

# WASHINGTON.

## An Important Phase in the Dominican Negotiations.

## Effect of Annexation on the Cuban Question.

## Mr. Sumner's Blunders Over Affairs in the Republic.

## The Proposed Aid to the New-York State Canals.

## A New Army Bill Introduced in the Senate.

Special Dispatch to the New-York Times

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The San Domingo question has suddenly and unexpectedly assumed a highly important shape here, and today there has been much commotion in the foreign legations and in Cuban circles. It has transpired that the President contemplates the acquisition of San Domingo as part of his Cuban policy, and whether it is because of some utterance of his in discussion of the subject or from some other cause, the Cuban sympathizers are all coming over to the support of the treaty, while in diplomatic circles there is much excitement and a very bitter feeling against the treaty. A distinguished officer holding confidential relations to the Administration said, today: "When GRANT moved his army on the flank of Richmond, the enemy left that position. When he moves the power of this Government on the flank of Cuba, the Spaniards will leave that position." These developments have given the Cubans much encouragement, and they are urging their friends in the Senate to its support. Advice received here today from Havana state that the feeling there against the treaty is very bitter both among the Spaniards and volunteers, so bitter indeed, that the American Consul cautioned the bearer of dispatches from San Domingo not to let the fact be known for fear of personal violence. It has transpired that Mr. SUMNER in his speech yesterday made some ridiculously absurd statements about affairs on the island. He said, among other things, that there were eight thousand men in arms against the Baez Government in the City of San Domingo, whereupon he was interrupted by Senator COLE, who, having visited that place last Summer, informed the intelligent Senator that the total population of the city, men, women and children, did not exceed eight thousand, all told. Mr. SUMNER also stated that there were fifteen thousand armed insurgents now on the islands, whereupon he was again corrected by being informed that that was ten per cent. of the entire population of the island. All his facts seem to have been equally fallacious, especially the assumption that, because there is a weak Government now, there cannot be a strong one hereafter. The principal speech made today, in fact the only one, for Senator SUMNER merely concluded his argument in opposition to the treaty, was by Mr. MORTON. He spoke for nearly two hours and a half on the subject, and his effort is pronounced to have been both eloquent and effective, and to have made an excellent impression on the Senate. He said San Domingo was probably the richest island in the world, and approached nearer an earthly paradise than probably any other portion of the globe. In 1789 it enjoyed a high state of prosperity. The annual value of its productions was very great. About that time it had a commercial marine numbering 1,688 ships employing 36,000 sailors; in the same year the products of the French portion of the island were larger than those of all the British West India Islands put together. San Domingo is, in the opinion of Mr. MORTON, the key of the West Indies, and whoever has control there will finally obtain all that territory. It possesses the most beautiful bay in the world, next to that of Naples. The harbor commands the passage by which all the commerce of Europe passes into the Caribbean Sea. Mr. MORTON is understood to have strongly urged the political and national advantages which would accrue to the United States from the acquisition of the islands, and to have given the most positive contradiction to the statements relative to the intestine troubles of the country. The people are distinguished for their docility, integrity and kindness. There are a few hundred men there who live by revolutions. Mr. MORTON concluded by stating that the inhabitants were anxious to become annexed to the United States, as were also the people of Hayti.

### MORTGAGES AND THE INCOME TAX.

Commissioner DELANO has written a letter upon the subject of the reduction of interest on homestead mortgages from income taxes, which will shortly be made public. It appears after all that the ruling now complained of, is not a recent ruling of Mr. DELANO, nor in fact any ruling of his at all, but a decision of his predecessor made over two years ago, and enforced since that time. It also appears that a legal construction of the statute sustains the ruling, though Mr. DELANO says there is a very equitable showing for the other side. He promises a reconsideration of the subject at an early day, and the passage of a resolution amendatory of the law will meet his cordial approval.

### TOBACCO STAMPS.

The contract for tobacco stamps for smoking tobacco, snuff and cigars, will be renewed tomorrow with the Continental Bank Note Company for two years from June 1. The contract is fully \$80,000 less than the last.

### MASSACHUSETTS WAR CLAIMS.

Col. TUFTS, agent for the State of Massachusetts, has succeeded in the settlement of the war claims of that State, and to-day received a draft for a balance of \$132,990 32.

### THE HELL GATE IMPROVEMENTS.

Representative CALKINS appeared today before the sub-Committee of Commerce, having charge of the River and Harbor Appropriation bill to urge an appropriation for the continuance of the works at Hell Gate. The Engineer Department recommend an

appropriation of \$400,000 in the last report, but there is very little probability that this amount will be put in the bill by the Committee. The indications are, however, that a sufficient amount will be allowed to go on with the work until the next meeting of Congress.

### A TEXAS AND CALIFORNIA RAILROAD.

The Senate Committee on the Pacific Railroad considered a bill this morning entitled "A bill to aid in the construction of a railway and telegraph line from Marshall, Texas, to San Diego, Cal.," with branches and connections. The route proposed begins at Marshall, Texas, and proceeds thence to a point on the Trinity River in the same State; thence to El Paso, thence through New-Mexico and Arizona to a point on the Rio Colorado near the south-eastern boundary of California; with branches from Marshall, Texas, to San Diego, Cal., south-eastward to Opelousas, La.; also from a point near the Trinity River and Marshall northward to Fulton, Ark., and from a point within sixty miles of San Diego to San Francisco. The capital stock is to consist of 1,000,000 shares at \$100 each. Twenty sections of land per mile on each side of the road is asked to aid the line in alternate sections. Land patents are to be issued on the completion and acceptance of every twenty miles. The bill contains all the other technical provisions usual in railroad charters. No action was taken on the bill to-day further than to refer it to sub-Committee.

### THE NEW-YORK CANALS.

Mr. BENNETT, of New-York, will make a speech in the House to-morrow on the subject of his bill for an appropriation of \$15,000,000, to be applied to the payment of the canal debt of the State of New-York, and the enlargement of the Erie and Oswego Canal. It likewise provides for the appointment of the Commissioners to inspect the work done upon the canals, in compliance with the stipulation of the act. Mr. BENNETT holds that the commercial interests of the North-west can be best served only by the improvement of water carriage for its products to New-England and to New-York City, and that the avenue on which that improvement can be made to the best advantage is the one furnished by the canals of New-York.

### MILITARY INTERFERENCE IN TENNESSEE.

The Senter movement in Tennessee, so far as the interference of United States troops is concerned, has received an unexpected check. His application to the President for military assistance was referred to the Judge-Advocate-General, who indorsed on it that the request could not be complied with under the fourth section of the fourth article of the Constitution, which reads as follows:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion, and, on an application of the Legislature, or of an Executive, when the Legislature cannot be convened, against domestic violence."

The papers have been sent to the Reconstruction Committee of the House, which will probably end the affair.

### THE NEWSPAPER INVESTIGATION.

The newspaper inquisition was continued before BUTLER'S Subcommittee today. Gen. GARFIELD testified as to the conditions upon which correspondents were intrusted with advance copies of the evidence. Mr. WILKINSON, member from Minnesota, testified relative to a certain conversation with your correspondent, the purport of which had been falsely represented to Gen. BUTLER. Two correspondents were examined, but their testimony was of no consequence.

### THE TARIFF DEBATE.

Two able speeches were made on the tariff to-day. Mr. ALLISON finished his remarks and aroused the Protectionists most thoroughly. His *exposé* of the iron, steel, sugar, salt and woolen monopolies, was scathing and bristled with unanswerable facts. Mr. KELLEY replied in his most vigorous strain, but seemed to have up-hill work of it. He dwelt most forcibly upon his favorite picture of pauperism if protection was not granted as heretofore. General debate will close on Monday.

### Dispatch to the Associated Press.

#### NOMINATIONS.

The following nominations were sent in to-day:

Allen Rutherford, to be Third Auditor of the Treasury; William J. Purman, to be Assessor of Internal Revenue, Florida; Michael Vidal, of Louisiana, to be Consul at Tripoli; L. M. Burger, of South Carolina, to be Consul at Algiers; W. B. Jones, of Alabama, to be Consul at Brindisi; John Harris, of Pennsylvania, to be Consul at Venice; Horace L. Pike, of North Carolina, to be Consul at Tampico.

#### CONFIRMATIONS.

The Senate in Executive Session today confirmed the following nominations:

George H. Sharpe, United States Marshal for the Southern District of New-York; Joseph Pinkham, United States Marshal for Idaho; Charles H. Homstead, Attorney for Utah; John L. Stevens, of Maine, Minister Resident to Uruguay; F. P. Meigs, of Tennessee, Consul at Montevideo; Thomas D. Hamilton, of Mississippi, Consul at Rio Grande, Brazil; Seth C. Hawley, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Eighth District of New-York; Albert G. Allen, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Second District of New-York; Samuel R. Harlow, Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fourth District of New-York; Eben Everett, Register of the Land Office at Santa Fé, New-Mexico; and Smith D. Atkins, to be Postmaster at Freeport, Ill.

#### RECEPTION OF THE NEW MINISTER OF ECUADOR.

Today Dr. DON ANTONIO FLORES was introduced to the President by the Secretary of State, and delivered his credentials as Minister Resident of the Republic of Ecuador. He made remarks on the occasion, of which the following is a translation:

MR. PRESIDENT: I am once more accredited, after a lapse of nearly ten years, to the first of republics, to this great nation from which the world receives not only cotton and gold, but what is still more valuable, the rare example of liberty without anarchy, and of order without despotism. During this period of time changes have taken place which border on the miraculous. Human thought, swift but sure, crosses the ocean like a flash of lightning; opulent California pours out her treasures in six days on the shores of the Atlantic, and four millions of liberated bondsmen bless the conquering hand which broke their chains, and which forever obliterated a sacrilegious and iniquitous institution from the polity of this country. Today that same hand, while it sends the Darien Expedition to pave the way for the union of the two oceans, is uniting at the foot of the Capitol nations at variance with one another, as once did the Roman Senate, not with views of aggrandizement or conquest, but in the interest of commerce, to efface the last vestiges of a barren strife which has *de facto* ceased; and I, who profess the principle that not even in the fury of war ought the commerce between nations to cease. Wherefore, while Minister Plenipotentiary of Ecuador to the allied Republics, I solicited and obtained the re-establishment of our commerce with Spain and the opening of the Pacific to Spanish merchant vessels, I came to aid your generous efforts in the work of civilization, of which I have been an ardent supporter in another hemisphere. May heaven crown these efforts with a happy issue, and may they add new luster to your glory, and a new bond to those which unite and must unite the States of both Americas.

To which the President replied as follows:

DR. FLORES—I congratulate myself that it has devolved upon me to welcome you again as the diplomatic representative of Ecuador in the United States. The comprehensive way in which you speak of our country shows that you were an intelligent observer when you were first here, and that you continue to take so kind an interest in our career that your abode with us cannot fail to be acceptable. The special occasion upon which you come is, to us, somewhat novel. The cause of peace and good-will, however, between kindred nations is one which must always be dear to us as their common friends, and we will endeavor impartially to discharge the trust which has been conferred upon us with reference to that high object. The enlightened course which you have hitherto pursued in regard to it, affords an earnest that your future endeavors in that direction will be guided by the same intelligence and zeal, and affords grounds also for confidence that they may be crowned with success.

#### THE INDIANS.

First Lieut. DREW, Agent of the Southern Apaches, reports to the Indian Department from Fort McRae, New-Mexico, Feb. 28, that the In-

dians in his charge remain at their camp, near Covada Dumas, with the exception of a few under VICTORIA, who are absent on a hunting expedition. They were compelled to separate in order to obtain food, as the amount issued by the Government is insufficient. The agent says there is nothing indicating other than a friendly spirit among them, and a wish to be placed on the reservation and treated as the Navajos are. Some of the head men are anxious to have a place set aside so that they can plant corn and wheat as they formerly did. The agent believes them sincere in their wishes, and thinks they will remain quiet if not disturbed by evil-disposed persons.