CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The Interest of the Colombian People in the Proposed Canal Through the Isthmus.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CHILE.

Great Railway Undertaking Across the Andes.

Disastrous Landslide in Ecuador.

The steamship Arizona, from Aspinwall, January 18, arrived in this port yesterday bringing us the latest news. The purser will receive our acknowledgements for favors received.

COLOMBIA.

The Church in Bogota—Canal Matters—New Steamship Line.

PANAMA, Jan. 17, 1870.

Ever since the grim General T. C. Mosquera quarrelled with the Church, confiscated its property, banished its bishops and clergy, closed up convents and nunneries and sent their inmates adrift upon the world, the government of this country and the Church have been in conflict. The legal rights and privileges which Mosquera took away from the bishops and clergy and the monks and nuns have never been returned to them, and Church property which was confiscated still remains in sequestration, or as the natives express it, *de manos muertas*. Very considerable portions of this property have been sold, and very much below its value, which exasperated the clergy to a great degree. The Archbishop of Bogota has at last hit upon a happy way of getting square on the government and the purchasers of this description of property, by refusing absolution to those who buy it at less than its proper and real value unless they promise by all their hopes of heaven to make good the difference between that and the price for which they bought it. The latest case of this kind is told by a Bogota paper, and is as follows:—"A widow lady, who had purchased a house *de manos muertas* at much below its real value, was refused absolution until a guarantee was given to the Archbishop that the difference between the price paid and the true value of the property should be forthcoming."

There is little doubt but that the government will come down with a heavy hand upon the venerable Archbishop, and a nice quarrel will be the result.

A Frenchman named Lucien de Puydt is ambitious of becoming the Lesseps of America. He calls himself the agent of the "Colombian Canal International Society," and professes to be the discoverer of a "new and comparatively easy route" for the proposed canal. The following is the route which he claims:—

THE PROPOSED CANAL

has its entrance on the Atlantic side at Puerto Escondido, where vessels can anchor in a depth of from seventeen to forty-four fathoms. Thence the proposed canal follows the valley of Turgandi, and, passing behind a small hill called Tarera, continues on in the valley of the river Pancla, to the source of this river. The hollow in the chain of hills, at its highest point, is here only forty-six metres above the level of the sea. The canal would now enter the valley of the Purito on the Pacific slope, and follow it until reaching the Tuyra, four miles above the point named Santa Maria head, at which place it enters the river, and thus is brought three miles below the highest point reached by the tide in the river Tuyra. The canal will require 65 kilometres, or 24 leagues of excavation. From the western entrance at Santa Maria it ascends to the Gulf of San Miguel, by "Boca Chica," there will then remain 85 kilometres to be navigated, in a river which at present has a profundity of from 7 to 20 fathoms. The distance from ocean to ocean will thus be 153 kilometres or 23½ leagues. The height throughout the proposed line, taking the highest and lowest points, presents an average of 11 metres 95 centimetres.

He tickles Colombian vanity by the following exposition of a plan for the construction of the canal, which, if adopted, will place the United States, so far as any material advantages to be derived from its construction, on precisely the same footing as other Powers, and will leave the entire control of the canal in the hands of the Colombian government. He says:—

The United States of Colombia will raise a loan by issuing stock, which will immediately be taken up by the whole commercial world—and the character of which loan would of itself guarantee the maintenance of the free transit of the canal. By this means the integrity of the national territory would be preserved, the country would govern itself and work for itself, and would preserve its sovereignty and neutrality through possessing the guarantee of the principal mercantile nations. At the same time an end would be put to the concession of privileges, to the necessity of special laws, and, finally, to all open or secret intrigues for the possession of the canal. The government of Colombia would act on its own account upon its own territory, without any alien or responsibility, and free from all fear and all disagreement.

This self-styled Lesseps estimates the cost of the canal at $70,000,000, which, taken in connection with his estimate of the actual work to be accomplished, shows that he is utterly ignorant of the cost of labor on the Isthmus, or the difficulty of obtaining it. There is very considerable doubt in my mind—a doubt which is shared by the best informed men on the Isthmus—whether the proposed route is not all "moonshine," and has never been explored by any engineer worthy of the name. This is doubtless one of the many attempts made by European capitalists to obtain on the American Continent advantages for themselves and their respective governments which it is not to the interest of the republics of America to permit. The Nicaragua Canal scheme is another of the same class. People on the Isthmus are a little disappointed at the dilatoriness displayed by the United States government in sending out the exploring party which was promised some time ago. Two months of good weather have already been lost, and that is a matter for regret. Should the surveying party not arrive soon the most valuable part of the season will be lost, and not sufficient time will be left to make an accurate and complete survey. The section of country contiguous to the line of the Panama Railroad is the most easily accessible, and in the opinion of competent engineers presents fewer obstacles to the construction of a ship canal than any routes that have hitherto been surveyed. It would be well for the engineers who are entrusted with the present survey to remember these facts.

Those interested in the development of the rich natural resources of the Central American States will be pleased to learn of the establishment of a new steamship line, which is to bring the sugar and coffee estates of those republics into close and frequent communication with the chief market of the Pacific coast, San Francisco. A company, composed of some of the principal merchants and capitalists of Guatemala, has been organized for that purpose, and have bought a fine steamer, the Prince Alfred, formerly of the Australian Royal Mail service, which sails from Panama for the first trip in the new line on the 24th of the present month, under the command of Captain A. T. Douglas. The company have secured very favorable contracts with the governments of nearly all of the States interested, and will no doubt push the trade with vigor. That the enterprise will be a success every person is well aware who is at all acquainted with the statistics of the trade now being done, in the old and clumsy way, by sailing vessels between the coast and San Francisco. The governments of Central America have shown considerable liberality in their concessions to the new company, in which no doubt they will be amply repaid by the increased facilities which it will furnish to the trade of the coast.

The Panama Gas Company announce that they will be ready to light the city with gas about the end of February. The rate charged will be about six dollars per 1,000 feet.

We are enjoying beautiful weather on the Isthmus just now. We have an entire immunity from rains, and excursions into the country in all directions are of daily occurrence.

Dr. Pedro Galvez, Envoy Extraordinary from Peru, leaves here to-day per Arizona for Washington. He will represent the republic of Peru in the settlement of the questions between Spain and the Spanish-American republics. He is a gentleman of great ability and varied experience and learning, and will be an acquisition to the Corps Diplomatique in Washington.

General Hovey, United States Minister to Peru, is here, and will proceed to Lima on the 25th inst.

The English ship-of-war Revenge, Captain Hume, bearing the flag of Rear Admiral Farquhar, arrived in Aspinwall on the evening of the 13th. Her crew is being transferred to the frigate Zealous, which has been here some time awaiting the arrival of the Revenge. Admiral Farquhar will hoist his flag on the Zealous and take formal command of the English squadron in the Pacific, while Admiral Hastings, with the relieved crew of the Zealous, proceeds to England in the Revenge. This is the first instance of the transfer of two complete crews on the Isthmus.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

There are no late dates from Central America owing to the breaking down of the Pacific Railroad Company's steamer Guatemala. Our latest dates are per Costa Rica, which arrived in this port on the 31st ult.

CHILE.

The Political Campaign—The Mediation of the United States—General Matters.

VALPARAISO, Dec. 17, 1869.

The past fortnight has not been productive of events that would call the attention or excite the interest of the readers of the HERALD. The active political campaign, already fully described in my previous communications, steadily progresses, and the popular mind appears to be thoroughly awakened to the importance of the occasion. The radical reforms introduced in the electoral system and the generalization of the rights of franchise go far towards insuring a fair election. Although no candidates have yet been named for the Presidency it is more than probable that Mr. Errazuriz, formerly Minister of War, will be the most popular of those already in view.

Foreigners here regard the present political situation with great interest, from the fact, principally, that such a contest, conducted on liberal principles, cannot but tend to advance the republic, and every step of progress is for the mercantile community a decided advantage, establishing even more firmly the law and order happily dominant in Chile.

The number and importance of the recent conflagrations in this city and in Santiago have justly alarmed the public, and there are many who are disposed to regard the occurrences as possessing some political signification. This belief is fostered by the fact that the heaviest losses by the recent calamities have been prominent members of the opposition party, and in Santiago it is loudly declared that the clerical or government organizations are responsible for the disasters. The office of the *Ferro Carril* newspaper—one of the boldest prints in favor of the opposition—was totally destroyed, but through the energy of its editors and supporters issued its regular edition the very day after the fire occurred. Whether the belief referred to has any foundation or not it is difficult to say; but there can be no doubt that all of these destructive conflagrations were the work of incendiaries, and the most strenuous measures are being taken by the native and foreign insurance companies to discover the perpetrators.

General Kilpatrick, the Minister of the United States here, advised this government some time since that the United States, renewed its proposal for a congress of plenipotentiaries from Spain and the Pacific allies to arrange finally their difficulties, and that the Department of State was desirous that this conference should take place in Washington on the 15th proximo. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has published a long report on the subject, alleging that Chile is ready to enter into the arrangement, provided that the government of the United States will guarantee the effectiveness of the armistice which it would be the first duty of the plenipotentiaries to adjust. The remaining allied republics have made no such stipulation—in fact, unconditionally accepted the ideas of the Washington cabinet, and, from the absence of any Chilean representative in the United States, it is feared that the 15th of January will pass without the proposed conference. Chile has always been backward in her diplomatic policy towards the nations proposing peace or mediation. The feeling of mortification at the Valparaiso affair, and a species of jealousy regarding Peru's success on the 2d of May, have retarded her acceptance of any plan for settlement, and will, in all probability, further delay such a wished for conclusion.

A very patriotic proposition has been made to the government by Don Luis Cousiño, a wealthy Chilean and a gentleman of great taste and activity. At his own expense he proposes to change the barren parade ground in Santiago into a faithful copy of the Central Park in New York or the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. It is needless to add that the government gratefully accepted the proposal.

Business, on account of the approaching Christmas holidays, has been quite brisk.

We have no American man-of-war yet in port, but are daily expecting the Kearsarge from Callao, and the Pensacola, with the Admiral on board, from San Francisco.

ECUADOR.

Fatal Landslide in Otavalo—Several Lives Lost.

[From the Panama Star and Herald.]

On the nights of the 17th and 18th of November last there occurred a lamentable accident in the canton of Otavalo, province of Imbabura, in the State of Ecuador. In the point of the Escalera, called Taurichupa, a territory belonging to the estate of Pesavo, there was an establishment situated at the base of a declivity covered with wood, under the management of a Colombian named Darius Vasquez, for the extraction of quina. The work was progressing very briskly, and nearly 400 arrobas of bark had been collected without any thing worthy of notice having occurred to disturb the labor, except some thunder and heavy rains, common at the season. Considering this, and fearing that the earthquakes which had not altogether ceased since the recent great catastrophe, might detach the overhanging declivity, sleeping huts were constructed in the plaza a short distance off. Dr. Carlos Cevanos Auz, the owner of the establishment and to whom we are indebted for the account of what happened, always slept in a hut himself, and pursuaded all the others employed in the works to do the same. Notwithstanding all these precautions on the fatal night above mentioned, all the people had united in the *tambo*, at the foot of the precipice. During this time it began to rain heavily and continued so from eight o'clock at night until one P. M. next day. The great quantity of water absorbed by the declivity undermined its foundation, the whole superincumbent mass became loose, and sliding downward like an avalanche, buried the house and the fifteen persons who were in it. The mass of earth thus displaced was 150 feet high by sixty feet in width, covered on the surface by large trees. It is supposed that this terrible calamity occurred between one and two o'clock in the morning. No one escaped. All the dead bodies were extracted except two.

PERU.

The Inauguration of Railways—An Important Enterprise—The Andes to be Tunnelled—Peace with Spain.

LIMA, Dec. 28, 1869.

On the 22d inst. the government of Peru decreed the most important public work that has as yet been inaugurated in South America, and which, in point of future benefits, ranks only second to the Pacific Railroad and the Suez Canal. On that day the two great roads between Lima and the Peruvian head waters of the Amazon, and from the city of Arequipa, 100 miles in the interior, through the populous and fertile Indian Department of Puno to the celebrated lake of Titicaca, were contracted for by our enterprising countryman, Mr. Henry Meiggs. The natural difficulties attendant upon the construction of these railways, both of them passing the Andes range of mountains, and the large sums of money necessary for their completion, have, of course, been serious obstacles in the achievement of an end that has been the avowed object of Colonel Balta's government ever since its accession to supreme power in the republic. But, thanks to the indefatigable energy of Mr. Meiggs, to the firm will of President Balta and the stores of guano providentially given to Peru, these obstacles have been surmounted, and by the time this communication is published the works will be in progress. The line from Lima to the mountain pass of the Oroya, a narrow gap in the chain of the Cordilleras, far in the interior, is that which has attracted the greater share of public attention, from the interest attached to its success owing to the very peculiar circumstances of the undertaking. The road after leaving Lima passes through the fertile valleys of the neighboring interior until it reaches the foot of the first line of mountains, about forty miles from the capital, and from thence to the terminus has to surmount difficulties pronounced by the surveying engineer to be unequalled in the history of railroad enterprise. At an elevation of more than sixteen thousand feet above the level of the sea tunnels have to be constructed varying from a mile and a half to a quarter of a mile in length, and the longest traverses, at the enormous height mentioned, the very summit of the Andes. Passing this point the line continues over ground more or less difficult until the terminus is reached, after having surmounted the Cordillera, and the last station is to be erected on the river Chanchamayo, at a distance of about thirty miles from the head waters of steamer navigation and 142 from Lima. This river flows into the Apurimac, which, navigable for steamers of considerable draught, empties into the Ucayali and thus into the Amazon itself, and thus the connection between ocean and ocean is made complete. From this station of the Oroya Gap, however, three distinct branches of the road radiate to the important towns of Tarma, Cerro de Pasco, the Potosi of Peru, and Chanchamayo, which last is at the head of the navigation already referred to.

The United States made a proposition to Peru, in 1866, that the existing difficulties between the allied republics of the Pacific and Spain should be finally settled by a Congress of plenipotentiaries, to be appointed by the interested governments, and to meet under the auspices of the United States in Washington. Owing to the disinclination of Chile to accept this offer the matter was allowed to rest until 1868, when the proposal was renewed. The American Minister in this city, General Hovey, displayed the greatest zeal and activity in supporting the wishes of his government, and succeeded in persuading the diplomatic agents of the allied republics in Lima, who were specially authorized for the purpose, together with the Peruvian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to sign a protocol consenting to the arrangement. The reasons and arguments used by Mr. Seward were relative to the injury that was being suffered by neutral commerce from the anomalous state of affairs between Spain and the allies, and the inefficacy of continuing a situation which only could be termed a technical war. Peru, having satisfied her honor in the battle of the 2d of May, was willing to enter into the views of the United States, as were likewise Bolivia and Ecuador; but Chile, smarting under the bombardment of Valparaiso, was induced with difficulty to accept the proposed plan. After the signing of the protocol nothing further was heard of the conference until a few weeks since, when the American Legation in this city, acting under instructions from the Department of State, made a direct proposal to the Foreign Office here, that on the 15th of January next the Congress should assemble in Washington. The same action being taken by the legations of the United States in Chile, Bolivia and Ecuador, Peru has signified her intention of sending by this steamer full power and instructions to the Peruvian Minister in the United States to represent her in the conference, and Dr. Galvez, the recently appointed Envoy of Peru to France and England, will also appear at the meetings, as a consulting Plenipotentiary with Colonel Frayre. The Spanish Minister at Washington has already consented to the measure, and if the other South American representatives arrive in time we will have, it is hoped, the declaration of a formal armistice, leading to a definite peace. That this is necessary no one can doubt; but the question arises, how will this measure affect Cuba, and what phase will the Spanish gunboat question in the United States now assume. The Cuban Minister here is greatly exercised at this step of the Peruvian government, and considers that Peru has not fulfilled the promises made to Cuba when the independence of that island was acknowledged.

A RURAL LORD AINSLEY.

A Theological Student in the Role of Alfred Jingle—He Hopes His "Pious Example and Christian Influence Will be Taken as Compensation for His Board"—$50,000 Worth of Debts.

A swindle, decidedly gigantic in its proportions, and for cool audacity unsurpassed and seldom if ever equalled, has just been brought to light at Kingston, N. Y., where William Travis, an adventurer, duped and swindled a number of citizens out of at least $50,000. Claiming to be the heir to large estates in New York city and Philadelphia, he succeeded in inducing his friends to advance him the above named amount, until he should become of lawful age to take possession of the estates, promising to handsomely remunerate them for their kindness. He then, under the pretence of taking a short trip of pleasure, left his victims.

A HEALTHY THEOLOGICAL STUDENT.

It seems, about two years ago, Travis was a young theological student, and one day visited Kingston, ostensibly to recruit his health. After spending a few weeks, breathing the pure air of the Catskills, roaming among the pleasant hills and valleys which surround the romantic village of Kingston, and finding his health much improved, he concluded to sojourn there for a time. He was introduced into society and chaperoned by a well known divine from Morrisania, who spoke in very eulogistic terms of the student, portraying in glowing colors his piety and his many Christian virtues, and dwelt long upon his enormous wealth, informing them he had lately fallen sole heir to the estate of one Mrs. De Wall, of New York city, valued at $250,000. A young man of such reputed wealth, and withal so agreeable and fascinating in manners, was, as may readily be supposed, at once received with open arms by the *élite* of the town, and many an anxious, intriguing mamma with daughters to wed went into ecstasies over the "beautiful, charming, dem fine" young student.

Parties were given, picnics arranged, drives proposed, and all seemed to vie with each other to do honor to the noble scion of the house of Travis. He drove the most natty turnouts, sported the largest and most brilliant of solitaires, wore a scarf the greenest of the green, smoked none but Partagas first, drank only Piper Heidsieck and Asmenhiser, and, like the rich man of old, was "clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day." One would suppose that this mode of living would have aroused suspicion as being rather "loud" for a meek and lowly follower of Christ; but then we live in wonderful times. Sufficient it is to say that he became a great favorite among the sisters of the church of which he was a member, and all were loud in their praise except, perhaps, a few spinsters of rather doubtful age, who could see no good in the profuse attentions he bestowed on a few married sisters of the flock.

In fact, the many delightful moonlight drives on the Vauxhall road led to more or less talk, but all that was soon hushed, as he became even more and more devout and entertained the Sunday school each Sabbath afternoon with interesting stories, and at prayer meetings was loud and fervent in his exhortations and prayers and lent his melodious voice to the singing of hymns and chanting of anthems. How he raised money to support this style of living is somewhat strange, and shows how easily people's eyes are blinded by outward show and finespun representations. His bump of assurance was well developed, and he very soon called upon his friends for loans, showing a document purporting to be the last will and testament of one Mrs. De Wall, bequeathing to him, William Travis, houses, lots, bonds, mortgages, &c., to the amount of $250,000, John T. Hoffman and Judge Ingalls being represented as witnesses to the will; also a decree from the Surrogate pronouncing the will valid and declaring Travis to be the legitimate heir.

A PRETTY STORY.

The papers had all the appearance of being genuine, and now the persuasive powers of the young student were brought in play. Being a perfect Chesterfield in manners he would tell a touching and pathetic story, how he had struggled in poverty when a mere child, at last securing a position in a store in New York city as an errand boy, how once having occasion to carry a bundle to the residence of Mrs. De Wall the kind lady came to the door and at once seemed to take a great interest in him; how a short time after she adopted him; how he had tried to be a dutiful son, and had the pleasant recollection of being a comfort to her in her declining years; how she sickened and died, and left him nearly heartbroken, but the sole heir to her immense property. As he was not quite of age he wished to secure a loan until such time as he should come into possession of the estate. His pleasing manners, sympathetic narrative, documentary evidence and the strong recommendation from the divine from Morrisania, presented quite a plausible story; and he was enabled to borrow from a Mr. Vandermark, at different times, money to the amount of $20,000.

THE HARVEST GATHERED.

He leaves a bill at a livery stable for $500, owes the proprietor $1,100, borrowed money; a jewelry bill for $600; a board bill of $3,300, and many smaller bills, ranging from fifty dollars to $500, strewed promiscuously over the town. Mr. Vandermark, having his suspicions aroused that all was not right, started for Philadelphia to investigate some of Travis' pretended property. Travis called at Vandermark's house the same day that Mr. Vandermark took his departure to the Quaker City, without telling any one where he had gone. Surmising what Vandermark's business there was, he thought it about time to start for "pastures new," and, hastily packing his valise, bid his friends goodby, telling them he would be back in a few days. A few days passed and "Willie" returned not, but Vandermark did, and, with a long face, told how they had all been duped.

Travis, while in New York, wrote a note to his landlord in Kingston, thanking him for his kindness while at his house, and hoped his pious example and Christian influence while with him would be taken as compensation for his board.

Travis is about twenty-two years of age, rather below the medium size, light complexion, and has a light growth of side whiskers. He was a charity boy and was taken several years ago by an Episcopal minister at Fishkill. He afterwards lived with Mr. Livingston, near Rondout, N. Y., and came afterwards to New York city and received his education in some place in New Jersey.

Detectives came in search of him, but it is doubtful whether he will be found, as he has about two weeks the start.

MORAL.

Put not your trust in theological students with light complexions and paucity of side whiskers.

GENERAL GEORGE H. THOMAS.

He Declines Honors Bestowed Upon Him by the Legislature of Tennessee.

The fact has been published that General George H. Thomas had offered to remove his picture from the State Library at Nashville, Tenn., and refund to the State the money expended to procure it; also the fact that he proposed to return to Tennessee the gold medal presented to him by the Legislature of the State in 1866. The following is his letter, making known his intentions:—

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 31, 1869.

Hon. D. A. DUNN:—

DEAR SIR—I received your favor of the 20th yesterday, and as I am sure of your friendly feeling toward me, I take great pleasure in giving you my reasons for offering to refund to the present Legislature of Tennessee the cost of the portrait of myself ordered to be painted by the Legislature of 1865, and remove it from the library of the Capitol of your State. I will premise by stating that, although I regretted at the time that the Legislature of 1866 had ordered, by joint resolution a portrait of me to be painted and placed in the State Library, yet, being convinced it was done through motives of friendship and esteem, the joint resolution having been passed without my knowledge, I felt a natural delicacy in declining a compliment so unexpected, assured as I was of the sincerity of the act. From that day until the extraordinary proceedings had in the present Legislature I has been led to believe that the act of the Legislature of 1866 had been generally approved throughout the State. On being informed of those recent proceedings, self-respect, as well as a proper appreciation of the act of the Legislature of 1866, required that I should relieve the members of the present Legislature from the possibility of seeing a disagreeable picture every time they went into the State Library. The same reasons impelled me to inform the Speaker that I shall return the medal as soon as I can get to New York, where I had it deposited last spring, before leaving the East to assume duty on this coast. Now, let me assure that, in taking the course I have, I disclaim any intention whatever to reject the compliment extended to me by the Legislature of 1866, but simply wish to return to the Legislature which repudiates their act, as far as in my power to do so, compensation for what they seem to consider a wrong perpetrated by a former Legislature on the people of the State in my behalf. I am, very truly yours, GEO. H. THOMAS,

Major General United States Army.

MARINE TRANSFERS.

The following is a complete list of marine transfers from the 22d inst. to date:—

Date.	Class.	Name.	Tonnage.	Share.	Price.
Jan. 22..	Prop'r.	G. F. Van Beck...	22.31	⅛	$781
Jan. 22..	Can. b	Medium	N't giv'n	All.	800
Jan. 24..	Schr....	Jennie A. Shepard	315	8-64	3,000
Jan. 24..	Sloop..	Union.....	15.73	⅙	300
Jan. 24..	Sloop..	Isaac T. Blauvelt.	37.85	All.	800
Jan. 24..	Sloop..	Richard Flisbee..	7.46	All.	600
Jan. 24..	Barge..	Charles Brewer..	111.39	All.	1,500
Jan. 24..	Sloop..	John M. Clayton..	53.92	All.	600
Jan. 25..	Sloop..	Major Anderson..	17.87	¼	250

CUBA.

Serenade to Mr. Seward by the Volunteers of Havana.

Mr. Seward's Response to an Address of Welcome.

No Expectations of an Early Termination of the Revolution.

The steamship Columbia, Captain Van Sice, from Havana on the 22d inst., arrived at this port last evening.

Serenade to Mr. Seward by the Volunteers of Havana—Address of the Deputation and Response of Mr. Seward—His Future Movements.

HAVANA, Jan. 20, 1870.

Mr. Seward has been and continues to be the recipient of such attentions from the authorities and citizens here as must be extremely agreeable to him personally and as a representative of the great republic. On Tuesday, the 18th, at eight o'clock in the evening, he was treated to a beautiful serenade by the volunteers of Havana. In considerable numbers they formed a hollow square in front of the Telegraph Hotel, where Mr. Seward is residing, carrying torches, and in the centre three bands played a variety of national and operatic airs, closing with "Yankee Doodle," which had the effect of exciting some enthusiasm among the few Americans present. Meanwhile a deputation of volunteers and prominent citizens waited upon him, headed by General D. Julian Zulueta, who addressed him in the following words:—

EXCELLENT SIR—The corps of volunteers of this capital, united with a number of prominent citizens of the same, who, by their character, represent the people, have the honor to extend their compliments to your Excellency on your happy arrival in their midst. When you stood at the head of the Department of State of the great American nation you favored us with your presence, and we have not forgotten that your Excellency spoke very kindly in reference to our country, which you precisely spoke of with the pleasing expression of "Mother of the New World." If, then, your Excellency received the respectful recognition which was due to your elevated official position, we regard it as a sacred duty to receive you with the same respect, and even more cordially, rendering to the eminent statesman and the man of noble sentiments the disinterested homage that in other times might be considered as a demonstration of courtesy to a distinguished stranger. Be pleased, your Excellency, to accept the sincere manifestation of the sentiments which animate the loyal Spaniards of Cuba, who are pleased to render this tribute of affection and respect to him whom they justly consider as one of the glories of the American nation."

To this Mr. Seward responded as follows:—

GENTLEMEN, OFFICERS AND CITIZENS OF HAVANA—Four years have passed since the occasion to which you have referred, when I was greeted, on passing through this port, by a welcome, which all the world regarded as not more generous to myself personally than just and fraternal to the United States. Since that time peace has been perfected in the United States, and civil war has broken out in Spain and Cuba. The balance of power in Europe has been readjusted by the sword; Russian America has been added to the United States; Central America and South America have scarcely known repose; Mexico has resumed the walk of constitutional life. Notwithstanding I have been an observer and an actor in some of these transactions, the address which you have made to me and the pleasing circumstances under which it is presented are almost effective in making me forget the lapse of time and feel that I have returned to Cuba after a mere temporary separation from its hospitable shores. Gentlemen, the island of Cuba is an essential part of the great modern systems of commerce and civilization. All nations are interested in its permanent peace and enduring prosperity. I congratulate you with all my heart upon the great expansion and improvement which have occurred since my former visit; I pray God that this progress may continue and that peace and harmony may not only be restored to the island of Cuba, but also that the political situation in Spain herself, the most ancient ally of the United States, may have a safe and happy issue from all existing complications. Gentlemen, I am sure that my countrymen will acknowledge in a more fitting manner than I have been able to do the generous hospitality you have extended to me.

Following the address came a glass of wine, and a number of people were presented to Mr. Seward and the members of his suite and much good feeling prevailed. The serenade closed at half-past nine o'clock, and the large crowd which had gathered quickly dispersed.

The remarks of Mr. Seward, with that graceful ness of compliment which the Spaniard is never lacking to his friend, were printed by the *Diario de la Marina* in both English and Spanish.

Yesterday Mr. Seward dined with the Captain General at the official country residence, outside the city, and attended the theatre in the evening.

Mr. Seward has determined to remain here about two weeks, when he will proceed to St. Thomas or some of the other West Indies, returning so as to reach his home the latter part of February or first of March.

The Termination of the Insurrection Not Expected Until 1871—The Ideas and Intentions of the Colonial Authorities—The Diplomatic Questions—Encounters in the Cinco Villas—Conspiracy Among the Negroes—Recapture of a Sloop by the Spaniards—Nothing Yet Known of Puello.

HAVANA, Jan. 22, 1870.

Distinguished and no doubt extremely well informed persons in Washington are predicting an early termination of the insurrection in this island. Among them is that erudite diplomatist, Mr. Edward Lee Plumb, whose knowledge of the condition of affairs here, derived from Spanish officials and from a visit to a sugar estate outside of Matanzas a week prior to his departure, when he was not in the slightest danger from insurgents or anybody else, enables him to speak by authority. It is a subject of regret that these gentlemen cannot infuse into the breast of the Spanish representatives here whose duty it is to suppress the insurrection some little of that sublime confidence with which they are overflowing.

From very high and most reliable authority I am able to state that these representatives do not anticipate an end to this war prior to the winter of 1870 and 1871. While no doubt is felt of their power to end it before that time the sacrifices to that end are thought to be too great and by no means essential to the ultimate interest and glory of Spain. As long as any doubt was entertained of the course of the United States on the subject of recognition and the departure of the gunboats all possible efforts were put forth without regard to sacrifice. Now it is assumed to be known that in no case is it the policy of Grant's administration to recognize the Cubans as belligerents, and it is believed the gunboats will effectually prevent any supplies reaching them to the increase of their strength. It is argued that in all those sections of the island where the interests of the government and of Spaniards are involved and where so much destruction has not taken place as to render them useless few, if any, insurgents remain, and agricultural operations, from which are derived primarily the resources of the government and the wealth of the people, are going on as usual. The insurgents occupying the more remote, rugged and inaccessible localities, though suffering much from want of clothing, salt and other necessities, have plenty to eat, are in large numbers, and, being thoroughly acquainted with the country, it is exceedingly difficult to get at them with troops, particularly those not acclimated. It is realized that during the little more than a month which remains and in which European troops can campaign the insurgents forces cannot be destroyed, and as the prosecution of the campaign beyond that time would only cause the useless sacrifice of thousands of the patriots who have come out here to preserve the national integrity that portion of the country now occupied will be held, and the troops made to do as little as possible during the summer, at the end of which they will have become accustomed to the climate and enabled to search out the Cubans, constantly growing weaker from a cessation of supplies. Meanwhile and until the unhealthy season sets in all possible will be accomplished for the good of the cause and the satisfying of public opinion.

It is surmised among some more thoughtful people here that other and deeper calculations enter into a prolonging of this contest. The idea, originally suggested, I think, by the HERALD, that important negotiations touching this island between the United States and Spain might follow on a termination of the war, is regarded as very likely, as thereby can be explained the very peculiar and inconsistent course of the Washington administration in reference to Cuba. It is thought probable that hopes of a sale of the island have been incited in the breast of Fish and others when once the pride and dignity of Spain have been vindicated, and that, without any intention of carrying out their positive or implied promises, the unprincipled and slippery politicians at the head of the Spanish government are only anxious to gain time for a settlement of affairs at home, and for some settlement of their pecuniary difficulties which will enable them to snap their fingers in the face of the great republic, which they and the whole Spanish people hate with an intensity equal to their fear. However this may be, it is certain this war is not to be ended in a few weeks or months, but, on the contrary, will fill up the measure of another year with all its changes and vicissitudes.

The interest regarding the insurrection is still centred in the campaign of Puello in Camaguey, of whom at this writing we have heard nothing. The steamer Pelayo, from Nuevitas and other points along the coast, is overdue and momentarily expected. She will doubtless furnish us with the information so anxiously desired. The *Diario* accounts for the scarcity of news from that section by the paucity of steamers touching on the north side, and adds that the gunboats once prepared for sea constant communication will be kept up.

The official *Gazette* continues to publish reports of encounters in the Cinco Villas, notwithstanding the oft repeated assurances of the complete pacification of that section. A recent despatch says that the constant and active prosecution of which they have been the object in Trinidad has obliged Villamil and his band to retire to the most inaccessible of the mountains of Limones and Navanjo, in that jurisdiction, where they united with Martinez and Vivas. Learning of their whereabouts in that place Lieutenant Colonel Moreno, in combination with Luquidain, attack them, following them from place to place, and causing twenty-four deaths, capturing the usually mentioned large quantities of arms, provisions, &c. It is claimed that Keloff, "the Pole," was wounded in one of the encounters recently.

In Santiago de Cuba a considerable number of troops, subdivided in small bands, are going about without encountering any insurgents, who keep out of their way. A report was in circulation on the 13th among the Cubans that a great fight had taken place at Palma Soriana, but it was denied by the *Bandera Española* of that date, which claimed that perfect tranquillity reigned in the locality referred to.

The *Papelon Nacional*, of Cienfuegos, mentions the discovery of a conspiracy among some laborers on the estates Constancia, Cienequita, San Francisco and Simpatia, with the object of reducing the others and joining the insurgents. Five of the negroes on Constancia had been convicted and confessed, and were to suffer condign punishment, whatever that may be. Fourteen slaves had escaped from the same estate and reached the insurgents.

From the same journal we learn of the recapture of the coasting sloop Catalan. This vessel sailed from Mansanillo on the 21st of November for Cienfuegos, and was captured by the insurgents, of which the Spanish press at the time made no mention. Learning of her whereabouts the commanders of the war steamers Guadalquiver and Garrion left their anchorage at Santa Cruz on the 11th for her capture. At three P. M. they arrived off the stream Micurije, up which two boats were sent from the steamers, carrying eighty-five marines and troops and one piece of artillery. They succeeded in taking the sloop, which was burned. They also captured a canoe, with two carbines, destroyed another, burned two ranches and two boats, and caused the enemy, who offered some resistance, to fly. The account states that the insurgents had constructed two large canoes, in which to bring arms from the Keys, south of the island, to the coast, and that the Catalan was employed to go to Caiman to lighten ships, so that her destruction will prove a serious loss to the insurgents.

The *Official Gazette* publishes what purports to be an address from Joaquin Carvallo, late an insurgent chief, to the Cubans, calling on them to lay down their arms, and claiming that the provisional government has granted to Cuba all those rights to secure which the revolution was inaugurated.

From some captured documents of the insurgents it seems an election has taken place in Trinidad by which C. Antonio Lorda was elected Governor and C. Mariano Jimiriz Lieutenant Governor.

There is a foolish rumor here, to which the *Diario* has given place in its columns, said to have originated in Puerto Principe, that Quesada and Marmol have been relieved from command and subjected to court martial, and that Jordan has been made commander-in-chief.

A portion of the village of Sato, in Cienfuegos, has been burned to ashes by the insurgent chief Benito Noe.

The *Voz de Cuba* of last evening published a *resumé* of operations in the Cinco Villas during December, from which it appears that only ten of the thirty-one days of that month passed without an encounter with the insurgents, which argues well for the "complete pacification" of that district.

Colonel D. Francisco Benegasi has at last been heard from. He arrived here on the 15th, and has been for some time suffering from a severe wound, received, as say the journals now, on the march between Gibara and Holquin. With the usual reticence of the Spaniards, in anything at all unfavorable to their cause, no mention was made of the encounter or the wounding of this officer. General Valera, Colonel of the reserves of Santo Domingo, in Sagu La Grande, who accompanied the last convoy to Las Tunas, is now Governor of that place. Additional accounts concerning the passage of this convoy have been received. They place the loss of the insurgents at ninety killed, but otherwise afford nothing new.

In Santa Clara has been shot D. Ramon Maria Gras, accused of disloyalty, and in San Juan his brother Ricardo and Dr. Morado, charged with the same offence.

Lieutenant Colonel Victoriano Mendiguen recently died of disease in Jiguani.

The Third battalion of volunteers of this city has gone to the Pinar del Rio to relieve the Fifth.

The foreign legion of this city is fast completing its organization. One hundred Germans, 200 Frenchmen, two Englishmen and one American have thus far joined it. It will turn out for the first time tomorrow.

The property of the following persons has been embargoed:—D. Francisco Garcia Osuna, now residing abroad, and D. Pablo José Casanas, a citizen of Gagua, also abroad. Eleven hundred and fifty-five confiscations have taken place in Puerto Principe.

There arrived here on the steamer Columbia a young man named James C. Hill, a photographer by profession, and a British subject. His passport was duly vised by the Spanish Consul in New York, yet for some cause on landing he was arrested and sent back aboard the steamer. As under the passport the action of the Columbia in bringing him here was justifiable, Captain Van Sice naturally objects to his ship being made a boarding house for political prisoners, and threatens to send the man off his vessel unless his fare is paid to New York. The British Consul has interested himself in the matter, but up to near the hour of the steamer sailing nothing has been done.

The steamer Pelago, from Gibara and Nuevitas, arrived here this morning, having left the latter place on the 18th. Nothing whatever had been heard of the column of Puello. Rumors were afloat, but there was no trust in them. One of them was to the effect that Puello was fortifying at Guaimaro. Goyruesche had arrived at Puerto Principe from Ciego de Novile without firing a shot, and had gone out again, though his destination was not known. It was supposed he would move towards Najasa. Cholera had again broken out in Principe. Five thousand arrived with Goyruesche, and two hours after their arrival thirty were dead from cholera.

POLICE DEMORALIZATION.

Increase of Complaints—An Extra Trial Day—Beating a Greenhorn—Collecting Debts.

Were any further evidence wanting of the rapid demoralization that is taking possession of the police force and spreading through nearly all precincts it is found in the largely increasing number of complaints against officers made before the Commissioners. Somebody must be to blame for this—the Commissioners in the administration of the department, or the captains of the precincts in failing to exercise proper discipline. So rapidly have complaints passed into the chief clerk's office that the Board has set apart an extra trial day, and hereafter cases will be heard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week in public, and cases that it is sought to keep quiet at such time and place as may be decided upon.

Yesterday Commissioner Bosworth presided at trials and heard evidence in about forty-five complaints against officers for neglect of duty, violation of rules, &c. There were two or three interesting charges of improper conduct heard.

Detective McGibney, of the Third precinct, appeared on complaint of Samuel Lord, of Boston, Mass. Lord, who is a gentedly dressed man, and apparently truthful, but lacking in shar