



The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

No. 52.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

The Attorney General of the United States has officially promulgated it as his opinion that the *Virginus* was not entitled to the protection of the American flag. Yet the United States Government has shown no disposition to restore the vessel to the custody of the Spanish authorities.

The Attorney General's last decision regarding the *Virginus* constitutes the leading topic of discussion in the morning Journals. The *Tribune* says if our Government has really reached this decision there should be no hesitation in pressing with the utmost frankness, and promptness, the measure for the condemnation of the compromised vessel.

The *Times* says:—We have no doubt whatever that the *Virginus* carried the American flag fraudulently, that she was not only engaged in a filibustering expedition of the grossest kind, but that she was, to all intents and purposes, an insurgent steamer, belonging to the Cubans, and only using the American flag as a blind to cover an illegal expedition. All this, of course, could not be known at first. The Spanish Government has had time to put in its evidence, and, of course, that evidence would be placed before the Attorney General for examination. The *Virginus* has practiced a cheat upon the United States Government. She had no right to carry the American flag, and was engaged in an enterprise which was in direct violation of the law. Per contra, the *card's* Washington despatch contains a statement to the effect that the right of the *Virginus* to carry the United States flag is fully established, and that such is the judgment of the administration. The Madrid report that the Spanish Government will make a demand for the return of the *Virginus* is not credited in Washington.

Saul Wright, aged 81 years, a Waterloo veteran, who fought in the dragon Guards under the Duke of Wellington, died on Sunday from paralysis.

News has been received from San Domingo by way of Santiago de Cuba, that General Ignacio Gonzalez has been elected President of the Republic. The new administration will probably endeavour to annul the lease of Samana Bay.

The foreign trade of Great Britain has not been satisfactory to her merchants this year so far. That nation sold \$32,500,000 less of cotton, linen, silk and woolen fabrics, and had to buy \$50,000,000 more of articles of food in the first nine months of this year than in the corresponding period last year.

David R. Pigot, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and member of her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council in Ireland died here this morning.

Throughout the city Matamoras, on Dec. 22nd the stores and public buildings were generally closed and business suspended, owing to the unsettled state of feeling growing out of the fighting which occurred yesterday. The Government troops patrolled the streets and occupied the Plaza last night and to-day, and maintained strict order and security. It is believed that Cortina will endeavor to be installed as Mayor by the 1st January, by which time the term of the present city officials expire, and, should the efforts now being made to compromise the matter not succeed, serious fighting is likely to follow.

The French Assembly on the 19th, passed the bill increasing President MacMahon's salary.

The King of Dahomey, it is said, has entered into alliance with the King of Ashantee. Dahomey lies on the coast immediately east of Ashantee, and is a populous and fertile country, and the people being, if possible, more barbarous and their institutions more bloody than those of Ashantee. The English Government will now have its hands full with the two nations to manage; and, with the terrible diseases, which destroy a thousand lives where the bullet destroy one, as their allies, they are no contemptible adversaries. But, having undertaken the task, England must go through with it. She must make these dusky potentates understand that the English flag is to be respected, or she must abandon her trading posts and give up her settlements in that part of the world.

The troops engaged in the Ashantee war will be furnished with carbon-respirators to protect them from the malaria of the marshes and swamps of the locality.

The Emperor William is much better. He has been up all day.

The report of Bazaine's flight is unfounded. It is now stated that ex-Marshal is to leave Paris to-night for St. Marguerite, his place of imprisonment.

Marshal Bazaine is still confined in the Palace of the Tridon.

The Chevalier Nigra was well received by President MacMahon yesterday, and the interview was of a most friendly character.

It is definitely ascertained that Ryan had made a contract with the Cuban insurgents, by the terms of which he was to receive \$20,000 in gold if he succeeded in landing his men and arms on Cuban shores.

Ten steamers are at St. Sebastian for the purpose of embarking the force of Republicans under Gen. Moriones, which is surrounded by 30,000 Carlists, and cannot escape capture except by taking refuge on the vessels.

A Havana letter says that the slave owners in the Island are secretly planning a conspiracy in Spain to overthrow Castelar, against whom bitter feeling is felt for his the *Virginus* matter.

They claim at the Cuban headquarters to have news of several minor insurgent successes in Cuba, and that in the latter's recent attack on Mancilla, they destroyed fully half the town, captured \$1,000,000 worth of stores, several million dollars in Spanish bank notes, and a large amount of war material, together with one hundred prisoners. Their loss was thirteen officers and sixty privates killed and wounded. They compute the Cubans loss at three hundred.

A Washington despatch says:—A Bill has been framed, and will be introduced after the Christmas recess, abolishing the office of the Chief Justice, and it is reported to have the endorsement of several Senators. It is contended that the officer should be selected by the Senate.

At 10.30 o'clock the jury in Mayor Hall's case entered the Court room, and, in answer to the usual inquiry of the judge, replied that they had found a verdict of not guilty. At this announcement, the crowd in the Court burst into an immense applause, which the Court did not object to, and after a lapse of about ten minutes the Court was adjourned until Monday morning at 10:10.

The *Post's* Washington special says steps have already been taken by our Government to prevent any more filibustering expeditions being fitted out against Cuba, and all moral support possible will be given to Castelar's Government.

The *Herald's* despatches from Cartagena announce that Fort San Jalean, one of the strongest defenses in the city, has been breached.

An accidental explosion of an internal battery yesterday killed twenty officers and men of the besiegers.

Another New York politician has been tried in the balance and found guilty. Harry Genet, this time:—Penalty, not less than one nor more than five years' imprisonment. He was a Senator. He subsequently succeeded in making his escape from prison and the last account heard of him is that he sailed on Monday morning, with an intimate friend, ex-Senator Taylor, of New Jersey, and that they departed secretly from Jersey City in the yacht *Wm. Keeney*, chartered for that purpose.

The iron bridge at Dixon Ill., fell with a terrible crash, while crowded with people to witness a baptism. Thirty-two bodies have been recovered and many more are supposed to be under the wreck.