

ARRIVAL OF THE BIO BIO.

Important from Havana and Mexico.

THE CASE OF THE STEAMER BLANCHE.

Amicable Arrangement of the Difficulty.

TERRIFIC GALE ON THE MEXICAN COAST.

WRECK OF NUMEROUS VESSELS.

The French Campaign in Mexico.

SLOW PROGRESS OF THEIR OPERATIONS.

The Mexicans Preparing for Determined Resistance,

Ac., Ac., Ac.

The steamer Bio Bio, from Havana on the 12th and Key West on the 13th inst., arrived at this port yesterday morning.

The news from Havana and Mexico is highly interesting. The health of these two cities was very good.

Our Havana Correspondence.

Havana, Nov. 12, 1862.

Grand Ball at the Vice Royal Palace—American Officers Present—Banquet on Board the Bio Bio—Capture of Vessels Running the Blockade—Arrival of Cotton Ships at Havana, &c.

There was a grand ball at the palace in Havana on the 9th instant, on the occasion of the baptism of the son of the Captain General. The attendance was very large, and there was a fine sprinkling of gold lace and brass buttons from naval vessels in port—Spanish, American and French.

Acting Admiral Wilkes was among the guests; but as he retired before ten o'clock it is presumed that he did not enjoy himself.

Mr. Stufeldt, our Consul, was also present. A grand dinner was given on board the steamer Bio Bio on the 11th inst. The number of invited guests was very large, and cordiality, wit and pleasure reigned supreme. The following toasts were drunk with the greatest enthusiasm—

"To the Union."
"To Peace and the Prosperity of the United States."
One of our naval officers replied eloquently and feelingly to the toast of "To Peace and the Prosperity of the United States."

At a late hour the guests were taken ashore, highly delighted with the entertainments of the evening.

We are now awaiting here the arrival of the new steamer Union, and are quite willing, nay anxious, to attend her inauguration dinner. Everybody feels assured that Mr. Littlejohn, her purser, will succeed in finding many friends here if he walks as deeply into the affections of the people as his brother purser of the steamer Bio Bio, who is one of the finest fellows that ever trod the deck of a vessel.

The Wachusett left here this morning, and the Santiago de Cuba came in from Key West.

It is stated that the steamers Caroline and Edward Hawkins, which left this port with cargoes of clothing, medicines, arms and ammunition for the rebels, had been captured.

Seven small vessels have arrived here with cotton since my last letter. Four of these vessels belonged to the Confederates. Two were from St. Marks and two from Mobile. All the vessels were schooners, and their tonnage amounted to 400 tons.

The Burning of the Blanche.

[Translated from the Diario de la Marina, Nov. 6, for the New York Herald.]

We have seen correspondence direct from Washington, dated the 26th of last month, which confirms what we yesterday stated relative to a satisfactory settlement of the question which has arisen between the Spanish and

borders of San Carlos, Antigua, &c., and to drive out the army of Napoleon III. and the traitors.

El Paso, a conservative paper, complains that the rebels, not satisfied with robbing all the church property, had concluded to despoil the Children's College, robbing more than \$500,000 of its funds and selling the proceeds for a small sum to some speculators in carriages.

A letter dated Vera Cruz, October 23, says—
The storm which recently visited us is extraordinary for its duration and severity. Some fifteen days since it began to blow from the north; but it died off during the night, and on the following morning we could attempt the landing of some troops, artillery, provisions, &c., from the vessels at Sacrificios and in the port; but on the 25th the wind again blew furiously from the north, with heavy rains. Everybody, therefore, thought that the day would break fine, as it generally so happened when the wind was accompanied by rain. Un fortunately it did not so occur. The wind continued fiercely all night, causing the wreck of the Spanish brig Augusta, from Havana for Tampico, with her cargo, and the national pilot boat Concepcion, loaded with merchandise for Alvarado. The wind then changed to the north-east, which is worse than the north, because it completely encircles our harbor, blowing hard at every hour in the day. At the close of the evening the following vessels had been wrecked:—

In the port of Las Hojas—The French steam transport, the Spanish brig Augusta, the American ship Sheridan, American schooner Mary Emma, the Mexican schooners Empressio and Concepcion, the American bark Flash and the Hanoverian schooner Echo.

In the harbor of Sacrificios—The English brigantine Conqueror, French bark Nautil, and three other vessels whose names we do not remember.

In our port three vessels saved themselves by cutting down their masts—the French ship Charles, the American bark Justice Story, and an American schooner.

At Sacrificios three vessels were saved by adopting the same plan.

Up to the present moment we have not heard of the loss of any lives. God grant that this may be so, although we know nothing positive about this. In addition to the large vessels mentioned, five or six launches for landing troops and provisions were also lost, with some other smaller craft.

Every effort was made by the Mexican and French authorities to aid the suffering vessels and to prevent the loss of life.

The latest intelligence adds that many lives were lost in this tempest. An English vessel loaded with coal lost its crew of twelve men forming the crew of the French bark Nautil; only one was saved.

Every exertion was being made to save everything belonging to these vessels that could be saved.

The Mexican Congress was opened with appropriate ceremonies on the 20th ult. The President of the republic was present, together with his Cabinet officers, officers of the army, judges, and the diplomatic corps. The galleries were filled with gentlemen. The speech of Sr. Gonzalez Echavarria was quite long, but to the point, and chiefly devoted to the best means of repelling the French invaders.

A circular had been sent to Juarez, signed by all the representatives of foreign Powers at Mexico, among them Minister Corwin, protesting, among other things, against the threatened proscription of foreigners. The Prussian Minister—Wagner—especially directed attention to the case of the firm of Juan B. Jucker & Co., the expulsion of the senior partner of which had been ordered.

The Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs had sent in a reply to this protest, giving his reasons for the conduct of the government, and the causes which led more particularly to the expulsion of the party above named.

The preparations for the defence of the Mexican capital were progressing vigorously, and great confidence was expressed in the ability of Juarez to defend the city against the attacks of the French. Earthworks were being thrown up upon the hills surrounding the city. The force had been divided into several divisions and assigned positions.

The army of the North, under command of Comonfort, had arrived in the neighborhood of Mexico. This army numbers some five thousand men, comprising artillery, infantry and cavalry, and is well drilled and equipped.

The Mexican Herald, in its usual review, gives the following statements:—

On passing through Puebla, on his return to the capital, General Gonzalez Ortega issued a decree suspending all the functions of the authorities in the States of Puebla, Tlaxcala and Vera Cruz, and declaring martial law in all these places.

Having recovered from the wound he received in the action of Acapulco, General Arteaga has been directed by the government to assume command of the State of Queretaro.

The reactionary chief Galvan has been defeated at Huixtla, with the loss of all his horses, &c., and many killed and wounded.

The French frigate Bayonnaise had left Acapulco, where she had been a long time stationed.

In consequence of explanations between the governments of Guatemala and Mexico the latter will receive a plenipotentiary from the former, but will not accept Senor Nery del Barrio.

The reactionists Barron and Marroquin have submitted to the Juarez government, which has removed General Traconis from the civil and military command of the State of Tlaxcala, giving the authority to Senor Don Albino Lopez instead.

General Alacide had completely routed and dispersed the reactionists of La Sierra, commanded by General Mejia.

General Ortega, Commander-in-Chief of the army of the East, had established his headquarters at Puebla, resuming the military command of the State. He was laboring energetically to fortify the city, working with his own hands to animate his men.

The people are all united to resist the French to the death.

An order has been issued by the Mayor of Vera Cruz warning the inhabitants that no person will be permitted to introduce arms there without permission of the civil authorities, approved by the military power. Any one found holding communication with the enemy will be at once transported to Martinique, as well as all those who may be caught destroying or attempting to destroy public or private property intended for the public service, such as bridges, railroads, aqueducts, &c. All guerrillas, or persons suspected to be so, will also be instantly apprehended.

The Pending Struggle in Mexico.

At length we have interesting and important news from Mexico, consequent upon the invasion of the French. By the steamer *Bio Bio*, from Havana, we have advices from Vera Cruz up to the 1st inst.

It appears that during the preceding fortnight, French forces, infantry, cavalry and artillery, numbering altogether 13,800 men, landed at Vera Cruz. This force, added to that previously in the country, gives the French an army of 20,000 men. From the best data that can be obtained, there is reason to believe that from 5,000 to 10,000 French troops will be landed during the present month, to complete the Emperor NAPOLEON'S invading force. This army of invasion, numbering from 25,000 to 30,000 well equipped and efficient soldiers—some of the best in the Emperor's army—we learn from French sources, is expected to move from Orizaba, its base of operations, upon the City of Mexico, some time during the coming month of December.

Decidedly the most interesting items of information contained in our advices of this morning are those which refer to the unity of the Mexicans, and the preparations they are making to drive off the invaders. On the 20th of September the Mexican Congress came together. President JUAREZ and others made strong patriotic appeals to the people to arouse and defend their country at any cost. The people appear to respond with that united and determined vigor which presages a successful resistance to the French invaders. Puebla has been strongly fortified, and is called the "Sebastopol" of Mexico. The citizens of Mexico are turning out *en masse*, and working on the fortifications of the capital. Col. J. M. DURAN, an educated engineer, and recently acting Consul-General for Mexico, in this City, is, we learn from a private source, in charge of these fortifications. Gens. COMONFORT and ORTEGA are heartily cooperating with JUAREZ, and even BUTRON, MELIA and other reactionary chiefs, are giving in their adhesion to the constitutional Government. In no better way can these brigand chiefs atone for the great wrongs they have inflicted upon their unhappy country, than by pouring out their hearts' blood in defending it from the foreign invaders.

During the coming month we may expect news of stirring events in Mexico. The French will attempt to march to the capital. They are prepared for a desperate fight, and according to present appearances, they will be accommodated by a well-officered and effective Mexican army, which will probably number about 50,000 men. We shall look for the result of this conflict with the deepest interest. It is of the greatest consequence to the cause of the Union that the French should be whipped out of Mexico.

We notice that the Juarez Government has expelled JEXKER & Co., and several other foreign residents in the City of Mexico, whose presence is considered dangerous to the peace of the Republic. This is striking at the root of the evil. Such unprincipled speculators as JEXKER, in connection with the foreign Ministers, have been the bane and curse of Mexico; and, in fact, the same may be said of all Spanish America, for every city of any note in the Spanish American Republics, has one or more Jexkers. They appeared in New-Orleans, but Gen. BUTLER was too much for them.

LATER FROM MEXICO.

Opening of the Congressional Session.

Extracts from the President's Message.

Letter from Miramon to Almonte.

From Our Havana Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Nov. 15, 1862.

The *Heraldo* of Mexico, gives the following *resumé* of the opening of the Mexican Congress:

"The Congress opened its session with due solemnity on the 20th ult., the President assisting, accompanied by his ministers, the city corporation, other municipalities, and the generals and chiefs not on duty. The diplomatic corps occupied the tribune reserved for them. The galleries and approaches to the chamber were filled with people. The message of President JUAREZ was read. He expresses in it the great pleasure he experienced in seeing himself in the midst of the Representatives, which auspicious day he had witnessed for. "The haughty enemy," he says, "who flattered themselves that they would destroy our beautiful institutions by the sound of their arms alone, have come to witness the imposing spectacle of a people jealous of their nationality and their liberties, sending its valiant legions to the theatre of war, and electing its Representatives with perfect regularity."

Further on he continues:

"The spirit that reigns among all our troops is excellent; the four years' revolution, and the encounter with the foreign enemy, have made valor so general in our army that praise can scarcely be dispensed to its more prominent exhibition; discipline has proportionately improved, the self-abnegation of our soldiers is, as ever, incomparable, and a reciprocal confidence unites the soldiers and their leaders. Joining to these considerations the distance separating us from the French Empire, and the dangers that threaten to disturb the peace of Europe, we shall comprehend that our situation, serious as it is, presents very good probability of an advantageous result for the Republic."

After commenting upon the object of the war, now known to all the world, the message continues:

"To proclaim, as our enemies do, that they do not make war against the country, but against its actual Government, is to repeat the vain declaration of all who enter upon an offensive and aggressive war, whilst it is very evident that a nation is outraged when the power which they have raised up and wish to maintain is attacked. The appeal to the vote of the country proposed by our enemies, is only a stratagem, unworthy to be taken into consideration for a moment. In fine, the determination not to treat with the legal Government, *de jure et facto*, is a declaration of war against the rights of nations, because it closes up all the avenues to suitable negotiation."

If I were simply a private individual, or if the power that I wield were gained through some disgraceful revolt, as sometimes happened before the nation organized its legitimate Government, I would not hesitate to sacrifice my position, if by this means the scourge of war could be averted from my country. As the authority is not an inheritance, but a trust that the nation has confided to me, more especially to maintain its independence and honor, I have received and preserved this trust for the time that our fundamental law prescribes, and I will never put it at the disposition of a foreign enemy; on the contrary, I will resist against that enemy the war which the whole nation has taken up, until he is obliged to acknowledge the justice of our cause. But evidently the Government could not fulfill the arduous duties which this extraordinary situation imposes upon it, without the discretionary power, which, up to the present time, it exercises by will of the Congress."

JOSE GONZALEZ ECHEVERRIA, President of the Chamber, replied to the First Magistrate of the Republic in a speech, full of patriotism, in which, among other things, he says:

"The national representation comprehends that the financial condition of the Republic will occasion difficulties to the Government in organizing the defence upon which the country is resolved, but this very resolution neutralizes to a great extent the obstacles, because it predisposes the nation to every kind of sacrifice. Those which the emergencies of the war may require do not frighten the people; all they ask of the Government is to save their independence and liberty. We protest in their name, as the nation is now doing by actions, that the persons and property of all Mexicans are at this moment but the country's. The proofs of patriotic self-denial which are taking place in almost all the Republic, authorize the Congress to speak in these terms, without its words being taken as a useless echo of historical resolutions."

The following is a translation of a letter written by MIRAMON, Ex-President of the Mexican Republic, to ALMONTZ, a copy of which was transmitted to the *Diario*, of Havana, by the writer:

FROM HAVANA AND MEXICO.

Patriotism of the Mexicans—Defeat of Guerrillas—Almonte Discarded by the French—A Difficulty with Prussia—A Furious Gale—Arrival of Rebel Vessels in Havana—A Gala Ball.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Nov. 12, 1862.

We have dates from Mexico to the 28th ult., and from Vera Cruz to the 1st inst. The papers occupy themselves with the facts I sent you per Saxon, and the Proclamation of Gen. Forey, which, as it preceded his landing, I was able to send you in advance of this mail's dates. There has been considerable correspondence twixt the Prussian Minister, Baron Wagner, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fuentes, in regard to the taxation of Prussian citizens—a tempest in a teapot, in which the Baron and his arguments were demolished by the terse diplomacy of Mr. Fuentes, who has displayed unexpected powers of language and argumentation.

Gen. Arteaga, who was wounded in the fight of Acultzingo, has entirely recovered, and has been appointed Military Governor of the State of Queretaro, where he has been received with enthusiasm by the people.

Gen. Leyra, together with Col. Caeller, has defeated a band of guerrillas in Huizilac, under Galvan, taking possession of all their arms, ammunition, &c., and taking many prisoners, the officers of whom were, according to law, immediately shot. Civil authority has been suspended in the States of Puebla, Haxeala, and Vera Cruz. On the 3d ult., the Government ordained that there should be no more meetings of "Club de la Reforma." The guerrillas of the Sierra, under Mejia, have entirely disbanded, owing to the small number remaining after their defeat, and to the entire lack of arms and ammunition. The Legislature of Guanajuato opened its sessions on the 1st inst.; that of Queretaro on the 18th.

The works for the defense of Puebla are being carried on with such enthusiasm, that many ladies are working in the trenches, the men work night and day; still it is not the intention to hold the city, but to check the enemy and harass his march to Mexico. No one doubts but that the French will enter that city, but the capital and archives will have been removed; it will not be the first time that Mexico had an ambulating capital.

The yellow and other fevers continue in Vera Cruz. The Spanish steamer Petronilla has suffered little comparatively, but the famous iron-clad Normandie (French) has lost many men and three officers, and throughout the French fleet there have been great losses from sickness. The first fever, however, had come, and hope was awakened. The vessels in the harbor and fastened suffered severely from the gale. One of the French transports was driven ashore on the Medellin Beach, and another was only saved by cutting away all the masts. The French lost many launches and boats. The barometer (mercury) stood at 29.81, and (metal) 757.50. Temperature of the air, 76°, and of the water, 80° (Fahrenheit). The French frigate Albatross left on the 27th ult. for your city, and the Tarente left on the 3d inst. for France direct. On the 13th ult. arrived the Tilit and Ville de Bordeaux, and on the 14th the Pourville and the Duquesne. They brought 5,300 men, and the L'Ardeche brought 200 horses.

Gen. Lorencez, it is supposed, will soon return to France, and the rumor was current that Almonte will absent himself, owing to the policy of Gen. Forey, as without the protection of French bayonets his life is not safe an hour. Jecker and several Frenchmen have been driven from Mexico; 48 hours were given them to leave for Manzanillo.

The Spanish merchant brig Augusta and the Mexican schooner Concepcion were also wrecked in the North-east experienced at Vera Cruz; and on the Hornos Beach, the French steam-transport Chaptal, American ship Sheridan, and American schooner Mary Emma, Mexican schooner Empressario, American bark Flash, and the Hanoverian schooner Echo; near Sacrificios, the English brig Conqueror, French bark Nautil, and three other vessels names not given. In the harbor of Vera Cruz three vessels saved themselves by cutting away the masts—the French ship Charles, American bark Justice N. Long, and an American brig. Three other vessels and the same in Sacrificios.

The crew of the Concepcion saved themselves from the fate of their vessel by embarking in a boat, but, on approaching the Chaptal, were brutally ordered off, and they with difficulty got to the Spanish brig Lova Lova, where they were cordially received.

One English vessel lost all hands, and of twelve on board the French bark Nautil, only one was saved. The data in regard to loss of life were not made up, so I am unable to report.

The guerrilla chiefs Butron and Marroquin have laid down their arms, and given in their allegiance to the Government. Gen. Comonfort, with his "Division of the North," composed of 5,000 men, had arrived at Mexico, and was encamped in the neighborhood. Col. Rojas, with his troops, from Jalisco, had also arrived. On the 28th, arrived in Santiago de Cuba the French steamer Albatross, from Martinique, with 288 soldiers for Mexico.

INTERESTING FROM MEXICO.

Our Vera Cruz Correspondence.

VERA CRUZ, Oct. 16, 1862.

The Mexicans Preparing for Defense—The Great Battle to be Fought at Puebla—Propositions to Destroy the City of Mexico—Expulsion of French Citizens—The French Building Railroads, &c., &c.

I wrote you last on the 14th, since which we have had no further advices from the interior. As I then informed you, preparations for defence were being made, but not on such a large scale as might have been supposed. A person who has passed through the Mexican lines tells me they have not more than twenty thousand men at and near Puebla. One letter which I have seen says there are eighteen thousand. At Mexico the force was very insignificant, and it was conceded on all sides that the battle would be fought at Puebla; and, as the French cannot afford to lose, the Mexicans must put up with a drubbing. They are making their arrangements for this, and many attractive propositions have been made to prepare the halls of the Montezumas for the French. Some propose a general pillage of the city others to flood it by letting in upon it the waters of the higher lakes; and others, again, think of annihilation. The certainty is, property owners in the capital are trembling, and many have joined with the mob, in order to secure influence and consideration, and thus tide over until the French can reach the capital and rescue the city from the mobocracy, who have no respect for the orders of Juarez or anybody else. Lately the clubs (composed of heroes and Mexican lawyers) have been proposing to sack all French homes. Juarez has ordered the clubs to desist from holding their meetings; but this order only had the effect to increase the number of attendants; and, as Juarez cannot help himself, he respects these demonstrations of public opinion.

The situation of the French in Mexico was becoming very bad. Several had been advised to leave the city. The celebrated J. B. Jecker, the great Mexican banker; M. de Barrea, M. Pezenc, and three others were sent off together for Oajima, and fleeing ports. The Belgian Minister, becoming disgusted with Juarez, has left for home. He demanded his passports and went to Acapulco. All foreigners are becoming alarmed in the interior; for the Mexicans, once started against the French, will find no difficulty in making out every white man a Frenchman.

Gen. Forey left here for Orizaba on the 12th to prepare for the coming campaign, which should be commenced on the 15th inst. by the 15th of next month. To day men are packing out, and, as the roads are now in good order, it is to be supposed that affairs will be pushed forward with all speed.

The French are going to build a railroad from here to Guaymas or Cordoba at once. Their engineers are now here, and they expect three to four thousand laborers soon. The railroad company likewise had recently given some new orders for large quantities of railroad iron, coal, provisions and laborers, so that the railroad now seems to be fairly well on its feet. It is probable that the French government will turn over all its labor, talent and elements to the company, as all the French want is a speedy transit for their soldiers through the most country of this coast. With a railroad to the mountains, we may expect to see many French soldiers to our beautiful country.

The gold mines in this vicinity continue to interest, but not improve, the French. Nearly every day they are some new attack, but continue their valiant deeds by robbing the people of their gold and silver, who bring their produce here to sell.

A steam boiler has exploded in leaving one vessel on the beach; it burst here seriously damaged. The vessel had was an English merchantman, called Sir Edward Paget.