

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILLED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Man has really succeeded in turning the course of nature, bending them to his will, turning them aside to their own course and compelling them to subservient general purposes of human life.

At 3:05 P. M. yesterday the last rail was laid on the great national railway that unites the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

We remember how long and how vainly we looked for men to undertake this work. We remember how science demonstrated its perils, experience maintained its impracticability, capital shrank from its gigantic cost and uncertain returns.

For this triumph seems to us an epoch, not below, in its national significance, the Declaration of Independence, the emancipation of the slaves, or the acquisition of California.

CUBA AND THE FILIBUSTERS. Several weeks have elapsed since our special correspondents in Cuba announced that it was slack tide with the revolutionists; and this fact has recently been communicated to the Government by Admiral Hoff.

view of the history of the Cuban question. The aspiration for a free government among the people of Cuba is coincident in its origin with the revolutionary struggles of the Spanish colonies of the continent.

From this time the Cuban question slept until 1848, when it was reawakened by Lopez. At this period an abolition party had been developed in Spain, which gave life to the desire for separation among the great slaveholding and agricultural interests.

The revolution which now rages in Cuba is of an entirely different character. It has been the people who have moved first, and the wealthy class, particularly in the western or sugar-producing district, has not sided with them.

These causes have made the change which is seen in the Cuban movements of the present day. There is no opening for the thousands of armed filibusters of the past.

THE ALABAMA QUESTION.

From the N. Y. Times. The report that Mr. Motley goes to England without any special instructions in regard to the Alabama claims, gains strength and seems to be generally credited.

It must be pretty clear, by this time, we imagine, even to Senator Chandler, that no statesman can hope to gain popularity at home by fomenting war with England.

authorized representatives of the two nations, has just been indignantly rejected by us. If we are to demand payment of damages now, after this action, in what do these damages consist? We shall not, we imagine, be foolish enough to demand payment of the cost of the war for the whole time during which England's action prolonged it—nor for the hostile "sentiment" which England evinced towards us throughout the struggle.

We see nothing that can be more wisely done at present than to let the whole matter drop—take its place among the things of the past, which cannot be rerated or remedied, and which no amount of discussion can make any better.

IS THE PRESIDENT AIDING THE CUBAN INSURGENTS?

From the N. Y. World. If, during the years 1862 and 1863, there had been in London a newspaper press, independent, fearless, and powerful enough to uncover the inner purposes of Earl Russell in respect to the Florida, the Alabama, the Virginia, the Bappanook, and the Shenandoah, the English officer and American commerce would have had a different fate.

It is now declared that the administration in Washington admits so much as that a steamer "chartered by a Cuban, and containing war material, and carrying about three hundred men," escaped from this port last week.

It is said that the Spanish authorities in Washington and New York knew nothing of the starting of the expedition, and gave no notice to us. But does that clear our skirts? It is no part of the duty of the Spanish Minister to set on foot the execution of our neutrality any more than our criminal laws.

It appears, from the Tribune, that the Minister of Spain has asked the President to issue a proclamation, warning thoughtless or evil-disposed persons to abstain from acts in violation of our neutral obligations, and directing the proper Federal officers to be vigilant to prevent all such illegal enterprises.

The first proclamation to enforce our neutrality, issued by the United States, was by Washington, April 22, 1793, enjoining neutral conduct in the war between Austria, Prussia, Sardinia, Great Britain, and the United Netherlands, combined against France.

The second was by Washington, March 24, 1794, respecting enlisting men in Kentucky to invade a neighboring nation.

The third was by Madison, September 1, 1815, respecting an apprehended invasion of Spanish territory from the State of Louisiana.

The fourth, January 5, 1838, and fifth, November 21, 1838, were by Van Buren, enjoining neutrality as to Canada.

The sixth was by Tyler, September 25, 1841, for a similar purpose as the last two.

try suspicious of the attitude of the President in respect to Cuba. The position of the Secretary of State is well known. No one, in this community at least, doubts his robust conservatism. It provokes the coarse ribaldry which daily crops out in journals like the Herald and others, which affect to be in the confidence of the President, advocate the appointment of Sumner to the Department of State, and which would trample under foot all the restraints of municipal or international law in the path of European nations.

The neutrality policy of the United States is a child of the statesmen and diplomatists of the Revolutionary era. It is one of our chief claims to national glory. It was inaugurated in the days of our infancy and weakness. It called forth those memorable words of Canning in the House of Commons, when he said:— "I wished for a guide in a system of neutrality, I should take that laid down by America in the days of the Presidency of Washington and the Secretaryship of Jefferson."

The underlying doctrine of the neutrality of 1818, which Banks would repeal and certain political influences would violate, were worked out by Washington in his three months' controversy with Genet, during the war between France and England, wherein not even the fresh memory of the priceless service the former power had rendered in upholding the faltering footsteps of the young republic as he entered the circle of nations, nor the hostility of the latter power, which at that time required all the wisdom and firmness of Chief Justice Jay to keep from bursting out in war, could dissuade or deter our great chieftain, sustained by Jefferson and Hamilton, from vindicating the inviolability of neutral soil, even against our first and best ally.

The enlistment of troops, the sailing of military expeditions, are very different things from supplying, on our own soil, to either fighting party, munitions of war. Of these, we can freely and legally sell to both as much as we please. Our markets are wide open to the insurgents as well as to Spain, and we can transport to each, in our own ships, if we see fit, subject to the right of capture by either belligerent as contraband of war.

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