

MEXICO.

Important Despatches—Arrival of Minister Campbell and General Sherman at Vera Cruz—Affairs on the Rio Grande—General Sedgwick Relieved of His Command—Ortega Released from Arrest—Correspondence Between Generals Cortes and Sheridan and Secretary Stanton.

BROWNVILLE, TEXAS, December 6.—General Sheridan arrived here at an early hour this morning, and will return to-morrow. He very much disapproves of the action of General Sedgwick in his recent occupation of Matamoros, and will relieve him on his command.

It is not known who his successor will be. This afternoon General Sheridan had a protracted interview with General Escobedo, when the question of Ortega's arrest was discussed. Escobedo declared himself incapable of restoring any machinery of his, and as the result the following was sent over the wires to Brazos this evening to the commanding officer:—

BRAZOS SANTO, TEXAS, December 6.—You will once release from arrest General Ortega and party, now at your post. By command of Major-General F. H. SHERIDAN.

J. Shafer Crosby, Aid-de-Camp. Transportation to New Orleans was tendered General Ortega and his party, but he will not accept it.

Everything remains quiet upon the surface in Matamoros. There is, however, an under-current which indicates trouble. The question of the Government is not yet decided. Escobedo promises that an election by the people shall take place, as the State is now free from invasion. A military Governor will be appointed in the meantime. A municipal election will be held in a few days.

It is stated on good authority that General Escobedo has ordered Cortinas to Chihuahua for trial, owing to his outrages upon the ranches throughout the State, and that Cortinas has ordered to proceed to Monterey at once, with a view to joining the force now operating in the vicinity of San Luis. A portion of his troops left Matamoros this evening. Cortinas will not obey his orders, as it is thought that Cortinas will go beyond the limits of the State.

Those well acquainted with Mexican men and manners confidently predict new troubles, which will again close the roads, and put an end to business operations.

General Canales, senior, will return to his home at San Fernando at once. He declares that his efforts to secure peace have failed. Should the anticipated troubles arise, Canales, Cortinas, or both, will probably be appointed for Ortega. The partisans of this aspirant are scotched, not killed, and trouble may be anticipated from him yet upon this frontier.

The feeling among the soldiers and lower classes in Matamoros is very bitter against Americans since the occupation. The impression among them is that the American troops were compelled to evacuate, owing to the combination between Canales and Escobedo.

Canals has been heard from. He denies that he is a partisan of Ortega. In the event of an election for Governor of Tamaulipas, he will doubtless be a candidate. He is popular throughout the State, with the exception of Matamoros.

Arrival of General Sherman and Minister Campbell at Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, December 4, via Mobile, Ala., December 10.—The Sherman-Campbell expedition has fitted out for the present. The *Susquehanna* arrived here on Thursday, anchoring at a point three miles from the city. Neither Sherman, Campbell, nor any member of the expedition would have been permitted to land with the shore, except through the medium of the United States Consul, Mr. Lane. The French authorities were courteous in the extreme, offering General Sherman and suite an escort to convey them to the city, where Marshal Bazaine and General Castelnau now are. This and all similar offers were declined, and in the darkness of Monday night the *Susquehanna* stole away, few know whither.

The whole expedition was based upon the theory that, before the Sherman-Campbell expedition, the *Susquehanna* had been captured by Maximilian and the French would have gone, and that direct communication could be opened with the Juarez Government. This supposition proving groundless, the *Susquehanna* has sailed for some other port, where Juarez can be reached. She will probably next be heard of either at Tampico or Matamoros, unless she proceed to Havana or New Orleans for instructions. She would have gone to Tampico before making Vera Cruz, but that she was not permitted to do so.

Contemporaneously with the arrival of General Sherman and Minister Campbell at Vera Cruz, the following proclamation was issued:—

EL PREFECTO SUPLENTE DEL DIFUNDO EMPERADOR VERA CRUZ. One of the greatest events for the good Mexicans has happened to give renewed life to the nation. His Majesty the Emperor, who has been long and severely afflicted, will be and his happiness of our dear country, has given the final proof of his consideration for our welfare and his desire to see the nation united, which struggled in his breast. In consequence of the affliction of his august and noble spouse, our lovely empress, who has been long and severely afflicted, would temporarily quit the country to dedicate his whole time to the rendering of those attentions which the delicate state of health of his worthy consort rendered necessary. The Emperor has sacrificed for us, has put aside his duties as a man for those which concern his house as a ruler, and in the momentous crisis which has befallen our nation, declares solemnly his intention of continuing in the front, even to the extent of sacrificing the last drop of his blood in the defense of the nation. Citizens of Vera Cruz, you are invited to join in the thanks to Providence for having saved the integrity of our country, and from the inmost recesses of our hearts to salute the Emperor with the affection of a nation, which was on the eve of being destroyed.

What the exact bearing of this strange manifesto may be, it is hard to determine. It bears no signature sufficient to guarantee its authenticity, yet it has been in circulation everywhere without any attempt at contradiction, and in the best-informed quarters it is confidently asserted that Maximilian will leave Orizaba on Friday next to resume the reins of government in the city of Mexico. It is certain that he has thrown himself into the hands of Miramon, Marquez, and the reactionary, or Church party. They have promised him ten millions of dollars. Whether they use him, or he them, is yet to be made manifest. The former is much the more probable.

Meanwhile the Emperor's baggage is still being shipped for Austria. The French are rapidly concentrating their troops preparatory to leaving. Every one here expects war with the United States, and trade is at a complete stand still.

A Duel in the Dark—Two Men Killed.—On Saturday night last a bloody rencontre took place between two men in the baggage car of a passenger train on the Nashville and Decatur Railroad. The difficulty started in a passenger coach, and was the result of a dispute in regard to the quality of the whisky each carried. Both were probably more or less intoxicated. The conductor ordered them to leave the car if they wanted to settle the matter, and not to be disturbing the balance of the passengers. The two then repaired to the baggage car, and after pacing off the proper distance, wheeled, and, at a given signal, fired their pistols. Neither of them appeared to be hurt after the shot. At that moment the only light in the car, which shone from a lantern held by the person who gave the signal, went out suddenly, and the duellists then grasped their knives and sprang upon each other like tigers, cutting and slashing at a fearful rate. They are both probably dead, or if living, terribly lacerated.—*Louisville Democrat*, 6th.

TERRIBLE DISASTER IN NEW YORK.

Fire in a Tenement-House—Nine Persons Suffocated—Three Families Found Dead in their Rooms, Etc.

A fire involving terrible loss of life occurred last night. Four adults and five children were suffocated in their respective rooms in the tenement-house premises, Nos. 215 and 215 1/2 Division street.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

The fire originated in the cellar of the four-story dwelling-place, which was tenanted by three families. The first floor is divided into two stores, one occupied by M. Deegan, a lamp and kerosene oil-shop, the other by a milk store by Patrick Kelley. These places were numbered respectively 215 and 215 1/2, the basement of No. 215 being occupied as a dwelling by James E. McLaughlin, and the basement of No. 215 1/2 being inhabited by Mr. Deegan, who kept on the premises a small quantity of kerosene oil and a number of empty barrels. The cellar under the basement is fitted up with wood-work, and is used for the storage of the oil.

That the fire originated in this cellar is but little doubt, it being understood from the statement of Assistant Fire Marshal H. O. Baker, that the leakage of oil from the barrels had penetrated the flooring and trickled into the cellar, and the gas rising from the fluid had probably been ignited by the flame of a lamp which had been carried into the cellar by one of the tenants, while from the lower portions of the ceiling the smoke descended to the upper part of the building and filled the rooms, whose occupants lay wrapped in slumber.

THE FIRST ALARM.

was sounded at forty-five minutes past 10 o'clock, but some minutes previous to the top of the fire the Fire Department was on the spot. The smoke was so extremely dense, and filled the hallway and corridor entries of the house, effectually preventing egress to such of the tenants as had not been fortunate enough to make their escape. The families of Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Cash, who dwell on the second floor, and those of Mr. Burns, on the third, and Mr. Valentine on the fifth floor, reached the sidewalk in safety, but the other occupants of the house were less fortunate.adders were placed against the windows of the upper stories, and the firemen ascended in haste, hoping in this manner to rescue such of the wretched tenants as were known to have remained in their apartments.

THE VICTIMS.

of the fire were then discovered to be as follows:—On the third floor of the house No. 215 resided Daniel Phalin, his wife, and Maggie, Nellie, and Thomas, his three children. On the fourth floor of the house No. 215 1/2 dwelt Mrs. McLaughlin, a widow, and her children, Ida, with her sister, Mrs. Euphemia Galpin, and her daughter. It was ascertained beyond a doubt that all these unfortunate were in the tenement at the time the fire broke out, and the firemen, forcing open the windows, jumped into the rooms, and groping through the darkness and smoke, sought to rescue the missing ones.

One by one the members of the department were taken from the house, and carried to a drug store in the vicinity, where Police Surgeon Blyden and Drs. Snodgrass and McLaughlin attended to the injured. Nine persons were shown signs of existence, but the beating of their heart, faintly perceptible a few seconds after they had been carried into the street, had soon lapsed.

THE BODIES.

of the deceased tenants were removed to the Seventh Precinct, where Dr. Jamieson, Captain Jamieson despatched a notice to the Coroner, who will hold an inquiry on the remains to-day. The names of the poor beings who have met such an untimely fate are as follows:—

Daniel Phalin, his wife, and three children, aged respectively ten, seven, and two years, Maggie, Nellie, and Thomas by name. Phalin was a native of Ireland, and thirty-two years of age when he was first employed as a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, and had been Assistant Foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 31.

Mrs. McLaughlin and her infant child, the latter of whom died shortly after the fire.

Mrs. Euphemia Galpin and her daughter Ida, aged eleven years.

THE SCENE AT THE STATION HOUSE.

was heartrending. In one of the rooms in the rear of the main building, dimly lighted by a single jet of gas, lay stiff upon a boarded platform the bodies of the deceased persons. All were habited in their nightclothes, the poor fellow who was seen to be the most unfortunate, adults with their shirts half covering their shriveled limbs, the females with bare legs and scanty garments thrown upon their shoulders. The faces were not much discolored, and from the fact that the fire was not so hot, the appearance of the bodies was not so ghastly as that of those who were scorched and charred by the flames not having extended beyond the floor, no burns were discernible on their persons.

THE NOSTRILS were somewhat distended, and the eyes half opened, looked out upon the living world with a vacant stare. Pieces of black cloth and scraps of old calico entangled their heads, and kept the lower jaw pressed against the upper one. The limbs were stiff, the hands slightly shriveled, the hair discolored. There they lay, side by side, old and young, male and female, all having laid down to rest but a few hours previous, having, doubtless, been partially awakened by the noise in the street below, but having, after a brief struggle for life, retreated to that stammer which knows no waking.

THE LOSSES BY FIRE AND WATER.

are slight. The damage to the building will not exceed \$500. Damage to the stock of kerosene lamps, etc., on the first floor, \$300; such loss being covered by insurance for \$700 in the State Insurance Company of Jersey City. J. E. McLaughlin, who occupies the basement as a dwelling place; loss \$200 by damage to property, which is insured for \$400 in the Rutgers Insurance Company. Patrick Kelley loses \$100 by damage to stock in his milk store; his loss is not covered by insurance.

ANOTHER LESSON.

can be learned by the terrible results of this fire. The destruction of life again directs our attention to the reckless disregard for the safety of tenants manifested by landlords in general. The laws at present enacted are inadequate to the protection of the occupants of tenement-houses, and it is to be hoped that the Fire Commissioners will give their attention to this matter, and have such enactments made by the next Legislature as will regulate not only the keeping of all such combustible articles as kerosene oil, but also see to the provision of proper means of egress by the window for all tenants of rooms in large and crowded dwelling places.—*New York Herald* to-day.

An Actress Stabbed.—An attempt at murder was made in Paris last month. Mme Chapuis, a young actress at the Theatre des Nouveautes, was called on by a message from her husband, who wished urgently to speak to her. She went down to the street outside, and no sooner was she in the presence of her husband than he raised a blow at her neck with a poniard. Fortunately, the weapon glanced, inflicting only a slight wound. She, however, fell to the ground, bleeding. A crowd assembled, and while the wounded woman was carried into the theatre, the assailant, under the provision of proper means of egress by the window for all tenants of rooms in large and crowded dwelling places.—*New York Herald* to-day.

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THE CAPTURE OF SURRAT.

The Assassination Planned at Richmond, with the Assent of Jefferson Davis.

The Montreal Herald, December 6, has the following:—

"We have to thank one of our fellow-citizens for some interesting particulars relating to the discovery and arrest of this person (John H. Surrat). It was ascertained in a series of letters addressed to him by a relative, a gentleman some time ago well known in Montreal, but who gave up his engagements here, and after serving in the American army, enlisted in the Papal Zouaves, it appears that during his residence in the South he became very intimate with the Surrats, and, of course, was thoroughly acquainted with the person of the one who is accused of complicity in the murder of President Lincoln. Surrat was seen in Italy when he saw him and recognized him in another company of the Papal troops.

"The first of the letters which have been communicated to us merely speaks of the writer having hit upon something who was likely to be worth a great deal of money to him, without mentioning the nature of the discovery. This letter was written in April. In July he wrote again, informing his correspondent here that he had discovered there, in Washington, one of the assassins of Lincoln, for whom you know a reward was offered of fifty thousand dollars. I went to the Ambassador at Rome and told him all I knew. He immediately wrote to Mr. Seward in Washington, and in return I made a declaration under oath of the facts I knew, which was sent to America, and now I expect to see in a few days to Washington to give my evidence." Writing again the 1st of October, the Zouave gives some further particulars, from which it appears that the representative of the American Government at Rome had by that time had instructions from Washington, in consequence of which the gentleman, informant to see and converse with Surrat, from whom he learned that the assassination of Mr. Lincoln was planned at Richmond, and he had arrived here. They have formed themselves into a conference, and selected Mr. McDonald to preside over their deliberations.

THE MISSING STEAMER "BRITANNIA."

LONDON, December 10.—Evening.—The steamer *Britannia*, which left Glasgow on the 3d of November, and about which some apprehensions were beginning to be felt on both sides of the Atlantic, was spoken by a vessel bound to this port, on the 17th of November. The *Britannia* had lost her propeller and rudder, and was attempting to proceed under sail. She was nearly helpless.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION.

LONDON, December 10.—P. M.—Many of the delegates from British America, having in view a final settlement of the Confederation scheme, have arrived here. They have formed themselves into a conference, and selected Mr. McDonald to preside over their deliberations.

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