

On the 9th of January, I had scarcely taken my seat in the executive chair when the whole league arose in an armed insurrection, and *coup de main*, took possession of the supreme court, arsenal, and stations of the metropolitan police, all located at the capital. Then came orders from President Grant establishing the *statu quo*, the practical effect of which was to confirm the insurgents in the advantages they had gained and prevent any effort to dispossess them on the inauguration of President Hayes. The State authorities made preparations to organize a militia force for the defense of the State government. Gen. Nicholls' police seized upon the recruiting officers and imprisoned them for treason, without the benefit of ball or writ of *habeas corpus*. I telegraphed this fact to Pres. Hayes, asking him if this was a violation of the *statu quo*, and if not whether the release of these men by force, all civil remedies having been exhausted, would be so considered. The President replied, "Your dispatch of the 24th is received; the Secretary of War has telegraphed to General Augur. A commission will shortly visit Louisiana. In the meantime the President desires that the situation remain unchanged. The commission came. In the meantime the Nicholls government is crystallized into shape, and so far from permitting the situation to remain unchanged it had broken into the tax collector's office of the city and taken forcible control of the State institutions, and had strengthened itself on all sides. Notwithstanding this, however, the commission found the legal legislature still in session at the State House, and my title unassailed and unassailable except by the forced result of their labors. During the two weeks they remained here it is known that they indicted a number of members of the legal house of representatives to take seats in the Nicholls house, thus giving it a returning board quorum. Prior to the meeting of the legislature the democrats claimed to have elected only sixty members of the house, one less than a quorum. In order to obtain the appearance of an organization, they were compelled to call three men whose election had not been previously claimed. The enquiry, therefore, seems pertinent in this connection, of the returning board quorum was so effectual for Nicholls' claim, why was it that such a quorum was ignored while it remained faithful to the legal government of the State? That government had a returning board quorum from the day on which the General Assembly convened, and the legislature, duly organized, remained in legal existence till disintegrated by the action of the commission. This result having been achieved, it is a matter of record that congratulatory messages were exchanged between the President and his commission. On the following day the President directed that the United States troops should be removed to their barracks. The troops had been placed there by President Grant, without the call of the Governor, to protect the returning board while counting the vote for President.

I believe had the legal government been recognized it could have sustained itself without the intervention of the troops; but the order for the withdrawal clearly indicated that the moral support which the legal government of Louisiana should have received from the national administration would be denied. Had the General Assembly continued in session at the State House, I should have deemed it my duty to have asserted and defended the government to the last; but with the legislature disintegrated, and no prospect of present success, I cannot task your tried fidelity by asking you longer to continue to aid in the struggle I have thus far maintained. I therefore announce to you that I am compelled to abstain for the present from all active assertion of my government. I waive no legal rights, but yield only to superior force. I am not wholly discouraged by the fact that one by one the republican State governments of the south have been forced to succumb to force or fraud or policy. Louisiana, the first State rehabilitated after the war, is the last State whose government thus falls, and I believe it will be among the first to raise itself again to the plane of equal and honest representation. I advise that you maintain your party organization and

continue to battle for the rights of citizenship and free government. We strive for these and not for man or men. It grieves me beyond expression that the heroic efforts you have made and the cruel sufferings you have undergone to maintain republican principles in Louisiana have had this bitter ending. To those who have so gallantly stood by me in the long contest we have passed through, I tender my heartfelt thanks. To all I counsel peace, patience, fortitude, and a firm trust, that eventually right and justice will prevail.

(Signed), S. B. PACKARD,
Governor.

PORTLAND, Me., 25.—The Oriental Powder Mills Company, of Granby, have a contract nearly completed for a quarter of a million dollars' worth of powder for Russia.

FOREIGN.
PARIS, 21.—Paul D. Cassagnac has been sentenced to two months imprisonment and a fine of three thousand francs for insulting the public powers.

CONSTANTINOPLE, 22.—It is said that Layard, at an interview with Edhem and Safvet Pashas, on Saturday, censured the terms of the Porte's reply to the protocol, and reiterated the warning that England cannot support Turkey. It is said that he touched upon the question whether it was still possible to avert war, but it is believed the result of his interviews with the Turkish ministers and foreign charge d'affaires, especially with M. Nelidoff, the Russian representative, is that a pacific solution is impossible.

LONDON, 23.
A special to the *News* from Alexandria announces that the King of Abyssinia has released Mr. Mitchell, the American geographer, who has arrived at Massawat in a pitiable condition.

TOULON, 23.—The French government is forming a third division of the ironclads, a frigate and two corvettes, to proceed to the Levant for the protection of French subjects.

MADRID, 23.—Amnesty is proclaimed to all soldiers and officers who participated in the Carlist insurrection if they surrender in thirty days.

LONDON, 23.
A dispatch from Paris, to-night, states that Prince Orloff, the Russian ambassador, has received Gortschakoff's circular announcing Russia's reasons for declaring war. He proceeded to the French foreign office this afternoon to communicate the circular to the Duke de Cazes. The declaration of war is expected to-morrow.

The dispatch of the Grand Vizier to Prince Charles of Roumania has produced a great impression.

It is believed that Roumania intends to consult the guaranteeing powers as to her course.

The *Standard's* dispatch from Constantinople says Prince Gortschakoff's circular, containing the Russian ultimatum, has been presented to the Porte.

An immense crowd witnessed the removal of the Russian arms from the doors of the embassy.

The *Standard's* correspondent at Vienna says the Russian circular note, which arrived there, censures Safvet Pasha's recent note rejecting the protocol, from which it draws the conclusion that Russia finds herself under the necessity of proceeding single handed in order to realize the wishes of Europe. The Russian representatives abroad are instructed to declare verbally that Russia, although compelled by the course of events to take energetic measures, only intends to obtain guarantees for a thorough compliance with the demands of the great powers, resolved upon in the various conferences for the improvement of the condition of the Christians. Russia is not desirous of territorial aggrandizement.

General Milutine, Minister of War, and Adjutant General Prince Dolgoruki accompanied the Czar to Kischeneff. The Imperial suite consisted of 300 persons. Military attaches of the Austrian and German embassies followed of their own accord on the next train from St. Petersburg.

After the passage of the Pruth by the Russians, Abdul Kerim will send a large force of Circassians to destroy the railways.

Mrs. George S. Jackson, of Boston, is following the example set by Eugenie when Empress of the French, in collecting money for the redemption of articles pawned by the working people of the city.

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