

### Relations with Yucatan.

Washington, April 20, 1848.  
The following message was sent into the House of Representatives to-day, together with several communications from the government of Yucatan, representing the state of suffering to which that country is reduced by an insurrection of the Indians, and imploring the protection of the United States. The government of Yucatan offers, in case protection should be granted them, to transfer the dominion and sovereignty of the peninsula to the United States. The message and documents were read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.—N. Y. Herald.

### THE MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

I submit for the consideration of Congress, several communications received at the Department of State from Mr. Justo Sierra, commissioner of Yucatan; and also a communication from the government of that State, representing the condition of extreme suffering to which their country has been reduced by an insurrection of the Indians within its limits, and asking the aid of the United States. These communications present a case of human suffering and misery which cannot fail to excite the sympathies of all civilized nations. From these and other sources of information, it appears that the Indians of Yucatan are waging a war of extermination against the white race. In this civil war they spare neither age, nor sex, but put to death, indiscriminately, all who fall within their power. The inhabitants, penitently stricken, and destitute of arms, are flying before their enemy; and their extermination would seem to be inevitable, unless they can obtain assistance. In this condition they have, through their constituted authorities, implored the aid of this government to save them from destruction; offering, in case this should be granted, to transfer the dominion and sovereignty of the Peninsula to the U. States. Similar appeals for aid and protection, have been made to the Spanish and the English governments. Whilst it is not my purpose to recommend the adoption of any measure with a view to the acquisition of dominion and sovereignty over Yucatan, yet, according to our established policy, we could not consent to a transfer of this dominion and sovereignty, either to Spain, Great Britain, or to any other European power. In the language of President Monroe, in his message of December, 1823, we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere, as dangerous to our peace and safety. In my annual message of December, 1845, I declared that nearly a quarter of a century ago the principle was distinctly announced to the world, in the annual message of one of my predecessors, that the American continent, by the free & independent condition which it has assumed and maintained, is henceforth not to be considered a subject for future colonization by any European power. This principle will apply with greatly increased force should any European power attempt to establish any new colony in North America. In the existing circumstances of the world, the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and reaffirm the principle avowed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy.—The reassertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is, at this day, but the promulgation of a policy which no European power should cherish the disposition to resist. The existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interest, that the efficient protection of our laws should be extended over our whole territorial limits; and it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy, that no future European colony or dominion shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent. Our own security requires that the established policy thus announced should guide our conduct, and this applies with great force to the Peninsula of Yucatan. It is situated in the gulf of Mexico, on the North American continent, and from its vicinity to Cuba, to the Capes of Florida, to New Orleans, and, indeed to our whole south-western coast, it would be dangerous to our peace and security if it should become a colony of any European nation. We have no authentic information that if the aid asked from the U. States be not granted, such aid will probably be obtained from some European power, which may hereafter assert claim to dominion and sovereignty over Yucatan.—Our existing relations with Yucatan are of a peculiar character, as will be perceived from the note of the Secretary to their commissioner, dated on the 24th of December last, a copy of which is herewith transmitted. Yucatan has never declared her independence, and we have treated her as a State of the Mexican republic. For this reason we have never officially received her commissioner; but whilst this is the case, we have to a considerable extent recognized her as a neutral in our war with Mexico. Whilst still considering Yucatan as a portion of Mexico, if we had troops to spare for this purpose, I would deem it proper during the continuance of the war with Mexico, to occupy and hold military possession of her territory, and to defend the white inhabitants against the incursions of the Indians, in the same way that we have employed our troops in other States of the Mexican republic in our possession, in repelling the attacks of the savages upon the inhabitants who have maintained their neutrality in the war;

but, unfortunately, we cannot, at the present time, without serious danger, withdraw our forces from other portions of the Mexican territory, now in our occupation, and send them to Yucatan. All that can be done under existing circumstances, is to employ our naval forces in the Gulf, not required at other points, to afford them relief. But it is not to be expected that any adequate protection can thus be afforded, as the operations of such naval forces must of necessity be confined to the coast. I have considered it proper to communicate the information contained in the accompanying correspondence; and I submit to the wisdom of Congress; and I adopt such measures as in their judgment may be expedient, to prevent the people of Yucatan from becoming the colony of any European power, or of being expelled from their country.

JAMES K. POLK.  
Washington, April 29th, 1848.

### Atrocities in Yucatan.

The heart bleeds at the following recital of atrocities that have been committed in that distracted country. It is furnished by Don Justo Sierra, the commissioner of Yucatan now in Washington—a gentleman of education, and a nephew of a distinguished Mexican, who was formerly driven from his country on account of his liberal principles, took refuge in Texas, whose destiny he shared, and whose revolution he promoted:

### Horrible atrocities committed by the savages in Yucatan.

During the siege of Valladolid, the savage Indians proposed that commissioners should be sent out to them to treat for peace. The parish priest of that city, a young ecclesiastic of unblemished conduct and well-known piety, (Dr. Manuel Sierra de O'Reilly, a brother of Don Justo Sierra, the present commissioner of Yucatan at Washington,) was nominated for that purpose, together with the chief of police, and two other respectable citizens. Dr. Sierra had acquired, by his charity & benevolence, a wide-spread popularity with the Indians of the city and its vicinity; and the most happy results were anticipated from the mission. Two days were passed in pacific conference with the savages; after which, they committed the unheard-of brutality of assassinating him and his colleagues in the church. Their lives were feloniously taken in reward for their (perhaps) indiscreet confidence in the integrity and honor of a race, who, alas! are too well known for their perfidy.

After the city of Valladolid fell into the hands of these barbarians, there were found within its suburbs one hundred and seventy-seven women and children who had been left without the means of escape.—They were all brought into an enclosure, or fenced lot, where, to the sound of music and obscene songs, the women were publicly violated; and, after prolonged torments, which lasted thirteen hours, they were all murdered.

The venerable curate of Guaima, who had been 53 years among the Indians—during the whole of which period his life had been devoted to their service—was forced from his bed, where he was prostrated by disease, and was dragged to the belfry of the church in which he had for many years ministered to their spiritual wants, where he was ignominiously hung to the bell-ropes.

More than 30,000 men, women, and children, who were without any means of defence, have been assassinated in the frontier settlements and villages. The most horrid acts of atrocity have been committed by the relentless savages—acts more frightful in their character than those which attracted the wrath of a just and offended God against the accursed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Such are the citizens, who, as expressed by some of the public presses, are vindicating their political rights by an insurrectionary movement!!—Washington Union.

In connection with the foregoing, we take the following extracts from an editorial article in a late number of the Philadelphia North American. The article was written before the President's message reached Philadelphia, and is most violently abusive of the President and the administration for not doing exactly what they did do; and its Federal friends in Congress were just then doing the very act for which it so violently, and falsely, abused the Administration. This is the first time that paper ever took the Democratic side of any question, and, although it was done by mistake, we still think it deserves some credit. It shows, at least, that all the political wrongs of that paper are not occasioned by a want of a will to be right:—

"We can only reaffirm the argument of policy, which is, if we yield no aid, we compel the people of Yucatan to surrender the sovereignty of their State to any power that will protect them. They would gladly be annexed to the United States—to Spain—to England—to France: humbled in the dust by calamity, and weeping tears of blood, they implore help, even at the price of liberty. Do we mean that a European flag shall be hoisted in Yucatan? Why, then, we shall have to protest,—to bristle up,—to fight; or dishonorably suffer the violation of that principle of non-encroachment by a European power on the American continent, so solemnly proclaimed to the world by Mr. Monroe and Mr. Polk. Shall we interfere now, when the effect will be to put

an end to a war already existing? or must we interfere hereafter, when the interposition will cause a new war,—a war between the United States and England—France—or Spain.

The state of things in Yucatan is most extraordinary and pitiable. The successes of the Indians are as unparalleled as their atrocities; and, for the obvious reason of preventing panic, the government authorities attempt rather to conceal or soften them, than to publish them in their naked horror. From private letters we learn that, as early as April 2d, the Indians had complete possession of the seven districts of Peto, Yaxcaba, Valladolid, Tizimin, Erpita and Bacalar; of nearly the whole of Tekax, with parts of Bolonchen and Izamal; and the prospect was that the whole of the three last named districts would soon be in their hands, & the whole force of the Indians be then directed against Merida and Campechy.

What is to be the result? We have stated, on a previous occasion, that if no government grant aid the white race will, what with exile and extermination, vanish entirely from the peninsula; and in that case, the whole territory must fall into the hands of the British; who, with their forces at Belize, ready to be reinforced from Jamaica, can seize it from the Indians at a moment's warning. But England, or France, or Spain may accept the sovereignty of the State, offer as a splendid prize to any government willing to accept, from motives of humanity, a strong military position, which—in the hands of a naval power—must really command the whole Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the West Indies;—and, of course, all the existing and projected routes of inter-communication between the Atlantic and Pacific. One would suppose that the annexing spirit of the American Government, which has squandered so many millions and waded through so much blood to attain the barren deserts of Northern Mexico, would be willing enough to acquire, without cost or crime, a territory so important and so fertile, which its people are anxious to shelter under the broad wing of the republic. Were the means of transportation offered, we are inclined to think that American emigrants, influenced by mixed motives of chivalry and interest, would take the matter in hand, and with a few volleys of the American rifle, and a few exertions of the self-governing tact & experience of the American spirit, put an end to massacre and disorder, and erect upon the ashes of Yucatan a firm and self-sustaining government, capable of existing in independence and prosperity. If the treaty of peace be ratified by Mexico, there will soon be bands of returning volunteers at Vera Cruz, some thousands of whom, perhaps, could be induced to accept the task of rescuing Yucatan and re-establish a republic, founded in weakness only to fall in blood.

### FROM YUCATAN.

Extract of a letter from Commodore Perry to the Secretary of the Navy, dated FLAG SHIP COLUMBUS, Vera Cruz, April 15, 1848.

The Iris has this moment arrived from Laguna, bringing letters from Commander Bigelow, as late as the 12th inst., and from Commander Engle, at Fontera, up to the 10th instant.

In Yucatan, the Indians were still gaining ground, and the whites, without attempting the least defence, continue to fly towards the coast. The United States schooner Falcon had taken to Campechy more than one hundred of the poorer classes, who were found on the coast in a destitute condition.

Governor Mendez has resigned in favor of his political rival, Senor Barbechano, which measure has, it seems, produced increased dissensions among the troops.

Lieutenant Commanding Herndon, of the Iris, informs me that the inhabitants of Campechy are preparing to abandon the strongholds to the Indians. The department is, I presume, aware that Campechy is a strongly fortified place, being entirely surrounded by thick and high walls, rendering it defensible against a very large force, especially of half-armed Indians.

### Borough Ordinance.

The following ordinance relating to the Plank Walks was passed at a meeting of the Burgess and Town Council, held on the evening of the 18th inst:

BE it ordained and enacted, by the Burgess and Town Council of the Borough of Clearfield, and it is hereby enacted and ordained by the authority of the same—That in addition to the plank walks already ordained to be made, the same shall be extended in front of Lots No. 46 & 47 on Second street to the corner of Second and Locust—from the corner of Second and Locust to the corner of Locust and Third, on the north side—from the corner of Third and Locust to the corner of Third and Cherry on the west side—from the corner of Third and Cherry to Second, on the north side—from the corner of Front and Cherry to Walnut, on the east side—from the corner of Front and Walnut to A. B. Reed's, on the east side—from the corner of Front and Market to the corner of Front and Locust, on the east side. All the above walks to be at least 3 feet wide, and to be completed on or before the first day of May next.

WM. C. WELCH, Burgess.

ATTESTED,  
D. W. MOORE, Ck.

F. W. CARR, United States Newspaper Agency, N. E. corner of Third and Dock streets, Philadelphia, is our authorized agent, to receive and receipt for subscriptions, advertisements, &c.

### Democratic Banner.

LEARFIELD, Pa. May 11, 1848.

### FOR PRESIDENT.

JAMES BUCHANAN, of Pa.

Subject to the decision of the National Convention.

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER.

Israel Painter, of Westmoreland.

### Democratic Electoral Ticket.

Senatorial Electors.

WILLIAM BIGLER, of Clearfield.  
DAVID D. WAGENER, of Northampton.

Representative Electors.

Dis.  
1. Henry L. Bonner, 13. John C. King,  
2. Torn R. Knoass, 14. John Weidman,  
3. Isaac Shunk, 15. Robert J. Fisher,  
4. J. L. Rounfort, 16. Frederick Smith,  
5. Jacob S. Yost, 17. John Creswell,  
6. Albert E. Wright, 18. Charles A. Black,  
7. Van W. Downing, 19. George W. Bowman,  
8. Henry Haldeman, 20. John H. Shannon,  
9. Peter Kline, 21. George P. Hamilton,  
10. S. Schoonover, 22. William H. Davis,  
11. Wm. Swelland, 23. Timothy Ives,  
12. Noah Brewster, 24. James G. Campbell.

### Domestic Matters.

All persons indebted to the undersigned, either for subscription, advertising, or job-work, will find their accounts in the hands of Esquire ALEXANDER, who, if they desire to save costs, they will call and settle immediately.

D. W. MOORE.

N.B.—The books of Moore & Thompson are placed in the hands of Esquire CUTLER, who, also, calls will be saved by those indebted calling without delay. April 18, 1848.

We trust that no person will complain of this course. No costs will be added, if the opportunity now offered, is embraced. And self-preservation requires that all these old accounts should be settled.

THE WATER.—The rain of yesterday afternoon and last night caused a rise in the river, and as we go to press our lumbers are watching with the greatest anxiety. A foot more, and they will begin to "float loose." To be ready for action, we have anticipated our day of publication.

The recent election in Virginia has resulted in a glorious victory to the Democrats—they having a net gain of 24 members of the State Legislature, and "some to hear from."

### Marcy and Scott.

The two last letters that passed between Gen. Scott and Secretary Marcy are certainly the most extraordinary epistles that have come to light during the present war—the one for its weakness and errors, and the other for its clearness and dignified manner, and for its triumphant refutation of the unfounded accusations brought against his government, and the War Department particularly, by General Scott. That our readers may not be left in the dark on the subject, we purpose publishing the reply of the Secretary's, in which is quoted all the points of Gen. Scott's accusations.

Gen. Scott, in his letter, undertakes to sustain and justify the charges and complaints he had made against the War Department and the Administration in his former letters. Somehow or other the receipt of this letter at Washington, and its character, was known to certain Whig Congressmen immediately, and, indeed, portions of it was published in Baltimore and Philadelphia—leading to the suspicion that Gen. Scott himself, or some person in his confidence, had informed his friends in Congress that such a letter had been sent to the Department. A call for the transmission of any recent correspondence between General Scott and the War Department, was immediately hurried through the House with unusual haste, evidently for the purpose of depriving the Secretary of time to prepare a reply. But, unfortunately for the tricksters, Billy Marcy was a little too quick for them, and his answer was found among the "any correspondence" called for. Then it was that the poor "headed" headers found themselves in trouble, and to escape from the ridicule they were about to bring upon Gen. Scott, a shameful, but fortunately unavailing effort, was made by them to omit the Secretary's answer in the motion to have the correspondence printed. We shall never detract one iota from the highly valuable military services that Gen. Scott has rendered his country. He seems to be as much a natural as an educated hero. But this thing of writing accusatory letters he should leave entirely to others. It has ruined him. And in this opinion all must concur after reading the triumphant vindication of the Secretary of War.

THE NEWS.—There is no news from Mexico, of any importance, since our last. From Europe, a fresh arrival, the Britania, brings highly important news. We can only the heading of it, from which our readers can judge its character.—Great excitement in France—Attempt of Ledru Rollin to destroy the Provisional Government—War in Denmark and Italy—Ireland on the verge of War—England quiet—Rise in Breadstuffs, &c., &c.

### Gen. Taylor's Position.

There is just now a desperate sight of screwing and twisting among the politicians of the Whig party. Gen. Taylor has recently written two letters, in which he continues to reiterate his oft repeated declaration that he has "no political opinions" of his own. Both of these letters are extraordinary documents. In the one, however, he deliberately takes opposite ground to that held by the Democratic party on the exercise of the veto power. He says: "The personal opinion of the individual who may happen to occupy the Executive chair, ought not to control the action of Congress upon questions of domestic policy; nor ought his objections to be interposed where questions of constitutional power have been settled by the various departments of government and acquiesced in by the people." In the same letter he says that on the subjects of the tariff, the currency, internal improvements, the Executive should go with the majority of Congress. Thus, as far as General Taylor and Congress are concerned, the country might as well have a man of straw for President.

In the other and latest letter, the old General has given the Whigs great trouble, by boldly declaring, contrary to what they had heretofore said of him, that "he would not decline, or withdraw as a candidate, should the Whigs nominate Henry Clay." They are therefore compelled to take him over, and go him blind, or pass him over, and loose all his friends. It is of little consequence, we presume, which course they take, as either will only end in defeat.

From the Pennsylvania.

### The Spirit of the Age.

The astonishing events that have transpired in Europe, within a few short weeks, appear almost like a dream. The most ardent friend of the spread of republican sentiment could hardly have imagined what has since become reality. Fervently as he may have desired this state of things, there seemed to be insuperable obstacles in the way of their accomplishment, which time and patient endurance could only remove. The revolution has burst upon us like a clap of thunder from a clear sky, surprising the friends, and astounding the enemies of human freedom. The spirit of the age has been changed, and where once despotism and wrong were sullenly submitted to, there now prevails a determined purpose to vindicate the right, and abjure the wrong. The whole for ages have looked upon the enthroned monarch as a being of more than human excellence, and were wont to yield a passive obedience to the very edicts that sealed the bond of their vassalage, now regard him as an usurper, whose authority it is their duty to disown and renounce. The spirit of the age—the march of the mind—the development of reason—the genius of Democracy—is on its onward, glorious, and triumphant march. It has infused itself into all ranks and conditions of men, taken hold of the peasant and the scholar, and made the very atmosphere alive with its influence. It has alike been felt by the miner in his subterranean cell, by the coal heaver, by the gaunt and hungry laborer of Ireland's soil, by the branny Scotchman on the heath, by the musician on the Rhine, by the painter in the world's gallery of arts, and by the student poring over the political economy that teaches how to maintain human rights under constitutional laws. Wherever the standard of liberty has been raised in the old world, thither have flocked in droves, as doves to their windows, the representatives of these classes, with a firm resolve to bear it aloft in triumph, or die around it, shouting the song of liberty with their expiring breath.

The governed of all nations have caught the inspiration, and are animated with the spirit of patriotic freedom, and as well might it be attempted to bind the angry billows of the ocean with a cobweb, as for crowned heads to attempt to extinguish the spirit that glows and burns in the breasts of their subjects. Merciless royalty may, indeed, in some places, smother the patriotic fire for a brief period, but this very hindrance will cause it to burst forth with a devouring fury that will know no satiety, until the last vestige of Kingcraft has been consumed, and the heaven-born principle of political equality is immovably established on the ruins of monarchy and despotism.

That this will be effected without a struggle, is not to be expected. That it may be a severe and bloody conflict, is not improbable, for a nation's baptism into freedom has always been in blood, and her sponsors made martyrs to the sacred cause. Dominion does not willingly lay down its power—it must be forcibly wrested, and by force maintained. That excesses may grow out of these changes is quite probable. SCHILLER said—"When the Russians break their chains, it will not be before the freemen, but before the slave, that the community must tremble." The masses, so long crushed by the iron heel of power, in the moment of their triumph, may mistake lawlessness for patriotism, but it will be but the transient gleam of passion, to be succeeded by calm and prudent judgment. The spirit of the age, while it dooms thrones to destruction, and with unrepenting determination strips royalty of its gew-gaws, and dashes the scepter