

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.

Atrocities of Maximilian's Rule--Protests of United States Government--France Disclaims all Responsibility.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.--There has just been issued from the Public Printing Bureau the Message of the President, heretofore transmitted to the Senate, in response to a resolution asking for information on the subject of a decree of the so-called Emperor of Mexico, of the 21st inst., which has been published, and M. Romero, in calling the attention of Secretary Seward to it and other papers, in October last, says: In the emperor's proclamation of the 21st inst., the Duke supposes, contrary to the fact, that the constitutional President of the Mexican Republic had abdicated the national sovereignty, and from this false hypothesis he concludes that the defenders of independence, whom he calls bandits, in obedience to orders received from the French, have murdered the emperor.

It is nothing new for the usurper to call these patriots, who sustain the cause of independence against the national usurper, not in a new way for him to treat them as such, with a severity that would be called excessive if applied to criminals of the lowest order. He showed the same disposition to condemn the national hero of November last. Now Maximilian wishes to regulate this established system of assassination, by a decree issued on the 3d inst., which is not only a military usurper, but extending their jurisdiction to every person in the country found armed without license from his so-called Government, regarding the number and character of the party he belongs to.

In this decree, excessively tyrannical, he condemns to death every armed man who is not a member of the national army, or even those who will proffer information which will aid the defenders of their country, and sanctions severe penalties for the mere act of consulting a patriot, or for circulating news, and it has been carried out by his French directors who have been, by the system of courts-martial, sending to the scaffold the brave military officers of the national army who could not be called so.

This extraordinary severity is in open contempt to the solemn proclamation on landing at Vera Cruz, dated the 23d of May, 1864, etc., etc.

In another letter to Secretary Seward, dated November 20th, says the barbarous and bloody decree, the most cruel ever yet seen, has already begun to be executed. It is now my painful duty to inform you that on the 28th of October last, the Generals Ortega and Zalazar, and Colonels Diaz, Poracho, Villa, Gomez, Perez, Millena and Villanos, five Lieutenant-Colonels, and two Generals, were surprised and taken prisoners by the French forces in the town of Santa Anna Amatlan, State of Michoacan, as appears from the official despatches to the Emperor, of which I enclose a copy in French.

These generals and colonels belonged to the regular army of the Emperor, were officers of education and profession, and have fought for the independence of their country from the time the French first landed in Mexico. They were distinguished by the above mentioned decree of the usurper of Mexico. I have information of the truth, that the two generals and four colonels were barbarously sacrificed in flagrant violation of the laws of war and every principle of justice.

It further appears from the documents that on the 28th of October, Charge d'Affaires Corwin informed Mr. Seward that it had been reported at the City of Mexico, that the French had been generally believed, that on the 21st of that month, Generals Ortega and Zalazar, and the four colonels were shot, but that no official account made of them had been received.

Mr. Corwin also refers to the decree, particularly to the first article, showing that those belonging to the regular fighting force, were not to be taken prisoners, but if taken prisoners by the Imperial forces.

Mr. Seward on the 3d of November addressed a letter to our Minister at Paris, saying: "I am directed by the President to request to ask the serious attention of the French Government to the military proceedings in Mexico, by which native Mexicans taken captive while adhering to their Republican Government, are denied the rights which the law of nations invariably accords to prisoners of war."

And on the 11th of the same month Mr. Seward addressed another letter to Mr. Bigelow, in which he says: "With reference to my despatch of the 3d inst., it is now my duty to inform you that information has been received from the Minister of the Republican Government of Mexico accredited to this Government, to the effect that the sanguinary military operations of the above named despatch has actually been inaugurated by the execution of several distinguished officers of the liberal forces, who had been taken captive by the Imperial forces in the town of Santa Anna, Amatlan, namely: Generals Ortega and Zalazar, and Colonels Diaz, Poracho, Villa, Gomez, Perez, Millena and Villanos, five lieutenant-colonels and eight commanders, and a number of subordinate officers."

It develops upon me to instruct you again to the serious attention of the Imperial Government to this subject, and to inform M. Drouyn de L'Huys that these reports have been received with concern by the Government of the United States. If, upon investigation, they should prove, as there is too strong a ground for believing that they are, well founded, it cannot suffer our country to be so far from the Government of France is concerned, it can never countenance proceedings which are so repugnant to the sentiments of modern civilization and the instincts of humanity."

Mr. Bigelow, under date of Paris, November 13th, 1865, writes to Mr. Seward as follows: "We are not to go to Mexico with our army to secure certain important interests, but we are not responsible for Maximilian, but for his Government. He is accountable to us as to any other Government, if he violates the rights and you have the same remedies that we had."

Mr. Seward, under date of December 10, informs Mr. Romero that the latter's despatch and its accompanying documents for which he tenders his thanks, have received the consideration to which they are justly entitled by this Government.

observation until yesterday. The accounts of the Bank have to-day been examined by competent accountants, and the assets are believed to be sufficient for the redemption of the bills. Bill holders are so advised. Hubbell is reported to have been a fast, extravagant liver, his expenses exceeding those of almost any man in Franklin county. His whereabouts is still unknown to the officers of the bank.

Message of the Governor of Maine. AUGUSTA, Me., Jan. 4.--Governor Cony was inaugurated to-day, and delivered his message to the Legislature.

Referring to the military history of the State during the rebellion, he says that Maine furnished 71,558 men, being more than one-tenth of her population. Five regiments and one battalion of infantry still remain in the service. The records exhibit the fact that of the soldiers Maine furnished 8,446 perished, either being slain in battle or died of wounds received in service contracted in the service of the Government.

He believes that some testimonial is due to the memory of the dead, and equal honor to the more fortunate living. Under the authority of the State, in token of its appreciation and gratitude, and suggest that a monument be erected in honor of the former, and medals, with suitable inscriptions, be furnished to the latter who have been honorably discharged. But this will not satisfy the public conscience, if the duty of the State is thus in part discharged.

There is one thing which can and should be done, and that is to enact a law that no soldier of the State, under the arms, or soldier of other belligerent nations, or his family while in the military service, or his family, who shall require aid from any city or town, shall become paupers or satisfied to any disability in consequence thereof.

The State expeditors for war purposes amounts to \$7,357,573. The amount advanced by cities and towns for the families of soldiers to January 1st, 1865, was \$1,599,535, which has been refunded by the State or provision made therefor.

Returns received from the cities, towns and plantations of the State under the provisions of the law, show that they are in debt not less than \$6,556,183, which they have paid for bounties. Altogether there has been expended for the families of soldiers in support of the national cause \$14,093,572, for which they owe to-day about \$12,000,000, saying nothing about private contributions, which, during the war, have continually flowed as freely as water.

The State enjoys a high financial character, it bonds having been sold in large quantities in the first part of the year within one or two per cent, as high as the seventy-third bonds of the United States.

The Governor presses upon the consideration of the Legislature the necessity as well as the value of adhering to the policy of gradually paying off the public debt through the instrumentality of the sinking fund. He concludes that the independence of the States, including all their municipalities, occasioned by war expenses, should be assumed by the Government of the United States.

The Governor concludes by arguing at length the present condition of national affairs. He takes ground in support of the President's policy of non-interference with the revolting States to their relations with the Union, to the spirit and purpose of which conditions no loyal man, he says, would after the restoration of the Union on any other basis than that of limiting the exercise of political rights to which should be the actual population of the colored race as freemen, having equal rights and obligations with the whites, or to provide for the maintenance of the citizen of the free State, cannot be contemplated except with the profoundest alarm.

The objection to investing in the colored race, the elective franchise, growing out of their ignorance, is one having great force, but applicable alike to the white man of the same intellectual condition. To deprive the colored man of the right of voting, is to deprive him of his full investiture with this right, until they, in common with their ignorant persons, shall be fitted by education for the exercise of it.

The stimulus this would impart to the educational effort of both races would be incalculable benefit.

In the meantime, as a measure of security to the nation, the Constitution of the Union should be amended as to limit the right of national representation to the legal number of suffrage in each State, and that who shall be electors in the States of President, Vice President and Representatives to the Congress of the United States.

Crimes and Casualties of a Year in New York.

(From the New York Herald.) The following statistics of crime and casualty in New York, during the past twelve months have been obtained from the police records of the city:

Table with columns for Crime/Casualty, Number, and Cause. Includes categories like Homicide, Suicide, Accidents, etc.

WATCHES AND JEWELRY.

ELECTRO-SILVER PLATED WARE.

Campbell & Davidheiser,

No. 1317 Chestnut Street.

Present for sale, a fine stock of EXTRA FINE PLATED WARE, consisting of TEA SETS, ICE PITCHERS, CASTLE AND CASTLE, GOLD AND SILVER, BASKETS, etc., etc., with Extra Fine quality of TEA, TABLE AND DESSERT SPOONS, FORKS, etc.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S PRESENTS.

Persons wishing to purchase Presents for the Holidays, will consult their own interest by calling on

LEWIS LADOMUS,

DIAMOND DEALER & JEWELER,

WATCHES, JEWELRY & SILVER WARE,

WATCHES AND JEWELRY REPAIRED.

809 Chestnut St., Phila.

CASSIDY & BALL,

No. 12 SOUTH SECOND STREET.

Have now on hand a large stock of

Goods suitable for Holiday Presents.

Fine Watches, Fine Gold Jewelry.

Silver and Silver Plated Ware.

A large assortment of

Fancy Silver Ware,

SUITS FOR BRIDAL PRESENTS.

Particular attention paid to making

MASONIC MARKS.

HOLIDAY GIFTS,

AT THE

New House Furnishing Store,

No. 49 NORTH NINTH STREET,

NEAR ARCH.

Embracing the latest styles of

Japanese, Painted, Tin, Wood and Willow Ware, Table Cutlery, etc.

ALSO, FOR CHILDREN,

Spring and Rocking Horses, Sleighs, Velocipedes, Toy Gigs, Tables &c.,

J. S. YOST.

BANK STATEMENTS.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECOND NATIONAL BANK OF PHILADELPHIA.

Frankford, Jan. 1866.

Notes and bills deposited \$1,209,628 28

United States bonds deposited 220,000 00

Due from other banks 22,500 00

United States currency and 22,500 00

Lawful money of the United States 22,500 00

Bills of foreign banks 2,500 00

Cash items 5,478 54

Current expenses and taxes 1,888 13

Total \$1,511,436 85

Capital stock paid in \$250,000 00

Surplus and undivided profits 249,534 50

Due to depositors 11,268 35

Dividends 2,500 00

Unpaid Dividends 790 00

Total \$1,511,436 85

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CITY ORDINANCES.

AN ORDINANCE to make an Appropriation to the Department of Highways, Bridges, Sewers, etc., for the year 1866. Sec. 1. The Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia do hereby appropriate to the Department of Highways, Bridges, Sewers, etc., for the year 1866, the sum of six hundred and seventy thousand dollars (\$670,000), to be paid in quarterly installments, as follows: \$167,500 on or before the 1st day of April, 1866; \$167,500 on or before the 1st day of July, 1866; \$167,500 on or before the 1st day of October, 1866; and \$167,500 on or before the 1st day of January, 1867.

Item 1. For salaries of Commissioners, Messrs. McClelland, and Assistant Clerk, Messenger and other officers of the Department, \$100,000. Item 2. For salaries of Commissioners, Messrs. McClelland, and Assistant Clerk, Messenger and other officers of the Department, \$100,000.

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THE FIRST SECTION OF THE FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT.

FOR THE YEAR 1866. The sum of four thousand and thirty-eight dollars and fifty-two cents, to invest in the loan of the City of Philadelphia, and to pay the following expenses, and to be incurred, in the management of said loan, as follows: Item 1. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 2. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 3. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 4. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 5. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 6. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 7. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 8. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).

Item 9. The sum of three hundred dollars out of the income of the Franklin Hospital, for the year 1866, to be paid to the Superintendent for his care and management of the trusts in charge, as follows: Salary of Superintendent, two hundred dollars (\$200); Books and stationery, fifty dollars (\$50); Incidentals, fifty dollars (\$50).