

# The Socorro Chieftain.

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## TELEGRAPHIC.

**MR. PARNELL SAYS AMERICA IS THE HOPE OF IRELAND—A SHE MONSTER—BOUND FOR THE IRISH CONVENTION—STORM-TOSSED RUSSIA—LOW RATE TO EUROPE—BIG BLOW—OUT NEAR HOME, &c.**

### Increased Travel.

New York, Aug. 17.—The very low rates to Europe are attracting much attention and there is quite a revival in travel over the Atlantic, and many who wish to return to their old homes are taking advantage of the situation and purchasing tickets.

### A She Devil.

Boston, Aug. 17.—The case of Mrs. Robinson, the wholesale poisoner, is still the cause of much excitement and discussion, and new and startling developments are looked for in the near future. Some more supposed accomplices are being shadowed by the officers and several more arrests are anticipated.

### Big Storm.

Kansas City, Aug. 17.—The storms throughout the country east of the Mississippi river have been very severe and serious damage is done in some sections. Trains are blocked while the wires are down, and it will require some days to restore things to their normal condition in some parts of the country.

### Still Spreading.

Rome, Aug. 17.—Notwithstanding the great efforts being made by the authorities to extinguish the disease, the cholera is spreading in many districts and bids fair to become epidemic before the close of the summer. There was a large increase in the number of new cases at several points yesterday.

### Sick, But Hopeful.

San Francisco, Aug. 17.—The fever is at present very severe on the Isthmus of Panama, and foreigners incur great danger by delaying in that part of the country. The work on the canal is progressing as rapidly as is possible under the circumstances, and the people are more hopeful than ever, as it is believed that De Lesseps is very successful in his financial operations in Paris.

### Westward Bound.

Detroit, Aug. 17.—Large numbers of delegates from New York and other eastern sections, bound for the National Convention to be held in Chicago passed through this city to day, and many home delegates joined them here and also proceeded westward. It is the opinion of many of the delegates that a very lively time is expected during the deliberations of the convention.

### Feel Hopeful.

London, Aug. 17.—The result of the National convention in Chicago is looked forward to with a great deal of interest, and Parnell and the Irish leaders believe that it will result in greatly strengthening the home rule cause. The party chiefly relies upon its supporters in America, who have time and again offered substantial aid just as it was most needed, and thus saved the party from sore defeat and perhaps dissolution. It is believed that the action of the convention will be harmonious and to the best interest of the party.

### Severe Suffering.

Berlin, Ger., Aug. 17.—The damage and losses caused by the recent fierce storms throughout a large section of Russia, are more severe than was at first reported, and hundreds of persons were raised while numbers lost their lives. A number of villages were entirely destroyed by the winds and the raging streams, and the destination of the people is very great. Assistance is asked for, and the people of Moscow, St. Petersburg, and other places are offering their assistance in the most liberal manner, and it is understood that the government will also take the necessary steps to relieve the distress of the sufferers.

## INTERESTING READING.

Private Land Claim of the Town of Socorro, Reported, No. 107.

This claim was filed in February, 1875 and Surveyor General Proudt, in August following, reported it for confirmation. Under instructions from the Land Department, it has been re-examined by the present Surveyor General. The claimants are designated as "the inhabitants of the town of Socorro, and the other towns and their vicinities within the tract of land hereinafter described, in the county of Socorro, in the Territory of New Mexico." The boundaries of the land as given in the petition are as follows:

"On the north the bank of the San Lorenzo arroyo, on the east the summit of the Oscura mountain, on the south the Bosque del Apache meadow, and on west the summit of the Magdalena mountain."

In support of the claim three documents in Spanish were presented. The first of these is a petition, dated in November, 1817, to the governor of the Territory, stating that in the name of 70 families comprising the settlement of Socorro, they appeared and declared that under a former governor they had been permitted to settle at the place named, but had no authenticated documents showing their title, and requesting that such documents be issued. On the same day the governor, on the back of the petition, directed the alcalde to comply with the order given him by the governor's predecessor, when he directed the abandoned pueblos of Socorro to be settled.

This fragment was found in the archives of the Mexican government and is believed to be genuine.

The next document is a similar petition, presented by the same party, dated August 1, 1818, and is endorsed:

Santa Fe, August 3, 1818.  
"Apply to the alcalde of the district of Pena Blanca."

The third document purports to be a petition by Manuel Trujillo, on behalf of himself and the inhabitants of Socorro grant to Governor Armijo, November 4, 1845, and showing the action of the governor thereon. The petition states that in the year 1815 or 1816, the papers were issued to the settlers on the Socorro grant, which papers are alleged to have been lost, and asking for a new grant. The decree of the governor describes no particular land, but declares that the inhabitants and those entitled to the grant referred to in the petition shall remain in full possession, and shall forever enjoy the land with all their uses and privileges. There is no evidence that this paper was ever deposited in the archives of Mexico. Its appearance is unofficial and suspicious. The name of the governor, when compared with his signature to a number of other papers in the archives, appears to be a manifest forgery.

The pretended grant moreover, if genuine, would be void under the colonization laws of 1824, which must govern it, the oral evidence in the case shows the boundaries of the grant as given in the petition to Governor Armijo, but such testimony can not make valid a void grant. It shows that the town of Socorro and the other towns on the lands claimed, were in existence at the time of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and were occupied by the parties claiming title to the land and had been so occupied for at least twenty years; but this does not create a grant.

In the opinion of the Surveyor General, no valid legal title to the land is shown, but he believes that an equitable title should be recognized in the original settlers, their descendants and legal representatives. The equitable title must rest principally upon the possession of the inhabitants of the various towns on the land claimed, which are shown to have been occupied at the date of the treaty mentioned, and for many years before. The testimony indicates that this occupancy was held under a bona fide claim of right under a grant alleged to have been made in 1815 or 1816, the title of which is said to have been lost. The fragmentary papers mentioned give some color to this claim, and it seems very improbable that the inhabitants of the towns referred to would have claimed title to, and exercised uninterrupted possession of the land for a considerable time without some right. It is believed that an equitable title may fairly be presumed under the circumstances.

The extent of this equitable claim can only be determined by further testimony and an authentic survey, and should be restricted to the lands actually possessed and used for cultivation and pasturage at the date of the treaty of 1848. It was surveyed in 1878, for \$48,259.59 acres, covering numerous gold and silver mines now being worked, while the tract, according to the testimony of the witnesses, covers 1,612,000 acres. There was no authority whatever stating any such area, except the fraudulent and forged grant already referred to.

The Surveyor General recommends the confirmation to the original settlers, their descendants and legal representatives, of the equitable claim indicated, to be determined as aforesaid, and that the titles to minerals found on the tract so restricted and defined, be reserved to the United States.—Weekly Leader.

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