39TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } SENATE. { Ex. DOC. No 6.

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of December 11, 1865, *information respecting the occupation by French troops of the republic of Mexico and the establishment of a monarchy there.*

JANUARY 10, 1866.—Read, ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 11th instant, respecting the occupation by French troops of the republic of Mexico and the establishment of a monarchy there, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and the documents by which it was accompanied.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, *December* 21, 1865.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 21.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 11th instant, requesting "the President to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interests, all correspondence, not yet officially published, between our government and that of France, touching the occupation by French troops of the republic of Mexico and the establishment of a monarchy there," has the honor to lay before the President a copy of the papers called for by the said resolution.

Respectfully submitted:

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

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Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward.

No. 442.] PARIS, *March* 25, 1864.

SIR: Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys informed me yesterday that the negotiation for a loan in behalf of Maximilian, as Emperor of Mexico, had been completed on favorable terms, and that he would sail for Mexico on Sunday next.

I regret to learn by the communication you enclosed to me that the power of Mexico is still further enfeebled by faction and division among themselves. There is nothing in the present condition of things there to justify a hope that the republicans of that country can successfully meet the French invading force, aided by factionists at home, and any action at present in that direction by the United States would be sure to embroil us with France. We cannot, under existing circumstances, afford a war with France, for the Quixotic purpose of helping Mexico. "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton.

No. 525.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 7, 1864.

SIR: I have received your despatch of March 25, No. 442, which informs me of the completion of the loan to the Grand Duke Maximilian, and of his anticipated embarcation for Mexico. In order that you may understand the condition of affairs in that country, as fully as they are understood here, I have given you a copy of a communication which has lately been received from our consul at Matamoras.

I give you also, for your information, a copy of a note which has been received from Mr. Geofroy on the subject of the protection which was extended to the consul at that place by Major General Heron, and of my answer to that paper. This correspondence embraces some other incidental subjects. It is proper to say that Mr. Geofroy proposes to communicate to me a statement of another distinct subject of complaint, in regard to proceedings on the frontier, under instructions from Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, and that I have engaged to bestow due consideration upon it.

I send you a copy of a resolution which passed the House of Representatives on the 4th instant, by a unanimous vote, and which declares the opposition of that body to a recognition of a monarchy in Mexico. Mr. Geofroy has lost no time in asking for an explanation of this proceeding.

It is hardly necessary, after what I have heretofore written with perfect candor for the information of France, to say that this resolution truly interprets the unanimous sentiment of the people of the United States in regard to Mexico. It is, however, another and distinct question, whether the United States would think it necessary or proper to express themselves in the form adopted by the House of Representatives at this time. This is a practical and purely executive question, and the decision of it constitutionally belongs, not to the House of Representatives, nor even to Congress, but to the President of the United States. You will, of course, take notice that the declaration made by the House of Representatives is in the form of a joint resolution, which, before it can acquire the character of a legislative act, must receive first the concurrence of the Senate, and, secondly, the approval of the President of the United States; or in case of his dissent, the renewed assent of both houses of Congress, to be expressed by a majority of two-thirds of each body. While the President receives the declaration of the House of Representatives with the profound respect to which it is entitled, as an expression of its sentiments upon a grave and important subject, he directs that you inform the government of France that he does not at present contemplate any departure from the policy which this government has hitherto pursued in regard to the war which exists between France and Mexico. It is hardly necessary to say that the proceeding of the House of Representatives was adopted upon suggestions arising within itself, and not upon any communication of the Executive department, and that the French government would be seasonably apprised of any change of policy upon this subject which the President might at any future time think it proper to adopt.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

WILLIAM L. DAYTON, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Accompaniments:

Mr. Geofroy to Mr. Seward, April 3, 1864.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Geofroy, April 6, 1864.
Resolutions of House of Representatives, April 4, 1864.

Mr. Geofroy to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, April 3, 1864.

SIR: As I have had the honor to inform you, I have transmitted to my government the documents which your excellency submitted to me, on the subject of the affair at Matamoras. The documents can scarcely have reached Paris at this moment.

While awaiting the answer they will occasion, I this morning received a second despatch from Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, pointing to new facts on which I shall have the honor to confer with your excellency on the earliest day my health will permit me to go out; but there is a point which seems to be of importance to bring immediately to your notice. It would appear that on the news of the events of the month of January last, General Bazaine took the

measures necessary to protect, in the direction of Matamoras, the Mexican territory against any further invasion. Whatever may be the opinion we may form upon past events, you will comprehend, sir, how necessary it is, to avoid all complication in the future, that General Banks, and the officers serving under his orders, may be again called to the strict observance of the instructions given the 23d November, 1863, from your excellency's department.

I should not, either, leave you in ignorance that the French troops must also have been directed to Sonora, where, according to reports, more or less founded, a very considerable number of emigrants from California must lately have disembarked at Guaymas, and have established themselves in the country in virtue of grants which were made to them by the ex-President, Juarez.

The mission of our forces is to prevent, in Sonora, all these takings of illicit possession, if they be really attempted; and, in any case, the lawfulness of concessions which shall have emanated from Juarez will never be admitted. Your excellency will probably judge proper to make this known to American citizens who might allow themselves to be drawn into such speculations.

I seize this occasion to renew to your excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

L. DE GEOFROY.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 6, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 3d instant, in which you inform me that you have received a second despatch from Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, pointing to new facts in relation, as I am left to infer, to the proceedings which took place at Matamoras in the case of Mr. Pierce, the consul at that place, and which have been made the subject of recent correspondence on your part with this department. I shall with pleasure receive the promised information, when the state of your health shall be such as to enable you to visit me, and I sincerely regret the cause by which such a visit is delayed. Since my last note to you on the Matamoras affair was written, I have learned that General Cortinas, with his forces, is certainly adhering to the government of the United States of Mexico. In view of this fact, it is not now apparent to this government that France, being, in our view, only a belligerent in Mexico, and having no forces at or near Matamoras when the transaction in regard to the consul occurred there, can reasonably expect explanations concerning it from the United States.

You inform me in the note now before me that, on hearing of that transaction, in January last, General Bazaine took the measures necessary to protect the Mexican territory, in the direction of Matamoras, against any further invasion, and you suggest that, in consequence of that proceeding, Major General Banks, and the officers serving under his orders, may be again called to a strict observance of the instructions which I gave to that general on the 23d of November last. Passing over the words "further invasion," as an accidental assumption of a fact which this government has not conceded, and is not yet prepared to concede, I have had no hesitation in informing Major General Banks of the purpose of General Bazaine, and enjoining the United States general to a strict and faithful observance of the instructions of November, which require him to forbear from any form of intervention in the war between France and Mexico.

You also inform me in your last-mentioned note that French forces have been directed towards Sonora, and you bring to my knowledge rumors that a very considerable number of emigrants from California have lately disembarked at

Guaymas, and have established themselves in the country in virtue of grants which were made to them by President Juarez, whom you describe as ex-president. You further state that the mission of the French forces is to prevent, in Sonora, the taking possession of estates under such grants, the lawfulness of which you say will never be admitted, and you suggest to me the expediency of making this information known to American citizens who might be disposed to allow themselves to be drawn into such speculations.

While I appreciate the frankness and the good will which the Emperor's government manifest in thus communicating its views and purposes on the subject mentioned, it, nevertheless, remains my duty to say that this government has long recognized, and still does continue to recognize, the constitutional government of the United States of Mexico as the sovereign authority in that country, and the President Benito Juarez as its chief. This government at the same time equally recognizes the condition of war existing in Mexico between that country and France. We maintain absolute neutrality between the belligerents, and we do not assume to judge, much less to judge in advance, of the effect of the war upon titles or estates. We have no knowledge of such an emigration from California to Sonora as you have described in your note. But if such an emigration has taken place, those persons who thus emigrate will, of course, be regarded as subjecting themselves to the authority and laws by which the rights of citizens of Mexico are governed; and while it seems unnecessary for the President to assume that such emigrants will claim the protection of this government for any estates, of whatever kind, they may attain, or attempt to attain, in Mexico, it would certainly be premature to attempt now to decide upon the validity of such claims.

Peaceful emigration from the United States is entirely free from restraint or influence of the government. Emigrants themselves are generally well informed concerning their rights. Under these circumstances, any interference of the government concerning such emigration would be as inexpedient as it would be without precedent. The case would be different if the act of emigration was attended with preparations and purposes hostile to Mexico, or to either belligerent party, or to any other nation, and therefore incompatible with the laws of the United States, or with the law of nations. It is believed that the government of the United States has sufficiently indicated the views it must take in such a case, if it should occur, which, however, there seems no immediate reason to apprehend.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton.

No. 728.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 20, 1864.

SIR: I enclose a copy of a resolution which yesterday passed the House of Representatives by an almost unanimous vote, and may be supposed to have been occasioned by the instruction of this department to you, No. 525, of the 7th of April last.

This morning I was visited by Mr. Geofroy, who inquired as to the purport of the proceeding. I answered that the views of the administration in regard to Mexico are expressed in the President's message to Congress at the opening of the present session.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

WILLIAM L. DAYTON, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 1.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 21, 1864.

SIR: I enclose for your information a copy of a despatch of the 12th ultimo, No. 208, from Charles A. Leas, esq., the United States commercial agent at Belize, in regard to a recent proclamation of Prince Maximilian affecting the British settlement in Honduras, and relating also to other features of political affairs in that quarter and the West Indies.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq.,
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States.

Mr. Leas to Mr. F. W. Seward.

No. 208.] UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL AGENCY,
Belize, November 12, 1864.

SIR: Great excitement is prevailing in the commercial and official circles of Belize in consequence of the appearance in the Mereda newspaper of an official proclamation, under the orders and by the authority of the Emperor of Mexico, to the effect that the peninsula of Yucatan is, on and after the 1st of October last, to be governed or presided over by three prefects, and to be divided into three arrondissements, one of which is to be designated as the arrondissement of Mereda, the boundaries of which are to be as follows: Commencing at the mouth of the Rio St. Pedro y St. Pablo, on the Gulf of Mexico, and running up the centre of that stream to the Usumasinti; up the latter to a point where the Guatemala district of Peten is encountered; from thence along the line that divides Peten from Guatemala to the headwaters of the river Sarstoon; down the middle of the Sarstoon to the gulf or bay of Honduras, and from thence along the coast to the place of beginning; comprehending in this latter all the keys and islands contiguous to the main land. The same proclamation provides, further, "that there are a few Englishmen located at the mouth of the river Belize, or Wallis, who have had the permission, under the treaties with Spain, to cut wood, and that they are not to be molested," meaning that they are not to be disturbed in their wood-cutting operations.

Thus it will be seen that Maximilian has, by this proclamation, swept into his possession not only the district of country known as Peten, and which has always been claimed as being within the legitimate jurisdiction of Guatemala, but the whole of British Honduras, with all the keys and islands, thus ignoring entirely the idea of British sovereignty. These people are feeling themselves greatly insulted, as being designated as a few English wood-cutters, and are mustering up a large amount of bitterness of feeling against the Emperor of Mexico, and, indeed, are preparing for dire vengeance against him. All the old and new guns, of a cheap character, are being purchased, with the view, I doubt not, to be sent for distribution among the Indians on the Yucatan side of the Rio Hondo, who are, and have been for some years, not only hostile to the Mexican government, but in open rebellion, having long since driven the Mexican authorities from the southern portion of Yucatan.

Though much real anxiety is being manifested among the better classes in Belize lest England will, without a struggle, succumb to the demand and assumption of Maximilian, more with the view of shaking off a dependency which has proved more burdensome than profitable, than from any belief that the latter can sustain his claim either by force of arms or peaceable arbitrament, yet I doubt not that England will resist the claim of Mexico with great tenacity. The old diplomatic battles will in every case, I doubt not, have to be again refought. I think I can see that Maximilian is disposed to take up the case where old Spain left it, namely, after the defeat of General O'Neil at St. George's key, at the close of the Pork and Doughboy war in 1798. If Mexico can evade or set aside her obligations as contained in her treaty with Great Britain of 1826, the question then of plenary sovereignty as the result of peaceable possession will be fairly opened, and the first necessity then created will be to determine as to what length of time should be considered sufficient, as between nations, to constitute a *de facto* claim; because, undoubtedly, England has remained in peaceable possession of this colony since the year 1798, without any practical objections from any quarter, unless, indeed, it can be believed that the treaties of 1809 and 1814 revitalized those of 1783 and 1786; and which, I think, might be believed without much damage to truth. However, I think the question is probably destined to be one of a somewhat vexed and litigious character; and the greatest barrier, in my opinion, to Mexico's

claim will prove to be her treaty of 1826. But as this whole imbroglio is likely to be somewhat of the "dog-eat-dog" character, we have really nothing to do with it, particularly in view of the present arrangement of parties.

These people evidently have a great horror for Spanish rule and government, and from the intimations of some I infer that, if they are to be forsaken by the British government, they will, with uplifted, suppliant hands, implore the United States government to receive them under her capacious wings; and, indeed, some have interrogated me already as to the course we will pursue in case England relinquishes her claim to this colony, and my answer is, "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." When the question demands a solution at our hands the government of the United States will doubtless treat it as its merits demand. But all this seems to look like a verification of the prophecy which I ventured to make some months ago to the effect that the full design of Napoleon would not be consummated until the New Mexican empire should be made to comprehend the ancient boundaries as governed by Iturbide; and, as a partial proof of this hypothesis, we have only to loop this effort of Maximilian with the attempt of the late French consul at Galveston to alienate the State of Texas from the American Union, and the case is fast being made out.

The same paper that contained the proclamation of Maximilian also contained a very inflammatory article against the English settlers in Belize, charging them with having furnished munitions of war to the Indians in rebellion against the Mexican authorities; also calling seriously in question their right to occupy this country. There is evidently a bad state of feeling existing on the part of the Mexican population of Yucatan, or the authorities thereof, against the English in British Honduras. Should you, however, find it desirable in the future to become thoroughly conversant with this entire question, so far as its historical bearings are concerned, I beg most respectfully to refer you to the manuscript which I had the honor to transmit to the department some months ago, and which, I think, is a faithful history of the country of British Honduras.

A rumor reached this place a few days ago through the newspapers that Denmark had proposed to dispose of her West India possessions to the government of the United States; and in a conversation with the governor the day following, I mentioned the fact of such a report being current, when he promptly replied that it would be the very best disposition that could be made of them. Whether or not he meant what he said, is another matter. This afternoon I again met the governor, whilst taking his usual afternoon's ride, when he stopped me, inquiring the news. I informed him that information had just reached me that the Florida had been captured by a United States gunboat, and immediately the conversation changed to the proclamation of Maximilian. He said frankly that Great Britain would never relinquish the colony to Mexico; that the opinion is gaining popularity in England that it is not politic to hold so many dependencies at so great a distance; and hence, if it should be deemed desirable to relinquish this colony, it would be to the people themselves, so that they might either manage their own affairs or seek such affinities as would best suit their taste; and intimated, as he once before plainly observed, that the United States would be more suited to exercise jurisdiction in Central America than Mexico. Believing that his purpose was mainly to seek my opinion upon that subject, I remarked that whilst Cuba, from many considerations, might be desirable to the government of the United States, yet I was fully of the opinion that an extension of our territory upon the main land would neither be politic nor wise; that we now possess as much domain as could be well managed by one central power. But yet, nevertheless, the fact need not be disguised, that we do feel a great concern that these Central American countries should have stamped upon them good stable governments of a republican character; and that we doubtless should not fail to lend our full moral influence, upon all proper occasions, to bring about and secure such a result, but that absorption, or annexation, is not any part of our present policy. Though I spoke thus to the governor as a man, and not by authority, and may or may not have reflected the national opinion, yet they are views I think highly conservative, and will, at least, tend greatly to smother up previous jealousies and assumptions in regard to our propagandism and cravings in Central America.

I understand that the commandant of Ysabal, in Guatemala, has arrived here in connexion with the proclamation of the Emperor of Mexico.

With great respect, I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

CHAS. A. LEAS,
United States Consul General.

Hon. F. W. SEWARD, *Assistant Secretary of State.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 8.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, January 20, 1865.

SIR: During an interview which I had yesterday with his excellency the minister of foreign affairs, and after disposing of some matters with which I

have no occasion to trouble you at present, a conversation ensued, which I deem it my duty to report to you—part of it at his excellency's request.

I took the liberty of recalling a remark which his excellency made to me at our first interview, to the effect that the relations of France and the United States were, as usual, "friendly, though delicate—delicate." I asked him if he had any special source of anxiety in his mind when he made that remark, of which I or my government might be ignorant. He said promptly, "Oh, no; nothing. I only referred to the perplexities growing out of our neutral position." "No," he added, "if there were anything special I should have told you; you may always be sure that I shall speak frankly and freely with you." I thanked him for the assurance; said I should not have troubled him with the question, but I had already learned to know the value of his words, and had been struck by the somewhat emphatic repetition of the word "delicate," which led me to fear that something might have occurred since he last saw Mr. Dayton, which had not been communicated to me.

I then said that, with the frankness which he invited by his example and promise, I would take the liberty of asking him another question, premising, however, that I did so without any special solicitude upon the subject, and of course without any instructions from my government. I referred him to reports quite current in the public journals, and at the clubs, that the Archduke Maximilian, the titular Emperor of Mexico, had ceded or was about to cede Sonora to France. I told him that while I had no instructions to put such a question, I felt that I should neglect my duty if I failed to give my government the earliest information possible upon a matter in which the people of the United States would feel the liveliest interest.

His excellency replied that there had been no cession of territory, nor any question of such a thing; that it had been proposed to give the government of France a lien upon the mineral products of Sonora, in some way to secure the Mexican indebtedness to France, and an inquiry had been instituted to ascertain how far such a security could be made available, but nothing had been determined upon.

His excellency then said there was another report circulating in the papers, which he was glad of an opportunity of speaking to me about. He referred to the article of which I enclose a translation, copied from the *Epoca* of Madrid, and which I had already read and discussed with Mr. Barreda, the Peruvian minister, who had satisfied me that its material averments were entirely groundless. Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys stated that there was no foundation whatever for the story; that he did not know the motives of the Spanish journal for making such a statement, but he supposed the party in whose name it speaks were not indisposed to have it believed that France sympathized with Spain in her controversy with Peru.

I told him that I had seen the extract to which he had referred in an evening print, but was so entirely satisfied that there could be nothing in it, that I had not thought of troubling him with questions about it. I only wondered how such a paragraph could have found its way into the columns of the *Moniteur*. He asked if it was in the *Moniteur*. I said it was.

* * * * * * *

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Translation.]

At the risk of exposing ourselves to accusations, which, however, will not affect our enlightened patriotism, we believe it our duty to call public attention to the conduct of France towards Spain, in the Pacific, under circumstances in which it might have been put to the

proof by our naval forces on the coast of Chili and Peru. According to statements made by semi-official journals and correspondents from Panama, it is certain, and proofs of these facts exist in governmental regions, that after the catastrophe which destroyed the frigate Triemfo, and when the attitude of the Peruvian congress threatened to lead to difficult complications for our flotilla, the commandant of the French naval forces in the Pacific put all his resources at the disposition of your navy; as also, several months previously, the French consul at Panama had exposed his life in order to save that of Mr. Salazar y Mazaredo, the Spanish representative. Four years ago France placed herself in the same way, and resolutely, on our side, in our African war. She has sustained us in Mexico, and has not made the least trouble on the subject of San Domingo. Of what importance is it that certain persons obedient to the unworthy prejudices of our epoch disregard these facts, which, nevertheless, evidence a profound respect for the independence of the Spanish nation, and prove sincere sympathy for the august sovereigns seated upon the throne of Castile? In our day public opinion does justice to whom it is due, and the passions of a party cannot succeed in misrepresenting the sentiments of a people as noble and as loyal as the Spanish people.—(*Epoca.*)

Letters from Guayaquil received by the Journal Las Noticias confirm the account published by *la Epoca* up to the 30th December. No demonstration or attempt of any kind had been made against our squadron in the Pacific, and according to the statement of its commandant he had no fears whatever of being attacked. The 16th, three days after the departure of the mail, the vessels destined to increase our force in those seas ought to arrive; and on the other hand, our vice-admiral had received from the commandant of the French fleet offers of service of every sort if he should have need of them.—(*Idem.*)

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 33.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Washington, February 7, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 20th of January, No. 8, has been received, and your proceedings therein are approved.

You are very right in addressing to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys the question about the reported cession of Sonora by the Archduke Maximilian to France. It is the opinion of this government that such a cession, or even the creation of a lien upon the mineral revenues of Sonora, would not be regarded with favor by the people of the United States. It would relieve the relations between this country and France very much if I am authorized to say that no such project will be adopted. No credit was given by this department to the story that France had put her naval force in the Pacific at the command of the Spanish admiral. We have every reason to be satisfied and gratified with the proceedings of the imperial government in regard to the suspected controversy which has arisen between Spain and Peru—a controversy which, I am happy to have reason to believe, is now in a way of amicable settlement.

You will read of projects on the part of our insurgents to suspend the present contest, or end it, by a combined war against France alone, or France and England. If they come in question, you may confidently say that this government prefers to fight this civil war out on the present line, if no foreign state intervenes in behalf of the insurgents.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 38.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 7, 1865.

SIR: Mr. Etchison, recently for a brief period United States consul at Matamoras, a month or two since had an angry correspondence with General Mezia,

the military commander there, on the subject of the arrest of fugitives from Texas who were claimed for the military service of the insurgents. Without expressing an opinion upon the chief points of the controversy, it may be acknowledged that, on the part of Mr. Etchison, it was conducted in a manner by no means likely to impress a military commander with the correctness of his views, was mostly officious—and entirely unauthorized by this department. You may communicate this information to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, should there be occasion therefor, and may add that, at the very date of the correspondence referred to, instructions from this department were on the way to Mr. Etchison relieving him from his official functions.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 25.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, February 9, 1865.

SIR: Reference had to my despatch No. 8, I desire to call your attention to the following official statement which I translate from the *Moniteur* of yesterday morning.

"All reports circulating in the journals relative to a cession made to France by the Mexican government of certain provinces of Sonora, Chihuahua, &c., &c., are absolutely unfounded."

The rumors which this paragraph is designed to put at rest have been widely circulated in Europe, and had begun to provoke discussion even in France, but in a tone uniformly unfavorable to the cession, the proximity of the new colony to the United States being always enumerated as its chief misfortune.

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I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 29.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, February 14, 1865.

SIR: The Stonewall was yesterday afternoon lying at Ferrol. Mr. Perry states, upon the authority of the consular agent at Ferrol, that she stands in need of repairs before she can take the sea, and that the Spanish government will refuse her permission to make them.

Captain Craven is at Corunna with the Niagara. He exhibits impatience to have the Sacramento join him. Mr. Harvey informs me that the Sacramento is undergoing repairs also at Lisbon, but, as far as I can gather from their despatches, she will soon be, if she is not already, on her way to Corunna. I doubt if Craven feels entirely confident of his ability to meet the Stonewall single-handed. He asked me, ignorant, I presume, of what I have already attempted, to solicit the intercession of France with the Spanish government to detain her. Mr. Perry informs me, confidentially, that the fortifications of Ferrol are not

strong enough to keep the Stonewall, if she is determined to go out. If so, the only effectual mode of detaining her is by sending vessels-of-war, and I doubt whether France has anything at hand that she would dare to expose to such an enemy.

I shall endeavor to shake Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys's determination when I see him on Thursday. I am unwilling to reply in writing to his letter of the 7th February, because I think it my duty to leave to you the selection of the ground upon which the controversy over this vessel, which is impending, shall be waged.

I have reason to believe that Slidell wrote home by the last mail that the Spanish government had sent to their minister, Mr. Mon, in Paris, to ascertain whether France desired the detention of the vessel. That Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys said they had nothing to do with her, and that Mr. Mon sent for Mr. Slidell, who satisfied him that the Stonewall was a regularly commissioned confederate vessel.

If Slidell is correctly reported, and I suppose he is, it only confirms me in the opinion towards which I have been steadily drifting since my interview with the minister of marine on Sunday week, that the depredations which the Stonewall may occasion us will be the least of the troubles of the government. They don't care how much these steamers wrong us, provided they do not give us an opportunity of fixing the responsibility for what occurs upon them.

* * * * * * *

Though I am unable to assign any very satisfactory authority for it, I am strongly impressed with the convicton that, but for the Mexican entanglement, the insurgents would receive very little further countenance from the imperial government, and that a reconciliation of the national policies of the two countries on that question would speedily dispose of all other sources of dissatisfaction.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 35.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, February 17, 1865.

SIR: The corps legislatif was opened by the Emperor on the 15th instant with customary impressiveness. I enclose a copy of his Majesty's discourse. He treated the discovery of Columbus with conspicuous reserve. As in a family of children the infant is apt to engross the parental attention, so, out of the large family of American States, the youngest born was the only one that cost his Majesty a remark. This silence in regard to the United States was natural. There has been, and, from the nature of things, there must continue to be while our war lasts, so much of menace in our attitude towards Mexico that the Emperor could hardly have pursued a course more consistent with his own dignity, or more satisfactory to his subjects on this occasion, than by observing an expressive silence. The tone of the discourse was eminently tranquillizing, and is greatly admired for the skill with which it disposed of several very delicate questions of foreign policy. The only feature of it that has provoked criticism, is that which treats of the convention of the 15th September, 1864, and his language in that connexion is discussed, apparently, rather with the view of extracting interpretations and admissions from the official press, than from anything exceptionable in the tenor of the speech. The various allusions to his Gallican ecclesiastical policy were received by his audience with strong marks of appro-

bation. There was one paragraph of the speech to which I attach a larger meaning than perhaps it deserves. It was this:

"The convention of the 15th of September, disentangled from passionate interpretations, consecrates two great principles—the firm establishment of the new kingdom of Italy and the independence of the Holy See. The provisional and precarious state of affairs which excited so much alarm will soon terminate. It is no longer the scattered members of the Italian nation seeking to connect themselves by feeble links to a small state situated at the foot of the Alps; it is a great country which rises above local prejudices, despising the ebullitions of unreflecting agitations, which boldly transfers its capital to the centre of the Peninsula, and places it in the midst of the Appennines, as in an impregnable citadel. By this act of patriotism *Italy definitely constitutes herself*, and at the same time reconciles herself with Catholicity."

I have not been able to resist the suspicion that this language, coupled with the silence of the Italian and French press for some months about Venetia, imports some sort of a transaction in *esse* or in *posse* for a termination of the boundary quarrels between Italy, Austria, and Rome, by common sacrifices, and by the adoption of the Appennines as one of the natural boundaries of Italy. The habitually practical character of the Emperor's statesmanship, and the almost equal necessity of these three powers to arrange their differences by some less expensive agency than the sword, may, however, have led me to attach more importance to these expressions than they really deserve.

What is said about the return of the army from Mexico is doubtless correct, so far as the wish and intention of the government is concerned, though it does not correspond with information which reached me a few days since of orders having been recently issued for more troops to be in readiness to leave for Mexico upon short notice.

The speech is received with great favor by the liberal press, while the domestic policy which is foreshadowed appears to have given universal satisfaction.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

P. S.—I have no mail from Washington later than the 24th of January. I expect the Canada's mail through the despatch agency to-morrow morning.

5 p. m.—The blue, or, rather, the yellow book has just come in, but too late for this post. J. B.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 36.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, February 17, 1865.

SIR: One of the last communications which I had the honor to address to you from the consulate related to a scheme for enrolling Poles in this city, and in other parts of France and Europe, for the confederates. I am now able to give you some more definite information upon the subject.

The project had its origin with a Colonel Smolenski, a Pole by birth, who had resided many years in Texas, and who came out here to take part in the recent Polish revolution. He could not agree with the Polish commissioners here, abandoned their cause, and projected a scheme for the colonization of the northern frontier states of the confederacy with his unfortunate country-people, who were to be supplied with a passage, a farm, and some other privileges, on condition that they would bear arms, if necessary, in defence of their new homes.

The terms were framed under the direction of a Mr. Williams, an Englishman, of whom I can learn nothing precise, and a man named Bujnicky, refugeed from Russian Poland, whose property has been confiscated, and whose wife has been sent to Siberia. This man went, on the 26th of December last, to London for funds; he was here the other day, but without funds; his address there is Hotel Krall, John street, American Square, London. Two Poles—one named Wilkiewiez, and the other Leongewski—were charged to receive the enrolments. When the number reached three hundred, they were to be sent on to the Confederate States; and it was to obtain funds to meet the expenses of their expedition that Bujnicky went to London. Three different recruiting stations were opened in Paris, and I am told that the number of three hundred would have been ready if the funds had arrived.

Before the affair, however, had reached this point, the police, whose forbearance had been counted upon, and not without reason, began to take a new interest in what was going on, and Mr. Boudeville, the head of the department of police, which is occupied with the movements of emigrants, sent his men and seized all the lists and documents in possession of the recruiting agents, and put an end, for the present at least, to the scheme.

He took exception to the clause of their articles about bearing arms; said he had no objection to their going as mere colonists where they pleased, but the conditions of their enlistment compromised the neutrality of France. They must find means to go somewhere else to enlist, if they wished to enter the confederate service. He then said, that *if they wished to enter the Mexican service, they might receive some encouragement.* Here the matter now stands. I presume if these men avail themselves of Mr. Boudeville's proposal, they will be used in aid of the Emperor's undertaking to bring back the French army from Mexico.

I learn from the same source which supplies me these details, that a Mr. Irwin S. Bullock and a Mr. Lewis were here, on the second of January, to confer with the recruiting agents about this business, and left on the fifth for Marseilles and Toulon. They have not returned so far as I can learn, though, as I was informed about that time, they were soon expected.

Two hundred and fifty Polish volunteers enlisted in London, and are expected to embark at Liverpool on the 25th of this month.

Some Polish refugees in Switzerland have written to a Mr. Teichman, also a Pole, acting for the confederates here, asking for aid to carry them to the confederate territory. It is also reported here among the Poles that Count Sabolewsky had been furnished with forty-five thousand francs to be used in collecting Polish recruits at Zurich and in Italy.

While applications from Frenchmen and Germans for service in our army have been constant for three years past, I do not remember to have received a half a dozen from Poles during my residence here.

This fact, taken in connexion with what seems a sort of combined movement among the refugees of that unhappy province, leads me to suppose that some means have been used to persuade them that they have common cause with the insurgents against us on the ground that the United States have made common cause with Russia against them.

I have here given you all the information I possess upon this subject up to date. I have not communicated these details as they reached me from time to time, because there seemed to be no occasion to trouble you with them.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c. &c

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 48.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 21, 1865.

SIR: I transmit a copy of a letter of the 10th instant, and of the accompanying papers, addressed to this department by the Secretary of War, relative to the capture, in Mexican waters, by insurgents from Texas, of the steamer Ark, when on a voyage from New Orleans to Matamoras. The abuses of the rights of neutrals which, throughout the present war, have been committed by trade with the pretended neutral port of Matamoras, and the open intercourse and unfeigned good understanding between inhabitants of that port and enemies of the United States in Texas, have materially served to prolong the war itself, and, in our opinion, would perhaps have justified, if not the seizure, at least the blockade of Matamoras, as a measure of self-protection.

Please call the attention of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys to the subject, with a desire that neutrality may be vigorously enforced there by the French troops in occupation, and so remove a source of embarrassment which seems to be quite annoying.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Stanton to Mr. Seward.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you a report of Major General Canby, commanding the military division of west Mississippi, in relation to the seizure of a United States vessel at the mouth of the Rio Grande, together with certain official papers connected therewith, which accompany that report.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

NEW ORLEANS, *January* 19, 1865.

SIR: On the 16th of July last, the steamer Ark, Augustus Williamson, master, left this port laden with lumber, &c. She belonged to John Bochino, a citizen of the United States, entirely loyal, and a resident of this city for many years past. The value of this vessel was not less than $25,000, and her cargo was worth about $2,000. In proceeding up the Rio Grande, and when about twelve miles above Bagdad, her machinery became slightly disabled, and she ran aground from eight to ten steps' distance from the bank of the river on the Mexican side. While in this position and in Mexican waters, she was seized and taken possession of by the confederates, to wit, on the 7th of August, 1864, and carried to Brownsville, Texas. At this port she was condemned as prize, and subsequently sold as such to certain Mexican citizens, to wit, on the 23d October, 1864.

The steamer Ark cleared regularly at this port, receiving all essential documents, exemplifications of which are hereto annexed. She was also duly entered at the port of Bagdad upon arriving there.

The object of presenting this case to you, Mr. Seward, is to obtain restitution of this property, if possible. Mr. Bochino appears to have been divested violently thereof, in violation of the laws of nations, and in violation of the protection afforded our commerce in neutral waters, and Mr. Bochino has thought fit to lay this matter before you, sir, for such action as you may deem fitting in the premises.

Respectfully,

J. S. WHITAKER, *Attorney.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

John Bachino, the within named claimant, being duly sworn, deposes and says that all the facts set forth in the foregoing statement are true.

J. BACHINO.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of January, 1865.

CHARLES CLAIBORNE,
United States Commissioner.

I, Charles Claiborne, United States commissioner for the eastern district of Louisiana, do hereby certify that John Bachino, the claimant herein, this day appeared before me at my office, and made oath to the facts set forth in this petition.

In faith whereof, I grant the presents under my signature and seal of office, at the city of New Orleans, this 26th day of January, in the year of our Lord 1865, and the eighty-ninth year of the American independence.

[SEAL.] CHARLES CLAIBORNE,
United States Commissioner.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA,
City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana:

On this 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, before me, Charles Claiborne, a commissioner duly appointed by the circuit court of the United States for the eastern district of Louisiana, personally appeared at my office, in the city of New Orleans, in the said eastern district of Louisiana, Augustus Williamson, who, having been duly sworn, did thereupon depose and say: That on the 16th July, 1864, he left New Orleans in command of the steamer Ark, bound for Matamoras, with a cargo of lumber, say fifteen thousand feet, and three passengers. We arrived at Bagdad, Mexico, on the 29th day of July, 1864, and there entered the steamer at the custom-house. We laid at this port three days, and then on the 1st of August, 1864, left for our destination, Matamoras. At about 5 o'clock p. m. the machinery became so disabled as to prevent our further progress. I then threw out an anchor on the Mexican side, about twelve miles above Bagdad, say at about fifteen yards from the Mexican side of the river. I caused the vessel to sheer close in to the bank during the night, so as not to be in the way of other vessels that were passing. The river fell during that night about four feet, and the vessel was then left fast aground. I then found it impossible to get her off; went to Bagdad, and obtained a small vessel to take off her cargo, for the purpose of lightening her. On the 6th of August I carried in our yawl an anchor to the Texas side, and had intended to have used this, with a chain attached to the steamer, for the purpose of getting her afloat in deep water; but the chain not being long enough to reach the anchor, I was unable to use it as intended, to wit, to heave her off.

The steamer was not, therefore, attached to the Texas side of the river. On the 7th of August I got out a large portion of the cargo on the deck, for the purpose of putting it on board the vessel referred to. Before I could get any of this on board the small vessel, armed confederates came up in force, from two hundred to three hundred strong, on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, (at this point not over one hundred and fifty yards in width,) and required me to send my yawl boat across for them, which I found it necessary to do. Twelve came over and took possession of the vessel, and made me and the crew prisoners, my passengers having already left me at Bagdad. On or about the 14th August they took us to Brownsville, the steamer being still left aground, with twelve soldiers on board; we were impri oned up to the 27th of August, 1864, released then two days on parole, and then sent to Houston, being released eventually on the 8th day of December, 1864. I gave my deposition to the same facts herein stated, while in Brownsville, before the confederate authorities. I should have stated that some two or three days after the vessel was seized by the confederates, General Cortinas sent a courier on board the vessel to Colonel Ford, in command of the confederate force, demanding the vessel, because taken in violation of neutral waters, but the demand was disregarded. The confederates sold the steamer, after her capture, for the sum of thirteen thousand and fifty dollars in gold. She was sold at auction at Brownsville. I do not know who purchased her. Her name has been changed. She now is running on the river between Bagdad and Matamoras.

AUGUSTUS WILLIAMSON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of January, 1865.
CHARLES CLAIBORNE,
United States Commissioner.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA,
City of New Orleans, State of Louisiana:

On the 21st day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, before me, Charles Claiborne, a commissioner duly appointed by the circuit court of the United States for the eastern district of Louisiana, personally appeared at my office, in the city of New Orleans, in the said eastern district of Louisiana, Antonio Miguel, who, being duly sworn, did thereupon depose and say:

I left New Orleans on the steamer Ark on the 16th day of July, 1864. We left for Bagdad, Mexico, with the intention of going from that place to Matamoras. We reached Bagdad on the 29th July, 1864. We laid there three days, and then left for Matamoras; on the same

day, when we were about twelve miles from Bagdad, the captain, with one of the deck hands, was at the helm; the captain was intoxicated and could not steer the steamer properly and ran her aground on the Mexican side. He got her off, and backing her out she struck the Texan side; and when we had hardly started to go up the river the engineer cried out that the engine was disabled, and the captain then dropped anchor on the Mexican side, on the same place where we had been aground before. We remained there until the next morning. The water having fallen four feet during the night, the vessel was hard aground. Not being able to heave her off, the captain went down to Bagdad to see the owner. We remained there two days, and then returned to the steamer in the yawl. We took the cargo or a portion of the cargo from the hold and put it on deck, for the purpose of having it ready for a small steamer, the Valdez, which I understood had been chartered to take off the cargo of our steamer and transport it to Matamoras. The Valdez was alongside of us when a confederate force of two or three hundred men hailed us from the Texas bank and asked for the yawl, so that they could come on board. The yawl was sent to them. Twelve came on board and took possession of the vessel. They asked for her papers and for her American flag. The Mexican flag was flying at her masthead; it had been sent that very day by the owner to protect her. The papers and the American flag had been placed by the captain in a tin box and dropped in the water where they could have been found when necessary. The captain told the confederates that he had no papers on board, and that the only flag he had was the Mexican flag.

That same night the captain was drunk and told them that the steamer was American; that he had buried the American papers of the vessel and her American flag, and that he would get them and give them up. The next morning Colonel Ford came on board and told the lieutenant in command of the capturing force that the steamer could not be held; that she should be released. The lieutenant answered that she was a good prize, and gave to Colonel Ford the information he had received from Captain Williamson. Colonel Ford then told us that if the papers and flag of the steamer were delivered to him he would release us all. We were two or three days before making up our minds to deliver them up. After a consultation between the officers and crew, we all agreed to deliver them up, and take their word that we should be immediately released. They did not keep their word; the flag and papers were delivered to them, and they took us prisoners to Brownsville, where we remained until the 1st day of September, 1864. We were carried to Houston and released on the 8th of December, 1864.

ANTO MIGUEL.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of January, 1865.

[SEAL.] CHARLES CLAIBORNE,
United States Commissioner

DISTRICT OF NEW ORLEANS,
Surveyor's Office, Port of New Orleans:

I do certify that the steamboat Ark, of New Orleans, is American built; that she has one deck, no masts; her length is eighty-two feet —— inches, her breadth seventeen feet —— inches, her depth three feet five inches, and measures forty-four tons ninety-two feet; has a round stern; has —— galleries and —— head; and that her name, and the name of the port to which she belongs, are painted on the stern in the manner required by the third section of the act for registering ships or vessels of the United States.

Given under my hand, at New Orleans, aforesaid, this twenty-eighth day of April, 1864.

J. P. TUCKER,
Acting Surveyor.

I, owner of the aforesaid, do agree to the foregoing description and measurement.

NEW ORLEANS, *April* 28, 1864.

I, J. C. Woolverton, of New Orleans, shipwright, do swear that the steamer Ark, having one deck, and being in length eighty-two feet, in breadth seventeen feet, in depth three and five-tenths feet, and measuring 44$\frac{92}{95}$ tons, having one gallery and no head, was built by me, or under my direction, at New Canal, parish of Orleans, Louisiana, in the United States, in h year 1863 and 1864.

J. C. WOOLVERTON,
Shipwright.

Witness: P. E. HUGON.

No. 107.—PERMANENT.

In pursuance of an act of Congress of the United States of America, entitled "An act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels."

John Bachino, of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, having taken or subscribed the oath required by the said act, and having sworn that he is a citizen of the United States, and the only owner of the ship or vessel called the Ark, of New Orleans, whereof D. Bachino is at present master, and a citizen of the United States, as he hath sworn, and that the said ship or vessel was built at New Orleans, State of Louisiana, in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four, as per enrolment No. 147, and documents on file in this office having certified that the said ship or vessel has one deck and two masts, and that her length is eighty-two feet —— inches, her breadth seventeen feet —— inches, her depth three feet 5 inches; and that she measures 44 tons; and that she is a steamer, has a round stern and a plain head; and the said John Bachino having agreed to the description and admeasurement above specified, and sufficient security having been given according to said act, the said steamer has been duly registered at the port of New Orleans.

Given under our hands and seal, at the port of New Orleans, this 6th day of July, in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four (1864.)

I do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the register of said steamer issued at this office, July 6, 1864.

JOHN N. COLLINS, *Collector.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 49.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 21, 1865.

SIR: I transmit, for your information, a copy of a letter of the 7th instant, and of the accompanying papers addressed to this department by the Assistant Secretary of War, relative to the surrender by General Mejia, at Matamoras, of refugees from Texas as deserters from the insurgents. This was the subject of the instruction to you, No. 38, of the 7th instant.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr Dana to Mr. Seward.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 7, 1865.

SIR: I am instructed by the Secretary of War to transmit for your information, and for such action as you may consider appropriate and necessary, the enclosed communication from Major General Canby, with its accompaniments, in relation to the surrender by General Mejia, commanding at Matamoras, Mexico, of citizens of the United States, deserters from the rebel service, or refugees from the rebel territory.

I will thank you to return the enclosures, after having availed yourself of their contents.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. A. DANA,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

General Canby to Mr. Stanton.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF WEST MISSISSIPPI,
New Orleans, La., January 27, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of certain papers, marked A, B, C, and D, in relation to the surrender by General Mejia, commanding at Matamoras, Mexico, of citizens of the United States, deserters from the rebel service, or refugees from the rebel territory, on the pretence that they are criminals and fugitives from justice.

The course of General Mejia, which, from his own statement, appears to be authorized by the Emperor Maximilian, is one of direct hostility to the government of the United States,

and, in my judgment, should be so treated. For reasons that have been impressed upon me by the Secretary of State, I shall, until otherwise advised, take no further steps in this matter than to send an officer to the Rio Grande, for the purpose of ascertaining the extent of this *extradition*, and the names of the unfortunates who have been turned over to the vengeance of the rebels, and, by remonstrance with General Mejia, prevent any addition to the number of victims.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ED. R. S. CANBY,
Major General Commanding.

The SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

General Vile to Lieutenant Colonel Drake.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Brazos Santiago, Texas, January 12, 1865.

COLONEL: On assuming command at this place I immediately made such arrangements as greatly assisted deserters and refugees to reach my lines from Mexico.

This had the effect to increase the number of deserters very materially, and threatened to destroy the organization and efficiency of the rebel troops on this border.

Rumors have been reaching me for a month that the authorities of the Maximilian government were arranging to return deserters to the rebel authorities. During the last two days there has been a stampede among the very large number of these persons now on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. As near as I can learn, some forty to sixty have been arrested by the Mexican authorities at Matamoras and delivered to General Slaughter.

I have not been able to hear from the United States consul at Matamoras for some days. If I had horses to draw the light artillery on the island I could easily drive Slaughter out of Brownsville. I have been over and felt of him sufficiently to satisfy me that he does not *intend to fight* in case we should advance. But it could not be held with the means of *this* command, and no material damage could be inflicted on him without a cavalry force.

No permanent relief can be given these destitute people without occupying and controlling the valley of the Rio Grande, which, of course, can best be done by going in from Matagorda bay and occupying San Antonio, which is the key to this whole valley and frontier.

These facts are stated for the information and consideration of the major general commanding department of the Gulf.

I have no doubt of the fact that deserters are being delivered on the claims of the rebel authorities. I shall learn more in a day or two in relation to the matter, and will report further.

I shall be glad to receive any instruction or orders deemed necessary (if any) in the case.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. A. VILE, *Brigadier General*
Commanding Military Division West Mississippi.

Lieut. Col. GEO. B. DRAKE
A. A. General, Department of the Gulf.

Official copy:

C. G. CHRISTENSEN
Lieutenant Colonel, Assistant Adjutant General,

General Mejia to Mr. Etchison.

[Translation.]

IMPERIAL ARMY OF MEXICO, MEJIA DIVISION, GENERAL IN CHIEF.

No. 852.] MATAMORAS, *January* 10, 1865.

Mr. CONSUL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of, and to answer your official despatch of the 8th instant, containing a serious complaint in favor of the rights and liberties of American citizens residing in this city, and of those who, having escaped from the army of the Confederate States, have come seeking the protection of the government of Mexico.

You assure me that you have reliable information to the effect that the so-called authorities of Brownsville are daily carrying off American citizens, upon the pretext that they owe allegiance to their government, and that such abuses are committed by virtue of an agreement,

made for the purpose, between the commander of the imperial forces at Matamoras and the confederate authorities at Brownsville. You conclude by stating to me that the government of the United States posessses the will and the power required to protect its citizens residing in foreign countries.

This last declaration, Mr. Consul, is an unseasonable threat and the entire despatch is written under a strange hallucination of mind, entirely different from the measured language that is customary in the official intercourse between two countries, besides having no foundation in facts.

When you have deliberately considered their import, you will withdraw your words, or the government of the United States will do us justice by reproving the acts of its agent at Matamoras.

It is sufficient for me to state to you at present that it is untrue that any arrangement has been made by which American citizens are pursued, arrested, and conveyed to Texas, under the pretext that, owing allegiance to the confederacy, they have deserted from their army. Through private communications, the principal articles of the extradition treaty in regard to criminals, fugitives from justice, celebrated between Mexico and the United States during the ministry of Mr. Dobadao, have been agreed upon; from which, slaves also excepted by that treaty, are now expressly excluded, and deserters from the army who may seek refuge in Mexico; against these two classes of persons no claims can be attempted by the confederate authorities.

These private stipulations have been submitted for the approval of my sovereign, and, by his command, will be faithfully executed, as, being not only based on a pre-existing treaty, they attack the liberties of none others than criminals, but also in a sure manner expedite the ends of justice.

When the military commanders of the United States have pursued a course so diametrically opposed to humanity and civilization towards Mexico, as witnessed by the recent act of delivering Don Manuel de Regon, esq., a political exile, who sought refuge under the American flag, into the hands of his enemies, it appears incredible that an agent of that same government should not desire that at Matamoras, where the memory of that horrible violation is more indelibly impressed, the rights of citizens who are in no danger, and whose liberties no one pretends to attack, should not be protected.

The indecorous terms in which your note is couched authorize me, according to established custom, to return it without answer. I answer solely for the purpose of conveying the views herein expressed, but in future will limit myself to acting as is customary in these cases.

Accept the assurance of my particular regard.

THOMAS MEJIA,
Com'dg General of New Leon, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas.

The CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES at Matamoras, *Present.*

I certify that the above is a true copy.

D. G. FENNO, *Lieut. and A. D. C.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, January 26, 1865.

Official copy:

C. S. SARGENT, *First Lieut. A. A. A. S.*

Mr. Etchison to General Vile.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Matamoras, January 14, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, in relation to the surrender of deserters and others from the so-called confederacy to the rebel authorities commanding at Brownsville, by the authorities of Matamoras.

I addressed a very severe letter to General Mejia on the subject, and a copy of his reply (translated) I enclose herewith.

It is reported in town that as many as twenty or more have been sent over, and without any trial or investigation being made. They are arrested, generally, very early in the morning, and are at once taken, with a file of soldiers, to the river, when they are delivered to the rebels. The whole proceeding is an outrage, as there can be no extradition treaty between two governments that have not in either case been recognized; and our treaty does not authorize the return of even criminals, until undoubted proof is shown that they are guilty. General Mejia's letter is a lame reply, and savors much of the pen of a rebel.

Referring to the cotton question, Dr. McManus requests me to say that, if you will have the kindness to send his cotton to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and have it surveyed and appraised, he will pay the salvage to you or your order.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

E. DORSEY ETCHISON,
United States Consul at Matamoras, Mexico.

Brigadier General W. A. VILE,
Commanding United States forces, Brazos Santiago, Texas.

I certify that the above is a true copy.

D. E. FENNO,
Lieutenant and A. D. C.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, January 26, 1865.

Official copy:

C. S. SARGENT,
First Lieutenant 2d La. Vols., A. A. D. General.

General Vile to Lieutenant Colonel Drake.

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *January* 25, 1865.

COLONEL: Since my communication of the 5th instant, in relation to the agreement between the Maximilian and confederate authorities, by which deserters from the rebel army are being surrendered to the confederate military authorities, I have received a letter from Hon. E. D. Etchison, United States consul at Matamoras, Mexico, enclosing copy of the reply of Brigadier General Mejia to the protest of the consul on this subject, copies of each of which are enclosed for the information of the major general commanding department.

I am reliably informed that these persons are being delivered to the confederate officers at various other points on the river.

From all I could learn, I think about seventy-five have been given up in this way.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. A. VILE,
Brigadier General Volunteers

Lieut. Col. GEO. B. DRAKE,
Assistant Adjutant General, Dep't of the Gulf.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, La., January 26, 1865.

Official copy:

JOS. HIBBERT,
Captain and A. A. General.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 44.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 6, 1865.

SIR: I send you some journals by this mail which may be worth your looking over. Among others the last number of the Memorial Diplomatic, which is understood to be under the special inspiration of the ministry of foreign affairs.

You will find on page 157, confirmation of what I sent you by last mail about commissioners sent from Mexico to negotiate a concordat with the Pope.

A translation of part of this article is enclosed. You will not fail to remark that the commission is charged to treat directly with the Pope, and that Maximilian has sent Velasquez, his minister of foreign affairs, as president of the commission.

The promulgation in Mexico of a decree from Maximilian imposing restrictions upon the publication of papal bulls, &c., simultaneously with the departure of this commission, leads me to suspect that the tone to be taken by the commissioners when they reach Rome will be quite as decided as represented in my private note of the 3d instant.

You will observe by a paragraph on page 158 of the Memorial Diplomatique,

that the government has found it convenient to attribute the delay of our government, in naming a minister to this court in place of the late Mr. Dayton, to another motive than a disposition on the part of the President to resent the long vacancy in the French mission at Washington, to which the delay is generally ascribed. It is one of many signs, becoming daily more common, that public opinion here begins to require of the government a conciliatory manner towards the United States.

* * * * * * *

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure. No 44.—Translation.]

From the Memorial Diplomatique, March 5, 1865.

Our correspondent from Mexico informs us that, in accordance with the desire expressed by the Holy Father, and justified by the constant usage of the Roman court, negotiations for the definitive arrangement of the ecclesiastical questions in Mexico are about to be concentrated at Rome. With this view his Mexican Majesty has charged a special mission to go and treat directly with His Holiness, and as it was of importance to invest with this mission, as full of sharp points as it is delicate, men calculated to inspire a just confidence at the Holy See, the Emperor Maximilian has designated his minister of state, Mr. Velasquez de Leon, as president of the commission, and first plenipotentiary of Mexico.

Mr. Velasquez de Leon is very favorably known at Rome for his devotion to the church. He will be aided by two councillors of state, charged more particularly to arrange the details of the execution of the concordat to be entered into between Rome and Mexico.

Mr. Velasquez de Leon and the two councillors of state who accompany him were to embark upon the French packet-boat which is expected about the 15th of March at Saint Nazaire.

No. 62.] *Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 7, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 9th ultimo, No. 25, calling my attention to the official denial, in the Moniteur, of the truth of the report in circulation concerning the cession of certain provinces in Mexico to France, and to the communication of the Emperor to you upon the subject, has been received with satisfaction.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

No. 50.] *Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 10, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your despatch No. 48, relative to the capture of the United States steamer Ark by rebel Texans in Mexican waters, when on a voyage from New Orleans to Matamoras, I have the honor to enclose a communication which I made upon the subject to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs yesterday.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 9, 1865.

SIR: On the 16th day of July last the United States steamer Ark, belonging to John Bachino, a citizen of the United States, and commanded by Captain A. Williamson, was cleared from the port of New Orleans for the port of Matamoras, in Mexico.

When about twelve miles above Bagdad, on the Rio Grande, in consequence of an accident to her machinery, she grounded within a few yards of the Mexican shore. While in this position, and in Mexican waters, she was seized, on the 7th of August, by insurgent enemies of the United States from Texas, taken to Brownsville, condemned with her cargo as lawful prize, and sold at auction to some Mexican citizens.

The constant abuse of the rights of neutrals by persons trading with the port of Matamoras throughout the present war, and the open intercourse and unfeigned good understanding between inhabitants of that port and enemies of the United States in Texas, have materially prolonged the war itself, and have provoked, if not the seizure, at least the blockade of Matamoras as a measure of self-protection.

In view of all these facts, I am instructed to express to your excellency the desire of my government that neutrality may be regularly enforced by the French troops in occupation of Matamoras, and thus a source of embarrassment may be removed which seems to be quite unnecessary.

I have the honor to renew to your excellency the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

JOHN BIGELOW.

His Excellency Mr. DROUYN DE LHUYS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paris.

No. 65.] *Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledgethe receipt of your despatch of the 17th of February, No. 36, which gives me the information you have been able to acquire concerning the insurgent proceedings to enlist Polish subjects of Russia.

It is a pitiable result of the loss of national life that any of the children of Poland should, under influences of whatever form of demoralization, be disposed to pass into the military ranks of the army of disunion and slavery in the United States. Happily, the waning fortunes of the rebels seems likely to render the acceptance of such persons to the insurgent forces practically impossible, and so to prevent their incurring a disgrace to which we can only lament that they have so blindly consented.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

No. 52.] *Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.*

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 10, 1865.

SIR: In consequence of a paragraph which I noticed in the Paris correspondence of a London journal, I asked the minister of foreign affairs yesterday whether he had any information of a circular, issued by the minister of foreign affairs of the Archduke Maximilian to the maritime prefects of Mexico, in reference to consuls acting irregularly and without exequaturs from the imperial government, provoked, as was stated, by two recent appointments made

by the government of the United States. His excellency replies that he had not heard of anything of the kind, but, if I desired, he would procure me a copy, if any had been issued. I said that as the circular purported, according to the newspaper reports, to have been provoked by the action of my government, I presumed it would interest them to know what it was, and said I would thank him to procure me a copy if he could conveniently. His excellency took a memorandum of my request, and said it should not be neglected.

This morning I received the first copy of a new journal, entitled the Epoque, established and conducted by M. Ernest Feydeau, in which the circular in question is given at length. Though I presume a copy has already reached you, there is a chance that it has not; I therefore enclose a translation, with the editorial paragraph which followed it.

In this connexion, I invite your attention to an article in the Constitutionnel of the 7th instant, signed Boniface, relating to the reciprocal relations of France, Mexico, and the United States, which is chiefly deserving of attention for the paragraph with which it closes, and which may be translated as follows:

"The work which France has undertaken in Mexico, *and which she will not leave unfinished*, moves, then, towards a happy and rapid accomplishment."

This article appeared nearly simultaneously, I am told, upon what I deem credible authority, with the declaration of the Emperor to his council that the honor of France was involved in the support of the new empire in Mexico. This declaration was followed by the issue of orders for the transport of 8,000 men—that is, eight regiments from Algeria—to the support of General Bazaine, who, as I have already advised you, lacks confidence in the mercenaries with whom the Emperor has attempted to replace the French soldiers in the archduke's service. Should this information prove correct, it will give to the approaching debates on the address, in the corps legislatif, unusual importance.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

[Translated from l'Epoque, March 9, 1865.]

The Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mexico to the Political Prefects of the Empire.

MEXICO, *January* 18, 1865.

It has come to the knowledge of this department that there are persons exercising the functions of consular agents in the territory of the empire without having received the usual *exequatur* either from the government of his Majesty or from that of the old republic, thus countervening established usage and the law governing this matter.

You will be pleased to invite, with all necessary managements, the persons exercising the above functions within your circonscription to present to you their brevet or their license. You shall give to understand to such as shall not be able to present such that they must henceforth abstain from the exercise of consular functions.

You shall see that these prescriptions be strictly carried out, and shall give an account to this department of the irregularities you may have discovered, or may discover hereafter, in these matters.

RAMIREZ,
Minister, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

This circular derives a particular interest from the recent appointment of a new United States consul at Matamoras, and from the valueless exequatur delivered by Corona to the consular agent of the same country, residing at Mazatlan.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 68.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 13, 1865.

SIR: I have received your despatch of the 17th of February, No. 35, and I thank you for your careful comment on the Emperor's speech, which was delivered on the opening of the chambers.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 70.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 13, 1865.

SIR: I enclose for your information a copy of a despatch which has been received from Mr. Chase, our consul general for Mexico, residing at Tampico, and of my answer thereto. A word of frank explanation may now perhaps be fitly spoken to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys concerning our consuls and commercial agents in Mexico.

I begin with saying that it is understood that a person authorized by the power now dominant in the capital of Mexico has arrived at New York and solicited an informal interview with me. The advance thus proposed has been declined in conformity with the settled position of this government, to hold no interview, public or private, with persons coming from any country, other than the agents duly accredited by the authority of that country which is recognized by this government. This government has insisted that the opposite position, which to some extent is held in other States, and under which Mason, Slidell, and Mann, insurgent emissaries from this country, are admitted to in official conferences, is unfriendly and injurious to the United States. Thus we govern ourselves in our intercourse with other states by the principles that we claim ought to govern them in their relations with the United States.

We have not, for political reasons, recalled, and we shall not recall, for such reasons, from Mexico, any of our agents who are accredited to the republican government in that country. On the contrary, we have not intended and we do not insist on their being allowed to remain there in the exercise of their functions by the authority which has displaced that government in the capital. If inhibited by these authorities, in places occupied by them, our agents are instructed to desist from their functions, and, if need be, to withdraw from the country. Thus, while abiding events, we shall not be found increasing the confusion of affairs in that unfortunate country. In the course we are thus pursuing in regard to consular and commercial agents, we do not understand that they will, by tolerating this course on our part in Mexico, make any political concessions to us. The matter is a purely commercial one, and has no political significance whatever.

It may be well, on the other hand, that the existing authorities in the city of Mexico should understand through the French government that no exclusion of our agents will have any influence whatever to induce a change of the political attitude towards Mexico which the government of the United States has hitherto maintained.

This government has learned something of the value of concentration of pur-

pose. We are engaged in suppressing a dangerous rebellion, and we are not willing to be unnecessarily diverted from that special duty with any controversy with any party in Mexico or elsewhere concerning affairs in that state.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Chase to Mr. F. W. Seward.

No. 9.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Tampico, February 16, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a note (No. 1) from the prefect of this city, and my reply thereto, (No. 2,) by which you will perceive that the imperial minister of foreign relations instructs the prefect to cause the commissions of all consuls to be presented to him, and in the event of non-compliance, the offender is to understand that he is to abstain from all consular privileges.

You will doubtless recollect that I was recognized by President Juarez at San Luis Potosi, and as my commission will be examined in this office to-morrow, I shall withhold that recognition from the ruling authorities here, and I am apprehensive that difficulties may be thrown in my way to prevent the exercise of my consular prerogatives and I beg that you will be pleased to instruct me as to the proper course to be pursued, so that I may carry out the views of our government should my fears be realized.

I have reason to believe that the whole force of the ministerial despatch upon this subject is aimed at this consulate, in order that the question of consular recognitions may be at once contested between the imperial government of Mexico and that of the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great esteem and respect, your most obedient servant,

FRANKLIN CHASE.

Hon. FREDERICK W. SEWARD,
Assistant Secretary of State, Washington.

Mr. De la Serna to Mr. Chase.

No. 1.] TAMPICO, *February* 11, 1865.

Mr. CONSUL: The political chief of this department, from the city of Victoria, advises this prefecture, in a note dated the 2d instant, as follows:

His excellency the minister of state and foreign affairs advises this chief political prefecture, under date 18th January ultimo, what I here copy. It has come to the knowledge of the ministry that there are persons in the territory of the empire who are acting as consular agents without having obtained the customary exequatur, neither from his Majesty's government nor from that of the old Mexican republic, before its departure from this capital, contravening, by so doing, the established usages, and violating the laws relative to the matter. Your honor will be pleased to invite, in a very attentive manner, the persons who are exercising those functions in the territory under your command, in order that they may present to you their patent or authorization, and after taking notice of the same you will give an account of its result. Those who do not present these documents, you will make them understand they have to abstain from all consular functions. Your honor will take care of the strict compliance of this ordinance, and you will give an account to this minister of the abuses of this kind which they may have committed or may commit. "And I enclose it to you, in order that, in that district it may be strictly complied with, giving me an account of its results."

And I have the honor to communicate it to you for your knowledge and the end herein expressed.

God guard you for many years.

The Prefect, JESUS DE LA SERNA.

The Secretary, P. S. GARERA.

Mr. CONSUL GENERAL
Of the United States of the North—present.

Mr. Chase to Mr. Serna.

No. 2.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Tampico, February 13, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 11th instant, in relation to consuls, and in reply thereto I have to acquaint you that in the month of December, 1836, I took charge of this consulate, as vice-consul, was promoted by the President to

the rank of consul in August, 1842, and to the rank of consul general in the early part of June, 1863, and that the respective commissions are now filed in this consulate, subject to your inspection, should your honor deem such inspection necessary.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANKLIN CHASE.

Hon. JESUS DE LA SERNA,
"Prefecto Publico" of the Southern District of Tamaulipas, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. F. W. Seward to Mr. Chase.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, *Washington, March* 13, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch No. 9 has been received. Your action in reply to inquiries of the prefect of police meets with the approbation of this department. Should it be required, you will exhibit both your commission and exequatur to the proper authorities. Your functions are not political, and consequently you have nothing to do with the recognition of any government, but must submit to the authorities *de facto* present, and if prohibited from discharging your duties, you will desist, and report at once to this department. In that case you will be at liberty to remain at your post without exercising your functions, or return to this country, as you may see fit.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

F. W. SEWARD *Assistant Secretary.*

FRANKLIN CHASE, Esq.,
United States Consul General, Tampico.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 55.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 14, 1865.

SIR: The sudden death of the Duke de Morney, and the prospect of an early termination of the war in the United States, has almost produced a panic in Paris. At no time since the Italian war have the French people appeared so concerned for the future. The markets have all been depressed, in spite of the efforts to sustain them.

To enable you the better to appreciate the influence and bearing of our late military successes upon public opinion, I enclose extracts from a series of journals, all more or less "officious," and all published at or about the same time. Enclosure No. 1 is an article from the Memorial Diplomatique on the "Monroe Doctrine." After giving an account of that doctrine, as he understands it, the writer proceeds to present additional reasons for feeling no disquietude about the French empire in Mexico, in consequence of unfriendly feelings in the United States.

Enclosure No. 2 is a report of some remaks made in the senate on the 10th by the Marquis de Boissy.

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Enclosure No. 3 is an extract from the reply of Chaix d'Est Ange to the Marquis de Boissy.

Enclosure No. 4 is an extract from an editorial article in the Avenir National of the 12th, commentary upon the article already cited from the Memorial Diplomatique.

Also extracts in same enclosure from the Patrié and the Presse, and La France, of the 13th.

These papers and proceedings will show that our attitude towards Mexico has been rendered much more disquieting to the people of France as our prospects of domestic peace have improved.

I am, sir, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

Translation from the Memorial Diplomatique, March 12, 1865, *page* 172.

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Such, disengaged from the exaggeration of party spirit and political passions, is this famous Monroe doctrine, that certain journals seek to represent as the sword of Damocles suspended over the crown of Maximilian I.

Put forward in order to protect the sovereign independence of the state of the New World, it cannot be applied to the actual state of things in Mexico without treading under foot the principle of popular sovereignty upon which it rests. Nothing is more natural than that the United States should not be particularly pleased with the re-establishment of monarchy among their neighbors; but that, through pure sympathy for the republican form, they should believe themselves to possess the right to force upon Mexico the return of anarchy, is what simple good sense will ever refuse to admit.

In presence of the incessant approbation of an entire people, in presence of the daily increasing popularity of the imperial couple, the best accredited organs of the American press have been forced to acknowledge that the French expedition, far from having exercised an illegitimate pressure upon public opinion in Mexico, has, on the contrary, served to bring out in a wonderful manner the free expression of the national will.

"The end to be attained," said the Emperor of the French in the letter which he wrote to General Forey on the 3d July, 1862, "is not to force upon the Mexicans a form of government which would be disagreeable to them, but to aid them in their efforts to establish, according to their own wish, a government which may have some chance of stability, and which can insure to France redress for the wrongs of which she complains." And immediately afterwards his Majesty adds:

"We have an interest that the republic of the United States be powerful and prosperous, but we have no interest that it should seize upon the whole of Mexico, control thence the Antilles, as well as South America, and be the sole dispenser of the products of the New World."

Hence we think that if the eventualities be considered not from a point of view purely hypothetical and conjectural, but in their practical and real aspect, we ought to take into account the letter of Napoleon III, which traces out distinctly the attitude of France in case the United States should depart from the Monroe doctrine, to such a point as to arrogate to itself the right of tutelage over a sovereign and independent state, as Mexico placed under the efficacious protection of the French flag.

It was with this object in view that, on the 10th of April, 1864, the convention of Miramar was signed, in the preamble of which is read:

"The government of his Majesty the Emperor of the French and that of his Majesty the Emperor of Mexico, animated by an equal desire to insure the re-establishment of order in Mexico, and to consolidate the new empire, have resolved to arrange by a convention the conditions of the stay of the French troops in this country.

"ARTICLE 1. The French troops which are now in Mexico will be reduced as soon as possible to a corps of 25,000 men, including the foreign legion.

"This corps, to protect the interests which have caused the intervention, will remain temporarily in Mexico, under the conditions arranged by the following articles:

"ARTICLE 2. The French troops will evacuate Mexico according as his Majesty the Emperor of Mexico shall be able to organize the troops necessary to replace them.

"ARTICLE 3. The foreign legion in the service of France, composed of 8,000 men, will, nevertheless, still remain for six years in Mexico after all the forces shall have been recalled, conformably to article 2. Dating from this moment, the said legion shall pass into the service and pay of the Mexican government. The Mexican government reserves to itself the faculty of shortening the duration of the employment of the foreign legion in Mexico."

In virtue of the stipulation which we have just cited, an army corps of 25,000 men remains in Mexico to protect the interests which have caused the intervention until the Emperor Maximilian shall have organized the forces necessary to replace them.

Should, however, the reorganization of the Mexican army progress sufficiently rapid to render the complete evacuation possible at some not distant future, the foreign legion, which realizes an effective of 8,000 men, would still continue to unfurl the French flag in Mexico for six whole years after the departure of all the other troops, unless the Emperor Maximilian should judge it expedient to shorten the duration of its employment. Thus imposing as seems the force of bayonets of which the United States will be able to dispose if they end the fratricidal war which at present divides them, there is very little fear that they will be disposed to make an attack upon Mexico, where, for eight or ten years still, they are sure to meet the French flag; and should they forget that it is to the generous co-operation of France that they owe their own independence, they could not be ignorant that the government of the Emperor Napoleon III does not compound in a matter of honor and dignity.

When Russia, confiding in the forbearance of which the other great powers had but too long time manifested in regard to her, attempted, in 1853, to fix forever her political pre-

ponderance in the east, imperial France did not hesitate an instant to draw the sword to maintain the independence and integrity of the Ottoman empire. Then pessimists were not wanting to spread alarm over the issue of a struggle entered into, at so great a distance, against the formidable colossus of the north. The British cabinet itself appeared at first frightened at the consequences of so perilous an undertaking, and was already disposed to subscribe to the wishes of the Czar; but imperial France having declared that were she obliged to sustain the war alone she would none the less take up the glove which the Autocrat of all the Russias had thrown down to Europe, England found herself drawn, in spite of herself, into the Crimean expedition.

It is principally to this glorious campaign that the government of Napoleon III owes the immense prestige which it now exercises throughout the whole world.

In revealing the power of his country in so striking a manner, he has, at the same time, delivered all Europe from the baleful terror which the Muscovite forces inspired, the exaggeration of which weighed upon her like a nightmare, paralyzing the regular development of liberal institutions in the centre of our continent.

As soon as the note of the notables of Mexico, conferring the crown upon the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria, had by the subsequent adhesion of the *ayuntamientos* obtained the legal sanction of the country, the French diplomacy made it its duty to assure itself of the true dispositions of the American cabinet in regard to the new empire of Mexico. President Lincoln and Mr. Seward at Washington, as well as Mr. Dayton at Paris, did not cease to assert the well-defined purpose of the government of the United States to respect the results of the free vote of the Mexican people. They added, that out of regard to France, whose friendly sympathies for the Union were confirmed by her scrupulous neutrality in the war between the north and the south, President Lincoln, in case of re-election, formally promised to enter into diplomatic relations with the government of Maximilian I if he was generally recognized by the other powers of Europe and America. The best-informed American journals agree in stating that President Lincoln only awaited the date of the renewal of his functions on the 4th of March to recognize officially the new Mexican empire; and this recognition positively decided upon and making a part of the political programme of the government at Washington, will no doubt establish without delay between the two countries relations of perfect understanding and neighborliness.

Never in its discussions has the cabinet of Washington allowed to transpire the slightest allusion to the Monroe doctrine: still less has it from this leading point made reserves implying any right whatever in the internal affairs of Mexico. In effect the last attempt at conciliation between the confederates and the federals have revealed to us that the initiative tending to prop up the Monroe doctrine does not belong to the government of the north, but to that of the confederates, who, in a common undertaking based upon this doctrine, saw a means of bringing back the opinion of the population of the south to ideas of conciliation and federal unity.

It will be objected, perhaps, that if President Lincoln has preserved up to the present moment a wise and prudent attitude, it was to better cultivate the neutrality of France in the existing struggle between the north and the south, and that nothing could guarantee to us that, once a reconciliation made between the belligerents, he will not break through his promises, shielding himself behind the double pressure of Congress and the public opinion of the country.

The most efficacious guarantee for the ulterior conduct of the government of Washington lies, in our opinion, in the powerful interest which the United States have to entertain amicable relations with France. The notice to terminate the treaty stipulations of 1817 between England and the United States, relative to the *great lakes*, betrays in President Lincoln the presentiment of an inevitable rupture sooner or later between his country and Great Britain.

If peace is concluded between the north and the south, the armies at the disposition of the American Union will not be long in being used against Canada under one pretext or another. It would be the height of folly to irritate England, and at the same time to alienate the sympathies of France. The peace which would come to put an end to the war which the federals and confederates now wage will never be more than a truce. The schism between the north and the south is too deep to be entirely defaced, unless after several generations. Let the great powers coalesce against the north, and allow the south to have a glimpse of the perspective of a complete independence, they will at once find in the secession States an army ready to again take the field against a common enemy. Spain, on her side, will not ask better than to join her fleet to the naval forces of France and England, for more than Mexico, which is covered by the French flag, is the island of Cuba menaced by the United States.

If, after four years of bloody war, the government of Washington has not yet succeeded in subduing the confederates, can it for an instant remain under the delusion that it can make head against the formidable coalition of which France would necessarily become the soul? For in distorting the principle of the Monroe doctrine, in order to launch an army against Mexico, the United States would in consequence affect France as to her honor and as to her interests; as to her honor, because she could not leave unfinished the work which Napoleon III has called the *glorious page* of his reign; as to her interests, because, as Mr. Drouyn

de Lhuys says in his despatch, addressed the 17th November, 1863, to the Marquis de Montholon, (page 182 of the Yellow Book.)

The end of the expedition to Mexico would not be completely attained if it should not have for effect to create between two empires a close solidarity of interests.

LE CHEVALIER L. DEBRANEZ DE SOLDAPENNA.

[Enclosure No. 2]

Extracts from the debate in the senate, March 10, 1865.

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY. * * * * * * I return to the question of intervention. We intervene in China, and we are about to return. But I think we had better first return from Mexico. There are two large black points in the horizon—Mexico and Rome. With respect to Mexico, this is the sentimental wish I form. I wish that the American war may not end, but continue forever, even to the complete extermination of the contending parties, if necessary. If the war should unfortunately come to an end, our army would be taken prisoner. (Protestations on all sides.)

BARON DE HUCKERIN. Such language cannot be used in such an assembly as the senate. (Adhesion.)

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY. Why, you would have to deal with an army of 500,000 or 600,000 scoundrels. (Murmurs.)

THE PRESIDENT. Your suppositions are injurious to our soldiers, and the senate expresses its feelings by its murmurs.

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY. I do not think so. (Affirmative signs.)

THE PRESIDENT. You see, M. le Marquis, that the senate does not agree with you.

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY. Nevertheless, it is true that our army reduced to a total——(Interruption and cries of Question! Question!)

THE PRESIDENT. The murmurs of the senate are the best reply to your observations.

THE MARQUIS DE BOISSY. Well, then, be it so. We shall triumph—20,000 men against 500,000 or 600,000. But how much will that cost us? (Enough, enough!) Let us turn our eyes, then, to China.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

The Marquis de Boissy was followed by Chaix d'Est Auge.

The following is an extract from the reply of Chaix d'Est Auge to the Marquis de Boissy, in the senate, March 10, 1865:

* * * The speaker has trenched upon a number of questions, into which I shall hardly be expected to follow him. But the convention and the affairs of Mexico are two important questions every way worthy of attention. Those questions will be treated by other speakers, and this is not the moment to go very fully into them. Of the convention I beg leave not to say a single word. As to Mexico, I have at present not much to say. The Marquis de Boissy calls himself the friend of humanity; yet, when speaking of the fratricidal war which is ravaging the United States of America, he expressed a wish that the struggle, impious in its nature and its results, might never cease. That is a wish which I repel in the strongest manner. And if the interests of my country required the continuation of this conflict, I could never, without the most heartfelt repugnance, immolate humanity on the altar of my country. M. de Boissy fears that if the United States should become once more united, that our army would be compromised, and possibly soon be made prisoners of war. Let him be reassured the United States have too much good sense and reason to enter into such a war; they will not traverse deserts to add other provinces to provinces already too numerous. It is not because they are exhausted, but from a well understood feeling as to their own interest that they would not think of attacking us in Mexico. The same reasons prevailed with England when she declined to fortify Quebec, saying there was no reason to fear, and that Quebec was not threatened. I will briefly reply on a point to which I adverted last year, and in respect of which I thought I had given the Marquis de Boissy himself satisfactory explanation. The customs receipts of Vera Cruz, before our expedition to Mexico, were engaged to satisfy the claims of England, France, and Spain, and were divided monthly between them. On taking possession of that port, could we say to England and Spain, "the treaties are null and void; we tear them up and scatter them to the winds?" No; we regarded them as sacred, and respecting them was not giving way to England, but honorably fulfilling a contract which bore the signature of France.

[Enclosure No. 4.]

Extract from "L'Avenir National," Sunday, 12th March, 1865.

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The Memorial Diplomatique exerts itself to demonstrate that the Monroe doctrine is in no way applicable to the present situation. "The system," it says, "that President Monroe intended to combat was no other than that of legitimacy." This was, in effect, we concede the first thought of Monroe at the moment when Spain thought of reconquering her former colonies. We have already said that the declaration of Monroe was made at the instigation of Canning, who was alarmed at the tendencies of the congress of Verona.

But now the Americans give to the principle a more extended interpretation. They see only in the words of Monroe the passage which is the solely important one for them: "We owe it to our good faith, and to the amiable relations which exist between the allied powers and the United States, to declare that we would consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any part of this hemisphere as dangerous for our tranquillity and our security." This is the political evangel of the Americans, and one can foresee that upon the day when the south, at the end of its resources, will be obliged to submit, it will take as a pretext for reconciliation the necessary application of the Monroe doctrine.

We scarcely believe, with M. de Boissy, that as soon as peace is concluded there will be an invasion of Mexico of 500,000 to 600,000 *worthless scamps*. But this is an eventuality against which it would be prudent to guard.

It is wisdom in the French government to avoid a useless danger in foreign quarters. The convention with Maximilian of the 10th April, 1864, says well that 2,500 men, *including the foreign legion*, will remain temporarily in Mexico; but no minimum of sojourn is stipulated for—except for the foreign legion, which is to remain for six years—so all the other troops may be recalled from the present moment. We ought to wish that this may be at the soonest period possible.

Nevertheless, the Memorial Diplomatique, so reassuring in whatever concerns Mexico, is less incredulous in what regards the British possessions. "If peace," says it, "be concluded between the north and the south, the disposable armies of the American Union will not delay, under one pretext or another, to be used against Canada." What prevision is this which makes the Americans march rather towards the north than towards the south? We do not wish, like the Memorial Diplomatique, to give ourselves airs of prophesy, but we repeat that we would like for more than one reason to see our troops return from Mexico.

[Enclosure No. 4.]

[*Extracts translated from La France, (Reone financiere,) March* 13, 1865.]

Events have occurred, this week, which have reacted on the financial as well as on the political world. The illness and death of M. de Morney produced for a while a legitimate sensation among the financial men accustomed to identify the public credit with the statesmen whose name is intimately connected with the institutions of the country. But this sensation could not be lasting; the present state of inactivity existed at the Bourse previous to the painful event which has so justly occupied public attention, and it will doubtless continue to exist after this sensation shall have passed away.

Attempts are also made to influence the market under pretence of the various vicissitudes of the war going on in America between the north and south; but the confederates are yet far from being conquered, and the fears expressed in relation to Mexico, in case of peace being restored in the United States, are singularly premature.

Why not ascribe the present situation to its general and real causes, instead of stopping at mere secondary considerations? The cause may be summed up in one word—distrust. How can those who have for so long a time sown the seeds of distrust wonder that they should now bear fruits? Every enterprise or institution of credit has been attacked, and we cannot be surprised that the public, having become suspicious of them, dares no longer venture upon a ground whose unsteadiness has been so often denounced.

CONTINUATION OF ENCLOSURE NO. 4.

[*Translated from the Memorial Diplomatique, March* 13, 1865.]

Besides the "Credit Mobilier," and its forthcoming dividend, which continues to be much talked about, the financial world appears greatly pre-occupied concerning the future of the Mexican empire and the consequences which the approaching cessation of hostilities between the northern and the southern armies may have for that country.

The warlike tendencies evinced some time ago by certain members of the United States Senate were but disconnected facts, for which the government at Washington could in no

wise be considered responsible. The initiative of the resolution adopted by that eminently deliberative assembly is not of a nature to justify the fear that, as some ceaselessly repeat it in the market, as soon as the fratricidal war which has for four years desolated that country [shall cease,] the Mexican empire will become, in the name of the Monroe doctrine, the aim of these tumultuous hosts, condemned by peace to an inactivity which would all at once become dangerous for Europe.

Shall the United States, after being reconstructed by peace, not have wounds enough of their own to bind up before attempting to quarrel with their neighbors? An empty treasury, a country laid waste, and a decimated population, are there not interior enemies with whom they shall also have to count?

The work of regeneration so happily commenced and carried on by the Emperor Maximilian, with as much firmness as success, may well be considered as a sure proof of the liberal views of civilization and progress which have so far inspired all the acts of the new Mexican empire. In our opinion the edicts of the Emperor are in no ways inferior in reality to the principles of pretended equality of the United States of America.

Indeed, the ceaseless solicitude of the newly elected sovereign for the welfare of this people becomes every day more manifest in his incessant labors. Creation of railroad companies, contracts for marine transportation on the Pacific, everywhere, in short, does the Emperor seek to simultaneously infuse activity and life into that country so favored by nature.

To demonstrate once more the value of these assertions, we give here the principal condition of a contract between the government of his Imperial Majesty, Maximilian I, and Mr. Edward Gautherin, ship-owner, having the contract for the Imperial Mexican Express Company:

The company is to be Mexican; foreigners becoming members shall have to renounce the rights they may possess as such.

The vessel on the Gulf lines shall carry the Mexican flag, and be naturalized according to the laws already in force.

The steamers of the Imperial Mexican Express shall run on the four lines of Vera Cruz to New Orleans, Vera Cruz to Havana, Vera Cruz to Campeachy, and along the whole coast from Taxpam to Goatzacoalcos.

The ships of the company shall be exempt from port and light-house duties.

The company receives from the government of his Imperial Majesty the monopoly for the construction of jetties and breakwaters in the stopping ports of its steamers, and is authorized to levy upon commerce a transit or storage duty on all goods shipped from or landed on these jetties or breakwaters.

This duty shall be equivalent to 80 centimes per ton for ordinary goods, and 80 centimes per two hundred pounds for such merchandise as iron, lead, rails, steam-engines, minerals, &c.

The government shall receive from the company 20 per cent. of the duties levied by it. The receipt of these duties shall be registered in two books, one of which shall remain in the office of the company and the other at the office of the custom-house.

The vessels of the company shall, on their lines, transport the employés of the preventive service and the mails. Besides the usual postage, the post-office administration will take additional postage on the company's account, which it shall pay to it at the time of embarking the mail-bags; and the amount due to the company shall vary according to the net weight of the bags, and the nature of their contents.

Thus, for the mere transportation of letters the government shall pay one real per half ounce weight, being the price of a single letter, from one point to another of the Gulf of Mexico. For letters to Havana the company shall receive two reals.

For carrying newspapers, pamphlets, and printed matter, the company shall charge two reals per *arrobe*.

The company engages to build its workshops, building docks, storehouses and yards on the grounds designated by his Imperial Majesty's government. The port of Vera Cruz is the point momentarily chosen as the centre of the lines of the Imperial Mexican Express steamers.

The company shall, as much as possible, employ the inhabitants of the country, as also the materials it furnishes, such as wood, copper, iron, coal, &c.

The grant is made for twenty-one years, and to the exclusion of any other Mexican company.

MAXIMILIAN.

CHAPULTEPEC, *January* 28, 1865.

[*Extract from La Presse, Monday, March* 13, 1865.]

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Money is abundant. The proof is seen by the state of the bank and by its rate of discount, which it has been obliged to reduce to 3½ per cent.; but this money does not want to be employed.

This feeling of distrust which the capital evidences is not peculiar to France; the English market proves it by the continuance of its feebleness. One cannot, then, without injus-

tice attribute to the situation of a place, nor to noisily rumored proceedings, the dearth of our business and the weakness of our market. European politics leaves us in an absolute repose. From the American side it is not the same. It is a sad thing to say, but we fear for our cash boxes, that peace may be made in America. The largest thorn that we have in our foot is, incontestably, the Mexican affair, which trammels our finances, and which causes lively apprehensions for the future. The equilibrium of our budget will feel for a long time, we think, the Mexican expedition. It allows to float incessantly the fear of a loan, which may be retarded by the aid of treasury means at the disposal of the minister, but the bankers think that it cannot be avoided. Italy herself threatens us with a loan.

[*From La Patrié, March* 13.]

Letters from New York up to the 25th of February, brought out by the North American, arrived yesterday in London.

They contain no further military news, but there has been received in New York the text of an address of Juarez to the Mexicans, in which he says, "Faithful to my duty and to my conscience, I shall devote all my energy to the national defence, with the assistance and co-operation of the Mexican flag." He denounces Emperor Maximilian as a usurper enslaving a free nation.

Houston papers publish a correspondence between the confederate Colonel Cyron and General Lopez, commanding the imperial troops on the Rio Grande. Cyron informs Lopez that the confederate government desires to cultivate friendly relations with the Mexican government. Lopez in return declares his sympathies for the southern cause. Named commander by Emperor Maxmilian, he says that the sons of the confederacy can rely on the complete security of their persons and interest, and on the fullest hospitality. He shall permit no expeditions to be fitted out against the confederates.

Houston papers also report that Matamoras has ceased to be a free port.

[*From La Patrié, March* 13.]

However, in spite of all the elements tending to improve the condition of the market, the peaceful news from America has been made use of by the parties wishing to depreciate the stocks, who multiplied their offers, and sought to frighten their opponents by hinting at the complications which, according to them, might arise from a cessation of hostilities in the United States. From that moment the upward tendency of prices was not only completely paralyzed, but a retrograding tendency prevailed, and most stocks lost the advance they had previously obtained; some even descending below the previous fortnight's quotation.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 59.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 17, 1865.

SIR: Enclosed you will find a memorandum of a conversation which I had the honor to hold with his excellency Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, on the 9th instant, in reference to the forcible surrender by General Mejia of refugees from the rebel army, referred to in your despatch No. 49.

The original of this memorandum was left yesterday with his excellency the minister of foreign affairs.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW,
Chargé d'Affaires.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

[Memorandum.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
March 15, 1865.

The undersigned, chargé d'affaires of the United States, had the honor to submit verbally to his excellency Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, minister of foreign affairs, the following statement on the 9th instant:

It is stated upon official authority that General Mejia, commanding the Mejia division of the French army at Matamoras, had arrested between twenty and thirty refugees from the rebel army in Texas; conducted them, under the guard of a file of soldiers, to the banks of the Rio Grande and delivered them into the hands of armed enemies of the United States. The pretext assigned, I am told by General Mejia, for this procedure, was that they were offenders against the laws of the confederacy, and, therefore, liable to extradition. If so, General Mejia appears not to have been aware that the alleged criminals had a right to a fair trial and conviction, which was denied them before they could be surrendered to any government, and that he had then authority to surrender them only upon the suit of a government recognized by the Emperor of France, and to which the right of extradition had been conceded by treaty.

The refugees in question were seized by Mexican soldiers, under the orders of General Mejia, and delivered without any trial into the hands of an armed band of conspirators from Texas, who represented no lawful government, and who could not, therefore, have any political *status* in any Mexican tribunal, civil or military.

The undersigned, while appreciating the difficulty of enforcing neutrality along the line which divides Texas from Mexico, where the temptations to violate it are so numerous, expressed the hope and expectation of his government that the government of France would not permit the conduct of General Mejia to pass without such instructions as would prevent the recurrence of a proceeding too liable to disturb the friendly relations of the two countries.

The undersigned availed himself of the same occasion to express to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs the regret of his government at the exceptionable tone of the correspondence, addressed by the United States sonsul at Matamoras to General Mejia, in reference to the surrender of these refugees, and to state that orders relieving the incumbent from his official charge were on their way to him at the time the correspondence was passing.

His excellency Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys stated, in reply to the undersigned, that he had received no information whatever upon the subject referred to by the undersigned, save what the undersigned had communicated; that the subject should be taken into respectful consideration, and that the officers of the imperial government in Mexico should be instructed to preserve a rigorous neutrality.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN BIGELOW,
Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

[Extract.]

No. 71.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 17, 1865.

SIR: I have now to recur to some suggestions contained in your despatch No. 29, the receipt of which I have already acknowledged, and also to acknowledge, in due form, the receipt of your despatch of February 14, No. 30.

The burden of these matters is an uneasy state of mind in the Emperor's government concerning our private relations with France, as affected by the war in Mexico.

This government foresaw the present embarrassment, and expressed itself frankly to the imperial government before it intervened in Mexico. It is that embarrassment which now affects the political situation in regard to that country. Even if it were necessary, on our part, to labor for its removal, the traditions and sympathies of a whole continent could not be uprooted by the exercise of any national authority, and especially could it not be done by a government that is so purely democratic as ours. The Emperor's persistence implies that he yet believes to be certain, what we have constantly told him, that the people of the United States, reasoning upon preconceived sentiments and national principles, cannot even apprehend to be possible—namely, that a new European monarchical system can and ought to be permanently established on the American continent, and in territory bordering on this republic. It would seem that all parties must abide the trial of the experiment, of which trial it will be confessed that the people of Mexico must ultimately be the arbiters.

This government has not interfered. It does not propose to interfere in that trial. It firmly repels foreign intervention here, and looks with disfavor upon it anywhere. Therefore, for us to intervene in Mexico would be only to reverse our own principles, and to adopt in regard to that country the very policy which in any case we disallow.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 77.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 23, 1865.

SIR: I have received your despatch of March 6, No. 44.

Unemployed politicians can often raise vehement disputes upon mere surmises or accidents, as they can sometimes prohibit all debate upon the most questionable measures.

The French government can very well understand that our delay in filling the legation at Paris was involuntary, because that government has really found the appointment of a minister here was a duty attended by some embarrassment.

I thank you for the information you gave me, concerning the negotiations of Maxmilian at Rome for a concordat.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 86.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 27, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 10th of March No. 52, which is accompanied by a translation of a circular issued by the minister of foreign affairs of the Archduke Maximilian, relative to consuls in Mexico, who have no exequaturs from the imperial government, has been received. I have already sufficiently explained our position on this subject.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 89.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 27, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 10th instant, No. 50, enclosing a copy of your note of the 9th instant to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, in regard to the capture of the United States steamer Ark by Texan insurgents in Mexican waters, and in reply to inform you that your note is approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 94.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 28, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 14th of March, No. 55, has been received, and I have read with much interest the papers which accompany it, and which illustrate the disquietude now prevailing in Paris.

Fortunately, I have in my despatch of 15th instant, No. 71, explained to you the views and sentiments which our military and political situation suggests. We want our national rights. We are not looking for ulterior, national advantages, or aggrandizement, much less for occasions for retaliating in other forms of hostility against foreign states. We are not propagandists, although we are consistent in our political convictions.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[With two enclosures.]

No. 66.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, March 28, 1865.

SIR: I have received a "note verbale" from his excellency Drouyn de Lhuys, in reply to my note of the 9th instant, and in defence of the seizure of one hundred casks of powder in the gulf of La Paz, on board the United States schooner W. L. Richardson, by a French vessel-of-war. I enclose a copy and translation.

And am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW,
United States Chargé d'Affaires.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Verbal note.

[Translation.]

MARCH 1865.

The minister of foreign affairs has had the honor of receiving the note addressed to him by M. the chargé d'affaires of the United States, on the 9th instant, concerning one hundred casks of powder seized in the gulf of La Paz, on board of the United States schooner Wm. L. Richardson, by a vessel of the French division, on the Pacific station. The information received direct by the department of foreign affairs on this subject leaves no doubt that that seizure was made under the rule explained last year to Mr. Dayton. Circumstances were as follows:

A certain number of merchants at San Francisco had asked, through the medium of the legation of the United States, to be authorized to send every month to the ports of Chayatlan and La Paz powder destined for the working of the mines at Charique. Upon reflection the imperial government decided that it was the less disposed to depart from the rule, that so long as there is fighting going on at any point, it must consider any invoice of powder shipped to that point as essentially a contraband of war, inasmuch as it had ascertained that such operations had already been carried on for the benefit of its adversaries, from Mexican points on the Pacific coast. An answer to this effect was therefore returned to Mr. Dayton in May last by a verbal note, which is doubtless still to be found among the records of the legation.

The schooner Wm. L. Richardson having taken a cargo of powder to the port of La Paz fell, necessarily, under the provisions of the rule recalled above, and there was all the less reason to depart from it, as reliable information had denounced this fresh invoice of powder to the French authorities as destined for the "guerillas" whom M. Veza, was at the time endeavoring to raise in the States of Sonora and Cinaloa.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 102.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washintgon, April 4, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 17th ultimo, No. 59, together with its accompanying memorandum of a conversation that you had with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, upon the subject of the forcible surrender, by General Mejia, of refugees from the insurgent army to the armed enemies of the United States, has been received, and your proceedings are approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[With two enclosures.]

No. 79.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, April 18, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy and a translation of a "*note verbale,*" received from his excellency the minister of foreign affairs, in relation to the seizure of the United States mail at Acapulco by the French authorities.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.]

Last November Mr. Dayton communicated to the Emperor's minister of foreign affairs a despatch in which the United States consul at Acapulco complained that the commander of the French forces in that city had ordered the seizure of the mail addressed to that consul. Positive information since received on the subject by the imperial government enable it to present this incident in its true light. It is necessary to state, in the first place, the exact position occupied by Mr. Ely, then consul of the United States, after the French troops had taken possession of Acapulco. That agent, by abstaining from any visit or official communication in writing asserting his quality to Admiral Bonet upon the latter's arrival, authorized the supposition that his exequatur having been granted not by Mexico, but by the local government of the state of Guerrero, he considered his mission to be interrupted by the new state of things. Admiral Bonet, therefore, considered Mr. Ely as having no longer any attributions beyond those of a purely commercial agent. Such was also the opinion of the commander of the United States sloop Narragansett, as evidenced in his search for a deserter from that vessel, as well as the opinion of Admiral Bells himself. This view of the subject appears to be also confirmed by the fact of the federal government giving only the title of commercial agent to the person appointed since as the successor of Mr. Ely. Here, now, are the facts concerning the seizure of United States mails as they occurred:

Acapulco, previous to its being taken possession of by the French forces, had no regularly organized postal service. Letters from abroad were brought there by the packets of the

Panama Steamship Mail Company in three separate bags. The one addressed to the company's agent contained letters relative to the affairs of that concern; the second, the mails intending to go on further; and the third, the correspondence for Acapulco and the interior of Mexico. This latter bag, for want of a regular postal agent, was addressed to the *American consul*, where the letters were delivered to the parties concerned and the postage collected. Complaints had occurred about deficiencies in the system of delivery of private letters, but, aside from that consideration, it was impossible to permit this state of things to continue from the moment that Acapulco was to follow the system adopted everywhere else by the Mexican government. Where taxes were to be levied it evidently belonged to a Mexican administration only to fulfil that office. The officer commanding at Acapulco had, therefore, decided on appointing a temporary postmaster, and his choice for this office fell upon the vice-consul of France, M. Dupuy. This gentleman, therefore, upon the arrival of the packet from San Francisco, on the 30th of September, caused the three mail bags, previously mentioned, to be delivered to himself. The one addressed to the *American consul* was open, and its contents proved that, as we have already stated, it was not a mail addressed by the government of the United States to their consul at Acapulco, but simply an ordinary letter bag. This decision, however, called forth some opposition at the hands of the commander of the federal sloop Cyane, who, whilst acknowledging that Mr. Ely no longer had any right to demand that the bag addressed to the *American consul* should be delivered to him, asked that it should be given to himself, who, as an officer of the United States navy, was the legal representative of his government. After explanations on the subject had passed between the commander of the Cyane and the commander of the French naval forces, these two officers, equally desirous of maintaining the friendly relations existing betweenthe navies of the two countries, agreed that the bag should be delivered to the post office of Acapulco, and there opened in the presence of an officer of the United States sloop, who would thus ascertain that it was only a public mail, and not an official correspondence of the government of the United States.

This question had thus been disposed of in the most satisfactory manner, when subsequent events prevented this arrangement being carried out. M. Dupuy, the postmaster appointed, having seen fit to resign that office, and the evacuation of Acapulco having been resolved upon, things were put back in their former position. This, nevertheless, shows that the measures adopted at the time when the French forces took possession of Acapulco, were fully justified both by the irregularity of the process of delivery of private correspondence and by the absence of any real right of Mr. Ely to demand that the system should be continued.

PARIS, *April* 12, 1865.

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 116.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 21, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 28th ultimo, together with its accompaniments, upon the subject of the seizure of one hundred casks of powder, in the gulf of La Paz, on board the schooner William L. Richardson, by a French vessel-of-war, has been received.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 134.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 6, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 18th ultimo, No. 79, and its enclosures, upon the subject of the seizure of the United States mail at Acapulco by the French authorities, have been received.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 107.] UNITED STATES LEGATION,
Paris, May 26, 1865.

SIR: I fear our government will not succeed in giving entire satisfaction to the ruling classes on this side of the Atlantic, whatever we may do. They seemed very much dissatisfied, at the commencement of the war, that our armies were not more destructive; when they became more destructive, the same parties censured us for blood-thirstiness and insensibility to the blessings of peace. Now that peace has come, and we have reason to count upon a general jubilee in Europe, there appears to be more discontent than ever. The great grievances at present are, first, President Johnson's proclamation offering a reward for the delivery of Davis to the officers of Justice; second, the reported emigration of discharged soldiers to Mexico; third, the trial of Booth's accomplices with closed doors.

The readiness with which all these prestiges are seized to weaken the impression which our unexpected triumph over what were deemed insurmountable embarrassments has a tendency to produce, shows how great is the importance attached here to our example.

The proclamation putting a price on Davis's head will be generally condemned by the Latin race, who are so accustomed to see a price put upon the heads of their most meritorious citizens that they feel an instinctive sympathy for any one who wears that flattering penalty. I think nothing that has happened during our war has produced so unpleasant an effect upon our friends here, though their impressions always yield to proper explanations when there is an opportunity of making them.

In regard to Mexico, the impression produced by the recent news from the United States has amounted to a panic. Some military successes of the liberals in Mexico are associated in the public mind with the emigration schemes advertised in the New York and Washington papers, which are supposed to respond to a public sentiment beyond the control of the government. The absence of the Emperor at the moment aggravates the alarm, and leaves the community a prey to rumors of the most disturbing character.

I dined with Mr. Fould on Tuesday evening. He sought several opportunities to talk with me of Mexican affairs. I assured him that he had nothing to fear from the United States; that the formidable enemies of the Archduke Maximilian were "those of his own household"—the Mexicans. He expressed a doubt whether our government and its friends would be strong enough to maintain our neutrality. I told him that so far as I could judge, there were not, nor were they likely to be, two considerable parties on our Mexican policy; that whatever the government decided to do would be pretty universally accepted by the people, because it would be likely to reflect their deliberate wishes, one of which I felt sure was to preserve friendly relations with France. He said he thought that the best way to remove all difficulty between the three countries, and to resolve all embarrassing questions, was for us to recognize the new government. This view he enforced with a few obvious remarks. I heard him through, and then remarked that he had opened a question which would require me, for its discussion, to go further back in the history of our respective countries than was possible on such a festive occasion, but I felt prepared to say to him that but for the unfriendly tone of the official press, and the abounding evidence of a willingness, if not a desire, on the part of influential classes in France to see our republic weakened by a permanent disunion, the Emperor would probably have experienced no difficulty in coming early to a satisfactory understanding with our government about Mexico. Unhappily, the impression had got abroad among our people that the Emperor had undertaken to build up an empire in

Mexico upon the ruins of our republic, and it would take yet some time and some substantial proofs of good feeling on his part to remove this impression. His excellency arose from his seat at this remark, which I was preparing to elaborate a little, and said that was a subject that would take us too far to discuss on that occasion; and after a few more words our interview ended. It ended rather abruptly, because Mr. Fould is entirely of my opinion; he has been opposed from the outset to this expedition. He feels that he is gradually sinking, officially, under the weight of its burdens; and having no response to make to the view I presented, he did not wish to be betrayed into admissions unbecoming his position; at least such was my impression.

He introduced me, in the course of the evening, to Baron Dussin the elder, who is a very important arm of the government, though now eighty-five years of age, and whose sympathies have been rather with the insurgents than with the government during the late rebellion. He also showed great solicitude about Mexico, and seemed greatly relieved by my assurance that, regardless of the example set by other nations, and faithful to all our traditions, we should make our people, if any were otherwise disposed, respect our neutral obligations.

I mention these facts to show that the anxiety which is reflected by the press here and in England is not exaggerated, and as the foundation for a suggestion which I think it my duty to make to you. It is that, as far as possible, we avoid giving any pretext to this government upon which public opinion can be rallied against us. It is in a critical situation, and, I think, on the eve of a very important, if not desperate step in reference to Mexico. Something must be done, and speedily. It is important that we neither do nor permit anything that will relieve the situation at our expense, for we now need all the good feeling in Europe that we can possibly inspire to repair the waste of our war. If we alienate France, or even establish an unfriendly feeling here, it will poison all the official journalism of Europe towards us, notwithstanding the universally acknowledged folly of the Mexican expedition. They all have less affection for the Monroe doctrine than they have for France or Mexico. I hope, therefore, that our government will protect itself by all dignified means from any suspicion of conniving at the military schemes, if there are any maturing in the United States, against Mexico, and show the old countries of Europe to how much better use we can put them than by fighting them. I would hardly trouble you with a suggestion apparently so superfluous as this, if I did not feel that, where men are in desperate circumstances, they may do desperate things, and sovereigns are but men.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

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

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 5, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: In compliance with the request of Mr. Seward, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th of April last, relative to the support reported to be extended by the Emperor to Gwin, in Mexico, and the character of the new loan in aid of that country. In reply, I am directed to thank you for the interesting information.

I am, my dear sir, very faithfully, yours,

W. HUNTER.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 167.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 12, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of May 26, No. 107, has been received. It treats only of familiar questions; but it treats of these with special earnestness. For this reason, I reply in this communication to your suggestions, although I have considered the same subject so recently as the 3d of June, when I transmitted to you the views of the President.

You inform me that the proclamation putting a price on Davis's head has produced an unpleasant effect upon the friends of the United States, and that it is particularly condemned by the Latin race. Treason and the raising of civil war, in some European states, are, for obvious reasons, regarded by mankind as venial offences. In the United States they are looked upon with far greater severity, for reasons which it is not necessary that I should now explain. With such severity crimes of the present insurgents in the United States are regarded by the government and by the loyal portion of the people of this country. The time, indeed, is rapidly coming on when these crimes will be lamented with greater sincerity, and condemned with greater earnestness, in the region which civil war has left desolate, than any political crime or casualty which has recently occurred in Europe has been lamented or condemned on that continent. The United States are not in a temper favorable to the making of apologies or explanations to European statesmen and politicians for matters which do not affect foreign nations, and which relate exclusively to our domestic affairs. I have, therefore, to request that you will make no explanations or apology for the action which this government has hitherto pursued, and, as events shall transpire, may be found to be pursuing, in relation to rebels, who, without cause or necessity, or excuse, have not only spread desolation and death throughout a large portion of the United States, but have employed energies of surpassing strength in the effort to invoke the intervention of foreign powers to make that desolation more ruinous, as well as perpetual. I state, however, for your own information, that the Executive department has taken, as yet, no definitive action with regard to judicial proceedings against Jefferson Davis. Other subjects of greater urgency have, thus far, engaged its attention.

If it be true, as you have conceived, that France is likely to adopt some measure of hostility towards the United States on the ground of real or expected political complications in Mexico, the United States must wait the shock according to their ability. It is already known to the government of France that the United States are not prepared to recognize a monarchical and European power in Mexico, which is yet engaged in war with a domestic republican government, and a portion of the Mexican people; but it must be acknowledged, on the other hand, that the United States have, from the first appearance of the shadow of that foreign domination in Mexico until its present stage of administration, expressed its views to France upon the subject in a perfectly direct, frank, and friendly manner. The sentiments of the people of the United States in regard to affairs in Mexico, which have been so often expressed in the manner to which I have referred, are natural and inextinguishable. It would be a new event in history if one nation can give cause of offence to another nation by declining to become the ally of that nation in a war for the overthrow of a state friendly to the power so refusing to become an ally. We shall not believe, until we have convincing proof, that France is to invade the United States on such a pretext. It is to this government a source of the highest satisfaction that, during the three years that the war has been carried on between France and the republic of Mexico, the United States have maintained the strict line of forbearance and neutrality which their relations to the several belligerent parties dictated. From

time to time the French authorities have given notice to the United States of apprehended violations of neutrality by American citizens, and the government of the United States have promptly interposed and prevented the intrusions menaced. Here the United States must stand. Beyond this they cannot go. They desire peace, and would cheerfully restore their traditional relations with France. It will remain for France to say whether for these relations shall be substituted an alienation whose consequences might involve an arrest of the march of civilization throughout the world.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[With one enclosure.]

No. 117.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, June 13, 1865.

SIR: A statement of the minister secretary of state a few days since in the corps legislatif, and an article in the Moniteur of the 10th instant, have compelled me to break the silence I intended to have kept until I heard from you in reference to the grounds upon which the minister of foreign affairs placed his withdrawal of the proclamation of neutrality of June, 1865. I transmit herewith a copy of a note which I addressed this morning to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs, which will sufficiently explain itself and my motives for not permitting the ministerial statements cited in it to pass in silence.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, June 12, 1865.

SIR: In the official report of a speech made by his excellency the minister of state on the 9th instant, I find an erroneous statement, which, to prevent any possible misapprehension between your excellency and myself, I hasten to bring to your notice.

After speaking of the declarations made at Boston by General Rosecrans in reference to the alleged recruiting of American soldiers for the Mexican army, M. Rouher is reported to have said: "Pendant que ces declarations se faisaient à Washington et à New York, elles recevaient ici leur sanction et leur consecration formelle; le minister des Etats Unis se presentait a notre ministre des affaires ètrangères et lui disait: Sans doute nous ne voyous pas d'un œil favorable une monarchie s'etablir au Mexico. Sans doute nous preferons les formes republicaines; mais we respectons la volontè des peoples, et des nations; nous comprenons que le Mexique, qui a ètà longtemps regi par la forme monarchique venille revenir à cet ètat de choses; it nous n'irons pas faire la guerre pour une question de forme de gouvernement."

[Translation.]

"While these declarations were being made at Washington and at New York, they received here their sanction and formal consecration. The minister of the United States presented himself also to our minister of foreign affaires, and said to him: Without doubt we do not behold with a favorable eye a monarchy established in Mexico. Without doubt we prefer the republican form, but we respect the will of peoples and of nations. We understand that Mexico, which had been long governed by the monarchical form, may desire to return to that state of things, and we are not going to make war upon a question of the form of government."

Mr. Rouher has probably misapprehended your excellency, for I am persuaded that you could never have so entirely misunderstood my language as to have reported me as saying that the people of the United States understand that Mexico, after having been so long subject to a monarchical form of government, may desire to return to it. What I stated that may have given the impression which has misled the minister of state was this, in brief: that now that the experiment had been begun, the Americans wished to be fully tried, under circumstances best calculated to determine, finally and forever, whether European systems of government suited the Mexican people best. If it should appear that they did, and public tranquillity was restored, no nation was more interested in such a result than her immediate neighbors. I added, that the success of republican institutions in the Spanish American states had not been such as to encourage us to attempt the propagation of them there otherwise than by our example, and that whatever government was acceptable to the Mexican people would be satisfactory to us.

I trust to your excellency's memory to confirm me in the assertion that I never expressed to you any opinion or impression importing that the Mexican people desired a monarchical government. In saying that the success of republican institutions in Spanish America had not been such as to justify us in becoming their armed propagandists, I did not countenance the inference that the Mexicans themselves were dissatisfied with the form of government under which they had been living prior to the occupation of their capital by French troops.

I beg your excellency will take such measures as may seem to you proper to correct the error into which the minister secretary of state, in common with his hearers, appears to have been betrayed.

I desire to avail myself of this occasion to correct another misapprehension which has become accredited by publication in the official journal.

The Moniteur, of the 10th instant, speaking of the neutrality of France between the United States and the late insurgents in the slave States, says:

"La situation étant aujourdhui changèe et le gouvernement federal ayant fait connaître son intention de ne plus exercer à l'egard des neutres les droits qui resultaient pour lui de l'état de guerre, le gouvernement de l'Emperor n'a pas crue devoir plus, longtemps reconnaître de belligerants dans les Etats Unis d'Amerique."

[Translation.]

"The situation being to-day changed, and the federal government having made known its intention no longer to exercise towards neutrals the rights which were imposed upon it as a consequence of the state of war, the government of the Emperor has not deemed it its duty longer to recognize belligerents in the United States of America"

I presume reference is here made to the communication which I had the honor to submit to your excellency on the 29th ultimo, extracts from which were quoted by your excellency in a subsequent communication to me, announcing the withdrawal of belligerent rights from the insurgents. Assuming such to be the authority from which The Moniteur makes the statement which I have cited, I feel it my duty to say that, thus far, the federal government of the United States has made no renunciation of any rights which belonged to it as a belligerent. It has ceased to exercise such rights, I presume, but I am not aware that it has renounced them.

The communication to your excellency of the 29th ultimo was in reply to a previous declaration of your excellency that a renunciation by us of the belligerent right of visit and capture of neutral ships must be a condition precedent to the withdrawal of belligerent rights from the American insurgents by France.

In arguing the inconveniences of making these measures dependent one upon the other, I stated that "the United States government, in applying for a repeal of the declaration of June, 1861, abandoned any of the rights of belligerent *which it is presumed to have claimed*, and become directly responsible for anything it might do in the character of a belligerent. If, after the withdrawal of the imperial declaration, it were to visit and search a neutral vessel, it would at once expose itself to reprisals, the same as for any other violation of international comity." That is to say, we abandoned any belligerent rights which, upon the theory of your excellency, we only shared in common with the insurgents, and, upon that theory, would be responsible for anything we might do in our proper character as belligerents.

These observations were based upon the doctrine of belligerent rights propounded in the communication to which I was replying without either admitting or denying its correctness. Should my government be of the opinion that a nation may be entitled to the privileges of belligerent in suppressing a rebellion, without thereby conferring belligerent rights upon the rebels, it might not be prepared to renounce the practice of visiting and searching neutral vessels so long as that remedy was necessary for the national security. Your excellency will remember that I made no concealment of the fact that I had no instructions from my government to offer or accept any conditions to be attached to the withdrawal of the declaration of June, 1865. I merely argued the inconvenience and unreasonableness of the conditions attached to its withdrawal upon premises assumed by your excellency. The final suppression of the rebellion in the United States, of which intelligence has reached us since the corre-

spondence under consideration took place, deprives the matter to which I have invited your excellency's attention of much of its practical importance, at the same time it is as well that the communications, both oral and written, which I had the honor to submit on the 27th ultimo, should not acquire in their re-statement any importance not properly belonging to them.

I beg, therefore, that nothing I have written or said to your excellency may be regarded as an acceptance of the principle that the assertion of belligerent rights by a nation against its rebellious subjects necessarily confers upon the latter belligerent rights.

I beg to renew to your excellency assurances of the very high consideration with which I have the honor to be your excellency's very obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

His Excellency Mr. DROUYN DE LHUYS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No.—] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 17, 1865.

SIR: We have received a complaint from our commander at Brownsville, that General Mejia, the officer in command at Matamoras, had received from the rebel commander a quantity of cannon and other public property. It is understood that this complaint is to be followed by another, that the French authorities at Matamoras have also received into their service a large detachment of late rebel soldiers, with their arms. Circumstances indicate a growing disposition in some quarters of this country to find or make a *casus belli* with a view of the political situation of Mexico. I think it would be well for you, in an informal and confidential manner, to let the French government understand the great importance, as we think, of the practice on their part of the most just and friendly disposition towards the United States by the French authorities in Mexico, as well as in the shaping of French policies towards that country.

Prompt and punctual attention to this subject will be of most essential importance.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 120.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, June 21, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you enclosure No. 1, a copy, and in enclosure No. 2 a translation, of a despatch received from his excellency M. Drouyn de Lhuys, in reply to my communication to him of the 12th instant, a copy of which was communicated to you in my despatch No. 117.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.]

Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys to Mr. Bigelow.

PARIS, *June* 17, 1865.

SIR: I received the letter which you did me the honor of addressing me on the 12th of this month. You were so kind on the occasion of some remarks that were made in the corps legislatif, during the session on the 9th, by the minister of state, and of a note published in the Moniteur of the 10th, to recall to me the declarations which you had formerly made with regard to Mexico, and the withdrawal of the quality of belligerents from the seceded States.

"What I did write," you say respecting Mexico, "was that now that the experiment had been begun, the Americans wished it to be fully tried under circumstances best calculated to determine finally and forever whether European systems of government suited the Mexican people best. If it should appear that they did, and public tranquillity was restored, no nation was more interested in such a result than her immediate neighbors. I added, that the success of republican institutions in the Spanish American states had thus far not been such as to encourage us to attempt the propagation of them there, otherwise than by our example, and that whatever government was acceptable to the Mexican people would be satisfactory to us."

In the matter of withdrawing from the confederates the quality of belligerents, the following is, you tell me, the language which you employed in your letter of the 29th of May:

"The United States government, in applying for a repeal of the declaration of June, 1861, abandoned any of the rights of a belligerent which it is presumed to have claimed, and became directly responsible for anything it might do, in the character of a belligerent.

"If after the withdrawal of the imperial declaration, it were to visit and search a neutral vessel, it would at once expose itself to reprisals, the same as for any other violation of international comity."

Feeling as you do, sir, that at heoretic discussion of these two points would now be of no practical interest, I thank you for having recalled to me the exact language of those declarations which you have had the goodness to make me.

Accept the assurances of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be, sir, your very humble and very obedient servant,

DROUYN DE LHUYS.

Mr. BIGELOW,
Minister of the United States at Paris.

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 184.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 26, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 13th instant, No. 117, transmitting a copy of your note of the day before to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, correcting certain mistakes which had occurred in representing what you had said and written in regard, respectively, to the position of the United States as to the Mexican question and the revocation of the French decree concerning so-called belligerent rights of the insurgents.

I am happy to inform you that your note is fully approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c., Paris.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 133.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, June 29, 1865.

SIR: In the course of an interview to-day with the minister of foreign affairs his excellency referred to reclamations made by our government of the arms and equipment of a port in Texas, which had been bought by the Mexican General Mejia from certain confederate officers after capitulation of the corps d'armie, to which the garrison of the fort belonged. Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys desired me to say to you that the information which had reached him led him to believe that Major General Mejia had committed an error, and that he had written in that sense to the French minister at Mexico.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 134.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, June 30, 1865.

SIR: In a recent conversation with the minister of foreign affairs, his excellency spoke of two subjects which I had instructions to bring to his notice some months since—the case of the federal steamer Ark, seized on the Rio Grande, within Mexican jurisdiction, by confederates from Texas, and sold at Brownsville to Mexicans; and the case of certain deserters from the confederate army, sent back by the Mexican general to the confederate authorities. His excellency then read to me a report on the facts in those two cases, which had been prepared for him in the bureaus of war and marine, to which it had been referred, and offered to send me a copy if I wished it. I said my government would of course like to know what defence could be made to its reclamations, that it might know whether they deserved to be prosecuted. He said I should have one to-morrow, with the understanding that it should only be taken for what it was, and not as an official communication of a final determination of the government on those subjects. I told him I would receive it, if he pleased, as a memorandum of a conversation. He said I should receive it to-day. If it comes in time for this mail I will enclose it.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 187.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 30, 1865.

SIR: On my resumption of the conduct of this department, after a journey to Auburn, I find your despatch of the 13th of June, No. 117; and I find, also, that it was duly acknowledged by Mr. Hunter, then Acting Secretary of State, in despatch No. 184. So far as it relates to the misapprehensions made by Mr. Rouher of your conversation with him in regard to the withdrawal of belligerent rights, there seems to be no reason for special remark. But so far as relates to the condition of affairs in Mexico, I think it important to notice the following passage in your despatch: "What I stated that may have given the impression which has misled the minister of state was this, in brief—that now that the experiment had been begun, the Americans wished it to be fully tried, under circumstances best calculated to determine finally and forever whether European systems of government suited the Mexican people best. If it should appear that they did, and public tranquillity was restored, no nation was more interested in such a result than her immediate neighbors. I added, that the success of republican institutions in the Spanish American states had thus far not been such as to encourage us to attempt the propagation of them there, otherwise than by our example, and that whatever government was acceptable to the Mexican people would be satisfactory to us."

It is thought that the argument which you have recited in the passage thus extracted is not warranted by the instructions of this department. It will be well, at your convenience, to make this explanation to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys. So far as our relations are carried, what we hold in regard to Mexico is, that France is a belligerent there, in war with the republic of Mexico. We do not enter into the merits of the belligerents, but we practice in regard to the contest

the principles of neutrality; and we have insisted on the practice of neutrality by all nations in regard to our civil war. Our friendship towards the republic of Mexico, and our sympathies with the republican system on this continent, as well as our faith and confidence in it, have been continually declared. We do not intervene in foreign wars or foreign politics. Political intervention in the affairs of foreign states is a principle thus far avoided by our government. I attach no great importance to this matter. It is right and proper, however, that the French government should not misunderstand the case, and so be suffered to fall into a belief that we have entertained any views favorable to it as an invader of Mexico, or that we at all distrust the ultimate success of republican systems throughout this continent.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 136.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, July 6, 1865.

SIR: I have received from his excellency the minister of foreign affairs a statement, of which enclosure No. 1 is a copy, and No. 2 a translation.

* * * * * * * *

This *résumé* is the promised communication referred to in my despatch No. 134.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

[Translation.]

In a conversation of the 9th of March, and through two notes, one of the same date, and the other of the 15th of March, the minister of the United States pointed out to the minister of foreign affairs of the Emperor, as infractions of Mexican neutrality, in behalf of the confederates, two occurrences that had become known on the Rio Grande and at Matamoras. The steamer Ark, belonging to a citizen of the United States, having stranded in ascending the Rio Grande, above Bagdad, some yards distant from the Mexican shore, was seized, it is said, by the confederates, taken to Brownsville, condemned as a prize, with the cargo, and sold to Mexicans. Then it is asserted that more recently General Mejia, commanding the allied division, arrested at Matamoras thirty deserters of the south, and caused them to be taken under escort to the banks of the Rio Grande to be delivered up to a confederate corps.

The minister, without assuming to prejudge the accuracy of the above facts, replied to Mr. Bigelow that, in principle, the government of the Emperor would always take into serious consideration any act pointed out as infringing on neutrality. The minister consequently com nicated the above information to his colleagues of the department of war and marine, and requested them to beg the commandants in chief of our expeditionary corps and naval forces in Mexico to see, as far as it should depend upon them, that no act contrary to neutrality should take place on the Mexican frontier, bordering Texas. M. le Marechal Randon and M. le Marquis de Chasseloup Laubat sent at once to Marshal Bazaine, and Commandant Clorié, instructions in this sense.

Since then the commandant of our naval subdivision in the Mexican waters transmitted to the minister of marine precise information regarding the occurrences which Mr. Bigelow mentioned to the minister. They show in the first place, and as we had reason to expect, that the French authorities had no part whatever in it; and further, that the facts did not exactly occur as was reported at Washington.

Thus, the steamer Ark was taken as stated, by the confederates, but this seizure was effected before the expedition under the guidance of Marshal Bazaine, on the Rio Grande, last year, and when the disaffected under Cortinas were masters of Matamoras and Bagdad.

When General Mejia afterwards took possession of Matamoras, in the name of the Emperor Maximilian, the vessel was sold to one of its inhabitants, (a German, as we are informed,) but as the vessel was moored before Brownsville, General Mejia did not suspect what had passed in this matter, and that he would have to intervene with respect to the sale. The fact, therefore, could neither be laid to the charge of the Mexican nor of the French authorities.

In the case of the delivering up of southern deserters indicated by the United States minister, it is impossible, if it really did take place, to render any of the French authorities in the smallest degree responsible for it, considering that since the temporary occupation of Bagdad by the crews of the ships placed under the orders of the Admiral Rosse, there was positively no French military either at Bagdad or Matamoras until the second of last May, when the column of the Commandant de Brian was landed. A confederate leader announced that he was going to send back to the Mexican shore four deserters of the foreign legion. The Commandant de Brian could not return them to the Texan shore, after they had been brought over to the Mexican shore. He therefore consented to receive them, but without desiring to have an interview, on this occasion, with the authorities of Brownsville—a misconception of the orders of which they were the bearers having led the Mexican major and the French sergeant who were sent to meet these deserters to cross the stream in order to go in search of them. The sergeant suffered a month's imprisonment, and the major a month's arrest. M. le Commandant de Brian declared at the same time to General Mejia that neither of them should have any intercourse with the authorities of Brownsville; moreover, when the Commandant Florie was informed that they were also about to send back to him two of his sailors who had deserted, he refused to take any steps which should facilitate their delivery.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 192.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 6, 1865.

SIR: I transmit a copy of a letter of yesterday, addressed by me to the Secretary of War, and of the telegraphic despatches therein referred to, from Major General Sheridan to Generals Grant and Rawlins; also a copy of a note of the same date, which I addressed to the Marquis Montholon;* all of which papers relate to the fraudulent and illegal removal of a large portion of the property recently surrendered to the military forces of the United States in Texas, from that State to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, including the steamer Lucy Given and eight hundred and twenty bales of cotton.

You are requested to make a representation of the facts to be gathered from these papers to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, and to protest against the reception within the military lines occupied by French troops in Mexico of any of the property above mentioned, expressing at the same time the expectation of this government that prompt satisfaction thereof will be made to the military authorities of the United States in that vicinity.

You will inform Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, that renewed instructions have been given to the general commanding the United States military forces in Texas, to permit no aggressive movements of troops under his command within Mexican territory, unless special instructions to that effect from the War Department should be rendered necessary by a condition of affairs not now anticipated.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received in cipher at Washington 5.30 a. m. June 30, 1865:

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *June* 28, 1865.

GENERAL: I have just returned from a hurried trip along the coast of Texas. The following is, to the best of my knowledge, the condition of affairs there: The Kirby Smith and

* This enclosure appears in the correspondence with the French delegation.

Canby surrender was, for the most part, a swindle on the part of Kirby Smith & Co., as all the Texas troops had disbanded or had been discharged and gone home before the commissioners were sent to General Canby. Kirby Smith, Magruder, Shelby, Slaughter, Walker, and others, of military rank, have gone to Mexico. Everything on wheels, artillery, horses, mules, &c., have been run over into Mexico. Large and small bands of rebel soldiers, and some citizens amounting to about two thousand, have crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico, some allege with the intention of going to Sonora.

The Lucy Given, a small steamer, was surrendered at Matagorda, but was carried off and is now anchored at Bagdad, on the Rio Grande.

There is no doubt, in my mind, that the representatives of the imperial government along the Rio Grande have encouraged this wholesale plunder of property belonging to the United States government, and that it will only be given up when we go and take it. General Steele says the French officers are very saucy and insulting to our people at Brownsville.

Juarez does not appear to have any force of consequence on the Rio Grande. I cannot hear of any movements. The rebels who have gone to Mexico have sympathies with the imperialists, and this feeling is undoubtedly reciprocated.

I will direct General Steele to make a demand on the French authorities at Matamoras for a return of the property. The Lucy Given is a tangible case.

A Mexican steamer, loaded with cotton and flying the American flag, was captured a few days since between Rio Grande City and Brownsville. After the surrender eight hundred and twenty-six (826) bales of Confederate States cotton, stored at Rio Grande City, were crossed into Mexico, and this is only one item.

There is a good deal of irritation between French officials at Matamoras and our people, and the Maximilian party is getting nervous. My scouts report from Matamoras that seven thousand (7,000) troops are marching from the interior to that place; also that Mejia is working on the rifle-pits around Matamoras. This reported re-enforcement I give for what it is worth.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Major General Commanding.

Lieutenant General U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies United States, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 194.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 10, 1865.

SIR: Referring to previous instructions on the subject of the fraudulent and illegal removal of property belonging to the United States to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, I now enclose for your information, and as illustrating the importance of the early attention of the imperial government being given to our demand for the restoration of that property to the authorities of this government, a copy of a telegram of the 6th instant from Major General Sheridan to General Rawlins, chief of staff of Lieutenant General Grant.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

OFFICE U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH, WAR DEPARTMENT.

The following telegram received in cipher at Washington 3 a. m. July 8, 1865:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
New Orleans, July 6, 1865.

GENERAL: Affairs on the Rio Grande frontier are getting beautifully mixed up. Cortinas has arrived, and now has his headquarters six miles from Matamoras, and has driven in Mejia's pickets. He also captured the steamer Senorita and took her over to the other side of the river for safety, and she was taken down to Rio Grande City and seized by General Brown. I do not know exactly how it is as yet.

Mejia replied to General Steele's demand for battery and other property taken across the Rio Grande, that he had no authority to comply with the demand, but would refer it to the imperial government. This is just what I expected, and only confirms my former impression, that the property can only be obtained when we go and take it.

General Steele says the French officers and soldiers are very bitter against our people, and

writes me that a grandson of Marshal Ney, with two thousand French cavalry, is reported approaching Matamoras, and that he is very bitter, and says he is going to invade Texas. The feeling of the people in the interior of Mexico is very bitter, while the natives, soldiers and all, are said to be with our government, and want to get rid of French rule. Ringgold barracks is occupied by our troops.

P. H. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

General JOHN A. RAWLINGS, *Chief of Staff.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 140.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, July 11, 1865.

SIR: His excellency the minister of foreign affairs has sent me the accompanying correspondence between him and the late minister of war, in explanation of the alleged purchase by General Mejia of guns and munitions of war from the confederates at Brownsville after their capitulation.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure No. 1.—Translation.]

The Minister for Foreign Affairs to his excellency Marshal Randon, minister of war.

PARIS, *June* 29, 1865.

MARSHAL AND DEAR COLLEAGUE: A despatch I received from our minister to the United States points out an incident which I hasten to mention to you. According to official intelligence received at Washington, at the time when the confederate corps which occupied Brownsville, in Texas, surrendered to the federal forces, the artillery and munitions shut up in the fort were in part clandestinely taken to the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande and delivered to the authorities of Matamoras. Informed to-day only of this fact, the government of the United States asks for the prompt restitution of material which should have been delivered to it at Brownsville; and the Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, has requested the Marquis de Montholon to engage himself in obtaining this restitution. Mr. de Montholon considering, very justly, that the reclamation was thoroughly well grounded, (if the facts are correctly stated,) promptly deferred to the request of Mr. Seward, and wrote about it to Marshal Bazaine, and to General Mejia, who was in command at Matamoras at the latest dates. This affair may, therefore, already have received, without further delay, a satisfactory solution. It might, however, be otherwise, and, on this supposition, I turn to you, asking you to send directly to Marshal Bazaine, by the courier of to-morrow, 30th, the necessary orders that he may contribute, if there still be need, and he has the means, to the prompt return of the *materiel* reclaimed. I write myself to our minister, Mr. Dano, that he may equally press upon the Mexican government the necessity of doing right, if satisfaction has not already been given to the request of the federal government.

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.]

The Minister of War to his excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

PARIS, *July* 1, 1865.

Mr. MINISTER AND DEAR COLLEAGUE: Your excellency has done me the honor to communicate to me, by your letter of June 29, last, the reclamation which the government of the United States set up on the subject of the artillery and munitions belonging to the fort at Brownsville, which were clandestinely transported to the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande by the confederates, with the purpose of keeping them from the federal forces.

I hasten to write by the courier of yesterday, June 30, to Marshal de Bazaine, to request him to give immediately instructions to General Mejia, commanding at Matamoras, to assure, if it has not already been done, the prompt return of the *materiel* reclaimed by the government of the United States.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 145.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, July 14, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose—

1st. A copy of the note by which his exellency the minister of foreign affairs acknowledged the receipt of the President's proclamation of the 23d of June last, terminating the blockade; and,

2d. A translation of an article in the official paper in reference to the manner in which the withdrawal of belligerent rights from the confederates had been received in the United States, coupled with some remarks on the attitude of the United States towards France in Mexico. This article marks an important change in the tone of the Moniteur, and all the official press of the empire will feel the effect of it.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure No. 2.—Translation.]

We now know the impression produced in the United States by the decision of the Emperor's government to revoke the measures which had been adopted in our ports at the beginning of the insurrection of the south, in conformity with the ordinary rules of neutrality.

The Washington cabinet does full justice to the sentiments of which France has given proof in removing the restrictions upon the federal navy which resulted from those rules, and in ceasing to recognize in the confederate ships the character of belligerents. It has been pleased to see that the imperial government has been guided by a sincere desire to revive the ancient sympathies of the two peoples, whose reciprocal interests as well as their traditions invite them to cultivate the most cordial relations.

France, in her turn, finds nothing but what is praiseworthy in the attitude of the United States. The federal government has not hesitated to take the necessary measures to prevent the manœuvres of the agents of Juarez.

President Johnson shows himself resolved to enforce the loyal observance of the law relative to enrolments, and the instructions given on this subject to the judicial authorities are being executed.

So, as we said about two months ago, the Washington cabinet, a little before the death of Mr. Lincoln, had declared that it ought in no manner to create difficulties in the way of France in embarrassing the establishment of a regular government in Mexico.

Under the new President the American cabinet has remained faithful to these asssurances, and its conduct, like its language, testify more and more strongly to its intention not to depart from them.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 200.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 17, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 30th ultimo, No. 134, relative to your conversation with the minister of foreign affairs upon the subjects of the steamer Ark and the deserters from the insurgent forces who were sent back by the Mexican general to the insurgents.

I observe that the paper, a copy of which was promised to you by his excellency, did not come. I understand from the Marquis de Montholon that he has papers on the same subject from Mexico. It is to be desired that there may be no unnecessary delay or controversy on the subject.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 201.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 17, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 29th ultimo, No. 133, informing me of the course pursued by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, in regard to the purchase by the Mexican General Mejia, from insurgent officers, of the arms and equipment of a fort in Texas.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 205.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 22, 1865.

SIR: I transmit a copy of a letter of the 12th instant, and of the accompanying papers, addressed to this department by the Acting Assistant Secretary of War, on the subject of affairs on the Rio Grande.

You will bring to the notice of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys the important statements contained in these papers, viz: the opinion expressed by General Mejia that there is a recognizable rebel party in Texas, and that a design is entertained in Mexico to produce an uprising against the United States in Texas, with a view to its annexation to Mexico, or at least to co-operate in maintaining the government of Maximilian. You ask the proper explanations on this subject without unnecessary delay.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Eckert to Mr. Seward.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington City, July* 12, 1865.

SIR: I am instructed by the Secretary of War to transmit, for your information, copies of certain papers relative to the condition of affairs on the Mexican frontier, forwarded to this department by Major General P. H. Sheridan, commanding the military division of the southwest.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS F. ECKERT,
Acting Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

General Brown to Lieutenant Colonel Canby.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Brazos St. Jago, Texas, May 24, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that I visited Bagdad, Mexico, yesterday, and had a personal interview with General Mejia, commanding the imperial forces on the Rio Grande. The general expressed a feeling of kindness towards the government of the United States, and a wish to preserve such a policy as would insure an impartial action upon the troops under his command, between the government of the United States and the rebels, or confederates, as he termed them. He still held to the opinion that, notwithstanding the surrender of the enemy on the east side of the Mississippi river, the rebels in Texas were a recognizable power. I had reliable information that the enemy had practically evacuated

Brownsville, but General Mejia professed not to know anything about it, though the property of the confederate government had been sent over to Matamoras. I am informed, from a source I deem reliable, that General Slaughter has permission from General Mejia to cross into Mexico with his troops at any time when he may deem it necessary to do so; though this is not to be considered as being strictly official information. From all I can learn, the rebels, who intend to continue the contest against the government, are the friends, and are co-operating with the imperial government of Mexico. The peace party and friends of the government of the United States in Texas are the friends of the liberal government or party in that State. This confirms the information I had the honor to transmit in my despatch of the 23d instant.

On the 14th instant a body of troops from this post, who were marching up the east bank of the Rio Grande, were fired upon from the Mexican side. Upon its being reported to General Mejia he promptly disapproved of the act, and I am informed that he arrested three men who were reported to have been guilty of this breach of neutrality, and that he has ordered them to be shot to-morrow morning. An application to supply my command with beef-cattle and horses from Mexico has received the approval of the Mexican commander, but, notwithstanding these acts of apparent fairness, I am of the opinion that one of the strongest influences that are brought to bear upon the people of western Mexico, to induce them to support the imperial government, is that Texas is to be again annexed to that government, or that a protectorate is to be extended over it. I submit these facts for the consideration of the major general commanding.

I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

E. B. BROWN,
Brigadier General Volunteers, Commanding.

Lieutenant Colonel J. S. CANBY,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department Gulf, New Orleans.

General Brown to Colonel Crosby.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Brazos St. Jago, Texas, May 28, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that I have received information that the rebels at Brownsville have broken up, after imprisoning their general (Slaughter) and forcing him to divide the money in his possession. Slaughter has sent the arms and ordnance stores into Matamoras and sold them to the imperial government. Such is the report.

I have ordered the 34th Indiana, and 62d A. D. C., with two pieces of artillery that I have fitted up in an imperfect manner, and to be drawn by mules, across the Boca Chica, and intend to move to White Ranche this evening, and to Brownsville to-morrow.

I shall increase the force, if I deem it necessary, and shall take the command in person.

I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

E. B. BROWN,
Brigadier General Volunteers, Commanding.

Colonel J. SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Assistant Adjutant General, Department Gulf, New Orleans.

General Brown to Colonel Crosby.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Brownsville, Texas, June 2, 1865.

COLONEL: I have the honor to transmit, for the information of the major general commanding, the enclosed copies of a correspondence between General Mejia and myself. When the rebels evacuated this post the guard of citizens that was formed to protect their property was claimed to be a liberal company from Mexico, and, consequently, the representative of the imperial government was apprehensive of aggressive action on the part of my command. The apprehension was increased by the menacing attitude of Negreta and Cortina, who are constantly harassing the imperial forces, and, probably, more from a feeling that the receiving artillery, marked U. S., from the rebel general Slaughter, and the extraordinary relations that have existed for the past four months between the rebels and the imperial government, had placed the representatives of that government in a questionable position. Under these circumstances, I thought proper to forward the letter enclosed, in order to allay the undue alarm that was manifesting itself at Matamoras.

I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

E. B. BROWN,
Brigadier General Commanding.

Lieutenant Colonel SCHUYLER CROSBY,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans.

General Brown to General Mejia.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Brownsville, Texas, May 31, 1865.

GENERAL: In order that you may be informed of the desire on the part of the government of the United States to preserve amicable relations with the republic of Mexico, I have the honor to transmit the following extract from the instructions from the Secretary of State to the commanding officer of the department of the Gulf, and which has been furnished to me for my guidance while in command of the Rio Grande.

[Extract.]

"You have already found that the confusion resulting from civil strife and foreign war in Mexico offers seductions for military enterprise. I have, therefore, to inform you of the exact condition of our relations towards the republic at the present time. We are on terms of amity and friendship, and maintaining diplomatic relations with the republic of Mexico. We regard that country as the theatre of a foreign war, mingled with civil strife. In the conflict we take no part, and, on the contrary, we practice absolute non-intervention and non-interference. In command of the frontier, it will devolve on you, as far as practicable, consistently with your other functions, to prevent aid or supplies being given from the United States to either belligerent."

I am aware, general, that the fact that this town, immediately preceding its occupation by the troops under my command, was, in a measure, protected by persons inimical to the imperial government of Mexico, and the necessity that exists for the employment of men of this class in my operations against the bands of rebels in the country, may be construed into a belligerent feeling towards your government.

I beg leave to assure you that such is not the case, and I repeat to you, formally, what I said in our conversation at Bagdad, that the troops under my command will not be permitted, in any manner, to interfere in the present relations of Mexico.

The same assurance has been given to members of the liberal party of Mexico, now residing at this post.

With considerations of respect, I am, general, your obedient servant,

E. B. BROWN,
Brigadier General Commanding.

Major General MEJIA,
Commanding Matamoras, Mexico.

General Canedo to General Osterhaus.

MATAMORAS, MEXICO, *June* 4, 1865.

GENERAL: In accordance with your instructions I arrived here a few days since, and have had but little of importance to communicate upon the L. S. project as yet. I I would beg leave to recall to the recollection of the general-in chief that I mentioned Mr. J. A. Quintero as one of the parties concerned in the affair, and that he had had an interview with Marshal Bazaine, in January last, in relation to it. Mr. Quintero was here last week in close conference with General Mejia, and returned again immediately to Monterey, and will be here again in a week. He is ostensibly enlisted in the imperial cause, but in reality is working for an uprising in Texas, the French and Mexicans to hold the frontier.

Of the other parties concerned in the enterprise two have gone to Europe, and one was heard of in Montgomery, two hours before General Wilson's entry into that place, endeavoring to purchase horses to go to Texas. One is now in San Antonio, and when I see Mr. Quintero I will know what is expected of me.

The citizens and foreign residents of this place are wholly enlisted in the imperial cause. Fortifications are being thrown up from bank to bank, encircling the city. There are thirty-five guns now here for defence. There are about six hundred Belgian troops and two battalions of Mexicans here. Four thousand infantry, artillery, and cavalry have just been sent off to Camargo, while two thousand French troops are looked for from the sea-board. A camp of instruction has been established at Monterey. An officer, formerly in the rebel service, is now here engaged in raising a regiment of Texans for service with the imperialists.

To sum up, it seems the enterprise I spoke of has received a sudden shock from the rapid successes of the federal arms, but is by no means extinct. What the delegation now gone to Europe may effect, with those that are to follow, remains to be seen; but certainly the feeling and spirit evinced by the confederates generally, and Texans in particular, is most decidedly in favor of an uprising in Texas, or at least assisting the imperialists against its enemies, particularly the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. H. CANEDO.

Major General P. J. OSTERHAUS,
Chief of Staff, New Orleans.

Through Brigadier General BROWN,
Commanding United States Forces, Brownsville, Texas.

General Mejia to General Brown.

[Translation.]

No. 180.] MATAMORAS, *May* 31, 1865.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make answer to the note you have been pleased to address to me of this date, to inform me of the wish of the United States to maintain friendly relations with the republic of Mexico. For this purpose you send me a copy of the instructions which the Secretary of State transmitted to the department of the Gulf, pointing out the neutral course he should observe, in view of the manner in which the United States consider the political situation of Mexico, and the state in which the relations of amity existing between both countries rest.

Allow me, general, to reply with my soldierly frankness. Although I ignore that there exists in Mexico the republic and foreign war, I regard with great interest the friendly sentiments of the United States towards my country, and I esteem, at their just value, the orders which in this sense emanate from your government.

And what wishes do the government of his Majesty the Emperor Maximilian foster in relation to the United States? I have the honor to transcribe here the following instructions which, in this respect, have been communicated to me by his excellency the marshal commander-in-chief:

"The government of Washington, explaining certain reports which gave room to believe that the authorities at New Orleans, or rather the federal forces in Texas, gave aid against us to some guerillas and dissident chiefs, has given assurance that the instructions sent to the federal authorities prescribed to them the strictest neutrality. It is, therefore, very proper, that in reciprocation we should use all the vigilance possible to prevent the confederates from making in Mexican territory or Mexican waters any attack or movement against their adversaries, or meeting any support, although indirect."

I think it useless to add, general, that I am disposed to comply exactly with the wishes of my government, and that I entertain sufficient confidence that the authorities of the United States will have the will and the power necessary to repress whatever act of hostility might be in preparation against my country within the territory of the Union.

Please accept, general, the assurances of my high esteem.

General MEJIA,
Commanding General, &c., &c.

Brigadier General E. B. BROWN,
Commanding U. S. Forces at Brownsville.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 206.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 24, 1865.

SIR: Some observers who possibly are suspicious, but who certainly are known to be shrewd, infer from the tone of the ministerial press, and of that portion of the other press in Italy which more demonstratively sympathizes with the French government, that a project is on foot which contemplates an addition from Italy to the French army now engaged in Mexico, and with a view to hostilities against the United States. It is not believed here that either the Italian or French government entertains such a design. Nevertheless, existing circumstances render it important to the United States to know what measure of truth there is in statements of this character, and certainly it is only dealing justly and properly with the powers concerned, to bring the statements to their knowledge with a view to any explanations they may be prepared to give. I have, therefore, by the President's direction, taken measures to communicate with the government of Italy in an unofficial way, and will thank you to bring the same subject to the notice of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in a friendly manner.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 207.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 25, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 6th instant, No. 136, with two enclosures, relative to the alleged infringements of neutrality in favor of the insurgents on the Rio Grande, in the case of the steamer Ark, and that of the delivery up of southern deserters to the insurgents, has been received, and will engage attention.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 213.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 28, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 6th of July, enclosing a copy and translation of a statement in regard to the case of the steamer Ark, and to the delivery up by the French troops of a party of insurgent deserters to the insurgent forces in Texas, has been received.

A further inquiry will be made in regard to the steamer, and the statement concerning the deserters will be communicated to the Secretary of War for his information.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 214.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 28, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 11th instant, No. 140, transmitting a copy of correspondence between the minister for foreign affairs and the minister of war, in explanation of the alleged purchase of artillery and munitions by General Mejia from the insurgents at Brownsville, and showing the disapproval of the imperial government of any such transaction. These guns and munitions, probably, have been already restored to the United States military authorities. Whatever may have been the facts of the transfer, it gives this government great satisfaction to find our confidence in the honorable disposition of France fully confirmed by the correspondence accompanying your despatch.

A copy of your communication has been sent to the Secretary of War for his information.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 215.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 31, 1865.

SIR: I enclose a translation of a note of the 4th instant,* and a copy of the accompaniments to which it refers, addressed to this department by Mr. Romero, the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic accredited to this government, relative to a supposed understanding between the insurgent commanders in Texas and the French commander in the adjacent quarter of Mexico, and to an alleged co-operation between them, for the purpose of preventing the recovery of Matamoras from its present possession. Supposing the papers referred to in Mr. Romero's communication to be genuine, they seem to require explanation from the French authorities, which you will consequently request of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 216.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 31, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 14th instant, No. 145 and its enclosures, have been received. The information which you give of the friendly change in the tone of the French journals is very satisfactory.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 154] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, August 5, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your despatch, No. 192, I have the honor to transmit herewith, in three enclosures, copies of a letter upon the subject-matter of that despatch addressed by me to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs on the 26th ultimo, and a copy and translation of his reply received yesterday.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c

[Enclosure No. 1.]

Mr. Bigelow to M. Drouyn de Lhuys.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, July 26, 1865.

SIR: Referring to a conversation which I had the honor to hold with your excellency on the 6th instant, in reference to the delivery of cannon and other munitions of war by some of the rebel commanders in Texas to the Mexican general commanding at Matamoras, and

* These enclosures will be submitted in a future communication to Congress.

referring also to the very satisfactory communication which I had the honor subsequently to receive from the Emperor's government upon the subject, it becomes my duty to invite your excellency's attention to the following supplementary representations.

Authentic information has reached my government that most of the rebel leaders of military rank in Texas, including Generals Smith, Magruder, Shelby, Slaughter, and Walker, together with numerous large and small bands of rebel soldiers and citizens, amounting to two thousand in number, crossed the Rio Grande and found asylum in Mexico after the capitulation of the insurgent commander; that everything on wheels, artillery, horses, mules, in fact all the public property that could be moved, were also carried over the border after the capitulation, but before the United States forces could occupy the country; that among other things thus carried away, of which information has reached me since I had the honor of bringing these border difficulties to your excellency's attention, was the steamer "Lucy Given," or "Gwin," which was surrendered at Matagorda and is now anchored at Bagdad, on the Rio Grande; and some 850 bales of cotton which were included in the capitulation and stored at Rio Grande City.

I regret to add that it is the impression of the federal general commanding that division of our army that persons calling themselves the representatives of the imperial government of Mexico have encouraged this extensive plunder of property belonging to the United States government, and also that the French officers in that vicinity have incurred the reproach of being very unfriendly and offensive in their bearing towards the citizens of the United States at Brownsville.

I hasten to bring these facts to your excellency's attention, in order, first, that the directions given by his excellency the minister of war, referred to in his communication to your excellency bearing date July 1st, may be extended, if not sufficiently comprehensive already, so as to insure the prompt restoration of the steamer "Lucy Given," or "Gwin," the 850 bales of cotton taken from Rio Grande City, as well as the artillery, carriages, horses, mules, &c., previously taken away by the rebels and their abettors; and, secondly, that all persons under the control of the Emperor's government may be instructed to avoid, as much as possible, a language or demeanor calculated to aggravate the difficulties of preserving peace on a frontier at the confluence of so many irritating influences. Animated by the spirit with which it is hoped this request will be received, my government has issued renewed instructions to the general commanding the United States military forces in Texas "to permit no aggressive movements of troops under his command within Mexican territory, unless under special instructions to that effect from the War Department, which shall be rendered necessary by a condition of affairs not now anticipated."

I pray your excellency to accept assurances of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be,

Your excellency's very obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

His Excellency Monsieur DROUYN DE LHUYS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

[Enclosure No. 3.—Translation.]

Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys to Mr. Bigelow.

PARIS, *August* 1, 1855.

SIR: I have received the note which you did me the honor to address to me on the 26th ultimo, concerning certain facts said to have occurred on the frontiers of Texas and Mexico, and to be of a nature to attract the attention of the government of the Emperor.

You recall on this occasion the communications which passed between us in reference to a similar incident, namely, the delivery of the artillery of Brownsville to the authorities at Matamoras. Information recently received in France, and which was reproduced in the newspapers, has made known to us the satisfactory solution given to that affair. Before our instructions, recommending the restoration of this property to the federal authorities, had time to reach Mexico, General Mejia had, of his own accord, ordered its surrender to the commander at Brownsville. This voluntary decision shows dispositions which, I doubt not, will be appreciated by the cabinet at Washington. The same information states, moreover, that the most friendly relations had been established between the military commanders of the United States and of Mexico in that part of the frontiers of the two countries.

You do me the honor to mention to me, in your communication of July 26, the passing over into the Mexican territory of a certain number of confederate generals, who, with some two thousand persons, soldiers and others, are said to have, after the capitulation, crossed the Rio Grande, taking with them their artillery, horses, mules, &c., all of which were the property of the federal government.

I am not yet in a position to offer you any explanations on this point; but, from what we know of the views of the Mexican government, those proceedings would be entirely contrary to its intentions.

As for the steamer Lucy Given, or Gwin, and the 850 bales of cotton included in the capitulation, which are said to have been transferred to Mexican territory, I am also obliged to wait before answering your demand, for the information which I have asked, both from the French military authorities and from the government of Mexico.

Accept assurances of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be, sir, your very humble and very obedient servant,

DROUYN DE LHUYS.

Mr. BIGELOW,
Minister of the United States, &c., &c., &c., Paris.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 234.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 25, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 154, of the 5th instant, which is accompanied by a copy of the correspondence which passed between yourself and Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys upon the subject of certain property, belonging to the United States, which was delivered by the insurgents in Texas to the general commanding at Matamoras. Your proceedings therein recited are fully approved. As far as relates to the affair at Matamoras, the action of the French government is satisfactory.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 166.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, August 31, 1865.

SIR: At my interview with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys to-day, and after disposing of the matters referred to in my despatch of this date marked "confidential," I alluded to the unhappy consequences of M. Roaher's attempt in the corps legislatif to quote from a conversation which had passed between Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys and myself in reference to Mexico. I expressed my regret that I had not then availed myself of his offer to make a correction in the Moniteur of the minister of state's statement, and then remarked that the speech in question had given such importance to our correspondence as to render it necessary for you to define with greater precision than I, in a somewhat desultory conversation, had deemed it necessary to do, the attitude which the United States occupied in reference to France and Mexico. I then read to him your despatch No. 187.

Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys said, by way of comment, that France neither asked nor expected from the United States anything more than neutrality in reference to Mexico—at least for the moment; that you had insisted that Mr. Davis, though occupying a large territory with a large army, was not a belligerent; and you now insisted that Juarez, without an army and without a government that any one could find, represented the sovereign power of Mexico. He did not agree with you on either of these points, but he could not object to your holding these views. As long as we observed the neutrality promised in your despatch, he felt that we were doing all they had a right to require of us. In regard to your letter, he said he did not see that it differed materially from what I had represented; that I had never pretended that the people of the United States were not more partial to a republican than to a monarchical form of gov-

ernment, nor had he ever supposed the contrary, but he could not suppose that we would prefer to perpetuate brigandage and misrule, under the name of republicanism, rather than have order and security in Mexico, even under a monarchical form of government.

Here, owing to the lateness of the hour and an interruption, it was necessary to bring our interview to a rather premature close, to my regret. There were several points raised in the course of his conversation to-day on which I would have liked to return, but must trust to some future opportunity for that satisfaction.

Meantime I remain, sir, your very obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

[Extract.]

No 259.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 6, 1865.

SIR: I have submitted to the President the letter which you wrote at Dieppe on the 21st of August, and which was marked unofficial. In that letter you discuss at large the present aspect of the relations between the United States and France as they are affected by the situation in Mexico.

On this subject this government does not think itself called upon to volunteer opinions, counsel, or advice, or gratuitously to offer explanations to the governments of Europe. On the contrary, we have been content to stand upon what we have already very frequently set forth, while every proper care has been taken to prevent or allay irritations which might tend to bring about unexpected and undesired collisions. It is possible, however, that the French government may think it proper to ask you for explanations to some extent of the President's opinions and policy.

This paper is intended to enable you, in such a case, to submit to the imperial government, in an earnest and yet altogether friendly manner, certain views which the President has taken of the political situation in Mexico. Those views are by no means new, and they are as distinct and full as the present condition of the question involved enables us to express.

It can hardly be deemed necessary to repeat on this occasion what has been so often and so constantly avowed by this government, namely, that the people of the United States cherish a traditional friendship towards France. We also habitually indulge a conviction that the existence of friendly relations between the United States and France is by no means unfavorable to the interests of that great nation. These sentiments have survived the many interesting national changes which, during the present century, have occurred in the two countries concerned, and they may therefore be deemed to be independent of all merely partisan or dynastic influences in the one country or in the other.

It is perceived with much regret that an apparent if not a real, a future if not an immediate, antagonism between the policies of the two nations seems to reveal itself in the situation of Mexico before mentioned. The United States have at no time left it doubtful that they prefer to see a domestic and republican system of government prevail in Mexico rather than any other system. This preference results from the fact that the Constitution of the United States itself is domestic and republican, and from a belief that not only its constituent parts ought to preserve the same form and character, but that, so far as is practically and justly attainable by the exercise of moral influences, the many American

states by which the United States are surrounded shall be distinguished by the same peculiarities of government. I think it not improper to add, that although the Constitution of this government and the habits of the American people formed under it disincline us from political propagandism, and although they still more strongly disincline us from seeking aggrandizement by means of military conquest, yet that the nation has, at various times since its organization, found it necessary for expansion, and that the like necessity may reasonably be expected to occur hereafter. That expansion has thus far been effected by the annexation of adjacent peoples, who have come into the Union through their own consent as constituent republican States under the Constitution of the United States. To these two facts may be added the general one that peace and friendship between the United States and other nations on this continent, and, consequently, the advance of civilization in this hemisphere, seem to us more likely to be secured when the other American states assimilate to our own.

It is hardly necessary for me to indicate wherein the present attitude and proceedings of the French government in regard to Mexico seem to be variant from the policy and sentiments of the United States which I have thus described. I may remark, however, in general terms, that France appears to us to be lending her great influence, with a considerable military force, to destroy the domestic republican government in Mexico, and to establish there an imperial system under the sovereignty of an European prince, who, until he assumed the crown, was a stranger to that country.

We do not insist or claim that Mexico and the other states on the American continent shall adopt the political institutions to which we are so earnestly attached, but we do hold that the peoples of those countries are entitled to exercise the freedom of choosing and establishing institutions like our own, if they are preferred. In no case can we in any way associate ourselves with efforts of any party or nation to deprive the people of Mexico of that privilege.

Passing by all historical questions connected with the subject as not now necessarily requiring discussion, I have next to remark that this government finds itself neither less obliged nor less disposed at the present moment than it has hitherto been to adhere to its settled policy. Perhaps the French government may be supposed to have taken notice of the fact that, owing to the popular character of our government, our national policy is not adopted from the choice of any President or of any particular administration, and that, on the contrary, every important or cardinal policy is a result of the determination of the national will legally expressed in the manner appointed and prescribed by the Constitution. Experience has shown that, in every case, any policy which has arisen from such popular sources, and which has been perseveringly supported by the general national conviction through a long series of years, has been found to be essential to the safety and welfare of the Union.

The intense popular interest which was awakened by the prevalence of a civil war of vast proportions during a few years past has tended in some degree to moderate the solicitude which the situation of foreign affairs was calculated to create; but that interest is now rapidly subsiding, and it may be reasonably anticipated that henceforth the Congress of the United States and the people in their primary assemblies will give a very large share of attention to questions of extraneous character, and chief among these is likely to be that of our relations towards France with regard to Mexico. Nor does it seem unwise to take into consideration the fact that the presence of military forces of the two nations, sometimes confronting each other across the border, has a tendency, which both of them may well regret, to produce irritation and annoyance. The French government has not shown itself inattentive to this inconvenience hitherto, while this government has been desirous to practice equal prudence. But a time seems to have come when both nations may well consider whether the

permanent interests of international peace and friendship do not require the exercise of a thoughtful and serious attention to the political questions to which I have thus adverted.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 263.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 13, 1865.

SIR: I transmit a copy of a correspondence between this department and the minister of France, in regard to the case of the United States merchant steamer Sonora, now in the port of Tampico, in the hands of insurgents, and the restoration of which to her proper owner, Mr. F. Clavel, of New Orleans, is sought by this government.* I also transmit a copy of a despatch of the 24th of June last, No. 24, from Franklin Chase, esq., United States consul general at Tampico.

You will be pleased to lay the facts of the case before the imperial government, and to request that French agents at Tampico may be instructed to do what they properly can towards enabling Mr. Clavel to recover his property.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Chase to Mr. Hunter.

No. 24.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Tampico, June 27, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith copies of the correspondence passed between this consulate and the prefecto politico of this district, in relation to the steamer Sonora, to which I beg to invite your attention.

The steamer Granite City, formerly belonging to our navy, which came into this port as a blockade runner, late in the month of March last, under the name of Three Marys, displaying the secession flag, is still in this port; also the steamer Jeanette, under British colors. These three vessels are the last of the arrivals from the coast of Texas.

Presuming that the movements of the Granite City might be of interest to our government, I reported her presence here to the honorable the Secretary of the Navy, in my despatches to that functionary, dated respectively 10th and 17th ultimo.

The feeling in this place is still so much in favor of the late southern insurrection, that I have but little or no hopes of anything favorable resulting from my interference in the case of the Sonora, and I would respectfully suggest that a vessel-of-war should be sent here forthwith, to demand her immediate restoration to her owner.

I am, with great respect, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANKLIN CHASE.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER,
Acting Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.

No. 1.

Mr. Chase to the Prefecto Politico.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Tampico, June 20, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acquaint you that the steamer which arrived in this port on the 12th instant, from the coast of Texas, under the assumption of British nationality, is in reality

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* This enclosure appears in correspondence with the French legation.

the American steamer Sonora, belonging to Felix Clavel, esq., of the city of New Orleans, where she was duly and properly documented; but while in the prosecution of a legal trading voyage from New Orleans to Matamoras, she was unlawfully captured when at anchor in the waters of Brazos, by a boat with a crew of armed men, who overpowered the captain and crew, and escaped with her to the coast of Texas, then in possession of the so-called confederate forces.

As a matter of duty to investigate still further the character of the steamer in question, I have had an interview with Frederick Johnson, esq., her Britannic Majesty's consul at this port, upon this subject, who informs me that she is not entitled to the protection of his government, and that he has warned the captain of the consequences of making a false use of the flag of his country.

Although not officially, still I am credibly informed that all the so-called confederate forces west of the Mississippi, under the command of General Kirby Smith, were surrendered by that chief to Major General Canby, of the federal forces, on the 26th day of May last, thus giving the final blow to that insurrection which for a length of time had been so disastrous to the United States. I mention this circumstance to show that while in the confusion of the reoccupation of the ports of Texas by the federal forces the Sonora escaped, with a few bales of cotton, which have been landed in this port; consequently she did not depart from a port held in armed rebellion against the United States, because the whole State of Texas, by virtue of the above-mentioned surrender, has again come under the laws and the government of the said United States, and thus her departure therefrom cannot now be considered as from an enemy's port to any party or power. Hence the time seems to have arrived when those privileges which have been granted by foreign powers to a forced trade with the enemies of the United States have no further existence.

Under these circumstances, I beg to express the hope that your honor will be pleased to consider it an act of justice to detain the Sonora, until her legitimate owner can have time to appear here, or to produce documentary evidence in reclamation of his property thus unlawfully wrested from him.

I improve this occasion to renew to your honor the assurances of my distinguished consideration and particular respect,

FRANKLIN CHASE.

Hon. JESUS DE LA SERNA,
Prefecto Politico, &c., &c., &c., of the southern district of Tamaulipas.

No. 2.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN EMPIRE, POLITICAL PREFECTURE OF THE DISTRICT SOUTH OF TAMAULIPAS, *Tampico, June* 23, 1865.

Mr. CONSUL: The business relating to the steamer Sonora, of which you treat in your esteemed note dated 21st instant, has been transferred to the court of first instance of this district, that it may proceed in what may be needful pertaining to its exclusive jurisdiction, reserving to myself to send you the result when the judicial authority may determine what it considers to be proper.

The occasion, Mr. Consul, offers me that of protesting to you my distinguished consideration and esteem.

JESUS DE LA SERNA,
The political prefect ad interim.

P. S. GARCIA, *Secretary.*

CONSUL GENERAL, *of the U. S. of America at this port, present.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 264.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 20, 1865.

SIR: At an early period of the war between France and Mexico a body of native negro Egyptian troops was put by the Pacha of Egypt at the service of the Emperor of the French, by whose direction they were conveyed from Egypt to Mexico, where they were incorporated in the French service. It has been represented that the embarcation of the negroes on that destination was involuntary, and was effected not without compulsion. I am not prepared to say

that the statement is absolutely accurate in this latter respect. The proceeding excited much comment at the time, but it passed unnoticed by this government, which was then seriously occupied with a peculiar condition of merely domestic affairs, and with the foreign embarrassments which grew out of that condition. It is now represented to this government that a second embarcation of the same character and with the same destination and purposes is contemplated. Since the original transaction occurred the United States have abolished slavery. The attention of Congress, as well as that of the executive department and of the country, has been very steadily fixed upon the course of events in Mexico, which I need not say form a subject of serious apprehension with regard to the safety of free republican institutions on this continent—an object with which we are accustomed to connect the desired ultimate consequence of the abolition of every form of compulsory civil or military servitude in this hemisphere.

You are instructed to bring this matter to the attention of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, and state to him that, in the opinion of this government, the renewal of the transaction alluded to could not be regarded with favor or even without deep concern by the people of the United States or by their government. It is proper for you to inform Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys that I have written upon the subject in the same sense herein adopted to the diplomatic agents of the United States residing, respectively, at Alexandria and Constantinople.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 177.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED SATES,
Paris, September 21, 1865.

SIR: I profited by an opportunity which presented itself to-day at the reception of the minister of foreign affairs to recall what his excellency had said at our last interview about the gradual withdrawal of the French army from Mexico, for the purpose of mentioning a report which had reached me from our consul in Egypt, that six hundred of the Pacha's subjects of the Soudan were daily expected to embark for Mexico to re-enforce the invading army. I remarked that such a report was likely to provoke comment, and therefore I felt a desire to know, if he was disposed to tell me, how much foundation it had in truth. Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys said that he believed there were some troops raised some time ago in Egypt; he did not know how many, but he gave me the impression that he was not aware of anything on the way at this moment. Their capacity to resist the diseases of the Mexican coast led the government to look in that quarter for soldiers to garrison the unhealthy regions of Mexico. But he went on to add, that whatever may be the number of troops gone or going from Egypt to Mexico, what he had said about the actual reduction of the French army in Mexico was none the less true. Since seeing me, he had taken pains to verify in the proper quarter what he had stated to me as his conviction. The reduction, he added, would go on as fast as possible, for the Emperor was very anxious to get out of the country. How fast they could reduce, he said, would depend a great deal upon the United States. It was their wish to retire as soon as they could leave their interests in Mexico properly protected.

I said that his excellency surely could not have expected our government to go further than it had already gone to show its forbearance, or words to that effect. "No," he replied, "my last letters from Mr. Montholon are very satis-

factory. So much so, that I sent a line yesterday to the Emperor on the subject." I told him, in substance, that he ought by this time to feel satisfied that our government had no disposition unnecessarily to embarrass the government of the Emperor.

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I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant.

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 269.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 25, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 31st of August No. 165, has been received. I have read carefully the account you have given therein of your conversation held with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys on that day upon the special subject of the intercepted Gwyn correspondence and the general subject of Mexican relations.

I agree with the minister for foreign affairs in his concluding suggestion, that, so far as possible, direct and verbal communications upon such delicate matters are to be preferred over formal ones. I am, moreover, well pleased with the general spirit and tone manifested by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in that conversation. Beyond these points he will hardly expect a minister of the United States to coincide. The unpleasant interpellation about Dr. Gwyn, as Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys calls it, was a consequence, a remote one indeed, but still a consequence, of the Emperor's giving private audience to Dr. Gwyn, a traitor acting in the interest of an insurrection against this government. Aware that such consequences must follow such suspected audiences, this department and this government declines in every case to give audience to such emissaries as Gwyn coming from States with which we are holding diplomatic relations.

It is well, I think, for both the French government and that of the United States, to avoid the giving and the unnecessary taking of offence. The object of each is to avert misunderstandings and not to make them. It is useless to try to do that unless we can successfully abstain from everything that might provoke irritation. It must be easy to see that the people of the United States have sensibilities as profound as those of the French people. The government of the United States may well be believed to have sensibilities as tender as those of France herself.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 270.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 25, 1865.

SIR: I acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 31st ultimo N o. 166 relative to your interview of that date with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, in regard to Mexican questions. Your proceedings on that occasion are approved. With regard to the views expressed by Mr. de Lhuys there is no occasion for special comment.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 274.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 25, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 21st of June last, No. 120, giving me a copy of a note of the 17th of that month from Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, in reply to yours correcting the statement made by the minister of state, concerning your representations upon the subject of Mexican affairs. You will pardon the delay which has occurred in making this acknowledgment, and which has been unavoidable.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 180.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, October 6, 1865.

SIR: I had the honor yesterday to submit to the minister of foreign affairs your despatch of the 6th of September, defining the President's policy in reference to France as affected by her intervention in Mexico.

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I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 181.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, October 6, 1865.

SIR: Nothing has come from the other side of the Atlantic since my residence in France which has given more general satisfaction than the President's recent address to the delegates from the southern States. The Moniteur published it at length. The Constitutionel of the 30th September devotes an article to the address, which commences as follows:

"President Johnson has set out boldly in a path whither the sympathetic encouragements of every sincere and enlightened friend of the United States cannot fail to follow him."

In the concluding paragraph the writer says, that "after the terrible trials which the United States have experienced, and which it was impossible for a nation always friendly as France, has been, not to feel, it is a special good fortune for the Americans, we might almost say providential, to be ruled by a man who has known how to withdraw himself so promptly from pernicious influences and to rise to the height of one of the greatest situations that can be imagined."

La France publishes the speech, and characterizes it as a very remarkable speech. I send by this mail a copy of The France of the 22d September, in which will be found an article devoted to our President, in which the writer says apropos of the President's speech, published in its columns the day previous, "It is a model of benevolence, uprightness, and good sense."

I also send a copy of the Avenir Nationale of the 2d October, which appreciates the speech in a like friendly spirit.

The Moniteur of the 30th says: "A Vienna correspondent announces that enrolments for Mexico would be resumed soon in Austria, but these enrolments would be made for the national (Mexican) army, and not for the foreign legion. A number of officers have already inscribed themselves. A knowledge of the Spanish language is required for admission. The troops will meet at Layback."

I yesterday met the Austrian chargé d'affaires at the ministry of foreign affairs, who told me that the soldiers who enlisted were expected to become Mexicans, but that the officers would not cease to be Austrians. He promised to procure for me copies of the articles which they respectively were to sign, if he could.

Your letter to Mr. Adams in reference to the debt of the Confederate States is also the subject of general discussion. In addition to what will be found in papers taken by the Department of State, I send you a copy of La France of the 1st instant, in which it is said that "the federal government in refusing to recognize this loan was incontestably in the right."

The Debats of the 1st instant, and in subsequent numbers, vindicates your course without reserve.

In the same spirit is an article in the Avenir Nationale, which I forward today, of the date of October 4.

I send these notes merely to aid you a little in gleaning such French newspaper impressions of our affairs as may interest you.

I have only to add that President Johnson's praises are now in every one's mouth here.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 283.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 9, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 21st ultimo, No. 177, containing an account of your conversation with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in regard to the reduction of the French forces in Mexico, has been received, and will be taken into consideration. An instruction of the 20th ultimo, No. 264, will have placed you in possession of the views of this government in regard to the compulsory transportation of Egyptian negro troops by France to Mexico.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 285.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 13, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your despatch of the 11th of July, No. 140, and to my reply of the 28th of that month, upon the subject of the alleged purchase by General Mejia of guns and ammunition from the insurgents in Texas, I have to state for your information, that in a letter of the 9th instant from the Secretary of War, this department is informed that Major General Sheridan reports, under date of August 6, that the artillery in question was turned over to Brigadier General Brown, United States volunteers, on the 8th of July, 1865, at Brownsville, Texas, by Major General Mejia.

You will avail yourself of a convenient opportunity to express to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys the President's satisfaction at the honorable and friendly course of the French authorities in relation to this matter.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 186.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, October 18, 1865.

SIR: I waited upon his excellency M. Drouyn de Lhuys on Tuesday, the 17th instant, at his request, and among the matters brought under discussion was your despatch No. 264, of the 20th September, in reference to recruiting in Egypt for Mexico, which I read to him on Thursday last. His excellency said that the Emperor entertained no doubt of his perfect right to avail himself of the courtesy of an ally to strengthen his army, whenever and wherever he had occasion to do so; that the Pacha had placed at his disposition already some of his soldiers, who stood the climate of parts of Mexico better than Europeans, and had promised him more. There was no treaty nor written engagement between them on the subject—simply a verbal understanding. It so happened, however, that in consequence of an insurrection which has broken out in the Soudan, the Pacha has need of all his troops, and therefore the project of recruiting in his dominions is for the present arrested. His excellency repeated his previous statement that the Emperor did not mean by this explanation to countenance any doubt of his right to enter into any arrangements with any foreign power for military aid when he had need of it.

I then asked if the purpose of taking troops from Egypt was finally and definitively abandoned. He said no, he could not say it was definitively abandoned, though the government had no definite intention of renewing it. It was one of those prerogatives which, while they claimed the right, they had no present intention to exercise.

I then observed that the question raised by my government in your despatch was not the Emperor's abstract right to recruit his army from among the subjects of his allies, if they invited him to do so, but whether he would practically insist upon taking Egyptian slaves, in the uniform of soldiers. to do military or other service in Mexico. I remarked that it was represented to our government that the troops in question were not levied upon any equitable system of enrolment, but were seized by soldiers of the Pacha, dragged away so far from their homes as to be unable to find their way back, pressed into the army where they had no civil or political guarantees whatsoever, and, in point of fact, were taken for the Pacha's army in the same way, and by the same means, that the King of Dahomey uses to stock his slave market. Such, said I, is the popular impression, and such seems to be the impression left upon the mind of the President, as it certainly was on mine, by the communication received from our consul general at Alexandria. His excellency said that he did not know how the soldiers were levied by the Pacha, but should inquire about it; that his army was composed of men of different colors and nationalities; that all governments required more or less of involuntary military service in time of war, and that men thus impressed hardly deserved to be called slaves. I said that was a question of fact; that you did not say absolutely that the service of the Pacha's troops levied for Mexico was servile, but that such was reported to you to be the fact; and such, I added, was the presumption; that we, as a nation, had suffered bitterly from the institution of slavery, and that we naturally could not contem-

plate with composure the possibility of its being planted in a neighboring country, under any disguise whatever. Waiving, therefore, the abstract right asserted by the Emperor, which I had no occasion to discuss, even if I found myself unable to agree with his Majesty, I begged his excellency to inform me, in case it should appear that the troops levied by the Pacha for the Emperor were seized without any enrolment and without any recognition of their civil state and rights as citizens, whether France, the first to set the example to the world of emancipating her slaves, would accept them? He replied promptly, "By no means. The government of the Emperor will have nothing to do with the propagation or encouragement of slavery." He added that he should, for his own information—the practical question you had presented to him having been disposed of by events, and therefore not requiring him to inquire officially—take steps to ascertain how the troops of the Pacha were levied for Mexico.

I said I would thank him to do so, and that I should also endeavor myself to obtain more precise information upon the subject. I concluded by saying that I should have pleasure in informing you—

First, that the levy of Egyptian troops referred to in your letter was not to be used in the re-enforcement of the French army in Mexico.

Second, that the Emperor at no time contemplated the enrolment of slaves into his army in Mexico, or elsewhere.

This communication will be submitted to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys before it is posted.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 293.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 30, 1865.

SIR: I have your despatch of October 6, No. 180. While you have very properly given us the inferences which you drew from the conversation of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys, which was elicited by the reading of my despatch of September 6, you have, at the same time, implied that he would probably return to the subject at a later day. The President waits with very considerable interest for the views of the French government. Whatever has occurred in connexion with the subject since my despatch was written has tended to enhance that interest.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

[Extract.]

No. 300.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: * * * * * *

I will proceed to discuss the subject, and leave you to present the opinions of the President to such extent and in such manner as your own views of propriety shall suggest. The President feels himself bound to adhere to the opinion set forth in my despatch No. 259, which has, as we understand, been already read

to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys. The presence and operations of a French army in Mexico, and its maintenance of an authority there, resting upon force and not the free will of the people of Mexico, is a cause of serious corncern to the United States. Nevertheless, the objection of the United States is still broader, and includes the authority itself which the French army is thus maintaining. That authority is in direct antagonism to the policy of this government and the principle upon which it is founded.

Every day's experience of its operations only adds some new confirmation of the justice of the views which this government expressed at the time the attempt to institute that authority first became known. The United States have hitherto practiced the utmost frankness on that subject.

They still regard the effort to establish permanently a foreign and imperial government in Mexico as disallowable and impracticable. For these reasons they could not now agree to compromise the position they have heretofore assumed. They are not prepared to recognize, or to pledge themselves hereafter to recognize, any political institutions in Mexico which are in opposition to the republican government with which we have so long and so constantly maintained relations of amity and friendship. I need hardly repeat my past assurances of our sincere desire to preserve our inherited relations of friendship with France. This desire greatly increases our regret that no communications, formal or informal, which have been received from the government of that country seem to justify us in expecting that France is likely soon to be ready to remove, as far as may depend upon her, the cause of our deep concern for the harmony of the two nations.

The suggestion which you make of a willingness on the part of France to propose a revision of the commercial relations between the two countries is not regarded as having emanated from the government of the empire. However that may be, it is hardly necessary to say that we should not be dwelling so earnestly upon the branch of political relations if it had not been our conviction that those relations at the present moment supersede those of commerce in the consideration of the American people.

Believe me to be always faithfully yours,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 302.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 6, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your note of the 19th of October. I assume that your information in regard to the discontinuance of the project for Egyptian levies in Mexico is correct; it remains, therefore, for me to express the satisfaction of this government at that result.

I remain, dear sir, yours sincerely,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 309.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 14, 1865.

SIR: I have received your despatch of the 18th of October, No. 186, in which you give me the substance of a conversation held between yourself and

Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys on the 17th ultimo, upon the subject of the re-enforcement of the French army in Mexico by recruiting troops in Egypt.

You are instructed to say to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys that the disposition of this matter by the Emperor's government is received with sincere satisfaction by the government of the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Montagnie to Mr. Seward.

No. 114.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Nantes, November 16, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the ship which sailed yesterday from St. Nazaire to Vera Cruz carried four hundred soldiers for the so-called Emperor of Mexico. One hundred and fifty were French; the rest belonged to the so-called "foreign legion."

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

JOHN DE LA MONTAGNIE, *Consul.*

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 199.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 21, 1865.

SIR: I shall send you by this post a copy of La France of the 19th instant, containing an extraordinary article in defence of the French occupation of Mexico, from the pen of Lamartine. I should not trouble you to read this or anything else that Lamartine has written about the United States since his unsuccessful appeal to American charity some ten years since, but for its appearance in the columns of a *quasi* official journal and for the comments which introduced it to the public. La France is edited by M. de la Guerronière, a senator, who is supposed to enjoy in a special degree the confidence of his sovereign, and to be a perfectly legitimate aspirant to the portfolio of foreign affairs whenever it becomes vacant. The language of commendation, therefore, bestowed by La France upon "the masterly style," "lofty inspiration," and "strong thoughts" of Mr. Lamartine's rhodomontade gives it a certain importance which the effusions of his brain alone have long ceased to possess. The thesis which Mr. Lamartine attempts to elaborate, and which Senator La Guerronière deems worthy of a conspicuous place in the columns of La France, is the following:

"The globe is the property of man. The new continent, America, is the property of Europe."

In elaborating this doctrine in justification of "the generous and eminently civilizing purpose which has directed the imperial policy" of his sovereign in Mexico, Mr. Lamartine finds occasion to void all his ignorance and venom—and it is difficult to say in this case which most abounds—upon the people and government of the United States. Here is a specimen of both:

"We can easily understand that this people possess as yet hardly any elements of an American literature. The Mexicans before the conquest, the so-called savages of Montezuma, the Peruvians with their *quippos*, (pœnis,) were in this respect greatly in advance of them. The gigantic monuments left by the Aztecs give evidences of intellect and power far superior to those evinced

in the purely utilitarian structures of the Americans of the north. Pioneers do not build for posterity; woodmen only know how to cut down those grand aristocratic trees of the forest to convert them into lumber, taking pleasure in falling them, as envy does in overcoming natural superiority. Their eloquence extends no further than the debates of their public meetings, where they bring the violence of their rude manners, and where brutal gestures and clenched fists take the place of that moral suasion which the great orators of ancient or modern Europe exert by means of argument and logic over distinguished men assembled for the purpose of seeking together for truth and right in all things.

"Their journals, innumerable because cheap, are but collections of the advertisements of quacks recommended by the Barnums of the press, compilations of slanders and invectives daily thrown to the different parties to furnish them with odious names or trivial accusations wherewith to discredit each other and gain subscribers. Their drawing-rooms are held at hotels; their gatherings of men, unsoftened by kindly feelings or female politeness, are but clubs in which eager traders avail themselves even of their time of rest to increase their fortune at the close of the day, proud of knowing nothing except that which pays, and conversing only on real or imaginary speculations in which to increase their capital a hundred-fold. Their liberty, which is entirely personal, has always in it something hostile to some one else. The absence of kindly feelings gives them in general the tone and attitude of a person afraid of insult or seeking to prevent insult by dint of an overbearing attitude. They are themselves aware of the habitual disagreeableness of their manners.

"One of the few political orators they possess, the most eloquent and the most honest, whom national jealousy has always prevented on, account of his superiority, from rising to the presidency, said to me one day: 'Our liberty consists in *doing everything that can be most disagreeable to our neighbor.*' The art of being disagreeable is their second nature. To please is a symptom of loving. They love no one; no one loves them. It is the expiation of selfishness. History furnishes no type of a nation like unto this people. Pride, coldness, correctness of features, stiffness of gestures, chewing of tobacco in the mouth, a spittoon at their feet, the legs stretched on the mantel-piece or crossed, without regard for the decorum which man ought to observe towards man, a short, monotonous, imperious tone, a disdainful personality stamped upon every feature—such are these autocrats of gold.

"With a few shining exceptions, who suffer everywhere from the general pressure in an inferior atmosphere—exceptions which are all the more honorable as they are the more numerous individually, such is the American of the north, such is the air of his country, the pride of what he lacks. Such is this people to whom Mr. Monroe, one of its flatterers, said, in order to gain its applause: 'The time has come when you must not permit Europe to interfere in the affairs of America, but when you must henceforth assert your preponderance in the affairs of Europe.'"

While, as I have already intimated, the feebleness of Mr. Lamartine's character has long since made his talents as a writer a calamity to himself, and a source of mortification to his friends, it may be profitable for those who direct the government of the United States to know what sort of opinions about us are still most cheerfully propagated by journals deriving their inspiration from official sources.

In connexion with Mr. Larmartine's view of the Mexican expedition so cordially approved by Senator La Guerronière, I invite your attention to an extract from an article which appeared in the same journal only the day previous, the 18th instant, entitled "Les remaniements territoriaux." Its purpose was to show that if Prussia should persist in her design of annexing the duchies, France must look to her own safety, and seek a compensation by extending her frontier, it is to be presumed, on the Rhine:

"The Emporer's government, faithful to that spirit of moderation which France has shown, has no conflict to engage in, pretensions to support, or compromising questions to raise. But, if other great powers thought fit to give way to the impulses of an ambitious and turbulent policy, to rush into adventures, and to overthrow for their own profit the conditions of European order and equilibrium, France could not remain inert in the midst of that agitation more or less directed against her; she could not see aggressive forces increasing around her without thinking of fortifying her defensive positions; she would not feel bound to remain platonically quiet within her frontiers while other states had overleaped the bounds fixed by treaties; she would regulate her conduct by the necessities of a situation which she has neither desired nor sought, but which had been created without her, in spite of her, and against her. She would do what the most simple common sense commands in such a case; she would in her turn take her precautions, and would think of her own safety by re-establishing an equilibrium which would restore to her the guarantees destroyed by the changes effected."

Should the time ever come when we need the counsel of older states to guide us in determining how to indemnify ourselves against the encroachments of European powers upon the territory of our neighbors, this paragraph may have a certain value.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 316.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 23, 1865.

SIR: The Secretary of War yesterday informed me that he had just received intelligence from Major General Sheridan to the effect, that on the 7th instant the republican forces in Mexico who were besieging Matamoras withdrew about six miles, but that they had again subsequently attacked the place; that our military officers in that vicinity have been subjected to most violent abuse by the newspaper which espouses the monarchical cause at Matamoras; that it constantly terms the President of the United States the murderer of Mrs. Surratt; that some of our soldiers who were visiting Matamoras were arrested and put to work upon their fortifications, and our officers and men fired upon by their gunboats; that the most insulting letters from French officials have been addressed to General Weitzel and other officers; and that the consequence is much excitement on the part of our soldiers.

You are at liberty to make such use of that information as you may think proper, to show Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys the condition of irritability existing on that remote frontier.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

No. 201.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 24, 1865.

SIR: I received the following telegram yesterday from our consul general at Alexandria: "Le gouvernement dit insurrection supprimé expedition pourra se

faire." I interpreted it to mean that the rebellion in the Soudan, referred to by his excellency Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in our conversation referred to in my despatch No. 186, had been suppressed, and that the project of sending Egyptian troops to Mexico, suspended by the insurrection, was liable to be resumed.

In the course of an interview with Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in the afternoon I showed him the telegram, and gave him my interpretation of it. His excellency promptly said that no change in the attitude of the imperial government on that subject had occurred since our conversation, nor was likely to; that it had signified no desire to have the troops, nor did he think it was longer in the contemplation of the Emperor to avail himself of aid from that quarter; and that, of course, the Pacha would not send troops without a new application. He closed by the more positive form of expression, that he knew the Emperor had no intention of renewing his application. I expressed my gratification at receiving from him such a satisfactory assurance.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[With one enclosure.]

No. 202] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 24, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your instruction No. 296, covering the opinion of Mr. Attorney General Speed, in reference to certain decrees relating to emigration which have recently been promulgated from the city of Mexico, and to enclose a copy of a communication addressed by me, in compliance therewith, to his excellency the minister of foreign affairs, on the 22d instant.

I am, sir, with great respect, your very obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Enclosure to despatch 202.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 22, 1865.

SIR: Recalling the conversation which I had the honor to hold with your excellency on the 17th ultimo, in relation to the alleged levy of Egyptian troops for involuntary service in Mexico, and the representations I then made in regard to the natural unwillingness of my government and country people to see slavery in any form replanted either within our territory or on our borders, I beg to invite your excellency's attention to certain recent decrees bearing upon the subject of emigration to Mexico, purporting to emanate from authorities acting in opposition to that republic. In the opinion of the law officer of my government, these decrees, if enforced, would inevitably reduce to the condition of peon slavery workingmen of the African race, and of course such of the freedmen of the United States as may have already been or hereafter may be seduced to go there without a full and intelligent comprehension of their liabilities. That your excellency may understand the grounds for this conclusion, I am instructed to transmit to your excellency a copy of the Attorney General's opinion, which will be found enclosed, and to invite the attention of the imperial government to the questions there discussed.

In complying with these instructions of my government, I avail myself of the language of the despatch containing them to say that, "If European opinion can be regarded as established in reference to any one political question, it is settled that African slavery in any form

ought henceforth to cease throughout the world. We do not doubt that the Emperor of France cordially and fully concurs, as we do, in this humane sentiment."

I pray your excellency to accept assurances of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be your excellency's very obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

His Excellency Monsieur DROUYN DE LHUYS,
Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 203.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 24, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No 300, in reply to my note of the 19th of October last, relating to Mexican affairs, and have given it very careful consideration. Yesterday I waited upon the minister of foreign affairs, and, after disposing of some other matters, said to him that I had received no encouragement to continue the conversation which had occupied so large a portion of our interview on the 17th ultimo. I then added that I did not know that I had occasion to say anything more. His excellency asked if I had received any communication upon the subject. I said I had, and that the President did not at present see any prospect of the two governments being able to come to an understanding upon the basis discussed in our conversation.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 209.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Paris, November 30, 1865.

SIR: Upon reflection I concluded that I should be likely to leave more correct impressions, and perhaps exclude some erroneous ones from the mind of Monsieur Drouyn de Lhuys, by reading your despatch No. 300 to him, than by leaving him, after our interview on Thursday week, to imagine its contents. I accordingly called upon his excellency on Tuesday last, and after disposing of some other matters of less importance, told him frankly that I wished to read to him the despatch, to the contents of which I had referred at our last interview, to prevent his supposing it contained anything which I had thought proper or had been instructed to conceal from him.

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When I had finished he thanked me for reading the despatch, though he felt obliged to say that he derived neither pleasure nor satisfaction from its contents.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Mr. Minor to Mr. Seward.

No. 153.] UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL,
Havana, December 9, 1865.

SIR: The French packet steamer Nouveau Monde, from St. Nazaire to Vera Cruz, stopping at Havana, arrived here on the 6th instant, and left for Vera Cruz on the 7th instant, having on board nine hundred soldiers, re-enforcements for the French army in Mexico.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM T. MINOR.
United States Consul General.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 327.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 12, 1865.

SIR: I enclose for your information a translation of a communication of the *29th ultimo from the Marquis de Montholon, proposing, upon conditions, to withdraw from Mexico the French troops. A copy of my reply is also enclosed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 328.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 14, 1865.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of November 24, No. 203.

While it is very interesting, it seems to discourage an expectation on our part of the early withdrawal of the French force from Mexico. It is to be remarked, however, that the opinions upon that subject which you have received from Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys were expressed by him, not only without the positive sanction of the Emperor, but also in the absence of knowledge on the part of the French government of the definitive conclusion of the President on the subject discussed.

It is desirable to leave no part of those conclusions open to misapprehension. And it is equally desirable that we shall be authorized to infer that such expositions of the Imperial views as are given us in the name of the French government are made with the Emperor's approval. I trust that both these ends will have been accomplished before you receive this despatch. Your communication authorizes this expectation. For the present, therefore, I must be content with approving the tone, spirit, and substance of your explanations to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

* See letter of 29th November, its enclosure, and reply of Secretary Seward, December 6, 1865.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 329.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 14, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of the 24th of November, No. 202, with its accompaniment, has been received.

The note you addressed to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys on the subject of peon slavery in Mexico is approved.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 330.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 14, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of November 24, No. 201, concerning the apprehended expedition of Nubian negroes against Mexico, has been received.

Instructions upon that subject will be given to you in another despatch.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 332.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 16, 1865.

SIR: Your dispatch of November 30, No. 209, was duly received, and it has been submitted to the President.

Your proceeding in reading my despatch, No. 300, to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys is approved. The general tenor of the remarks made by you to the minister of foreign affairs on that occasion is likewise approved. It is not the executive department of this government alone which is interested and concerned in the question whether the present condition of things shall be continued in Mexico. The interest is a national one, and in every event Congress, which is now in session, is authorized by the Constitution and is entitled to direct by law the action of the United States in regard to that important subject.

It has been the President's purpose that France should be respectfully informed upon two points, namely:

First. That the United States earnestly desire to continue and to cultivate sincere friendship with France.

Second. That this policy would be brought into imminent jeopardy, unless France could deem it consistent with her interest and honor to desist from the prosecution of armed intervention in Mexico, to overthrow the domestic republican government existing there, and to establish upon its ruins the foreign monarchy which has been attempted to be inaugurated in the capital of that country.

In answer to an exposition of our views which was thus made, the suggestion was offered to you by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys that the government of the United States might favor the express desire of the Emperor to withdraw from Mexico, by giving to him some formal assurance that in the event of his withdrawal this government would recognize the institution of Maximilian in Mexico as *de facto* a political power.

It was my desire, in framing the despatch No. 300, to express in behalf of the United States a decision that the recognition which the Emperor had thus suggested cannot be made, and to assign, by way of explanation, the grounds upon which that decision was based. I have carefully considered the arguments against that decision which were presented to you by Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys in the interview referred to, and I do not find in them any sufficient reasons for modifying the views which the United States have expressed.

It remains now only to make known to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys my profound regret that he has thought it his duty to leave the subject, in his conversation with you, in a condition that does not authorize an expectation on our part that a satisfactory adjustment of the case can be effected on any basis that thus far has been discussed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Bigelow.

No. 333.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 16, 1865.

SIR: Your despatch of November 21, No. 199, has been received. You have called my attention therein to a recent publication of Mr. Lamartine. The text of the publication is that America is the property of Europe. The publication has already attracted the attention of the American press. I think I can safely leave the debate where it has thus been taken up.

You direct my attention also to expressions made by the French press concerning apprehended conflict in the valley of the Rhine. It does not seem to me likely that France will, at one and the same time, occupy Matamoras and extend her sway into Germany. Political writers are not hindered by the material obstacles which military powers unavoidably encounter. Nevertheless, notwithstanding this incredulity, I thank you for your attention in these matters.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JOHN BIGELOW, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FRENCH LEGATION.

Mexican refugees in New York and Washington preparing a movement in favor of Juarez.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, January 12, 1865.

Mr. de Geofroy presents his compliments to his excellency Mr. Seward, and has the honor to transmit to him a note containing some information in which he requests he will have the goodness to fix his attention.

[Translation.]

It is believed to be known with certainty that the Juarist refugees at New York and Washington are preparing a movement in favor of the ex-President, and that they propose to stir up troubles simultaneously at Matamoras and in Sonora; that meetings have been held at

lawyer Chamcey's, 243 Broadway, in the presence of some members of Congress. There Generals Doblado and Berriozobala, the intended leaders of the insurrection, must have stated the object, which would be to persuade the federal government that the people of Mexico are impatient of the new order of things; that everything is ready for action. The business houses of Ok, King & Mira, Fausto & Gorcouria, will take charge of the voyage for the partisans of Juarez on the eve of setting off from New York. Already those whose mission it is to rouse Sonora, seven in number, must be on their way to California.

Mr. Seward to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 18, 1865.

SIR: Referring to previous correspondence between yourself and this department, relative to the construction in the ports of the United States of vessels destined to cruise against the commerce of France under letters of marque issued by President Juarez, of Mexico, I have the honor to enclose for your information a letter of the 3d instant, with the accompaniments from the Attorney General's office.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Pleasants to Mr. Seward.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 3, 1865.

SIR: By direction of the Attorney General, I have the honor to transmit you herewith a letter from the United States marshal for the eastern district of Louisiana, Cuthbert Bullitt, esq., in reply to instructions addressed to him by this office, relative to the alleged construction in New Orleans of vessels "destined to cruise against French commerce under letters of marque issued by Mr. Juarez, of Mexico."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. PLEASANTS,
Acting Chief Clerk.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Bullitt to Mr. Speed.

OFFICE U. S. MARSHAL, EASTERN DISTRICT LOUISIANA,
New Orleans, December 23, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed favor of the 3d instant, with copy of a letter from Mr. L. de Geofroy to the honorable Secretary of State, in which he alleges "that there are vessels being constructed in this port destined to cruise against French commerce under letters of marque issued by Mr. Juarez, of Mexico." I have made every effort to discover if there is any foundation for this report, and called on the commanding general as well as the French consul in regard to it. They agree with me that there is no ground for the complaint.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

CUTHBERT BULLITT,
United States Marshal.

Hon. JAMES SPEED,
Attorney General of the United States, Washington.

Mr. Seward to Mr. de Geofroy.

Mr. Seward presents his compliments to Mr. Geofroy, and has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of his communication of the 12th instant, relative to the supposed movement of Juarist refugees at New York and Washington.

In reply, Mr. Seward has the honor to state that the attention of the proper authorities has been called to the subject, with a view to the prevention of any violation of the neutrality laws of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 21, 1865.

Memorandum from French legation to Department of State.

[Translation.—Received February 4, 1865.]

MEXICAN ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK.

It seems that several persons whose names are on the annex herewith are busied in New York in organizing an emigration which would be directed towards Mexico, with an object hostile to the government of the Emperor Maximilian.

These individuals seem to be full of confidence in the successes of their projects. They dispose apparently of funds considerable enough, and express themselves in a manner to allow the belief that the intrigue they are plotting in the United States has ramifications in Mexico.

The manner in which they speak of ex-President Juarez would lead to the thought that it is not on him they count, nor in his favor that they are agitating. Certain indications would lead rather to the supposition that the persons in question lend sympathies to General Santa Anna, which the event would develop. What they say of him would in any case be fit to compromise him, if the indiscretions which escape them were to be taken seriously.

It is said that Brooklyn, Cincinnati, and Santa Fé are the points of rendezvous for the emigrants that the favorers of the intrigue in question seek to gather in view of the disorders they meditate. It appears that a captain in the American army, whose name (Fichte) would indicate a German origin, set off five days ago for New Mexico, with the title of colonel and $7,500 in gold, given, it is said, by a New York banker (Berriozabul.) Santa Fé, whither he goes, will become a sort of recruiting depot for operations against Mexico.

Annex.—Colonel Flores, Colonel Bidal y Rivas, General Rivas, Captain Pelliteer, Marquis de Sard; an American officer of German origin, by name Fichte.

Mr. Seward to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 7, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your communication of the 12th ultimo, relative to an alleged movement on the part of certain refugees to aid President Juarez, (a translation of which was communicated to the Secretary of the Navy,) I have the honor to state, in reply, that this department is informed, by a letter of the 2d instant from the Navy Department, that Acting Rear-Admiral Pearson has been apprised of the supposed movement, and that he, with those of his command in the Pacific squadron, have been instructed to use proper vigilance with the view of intercepting any expedition that may be fitted out in the United States in violation of its laws or international law, and which may embark from San Francisco, or other ports in California, to take part in the difficulties now existing in Mexico.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Seward to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 11, 1865.

SIR: Referring to the correspondence which has occurred between the French legation and this department relative to the alleged construction, in the ports of the United States, of vessels of war intended to cruise against the commerce of France under letters of marque issued by President Juarez, I have the honor to enclose for your information a copy of a letter of the 7th instant, together with its accompaniment, from the War Department.

Accept, sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Dana to Mr. Seward

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 7, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your communication of the 25th, and to the reply of this department of the 26th of November last, relative to the alleged construction in United States ports of vessels intended to serve as privateers, under letters of marque, from President Juarez, of the Mexican republic, I am instructed by the Secretary of War to transmit a copy of a communication on the subject from Major General McDowell, commanding the department of the Pacific, to whom a copy of your letter was sent with directions to take all necessary precautions to prevent the arming or fitting of vessels intended to be used in depredations on French commerce.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

C. A. DANA,
Assistant Secretary of War.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

General McDowell to Mr. Stanton.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, January 6, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from the State Department to you, enclosing the translation of a note from the French minister, dated the 12th of November, 1864, relative to the alleged construction in United States ports, and especially in that of San Francisco, of vessels intended to serve as privateers under letters of marque from the President (Juarez) of Mexico; on which letter was indorsed your orders to take all necessary precautions to prevent the arming or fitting of vessels-of-war intended to be used in depredations on French commerce.

On the receipt of these orders I immediately sent for the French consul, and inquired of him whether he knew, or had any cause to believe or suspect, that any vessel was being constructed, armed, or fitted out in this port for the purposes before mentioned.

He replied that he knew of none, unless it was the Colon.

The Colon is a steamer, said to have been built for the Peruvian government, and which I have and have had under guard for several months past. The seizure was reported to you some time since.

I asked the consul in what way he connected the Colon with any operations against the French. He replied, only because the captain was a friend of the Mexican General Vega, and that he had every reason to believe that General Vega had in his possession letters of marque to be issued to parties in this place, but that he had been unable to fit out any vessels.

I have been and shall continue to be strict in everything concerning vessels leaving this place, or of being built in these waters, which can in any way be converted into privateers, either against our commerce or that of foreign nations.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

IRWIN McDOWELL,
Major General, Commanding Department.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

Mr. L. de Geofroy to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, May 5, 1865.

SIR: It would follow, from reports worthy of credit, that certain persons propose to profit of the disarmament, and the order which takes off the prohibition of the exportation of munitions of war, by organizing expeditions to Mexico.

At New York, at Philadelphia, and even at Washington, they would recruit men, and prepare shipments of arms. I shall take care to communicate to you separately all the information I have received and which I shall receive in this respect.

I confine myself here to calling the most serious attention of the government of the United States to these manœuvres, and to the complications to which they would lead, in consequence of the presence of our troops in Mexico.

The legislation of the United States furnishes to the executive power not only the means to repress, but also to arrest any enterprise of a nature to disturb the good relations between the Union and friendly nations.

I pray you, therefore, sir, to be so good as to bring this condition of things as soon as possible to the knowledge of his excellency the president of the republic, who will determine what are the most efficient measures to be taken in order to remedy it.

I seize this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

L. DE GEOFROY.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 6, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 5th instant, inviting the serious attention of this government to the reported propositions of certain persons to profit by the disarmament and the order which takes off the prohibitions of the exportation of the munitions of war, by organizing expeditions to Mexico, and to inform you that I have transmitted copies thereof to the Secretary of War and to the Attorney General, requesting them to give the matter their attentive consideration.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Memorandum from French Legation to Department of State.

[Translation.—Received May 6, 1865.]

A recruiting office for Mexico is established in New York, in Thirty-second street, near the Hudson river. There is also designated a house on the corner of Chatham and Pearl streets, as serving as a rendezvous for recruits. It is occupied by a person called Françis Laquer.

Mr. Ortega, lodging at the Barcelona hotel, Great Jones street, directs the operations. Mr. Ortega is at this moment in Washington. He would dispose of sums in coined silver, and in ingots, part of which is deposited in the safe of the Barcelona hotel.

Ortega, accompanied by the proprietor of the Barcelona hotel, should have bought within a few days past two thousand carbines—called Springfield rifles—at an armorer's named Stilwell, where they are still deposited, besides military cloths, &c.

The house should have sent twelve cases of arms to Philadelphia, where preparations for an expedition are also making. A brig would be armed at the foot of Congress street, New York, at Atlantic dock, intended to carry men and arms to Matamoras; and two other ships—two steamers—preparing at Atlantic dock, would be also destined to make part of the expedition.

Fifty-two men would have been sent from New York to Philadelphia.

Mr. Hunter to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 10, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your note of the 5th instant, concerning the alleged employment of certain persons in endeavoring to organize an expedition to Mexico, I have the honor to inform you that it is stated in a letter of the 8th instant, from the War Department, that whenever authenticated facts are submitted to that department they will receive due consideration. It is presumed that at the time this letter was written the memorandum which you left with me containing further representation on the subject had not been received, and it is believed that the statement therein contained will engage the attention of the Secretary of War.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

Mr. L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to Mr. de Geofroy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 11, 1865.

SIR: Referring to your note of the 5th instant, relative to the organization alleged to be in existence within the United States, having for its object the completion of an expedition to Mexico, I have the honor to enclose, for your information, a copy of a communication of the 9th instant from the Attorney General.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

W. HUNTER, *Acting Secretary.*

L. DE GEOFROY, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Speed to Mr. Hunter.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 9, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 6th and 8th instant, respectively, enclosing for my information copies of a note and memorandum addressed to your department by Mr. L. de Geofroy, relative to the alleged proceedings of certain persons, within the limits of the United States, to fit out expeditions to Mexico from our ports, and who may bring themselves within the provisions and penalties of the acts of Congress for the preservation of the neutrality of the United States. I thank you for this information, and will address, immediately, letters to the district attorney at New York, Philadelphia, Balti-

more, and other places similarly situated, instructing them, in peremptory terms, to exercise the utmost vigilance in the detection and prosecution of persons who may be guilty of offences against the statutes referred to.

I enclose a copy of a letter on the subject, addressed to the district attorney at the city of New York.

A similar letter will be addressed to each of the law officers of the government in the other important districts.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SPEED,
Attorney General.

Hon. W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary of State.

Mr. Ashton to Mr. Dickinson.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 9, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose you herewith copies of a note and memorandum received at the State Department from the legation of France, calling the attention of the government to certain proceedings alleged to be on foot in your district, and in other districts of the United States, for the purpose of fitting out expeditions to Mexico, with intent to violate the acts of Congress for the preservation of the neutrality of the United States. It is the desire of the government that you exercise proper vigilance and care in the detection and conviction of persons in your district who may bring themselves within the provisions and penalties of the statutes on that subject.

The enclosed documents may serve to indicate the movements of the persons alleged to be engaged in the fitting out such expeditions, with sufficient fullness and precision to enable you, and the marshal of your district, to obtain evidence that will warrant the arrest and binding over of the guilty parties to be of good behavior, under the Constitution and laws, even if testimony sufficient to convict them cannot now be procured.

The Attorney General does not think it necessary to indicate the particular statutes on the subject of neutrality, with a view to direct you with regard to the means and methods of your procedure, in order to enforce the law and punish the guilty, with respect to the preservation of the neutrality of the government. He assumes that your acquaintance with the statutes, and zeal and fidelity in the execution of your office, will enable you, whenever a case fit for prosecution or conviction of the kind referred to is presented, to do all that a national sense of justice and dignity, or a foreign state interested in the subject, could require and demand of the executive department of the government of the United States.

You will please report the receipt of this letter, and the result of your investigation on the subject to which it relates.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. HUBLEY ASHTON,
Assistant Attorney General.

DANIEL S. DICKINSON, Esq.,
United States District Attorney, New York.

Memorandum from French Legation to Department of State.

[Translation.]

The enlistments continue at New York; the bounties are such as have been announced in the newspapers; the men are to take with them arms and munitions; a transport will be ready on Friday or Saturday for Tabasco.

Received May 16, 1865.
Attorney General informed May 17, 1865.

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 12, 1865.

SIR: This department has official information that the insurgent commander at Brownsville, in Texas, after the surrender of his superior officer of the insur-

gent forces and public property in that quarter to the United States, clandestinely transferred to the authorities at Matamoras certain artillery and other articles, a part of those surrendered as aforesaid. As those articles became the property of the United States pursuant to the terms of the surrender, the authorities aforesaid could not acquire any title to them without the consent of this government; it is, consequently, expected that they will be restored. And you will oblige me, and may be instrumental in preventing further difficulties, if you should request the officer in command at Matamoras, who may have received the articles, to restore them to the officer of the United States in command at Brownsville, without any delay which can conveniently be avoided.

I avail myself of this occasion, sir, to offer to you an assurance of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

The Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, June 15, 1865.

SIR: I have received the despatch you did me the honor to write to me on the 12th instant, by which you inform me that the commander of the rebel troops at Brownsville (Texas) must have clandestinely sent to the authorities at Matamoras a certain quantity of artillery and materiel of war, notwithstanding the capitulations signed by his superior, one of the clauses of which implied the surrender to the federal authorities of the insurgent forces and of all public property.

I immediately brought the fact to the knowledge of the government of the Emperor, and believe it to be my duty at the same time to communicate it to Marshal Bazaine, commander-in-chief of the French forces in Mexico, so that he may inform himself without delay of the fact which gave cause to the reclamation your excellency has addressed to me.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my very high consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 22, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 15th instant, informing me of the steps you had taken to bring to the knowledge of the Emperor's government, and also to acquaint Marshal Bazaine, commander-in-chief of the French forces in Mexico, with the circumstances attending the clandestine and improper transfer of men and arms by the insurgent commander at Brownsville to the authorities at Matamoras.

I beg that you will accept my thanks for your prompt action in the matter.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 5, 1865.

SIR: It is not without a somewhat serious concern for the public peace that I bring to your notice the substance of information which this government has just now received, concerning the condition of affairs on the border which separates the United States from Mexico. This information is to the effect that all the public property belonging to the late insurgents in Texas, which could be removed, was subsequently to their surrender, but before the United States forces could occupy the country, transferred to the Mexican side of the Rio Grande; that the steamer Lucy Given, which was surrendered to the United States at Matagorda, was afterwards carried off, and, according to the latest intelligence, was anchored at Bagdad, in the Rio Grande, and that eight hundred and twenty bales of cotton, belonging to the insurgents, stored at Rio Grande City, were also carried across the river into Mexico.

I will thank you to call the attention of the military authorities of France in Mexico to this subject, in order that the property referred to may be restored, and that with a view to tranquillity on that frontier, no similar proceeding may be encouraged or authorized.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of my high consideration,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

The Marquis de Montholm to Mr. Seward.

[Tanslation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNTED STATES,
Washington, July 6, 1865.

SIR: I have received the despatch you did me the honor to address to me on the 5th of this month, in which you inform me that a great part of the public property of the insurgents of Texas would be, after the capitulation and before the federal troops could have occupied the country, transported across the Mexican river Rio Grande; that the steamer Lucy Given, surrendered to the government of the United States, must have been carried off, and be now at anchor at Bagdad and lastly, that eight hundred and twenty bales of cotton, belonging to the insurgents and collected at Rio Grande City, must, in like manner, have been transferred to the other side of the river.

I will hasten, sir, to bring these facts to the notice of the government of the Emperor, and will at the same time make report of it to his excellency Marshal Bazaine, commander-in-chief of the French forces in Mexico.

As I had the honor to inform you on the 15th June, I have called the attention of his excellency Marshal Bazaine to the facts related in the despatch which you did me the honor to address to me under date of June 12. Even before having received my letter the marshal had hastened to inform me of the latest events occurred on the Rio Grande.

It results, from the intelligence he addresses to me at date of June 19, that a meeting had taken place among the confederate troops at the moment of disbanding them, and that one Colonel Fisher, who had served under Juarez, having tried to get possession of some part of the materiel of the place, that is, six cannon and two forges, to put them in the hands of the Juarists; General Stoughton, in order to stop this act from happening, sent this materiel across the Mexican river. Marshal Bazaine informs me that General Mejia immediately caused it to be inventoried and placed on deposit at Matamóras, so that it may be remitted to the disposal of the government of the United States.

Marshal Bazaine also apprises me that he has given the various columns which are operating in Mexico the most precise orders, for the purpose of avoiding all that might give umbrage to the government of the United States.

I hasten to bring these facts to your knowledge, as a fresh proof that the authorities are in no way disposed to encourage or authorize any act of a nature to compromise the good relations which they desire to maintain with the federal authority on the frontier of Mexico.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my high considerations.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Hunter to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 31, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter of the 22d instant, from the Secretary of the Navy, and of that of the 10th instant, referred to therein, relative to the case of the United States merchant steamer Sonora.

I hope that you may deem it proper to take such steps as may be in your power towards securing the restoration of the steamer to Mr. Clavel or his agents.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Welles to Mr. Seward.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 22, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to refer to you the accompanying letter, dated the 10th instant, addressed to this department by Mr. F. Clavel, of New Orleans, Louisiana, who appeals to the government to aid him in repossessing himself of the steamer Sonora, which he states formerly belonged to him; was captured by her crew, or a part of it, taken into an insurgent port, subsequently ran out, and is now, or was recently, at Tampico, where she appears to have been detained at the request of Mr. Chase, the United States consul general.

Very respectfully, &c.,

GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State.*

Mr. Clavel to Mr. Welles.

NEW ORLEANS, *July* 10, 1865.

EXCELLENCY: The undersigned respectfully begs leave to state that he is the owner of the steamer Sonora, belonging to the district of New Orleans, where she was registered on the 25th of February, 1864.

On the 16th of November, 1864, when on her way from Brazos Santiago to this port, she was forcibly captured by a part of her crew, who ran her into Aransas bay, where they delivered her to the rebel authorities. She was condemned as being the property of a citizen of the United States, and sold for the sum of eleven thousand dollars in gold, which was divided among the captors. The crew had been shipped, and every one of them had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

Owing to the strict watch kept by the vessels of the western gulf blockading squadron, she did not leave Aransas bay before the 9th of June, 1865, after having learned the surrender of Texas, flying the rebel flag, bound to Tampico, where she arrived on the 12th of the said month.

The above stated facts will easily demonstrate that the capture of the steamer Sonora was a wrongful act of piracy, and her subsequent sailing from Aransas Pass, after the surrender of Texas, is another confirmation of the illegality of her capture.

The undersigned hopes that your excellency will afford him the protection of our powerful government to help him to recover his vessel. She is now detained in the port of Tampico by the demand made by Mr. Franklin Chase, United States consul, for her delivery to him, as being the property of an absent American citizen, piratically taken from him.

The undersigned, in a letter by him received from Mr. Chase, United States consul at Tampico, is advised by him to furnish your excellency with all the information in his power. The above statement is made to that effect.

Respectfully submitted:

F. CLAVEL,
77 Magazine street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

His Excellency the Hon. SECRETARY OF THE U. S. NAVY,
Washington, D. C.

The Marquis Montholon to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, August 4, 1865.

SIR: I hasten to let you know that I have just received from his excellency Marshal Bazaine a despatch announcing to me that the government of Mexico has decided that the American materiel unduly taken over to the Mexican bank on the surrender of Brownsville, to which the letter of your excellency addressed to me the 12th July relates, should be restored without delay to the federal authorities, and that orders were immediately sent to Matamoras to assure the execution of this decision.

Accept, sir, the assurances of my high consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. W. HUNTER, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 8, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 4th instant, in which you inform this department that, in compliance with the request contained in my note of the 5th ultimo, the French military authorities in Mexico have decided upon the restoration to this government of the public property which, on the surrender of Brownsville by the insurgents, was taken over to the Mexican banks of the Rio Grande.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c. &c., &c.*

The Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Hunter.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, August 8, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of date 31st July last, and also of the annexes which have relation to the affair of the merchant vessel the Sonora.

I will hasten, sir, to communicate the claim of Mr. Clavel to the competent Mexican authorities, and to testify to them the interest which the government of the United States takes in the adjustment of this affair.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my high consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM HUNTER, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, September 13, 1865.

SIR: Referring to my note of the 31st of July last, concerning the desired restoration of the steamer Sonora to her owner, Mr. F. Clavel, and thanking you for your reply of the 8th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose, in support of the claim, a copy of the letter of the 18th ultimo, from D. Lanzac, esq., of New Orleans, attorney for Mr. Clavel and of the documents which accompanied it, from which it appears that Mr. Clavel has gone in person to Tampico, taking with him other documents bearing upon his claim to ownership.

The account of the transaction in regard to this vessel derived from the papers which have been laid before you is to the effect that the steamer Sonora was, on the 25th of February, 1864, duly registered in New Orleans, Louisiana, as a vessel belonging to the United States merchant service; that on the 16th day of November, 1864, when on her way from Brazos Santiago to New Orleans, she was forcibly captured by a part of her crew, who ran her into Aransas bay, where she was delivered by these piratical captors to agents of the insurgents, who are reported to have caused a pretended condemnation and sale of the vessel; the proceeds of which pretended sale, being the sum of eleven thousand dollars in gold, are said to have been divided among the capturing pirates, who had shipped on the Sonora as citizens of the United States, upon taking the oath of allegiance as such; that owing to the strict watch kept by the vessels of the United States blockading squadron, the Sonora was prevented from leaving Aransas bay before the 9th of June, 1865, when she sailed for Tampico, flying the insurgent flag.

Under these circumstances this government holds that the before-named steamer is the property of Mr. F. Clavel, and that the parties who navigated her to Tampico are trespassers and intruders, having no rights or authority in her; that the acts by which she came into their custody were piratical and fraudulent. It is therefore hoped that, so far as it might depend upon the agents of the imperial government, every facility will be afforded to Mr. Clavel to regain possession of the vessel.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Lanzac to Mr. Hunter.

NEW ORLEANS, *August* 18, 1865.

SIR: In reply to yours of 31st July, concerning steamship Sonora, I have to state that Mr. F. Clavel went to Brazos Santiago per schooner Mary Moulis, to have in the port of Matamoras, Mexico, an opportunity more easy than here to go to Tampico, as advised to do by the United States consul general, Mr. Franklin Chase.

Enclosed you will find copies of bill of sale by C. H. Delmater, in New York, to F. Clavel, and copy of register of custom-house in New Orleans.

Mr. F. Clavel took along to Tampico—

1. Log-book of steamer Sonora, brought back by Captain George M. Goodspeed.

2. Affidavits of T. Riondel and Thomas Delaney, firemen on board last trip the steamer made, stating the piratical capture.

3. Copies of register and bill of sale.

Since four weeks, about, Captain George M. Goodspeed, now commanding United States Quartermaster's department steamer Ruthven, plying between Galveston and Houston, Texas, is requested to send his affidavit and protest about

the piratical seizure of the steamer by most of her own crew, but to this moment I did not receive any. As soon as to hand, I will send it to you.

Two firemen and the cook are in New Orleans at present.

If I could do anything in this matter during the absence of Mr. F. Clavel, you will be so kind as to advise me.

Most respectfully, I have the honor to remain, your obedient servant,

D. LANZAC, 76 *Orleans street.*

W. HUNTER, Esq.,
Department of State, Washington, D. C.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Cornelius H. Delmater, of the city of New York, owner of the steamer called the Ouachita, of the burden of $79\frac{47}{100}$ tons or thereabouts, for and in consideration of the sum of ten thousand five hundred dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to me in hand paid before the sealing and delivery of these presents by F. Clavel, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, assign, transfer, and set over unto the said F. Clavel, his executors, administrators and assigns, the said steamer, together with all and singular her masts, yards, sails, rigging, anchors, cables, boats, tackle, apparel, and appurtenances; to have and to hold the said steamer and appurtenances thereunto belonging, unto the said F. Clavel, his heirs, his executors, administrators and assigns, forever.

And I, the said Cornelius H. Delmater, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant and agree to and with the said F. Clavel, his heirs, his executors, administrators and assigns, that at the execution of these presents I am the true and lawful owner of the said steamer Ouachita, appurtenances, and I now have full right and authority to sell and dispose of the same, freed from and cleared of all claims, incumbrances, or demands whatsoever.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, at the city of New Orleans, the fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three.

C. H. DELMATER.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of—
A. C. WILMARTH.

STATE OF NEW YORK, *City and County of New York, ss:*

On the 4th day of September, 1863, before me personally came Cornelius H. Delmater, to me known to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

A. C. WILLMARTH,
Notary Public, New York, 41 *Chambers street.*

CUSTOM-HOUSE, *New Orleans, August* 10, 1865.

I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the record on file in this office.

S. A. STOCKDALE, *Deputy Collector.*

In pursuance of an act of Congress of the United States of America, entitled "An act concerning the registering and recording of ships or vessels," F. Clavel, of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, having taken or subscribed the oath required by the said act, and having sworn that he is a citizen of the United States, and the only owner of the ship or vessel called the Sonora, of New Orleans, whereof J. Hayes is at present master and a citizen of the United States, as he hath sworn, and that the said ship or vessel was formerly the British schooner Ouachita, captured and condemned as a prize, and sold by the United States marshal of the district of New York; and documents on file in this office having certified that the said ship or vessel has one deck, and two masts, and that her length is 116 feet, her breadth 16 feet, her depth 6 feet 6 inches, that she measures $116\frac{45}{95}$ tons, that she is a steamer, has square stern, and round truck; and the said F. Clavel having agreed to the description and admeasurement above specified, and sufficient security having been given according to the said act, the said steamer has been duly registered at the port of New Orleans.

WM. BULLITT, *Deputy Naval Officer.*

Given under our hand and seal at the port of New Orleans, this 25th day of February, in the year 1864.

JOHN F. COLLINS, *Deputy Collector.*

I hereby certify the above is a true copy of original on file in this office.

S. A. STOCKDALE, *Deputy Collector.*

The Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, October 19, 1865.

SIR: I feel myself obliged to call the attention of your excellency to certain facts that occurred this year on the Rio Grande, and which seem to be in exact opposition to the repeated assurances your excellency has given me concerning the desire of the cabinet at Washington, to preserve the most strict neutrality in the events now taking place in Mexico.

It is scarcely necessary for me to add, that I am convinced that the said facts occurred without the knowledge of the federal government, and that they must be the result of the negligence of subordinate agents. I do not hesitate, therefore, to inform you of them, convinced that it is only necessary to bring them to your notice in order to prevent their future occurrence.

The information conveyed to his Majesty's government states that the dissenting forces of Cortinas are recruiting many American colored persons, and that this partisan chief passes and repasses the Texan frontier whenever he pleases, going to Brownsville (Texas) to get whatever he needs.

About the end of July last Cortinas attacked the steamer Señorita on the river, loaded with cotton, taken on board at Camargo, and destined for Matamoras. The attack occurred on Texas ground, and the captured vessel was made fast to the Texan shore, where she has remained in possession of the dissenters since the 27th of July.

In the course of the same month a convoy of goods was to start for Monterey. Cortinas, who was in Brownsville, heard of it, and enlisted men publicly to attack it. His armed troops crossed the river, and the convoy would have certainly fallen into his hands but for the vigilance of the imperial authorities.

In fine, it is well known that Cortinas's men ride and walk armed in the streets of Brownsville, with ribbons on their hats, indicating the number of the guerilla band to which they belong.

It would be difficult for neutrality to be more openly violated, and that facts more grave should occur to contradict the assertions which your excellency has given me in the name of your government.

I will be very much obliged to you, then, if you will cause to be issued the orders necessary to prevent the renewal of any such acts in future.

Accept the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, October 31, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 19th instant in regard to violation of neutrality of the United States alleged to have taken place recently on the Rio Grande. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that I have requested the Secretary of War to cause the matter to be inquired into with a view to the adoption of such proceedings as may be called for.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 10, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to recur to your note of the 19th ultimo, in which complaints are made of violations of the neutrality of the United States on the Rio Grande, and to my note of the 31st of October, acknowledging the receipt thereof.

The first complaint is, that the "dissenting forces of Cortinas are recruiting many colored persons, and that this partisan chief passes the Texan frontiers whenever he pleases, going to Brownsville to procure whatever he needs." These representations were submitted to the Secretary of War for such information and such opinion as he might think proper to submit to the President.

It appears that upon these points the Secretary of War has no information. Major General Sheridan was instructed to preserve the same neutrality that had been observed towards the United States by the French or imperial party, when Brownsville and the greater portion of the Rio Grande was held by the rebels. If it should be ascertained that the insurgents had been able to cross and recross the Mexican frontier at will, and go into Matamoras with a view of obtaining what they required, then existing instructions might authorize a corresponding course on the part of this government towards the liberals. The Secretary of War is not aware of the existence of any regulation which prevents either imperialist or liberal from crossing the Texas frontier, or proceeding to Brownsville to make purchases; and if recruiting has been allowed by officers in command, it has been without the authority of the Secretary of War. I am of opinion that, American emigration having been invited to Mexico by the imperial party, there is neither law nor order preventing it; and that, as the republican government of Mexico is acknowledged by the United States, there can be properly no objection urged to such of their citizens as may choose going to Mexico, and taking, when there, whichever side they may prefer.

It is admitted that while the United States hold their present attitude towards Mexico, military commanders should not allow either party to recruit soldiers upon United States territory.

With regard to the second complaint, namely, that "about the last of July, 1865, Cortinas attacked the steamer Señorita on the river, loaded with cotton, taken on board that vessel at Camargo, and destined for Matamoras; that the attack occurred on Texas ground, and that the captured vessel was made fast to the Texas shore, where she has remained in possession of the dissenters since the 27th of July last; that in the course of the same month a convoy of goods was to start for Monterey, and that Cortinas, who was in Brownsville, heard of it, and enlisted men openly to attack the convoy; his armed troops crossed the river," &c., it is conceded that, if the facts were as represented, the conduct of the commander at Brownsville was entirely inexcusable. These complaints have been referred to Major General Sheridan, commanding the military division of the Gulf, with suitable instructions and directions to report the facts as to what had previously occurred.

It is stated by the Secretary of War that the United States have a long frontier upon the Rio Grande, where none of our troops are stationed; that either of the belligerents might easily commit acts of war upon the other from United States soil without such acts being known in time to prevent them.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

The Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, November 23, 1865.

SIR: Your note of the 10th November, in answer to mine of the 19th of October last, about events that had transpired on the Rio Grande frontier last year, informed me that the Secretary of War had ordered an investigation of some of the acts I complained of, particularly the capture of the steamer Señorita," you even added that if the facts were as you represented to me, it was evident the military commander in Brownsville was in the wrong.

I have just received from his Majesty's acting consul in New Orleans the annexed claim of the French commercial house of L. Mouler & Co., owner of 35 bales of cotton, part of the cargo of the steamer Señorita.

As your excellency will see by reference to the appended documents, Mr. Mouler's complaint coincides fully with others from a different source, and seems to confirm the verity of the first reports that reached me.

The house of Mouler & Co. now claims of the United States government, as indemnity, the sum of ten thousand and thirty-seven dollars ($10,037) for the loss of cotton, said to have been caused by the United States.

I will be very much obliged to your excellency if you will cause this claim to be put into the hands of the proper authorities, and let me know the result of the decision as soon as possible.

Accept the assurances of my high consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.,*
Washington, D. C.

[Translation.]

Claim of Mouler & Co.—The substance.

The French commercial house of Mouler & Co. sends a claim for $10,037 84 against the United States, for the loss of thirty-five bales of cotton, caused by act of the United States, to the consul.

NEW ORLEANS, *October* 27, 1865.

SIR: In June last Messrs. Maithes and Garza, of Camargo, Mexico, bought thirty-five bales of cotton on our account, and paid the duty to the imperial government of Mexico, and also to Juarez's agents, when they took possession of that port.

The house of Maithes and Garza shipped this cotton to us on the 21st of June, 1865, in the Mexican steamer Señorita, which was seized by the Juarist General Cortinas, and landed in the United States territory on the Texas side of the Rio Grande river.

We applied to the federal military authorities having the entire control of that part of the United States, but they showed no anxiety to return us our property, or even to order its sequestration, and sent us to the Mexican republican courts, which is a denial of justice or an act of derision.

Under these circumstances, all that remained for us to do was to request you to transmit to his excellency the minister of the Emperor in Washington the claim of $10,037 84 in gold, which we make against the United States government, and herewith send you, with all the corroborating evidence.

Accept, sir, our respectful salutations.

L. MOULER & CO.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish of Orleans:*

Before me, Pierre Coudrain, a notary public for the parish of Orleans, duly qualified and sworn, personally appeared Mr. Réné Dumestre, born at Siarrony, canton of Vis de Bigorre, (Upper Pyrenees,) one of the partners in the house of Mouler & Dumestre, established in this city of New Orleans, No. 109 Chatres street, and at Matamoras under the firm of L. Mouler & Co., who having been sworn according to law, says and declares:

1. That the house of Mouler & Co., established at Matamoras, is a French commercial house, and consists of Louis Mouler, Austin Caunere, Jules Desca, and this affiant, all

French subjects; that none of its members have violated the neutrality commanded by the Emperor of the French in the conflict between the government of the United States and certain States assuming the name of Confederate States.

2. That on the 21st of June, 1865, Messrs. Maithes and Garza shipped at Camargo, Mexico, on the Mexican steamer Señorita, on account of L. Mouler & Co., of Matamoras, Mexico, thirty-five (35) bales of cotton, as shown by the original bill of lading, delivered by the captain of the said steamer, annexed to the present affidavit, and of which an authentic copy is annexed to the duplicates of this document.

3. That it is shown by a Spanish document, annexed to one of these patents, delivered by the custom-house collector at Camargo, Mexico, that the thirty-five bales of cotton shipped on the Mexican steamer Señorita had paid to the republican, and also to the imperial government, at different times, (27th May, 1865, and 21st June, 1865,) its entry dues.

4. That the Mexican steamer Seoñrita, on the way from Camargo to Matamoras, was captured by General Cortinas, of the Juarist army, and a part of the cargo were the thirty-five bales of cotton shipped by the house of L. Mouler & Co., and belonging to them.

5. That the capture of this Mexican steamer Señorita is a fact too notorious to require proof of its seizure.

6. That these thirty-five bales of cotton were placed by the said General Cortinas on the farm of Mrs. Stephen Goseaseochea, who they say is Cortinas's mother, situated on the left bank of the Rio Grande, in Texas, and upon territory of the republic of the United States.

7. That the firm of L. Mouler & Co., on 15th and 22d of June, 1865, through its agent, Mr. Maithes, of the house of Maithes & Garza, tried to get the cotton from the federal military authorities, then controlling that portion of United States territory, exhibiting to them all proof of ownership.

8. That the federal authorities showed no inclination to do justice to the French commercial house of L. Mouler & Co., of Matamoras, and finally referred them to the *courts of the Mexican republic.*

9. That these thirty-five bales of cotton were sold by General Cortinas without opposition on the neutral territory of the United States, though they belonged to the French house of L. Mouler & Co., and the present affiant claims its value for his principal from the United States.

10. That these thirty-five bales of cotton intended to be shipped and sold in New York by the house of L. Mouler & Co., of Matamoras, where they would have probably arrived the 15th of July, 1864, was of the quality of good middling.

11. That these thirty-five bales of cotton averaged 475 pounds weight per bale, or sixteen thousand six hundred and twenty-five pounds, (16,625.)

12. That this affiant, in the name of L. Mouler & Co., will now fix the value of the said cotton in the New York market on the 15th of July, 1865, deducting the ordinary charges.

ACCOUNT OF THE VALUE OF THIRTY-FIVE BALES OF COTTON.

13. At the 15th July, 1865, good middling cotton was worth fifty cents a pound in New York, in United States treasury notes—that is, eight thousand three hundred and twelve dollars and fifty cents for the 16,625 pounds.

From this sum is to be deducted: 1. The insurance from Matamoras to New York, to have been paid by L. Mouler & Co., of five per cent. on the value of thirty-five (35) bales of cotton in Matamoras, which was thirty cents in gold per pound; that is, four thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents ($4,987 50) for the sixteen thousand six hundred and twenty-five (16,625) pounds, making a sum of two hundred and forty-nine dollars and thirty-seven cents ($249 37) in gold, or at the premium in New York, (forty-two,) the sum of three hundred and fifty-four dollars and eleven cents ($354 11) in United States treasury notes.

2. The freight to have been paid by this affiant to New York, at the rate of two cents a pound, in United States treasury notes, or $332 50 for the sixteen thousand six hundred and twenty-five (16,625) pounds, making $332 50.

3. The import duty at the rate of two cents a pound in gold, (act of Congress approved the 30th of June, 1864,) or two hundred and eighty-four thousandths (0.0284) of a dollar in United States treasury notes, or four hundred and seventy-two dollars and fifteen cents in United States treasury notes, for the sixteen thousand six hundred and twenty-five pounds, (16,625,) making $472 15. The total deduction will be $1,158 76, leaving the net profit on the thirty-five bales of cotton in United States treasury notes at $7,153 74.

14. That this sum of $7,153 74 cents in the United States treasury notes represents in gold the premium in New York on the 15th of July, 1865, being 42, the sum of five thousand and thirty-seven dollars and eighty-four cents, ($5,037 84,) what the cotton would have brought in New York at that time.

15. That this retention of property and denial of justice has caused the house of L. Mouler & Co. considerable damage, inasmuch as they have thus lost the use of that capital; and the affiant can adduce proof that the damage has amounted to five thousand dollars in gold, ($5,000,) which sum the house of L. Mouler & Co., all the members of which are French subjects, claim in damages from the United States. 1. The sum of five thousand and thirty-seven dollars and eighty-four cents ($5,037 84) in gold, the value of the thirty-five bales of

cotton of which the house of L. Mouler & Co. has been despoiled. 2. The sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) in gold, as damages and interest.

In all, the sum of ten thousand and thirty-seven dollars and eighty-four cents ($10,037 84) in gold, for the reason and causes above mentioned.

R. DUMESTRE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in New Orleans, on the 21st of October, 1865.

[SEAL.] P. COUDRAIN, *Notary Republic.*

[Translation.—No. 2.]

THE AUDITOR (CONDADOR) CHARGED WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FRONTIER CUSTOM-HOUSE OF THIS CITY.

I hereby certify that the importation No. 45, dated 29th of May last, made by Messrs. Lopez and Garcia, to the number of three hundred and fifty bales of cotton, has paid all expenses in this office, as appears from the proper day-book, page 72, policy No. 170; and at the request of those interested, and for legal purposes, I give this present copy in Camargo, the 3d of June, 1865.

Auditor in charge:

JESUS P. MARTE.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish and City of New Orleans:*

I, Pierre Coudrain, a notary public duly commissioned and sworn in and for this parish and city of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original, produced and exhibited to me this day by Mouler & Co.; that I have signed said original "*ne varietur*," at the date hereof, in order to identify it herewith, and delivered the whole to said Mouler & Co.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the impress of my seal of office, at New Orleans, this second day of October, A. D. 1865, and the ninetieth year of the independence of the United States of America.

[SEAL.] P. COUDRAIN, *Notary Public.*
(Revenue stamp.)

[Translation.—No. 3.]

I, C. Whitaker, a citizen of Matamoras, and owner of the steamer Señorita, say it is true, and acknowledge to have received from Messrs. Maithes and Garza, merchants of this place, the following effects: thirty-five (35) bales of cotton, marked and numbered as in M. & G. margin; entered, weighed, dry, and in good condition, to my entire satisfaction, to be carried to Matamoras in due time, and delivered in the same condition to Messrs. Mouler & Co.; and the faithful and legal delivery having been made, I am to be paid for the freight, at the rate of $8 per every bale; and to fulfil the same, I bind myself and my property, and sign these bills of lading, of the same tenor, and for a single effect.

Port of Camargo, June 21, 1865.

C. WHITAKER.

Amount of freight, $280.
(In margin: Not responsible for old damages.)

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish and City of New Orleans:*

I, Pierre Coudrain, a notary public duly commissioned and sworn in and for this parish and city of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original, produced and exhibited to me this day by Mouler & Co.; that I have signed said original "*ne varietur*," at the date hereof, in order to identify it herewith, and delivered the whole to said Mouler & Co.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the impress of my seal of office, at New Orleans, this 2d day of October, A. D. 1865, and the ninetieth year of the independence of the United States of America.

[SEAL.] P. COUDRAIN, *Notary Public.*

[Third class—two reals.—No. 1.]

Mexican empire—opened for the year 1864–'65, according to section 3d of act 41 of the law of February, 1856.

MATAMORAS, *May* 19, 1865.

Administrator, H. Galvan. Police prefect, Pedro y de la Gazza.

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FRONTIER CUSTOM-HOUSE OF CAMARGO.

I hereby certify that the steamer Señorita left the town of Camargo on the 21st of June, of the present year, with thirty-five (35) bales of cotton, the property of Maithes Mark, M. & G. and Garza, imported into said town by Messrs. Lopez and Garcia, and shipped to Matamoras, to the consignment of Messrs. Mouler & Co.; and at the request of persons interested, I give the present, at Matamoras, on the 21st of July, 1865.

The administrator, J. MA. ROSS.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish and City of New Orleans:*

I, Pierre Coudrain, a notary public duly commissioned and sworn in and for this parish and city of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original, produced and exhibited to me this day by Mouler & Co.; that I have signed said original "*ne varietur*," at the date hereof, in order to identify it herewith, and delivered the whole to said Mouler & Co.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the impress of my seal of office, at New Orleans, this 2d day of October, A. D. 1865, and the ninetieth year of the independence of the United States of America.

[SEAL.] P. COUDRAIN, *Notary Public.*
(Revenue stamp.)

The administrator and auditor of the frontier custom-house of Camargo certify that the custom-house of this city, under imperial orders, issued a permit, No. 26, for thirty-five (35) bales of cotton, shipped by Messrs. Lopez & Garcia to Matamoras on the steamer Señorita, and consigned to Messrs. L. Mouler & Co., import No. 45, date 27th instant, as appears from policy No. 170, folio 72, of the day-book in which the office accounts are kept, the duties having been paid to the liberal government at the time of importation.

The mark of the cotton is seen in the margin, and for the use of those interested I give the present in the said town of Camargo, on the 24th of July, 1865.

VIVIANO G. PERES.
V. FEJEDA.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, *Parish and City of New Orleans:*

I, Pierre Coudrain, a notary public duly qualified and sworn in and for the parish and city of New Orleans, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now produced and exhibited to me by Mouler & Co.; that I have signed said original "*ne varietur*," at the date hereof, in order to identify it herewith, and delivered the whole to Mouler & Co.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the impress of my seal of office at New Orleans, this 29th day of September, 1865, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

[SEAL.] P. COUDRAIN, *Notary Public.*
(Revenue stamp.)

STATE OF LOUISIANA—EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

BY J. MADISON WELLS, GOVERNOR OF SAID STATE.

To all who shall see these presents, greeting:

Know ye, that the document hereto annexed is in due form, and made by the proper officer, and that Pierre Coudrain, whose name is subscribed thereto, was, at the time of subscribing the same, notary public for Orleans parish, duly appointed and commissioned, and full faith and credit are due and ought to be given to his official acts accordingly.

Given under my hand and seal of the State at the city of New Orleans, this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninetieth.

[SEAL.] J. MADISON WELLS.
(Revenue stamp.)

By the governor:
S. WROTNOWSKI, *Secretary of State.*

The Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

WASHINGTON, *November* 29, 1865.

MY DEAR SIR: Conforming to the desire you expressed to me, I send you, herewith, a copy and translation of Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys's despatch, the contents of which I have had the honor to read to you.

With the highest regards, I remain, my dear sir, respectfully yours,

MONTHOLON.

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, *Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.*

Monsieur Drouyn de Lhuys to the Marquis de Montholon.—(Confidential.)

[Translation.]

MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGERES,
Paris, October 18, 1865.

MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS: I have taken several occasions since two months to advise you of the dispositions of the imperial government concerning the duration of the occupation of Mexico by the French troops. I told you, in my despatch of August 17, that we called with our most sincere wishes for the day when the last French soldier should leave the country, and that the cabinet of Washington could contribute to hasten that moment. On the 2d of September I renewed to you the assurance of our strong desire to withdraw our auxiliary corps so soon as circumstances should allow it. At last, following the same ideas more fully, in a private letter of the 10th of the same month I added that it greatly depended upon the United States to facilitate the departure of our troops. If they would adopt toward the Mexican government an amicable attitude which would aid to the consolidation of order, and in which we could find motives of security for the interests which obliged us to carry arms beyond the Atlantic, we would be ready to adopt without delay the bases of an understanding on this subject with the cabinet of Washington; and I wish to make fully known to you now the views of the government of his Majesty.

What we ask of the United States is to be assured that their intention is not to impede the consolidation of the new order of things founded in Mexico; and the best guarantee we could receive of their intention would be the recognition of the Emperor Maximilian by the federal government.

The American Union should not, it seems to us, be kept back by the difference of institutions, for the United States have official intercourse with all the monarchies of Europe and the New World. It is in conformity with their own principles of public law to regard the monarchy established in Mexico as being, at least, a government "*de facto*," without particular regard to its nature or its origin, which has been consecrated by the suffrage of the people of that country; and in thus acting the cabinet of Washington would only be inspired with the same feelings of sympathy which President Johnson expressed recently to the envoy of Brazil, as guiding the policy of the United States towards the younger states of the American continent.

Mexico, it is true, is still occupied at this moment by the French army, and we can readily see that this objection will arise. But the acknowledgment of the Emperor Maximilian by the United States would, in our opinion, have sufficient influence upon the state of the country to allow us to take in consideration their susceptibilities on this subject; and should the cabinet of Washington decide to open diplomatic relations with the court of Mexico, we would see no difficulty to enter in arrangement for the recall of our troops within a reasonable period of which we would—might consent to fix the termination.

In consequence of the vicinage and immense extent of the common frontier, the United States are, more than any other power, interested to see their trade with Mexico placed under the safeguard of stipulations in harmony with the mutual wants of both countries. We would most readily offer our good offices to facilitate the conclusion of a commercial treaty, thereby cementing the political "rapprochement," the bases of which I have just made known to you.

By order of the Emperor, I invite you to make kown to Mr. Seward the dispositions of his Majesty's government.

You are authorized, if you think it proper, to read him the contents of this despatch.

I remain,

DROUYN DE LHUYS.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 4, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 23d ultimo, in regard to the claim of Messrs. L. Mouler & Company, on account of their alleged loss of thirty-five bales of cotton in consequence of the seizure of the steamer Señorita by the Mexican General Cortinas, who is reported to have landed the cargo on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, and there to have disposed of it.

In reply, I have the honor to inform you that I have referred the claim to the Secretary of War for investigation.

Accept, sir, a renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The MARQUIS DE MONTHOLON, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to the Marquis de Montholon.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 6, 1865.

SIR: Having made known to the President the Emperor's views on Mexican affairs which you communicated to me on the 29th ultimo, I have now the honor to inform you of the disposition of this government in regard to the same subject. It seems proper, however, for me to say, in the first place, that what I have to communicate has been already fully made known to Mr. Bigelow, with authority, in his discretion, to impart the same to Mr. Drouyn de Lhuys.

The effect of the Emperor's suggestions when they are reduced to a practical shape seems to be this: that France is willing to retire from Mexico as soon as she may, but that it would be inconvenient for her without first receiving from the United States an assurance of a friendly or tolerant disposition to the power which has assumed to itself an imperial form in the capital city of Mexico. The President is gratified with the assurance you have thus given of the Emperor's good disposition. I regret, however, to be obliged to say that the condition the Emperor suggests is one which seems quite impracticable.

It is true, indeed, that the presence of foreign armies in an adjacent country could not, under any circumstances, but cause uneasiness and anxiety on the part of this government. It creates for us expenses which are inconvenient, not to speak of dangers of collision. Nevertheless, I cannot but infer from the tenor of your communication, that the principal cause of the discontent prevailing in the United States in regard to Mexico is not fully apprehended by the Emperor's government. The chief cause is not that there is a foreign army in Mexico; much less does that discontent arise from the circumstances that that foreign army is a French one. We recognize the right of sovereign nations to carry on war with each other if they do not invade our right or menace our safety or just influence. The real cause of our national discontent is, that the French army which is now in Mexico is invading a domestic republican government there which was established by her people, and with whom the United States sympathize most profoundly, for the avowed purpose of suppressing it and establishing upon its ruins a foreign monarchial government, whose presence there, so long as it should endure, could not but be regarded by the people of the United States, as injurious and menacing to their own chosen and endeared republican institutions.

I admit that the United States do not feel themselves called upon to make a war of propagandism throughout the world, or even on this continent, in the

republican cause. We have sufficient faith in the eventual success of that cause on this continent, through the operation of existing material and moral causes, to induce us to acquiesce in the condition of things which we found existing here, while our own republic was receiving its shape and development. On the other hand we have constantly maintained, and still feel bound to maintain, that the people of every State on the American continent have a right to secure for themselves a republican government if they choose, and that interference by foreign states to prevent the enjoyment of such institutions deliberately established is wrongful, and in its effects antagonistical to the free and popular form of government existing in the United States. We should think it wrong as well as unwise, on the part of the United States, to attempt to subvert by force monarchial governments in Europe for the purpose of replacing them with republican institutions. It seems to us equally objectionable that European states should forcibly intervene in states situated on this continent to overthrow republican institutions, and replace them with monarchies or empires.

Having thus frankly stated our position, I leave the question for the consideration of France, sincerely hoping that that great nation may find it compatible with its best interests and its high honor to withdraw from its aggressive attitude in Mexico, within some convenient and reasonable time, and thus leave the people of that country to the free enjoyment of the system of republican government which they have established for themselves, and of their adherence to which they have given what seems to the United States to be decisive and conclusive, as well as very touching proofs. I am, sir, the more inclined to hope for such a solution of the difficulty for the reason that when, at any time within the last four years, the question has been asked of any American statesman, or even of any American citizen, what country in Europe was the one which was least likely to experience an alienation of the friendship of the United States, the answer was promptly given, France. Friendship with France has always been deemed important and peculiarly agreeable by the American people. Every American citizen deems it no less important and desirable for the future than for the past.

The President will be pleased to be informed of the reception which the Emperor gives to the suggestions which I have now made.

Accept, sir, the renewed assurances of my very high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Marquis de Montholon to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF FRANCE TO THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, December 9, 1865.

SIR: I hasten to acknowledge the reception of your excellency's note of the 6th December, in answer to my communication of the 29th ultimo.

I will not fail to transmit, without delay, this important document to the government of the Emperor.

Accept the assurances of my high consideration.

MONTHOLON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*,
Washington, D. C.