

THE VIRGINIUS.

Herald Special Report from Madrid.

Spanish Demand for the Restoration of the Vessel.

Delight of the Dons Over Secretary Fish's Denial of Her Nationality.

Minister Siskles Insists That His Resignation Shall be Accepted in Washington.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD. The following special despatch to the HERALD has been received from Madrid, by way of Paris:—

PARIS, Dec. 21, 1873. A HERALD special telegram, in cipher, from Madrid announces that Spain demands the restoration of the Virginus, and that there is great exultation in the Spanish capital in consequence of Secretary Fish's admission that the Virginus is not an American vessel.

The Spanish demand was delivered to the American Minister on Friday, 19th inst.

MINISTER SISKLES'S RESIGNATION. Minister Siskles has telegraphed to Washington insisting upon the acceptance of his resignation.

THE CASE IN WASHINGTON.

Important Rumors in Official Circles.—The Attorney General decides that the Virginus had forfeited the right to carry the Stars and Stripes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1873. It has been known for some days that the Spanish government has furnished evidence with regard to the Virginus and her claim to the right to bear the flag of the United States, and that the President has submitted the evidence to the Attorney General for his opinion thereon.

It seems now to be understood in official circles that the Attorney General has given the opinion that the vessel had forfeited the right to bear the flag of the United States, and at the time of her capture she was carrying it without right and improperly. In view of this opinion our government will, in accordance with the terms of the protocol, institute inquiry and adopt proceedings against the Virginus and against any of the persons who may appear to have been guilty of illegal acts in connection therewith.

As Spain has proven to the satisfaction of the United States, according to the Attorney General's opinion, that the Virginus was at the time of her capture carrying the United States flag without right and improperly, the salute to the flag, on the 25th day of December, will be dispensed with as now not necessarily requireable; but the United States will expect a disclaimer of intent of indignity to its flag in the act which was committed.

From the proofs submitted by Spain it appears the clearance papers of the Virginus were obtained by perjury.

The Department of State has no information concerning the complications between Great Britain and Spain.

Was the Virginus Entitled to Carry the American Flag?—The Answer of the State Department to the Question.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1873.

The Spanish Minister is confident that the evidence he has prepared will show that the Virginus was not entitled to carry the American flag, and in this he is sustained by the members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Spanish government claims she was owned by the Cuban Junta of New York, and has evidence to prove that the money was furnished by the organization to John F. Patterson and J. K. Roberts. The State Department will answer:—

First.—That the sale of the Virginus to John F. Patterson by the United States establishes the character of the vessel.

Second.—That John F. Patterson, being a citizen of the United States, had a right to purchase the vessel and receive a register.

Third.—Though the Cuban Junta, or foreigners, may have furnished the money, yet the purchase by Mr. Patterson was perfectly legitimate, and did not prevent the parties furnishing the means from holding a lien on the vessel.

Fourth.—That the records of all the American Consulates show that whenever the Virginus has entered and cleared from a foreign port it was done strictly according to the prescribed regulations governing our officials, and as there is no evidence of the sale of the vessel after the register was taken out in New York there could be no such thing as ownership by subjects of Spain.

Fifth.—If the reputed owner of the Virginus did sell, transfer or lend the vessel contrary to the laws of the United States, by our own statutes she is forfeited to the United States, and was at the time of her capture by the Torpedo, in intent of law, the property of the United States; therefore the United States government refuses to accept the proof offered as conclusive of foreign ownership of the Virginus, and maintains that, original ownership having been vested in the government—to wit, first by reason of her having been purchased by the Confederate government, and by such act, in intent of law, becoming at her purchase the real property of the United States,

and again by forfeiture to the United States for debt—her character as an American vessel cannot be disputed, while the legitimate sale to a citizen of the United States establishes her right to an American register, and her purchaser is responsible, under our own municipal regulations, to the acts and penalties prescribed, which regulations the United States declines to permit a foreign government to traverse in support of any dereliction of duty on the part of either her officials or citizens.

PROOFS OF THE VIRGINIUS'S NATIONALITY.

The Vessel's Full Record—Her Career During the Rebellion, Her Possession by the Government and Her Sale—Arguments Why She Was Fully Entitled to the Protection of the United States.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 1873. The Treasury Department has furnished the following to the Secretary of State as to the real character of the steamer Virginus:—

She was originally known as the Virgin, built at Glasgow, Scotland, in 1864, and owned by a firm in Liverpool and Mobile. She made one trip to Liverpool and after the United States passed the fort was bought by the Confederates and loaded with cotton to run out. After the fleet entered the bay the cotton was taken out and the vessel run up the Tombigbee River, several hundred miles above Mobile, to escape capture. In the fall of 1865 she was brought down to Mobile and turned over to the Collector of Customs by the military authorities. Under instructions from the Treasury Department, with the concurrence of the Navy Department, and after a cabinet consultation, the Virgin, with other blockade runners, was, on January 22, 1866, turned over to the Freedmen's Bureau. (See Treasury Instructions, January 9, 1866; letter of Secretary of the Navy, January 13, 1866; receipt of Governor Swaine, January 22, 1866; report from Collector, January 22, 1866.) On February 14, 1866, the vessel was sold at Mobile, under direction of the Freedmen's Bureau. C. M. Godbold and J. M. Moody became the owners. The vessel was admeasured at New Orleans March 2, 1866, and inspected March 30, 1866. Registration was granted on application of Godbold and Moody on March 12, 1866. (See certificate of registry; Inspector's certificate.) The Inspector's certificate was issued April 19, 1866, at New Orleans. On June 30, 1866, she was again inspected at New Orleans and licensed to carry eight cabin passengers. In the meantime it appears the ownership of the vessel had become vested in Miles T. Steele, of New Orleans, to whom, as sole owner, a register was issued at that port on June 26, 1866, as appears by the bill of sale next referred to, which sets forth the act of registration at length. On May 14, 1867, Steele executed a bill of sale in due form to the United States of the steamer Virgin and appurtenances for the sum of \$5 (see original bill of sale, dated May 14, 1867). It is stated that the actual consideration of this transfer was to indemnify in part the United States for the defalcation of T. B. May, formerly Assistant Treasurer at New Orleans. This bill of sale was duly recorded at the Custom House in New Orleans, May 15, 1867. The vessel having thus become the property of the United States, first by capture, and second by purchase, remained in the possession and under the control of the government on or about the 27th day of August, 1870, when it was sold for the sum of \$9,500 to John F. Patterson, of New York, to whom a regular bill of sale, dated August 27, 1870, was executed and delivered by the Solicitor of the Treasury, acting in pursuance of law for the United States as owners. The bill of sale recites that the title of the United States had been acquired in the collection of a debt due the United States, referring to the bill of sale from Steele before mentioned. The sale appears to have been made at Washington, from whence the vessel was taken to New York, where Patterson made application for a new register to be issued to said vessel under the name of the Virginus. It further appears that the general practice of the department has been to allow vessels purchased by American citizens from the government of the United States and entitled to register, to be registered anew by such name as the owner or owners might adopt, being virtually regarded as in the position of a new vessel. (See Treasury Instructions to Collector, New York, August 16, 1865.) A register was accordingly issued by the Collector of Customs at New York, describing the vessel as the Virginus, formerly the steamer Virgin, and giving the same dimensions and tonnage as expressed in her former register. The new register bears date the 26th of September, 1870, and was issued to John F. Patterson as the owner, F. L. Shepherd, a citizen of the United States, being then the master.

ADAMIRAL SCOTT'S REPORT.

The Prisoners at Santiago Afraid for Their Lives—Burriel, the Butcher, Feted—The Seizure of the Virginus Without Examination.

Key West, Dec. 21, 1873. The report from Madrid that the Spanish government has decided to make a demand upon the United States for the return of the Virginus and passengers and crew is not credited here, for the reason that they were delivered to the United States by virtue of the protocol between the two countries, subject to judicial proceedings.

BRITISHERS HOVERING ROUND CUBA.

Yesterday afternoon a HERALD reporter made his way up town to the residence of Mr. Archibald, the British Consul General, at West Thirty-fifth street, to see if that gentleman could give any information respecting the orders lately given by the Lords of the Admiralty for British war vessels to concentrate near the Island of Cuba. Mr. Archibald was found in the act of sitting down at the head of his dinner table; but with great self-sacrifice he left the teeming board and invited the reporter into his library, and kindly consented to be "interviewed." The following is the conversation which took place:—

REPORTER—I suppose you have seen by the HERALD to-day, Mr. Archibald, that it looks as if Great Britain were going to take some action, in dependence of the United States, on behalf of her citizens who were massacred at Santiago de Cuba by the Spaniards, on the occasion of the capture of the Virginus?

MR. ARCHIBALD—No; I have not seen the HERALD to-day, and, therefore, can't tell you what you report. The reporter produced a HERALD ad instantem and rapidly read to Mr. Archibald the allusions as to the rendezvous of the British West India fleet of the "Ever Faithful" late.

MR. ARCHIBALD—Well, I really cannot tell you what the General in Chief and his staff, which you must admit is a great piece for manufacturing news. I really cannot give you any opinion on the subject.

REPORTER—Do you know whether the English government is about to demand of Spain satisfaction for its butchered subjects at Santiago?

MR. ARCHIBALD—Smiling, with a diplomatic nod, he said he had no information, but would be obtained by your paper at Washington. I am not able to give it.

REPORTER—Do you think this naval movement looks like decided action on the part of your government?

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REPORTER—Do you know Captain Gore Jones, naval attaché of the British Legation at Washington, who, I believe, is in this city at this moment, and he will give me any information on this subject?

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in payment of the Confederate debt contracted in England, and the treatment of the parties found on board of those vessels by the United States, all of which was done at the risk of capture and confiscation by the United States within our waters, but never on the high seas. That all the acts recited against the Virginus show her to have been nothing more than a smuggler, or a filibuster, not fitted out in the United States, and running the ordinary risk of capture for violation of the municipal laws governing the colonies of Spain within the waters of her jurisdiction, but not, under any plea of argument, subject to capture on the high seas. Finally, that the grievance which the Spanish government complains against the United States was one which should have been settled in the ordinary course of amicable relations between two friendly Powers; and while the United States government does not intend to assert its authority except in vindication of its honor and sovereignty, the reasons alleged by the Spanish government why the American flag should not be saluted, as stipulated, cannot be accepted as valid, and an observance of the terms of the protocol will not be waived by the United States except other evidence be presented before the expiration of the time agreed upon for the final disposition of the question.

SPAIN'S DEMAND DISCREDITED.

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BEFORE THE SURRENDER.

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KAISER WILHELM.

Herald Special Report from Berlin.

The Emperor Stricken by a Slight Attack of Apoplexy.

Universal Anxiety, but Concealment at Court.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The following special despatch to the HERALD has been received from our correspondent in the Prussian capital:—

BERLIN, Dec. 21, 1873.

The Emperor of Germany has had a slight attack of apoplexy.

Much anxiety prevails with respect to the probable result of his illness, and efforts are being made to conceal his condition.

ENGLISH REPORT OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATE OF HEALTH.

LONDON, Dec. 22—6 A. M.

A special despatch to the Daily Telegraph states that the Emperor William had a slight attack of apoplexy yesterday, which causes uneasiness at Berlin.

SPAIN.

Preparation for the Government Assault on Cartagena—The Insurgent Force Demoralized.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Dec. 22, 1873.

The correspondent of the Standard, near Cartagena, telegraphs that three men were killed by the recent magazine explosion.

The besiegers received reinforcement of 1,500 men on Friday, and 4,000 more are expected to arrive before the assault, which will probably be made this week.

The insurgents are demoralized and desertions are frequent.

Contreras has arrested Barcia for advising submission.

DENMARK.

THE NEWARK LIBEL SUIT.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21, 1873.

The gasmen have struck work and the city tonight is in darkness.

The jurymen in the case of Judge Guild, for libelling a city official, disagreed after a long consideration of its merits, and were discharged until Wednesday. The Judge's friends are jubilant.

A. Espechensky's New Annual—A Brilliant Holiday Hat for gentlemen, just issued by ESPENSCHEID, Manufacturer, 115 Nassau street.

A. Saunders' No. 7 Actor House, Sells Fine CUTLERY, POCKETBOOKS, CIGAR CASES, FINEST ARTICLES, &c., at prices to suit the times. Elegant Cases of Pens, or Razors and Pen-knives, and Combination Knives a specialty. Dressing Cases and Club Cases.

AT

CATHOLIC BOOKS FOR

FOR

THE

HOLIDAYS

AT

NO. 7 WARREN STREET, NEW YORK.

A.—A—10,000 Pairs Self-Acting Over-shoes put on and off without using the hands, at 25¢ per pair, at BROOKS', 115 Broadway, corner Twenty-ninth street.

A.—Cleaning and Dyeing for the Holidays—Laces, Feathers, gloves and Silks, for spots a specialty. Either of LORD'S stores, 60 and 64 Broadway or at 115 Broadway.

A.—Welcome the Virginus and Buy your FURS for lady friends and HATS for the gentlemen at KNOX'S. These are appropriate gifts for the holidays; both useful and ornamental. KNOX'S stores are at No. 21 Broadway, in the Prescott House and Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Ask for Goodalls—The Finest Imported and Cheapest Domestic PLAYING CARDS, Beautiful new patterns. Sold everywhere.

A.—A—10,000 Pairs Self-Acting Over-shoes put on and off without using the hands, at 25¢ per pair, at BROOKS', 115 Broadway, corner Twenty-ninth street.

A.—Slippers, Slippers, Boots and Shoes for the holidays, at BROOKS', 115 Broadway, corner Twenty-ninth street.

A.—William Knabe & Co.'s Grand square and upright PIANOS—These instruments have been before the public for forty years, and upon their excellence alone attained an unsurpassed pre-eminence, which pronounces them unequalled for their tone, touch, workmanship and durability. New York, Boston, No. 115 Fifth Avenue. WILLIAM KNABE & CO., New York and Baltimore.

A.—Hernia.—The United States Government has arranged with the ELASTIC TRUSS COMPANY, 85 Broadway, to supply their TRUSS, as needed, for soldiers, sailors, &c. Holds rupture comfortably tight and cool.

Ask for Mmc. Porter's Cough Balsam—Its virtues have been tested by thousands for many years in the treatment of all diseases of the throat and lungs, diseases into which it is designed. 25¢, 50¢, 75¢.

An Extra Selected Assortment of Wines, LIQUORS, &c. JOHN J. STAFF, 115 Chambers street.

Baker's Chocolate—If You Wish the best VANILLA CHOCOLATE get BAKER'S.

Baker's Chocolate—A Good Cup of Cocoa is easily had if you will insist on your grocer furnishing you with BAKER'S COCOA BREAKFAST CHOCOLATE.

Batchelor's Hair Dye is Splendid—Never fades. Established forty years. Sold and properly applied at BATCHELOR'S Wig Factory, 8 Bond St., N. Y.

Christmas should find in every household one of these cheerful ornaments.

WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE.

No. 625 and 114 Broadway, New York; 336 Fulton street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Newark avenue, Jersey City.

Eye Glasses and Spectacles, to strengthen and improve the sight. Opera, Field and Marine Glasses, of extraordinary power. SEMMONS, Optician, 67 Broadway.

Extra Dry Cabinet of HONANON at ACKER, HERRICK & GONDREY, 474 Second Street and Broadway.

Fancy Groceries, Table Luxuries, ENGLISH PICKLES and SAUCES, CANNED GOODS, &c., at very low prices. H. B. KIRK & CO., 69 Fulton Street.

Holiday Books. The largest, cheapest and best collection of Holiday Books in the city at HENRY MILLER'S, Bookbinder, Bookdealer and Importer of Fine Illustrated and Standard Books, 25 Nassau Street, New York, between John and Fulton streets.

Pates Potes Gras (La. Henry, Strasbourg, French Conserves, ENGLISH ORGERS, &c., &c., just received for sale by BENNY D. FELDER, 90 Broadway, New York.

SLAVERY IN CUBA.

Special Herald Report from Havana.

INTERVIEW WITH COLONEL ZULUETA.

The Slaveowners Preparing for Emancipation by a Gradual Process.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

HAVANA, Dec. 20. Via Key West, Dec. 21, 1873.

In an interview had with Señor Zulueta, President of the Casino Español, and one of the largest slaveowners on the island, your correspondent learned that the disposition of the majority of the slaveholders are in favor of the abolition of slavery after a gradual plan.

GO SLOWER.

He says that they recognize the necessity of abolition, and propose a plan for its gradual accomplishment, so that no sudden shock or disturbance may occur to the interests involved.

DOING TO CIRCUMSTANCES.

Señor Zulueta owns 2,500 slaves, and is prepared to accept the issue at the hands of the government at Madrid, believing that it is only a question of time when complete emancipation must occur in deference to the opinion of the civilized world.

WHAT PROLONGS THE INSURRECTION.

He thinks the insurrection would have been long since crushed if it had not been for the venality of the contractors and others in the conduct of public affairs.

THE LAW-ABIDING VOLUNTEERS.

While there are some unscrupulous spirits among the volunteers he believes the majority are orderly and law abiding. He holds that they showed this trait of character in the quietude of their demeanor on the surrender of the Virginus.

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