

# WASHINGTON.

## Purchase of American Arms by Foreign Governments.

## Senator Sumner's Views on the Cuban Question Unchanged.

## Manifest Destiny of the West Indies.

## Canada a Desirable Acquisition for New England.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1869.

**Senator Sumner's Views on the Cuban Question Unchanged—Annexation of the West Indies Only a Question of Time—Canada a Desirable Acquisition—The Alabama Question—England Ready to Renew Negotiation.**

There is authority for saying that the position of Senator Sumner on the Cuban question is unchanged. Having his attention drawn to-day to a despatch from this city in a New York paper, setting forth that within a few days he had expressed views which would indicate a change in his opinions about Cuban independence, Mr. Sumner said it was the first he had heard of it. If the administration was about to change its policy toward Cuba he said he would like to know it, so that he might be prepared for it. The Senator says all his information from Cuba is to the effect that the insurrection is growing weaker and is near its close. He has seen nothing that would lead him to change the opinions he has already expressed on that subject. It is a mistake to suppose that Sumner opposes the recognition of the Cubans on the ground that their constitution, as he alleges, is not pronounced in favor of freedom to the blacks. He is not anxious for the annexation of Cuba to the United States on any terms. "The Cubans," says Mr. Sumner, "don't speak our language. The mass of them know very little about our customs or our institutions. They could not be an intelligent acquisition, and I cannot see that they would be valuable in any respect." Mr. Sumner thinks we will get all the West India islands sooner than we want them, and that we should neither purchase them nor assist in wresting them from the Powers to which they belong. From this it may be inferred that the Senator is opposed to the purchase of St. Thomas, and also to leasing the Bay of Samana. Like all New England men, Sumner is anxious for the annexation of Canada. That, he says, would be a valuable acquisition, because it would be an intelligent one. The people speak our language and are familiar with our institutions. With regard to Cuba, however, Mr. Sumner is not likely to change his position; for if other reasons did not exist to prevent him, the peculiar stand which he took on the question of belligerency in his Alabama claims speech would stand in the way. Senator Sumner is highly pleased with the character of the recently published correspondence on the Alabama claims question. He thinks the administration has stood up to the high water mark of his speech delivered when the Johnson-Clarendon treaty was rejected by the Senate. It was well known to the Senator at the time that the instructions of the State Department to Mr. Motley were in accordance with the sentiments expressed in that speech, and hence he sat calmly under the severe criticism of the British press as well as a certain portion of the American press. Mr. Sumner thinks the British are in a better humor now than they were last spring. Then, he says, they acted like painted savages; now they are mollified and, he thinks, ready to reopen the negotiations. The disposition of our government to wait for what Mr. Fish terms a "favorable opportunity" for reviving the negotiations has, in the opinion of Mr. Sumner, had a good effect upon Great Britain. It has made her more anxious to have a speedy settlement, because she feared that delay might result in our discovering the "favorable opportunity" to be about the time England was involved in difficulty with some of her neighbors. Mr. Sumner is satisfied that the negotiations will be reopened at an early day and that they will be conducted in Washington.

## Heavy Purchases of American Arms by the Russian and Turkish Governments.

European governments are going very extensively into the business of purchasing arms in this country. Lately the Russian government obtained from Colt's factory in Connecticut 100,000 rifles of the Berdan pattern, and it is said that a further purchase of an equal number is being negotiated. Not long since Mons. Blacque, the Turkish Minister, bought 250,000 Springfield rifles for the Sultan, 200,000 of which have already been sent to Constantinople, the balance soon to follow. In connection with this curious fact it is said that either the Russian or Turkish government, or both, are negotiating for the purchase of a portion of the Harper's Ferry property recently sold by our government to some private capitalists. Their object in securing a part of the property is said to be for the purposes of repair shops or factories. The fact of such large quantities of arms being procured here by foreign governments has given rise to speculation as to what they are needed for just now. Is Turkey really going to war with the Khedive, or has Russia an idea of peppering the "sick man" once more?

## The Navajo Indians Conquered.

The Indian Bureau has official reports from the Navajo agency stating the Indians have received their annuity goods and presents of goats and sheep from the government, which has had the effect of strengthening the relations of peace.

## The California and Oregon Boundary Survey.

Mr. Daniel G. Major, United States Astronomer and surveyor of the boundary between California and Oregon, has arrived in Washington with his final report of this important survey.

## The New York Commercial Navigation Company.

It is said that internal difficulties exist in the Commercial Navigation Company of New York, which are likely to lead to the defeat of the bill recently introduced in Congress for its benefit. The action of the foreign steamship companies in refusing to carry the mails at the reduced rate of postage makes it desirable that the work should be undertaken by American steamers. If the company referred to was organized, or there was a prospect of its speedy organization, it is admitted by the Postmaster General that it would enable him to be more independent with the foreign steamship companies. As it is, however, it is feared the petty quarrels of those interested in the proposed American steamship company will lead to its dissolution.

## The New York Post Office Investigation.

Six members of the House Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads left here to-night for New York to investigate matters connected with the construction of the new Post Office and Court House building. They will hold their first meeting at the Astor House to-morrow, instead of next Saturday, as previously stated.

## Obstructions to City Improvements.

The case of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, charged with obstructing the public highways, was taken up in the Criminal Court to-day. It was in testimony that the company refuses to conform to the street grade, thereby retarding city improvements. The object of the suit is to compel obedience to municipal law.