

Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCT. 26, 1881.

The Monroe Doctrine by Blaine.

The secretary of state has taken occasion, in view of the European construction of the Panama canal, to reaffirm to Minister Lowell the Monroe doctrine as he conceives it; and no one in this country will be disposed to dispute his view, though it is easy to understand how it may not be appreciated in foreign countries. The doctrine does not commend itself, even here, so much by its logic as by its eminent advantage to us. Briefly stated, Mr. Blaine's announcement is that the United States view with great cheerfulness the attempt of European capitalists to make a canal at Panama, and wish the enterprise which our own people have no desire to risk their money—all success. And when it is built and in operation, we will as cheerfully concede the right of the ships of all nations to pass through the canal in the piping times of peace. But should a war come, in which the United States is engaged, then her cruisers, but not those of the enemy, shall be permitted to use the passage way. The United States of Columbia, in whose territory the canal is situated, are accorded by Mr. Blaine, equal privilege with the United States of America; but just what is to be done in the contingency of Columbia being allied with powers at war with us, is not distinctly pointed out, though the thought of such an occurrence no doubt being very absurd. If it could be admitted to happen it would seem that the Monroe doctrine would not be of much practical account. If England could hire Colombia to join her in a war with the United States, the Monroe doctrine would not keep her out of the use of the Panama canal, since it accords it to Colombia; and so that celebrated doctrine does not seem to be of much value to any nation but Colombia, to which it affords an elegant opportunity for a fine speculation whenever the big nations go to war.

In truth there is more sound than substance in the Monroe doctrine. It only applies when we are at war; and in war not only are the laws silent, but doctrines amount to nothing unless they are sustained by victorious arms. No one can doubt that if we should be at war with a European power it would use the Panama canal if it could, and prevent the use of it by us if it could, and that we would only defend our possession of it by fighting for it. No "doctrine" would help us a whit. No doubt the Monroe doctrine is a very good thing with which to amuse us. We all take to it devotedly. We don't stop to inquire whether other nations, if we were in conflict with them, will be likely to let us have the sole use of the canal; we are content with the beauty of the abstract idea that the canal, being an American institution, Europeans have no business to meddle with it; except, of course, to build it for us. Colombia is a sister nation and Colombia of course will be, as she ought to be, our friend. If she is not, since she ought to be we will make her be. Being a weak sister she will readily yield to our persuasion. Mr. Blaine reminds Mr. Lowell that away back in 1846, when Colombia was called New Grenada, we agreed with her to guarantee "positively and efficaciously" the perfect neutrality of the isthmus. And he declares that this guarantee "does not require reinforcement or accession or assent from any other power," notwithstanding this constrains this "perfect neutrality." "During any war in which the United States of America, or the United States of Columbia might be a party, the passage of armed vessels of hostile nations through the canal at Panama, would be no more admissible than would be the passage of the armed forces of a hostile nation over the railway lines joining the Atlantic and Pacific shores of the United States of Columbia. And the United States of America will insist upon her right to take all useful precautions against the possibility of the isthmus transit being in any event used offensively against her interests upon the land or upon the sea." If other nations are able to see that they have no business to interfere with a guarantee of the perfect neutrality of the Panama canal, which leaves us to use it for our war vessels at our pleasure, we may be gratified, but we can hardly help feeling mildly surprised.

The Blaine interpretation of the Monroe doctrine leaves any amount of room for the swoop of the American eagle, but does not permit much opportunity for the display of American common sense. The square fact may as well be stated, without any nonsense, that so far as we have the power we intend to use the Panama canal in a political way for the benefit of the United States, and that if any other nation gets ahead of us it will just have to whip us. Everyone understands that. We will take it because we want it and not particularly because it is particularly right. Might makes right; and that's the Monroe doctrine and every other doctrine when nations go to war.

Why He Hesitates.

The president seems to be having a remarkable amount of trouble in getting a cabinet to suit him. For a month the old cabinet officers have been awaiting their reliefs, a couple of them being very decided in urging their immediate dismissal. The attorney general drops his pen finally and quits the office without welcoming his unnamed successor; and the secretary of the treasury, being already elected to the Senate, surrenders his charge with equal suddenness when he hears that Gov. Morgan has been confirmed as his successor. But it seems that even this one fish has not been hooked. Morgan declines, as the president must have known that he would. He seems to have nominated him simply to compliment an old friend and to show that he was willing to take a man to his bosom who was not altogether a stalwart. The New York Evening Post charges that Morgan was expected to serve a little while as a warning pan for Conkling, until it would be prudent after a while to ap-

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Go to, the man said when the goat helped him over the fence, but he really thought there must be half a dozen at least. (To tell the honest truth, as admitted by our friend Burdette, of the Hawkeye, he didn't say that at all, but we can't print what he really did say, and we have to print something.)

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If General Grant is sincere in his declaration of a third term candidacy, a Republican contemporary thinks, he ought to give John Andrew Jackson Cresswell the grand shake. At the Maryland Republican state convention the other day "my old postmaster general" rode rough-shod to the front as a full fledged third-term "boss," immediately after which he becomes a candidate for his old place at the head of the postal department, visits Washington, and is a frequent arm-in-arm companion of General Grant, whom he relies upon as the one altogether powerful friend. It begins to look as though General Grant's great ambition is to preside at the table of the kitchen cabinet.

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A GREAT GUN.

Successful casting of a Monster Accelerating Gun in Pennsylvania.

The casting of a great cannon, twenty-five feet in length, at the Scott works, attracted quite a number of scientists, patentees and ordnance officers from New York to Philadelphia. They came by invitation of the New York patentees, and after a brief entertainment, the visiting party, numbering about twenty-five, together with the officials of the company and invited local guests, proceeded to the works.

Orange Noble must be a particularly radical anti monopolist, or such service monopoly organs as the Oil City Derrick and the Erie Herald would not be opposing him so bitterly. There is no other rational explanation of their conduct.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

SYNOD OF THE UNITED STATES.

Final Session of the Assembly at Danville, Va.

Monday Afternoon.—Synod opened with prayer by Rev. B. Stoner. Roll was called and quorum present.

The presence of Rev. R. S. Stewart, of the Presbyterian church, was announced and welcomed to a seat by the president.

The committee to report a minute on the Bible cause consists of Revs. John O. Johnson, J. D. Dietrich and Elder Jonas Detweiler.

The report of the committee on minutes of classis was again taken up. A large portion of the items show slight irregularities which were generally adopted.

The request of Lancaster classis to be relieved from \$250 of their assessment for the past year for missions was adopted.

The request of West Susquehanna classis to be relieved from \$450 of their assessment for the same purpose was also adopted.

The report was finished and adopted as a vote.

The hour of adjournment having arrived synod adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock, with prayer by Dr. Theo. Appel.

There was a large missionary meeting held in the church in the evening, at which Rev. B. Stoner, Rev. J. S. Davis, D. D., Theo. Apple, D. D., and D. E. Klopp, D. D. A collection was taken up for the cause of missions.

Tuesday Morning.—Synod met at 9 o'clock, was called to order by Rev. Jos. H. Debs, D. D.