

The Weekly British Colonist.

Tuesday, March 6, 1866

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

While the Spanish and Chilean difficulty presents no new prospects for settlement an insurrection has broken out in Spain herself. Our late advices show that the principal cities are either under martial law or in open revolt. The insurrectionary commander, General Prim, at the head of 1200 cavalry, has raised the standard of rebellion, and has already beaten Marshal Concha. A large portion of the army is, it is said, in favor of Prim; but Marshal O'Donnell is still the great power in the Government, and it is more than possible that he will be able to resist the threatening movements of the insurrection. There is, however, but one alternative for the safety and peace of the country, and that is the abdication of the Queen. "With Madrid," says a London paper, "so favorable that it was necessary to put it under martial law, the troops in four garrisons in revolt, the great city of Malaga scarcely restrained from insurrection, Barcelona descending into the streets, Andalusia honeycombed with friendly secret societies and the whole Radical party at his back, General Prim either could not or would not march upon Madrid. Of course, his friends pause, and of course also if he is caught with only two regiments in his company, he may be executed and they shot down before aid can be even summoned. In that very probable case Marshal O'Donnell will be master of the situation, and find himself exactly where the Progressista party is now, face to face with the problem of a Queen whom he cannot control, or replace, or dismiss from a throne which filled by her is inconsistent with the national life of Spain, yet cannot remain unfilled. Or in the equally probable alternative that the troops "pursuing" General Prim join him en masse, then the Progressistas will be masters, and be compelled, as their first step, to solve the problem of managing or superseding an inevitable Queen who is also, at least for their purposes, an impossible one, whose dethronement would be the signal for civil war, while her continuance on the throne protects a chronic anarchy."

A rather extraordinary case has just come up before the English public in a police court, and is thus stated in the London Times. On the 5th of January a gentleman of the name of Fletcher called at the Union Bank of Australia in London, and charged himself with having committed a serious robbery in the branch bank in Melbourne. He stated that he had been a chief clerk in the bank, and that a year and a half ago he broke open a box containing valuable securities and bonds to the value of £15,000. He remained for a considerable period in the bank entirely unsuspected, but ultimately fled to England, thence to the United States and to Buenos Ayres. Discontented, it appears, with his mode of life, he came back to England, acknowledged his offence to the bank and surrendered himself. The only restitution he could make was £1500, and he made it. The bank, however, did not give him into custody, and he surrendered himself to the police authorities. He was brought up before the Mansion House, and the facts of the case were stated by himself. The bank authorities showed a willingness to prosecute, but Alderman Finnis, before whom the case was heard, declined to detain the prisoner, on the ground that no warrant for his apprehension had been received from Melbourne. The prisoner was, however, not to be baulked, and went into his own recognizances to appear at a future day. The necessary time elapsed to obtain a warrant from Australia, but the warrant did not come, and the magistrate dismissed the case. The Times comments on the absurdity of the law that requires a warrant from the colony in which the crime is committed before the person can be arrested. The case is a very novel one, and would almost lead to the conclusion that the would-be convict is a little deranged, did not the fact appear that the robbery of which he speaks was actually committed.

Almost equal in novelty to the above is the visit of one of the contributors of the Pall Mall Gazette to the Lambeth workhouse, in the disguise of a destitute artisan to test the philanthropy of the institution. The ordeal was not at all to his taste and unfolds a rather curious picture of the accommodation that is afforded the houseless poor. The writer was divested of his clothing, tumbled into "a bath where the other houseless poor had been washed—and the appearance of which after that process, he describes as disgustingly like weak mutton broth—and then with only a check shirt on and with a rug over his shoulders, was compelled to walk through the open air and on bare stones to the half open shed in which thirty comrades were already housed, each on his hay bed. The cold was terrible, though the kindly attendant taking a liking to him, brought him a second rug; his bed was stained with the blood of some predecessor, and worst of all the conversation was foul and filthy in the extreme. We are afraid the "houseless poor" fare rather badly in

the institutions which philanthropy supplies them. We can easily understand how the more refined will rather slowly starve and become subjects for the coroner, than enter such places as the writer in the Pall Mall Gazette describes. We can easily understand the statements which appear in the recent London papers, that a Mrs. Bellinger was starved to death in her mother's house, and that a needlewoman named Margaret Fairservice was found dead in her room of cold and want. Nor is it to be wondered at that where such criminal neglect is shown in the workhouses, an equal amount of inhuman indifference is to be found in the workhouse hospitals. "In one of these hospitals," says the Spectator, "it appeared that about one-fourth of the patients are every night turned into the other wards, and then locked up without light or means of communicating outside the ward. One poor man of sixty-five, named Fellowes, was so locked up while suffering from bronchitis, tumbled out of bed and died. No report even was made till the morning." We are afraid Mr. Carlyle's onslaughts on the shams of life and the hollowness of civilization have not produced much effect on the "way things are managed in England," and we are equally afraid that the condition of the poor is too insignificant a subject to disturb the rest of our Imperial statesmen or cause poignant grief to the fashionable life in London.

FROM MONTANA—DUBIOUS REPORTS

A correspondent of the Sacramento Union, writing from Nevada City, Montana, gives a somewhat discouraging account of affairs in that territory. He is of opinion that the mines are not near as good as those of California. He says: "Many have made fortunes here, but it has cost at least 75 cents for every \$1 obtained, owing to the depth of stripping being from 8 to 15 feet, and much of the diggings on the low bars and toward the head of the gulch are still deeper, being from 20 to 50 feet, and have to be drifted and timbered, which is quite expensive. Taking all things into consideration, such a gulch in California at any time prior to 1856 would have created no unusual excitement; and I will hazard the assertion that nine out of every ten gulches, of corresponding length, in California have paid more per diem for all the labor expended than this has ever done or ever will do. There have been many new gulches discovered in the past year, among which may be mentioned Last Chance, Blackfoot, Confederate, McClellan and Montana as the richest."

There are two great drawbacks to successful mining in this Territory. First is the long cold winters, in which all mining operations are suspended, except prospecting; and, in the second place, the enormous prices of living. Merchants here are like the negro who said if he bought anything for one dollar and sold it for two he was sure he made 1 per cent., and was satisfied. But the negro's one per cent. does not satisfy the "Shylocks" of Montana, but two and three hundred per cent. is often charged for any article that may chance to be scarce in the market. A few items I will note, that are on the rampage just now: Tobacco comes first (1 lb out) and sells at from \$3 to \$8 per pound; tea, from \$3 50 to \$5; coffee, \$1 25; salt, 75 cents; matches, 50 cents per box; axe and pick handles, \$3 each; California whisky and brandy from \$8 to \$15.

AUSTRALIA.

[From the S. F. Bulletin.] By the British Bark Novelty 35 days from Auckland, we have via New Zealand later dates from Australia: A lot of prisoners at Champion Bay made their escape and seized the steamer Lass of Geraldton, making an armed attack upon the crew. The latter resisted bravely; a terrific fight ensued resulting in the defeat and subsequent capture of the rascals. A despatch from Adelaide dated Dec. 2d, says that further discoveries of silver and lead ore have been made in the Rapid Bay district. A shepherd named Richard Hudson, of Wentworth, was horribly murdered by a native and his body thrown into the river. A public meeting was recently held in Sydney to protest against the tariff as proposed by the Government. Lady Don is playing a star engagement at the Prince of Wales Theatre in Sydney. Branches of the Bank of Adelaide have been opened at Melbourne, Sydney and London.

BRITISH INTERESTS IN CHILE.—The Panama Star and Herald of February 8th says:—"The only foreign ships of war between Valparaiso and Panama are H. M. corvette Shearwater, and U. S. gunboat Waterer. These must be considered a bulwark of security for the vast foreign interest exposed in a state of war on the coast." This state of things, however, would not long continue as H. M. ships Sutej, Tribune, Cameleon, and Devastation would soon be added to the fleet on the coast of South America.

FROM PORTLAND.—The schooner Crosby is announced to leave Portland on the 28th for this port.

LATEST EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. Seward's Speech. The Senate Committee on Territories reported a bill to extend the boundaries of the State of Nevada, thereby wiping out the Territory of Utah.

NEW YORK, February 21.—The steamer New York sailed to-day for San Francisco with 300 troops.

CHICAGO, February 22.—Important political conventions and public meetings are being held to-day at Washington, Indianapolis, St. Louis, New York, Nashville, Louisville, etc., all of which will make declarations on the President's policy. Peculiar interest attaches to the Republican State Convention of Indiana.

NEW YORK, February 22.—General Grant is at the Metropolitan Hotel. A reception is preparing for this evening. It will be a grand affair.

A banquet was given to the American Minister at Moscow in acknowledgment of the courtesies shown to the Russian fleet. It was a grand affair. Mr. Clay responded in a suitable manner. Mr. Curtin, Secretary of Legation, spoke of the Russian-American Telegraph as a common achievement, binding the two countries together, and expressed the hope that good fellowship would always prevail. At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Curtin was seized and kissed by every Russian present.

NEW YORK, February 23.—Following are the additional remarks made by Mr. Secretary Seward at the Cooper Institute last evening. Mr. Seward said Congress agonizes over the question of reconstruction, not because the war has not come out right, but because they have not individually had a hand in bringing it to a happy termination. I hoped no serious difficulty, from the conviction that there never was and never can be any successful process for restoring union and harmony among the States except the one which the President has avowed himself satisfied with. The President is in harmony with all the States that were in rebellion, and the Executive and Judicial departments are resuming their functions.

Loyal representatives, more or less, from these States are now standing at the doors of Congress, and have been standing for three months, asking to be admitted as States which disloyal representatives had previously left. In the meanwhile Congress passes law after law; imposes burden after burden and duty after duty upon the States which, against their earnest desire, are left unrepresented. Say what you will, the States are already organized in harmony with our amended Constitution, and are in earnest co-operation with the Federal Government. It is impossible to reduce States to a territorial condition. Congress has had a reconstruction Committee of 15 members who have stopped the wheels of legislation for three months to enable them to submit a plan different from that which is now on the way of a happy consummation, and what have they given us or proposed? An amended Constitution to equalize suffrage, on penalty of the abridgment of their representation. This was no plan of reconstruction, but of obstruction.

The conflict in opinion between the President and Congress, in reference to the Freedmen's Bureau, is in its consequences comparatively unimportant. It would excite little interest if it stood alone. Both fully agree that this Bureau was created for the transition period between war and peace, and should cease at the end of that period. The President thinks that period nearly passed and that the original provision is sufficient, while Congress thinks the original provision needs enlarging. I agree with the President, in the hope that this extraordinary provision is not necessary. Ought the President to be denounced in the house of his enemies? Much more, ought he to be denounced in the absence of any necessity, to occupy or retain the exercise of powers greater than those which are exercised by any imperial magistrate in the world. Judge ye!

I trust this fault of declining imperial power, too hastily tendered by a too confiding Congress, may be forgiven by a generous people. It will be a sad hour for the Republic when the refusal of unnecessary powers and patronage by a President shall be held a crime. When it shall so be considered, the time will have arrived for setting up at the White House an Imperial throne, surrounding the Executive with Imperial legions.

SENATIONAL WASHINGTON NEWS. WASHINGTON, February 23.—While the crowd who were suing to and fro in front of the White House yesterday, guards were placed around the entrance, and none but Democrats were allowed to pass. (?)

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS. The meeting was also addressed by Postmaster General Dennison, Henry J. Raymond, Francis B. Cutting, Daniel S. Dickinson, George Opatyke, and dispersed at a late hour.

Mr. John Wentworth, who was in front and near the guard, was pressed back by soldiers. He remonstrated, when the policeman said he would arrest him if he did not keep still. Wentworth dared him to try it, with a loud voice, and then said, "You have murdered Lincoln and now you want to destroy Johnson." (?)

NEW ZEALAND.

By the bark Novelty we (Bulletin), have New Zealand dates up to Dec. 20. The trial of the Whakatari's murderers was concluded and sixteen of the prisoners were condemned and sentenced to be executed. The Maori war still continued. A battle was fought between the English and native forces at Poverty Bay, Nov. 20 in which the latter were defeated with heavy loss. Hoshan was evacuated by the rebels, 120 guns and 180 prisoners falling into the hands of the victors. The English loss was quite heavy—the enemy fighting with great desperation. The insurgents at Kohai are still unsubdued. An overture of peace was disdainfully rejected by them, and they were vigorously preparing for war.

South America.

From Chile. PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

VALPARAISO, Jan. 2d.—There is nothing important to advise from Chile. The successor of the late Admiral Pareja has raised the blockade of Coquimbo, by concentrating the Spanish squadron at the two ports of Valparaiso and Caldera. These two are now the only two blockaded ports.

The Spaniards would seem to be afraid of separating the vessels of the fleet and exposing them singly to the attempts of Chile. This new commander of the squadron, Nerfiez, is still a young man, and is said to have raised himself to his late command of the Numancia, by his bravery. We hardly think however that he will, under existing circumstances, attempt anything decisive in the war till he is fully in communication with the Cabinet of Madrid.

On the 27th of December an attempt was made by the launches of the Spanish vessels Numancia and Bareneguela to capture the Chilean steamer Corbalan, at anchor at Caldera, but after getting possession of her they were driven off by the Chile soldiers firing on them from the shore, several of the Spaniards being shot. Two other attempts were made by the blockaders to regain possession of the Corbalan by steam launches under protection of the Bareneguela, which were equally unsuccessful.

On the news of the death of Admiral Pareja reaching Valparaiso, the Intendente opposing the body to exist still on board, offered to permit the interment of it on shore, to which an answer was returned that it had already been committed to the deep.

The trade of the country goes on briskly. Though Valparaiso itself is blockaded, some twenty-two vessels were loading and unloading at the ports of Papudo, Algarrobo and San Antonio, communicating inland with Valparaiso. At all the unblockaded ports trade is brisk, and there is not sufficient tonnage to clear off all the products of the coast waiting shipment.

January 17.—The event of the fortnight is the raising of the blockade of Caldera, and the concentration of the Spanish squadron at Valparaiso.

In Caldera the Spaniards burned the five or six sailing vessels they had taken since the declaration of war. The Chile coast is, therefore, for the present open to trade.

What significance there is in this movement it is hard to tell. The Spanish Admiral may intend to send an ultimatum to the Chile Government, threatening the destruction of Valparaiso first, and other towns on the coast following. This will not bring the people or government of this Republic one inch nearer yielding to Spain. On the contrary, the news by last mail of the assured sympathies of all Europe and America, has encouraged every heart in the country against Spain, and the Spaniards are become the object of a spirit of revenge which a century of peace or political reconciliation will not remove, and whether they may be able to assert it or not—nothing will now be able to such political reconciliation satisfactory to Chile, but the apology of Spain and the payment of ample damages.

It is not known where the Chilean fleet may now be—but they are on the look out to cut off supplies from the Spaniards, and to effect a junction with the Peruvian fleet, should the Dictator determine, in terms of his declared policy, to ally himself with Chile.

Business continues very dull, and little confidence prevails. Shipments of wheat from the Southern ports are urged on, Australia still gets considerable shipments. One thing is sure, Spain can never interfere with our "seed time and harvest," nor till she gets out three times the fleet she has, can she stop our export of produce.

MEXICAN NEWS.

A private letter, received at San Francisco by the John L. Stephens, from Mazatlan, states that as the steamer was departing an engagement was going on between the Liberal and Imperial forces in the vicinity, and the residents expected every moment that the city would be occupied by the Juarez forces.

Governor Ogazon, of Jalisco, who left here some weeks since, was with Corona at last accounts. A council of war, attended by Corona, Rubi, Ogazon and others, was held at Mazatlan a few days before the sailing of the steamer and the question of attacking the town fully discussed. Corona declared his ability to carry the town in an hour, but opposed the movement, as to do so would be to ensure its immediate destruction by the French war steamers Victoire and Lucifer, then in the harbor. Rubi and Agazone, on the other hand, were in favor of an immediate attack. On the 12th inst., while the Liberals were raising into the suburbs and firing on the garrison, a party in nine boats, coming from an island in the vicinity, where they had been concealed, landed and carried off Captain Avalaz, of the Imperial garrison, with twenty-two men from the city front, and escaped with their prisoners without the loss of a man—Alta.

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