

# The Lancaster Intelligencer.

Volume XLIII - No. 138

LANCASTER, PA. SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11, 1882.

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It is remarkable also that the conduct of the most delicate and difficult affairs, in which errors and precipitancy would lead to the most serious results, is committed to a minister who had shown himself to be entirely destitute of discretion and of the simplest sense of the proprieties in his position. This is one of the most perplexing facts in the whole business. Before General Harbut left upon his mission to Peru he was in correspondence and conversation with the agent of the Peruvian company, and received from the company an offer of a large interest in its claim. This was on the 21st of June. But apparently this transaction was not known to the secretary of state until the 31st of December, and as the secretary reproves General Harbut severely for consenting to become trustee of a Peruvian railroad, the complete evidence of the unfitness of the minister for his post would seem to have been in possession of the state department, and it is impossible to see why he was not recalled. The key to the whole correspondence is found in the ex-secretary's explanation. He considered that the commercial ascendancy of the United States upon the western South American coast was in question, and that it would probably be lost if the action of Chili could not be controlled in the supposed interests of the United States. Chili was believed to be under the influence of Great Britain, and unless the United States could arrange the settlement between Chili and Peru, Great Britain would be the dominant power upon the coast. It is undoubtedly the province of diplomacy to maintain by negotiation and friendly representation the interest and influence of one nation among others. It is especially desirable that the United States shall do this, and that the counsel of other republics upon this continent. And if we understood the instructions of Secretary Frelinghuysen to Mr. Trescott to imply any unwillingness to aid the other governments with our friendship and impartial good offices, we should certainly consider them, and so undoubtedly would the country. So far as sympathy is concerned the feeling of the United States is naturally with Chili, the most intelligent and orderly of South American republics, and not with Peru, which is a country of a very different kind.

In diplomacy manner and method are of vital importance. It is a suggestive criticism of our late diplomacy which is implied in a remark of Lord Granville to Mr. Lowell. "Lord Granville," says Mr. Lowell, "was as usual exceedingly courteous and friendly, but made no remark except that the publication of No. 270 before an opportunity was given him of replying to it 'seemed to him, to say the least, unusual.' In a very much stronger and objectionable sense it may be said that the tone of the instructions to Mr. Trescott was to say the least, unusual. It was in fact, belligerent and hostile. It was a very distinct threat. The dispatch of Secretary Frelinghuysen corrects this tone, but it does not decline to take interest in the question between Chili and Peru. Secretary Blaine instructed Mr. Trescott that if the arrest of Calderon by Chili should not be disavowed as an act of resentment against the United States, he should advise Chile that such an act would be regarded by this country as justifying a suspension of diplomatic relations. Secretary Frelinghuysen revokes this discretion, and reserves to the president the decision whether there is cause for offense. Meanwhile the Chilean minister in Washington has expressly disavowed any unfriendly feeling for the United States in the arrest of Calderon. The president in the Frelinghuysen instruction distinctly disclaims any right or inclination to dictate the relations between two independent American republics, while he would gladly extend his kindly offices to all of them. Here is no surrender of the interests or policy of the United States, but a humane and wise and pacific course which is worthy to be called American. It is not a question of "Half-breeds" or "Stalwarts," but of patriotism, and there is no doubt that the general sense of the country approves the policy of the administration in this matter so far as developed.

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## LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.

SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 11, 1882.

## BLAINE'S DIPLOMACY.

CONSERVATIVE VIEWS OF IT.

The Administration and South America. Harper's Weekly.

Whether it was intentional or not, there is no doubt that the tone of Mr. Blaine's instructions to our ministers in South America, which he recently published, is intentional and offensive. If the minister of England or of France at Washington should take a tone in representations to this country at the close of a successful war, he would be sent out of the country within twenty-four hours. Nothing is so justly offensive in international and diplomatic intercourse as the peremptory and dictatorial manner, which is the air of a bully. The era of "manifest destiny" politics has been very disagreeably and vividly suggested by the South American correspondence which has been published. The assumption throughout is that victorious Chili must make such terms of peace as we please, or take the consequences. The intention of such a demand may not have been to supply a pretext for armed intervention in the dispute. But if such had been the purpose, it is not likely that it could have been more adroitly and effectively furthered than by such dispatches.

It is remarkable also that the conduct of the most delicate and difficult affairs, in which errors and precipitancy would lead to the most serious results, is committed to a minister who had shown himself to be entirely destitute of discretion and of the simplest sense of the proprieties in his position. This is one of the most perplexing facts in the whole business. Before General Harbut left upon his mission to Peru he was in correspondence and conversation with the agent of the Peruvian company, and received from the company an offer of a large interest in its claim. This was on the 21st of June. But apparently this transaction was not known to the secretary of state until the 31st of December, and as the secretary reproves General Harbut severely for consenting to become trustee of a Peruvian railroad, the complete evidence of the unfitness of the minister for his post would seem to have been in possession of the state department, and it is impossible to see why he was not recalled. The key to the whole correspondence is found in the ex-secretary's explanation. He considered that the commercial ascendancy of the United States upon the western South American coast was in question, and that it would probably be lost if the action of Chili could not be controlled in the supposed interests of the United States. Chili was believed to be under the influence of Great Britain, and unless the United States could arrange the settlement between Chili and Peru, Great Britain would be the dominant power upon the coast. It is undoubtedly the province of diplomacy to maintain by negotiation and friendly representation the interest and influence of one nation among others. It is especially desirable that the United States shall do this, and that the counsel of other republics upon this continent. And if we understood the instructions of Secretary Frelinghuysen to Mr. Trescott to imply any unwillingness to aid the other governments with our friendship and impartial good offices, we should certainly consider them, and so undoubtedly would the country. So far as sympathy is concerned the feeling of the United States is naturally with Chili, the most intelligent and orderly of South American republics, and not with Peru, which is a country of a very different kind.

In diplomacy manner and method are of vital importance. It is a suggestive criticism of our late diplomacy which is implied in a remark of Lord Granville to Mr. Lowell. "Lord Granville," says Mr. Lowell, "was as usual exceedingly courteous and friendly, but made no remark except that the publication of No. 270 before an opportunity was given him of replying to it 'seemed to him, to say the least, unusual.' In a very much stronger and objectionable sense it may be said that the tone of the instructions to Mr. Trescott was to say the least, unusual. It was in fact, belligerent and hostile. It was a very distinct threat. The dispatch of Secretary Frelinghuysen corrects this tone, but it does not decline to take interest in the question between Chili and Peru. Secretary Blaine instructed Mr. Trescott that if the arrest of Calderon by Chili should not be disavowed as an act of resentment against the United States, he should advise Chile that such an act would be regarded by this country as justifying a suspension of diplomatic relations. Secretary Frelinghuysen revokes this discretion, and reserves to the president the decision whether there is cause for offense. Meanwhile the Chilean minister in Washington has expressly disavowed any unfriendly feeling for the United States in the arrest of Calderon. The president in the Frelinghuysen instruction distinctly disclaims any right or inclination to dictate the relations between two independent American republics, while he would gladly extend his kindly offices to all of them. Here is no surrender of the interests or policy of the United States, but a humane and wise and pacific course which is worthy to be called American. It is not a question of "Half-breeds" or "Stalwarts," but of patriotism, and there is no doubt that the general sense of the country approves the policy of the administration in this matter so far as developed.

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