

THE WEEK IN CONGRESS.

AN UNUSUALLY LIVELY BUDGET.

The Cuban Lobby Mare's Nest—It Grows Smaller and Smaller—The General Opinion Is that It Is a Confidence Game or a Trick of Spanish Agents—Señor Ruiz to Be Examined at His Own Request—Apprehended Dissension Among Republican Leaders—The St. Domingo Wrangle.

WASHINGTON, June 11, 1870.

A pretty lively sort of week has it been here on the whole. The Cuban bond lobby mare's nest, the St. Domingo wrangle, the city elections, the arrests of two people for contempt of the mighty House of Representatives, and an unusual quantity of unpleasantnesses, large and small, have served to keep the public here in a high state of delicious excitement, and afforded a relishable novelty in the midst of the dreamy monotony of Congressional proceedings.

The Cuban lobby sensation grows small by degrees and beautifully less. The more one pierces through its stunning looking shell the more one becomes convinced of its almost complete emptiness. What at the first examination promised to develop into something which would involve members of Congress, Cuban envoys and well known characters about town in a most disreputable scheme of bribery and corruption, has dwindled into a very insignificant affair indeed; a mere lobby trick at the most in which certain confidence men got possession of a quantity of valueless bonds, for what precise purpose does not appear, or possibly a not very honorable *ruse de guerre* on the part of the Spanish Minister to strangle the growing sentiment in favor of Cuba and defeat in advance the contemplated effort appointed for next Tuesday by the House of Representatives.

Ben Butler figures very curiously in the whole of this proceeding. He claims to be on both sides of the question. Loud in his declarations of sympathy with Cuba, he nevertheless is laboring very earnestly to develop everything calculated to injure her cause. Under authority from the House to investigate how the gold conspiracy testimony got prematurely into print, he has expanded his inquiry until it seems to take in nearly everything in and out of Congress. Instead of reporting what was expected of him—namely, how General Garfield and his clerk came to hire out the testimony taken before the Gold Conspiracy Investigating Committee—he has apparently forgotten all about that subject, and busied himself in summoning Tom, Dick and Harry to know how the lobby is conducted, how many members have been bribed and how many newspaper men have lent themselves to jobbery. He has employed detectives, it is said, to dog people about and listen to their conversations. It is said he was privy to a scheme to kidnap the fellow D. E. Taylor from Canada to the United States, so that the whole story about the Cuban lobby might be disclosed. But Taylor was too smart to be caught that way, declining all suspicious invitations to fishing parties, and other traps laid to get him outside the sacred limits of the Dominion. Had it not been for this latitudinarian investigation of Butler the Cuban lobby story still would have been entombed among the secrets of the Grand Jury room. Butler is, therefore, responsible for the whole of this sudden flood of false light upon the Cuban question. It is his fault if, as a result, some votes that before were sure for Cuba are found on the other side when Banks' resolutions come up for discussion next Tuesday. Indeed Butler, though pretending to be working hard for Cuba, does not hesitate to state that Banks' report is a failure; that it shows no such condition of emergency as is recognized by the law of nations, and that when the question comes up members will disappear from their seats rather than give their consent to support a movement which is suspected of having bribers and swindlers for its advocates.

In one of my recent despatches I called attention to another peculiarity of this investigation. It has been entirely *ex parte*. Señor Ruiz, than whom there is no more respectable man in this country, who has been mentioned as one of the leaders of the bribery conspiracy, has never been examined, though he has asked General Butler to summon him, declaring that he could clear up everything that has been said about him. He states that it is utterly false from beginning to end, the whole story, so far as he is concerned. His name, he states, was not on any contract, agreement or memorandum, as either principal, accessory or witness, and he is ready to swear to all this and more. Now, after having thus applied to be examined, why has General Butler failed to grant the request of Señor Ruiz? Why not give him a chance to explain under oath? Why not give both sides an impartial hearing?

I learn that Señor Ruiz, despairing of getting justice at the hands of Butler, has applied to Judge Bingham, who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and it is probable he will be granted his long desired opportunity to make an explanation.

With all Butler's admitted shrewdness and cunning, it is evident he goes on a wild goose chase once in a while. Thus, in this very investigation, when the name of Mr. Parsons turned up as that of a person who had procured bluff old Ben Wade's influence for Cuba, Butler forthwith jumped at the conclusion that Marshal Parsons, of the United States Supreme Court, was the individual, and actually had the innocent Marshal laid out for execution in his report. The Parsons referred to, as your correspondent assured General Butler, was an entirely different man. Should it turn out that the genial and good natured Señor Roberts, the Spanish Ambassador, is at the bottom of this movement it is generally admitted that he will find himself in a very unpleasant fix. It would be a serious charge against a foreign minister, and how it would affect his relations with our government is being seriously discussed. It is generally thought it would result in his passports being handed to him by Secretary Fish. For a minister to engage in the business of trumping up charges of bribery against Congressmen is no slight offence. It is no joking matter, as Mr. Roberts would could soon discover. But, of course, I am not alleging that the story is true; I am only stating the theory, and explaining that, if correct, the Spanish Minister would, in all probability, be invited to return to his native country. William L. Marcy gave John Crampton his walking papers for an offence of not nearly such large proportions.

DIVISIONS IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.
The indications in the Senate for the past week or two point to a division among what are termed the leaders of the republican party. It looks very much as if the old condition of affairs that existed during Andrew Johnson's administration was about to be repeated, one part of the party going with the President and another opposing him. In the present instance the radical republicans will go with the administration, while the conservatives will try to form the nucleus of a new party, affiliating more or less with the democrats to break down government. The debate on St. Domingo has developed this feeling to an extent which was not anticipated by either party, certainly not by the administration. It is said that the President himself expresses surprise at the hostility of such men as Ferry, Sumner and Schurz towards him. His friends have advised him to draw the reins tightly on these gentlemen, so as to make them work within the party traces. Grant, however, is not as quick tempered as Johnson was, neither is he quite as bold. His inexperience in public affairs makes him more or less timid, or at least tolerant of the opposition of such men as Sumner. The old jealousy of the military power, which cropped out to such a degree when Grant was elected, has not quite died out. In the Executive session, the other day, it is said Sumner accused the President of endeavoring to set up a military despotism. For one, if this was contemplated he wanted to know it. The effort to prevent military officers from holding civil positions was another ebullition of this same feeling. The Cuban question is another rock upon which the republicans are likely to split. There is known to be a large majority in the House, made up of republicans and democrats, and a respectable minority, if not more, in the Senate, that favor the recognition of the Cubans as belligerents. The administration, under the guidance of Mr. Fish, still holds to its old position, and already a prominent lawyer has been engaged to write down Banks' report for the newspapers. The fact that this gentleman is connected with the State Department as counsel is supposed to show that the administration is disposed to continue to pursue the policy heretofore adopted towards Cuba unless Congress should decree otherwise. The financial questions are another source of division, the Western republicans being antagonistic to those from the East on all questions of currency or banking. Altogether the councils of the party are by no means harmonious, and the breach is widening daily.

THE HOUSE OF RETRENCHMENT.
The House has made sad havoc with the Senate amendments to the Legislative Appropriation bill, the first that has come back after going through the upper House. The Senate piled on amendments to such an extent that all the economic ideas of Mr. Dawes were upset, and the sum total of the appropriation was half as much more as agreed upon by the House. The House Committee on Appropriations has gone to work and cut out nearly all the amendments, and now the bill goes to a conference committee, where it will be wrangled on by the *conservers* of the House and the Senate.