

# **AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.**

**Gen. Rosecrans' Mission—Conflict of Views of the Mexican Press—American Claims—The Annexation of Cuba—The Mexican Budget—Reforms and Economy—Mr. Romero—Ortega's Manifesto—Severe Measures Against Malefactors.**

**From Our Own Correspondent.**

**Mexico, Monday, Dec. 28, 1898.**

The speech made by Gen. ROSECRANS on presenting his credentials to President JUAREZ, has greatly exercised the Mexican Press and called forth on the part of some members of that distinguished fraternity various comments, many of which are very far from being characterized by that commendable spirit of courtesy and fair criticism that might have been expected from the journals of a country which owes its present political independence to the moral support and material aid of a Government the first acts of whose accredited Minister they condemn with such unwarrantable severity, and, indeed, very questionable taste. Happily, however, there are many journals not altogether lost to a sense of decorum, who defend the new American Minister from the aspersions cast upon him by the small-fry scribblers, speak of his honorable intentions and desire to promote the mutual interests of the two republics in terms of the highest eulogy. It is high time that the Mexican people should wake up from their lethargic slumber, and, grasping the tangible realities of the situation, acknowledge, throwing off energetically the fossilized prejudice which has heretofore enveloped them, that we bring to possess many things worthy of imitation, and many institutions the prompt adoption of which would place them much nearer to that standard of progressive civilization than they have ever yet approached, and which even yet has only had an ideal existence in their speculations, and never a tangible realization.

The *Iberia*, speaking of Gen. ROSECRANS, and combating the narrow spirit of prejudice displayed by those unfavorable to him, who only see in every American resident in Mexico an intruder, and who believe that all such should be ejected from the "sacred soil" as promptly and with as little exchange of civility as the non-paying tenant of an Irish estate, says:

"Gen. ROSECRANS is one of the prominent figures of the neighboring Republic for his talent, his education, his personal qualities and his military valor. His great intelligence won for him some of the grandest of the victories gained against the Secessionists. The war over, he gave brilliant proofs of his conciliatory spirit by contributing to the peaceful reorganization of the Southern States."

The *Monitor*, following in somewhat the same strain, says:

"The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, and former chief of Gen. GRANT's staff, (?) is one of the most illustrious engineers of that nation; is popular and beloved by all classes of society, and to his vast instruction is added a very distinguished education and a rare knowledge of men and things. His mission has for its object the preservation of the sympathies formerly existing between the United States and Mexico, and to aid in the establishment of the great railroad enterprises in order to augment the commercial relations between the two countries."

The *Correo*, of Vera Cruz, reviews the speech of Gen. ROSECRANS, and lashes itself into a perfect fury of indignation at what it is pleased to term "the arrogant language of the American Minister," and "the menaces which are contained" in his opening address to the Mexican President, although I am of the opinion that a more conciliatory one, or one that would better express the cordial sympathy and earnest God-speed of the American people for their Mexican neighbors' prosperity and success, could not well have been uttered. Be that as it may, however, certain it is that considerable alarm was manifested in this city owing to the circulation of some rumors whose very wildness would have stamped them as false and unfounded, had not Congress resolved itself into secret session to discuss the proposed treaties between the two countries, one of which relates to naturalization, and the other to the claims of American and Mexican citizens. This latter, after a session of many hours' duration, in which a very eloquent speech was made by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, was approved by Congress, the vote standing 115 in favor and 12 against, or a majority of 103 votes for the measure.

## **AMERICAN CLAIMS.**

A considerable party in Mexico advocate the cession by the Government or a portion of Mexican territory in payment of the different claims of American citizens as the best means of getting rid of a question which promises to become somewhat serious if not promptly considered and attended to. They argue at some length that the financial condition of the country will not permit of any other solution, and the cession of a portion of territory, useless almost to them, will only tend to the better consolidation of the Mexican Republic. A loss of territory on their northern boundary they contend would be amply compensated for by the prompt annexation of the Island of Cuba, which, from its great wealth and important geographical situation, would prove the grand *El Dorado* of Mexican dreams. The advocates of this theory, I can assure you, are by no means few in number, and a great many of them are quite sanguine of the early realization of the scheme. But may it not be well to ask if this party are not reckoning without their host? In the event of the loss of Cuba to Spain, is it to be supposed for a moment that the United States would look upon the future into of the "Pearl of the Antilles" with that indifference which these Mexican dreamers so confidently expect? I suppose that some little regard would be paid to the wish of the Cubans themselves, who really are the parties most interested, and in that case, placing before them the two Governments, and leaving them perfectly free to choose, it is scarcely to be expected that they would prefer to become a part and parcel of Mexican territory, rather than occupy the position of a sovereign State in the American Union. The commercial relations that have existed so long between the United States and Cuba have already paved the way to a close and intimate political union; while, on the other hand, those existing between the Island and Mexico do not possess an importance worth mentioning. So, viewing the case in all its possible phases, I am bound to consider as a foregone conclusion that Cuba will never form an integral part of the Mexican Republic.

## **MEXICAN BUDGET.**

The Budget and accounts for the last fiscal year sent by the Executive to Congress, contain statements rather flattering to Mexican financial engineering, as the following from the *Opinion Nacional* will show:

"According to said accounts, the incomes or receipts amount to \$16,660,221, and the expenditures to \$17,948,806, thereby giving a deficit of \$688,585, which, the Secretary of the Treasury assures, will be made up by the amounts of which the Treasury Department, has, as yet, had no official information, not having received the data to be transmitted by several State Treasuries. This is the first time since the promulgation of the Constitution of 1857, that this most important disposition or measure has been duly carried out, and it is the first time also that the Government has been able to reduce to the same level its expenditures and receipts, without recurring to forced loans and extraordinary contributions, and without sacrificing the national revenues in the hands of money-brokers. This step of progress is owing to the patriotic interest and unalterable constancy with which all and each member of the Government have endeavored to systematize order and morality in the administration, notwithstanding the almost insuperable difficulties with which they have had to contend, and which were the result of a bloody war that endured eleven years."

## **REFORMS AND ECONOMY.**

Mr. ROMERO, even, has awakened to a sense of the onerousness of the burden of profligate expenditure that has heretofore characterized the workings of the different bureaus, and announces, in a note, the speedy initiation of the very necessary reforms and retrenchment in the Departments of the Treasury, Custom-house, the principal Bureaus of Finance, and others. He promises the speedy adoption of every measure of economy compatible with the true interests of the public service. The measures proposed, and so long looked for by many, will be gratefully received, although the feeling had gained ground that the lengthy residence of Senor ROMERO in Washington, and the valuable experience acquired there, was not likely to redound to the advantage of the popular interests in this country on account of the lavish expenditure inaugurated here. Now, however, the promised reforms, although tardy, are considered in every way beneficial to the interests of all, and are welcomed accordingly.

## **MANIFESTO OF ORTEGA.**

GONZALEZ ORTEGA, from his residence in Saltillo, has issued an address to his friends and supporters in the State of Zacatecas, in which, after deprecating any attempted revolutionary movements directed against the present Government, and in his

favor, he exhorts them to continue peaceably their work for the thorough union of the great Liberal Party in their State, and leave him to follow out the programme he has marked out for himself of peace and quiet in his retirement. Whether the very salutary advice given by their great leader will be followed or not, can, from the proverbial fickleness of Mexican character, hardly be conjectured. It is to be hoped, however, that the endeavors of this sterling patriot will meet with the success of they eminently merit.

## **REFORMS.**

The Legislature of the State of Puebla, weary, less of the barefaced impunity with which the courses and bandits pursue their honorable calling, has determined to inaugurate very stringent measures for the punishment of all such malefactors in their State. In pursuance of this laudable plan, it has quite recently amended one of the articles relating to their punishment so as to read thus: "All highwaymen shall suffer the penalty of death, be the amount of things stolen, or attempted to be stolen, what it may."

## **BRIGANDAGE.**

In San Luis Potosi, the bandits are being hunted down by the civil and military authorities with a quite refreshing, after the long reign of inactivity and indifference before manifested, and it is probable that this time the chase will be attended with very desirable results, owing to the circumstance that the well-disposed citizens are rendering every assistance to the authorities in their attempts to remove the incubus of black-mail levied on them so long, and up to the present time apparently without remedy.

**PORTO CARRERO.**