

The Benton Weekly Record.

VOL VII.

BENTON, MONTANA THURSDAY DECEMBER 15, 1881.

NO. 27.

TELEGRAMS.

Special Dispatches to the Record.

Guiteau Cross Examined.

WASHINGTON, December 3.—Porter's examination was addressed to occurrences of the night before the shooting when the prisoner followed the President and Mr. Blaine. The prisoner stated that he did not shoot that night because it was hot and noisy.

Did you think it would make you hotter to pull the trigger? Inquired Porter, raising his arm and making the motion of shooting with a pistol.

Blaine (contemporaneously) Oh, don't put so much style with your trigger.

Porter having again questioned the prisoner as to his pistol practice prior to the shooting, the latter turned to the Court and said: If your Honor please, I want to know if it is necessary for Judge Porter to go through this business again. I do not see the pertinency of this kind of talk at all, and I ask the protection of the Court. If you have any new questions to solve, I am willing. I object to going over this ground again. If you have any new ideas you want to show and elucidate, I will assist you.

Porter then called the prisoner's attention to the fact that he had made arrangements to go to jail, and asked why he had done so. The prisoner replied that he was afraid of being mobbed before he could explain his views to the people. They would say he was a disappointed office-seeker and would hang him up. That was the only possible motive they could conceive.

Mr. Porter then asked some questions as to the occurrence of the 19th of June, when the prisoner refrained from shooting the President on account of Mrs. Garfield's presence, and finally asked: If Mrs. Garfield had been with the President on July 2d, would you have shot him?

No, I should not have shot him in her presence. I did not know what the effect might be on her.

Question—Then it depended entirely on you, did it?

It depended on whether I had a suitable opportunity.

Porter asked why he should not shoot in Mrs. Garfield's presence.

Guiteau—If your Honor is so thick that you cannot get an idea, I won't try to pound it in. Why do you ask me your questions for no reason at all?

Porter pressed his question, whereupon the prisoner took up a paper, and adjusting his eyeglasses, began reading the paper, paying no attention to the counsel.

Porter—What are you reading?

Prisoner (without raising his eye)—I am glancing over the New York Herald.

Porter—Don't you think the time of the Court and jury of some value?

Prisoner—Not in the way you are interrogating the matter. It has been discussed and repeated over and over again, and the prisoner settled himself back in his chair to read.

Soville interposed that counsel was going over the same ground four times.

Porter—I would like to hear what he said on the subject.

Prisoner—You must be a very stupid man, the papers are full of it. The papers are full of my answers.

Porter—What were your answers?

Prisoner—I decline to answer.

Porter—I suppose you have no objection to answering what you did on the day you killed him?

The prisoner then gave an account of his actions on the 21 of July. He had slept the previous night at the Riggs house; he had risen early and sat in Lafayette Park some time before breakfast. After breakfast he went to his room and put his revolver into his pocket. A little before nine o'clock he went to the depot and had his boxes loaded.

Porter—Did you want to be in full dress when you killed him?

Prisoner—No, I didn't want to be in full dress. I do not want to be interrupted.

Porter—And I do not want to be interrupted.

Prisoner—Then keep quiet.

The prisoner then proceeded with his story. Blaine and the President drove up in a single horse carriage, and not in the White House carriage, which showed how much the President was under the influence of Blaine. The President was listening with Blaine was blowing. They were on the most intimate terms. Blaine got on one side of the carriage and Garfield on the other. They walked up to the depot and passed within a few feet of the prisoner who drew his weapon and fired three hitting one.

Question—You shot him in the back?

Answer—I did not fire at any particular place.

Q. Did you not fire for the hollow of the back?

A. My intention was to shoot him in the back.

Q. Did you not think two balls in the back would remove him?

A. I thought so.

Q. And you intended to put them there?

A. I did.

Q. (In a solemn manner) And from that time to this you have never felt remorse?

A. I regret giving pain or trouble to any one but I have no doubt as to the necessity of the killing of the act.

Q. You have never blinced at any remorse?

A. My mind is perfectly blank on that subject.

Q. Do you feel any more remorse about rendering his wife a widow and her children fatherless than about breaking the legs of that puppy dog?

A. I have no conception of it as murder-killing.

Q. And you feel no remorse?

A. (In a low and almost inaudible voice) Of course I feel remorse, so far as my personal feeling are concerned. I feel remorse as much as any man and regret the necessity of the act, but (raising his voice) (Mr. Porter)—The cross-examination is closed. But, continued the prisoner excitedly, my duty to the Lord and American people overcame my personal feeling.

If the Lord had not inspired that act it would have been done?

Soville then proceeded with the re-direct examination, and the prisoner said: I have been just as clear as to the divinity of the act and the necessity of it for the good of the people since the first of June as any man can be of anything.

When the examination of the prisoner closed, he was conducted (completely worn out) from the stand to his regular seat beside his counsel.

Mr. Porter then called Dr. Alexander Hall, of Columbus, Ohio, who testified to seeing the prisoner there some three or four years ago. The prisoner was then engaged in trying to lecture on theology, and to sell an inspired volume of his own authorship, and which he said was one of the finest literary productions that ever emanated from an inspired pen.

I am sorry to contradict you, interposed the prisoner, but I never said so.

The witness had several conversations with him, and was under the impression (which he expressed to his friends at the time) that the prisoner was a lunatic.

Soville called Emory A. Storrs, Charles B. Farwell and other witnesses, but as none of them responded, the court adjourned.

Guiteau left the stand this afternoon after his third day's siege. A broken man he was, tired, old, haggard, faded, disgraced, sullen, ugly, and there seemed to be about him an evident feeling that Judge Porter, the terrible cross-examiner, had despite his cunning theories and his persistence in them, shown that the inspiration theory was only a part of the defense planned long before the malice of Guiteau brought him to the river's bank to fire at the emperor's reads for targets.

Do you feel any remorse? was the last question which Judge Porter asked. After having been pressed earnestly on this point for some moments, the prisoner answered at last solemnly and desperately: I have felt remorse, of course, as regards my personal feelings are concerned.

Judge Porter, quick as lightning, dramatically said—That will do, prisoner; your cross-examination is closed.

Guiteau, writhing under the tremendous force of Judge Porter's question, saw the terrible effect of the confession. During all these months one part of his defense has been to insist to all that he never had a single sentiment of remorse. During the cross-examination he said a dozen times to Judge Porter's questions, that his mind was a blank upon that subject. To all the experts who called upon him he has insisted with pertinacity that a thought of remorse never came to him; that his mind upon that subject was a blank. But at the close of today's rigid cross-examination the prisoner admitted that which seemed to bring evidence to his relatives and caused a sensation in the court. He had killed the President and had suffered remorse. With cat-like quickness Guiteau rallied from what seemed almost like a paralysis caused by the tremendous hammering of Judge Porter at him, and endeavored to correct what he plainly saw was the effect of that admission. Judge Porter would not listen to a word, but waived his hand. Soville tried to purry the effect, but apparently without success, and Guiteau left the stand more discouraged than he has appeared at any time during the trial. Guiteau, although cowed and driven into a corner, saw the force of every one of Judge Porter's questions, and endeavored to evade them, and manifested undoubted skill. There were some words which almost caused him to wince with terror. He shrank and seemed to shiver in the witness-box when Judge Porter used the words "murder," "kill," "assassin." Judge Porter made clear that Guiteau was able to control the divine presence the day Mrs. Garfield came to the depot with the President, and emphasized the fact, which has such an important bearing upon the question of responsibility. The cross-examination was eminently successful. It lifted the mask and showed that the plot to murder the President was premeditated and deliberate, and was the result of malice and revenge. The prisoner felt it keenly. Porter broke down the wonderful, quick, supple witness.

The first witness was J. O. P. Burnside, disbursing officer of the Post Office Department. He formerly lived in Freeport, Illinois, and knew the prisoner's family. Mrs. Guiteau was an invalid.

Charles Allen, of Missouri, lived in Freeport in 1839 and 1840, and knew the Guiteau family. Mrs. Guiteau was in feeble health.

Emory A. Storrs, of Chicago, knew Guiteau in that city by sight as a young lawyer; saw him perhaps a dozen times at the National Republican Convention room in New York, during the last Presidential campaign. The prisoner came up to him cheerfully, and, patting him on the shoulder, said: You are on the right track. The witness never saw Guiteau doing anything in the committee rooms except reading papers. He seemed to have no special employment. In April saw the prisoner in Washington. He said he was going to have the Austrian mission. Witness told him the piece was an important one and in Blaine's line, and that he (Blaine) was a known politician. The prisoner replied he was solid with Blaine. Witness thought the conversation was leading up to a request for him (witness) to visit Blaine in Guiteau's interest, and forestalled it by saying that his relations with Blaine were such that he could not possibly aid him (prisoner); any. Witness had formed an opinion of Guiteau's mental strength, but could not express an opinion as to his sanity or insanity. His impression was that Guiteau had an ill balanced mind. In common parlance he did not have good common sense. Witness was asked in relation to the political status just prior to the shooting of President Garfield; if there were not elements of discord in the Republican party which threatened to disrupt it. His reply was: I think the Republican party a pretty difficult one to disrupt, and while there were elements of discord in it, my belief in the good sense of the rank and file is such that I think it would have held together.

Upon cross-examination, witness never saw anything in Guiteau to indicate that he could not distinguish between right and wrong.

Edward Dennis testified that he thought Guiteau crazy.

Soville made a sensation by summoning David Davis, Speaker Randall, Senator Bayard and President Arthur, saying that they had been subpoenaed.

Soville then read a number of newspapers, found on the prisoner at the time of his arrest.

Guiteau interrupted, saying that there were a number of them when arrested, which he took from Stallard, Liberal and Half-breed papers, which ever he saw anything to cause encouragement in his inspiration.

When Soville was reading a clipping, a suit became noticeable about the door leading to the witness-room, and in moment the witness stood. The reading ceased. The Senator was sworn, and Soville proceeded to question him on political philosophy. The Judge was non-committal on everything, and continually demurred to the line of proceedings. Judge Davis was excused after a few moments, and for a minute occupied a seat on the bench with Judge Cox, where he studied the countenance of the prisoner for some time, and then left the court room.

Bailey, the District Attorney's stenographer, was put upon the stand, and Guiteau became at once excited. He charged the witness with coming to him as a New York Herald reporter, and tricking him into an interview, notes of which were used by the District Attorney. Bailey afterwards made a report from his notes for the New York Herald, and Guiteau wanted to know what he received for it. It was finally brought out that Bailey had been given \$500. The prisoner was worked up considerably and contradicted the witness, accusing him of perpetrating fraud upon him.

Soville wanted Bailey's notes, but they had been destroyed.

After Soville resumed the reading of the clippings, and there being no other witnesses, the court adjourned.

WASHINGTON, December 3.—Guiteau, after Bailey's withdrawal from the stand, addressed the court, saying: The following persons I want subpoenaed as witnesses: President Arthur, Secretary Blaine, Senator Logan, Senator Conkling, General Grant, Senators Platt and Dorsey, Gov. Jewell, James Gordon Bennett, Whitlaw Reid, G. Vernon Jones, Chas. A. Dana, and W. H. Hurlbut, and the files of their papers from May until June; also George Gorham of the Washington Republican, and Stillson Hutchins of the Washington Post, and W. A. Nixon of the Chicago Inter-Ocean, and the files of the Inter-Ocean.

Sherman's Retaining Bill.

WASHINGTON, December 5.—The following is the text of the three per cent. funding bill introduced this afternoon by Sherman:

Section 1. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to receive at the Treasury of the United States lawful money of \$50 or any multiple, and to issue in exchange therefor an equal amount of registered or coupon bonds of the denominations of \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 and \$10,000 of such form as he may prescribe, bearing interest at the rate of three per cent. per annum, payable at the pleasure of the United States after the first day of January, 1891, the order of their payment to be determined by or in the absence of such legislation, by rules and regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury. The money deposited under this act shall be promptly applied solely to the redemption of the bonds of the United States bearing three and a half per cent. interest, and the aggregate amount of deposits under this act shall not exceed the sum of \$300,000,000.

Scenes at the Opening of Congress.

NEW YORK, December 6.—The Tribune's Washington special says: As the old soldier General Rosecrans, went down the aisle to greet the venerable ex-Vice President of the late Southern Confederacy, his formerly erect carriage showed signs of age, and the elastic step and quick, nervous movements of twenty years ago had departed. But as he entered into animated conversation with Stephens, who occupied his invalid's chair in the area before the Clerk's desk, his face lighted up, his eyes twinkled, and he appeared less unlike the victor of Corinth and Oka. Stephens,

pale and emaciated, but bright as ever, received the congratulations of members generally.

The dashing ex-Confederate cavalry leader, General Wheeler, of Alabama, wears his years lightly, and except that his hair has become somewhat bald and his beard slightly silvered, he does not appear a day older than he did at the end of the war.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SYNOPSIS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

An appalling calamity has befallen the American people since their chosen Representatives met last in the halls where you are now assembled. We might also recall with unalloyed contentment with Columbia for settling by arbitration the boundary question between those countries, providing that the part of arbitrators should be offered successively to the King of the Belgians, the King of Spain and the President of the Argentine Confederation. The King of the Belgians having declined to act, I am not as yet advised as to the action of the King of Spain. As we have certain interests in the disputed territory, which are protected by our treaty engagements with one of the parties, it is important that the arbitration should not, without our consent, affect our rights, and the government has accordingly thought proper to make its views known to the parties to the agreement so as to intimate them to the Spanish government.

The questions growing out of a proposed interoceanic water way across the Isthmus of Panama

are of grave national importance. This Government has not been unfaithful of the solemn obligations imposed upon it by its compact of 1846 with Colombia as the independent and sovereign mistress of the territory crossed by the canal, and has sought to render them effective by fresh engagements with the Colombian Republic looking to their practical execution. The negotiations to this end, after they had reached what appeared to be a mutually satisfactory solution here, were met in Colombia by a disavowal of the powers which it enjoyed had assumed, and by proposal for a renewal of the negotiations on a fortified basis. Meanwhile, this Government had learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the proposed Panama canal, a guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligations, as the sole guarantor of the integrity of the Colombian territory and of the neutrality of the canal itself. My lamented predecessor felt it his duty to place before the European powers the reasons which made the prior guarantee of the United States indispensable, and for which the infraction of any foreign guarantee might be regarded as a superfluous and unfriendly act.

This Government sees with great concern the continuance of the hostile relations between

CHILE, BOLIVIA AND PERU.

An early peace between these Republics is much to be desired, not only that they may themselves be spared much misery and bloodshed, but because their continued antagonism threatens consequences which are, in my judgment, dangerous to the interests of Republican government and calculated to destroy the best elements of our own free and beneficent civilization.

As in the present excited condition of popular feeling in those countries, there have been serious misapprehensions of the position of the United States, and as separate diplomatic intercourse with each (owing to the want of prompt reciprocal communication) to temporary misunderstanding, I have deemed it judicious at the present time, to send a special envoy accredited to each and all of them and furnished with general instructions, which will, I trust, enable him to bring these powers into friendly relations.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

For many years the Executive in his annual message to Congress has pointed out the necessity for stringent legislation for the suppression of polygamy in the Territories, especially in Utah. The existing statutes for the punishment of the odious crime so revolting to the moral and religious sense of Christianity, has been persistently and contemptuously violated ever since its enactment. Indeed, in spite of commendable efforts on the part of the authorities who represent the United States in that Territory, the law has on very rare instances been enforced and for a cause to which reference will presently be made, is practically a dead letter. The fact that the adherents of the Mormon church, which rests upon polygamy as its corner stone, have been recently peopling in large numbers, Idaho, Arizona and others of our Western Territories, is well calculated to excite the liveliest interest and apprehension. It imposes upon Congress and the Executive the duty of arraying against this barbarous system all the power which under the constitution and law they can wield for its destruction.

Reference has already been made to the obstacles the United States officers have encountered in their efforts to punish the violations of the law. Prominent among the obstacles is the difficulty of obtaining legal evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction, even in the case of the most notorious offenders. Your attention is called to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States explaining its judgment of reversal in the case of Miles, who had been convicted of bigamy in Utah. The Court refers to the fact that the secretary attending the celebration of marriages in that Territory makes that part of polygamy very difficult to prove, and the propriety is suggested of modifying that law of evidence which now makes a wife incompetent to testify against her husband. This suggestion is approved. I recommend, also, the passing of an act providing that in the Territories of these United States, the fact that a woman who has been married to a person charged with bigamy shall not disqualify her as a witness upon his trial for that offense.

I further recommend legislation by which any person solemnizing a marriage in any of the Territories, shall be required under stringent penalties, for neglect or refusal to file a certificate of such marriage in the Supreme Court of the Territory, unless Congress make or devise other practicable means for obtaining the certificates which have heretofore attended the efforts to suppress this iniquity.

I assure you of my determined purpose to co-operate with you in any lawful and discreet measures which may be proposed to that end.

THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT.

Which in turn has expressed its sympathy in our national bereavement. It is desirable that our cordial relations with Russia should be strengthened by proper engagements, assuring to the peaceable Americans who are visiting the Empire the consideration which is due them as citizens of a peaceable state. This is especially peculiar with respect to American interests whose classification with the native Hebrews has evoked energetic remonstrances from this government.

The abolition of discriminating duties against such colonial products of the

DUTCH EAST INDIES

as are imported from Holland, has already been considered by Congress. I trust that at the present session the matter may be favorably concluded.

The friendship of the United States and Mexico.

has been constantly maintained. The government has not occasion of encouraging the Mexican government to a beneficial realization of the mutual advantages which will result from more intimate commercial intercourse and from the opening of the rich interior of Mexico to railway enterprise. I deem it important that means be provided to restrain the lawlessness unfortunately so common on the frontier and to suppress the forays of the reservation Indians on either side of the Rio Grande. The neighboring States of

CENTRAL AMERICA

have preserved internal peace and their outward relations toward us have been those of intimate friendship. There are encouraging signs of their growing disposition to subordinate their local interests to those which are common to them by reason of their geographical relations. The boundary dispute between Guatemala and Mexico has afforded this government an opportunity to exercise its good offices for preventing a rupture between these States and for procuring a peaceful solution of the question. I cherish a strong hope that in view of our relations of amity with both countries our friendly counsel will be accepted.

THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT.

government recently formed an engage-

ment with Columbia for settling by arbitration the boundary question between those countries, providing that the part of arbitrators should be offered successively to the King of the Belgians, the King of Spain and the President of the Argentine Confederation. The King of the Belgians having declined to act, I am not as yet advised as to the action of the King of Spain. As we have certain interests in the disputed territory, which are protected by our treaty engagements with one of the parties, it is important that the arbitration should not, without our consent, affect our rights, and the government has accordingly thought proper to make its views known to the parties to the agreement so as to intimate them to the Spanish government.

The questions growing out of a proposed interoceanic water way across the Isthmus of Panama

are of grave national importance. This Government has not been unfaithful of the solemn obligations imposed upon it by its compact of 1846 with Colombia as the independent and sovereign mistress of the territory crossed by the canal, and has sought to render them effective by fresh engagements with the Colombian Republic looking to their practical execution. The negotiations to this end, after they had reached what appeared to be a mutually satisfactory solution here, were met in Colombia by a disavowal of the powers which it enjoyed had assumed, and by proposal for a renewal of the negotiations on a fortified basis. Meanwhile, this Government had learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the proposed Panama canal, a guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligations, as the sole guarantor of the integrity of the Colombian territory and of the neutrality of the canal itself. My lamented predecessor felt it his duty to place before the European powers the reasons which made the prior guarantee of the United States indispensable, and for which the infraction of any foreign guarantee might be regarded as a superfluous and unfriendly act.

This Government sees with great concern the continuance of the hostile relations between

CHILE, BOLIVIA AND PERU.

An early peace between these Republics is much to be desired, not only that they may themselves be spared much misery and bloodshed, but because their continued antagonism threatens consequences which are, in my judgment, dangerous to the interests of Republican government and calculated to destroy the best elements of our own free and beneficent civilization.

As in the present excited condition of popular feeling in those countries, there have been serious misapprehensions of the position of the United States, and as separate diplomatic intercourse with each (owing to the want of prompt reciprocal communication) to temporary misunderstanding, I have deemed it judicious at the present time, to send a special envoy accredited to each and all of them and furnished with general instructions, which will, I trust, enable him to bring these powers into friendly relations.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

For many years the Executive in his annual message to Congress has pointed out the necessity for stringent legislation for the suppression of polygamy in the Territories, especially in Utah. The existing statutes for the punishment of the odious crime so revolting to the moral and religious sense of Christianity, has been persistently and contemptuously violated ever since its enactment. Indeed, in spite of commendable efforts on the part of the authorities who represent the United States in that Territory, the law has on very rare instances been enforced and for a cause to which reference will presently be made, is practically a dead letter. The fact that the adherents of the Mormon church, which rests upon polygamy as its corner stone, have been recently peopling in large numbers, Idaho, Arizona and others of our Western Territories, is well calculated to excite the liveliest interest and apprehension. It imposes upon Congress and the Executive the duty of arraying against this barbarous system all the power which under the constitution and law they can wield for its destruction.

Reference has already been made to the obstacles the United States officers have encountered in their efforts to punish the violations of the law. Prominent among the obstacles is the difficulty of obtaining legal evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction, even in the case of the most notorious offenders. Your attention is called to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States explaining its judgment of reversal in the case of Miles, who had been convicted of bigamy in Utah. The Court refers to the fact that the secretary attending the celebration of marriages in that Territory makes that part of polygamy very difficult to prove, and the propriety is suggested of modifying that law of evidence which now makes a wife incompetent to testify against her husband. This suggestion is approved. I recommend, also, the passing of an act providing that in the Territories of these United States, the fact that a woman who has been married to a person charged with bigamy shall not disqualify her as a witness upon his trial for that offense.

I further recommend legislation by which any person solemnizing a marriage in any of the Territories, shall be required under stringent penalties, for neglect or refusal to file a certificate of such marriage in the Supreme Court of the Territory, unless Congress make or devise other practicable means for obtaining the certificates which have heretofore attended the efforts to suppress this iniquity.

I assure you of my determined purpose to co-operate with you in any lawful and discreet measures which may be proposed to that end.

THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT.

government recently formed an engage-

ment with Columbia for settling by arbitration the boundary question between those countries, providing that the part of arbitrators should be offered successively to the King of the Belgians, the King of Spain and the President of the Argentine Confederation. The King of the Belgians having declined to act, I am not as yet advised as to the action of the King of Spain. As we have certain interests in the disputed territory, which are protected by our treaty engagements with one of the parties, it is important that the arbitration should not, without our consent, affect our rights, and the government has accordingly thought proper to make its views known to the parties to the agreement so as to intimate them to the Spanish government.

The questions growing out of a proposed interoceanic water way across the Isthmus of Panama

are of grave national importance. This Government has not been unfaithful of the solemn obligations imposed upon it by its compact of 1846 with Colombia as the independent and sovereign mistress of the territory crossed by the canal, and has sought to render them effective by fresh engagements with the Colombian Republic looking to their practical execution. The negotiations to this end, after they had reached what appeared to be a mutually satisfactory solution here, were met in Colombia by a disavowal of the powers which it enjoyed had assumed, and by proposal for a renewal of the negotiations on a fortified basis. Meanwhile, this Government had learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the proposed Panama canal, a guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligations, as the sole guarantor of the integrity of the Colombian territory and of the neutrality of the canal itself. My lamented predecessor felt it his duty to place before the European powers the reasons which made the prior guarantee of the United States indispensable, and for which the infraction of any foreign guarantee might be regarded as a superfluous and unfriendly act.

This Government sees with great concern the continuance of the hostile relations between

CHILE, BOLIVIA AND PERU.

An early peace between these Republics is much to be desired, not only that they may themselves be spared much misery and bloodshed, but because their continued antagonism threatens consequences which are, in my judgment, dangerous to the interests of Republican government and calculated to destroy the best elements of our own free and beneficent civilization.

As in the present excited condition of popular feeling in those countries, there have been serious misapprehensions of the position of the United States, and as separate diplomatic intercourse with each (owing to the want of prompt reciprocal communication) to temporary misunderstanding, I have deemed it judicious at the present time, to send a special envoy accredited to each and all of them and furnished with general instructions, which will, I trust, enable him to bring these powers into friendly relations.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

For many years the Executive in his annual message to Congress has pointed out the necessity for stringent legislation for the suppression of polygamy in the Territories, especially in Utah. The existing statutes for the punishment of the odious crime so revolting to the moral and religious sense of Christianity, has been persistently and contemptuously violated ever since its enactment. Indeed, in spite of commendable efforts on the part of the authorities who represent the United States in that Territory, the law has on very rare instances been enforced and for a cause to which reference will presently be made, is practically a dead letter. The fact that the adherents of the Mormon church, which rests upon polygamy as its corner stone, have been recently peopling in large numbers, Idaho, Arizona and others of our Western Territories, is well calculated to excite the liveliest interest and apprehension. It imposes upon Congress and the Executive the duty of arraying against this barbarous system all the power which under the constitution and law they can wield for its destruction.

Reference has already been made to the obstacles the United States officers have encountered in their efforts to punish the violations of the law. Prominent among the obstacles is the difficulty of obtaining legal evidence sufficient to warrant a conviction, even in the case of the most notorious offenders. Your attention is called to the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States explaining its judgment of reversal in the case of Miles, who had been convicted of bigamy in Utah. The Court refers to the fact that the secretary attending the celebration of marriages in that Territory makes that part of polygamy very difficult to prove, and the propriety is suggested of modifying that law of evidence which now makes a wife incompetent to testify against her husband. This suggestion is approved. I recommend, also, the passing of an act providing that in the Territories of these United States, the fact that a woman who has been married to a person charged with bigamy shall not disqualify her as a witness upon his trial for that offense.

I further recommend legislation by which any person solemnizing a marriage in any of the Territories, shall be required under stringent penalties, for neglect or refusal to file a certificate of such marriage in the Supreme Court of the Territory, unless Congress make or devise other practicable means for obtaining the certificates which have heretofore attended the efforts to suppress this iniquity.

I assure you of my determined purpose to co-operate with you in any lawful and discreet measures which may be proposed to that end.

THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT.

government recently formed an engage-

ment with Columbia for settling by arbitration the boundary question between those countries, providing that the part of arbitrators should be offered successively to the King of the Belgians, the King of Spain and the President of the Argentine Confederation. The King of the Belgians having declined to act, I am not as yet advised as to the action of the King of Spain. As we have certain interests in the disputed territory, which are protected by our treaty engagements with one of the parties, it is important that the arbitration should not, without our consent, affect our rights, and the government has accordingly thought proper to make its views known to the parties to the agreement so as to intimate them to the Spanish government.

The questions growing out of a proposed interoceanic water way across the Isthmus of Panama

are of grave national importance. This Government has not been unfaithful of the solemn obligations imposed upon it by its compact of 1846 with Colombia as the independent and sovereign mistress of the territory crossed by the canal, and has sought to render them effective by fresh engagements with the Colombian Republic looking to their practical execution. The negotiations to this end, after they had reached what appeared to be a mutually satisfactory solution here, were met in Colombia by a disavowal of the powers which it enjoyed had assumed, and by proposal for a renewal of the negotiations on a fortified basis. Meanwhile, this Government had learned that Colombia had proposed to the European powers to join in a guarantee of the neutrality of the proposed Panama canal, a guarantee which would be in direct contravention of our obligations, as the sole guarantor of the integrity of the Colombian territory and of the neutrality of the canal itself. My lamented predecessor felt it his duty to place before the European powers the reasons which made the prior guarantee of the United States indispensable, and for which the infraction of any foreign guarantee might be regarded as a superfluous and unfriendly act.

This Government sees with great concern the continuance of the hostile relations between

CHILE, BOLIVIA AND PERU.

An early peace between these Republics is much to be desired, not only that they may themselves be spared much misery and bloodshed, but because their continued antagonism threatens consequences which are, in my judgment, dangerous to the interests of Republican government and calculated to destroy the best elements of our own free and beneficent civilization.

As in the present excited condition of popular feeling in those countries, there have been serious misapprehensions of the position of the United States, and as separate diplomatic intercourse with each (owing to the want of prompt reciprocal communication) to temporary misunderstanding, I have deemed it judicious at the present time, to send a special envoy accredited to each and all of them and furnished with general instructions, which will, I trust, enable him to bring these powers into friendly relations.

THE MORMON QUESTION.

For many years the Executive in his annual message to Congress has pointed out the necessity for stringent legislation for