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THE STANDARD.



RALEIGH, SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 1852.

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE.

On Wednesday last the Electors of President and Vice President assembled in the Senate chamber in this City, at 12 o'clock, M. in accordance with law, and proceeded to organize and cast the vote of North Carolina. The following Electors, being the whole number, were in attendance: For the State at large, JAMES C. DOBBIN. First District, WILLIAM H. THOMAS. Second District, BURTON CRAIG. Third District, WALTER F. LEAK. Fourth District, ROBERT P. DICK. Fifth District, ABRAHAM RENCHER. Sixth District, L. O'B. BRANCH. Seventh District, SAMUEL J. PERSON. Eighth District, D. G. W. WARD. Ninth District, THOMAS BRAGO.

The Proclamation of the Governor, convening the College, was read by D. G. W. Ward, of the Raleigh District.

On motion of Mr. Bragg, Walter F. Leak, of the Third District, was appointed President of the College; who, being conducted to the Chair, returned his thanks for the honor and spoke as follows:

Gentlemen of the Electoral College: I return you my warmest thanks for the unmerited compliment you have just bestowed in selecting me to preside over your honorable body.

To say that I do not feel proud of the honor you have conferred would be to indulge a puerile and unworthy affectation, unbecoming the occasion, and altogether at variance with the emotions of my bosom. At no period since my entering into public life have I been called upon to address an audience political or otherwise, in which I labored under as great a degree of embarrassment as I do on the present occasion.

My embarrassment originates less from not knowing what to say than how to say it; a feeling I know you and each of you to those around can more properly appreciate than I describe.

While I have been ever ready under any and every occasion, to stand forth the humble advocate of the principles of my party, and that too in the hour of their greatest need, now, the battle having been fought and the victory won, I feel no disposition to indulge in any, the slightest remark, that may be calculated to wound the feelings of the most sensitive gentleman present.

We have the language of our distinguished political leader, with the man of noble, high minded and generous impulse, the hour of victory is always the hour of magnanimity; and, gentlemen, I need not say that such I know are your sentiments.

That political controversy, circumscribed within proper limits, is both right and commendable, we all know to be the truest and the most salutary. I will go further and say, that while it is the very element that sustains the vessel of State, great care should be taken that the excesses of party feeling should be restrained within proper limits, lest its violence should generate a spray and bewilder the pilot's course, and end in the wreck of the whole crew.

We have been contending, and as I know and believe on both sides, honestly contending for principle; we have met each other before the proper forum, and then and there entered into our respective views of governmental policy; and I now congratulate you and congratulate the American people upon the result which we are this day to record.

The jurats of the respective vicinages, have declared in thousands of voices, too loud to be unheard, as well as too significant to be misunderstood, that the principles of Democracy as handed down to us from our political fathers, are the principles best calculated to make us a great, a prosperous and a happy people.

When we now meet to record that verdict, by selecting men known to entertain the principles which the majority of the freemen of North Carolina have endorsed. Yes, we have here assembled, and organized ourselves into an Electoral College, and in the presence of this array of intelligence and respectability, we proceed to cast our votes for a President and Vice President in these United States.

Democracy. They have always in the language of the sage of the Hermitage, asked nothing but what is right, neither will they ever submit to any thing that is wrong. American Democracy, while it ever stands ready to secure the greatest good to the greatest number, has never yet went so far as to be ready to embark upon a crusade for the wide world's freedom, and while it deeply sympathizes for the oppressed of all nations, it never will "quit its own to stand upon foreign ground."

No, it stands inflexibly opposed to the wild way of popular passion, to the lust of conquest, and to the intense cravings of hot blood for lawless gratification. Such is Fourierism, Agrarianism, Fanny Wrightism, but it is any thing else than the Democracy we have endorsed.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me say to you, that the march of our principles is onward; but victory does not always drop like ripe fruit into the lap of the indolent.

There must be vigilance, organization, and a concentrated effort to secure it. I thank you again, gentlemen, for the distinction conferred.

On motion of Mr. Branch, Perrin Busbee, of Wake, was requested to act as Secretary to the College.

Mr. Dobbin then moved that the College proceed to vote by ballot for President of the United States, and he nominated therefor FRANKLIN PIERCE, of New Hampshire. The ten votes of the State were then cast for FRANKLIN PIERCE; whereupon Mr. Person nominated for Vice President WILLIAM R. KING, of Alabama. The ten votes of the State were then cast for WILLIAM R. KING; after which Mr. Craige moved that a Committee of two be appointed to superintend the signing, directing, and sealing the certificates of the votes; which was adopted, and Messrs. Craige and Rencher appointed said Committee.

The College then took a recess until four o'clock, P. M.; at which time the College re-assembled, when Mr. Craige from the Committee, reported the certificates as ready for the signatures of the Electors, and the same were then signed agreeably to law.

On motion of Mr. Rencher, William B. Gulick, of Wayne, was appointed Messenger to take charge of and deliver the certified list of votes to the President of the Senate, at the City of Washington; and the President of the College delivered the same to the said Messenger, with instructions.

On motion of Mr. Dick, the thanks of the College were unanimously tendered to the Senate for the use of their chamber; and on motion of Mr. Thomas, the thanks of the College were likewise unanimously tendered to the President for the dignified manner in which he had discharged his duties, and to the Secretary for the able manner in which he had performed his.

The College then adjourned.

There was a large concourse in attendance to witness the proceedings, which were conducted with much dignity and deliberation. The spectators applauded warmly as the votes of the College were cast for FRANKLIN PIERCE and WILLIAM R. KING.

This is the first Republican vote which this State has cast for President and Vice President, since 1836; but the "old North" is in the right path now, and we have the fullest confidence that she will remain there.

THE LEGISLATURE.

We refer our readers to our legislative columns for proceedings from Tuesday to Thursday, inclusive.

On Thursday the Senate disagreed to the House proposition to vote on that day for an Attorney General, but agreed to vote to-day (Friday) for Supreme Court Judge. On the same day the two Houses voted twice for Senator Mr. Dobbin and Gen. Saunders increased their vote, while Mr. Shepard's vote fell off. There were a number of scattering votes.

We continue to hear, from all quarters, the strongest expressions from the Democracy in favor of Mr. Dobbin. He is gaining, as the vote shows; and all his friends have to do to ensure his election is to stand firmly by him. A full vote on the part of the Democrats for the nominee of the party, would at once put an end to the present state of things. And how long, may we be allowed to ask, is this condition of things to be continued? Gentlemen who are refusing, for whatever reasons, to support the nominee, may rest assured that the eyes of the Democrats of the whole State are upon them; and that if a Whig should slip in as the result of existing differences, they will be held to a strict accountability for such result. The patience of the Democratic people is well nigh exhausted.

HEALTH OF COL. KING.

The last Richmond Enquirer, says: "We understand that Senator Clemens of Alabama, passed through this city Monday morning, from the South, on his way to Washington city, and that he was asked by a gentleman on the cars, as to the health of Vice President elect, Wm. R. King, and his reply was that he saw Mr. King on his way through Alabama, a few days before, and that his health was greatly improved—much better than usual."

The report, therefore, put in circulation a few days ago about Col. King's death, is doubtless entirely unfounded.

We repeat the statement, heretofore made in this paper, that Dr. Drake, the Senator from Nash, has voted uniformly for Mr. Dobbin for Senator. Our Reporter was mistaken in stating that Dr. Drake voted for Gen. Saunders.

AGRICULTURE. A Professorship of Agriculture has been endowed in Delaware College, and will go into operation the present winter. This is as it should be. We should like to see a similar Professorship in our University.

FREE SUFFRAGE.

It will be seen, by our Senatorial proceedings that a great and fundamental principle of free government is in danger! On Tuesday last the Senate of North Carolina refused the Constitutional majority to the Free Suffrage bill; and that measure—the vote having been reconsidered—awaits to-day (Friday) final action in that body.

It would be useless, at this time of day—in the high noon of the nineteenth century, and amid the full blaze of political equality at the ballot-box, which pours in upon us from thirty sovereign States of the Confederacy—to argue the question of Free Suffrage, or to enlarge upon its claims upon all hearts and judgments as a measure founded in right, truth, and justice. The hour for argument has gone by. Three times, and in sounds "loud as seven thunders uttering their voices," have the people of this State proclaimed for this change in their fundamental law. Disregarded at first, or rather not sufficiently regarded, they issued their commands again and again, until at length their House of Commons, animated by a sense of duty and of right, gave to the bill more than the Constitutional strength necessary to perfect it in that body; and now it vibrates in the Senate between defeat and triumph—in the Senate, where the landholders alone can speak, and where, if this measure is defeated, exclusiveness, the remnants of feudal aristocracy, and all the prejudices which belong to class legislation will have won the day over the well-ascertained, the undoubted will of the freemen of the State. More than this—if Free Suffrage is defeated, that defeat will be recorded in the face of the fact that nearly two-thirds of the landholders themselves are in favor of the change, as is evidenced by the vote of the Senate on Tuesday!

And has it come to this? Are we still to be told that the landholders are to rule, if they choose, in both branches of the Assembly! Is it nothing to the taxpayer who owns no land, or to the taxpayer who owns less than fifty acres, that the landholders elect one branch of the Assembly of themselves and by themselves, and then turn to the Commons box and cast, of the fifty thousand votes thrown into that box, forty thousand? Is it nothing to the man of stocks, of money at interest, or who owns slaves and real estate, that his taxes to the State are estimated in apportioning the Senate, and Senators actually based upon them, and then he is refused the right of voting for these Senators? Away with such an unjust discrimination! Away with the doctrine that the people are not to be trusted with their own government! Away with the idea that the non-landholders would oppress the landholders, or infringe their rights of property! If the absurd notion of having one class of men to vote in one box and another class in another is to prevail, then provide at once that the landholders shall vote only for Senators and the non-landholders, as now, only for Commons. The truth is, the leading and governing principle in establishing representation in all free government is this: The Senate is based upon property of all kinds—that is, upon the taxes paid on this property, and the Commons or House of Delegates on population—that is, there is one Commoner or Delegate for a given number of that population; and then, as a matter of course, all property, all classes and all interests being represented, provided for, taken care of in the basis of apportionment, all classes ought to be allowed to vote. This is the rule; and this rule cannot be successfully assailed.

It is a gratifying fact that every Democratic member of the Commons is in favor of this measure, and that every Democratic member on the floor of the Senate voted for it on Tuesday—Mr. Hoke having voted in the negative in order to obtain the right to move a reconsideration. Fifteen Whig votes were cast against it in the Senate, and some of the Whigs refused to vote. The Whig members of the Senate have the power to pass the bill, and, if it should fail, the Whig party will be held responsible before the people for its failure. The Whig members, it is understood, have caused upon it—caused upon a proposition to establish equality between citizen and citizen at the ballot-box; and upon their heads, therefore, as a party, (if the bill should be defeated) will the withering judgment of the people fall. We pledge ourselves to this contest, now and hereafter. This judgment shall find voices in every quarter of the State. It shall peel, like the trump of doom, upon the ear of many a Senator, who, at home, makes fine professions of respect for the public will, but who here disregards and tramples down that will. The East, the West, the North, and the South will speak a gain, and they will speak through other men until the work is accomplished.

But we still hope for a better result. We still hope that some of those Whigs in the Senate who refused to vote on Tuesday, or who voted against the bill, will reconsider the matter and conclude to lend their aid. All that is asked of them is, to put the measure before the people; if they approve it at the polls, it will be well for the act will be the people's; if they disapprove it, we shall bow in silence to their verdict. Is not this fair? Can any one, who is willing to give the people a final hearing, object to it? We shall see.

The obsequies in memory of Daniel Webster which took place in Boston on the 30th instant, were magnificent. The procession was immense, General Pierce was present. An oration was delivered at Faneuil Hall by George S. Hilliard, Esq. of that City.

The specie entered at Panama during the month of October amounted to \$5,900,000.

IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE.

We conclude below the Correspondence between Mr. Buchanan and Gen. Saunders in relation to the purchase of Cuba:

Mr. Saunders to Mr. Buchanan.—[EXTRACTS.]

LA GRANJA, July 29, 1848.

SIR: I had the honor to receive, by the hands of Mr. Sawyer, on the 24th instant, despatch No. 21, enclosing copies of a letter from the Department to Mr. Campbell, and of a confidential order from the Secretary of War to Major General Butler, all relating to matters in Cuba, together with a special commission from the President, authorizing me to enter into negotiations for the cessation of that island to the United States.

In acknowledging the receipt of these papers, I beg to express to the President my deep obligations for his distinguished mark of confidence in confiding to me so important and delicate a commission, and at the same time to express to you my thanks for the very full and valuable information you have given me in your despatch. I shall not fail to avail myself of his suggestions, facts, and arguments, in any negotiation I may have on the subject.

As I am directed to make a full and faithful report to the Department of every thing which may transpire in connection with the subject, I have thought it advisable to avail myself of your directions to engage a special messenger to carry this communication as far as Liverpool, and to make it as full as I can at this time, so that in any future despatch I may refer to it in a way you will understand, without at the same time risking any thing by a miscarriage.

There are difficulties which surround the subject which meets us at the threshold, and which it is proper I should explain, that you may be the better prepared to judge as to the course I may find it necessary to pursue in the business. On the first place, I am not a little embarrassed as to the persons to whom should first lay the subject.

I have also heard from another source that the Duke of Sotomayor was unfriendly to the United States. I have not myself discovered any feeling of the kind. On the contrary, he always speaks with praise of his grandfather, Governor McKean, and with respect of our country. Gen. Narvaez, the president of the council, is a bold, fearless man, the soul of the Cabinet.

Yet he is difficult of approach, and might not like the responsibility of having the subject in the first instance broached to him. Another difficulty, and as I fear, an insuperable one, is the influence of the Queen Mother. She has great control over her daughter, and is feared by the Ministry, and I suspect would most decidedly object to the cessation. She has considerable investments in Cuba, from which she derives great profits.

These investments are loudly complained of by the non-landholders, and are the cause of their private animosity, and such as the Queen Mother should not intermeddle with—such as gas-light companies, and other associations, in a small way. She could only be silenced by a prospect of gain, or indemnity for her loss; but at this stage of the business it is not necessary she should know any thing about it, unless she could be induced to consent to her. I have already intimated to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs my wish to have a private interview with him, and received an answer through his secretary, that he was confined to his chamber by a severe attack of the gout, but would see me as soon as he was able to attend to business. Whether I shall ask an audience of Gen. Narvaez will depend on my meeting with a favorable opportunity for doing so.

At this stage of my report, I heard there was likely to be a change in the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I deemed it prudent to see Gen. Narvaez, and ascertain the truth of the rumor. He readily informed me that he had been offered a pension of 400,000 francs, which he had declined, and that he had no objection to my communicating with him in relation to the subject. He further said that he had difficulties to contend with, both in Cuba and at home; but should always look with confidence to our great country, from the friendly relations which had so long existed between Spain and the United States.

He requested to be furnished with copies of your answer and of the Secretary's order. I promised to give him a copy of the order of Gen. Butler, and of so much of your letter as referred to the subject; with the understanding that the information given by Mr. Campbell was not to be used in any way to excite prejudices against him as our consul.

I considered this a favorable moment to introduce the subject which had been the peculiar object of my visit. I began by saying: "His Excellency would allow me to advert to another matter in regard to the Island of Cuba, which, though one of delicacy, was of great importance to us, and I trusted he would receive my communication in the same friendly spirit in which it was made." He replied that it would afford him much pleasure to hear any thing I might have to say. I continued: "His Excellency was fully aware of the very deep interest which the United States felt in every thing connected with the present condition and future prospects of Cuba; its position, its great importance to our commerce, the condition of a portion of its population, were well calculated to increase the interest we felt in its fate." He expressed his full assent to all this. I said: "That whilst the President and our people were perfectly content that it should remain a colony of Spain, and did not by any means desire to change that relation, several events had recently taken place well calculated to excite our fears, and to create some alarm on the subject. I should content myself by referring him to a few of them. The recent revolution in France, and the order by its Provisional Government for the immediate emancipation of the slaves in the French islands, and the fatal consequences which had followed, had produced great anxiety in the United States as to its effects on the Spanish islands. He would doubtless recollect the speech of Lord George Bentinck at the last session of Parliament on the subject of the Spanish bondholders, and of the reply of Lord Palmerston, asserting the right of the British Government to wage war against Spain for the recovery of these debts whenever it might deem it expedient." The Excellency very emphatically signified his recollection of these speeches. "Then circumstances, in connection with the recent suspension of all diplomatic intercourse between the two Governments, had added to the anxiety of the United States as to the condition of Cuba. They had led the President to believe the time had arrived when it was prudent for him to give to the Ministry at this State authority to treat on the subject of Cuba, if it should be the pleasure of her Catholic Majesty to enter into such a negotiation. I had been honored by the President with a special commission for this purpose; a fact which I had been directed to communicate to the Government of her Majesty in confidence,

and which, from the respect I entertained towards His Excellency, had induced me to make it known to him." He said in reply, "That he received the information with much pleasure; that whilst he should consider it as confidential, it might be best that the Minister of State should be made acquainted with it; that he enjoyed his full confidence, and might be implicitly confided in." I rejoined: "I did not doubt on that score; but had thought from the nature of the subject, as the Minister of State was just about to enter upon the duties of his office, it was most proper to make the communication to his Excellency."

Here our conference ended. As you will see, I was somewhat guarded in the latter part of my explanation, and that the Minister was not very explicit in his reply. He evidently was pleased with the communication. He was not only courteous and respectful, but manifested the greatest attention and interest during the whole of the conversation. I deemed it most prudent not to use the word "cession," and am not exactly certain that he understood me as fully authorized to treat for the cession, or merely for the appropriation of the island to her Majesty, I think it politic, at this stage of the business, to be more explicit or to press the matter further. I have opened the subject, apprized him of my authority, and can hereafter advert to the subject as circumstances may justify. I am well satisfied nothing will prevent the Spanish Government to part with Cuba but the apprehension of a successful revolution in the island, or the fear of its seizure by England. The national pride and character of these people would not induce them readily to give up on the first point. I have reason to know the Government are not without their fears on the latter point. As I learn, private letters from England give them to understand that the bondholders are pressing the Government to decide should be done in their behalf. If the Government shall entertain any serious fears in regard to the matter, they would likely open the subject, and thus enable me to bring forward a formal proposition to treat for a cession. I deem it, therefore, the best policy to refer the thing to rest as it is for the present. The court will remain in Madrid until I shall have the opportunity of meeting the Ministers in an informal way, without attracting that attention which my official visits in Madrid would likely excite. Besides, in my opinion, as the matter now stands, renew the subject with the Duke of Sotomayor would do more harm than good. I discover the least ground to suspect that they are laboring under any misapprehension as to my conversation with General Narvaez.

Mr. Pidal belongs to the French party, is strongly prejudiced against the English, and will warmly oppose Gen. Narvaez on that point. He was Secretary of the late King, and is the brother-in-law of the brother-in-law of Mon, who was the Minister of Finance at the time, and the great co-laborer of Count Bresson in support of the Montpensier marriage. Still he is strongly Spanish in his feelings and character, and not likely to join in promoting an act calculated to shock the national pride. On the other hand, he is a bold, independent man, and would fearlessly carry out any measure he might undertake. Of the Queen mother I have already spoken, so that you have a pretty accurate idea of the persons with whom I have to deal, and of the probability of success. You will naturally inquire if the state of the finances is to have no effect on the question of a cession of Cuba, and the expenses daily increasing; with the credit of the Government so far reduced as to be driven to the necessity of resorting to a forced loan to raise the small sum of five millions, one would suppose such a state of things as this would be the first consideration with those charged with the administration of the Government. It is true, the state of the finances, and of the public debt, that all seem to despair of correcting them. The foreign debt is estimated at four hundred millions of dollars, of which the agent of the English creditors claims two hundred and fifty millions. Of the domestic debt, what is the amount no one seems to know; it is said even the Duke of Sotomayor is ignorant of it, and it does not appear to be known. It is stated that there are three hundred millions three per cent. exchangeable for certain kinds of public property. Mr. Henderson is still at Madrid, acting as agent of the bondholders, and boasts of occasionally receiving a note of promise from General Narvaez. The fact is, I expect he has not been here for some time. Do not see how they can well meet the demands for the interest, even if so disposed. Certainly they cannot, without that radical reform which no Ministry has the resolution to undertake. The average receipts, for the last four or five years have been sixty-five millions of dollars, and the expenditures seventy millions. The army is computed at one hundred and thirty thousand men, and the navy at twenty thousand for Cuba, and fifteen thousand for the other colonies. As matters now stand, when the country is governed by the bayonet, there is little prospect of a reduction.

The Government places a much higher estimate on the revenue of Cuba than you seem to calculate. They place it at twenty millions of dollars, and after deducting the expenses of the civil and military, claim for the treasury six millions. Besides this, the orders or rents on the treasury, pay to the navy, and employment to persons who would be entitled to retiring pensions at home, together with the profits from the flour monopoly, make according to the estimate here some fifty or twenty millions annually. I doubt, therefore, if we have any thing to calculate on from a financial view of the question. Hence my conclusion that nothing short of necessity, arising from their fears as to the consequences, will force them to act.

Allow me now to present the view I ventured to hint at some short time since. In Mr. Forsyth's statement to Mr. Van Buren, in 1846, it was to be found the following very strong language: "You are authorized to assure the Spanish Government that in case of any attempt, from whatever quarter, to wrest from her this portion of her territory, (Cuba,) she may securely depend upon the military and naval resources of the United States to sustain her." This assurance was accordingly given by Mr. Vail, and again repeated by Mr. Irving, under his instructions from Mr. Webster. With this guaranty for the safety of the island, the Spanish Government has rested in perfect security. At the time of Mr. Bulwer's dismissal, when the public apprehended a rupture with England, it was a common remark at the Court of St. James—the great staple for political discussion—"that the United States would aid us in the protection of Cuba." Now, whilst I would not formally withdraw this assurance, I suggest the propriety of changing our tone, by saying, "In a war between Spain and England the United States might feel greatly embarrassed, from her friendly relations with England, that she is not only our ally, with whom we are at peace, but with whom at present we have the most intimate commercial relations; that whatever we may think of her colonial policy, in the extension of her commerce and of the advancement of her manufactures, the United States would feel great reluctance in an open rupture with her at this time; besides, she might claim from us the same neutrality in a war with Spain as she had observed in car late contest with Mexico." This language might do good; and, as I think, could do us no harm. And whatever might be our secret resolution—that under no circumstances could we allow Cuba to come under the control of England—still it might be as well for us to keep this resolution to ourselves.

In my interviews heretofore with the Minister I shall venture to present this view of the subject, as a reason why we should greatly prefer the purchase of Cuba to any interference to prevent its falling into the power of England.

I have thus given you a full account of what has

taken place since the reception of your despatch—of the difficulties which surround the subject, of my prospects, and of the course I design to pursue in regard to this interesting subject. I feel highly flattered in having confided to me a trust in whose successful execution I should connect my name with one of the most important events in our diplomatic history.

I am, sir, most respectfully your ob't servant,
R. M. SAUNDERS.

JAMES BUCHANAN, Esq.,
Secretary of State.

Mr. Saunders to Mr. Buchanan.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
MADRID, August 18, 1848.

SIR: I reached here this morning from La Granja, and was somewhat surprised to find the gentleman who had engaged to carry my despatch to Liverpool had not yet left, but expects to do so to-night. It is perhaps as well, as it enables me to add information on the subject of a more definite nature. On the 15th instant I had an interview with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which I was more explicit in my communication, and he more candid in his reply. I repeated the interest which the United States felt in the present and future condition of Cuba, and the belief of the President that possibly the existing state of things might render it desirable for her Majesty to enter into negotiations on the subject. He said he had been informed by General Narvaez of the nature of my communication to him, and of my authority; that, if I wished to press the matter further at this time, he should like to hear whether I proposed to treat for the cession of Cuba to the United States, or for its security to Spain; and, in the event of a difficulty with England, whether Spain would hold out for any aid from the United States.

I answered that it was from the fear of a difficulty with England, and the threat on her part to seize on Cuba, which had, in part, induced the President to give me the special authority he had done so present; that, as his excellency would see, an open rupture between Spain and England, and the United States—might greatly embarrass her as to the part which she, as a neutral, might find it necessary to take; that, whilst self-preservation and the interest of her commerce might prevent her from remaining passive in the event of any pressing danger, she did not deem it prudent to carry the matter further involving herself in war with England on that account. He said he fully understood our difficulty; that, from the present state of things, he did not anticipate any thing of the kind; that it was but candid in him to say he could not hold out any prospect at present of a cession; that possibly time might bring about a change. Cuba was reported to be in a state of excitement, but there was no telling how far it might remain so. He was pleased to receive my communication; should treat it as entirely confidential; and if any thing should occur to produce a different state of things, he should not fail to inform me of it.

The above, I think, in substance, what transpired. I did not deem it prudent to carry the matter further at this time, but shall not fail to keep myself fully informed of everything which may occur, and should I see the least prospect of success, shall, of course, avail myself of it.

You may possibly see in the English papers some reference to the relations with Spain, and the anxiety on the part of the Government to have the matter accommodated. I doubt if this be so. At least I am certain Gen. Narvaez has manifested no anxiety on the subject. Senor Mon has just come into the cabinet as Minister of Finance. He is the brother-in-law of the Minister of State; is the peculiar friend and partisan of Christina; is reported an honest man, and of a high character, is likely to improve the most eyed matters of the country. It is true that he and Narvaez may not continue to act very long with much harmony. I doubt if he is likely to contribute any thing to my success in regard to Cuba. I have received from the Minister of State the note, a copy of which I enclose, inviting me, as you will see, to be present at the celebration of the Duchess of Montpensier. As I found that the diplomatic corps intended going, I deemed it proper for me to accept, and shall go off within a few days. This may seem rather a ridiculous matter to us, but, as you know, is considered a necessary ceremony among the royal families of Europe. I have been given to understand my prompt acceptance was quite gratifying, both to the Queen and the Duke of Sotomayor, therefore, in the absence of any direct instructions, the President will approve of my course.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
R. M. SAUNDERS,

JAMES BUCHANAN, Esq. &c. &c.

Mr. Saunders to Mr. Buchanan.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
MADRID, November 17, 1848.

SIR: There appeared in the New York Herald of the 30th October a letter purporting to be from a Madrid correspondent, and to have been written by an American of the name of Forsyth, in relation to this negotiation, and refers to negotiations which the writer assumes as pending for the cession of Cuba to the United States. These statements, with the editorial of the Herald, had been copied into the English and French papers, and, as you will see from the enclosed articles, have been noticed by the press here. I deemed it proper to refer to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and to assure him the matter had found its way into the press without any authority from any thing done or said on the part of myself or the Secretary of this Legation. He said he had no suspicion of any thing of that kind, but supposed it was the work of the newspaper editors, or of some one, for the purpose of mischief; that it was somewhat annoying, as it was calculated to produce a bad effect in their colonies. I assured him I had taken steps to have the matter set right at home, and to find out, if I could, the author of the letter. He expressed himself as satisfied, and the matter dropped. You will see, from the articles enclosed, the spirit in which the question of the cession is received, and the feeling of the public on the subject. It is certain they regard Cuba as their own prize, and nothing short of extreme necessity will ever induce them to part with it. There are some statements in the publication which I feel called upon to notice. But it is utterly untrue that I have ever found it necessary to consult any one unconnected with the legation, in my intercourse with the Government. On the contrary, most of the Secretaries of Foreign Affairs since my being here have spoken English, and I have at no time been embarrassed on that account, as the Under-Secretary is a good English scholar. So the statement does great injustice to Mr. Sawyer, as he is a good French scholar, speaks it well, and is fully qualified to converse in and to translate the Spanish. I regret to say these references, with other allusions in the letter, have excited my suspicions as to the author. In this I may be mistaken. I deem it proper to inform you, as the letter refers to negotiations, which the writer says took place during the mission of my predecessor, I felt at liberty to write to Mr. Irving, and to request him to say to Mr. Bennett the statements in the letter were false, and to endeavor, if practicable, to find out its author. You can, therefore, if you should see fit, communicate direct with Mr. Irving, or await his answer to my letter. If my suspicions as to the author of the letter shall prove to be well-founded, he certainly deserves to be exposed, if unconnected, then I will give me pleasure to have them removed.

I will have no encouragement to renew the subject in regard to Cuba; so far as I have been able to collect the opinion of the public, it is against a cession, and I do not think the present Ministry could or

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