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NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9, 1854.

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THE DAILY BEE.

☞ FOR STEAMBOAT DEPARTURES, SEE FRENCH SIDE.

Wednesday Morning, August 9, 1854.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

In answer to the resolution of Congress calling on the President for information relative to our difficulties with Spain, the Executive transmitted on the 1st instant, the subjoined message:

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Aug. 1st, 1854.

I hasten to respond, briefly, to the resolution of the Senate of this date, requiring the President to inform the Senate, if in his opinion it be not incompatible with the public interest, whether anything has arisen since the date of his message to the House of Representatives of the 16th of March last, concerning our relations with the Government of Spain, which in his opinion may dispose with the suggestions therein contained touching the propriety of provisional measures by Congress to meet any exigency that may arise in the course of Congress, affecting those relations.

In the Message to the House of Representatives referred to, I availed myself of the occasion to present the following reflections and suggestions: "In view of the position of the Island of Cuba, its proximity to our coast, the relations which it most ever bear to our commercial and other interests, it is safe to expect that a series of unfriendly acts infringing our commercial rights, and the adoption of a policy threatening the honor and security of these States, can long exist with peaceful relations. In case the measures taken for the amicable adjustment of our difficulties with Spain should unfortunately fail, I shall not hesitate to use the authority and means which Congress may grant to insure the observance of our just rights, to obtain redress for injuries received, and to vindicate the honor of our flag. In anticipation of such contingency, which I earnestly hope may not arise, I suggest to Congress the propriety of adopting such provisional measures as the exigency may seem to demand."

The two Houses of Congress may have anticipated that the hope then expressed would be realized before the period of their adjournment, and that our relations with Spain would have assumed a satisfactory condition, so as to remove just cause of complaint and afford better security, tranquility and justice in the future; but I am constrained to say that such is not the fact. The formal demand for immediate reparation in the case of the Black Warrior, instead of having been met on the part of Spain by prompt satisfaction, has only served to call forth a justification of the local authorities of Cuba, and thus to transfer the responsibility for the wrong done to our citizens from themselves to their Government. Meanwhile, information not only reliable in character, but of an official character was received, to the effect that preparation was making in the limits of the United States by private individuals under military organization, to invade the Island of Cuba, with a force sufficient to effect a colony from the dominion of Spain. International comity, the obligations of neutrality, the express provisions of law alike forbid this judgment, that all the constituted authorities of the Executive should be exert all to prevent the consummation of such a violation of our sovereignty, and of that good faith on which mainly the amicable relations of neighboring nations must depend. In conformity with these convictions of public duty a proclamation was issued to warn all persons not to participate in the contemplated enterprise, and to invoke the interposition in this behalf of the proper officers of the Government. No provocation whatever can justify private expeditions of hostility against a country at peace with the United States. The power to declare war is vested in Congress, and the experience of our past history leaves no room to doubt that the wisdom of this arrangement of the war power will continue to be verified whenever the national interest and honor shall demand it. Pending negotiations by the Executive, it is not to be expected that Congress, individually, can be permitted to embarrass the operation of the law, and usurp the powers of the Executive, by the assumption of the functions of Government. I have only to add that no blog has taken place the date of my former Message to the Senate with the observations therein contained, touching the propriety of provisional measures by Congress.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

Washington, August 1, 1854.

This message is termed by the *Union* "clear, concise and significant." Concise it certainly is; of its clearness and significance are not so clear by rather than official optics. To us the message seems remarkably inexplicit, unnecessary and abrupt. The President vanishes from the question whatever beyond the fact that the controversy with Spain remains unsettled. He does not state what progress has been made in negotiations. He refrains from the remotest hint as to the prospective purchase of Cuba. He contents himself with a declaration that Spain is alone responsible for the outrage on our commercial and other interests, and thereupon takes occasion to affirm that nothing has occurred in derogation of the suggestions embraced in his message of the 16th March last. This is indeed exceedingly clear—we should say too much.

Not with the express design of mystifying and baffling Congress, Mr. PIERCE travels out of the record to defend his proclamation and denounce filibusterism. We are at a loss to conceive why one half of this "concise" message should have been occupied with the repetition of long hackneyed dogmas of international law and justified the issue of the anti-filibustering proclamation. The President seems desirous of leaving as little as possible of the matter in doubt. He gives a view of all the facts he deems interpolated therein the dull commentary to which we refer. There can, it is to be hoped, be no well-bred objection to the mention of facts which induced the President to issue that proclamation, or to a rehash of the principles of international comity which underlies to prevent lawless raids upon a friendly power. *Per se*, this is right and proper, but the document before us it is out of place, and is one unnecessary and uncalled for.

The President evidently wishes Congress to vote a matter ten millions of dollars to be used by the Executive in any way that may arise in the contemplation. Whether the National Legislature has yielded to his solicitation may be questioned. We trust it has declined vesting any such authority in the Executive. As Mr. PIERCE has given no intimation whatever of the purpose for which it would be required, Congress would be entirely justified in withholding the amount. It may well be asked of what public use would be ten millions of dollars in the settlement of our difficulties with Spain? It could not purchase Cuba—it Cuba be purchasable. It might come under the head of secret service money, but we are yet to learn that it could be profitably employed to bribe the authorities of Spain to consent to sell the Spanish colony in the Antilles. The communication of the President affords no warrant to Congress for the appropriation; and as the National Legislature holds the purse strings, it may rest confidently and rightly demand of Mr. PIERCE a statement of the objects for which the money is required. Congress has a claim upon the confidence of the Executive for the exercise of the trust. We trust it has declined vesting any such authority in the Executive. As Mr. PIERCE has given no intimation whatever of the purpose for which it would be required, Congress would be entirely justified in withholding the amount. It may well be asked of what public use would be ten millions of dollars in the settlement of our difficulties with Spain? It could not purchase Cuba—if Cuba be purchasable. It might come under the head of secret service money, but we are yet to learn that it could be profitably employed to bribe the authorities of Spain to consent to sell the Spanish colony in the Antilles. The communication of the President affords no warrant to Congress for the appropriation; and as the National Legislature holds the purse strings, it may rest confidently and rightly demand of Mr. PIERCE a statement of the objects for which the money is required. Congress has a claim upon the confidence of the Executive, individually, to be permitted to embarrass the operation of the law, and usurp the powers of the Executive, by the assumption of the functions of Government. I have only to add that no blog has taken place the date of my former Message to the Senate with the observations therein contained, touching the propriety of provisional measures by Congress.

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