

J. J. BRUNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Paper!

We find it absolutely necessary to ensure ourselves against loss in publishing the paper, to advance the rates of subscription. The price will therefore be, from the 7th instant, THREE DOLLARS for Six months. For the present, subscriptions will not be received for a longer time. December 7, 1863.

THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT AND MEXICO—SEWARD ORDERS NON-INTERVENTION.

SECRETARY SEWARD TO MAJOR GEN. BANKS—THE OCCUPATION OF THE RIO GRANDE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, Nov. 28, 1863.

Major General N. P. Banks, commanding the Department of the Gulf, Brownsville, Texas:

General—I have received and have submitted to the President your three dispatches of the 6th, 7th and 8th respectively.

I have great pleasure in congratulating you upon your successful landing and occupation upon the Rio Grande, which is at the more gratifying because it was effected at a moment of apparently critical interest in the national cause. You have already found that the confusion resulting from civil strife and foreign war in Mexico offers seduction for military enterprise. I have, therefore, to inform you of the exact condition of our relations towards that republic at the present time. We are in terms of amity and friendship, and maintaining diplomatic relations with the republic of Mexico. We regard that country as the theatre of foreign war, mingled with civil strife. In this 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 belligerents. You will defend the United States in Texas against any enemies you may encounter there, whether domestic or foreign. Nevertheless, you will not enter any part of Mexico unless it be temporarily, and then clearly necessary for the protection of your own lives against aggression from the Mexican border. You can assume no authority in Mexico to protect the citizens of the United States there, much less to redress the wrongs or injuries committed against the United States or her citizens, whether those wrongs and injuries were committed on our side of the border or the other. If consuls find their positions unsafe on the Mexican side of the border let them leave the country rather than invoke the protection of your forces.

These directions result from the fixed determination of the President to avoid any departure from lawful neutrality and any unnecessary and unlawful enlargement of the present field of war, but at the same time will be expected to observe military and political events as they occur in Mexico, and to communicate all that shall be important for this Government to understand concerning them. It is hardly necessary to say that any suggestions you may think proper to give for the guidance of the Government in its relations towards Mexico will be considered with that profound respect which is always paid to the opinions which you express. In making this communication I have endeavored to avoid entering into the sphere of your military operations, and to confine myself simply to that in which you are in contact with the political movements now going on in Mexico.

I am, General, your obt. servt. WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. CORWIN—NO. 88.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, Dec. 28, 1863.

Sir—Your dispatch of October 26, No. 47, has been received and submitted to the President, and you will accept his grateful acknowledgments for the very interesting information and judicious observations which it contains concerning the present condition of Mexico. In reply to an inquiry contained in your dispatch, I have to inform you that in the absence of further instructions from this department, you will be expected to remain in the same relations as now toward the Government of United States and Mexico. If for any

cause your residence at the city of Mexico shall become intolerable or seriously inconvenient, you will be at liberty to report to any other part of the country or to return to the United States. No contingency is so anticipated in which you will be expected to address yourself to any other Government than the one to which you are accredited.

In the published diplomatic correspondence of the Washington Government for 1863, we find the following. Seward takes total leave of "the Monroe doctrine," and flings the door open for the freest interference of European nations in American affairs:

RELATIONS OF FRANCE TOWARD MEXICO. The subject from which I propose to remark in the second place, (says Mr. Seward,) is the relation of France toward Mexico. The United States hold in regard to other nations. They have neither a right nor a disposition to intervene by force in the internal affairs of Mexico, whether to establish and maintain a republic or even a domestic Government there, or to overthrow an imperial or foreign one, if Mexico chooses to establish or accept it. The United States have neither the right nor disposition to intervene by force on either side in the lamentable war which is now going on between France and Mexico. On the contrary, they practice in regard to Mexico, in every phase of that war, the non-intervention which they require all foreign Powers to observe in regard to the United States.

MAXIMILIAN AND THE MEXICAN THRONE—THE QUESTION OF HIS RECOGNITION.

Mr. Seward, under date October 28th, 1863, replies to a dispatch from Minister Dayton as follows:

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your dispatch of the 9th inst., which brings me the views expressed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys, concerning the situation in Mexico. Various considerations have induced the President to avoid taking any part in the speculative debates bearing on that situation which have been carried on in the various capitals of Europe, as well as those of America. A determination to err on the side of strict neutrality, if we err at all, in a war which is carried on between the two nations, with which the United States maintain relations of amity and friendship, was prominent among the considerations to which I have thus referred. The United States, nevertheless, when invited by France or Mexico, cannot omit to express themselves with perfect frankness upon the new incidents as they occur in the progress of that war. M. de Lhuys now speaks of an election which he expects to be held in Mexico, and to result in the choice of his imperial highness the Prince Maximilian of Austria to the Emperor of Mexico. We learn from other sources that the prince has declared his willingness to accept the imperial throne in Mexico on three conditions, viz: 1st. That he shall be called to it by the universal suffrage of the Mexican nation. 2d. That he shall receive indispensable guarantees for the independence and integrity of the proposed empire. 3d. That the head of the family, the Emperor of Austria, shall acquiesce. Referring to these facts M. Drouyn de Lhuys intimates that an early acknowledgment of the proposed empire by the United States would be convenient to France, relieving her sooner than might be possible, under the circumstances, from her troublesome complications with Mexico. Happily the French Government has not been left uninformed that in the opinion of the United States the permanent establishment of a foreign and monarchical form of Government in Mexico will be found neither easy nor desirable. You will inform M. Drouyn de Lhuys that this opinion remains unchanged.

On the other hand, the United States cannot anticipate the action of Mexico, nor have they the least purpose or desire to interfere in their proceedings, or control or interfere with their free choice, or disturb them in the enjoyment of whatever institution of government they may, in the exercise of an absolute freedom, establish. It is proper, also, that M. Drouyn de Lhuys should be informed that the United States continues to regard Mexico the theatre of a war which has not yet ended in the subversion of the Government long existing there, with which the United States remain in the relation of peace and sincere friendship, and that for this reason the United States are not now at liberty to consider the question of recognizing a government which, in the further chances of war, may come into its place. The Uni-

ted States, consistently with their principles, can do no otherwise than leave the destinies of Mexico in the keeping of her own people, and recognize their sovereignty and independence in whatever form they themselves choose that this sovereignty and independence shall be manifested.

From the Wilmington Journal. THE OPENING OF 1864—FOREIGN OPINIONS.

We yesterday gave an article from the London Times on the opening of 1864, and what had been accomplished by the North in 1863. We give to day some further foreign extracts which show what is thought in England of the prospects for the Confederacy for 1864:

From the London Standard. Territorially, the South has no doubt lost something, but she has lost infinitely less than was generally expected, and not a fourth of what some peculiarly audacious partisans of the Federal cause have lately set down to its credit. They say that the Confederacy now holds only one-half of the territory it claims. The answer is simply that this is utterly untrue. In the "claim," of course, are included Missouri and Kentucky, of which the Confederate Government never held possession, and of which the North will not keep possession, when once it is defeated in its main object. Of the eleven States represented at Richmond in July, 1863, only one has been temporarily reduced under Federal rule, or rather occupied by Federal armies. Since the outbreak of the war the South has lost Tennessee and a fragment of Arkansas, a little portion of river-side territory in Louisiana, and isolated positions in Florida and the Carolinians. The Federals occupy posts in Mississippi, but that is all. Northern Virginia is simply a devastated battle field, which the North cannot be said to have possession. For all practical purposes ten of the eleven States are still held by the Confederates, excepting such portions of them as have been actually occupied by the Federal troops under the protection of their gunboats. A territory more than three times as large as France remain entirely unsubdued, and at their present rate of progress, which is not likely to be maintained, it would take the North ten years to overrun it. Even when overrun it would not be conquered; but we need not enter into any discussion of what may happen in a case so far removed from practical probability.

If at any moment that should occur which has more than once seemed on the point of coming to pass; if the Confederates should gain a decided victory in the West, while driving the army of the Potomac out of Virginia, the North would have lost at a blow everything—except New Orleans—that it has gained in three years of warfare; while, as we have seen, the South may sustain a defeat without losing anything of her essential strength and power of self-defence. It is quite clear that she will maintain it until her independence is recognized; and it is for Europe to consider whether the termination of a war which is a disgrace and an affliction to mankind shall be allowed to await the slow recovery of the North from its fever dream of conquest, booty, and empire.

[From the Liverpool Mercury.] The very latest news from the seat of war in America, like most of the news of the preceding three months, is as unfavorable as it can be to a speedy termination of the war, either by the complete success of the North or the South. The Northern army of Gen. Grant, after having sustained rather a sharp check at Ringgold, has been reduced to a state of inactivity by the want of supplies and means of transport for a winter campaign. It may hold its ground at Chattanooga during the winter months if it can keep open its communications with Nashville, and it may advance into Georgia in the spring; but it will have to fight its way from one strong position to another, and every march it will be further from the base of its operations and in a more exhausted condition.

Its advance, should it take place, will compel the Confederates to burn the cotton grown in former years, and will effectually prevent the planting of a cotton crop in the spring of 1864; but it will take months, if not years to conquer Georgia and Alabama, and even if conquered they will be mere wildernesses. This is the prospect even at the point where the Federal forces look brightest, and even there any considerable success gained by Gen. Longstreet would render it impossible for the Federals to advance into Georgia. In South Carolina and Virginia the Federals are utterly powerless, and so long as

Charleston and Richmond continue in the hands of the Confederates they must continue to be so. After months of concealment, we learn that the Federal iron-clads were on Saturday, December 12th, in the attack on the Confederate batteries at Charleston, in April last, as to render it impossible for them to do anything afterwards; and in Virginia the Confederate army is not only able to hold Richmond against all the attacks of the army of the Potomac, but even to keep that army continually on the alert to defend its own position.

Arrest on mere suspicion has always been regarded as the odious exertion of arbitrary power. The practice has produced more revolution than it has ever repressed. The British race have regarded it with more bitter and implacable abhorrence than any other branch of the human family. For two centuries half of English history is occupied with the cardinal theme of habeas corpus. On this matter hinged the most bloody and destructive civil war that ever cursed the land from which this people sprang. Arbitrary imprisonments may quiet the submissive populations of continental Europe, and effectually serve the despotic purposes of a Romanoff or Buonaparte; but among the countrymen of Hampden and their descendants they have been fruitful only of bloody outbreak and implacable civil dissension. They are in conflict with our traditions and education. They are offensive to all our historic ideas, and repulsive to the just pride we cherish in our institutions and descent. The minds of our people are inflamed on the topic of personal liberty—inflamed by several centuries of animated history; and the suspension of habeas corpus would excite the very disorders it is intended to prevent.

We are compelled by an irresistible conviction of duty to protest against a suspension of this writ. The ends designed to be attained by such a measure can be reached by other means. It is said to be aimed at secret treason in special localities. Let the laws against treason be amended to embrace the new and concealed phases of the crime; and let a change of venue be allowed at the discretion of Government. The measure is said to be necessary for the suppression of straggling. Let stragglers be tried summarily before an impromptu court, composed of any three commissioned officers nearest the place of apprehension, and condemned and shot on the instant of conviction. Some measure of this sort would put an end to real straggling, which is the evil complained of. The mere fact of reposing arbitrary power, against which our people have a traditional repugnance, in the hands of the Executive, would do ten fold more harm than it would cure. And in this case we have the additional apprehension that the power would not be used to public advantage, but abused to purpose of personal malignity. It is a mournful fact, placed beyond doubt by conspicuous evidence, that the Executive is capable of employing the great powers of Government for the unworthy gratification of animosity. There is not one man in every hundred citizens of the Confederacy who does not entertain this opinion. The measure itself is repugnant to the minds and feelings of the people, and this repugnance is strengthened by a general apprehension that the power of arbitrary arrest would not be employed for the public good, but abused to private injury. Bold, insolent, dangerous Unionists would remain unmolested, and zealous secessionists, intent for the good of the cause upon holding Government to its duties, would be the victims of official passion.

Even if this grant of arbitrary power were ever so wise in itself, under all the circumstances of the hour, and even if our people had not been educated in an inveterate repugnance to these despotic arrests; still, what good would come of the grant? Some of the wisest legislation of our statute books is a dead letter from the refusal or incapacity of the Executive to put in force; and how often has it been the case that the best legislation has been perverted to the worst purposes—purposes wholly aside from the intentions of Congress?—Who will undertake to guaranty that this power of arbitrary imprisonment will be exercised for the purposes contemplated by Congress in granting it?—Rich. Ex.

From the Richmond Examiner.

THE TIDE NORTHWARD.—It is reliably estimated that during the past week, over one hundred Jews, principals of substitutes and others, have come on to Richmond from the South, put up at the hotels, and disappeared by the various underground routes to the North. How they go is known only to themselves and their agents; but it is true they have gone, and are still

going. Ten Jews left one of the principal hotels Sunday morning. They are mostly of the wealthy class, and ten thousand dollars is frequently tendered for a safe passage to the Potomac. It is estimated that persons, in the guise of farmers, are their most successful accomplices. They come to Richmond with marketing, or a load of forage, and carry out a load of blockade runners, concealed in their vehicles, making a more profitable speculation on their outward than inward trip, as all pay heavily, too. Numbers have been overhauled on their journey through the lines by the detectives, and are now resting in Castle Thunder, but more have succeeded in escaping.

It is hinted—but with what amount of truth we know not—that the mysterious art of the embalmer has been employed in some recent cases of recent disappointances, and that several embalmed Jews, neatly encased, have gone through the lines en route to breasted relations in the North.

Denouncing the War.—Gen. George W. Morgan, formerly of the Yankee army, who held Cumberland Gap when Kirby Smith invaded Kentucky, has resigned, and been making speeches in Indiana denouncing the war. In a recent speech he stated, that when he first joined the army he supposed it was for the restoration of the Union, but that he had since found out that it was a crusade against the Southern planters to rob them of their negroes. That he consequently was opposed to giving another dollar, or raising another man for the continuance of such an unholy war.—Rich. Whig.

HABEAS CORPUS. The Legislature of Alabama recently passed an Act which makes the denial of a writ of habeas corpus an act of felony, the penalty attached being not less than a fine of one year's imprisonment.

We should like to see this Act adopted by every State in the Confederacy. The right of habeas corpus is one of the most sacred in the possession of the people, and ought to be guarded with the utmost jealousy. As some of our national legislators seem disposed to tamper with it is time that the States should come to the rescue.

In England, any attempt to palter with this principle would shake that stable monarch to its centre. Can it be possible that we, who are fighting the battle of constitutional liberty, should prize our freedom less than our English cousins? Dark as is the situation of the country, it is surely not yet necessary to convert the Government into a despotism in order to retrieve its fortunes. And that such would be the effect of any suspension of the habeas corpus Act, there cannot be the slightest doubt. With our persons at the absolute disposal of military authority, we should have as little to fight for as the meanest Russian serf. Let it not be said of us that we threw off one tyranny only to build up another at home.—South Carolinian.

Price of Paper.—A bill was presented at the office yesterday, says the Atlanta Confederacy one thousand six hundred and fifty dollars, for eleven bundles of paper! In times of peace, paper was the least expensive item in the business of newspaper making. Members of Congress need not worry their brains about the suppression of Confederate newspapers. The paper mills at this increase, will soon effectually put an end to them all.

PAROLED.—Three of the Yankee officers in the Libby Prison, viz: Col. Powell, Captain Stanton and Capt. Ganit, have been paroled, and left Richmond yesterday morning for City Point, where they embarked on board the tug boat. Five privates, also paroled, accompanied them. The Colonel is known as one-eyed Powell, and Stanton is a son of Ben Stanton, former member of Congress from Ohio. Powell will doubtless be exchanged for Colonel Lee, of our army.—Pet. Express, Jan. 30.

Blankets and Shoes for our Troops.—We understand that the Ad-Vance steamer bro't on her recent trip 10,000 pairs shoes, 12,000 blankets, and 8,000 pairs of cards. Also that there is plenty of clothes and blankets for our soldiers, and if they are not supplied it is the fault of their Quartermasters. We trust it will not long be anybody's fault. Clothes and feed them by all manner of means. Fog. Observer.