The New Orleans Bee.

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Meeting of Congress.

Yesterday being the first Monday in December, the day established for the assembling of Congress, that body met at the usual hour, when the following message was received from the President of the United States:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

A year of peace and general prosperity this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops, and have been spared from complications and war with foreign nations. In our midst, comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the election franchise has, by violence and intimidation, been denied to citizens in exceptional cases in several of the States lately in rebellion, and the verdict of the people has thereby been reversed. The States of Virginia and Mississippi have been restored to representation in our National Councils.

Georgia, the only State now without representation, may confidently be expected to take her place there also at the beginning of the new year, and then let us hope, will be completed the work of reconstruction. With an acquiescence on the part of the whole people in the national obligation to pay the public debt created as the price of our Union, the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors and their widows and orphans, and in the changes to the Constitution which have been made necessary by a great rebellion, there is no reason why we should not advance in material prosperity and happiness, as no other nation ever did after so great and devastating a war. Under the fostering care of the United States Minister in Paris was brought to a peaceful termination a long and bloody war in South German dominions of a French sovereignty. Instructions were issued to grant the protection thus this has been followed by an order that American protection to citizens of Saxony, Hesse and Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Columbia, Portugal, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Equador, Chili, Paraguay and Venezuela, to be withdrawn as burdensome one, requiring consents and more labor, as well as the exercise of power, perhaps more good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this Government and, as I have been informed, equally so to the satisfaction of the Government of North Germany.

As soon as I learned that a Republic had been proclaimed in Paris, and that the people of France had overpowered in the change, the Minister of the United States was directed by telegraph to recognize it in order to bother my congratulations on the part of the people of the United States. The establishment in France of a system of government distinctively free, relieves many traditions of Europe appeared be a proper subject for the felicitations of Americans. Should the present struggle result in attaching the sympathies of French to our simpler forms of representative governments, it will be a subject of mutual congratulation. While we make no effort to impose our institutions upon the inhabitants of other countries, and while we adhere to our traditional policy of not meddling with political contests elsewhere we cannot be indifferent to the spread of American political ideas in a great and highly civilized country like France.

We were asked by the new Government at our seat of office to join with those of European powers in the interests of peace. Answer was made that the established policy and the true interests of the United States forbade them to interfere in European questions jointly with European powers. A sympathized informally to us the fully that the Germans of North Germany was not then disposed to agree to such representations from any Powers, and that we earnestly wishing to see the blessings of peace restored to the belligerents, with all the whole of the civilized States are on terms of friendship, declined on our part to join the Government in a step which could only result in injury to our true interests without advantage to the other parties, for our intervention was invoked. Should the time come when the action of the United States can hasten the return of peace by a single hour, that action will be hastened. It is not thought prudent in view of the number of persons of German and French birth living in the United States, to take any other official notice of a state of war had been received from both belligerents, a proclamation declaring the action of the United States as a neutral, and all the belligerent persons residing within their Territory to observe the laws and the laws of nations. This proclamation was followed by orders as circumstances seemed to call for them. The people thus acquainted in advance of their duties and obligations, have assisted in preventing violations of our neutrality of the United States. It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has essentially changed since the close of the last session of Congress.

In an early stage of the contest the authorities of Spain inaugurated a system of military arrests of citizens of the United States, and of subjecting persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents, and of summary embargo of their properties, and sequestration of their revenues by military tribunals and military proceedings so far as affected the persons and property of citizens of the United States were in violation of the provisions of the treaty of 1795, between the United States and Spain. Representations of injuries resulting to persons and property claiming to be citizens of the United States by reason of such illegalities were made to the Spanish Government. From April 1869, to June last, the Minister of Spain at Washington had been absent with a full and ample power to aid in redressing such complaints. Spain was then represented to be withdrawn in view as it was said, of the favorable situation in which the Island of Cuba then was, which, however, did not lead to a revocation of suspension of the extraordinary and arbitrary functions of the executive power in Cuba. No reason why the complaints of Spain in this respect should not adjust, in the negotiations pending at Madrid, and still pending there the family difficulties have been removed. The States of Virginia and Mississippi have been restored to representation in our National Councils.

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