

# COLOMBIA.

**Meeting of the Legislature—Sympathy for the Cubans—Political Offenders Pardoned—Educational Matters.**

PANAMA, Sept. 13, 1869.

The Legislative Assembly of the State of Panama convened in this city on the 1st inst., and have met daily up to the present without having transacted any business whatever of interest either to those at home or abroad, and it is not likely that anything of special note will be accomplished by that worthy body during the session. Although the Assembly have been together now twelve days I am not aware that a single project for the improvement of the country or for the benefit of the community has been brought up for discussion. I may mention that on the 3d inst. the House took into consideration the present state of affairs in Cuba and passed a resolution expressive of their sympathy with the Cuban republicans, and urging the government of this republic to recognize them as belligerents. It is asserted that the State of Cauca has already expressed similar sentiments.

On the opening of the Assembly, on the 1st inst., the President of the State, General Buenaventura Quesada, sent in the usual message, which was read and adopted. The President commenced by congratulating the country on peace having been maintained in this State since the previous meeting of the Assembly, a year ago, and that order and tranquillity having been fully restored, he was enabled to grant a full pardon to the citizens who had been banished on account of their connection with the political troubles of last year. He then assured us that the most cordial relations exist between the State of Panama and the other States of the Union, and also between the State government and the foreign representatives and foreign citizens residing here. The President next alludes to the crisis through which the Isthmus is at present passing, and attributes it to the completion of the Pacific Railroad and the opening of other means of inter-oceanic communication, which have tended to divert from the Isthmus a large amount of traffic and business that would otherwise have come here. He complains of the sad condition of public education throughout the State, and recommends the establishment of a primary school in each district, the levying of a special tax for the support of the same, and the passage of a law compelling parents to send their children to the schools. His report of the State finances is not at all flattering. The revenue for the coming year will amount to \$250,000, enough to meet all expenses in times of peace, but it is necessary to sustain a large military force here, at great expense, to maintain order, and the revenue will therefore not be sufficient to cover the outlay. The report of the Secretary of the Treasury puts the present debt of the State at \$201,791, but says the national government owes this State some \$260,000, a sum more than sufficient to liquidate the debt, and it is recommended that an attorney be at once sent to Bogota to look after the recovery of the claim. The expenses of the State for the year ending August 31, 1869, amounted to \$203,173. Of this sum \$114,257 were expended in keeping up the army, and \$3,122 only were expended in public education—a rather bad state of affairs in this enlightened age. There was a balance in the treasury at the date stated of \$1,037, in paper and coin.