

Friends upon the Government. The Committee of Congress appointed to investigate the matter of the charter of transports for the Banks Expedition, have brought to light some astounding abuses and frauds.

It appears that on the 20th of April, 1861, Capt. Richard J. Loxa was appointed Assistant Agent of the War Department by J. EDGAR THORNTON, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, as Mr. Thornton himself says in the pretended commission under which he acted, in accordance with the authority vested in him by the Secretary of War.

This commission was revoked in May, 1861, by J. EDGAR THORNTON, who informed Capt. Loxa that he had been notified by the Secretary of War (Mr. Clark) of the appointment of Mr. JOHN TUCKER as "United States Transport Agent." Mr. Thornton then wrote a letter to the Secretary of War, stating that Capt. Loxa had been "unable in his efforts to serve the country."

As yet, however, but few of the leading journals have had time to discuss it; but as the result of that discussion, we look only for a general approval of the attitude of firmness, dignity and confidence maintained in this rebellion by our Government to that of the French Emperor. In fact, we anticipate a full concurrence on the part of the press and the public in the following remarks of the N. Y. Evening Post, referring to the French proposition itself and Mr. Seward's answer to it.

The proposition now made by the French Minister is somewhat different from that previously submitted for the concurrence of the British and German governments. It contemplates no armistice—no pause in the war; the loyal and rebel armies may still proceed with mutual hostilities, but in the meantime it is proposed that our Government shall appoint commissioners to meet those of the Emperor and make arrangements either for their return to their allegiance or their final independence. This is precisely what the rebels want, and this is precisely what the constitutionals cannot grant without abandoning the very cause for which they have taken up arms.

The moment our government adopts this method of attempting to settle the rebellion, it virtually acknowledges that it has hitherto been in the wrong, and that they will accept other terms than the submission of the rebels to the authority they are trying to throw off. Mr. Seward's answer to them: "When you are tired of the war all you have to do is give it up and pack up your baggage and go home." "What the French Emperor asks to say is: 'We will talk the matter over with you; if by hereafter we can make it work your while to return to the Union, we will; if not we will allow you to set up a government of your own, and with great moderation. He justly regards it as a proposal for dishonorable peace, and he will not be induced to accept it. The French government asks us to listen to the grievances of the South, and to complete the plan of the Commissioners for the extent of the insult implied in these words. The slave States have suffered no wrong from the Federal Government, in which they have so long held rule, and have nothing to complain of except their own election of Mr. Lincoln, they lost their independence, and they have no right to demand that the Federal Government is summoned by France to hear and examine the complaints of the insurgents!'

We rejoice that this proposal has been so firmly met, and the correspondence has been promptly before the nation. It will have a good effect upon public opinion, and invigorate the spirit of patriotism in our people. This interposition of the French Emperor is simply an act of friendship towards the rebels, which, however, they are likely to derive but little advantage from.

Florida.—A letter from Fernandina, Fla., to the New York Evening Post, says that there are very few troops in Florida, and, such as there are, are employed in watching the negroes to prevent them from leaving the State. There is no great danger from the occupation of the State by our troops. A single brigade could clear East Florida, and by the assistance of a few small boats to run up the St. Marys and St. John's rivers, could hold it, and relieve the necessity of blockading the coast. It is confidently hoped that this will soon be done, and that by another assembling of Congress Florida may be represented by loyal men, who will contribute to thwart the purposes of the traitors of the North represented by Brooks, Wood & Company.

Tom Haddock says Elison, are a most alert and military race, and yet it is an undoubted fact that the quantity of food actually consumed by the greatest part of them does not exceed six ounces a day. Six or seven days soaked in molasses butter serve a man a whole day, and he estimates himself happy when he can add a small quantity of coarse flour or a little ball of rice.

Mrs. Douglas has written a letter relative to the reports that she was about to be married again. The following extract is published: "Although I live so quietly, and have no friends, I have been troubled by rumors that I am engaged. I hope you will think of me as a woman who will not consent to say such a thing to you without treatment."

Public Notices. Notice of a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Western Transportation Company, to be held at the office of the President, on Monday, the 19th day of February, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. DRAPER'S PLANTATION BITTERS. DRAPER'S PLANTATION BITTERS. DRAPER'S PLANTATION BITTERS.

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