SAN DOMINGO.

Further Particulars of the American Commis-sion—The Voyage to the Island—Samana Bay and San Domiego City.

We take the following extracts from the letters in the New York Tribune giving an account of the San Domingo expedition, in addition to what we published yesterday:-THE VOYAGE-THE ARRIVAL AT SAMANA BAY-

THE BAY AND ITS SURROUNDINGS. Writing in the Bay of Samana, on January

27, the Tribune correspondent says:-We had charming weather for the first two days out—cold, indeed, but bright and clear, with fresh and favoring winds, and every prospect of a pleasant voyage. But toward evening of the second day, in the rough latitude of Hatteras, our troubles began, and from that time until we neared our destination we experienced abundant discomfort and many stormy seas, though without any specially severe test of the seagoing qualities of the frigate. Using generally both steam and sails, we have made a moderately quick passage; but the beha-vior of the vessel under steam is far from satisfactory, and the machinery is found to be full of serious defects. As a sailer, however, the ship is pronounced faultless. We had been out of sight of land six days and a half, when on the morning of the 24th we heard from the look-out in the maintop the welcome cry of "Land ho!" and the passengers rushed upon deck. Thick clouds hung heavily over a dark line about two points off our starboard bow, hardly discernible at first; but as we came nearer we gradually traced the outline of the mountain range which stretched westward to the mainland from Cape Cabron at the extremity of the peninsula of Samana. Behind this mountain barrier and opening to the east lies the bay to which we were bound. The morning was the hottest we had yet felt. A burning sun blistered the deck. The brasswork of the frigate glowed like fire, and the waters glittered like burnished metal under the blazing heavens. There was hardly a breath of air, and as we steamed through the calm sea the sails hung useless from the yards.

Long before noon the whole country around the mouth of the bay was distinctly visible in outline. There were the hills rising abruptly close to the shore, the palisade-like rocks almost surrounding the peninsula, the irregular and picturesque profile of the range stretching back as far as the eye could reach. We could discover no table-land; we saw no beach; and at first there was no sign of life except in the waters, from which a flyingfish darted now and then; nor was there much appearance of vegetation. It was not until we had rounded Cape Cabron and entered the mouth of the bay that the dingy aspect of the landscape changed, and we realized something of that tropical luxuriance and freshness upon which travellers have loved to dilate. In the distance, we soon descried, peeping above the horizon, the roofs of Santa Barbara de Samana, and little by little the whole scene broke upon us in its delicious beauty. One by one appeared the spreading tops of the palms. The brown hue of the hills changed to the most brilliant shades of green, their sides showed here and there a little patch of farm-land shut in by waving forest, and over all the country was a mantle of that soft, beautiful verdure which we never see at home except after the showers of early summer. the rapture with which Columbus (and we were sailing-so they say-in the very track of the discoverer) painted the beauties of this island paradise. Close to the shore, in a little gully through which a stream of water ran singing to the sea, stood a hut, with round thatched roof and a single window looking out upon the ocean. Waving palms shaded it in front and rear; blooming hills sheltered it from the winds, and close by was a huge ragged rock against which the lazy surf beat perpetual music. This perfect picture was succeeded by views of larger houses, with patches of cleared land and groves of cocoanuts and bananas. There was a little settlement whose borders reached to the shore, green and fertile to the very edge of the sea, while the palms drooped their broad leaves tipped with golden yellow above the houses, and in the back-ground forests of the most beautiful and varied foliage stretched away farther than the eye could reach. On shipboard the heat was excessive; but on shore everything looked deliciously cool and

Through such scenes we moved along until at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 24th we dropped anchor in the outer harbor of Samana, about two miles from the village. Over the property leased by the United States floated the American flag, and, to our delight, we found in the harbor the United States steamer Nantasket, Captain McCook. A boat from the Nantasket soon boarded us, and some time was passed in pleasant conversation over the news from home and from the fleet. Later in the day the commissioners landed for a visit to the local authorities, and these latter distinguished officials has tened to return the compliment. It was not until the morning of the 25th that the rest of

the party went ashore. SCENES AT SAMANA.

After giving the description of the town, already published by as, the correspondent continues: -

We pushed our way through the lazy, grinning, good-natured crowd, and made an in-spection of the public buildings of Sauana. It did not take us long, for there are none at all except two churches and a calaboose-and, perhaps, I should add a couple of schoolhouses. The Catholic church is a rude structure, much larger than the inhabitants seem to require, and full of the oddest images dressed in quaint, not to say grotesque, habiliments. We tried to converse with the priest, but he spoke none of the three languages at the command of our party, so we gave it up. We afterwards learned that he was an Italian. A Methodist church is building under the auspices of the English Mission Society, and the British flag is displayed on the unfinished edifice as well as on the residence of the minister. The Rev. Joseph James is a colored man of ordinary intelligence, and has a congregation including about three hundred communicants, mostly descendants of the colored colony sent here from Philadelphia in 1824. They have placed themselves under the Briflag as a protection in case of disturbance. In the schools the text-books are all in the English language, and published in Philadelphia. One of the teachers upon whom we called is a quadroon from Philadelphia. He was a partisan of Salnave in Havii. and came here from the other and of the island; but he declares that he would not stay a month if he were not sure of annexa-The better to discuss this subject with us he dismissed his eight or ten scholars, among whom were two full-grown, goodlooking girls, as black as the ace of clubs.

We found no prisoners in the calabooseperhaps they had all been released in honor

guard, detailed, I believe, from the standing army of the republic. The troops were bare foot and half clad. Their arms were various. Some had knives two feet long, with a blade from two to six inches in width. Some had swords, of all manner of odd patterns. At least one car-ried a musket without a lock. About a dozen of these troops lolled in the dirty guardhouse, eating bananas, drinking cocoanut milk, and smoking dirty pipes. The calaboose consists of one room, amply ventilated, though it has neither door nor windows. There is neither dark cell nor gallows, but a fine set of mahogany stocks.

There is no tavern, or hotel, or other place of accommodation for strangers, and so far as I have been able to learn there are not more than two or three bedsteads on the whole Peninsula. Those who have no hammocks sleep on rude bamboo frames, or on improvised pallets of leaves and bark. It is a curious feature of Samana life that almost everybody keeps a shop. Of the 80 houses in the place, more than half are in some way devoted to trade. How 40 shop-keepers can be maintained in a village of 80 houses is a problem in political economy that I shall not attempt to selve, but so it is. All that I have seen sell liquor, and besides this staple of commerce one can buy common calicoes, groceries, tobacco, vegetables, and fruit.

PRODUCTIONS, LABOR, AND MONEY.

On these subjects the correspondent

The price of labor-such as the labor may be-is \$1 or \$1.25 in United States coin. But this standard of value is entirely the product of the annexation scheme. Before the excitement on the subject sprang up one could hardly say that anything had a price. Labor was either borrowed and returned in labor at some future time, or repaid in produce or store goods. There was no circulating medium, practically speaking. The currency issued by Baez and his predecessors can be bought by the bushel at the value of waste paper. General Boynton obtained for one good dollar about \$1000 in Haytien and Dominican paper currency. He bought a few copper coins, also, as curiosities, and the shopkeeper wrapped them up in \$20 bills of Santo Domingo. Another man said he had possessed about \$15,000 in bills, but he had used a good deal of it for wrapping paper. So you see whatever else the people may expect from the United States. they evidently don't expect us to redeem their paper money. The prices of fruits, vegetaoles, and all products of the country are governed entirely by the market, and the market depends entirely upon the ships. When there are no vessels in the harbor, the cost of everything is merely nominal. At such times speculators buy up everything at low rates, for the people must sell their fruits or see them spoil on their hands, and as soon as a cargo is collected, it is shipped to a northern port. Thus, when the market is good, cocoanuts sell bere for \$1.25 or \$2 a hundred, bananas for 50 cents a bunch, each bunch containing from 70 to 110, pine-apples for 5 cents apiece, coffee for 20 cents a ponnd, sweet potatoes for \$1 a bushel, rice in the husk for \$3 a barrel. Wheat is not raised, and flour sells for five cents a pound. Wheat bread, therefore, is comparatively rare, but when-The people generally live on fruits and vegetables. The staples of their diet are plantains, which are excellent fried, yams, sweet potatoes, cocoanuts, pines, bananas, oranges, tomatoes, eggplants, and sometimes

The better classes have meat about twice a week, cattle being raised in small numbers on the high lands; but beef sells for eight or ten cents a pound-which is far beyond the means of the poor-and besides it is hard to keep in this climate. Everybody keeps poultry, and when there are ships in port chickens are worth 50 cents apiece and eggs 30 cents a dozen. But as soon as the last vessel shows her stern to the rickety little fort at the east end of the village, down tumbles all commerce, and the people become frightfully lavish in the use of their remaining stock of beef and eggs.

Fruits are always in season, for they ripen all the year round. Cultivation, however, is so loose, and the popular ignorance of everything like farming is so profound, that it is impossible to ascertain how much of anything is raised or the average yield per acre. There are plantations of bananas and cocoanuts, but the plants are not generally set out systematically; they are stuck into the ground anywhere. The fruits most abundant are the orange, lemon, lime, cocoanut, cacao, banana. pine, alligator-pear, guava, and tamarind. Pine-apples are immensely large and rich. Some measure 10 inches in diameter, and one of the naval officers was recently presented with a pine weighing 27 pounds. All these fruits are found in practically unlimited quantities, the production being checked only by the difficulty of transportation. Apples, peaches, blackberries, strawberries, and watermelons flourish on the mountains. Indian corn grows magnificently. Three crops are raised on the same land every year; two of these crops are each larger than an average crop in the States, besides being of the best quality. Mountain rice is abundant. Potatoes, yams, plantains, cabbages, beets, turnips, cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, egg-plants, peas, beans, and I know not how many other culinary vegetables are produced in perfection. The Santo Domingo squashes

are the best squashes in the world. The reports of the value and variety of timber on the island are probably not exaggerated. The kinds most used for commercial purposes are mahogany, logwood, lignumvitæ, iron-wood, and satin-wood, and these are said by the botanists of the expedition, as well as intelligent inhabitants with whom I have talked, to be of great abundance and large growth. The mahogany tree in this part of the island is from 1 foot to 6 feet in diameter; lignumvita, 4 to 6 inches; satin-wood, 6 to 15 inches; logwood, 6 to 18 inches; iron-wood, 12 to 30 inches. The climate and soil seem to be admirably suited to the sugarcane, but the processes of extracting the juice are so bad that the crop is not as valuable as it ought to be. The cane grows very rich and hardy, and I hear of a plantation which has been running forty years without replanting, yet is still strong and healthy. Once in five years the stubble was cut and the land burnt over, but the soil has never been stirred. Plows are unheard of. The tobacco raised near Samana is very good—much better than our own-but it is estsemed inferior to that of the southern side of the island. The smoking tobacco would sell in the States for \$1 50 er \$2 a pound; here it brings 20 cents. It is too strong for the ordinary

smoker, but its flavor is very fine. THE CLIMATE OF SAMANA.

On the all-important subject of the climate of Samans, the Tribuns correspondent says: So much has been said about the danger of

imposing aspect of the guard was worthy of | inquiries on this subject, and I am convinced | coast must remain a mystery forever. The the highest admiration. It was a military | that Santo Domingo is as healthy as any of | trip from Samana was without special intethat Santo Domingo is as healthy as any of our Southern States. Professor Newcomb, who is familiar with the tropics, and has been charged with the duty of reporting on the health of the island, has ascertained from various sources-the town authorities, the priests and preachers, and others who would be likely to have information on the subject—that the population of the peninsula is about 3000, and that during the year ending last month the deaths were seventeen, and the births over 300. This is not a bad exhibit for the Samana region at any rate. There is not a doctor nor a drug store in the village, so we could not got medical testimony; but I got the next thing to it; I went, with one of my companions, to the coffin-maker! You should have seen the expression, about equally compounded of horror and delight, with which he greeted us when we asked if he made coffices, and the eagerness with which he inquired, "Do you want one?" We replied that we were not in want of such an article just then, and proceeded to ask him a few questions. He spoke tolerable English. He was the only person in town who made coffins, and during the year he had made only four! Of course this is not conclusive, for people who live without clothes may very well be buried without coffins; but I tell it as an incident. Dr. Newcomb believes, and I think the commission will so report, that white men and women may come here at proper seasons of the year with entire safety, and with entire safety remain as residents of this portion of the island. What may be the facts in other portions of the island must be left to the future. Of course, as in any change of climate, extra care should be taken for the first year or two. The temperature is not subject to sudden varia tion, but, it is needless to say, it is rather warm. Many of our party, however, are now wearing the same clothes they wore in Washington, Boston, and New York, and in these clothes have indulged in such laborious exercise as climbing mountains and riding bulls. Professor Blake has taken the tem perature as often as possible, and records it as averaging from 76 deg. to 80 deg. Fahrenheit. Mr. Burr says that the thermometer rarely in the hottest weather exceeds 90 deg. The officers and crew of the Nantasket have been in these waters for fifteen months, and during that time have not lost a single man by death. In the sun the heat seems very great, but the shade is delightful, and the breeze is continuous. The negroes say that violent exercise in the middle of the day is very unwholesome-but then they have a rooted antipathy to violent exercise at all

THE ANNEXATION SENTIMENT.

On the subject of annexation the people of Samana are enthusiastic and unanimous; but their opinion, of course, should not be assumed to be that of a majority of the islanders. It is the only salvation of this portion of the republic. All the trade, the protection, the support of this little settlement come from the United States. Talk to any man you meet on the peninsula, and you will hear about the same sentiments.

The people are in a constant state of inse curity. They have no heart to raise crops, for they may be destroyed, as they have been a dozen times heretofore. There is no law, do redress for robbery, and depredations are incessant. Many declare that they will not stay here if the annexation scheme is defeated, for in that case the disorders will be

THE TESTIMONY TAKEN. While still at Samana, the correspondent wrote, under date of January 31:-

The commission, in addition to visiting Samana and its adjacent country in person, has taken testimony from all the intelligent inhabitants, in shorthand, and this testimony will be incorporated in the commission's report to the President. Among those examined were General Jose Silvano Acosta, Governor of the Province of Samana, Colonel Enrique Abreu, commandante of the military forces in the village; Eugenio Garcia, the alcalds, or judge; Benito Garcia, member of the Council; two or three members of the Junta, and several prominent merchants Captain Benjamin Burr, an extensive planter, who has had 1000 men under his employ; the Rev. Joseph B. Hamilton, local Methodist preacher and mahogany merchant, one or two other preachers, a school teacher, and others whose opinions were thought to be of any consequence.

ARE THERE ANY "JOBS?" The most important witness was Victor Desruisseaux, the President of the Municipal Council, and custodian of all the records of land and other official documents. stated that he was in charge of all the Government documents and records that were saved at the time Luperon, in command of the Telegrafo, shelled the town and destroyed it by fire, two or three years ago, as well as all the records of an official character of transactions since that time. The commission examined the records of the deeds, mortgages, transfers, leases, etc., in the hands of the gentlemen named, and all transactions relating to citizens of the United States were translated into English by persons officially attached to the commission, and properly certified. These twill be incorporated in the report, and the documents will be presented in their official form, entire. And here is the important fact. The only Americans owning land in the vi-cinity of Samana Bay are Mr. Joseph W. Fabens and his grantees, Spofford Brothers, of New York, the owners of the Tybee steamer which plies between here and New York, who have about 30 acres west of the village and back of their wharf and warehouse; and Judge O'Sullivan, of New York, who has a grant of a tract of about 30 acres lying between that of Spofford Brothers and the village. Both are leases for a low rent, in one case \$112 per annum, and renewable at will in perpetuity, with the clause added, "if there be no law to pre-vent the same." The alcalde thought the title a very doubtful one. All the other grants to Americans are of small lots by the municipality to resident traders, or for short terms, as Mr. Burr, whose lease of his plantation is for three years. His, however, is leased from a private individual, who holds under an ancient Spanish title. No transfers of Government or municipal lands about the bay or vicinity have been made since the treaty, and none to Americans at any time. except those mentioned above. This sets at rest all the scandal about American officers speculating in Samana lots and lands while they were negotiating a treaty. FROM SAMANA TO SAN DOMINGO CITY-THE BAD

HARBOR OF THE LATTER. Writing at San Domingo City on February

2, the correspondent says: -

If Samana is the best and most beautiful harbor in the world, which many hold themselves in readiness to swear, this is the worst, the roughest, most barren, and the most dangerous. It is so bad that it cannot be called a harbor. There is no port in the West Indies which the sailors so much dread as this, and of the United States—but the vigilant and the climate that I have made some very close why a city was ever built upon so desolate a

trip from Samana was without special interest. The weather, excepting a stormy night, was delightful, but for twelve or fourteen hours previous to our arrival, the sea ran high, although the wind was calm and warm. The ship, not generally given to rolling in any sea, was unsteady, because, as the sailors said, "the waves was all chopped up," and many who had escaped the deep damnation of sea-sickness off Hatteras were now sent below in pain and sorrow. The Nantasket, which started with us from Samana, arrived an hour or two ahead of us, and, as we sailed along towards the white breakers we saw her reeling and struggling as though she bore a restless spirit. The Tennessee anchored about a mile from the city. Her coming had been looked for for several days, for the party which came overland had announced her speedy departure from Samana. She had hardly let go her anchor before the American Consul, Dr. Ames, came on board to pay his respects to the commission, aed soon afterwards a committee was sent ashore to arrange the ceremonies of reception.

GETTING SETTLED. The whole of February 1 was consumed in attempts to arrange for the proper dignity of the presentation, and in providing quarters. President Baez had set aside an unoccupied Government house, a very spacious mansion miscalled a palace, for the commission, and furnished plain cots and an insufficiency of bedclothes. This house, unoccupied and unproductive, was refused by the commission through an innocent agent, although it was specially proposed that the commission should pay its own expenses, including mess, candies, attendance, and everything. Afterwards a house owned by Baez was rented, and in it the commission is safely lodged. Several unofficial persons accompanying the commission were permitted to occupy the palace, and so the whole party is accommodated without recourse to the one hotel of the city. MATTERS IN GENERAL.

The Tribune correspondent closes his leters, nine columns in length and remarkably graphic in style, with the following:-

The Baez Government denies emphatically that any cession of lands, any lease, or any advantages or special privileges whatever had been granted to any person whatever in the United States or elsewhere. From the best information obtainable it appears that mines are regulated according to the French laws, which declare that private owners are owners of the surface and what is below the surface, provided there are no mines, or at least until after they obtain authorization from the Government for such mines, in advance of denouncement, designation, etc., by others. There are, therefore, Mr. Baez says, no reservations in contradiction to the law in force. In reply to the question as to the imprisonment of individuals for political effenses, the President most emphatically says that no one has been imprisoned or banished for opinions against annexation; that all who followed Cabral January 31, 1867, did so of their own free will, and that some few who have gone since owe their forced absence to the fact that they conspired against the public safety in favor of Cabral or Luperon. The debt of the republic appears to be as stated in the Senate by Mr. Morton and others, namely, one and a half million dollars in gold, but the friends of Baez say that, unless great care is taken to reject spurious claims, a much larger amount will be required. It seems to be the desire of the Baez administration to pay the debts while the Government still has legislative power to admit or reject the accounts, according as they are just or spurious. None of the clergy, as it is stated, have thus far made any protest against annexation. It was charged in the Senate debate that Baez intended to leave the country. This he emphatically

MAKING TEA.

denies.

The Chinaman puts his tea in a cup, pours hot water upon it, and drinks the infusion off the leaves; he never dreams of spoiling its flavor with sugar or cream. The Japanese triturates the leaves before putting them into the pot. In Morocco they put green tea, a little tansy, and a great deal of sugar into a teapot, and fill up with boiling water. In Bokhara every man carries a small bag of tea about him, a certain quantity of which he hands over to the booth-keeper he patronizes, who concocts the beverage for him. The Bokhariot finds it as difficult to pass a teabooth as our own dram-drinker does to go by a gin-palace. His breakfast beverage is Schitschaj, that is, tea flavored with milk, cream, or mutton fat in which bread is soaked. During the daytime sugarless green tea is drunk with the accompaniment of cakes of flour and mutton-suet. It is considered an inexcusable breach of manners to cool the hot cap of tea with the breath; but the difficulty is overcome by supporting the right elbow in the left hand and giving a circular movement to the cup. How long each kind of tea takes to draw is calculated to the second; and when the can is emptied it is passed round among the company for each tea-drinker to take up as many leaves as can be held between the thumb and finger, the leaves being esteemed an especial dainty,

When Mr. Bell was travelling in Asiatic Russis he had to claim the hospitality of the Buratsky Arabs. The mistress of the tent. placing a large kettle on the fire, wiped it carefully with a horse's tail, filled it with water, and threw in some coarse tea and a little salt. When this was near boilingpoint, she tossed the tea about with a brass ladle until the liquor became very brown, and then it was poured off into another vessel. Cleaning the kettle as before, the woman set it again on the fire, in order to fry a paste of meal and fresh butter. Upon this the tea and some thick cream were then poured, the ladle put into requisition, and, after a time, the whole taken off the fire and set aside to cool. Half-pint wooden mugs were handed round, and the tea ladled into them, a tea forming meat and drink, and satisfying both hunger and thirst. However made, tea is a blessed invention for the weary traveller .- Chambers' Journal.

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[1 235]

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William H. Hamilton, John Carrow, George I. Young, Jos. R. Lyndall, Levi P. Coats, Jesses Lightfoot,
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PATENTS.

INITED STATES PATENT OFFICE WASEINGTON, D. C., Jan. 21, 1811.
On the petition of DANIELS, NIPPES, of Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania, administrator of Albert S. Nippes, deceased, praying for the extension of a patent granted to the said Albert S. Nippes, on the 21st day of April, 1857, for an improvement in 6-rinding Saws:

It is ordered that the testimony in the case be closed on the 21st day of March next, that the time for filing arguments and the Examinacr's report be limited to the 31st day of March next, and that said petition be heard on the 5th day of April next.

Any person may oppose this extension.

SAMUEL A. DUNCAN,
210 20t

Acting Commissioner of Patenta.

A LEXANDER G. CATTELL & CO., PRODUCE COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 86 NORTH WHARVES

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