The Press.

PHILADELPHIA: FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1860.

FIRST PAGE.—Literature:—Longing's Pictorial Field Book; The Tariff Question in France; Fight among the Fancy. FOURTH PAGE.—The Pulpit—Sermon by Rev. George W. Bethune, D. D.; Marine Mystery; Marine Intelligence.

The Difficulties in Mexico.

Mexico has been plunged in anarchy almost constantly since her separation from Spain, except when she found temporary repose under the iron rule of a military despotism. While many of her internal struggles appear merely factious and meaningless, except so far as they advanced one military adventurer to power and doomed another to defeat, the issues involved in the present conflict of authorities, are well defined, and the principles at stake will exercise a most important influence upon the destiny of the Mexican people. The power of the Church has long been absolute. It was not content with exercising complete authority over the consciences, but it owned a very large portion of the property of the nation, and controlled in a great measure its whole political action. While no rival religion has gained a foothold in that Republic, many of its citizens, who are devoutly attached to the Catholic Church, have long felt that the dominance of priestly influence in all temporal affairs was a serious evil, and that their country could never be restored to prosperity until the power of the priests was very much weakened.

The great feature of the reforms contemplated by the new Mexican Constitution was the destruction of the ecclesiastical courts, so that priests, like all other citizens, might be tried in the ordinary civil tribunals of the nation, instead of possessing exclusive power to regulate the conduct and punish or pardon the crimes of members of their order; for, prior to the establishment of that Constitution, we believe the priests were amenable only to ecclesiastical courts, and, therefore, felt the menace at perfect liberty to set the civil authorities at defiance.

Under that Constitution General ALVAREZ was elected President; but being an uneducated Indian, trained to arms, he declined to assume the unaccustomed cares of a civil office, and the Congress declared COMONFORT, who had received the next highest number of votes, to be his successor. COMONFORT, in turn, was expelled from power, and under the provision of the Constitution declaring that the Supreme Judge of the nation should be President when the office became vacant, JUAREZ, who held that post, claims to be the constitutional ruler of the nation, and our Government has recognized the validity of his pretensions.

Meanwhile, the Church party determined to prevent, if possible, the contemplated reform of making priests amenable to the civil law, and to cling, with unyielding tenacity, to all its present power, has instituted in the capital of the country a rival Government, at present headed by MIRAMON, which, by its military power, has maintained itself in the City of Mexico, and exercised control over a considerable portion of the country, while JUAREZ has held uninterrupted possession of Vera Cruz, of most of the other seaports, and been recognized as President by most of the Mexican States.

The contest has been a very bitter one, and many battles have been fought, but the military genius of MIRAMON has enabled him to achieve many unexpected victories, and to win triumphs under circumstances which seemed certain to foreshadow his final overthrow.

A few months ago the Juarez Government, embittered by the protracted controversy, issued a decree declaring all the church property of the country to be national property. It is worth several hundreds of millions of dollars, and, since it has been thus confiscated, the Church party has stimulated MIRAMON and his soldiers to such extraordinary efforts that the power of JUAREZ has been nearly destroyed. By the late attack upon Vera Cruz, MIRAMON and his Spanish sympathizers evidently supposed they would succeed in breaking up the Constitutional Government, and thus completely re-establishing the ascendancy of the Church party.

The attack, however, was unsuccessful, the vessels sent to aid MIRAMON were captured by the American squadron. And now, in turn, the Constitutional armies are probably gathering around the city of Mexico, and threatening that stronghold of the Church party. If they are successful in that quarter, the star of JUAREZ will loom up completely in the ascendant. But the truth is, both parties appear to be so exhausted, by protracted conflicts, that neither has strength enough to capture the stronghold of the other, and by a decisive blow of this character end the contest and restore peace to the nation.

The incentives to the action of our navy at Vera Cruz were numerous. As our Government does not recognize the MIRAMON Government as a *bona fide* one, it cannot consider that vessels sailing its flag prove a true nationality, and our officers had a right, therefore, to consider such vessels piratical, particularly when the JUAREZ Government officially proclaimed that such was their character, and when there was some ground for fearing that MIRAMON would not scruple, in consequence of his hostility to our country, to permit ships sailing under his authority to capture American merchantmen. The reckless course his soldiers had pursued on land in destroying the lives of American citizens and despoiling them of their property, was strong presumptive evidence that he would not be more scrupulous on sea if he was sufficiently powerful to plunder our vessels with impunity. But while all these considerations, and the immediate fear that if MIRAMON, by a combined land and naval attack upon Vera Cruz, was successful in obtaining possession of it, the property, and perhaps, the lives of Americans residing there would be destroyed, doubtless influenced the action of the gallant commanders of our national vessels, it is questionable whether they would have captured the MIRAMON vessels if the latter had not foolishly fired upon our ships, and thus courted the fate which justly befell them.

While these exciting occurrences have been transpiring at Vera Cruz, the treaty between the Juarez Government and our own is under discussion in the United States Senate, and upon the decision of that body the future character of our relations with Mexico may depend. The treaty establishes relations of a very intimate, friendly, and mutually advantageous character. Some objections have been urged to it, which, if well-founded, are very serious—but, perhaps, their importance is exaggerated. The opinion prevails, in some quarters, that if this treaty is not ratified, and our Government thus made to assume the responsibility of sustaining a vigorous policy in regard to Mexico, that through the movements of the order of Knights of the Golden Circle, an extensive filibuster organization said to possess adherents in many quarters of our country, and the action of the Texans, under the lead of General SAM HOUSTON, new complications will arise—that Mexico will be invaded by hosts of our volunteers marching over the Rio Grande, and an entirely new phase be given to the whole question. Nations, like individuals, will not forever permit near neighbors to maintain a perpetual condition of anarchy, and by their disorders not only to bring ruin upon themselves, but many serious evils upon those compelled by their proximity to associate with them in various ways.

DAN RICE'S GREAT SHOW.—The last, and, we may say, the most complete novelty of the present season, at Dan Rice's Great Show, was introduced last evening. It has been in preparation for a number of weeks, and exhibits, in the completeness of its details, the labor which must have been bestowed upon it to bring it to its present state of perfection. The spectacle is entitled "Ward's Mission to China," and is really a marvel in the way of spectacular exhibitions. We have Mr. Ward and his suite on the road to Pekin; their reception by mandarins—Chinese festivities, processions, dances, leaps, and posturings, grand revolutions, and at the close a brilliant pyrotechnic display. The evidences of an effective and thoroughly rehearsed was manifest, although it is rather too much to expect the initiatory performances to be as smooth at times after a week or two of stage practice. Two other entertainments were of an attractive character.

Much credit is bestowed upon the management of the house. The performances are of a character to please and delighted gentlemen, we can commend him to the kind attention of the public.

We have received a beautiful lithographic gallery of Bachman's fine picture, representing prisoners of the Mormon Open Troops.

The Protective Principle in France.

We desire to direct the attention of the readers of THE PRESS to the remarkable speech of the Count De [illegible], President of the French Corps Legislatif, explanatory of the recent commercial treaty adjudicated between England and France. It is the lesson of one of the oldest civilized nations upon earth to the youngest and most progressive. It affirms the theory repeatedly insisted upon by the advocates of protection of the interests of Pennsylvania, and shows that the doctrine of free trade is only maintained by other nations, when circumstances require that it should be maintained, and shows that discriminations in support of domestic labor and capital are recognised as among the first duties of the statesman. Now, when the ironmasters of Pennsylvania are in session in this city, we think it proper to commend to them, and to the important interest they represent, the short and explicit speech of the organ of that great ruler who governs his people alike by his courage in the field, and by his foresight and sagacity in the cabinet.

See Fourth Page.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, March 22, 1860.

I believe it was old Senator Clarke, of Rhode Island, who, speaking of California, and the constant demands of Dr. Gwin and others upon the Treasury of the United States, used the homely figure that Commonwealth reminded him of a cross baby—it was alternately crying and sucking. California has been a most expensive member of the present Administration household. When Mr. Buchanan came into power, he took the young State, in its gold-embroidered garments, into his venerable arms, and determined to lavish upon it all the affection of his ardent and sympathetic heart. Dr. Gwin, who came into the Senate as California came into the Union, and to whose fatherly care its education and manners seemed to have been entrusted, earnestly insisted that the President should aid him in supplying the means necessary to its proper rearing. But California, like many other young people, finding that its father and godfather were quite willing to spend any amount of money upon it, and growing in years as well as in wealth, began to feel itself able to do without the healthy nourishment of the Federal Treasury. In other words, California, getting fat, commenced to kick, and by the last overland mail I find that the colt, grown into a full-blooded and muscular steed, has ungratefully kicked over alike Dr. Gwin and the President to boot.

It appears that the young Senator Latham—who occupies his seat like a bridegroom every morning, smiling on all, and yet keeping his own counsel, with a prudence beyond his years—has swept the footsteps into the same grave, and will go to Charleston with his friends unpledged to any body but to that impossibility, Daniel S. Dickinson, of New York, whose chances for a nomination are the feeblest. The triumph of Latham and the defeat of Gwin, furnish texts from which I might write a long sermon. But I forbear. Dr. Gwin is a man of surprising energy and ability. He rises early and works late. He adheres to his friends with the greatest devotion, and although not able to cope with statesmen in debate, his opponents in California will find it most difficult to put and to keep him down. He has had a long and successful career. I have never been able to forgive him for his treatment of Broderick. That page in his history has not yet been written; but as a candid historian of events, I cannot withhold from him the tribute that, if many of those against him would have followed his example, and been equally energetic, industrious, and vigilant, he would not have been able to maintain himself in California so long. Dr. Gwin has rare advantages over his opponents and competitors. His family, of which he is the idol, rally to him with unabated affection, and the same indomitable spirit that animates the husband and father extends to all of those nearest and dearest to him. I predict that he will be not at all disheartened by his late disaster, and that we shall hear of him again. He is one of those men who have the faculty of making themselves useful to others. Mr. Latham, now, by events, made his rival, must act warily, or the Richmond of California politics will be too much for him. Latham himself is an acknowledged expert in party tactics, and although young, is not apt to yield to his impulses. He has the talent of caution and silence; he has the advantage over the venerable Doctor in years, and is equally energetic and untiring. It will be interesting to watch these two skilful artists playing the complicated game that is before them. The whole may end in a compromise, as has been the case before with Dr. Gwin and some of his adversaries. The young man may find the old one too tough a customer, and the latter, in order to procure a re-election to the position he now holds, may be willing to re-enact the negotiation concluded between himself and that gallant son of an Irishman who sleeps on the "Lone Mountain" near the city of San Francisco.

There can be no doubt that the Administration will be heartily sustained by the country in its approval of the action of Captain Turner, in his capture of the Spanish-Mexican cruisers. So far, nothing has occurred to dissipate the expression formerly announced in this correspondence, that the ratification of the treaty now before the Senate will be productive of the happiest results. It is rumored to-day that several leading Republicans will take ground in favor of the action of our forces in the Gulf of Mexico. Great Britain and France, in the alternative of war, will not, I think, be on the side of Miramon. The former, through its minister here, has already intimated its disposition to be neutral; so that the solution of the whole difficulty may be left entirely to us. In a case like this, party politics are lost sight of, and the grave importance of the question itself absorbs every other consideration. There remains a strong hope that no conflict will ensue because of the affair between the vessels in command of Captain Turner and the Spanish-Mexican corsairs. That armed invasions may take place is highly probable, but the very imminence of the peril may prevent the contest from spreading beyond the capture referred to. Late news clearly indicates that Juarez received immense accessions since the capture. Meanwhile the parties interested in the acquisition or conquest of Cuba take great heart in consequence of the detection of the Spanish officials in the act of filibustering in Mexico. They allege that now is the time to take Cuba, and declare that Spain and her European friends will have no cause of complaint if those who look upon the "Queen of the Antilles" as lawful game should imitate the example of the representatives of Ferdinand and Isabella. Mr. Slidell's bill for the repeal of the neutrality laws may now become a necessity. We are, indeed, on the eve of great developments, and of exciting changes in politics and in men.

OCCASIONAL.

MR. CHEYNEY'S RESIGNATION AS TREASURER OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.—Mr. Waldron J. Cheyney, long connected with the American Sunday School Union as its treasurer and principal business agent, we learn from the current number of the *Sunday School Times*, has resigned his official connection with this popular institution. By the numerous friends of Mr. Cheyney in this city, who know his peculiar fitness for the post he is about to vacate, his withdrawal will be deeply regretted, although it is not doubted that in whatever other position, he may assume, he will continue to exert the influence of an energetic man of business, and Christian gentleman. The following extract from an article in the *Sunday School Times* is suggestive of the loss which the American Sunday School Union will sustain in the resignation of Mr. Cheyney, which is to take effect on the first of April:

"Mr. Cheyney entered upon the service of the Society at a time when, in the opinion of many of its staunchest friends, its affairs were hopelessly embarrassed, and when disaster and dismay were well nigh universal. Under the sound business policy which he suggested, and which he so ably administered, the institution safely weathered the storm, and has been piloted into smooth and tranquil waters. There are, it is believed, few instances on record, in which a business of such extent, and so seriously deranged, has in so short a time been restored to such entire soundness, and been reinstated in even more than pristine vigor. The American Sunday-School Union, in its best former years, never did so large or healthful a business as it is doing at this present time. We feel that we are but speaking the universal sentiment of those well acquainted with its affairs when we say that for this most propitious resuscitation of its strength, it is very largely indebted to the sagacity, the energy, and the financial business ability of our retiring treasurer. In whatever sphere of labor Mr. Cheyney may hereafter be assigned, he carries with him the best wishes of the managers and officers of this institution."

This evening the Comic Operetta, "The Liederkranz in China," by J. Otto, will be performed by the Sangerbund Vocal Society, at the National Guards' Hall. The society has been under considerable expense in producing this operetta, and we have no doubt that a large audience will be assembled to witness this, one of their greatest efforts.

STRAW GOODS, FRENCH FLOWERS.—B. Scott, Jr., auctioneer, 421 Chestnut street, will sell this morning at ten o'clock, 300 cases ladies' new style bonnets, ladies' and misses' Bloomer flats, men's and boys' hats, Paris artificial flowers, wreaths, &c.

SALE OF FURNITURE, STEREOSCOPIC PICTURES, &c.—This morning at ten o'clock, at No. 914 Chestnut street, elegant furniture, and at twelve o'clock stereoscopic pictures and boxes.

SEIZURE OF SMUGGLED DIAMONDS AND JEWELRY.—Among the passengers by the Fulton, which arrived here on Thursday, was a young man named John Arthurs, who was very fond of jewelry, so much that he had a greater quantity with him than would be appropriate for family use. His movements being somewhat suspicious, attracted the attention of the deputy surveyor, Thomas J. Brown, who searched Arthurs' person and luggage, and discovered in the pocket of his pantaloons two superb diamond necklaces, and in the lining of his clothes and in the bottom of his trunk a large quantity of jewelry and diamonds, valued at several thousand dollars. The goods were seized and taken to the custom house.—*N. Y. Express.*

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

LATER FROM VERA CRUZ.

The Capital Threatened by the Liberals.

SPANISH WAR VESSELS AIDING MIRAMON.

The Prisoners Before the U. S. Court.

NEW ORLEANS, March 22.—The mails from Vera Cruz, with dates to the 11th inst., have been received.

Letters from Vera Cruz state that Captain Jarvis at first proposed, that if President Juarez would place the steamers Indianola and Wave at his disposal, he would intercept General Marin's expedition, but he subsequently determined to maintain a strictly neutral course, unless forced to do otherwise.

An intercepted letter, directed to Miramon, from the city of Mexico, states that the capital is seriously threatened by the Liberals, and asks for assistance.

The two Spanish vessels of war, which it is rumored have been engaged during several nights in landing war materials for Miramon.

The forty Americans, one of Sacrificio, from Miramon, have been refused entrance into the city.

The prisoners that arrived here on the steamer Marquez will be brought before the United States Court, in this city, to-day.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

XXXVITH CONGRESS.—FIRST SESSION.

U. S. CAPITOL, WASHINGTON, March 22, 1860.

SENATE.

Mr. SEWARD, of New York, introduced a resolution calling on the President for information relative to the exemption of a naturalized citizen of the United States from Prussia in 1857. Adopted.

Various petitions were presented, but from the fact that the Press reporters are assigned back seats in the gallery, not more than half what occurs in the early part of the session can be heard.)

The bill to establish mail routes in Kansas was passed.

Mr. YULEE, of Florida, from the Committee on the Post Office, reported a bill relative to the undelivered letters. It provides that persons, by endorsing their names on letters sent, can have them returned, free of additional charge, when undelivered. The bill was passed.

Mr. TOOMBS, of Georgia, presented a petition in favor of the homestead bill.

A large portion of the morning hour was occupied with the consideration of a local bill chartering the corporation of Washington to contract a debt of $220,000 for the construction of a new market house.

A number of bills were presented for reference.

Mr. BRIGHT, of Indiana, introduced a bill to provide for the prosecution of the work on the Capitol extension. Referred.

Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the homestead bill passed by the House, with an amendment striking out all after the enacting clause, and substituting the Senate bill on the same subject.

The motion of Mr. GWIN, of California, the bill for the construction of the Pacific railroad and telegraph was taken up, in order that certain amendments might be introduced, which were agreed to, and the bill and amendments were ordered to be printed.

The homestead bill was then taken up.

Mr. WADE, of Ohio, moved to strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert the bill as passed by the House.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, explained the amendments he had offered, which contemplated the policy of giving away the public lands, but as a majority of both Houses agreed in favor of the bill, he would do away with some objections to the bill. The bill proposed to give a man twenty-five years continually on the land in order to get a title, but he (Mr. C.) thought five years sufficient, and want to go away. If he did so, under the existing law, he would have to make a fresh oath, and take out his land applied to the soil. Therefore, he proposed to shorten the title at once, and the party could remain or sell out at his option. The bill was designed for poor people who could not avail themselves of the benefits of the bill. He, therefore, proposed to give every man in the United States who came under the provisions of the bill a warrant for one hundred and sixty acres, and he could accomplish his purpose by striking out the twenty-five years, length in support of the justice of, and the protection afforded by, the homestead bill. He looked upon the homestead bill as an attempt to legislate the fruits of labor.

His amendment had the great virtue of equality, as it proposes to make an equal division of the public lands among all citizens.

Mr. PUGH, of Ohio, said he would show that it was the fixed policy of the Government ever since it had adopted a settled policy, that they were to give away the homestead bill inaugurated no new policy. Land had been granted in Illinois, Mississippi, Oregon, etc.

Mr. CLINGMAN, of North Carolina, said he (Mr. C.) would not go into an extended debate on the subject at this late hour.

Mr. WADE moved to postpone all prior business and take up the House homestead bill.

Mr. HALE, of New Hampshire, said that there was no vote which he could defend at home so well as a vote for the homestead bill. The Senate was composed of the people of the old States could derive no direct advantage from the sales of the public lands, and they had tried to get grants for agricultural colleges, etc., without success. He referred to the shoemakers' strike in the North, and said he sympathized with the strikers, and hoped that their combinations would have power to make a stand against the combined power with the general good. He thanked God that in this country we had a laboring class who could strike without being subjected to penal legislation. He referred to the efforts which had been made to turn the laboring men against the Democratic party. He said that in the town where he lived, on the Saturday before the election, the Democratic orators harangued the people from the balconies of the hotels, and he was pained to see that the democratic vote stood precisely the same as before. He expected some assistance in favor of the policy of granting homesteads, and compared the present contest to that which divided Rome between the patricians and plebeians, and concluded by asking the answer to the only true friends of conservative liberty, and he had no higher ambition than to have himself classed with the contemned Arrarians.

Mr. FESSENDEN advocated his motion to take up the House homestead bill, as he was willing to be more liberal in its provisions than the Senate bill. He could see no difference between the two bills. If under the Senate bill very little land worth anything would be taken up.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, opposed the motion of Mr. WADE. He could not see why the Senate should abandon the bill which it had matured, and the House bill was the special order and its consideration should be proceeded with. He referred to Mr. Hale's remarks in favor of the homestead policy, and said he would go to the canaille of New England to the cry of free homes for free men. He had fought, under pressure of starvation, they would desert him and his party. The Senator from New Hampshire had thanked God that these strikes had taken place, but he (Mr. J.) had heard God thanked on the other side of the Chamber, at events in connection with the present issue. He hoped the Senate would adhere to its own bill.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Tennessee, was pained to see a party division upon a measure which affected the country so much. He was in favor of the homestead policy, and thought the Senate should adhere to its own bill. He was willing to give a man twenty years to a home, which concentrated and applied the powers conferred by the sovereign States as his ancestors concentrated the rays of the sun. They admired not the sun, but the glorious orb from which it derived its power. He was for the homestead bill, but he would go to the Canaille of New England to the cry of free homes for free men. He had fought, under pressure of starvation, they would desert him and his party. The Senator from New Hampshire had thanked God that these strikes had taken place, but he (Mr. J.) had heard God thanked on the other side of the Chamber, at events in connection with the present issue. He hoped the Senate would adhere to its own bill.

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