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NEW-ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, 1854.

THE DAILY BEE.

Friday Morning, Jan. 20, 1854.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

CUBA.

The *Courier* suspects that the extraordinary circular issued by the Captain General of Cuba, CANEDO, and copied by us from the N. Y. *Express*, is a hoax. Our contemporary says:

We doubt not the Spanish authorities in Cuba are base and cruel enough to perpetrate the tyrannical and sanguinary acts recommended in this document. But it is hard to believe that any Captain-General would be so simple as to open his plans of carrying them into effect in a written or printed circular, transmitted to some dozens of civil and military functionaries. The general language and special terms used in this circular, are not in the style of Spanish official diction. The whole thing bears evident marks of New York manufacture.

When we published the circular, we were struck by some of the considerations which seem to have created in the minds of the Editors of the *Courier* doubts of its genuineness; but reason and observation have satisfied us that "tyrannical and sanguinary" as it may be, the document is absolutely authentic. Let it be borne in mind that this infamous circular was intended to be secret, and was addressed to the commanders of the various districts in the Island of Cuba, under the seal of the supreme authority, and as private instructions to these officials. The rulers of Cuba are not spt to falter in the execution of any measure, however odious and cruel it may be, when its object is to suppress seditious manifestations, and coerce the dissatisfied into obedience. CANEDO might have been reluctant to show his hand too openly, but would unhesitatingly authorize his hirelings clandestinely to perform any act of despotism, however ruthless it might be. Regarding, therefore, the document as a secret circular, its horrible Machiavellian does not in the least surprise us; while its promulgation in this manner does away with the charge of "stupidity", and proves that it is only part of a system of revolting and deliberate iniquity.

Again: Not only does this circular appear in the columns of the New York *Express*, but in those of sundry other papers. The *Courier and Enquirer* publishes it, without a question of its authenticity, and comments upon it in warm and indignant terms. The *Filibustero*—a paper edited by the Cuban Junta in New York—gives the original Spanish of the circular, and states that it was surreptitiously procured by a friend in Cuba, and forwarded to the editors. We have read it, and must say that it bears internal evidence of genuineness. The proof does not even rest here. The New York *Times* and New York *Herald* contain letters from Havana, which refer in plain language to this detestable circular. The Havana correspondent of the *Times* says:

A circular has been issued by the Captain General to the Captains of the several "Partidos" (divisions of the Island,) commanding them to demand of all persons supposed to be disaffect to the Spanish sway in this Island, that they at once take the oath of allegiance to the Spanish throne, and to make a solemn tender of their lives and property in the event of a descent upon Cuba by the Americans. Should such a thing take place, these "suspected persons" are to be at once put to death, or sent to the front of battle, and to make good their future fidelity forfeited though it has been from them) of their property. The result of this further tyranny will be to hasten the period when Cuba will declare herself *free* of Spain.

The *Herald's* correspondent is equally explicit. He writes as follows:

A circular has been issued to the captains of the several counties, into which the island is divided, authorizing them to call upon all persons whom they may suspect of a want of loyalty to the Spanish government, to make a tender of their lives and property" to the government of this island, and which "tender" is to be accepted in the event of any attack being made upon Cuba by any foreign foe. Should the suspected "parties" refuse to make this "tender," then they are to be tried as traitors to the State, by a "military tribunal"! What think you of this act of moderation on the part of General Canedo, on the eve of his departure? Is it not conciliatory?

The motive which instigated the transmission of the circular may be divined when we state, that a gentleman of respectability and standing, recently from Cuba, and closely connected with the "Patriots" of that Island, assures us that disaffection prevails to a formidable extent; that nothing but the iron sway of a military domination has hitherto prevented an explosion; and that the Captain General, being thoroughly informed by his spies of this condition of public feeling, has resorted to the measures embodied in the circular as a means of terrifying the inhabitants into submission. He expresses his unhesitating belief that the instructions contained in the document will be rigorously enforced, at the same time he is of opinion, that even the crushing tyranny of which the Cubans are made the victims, will much longer avail to keep down a popular outbreak. These speculations may be well or ill founded, but taken in connection with the evidence already adduced, they form a mass of proof that convinces us that the document in question is really emanated from the bosom of the Captain General of Cuba.

☞ It appears that the President's Message was fraudulently obtained and published in New York, in advance of the unsealing of the official package, which had been deposited in the hands of the Postmaster of that city. The *Times* and *Herald* extras containing the message, were being sold by the newsboys at the very moment when Postmaster FOWLER opened the package in the presence of several editors. The journals which issued these extras, are terribly indignant, and state that gross rascality has been practised, and that the affair calls for a searching investigation.

HOLIDAY GIFTS.—As the season is approaching when friends and relations mutually give and receive kindly tokens of affection, we take occasion to say that those who are desirous of obtaining very elegant and choice specimens of literary luxuries would do well to visit NORMAN'S Book store, No. 13 Camp street. Certainly the collection of splendid annuals, gift-books, memorials, tokens, and illustrated volumes, suitable for holiday presents, excels in variety and beauty any assortment we have yet examined. We cannot attempt to particularize amidst the profusion of richly bound, and splendid works that may be seen upon his shelves. The publications for 1854 exceed in gorgeousness those of any preceding year. The publishing house of E. BUTLER & CO. is fairly entitled to the palm of excellence. It has in its extensive list of thirty different volumes, many of a known legal merit—in which the engravings, portraits and illustrations are magnificently executed. They may be all obtained, together with many others from different publishers, at NORMAN'S Book store.

SELECT SOIREES.—A series of select soirees are about to be given at the Odd Fellows' Hall. The first will take place on the 4th proximo.—Applications for subscriptions will be received at the office of H Roffer, 76 Gravier street, under the Hall, on Lafayette street. See advertisement.

CONTESTED ELECTION.—The election of the candidates of the "Young Republicans" of St. Bernard, of which had been contested by the Democrats, on the ground of fraud and informality, was decided on Wednesday before a jury, who gave a verdict in favor of the defendants. Messrs Dorant, Faulkons and Simmons appeared for the Democrats; while the "Young Republicans" were defended by Messrs. Dubocq and Preaux.

THE TELEGRAPH.—We learn that the wire of the Texas and Red River telegraph was stretched across the river, at Alexandria, on the 7th inst., and the men are wiring the line from that place towards Natchitoches and Shreveport. The work is completed to within twenty miles of Natchez, and it was thought that the office would be open to forward despatches in about ten days.

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

At the *St. Charles*, Mr. and Mrs Barney Williams, in Bryan O'Lynn; dancing by Mlle. Vallee and others in the farce of "Law for Ladies," and the petit comedy of the "Happy Man," in which Mr. and Mrs. Williams appear.

At the *Varieties*, the Bateman children in "My Beauty Bess," and the Merchant of Venice; dancing and singing—the whole to conclude with the Corkscrews in California, with Holland to tickle the ribs of the audience.

At Welch's *Hippodrome* in Bonapart street, between Poydras and novel Theatre will be a multitude of entertainments, for which he is continually coining.

At Dan Rice's *Amphitheatre*, all the usual sports of the ring, with tableaux vivantes, and the splendid exhibition of the "Roman Brothers."

The *Southern Museum* as usual presents a feast of attractions, with its innumerable curious and unequaled, etc.

VITORIA LEGISLATIVE.—On the reassembling of this body, on Monday week, the former Speaker and Clerk of the Senate were re-elected, N. A. Thompson was chosen sergeant-at-arms, and Samuel A. Jones door-keeper. In the House, Major Crosby was re-elected Speaker, and St. George Tucker Clerk; W. A. Street was chosen sergeant-at-arms, and Mahe Bradley door-keeper. During the day the annual message of Governor Johnson was transmitted to both branches.

CREDIT SALE OF AN EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT OF WINTER CLOTHING, etc.—We are requested to call the attention of the trade to the Credit Sale on 250 Lots of Winter Clothing &c, which takes place THIS DAY, at 10 o'clock, A. M. at Bruhn & Lemonnier's auction store, No. 77 Chartres street. Terms at sale.

REPORT OF WAR DEPARTMENT.

Like the other official documents Secretary Davis' report is very full. Fortunately it is clear and easily condensed. We avail ourselves of an excellent summary prepared by the New York *Times*.

The Report commences by stating that the authorized strength of the Army, as now peopled, is 13,817—officers and men—but the actual strength is only 10,417. Of this number 6,378 are employed on the frontiers, or on the route to them; and the Secretary derives pleasure from being able to say that the measures taken for the protection of the inhabitants of our frontiers of late have been more than usually successful. The Indian depredations have been comparatively subdued, and, except in California and Oregon, have not attained more local importance. In the Indian country, immediately west of the Mississippi, but two or three collisions have occurred (and arrangements are now in progress for the establishment of new posts, in more important positions, which will enable the Department to dispense with many, unimportant posts, and give additional security. In Texas, the Indian depredations have diminished in frequency and in importance; and in a majority of cases, as the Department has been informed, the depredations have been committed by Indians from Mexican territory. On the Rio Grande, the protection of the inhabitants and aid the enforcement of the fulfilment of treaty stipulations on the part of the Mexican Government, have made it necessary to strengthen our positions and increase the number of men. Although a peace has been obtained on that frontier, there is no assurance that it will be observed unless a strong force be kept stationed there, and consequently it is the intention of the Department to send an additional force. It is the opinion of the Secretary that with an army three times as great as ours, it would be impracticable so to guard all points of our extended frontier as entirely to prevent Indian depredations. It is therefore, the intention to post the troops in large bodies on important points, and reduce the number of small detachments.

The appropriations for the erection and improvement of permanent fortifications, for three years past, have either been refused or greatly reduced, under the impression that they depended upon the preservation of a system of fortifications. This the Secretary suggests is not the case, and trusts that hereafter it may be henceforth viewed, the armament for important posts in Texas and on the Pacific coast, should be erected at the earliest period possible.

After speaking at length concerning increased requirements for the transportation of stores, it appears that the 600 recruits will be required for the service of the ensuing year. It is thought that at the present rate of pay, it will be difficult, while their employments offer higher rewards, to secure the requisite number of men, although it is of the utmost importance that they should be had, and that the full number of rank and file should be maintained. It is shown by an examination of the statistics of the army from 1826 to the commencement of the war with Mexico, that the average excess of the level over the actual strength of the army was 1 per cent; of the latter, that the average loss by desertion has been 12½ per cent; by discharges for debility and other causes, 7 per cent; by deaths 4 per cent, or a total loss, independent of discharges by expiration of service, of 23½ per cent. A part of the desertion is due to the discovery of gold in California. The same cause influenced the number of re-enlistments. The proportion during the last five years was 17 per cent, while during three years immediately preceding the war with Mexico, it was 25 per cent of the number of discharges by expiration of service. The results the Secretary traces to two principal causes.

1.—The disparity between the pay of the soldier and the value of labor in civil life.

2.—The fact that length of service confers with it no reward, either in increased pay, rank or privilege.

Both these causes are the fruitful source of discontentment and desertion, and they prevent the re-enlistment of the most valuable men. Thus in an army of 10,000 men, which is about the actual strength of our military establishment, as at present organized, there will be annually, under the existing circumstances of pay and service, 1200 discharges by expiration of enlistment; 726 discharges for disability, &c.; 330 deaths, and 1465 desertions; or 3611 vacancies annually, of which only 518 are filled by re-enlistments. The actual annual loss to the army to be supplied by the enlistment of new men will therefore be 3093. Or, in other words, more than one-third of the army must every year be recruited and transferred from the depots to their regiments. In view of these experiences, the Secretary recommends the adoption of a system of furloughs, to prevent desertions and keep the ranks full. Among such, he suggests—

1. An increase of— per cent. of the present pay of the soldier.

2. An additional increase for each successive period of five years, so long as he shall remain in the army.

3. Provision for the promotion to the lowest grade of commissioned officers of such of the non-commissioned officers of the army as may be found qualified for, and, by their conduct, character, and services, entitled to such advancement.

It is also suggested that the soldier, honorably discharged, who shall re-enlist within one month thereafter, shall be entitled to $8 per month in addition to the ordinary pay of his grade, for the first period of five years, and a further increase of $1 per month for each successive period: and that those now in the army who have served more than one period of five years shall be entitled to the provisions named above; and also, that those who received a certificate of merit for services in Mexico shall have the additional $8 per month.

With a number of other recommendations calculated to render the army more efficient and capable of enduring the hardships of active service, the Secretary proceeds to speak of the necessity of encouraging regularity and uniformity in the militia; and in connection with this subject, he recommends providing the militia with the proper books for tactical instruction. The condition of the Military Academy is favorably spoken of, and the Academic term is, by the board, recommended to be increased to five years.

An interesting history of the various exploring expeditions is given in the report, but as the prominent features of each have been already published, we forbear a synopsis.

Report of the Navy Department.

This is a voluminous, well arranged and altogether able document—one which proves to Mr. DOBBIN a man of systematic and laborious habits, and comprehensive intellect. The report gives the force of the several squadrons, with their principal movements and services during the past year, and discusses at length the subjects of the Naval Academy, Yards and Docks, the modification of rules, the increase of the Navy, and the elevation of the character of seamen.

The principal events touched upon, are the conduct of Captain Hollins of the *Cyane*, on the occasion of the difficulties at Greytown, which is highly commended; the reconnoissance of the West Coast of Africa by Commander Lynch; the case of Dr. Kung in Greece; the conduct of Commander Ingraham, of the *St. Louis*, in the Kossta case, which was warmly praised; the proceedings of the Expedition to Japan; the departure of the Kanagaroo Expedition to Behrings Straits, the North Pacific and the China Seas; the hydrographical discoveries and improvements perfected by the brig *Dolphin*; the full protection and peaceful condition of the Fisheries; the late expedition of Dr. Kane in search of Sir John Franklin; the services of Lieut. Maury, of the Naval Observatory, and his Scientific Station in Brussels; the scientific researches of Prof. Bache, Lieut. Davidson, and Prof. Alexander (the astronomical observations of Lieut. Gillis in Chili; the exploration of the Amazon and tributaries by Lieuts. Herndon and Gibbon; the labors of Lieut. Dale Green for the improvement of gunnery and ordnance; and the proceedings towards the execution of the contract with Robert L. Stevens for a war-steamer to be shot and shell proof.

The Naval Academy is presented in interesting aspect, as being to the Navy what West Point is to the Army. Exercise in the management of Steamers and Steam Engines, is strongly recommended. The Midshipmen constitute one hundred and sixteen, student.

The Navy Yards are reported generally in good condition. The dock, basin and railway at Pensacola, having been injured by a cyclonic storm, were extensively repaired upon, and the contractors were allowed (but the yards could not be completed. The Boiler at Gosport, on the test was taken, are to have the contract to make repairs and extend the yard, at expense. The smallpox owned de San Francisco have not been commenced for want of sufficient legal title to the ground. The question of the necessity of a basin in connection with the national dock to be built at that port, referred by Congress to the discretion of the department, is discussed and decided in favor of the basin, which will be constructed. The naval hospital at New Orleans is capitally conducted, and the hospital at Sacket, on New port, R. I., and the hospital at Norfolk, N. C., referred to the Department of Navy, will be established in a suitable manner.

Legislation on the subject of the Marine Corps is strongly urged, and the recommendations are urged in great length, and the appointment of a Brigadier General of Marines, the Navy consists of about twenty vessels of all kinds, of which a large number are with the seas and even in service, or repair. Only about forty vessels could be brought into service in ninety days, if required.

Seven steamers are particularly desired, four are sailing vessels generally, carrying light cord, for necessary service in China, and Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico, are recommended to be immediately constructed.

The two dripdoes on the Gulf since 1815, should be altogether uniform brigs, and be completed. The celebrity of the brig Perry, will bring required at Sidney, and other useful service, and the building of a steam frigate, to take a first class steady frigate, by the Navy, for which is disposed the frigate of the Navy.

A considerable portion of the report is devoted to the subject of the Pacific Railroad, and the proceedings of the Pacific Railroad Commissioners, of Commissioners, to