could not lay aside his hatred for the French from the time that he was enabled to look through their treacherous plans, upon the question of his coming to Mexico and his abdication, so that Bazaine could assume the government, but also in the matters of the Custom House treaty, reembarkation of the Austrians and Belgians, payment of the Iturbide family, &c.

Instead of preventing his return to Mexico the representations of these gentlemen hastened it, and he proposed on his arrival there the immediate assemblage of the Congress which should decide the form of government of Mexico, and the question of the will of the people as to his departure from the country and the surrender of his authority.

In order to facilitate this meeting different emissaries were sent to the most influential and most respectable of the Republican chiefs, most of whom declined to take any active part. Another step in furtherance of the assemblage was the formation of the law which was to regulate the elections. The formation of this law had been confided by order of Maximilian on the meeting of the State Council to that body, but inasmuch as the majority of that body especially the President and all of the Ministers, opposed the measure systematically, and as during the entire month of September not a solitary step had been taken to propose the law, he therefore, before he left Puebla gave to the Imperial Commissioner of that place, Don José Maria Esteva, the commission to form the law within the shortest time possible.

The Emperor left Puebla on the 3d of Jan. and arrived at his country seat, the Hacienda de la Teja, just outside the city of Mexico, on the 5th of January 1867.—[*New York Herald*, Nov. 1.]

MEXICAN STANDARD

PUBLISHED IN THE CITY OF MEXICO

(Every Monday and Thursday.)

BY WILL: T. PRITCHARD.

TERMS.

PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

	IN THE CITY.	MAILED.
One copy—per annum	$10 00	$12 00
do do six months	6 00	7 00
do do three months	3 00	3 50
do do one month	1 00	1 25
Single copy	0 12½	0 18¾

Notices of Marriages and Deaths inserted free.

Single insertions at the rate of $1 per square of 10 lines, and for each subsequent insertion 50 cents. No advertisements will be charged for less than one square. Liberal inducements to yearly advertisers.

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WILL: T. PRITCHARD,

Calle de Capuchinas No. 14.

Single copies of the Standard can be had at the Bazar and Papeleria of Mr. Joseph Boullet No 6, 2nd street of San Francisco.

RUMORED PURCHASES BY THE UNITED STATES.

By the late papers from the United States dating as late as December 21st, we perceive that the press of that country are full of discussions and paragraphs upon the subject of the purchase of the Bay of Samana, Saint Thomas and Cuba. Some of the papers go so far as to express an opinion that negotiations are now in progress for the purchase of the above mentioned, from the foreign powers to which they now belong. In regard to Cuba, the particulars are given so far as to State that the United States is to pay Spain therefor a sum of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars, fifty millions of which is to be paid in cash, fifty millions to be paid in one year and the balance in six years. As this sale neccessitates the extinction of slavery on the Island, their owners are of course very much excited upon the subject, and the natives of the Island who are friendly to the change of ownership, attempt to pacify them by assurances that the terms of sale include an arrangement to reimburse the slave owners for their property made valueless. Our exchanges state that England favors the disposal of Saint Thomas on the ground that the proximity of the United States will enable the government of the latter, to enforce stricter quarantine regulations, and that thus their own shipping interests will be benefited without any loss of prestige or privilege.

Denmark's offer is reported to be a loan from the United States of one million of dollars for privileges in the Bay of Samana in return.

All of these reports, if there be truth in them, are evidences that this great first class power, the United States, has an intention of possessing a commanding position relative to the navigation of the Middle Atlantic Ocean, and the Gulf of Mexico, and we are inclined to think that these purchases, if they be made, will result from a desire to acquire in the present decade safe and profitable harbors, between these two great bodies of water rather than to acquire territory. The present unsettled, territorial condition of many of the Southern States and the vast unoccupied lands of the west, do not offer any inducement to a government which already owes two and a half billions, to seek territory which may involve further expenditure rather than yield a revenue.

The nervous old ladies of Mexico, who may be afflicted with a nightmare of Anglo-American absorption of this country, may look well to their smelling bottles, but trouble themselves no further, while the king lovers and Empire hunters, who have not recovered from their late sorrow and remorse, and who are longing for "*A coming man*" may quietly settle down to regular sleep and meals. There are no indications that the United States seek anything more than a quiet and safe harbor for coaling her shipping and her navy; it is but natural that she, a first class power should seek this in the waters so adjacent to her territory.

This is the hour for Mexico to fully appreciate the relations which she sustains to her neighbor, and to the foreign powers with whom the relations which existed for so many years have lately been severed

By certain conditions in the Railroad concessions lately given, wherein she requires the Company to receive, support, and educate several young men to the profession of Engineering and Railroading, she admits her inability at present to prosecute these enterprises, independent of foreign aid. Accordingly, to the English Company she has lately been most liberal, and we are confident that the American Capitalists who have sympatized with, and in some cases, aided materialy Republican Mexico, are willing to do their share toward building Railroads and forwarding other projects which shall tend to bring Mexico to the standard of a first class democratic power; and it occurs to us that as Mexico is destined to be Republican, it should be the policy of Mexico to receive aid and grant favors to those nations who swear by the "Magna Charta."

We need Railroads and the inauguration of other mechanical enterprises and the age in which we live makes it imperative that we should have them, and should be glad to ensure the services of our American neighbors, as well as our English friends in their procuration. With the United States we may and should join hands in many enterprises (we speak not of the trade with Europe) which involve the "via" of the West Indies, so great a portion of which it would appear may soon become a part of the United States, in whose possession it could no longer be, what it has to some extent previously been, a depot for filibusterism against Mexico.

SUPPRESSION OF THE RANCHERO.

We see by the New Orleans papers of the 19th of December that Brevet Brigadier General McKensie commanding the post of Brownsville has issued an order suppressing this sheet.

The conduct of this paper toward the constitutionally elected government of the United States has been such as that no one will be surprised that the military authorities consider this paper as "an impediment to the reconstruction". of the States lately in rebellion.

As regards Mexico: having become identified with the latter, in Mexican Politics as in American, it took the impracticable side of the question, using all manner of argument and sophism, and Gen. Escobedo in his letter says, even more than either of these. Many of the Munchausen stories in regard to Mexico, and which have done much to give every reader a false impression of Mexico, have been accredited to the Ranchero, with how much justice we cannot say. We have read the letter of Escobedo in answer to charges said to have made their appearance very early in that paper, and have also read many "borregos" in the papers of New Orleans credited to the same source.

We hear the idea thrown out here. "Why is the United States in her strength so weak that she must take notice of a public opposition press, and Mexico if weak, yet strong enough to uphold the most complete liberty of the Press?

CONGRESS.—Dec. 27th.—Mr. Montes presiding. The session was opened to-day, 112 members present. Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted. A communication from the minister of the Home Department was read, acknowledging a receipt of the resolution of Congress requiring a report from the Executive as to the imprisonment &c. of Gonzalez Ortega. Immediately following this, 125 printed copies of the organic law of Public Instruction were distributed among the members. Three resolutions were offered by Mr. Robles Martinez, the first, to appoint a gefe or chief treasury inspector, with the object of suppressing contraband, the second, to build two penitentiaries, one in the "Maria" islands in the Pacific, and another in the isle of Cármen, and the third, prohibiting the sale of any islands to private persons.—Passed the first reading. The same gentleman offered a proposition declaring null and void the 56th art. of the decree of the Jalisco legislature wherein Mr. Gomez Cuervo is announced as Governor of said State, said Gomez Cuerve having served the intervention.

The proposition was withdrawn for 15 days. Messrs Alcalde, Avila and others presented a proposition that the committee appointed to prepare the national manifiesto or address, present the same for examination, and that it appear Jany, 1st 1868.

Mr. Valle offered a bill to have repealed the 91st art. of the decree of Dec. 2d. 1867. which excludes, as internal pupils, the sons of families residing in the city of Mexico. This proposition was ably defended by Messrs Valle, Alcalde, Herrera and Montes, and opposed by Messrs. Barreda, Covarrubias, and Gaona, and was finally passed by 75 to 30.—A memorial from Mr. Garza Melo was read, requesting a revision of his credentials. Was referred to committee on powers.

A communication was next read in which the Government announces the appointment of Mr. Garmendia, as under secretary of the treasury. A bill offered by Messrs. Diaz Covarrubias, Frias, and Soto, that in primary schools, created by the law of Dec. 2d, 1867, the study of Metaphysics be done away with, passed the first reading.

Dec. 28th, Mr. Montes presiding.

At 15 minutes to 2 o'clock, session opened with 109 members. A communication from the Foreign Relations and Home Departments was read in which the government expresses itself content with the good services of Mr. Juan José Baz, and solicits his continuation in the employ of government of the District—referred to 1st committee on Home Department. A communication from the Judge of the Sapreme-Court of Coahuila was read, announcing the installment of said tribunal. The States of Michoacan and San Luis Potosí, forward the printed copies of all the laws passed by their legislatures; referred to committee on constitutional points. A bill was now introduced by Mr. G. Prieto to have called to the capital Gen. Sanchez Ochoa, deputy elect to Congress, and at present a prisoner of the government, which was passed. The law repealing the 91st art. of the law of Public Instruction, was read, and approved.

The credentials of Messrs. Bibiano Villareal of Nuevo Leon, and José M Cobos, of Tabasco, were approved and the former gentleman took his seat.

A bill was next presented signed by several deputies, to the effect that all those who served the so-called empire or regency, receiving a salary, should be incapacitated for holding office, in the Republic that all those actually in office, comprehended in the foregoing category, be suspended in the mean time; referred to 2d, committee of the Home Department. The committee on Powers reported that there was no objection to returning to the War Department the book containing the names of those who served the so-called empire. The joint committees of constitutional points, of Treasury, and of war, recommend the granting of certain extraordinary powers to the Executive in reference to the war in Yucatán; and after a very protracted and rather warm discussion pro and con, participated in by Messrs Montes, Dondé, Siliceo, Mata, Gaona, Barron, Peniche, and Alcalde, it was declared sufficiently discussed and was referred to the Executive, according to fraction 4, art. 7, of the Constitution. A communication from the Ministry of Relations was next read, in which the Executive announces the acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Iglesias and solicits a continuance of the other Ministers in their respective offices—referred to committee on constitutional points and Home Department.

House then adjourned.

Dec. 30.—Mr. Montes in the chair.—A communication from the war Department was read answering the interrogatories put in regard to Gonzalez Ortega, stating that he is still prisoner and that the case was left pending till the meeting of Congress, for its final disposition by that body.

Communication from the Home and war Departments were next read in which the Executive makes observations upon the resolution of Congress to prolong the 1st session to 3 months and the 2d to two, and also upon the bill of the united committees in regard to the Yucatán campaign &c.

A bill was then read and passed, the purport of which was as follows:

That the Government should collect the most authentic data possible, in regard to the number and names of the victims of the intervention, those wounded during the same period, and the amount of damage sustained by Mexicans in general.

The committee on Home Department reports and recommends that J. J. Baz be continued in the government of the district. Passed a first reading.

Several other matters of minor importance coming up, they were disposed of in a summary way, when the house adjourned.

LOCAL NEWS &C.

ASSASSINATION.—On the 23d of July last Brewster Russel, a native of London, England, who had been in the employ of the Mexico and Vera Cruz Railroad Co. and afterward in the employ of Messrs. McManus of Chihuahua, was assassinated and robbed about five leagues from Nazas on his way to Mazatlan via Durango, by his travelling companion captain Sylvester Ochoa.

The circumstances are said to be as follows. Ochoa persuaded Mr. Russel to leave the train with which they were travelling and make a short cut to Durango Their baggage having been packed upon asses and put in charge of two boys, Ochoa and Russel were in rear of the boys when the former proposed to relieve the latter of his pistol which was heavy. The latter readily consenting, as they had been companions for sometime; the former immediately shot Mr. Russel, called the boys back, when all three concluded the barbarity by mashing his head with stones, and relieving his pocket and baggage of all valuables.

EARTHQUAKE.—A slight shock was felt in this city on the 30th at 5 o'clock, 15 minutes P. M. Direction from East to West.

MR. IGNACIO PESQUEIRA.—Has been elected Governor of Sonora.

JALISCO.—In this State the 18th of Dec. has been declared a national feast-day, being the anniversary of the battle of "la Coronilla."

CAMPECHE.—Mr. Pablo Garcia has been declared Governor of this State.

SALAMANCA.—The inhabitants of this city have given $188 62c., toward the establishment of a penitentiary in Guanajuato.

BULL FIGHTS.—Have been prohibited by the Legislature of Puebla.

GEN. COMONFORTS'.—Mortal remains have arrived in this city, and have been deposited in San Fernando.

ZACATECAS.—The treasury of this State had an income af $51.225,01, in the month of Nov.

THE MINES.—Of the State of Zacatecas are said to be giving fine results; the activity in working them has not been so great for a number of years. $60,000 are paid weekly to working men.

Mr. CANTOLLA.—The balloon man, is said to have received a slight injury in his hand and leg in his last ascension.

A SPECIE CONVOY.—Arrived on the 11st ult., at Colima with $300,000, bound to foreign parts.

GUADALAJARA.—Has had an anniversary of the leaving of the French.

DURANGO.—Is said to be perfectly quiet.

MR. REFUGIO CHAPA.—Elected to the legislature of Tamaulipas, was fined $500 for not presenting himself in time to take his seat, Punctuality is a great thing.

LA IDEA PROGRESISTA.—A liberal sheet. edited by one of Mexico's most gifted sons, Mr. Lorenzo Elizaga, made its debut on yesterday-we desire him a long life and much of the "one thing needful."

THE RANCHERO SUPPRESSED BY GEN. MCKENZIE.—By the arrival of H. W. Maltby, Esq., one of the proprietors of the Brownsville Ranchero, we regret to learn that his newspaper has been supressed by order of Brevet Brig. General McKenzie, Commanding the Subdistrict of the Rio Grande. As the N. Y. Tribune remarked about the arrest of Gen. McCardle, it was a were unwise act for the Commander, both as regards himself and his party. Even the Pope refuses to suppress papers which would remove him from the temporal power, and hurl spiritual and spirited anthemas against him. [*Ex-paper.*]

Dry Goods Sales in New York.

The New York Herald states that the sales of dry goods by H. B. Claflin, of New York during the past three years, have been: In 1865, $73,000,000 worth in 1866, $65,000,00 ; in 1867, $57,000,000; total, 196,000,000. A T. Stewart's sales have been: In 1865, $43,000,000; in 1866, $50,000,000; in 1867, $50,000,000; total, $143,000,000. His retail trade in the three years has been about $60,000,000 more.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

HAVANA, Dec. 22d.

The U. S. man of War Susquehanna has left St. Thomas with the news of the death of Admiral Palmer and Capt. Burroughs. Her Machinery was injured during the late earthquakes at St. Thomas.

NEW YORK, 21st.

The Fahkee sailed to day for Vera-Cruz. Money market buoyant; money at 6;—London 21st Dec. The English government is alarmed at the threatening attitude of the Fenians. They have employed special and sworn policemen and it is thought Parliament would suspend the Habeas Corpus act.

PARIS, 21st Dec.

Napoleon thinks of proposing a universal custom duty between France, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland. It is stated that Belgium does not accept the proposition. There is a rumour of the abdication of the duke of Baden. Consols 92¾ cotton *middlands upling* 7⅞—sales 9,000 Bales.

From Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Cable Summary.—The British troops had penetrated far into Abyssinia, and prospects were fair for a successful campaign.

Credited advices indicate that the prisoners in whose behalf the expedition was undertaken, are safe and well.

A deputation of the English Bible Society presented Napoleon with a copy of the Bible and an address.

He responded, declaring that his first rule was to protect all religions.

South America advices, via Lisbon, report that the Paraguayans had taken the offensive with marked success.

They had stormed a Brazilian camp, capturing 1,500 prisoners.

The Brazilians defended their camp stubbornly, losing 4,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

It is thought that the Clerkenwell outrage has ended Fenianism. Large rewards are offered for the guilty.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Apparently organized attempts were made to burn various warehouses last night.

The outrage is attributed to the Fenians though none of them have been arrested.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—The *Moniteur* publishes a police circular placing the press under a more rigorous censorship.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 18.—The *Invalide Russe* says: "The agreement between France and Austria on the Eastern question, if persisted in, will imperil the peace of Europe."

LONDON, Dec. 17, Evening.—As the police were seizing a quantity of nitro glycerine at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, supposed to have been secreted by the Fenians, the oil exploded. Several men were blown to atoms, and many hurt.

The reported sale of Cuba to the United States is contradicted.

It is said that a change in the Austrian Ministry is impending.

The Abyssinian expedition has advanced to Senafe, where they find plenty of water and the natives friendly.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—It is said that a paper has been found at Wolverhampton, showing a Fenian plot to plunder the militia armories.

The Prusso-Danish negotiations will be resumed in January.

Italy calls out more Reserves.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Another of the wounded by the explosion here, is dead.

The Sheriff and Surveyor at Newcastle are dead. Eight persons were killed there.

Campbell, the broker recently arrested, has been acquitted.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—An attempt to blow up the Willbank jail failed on account of a defective fuse. No arrests were made.

Rumored Sale of Cuba to the United States.

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Havana advices of the 12th inst. state: Authentic information from Spain is received, with the important intelligence that the Spanish Government has made a formal offer to the American Minister at Madrid to sell Cuba and Porto Rico to the American Government for one hundred and fifty millions of dollars in gold.

The terms of the sale are $50,000,000 in gold, to be paid in cash on the signing of the treaty and formal delivery of the island to the authorities of the United States; the second $50,000,000 in gold to be paid one year thereafter, and the third installment of $50,000,000 in gold to be paid at the end of six years.

Great excitement prevails over the news, the extinction of slavery being one of the consequences of the sale.

The national pride is disposed to grumble a little over the transfer, but the general feeling, except among the oldest families, is one of satisfaction. It is of course known that the owners of slave property will be fully compensated out of the purchase money.

An American company has already purchased an island Nuevitas, for the purpose of colonization 30,000 acres.