GERMANY AND AMERICA

Will the Kaiser Have a West Indian Foothold?

THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH COSTA RICA

Diametrical Opposition of Foreign Policies.

THE EFFORT TO SECURE DOMINICA.

It Is Defeated by American Diplomacy Under President Grant.

THE PROPOSED CESSION OF PORTO RICO.

Monroe Doctrine and Grant Doctrine.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3, 1874.

In view of the policy inaugurated by the North German Confederation as early as 1868 of requiring a foothold on the American Continent, for the establishment of a depot and naval station, the recent statement concerning the alleged proposed annexation of Porto Rico to the German Empire and the establishment of a German colony on Spanish-American soil does not appear so absurd as Secretary Fish would have the world believe. It has already become a serious question whether the North German Empire intends to follow the plan laid out of enlarging her possessions, so plainly made known prior to the Franco-Prussian war. That such was the intention the archives of our State Department plainly show; for, in spite of the Monroe doctrine, on two occasions, both before and since the administration of President Grant, our State papers reveal that it was the aim of Germany to get a foothold in the West Indies.

The Monroe doctrine was quite as well understood by Germany before the inauguration of General Grant as it has been since that event; and notwithstanding the plain declaration in his first message to Congress, December 6, 1869, that the colonial possessions of Spain could not be regarded as subject to transfer from one European Power to another, or the other declaration made in the message of December, 1870, that the acquisition of St. Domingo was an adherence to the Monroe doctrine, and ought to be agreed to by the Senate, to prevent the people of St. Domingo from looking for foreign support, Germany did not cease her efforts, and seemingly ignored the existence of the Monroe doctrine. According to our diplomatic correspondence and a message of President Grant Germany has been anxious to secure the Bay of Limon, in Costa Rica, and the Bay of Samana, St. Domingo, for the benefit of her people and her navy. Of the truth of the first statement the following diplomatic correspondence will show:—

[No. 9.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, MAY 8, 1868.

SIR—I have the honor to transmit herewith copies and translations of the correspondence relative to the visit of the Prussian steam sloop-of-war Augusta to the bay of Limon and its object. The documents consist of the letter of Captain Kinderling to the Prussian Consul residing here, with translation; the letter of the Consul to the Costa Rica government, with translation; the reply of Secretary Volio, with translation, and my letter to the Secretary soliciting copies, with translation, of his reply. The documents fully explain themselves.

I submit this correspondence without remark, merely observing that the refusal to accede to the solicitation so flatteringly presented may be accounted for by the pointed allusion to the Monroe doctrine, the principles of which are declared to be "acknowledged by all America," which is sufficiently significant.

I have the honor to remain, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, A. MORRELL.

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

P. S.—I deem it proper to advise our representatives in the other Central American states of this affair by this mail, and by the next will send them copies of the correspondence. Respectfully, A. M.

CAPTAIN KINDERLING TO MR. LAHMAN.

[Translation.]

SAN JOSE, April 24, 1868.

HONORED SIR—I have the honor to make the following communication:—

Among other instructions given me by His Majesty's Admiralty, all of which contemplate the protection of North German commerce of His Majesty the King of Prussia's North German subjects, is also that of examining the port of Limon, on the coast of the Republic of Costa Rica, in order to ascertain if it possesses all those requisites His Majesty's government may deem desirable to establish there a depot for their West India naval station. This has been the motive of my visit to Limon, which port I have surveyed minutely, reconnoitring also its environs; nor did I hesitate to go up to the interior and across the whole country, so as to obtain all necessary information, since a port is useless without the possibility of communicating with the interior. The result of my investigation is, on the whole, favorable to the object in view. It is true the bay of Limon at present is nothing more than a roadstead, partially sheltered by a point of land, a coral reef and a small island; however, its condition is, altogether, such that, with a comparatively small outlay, it can be turned into a good port—far better, for instance, than Colon (Aspinwall), the present intermedium of the whole transit between the two oceans. Neither is there, for the time being, a road between Limon and the interior. A dense forest, lofty mountains and many small rivers still divide the Atlantic coast from the cultivated part of the country. Still, I crossed this region, I became satisfied that it was an easy matter to open a road from the higher table lands to the coast, inasmuch as the greatest difficulty—crossing the mountains—is already overcome. All the part of the road already made is graded on nearly an equal level, winding gradually down the slopes of the hills; almost the only part wanting is the part which crosses the forest, where the only labor will be to clear away the wood by felling and burning the trees.

Taking all these circumstances into consideration I cannot but recommend to His Majesty's government the bay of Limon as a proper place for erecting a depot.

But an immediate consequence of my instructions and mission, and a duty to be necessarily derived from them, is that of securing if possible, to His Majesty's government, the means of subsequent negotiation; for otherwise, my report, however favorable, would be illusive and useless. My motive for expressing this opinion is that I am perfectly aware at this very moment, an effort is being to secure to other parties the use of the port of Limon, under one pretence or another.

Therefore, I claim your good offices as the representative of Prussia, in order to present to this supreme government a request that they will agree to consider themselves, as bound, with regard to the port of Limon, for a term of six months, from the 1st of June next, in this sense that they will not consent to make any contract with any foreign government or private company before the expiration of the term specified, viz., December 1, next.

I need not dwell on the advantages Costa Rica must derive from a more intimate connection with Prussia, these being perfectly understood by the supreme government. I shall also strictly abstain from taking any political view of the question; for a formal treaty can only be agreed to with some diplomatic representative of the North German Confederacy invested with full powers for this purpose.

It is hardly probable any formal objection will be raised against my request, since I present it through your medium, Mr. Consul; and, as I have stated before, it must be considered as agreeing with my instructions and a necessary consequence of the same.

I would respectfully beg you to communicate this note to Don Julian Volio, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and remain, Mr. Consul, your most obedient servant,

KINDERLING,

Captain Commanding His Majesty's sloop-of-war Augusta.

J. FREDR. LAHMAN, Esq., his Majesty the King of Prussia's Consul.

MR. LAHMAN TO SENOR VOLIO.

[Translation.]

CONSULATE OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF PRUSSIA, SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 1, 1868.

HONORED SIR—His Majesty the King of Prussia's steam sloop of war Augusta cast anchor in the Bay of Limon on the 10th of April last. Her commander, Captain Kinderling, R. N., has received various instructions from the Admiralty of the North German Confederacy, and, among others, that of visiting the coasts of the Caribbean Sea in search of some port whose situation and conditions might be turned to account as a depot and station for the North German Navy, it being the intention of his government to establish several naval depots and stations in different parts of the world, and one of these in the sea of the Antilles. This government having kindly invited Captain Kinderling, he is now in this capital, as you are aware. He has found the bay and port of Limon very well adapted to the object in view; and, taking into consideration the geographical situation of Costa Rica, the peaceable character and industry of her inhabitants, the circumstance of a road having been planned and even begun leading from the interior to said bay, and, finally, the prosperous future such advantages must secure to the country, he considers himself justified in recommending to his government the port above mentioned, and also the expediency of negotiating with the supreme government of Costa Rica for a grant in said port.

Captain Kinderling considers all the surveys and all the trouble he has taken would be thrown away if he did not succeed in obtaining from the supreme government of Costa Rica the assurance that they will not bind themselves to any other government, company or private party for the use of said port, with the object above specified, until his report reaches Berlin, when his government will weigh and consider the reasons he adduces, and will, in all probability, be prompted by them to open negotiations with Costa Rica for a grant of said port for the purpose of establishing there a naval depot and station.

I have the honor to inclose the original communication directed to me by Captain Kinderling, who commissions me to ask your kind mediation in obtaining from the supreme government of Costa Rica a term of six months from the 1st of June next, to insure sufficient time for receiving and despatching and receiving a reply to his reports to his government about Port Limon and Costa Rica generally, it being understood that during the term mentioned the government of Costa Rica will bind itself not to enter into any engagement respecting Port Limon, as far as concerns the use it is intended to make of it as a depot and station for the navy of the North German Confederacy.

I hardly need expatiate upon the advantages Costa Rica would derive from a treaty such as the one in view, for you, Mr. Minister, are better able than myself to appreciate them fully. For the present I shall, therefore, remain satisfied with requesting your best interest in obtaining from the supreme government the terms required, and improve this opportunity to subscribe myself, Mr. Minister, your humble servant,

J. FREDR. LAHMAN, Consul.

Hon. Don JULIAN VOLIO, Minister of Foreign Affairs, San Jose.

SENOR VOLIO TO MR LAHMAN.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, SAN JOSE, May 6, 1868.

SIR—I have given due consideration to your esteemed despatch of the 1st inst., in which you are pleased to communicate the result of the surveys made by Captain Kinderling, commanding His Prussian Majesty's sloop-of-war Augusta, in the Bay of Limon, on the Atlantic coast of this Republic, in order to ascertain whether said port unites all those conditions which may appear desirable to His Majesty's government for establishing there the depot for their West India naval station. You, at the same time, request that this government should consent to enter into no arrangements, either with any foreign government or private company, with respect to the Bay of Limon for six months, dated from June 1, 1868, in order to secure time sufficient for a commission of the North German Confederacy, invested with full powers, to come here and negotiate for a concession in said port. I am instructed by the President of the Republic to answer that although Costa Rica would most assuredly derive great material advantages from the establishment of a naval station in any of her ports, principally on her north coast, still her traditional policy, agreeing with those principles acknowledged by all America, and, above all, with the peculiar circumstances of her situation, forbids her to make any special concessions to any government whatever, however great her sympathy for the same, and however secured her political independence and autonomy may be.

In our present condition any deviation from the inflexible rule we have bound ourselves to follow—viz., to grant equally to all nations that honor us with their friendship, without distinction or privilege of any kind, such advantages as they justly demand both for their commerce and countrymen, would create complications we must avoid, even at the expense of delaying that progress we so anxiously covet.

Such being the case, there is no danger of this government granting any exclusive privilege to any other government, neither during the six months you demand nor within a longer period, whatever the advantages tendered in return. But as the spirit of private enterprise in Prussia might need for its development either the use of the bay of Limon, or of part of the public lands, or of some navigable river in this country, nothing prevents that during the term of six months asked by Captain Kinderling, should some private company be formed with the object of improving the port, or building a road to the interior, or some other work useful to this Republic, with the assurance that if the conditions set forth are accepted all lawful privileges required shall be granted, and, in the meantime, this government will consider itself bound to negotiate with no other company during said term of six months.

Trusting that my answer will prove satisfactory to you, I have the honor to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

J. VOLIO.

J. FREDR. LAHMAN, Prussian Consul, San Jose.

But what follows of this correspondence is remarkable. The reply of Señor Volio is dated May 6, and on the same day the American Minister, who must have enjoyed unusual privileges in knowing what was being diplomatically conducted, addressed the following letter to the Costa Rican Secretary of State:—

LETTER OF THE AMERICAN MINISTER.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES, SAN JOSE, May 6, 1868.

SIR—I would respectfully solicit copies of the correspondence between the Prussian Consul and this government in relation to the proposed establishment of a naval station by the North German Confederation in the Bay of Limon, for the purpose of transmitting the same to the State Department of the United States. Please accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my high consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. MONELL,

Acting Consul in Charge of Legation.

The inquiry is naturally raised, How did our humble representative know what had been going on if some member of the government did not inform him, or unless he had been consulted as to the Monroe doctrine? Your correspondent was informed by a gentleman who knew whereof he spoke that Mr. Monell undoubtedly framed the reply of Volio to the request of German consul, and this statement is based upon unpublished documents at the State Department. On the 8th of May, two days after the request was made, Señor Volio complied with Consul Monell's request, and he took occasion to say that he was free to make of the correspondence such use as he might deem proper.

This for a time only interrupted

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to secure a suitable naval station in the West Indies. The interference of the Monroe doctrine was noted in the report of Captain Kinderling to his government, as well as the influence of our Consul at San José with the Costa Rican authorities. At that time St. Domingo was harassed with interior troubles, and, having an independence which she could not well sustain without foreign aid, the attention of her people was turned to the United States. In December, 1868, President Johnson, in his last message to Congress, called attention to the deplorable condition of affairs on the island of St. Domingo, and recommended the annexation of the island, taking both republics—Hayti and Dominica. When this became known Germany at once instituted measures to secure, if possible, the protection of at least Dominica, and had, in a more quiet way than was pursued with Costa Rica, sent out agents to ascertain what amount of responsibility would devolve upon Germany in the event of the acceptance of a portion of the territory. Meanwhile it was represented to our government that the proposition of the President of the Costa Rican government, for the Germans to form a private company was being strenuously urged upon the German government; and our Consul informed the State Department, that in the event the company was formed, it need be no cause of dissatisfaction to the United States, for the clause in Mr. Volio's letter "if the conditions set forth are acceptable," covered a wide ground; and such a company, unless its members should become naturalized citizens of Costa Rica, would be on no other footing than all other foreigners.

The few months remaining of President Johnson's administration made it impracticable to begin the task of winning this Black Republic. President Grant, however, had hardly become familiar with his new habitation than there came an envoy from Baez with the pitiful story of Dominica's condition, and the report that emissaries of the North German Empire were using every influence at their command to get the most favorable concessions from the Dominican government on behalf of their commercial interests, and which really meant eventually the protection of the island and the establishment of a naval station at Samana. No sooner had the first visitor departed than Fabens arrived and persuaded the President that, unless the United States took the matter in hand promptly, the poverty and weakness of the Dominican government would compel her to accept the protection and aid of Germany, whose citizens monopolized the principal trade of the island. Of what followed the country is familiar. Four months after Grant was inaugurated, in July, 1869, General Babcock left New York for St. Domingo as the special agent of the State Department, with full instructions, and among them the following:—

Inquiry should also be made as to whether any other foreign Power may be seeking to obtain possession of any part of that country.

The result of which inquiry is apparent in the fourth section of the protocol agreed upon by General Babcock and M. Gautier, the Dominican Secretary of State, as follows:—

In either case the United States will guarantee the safety of the country and of the government against every foreign aggression or machination, in order that the present Cabinet may carry into effect the obligation which it contracts, to obtain from the people the expression of the national consent, which will necessarily have to be carried into effect within four months from the acceptance of the idea of annexation by President Grant.

Thus for the second time American diplomacy checked the course of Germany westward.

In his message to Congress in December, 1870, after regretting the rejection of the Treaty of Annexation at the previous session of Congress, he said:—

I now firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of accepting, as a part of its territory, the Island of St. Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by European nations in the Bay of Samana.

The President recognized that the Dominicans were not capable of maintaining themselves, and thought the acquisition of St. Domingo would not only be an adherence to the Monroe doctrine, but a measure of national protection. In the message, however, the President did not reveal the whole truth, but it was reserved for the message which accompanied the report of the Commissioners sent out in 1871 to examine and report upon the condition of the island, &c. In that message, dated April 5, 1871, he says, by way of preface, that in entering upon the duties of President, while he did not dream of instituting any steps for the acquisition of insular possessions, though he believed that our institutions were broad enough to extend over the entire Continent, yet he says:—

I believed further that we should not permit any independent government within the limits of North America to pass from a condition of independence to one of ownership or protection under a European Power.

Now it may be true that the President did entertain such sentiments when he entered upon the duties of the office, but it is equally true that he did not mention them when he wrote his first message to Congress (for reasons hereafter given), for on the subject of the Monroe doctrine all he said applied directly to Spanish and other European possessions, for I quote the only paragraph on the subject in that message:—

The United States have no disposition to interfere with the existing relations of Spain to her colonial possessions on this Continent. They believe that in due time Spain and other European powers will find their interest in terminating those relations and establishing their present dependencies as independent Powers—members of the family of nations. These dependencies are no longer regarded as subject to transfer from one European Power to another. When the present relation of colonies ceases they are to become independent Powers, exercising the right of choice and of self-control in the determination of their future condition and relation with other Powers.

This, by the way, is not regarded as Monroe doctrine, but Grant doctrine, by the diplomatic corps at Washington. At the time that paragraph was written General Babcock had made his report, the Treaty of Annexation had been drawn up and the agreement closed so far as it was in the power of the State Department to do so. The President was in full possession of all the facts relative to foreign intrigue, prominent among which was the one referred to in his message accompanying the report of the St. Domingo Commissioners and already quoted, that—

We should not permit any independent government within the limits of North America to pass from a condition of independence to one of ownership or protection under a European Power.

Though all these important facts were in his possession, the inviolable secrecy pledged in the protocol prevented the President from alluding to the subject in his first annual message to Congress. Moreover, General Babcock had been charged to keep the character of all his movements and acts as secret as possible. Nor did the President fully unveil his motives in the annual message of 1870; but in his message of April 5, 1871, the President says:—

Soon after my inauguration as President I was waited upon by an agent of President Baez with a proposition to annex the Republic of St. Domingo to the United States. This gentleman represented the capacity of the island, the desire of the people and their character and habits, about as they have been described by the Commissioners, whose report accompanies this message. He stated, further, that, being weak in numbers and poor in purse, they were not capable of developing their great resources; that the people had no incentive to industry on account of lack of protection for their accumulations, and that, if not accepted by the United States—with institutions which they loved above those of any other nation—they would be compelled to seek protection elsewhere. To these statements I made no reply and gave no indication of what I thought of the proposition. In the course of time I was waited upon by a second gentleman from St. Domingo, who made the same representation and was received in like manner.

In view of the facts which had been laid before me, and with an earnest desire to maintain the Monroe doctrine, I believed I would be derelict in my duty if I did not take measures to ascertain the exact wish of the government and inhabitants of the Republic of St. Domingo in regard to annexation, and communicate the information to the people of the United States. Under the attending circumstances, I felt that if I turned a deaf ear to this appeal I might in the future be justly charged with a flagrant neglect of the public interests and the utter disregard of the welfare of a downtrodden race, praying for the blessings of a free and strong government, and for protection in the enjoyment of the fruits of their own industry.

It is pertinent at this point to ask what led the President, in addressing Congress for the first time, to declare that Spanish and other European Powers could no longer regard their American dependencies as subject to transfer from one European Power to another. That passage in the message was not without significance to at least two European nations, and what led the President to speak of it is summed up in a word, and that word, "Germany;" and though he mentions Spain first, by reason of her larger colonial posessions in America, the sentiment was uttered to meet another proposition or a similar character to that of Porto Rico. When the subject becomes the topic of diplomatic controversy will be the proper time to explain the origin of the new doctrine of national rights.

On the evidence, then, of Captain Kinderling's instructions and the diplomatic correspondence which followed, it is established that after the Austrian-Prussian war Germany did seek to gain

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on the American Continent for a depot and naval station, and by the messages of the President it is also established that the second effort, after the Franco-Prussian war, was more sagacious and bolder than the first, and that in both instances it was American diplomacy which prevented Germany from carrying into effect her intention. In regard to St. Domingo the Commissioners reported that the most important commerce of the island—the tobacco trade—was carried on mainly by Germans and the new German Empire, and that to such an extent had this tendency developed itself that the tobacco trade was rapidly becoming a German monopoly. The Commissioners found the number of German subjects in important business operations and agencies on the north side of the island to exceed those of any other foreign Power, and their influence was extending steadily up into the great central districts. So, too, the examination of witnesses before the commission revealed the fact that while annexation with Spain, France or England was possible, yet in regard to the attempt of any European Power to form relations looking to annexation of St. Domingo, it was ascertained that the North German Confederation had taken such steps in regard to the commerce of the island generally, and particularly in relation to the port and town of Samana, as to cause much excitement on the island.

The same obligation which the United States assumed to protect the island from every foreign aggression or machination compelled Baez to do all in his power to check the advances of the German agents. So when our Commissioners were examining the special agent of the Dominican government at Samana, they elicited the fact that though Mr. Pon was duly accredited as the German Consul and was a citizen of St. Domingo, yet he had not received his exequater, for the Dominican government had its own reasons for not receiving him in the capacity of Prussian Consul.

What Consul Lahman was authorized to do at San José on behalf of the acquisition of the bay and port of Limon, Consul Pon could not do in St. Domingo, because the latter government refused to recognize him. I say the second step of Germany was bolder than the first, because in the very teeth of the Monroe doctrine; for was not Germany attempting in a covert way to take advantage of the weakness of an independent government on the American Continent? and had Germany succeeded in taking advantage of the Dominican's condition before the United States interposed, what the result would have been it is useless now to conjecture. The fact, nevertheless, remains the same.

After all this, does the statement of

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temporarily or definitively to Germany look so absurd as Secretary Fish says it does? Is not Germany stronger to day than four years ago, and if a West India naval station was desirable in 1868, is it not more so to-day with an increased navy and an increasing commercial marine? And what was proposed according to the confidential information of the *Freeman's Journal*:—

The Spanish government agrees to cede to the government of the German Empire by a provisional title, but one that may become perpetual, the island of Porto Rico, in whole or in part.

What more did Germany ask of Costa Rica than a part of her territory or of St. Domingo than a part of it? If Spain is willing to give what the Monroe doctrine prevented, the quarrel then would be with both Spain and Germany, and as it is evident that the influence of American diplomacy has twice interfered with Germany's aspirations what more reasonable than to suppose that the third effort would be so guarded as to put it beyond the reach of our diplomats. It will also be borne in mind that it was not Germany but Spain that wanted to know what position the American government would take in the event of the cession of Porto Rico temporarily or definitively to the government of His Majesty the Emperor.

If nothing else would give credence to the story of the intended cession of Porto Rico, that alone entitles it to the gravest consideration; for was it not the action of the allied Powers of Europe in taking advantage of the internal condition of Spain that led to the promulgation of the Monroe doctrine, though that doctrine can in no way be applicable to the peaceful acquisition by Germany of Porto Rico? The declaration goes that the overtures of Germany to Spain were honorable and acceptable. Though the European Powers have recognized the Monroe doctrine, and Germany has in two instances respected it, yet none of the Continental Powers have as yet given in their adherence to the Grant doctrine, expressed in his first annual message about the transfer of Spanish colonial possessions to another European Power. Then what more proper for Spain to do than to seek in an authoritative manner to know:—

What position the American government would take in the event of the cession of an isle of Porto Rico, temporarily or definitively, to the Government of His Majesty the Emperor.

I repeat, the European nations do not construe the message of President Monroe as forbidding the transfer of their possessions in this hemisphere from one to another, and as President Grant has taken an advanced step it is the right of Spain to know what the United States would do if the President is to be sustained. It was this information Admiral Polo refused to ask. Spain and Germany both await the answer. The successor of Admiral Polo will present his credentials so soon as the President returns to Washington, and Señor Mantilla, it is stated, will, in accordance with his instructions, ask if the United States proposes to dictate to independent European nations what must be done with their American colonial possessions. The inquiry, it is understood, will not necessarily apply to Porto Rico any more than to Cuba, but that it is desirable that there should be an amicable understanding upon the subject. Whether this indicates that Spain is willing to give Germany a part of the island of Porto Rico as a naval station I cannot now say. In the event the State Department adopts and adheres to the doctrine laid down in the message of 1869, which I have designated as the "Grant doctrine," it will be construed as a determination on the part of this government not to allow Germany to have even a depot or naval station in American waters. And this doctrine extended applies to Great Britain, France, Denmark and Spain, and if the concession is made of any portion of Porto Rico Germany, too, will be arrayed against it. Will this "Grant doctrine," which involves the question of dictatorship, be acquiesced in by the European nations? If the issue is made who can predict the end? It is then a momentous question whether Germany is resolved to have a foothold in the sea of the Antilles.

THE RETURN OF THE YACHT NETTIE.

The yacht Nettie, of the New York Yacht Club, Captain Horace T. Comstock, arrived Thursday afternoon from a cruise of seventy-seven days, from Halifax around the coast of Nova Scotia, through the Gut of Canso, Cape Breton, across the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Gaspé and the mouth of the River St. Lawrence. The Nettie has sailed in a direct line over 1,600 miles, and went further north than any American yacht, except the Palmer, of the New York Yacht Club. Rev. George H. Hepworth, the owner of the Nettie and pastor of the Church of the Disciples in this city, who sailed the entire cruise in the yacht, also Mr. A. C. Arnold, his assistant, and George E. W. Stivers, and E. S. Butler, of New York, and A. A. Ramsey and son, of Boston, formed the company. They have visited all the principal places on the seaboard of the New England States, Nova Scotia and other places. The Nettie has experienced some very rough weather, split her sails and lost one boat; but during these trying times has behaved herself nobly. Her record for sailing stands first rate, never in a single case having fallen in with a vessel that outsailed her; and in her run from Portland to Halifax, in forty hours, the regular steamer only beat her four hours, while her trip from Canso to Halifax in one night is said to be the quickest time on record. Mr. Hepworth and all have enjoyed the trip very much, and now return to work for the fall and winter.

ICELAND.

Dr. Hayes in the Valley of the Geysers.

A Hundred Boiling, Bubbling, Bottomless Springs.

THE TERRIBLE HRAFNA GJA.

The Dreary Desolation of the Lava Lands.

THINGVALLA LAKE.

A Glimpse of the Great Volcano, Hecla.

AT THE GEYSERS, Iceland, August 5, 1874.

Here I am at last in the very midst of this great nest of bubbling fountains of boiling water, which I first saw pictured in my school days' geography book, and which have been to me a wonder ever since, and are, now that I have seen them, more a wonder than ever. A hundred jets of steam are rising in the air all round me like so many columns of smoke from as many piles of burning brushwood. A hundred holes of various sizes are in the earth, and looking down into them through the rising steam one sees a great bubbling, boiling spring that seems to be bottomless. From many of them water from time to time pours over the brim and runs away in boiling rivulets, above which clouds of steam are ever rising; steam hisses out through fissures in the rock, through the soft turf, through seething pools of mud, and over a marsh a quarter of a mile distant a veil of mist is seen rising and floating away, to be melted in the tender sunshine. For the day is lovely past all description, and, weary from our two days' journey of not less than ninety miles over the worst of roads, on horseback, to which few of us have been of late accustomed, we enjoy our repose on the grassy slope overlooking the valley of the hot fountains, and write, and sketch, and wonder, and admire. The air is clear, as it rarely is in Iceland.

THE VALLEY OF THE GEYSERS.

The outlines of the mountains are sharply defined against the clear, pearly sky, and even the snow peaks can be discerned in all their varied forms through eighty miles of distance. As I look away to the southeast great Hecla looms above a range of purple hills, the position of its immense crater distinctly marked in a depression of the cap of snow. I am looking directly across the steaming plain of the Geysers that stretches away beyond through miles and miles of soft green, and through which meander silvery branches of the Hvita, or White River. The scene is too grand and wonderful for pen or pencil. The sunlight glow on Hecla surpasses anything I have ever seen. Occasionally a delicate current of warm air touches it, and, chilled by the cold ice and snow, a light vapor for a few moments floats away from its highest point, creating the impression that a stream of smoke is issuing from it. But this happens rarely, and the great mountain seems to float in the sky as a lightsome cloud, glorious and luminous and vast. Behind me is the level, white summit of the Ling Jökull; nearer rises the great sharp, snow-streaked Blafell, whose marvellously rich hue reveals at once the meaning of its name; while between this and Hecla, with the same dark foreground which frames and intensifies the glow of the famed volcanic mountain, rise peak on peak of the great Arnarfello, which is the very central crest and heart of Iceland. It is a picture for a painter to linger over; it is a picture for a poet to dream of all his life, and one which I cannot better describe further than by saying that it was simply glorious. A poet (Bayard Taylor) sits now by me on the green, and I find myself wondering if his fancy and intense sympathy with nature are not, even while I write, rearing up some wonderful poetic fabric worthy of the marvellous forces that have been and still are at work in the earth beneath and around us, and worthy, too, of his comprehensive intellect and subtle qualities of thought.

MOUNT HECLA.

Hecla in itself, that is in form, is not at all picturesque. There was nothing in it to interest the fancy but the glow of sunlight on its cap of snow. It is simply a long ridge standing broadside to the northwest and southeast, and is only remarkable in outline when seen from the northeast or southwest, when the sharp ridge comes out like a peak against the sky.

I learn that the ascent of it is not difficult, and it has been already reached this year by Dr. Leitner, whom I have had the pleasure of meeting on board the Albion and again at the King's dinner, at Reikiavik. From the Geysers to its foot is a good two days' journey. One may go on horses to the little hamlet of Nærfholt, a good way up the side of a spur that it sends out to the west, from whence, after refreshing one's self with a night's sleep, the crater may be reached without difficulty or danger in five hours. This year the summit is more than ordinarily covered with snow. The season has been unusually backward and chilly, and there are very few dark patches to be seen near the crest. Usually, as I am told, the crest is almost clear of snow before August, and therefore Hecla has failed to be dignified by the name of Jökull, which means snow mountain, or at least a mountain always white. It is a simple Fell, or rocky waste.

REGIONS OF PERPETUAL SNOW.

First in importance of these Jökulls is the Vatna, which occupies an immense space of several thousand square miles in the southeast part of the island, which has never been explored. I was told in Reikiavik that an English party of four enthusiastic Alpine climbers have gone there this season, supplied with every appliance, in the shape of Alpine guides, ropes, ladders, spiked staffs and spiked boots, to do what has been hitherto regarded as impossible; but whether or not they have succeeded in breaking their necks remains to be reported. I sincerely hope they may come out safe and sound, for the region is one of great interest both in an artistic and scientific point of view, and may they live to tell of it.

One thing I must not forget to mention before quitting the description of this scene from the Geysers. It is the surprising richness of coloring in the landscape. Surprising, because I had read quite the contrary, and my friend Mr. Bryce, who crossed over Iceland last year, had told me that everything to the artistic eye was unattractive and monotonous. This is doubtless in general quite true, for fog or rain is the prevailing condition of an Iceland summer. On this day, however, the air was remarkably transparent, and there was no color in the landscape wanting to delight the artist's eye. The most delicate violets, the loveliest purple, the richest gray were all from time to time conspicuous, and there has been throughout the day a glow on mountain, hill and dale that is truly charming.

THE KING'S STAY AT THINGVALLA.

But how did I get here? the reader may well ask, since I have broken off my narrative by this description of the day. The narration left our party eating breakfast at Thingvalla. We had resolved not to allow the King to go before us. But right well he may have been pleased to go anywhere, for they tell me he had a miserable night of it at Thingvalla, and I fancy he was much like everybody. It is all very well for one accustomed to it to ride a horse forty miles a day, but none of us had done so for a long while, and I doubt whether the King ever had, although he has the reputation of being a crack horseman. He could not sleep at all in his cheerless tent, and went wandering about nearly all night, as I did, and finally brought up on the floor of the church, which he ought to have had the privilege of doing by courtesy in the beginning, and would have had but for the fact that a party of some sort had got there before him and engaged it. And they really seemed pleased with the idea that they could keep a king from the only dry place in all Thingvalla. But somehow or other he got in as any other mortal might and got a nap, and, no doubt much disgusted, ordered everybody up at an unusually early hour and marched off for the Geysers with his enormous cavalcade.

We were far enough ahead of him to be out of his way. Even when we halted at the middle of the march for lunch and to give the ponies a chance to graze he did not overtake us. A few scattering horses only were seen as we mounted to ride away.

THE VALLEY PRIMEVAL.

The day was a most enjoyable one. Although the night had been chilly and damp, the day was sunny and warm, and the scenery was infinitely finer than on the previous day. First, we made our way along the banks of the Oxara River for a mile, and then, leaving this, started off directly to cross the Thingvalla plain. It was a very dreary ride. About a mile from the Oxara we came upon a little farm, but otherwise there were no signs of life, except as we now and then heard the mournful call of the wimble or the plaintive cry of the plover, and sometimes caught sight of them. The party, however, was in so great a hurry—especially the guides—to get ahead and keep the spare horses from mixing with the King's, that, without risk of being left behind altogether, we had very little chance for sport. Yet Mr. G. managed to bag a brace or so of birds while I held his pony, and then we galloped on after the party, and did not try our luck again until we had come near our noonday halting place, when we discovered numerous flocks of plover and secured enough for a hearty meal all round. But to go back to

THE CHASMS IN THE LAVA BEDS.

We crossed the Thingvalla plain by a most circuitous route in about two hours, and, mounting an activity at an angle of about forty-five degrees, crossed the Hrafna Gja at the only place where it is passable to man or beast. And it is scarcely less wild and wonderful than its sister, the more famous Almana Gja on the other side. The great yawning rift is in places almost as it was when the crack in the lava first occurred, but in other places the lofty walls have broken down and the piles of detached fragments, sometimes almost bridging the rift, tell of the influences of time in its steady work of decay and change.

A MOUNTAIN GIRDLED LAKE.

Once over the rift and at the summit of the plain which stretches away for many miles I paused a little while to view the scene. It was indeed a wonderful picture. To the left, mirroring as if it were a silver table the clear blue sky, lay the beautiful, mountain girdled Thingvalla Lake; above it, clothed in shadow towered the dark Velinkalla; before me stretched the Thingvalla plain, which we had crossed, clothed here and there with verdure, with what are here called forests—mere clumps of dwarf birches peeping up occasionally; beyond rose the majestic Almana Gja, over which, as a silver thread, could be plainly seen the Oxara waterfall, while away beyond to the right rose the dark-crested Armannsfell and the snow-capped Skjaldbreith and the purple Hlöthufell. It is one of the pictures I have seen to-day not easily forgotten.

THE LAVA PLAIN.

The lava plain, which we crossed after leaving the Hrafna Gja, is even more desolate and dreary than that which we crossed on approaching the Almana Gja. One farm house only did we see, and that quite near the gja. The plains presented a most singular scene. The lava had in many places wasted away with time, leaving only rough hummocks here and there, which in multitude though not in picturesqueness, may be best compared to stumps in a vast clearing, embracing many thousands of acres. For miles and miles we wound around among these lava hummocks without seeing a single trace of vegetation except some tufts of grass and patches of stonecrop and green moss. Then we wound about the base of a great mountain and came down into

A LITTLE GREEN VALLEY.

The outline of the mountain, as seen from this valley, is exceedingly picturesque and grand. I fell behind the party long enough to make a hasty sketch of it, and long enough also to inspect a remarkable cave at its base. From this valley we crossed a series of low ridges, and these opened before us the valley of Laugardalr, where we halted for lunch and to bait the ponies.

I. I. HAYES.

ESSEX MARKET COURT.

Robbed When Asleep.

Before Judge Bixby.

John Kennedy, a lad of sixteen, residing at No. 197 Hester street, was intrusted by his mother with the sum of $53 wherewith to purchase clothing for himself and a younger brother. Kennedy, who had probably imbibed some beverage of a soporific character, fell asleep in a hallway on Saturday night, and, while slumbering, was robbed of his money. He informed the police and suspicion fell upon another boy named Thomas Hicks, who was accordingly arrested by Officer Stack, of the Seventh precinct. The principal witness is one Frank Park, who received $15 from Hicks as "hush money." Park was sent to the House of Detention and Hicks was committed for trial in default of $1,000 bail.

Alleged Assassin Arrested.

Yesterday Officer Cooney, of the Seventeenth precinct, arrested John Reddy, charged with stabbing Michael Mooney. Judge Bixby committed him to await the result of the victim's injuries.

Caught in the Act.

A man named John Peizel was brought before Judge Bixby yesterday charged with burglary on the premises of Joseph P. Pettit, of No. 49 avenue C. He was arrested while endeavoring to carry off four brass cocks, 100 pounds of solder and a coat, worth in all $34. He was held in $1,000 bail for trial.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET POLICE COURT.

One Phase of Misdemeanor.

Before Judge Smith.

Charles Kopf, lately the keeper of a lager beer saloon at No. 189 Bowery, was yesterday held in $2,000 bail to answer a charge of misdemeanor. It is alleged that Kopf obtained from Martin Schwaner, brewer, of West Fifty-seventh street, lager beer of the value of $4,000, to secure the payment of which he gave complainant a mortgage on the furniture and fixtures of the establishment. He then, it is alleged, surreptitiously conveyed the mortgaged property from the premises named and endeavored to dispose of it.

A Mystery Gradually Clearing Up.

Officer Ferris, of the Twenty-first precinct, yesterday brought to court a man giving the name of Bryant Lawrence to answer a charge of complicity in the robbery and attempted murder of Mr. William L. Herbert, of Louisville, Ky. It will be remembered that Mr. Herbert a few mornings ago was picked up in Twenty-ninth street, by the police of the Twenty-first precinct, in an almost insensible condition from wounds on the head, and through the stupidity of a sergeant was arraigned at this court on a charge of intoxication. Here his true condition was discovered and the wounded man was sent to Bellevue Hospital, where he still remains. Two women were a day or two afterward arrested for the crime, but the confession of Lawrence to the officer that he and another man were guilty of the assault resulted in their release. Lawrence was committed to await the recovery of Mr. Herbert, who is now rapidly convalescing.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

MARINE COURT—TRIAL TERM—Part 1—Held by Judge Gross—Court opens at ten A. M.—Nos. 5499, 5520, 5521, 5524, 5527, 5529, 5531, 5538, 5539, 5540, 5541, 5547, 5551, 5554, 5557. Part 2—Held by Judge Spaulding—Court opens at ten A. M.—Nos. 1565, 5456, 5458, 5464, 5465, 5467, 5469, 5472, 5473, 5474, 5482, 5485, 5490, 5497, 5498. Part 3—Held by Judge McAdam—Court opens at ten A. M.—The calendar for to-day and to-morrow in this part is composed exclusively of cases marked over to September from previous terms.—Nos. 5238, 5252, 5260, 5269, 5306, 5225, 5203, 5623, 5717, 3571, 3433, 5774, 5800, 5420, 5421, 5183, 5273, 5278, 5280, 5281, 5837, 5838, 5726, 5714, 5780, 5608, 5683, 5749, 5621, 5613, 5721, 5690, 5348, 5310, 4306, 5766, 5423, 5879,