriguing with Santana and his chief men for the extinction of the Dominican republic as an American State and its reconversion into a Spanish colony. On this, three persons of high official position wrote to their old friend Cazneau; that if he could not return to St. Domingo, empowered to treat for Samana, prepared to take possession and to pay down something on account of the lease of a naval station, "the Monroe doctrine will receive an insulting blow in the death of this republic, for General Santana is resolved to sell it to Spain."

This letter was remitted to Senator Douglas, and his note to General Cazneau, referring to it, is now in the hands of an intimate friend of President Baez, who has also much other curious correspondence on the subject, which I have been allowed to read. In it Senator Douglas says:—"Our Lecompton difference has put such a cold distance between Old Buck and the rest of us that I handed the within (the Dominican letter) to your friend ——— and advised him to insist upon the President's immediate attention to the Dominican crisis. If he moves too slowly, why not come to Washington yourself and set the Texas delegation upon him in mass?"

However it was done, General Cazneau was sent for to Washington, and, at President Buchanan's suggestion, proceeded to St. Domingo on a mission of inquiry rather than of action. His despatches to the State Department unveil the plot for "quashing the Monroe doctrine," some of which found their way—in substance at least—to the knowledge of the Spanish Minister at Washington, and from him to the Spanish Envoy here and his co-workers in the Dominican Cabinet. These despatches make it certain that the Washington Cabinet was apprised more than a year in advance that Spain was sending in money and troops for the seizure and armed occupation of the Dominican territory. At a Christmas dinner, 1860, a Spanish member of the Dominican Cabinet, after a toast to Queen Isabella, used this remarkable language:—"The steamer just arrived brings us the certainty of Lincoln's election, and, with it, the certainty of a condition of affairs that will give the Yankees plenty of business of their own, while the stable and dignified Powers of Europe will attend to theirs in abrogating the Monroe doctrine." On February 27, 1861, at another convivial party, a Spanish official informed the company that "Mr. Seward had been promised the premiership of the United States by the President elect, and that he would offer no objection to the absorption of St. Domingo by Spain," and, more singular still, that "Mr. Seward had promised to recall Commissioner Cazneau," whose official presence would be inconvenient during the process of extinction about to be practised on the Dominican republic.

Two members of the Dominican Senate, who were present on that occasion, went the same evening to the house of the United States Envoy and related the circumstance to him, in the presence of an anti-Spanish member of the Cabinet, who happened to be spending the evening there with the ladies of his family. "I do not believe Mr. Seward capable of the folly of trusting the Spanish Minister to that extent," was the reply of the American; "but, in any case, I intend to see it out, whether as the representative of my government or as a private citizen. Will you promise us that?" asked Senator Valrade, who related these facts to a number of friends when the news of Cazneau's recall arrived by a Spanish war steamer via the Spanish Embassy ten days earlier than it reached the United States Consul via the State Department.

The Dominican republic was "extinguished," but Spain could not hold on here with all the moral aid and comfort so freely lent from Washington. The Dominicans had a terrible struggle for it, but they reconquered their independence, recovered their flag and restored their free constitution. In March, 1861, the Spanish flag was hoisted, under the might of Spanish cannon, over St. Domingo. In March, 1864, the remnant of the army of occupation were enclosed, like caged tigers, within the walls of St. Domingo city and the trenches of Monte Cristi. The restored republic then accredited Don Pablo Pujol, an honorable and enlighted patriot, to treat with the Washington Cabinet for a naval depot at Samana "or Manzanillo, on the terms proposed by Commissioner Cazneau in 1854 or any other which the government of the United States shall deem right and advisable towards a feeble sister republic desirous of entering into the American system."

Mr. Pujol is a refined white gentleman, speaks English correctly and may take social rank with the representative of any Spanish American Power at Washington, but Tassára, the Spanish Minister, had a controlling influence over the Secretary of State. Mr. Seward flatly refused to receive him as the Envoy of a republic which he and the Spanish Minister were pleased to style non-existent. In vain Mr. Pujol asked that his instructions might be read unofficially. They proffered Samana as a naval station in free gift to the United States and proposed to waive official recognition until our government should satisfy itself that the restored republic was *de facto* the Power in possession of the Dominican territory. Not even an hour's interview would Mr. Seward grant for the private, unofficial review of the situation. The influence and the interests of Spain ruled supreme in the Department of State. Samana and the Dominican mission was ignored in 1844-5 by the Washington Cabinet on the theory that none but negroes should rule this island. Ten years later Samana and the Dominican mission was again rejected on the theory that Spain alone ought to rule it. In neither case did the dogma that "Americans must rule America" receive any consideration at Washington. Pujol returned to St. Domingo full of surprise at "the coldness and ignorance evinced at Washington on every point of inter-American relations," but confident at the same time that "a nobler wisdom would yet reign at the great capital of the American system." In effect his irrepressible Cuban friends soon found means to bring the question of the Antilles to the personal notice of President Johnson, from whom the offer of Samana as a naval station had been, strangely enough, carefully concealed. That curious episode—a remarkable chapter of secret history in itself—must stand over to another day; but out of it came Secretary Seward's sudden visit to the Antilles. In the course of the trip he had a personal interview with President Baez and that led to important consequences.

Secretary Seward from that period saw and accepted the great idea, which he had never before recognized, that the United States government owed to its own honor to enter into a line of policy more in accordance with the American character. Instead, however, of accepting Samana—twice offered him in well nigh free gift—he insisted on paying $7,000,000 for the little rocks of St. Thomas and St. John. How that affair is ending is now public history; but his extraordinary coquetting with the Samana question remains to be told. He found as sharp a fencer in the Dominican Baez as he was himself, and instead of making renown for himself and a magnificent series of jobs for his friends he made all the leading men sick of red-tapeism and ready for annexation.

After twice refusing to entertain the friendly overtures of the Dominican republic to take the McClellan site for a naval station for nothing, or thereabout, Mr. Seward accepted the proposal of the Cabral Cabinet at a high rent, and his son, the Assistant Secretary of State, presented himself at St Domingo to conclude the arrangement. He was met by the secret but strenuous opposition of all the friends of Baez, and very many of his own party who saw in the cession of Samana a fatal dismemberment of the republic and a chaos of anarchy for all the rest of its territory. Mr. Fred Seward went back without Samana, but not long after he was followed to Washington by the envoy of Cabral, fully empowered to close close the bargain for Samana on Mr. Seward's terms. Cabral was at his last hour. The whole country had declared for Baez and against the Cabral-Seward plan of dismemberment, but no other would be entertained at Washington. Mr. Seward was offering the King of Denmark seven millions for the inferior area of St. Thomas, and little more than a million for Samana to the "poor neighbor." Meanwhile Baez took the reins and forbade the sale of Samana. He was ready to lease the McClellan site and even to declare the bay and peninsula a free port on the most liberal terms; but Seward would hear of nothing but a sale outright, though he confessed he had no money to buy with until Congress should appropriate, after the Senate had approved and ratified the treaty of purchase. Baez was much too wary to commit himself to such an act, and more than once declared that it would be "a thousand times better for the Dominican Republic to enter the Union if it will open its arms to us than thus to sell our country member by member." This thought ran like wildfire through all classes. Mr. Seward's negotiations, the fall of Cabral and the pressure of the Caco raids on the frontier, prepared the masses to accept peace and protection where alone it could be found among earthly powers—in the strong embrace of the United States. Some leading men who had friends at New York and Washington took measures to place the situation before certain friends of the President elect and the members of the Congress Committees on Foreign Relations. How far Baez was personally concerned in the movement no one knows; but every one here is perfectly certain that in the event of Congress authorizing President Grant to arrange for the reception of St. Domingo into the Union the Dominicans will give an overwhelming vote in its favor. Should Baez take the initiative and fail, he and his party would be irretrievably ruined. It is literally the free gift of a State to the Union. The Dominicans ask nothing from the United States but protection. The State will pay its own insignificant public debt—about $500,000—out of the proceeds of its mines and public domain. Its custom house receipts are even now not far from $500,000 a year, and with the opening of the gold fields actually under survey it must increase largely, so that the United States is, in plain terms, offered a valuable property simply for the trouble of putting its revenue in a proper form for its own benefit. The *Times* is very fearful that somebody has an improper motive for urging annexation, but is very sure that it is none of its folks. Of course not, but there may be speculators in all New York who were not so innocent of intention, and this is as new, rich and inviting a field for them as Nevada was; but that does not change the fact that St. Domingo wants to come into the Union and take her chance with such adventurers like all other States.

CRUISE OF THE YACHT FIRE FLY.—The steam yacht Fire Fly, which left this port about the middle of last February, returned to Savannah yesterday after a delightful cruise up the St. John's river and to Cape Canovolo and St. Augustine. The party is composed of three ladies and two gentlemen, named as follows:—Mr. Julian James (owner), Mr. Charles K. Gracie, Mrs. F. P. James, Mrs. Sydney Mason and Miss Carrie M. Myer. They went to Enterprise at the head of navigation of the St. John's river, visited the places above named and returned to Jacksonville, and made the run from there to this port (a distance of 233 miles) in the short space of twenty-three hours. The craft is commanded by Captain William Force. Her engine is of singular construction, having a surface condenser attached to the outside of the hull, and the working of her machinery is spoken of by the engineer as admirable. It is said that she is the fastest steam craft of her size afloat. This beautiful piece of architecture leaves our waters for New York via Charleston to-morrow morning. At Charleston the party will take the cars and the yacht proceed to her destination.—*Savannah News, April 22.*

A Leavenworth paper thinks it "an evidence of the westward march of civilization" that the Kansas Legislature appropriated $1,400 for tobacco for the Penitentiary prisoners, and only $500 for preaching the gospel to them.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Almanac for New York—This Day.

Sun rises	5 06	Moon rises...eve	7 25
Sun sets	6 50	High water.morn	8 22

PORT OF NEW YORK, APRIL 25, 1869.

Herald Packages.

Captains and Pursers of Vessels arriving at this port will please deliver all packages intended for the HERALD to our regularly authorized agents who are attached to our Steam Yacht fleet. The New York Associated Press do not now collect marine reports nor attend to the delivery of packages, as will be seen by the following extract from the proceedings of the regular monthly meeting, held March 3, 1868:—

Resolved, That on and after April 1, 1868, the Associated Press will discontinue the collection of ship news in the harbor of New York. Passed unanimously.

☞ The office of the Herald steam yachts JAMES and JEANNETTE is at Whitehall slip. All communications from owners and consignees to the masters of inward bound vessels will be forwarded free of charge.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS.

Steamship Tripoli (Br), Edmonson, Liverpool, April 11, with mdse and 766 passengers, to E Cunard. April 24, lat 41 02 N, lon 64 34 W, exchanged night signals with steamship Australasian, hence for Liverpool; same day, lat 40 44 N, lon 66 34, passed ship Cynosure, bound E.

Steamship Britannia (Br), Donaldson, Glasgow via Moville, April 8, with mdse and passengers, to Henderson Bros. Experienced westerly winds almost the entire passage. April 18, lat 45 16 N, lon 49 W, bark Eldorado, from Rochefort for Halifax, signalled for medical assistance; sent the doctor aboard, as requested; 21st, lat 49 09 N, lon 59 05 W, signalled bark John Stonard, from Sunderland for New Haven.

Steamship Donau (NG), Ernst, Bremen April 10, via Southampton 13th, at 7 PM, after being delayed by thick fog, with mdse and 720 passengers, to Oelrichs & Co. Passed the Needles at 9 PM. Had strong westerly gales nearly all the way. April 23, at 3 PM, lat 41 33 N, lon 62 17 W, passed steamship France, hence for Liverpool; 24th, at 1 AM, lat 41 19 N, lon 65 44 W, steamship Main, hence for Bremen; 24th, at 3 PM, pilot boarded ship; at 5 PM, passed steamship Britannia, hence for Glasgow; 25th, at 6 AM, passed Sandy Hook.

Steamship Key West, Rudolf, St Marc, Hayti, April 18, with cotton, to Benner, Brown & Pinckney.

Steamship Tybee, Delanoy, Galveston April 16, via Key West 21st, with mdse and passengers, to Spofford, Tileston & Co.

Steamship Bienville, Baker, New Orleans April 17, and Havana 21st, at 4 PM, with mdse and passengers, to Livingston, Fox & Co.

Steamship Gen Meade, Sampson, New Orleans April 17, at 6 PM, and Southwest Pass 18th, at 7 AM, with mdse and passengers, to Frederic Baker. Had fine weather entire passage. April 21, exchanged signals with bark R W Griffiths; 25th, at 8 AM, passed steamship Alabama, hence for Fernandina.

Steamship Herman Livingston, Cheesman, Savannah, 58 hours, with mdse and passengers, to Livingston, Fox & Co.

Steamship Magnolia, Crowell, Charleston, April 23, with mdse and passengers, to A Leary.

Steamship Niagara, Blakeman, Richmond, City Point and Norfolk, with mdse and passengers, to the Old Dominion Steamship Co.

Steamship Valley City, Johnson, Washington, DC, with mdse, to Phillips & Brown.

Steamship Fanita, Freeman, Philadelphia, with mdse, to J Lorillard.

Steamship Neptune, Baker, Boston, with mdse, to Wm P Clyde.

Steamship Acushnet, Kelly, New Bedford, with mdse and passengers, to Ferguson & Wood.

Ship Blue Jacket, Simmons, Liverpool, March 21, with mdse, to Chas R Green. Is anchored outside the bar.

Ship Pocahontas, Weeks, Liverpool, March 12, with mdse, to order. Is anchored at the SW Spit.

Ship Missouri, Bradburn, Glasgow March 18, and Greenock 21st, with mdse, to Wm Nelson, Jr. Has been 22 days to the westward of the Banks, with strong W gales; split and lost sails, &c.

Ship Orion (of Boston), Holbrook, Philadelphia, 30 hours, in ballast, to Platt & Newton. Will load for San Francisco.

Bark Peter C Warwick (Br), Chichester, Rio Janeiro, 38 days, with coffee, to Pendergast Bros & Co. March 28, lat 14 03 S, lon 32 03, spoke ship Oceanica (Br), bound S.

Brig Clio (Br), Smith, Windsor, NS, with plaster, to Crandall, Umphray & Co.

Brig Tyro (Br), Leighton, Windsor, NS, with plaster, to H J DeWolf & Co.

Brig Annie Collins (Br), Mills, Windsor, NS, with plaster, to Crandall, Umphray & Co.

Schr Mary Lymburner (of Bangor), Lansil, Port Spain (Trinidad), 20 days, with molasses, to E T Smith & Co. April 17, lat 28 20, lon 71 40, spoke whaling schr C H Cook (of Provincetown, 12 days out, cruising; 23d, lat 37 35, lon 74, schr Setacawa, hence for Baracoa.

Schr Laura (of Boston), Coombs, Mayaguez, PR, 14 days, with molasses, to S C Lond & Co. No date, lat 24, lon 70 17, spoke schr Crown Point, hence for Miragoane.

Schr Horton (Br), Wallace, Windsor, NS, 18 days, with plaster, to Crandall, Umphray & Co.

Schr Wm H Mitchell, Cole, Shulee, NS, 14 days, with spars, to Snow & Richardson.

Schr J W Maitland, Leighton, St George's, NB, with spars, to Snow & Richardson.

Schr Martha Nichols, Small, Grand Menan, 8 days, with spars, to Snow & Richardson.

Schr Frank, Bright, Chincoteague.

Schr Tunis Depew, Crittenden, Virginia.

Schr Delaware, Holbrook, Rockland, with lime, to W S Brown & Co.

Schr Jas Tilden, Ellsworth, Bangor, with lumber, to Brett, Son & Co.

Schr Mary Brewer, Pease, Rockland, with lime, to Wm S Brown.

Schr S R Jameson, Jameson, Rockland, with lime, to Jas V Haviland.

Schr Mary Clark, Caswell, Rockland.

Schr Willie Lee, Nash, Rockland.

Schr Gen Howard, Johnson, Gardner, with lumber, to John Boynton's Son & Co.

Schr A L Fitch, Yates, Portland, with lumber, to John Boynton's Son & Co.

Schr Hannie Westbrook, Littlejohn, Portland.

Schr Crescent Lodge,