

WASHINGTON.

Remarkable Operations of the Cuban Lobby.

Attempt to Bribe President Grant's Brother.

A Congressman's Reply to a Cuban Interviewer.

St. Domingo Treaty Negotiation Investigation.

The Ratification of the Treaty Assured.

WASHINGTON, June 7, 1870.
The Cuban Lobby Investigation—Three Millions of Cuban Bonds to Influence Congress—Attempt to Bribe President Grant's Brother.

Briefly, the truth about the long Cuban lobby story seems to be, that two contracts were made with certain well-known parties in this city to furnish bonds wherewith to operate on Congress and the press in favor of Cuban independence. The first contract, according to sworn affidavits before the Grand Jury of this city, by whom the whole subject was investigated, was made by Señor Ruiz, with D. N. Taylor, and in pursuance of it about two millions of Cuban bonds were deposited with Colonel Don Manuel Freyre, the Peruvian Minister, for the use of the lobby agent and sub-agents. This man Taylor, who has fled to Canada or some part unknown, it appears, after making the contract with Ruiz, went out West and had an interview with President Grant's brother. The object of this interview was to bribe—that is the plain word—Mr. Grant to come to Washington and endeavor by his influence with the President to induce the latter to recognize the Cubans. Taylor opened up his proposition to Mr. Grant and got a very sudden and emphatic answer. Mr. Grant said to Mr. Taylor:—

"Sir, you may go to hell with your Cuban bonds. I'd have nothing to do with the business at all."

At least I am credibly informed that Mr. Grant used language of that kind, being very much incensed against the attempt to bribe him, and, through him, the President of the United States. This Taylor, it is said, afterwards blowed on the whole proceeding, giving his story in the shape of an affidavit to Minister Roberts.

The second contract was made with Dr. Bliss, of this city, by Mr. Francisco Fesser, the treasurer of the Cuban Junta. The contract, it is alleged, was in writing, and shown to several parties mixed up in the negotiations. Dr. Bliss, it is alleged, agreed with Fesser that in consideration of over a million of the Cuban bonds being deposited in the custody of the Safe Deposit Company in this city, to be judiciously used, he would exert all his influence with Congress and other powers in behalf of Cuba. These bonds were deposited in the names of both Fesser and Bliss, so that they could not be withdrawn by one party alone. When Butler's investigation commenced they were withdrawn by the pair and taken in charge by Fesser; since which time it is not known what other disposition was made of them.

Dr. Bliss, in his examination before Butler's committee, disclosed a good deal of the operations. He was put through a most searching examination by Ben Butler. At first he played the part of a regular knock noting. He simulated very profound ignorance of the whole affair; swore positively that he knew not an atom about the bonds and their deposit; swore that he did not know what was contained in the package deposited by himself and Fesser; that he never had in his hands more than five bonds, of one thousand dollars each, which were sent to him as presents; that he made no contract at all with Fesser, or anybody else, and that his whole connection with the matter was of a purely friendly character. Ben Butler inquired why he went with Fesser to see him deposit a package the contents of which were unknown to him. Dr. Bliss answered that he went merely as a friend to perform a friendly office for Mr. Fesser. Butler asked him what the friendly office was. Bliss beat about for a long time, paused and hesitated, and finally declared that he was a friend of Cuba. Butler asked what had the package to do with friendship for Cuba? Bliss repeated that he merely went with Fesser to do a friendly act. The result of a very long examination was that Bliss admitted he had had a verbal understanding with Fesser; that Fesser did tell him the package contained over a million of bonds, and that the package was deposited in their joint names. On being questioned very closely as to what agreement was made as to the proposed disposition of the bonds, Dr. Bliss declined to answer, on the ground that it was a matter of private business, which he thought the committee had no right to pry into. The chairman of the committee and Mr. Eldridge both informed the witness that he could not decline on that ground; that the only ground of refusal that could be admitted was that an answer would criminate himself. Nevertheless, Dr. Bliss refused to answer. General Pickett, who was one of the supposed sub-agents under Bliss, also declined to answer similar questions, for the reason that he was employed as counsel and the communications made to him were confidential.

It appears in the course of the testimony before Butler's committee that Bliss engaged E. P. Brooks, of the Philadelphia Press, to assist the cause of Cuba by writing for the newspapers. Payment was made in bonds. Pickett, Latham, Gibbs, Habcock and others were also employed. Two members of Congress were approached by Gibbs and another agent. The members were Shanks and Williams, of Indiana. Shanks kicked his man down stairs and Williams declined the proposal in a very decided manner.

General Butler intends to make a report on the subject to-morrow, when he will set forth the whole investigation in a clear form, furnishing at the same time the entire testimony of Dr. Bliss and asking for power to compel Bliss, Pickett and Taylor, if he can be obtained, to answer thus far. General Butler expects to be able thus to wring from Dr. Bliss and his collaborators in behalf of Cuba a full confession of the whole secret. A lively time, therefore, may be expected.

Senator Morton and the Cuban Lobby—The Senator's Conduct Vindicated.

As the name of Senator Morton is mentioned in connection with the Cuban bond lobby your correspondent called upon him this evening for the purpose of ascertaining what he had to say about it. The conversation was about as follows:—

CORRESPONDENT—Mr. Senator, have you seen the letter in an evening paper of New York purporting to give certain facts about the Cuban lobby?

Senator MORTON—Yes. Somebody sent me a copy of the paper and called my attention to it. I see my name is mentioned in a manner calculated to throw out the idea that I had something to do with the lobby.

CORRESPONDENT—That is what I want to see you about. Have you any idea where these statements come from?

MORTON—No, I have not. It looks to me as if it had been gotten out for a purpose. I have just been to see General Butler, and he assures me it did not come from his committee. At any rate all that is said there about me is false from beginning to end, and I authorize you to say so. I have always been friendly to Cuba, but no man ever approached me with the intimation that money was to be used to secure the recognition by Congress of the belligerent rights of the Cubans. I trust those who know me know that it would not be safe to make any proposition of that kind to me.

CORRESPONDENT—The letter states that a certain Mr. T. called on you relative to the matter, and also

that Luther B. Wilson called upon you to talk about it.

Mr. MORTON—I understand that Mr. P. refers to Mr. Parsons. Now, Mr. Parsons never spoke to me on the subject of Cuba, except relative to a consignment that he was after. I believe it was Santiago de Cuba. I signed a recommendation for him at the request of ex-Senator Wade; but he never talked to me about Cuban belligerency or any lobby scheme. Mr. Wilson may have spoken to me about Cuba, as many other persons did, but it was in a general way. General Butler has furnished me with Wilson's testimony before his committee on this subject, and I have no objection to letting you have it. Wilson, you will observe, says that I introduced a resolution granting belligerency. I never did anything of the kind. I introduced a bill, as you may remember, providing for the amendment and enforcement of the neutrality laws, but there was nothing in it about belligerency. After that bill was introduced I never remember Wilson speaking to me about it or asking me to alter it.

Wilson's testimony, to which Senator Morton refers, is as follows:—

Q. Did Dr. Bliss tell you anything about an attempt that was made to get a belligerent resolution through the Senate; who was to offer the resolution and cause it to be passed? A. (thoughtfully and slowly). I do not think so.

Q. Did you not know that there was an attempt to get a belligerent resolution through the Senate? A. Oh, yes, sir, there were three or four different ones offered by Senator Sherman, one by Senator Morton, one by Senator Carpenter, and I believe still another was offered by somebody; I do not remember who.

Q. Was it you anything to do with any of these? A. I did, with one of them.

Q. Which one was that? A. Senator Morton's; the one introduced was not exactly to my liking and I spoke out about it.

Q. Was there any consultation between yourself and Dr. Bliss with reference to getting Senator Morton to offer a resolution regarding the recognition of Cuba as a belligerent? A. The Doctor and I had several conversations about it.

Q. What were the substance of these conversations? A. An endeavor was to be made to induce him to offer such a resolution.

Q. Who was to see him—you or the Doctor, or both? A. We were both to talk with him; I talked with him, I know.

Q. Did Dr. Bliss talk with him in your presence? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you learn from Dr. Bliss whether he ever talked with Morton on the subject? A. He said he had.

Q. Did Dr. Bliss tell you of any offers he made or inducements he held out to any person? A. No, sir. Q. There were not, then, to your knowledge, any offers of bonds or money made by Dr. Bliss or yourself to Senator Morton or other Senators? A. Certainly not to Morton; Bliss would not dare, nor I, to speak to Morton about anything of that kind.

Q. Did you not know that you had any pecuniary stock in the matter? A. I do not think I did; when I talked with him I talked on general principles.

Senator MORTON—This is the only reference, General Butler assures me, that there is in the testimony to me. You will see just now how much truth there is in that point of the letter in this newspaper.

CORRESPONDENT—It is stated that you took a proclamation of belligerency to the President, and that he refused to sign it.

MORTON—Well, that is also false. I happened to be at the White House this evening and I mentioned the matter to the President. He said I had never brought any proclamation to him with the request that he should sign it, and he promised to send me a letter to-morrow denying the statement, and to allow me to make any use of it I saw proper. The whole thing is absurd.

CORRESPONDENT—What do you think of the use made of ex-Senator Wade's name in that letter?

MORTON—Just the same as I think of the use made of mine. Why, sir, Senator Wade would have kicked any man out of his room who should have had the impudence to make a corrupt proposition to him. During his long career in the Senate I don't believe any person ever accused him before of anything incompatible with the highest integrity.

The Cuban Verdon—Taylor's Story Denied—The Bonds Furnished for the Purchase of Arms.

In order to give both sides of the story about this Cuban bond lobby, your correspondent called upon Mr. Ruiz, a gentleman who has worked faithfully and quietly in the cause of the patriots, spending thousands of dollars of his own money without receiving a cent of compensation for his services. Mr. Ruiz is a gentleman of the highest character, whose word is considered as good as his bond, and his statement is entitled to the greatest credit. Your correspondent opened the interview by referring to the story of his (Ruiz's) connection with the efforts to induce improperly Congress, to which Mr. Ruiz answered:—

"My dear sir, I have just come from General Butler. I reminded him of an interview I had with him some time ago, when I requested an opportunity to be heard before his committee. I went at that time to the committee and General Butler was not there. I waited for some time, and General Butler returned. I told him I wanted to make statement, and he said he had not time then. I told him I was going to New York that night; and he answered, 'Well, there is no hurry about it.' Ever since that time I have had no opportunity to make my statement."

CORRESPONDENT—Did you make a contract with Taylor, or anybody else, to furnish Cuban bonds for sale to Cuba by influencing members of Congress?

RUIZ—I will tell you all about that. I did not know Mr. Taylor. He came to see me, and represented that he had great influence with certain Congressmen. I said very well; what do you want with me? He answered that he could introduce me to them. I said, "Well, our cause is just. We desire to do anything that is proper to aid it." I did not like his manner. I thought he was a Spanish spy, to tell you the truth.

CORRESPONDENT—Did he ask you to pay him any money on condition of assisting Cuba?

RUIZ—No, sir; he did not say one word of the kind; but I suspected, in my own mind, that he wanted some compensation. He called to see me several times after, but I would not see him. He sent up his card, and the servants here know, and I told the servants always to tell him I was not in. If the fellow has said that I agreed to pay him or had any understanding with him, he has uttered a great falsehood. I never so agreed with anybody. General Butler told me to-night that I was the financial agent of the Cubans, but I told him I was not. I never had anything to do with their finances. I have had no official position here in this country as a Cuban agent. My services have been of a private friendly, secret character. I would not accept any official position from my country, because I knew that would place me in a false attitude. I felt that where I would be denied facilities as a Cuban agent I could easily obtain them as a friend and private individual. My aim was, and has been, to serve Cuba in this country in that character, and no other. If Taylor has said that I had any contract with him, if he has told the Spanish Minister any such story, I repeat he has uttered a great untruth.

CORRESPONDENT—Did you have anything to do with the two millions deposited with the Peruvian Minister?

RUIZ—I did not, but I know all about it. I was present when Mr. Lemus spoke about it. General Pickett came to see Mr. Lemus, and said that in Kentucky a quantity of arms and ammunition could be obtained for some compensation. Mr. Lemus said he had no money, nothing but Cuban bonds, and as yet these bonds were worth nothing. Pickett suggested that payment in bonds might be made on a basis of their being worth twenty-five cents on the dollar, and that if two millions were deposited he would be willing to negotiate on the basis that they were worth at least half a million for that amount Pickett said he could get arms and ammunition enough to drive all the Spaniards out of Cuba. Mr. Lemus thought about the proposal for a few minutes and then said he saw no objection to the matter, but Lemus said he would deposit the bonds so that only he could get them. Pickett agreed that the bargain should hold on condition that belligerent rights would be granted in a certain time. If not then granted the arms need not be furnished, nor should the bonds be paid to Pickett. Lemus and Pickett both agreed to that. Pickett said he would have an expedition fitted out which would be ready by the time belligerent rights would be granted. The bonds were deposited with Mr. Freyre on those conditions. The package containing the bonds was handed to Mr. Freyre, but he did not know what was in it.

CORRESPONDENT—Was there any money paid to

newspaper men, or were you approached on that subject?

RUIZ—Only on one occasion was anybody bold enough to make such a proposal to me. When I was at breakfast one morning a servant came to me and told me a gentleman wished to see me in the parlor. He sent me no card, and I thought it was a very singular proceeding. I finished my breakfast and went to the parlor, where I found a man with long beard and very tall. He commenced conversation very abruptly by saying, "Sir, you are on the wrong track about this Cuban business; if you want to succeed you must use money, or something that is worth money; you must pay the press; I have great influence with certain members of the press, who control all the others." I answered that I had too high an opinion of the American press and the American people to suppose that they could be influenced by such considerations, and I told him also that if I did not believe that, why I would turn my back on the country and leave it in disgust; that I would never resort to such base means to aid Cuba.

Mr. Ruiz explained many other points, but as the hour is so late I have no chance to send you any more to-night.

The St. Domingo Treaty Negotiations Investigated—The Ratification of the Treaty Assured.

After confirming a large number of appointments in executive session the Senate this afternoon, on motion of Mr. Schurz, again took up the resolution calling for an investigation of certain alleged irregularities respecting the St. Domingo treaty. Senators Morton, Thayer and Howe made a charge upon the opponents of the treaty, stating that they were casting insinuations and had not shown any facts on which to found them. Mr. Schurz set out on a mild speech in reply, it would seem without any definite idea in view as to what he was driving at, except to attack the President. The attack was renewed, when Schurz found himself so completely cornered that he had to admit that he had no other authority than Mr. Perry, commercial agent at St. Domingo, and at present in Washington. Sumner, who was also committed to this investigation scheme, now also admitted himself in a tight place by adopting an apologetic course, saying he favored the move because he wished to protect the President and wanted to expose the parties, Cazeneave and Fabens particularly, who were the cause of much trouble. Sumner admitted at the same time that all his information was from hearsay and from Perry. Morton replied by saying so many investigations had been commenced and nothing came out of them he was opposed to any such action, unless the Senate was placed in possession of some facts that would warrant an investigation. As neither the Senator from Massachusetts, nor Missouri could give any facts he would move to lay the resolution on the table. The motion was carried by 20 to 15.

As was well remarked this evening, sometimes men say too much, and their efforts, often enthusiastic, react upon themselves. This appears to have been the case this afternoon, and much encouragement is felt by the friends of the treaty at the result of the storm. It was agreed, however, by the majority that the treaty should be acted on first, and then an investigation could be made to satisfy Schurz, Sumner and other nervous individuals, and if anything was found improper the parties could be looked after and their claims annulled if not regular. A start was then made to fix a time for the consideration of the treaty, but as the Senate had thinned out very materially, it was agreed not to take a vote. There is a wide spreading opinion now among Senators that the necessary two-thirds will be obtained, and that the treaty will be ratified. It is thought that the Senate will move an early executive session to-morrow, and that the question of taking the subject up for a final disposition will then be fixed.

This evening a large number of Senators met at the Executive Mansion relative to the resolution of investigation. General Sackett, who accompanied General Hancock to St. Domingo, was not present. The action of the Senate was informally discussed by all present. General Sackett stated that the idea of an improper arrangement between those who negotiated the treaty and outside parties was absurd. He was the only person on the part of the representatives of our government who spoke the Spanish language, and all the negotiations, conversations and arrangements were made through him. He assured the President and the Senators that nothing was said or done that could be construed into anything improper. It was generally agreed that, were there time to conduct the proposed investigation, the result would show that nothing had been done which would injure the prospect of the treaty.

Our New Minister to Turkey—New Diplomacy to be Inaugurated.

Wayne McVeigh, the new American Minister Resident at Constantinople, will sail from New York on Wednesday, June 15. He will visit London, Paris and St. Petersburg, and thence proceed direct to his post of duty. Mr. McVeigh seems determined to inaugurate a new régime in the diplomatic policy between the United States and the government of the Sublime Porte. His instructions will have in view the present relations between Turkey and Egypt and other parts of the empire, and will take a more decisive stand than has hitherto been the case in our diplomatic intercourse with this nation.

An English Cannard About Minister Motley.

A statement has been published in the English newspapers to the effect that Minister Motley, with his family, was present at the debates in the House of Lords upon the Greek massacre, and that the Minister and family were in mourning over the event. A letter from Mr. Motley, dated May 25, 1870, states that, as for himself, he was not dressed in black; that his daughter was in mourning for her deceased husband, and his sister-in-law had worn mourning for some years; therefore the paragraph alluded to was entirely without foundation in truth.

Business Before Senate Committees.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations again took up the question of granting the right to land to the Belgian Submarine Cable Company. No decision was reached. A Mr. Hodges was also heard for a few minutes on the subject of a cable from the United States to the Azores, thence to Lisbon, Portugal, and thence to Lant's End, England.

The Senate Finance Committee to-day began the consideration of the amendment to the Tariff bill. The committee will hold daily sessions until this important measure is disposed of and reported to the Senate. No doubts are entertained as to the passage of some measure of this kind, though it is stated that a number of changes will be made in the bill as it came from the House.

The Election in Washington.

The majority for Emory, the reform candidate for Mayor, is 3,214. The total vote polled is 16,978, falling only 993 behind the registration. The Downer republicans elect two Aldermen and five Common Councilmen, of whom two are colored. Of the Emory republicans elected five are colored. The Emoryites are largely in the majority in the Common Council, while in the Board of Aldermen, with those holding over, there is a tie.

The Internal Revenue.

Reports from the Supervisor show an increase of collections in the Eighth district of Pennsylvania, for the year ending April 30 last, of \$45,575.82 over that of the previous year, and there was a decrease in the expenses of assessment for the same period of \$1,003. The Supervisor says, as the principal sources of revenue in that district are manufactures of iron and agricultural pursuits, both of which have been depressed during the present year, the increase can only be accounted for on the theory of a more thorough assessment and collection of taxes.

Georgia and Tennessee.

The Reconstruction Committee this morning attached to the Georgia bill a proviso that nothing therein should interfere with an election in Georgia this fall as provided by the Georgia constitution, and the committee resolved to postpone action with regard to Tennessee until the next session.

The Mexican Claims Commission.