CHILI.

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 86.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.
Santiago de Chili, October 31, 1867.

SIR: I have the honor to report that nothing of political importance has transpired at this capital since the date of my dispatch No. 82.

It is universally believed in Chili that Spain has no intention of resuming hostilities in the Pacific, and, with the exception of the work on the fortifications of Valparaiso, all warlike preparations have been suspended.

Public attention is wholly occupied with the proceedings of the national Congress respecting domestic affairs, and with the progress of the revolution in Peru.

I transmit herewith a copy of the Ferrocarril, newspaper of Santiago, containing the reports of an interesting discussion in Congress, relative to the negotiations by Chili for the purchase of vessels of war in the United States.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. KILPATRICK.

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

[Translation.]

Reply of Mr. Errazuriz, Minister of War, to Mr. Alemparte, Deputy from Chillan.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES,
Chili, October 24, 1867.

In this war with Spain, the cabinet is accused of double dealing: I will answer for it. They say we have deceived the country and our allies, by pretending zeal and activity in the purchase of vessels and munitions of war, while we refused to buy powerful vessels that were offered to us, ordering our agents privately not to purchase, but rescind his contracts, to the loss of vast sums of money to the country.

This is confirmed, they say, by the rescission of the contracts for the purchase of the Dunderberg and Idaho from the United States, which rescissions were ordered by our government secretly. To confirm and strengthen these accusations, there is published an official note from the Peruvian minister to his government, in which the Chilian cabinet is grossly calumniated. An explanation satisfied both governments, and the sole blame was attached to the Peruvian diplomat. (Called to order.)

I will not detail the efforts made by the government to purchase ships when the war began; this is well known. You all remember that Mr. Lastarria declared positively, in a speech here, not long ago, that the government had made every effort to purchase vessels for our defense. We did get two vessels, now in our ports, and if they were not as strong as we wanted, they were the best we could get for our money. And now the government is blamed for buying those vessels! If we had purchased the famous Dunderberg, these cavilers would have blamed us for it, as they do now. What could we have done with the enormous vessel, of complicated machinery, estimated at three millions of dollars? Immense sums would have been required to keep it in order, and then we would have had to build a special dock to keep it in repair.

Now I will let official documents speak for me. The eloquent language of facts will be sufficient to show what interest the government took in preparing for the crisis, and how anxious its agents were to purchase the kind of vessels required.

On the 1st of May, 1866, the minister of marine addressed this note to Mr. Carvallo, our minister in London:

"SIR: The government wishes to acquire the means of putting an end to this war

with Spain as soon as possible. We have positive information that there are two light vessels in good condition for sale in England, the N——, and another of equal or superior power. The government charges you to buy these two vessels, as well as the iron-clad Denmark, and send them to the Pacific immediately.

"You know, as the war increases, the difficulties of obtaining means to carry it on will increase, and we must, if possible, have forces stronger than any Spain can bring against us.

"Convinced of this, the government desires you to secure these elements, as soon as possible; for without them, we cannot avenge the wrongs that Spain has already inflicted upon the republic.

"The government confides in your patriotism, and places the destiny of the country in your hands. You are restricted to no limits in the execution of this charge.

"Though it is scarcely necessary to suggest to you the best way to effect this, yet it may be well to recommend you to avoid all officers of the navy, and others known to the spies of our enemies. You will know how to get these vessels out; and be sure not to let any of our naval officers return in them, even as passengers.

"Send the guns for our sloops in the vessels mentioned, or in any vessels that will be sure to land them in any of the ports of the republic. Be sure the guns are concealed in a dry place, where rust will not attack them.

"I repeat that the government must have the three vessels mentioned, or our honor will go unavenged. Our duty demands this, and the world expects it of us.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO."

On the 9th of May, the order was repeated in these terms:

"I gave you positive orders by the last steamer, in the name of the government, to purchase the iron-clad Denmark, and the N——, and another of the same size, for sale in England.

"I now repeat the order to buy the three vessels, as they are needed for the prompt termination of this war. It is scarcely necessary to tell you that the country depends upon you for its safety; act with energy and judgment and you will gratify the country and the government. We also need muskets: buy those you mentioned and send them to any port in Chili.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO."

Here is another letter of the same date, to the same address:

"A screw steamer in Glasgow, called the N——, built for a privateer, has been offered to the government. Instruct Commander Salcedo to examine it, before Mr. Edwards's agents make an offer for it.

"If found suitable, tell the agents to buy it and send it to one of the southern ports in the republic.

"Your duty, then, in this case, is to have the vessel examined by a proper person, and then inform Edwards of the decision rendered by the inspectors.

"If you have not already shipped the guns for the sloops, you may forward them in the vessel if you think it safe to do so.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO."

Thanks to our intelligent agents, the vessels we had contracted for began to arrive in Chili about that time, and the government soon saw that they were not large enough to contend with the Spanish squadron, though they might prove very useful as transports and dispatch-boats, and might render some service in harassing the enemy. Needing no more vessels of that kind, the government instructed its agents not to get any more so small, but to purchase some strong and powerful ones.

On the 2d of June, the government, through the minister of foreign relations, wrote thus to Mr. Vicuña Mackenna:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 2, 1866.

"I must inform you that we do not want any more iron steamers like the Isabella, and we regret the contract you have already made. I send you these instructions, in case you have not left the country, as I desired you to do.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"To Mr. BENJAMIN V. MACKENNA,
"*Confidential Agent of the Government of Chili*
"*in the United States of North America.*"

On the same day Mr. Astaburuaga was addressed as follows:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 2, 1866.

"What our navy needs is light vessels, strongly built, with good guns, as I have

often said to you. The Isabella, a side-wheel iron steamer, will not suit us. You will therefore refrain from purchasing any more iron steamers, not even propellers, that are not suitable for war purposes.

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"Don FRANCISCO S. ASTABURUAGA,
"Chilian Chargé d'Affaires in the United States of North America."

This dispatch was sent the same day to Mr. Rodriguez:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 2, 1866.

"The disappointment in not getting the iron-clad from Denmark is annoying. We hope you will use all your skill and energy in removing the difficulties in the way.

"I renew my former instructions to Mr. Carvallo about the steamers, N. and N., and hope you will use your best endeavors to effect their purchase. We need strong vessels, and must spare no sacrifice to obtain them.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"To Mr. A. RODRIGUEZ,
"Secret Agent of the Chilian Government in Great Britain."

The next is a communication of the same date, addressed to Mr. Carvallo:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 2, 1866.

"Your dispatches 77 and 78, dated the 14th and 15th of April last, have been received. I regret that you have not yet purchased the Denmark iron-clad. The chief, if not the only difficulty, is the want of funds, as the £450,000 loan comes in too late. You applied to Baring Brothers to remedy this; it is a great pity it was not done sooner. We leave the selection of the officer who is to command the vessel to you. I repeat my instructions for the purchase of the steamers ——— and ———, which you mentioned to the minister of marine. Hurry in this, I beg you. We hope the Henrietta will arrive safely. We have not yet heard of the arrival of the Peruvian iron-clads Huascar and Independencia.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"To Mr. MANUEL CARVALLO,
"Minister Plenipotentiary of Chili in Great Britain."

On the 16th of June this letter was sent to the same minister:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 16, 1866.

"We are glad to hear, from your last, that you will succeed in purchasing the Denmark. The purchase money, £60,000, was furnished by the Barings, you say.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"To MANUEL CARVALLO,
"Minister Plenipotentiary of Chili in Great Britain."

Here is a similar letter, of the same date, to Mr. Rodriguez:

"SANTIAGO, *June* 16, 1866.

"We are grieved that you have not yet secured the Denmark. Perhaps you may yet succeed, by adopting the plan proposed by the agent employed for that business. That is what Mr. Carvallo proposes.

"Yours, &c.,

"ALVARO COVARRUBIAS.

"To Mr. A. RODRIGUEZ,
"Secret Agent of the Government of Chili in Great Britain."

The minister of marine wrote thus to Mr. Astaburuaga:

"No. 1409.] SANTIAGO, *July* 2, 1866.

"Although you have succeeded in purchasing the magnificent $850,000 vessel, I wish you to try for others of the same class, either of iron or wood. You need not get any more small vessels, we have enough; but we need strong vessels, ships of the line or iron-clads. Choose the largest kind, and try to purchase them, *no matter at what cost;* I do not limit you to number or price. The republic must have a strong naval force to repel the enemy, and it must be got *regardless of expense.* Similar instructions are sent to our agents, and to Mr. ———.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO.

"To Mr. FRANCISCO SOLANO ASTABURUAGA,
"Chargé d'Affaires of Chili in the United States."

Here is a letter to Mr. Rodriguez from the same source, and of the same date:

"SANTIAGO, *July* 2, 1866.

"The government has determined to purchase only first-class vessels. You will therefore confine your attention to the acquisition of frigates and iron-clads. Small vessels will be of no use to us. I must also inform you that the artillery needed for our vessels and fortifications must be English, and of first-class, and of these dimensions: Fifteen of 150, fifteen of 100, and thirty of 70. I send the order for the purchase of this artillery to-day, to our minister in England, in case you are not there.

"The government implicitly trusts in you for the faithful execution of this order, for the fortunate conclusion of this war will depend much on our agents in Europe.

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO.

"MR. A. RODRIGUEZ,
"*The Confidential Agent of Chili in England.*"

The minister of foreign affairs wrote to Mr. Carvallo as follows:

"SANTIAGO, *July* 9, 1866.

"The government has bought four vessels in the United States, two of which ought to be here now, and the other two must have started by this time. As we have enough small vessels, you are instructed to negotiate only for the ———, if you have not contracted for the two you mentioned. The government regrets the failure of the Denmark purchase, but hopes you will succeed in getting strong vessels suitable for war purposes. We wish to be avenged for the bombardment of Valparaiso. Use all your efforts to procure proper vessels, and send them on directly. Send us the cannons you got for the Valparaiso forts, and all others you may get for the other forts and vessels. In addition to those ordered, we want ten Armstrong or Blakely guns for ship use, which you will send without delay. All the artillery you get must load by the muzzle.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ M. PINTO."

On the same day this letter was addressed to Mr. Rodriguez:

"SANTIAGO, *July* 9, 1866.

"The fact that only small vessels have been purchased up to this time compels the government to instruct you to get large ones. Give your entire attention to this business. I know you will have much trouble in securing such vessels, as they are scarce, but the government trusts in your ability in being able to obtain them. We want to put an end to this war, in which our honor is concerned. I must also inform you that the artillery must be of the best kind, and you will be sure to send it out as soon as you possibly can.

"Yours, &c.,

"JOSÉ MANUEL PINTO.

"MR. A. RODRIGUEZ,
"*Confidential Agent of Chili in England.*"

On the 20th June, the following note from Mr. Carvallo was received by the minister of marine:

"LEGATION OF CHILI IN GREAT BRITAIN,
"*London, June* 30, 1866.

"MR. MINISTER: In reply to yours of the 16th May, I have the honor to say: An offer was made to us yesterday of a new Turkish iron frigate of four thousand tons, armed with fourteen cannons of 150 and one of 300, because the Sultan could not pay for it. The cost price, £370,000, with interest, is all that is asked for it. At last dates our balance with Barings was £182,196 17 06, out of which I have already drawn £16,000, and will soon have to draw £20,000 more, besides £11,000 yet due for the sloop O'Higgins, which will reduce the account to £141,000. I have instructed Marino Benavente to offer £300,000 for the sloop, if it is such as it is represented. Needing a sum to rig and furnish it, we depend upon the £77,000 of the last loan for the first payment, and the balance in Peruvian bonds, such as were offered for the Denmark.

"Yours, &c.,

"MANUEL CARVALLO.

"THE MINISTER OF MARINE."

Mr. Seward to Mr. Kilpatrick.

No. 52.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, December 7, 1867.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos. 84, 85, and 86, of the 31st of October last, with their inclosures. In the latter you report that it is universally believed in Chili that Spain has no intention of resuming hostilities in the Pacific. It is ardently hoped by this government that the anticipation may prove to be well founded.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JUDSON KILPATRICK, Esq., *&c.. &c., &c.*

Mr. Seward to Mr. Kilpatrick.

No. 55.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, January 15, 1868.

SIR: On the 11th day of June last I had the honor to make known to you, for the information of the government of Chili, that the modifications which that government proposed of the proposition of the United States, for mediation by them in the war opened between Spain and the allied republics of the Pacific, would be communicated to the government of the Queen of Spain for its consideration, and that whatever reply should be made by the Spanish government would be without delay announced to Chili and her allies. It happened, through a deficiency of attention in this department, that no such communication to the Spanish government, as I had promised, was immediately made, although the modifications suggested by the republics of the Pacific were informally mentioned to the minister from Spain here, and by him communicated to his government.

When the omission had been discovered I presented the matter to the Spanish government in due form. In consequence of the delay that thus occurred, it is only just now that I have received the formal reply of the Spanish government. This answer is, that Spain cannot concur in the modifications which the allied republics propose, and that those modifications are regarded as antagonistical to the project which was initiated by this government for the settlement of peace. The Spanish government, however, leaves it for the United States to determine when the good offices which they have been conducting between the belligerents shall cease. I am thus rendered able to submit for the consideration of the allied republics the question whether they desire to make any further communication to the United States in promoting a concurrence of views. Should those republics answer in the negative, the President, on receiving information to that effect, will announce to the several belligerents his conviction that the good offices of the United States, by way of mediation, may be regarded as no longer promising a favorable conclusion, and that those good offices may on both sides be regarded as coming to an end.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JUDSON KILPATRICK, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 99.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Santiago de Chili, February 1, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the unhappy events in Peru, which recently culminated in the overthrow of the constitutional government, have produced a profound impression in Chili, and threaten to involve the States of this coast in very embarrassing complications. You are aware of the remarkable decree of the Peruvian revolutionary chief, Canseco, dated in October last, in which all acts of the dictatorship of Colonel Prado are declared null and void. That decree has been reaffirmed by the revolutionists since their seizure of the government, and to all intents and purposes is now the law of Peru, as it was the corner-stone of the insurrection. Among the evils already suffered, and rapidly accumulating from such a complete repudiation of Peru's obligations to governments and individuals, are the violent disruption of the alliance with Chili, Bolivia, and Ecuador; and the disinclination approximating to a refusal of the new government to settle the pecuniary claims held by Chili against Peru, and whose payment was being urged previous to the overthrow of President Prado.

Chili's claims amount to several millions of dollars, of which her expenditures in maintaining the Peruvian squadron during the Spanish difficulties, and her interest in the loan recently contracted by Peru in the United States, form a considerable part. These items are in the category of the acts of the dictatorship repudiated by the new government. It is not apprehended that the other claims will be altogether repudiated, but there is little hope of their receiving favorable attention immediately, as the bitterness against Chili, which Castilla and his associate leaders of the revolution bore with them from their late exile in this country, has extended to all classes of the new party; and the friendly relations of Peru with Chili are regarded by the revolutionists with a chilling indifference that would require but little addition to precipitate the States recently in alliance into hostilities. So alive is Chili to the possibilities above referred to, that when the intelligence was received here of the success of the revolution, this government seriously considered the propriety of detaining the Peruvian iron-clad frigate Independencia and monitor Huascar, then in the bay of Valparaiso, as security for the payment of her just dues, and as a precautionary measure in view of the hostile attitude of the revolutionary government. Wiser counsels prevailed, however, and the vessels were permitted to depart for Callao.

From my experience and observation in these South American states I am of the opinion that a collision between Chili and Peru is not very imminent, although the aspect of the political horizon is ominous enough. Intestine disturbances are as common to most of these countries as are the periodical outbreaks on our western frontier; but while the Spanish Americans are ever plunging their own States into anarchy, they are slow to execute hostile threats against other governments. The total absence of sympathy between Chili and Peru at present, in connection with the claims above mentioned, may eventually bring on hostilities, but some time must elapse before such an unfortunate event can take place. In the mean time the new government of Peru may correct the mistake of the decree of repudiation, and afford an opportunity for harmonizing the discordant elements now widely separating the two countries.

I shall carefully observe the progress of the new relations about to be assumed, and shall keep you fully advised. If at any time it should

become evident that the good offices of the United States government might be quietly interposed between these States for the prevention of war, I shall devote myself with all the prudence that I am capable of to the accomplishment of so desirable an end.

Ex-President Prado, accompanied by Colonel La Torre, chief of the "Column of Honor," Colonel Ugarteche, father-in-law of the ex-President, and Captain Delboy, commander of the Peruvian war steamer Meteoro, arrived in Valparaiso in the United States steamer Nyack, commander Pendergrast, on the 20th ultimo. The Nyack touched at Caldera in her voyage from Callao, and the telegram received here on the 18th, announcing the approach of the deposed President, created much excitement, particularly in Valparaiso. The ex-President was received with acclamations of welcome by an immense concourse in Valparaiso, and has been the object of the most courteous attentions since his arrival. He proposes to engage in agricultural pursuits here; but this will probably be for a short time, as a revulsion is certain to take place in Peru within a year or eighteen months, and Colonel Prado will undoubtedly be placed at the head of the movement.

Should the present unfriendly feeling between Chili and the revolutionary government continue, Colonel Prado would, I am assured, receive material aid from this government as well as from the Chilian people at large, for regaining his position at the head of affairs in Peru. I have no doubt that within two years the ex-President will be re-established, and by his late experience enabled to avert, during his legitimate term of office, the calamities which his recent mild administration suffered to accumulate upon himself and the country. As an evidence of his innocence of corruption, a quality so rare in Peruvian officials, he arrives here quite poor, and is compelled to receive from Chili the pay of a general of her army, which rank was conferred upon him by this government soon after the battle of the 2d of May, 1866, at Callao.

The relations of Chili with Spain remain unchanged. The events in Peru have entirely overshadowed the Spanish-American question for the present, and it is difficult to forsee what new phase the subject may now assume.

Domestic affairs in Chili are perfectly quiet, and the country is prospering in the most encouraging manner.

The President of Chili being about to absent himself from Santiago for a month, by a visit to the Araucanian Territory in the south of the republic, and as all the ministers are preparing to spend the hot season, now just commencing, at the watering places and other fashionable resorts, I avail myself of the interim to visit the Andes. I propose spending about two weeks along the Cordillera, and on my return will endeavor to make to the department an interesting report of my observations.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK.

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

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 102.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Santiago de Chili, March 16, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report that since my dispatch No. 99, dated February 1st, relative to the relations between Chili and Peru, as affected

by the success of the revolution in the latter country, nothing of political importance has transpired here. The apprehensions of difficulties between this government and Peru, which existed at that time, have been materially dissipated by the manifestation of a disposition on the part of the revolutionary authorities of Peru to preserve friendly intercourse with Chili, and to maintain the alliance against Spain, but the unsettled state of affairs in Peru continues to be a subject of much solicitude.

The minister and consuls of Peru in Chili have tendered their resignations, which have been accepted, and Señor Yenteno, who visited Chili in the capacity of a commissioner on the part of the new authorities of Peru, to arrange the accounts of the allied squadron, having returned unsuccessfully to Lima, Peru at present has no official representative in this republic. The Chilian minister appointed near the government of Peru during the presidency of Colonel Prado reached his post after the success of the revolution, and has presented his credentials and been received by the present chiefs at Lima; but this government preserves a formal attitude, awaiting the re-establishment of legitimate authority, and will not enter into the discussion of any of the questions between the two countries until order is restored in Peru.

The hope is now entertained that the approaching election in the latter republic will speedily relieve the members of the alliance of the embarrassments which Peru has brought upon them, and that with the re-establishment of government and diplomatic relations Chili may peaceably adjust with her neighbors the important questions had under consideration with the government of Colonel Prado.

The domestic politics of Chili, and her relations with Spain, remain unchanged.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK.

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

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 103.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Santiago de Chili, March 20, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches Nos. 52, 53, and 54, dated respectively December 7 and 27, 1867, and January 9, 1868.

In my dispatch No. 99, dated February 1, I informed you that I was about to make a short trip to the Andes, and that on my return I would make a report of my observations. I left Santiago on the third of that month, and was absent a little over three weeks, in which time I crossed the Cordilleras and visited the towns of San Carlos, Mendoza, and San Rafael, in the Argentine Confederation.

With baggage and provisions packed on mules I reached the pass of San José in one day's march from Santiago, and on the night of the second day bivouacked far up in the Cordilleras on the verge of vegetation. From this point is one day's hard traveling up perfectly barren mountains to a small valley at the foot of the first principal ridge. Another day's journey along this valley, a great portion of which has been inundated by some terrific volcanic eruption, leaving great heaps of sulphuric rock, lava, and ashes, brought us to the *Cumbre* or zigzag path by which the higher chain is crossed. The ascent here was extremely difficult

the rarified atmosphere affecting man and beast very sensibly. There was considerable snow to cross, but the temperature was not so low as to necessitate the use of an overcoat. Crossing the heights, the path descends into a wide, desolate valley, many thousand feet above the sea. A day was occupied in crossing this waste, and another day in passing over the great Postillo pass, 14,300 feet high. This pass is one of the most difficult of the Andes. There is always more or less snow, the road consists of only a rocky path sufficiently wide for one to pass at a time, and a freezing wind blows with great violence. On reaching the summit the animals manifested much uneasiness. There is barely standing room for two or three persons on the ridge, from which a misstep would hurl mule and rider to destruction; and we found it necessary to lie down to avoid being swept off by the wind. The view was indescribably grand. The volcanoes of Aconcagua and Tupongati, respectively 23,000 and 26,000 feet high, rear their snow-white peaks above vast and seemingly boundless chains of black mountains utterly destitute of vegetation or animal life, with the exception of the condor, that solitary, on some lofty rock, watches the passing traveler, or slowly circles about the bristling pinnacles. A day was occupied in descending this ridge to the pampas, making in all a journey of seven days, although by forced marching it may be made in four.

Being unprovided with instruments I was unable to make any scientific observations; but this route having been visited by explorers, its phenomena is already known to science.

On reaching the pampas, which stretch in a sterile waste from the eastern base of the Andes many hundred miles to the fertile regions of Buenos Ayres, I stopped at one of the haciendas which, like small vases, dot the sandy plains, and spent a few days collecting specimens of birds and animals, of which there are many beautiful and rare varieties. After a day's visit to San Carlos, a small village on the highway to the southern frontier, I went to Mendoza, making a trip of ninety miles in a coach in ten hours. The ruins of the city, destroyed by the earthquake in 1862, when nine thousand lives were lost, still lie as they fell, with many families yet buried in the debris, and vines and weeds growing in wild confusion above them. Nothing has been done on the site of the destroyed city except to extricate the remains of a few persons from the ruins and reopen some of the principal streets leading to the country. On the border of the ruins a new town of about eight thousand inhabitants has already sprung up. The buildings are good, the streets wide, well paved, and adorned with shade trees, and the place promises to become an important city.

As I was traveling simply for relaxation, I declined the honors which the civil and military authorities offered, and at the expiration of two days left for San Rafael, the military outpost on the southern frontier between civilization and the hostile Indians. Here I remained a day, which was celebrated by the officers and citizens by a grand ostrich hunt, in which thirty ostriches and a number of curious animals were taken; and escorted by a troop of cavalry, furnished by the military commander, I set out across the pampas, fifty leagues to the Planchon pass in the south, en route for Chili. These plains are infested with hostile Indians, but none molested the party, and after several days' rough traveling over the Andes, and hunting guanacos, a species of deer, I reached Curico, the terminus of the southern railroad from Santiago.

The inhabitants on the other side of the Andes are brave, intelligent, and prosperous, and are deeply interested in the affairs of the United

States. On every hand I was warmly welcomed as the representative of a people whose history forms an example to all republics, and I am sure that there is no heartier admiration manifested for our government by any class than that evinced by the communities among which I visited in the heart of South America.

The customs of that section differ very little from those of Chili and Peru. Traffic in cattle and horses is the principal business, in which vast fortunes might be suddenly made were it not for the losses sustained from the predatory revolutionary parties and the levies of the government. Immense herds of cattle and sheep are annually driven over the Andes to Chili, and when the military road now in process of construction by Chili is completed, trade between the two countries will become very important.

The subject of constructing a railroad by way of the Planchon pass has long been under consideration, and surveys have been made demonstrating the practicability of the undertaking. Were this to be accomplished, and the vast plains on the other side to be redeemed by irrigation by a large canal, as is also contemplated, an area of many thousand square miles now uninhabitable would become a garden in fertility, and afford to the enterprising a field of wealth surpassing any region of the world. The Cordilleras abound in mineral riches, the plains are as fertile as the prairies of the west; the climate is genial and of a regular temperature, and health and prosperity are sure to attend all who engage in the development of these regions.

From Curico I came to Santiago by rail, through a beautiful country full of valuable haciendas. I cannot, in the limits of an ordinary dispatch, give an adequate idea of the countless objects of interest presented in a trip of this kind, a journey of over twelve hundred miles, one thousand of which were made in the saddle. It will remain for the intelligent traveler, whose leisure may enable him to do justice to the subject, to elaborate a description of the wonderful phenomena of the Andes and the beauty and undeveloped wealth of these regions. I regard my experience on the journey as belonging to the most valuable of my life, and I shall ever be zealous to aid any undertaking that has for its object the diffusion of knowledge of these countries, and the opening of their treasures to the world.

Although my visit to the Argentine Confederation was unauthorized and unofficial, yet, in view of the friendly relationship between that government and the United States, I would respectfully request that our minister at Buenos Ayres be requested to express our appreciation of the courtesy extended to a representative of the United States by Colonel Segovia, commanding first regiment cavalry of the line, at San Rafael, who furnished me with an escort for several days during my journey on the borders of the Indian country.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK.

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

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 104.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Santiago de Chili, March 26, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 55, dated June 15, informing me of the reply of the Spanish govern-

ment to the modifications proposed by the allied republics of Chili, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador, to the bases of arrangement suggested by the President of the United States for the adjustment of the difficulties between these republics and Spain, and asking if the republic of Chili had anything further to communicate towards promoting a concurrence of views.

The substance of your dispatch was communicated to the government of Chili, which replies (in a communication, a copy and translation of which, marked A and B, I inclose) that it would be impossible for Chili to consider alone this question and to give a definite answer, but that the subject will be immediately laid before the members of the alliance, and as soon as their unanimous decision can be made, the result will be transmitted to the United States.

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK.

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

Señor Fontecilla to Mr. Kilpatrick.

[Translation.]

SANTIAGO, *March* 24, 1868.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive the note of the 18th instant which your excellency has been pleased to address me, informing me of the answer given to the government of the United States by that of Spain, in relation to the modifications proposed by the allied republics to the bases of the arrangement presented by the government of your excellency.

In this connection your excellency inquires if my government desires to communicate anything more to that of the United States upon the subject, to the end of promoting a concurrence of views, and announce that in case of a negative the government of your excellency will consider as terminated the good offices which it has been employing to attain peace by way of mediation.

In acknowledging the receipt of the note referred to, I should advise you that Chili, being bound to the other republics by means of a compact of alliance, it would be impossible for my government to deliberate by itself alone upon a matter of so much gravity, and to give to your excellency a definite answer.

For the present, it will doubtless comply with the duty incumbent upon it, to transmit, as in brief it proceeds to do, your excellency's note to the consideration of the allies, and to promote among all the confederated republics a concurrence upon the point which your excellency submits to its consideration; and as soon as the common views of all of them may be known, I shall make it my duty to satisfy the inquiry which your excellency addresses to me.

In the meantime it gratifies me to manifest to your excellency the gratitude of my government for the constant efforts of the United States to attain by means of its friendly offices the re-establishment of peace.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to your excellency the assurances of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be your excellency's attentive and faithful servant,

F. VARGA FONTECILLA.

The ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
of the United States of North America.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Kilpatrick.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 27, 1868.

SIR: The technical continuance of the state of war between Spain on the one part, and Peru, Chili, Ecuador, and Bolivia on the other, occasions inconveniences to all neutral states, and especially to this country,

which it is desirable should be terminated by a formal armistice. You will consequently suggest in the proper quarter that a measure of this character should be adopted by the government to which you are accredited. If your suggestion should be favorably received, you may follow it by another to the effect that all the parties to the war referred to should appoint plenipotentiaries to meet here for the purpose of bringing about a definitive peace. If the advice of this government should be asked, there shall be no want of proper and impartial effort on its part to see that the claims of all shall receive due consideration.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JUDSON KILPATRICK, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

Same to United States minister to Spain.
Same to United States minister to Peru.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Kilpatrick.

[Extract.]

No. 60.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 30, 1868.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 104, inclosing a copy of the note of the minister of foreign affairs of Chili, dated on the 24th March last, with reference to mediation in the Spanish-American question. His reply will be communicated to the Spanish government.

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I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JUDSON KILPATRICK, Esq., *&c.*, *&c.*, *&c.*

Mr. Kilpatrick to Mr. Seward.

No. 120.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Santiago de Chili, June 30, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have had two interviews with the minister of foreign relations, Mr. Fontecilla, in relation to the proposition for peace, which I had the honor to receive from you some time since. In my first interview, which took place a few days after the reception of your communication, I learned that Chili was most anxious to make peace by means of an armistice, but that the great obstacle in the way was a mutual agreement to that effect on the part of the allies, and although the insults and injuries inflicted by Spain were not so fresh as in months past, still there was an evident desire to secure peace on such conditions as would allow the allies to resume hostilities whenever it would be profitable for them to do so.

The interview was not so satisfactory as I could have wished, yet it opened the way for your proposition, which I forwarded on the 9th instant. The minister of state gives in his reply the substance of his ideas expressed to me in our conversation. General Hovey, our minister

near the government of Peru, being at my legation, I thought it well to have an interview with the minister and General Hovey on the subject. I accordingly invited him to the legation. He came on the 21st instant, and freely entered into a discussion of the subject. He stated that Chili fully recognized the importance of peace, and earnestly desired that some means might be adopted to secure that end; but that there were many influences in Chili controlling the question that only those most intimately connected with the government could fully understand, and that these influences would prevent for the present a definite and absolute peace. I requested him to please to give us some idea what those influences were, and to explain what kind of peace Chili desired and would accept. He replied that he had no objection to do so; that he considered both of us and our government to be the true friends of Chili and her allies. The influences he stated were the natural results of Spain's cruel and unprovoked insults; that his people had not forgotten them, and looked forward to the time when they might secure a just satisfaction; that his government now encountered a strong opposition which would not fail to hold it accountable if it should celebrate an absolute peace that would forever close the door against Chili's just revenge; that whatever course his government might take, strong opposition would be encountered; yet they were willing to accept an indefinite armistice which would effectually settle the question, give security to trade, and satisfaction to the neutrals, and yet allow either of the belligerents to resume hostilities after timely notice. I asked him if he thought that either party would again resume the offensive? He answered, no, that Spain could not, and that Chili would not, and yet they did not wish to enter into an agreement to that effect. An armistice, he said, would close the war, and at the same time take from the opponents of his government the same power to injure that a definite peace would give them. This was the substance of our conversation, and most fully explains the reply of Mr. Fontecilla to my note of the 9th of June.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK.

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

Señor Fontecilla to Mr. Kilpatrick.

[Translation.]

SANTIAGO, *June* 16, 1868.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive the note of your excellency of the 9th instant in which you are pleased to manifest to me respecting the conversation I had the honor to have with you that you understood that Chili would consent to terminate the war with Spain by means of an armistice without conditions or explanations save that it should be indefinite in its duration. With this understanding you are pleasd to recommend in the name of your government that all the powers that are parties in the war should meet in Washington with the object to arrive at a definite peace, in which case the government of your excellency would employ its efforts to see that the claims of all should receive due consideration. In reply to your esteemed note I desire to express to you by means of this the thought that I had the honor to give you verbally. For some time back the opinion of these countries has been vividly manifest: that the indecisive and precarious situation of the war should be terminated in a manner to give to the work of peace guarantees more solid than the simple suspension of hostilities offers. To satisfy this legitimate desire my government will not be backward in accepting a truce definite in its character, which, while preserving to the belligerents their respective pretensions, offers, nevertheless, to the neutrals all the guarantees and securities which they claim. My government thinks that, for the present, this is the most obvious way

to arrive at a mutual agreement, and to correspond to those noble efforts made to secure peace by several governments friendly to us, among which principally figures that of your excellency. With this view the governments allied are actually engaged to procure a mutual agreement, taking into consideration the proposition of truce made by the governments of France and England. The arbitration suggested by your excellency for the belligerents to send plenipotentiaries to Washington to arrange their reciprocal pretensions, and celebrate a definite peace, would not do more than retard the accomplishment of the proposition before indicated. It is to be presumed that the recent events, and the irreconcilable character of the pretensions of the belligerents, make impossible, at present, a mutual agreement to arrive at a definite peace. In any case my government desires, as in all honor it should, to thank the government of your excellency for its constant efforts in favor of peace, and to assure it that in our deliberations with our allies the new offer which your government has been pleased to present through the respectable organ of your excellency shall be presented with all attention.

I embrace this opportunity, &c., your attentive, &c.,

F. VARGAS FONTECILLA.

The ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY
of the United States.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Kilpatrick.

No. 65.] DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 27, 1868.

SIR: I have received your dispatch of the 30th of June, No. 120, which is accompanied by a copy of a note which was addressed to you on the 16th of that month by Mr. Fontecilla, concerning the proposal of the United States to mediate between the republics of the Pacific and Spain. I have taken care to communicate the substance of Mr. Fontecilla's note to the Spanish government for its consideration. Should any reply be received from that government I shall hasten to transmit it for the information of the government of Chili.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

JUDSON KILPATRICK, Esq., *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Clark to Mr. Seward.

No. 5.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Valparaiso, November 3, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate to you that his excellency Antonio Flores, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Ecuador to Peru and Chili, called at this legation this afternoon to confer with me on the subject of the differences existing between the allied republics of South America and Spain. He has been zealously and successfully engaged in his mission, and has obtained the assent of all the republics unconditionally to the armistice except Chili, and he assures me that Chili is ready to accept the mediation of the United States provided that government celebrates the armistice between the belligerents, and much better if it wishes to give its guarantee to the armistice or truce. This England and France have already proposed, but Chili would much prefer the mediation of the United States.

It should be a condition of the armistice or truce that if there is no settlement of the question by the plenipotentiaries who should meet in Washington, then the truce shall continue until one of the parties give notice to the other, one or two years before the expiration of it. On these

terms the mediation will be immediately accepted by Chili, as it has already by the other republics—Ecuador, through Mr. Flores, being the first to do so.

Mr. Keyes, the Chilian minister of foreign relations, who has made this proposition to Mr. Flores, writes to-day in the above terms to the Chilian representative in Lima, Peru.

Mr. Flores has obtained full success in one of the principal points of his mission—the reopening of the Pacific to the Spanish merchant vessels. It has been agreed in Santiago, by the Chilian government, that Chili shall not commit hostilities against the merchant vessels of Spain provided with Ecuadorian passports. The said vessels shall not come to Chilian ports except in distress (*arribada forgosa.*) No obstacle shall be put to the trade between Ecuador and Spain.

Hoping an early reply, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

A. W. CLARK.

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

CHILIAN LEGATION.

Mr. Seward to Señor Fontecilla.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 28, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate for your information a copy of a circular* of yesterday, addressed by the department to ministers of the United States accredited to the governments of the several belligerents, suggesting that preliminary to a definitive peace a formal armistice be agreed to by Spain on the one side, and Peru, Chili, Ecuador, and Bolivia on the other.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor Don MARIANO SANCHEZ FONTECILLA, *&c., &c., &c.*

Señor Fontecillà to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF CHILI,
Washington, March 30, 1868.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive the note of the honorable Secretary of State, dated the 28th instant, and the adjoined circular of which a copy was sent me.

I have hastened to transmit it to my government, which, duly thanking the good offices of the honorable Secretary of State, will, I doubt not, take it into consideration without loss of time.

I improve this opportunity to express to the honorable Secretary of State the sentiments of my most distinguished consideration.

M. SANCHEZ FONTECILLA.

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

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* For this inclosure see instruction to the United States minister to Chili March 27, 1868.

Mr. Seward to Señor Fontecilla.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, April 27, 1868.

SIR: I transmit for your information a copy of the reply* of this department to a note of Señor Don Ignacio Gomez, the minister plenipotentiary of the republic of Nicaragua, upon the subject of the good offices of the State of Central America towards putting an end to the war between Spain on the one side, and Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Chili on the other.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to you, sir, a renewed assurance of my high consideration.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor Don MARIANO SANCHEZ FONTECILLA, *&c., &c., &c.*

*For inclosure see correspondence with the legation of Nicaragua.