

# WASHINGTON.

## Embarrassment of the Administration Concerning Cuba.

### Senator Sumner's Views of the Situation.

### A Sinking Fund for the Extinguishment of the Public Debt.

WASHINGTON, May 6, 1882.

#### Complication of the Cuban Question—Embarrassment of the Administration—Senator Sumner's Views.

The Cuban question is giving considerable uneasiness to the administration. Each day it is presenting itself to the President and his Cabinet in new shapes and under more embarrassing circumstances. From official sources I learn that for the present the government has determined to take no official notice of the troubles in Cuba. The President and the members of his Cabinet ascertain from the newspapers that there is an insurrection in Cuba; they see accounts of meetings held in the different cities to express sympathy with the Cuban patriots; they read about expeditions being fitted out and of ships sailing with men and arms to aid the insurgents, but neither President Grant nor any member of his Cabinet is supposed to know anything officially about these matters. In speaking of this subject to-day the President said that he saw a good deal in the newspapers about Cuba concerning which the government, as far as he knew, had no official information. When the question was put to him whether he knew about the sailing of ships with arms and men for Cuba, he naively answered, "Well, I have seen something to that effect in the newspapers." Having his attention called to the despatch of Admiral Hoft received at the Navy Department yesterday, containing an account of an unsuccessful attempt to land men and arms on the coast of Cuba for the insurgents, the President quietly remarked that he supposed what Hoft said was correct, but he had no knowledge of who they were or where they came from. There seems to be a studied effort on the part of the government officials to ignore, in a quiet, official way, for the present the whole Cuban business. The President does not know anything, the Secretary of State is reticent and the other members of the Cabinet are not disposed to say publicly what they may think privately about Cuba. In a casual conversation with Senator Sumner to-day your correspondent asked that gentleman what he thought of the struggle in Cuba. He replied that he was afraid it was a little premature and that it would not result in anything, unless the Cubans should receive material aid from outside parties. He would like, as he supposed every American would, to see the Cubans succeed. First, because it would secure emancipation to the slaves in that island, and second, because their success would end either in the independence of Cuba or in annexation to the United States, most probably the latter. I suggested that perhaps it would aid the Cubans to some extent if our government should accord to them belligerent rights. Mr. Sumner replied that there might be some difficulty about that, and he doubted whether even that would be of much material service to the Cubans. If Isabella was still Queen of Spain it might put a different face on the matter, but there is an effort being made in Spain to establish a liberal form of government. "We cannot," said Mr. Sumner, "very well do anything to embarrass this movement. To take an active part with Cuba against Spain would seriously distract the home government." I inquired whether we had not a right to accord the Cubans belligerent rights. To this Mr. Sumner replied that while we might have the right, the question was whether it would be expedient to exercise it. A great nation like ours could do almost anything, but it must take the consequences of its acts. He thought that a recognition on our part of the belligerent rights of the Cubans might lead to trouble with Spain. The Spaniards were not strong, but they were proud, and would show fight. What would be the result? Our commerce is not large, but that of Spain is less. In this respect she has little to lose. There would be twenty Alabamas afloat instead of one, and we would be the losers. Mr. Sumner went on to say that he believed the annexation of Cuba to the United States was inevitable, but it would come about of itself. He thinks that the present contest, if it does not result in subduing the insurgents at an early day, will end in leaving Cuba comparatively a desert.

#### The Spanish Mission—General Sickles to be Hale's Successor.

The President, in answer to an inquiry, stated to-day that nothing would be done towards appointing a Minister to Spain for several weeks. He assigned as the principal reason that Minister Hale's resignation does not take effect until the 1st of July. I learn from a prominent member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that the President is disposed to appoint General Sickles to the Spanish mission, and that when the proper time arrives for making the appointment Sickles will be selected. The stories about his being considered unfit for the place by the President and the Secretary of State have no foundation in fact. The appointment of General Sickles is favored by Senator Sumner, who thinks him well qualified for the mission.

#### Rush of Visitors at the White House—Doctors Walker in the Crowd—A Delegation of Clergymen.

The President's interview with the masses to-day, between the hours of ten and twelve, was marked by the presence of a crowd much larger than usual. Grant appears to meet the pressure with as much coolness as he displayed in the midst of the fiercest battles. He always fortifies himself with a number of cigars for these interviews, and keeps smoking away all the time. Looking into the door of his office you see a volume of smoke rising beyond the outer edge of the crowd, and there sits the President enveloped in a cloud of tobacco smoke, as if he was anxious to keep the would-be confidential office-seekers at a respectful distance. Among those who claimed the attention of the President to-day was a bright negro boy, who, watching his opportunity, thrust a paper into the hands of Grant, which read as follows:—

WASHINGTON, May 3, 1882.

The bearer of this, Edward Freeman, has applied to me for a situation as a body servant, but seems to be more fully qualified by education and experience to do service among horses. He informs me he has been for several years a rider at the running races of the country and has ridden the celebrated horses Urbana, Morrissey and many others in their successful contests on the turf. CHAS. R. CORNWELL.

Upon reading this the President smiled, took an extra puff on his cigar, and eyeing the negro from head to foot asked him why he brought this paper to him. "Because," said the negro, his face brightening up, "I heard you was a great horseman and I thought you might want me to take care your horses. I knows all about them animals." The President smiled again and told the boy that if he had come about two weeks sooner he might have given him a place. Among the callers was Dr. Mary A. Walker, clad in her usual "dress reform" costume, and who appeared much pleased at the opportunity of a chat with the President. After the hungry public had been satisfied a delegation of uncouth looking men appeared in the ante-room and requested an interview. The story was circulated that they were Mormons; but on inquiry General Dent learned they were clergymen of the sect known as the Dunkard Baptists. Upon being admitted to see the President the spokesman of the party premisses by saying that they were not office-seekers, but merely came to shake hands with the President. Grant laughed, and said that he was glad to see them, especially as they were not office-seekers. He had seen enough of that class to-day.

#### Governor Ashley, of Montana.

Impeacher Ashley was at the White House to-day among the crowd, but he did not seem to receive any more attention from the President than the negro boy who wanted a situation to ride Grant's fast trotters. Notwithstanding all the protests which

have been sent the President, Ashley has received his commission as Governor of Montana and leaves to-morrow for the scene of his new official honors. He says he has been making arrangements in New York to have a large number of Swedish and Norwegian emigrants sent out to Montana on their arrival in this country, and also German emigrants. Ashley's object is to get an element in Montana that will neutralize the large democratic majority said to exist there. He says he is bound to bring Montana into the Union, before Grant's term expires, a republican State. It is surmised that his ultimate object is to make himself United States Senator.

#### Federal Appointments.

The following appointments were made to-day by the President:—Robert C. Kirk, Minister Resident to the republic of Uruguay; James Washington Purviance, United States Attorney for the Western district of Tennessee; John H. McCreeley, Assessor of Internal Revenue for the First district of Indiana.

**Collectors of Internal Revenue.**—Ralph Hill, for the Third district of Indiana; Ephraim Latham, Third Alabama; Andrew A. Lewis, First Indiana; Edward Fullings, Sixth North Carolina.

Fifty-one assistant assessors of internal revenue were appointed yesterday, the majority being for the Pennsylvania districts.

William H. Clemence has been appointed a detective in the internal revenue service, and is assigned to duty with the new Supervisor of the North and South Carolina district.

General Terrill, of Indiana, has been appointed by the President Third Assistant Postmaster General, in place of Zevely.

Erastus D. Chipman has been appointed Postmaster at Saugerties, N. Y., and E. H. Sears Postmaster at Staunton, Va.

#### Appointment Declined.

William Carey, of Galena, Ill., who was nominated and confirmed as Assessor of Internal Revenue for Utah Territory, has written to the department declining the appointment.

#### Fight Over the Pennsylvania Marshalship.

There is a vacant office in Pennsylvania—the Marshalship of the Eastern district. The contest for this place was hotly contested at the outset. Old Jesse Grant, the General's father—so the story goes—got it for General Ely, who served as a Freedmen's Bureau officer in Kentucky, where he made the acquaintance of Old Jesse. Poor Ely, who died a few days ago, was scarcely cold before the Attorney General was overwhelmed with telegrams engaging the place in advance. To-day, however, the siege has commenced in earnest. Not less than twenty-five prominent Pennsylvania politicians have arrived during the day. Among the first arrivals was Jack Heislant, who was considered the strongest man when Ely was appointed. To-night's train brought George M. Lauman, Forney's man, with A. K. McClure, Governor Curtin, W. H. Mann and a dozen other local politicians from the Keystone State. The fight begins to-morrow. Heislant is the candidate of the Cameron faction, while Lauman represents the Curtin-Forney faction.

#### Sam Ward's Dinner to Secretary Berie.

The irrepressible Sam Ward gave one of his *recherche* dinners this evening in honor of the Secretary of the Navy. Besides the smiling host there were present Secretary Berie and lady, Isaac Hazlehurst, of Philadelphia, and lady, and General Banks. The conversation, it is said, ran upon Cuban affairs, in which both General Banks and Sam Ward are understood to be deeply interested.

#### Public Debt Sinking Fund.

The Secretary of the Treasury, since his return from New York, has been considering the propriety of putting in force the law relative to the establishment of a sinking fund for the gradual extinguishment of the public debt. He has received several letters on the subject from prominent financiers throughout the country, most of them inquiring when he intended to commence. The Secretary's first idea was to begin at once, but, upon reflection, he thinks he will postpone it until the close of the present fiscal year, June 30. By that time he hopes to have a better run of the business of the department, and some reliable estimates from the collectors of customs as to the amount of revenue that may be expected from that source.

#### Weekly Customs Receipts.

The customs receipts from April 26 to the 30th, inclusive, are as follows:—

New York.....	\$1,759,679
Boston.....	354,135
Philadelphia.....	156,412
Baltimore.....	137,710
San Francisco (from April 1 to 10).....	191,654
Total.....	\$2,599,590

#### The Corcoran Art Building.

The Corcoran Art Building is being repaired and the alterations made by the Quartermaster General's Department are being removed. In a few days Mr. Corcoran intends to turn the building over to the city authorities in order that it may be devoted to the purpose for which it was erected—a repository of art.

#### Personal.

Brevet Brigadier General James A. Hardie, who has for many years been on duty in the War Department, has applied for service in another quarter and has been assigned to duty as inspector general on the staff of General Sheridan, commanding the military division of the Missouri. He will leave for St. Louis in a few days.

Colonel William G. Moore, paymaster in the United States army, who acted as private secretary for President Johnson, leaves Monday next for Leavenworth to act in the former capacity.

#### Return of the Northern Excursionists.

The party consisting of ex-Governor Ward, of New Jersey; Colonel Forney, General Van Wyck, of New York, and others, who stated on a Southern trip two weeks ago, have returned to Washington. They went as far as Florida, stopping at the principal cities and towns on the way. All concur in the report that the industrial prospects have improved; the negroes are working better this year than last, and the whites generally seem to be more industrious. The crops look well, the people are anxious for Northern immigration; millions of acres of good land are for sale, and great inducements are offered to capitalists. The party were everywhere well received, and the railroad companies provided special cars or trains for their accommodation free of charge.