

Are not the Mexicans in possession of their own? [That is it; good!] Does not Mexico, while exercising her sovereignty and choosing a prince for Emperor, perform an act of legitimate sovereignty? Is it a fact that there are any circumstances to constitute the Emperor of Mexico a mere lieutenant of the Emperor of the French? [That is clear enough.]

Let us, therefore, exclude those offensive and irritating expressions from our language. [Good!] The Emperor of Mexico is sovereign by the will of the Mexican people, and America will respect that will. Why should she not respect it? From the order, from the regularity, from the commercial prosperity of Mexico, America will derive more profit than any other nation. She it is who will most advantageously work out these industrial and commercial relations; she it is who will be able to send to the rich diggings of Sonora and Sinaloa the superfluous portion of her population to carry thither at once both labor and wealth. That which we might anticipate in our considerations, if such an anticipation should be entertained by serious and exalted minds, is in regard to the circumstances, necessary in the future, of a deep intimacy between Mexico and the United States of America. Therefore, America does not threaten the Emperor of Mexico, and that sovereign can proceed in his course; he may continue his efforts to prepare the prosperity of his country, and to mark the near approach of that prosperity by selecting the day on which to separate himself from the French flag in order to allow it to return with glory to our midst. [Good!]

This question of Mexico is now exhausted.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 15, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 31st ultimo, transmitting translations of two discussions which have recently occurred in the corps legislatif of France, relative to Franco-Mexican affairs.

Thanking you for this attention, I have at the same time to acknowledge previous communications from you relating to the political condition of Mexico, which, with their accompanying documents, have contributed largely to my knowledge of passing events in that country. The notes, hitherto unanswered, are of the dates, respectively, of the 2d, 20th, 24th, and 26th February, and the 1st and 2d March last.

I beg to assure you of my high appreciation of the zeal and ability with which, from time to time, you have impressed this government as to the actual condition of the Mexican republic.

I avail myself of the occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

No. 12.—*Case of the Mexican brig Oriente.*

Mr. Barreda to Mr. Seward, (with two enclosures,) June 24, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Barreda, June 30, 1863.

Mr. Barreda to Mr. Seward.

NEWPORT, June 24, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a statement addressed to me by the Messrs. Echeverria & Co., of New York, agents of the owner of the Mexican schooner Oriente, with an account of the losses and damages which the latter claims.

Not knowing the antecedents of this affair, nor being in possession of documents relating to those losses and damages, my action is now limited to submitting to you the application of the claimant, trusting that you will give to it such just appreciation as it may deserve.

I reiterate to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration and respect.

F. L. BARREDA.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State of the United States, Washington, D. C.

To his Excellency FREDERICK L. BARREDA,
In charge of Mexican affairs:

The Mexican schooner Oriente, belonging to a citizen of and residing in Mexico, was seized and brought to the city of New Orleans in the month of June, 1862. The vessel was sent from that port to New York, where she arrived in the latter part of the same month.

A correspondence in relation to the schooner was had by his excellency Mr. Romero with his excellency Mr. Seward.

No libel or other proceedings in court were taken against the vessel, and, by direction of his excellency Mr. Seward, the schooner was discharged from custody about the middle of January of this year (1863) and delivered to us, the agents of the owner.

Mr. Seward informed Mr. Romero that the claim of the owner of the vessel for the damages he sustained could be ascertained by appraisers designated by the court, in case of the discharge of the vessel; but we are advised that, as the vessel was not brought into court in any manner, the court has no jurisdiction in the matter and will not assume any.

We, therefore, take the liberty of praying your excellency, in behalf of the owner of the vessel, to present to Mr. Seward the enclosed claim for damages, and request him to order the same paid.

We are your excellency's most obedient servants,

M. ECHEVERRIA & CO.,
Agents for the owners.

Claim of the owner of the Mexican schooner Oriente, for damages sustained by him by reason of the seizure of the vessel.

The vessel was seized June 18, 1862, and released from custody in January, 1863.

Loss of services of the vessel for seven months, at \$2,000 per month.....	\$14,000
Expenses of vessel and crew in New Orleans.....	1,000
Wages of captain and mate, board and passage to New York.....	1,000
Expense of sending home crew to Laguayra, there being no direct opportunity....	500
Legal expenses in New York and New Orleans.....	500
Damage and deterioration of cargo.....	3,000
Damages to vessel, and expenses to place her in the same condition as when seized	2,000
Goods and articles missing from vessel.....	300
Charges of agent in New York.....	1,000
	23,300

M. ECHEVERRIA & CO.,
Agents for the owners.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Barreda.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, June 30, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 24th instant, with the accompanying memorial of Messieurs. Echeverria & Company, of New York, agents of the owners of the Mexican brig Oriente, supplemental to one heretofore forwarded to this department on the 20th No-

vember, 1862, together with a statement of the items of which the alleged claim is made up, which will be duly adjusted when similar claims of American citizens against Mexico are considered.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you renewed assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

* Señor Don FEDERICO L. BARREDA, &c., &c., &c.,
Washington.

No. 13.—*Case of the Mexican brig Brillante.*

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, March 6, 1862, (with one enclosure.)
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, March 12, 1862, (with two enclosures.)
Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, June 23, 1862, (with two enclosures.)
Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero July 14, 1862.
Same to same, August 4, 1862, (with one enclosure.)

Mr. Romero to Mr Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, March 6, 1862.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to remit to you copy of a letter addressed by Messrs. Riera and Thébaud, merchants, of New York, to the Mexican consul at that port, upon the capture by United States cruisers of the Mexican brig Brillante, owned by Messrs. Preciat & Gual, of Campeachy.

I beg you, sir, to communicate to me the official statements which the government of the United States may have about the circumstances which occasioned the capture of the said brig, and the situation in which the business now is, for the information of the parties interested, and that the legation may gather from those reports what may be advisable for the protection of the property of Mexican citizens.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

NEW YORK, February 27, 1862.

DEAR SIR: We have the honor to enclose a confidential letter from his excellency the President of Mexico to the Mexican minister at Washington, relative to the claim of Messrs. Preciat and Gual against the government of the United States, arising out of the capture and condemnation of the Mexican schooner Brillante, with her cargo, for alleged violation of blockade, and also a letter from those gentlemen to the same. As you are aware, Messrs. Preciat and Gual are Mexican citizens, engaged in commercial affairs at Campeachy, (Yucatan,) and were the owners of said vessel and cargo at the time of their capture. They insist that the seizure and condemnation in question are illegal. We are not aware whether the grounds of imputed illegality appear in the proceedings of the prize court at Key West, or not. We beg leave to request you to place the matter in charge of the Mexican embassy at

Washington, and to make known to us what steps it will be necessary to take in behalf of the claimants in order to present their case to the favorable consideration of both governments.

* We remain, dear sir, your obedient servants,

RIERA & THÉBAUD.

Señor D. JOSÉ MARIA DURAN,
Mexican Consul.

A true copy:

M. ROMERO.

WASHINGTON, March 6, 1862.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 12, 1862.

SIR: Having communicated to the Secretary of the Navy a translation of your note of the 6th instant, with a copy of the letter of Messrs. Riera and Thébaud accompanying it, I have just received from him a letter upon the subject referred to, of which, and of its enclosure, I transmit you a copy.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor Don MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, March 11, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant and its enclosures, and to transmit herewith an extract from a report dated June 25, 1861, made to the flag-officer of the Gulf blockading squadron by Commander Melancton Smith, which contains all the information in the possession of the department in relation to the capture of the Mexican schooner Brillante by the United States steamer Massachusetts. I do not know what has been the result of the judicial proceedings in the case, as no information on that subject has been received by the department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GIDEON WELLES.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

[Extract.]
UNITED STATES STEAMER MASSACHUSETTS,
Off Pass à Loure, June 25, 1861.

SIR: I have to report that on the 23d instant I captured in Mississippi sound, with the boats belonging to the vessel, five schooners—four claiming to belong to a government not recognized by the United States, and having on board the flag adopted by the States that are in rebellion, and one, a Mexican vessel, from New Orleans, that has violated the blockade.

The Mexican schooner Brillante—cargo 600 barrels of flour, two dismantled guns, and one gun-carriage—had been warned off by the boarding officer of the steamer Brooklyn, and her register was properly indorsed. She cleared for New Orleans four days after the expiration of the notice given to neutral vessels to depart.

* * * * *
These vessels were sent forward to Key West.

* * * * *
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MELANCTON SMITH, *Commander.*

Flag-Officer WILLIAM MERVINE,
United States Navy.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, June 23, 1862.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to lay before you copy of a letter which I have received from Messrs. Preciat & Gual, of Campeachy, owners, loading the Mexican brig *Brillante*, which was captured on the 23d June of the year last past, in the neighborhood of New Orleans, in which they explain the reasons why the brig left the port four days after the period limited. From this letter it appears that, although, speaking absolutely, it might be said that the brig *Brillante* had violated the blockade from the circumstances indicated of leaving New Orleans four days after the expiration of the time given to neutrals to pass freely, for which, most technically, she was condemned by the court at Key West, there are very important considerations in favor of the good faith of the owners of the vessel, which, perhaps, would determine the government of the United States to grant them an indemnity for the losses they would suffer in consequence of the capture of the vessel, and the judgment of the court. The parties interested estimate that seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-two dollars and twenty six cents is the amount of the loss suffered, as appears in the account which I also send in copy.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to you, sir, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *Sec., Sec., Sec.*

[Translation.]

CAMPEACHY, May 12, 1862.

DEAR SIR: By your very obliging letter, dated 30th of March last past, we are apprised of the date when you received the documents relating to the capture of our Mexican packet-boat *Brillante*, and that on the same day you addressed a note to the Secretary of the Department of State in relation thereto, of which you sent me a copy, as well as of the reply had, which you likewise sent to the Mexican consul at New York, that he might confer with Messrs. Riera and Thébaud, of that city, indicating what was suitable to be done to obtain the restoration of the vessel, or the value. We greatly appreciate your proceedings, and do not doubt, with your aid, to attain a good result.

The narration of the facts which caused the capture, for which you call upon us, should be found judicially set forth in the report from the court at Key West, where the judgment of *good prize*, founded on the declaration of blockade, and the excess of four days over the term granted for neutrals to pass freely, was given. The commander of the United States steamer *Massachusetts* makes reference to the term, "exceeded by four days," in his note, dated on board his ship, the 25th of June, 1861. In fact, the term set for neutrals was exceeded, and this may be a legal support of the sentence, but not a just one; for, if attention be given to the antecedents, which might have happened in each case, many, as well as ourselves, would be absolved. Don Rafael Preciat, our partner, had gone with the vessel with the single purpose of visiting his sons, who were at the college at Spring Hill, for which he set out on arrival at New Orleans, and where he was when the publication of the term limited for neutrals was made; and as, by his absence, the vessel could not be despatched by the consignees, it was necessary to wait for him. When he got back, the time limited, of which he knew nothing, had passed—no other recourse remaining to him than to hasten off from New Orleans; but before getting to sea he desired to speak one of the cruisers, and, in fact, he gave the order to come to anchor off the bay of Velopsi, where he could have taken refuge if he had had any fear, when he saw a boat coming, which he waited for in confidence, thinking he had accomplished his wish, but by which he was captured and taken to Key West. This is all that happened. Now you will understand whether the lapse of four days over time fixed for neutrals was a sufficient foundation for the sentence.

In our note of losses sent to Messrs. Riera and Thébaud we have not sought to add more expenses than we really and truly have disbursed; so much so, that the vessel, costing us

much more than the sum at which she was bought in, we having been the purchasers, we have not desired to fix a higher sum than what we have disbursed to make us good for the vessel, as you will inform yourself by the copy we have the honor to send herewith, leaving to your discretion to alter it for or against us if it should be judged proper and equitable.

We have the honor to repeat that we are your very obedient servants,
PRECIAT & GUAL.

Señor Don MATIAS ROMERO, *Washington.*

A true copy:

ROMERO.

WASHINGTON, June 23, 1862.

Expenses incurred at Key West in the matter of the Mexican pilot-boat Brillante and her cargo, which was brought as prize into that port by an armed force of the United States of America in July, 1861.

Paid into court for value of said vessel and cargo, as per appraisal.....	\$3,820 00
Paid to same for costs, per receipt.....	200 00
Paid to defendants' counsel, per receipt.....	100 00
Paid to English and Spanish consuls for protests, &c., there being no Mexican consul.....	30 71
Paid the pilot for taking the vessel out.....	20 00
Provisions used by the crew of said schooner, and officers and seamen of the United States who were in charge and remained on board at Key West.....	242 77
Costs of clerk of court, per receipt.....	35 60
Paid Messrs. W. H. Will & Co., commissions.....	149 95
Wages paid crew of said schooner.....	246 36
Expenses of hotel for captain and passengers.....	150 00
Damage to tackle and sails, appraised by experts.....	300 00
Damage to cargo, by detention at Key West, on 600 barrels of flour, per account sales.....	2,436 87
Total.....	7,732 26

PRECIAT & GUAL.

CAMPEACHY, August 20, 1861.

A true copy:

ROMERO.

WASHINGTON, June 23, 1862.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, July 14, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 23d ultimo, with its enclosures, relative to the case of the *Brillante*, and to inform you that I have called on the United States district attorney at Key West for a report in the case, upon receipt of which the subject will receive due consideration.

I avail myself of this occasion to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor Don MATIAS ROMERO, *Sec., Sec., Sec.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 4, 1862.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 14th July, in answer to your communication of the 23d June last, I have the honor to transmit you, herewith, a copy

of the report made to this department by the United States district attorney at Key West, Florida, setting forth the facts in relation to the seizure and condemnation of the Mexican schooner *Brillante*, libelled July 20, 1861.

From this report you will perceive that the case is now pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, the claimant having appealed from the decision of the district court, while the vessel and cargo have been bonded, and are now in his possession.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor DON MATIAS ROMERO, *yc., yc., yc.*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,
Key West, Florida, July 24, 1862.

SIR: Your letter of the 14th instant, requesting a brief report of the decision of the court in the case of the Mexican schooner *Brillante*, is received.

The vessel was libelled as prize on the 20th of July, 1861. The evidence of the owner of the vessel, and the other witnesses, showed that the vessel's papers were indorsed with notice of the blockade by the boarding officer from the blockading vessel at the mouth of the Mississippi river. After this formal warning the vessel succeeded in getting to New Orleans by way of Lake Pontchartrain, where she proceeded to take in a load of flour. She was taken coming out.

No point except that of the authority of the President to establish the blockade was argued in this court. A decree of condemnation was rendered; the claimant appealed to the supreme court, and bonded the vessel and cargo and took them into his possession. The appeal is now pending in the supreme court.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS J. BOYNTON,
United States Attorney.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

No. 14.

Correspondence of Legations of the United States on Mexican affairs.

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, January 23, 1863, (with one enclosure.)
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, March 11, 1863.
Same to same, April 9, 1863.
Same to same, April 24, 1863, (with one enclosure.)
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, April 24, 1863.
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, April 27, 1863.
Same to same, May 1, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, May 8, 1863.
Same to same, May 18, 1863.
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, May 29, 1863.
Same to same, May 29, 1863.
Same to same, June 11, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, June 12, 1863.
Same to same, June 12, 1863.
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, June 17, 1863, (with one enclosure.)
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, June 26, 1863, (with one enclosure.)
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, July 2, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, July 17, 1863.
Same to same, July 25, 1863.
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, August 21, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, August 31, 1863.
Same to same, September 7, 1863.
Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, September 14, 1863.
Same to same, September 16, 1863.
Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, September 21, 1863.

Same to same, September 22, 1863, (with three enclosures.)

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, September 25, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, September 26, 1863.

Same to same, October 5, 1863.

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward, October 9, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, October 10, 1863.

Same to same, October 23, 1863.

Same to same, October 28, 1863.

Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys to Mr. Mercier, September 15, 1863.

Mr. Pike to Mr. Seward, August 19, 1863.

Same to same, September 2, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Pike, September 5, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Perry, September 21, 1863.

Mr. Motley to Mr. Seward, August 17, 1862, (with one enclosure.)

Mr. Seward to Mr. Motley, September 11, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Motley, September 26, 1863.

Same to same, October 9, 1863.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Nelson, June 19, 1862.

Mr. Nelson to Mr. Seward, September 1, 1862, (with one enclosure.)

Mr. Nelson to Mr. Seward, September 17, 1862, (with one enclosure.)

Mr. Thayer to Mr. Seward, January 9, 1863.

Same to same, January 12, 1863.

Same to same, January 27, 1863.

Mr. Dayton to Mr. Seward.

[Extract.]

No. 258.]

PARIS, *January 23, 1863.*

SIR: I beg to enclose to you an extract from the *Moniteur* of this morning. I learned yesterday from our consul general at Alexandria, Mr. Thayer, that his highness the viceroy had put on board the French frigate *La Sine*, on the night of the 7th instant, several hundred negro soldiers, taken from Dalfour and Nubia, destined to join the French military expedition against Mexico. The *Moniteur* of this morning admits this to be so, and says that they are taken because the black race is not subject to the yellow fever, and that they are destined to be placed in garrison at Vera Cruz.

* * * * *

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM L. DAYTON.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c.

From the "Moniteur" of Paris, January 23, 1863

[Translation—Bulletin.]

In consequence of the report that the viceroy of Egypt had placed a battalion of Egyptians at the disposal of the Emperor, the British press has suffered itself to indulge in suppositions which it is proper to correct. The following is the fact: Experience having taught, in the case of the negro companies from our West India possessions sent to Vera Cruz, that the negro race was not subject, like the white race, to the influence of yellow fever, the Emperor has asked from the viceroy, not the permission to recruit soldiers, as the British government did during the war in the Indies, but the temporary transfer (*cession*) of a negro regiment of 1,200 men, fully organized, with its officers and non-commissioned officers. The viceroy was unable, for the time being, to dispose of more than 450 men, who are to do garrison duty at Vera Cruz. This measure, adopted in a sense of humanity, cannot give rise to the least criticism.