

THE BORDER WAR.

McKenzie's Ride into Mexico Extending the Authorities.

Minister Mariscal Waiting For Details.

UNCLE SAM'S POSITION.

Fraudulent Connivance at Robbery Across the Boundary Line.

Local Mexican Authorities Siding with Indian Thieves and Murderers.

CORTINA'S BLOODY CAREER.

The United States Government Officially Warn the Sister Republic.

Raiding Almost Impossible with Proper Safeguards.

HISTORY OF THE TROUBLE.

Ready Markets Across the Rio Grande for the Plunder of the Kickapoo and Lipan.

General Sherman's Previous Advice to the State Department.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1873.

The War Department authorities here, if they possess any further knowledge of McKenzie's raid into Mexico than is obtained in General Augur's despatch to Sheridan, refuse to make it known. Anxious inquirers are referred to the words of the despatch itself, and told to settle to their own satisfaction the question whether or not the fight took place on Texan or Mexican soil. The spoils of the victory are supposed to be sufficiently suggestive of the locality, as women and children, camp equipage and accumulated plunder had not usually been brought by the

KICKAPOOS AND LIPANS

across the Rio Grande in the forays upon the Texan cattle herds. It is admitted to be improbable that General Augur has been left in official ignorance of the fact that the die has been cast and the Mexican Territory invaded, in fact, after many threatenings and intimations of that nature, and his silence upon the most important question connected with the subject matter cannot be regarded as insignificant. The possibility that McKenzie is being acted under formal and positive orders is not admitted here, but he is known throughout the service as a prudent and subordinate, as well as an energetic officer, and his friends here are satisfied that he has not assumed the responsibility of entering upon a quod war with Mexico without satisfying himself in advance that the consequent censure of his government would not be more than a surface ebullition. Sheridan himself is not a man of ceremony, and may well have found ways of conveying his wishes to his ready subordinates without committing his government in the eyes of other Powers.

THE GENERAL FEELING HERE

is one of satisfaction at the accomplished fact and the manner of its accomplishment. Beginning with the closing years of the administration of the wily Mr. Seward, and continuing through the administration of the courtly Mr. Fish, the State Department has gone on, in despatch after despatch, and communication after communication to and from Mexico, laying up an official record of forbearance and good conduct towards a weak and indifferent neighbor, that will give this government full acquittance for all it may now or hereafter do with respect to Mexico, in the judgment of the public at home and abroad. The authorities here are quite certain that the big bullying Powers across the Atlantic have no such record to show of their treatment of inferior Powers, whose boundary lines are badly adjusted, and hence McKenzie's march across the border is considered quite as much of

A DIPLOMATIC AS A MILITARY TRIUMPH.

It would have been made before, say those in position to know, but for the necessity of respecting President Lerdo's known sentiments of friendship and fairness; and though made now under the sterner necessity of protecting our own long-suffering people, the consequences are not likely to reach as far as if the late and more hostile influences were still supreme in Mexico. The pending issue resolves itself into the statement that Mexico possesses a strip of territory along her northern boundary that affords her neither strength nor revenue; that this territory is occupied by a wretched population which only varies its assaults upon the territory of the United States by attempts against its own lawful government, and by

BANDS OF FUGITIVE INDIANS

from this country who are successfully encouraged and protected from the vengeance of either government. Making all possible allowances and offsets which can be made, and Mexico stands indebted to this country in an amount that can only be liquidated by a transfer of land. This land the United States wants for security, for development and for compensation, and the title rests on the two bases of necessity and justice. With such premises the conclusions are easily drawn, and can be as well drawn now as at any time, even if an expensive administration were willing to wait upon

THE RISING IN THE NORTHWEST.

The reported Indian uprising in the Northwest has been fully expected by the Government, and the full preparations already made were founded upon such a state of affairs there as is now declared to be imminent. The building of the Northern Pacific road is fully understood by the warlike Sioux, of Dakota, and the British possessions, to mean death or a change of life to them, and they are given too many evidences of their determination to fight their providential destiny to the bitter end to occasion any surprise by anything they may now do or threaten. General Custer was sent to the scene of the impending conflict, with the express understanding of what he was to encounter from Sitting Bull and the other chiefs, and how he was to meet the situation.

GENERAL SHERMAN NOTIFIED.

The Secretary of War to-day received the following telegram from Lieutenant General Sheridan, dated Chicago, last night:—

General Augur telegraphs that Colonel McKenzie, with six companies of the Fourth Cavalry, and

twenty-five Semtolo scouts, struck a camp of Kickapoo and Lipan Indians, about eighty miles from Fort Clark, Texas, early on the 18th inst., having marched all the night previous, and killed nine Indians, wounded two and captured one buck, a former chief of the Lipans and forty-one women and children, besides destroying two villages, with their accumulated property. He had three of his men wounded, one mortally. He has already over fifty captured ponies.

The despatch is silent as to the precise locality where this fight took place, saying nothing about its being on Mexican territory.

EXCITEMENT IN WASHINGTON. The news of Colonel McKenzie's fight is the subject of earnest comment in official circles here to-day, and revives attention to the many flagrant outrages of the past on the Texan border by parties coming from Mexico and retreating to that soil after the commission of acts against the peace and property of citizens of that country. There are yet no official utterances regarding the particular occurrence on the general subject beyond the many remonstrances and communications of this government, which already form part of the history of the Indian outrages along the Southern border; but gentlemen who possess full information upon the subject, and have made it the matter of official communication, say unhesitatingly that the time has now arrived when the people who persist in making forays upon citizens of the United States or shield the perpetrators, should be taught a lesson thereon.

THE MEXICAN MINISTER NOTIFIED. The following is the text of the telegram received at the Mexican Legation from the Vice Consul at San Antonio, dated Thursday:—

"I have seen your letter stating that on the 17th inst. General McKenzie crossed the Rio Grande above Piedras Negras with 500 horsemen and attacked the Lipans, Mascalleros and a party of Kickapoos, killing nineteen, taking more than thirty prisoners and capturing a great many horses."

NO OFFICIAL ACTION YET. Mr. Mariscal, the Mexican Minister at Washington, has not yet had an interview with the Department of State on the subject, but will await further particulars before calling on the Secretary for that purpose. The course usual on occasion of invasion of the soil of a neighboring nation by the troops of another, the two being at peace, is for the representative of the aggrieved party to make a statement of the facts, remonstrate against the violation of the international and neutrality laws and ask for an explanation.

SHERMAN'S OLD VIEWS. General Sherman, as long ago as 1871, in a letter to Secretary Belknap, said:—"These sudden irruptions from Mexico have been of frequent occurrence, and the Rio Grande being fordable gives the Indians a certain and safe retreat. As we cannot properly cross the border in pursuit, Mexico ought to be liable for acts of war done by the Indians owning her allegiance, and our people charge that the Indians are not only harbored but that horses and cattle are openly sold in the Mexican towns beyond the Rio Grande, and." The General added, "this case appears to me clearly one for the State Department, as we are unable to apply a remedy." The State Department accordingly acted in the premises, but has been unable to obtain redress.

THE CIVIL STRAY COMMISSIONERS to Texas, in their report to the Secretary of State last December, say that the action of the local Mexican authorities has been characterized by duplicity, connivance at fraud or a complete subservience to a corrupt military rule, and that under the trying circumstances of being confronted on the opposite bank of the Rio Grande by a foreign army which has given protection for a series of years to the invaders of American territory, the United States has through its officers kept the peace, preserved neutrality and acted with candor and justice, in spite of its long established friendly feeling to a sister republic.

THE PRESIDENT, in communicating the report to Congress, accompanied it with a message urging some action in the premises, but nothing was done. The War Department, however, subsequently strengthened the military posts on the frontier in accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners. The recent intelligence shows that our troops have been in the possession of the frontier, and are saying to-day, though unofficially, that the time had come for some positive and definite action in regard to outrages on the Mexican border, and that if the Mexican government applied for explanations of the recent reported action of the military it might perhaps be shown to have been justifiable, as the MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN NO REDRESS for such outrages heretofore, and manifested but little, if any, disposition to prevent them. A member of the Cabinet remarked to-day, with reference to the reported violation of the Mexican territory by our troops, that it was not always easy to distinguish a boundary line, but there was no room for mistakes when predatory Indians were overtaken. It is therefore inferred that this government will not be disposed to censure General McKenzie, but rather to approve his conduct, although he acted on his own responsibility. He is held in the highest esteem by army associates, both as a soldier and as a gentleman. He is only about thirty-two years of age, being the youngest officer with the full title of Colonel in the army.

THE COLLECTOR'S WHITE ELEPHANTS.

The Collector of Customs at Indianapolis to-day telegraphed to the Treasury Department for information respecting his duty in the case of the animals captured by Colonel McKenzie, desiring to know whether he should hold them as contrabands of war. Similar inquiries were made of the State Department, and the Secretary of the Treasury responded to the telegram that the captured animals should remain in custody of the military authorities. There are no advices there, official or otherwise, as to whether the stock belongs to the Indians or to Mexicans, or whether it was originally American property which had been stolen by the Indians.

MEXICAN RECEIVERS.

Report of the American Commissioners to the Kickapoo-Mexican Authorities Legalizing Indian Robberies—Guilty Knowledge of Raids.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1873. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has received important and very interesting letters from Henry M. Atkinson, of Nebraska, and Thomas G. Williams, of Texas, the special Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, under act of Congress, to negotiate with the Kickapoos, now in Mexico, for their return to the United States. The letter is dated Eagle Pass, Texas, May 5, 1873, and is as follows:—

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Remolina for a raid into Texas, and are now in this State.

BEFORE STARTING NO SECRET IS MADE OF THE intentions and purposes of these raids by the Indians among the citizens of Mexico. A portion of the Kickapoos still remain at or near Santa Rosa, and a few families of this tribe are near San Juan de Aliendo.

Our detention at this point has been owing to the necessity of providing our own transportation hence to Saitillo, there being no public conveyance. We will leave for that place in a couple of days to confer with the Governor of Coahuila. The Mexican newspaper referred to as "enclosed" was not received, having been apparently omitted through inadvertence.

THE KICKAPOO EMIGRATION. From a report made to the House of Representatives last session by General Shanks, Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, it appears that the Kickapoos originally emigrated from Illinois, and were located to the number of 250 on a reservation of 19,000 acres in northeastern Kansas. The greater portion of the Kickapoos now in Mexico separated from the rest of the tribe about twenty years ago, and settled near the Wichita River, in what was then the Indian Territory, but afterwards became part of the State of Kansas. Subsequently, at the commencement of the war in 1861, they moved south into the Indian Territory to avoid a draft, which they had been made to believe was framed by designing persons, who wished to drive them out of Kansas. In the Indian Territory, according to the report above named, they were met and pursued by rebel Texas cavalry and finally made their way into Mexico. About one hundred more of the tribe went to Mexico a few years ago, being dissatisfied with the treaty of 1863 under which they have been living, and although some of these returned to the United States, most of them remain with the earlier emigrants in Mexico.

DIPLOMACY OF THE MATTER. The United States Officially Warn the Mexican Authorities of what Might Arise from the Kickapoo Raids.

The troubles on the Rio Grande, which have now reached a culminating point, it is well known are their origin to two principal causes. These are the existence of the free zone, by which extensive smuggling is carried on from Mexico into the United States; and the constant raids of outlaw bands, composed