

REPORT OF

**THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY**

TO

SANTO DOMINGO





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Academia Dominicana de la Historia

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

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REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

TO

SANTO DOMINGO,

WITH

THE INTRODUCTORY MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT, SPECIAL REPORTS  
MADE TO THE COMMISSION, STATE PAPERS FURNISHED BY THE  
DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATEMENTS  
OF OVER SEVENTY WITNESSES.

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COMMISSIONERS:

B. F. WADE, *President.*  
A. D. WHITE.  
S. G. HOWE.

---

A. A. BURTON, *SECRETARY.*  
F. DOUGLASS, *ASSISTANT SECRETARY.*

---

WASHINGTON:  
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MESSAGE  
OF THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMUNICATING

*The report of the commission of inquiry to the island of Santo Domingo.*

APRIL 5, 1871.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I have the honor to submit herewith to the two Houses of Congress the report of the commissioners appointed in pursuance of joint resolution approved January 12, 1871.

It will be observed that this report more than sustains all that I have heretofore said in regard to the productiveness and healthfulness of the republic of San Domingo, of the unanimity of the people for annexation to the United States, and of their peaceable character.

It is due to the public, as it certainly is to myself, that I should here give all the circumstances which first led to the negotiation of a treaty for the annexation of the republic of San Domingo to the United States.

When I accepted the arduous and responsible position which I now hold, I did not dream of instituting any steps for the acquisition of insular possessions. I believed, however, that our institutions were broad enough to extend over the entire continent as rapidly as other peoples might desire to bring themselves under our protection. I believed further that we should not permit any independent government within the limits of North America to pass from a condition of independence to one of ownership or protection under a European power.

Soon after my inauguration as President I was waited upon by an agent of President Baez with a proposition to annex the republic of San Domingo to the United States. This gentleman represented the capacity of the island, the desire of the people, and their character and habits, about as they have been described by the commissioners, whose report accompanies this message. He stated further that, being weak in numbers and poor in purse, they were not capable of developing their great resources; that the people had no incentive to industry on account of lack of protection for their accumulations; and that, if not accepted by the United States—with institutions which they loved above those of any other nation—they would be compelled to seek protection elsewhere. To these statements I made no reply, and gave no indication of what I thought of the proposition. In the course of time I was waited upon by a second gentleman from San Domingo, who made the same representations, and who was received in like manner.

In view of the facts which had been laid before me, and with an earn-



est desire to maintain the "Monroe doctrine," I believed that I would be derelict in my duty if I did not take measures to ascertain the exact wish of the government and inhabitants of the republic of San Domingo in regard to annexation, and communicate the information to the people of the United States. Under the attending circumstances I felt that if I turned a deaf ear to this appeal I might, in the future, be justly charged with a flagrant neglect of the public interests and an utter disregard of the welfare of a down-trodden race praying for the blessings of a free and strong government, and for protection in the enjoyment of the fruits of their own industry.

Those opponents of annexation who have heretofore professed to be preëminently the friends of the rights of man I believed would be my most violent assailants if I neglected so clear a duty. Accordingly, after having appointed a commissioner to visit the island, who declined on account of sickness, I selected a second gentleman, in whose capacity, judgment, and integrity I had, and have yet, the most unbounded confidence.

He visited San Domingo, not to secure or hasten annexation, but, unprejudiced and unbiased, to learn all the facts about the government, the people, and the resources of that republic. He went certainly as well prepared to make an unfavorable report as a favorable one, if the facts warranted it. His report fully corroborated the views of previous commissioners, and upon its receipt I felt that a sense of duty and a due regard for our great national interests required me to negotiate a treaty for the acquisition of the republic of San Domingo.

As soon as it became publicly known that such a treaty had been negotiated, the attention of the country was occupied with allegations calculated to prejudice the merits of the case, and with aspersions upon those whose duty had connected them with it. Amid the public excitement thus created, the treaty failed to receive the requisite two-thirds vote of the Senate, and was rejected; but whether the action of that body was based wholly upon the merits of the treaty, or might not have been, in some degree, influenced by such unfounded allegations, could not be known by the people, because the debates of the Senate in secret session are not published.

Under these circumstances I deemed it due to the office which I hold, and due to the character of the agents who had been charged with the investigation, that such proceedings should be had as would enable the people to know the truth. A commission was therefore constituted, under authority of Congress, consisting of gentlemen selected with special reference to their high character and capacity for the laborious work intrusted to them, who were instructed to visit the spot and report upon the facts. Other eminent citizens were requested to accompany the commission in order that the people might have the benefit of their views. Students of science and correspondents of the press, without regard to political opinions, were invited to join the expedition, and their numbers were limited only by the capacity of the vessel.

The mere rejection by the Senate of a treaty negotiated by the President only indicates a difference of opinion between two coördinate departments of the Government, without touching the character or wounding the pride of either. But when such rejection takes place simultaneously with charges openly made of corruption on the part of the President, or those employed by him, the case is different. Indeed, in such case the honor of the nation demands investigation. This has been accomplished by the report of the commissioners herewith trans-



mitted, and which fully vindicates the purity of the motives and action of those who represented the United States in the negotiation.

And now my task is finished, and with it ends all personal solicitude upon the subject. My duty being done, yours begins; and I gladly hand over the whole matter to the judgment of the American people, and of their representatives in Congress assembled. The facts will now be spread before the country, and a decision rendered by that tribunal whose convictions so seldom err, and against whose will I have no policy to enforce. My opinion remains unchanged; indeed, it is confirmed by the report that the interests of our country and of San Domingo alike invite the annexation of that republic.

In view of the difference of opinion upon this subject, I suggest that no action be taken at the present session beyond the printing and general dissemination of the report. Before the next session of Congress the people will have considered the subject and formed an intelligent opinion concerning it; to which opinion, deliberately made up, it will be the duty of every department of the Government to give heed, and no one will more cheerfully conform to it than myself. It is not only the theory of our Constitution that the will of the people, constitutionally expressed, is the supreme law, but I have ever believed that "all men are wiser than any one man;" and if the people, upon a full presentation of the facts, shall decide that the annexation of the republic is not desirable, every department of the Government ought to acquiesce in that decision.

In again submitting to Congress a subject upon which public sentiment has been divided, and which has been made the occasion of acrimonious debates in Congress, as well as of unjust aspersions elsewhere, I may, I trust, be indulged in a single remark.

No man could hope to perform duties so delicate and responsible as pertain to the presidential office without sometimes incurring the hostility of those who deem their opinions and wishes treated with insufficient consideration; and he who undertakes to conduct the affairs of a great government as a faithful public servant, if sustained by the approval of his own conscience, may rely with confidence upon the candor and intelligence of a free people, whose best interests he has striven to subserve, and can bear with patience the censure of disappointed men.

U. S. GRANT.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *April 5, 1871.*



# R E P O R T

OF

## THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO.

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SIR: The commissioners appointed pursuant to the resolution of Congress, approved January 12, 1871, to inquire into the condition of the Dominican Republic,\* have the honor to submit the following report, answering in a summary way the successive inquiries propounded in the resolution, referring to the accompanying testimony and documents, and to the series of scientific reports for more full information on special subjects of inquiry.

In accordance with the said resolution the commissioners proceeded to the island of Santo Domingo, leaving New York on the 17th and arriving at Samana Bay on the 24th of January, 1871, and forthwith began their inquiries. They were aided in their researches by a corps of scientific observers. They traversed the Dominican Republic from end to end in several directions, either by their agents or in person—one of the commissioners crossing it from south to north, and another from east to west. They spent several weeks at the capital,

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\* *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the President of the United States be authorized to appoint three commissioners, and also a secretary, the latter to be versed in the English and Spanish languages, to proceed to the island of San Domingo, and to such other places, if any, as such commissioners may deem necessary, and there to inquire into, ascertain, and report the political state and condition of the republic of Dominica, the probable number of inhabitants, and the desire and disposition of the people of the said republic to become annexed to, and to form part of the people of, the United States; the physical, mental, and moral condition of the said people, and their general condition as to material wealth and industrial capacity; the resources of the country; its mineral and agricultural products; the products of its waters and forests; the general character of the soil; the extent and proportion thereof capable of cultivation; the climate and health of the country; its bays, harbors, and rivers; its general meteorological character, and the existence and frequency of remarkable meteorological phenomena; the debt of the government and its obligations, whether funded, and ascertained and admitted, or unadjusted and under discussion; treaties or engagements with other powers; extent of boundaries and territory—what proportion is covered by foreign claimants or by grants or concessions, and generally what concessions or franchises have been granted, with the names of the respective grantees; the terms and conditions on which the Dominican government may desire to be annexed to and become part of the United States as one of the Territories thereof; such other information with respect to the said government or its territories as to the said commissioners shall seem desirable or important with reference to the future incorporation of the said Dominican Republic into the United States as one of its Territories.

SEC. 2. *And be it further resolved,* That the said commissioners shall, as soon as conveniently may be, report to the President of the United States, who shall lay the report before Congress.

SEC. 3. *And be it further resolved,* That the said commissioners shall serve without compensation, except the payment of expenses; and the compensation of the secretary shall be determined by the Secretary of State, with the approval of the President: *Provided,* That nothing in these resolutions contained shall be held, understood, or construed as committing Congress to the policy of annexing the territory of said republic of Dominica.





in daily conferences with the President and chief officers of the government, in examining the official records, and, as at all other places, in constant intercourse with the people and taking testimony of witnesses. They visited the vicinity of the western border country, where it was reported that there were disturbances; and remained a week at the capital of the neighboring Republic of Hayti, where some supplementary investigations were made. They were detained a few days, by the necessity of coaling the ship, at Kingston, Jamaica, where some opportunity was afforded to examine the questions of white labor, management of agriculture, and general administration in the West Indies, and the progress free colored men are there making. Returning to the United States by way of Key West, they landed at Charleston, March 26, having been absent seventy days.

#### POLITICAL STATE AND CONDITION—FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The present government of the Dominican Republic is in theory a constitutional republic. According to its constitution the government is divided into three branches, the executive, legislative and judicial. The first consists of a president and vice-president elected by an electoral college for a term of six years, with a difference of three years in the time of their election. Both the president and vice-president are ineligible to the presidency during the following term. The president appoints a council of state, consisting of a minister of public instruction; of the interior, police and agriculture; of public works and commerce; and of war and marine; on one of these four ministers the duties of minister of foreign relations devolve at the will of the president.

The legislative branch of the government consists of a senate, (Senado Consultor,) elected by the primary assemblies, and has two members for the city of Santo Domingo, two for Santiago, and one for each of the other provinces and districts—nine members in all. These hold office six years, and may be reelected.

Each province and district has a governor, and each parish and military post has a commandant nominated by the executive, and responsible to him. The towns are governed by ayuntamientos, or councils elected by the primary assemblies for three years.

The judiciary consists of a supreme court, whose seat is at the capital, with a president, four ministers, and an attorney general, who are chosen by the senate from nominations made by the electoral college, and who hold office five years.

In every province and district there is a court of first instance sitting in the respective capitals, consisting of a judge, prosecutor, and attorney general, all nominated by the executive, and holding office five years. It was found that this court had in many parts of the republic fallen into disuse.

Finally, each town and commune or parish has an alcalde appointed by the executive, holding office at his pleasure, and corresponding to our justice of the peace. In this latter case the practice is certainly far better than the theory. In all parts of the republic it was found that the alcaldes held office virtually during good behavior, and not one was found whose character did not inspire respect.

#### CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

This country has for a long period been subjected to a series of revolts led by ambitious leaders, who frequently spring up, and stir the popu-



lation of one or more districts into petty civil wars which sometimes ripen into revolution. In consequence of this condition of things there has grown up under various administrations a penal code much more severe, especially in regard to political offenses, than prevails in our country. Infested as that country has been by jealous, aspiring, and seditious leaders, whose importance depends on commotion, there is no doubt that a rigorous execution of this code has been necessary, from time to time, to preserve the tranquillity of the republic.

The commissioners found the government organized and in complete operation in all its departments, exercising every function of legitimate government, with General Buenaventura Baez as the chief magistrate, in the full and peaceable possession of all parts of the republic, except on the Haytian border, which is disturbed by insurrectionary leaders, aided by Haytians, and political intriguers and emissaries who have congregated at various points in the neighboring islands. These are incited to extraordinary activity, at this time, by the fear of annexation to the United States.

From all that the commissioners could ascertain, President Baez has the respect of a great majority of the Dominican people for his administrative abilities, and the strong attachment of many of the leading men, who regard him as the only statesman among them who can hold the nation against domestic factions and foreign foes.

In the year 1849, after five years of anarchy consequent upon the expulsion of the Haytian power, General Baez was regularly elected President of the republic. It appears that he was chosen as a man who by his education, fortune, and public services would be most likely to secure general confidence and heal the wounds inflicted by civil and foreign wars. Five years before this he had been elected to the national congress, and he had been made president of that body at a most critical period of the national history—the period of the creation of new institutions after the casting off of the Haytian yoke.

His first administration appears to have been successful. It stands unique in one respect, for it is the only one in the annals of the Dominican Republic which has lasted during the entire constitutional period. In 1853 he was regularly and peaceably succeeded by General Pedro Santana. A period of anarchy soon ensued, which lasted until the year 1861, when the island was brought again under the power of Spain by General Santana. After the expulsion of the Spaniards anarchy again followed. During the periods before and after the Spanish domination, General Baez was several times called in from abroad to save the country from this anarchy, by provisional authority—the only authority existing at such times in the republic. In one of the delegations of leading citizens who tendered to him the chief magistracy was General Cabral. President Baez has now entered upon the third year of his present administration. There is ample testimony to the fact that under him, despite the difficulties that have beset him, the republic has enjoyed as much liberty as any of his predecessors dared allow, and more tranquillity than they knew how to give. Nor do the commissioners find that there is any opponent of the present administration of that republic who has now or who ever has had any claim to the chief magistracy by a title superior to that of the present incumbent. Whatever technical defects there might have been in his original title to the office, it was confirmed by the national convention, and ratified by the assent and support of the people.

The frequency of civil commotions during a long period, and the consequent insecurity of property, have paralyzed industry, discouraged



accumulation, and so impoverished the country that for the last two years the financial resources of the government, as its officers informed us, have been inadequate to pay its expenses. Meanwhile, it has been constantly harassed with incursions and attempts at revolution. Only the ability of the administration, and the large share of confidence reposed in it by a strong majority of the people, could have maintained it in existence through so many difficulties.

#### EXISTING INSURRECTIONS.

The insurrections which still exist are headed by Cabral and Luperon. The former of these is universally conceded to be the more important; but neither has a distinct flag or a regularly organized army; neither is the exponent of a clearly defined policy. Both seem animated by interests, attachments, and resentments purely personal. Their opposition has assumed the character of an annoying guerrilla warfare, involving a heavy expenditure on the part of the government at the capital, but possessing no power which gives it any hold on public opinion beyond the territory it may temporarily occupy. As to their leaders, the commission obtained in all parts of the country substantially the same information, namely, that General Cabral once had elements of personal popularity; that in times past he earned the respect of many by public services; but that in an administrative capacity he has proved incompetent, and has lost the confidence of the country. Many, even, who still entertain more kindly personal feelings toward him than toward General Baez confess that he falls far short of the latter in administrative abilities. That General Cabral does not claim to be the legal head of the republic; that he does not claim to represent the principle of constitutional or legal authority and order, is shown by the fact that, in his proclamation, and in a communication to the commission, he styles himself "Chief of the Revolution;" and the journal pretending to emanate from him at San Juan, but well understood to be printed at the Haytian capital, is styled "Bulletin of the Revolution."

As to Luperon, the testimony both in the Cibao and on the coast is that he is simply a bandit stained with crime. He has not, so far as could be learned, distinguished himself in any regular manner, his main exploits being in sundry robberies and piratical operations on the coast, the latter by means of a steamer furnished him by insurrection brokers on a neighboring island.

The disturbance of which Cabral is the head has its seat in the western part of the republic on the Haytian frontier. It is claimed that the districts of San Juan and Neyba, in which his operations are conducted, embrace a large population devoted to him; but the testimony of several refugees and heads of families from that district, as well as considerable corroborative evidence, shows that the region named, between the incursions of the Haytians and the prevalence of insurrection, is nearly depopulated, and that the force immediately at Cabral's command does not exceed a few hundred men, who, in case of emergency, force into their service all the male population upon whom they can lay their hands. It has also been claimed that he has controlled the Dominican port of Barahona, and received supplies through it; but this is certainly no longer the case. On the other hand, it is charged by the present Dominican government that he has received supplies through Hayti, and that Haytian soldiers and arms have been at his disposal. The commissioners obtained evidence of this fact from many sources. They also examined Haytian prisoners,



speaking only the language of the Haytians, and having in their hands muskets bearing the Haytian stamp.

To the northeast of the country overrun by Cabral, in the neighborhood of the bay of Manzanillo, is the band under the control of Luperon; but the opinion of trustworthy persons, as taken in that section by the commission, is that his force is small and of a guerrilla character. He seems to have the strength of a desperado and nothing more.

The commissioners believe that had these leaders wielded only their own forces and resources they would long ago have been put down. Their whole importance is derived from the help of foreign intriguers and from the fact that behind them stands the Haytian nation, which has nearly three times the population and revenue of the Dominican Republic; which has never relented in its aggressive policy; and at whose head is a president elevated by a bloody insurrection, involving the murder of his predecessor.

#### CAUSES OF DISTURBANCE.

Besides the revolts which have been named, and the Haytian aggressions, some minor causes have, in the weakened condition of the republic, tended to aggravate its difficulties.

First of these may be mentioned the provincial jealousy existing between the people of the great district north of the central chain of mountains and those inhabiting the southern side. The former district embraces the two most thriving cities of the republic—Puerto Plata and Santiago—besides some villages of importance. On the other hand, to the south side belongs the city of Santo Domingo, with its prestige as the capital city; decayed, but still powerful from its vital connection with the history of the island from Columbus to Baez. In a weakened state of the republic, the jealousy between these districts has caused revolutionary leaders to arise; but with a government strong and free, giving better internal communications, and developing industry, this provincial jealousy would probably be changed into a healthy political rivalry.

Next, a more serious cause of disturbance to the steady exercise of political rights lies in the existence of a considerable number of petty military chiefs, about whom has grown up a peculiar system of clan-ship, or semi-military attachment. This prevails especially in the central and mountain districts, and is the natural result of long-continued struggles between ambitious men for supremacy in the republic. In the anarchy thus caused, each neighborhood has shown a tendency to group itself about its most daring or capable men. These have received military titles from the heads of various governments or revolutions, the rank of each depending mainly on the number of retainers he could bring to the leader whose cause he had espoused. The attachment thus begun in war continues in peace; and as political institutions are weak, often becomes stronger than law or political habits. Hence arises a class whose importance depends on commotion—unoccupied, and therefore uneasy—prompt to increase any troubles that may arise. The people of the country clearly understand that these disturbers of their peace are public enemies. Among the reasons constantly assigned for desiring annexation to the United States was the necessity of extinguishing the lawlessness and shiftlessness arising from this system. Firm and judicious measures in administration, immigration, increased activity in agriculture and trade, would doubtless rapidly destroy the greater part of this evil.

Union with a strong government would of itself discourage and





put an end to most of these disturbances; and as political habits increase it is probable that these semi-military combinations of chiefs and retainers may be transmuted into political combinations under constitutional and legal restrictions.

To these causes of disturbance may be added a third, very effective at present, but which would be at once annihilated should the Dominican Republic be effectually protected by connection with a strong nation. Within short distances of Santo Domingo are various other islands where insurrectionists and destructives freely hatch their plots. To such an extent has this been carried that certain capitalists there invest in prominent revolutionists as a matter of business. Revolution becomes thus a branch of trade in which capitalists embark with certainty of great risks, but with possibility of great gains. To further these operations, proclamations and documents are forged. These emanate nominally from the leaders of the insurrectionary force of the day, but they generally present the clearest internal evidence that their pretended authors never saw them. From these parties and their agents come rumors, and even circumstantial accounts of insurrections where none exist. The commissioners encountered several instances of this. This insurrection-brokerage would doubtless cease as soon as it is the policy of any strong nation to prevent it.

#### LOCAL LIBERTIES.

In all the struggles of various administrations against revolutionists and destructives, the local and municipal liberties of provinces, districts, and towns have suffered greatly. The exigencies of the central civil and military authority seem to have prevented the growth on any large scale of that system of local self-government which forms the groundwork of freedom in the United States. Still the germs of local liberty are by no means wholly destroyed. *Ayuntamientos* or town councils are still retained. These are bodies elected by the people, holding regular sessions, keeping records of their proceedings, and exercising considerable care in the registration of vital statistics. To these bodies belongs the local administration. They are small, and the length of the term of office prevents, in some degree, the immediate influence of the popular will being felt upon them. Still they serve at least to keep up the traditions of local freedom, and some habit of local management of affairs. The men chosen seem worthy of their trust. The commissioners were impressed with the general character and ability of the members of these municipal bodies. There are among them many who would do honor to similar councils in any country.

The difficulties and dangers with which these men have been environed seem to have deepened and strengthened their characters while interest in political affairs has been by the same circumstances nearly crushed out of the more timid majority. It was among this class that the commission and their agents found their most intelligent welcome; and unrestrained conversation with them showed that this welcome was not a mere formality to which they had been compelled. It appears to the commissioners that under a government guaranteeing liberty and order, these municipal bodies scattered through the country might become centers of a better system than the Dominican Republic has yet known.

#### SPANISH REINCORPORATION.

The constant succession of insurrectionary leaders and the long series of disturbances to which it has been the fate of the Dominican people



to be subjected, many years since led thoughtful men among them to look abroad in the hope of relief. It was this sentiment which led the population generally to acquiesce quietly at first in the occupation of the republic by the forces of Spain in 1861. That occupation had been brought about by the management of Santana and others then in power, aided by two Spanish ships of war, without the general knowledge of the people; and it was suddenly consummated to the surprise of the great majority of the citizens.

The commissioners took especial pains, in all parts of the country, to examine into the causes of the failure that followed this annexation, as well as of the unpopularity and overthrow of the Spanish rule in the island. These have been generally stated to them as follows:

1. That contrary to the understanding between the Dominican and Spanish governments, the public offices of all sorts were nuduly filled with Spaniards, to the exclusion of Dominicans.

2. That the Spanish subordinate functionaries were not generally native Spaniards, but Spanish subjects drawn from Cuba and Porto Rico—colonies where blacks and men of color are held as slaves; and that the atmosphere in which these men had been brought up had filled them with a prejudice which unfitted them utterly for the administration of government in a country where the great majority of the population are colored and a considerable number are blacks.

3. That some of the superior officers and very many of the soldiery were brutal beyond endurance, and that very little effective redress could be obtained. It was stated to the commission by a venerable clergyman in charge of one of the most important parishes on the island—a man of acknowledged devotion to Christian duty, and entirely trustworthy—that the Spanish governor of that province had, to his certain knowledge, been concerned in the assassination of a mother to obtain control of the person of her daughter; that he had entered the clergyman's house, stick in hand, and threatened him with ignominious chastisement; and that in various ways the Spaniards oppressed the people, treating them as conquered, and insulting their local authorities.

4. That the Spanish rulers showed a mania for regulating the details of ordinary life, in some cases resulting in positive indignities to the people.

5. That the ecclesiastical administration was at variance with their ideas. Practically, religious toleration had grown up in the republic. This fact the new archbishop under the Spaniards does not seem to have recognized. Protestant churches were shut and orders were issued to the clergy of the established church to enforce a multitude of vexatious regulations upon their flocks, involving spying upon families. To use the language of a venerable priest, "The archbishop was a worthy man, but he seemed to consider that he was living in the time of the Inquisition." The clergy were dissatisfied at that policy. Remonstrances were made, and a letter from one Catholic clergyman to the archbishop stated that "such measures befit neither this age nor this country." To these may be added the fact that the masonic fraternity, which possesses a very large and wide-spread membership among the best men of the island, was understood to be menaced.

6. That there were manifested on various occasions certain deep-seated political ideas. Of these may be mentioned opposition to monarchy and to colonial subjection, and attachment to the name of the republic.

7. That there was aroused a popular apprehension, founded upon a knowledge of Spanish administration on the neighboring islands, that



slavery would be reestablished, either by reducing the colored Dominican people to the condition of slaves, or by new importations.

Although these causes were not equally operative in all parts of the country and the better class of Spanish officials mitigated them considerably in some districts, they were sufficient, when joined to uneasiness under the colonial yoke, to cause an insurrection, which soon became a revolution. The people revolted in all parts of the interior, and aided by greater knowledge of the country and greater familiarity with guerrilla warfare, resisted all attempts to put them down. They finally drove the Spaniards into the strongholds on the coast, where the soldiers died by wholesale of the malignant fevers engendered in close and filthy barracks devoid of all sanitary appliances. Of the Spanish losses no exact data could be obtained; the best opinion seemed to be that the Spaniards sent in all about 35,000 troops, of whom between six and eight thousand were lost by desertion and the causes above alluded to.

#### DESIRE FOR ANNEXATION.

Although bitterly disappointed in the results of the Spanish annexation, the people who were soon involved in new revolutions, ceased not to look abroad in the hope of relief.

To the surprise of the commission, in almost all parts of the country, even the remotest, the people were found to be familiar with the question of annexation to the United States, and to have discussed it among themselves with intelligence.

All classes in all parts of the republic were consulted—magistrates and ecclesiastics of every grade, officials, civil and military, citizens of all professions and occupations, in town and country—and everywhere there was a general agreement in the declaration that their only hope of permanent peace and prosperity is in annexation to and becoming part of the people of the United States. They generally declared their belief that the strong arm of this republic, taking them under protection as part of the nation, would at once end the efforts and hopes of every seditious revolutionary leader, and establish law, order, and prosperity.

#### AMERICAN COLONISTS.

The incorporation into public sentiment of a feeling strongly favorable to annexation to the United States in preference to any other power is partially due to the presence in various parts of the country of small colonies of colored people formerly from the United States. These persons, or their immediate ancestors, generally came into the country in the time of President Boyer. Their love of the country of their birth seems to have deepened with time, and they all look upon American institutions as the only means of rescuing the country from its present insecurity. Very touching expressions of this met the commissioners at various points. These people live on the best of terms with their neighbors, speaking the language of the country and conforming in general to its customs, and they have formed in a greater or less degree centers from which respect for the United States has gone forth.

#### THE POPULAR DISPOSITION.

When asked if they would not prefer to remain an independent nation, the people generally answered that they would be glad to preserve their independence if it were possible, but since experience had shown that



the nation could not sustain itself, they were compelled to look abroad for support, and, if they must sink their nationality, they preferred the American Union, with free institutions, a friendly people, and common interests.

They seem to us to be more nearly unanimous upon this than we have ever before known a people to be upon any political question which they were called on to consider. It was only by diligent search that the exceedingly small proportion who opposed annexation could be found at all. The principal part of the opposition which does exist appears to be among certain traders in the ports, some of whom, in case of annexation and competition with American enterprise, would lose control of branches of business of which in its present narrow channels they have a monopoly; others are but agents of houses abroad, and, in the event of these branch establishments being withdrawn, would be supplanted. To these should be added certain agents of houses in neighboring islands, who have made pecuniary advances to rebel leaders, though these would without doubt favor annexation if it were consummated under the direction of those whom they support. Beside these, a small number scattered in various parts of the country oppose annexation for reasons peculiar to themselves—some from misunderstanding of the matter; some few from a liking for the turmoil which the present condition of things permits; some from opposition to the present administration.

The reports and rumors that there are parties in various sections of the country ready to resort to desperate measures against annexation seem to be disproved by the following simple facts in the history of the commission:

First, on arriving at Santo Domingo the commissioners took up their residence in a house on a public street remote from any official residence or military post. They had at no time anything in the nature of a guard or watch, and at an early period during their stay the night-watchman of that quarter was removed at their request. They had no weapons of any sort. Persons of every condition passed in and out of the house freely until a late hour of the night. Access was made easy to every one. The commissioners and those accompanying them slept with doors slightly secured, and sometimes not secured at all, and with windows wide open. It would have been entirely within the power of a single man of energy or determination to have cut off the entire party. But no shadow of an attempt upon them was ever detected; no suspected person was ever found.

Secondly, the commissioners and their agents traversed the country in every direction without guards or weapons. They slept at night in open cabins, no watch of any sort being kept. The character of the country and condition of the roads obliged them to move slowly and separately through mountain passes, ravines, forests, and thickets, in which a handful of resolute opponents could easily have destroyed them. Especially was this true in the Cibao, the district generally referred to in unfavorable reports, every important route of which they explored. When, as in two or three cases, members of the commission had for short distances an escort of honor, it was made up of citizens in citizen garb, unarmed, so far as could be seen, and with no military guard whatever. Neither commissioner nor attachés, so far as known, ever carried sword, dagger, or pistol. Their movements were easily foreknown. But they never encountered any shadow of a hostile demonstration; nothing but kindness met them in all quarters and among all classes; and this was not less marked in the Cibao than elsewhere.

The desire for annexation seemed to be even stronger among the rural





population than in the cities. The evidence taken, as well as the observations of the commissioners, and all who accompanied or aided them, establish this fact beyond question. It was deemed unnecessary to accumulate the written testimony of witnesses which was everywhere uniform. The commission did not have to search after evidence of the disposition of the people. Individual citizens, bodies of men, delegations from Masonic, industrial, and mutual aid societies, representatives of ecclesiastical associations—people of all kinds—came to them in such numbers and with such frequency that their visits became almost a burden, all declaring their desire for annexation.

Soon after the treaty of annexation was negotiated, a popular vote was taken in the manner usual in that republic, as required by the treaty, which resulted in an almost unanimous expression in favor of annexation to the United States. Whatever may be individual preferences or opinions as to the best form for taking the vote of an entire nation on a subject of that magnitude, the great mass of the evidence before the commission goes to show that this was a truthful expression of the will of the people; and in all the expeditions, either of members of their own body or their agents, ample corroboration of this opinion met them at every point.

#### CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The physical, mental, and moral condition of the inhabitants of Santo Domingo was found to be much more advanced than had been anticipated. The population is generally of mixed blood. The great majority, especially along the coast, are neither pure black nor pure white; they are mixed in every conceivable degree. In some parts of the interior considerable numbers of the pure white race are to be found, and generally in the mixed race the white blood predominates. The Dominican people differ widely in this particular from the Haytian, among whom the black race is in complete ascendancy. The cultivated and educated, such as the president, members of his cabinet, senators, judges, and local magistrates, compare well with the same class in other countries; and the uneducated appear equal to the same class in any country with which we are acquainted. They seem to be practically destitute of prejudice of class, race, or color. In their intercourse with each other and with strangers they are courteous in manner, respectful, and polite. In all their relations with them the commissioners found them kind and hospitable. The testimony shows them to be an honest and inoffensive people, among whom, in the rural districts, a person may travel alone and unarmed all over the country, with treasure, without danger. All of the numerous parties attached to the commission, which traversed various parts of the country, bear the same testimony concerning the people. The judicial officers stated that high crimes, such as murder, arson, burglary, and the like, are nearly unknown among them. No pauper class exists, and beggary is almost unknown. They are a temperate people, and drunken men are rarely seen. Among the popular vices is that of petty gambling, which is indulged in openly and extensively, especially by the Spanish portion of the population.

They are all Roman Catholics, except the American emigrants sent out in 1824 and succeeding years, who, with their descendants, now form a number of settlements, and amount to several thousand persons. These are mostly Methodists and Baptists. They live among the Catholics in peace and harmony. No intolerance or religious persecution can be discovered among them.

The people are generally poor, living in cheap and humble dwellings,



which, though well adapted to their country, might appear rude and uncomfortable to those accustomed to houses made for a more rigorous climate. In the country almost every family possess all the land they desire to cultivate, which is usually one small field, for an acre or two well tilled is sufficient, in this fertile land, to furnish a family with their food. The reason they universally assign for not cultivating more, is that amid constantly recurring revolutions, it is very uncertain who may reap the crop; besides, there is no market now for surplus produce.

The commissioners had an opportunity to see the progress which the people of color have made in Jamaica. In that island there is abundant evidence that, in spite of misgovernment and the social oppression which has lasted long after the abolition of slavery, this people are improving and becoming sharers in a higher civilization.

The evidence taken shows that the Dominican people are not averse to work when certain of reasonable reward, but are good and faithful laborers. An abundance of labor can now be had at about ten dollars or less per month. Appearances make it probable that the elements necessary to physical persistency exist among the people, especially in that large proportion in whom Spanish blood predominates. The decline of these people in numbers and in enterprise is sufficiently accounted for by social and political causes, without the gratuitous assumption that the race is dying out or effete.

#### EDUCATION.

There are few schools in the republic, and consequently the great majority of the people are uneducated. But of all the great number who were examined by the commissioners and their agents on this point not one failed to express the desire that some system of general education should be created and the belief that it would be eagerly embraced. The few schools that exist are maintained by the people with little or no support from the government. School-books prepared in the United States were found in some remote cabins. The basis of original talent is not lacking. The shrewdness of the Dominicans is proverbial among those who are brought into close relations with them. In the schools, few and feeble as they are, may be found abundant evidence to corroborate the assertions of the teachers that the average of native ability is good. But one printing-office, exists within the republic from which newspapers or books are issued. This is at the capital, and is very small and poorly equipped.

#### GENERAL POLITICAL CAPACITY.

Serious as are these obstacles to general civilization and to the intelligent exercise of political liberties, the condition of the people is by no means hopeless. For several generations there has been neither slavery nor any caste spirit to deprive them of manliness. The people at large are not degraded. They are willing to work when the result of their labor is made secure. From among them, at various times, many noble and capable men have arisen—men combining statesmanship and generalship with patriotism. Many of the people possess very clear ideas of liberty, and show a willingness to make sacrifices for it. The courage and devotion that have been wasted in insurrections and revolutions may yet, under better guidance, ripen into capacity for self-government and regular political action.

#### POPULATION.

The data furnished by the authorities as to population are very meager and unsatisfactory. An estimate was recently made "by the ecclesiastical



court, counting by parishes," which gave a total of 207,000. There are evident signs of error in this estimate. For instance, the capital was set down at 10,000, while it is obvious to the careful observer who counts streets and houses, that there cannot be over 6,000, if so many. Again, Azua is estimated at 10,000, while an actual count, made a few years ago, showed that it contained only 7,750. The present number is apparently still less. Los Llaños is set down at 3,000; but the military governor now estimates that the number of families does not exceed 150, which would indicate a population of not over 1,000; although, by a tax-list of 1827, in the possession of the commission, it had 397 rate-payers.

The communes of San Juan, Las Matas, Banica, Neyba, &c., are set down at 22,000; but they have been depopulated by revolution and invasion, and their actual number is fixed by local residents and other competent witnesses at from 5,000 to 8,000. Comparing these figures of the ecclesiastical court with certain known facts, and with all the evidence we can gather from intelligent witnesses and personal observation, the commissioners estimate that the actual population of the republic does not exceed 150,000. This does not include the many who have voluntarily expatriated themselves on account of the continual disturbances nor the few who have been banished.

It seems probable that more than nine-tenths, perhaps nineteen-twentieths, are native Dominicans. The others are, first, colored immigrants from the United States; secondly, European traders, who do not settle anywhere, but sojourn at commercial points.

Negro blood preponderates very largely in Hayti; but the pure negro of African type is not common even there. White blood preponderates largely in Dominica, but pure whites, in the popular sense of the word, are not numerous. The majority are of a mixed race much nearer white than black.

#### RESOURCES—MINERAL PRODUCTS.

The resources of the country are vast and various, and its products may be increased with scarcely any other limit than the labor expended upon them. There is evidence of mineral wealth in various parts of the island. The geologists of the expedition report the existence of the ores of iron, of copper, and of gold, with deposits of lignite, rock-salt, and petroleum. Iron ore is abundant; easy of access, and will doubtless in time be made available for the cheap production of pig-iron. The copper ores are of a fair degree of richness, and the beds have been opened to a slight extent. The reported coal of the Samana Peninsula and in the neighborhood of Puerto Plata was examined, and found to be lignite, of little value as a fuel compared with Pennsylvania or English coal. The gold region is extensive, and, though worked anciently, is at present but little known. It invites patient exploration by practical miners. The salt deposits in the mountains near Neyba are believed to be extensive and valuable. The salt can be quarried out in large transparent blocks, and a chemical analysis, made for the commission, shows it to be of sufficient purity for commercial purposes.

#### CHARACTER OF THE SOIL.

Summarily and practically viewed, for agricultural purposes, there are five classes of lands in Santo Domingo, viz :

1. The mountain slopes and valleys. These are uniformly rich and productive except in limited regions where rain is deficient, as on the southern slope of the coast range northeast of Monte Cristi.



2. The extensive prairie region of the Llaños lying east and north of Santo Domingo City, south of the Cibao range. This is all admirable pasture land. A large portion of it is capable of profitable cultivation. It is intersected by wooded valleys and groves containing much excellent timber.

3. The rolling plain of the Vega, which is generally wooded and is the finest body of agricultural land on the island.

4. The dry lands, like a portion of the plain of Azua and the valley of the Yaqui, where rain is partly or wholly wanting, from topographical causes. These lands can be made fertile by artificial irrigation.

5. The red-clay lands, mostly along the coast, underlaid by coralline limestone. These are usually covered with timber. They are not generally very rich or deep, but are susceptible of profitable cultivation. The vicinity of Santo Domingo City is a fair average specimen of this class of soils.

#### PROPORTION CAPABLE OF CULTIVATION.

Although Santo Domingo contains almost every variety of soil, there is very little swampy or sandy land. In this respect it differs widely from Florida and the other Gulf States. The country is varied in surface, unusually well watered, and excels in natural drainage.

There is hardly any portion of the island where the land is not capable of cultivation. The mountains support a vegetation widely differing from that of the lowlands, but they nowhere rise so high as to be covered with snow. Everywhere they are fertile, except the few small districts already mentioned, as the plain of the Yaqui, and a part of the Azua region, whose character could be changed by irrigation.

Taken as a whole, this republic is one of the most fertile regions on the face of the earth. The evidence of men well acquainted with the other West India Islands declares this to be naturally the richest of them all.

#### AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

While the geographical position of Santo Domingo within the tropics implies the successful production of all the tropical fruits and vegetables, including the commercial staples, the differences of exposure, elevation above the sea, and character of soil present a variation of circumstances, adapting particular districts to many different classes of growths and branches of agricultural industry.

On the rich lowlands and valleys sugar-cane yields the most profitable returns. The extent and average richness of the tracts suited to this purpose are unsurpassed in the West Indies. The evidence shows that the average quality of soil in Santo Domingo, especially the plains of the Vega and portions of the country on the north shore, are better adapted to raising sugar-cane than are the sugar-growing districts of the adjacent islands. This is corroborated by the observation of the commissioners.

They and their agents inspected several of the principal sugar plantations in Jamaica. The production of these is very great where irrigation is practiced. In some cases it is said to exceed two tons per acre. But in many of the circumstances conducive to the most profitable manufacture, Jamaica is less favored than Santo Domingo. A much larger portion of the latter is naturally watered to a degree suitable for this and other agricultural purposes. In many parts of Santo Domingo the canes do not need replanting for many years. Fifteen successive annual cuttings from the original root are common, and upon



the richest lands excellent cane is found of much greater age. This is due partly to the greater frequency and abundance of rain resulting from the easterly or windward position of Santo Domingo, which gives it freer access to the trade-winds than the islands further within the Gulf and partly, also, to the rich vegetable mold which covers the surface of extensive plains and valleys—the result of centuries of forest growth and decay. The greater abundance of fuel would appear to give Santo Domingo an additional advantage over adjoining islands in this branch of industry.

The mountain regions are especially suited to the culture of coffee and cacao. The soil of the hills is usually rich; even where too steep and strong to be plowed, they can be cultivated with the hoe. The salubrity of the climate and the beauty of the scenery make them exceedingly attractive. To persons unacclimated and accustomed to the northern temperature these mountain regions offer peculiar inducements. At present these high lands, which form more than one-half the area of the island, are generally uninhabited and almost unvisited by man. In Jamaica are many fine plantations of coffee in similar situations, at an altitude of 3,500 to 4,000 feet above the sea. The culture of coffee and cacao requires much less labor and capital than that of sugar, and is peculiarly adapted to families of moderate means. The coffee-tree begins to bear at the age of four years, and continues to yield an annual crop for more than fifty years. The cacao is equally productive and easy of culture. Native chocolate prepared from the cacao-bean is of excellent quality and in general use. Both these trees have become thoroughly naturalized and are found growing wild in the woods and seem free from diseases and enemies.

There are a number of plants, varieties of the genus agave, which produce valuable fibers, already employed to some extent in Santo Domingo for domestic purposes. The "cabuya" is the most common; it grows wild in the dryest and most arid districts. It is susceptible of easy cultivation. The Dominicans make it into ropes, halters, hammock fastenings, &c. By the rough process of extracting the fiber by hand, now used, it could not be profitably manufactured; but with suitable machinery it would form an important article of export.

The product of wax and honey is surprisingly large. In many places the rocks and hollow trees abound in bees. The honey is so cheap and plentiful that comparatively little of it is saved. Thousands of hives are destroyed for the sake of the wax alone. Wax candles are in general use among the poorest classes.

Wild ginger and indigo grow everywhere in profusion. The tree-cotton grows even on the dry lands, and bears abundantly. The American cotton-shrub is also raised successfully near Azua. Almost every tropical production would seem possible in a soil so rich and a climate so genial.

At a still higher point upon these mountains, the culture of cinchona, or Peruvian bark, can be made a profitable branch of industry. This invaluable plant requires an equable climate, free from excessive heat and frost. It has recently been introduced into the neighboring island of Jamaica, and flourishes at an elevation of from four thousand to six thousand feet. The stems of the trees, only four years old, are already six inches in circumference, and they are about eleven feet in height. At the age of ten years they will have attained sufficient size to be cut down, and will spring up again from the roots without replanting. The British government seem to have considered this production a matter of national importance, and have carefully fostered it.





Upon these mountains many of the vegetables and fruits of the temperate zone can be successfully cultivated. Potatoes, cabbages, cauliflowers, celery, lettuce, and radishes were seen in perfection. In Port au Prince peaches were found, raised on the neighboring mountains. Pine-apples grow luxuriantly in many parts of the island. In the valley of Cotanza, southwest of Santiago, at an elevation of 4,000 feet, wheat has been raised.

As an evidence of the present undeveloped condition of Dominican agriculture, may be cited the fact that the commission during their expeditions through the interior of the island often met with beet sugar raised and refined in France; butter and cheese imported from Denmark, and milk condensed in the United States, but seldom with similar articles manufactured on the island. Even native indigo, a common weed by the roadside, is supplanted by an adulterated foreign article. So far as known no agricultural implements of any value are used; not even a plow was anywhere to be seen.

The country is everywhere well adapted to the culture of tobacco. Almost every garden contains enough for the use of the family and it furnishes the principal article of export. There seems no reason why it should not equal the quality raised in Cuba, if equal skill and industry were applied. At present both are wanting. It is raised carelessly, cured imperfectly, packed roughly in cerouos of palm-leaf, and transported over mountains upon the backs of donkeys to the sea-board, where it is sold at about six cents per pound to foreign merchants and exported principally to Germany.

Maize or Indian corn is raised easily, but is of inferior quality, and does not flourish as in the United States. Three crops a year can be raised. The summer crop is said to be the best in quality. Only the winter crop was seen. The most valuable native grain is a species of rice, which grows upon the uplands. It is darker and smaller than the rice of commerce, but of excellent quality, and it enters largely into the food of the inhabitants.

Tropical fruits are numerous and excellent. More than forty distinct species have been found growing wild. Oranges, bananas, limes, citrons, pine-apples, mangoes, tamarinds, guavas, melons, bread-fruit, &c., abound. With cheap and rapid communication, the markets of the United States could be supplied with these more perishable fruits in great quantities and at very low prices. At present they are unsaleable.

Vegetables of many varieties are found at all seasons in the markets of the principal cities of Santo Domingo. They are tomatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, peas, beans, lettuce, radishes, kidney beans, squashes, egg plants, peppers, &c.; also yams, cassava, plantains, and many other products unknown in the north.

Santo Domingo has always been noted for the comparative variety and abundance of its grasses, which add greatly to its agricultural capabilities. The "grama," as it is commonly called, a broad-leafed grass which takes root at every joint, grows abundantly and becomes thicker in proportion as it is cropped. A still more valuable grass called "*grama del país*," or grass of the country, furnishes forage. The guinea grass, which has proved so precious in Jamaica, does well. The prairie grass of the savannas is said not to bear close cropping, but gives place to others. To the abundance of these grasses is owing the preëminence of Santo Domingo over the adjacent islands in the raising of cattle. For centuries the neighboring agricultural colonies have depended upon the Spanish portion of this island for their supplies of horses, cattle, and hogs.





The vast savannas called Llaños on the eastern end of the island are intersected in all directions by belts of timber with a luxuriant undergrowth. Traveling over these savannas at mid-day the Commission found what seemed to be a solitary prairie, with no signs of human habitation or animal life; but as the sun declined there came out from the groves on all sides thousands of cattle, spreading themselves over the plain. These cattle are in size a little less than a good grade in our own country. They are mostly of a tawny or Alderney color, well made up, and long horned. As their food is perennial and as they require no shelter in winter, the chief business of the herdsman is to brand and to count them. They can be bought for about a cent a pound on the hoof. Vast as are the herds on the eastern Llaños, they do not excel in number or quality those in other parts of the island; but were they multiplied tenfold they could not exhaust the abundant pasturage. In the more arid districts goats abound; and in the forests swine thrive in great numbers. Sheep are now very few. Poultry is plentiful. Flocks of wild guinea fowls may be seen in many parts of the island.

For traveling and transportation, horses are generally used. They are raised in great numbers. They are smaller than those common in our own country, but are strong and docile, of great endurance, and thrive upon a scanty subsistence. The great drawback to stock-raising has arisen from marauding expeditions during various insurrections and revolutions. Only the frequency of these has prevented an immense development of this branch of national wealth.

One of the most remarkable agricultural features of Santo Domingo is the diversity of natural growths in different localities. This arises from differences of soil, humidity, and temperature. The landscapes of Maine and Louisiana scarcely differ more widely to the eye than do the lower portions of the adjoining valleys of the Yuna and the Yaqui, flowing respectively into the bays of Samana and Manzanillo between the same ranges of mountains. The palms and plantains of the one bear little resemblance to the cactus and acacias of the other. The high mountain slopes and plateaus of the interior differ equally from both of these, and have a flora of their own. It is safe to predict that when culture and civilization have developed the various capabilities of each, these contrasts of climate and productions will be still more pronounced. This diversity will give rise to an active internal commerce, and will prove beneficial to the health, comfort, and material interests of the inhabitants.

The commissioners expected to find an abundance of those insect and reptile pests which constitute such a serious drawback to comfort in most tropical countries; but they were agreeably disappointed. Snakes seemed to be about as common as in the interior of our old States, but no venomous ones were heard of. Scorpions and tarantulas are found, but they are not common, and the effects of their bite are seldom serious. The testimony of the heads of a thrifty New England family who had resided in the neighborhood of Samana Bay nearly two years, was to the effect that there was as little difficulty in keeping a house clear from troublesome insects as in our northern States.

#### PRODUCTS OF THE FORESTS.

The most striking characteristic of Santo Domingo, at first sight, is the wonderful luxuriance of its forests. In many parts, and especially in the neighborhood of the bay of Samana, although there are abrupt ridges, perpendicular cliffs, and bold headlands, no bare rocks can be



seen. All are hidden by a mass of strong vegetation. But on close observation another, and not less striking characteristic, is revealed—an astonishing variety in forest products. The cause of this variety is to be found, doubtless, in the great difference in elevation of the surface, exposure, and character of soil. Near the coast various species of palm are abundant and very valuable in constructing such houses as have been generally found best suited to the climate.

On the mountain slopes, at different heights, grow in abundance both the choicest cabinet woods, as mahogany, satin-wood, &c., and a great variety of timber especially valuable in house-building and ship-building. The roblé, or Dominican oak, and a hard pitch-pine were found in abundance in various parts of the country. In the more dry districts flourish several valuable woods, the best known of which, perhaps, is the *lignum-vitæ*, of which the quantity is very great. There is also an apparently inexhaustible supply of the most valuable woods which enter into manufactures, or which have medical value, as logwood, fustic, aloes, &c. Great as are the quantities of the woods that have been already cut, there remains an abundance. The mahogany trees have been cut off to a some extent along the coast and the navigable streams where they were accessible; but in the interior, where the simple methods of transportation in use were insufficient, wide forests still untouched await the construction of roads to render them available. In various places the commissioners saw houses constructed chiefly of mahogany. The want of roads has prevented any approach to an exhaustion of the products of the forest. A striking proof of this was noted by those who crossed the island. Within thirty miles of the principal northern seaport were frequently seen large logs of mahogany of the best qualities, evidently left to decay by the roadside for lack of means of transportation. The main transportation of these woods noted in these expeditions was by means of panniers slung upon the backs of horses and mules. Hence only small pieces could be brought out. Notwithstanding the abundance of valuable timber, no saw-mill was found in the country. The details of forest products and botanical distribution will be found in the special accompanying reports.

#### FISHERIES.

The fisheries, once flourishing, have, during these latter years, fallen into neglect. At an earlier period in the history of the island more attention was paid to the marine resources, and the tunny fishery was carried on around all the shores of the island, supplying the home want for salt fish, and allowing an export to the other colonies. This fishing is now discontinued, although great schools of fish are still abundant on the southern shore. The efforts of fishermen are confined to meagerly supplying the markets of the seaports, and their produce is brought in on two days in the week, although both the surrounding seas and the rivers of the island are well stocked with fishes of many kinds. The black-fish, or the grampus—a small member of the whale family—is somewhat abundant on the northern shore, where several score are caught every year, and their blubber tried down for oil. The turtle, both the green edible species and the hawk's-bill, whose chief commercial value is in its shell, are abundant in the deep sea a few miles from land, quite around the island. Both are caught in moderate quantities. Several varieties of shell-fish are brought into the market in limited amount. A small oyster is very abundant in certain localities, growing attached to the mangrove bushes. They are eaten by the natives, but are not so palatable as the oyster of more northern lati-



tudes. While an enumeration of the sea and river animals of the island, known to naturalists, would show a large number of kinds of great importance for food, little can be told of their distribution or abundance. The prostrate condition of industry is as marked in the neglect of the fisheries as in the decay of agriculture.

#### CLIMATE AND HEALTH.

The testimony of witnesses, the observation of the commissioners, and the reports of special investigations, show that it is generally a healthy country. Immigrants easily become accustomed to the climate. On the coast, where hot weather prevails, care must be taken. Individuals from the Northern States now residing on the coast, and engaged in cultivating plantations there, say they can labor with their own hands, and that white men may work there under certain regulations as safely as in the United States. The interior of the island consists chiefly of elevated land. The mountain slopes and valleys, overlooked or surrounded by lofty ridges, are comparatively cool, and are favorable to northern constitutions. Within a few hours' ride inland, farms were visited, where the temperature, cooled by the neighboring peaks, was bracing, and in the same fields could be seen growing cabbages and bananas, potatoes, and plantains, Indian corn and sugar-cane, &c. Effective labor can be prosecuted by white men in such regions, and general good health maintained. The process of acclimation to strangers coming in was so slight as to be scarcely an inconvenience. It may be said, generally, that this process presents no greater obstacle to immigration than does the similar process in several of our new States.

The physical configuration of the island is such that a decided difference exists between its eastern and western ends in regard to health. In the eastern or windward portion of the island, occupied by the Dominican Republic, the principal mountain chains run in lines approaching an east and west direction. The valleys between them are therefore swept during the greater portion of the year by the trade winds which in that latitude come from directions east and northeast. These valleys are thus constantly supplied with pure air from the sea, and malarious influences are rapidly dissipated. On the other hand, the west end of the island occupied by Hayti is walled in on its eastern or leeward side by chains of high mountains running in irregular curves from north to south. It would appear that these act, to some extent, as barriers to the trade-winds, and to this fact coupled with the influence of neighboring marshes and mangrove swamps it is due, in great measure, that Port au Prince and the country about it have so bad reputation in regard to health.

As to the large towns, there can be no doubt that the want at present of any practical application of sanitary knowledge causes them to rank far lower in regard to health than they otherwise would. Among the leading historical events connected with the islands of Hayti and San Domingo, which have stamped themselves upon the public mind, are the dreadful epidemics, principally yellow fever, which ravaged the English, the French, and the Spanish armies successively landed upon the coast. The victims were Europeans, and their sad fate interested millions, so that in the public mind Santo Domingo and yellow fever became almost synonymous. It is a matter of history that the most fatal of these, that of the French at the beginning of this century, conducted its operations mainly in the Haytian part of the island. The English expedition to Santo Domingo, which is sometimes referred to, so



far as can be ascertained was not attended by any greater loss of life from disease than might have been expected with the imperfect sanitary regulations of military forces which have existed down to a very recent period. The losses of the Spanish army from illness were largely due to the utter lack of sanitary care, and the commissioners are satisfied that those losses have been enormously exaggerated. The commissioners have given special attention to the matter of health; and besides getting information from other quarters, they have charged two medical gentlemen to report specially upon it, and their reports are appended. Their conclusion is this:

The popular idea that the Dominican territory is particularly unhealthy, and that persons visiting it are peculiarly liable to yellow fever, is entirely erroneous. The average general health and longevity is quite equal to and probably greater than that of the United States, as a whole. Immigrants are not liable to any more disturbance of general health in the process of acclimation than are persons who pass from the old to the new States of the United States, and, saving upon the sea-coast, the process is so gentle as to escape notice. Taking the year through, as much agricultural work can be done without affecting health as can be done in our Middle and Western States, and with greater results. Persons in all circumstances can here, by selecting their locality, enjoy a delicious climate and abundance of fruit, with far less liability to diseases of the lungs, to scarlet fevers, and other fearful epidemics, and without any liability to yellow fever. The commission, its attachés, and the gentlemen of the press numbered thirty-two. The officers and crew of the frigate numbered four hundred and ninety-six. This company of five hundred and twenty-eight sojourned in the harbors (supposed to be the most unhealthy parts of the country) or in the interior of the island about two months. Few, if any, had been acclimated; nevertheless there was but one case of mortal disease, and that from causes unconnected with climate; there was no case of malignant fever, and none of severe sickness among them. The steamer Nantasket, with its full complement of officers and seamen has been in the harbors of the island for about fifteen months, and has not had a single case of yellow fever.

#### EARTHQUAKES AND HURRICANES.

In 1842 there was a severe earthquake, which did considerable damage in some portions of the island. Several similar shocks had previously occurred in the course of three and a half centuries. Since that time none has been experienced which, according to the accounts of the people, did any serious damage to life and property. Almost every year very slight shocks occur, so inconsiderable that scarce one in a dozen of the inhabitants is aware of them.

About the time of the autumnal equinox hurricanes are not unfrequent, and are sometimes attended with damage, especially to shipping along the coast, and even to trees and crops on land.

#### RIVERS.

There are several rivers, as the Yuna, Yaqui, and Ozama, which, during the greater part of the year, can be navigated by vessels of light draught to a considerable distance into the interior. At present they simply afford facilities for floating down the timber which grows within easy distance of their banks.



## BAYS AND HARBORS.

The territory of the Dominican Republic is indented with numerous harbors, generally accessible only to vessels of light draught. The three great bays of Samana, Ocoa, and Manzanillo admit vessels of the largest draught, and are important as outlets of the commerce of the country surrounding them, especially the bay of Manzanillo, which lies at the entrance of the great valley of the Yaqui, but neither of the two last named has any great importance in a military point of view.

## THE BAY OF SAMANA.

The bay of Samana, however, deserves more careful attention, as on many accounts the most important in the West Indies. It is at the northeastern extremity of the island; is thirty miles long by about ten miles broad, and is sufficiently commodious for the largest fleets. It is well protected from the winds, especially those of the northeast, by the mountains of the peninsula. Its entrance presents no obstacle to ships of the largest draught, is narrower than that of the harbor of St. Thomas, but is the more easily fortified on that account. As shown by General McClellan in his report on this bay, very simple fortifications at the entrance of the harbor, and at Port Jackson, on the north shore, would guard it thoroughly. Its situation gives it easy command of the Mona Passage, the most important eastern avenue to the Gulf of Mexico, whose importance will be immensely enhanced should any new passage be opened to the world's commerce through the Isthmus of Darien. To any power having occasion to maintain a fleet in the West Indies, and especially to the United States, as having vast interests to protect in the Gulf of Mexico, the value of the position as a coaling station can hardly be overrated. Under a secure and liberal government a city would grow up at some point on this bay which would be one of the great commercial centers of the West Indies. Its value to the coasting trade is enhanced by the fact that what is commonly called the peninsula is in reality an island, as there is a passage, which could easily be made available for ships of moderate size, from the west end of the bay to the north sea-coast. The testimony shows that a few citizens of the United States have acquired the right to a considerable part of the water front of the village of Santa Barbara, which is one of the numerous harbors on this extensive bay, and has heretofore attracted the most attention. The portion so acquired forms but a small part of the space which would be needed and occupied by a great commercial city, even if that city should finally grow up at this particular point.

The country adjacent to the Bay of Samana is exceedingly fertile. Former reports of coal in its immediate neighborhood are not confirmed by the geologists attached to the expedition; but the richness of the surrounding country in all other respects has never, so far as known, been overestimated. All accounts agree also as to its salubrity. This bay derives an additional importance as the natural outlet of the eastern slope of the great plain called La Vega Real, which is the richest part of the island, and possesses every element of agricultural wealth and valuable mineral resources. The chief city, Santiago, is, as regards inland trade, the most important in the republic, and in its neighborhood are several towns of little less importance. The inland communications from the bay of Samana would be easy. The Yuna River could be navigated for a considerable distance by steamers of light draught;





and a railroad along that valley would have in its favor the absence of heavy grades and large rivers, and the presence of an unlimited supply, along a great part of it, of the best timber for ties.

The commissioners were notified while investigating matters at the capital of the Dominican Republic, that although the Government of the United States had not relinquished possession of the bay of Samana, but had constantly enjoyed the use and occupation thereof as a naval station, the rent due was in default for more than one year.

PUBLIC DEBT.

The commissioners made a careful and prolonged investigation into the important subject of the indebtedness of the Dominican Republic, collecting all the information that could be communicated by the officials whose special duty it was to know every detail of the finances and the liabilities of the government, all that could be obtained from the records in the public offices, from the statements of claimants of every kind who could be heard of and found, and from the explanations of the President and his chief officers in regard to the whole and each item thereof. They also received from the senate a list of claims and their respective amounts pending before that body, which is appended. The following summary statement exhibits briefly the result of those inquiries as to "the debt of the government, and its obligations, whether funded and ascertained and admitted, or unadjusted and under discussion." A schedule of items in detail, with remarks, will be found among the accompanying documents.

The receipts of the last three years have been mostly used for previous war debts, and for the canceling of outstanding paper money. The latter, which originally amounted to the sum of \$2,628,300, left in circulation by Cabral, has been nearly all redeemed by customs receipts, as was also the amount of \$243,070 in Spanish war bonds.

I. The salaries due amount to.....	\$600, 000 00
II. Bonds, treasury notes, &c. :	
1. Spanish war bonds, amount issued....	\$324, 160 00
Amount canceled.....	243, 070 00
	81, 090 00
2. Treasury notes, nominal balance in circulation, \$147,575 18, at price fixed by senatorial decree, 400 for one dollar, (silver,) gives really.....	368 93 $\frac{3}{4}$
3. Notes of credit, (new paper money,) nominal balance out of comptroller's office, \$88,832 30, at 30 for one silver dollar....	2, 961 07
4. Obligations of present administration, issued by comptroller.....	9, 761 36
5. Obligations of present administration, issued by comptroller, at 6 per cent.....	1, 153 00
	95, 334 36 $\frac{3}{4}$
III. Sundry debts and loans due towns and individuals	49, 443 02 $\frac{1}{2}$





## DEFERRED DEBT.

IV. "Valles" and obligations of Cabral's administration unpaid, because of doubtful origin, the gross amount of which is.....	\$221, 845 77
<i>Note.</i> —This debt is now in process of consolidation, and may be reduced to less than one-third of its nominal sum.	
V. Notes of national bank, countersigned by general treasurer.....	4, 130 00
VI. Sundry loans, bearing interest, (back interest not included).....	293, 511 23
VII. Loan without interest, (subject to rebate for advances).....	20, 223 20
VIII. Debt of 1859:	
Amount not known, because it is not known whether any was redeemed during Spanish administration.	
It cannot exceed \$50,000 or \$60,000, reckoned at...	50, 000 00
<hr/>	
Total debt.....	1, 334, 487 59 $\frac{1}{4}$
IX. Pending claims :	
Of Jesurun & Son, claim before senate, for loan of \$100,000, in 1857, contested since and now under consideration by the chamber of accounts.....	100, 000 00
Of Jesurun & Son, for hire of schooner Amelia, in 1857, less than.....	10, 000 00
Of Rofman & Loweenthal and others....	14, 000 00
Of General Baez, for spoliations.....	70 000 00
Of W. L. Cazneau, for spoliations in 1863.....	10, 000 00
<hr/>	
Total .....	204, 000 00
X. Of J. C. Castillanos, francs 131,719 40.	
Of A. Postel, francs 5,007.	
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Total of debt and claims .....	1, 538, 487 59 $\frac{1}{4}$
And in francs 136, 719 40, or total in dollars about..	. 1, 565, 831 59 $\frac{1}{4}$
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*Recapitulation.*

Item first—unpaid salaries.....	\$600, 000 00
Item second—bonds and treasury notes .....	95, 334 36 $\frac{3}{4}$
Item third—debts and loans.....	49, 443 02 $\frac{1}{2}$
Item fourth—obligations of Cabral .....	221, 845 77
Item fifth—national bank-notes, countersigned....	\$4. 130 00
Item sixth—interest-bearing loans.....	293, 511 23
Item seventh—loan without interest .....	20, 223 20
Item eighth—debt of 1859 .....	50, 000 00
Item ninth—pending claims.....	204, 000 00
Item tenth—pending claims, (in francs 136,719 40,) or	27, 344 00
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Sum-total of debt and claims.....	1, 565, 831 59 $\frac{1}{4}$
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The following statement of the receipts for 1870 is here presented, in order to give as far as possible a complete view of the financial condition of the Dominican Republic.

RÉSUMÉ OF THE INCOME OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR 1870.

1. *Customs receipts.*

Tonnage .....	\$27,206 60	
Entrance fees .....	1,469 95	
Light-houses .....	679 01	
Anchorage .....	1,469 95	
Pilotage .....	1,429 27	
Lighterage .....	216 00	
Interpreter .....	614 20½	
Signal-men .....	594 16½	
Quarantine .....	430 16½	
Wharfage .....	6,793 38	
Recargo, municipal .....	1,105 36½	
Recargo for steamer .....	5,886 14	
Water .....	241 00	
Import dues .....	601,393 64½	
Export dues .....	71,419 20½	
Coast fees .....	7,511 11	
Deposits .....	132 43	
Additional entrance fees .....	14 00	
		<u>\$728,605 58¾</u>

2. *Direct and indirect taxes.*

Registry and mortgages .....	\$2,147 06½	
Licenses .....	12,721 86¾	
Stamped paper .....	18,574 50	
Postage stamps .....	1,083 69	
Postal income .....	929 42¾	
		<u>35,466 55</u>

3. *Public property.*

Sales and rents .....	150 00
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4. *Sundries.*

Sundries .....	8,462 62½
Total .....	<u>772,684 75¼</u>

The commissioners believe that the statement of the public debt given above includes all the indebtedness or obligations for which the Dominican Republic is in any degree liable, as well that which it considers valid and binding as that which it regards as unfounded or overstated by the claimants. Throughout the inquiry it was urged upon the Dominican authorities that every claim known to exist, of whatever character, should be exhibited to the commission, whose object was, not to determine the precise amount that was justly due and binding, but to get at the bottom and find the utmost limit of their obligations,



setting forth everything for which the government could, under any circumstances, be made liable. The above account contains much that the Dominican government believes to be partly or wholly groundless, and some which, upon inspection, will appear questionable.

There was brought to the notice of the commission a claim of Messrs. Jesurun & Son, of Curaçoa for upward of \$500,000 for money advanced to the Dominican government, with interest, this being the same loan of \$100,000 in 1857 mentioned in the preceding list of "pending claims" by the same parties. On being asked if he had any statement or explanation to make regarding it, Mr. Jesurun, who submitted the claim, declined to make any. This claim has been already for a considerable time before the Dominican government, which refuses to consider more of it than the amount named in the foregoing list, and of that it is believed that but a small part will be allowed. The debt was incurred for arms and provisions in time of war, when the property furnished was estimated at \$100,000, on which compound interest at 18 per cent. was to be allowed. It is claimed by the Dominican government that soon after the original contract was made that government turned over to these claimants a ship and cargo valued at \$70,000, and that subsequently other payments were made, which, taken together, reduce the amount to a sum much below that named in the foregoing list. The claim is now pending before the Dominican senate and undetermined.

Among the pending claims is one of President Baez for destruction of property. It is alleged by the claimant that the Spanish government recognized this claim as valid, and ordered an examination to fix the amount; but the commission cannot understand how this claim could be valid against the Dominican government. Another claim for damages amounting to \$10,000, made by W. L. Cazneau, seems to be of a similar nature.

A question has been raised in our own country whether the government and people of the Dominican Republic, having once been under the rule of the Haytians, might not be liable for a portion of the indemnity exacted by France from Hayti for the estates of French families who had been driven out of the island, and their property confiscated by the Haytians during the revolution of 1791. The commission made inquiries on this subject of the Dominican government, and also in Hayti, and they could not learn that the Haytian government had ever made this claim upon the Dominican Republic, and they think that if made it would be wholly without foundation. By the so-called treaty of 1825, which was not a treaty at all, but in form and in fact a "royal ordinance," issued by the King of France, and forced upon the Haytians by arms, the payment of one hundred and fifty millions of francs was imposed "to indemnify such former planters as may claim indemnity," which imposition, in the express language of the ordinance, was upon "the present inhabitants of the French portion of Santo Domingo;" and upon these conditions independence was granted "to the inhabitants of the French portion of the island of Santo Domingo." It was a burden imposed upon the people of the French, or Haytian part of the island, for depredations committed by them upon French subjects in that part of the island—depredations with which the Dominican people had no more to do than had the people of the United States. The fact that the people of the Dominican or Spanish part of the island were, subsequently, for a few years, ruled by the same government as that which ruled the Haytians, did not render them "inhabitants of the French portion of the island of Santo Domingo," nor liable for burdens imposed on those inhabitants for their own acts.



## TREATIES WITH OTHER POWERS.

The commissioners were informed by the Dominican authorities that the present administration of the government has not had diplomatic representatives, or made treaties or engagements with any other governments except the United States. An enumeration of the treaties made during the previous history of the republic, with France, Great Britain, and other powers, will be found in Ex. Doc. 17, 41st Cong., 2d sess. They are mostly treaties of navigation and commerce, and contain no unusual provision requiring notice here.

## BOUNDARIES.

The only dividing line between the Dominican Republic and an adjoining nation is the boundary between it and the republic of Hayti; a line carefully surveyed and marked by monuments nearly a hundred years ago, described and established by the treaty of 1777, repeatedly reaffirmed in subsequent treaties, all of which refer to it as the undisputed boundary. It is deeply imbedded in the history of the island. It marks the separation of different languages, different national traditions and characteristics, different modes of holding and surveying the soil, different peoples.

In 1821, the people of what is now the Dominican Republic threw off the Spanish yoke and proclaimed a republic. At this time the boundary was undisputed, and the republic included all the Spanish part of the island, or, in other words, all east of the line of 1777.

In 1822, the Haytian President, Boyer, acquired possession of the whole island, and it remained under one government until the revolution of 1844 resulted in the expulsion of the Haytian rulers, and the reestablishment of the independence of the Dominican Republic throughout all the Dominican or Spanish-speaking portion of the island, except a few interior valleys on the Dominican side of the line, in some of which there has been an almost constant struggle since that time; the Haytian and Dominican forces alternately occupying the disputed territory. Of this disputed territory, the Haytians have held in practically constant control the towns of San Rafael, San Miguel, and Las Caobas. The Banica Valley, east of these, with Banica as its principal town, and the Neyba district to the south, have been alternately overrun by both governments. The attention of the commission had been drawn to a map, issued by private parties in our own country, claiming to be based on a Haytian report made on this subject in President Geffard's time. The boundary given in this extends from a point just east of Monte Cristi, on the north shore of the island, in a nearly north and south line, to a point on the south shore nearly opposite the island of Alta Vela.

Whether the commission be right or wrong in judging that any infringement on the Dominican country has been based on usurpation, and is therefore null, the claim to any such line as that above indicated must seem preposterous to any one at all conversant with Dominican or Haytian affairs. The town of Monte Cristi, which by that map should be under Haytian control, was, at the recent visit of a member of the commission, found to be inhabited by a Spanish-speaking people, with Dominican authorities, and no one seemed to be at all aware that it had been claimed since 1844 by any other government than the Dominican. As to the Banica Valley and the Neyba district thus claimed, the people are Dominicans, and, by all that could be learned, have never considered themselves otherwise.



The commissioners made inquiries regarding the foundations for Haytian claims outside the line of 1777, both of intelligent persons living in Hayti, and of the Haytian Ex-President Geffrard, now an exile residing in Jamaica, and from neither source could they obtain any direct or presumptive evidence for the Haytian title, nor could they learn of anything which could be construed into an acknowledgment of it by any Dominican government. The commissioners were informed by the Dominican authorities that the Haytian government had more than once offered to purchase the territory in dispute; but this the inhabitants of Hayti above mentioned deny.

The only claim to this district which the Haytian government could urge would be based on an occupation, by Haytians, of a portion of the Dominican Republic, whose government had not yet been able to oust them by force:

The extent of Dominican territory, within the old boundary of 1777, is found by a new and careful computation, made under the direction of the commissioners, to be 22,212 square miles. The portion of this already referred to as having been mainly in Haytian occupancy has an extent of about 1,000 square miles.

#### GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS.

The commission, as directed by the resolution of Congress, made diligent inquiry to ascertain "what proportion of the territory is covered by foreign claimants, or by grants and concessions, and generally what concessions and franchises have been granted, with the names of the respective grantees." The following list, condensed from an official statement furnished by the Dominican secretary of state, which will be found in the accompanying documents, and confirmed by the testimony, gives an answer to this inquiry.

A grant to J. W. Fabens, or a company organized for the purpose, dated July 3, 1868, of a portion of the public lands, on condition of making a geological survey. This is a contract authorizing Fabens, by himself, or any company organized for the purpose, to make a general geological examination and survey of all the provinces and districts, at the expense of said company; reports to be made every three months, as the survey progresses, to the Dominican government, to enable it to offer for sale the mineral and agricultural lands of the localities examined; also an annual report; said company to receive one-fifth of the public lands so surveyed, excepting coal lands, to be set apart as the quarterly reports are rendered. This survey is now in progress. The parties owning the franchise and paying the expense are chiefly New York capitalists. The testimony of the geologist in charge of the survey, Professor Gabb, giving details on this subject, and his annual reports, are herewith submitted, together with a copy of the original contract or grant.

A grant to R. M. Funkhouser, of New York, October 7, 1868, for a line of mail steamers between New York and New Orleans, and the Dominican Republic, with a provision that five per cent. of the import and export dues on all merchandise carried by said line be allowed to the owners of the steamers. This line is now run by Spofford Brothers, of New York.

A grant to Ed. H. Hartmont to take guano from the island of Alta Vela in consideration of loan of May, 1868.

A grant to Fred. H. Fisher, of New York, September 9, 1869, for building a railroad from Santiago to Yuna River, or Samana Peninsula.





To Felix Montecatini, August 3, 1867, renewed and extended April 5, 1870, to Shumacher and Angenard for railroad from Ozama River to San Cristobal.

To Julian Grangerard, June 3, 1870, for building a railroad from Azua to Las Caobas.

To Levi Guilamo, November 4, 1870, for constructing telegraph lines necessary in the republic.

To Carlos Baez, May 18, 1870, for rent of salt-works at Bani.

To Telesforo Volta, for salt-works at Beata Island.

To W. L. Cazneau, May 28, 1866, to introduce immigrants and establish colonies. (Void.)

To Davis Hatch, September 27, 1866, for working rock-salt mines of Neyba, and building railroad thereto, from shore at Barahona. (Void.)

To P. A. Delgado, to take guano from Alta Vela. (Void.)

To E. H. Hartmont, February 1, 1869, for building railroad from Monte Cristi to Santiago and Yuna river; donation of lands bordering the road to be made by special grant. (Void.)

To Edward Prime and Edward P. Hollister, July 4, 1869, extended September 2, 1869, to establish a national bank. (Void.)

To E. H. Hartmont, to work Samana coal mines, in case loan of £420,000 should be effected. (Void.)

To Industrial and Progressive Company, November 5, 1866, to work copper mine at El Cobre, San Cristobal.

To W. L. Cazneau, January 18, 1867, copper mine at Monte Mateo, San Cristobal.

To the same, July 12, 1869, copper mine at Maño Matuey, and at Loma de la Boca de Diamarte, San Cristobal, (the last three consolidated under law of August 10, 1870.)

To Cambiaso & Co., October 24, 1867, copper mine at Boca de Cuajo, Upper Haina, San Cristobal.

To San Domingo Company, (Geological Survey Company) February 25, 1870, the mining circuit Buenaventura, Upper Haina, San Cristobal, by virtue of geological survey, to be modified to conform to geological contract.

To Felix Montecatini, March 19, 1867, mining district in Cuajo, San Cristobal, (void.) Renewed to Shumacher & Angenard July 28, 1870.

To San Domingo Company, September 16, 1870, mining district of Camu.

The Dominican government has made no grant or concession of land to any foreign government or nation except the United States. To the grants to foreigners by the government above enumerated must be added some by municipalities. Of these the only ones which seem to the commission to require notice here are those to certain parties, citizens of the United States, of lands and lots in the village of Santa Barbara, on the bay of Samana, granted by the authorities of that town from its property as follows:

To J. P. O'Sullivan, December 1, 1868, of 930 feet fronting on the harbor, and extending back several hundred feet, varying in depth in different parts, at \$62 per annum rent for twenty-one years; also 84 feet and 90 feet, to the same, at \$4 rent for each; December 11, 1869, these leases are made perpetual, provided there be no law to prevent the same.

To J. W. Fabens, December 11, 1869, of 1,683 feet fronting on the harbor, in perpetuity, at \$112 per annum. These grants cover a large part of the unoccupied available front of the harbor. There was also a lease by the municipal government of the city of Santo Domingo, of a wharf front of limited extent and importance, to W. L. Cazneau.



The commissioners were not unmindful of various rumors which had been circulated on divers occasions, that concessions or grants of land were made to officials of the Government of the United States when the treaty of annexation was negotiated in 1869. No pains were spared to ascertain the exact truth on this subject. In addition to an examination of all grants from the government of the republic, the commission further carried their researches to all municipal grants by the town of Samana, where rumor had located the supposed grants. The officers of the municipality and the records were carefully examined. Inquiry was also made of the authorities of the city of Santo Domingo. After this investigation the commission can declare, without hesitation, that there was no particle of evidence or color of evidence for these charges.

In order to be assured that the treaty furnished to us was a true and full copy of the original in the archives of the Dominican government, they thought it important to examine the original carefully and to determine whether either the treaty of annexation or the Samana lease contained any concession or grant or secret clause favoring any United States official. This they did in the presence of the President and his cabinet, in the formal manner which will be found set out at length in their journal of date February 18, 1871. It was ascertained that no such clause was contained in the treaty or lease. They received, also, the solemn assurance of the President and his cabinet, as will be found in their journal of the same date, that no such grant or concession was made in any way in connection with the negotiation or preparation of the treaty.

#### TERMS OF ANNEXATION DESIRED.

The terms and conditions on which the Dominican government and people desire to be annexed are expressed in the treaty negotiated in 1869, which provided for the annexation of that republic to the United States as a territory. In discussing this subject the President and his cabinet manifested a liberal and accommodating spirit. He said: "We are willing to stand by that treaty, but we do not insist upon any particular provision in it. It was drawn up by your own Government. By it we give you everything we have except the public lands. If we were asked what change in the treaty we desired, we would answer this: When that treaty was negotiated we expected that this government would speedily be turned over to the United States, and so we provided that the annual rent of Samana Bay, which we supposed would only have to be paid for a short time, should be deducted from the million and a half to be paid to the Dominican Republic. But a long and harassing delay has compelled us to carry on this government without pay and through many difficulties for nearly two years longer, and now would it not be right and fair to allow that rent to be paid for this period of delay without deducting it? We do not insist upon this as a condition precedent, but refer it to the sense of justice and the magnanimity of the American people."

At the suggestion of the commission the Dominican government was willing to modify the treaty so as to devote one-fifth of the public lands to the establishment and maintenance of common schools in the territory, provided the United States appropriate three hundred thousand acres of land to establish a college or colleges for instruction in agriculture, mining, engineering, and kindred subjects.

The commissioners earnestly believe that if annexation is decided upon, nothing could contribute more than the establishment of the institutions contemplated in this article in the treaty to insure the suc-



cess of the great experiment by a rapid development of the resources of the country, and by making the coming generations in that country fully capable of discharging the duties of American citizenship.

#### OF DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Their attention having been called to certain declarations regarding the independence of the Dominican Republic and the attachment of the people thereto, those points were especially dwelt upon by the commissioners. As already stated, the question was frequently asked, "In case the independence of the Dominican Republic were possible, would you prefer it to annexation?" The general answer was, "We would prefer independence, but independence is impossible." That this latter declaration is the result of a true insight into the condition of the country by those who know it best—that it is the only conclusion to which a thoughtful lover of that country can come—is made manifest by the following recapitulation of facts.

Historically, the Dominican Republic has never maintained any real independence. With the exception of the very brief period after its first separation from Spain, it has never seen a day when its most bitter foe—the Haytian Republic—has not been in defiant possession of a valuable portion of its territory. Worse than this, it has rarely seen the time when a number of semi-political, semi-military leaders were not ready, on the slightest provocation, to league with this bitter enemy, and to bring murder and pillage upon their country.

Nor is that portion of the Dominican Republic not under Haytian control more than technically independent. It has been dependent upon the forbearance of Spain, whose strong islands lie near its northern and eastern coasts; it has been dependent on the good-will of England, whose main possession in the West Indies lies but a short distance to the westward; it has been dependent, not upon the lack of will, but the lack of means of every nest of plotters in any of the neighboring islands, for immunity against constant piracies and invasions; it is dependent on the jealousies, the caprices, and the petty hates of chieftains, who have never hesitated to go through its territory with fire and sword at the promptings of any whim or grudge. Nor without intervention from some source can matters ever be better. All that the commissioners could learn showed that the succession of struggles has utterly disheartened the people, has made more and more hopeless any attempt to rescue any portion of its rightful territory from Hayti, and has rendered impossible any organization of the people itself strong enough to protect society from armed leaders of factions.

There is but one chance for that republic ever to recover its independence—to become, after a proper period of probation, one of a union of states, the freedom and substantial independence of each being guaranteed by the strength of all.

It is beyond the province of the commissioners, under the resolution of Congress, to recommend that such a course be adopted or abstained from. They simply state, as their belief, founded upon all the observations they could make, and of all the facts they could learn, that this is the only way in which Dominican independence can be secured, and that if it be judged best not to adopt that course, even the present shadow of independence will be taken away. The Dominican territory is one of the fairest and richest on earth. Unless some such means as above mentioned are resorted to, it is to lie exhausted and helpless until some strong nation shall seize it and hold it in colonial subjection.



The commercial relations of the Dominican part of the island present one indication not to be passed without mention. The most important commerce of the island by far, the tobacco trade, is carried on mainly by Germans, and is with the principal seaport of the new German empire. To such an extent has this tendency developed itself that this trade is rapidly becoming a German monopoly. The commissioners found the number of German subjects in important business operations and agencies on the north side of the island to exceed those of any other foreign power, and their influence is extending steadily up into the great central districts.

#### RELATIONS OF SANTO DOMINGO TO FREE LABOR IN THE WEST INDIES.

The influence which Santo Domingo, under a stable government, would exercise upon the institution of slavery has not escaped attention. Geographically, it lies between the two last strongholds of slavery in North America—Cuba on the west and Porto Rico on the east. In the present impotency of its government it exercises little influence, but the inhabitants are earnestly opposed to slavery, and, under more favorable circumstances, their moral influence would be felt in the neighboring islands. It would be all on the side of freedom. Nor would that influence be merely moral. Commercial influences would work in the same direction. Santo Domingo is capable of supporting millions of people. Land is cheap. In fertility it certainly equals, and probably surpasses, the neighboring islands; and it is even better suited to the production of sugar and coffee. It could supply the entire market of the United States with these great West India staples. During the year above mentioned seventeen per cent. of all the imports of the United States were productions of slave labor. This trade is the main support which the slave system now has. With liberty, order, free labor, and the immigration which would be attracted by these, with a vast advantage in the West India trade arising from the fact that any duties laid by the United States on West India productions for revenue would be a discrimination against slave products, and would inure to the protection of Dominican free labor, it is not too much to expect that Santo Domingo might be developed into a powerful State, which by the inevitable laws of trade would make slave labor in the neighboring islands unprofitable, and by the spread of its ideas render the whole slave and caste system odious.

#### HAYTI.

The commissioners, of course, felt a deep interest in the experiment of self-government which the blacks are trying in Hayti. They certainly wished it all success. They could not understand how any new and close relations between Santo Domingo and the United States could affect that experiment otherwise than favorably. They felt that it would be unjust to our Government to suppose that it contemplated any action injurious to it. They had too much faith in the virtue of our institutions to doubt that the firm establishment of similar institutions in a neighboring land must act favorably upon republicanism and progress in Hayti. The only force to be exerted would be a moral one—the force of example. They knew of no valid claim which Hayti had against Santo Domingo, nor of any rights or interests which could be endangered by the extension of our institutions over the eastern end of the island.

Nevertheless, they desired to give to the government and to intelligent citizens an opportunity of stating their views. Moreover, they



desired, in the most friendly spirit, to make the same observations and study of Hayti and its inhabitants as they had made of the Dominican Republic.

They intimated to the President and his council their dispositions and desires. They stated even that they should be glad to be put in the way of ascertaining what were the claims of Hayti upon Santo Domingo, and what were the views and wishes of the Haytian people with respect to any changes that might be brought about in the neighboring republic; but they received no encouragement to pursue their inquiries.

They asked verbally and through our minister, in writing, for permission to explore the interior of the island, but this was met in a spirit equivalent to a refusal. They contented themselves, therefore, with taking such testimony and gathering such information upon matters bearing upon the question of annexation as they could without giving offense.

In reviewing the whole field of their investigations, looking to the interests of both divisions of the island, they are firmly persuaded that the annexation of Santo Domingo to the United States would be hardly less beneficial to the Haytian than to the Dominican people. This benefit would arise, first, from the example which would doubtless be afforded of a well-regulated, orderly, and prosperous state—the great need of that part of the world, and which it has as yet never seen. A second, and more direct benefit, would arise from the equitable establishment of a boundary line between the French-speaking and the Spanish-speaking nations upon that island, and its guarantee by a strong power. This would end the exhausting border warfare, which has been one of the greatest curses of Hayti as well as Santo Domingo, and would enable both to devote their energies thenceforward to the education of their people and the development of their resources.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. WADE.  
AND. D. WHITE.  
SAML. G. HOWE.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

The undersigned, attached to the commission of inquiry to Santo Domingo, authorized by a resolution of Congress approved January 12, 1871, and appointed by the President of the United States, beg leave to submit, that they have earnestly endeavored to learn all facts and circumstances concerning Santo Domingo which, in their judgment, have any important bearing upon the question of the annexation of that country to the United States; that they have especially endeavored to ascertain the views and feelings of its people in respect to that measure; they have also availed themselves of the facilities afforded them to make themselves acquainted with the character, habits, manners, institutions, laws, and religion of the people of that country; that in all they have seen and heard they have met with nothing inconsistent with the foregoing report as signed by Commissioners Benjamin F. Wade, Andrew D. White, and Samuel G. Howe. They therefore desire to express their full and complete concurrence with the statements made and the conclusions arrived at therein.

ALLAN A. BURTON.  
FREDERICK DOUGLASS.





## JOURNAL OF THE COMMISSION.

Be it remembered that on January 16, 1871, the members of the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo assembled at the Astor House, in the city of New York, and after an informal consultation, the Honorable Benjamin F. Wade presiding, adjourned to meet on the next day aboard the United States steam-frigate Tennessee, Captain William G. Temple, United States Navy, commanding; and having met pursuant to adjournment, the prescribed oath was administered by Ben. K. Phelps, esq., a notary public, to the following-named gentlemen, to wit: Commissioners Benjamin F. Wade, Andrew D. White, and Samuel G. Howe; Allan A. Burton, secretary to the commission; Frederick Douglass, assistant secretary; R. R. Hitt and John P. Foley, stenographers, and Professor W. P. Blake.

It was then resolved that the commission, with its attachés, proceed directly to the city of Santo Domingo, touching at Samana, if in the opinion of Captain Temple it should be deemed advisable.

B. F. WADE.

JANUARY 18, 1871.

The commission met aboard the Tennessee, twenty-four hours at sea, all the commissioners being present.

On motion of Mr. White, Mr. Wade was chosen president of the commission.

*Resolved*, (on motion of Mr. Wade,) That of the two appropriations of \$10,000 each for the expenses of this expedition, the chairman (Mr. Wade) be requested to draw, from time to time as it may be necessary, on the \$10,000 last appropriated, Captain Temple being authorized to draw on the first.

On motion of Mr. White, it is

*Resolved*, That the title of this commission be "The United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo."

It is ordered that the secretary of the commission keep a journal of its proceedings.

On motion of Mr. White, Charles R. Douglass is appointed messenger to the commission.

The Secretary laid before the commission the following papers, which he is ordered to keep subject to its orders:

I. The commissions of the commissioners and secretary, with their passports and letters of instruction.

II. A copy of the joint resolution of Congress in relation to Santo Domingo, approved January 12, 1871.

III. An autograph letter from the President of the United States to the President of the Dominican Republic.

IV. A letter from the Secretary of State of the United States to the Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic.

V. A report from the Secretary of State on Santo Domingo.

VI. A letter of instructions from the same to the diplomatic and consular officers of the United States on the island of Santo Domingo.

VII. Eight passports in blank.

It is ordered that the following letter and list be delivered to Captain Temple; which was done by the secretary:



UNITED STATES STEAMER TENNESSEE, *January 18, 1871.*

SIR: By order of the honorable the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo, I beg to inclose the annexed list of gentlemen accompanying said commission and of those authorized to accompany it. The gentlemen on said list numbered from one to twenty-two, inclusive, are at the expense of the United States Government. The remainder, numbered from twenty-three to thirty-two, inclusive, are provided with passage.

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

ALLAN A. BURTON, *Secretary.*

Captain WILLIAM G. TEMPLE,  
*Commanding United States Frigate Tennessee.*

## LIST.

1. Hon. Benjamin F. Wade, president of the commission.
2. Hon. Andrew D. White, commissioner.
3. Hon. Samuel G. Howe, commissioner.
4. Hon. Allan A. Burton, secretary.
5. Frederick Douglass, assistant secretary.
6. General Franz Sigel.
7. Major Henry P. Wade, secretary to Commissioner Wade.
8. Professor T. F. Crane, secretary to Commissioner White.
9. Dr. H. B. Wheelwright, secretary to Commissioner Howe.
10. R. R. Hitt, stenographer.
11. John P. Foley, stenographer.
12. C. Rebello, clerk to secretary.
13. Professor W. P. Blake, geologist and mineralogist.
14. Professor C. C. Parry, botanist.
15. Dr. W. Newcomb, naturalist.
16. A. R. Marvin, assistant geologist and mineralogist.
17. E. Waller, assistant mineralogist and chemist.
18. J. S. Adam, assistant mineralogist and chemist.
19. Professor H. A. Ward, zoologist and paleontologist.
20. C. Wright, botanist.
21. H. Brummel, botanist.
22. Charles E. Douglass, messenger.
23. J. E. Taylor, artist and draughtsman for "Frank Leslie."
24. H. V. Boynton, Associated Press and Cincinnati Gazette.
25. H. J. Ramsdell, New York Tribune.
26. W. B. Phillips, New York Herald.
27. W. H. Hurlbert, New York World.
28. C. F. Hart, New York Standard.
29. Arthur Shepherd, Washington Republican.
30. E. Jacobs, Cincinnati Commercial.
31. C. C. Fulton, Baltimore American.
32. William McMichael, Philadelphia Ledger and North American.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SAMANA BAY, *Monday, January 23, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members being present.

On motion of Mr. White, Mr. Howe is requested to make out and submit for approval a plan of inquiry, taking as a basis for the same the resolution of Congress authorizing the appointment of the commission.

It being found necessary for the Tennessee to coal in Samana Bay, it is, on motion of Mr. Howe, ordered that on reaching there a special messenger be sent by land to Santo Domingo City with a letter announcing to the Dominican government the approach of the commission to that capital.

*Resolved*, (on motion of Mr. White,) That Professor W. P. Blake be requested to make up a party for mineralogical observations with special reference to the existence of coal in the vicinity of Samana Bay, said party to make such investigations as may be practicable while the Tennessee is coaling in said bay.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.



SAMANA BAY, *Tuesday, January 24, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The following plan of inquiry was reported by Mr. Howe and approved, to wit:

In the investigations which you are about to make in the interior of Santo Domingo, in addition to such researches as affect your specialty, you will oblige the commission by making the following inquiries:

1. How large is the population; and what is the comparative number of each race?
2. What is their general physical condition, especially with reference to bodily strength and capacity for labor?
3. What is the condition of their dwellings, their mode of life, and means of subsistence? How far do they live in well-defined families?
4. If living by agriculture, how much land is ordinarily cultivated, by what implements, and with how much skill? What are the domestic animals, and to what extent is the breeding of cattle carried on? What other occupations?
5. What are their religious advantages, including the number of churches and the communicants of each?
6. What are the apparent means of instruction? If there are schools, to what extent are they attended?
7. Is the land held by proprietors in large tracts, or divided to any extent among the owners in small tracts?
8. Please ask of all intelligent persons their opinions and wishes on the subject of annexation to the United States.
9. Ask why, after the general demand for the reunion with Spain, they so soon, and so unanimously, sought to sever that connection?
10. Ask their views as to the union of the republics of Hayti and Dominica under one independent government. How far does the desire of annexation to a foreign power arise from fear of subjugation by Hayti?

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SAMANA BAY, *Wednesday, January 25, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members present.

It is ordered that the following letter addressed by the commission to his excellency the secretary for foreign affairs of the Dominican Republic be sent overland to the city of Santo Domingo, and Major H. P. Wade and Captain Conard were appointed to bear said letter, who immediately set out on their way. They were also furnished with a copy of the plan of investigation submitted by Mr. Howe on the 24th instant:

UNITED STATES STEAM-FRIGATE TENNESSEE,

*In the Bay of Samana, Republic of Dominica, January 25, 1871.*

SIR: We have the honor to inform your excellency that in pursuance of a joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, approved January 12, 1871, we have been commissioned by the President of the United States to visit the island of Santo Domingo, and that while on our way to the capital of the Dominican Republic bearing an autograph letter from the President of the United States to his excellency the President of the Dominican Republic, it is found necessary that the steamer conveying us on our mission take in coal at the port of Samana.

We expect, however, after a short delay, to proceed to the city of Santo Domingo, where we hope to have the honor to present in person the letter and resolution to which we have alluded.

In the mean time, we beg to inclose for your excellency's information a copy of the resolution referred to.

We have the honor to be, with perfect consideration, your excellency's obedient servants,

B. F. WADE.  
AND. D. WHITE.  
SAML. G. HOWE.

To the SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, &c., &c., &c.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.



SAMANA BAY, *Thursday, January 26, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members present.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That Dr. W. Newcomb be requested to examine and report to the commission regarding the several sources of disease, the general health and prevailing diseases of the city of Samana, and the country immediately adjacent, with such suggestions as he may see fit to make regarding the possibilities of sanitary improvement and prevention of disease.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That Frederick Douglass, esq., be requested to examine and report to the commission regarding the condition of the English-speaking immigrants residing in the town of Samana and the country adjacent, with special reference to a schedule of questions to be furnished by the commission.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That General Franz Sigel be requested to examine and report to the commission in relation to the capacity of the bay and peninsula of Samana as regards its own military defense, and its strategical advantages in regard to the protection of American interests in the adjacent waters.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the botanists attached to the expedition be requested to examine and report to the commission regarding the trees, plants, roots, grains, and other vegetable products of that part of the island adjacent to the bay of Samana, especially with regard to such trees and plants as may be of commercial value; or in any way decidedly useful to man.

*Resolved*, That the secretary be authorized to provide forthwith such transportation and other facilities as may in his discretion be necessary to complete such examination.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SAMANA BAY, *Friday, January 27, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That Professor Ward, having returned from an expedition into the interior of the peninsula of Samana, made for the purpose of geological and other investigation, be requested to make a similar investigation, proceeding along the coast in the direction of Cape Cabron to such a distance beyond as he may deem advisable, making a tour not exceeding ten days.

*Resolved*, That he be also authorized to proceed by land to Santo Domingo City, making similar investigations by the way; making a tour not exceeding a week.

*Resolved*, That Professor Wright and Mr. Brummel be requested to accompany Professor Ward, in order to complete the examination of the vegetable products of the peninsula.

*Resolved*, That the secretary be directed to make such arrangements as may be necessary to equip and provide generally for the expedition.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That after to-morrow evening Captain Temple sail for the city of Santo Domingo, at his convenience.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the following-named persons be requested by the sec-



retary to attend before the commission on to-morrow, at 11 o'clock a. m., to give information regarding various investigations now prosecuting by the commission, to wit: General Acosta, Colonel Abreu, Mons. Marciacq, the collector of the port, the register of deeds, the president and the secretary of the council of Samana, together with such other persons as he may select.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock a. m.

B. F. WADE.

SAMANA BAY, *Saturday, January 28, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The following-named persons appeared before the commission aboard the steamer Tennessee, on the invitation of the commission, and were examined at length, their statements being taken down by Messrs. R. R. Hitt and John P. Foley, the stenographers to the expedition, to wit: Governor José Silvano Acosta, civil and military governor of Samana; Colonel Abreu, commandante de la plaza and especial agent of the national government; Eugenio Garcia, alcalde; Benito Garcia, collector of the port and secretary to the council of Samana; Edmundo de Vere, member of the council of Samana; J. L. Marciacq and Lewis Horan, merchants of Samana; and Franklin Fabens, esq.

Adjourned until the call of the president.

B. F. WADE.

SAMANA BAY, *Sunday, January 29, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

On motion of Mr. White, the commission proceeded to Samana and there examined the register of conveyances for the district of Samana, and also the register of births, marriages, and deaths, and the statement of the revenues and expenditures of said district. They also took in writing the statements of the custodians of said registers and statements, together with the statements of Professor T. F. Crane and Mr. Hamilton, Benjamin Burr, Mrs. Burr, George Lewis Judd, General Theophilus James, and Rev. Jacob James.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 2, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The secretary laid before the commission the following communication, to wit:

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 2, 1871.*

GENTLEMEN: With the consent of the President of the United States, I employed Mr. C. Rebello to assist me in the performance of my duties as secretary to the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo. The next day after setting out on the voyage to the island of Santo Domingo, Mr. Rebello refused, and still refuses, to perform the duties for which he had been engaged and which he had explicitly agreed to perform. Under the circumstances I find that Mr. Rebello can no longer be useful. I therefore beg to recommend that he be discharged from further employment, as a favorable opportunity is now offered for him to return to the United States. I beg to add that Mr. Rebello has already received from me \$200, for which I hold his receipt; and my understanding was when I employed him that he was to be paid at the rate of \$200 a month.

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

ALLAN A. BURTON.

Hons. B. F. WADE, A. D. WHITE, and S. G. HOWE, *fc., fc., fc.*

Whereupon, on motion of Mr. Wade, it is

*Resolved*, That Mr. Rebello be discharged from further employment,





and that he be paid for his time according to the original agreement of employment, \$200 per month, and also his expenses from here to New York by the most speedy route.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Rebello be immediately notified of this resolution, and that Captain McCook, of the Nantasket, which is about to sail for St. Thomas, be requested to furnish him passage to St. Thomas and to pay his passage to New York by the earliest opportunity.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the scientific attachés of this expedition be requested to confer with the commission at this place to-morrow morning, viz: Professors Blake, Parry, Wright, and Dr. Newcomb, and Mr. Jacobs.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the secretary be authorized to employ Mr. T. F. Crane as his assistant.

At 12 o'clock m. the commission was received in public audience by his excellency President Baez, when the following address was made by the commission through the president, Mr. Wade:

MR. PRESIDENT: We have the honor to place in your hands an autograph letter of the President of the United States, which will explain to you the object of our mission. Your excellency will see that it is a mission of peace and good will. We come under instructions from the Congress, sanctioned by the President of the United States, to make sundry inquiries regarding the republic of which you are the chief magistrate. These instructions explain themselves.

We trust that we shall be received as friends, and afforded such simple facilities for the prosecution of our inquiries as may be necessary.

Accept sir, through us, the most cordial wishes of the people of the United States for the lasting peace and prosperity of the Dominican Republic.

To which President Baez responded:

GENTLEMEN: I have received with pleasure the autograph letter which his excellency President Grant has sent through a medium so highly appreciated by me.

I understand that your mission, ordered by the Congress of the United States, is one of absolute peace. This is the aspiration and object of this republic. One of the principal causes that have brought about the present negotiation is the strong desire of our people for the pacification of their country, the development of its resources, and a guarantee for the existence of the liberty and property of the citizens.

You may count on the most ample and absolute liberty in pursuing the objects of your mission. The government offers whatever data you may consider necessary for your purposes, and will take especial pleasure in affording everything desired. In making your investigation as to the spontaneity of the resolution of the Dominican people, we ardently desire that you will consult not only the immense majority in favor of annexation to the United States, but also those who oppose it.

The following is a copy of the letter from the President of the United States, delivered by the commission to the president of the Dominican Republic, with the official copy of the joint resolution of Congress:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *Washington, D. C., January 15, 1871.*

SIR: In accordance with a joint resolution of the two houses of Congress of the United States, I have appointed three distinguished citizens of the United States, to wit: Hon. B. F. Wade, many years a Senator; President A. D. White, Cornell University, and Dr. S. G. Howe, distinguished for his philanthropy, learning, and services in relieving the blind and mute of much of the monotony of life, natural to their infirmities, by opening to them the world of letters, as commissioners to visit the Republic of San Domingo, and to obtain the information called for by the resolution.

Associated with the commission is also Judge Allen A. Burton, secretary to the same, a gentleman who has honored his country by serving it in a diplomatic capacity.

I beg to introduce these gentlemen, and to ask for them your kind offices.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT.

His Excellency B. BAEZ,  
*President Republic of San Domingo.*

The following is a copy of the letter from the Secretary of State to the



secretary of foreign relations of the Dominican Republic, delivered at the same time by order of the commission by its secretary :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, January 14, 1871.

His Excellency MANUEL GAUTIER,  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic :*

The Congress of the United States having authorized the President to appoint three commissioners and a secretary to the commission, to proceed to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of making certain inquiries more particularly set forth in the resolution, the President has appointed as such commission three distinguished citizens of the United States: Benjamin F. Wade, esq., of the State of Ohio, Andrew D. White, esq., of the State of New York, and Samuel G. Howe, esq., of the State of Massachusetts, and has also appointed Allan A. Burton, esq., of the State of Kentucky, to be the secretary to the commission.

The commissioners will inform you of the object and scope of the resolution of Congress under which they have been appointed, and will solicit, so far as may be proper, the cooperation of the Dominican government in enabling them to faithfully perform the duties with which they are intrusted. They will sail from New York in the United States man-of-war Tennessee, and will remain on the island of San Domingo until they have completed the examination they are intrusted to make.

This commission is accompanied by a staff of scientific examiners, (who will be presented to you by the commission,) and in whose behalf your kind offices are invoked.

I avail myself of this occasion to offer to your excellency the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

HAMILTON FISH.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 3, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members present.

Mr. Howe, for the commission, addressed the following communication to Commander Irwin :

FEBRUARY 3.

DEAR SIR: The commission request that you would delay the sailing of the Nantasket for a few hours. Meantime they would be happy to see you at your earliest convenience.

Faithfully,

S. G. HOWE.

Captain IRWIN.

The following was, by order of the commission, addressed to the gentlemen attached to the expedition :

The commission request me say that they will be happy to have you dine daily at their mess at 5 o'clock.

The mess will be arranged to-morrow, and you will oblige the commission by stating whether they may count upon the pleasure of your company.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ALLAN A. BURTON, *Secretary.*

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 4, 1871.*

The commission met at 8 o'clock a. m. The commissioners all present.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved,* That hereafter the commission meet after breakfast to mark out work for the day; and again at 11 o'clock to receive such reports as may be made.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved,* That the scientific men attached to the commission be requested to send in all their reports, monographs, notes, &c., already taken.



On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the first business in order on Monday morning at the early meeting be the writing out, with the aid of the stenographers, the conversations had at Samana, having special importance, and which have not been recorded.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the secretary be requested to place all reports, monographs, statements, notes, and other written information, in the hands of Mr. Wheelwright, to be digested and put in order for the consideration of the commission.

On motion of Mr. Wade,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Howe be authorized to employ such clerks in keeping accounts, transcribing, translating, and such other work as he may deem necessary, and at such rate of compensation as he may deem proper.

The commissioners then took a recess until 10 o'clock a. m.

The commission examined and took the statement of Professor Wm. M. Gabb.

The commission then met the scientific gentlemen attached to the expedition for the purpose of conference in regard to their duties as connected with the commission.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, 1. That Professor Blake be requested to make such geological investigations in the country about Santo Domingo City as he may deem advisable.

2. That Professor Blake be requested to organize immediately an expedition across the island to examine and report the geological character of the country between the city of Santo Domingo and Puerto Plata, by such route as he may deem advisable, and to report thereupon to the commission; said expedition not to take longer than two weeks.

3. That Professor Wright be requested to accompany said expedition to examine and report concerning the vegetable products, having a commercial or other practical value, of the district to be traversed by the expedition of Professor Blake.

4. That Professor Parry be requested to examine and report concerning vegetable products having a commercial or other practical value, of such country adjacent to the city of Santo Domingo as he may think it best to examine.

5. That Mr. Jacobs and such other persons as may be agreed upon by the commission be requested to make such examination of the country between the city of Santo Domingo and Azua as may be deemed desirable from an agricultural point of view, and report thereupon to the commission.

6. That Professor Newcomb be requested to examine and report concerning the sanitary condition of the city of Santo Domingo and the adjacent country; and upon such other matters as he may deem of practical interest to the commission.

The commission had a conference with Captain Temple in regard to the route to be taken in further investigations of the coast.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That any special cash outlay by either of the commissioners for objects immediately connected with the expedition before departure be refunded.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.



SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 6, 1871.*

The commission met at 7 o'clock p. m., the members all present.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the expedition from Santo Domingo City to Azua be placed in charge of General Sigel, with the request that he examine and report concerning the characteristics of the country intervening, and people, in accordance with a schedule of points, to be furnished by the commission.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Jacobs be requested to accompany General Sigel, and to examine and report concerning the agricultural wealth of the country traversed.

*Resolved*, That so much of the resolution on this subject, passed on February 4, as is inconsistent herewith, be and is hereby rescinded.

Adjourned.

B. F. WADE.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *Tuesday, February 7, 1871.*

The commission met at 8 o'clock a. m., the members all present.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the following letter be addressed to Professor Blake, to wit:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,  
*Santo Domingo City, February 7, 1871.*

SIR: The commission desires that you take charge of an expedition of exploration from this city, across the island, to Puerto Plata.

You yourself can judge best of the observations to be made in the line of your specialties, but the additional particular information desired by the commission is set forth in the list of questions which have heretofore been furnished you.

The commission desires that a full journal be kept, and that a note be made, as nearly as possible, to the time of observation, and of making inquiries, by yourself and your assistants. All the traveling expenses will be paid, of course, but the commission would enjoin strict economy, and will expect a detailed statement of items.

A vessel will be sent to Puerto Plata to take you on board, on the — day of the current month. You will enjoin upon your company to observe that the expedition is one of inquiry, and that it is a peaceful and friendly one.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ALLAN A. BURTON,  
*Secretary.*

Professor W. P. BLAKE, *ſc.*, *ſc.*, *ſc.*

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the following letter be addressed to General Franz Sigel, to wit:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,  
*Santo Domingo City, February 7, 1871.*

SIR: The commission desires that you take charge of an exploring expedition, by the inland route, from this place to Azua, on Ocoa Bay.

You yourself can judge best of the observations to be taken of the military topography, but the special information desired by the commission is set forth in the list of questions inclosed.

The commission desires that a full journal be kept, and that a note be made, as nearly as possible, to the time of observation, and of making inquiries, by yourself and assistants. All the traveling expenses will be paid, of course, but the commission would enjoin strict economy, and will expect a detailed statement of items.

A vessel will be sent to Ocoa Bay, to take you on board, on the — day of the current month.

You will limit your company to Mr. Jacobs, of whom you will require a careful agricultural survey of the country, to one interpreter, and the necessary guides. You can, at your discretion, take other persons along, but it should be upon condition of their paying their full share of the expenses. You will enjoin upon your company to ob-



serve that the expedition is purely one of inquiry, and that it is a peaceful and friendly one.

With best wishes for a pleasant and successful journey, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ALLAN A. BURTON,  
*Secretary.*

General FRANZ SIGEL, *ſc.*, *ſc.*, *ſc.*

The commission then took a recess, and met again on the same day, at 4 o'clock p. m., all the members being present.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That Mr. Crane be requested to accompany the expedition to Puerto Plata, and to make special inquiry into the social and political condition of the people, their views and wishes respecting annexation to the United States, &c., and to report thereupon to this commission.

The following communication from Professor W. P. Blake was then received :

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 7, 1871.*

GENTLEMEN: I accept with pleasure the duty imposed upon me by your letter of this morning, and will be much pleased to have Professor Crane accompany the expedition, as you request, for the purpose of making an independent report to you upon such subject as you may direct.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. BLAKE.

HON. UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS TO SANTO DOMINGO.

Instructions given General Sigel, and referred to in the letter addressed him, and above given, to wit :

In the investigation you are about to make in the interior of Santo Domingo, in addition to such researches as affect your specialty, you will oblige the commission by making the following inquiries, taking note of the name, race, and occupation of your informant.

1. How large is the population, and what is the comparative number of each race and sex ?
2. What is the general physical condition, especially with reference to bodily strength and capacity for labor ?
3. What is the condition of their dwelling, their mode of life and means of subsistence ? How many rooms are in the house ?
4. If living by agriculture, how much land is ordinarily cultivated, and with how much skill ? What are the domestic animals, and to what extent is the breeding of cattle carried on ? What other occupations ?
5. What are their religious advantages, including the number of churches and communicants of each ?
6. What are the apparent means of instruction ? If there are schools, to what extent are they attended ? What population read and write, and is the number of these increasing ?
7. Is the land held by proprietors in large tracts ? Are there any large proprietors exacting rents ?
8. Please ask of all intelligent persons their opinions and wishes on the subject of annexation to the United States.
9. Ask why, after the general demand for the reunion with Spain, they so soon and so unanimously sought to sever that connection ?
10. Ask their views as to the union of the republics Hayti and Dominica under an independent government. How far does the desire of annexation to a foreign power arise from a fear of subjugation by Hayti ? What sort of people favor annexation, and what sort oppose it ?

The following communication from Señor E. Coen was received by the commission, and the answer that follows it returned immediately, to wit :

[Translation.]

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 7, 1871.*

SIR: The senate of the republic having nominated a committee of its members to visit the body over which you preside, and to felicitate it in the name of the nation on its safe arrival, I fulfil my duty as a member of the committee to ask you to be so obliging





as to indicate to me at what hour on to-morrow it will be convenient for your body to receive the visit.

With sentiments of my distinguished consideration, I subscribe myself your very attentive servant, who kisses your hands,

E. COEN.

HON. B. F. WADE,

*President of the United States Commission,  
near the Dominican Government.*

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 7, 1871.*

The president and members of the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo have the honor to offer their best compliments to the honorable the committee of the Dominican senate, and thanking them for their attentive communication of this date, made through Mr. Coen, hasten to say that it will afford them much pleasure to receive the senatorial committee on to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 7, 1871—6 p. m.*

The commission met, all the members present.

The commission received a deputation from the Society of the Rosary, expressing satisfaction at the coming of the commission, and hearty wishes for its success. The conference having ended, the commission took a recess.

7 O'CLOCK p. m.

Deputations from two benevolent societies of Santo Domingo City were received. In addition to the usual felicitations, there was a very strong expression, unanimously concurred in, in favor of annexation to the United States; the reasons assigned being the wretchedness of the country under existing pressure from Hayti, which affords ambitious partisans constant support against the legitimate government, and necessitates the withdrawal of the working classes from productive industry, and causes general distrust and stagnation.

The deputation was declared to represent persons of various ranks, classes, and occupations, various trades being specially interested.

The conference being ended, the commission adjourned to to-morrow, 8 o'clock a. m.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 8, 1871.*

The commission met pursuant to adjournment, the members all present.

A deputation was received from the senate of the Dominican Republic. The president of the deputation having expressed on the part of the senate the satisfaction with which the arrival of the commission is regarded, and the president of the commission having responded, an informal examination was made by the members of the commission regarding points of special interest on which the delegation might be supposed to possess information. The general testimony was strongly in favor of annexation to the United States, as the only way out of the existing difficulties of the Dominican Republic.

Various questions were asked regarding the present constitution of the republic, and the relations of the senate to the other parts of the government, and the replies were of special interest. Questions were also asked regarding the Spanish occupation and the cause of its cessation; regarding education, actual and possible; regarding the relations of the church to the state and to education; regarding the terms on which the Dominican Republic would desire to be admitted under the Government of the United States, &c. At the conclusion the deputation



expressed its friendly feelings toward the United States, and a willingness to lay before the commission its archives, or any documents in its possession, and generally to aid the commission by all means in its power.

The commission then took a recess.

FEBRUARY 8—12 m.

A deputation was received from the church authorities of the city, the vicar apostolic, the Rev. Leopoldo Agnasanta, being at its head. The usual felicitations having been made, a conference was had regarding the church property; the apostolic vicar asking what the action of the Government of the United States might be upon the subject. He was answered by the commission that whatever rights of property the church might have under the laws, could not be interfered with by any power in the United States.

The vicar apostolic having then informed the commission that the church had claims on property which had been taken from it during past revolutions, the commission stated to them through Mr. Howe that such claims would be adjudicated by the regular tribunals, according to the laws.

At the request of the commission, the vicar apostolic promised that a complete statement of such claims should be made and presented.

The commission then took a recess until February 8, 2½ o'clock p. m.

The commission met according to the preceding order, the members all present.

A deputation from the army, and men of standing and position in the country district, in the province of Santo Domingo, there being twenty-five in all, was received. In response to inquiries, they expressed themselves strongly in favor of annexation to the United States, giving the usual reasons.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That Professor Blake's party be instructed to be in Puerto Plata on the 1st day of March next.

Whereupon the following letter was delivered to Professor Blake :

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 8, 1871.*

SIR: I beg to inform you that at a meeting of the United States commissioners this morning, Commissioner Howe moved that Professor Blake's party be instructed to be in Puerto Plata on the 1st day of March; said motion was agreed to.

Respectfully yours,

FRED'K DOUGLASS,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Commission.*

Professor BLAKE.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the examination of government officials in regard to matters of government and their relation with foreign powers, finance, concessions of land, be made the special order of business for Saturday morning at ten o'clock, to be continued until finished.

On motion of Mr. Wade,

*Resolved*, That the commissioners make an excursion up the river Ozama to-morrow, as far as navigable, in prosecution of their investigations in that direction.

Adjourned.



SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 9, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That Professor Marvine be requested to organize and conduct an expedition from Santo Domingo City to Azua, with leave to penetrate the country beyond to the salt mines, if he thinks it advisable, and that he be expressly instructed to examine on the route the salt deposits, copper mines, sources of petroleum, and other mineral deposits of which he may receive accounts.

At 7½ o'clock a. m. of this February 9, the commission proceeded in the steam launch of the Tennessee up the river Ozama to a distance of about fifteen miles, and then passed up one of its main branches to the westward to about the same distance. Several plantations and collections of cabins were inspected and questions asked regarding methods of cultivation. Professors Marvine, geologist, and Parry, botanist, accompanied the expedition, which returned in the afternoon.

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *Friday, February 10, 1871.*

The commission met at 8 o'clock p. m., the members all present.

A deputation from a benevolent society, called the Excellentissimo Jesus, was received. They came voluntarily to offer the felicitations of the society to the commission, and expressed their wish for annexation to the United States, after which a conference took place. Various questions were asked and answers given. The inquiries were directed to matters of which the deputation were supposed to have special knowledge.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That Professor Marvine be instructed to report to the commission at Azua or on board the United States steamer in Ocoa Bay on or before noon of Wednesday, the 22d instant.

The following letter was then delivered to Professor Marvine:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,  
*Santo Domingo City, February 10, 1871.*

SIR: In pursuance to a resolution of the commission, I inclose herewith a copy of the instructions for your guidance in conducting the expedition which you are about to undertake. I also append hereto a copy of a resolution with regard to the time to be occupied on said expedition.

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

ALLAN A. BURTON,  
*Secretary.*

Professor A. R. MARVINE, *ſc.*, *ſc.*, *ſc.*

The instructions were the same as those addressed to General Sigel, hereinbefore given.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the special order of business for to-morrow, as fixed by resolution of the 8th instant, be postponed until Monday, the 13th, and that the special order of business for to-morrow be as follows, to wit:

1. To meet the vicar apostolic, and hold a conference with regard to the claims of the church on landed property within the limits of the Dominican Republic.
2. Next, to hold a special conference with the adherents of General Cabral, or those supposed to be friendly to him, in this city, or such as may be found.



3. That measures be then taken looking to a conference with General Cabral at an early day.

4. That a messenger be sent to the senate to-morrow to know at what time in the early part of next week they will receive the commission.  
Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 12, 1871.*

The commission met at 10 a. m., the members all present.

The Rev. Father Ramirez Ariedo, the curate of La Vega, called and made a detailed statement of facts relating to the Province of Cibao, which was taken down by the stenographer. The testimony of other persons was also heard and reduced to writing.

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *Monday, February 13, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

On motion of Mr. White, the following dispatch to the Secretary of State was ordered to be sent to the United States by the steamer Tybee on to-morrow:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,  
*Santo Domingo City, February 14, 1871.*

SIR: We have the honor to inform you that, after a pleasant voyage from New York of seven days, the Santo Domingo commissioners and their attachés arrived at the Bay of Samana in good health, and immediately entered on the duties of their mission, which have been prosecuted with diligence.

A mass of testimony has been taken, both at Samana and in this city, including the statements of people of all ranks, conditions, and opinions, regarding the points embraced in the resolution authorizing our mission. Copies of various documents and registers have also been taken. Several expeditions have been sent into various parts of the island, not only to investigate its mineral and vegetable wealth, but also to bring back trustworthy information regarding the moral, mental, and social condition of the people, as well as their ideas regarding annexation to the United States; and for this purpose, schedules of questions carefully drawn up have been furnished the members of these exploring parties. Special attention has also been given to the sanitary condition of the towns and their possible amelioration in this respect.

The commissioners are happy to state that, while they have from the first declined to receive any especial marks of favor from the government of this republic, however well meant, which should even in appearance impair their perfect independence and freedom, the government has acquiesced heartily in this, and has responded none the less cheerfully and fully to all their wishes for information, and has placed everything at their disposal necessary to their understanding of affairs from its point of view. It also gives them pleasure to testify to the uniform kindness with which they have thus far been treated by all classes of the people.

Everything looks favorable, and they do not doubt that the commission will be able in due time to make a report which will be thorough and exact. The late rains and the want of roads on the island make their progress more slow and laborious than was expected. They are anxious to make their investigations thorough, though it may be attended with more delay than was perhaps originally anticipated. They expect to arrive in the United States about the middle of April.

We have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your obedient servants,

B. F. WADE.  
AND. D. WHITE.  
SAML. G. HOWE.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C.*

And, on motion of Mr. Howe, the following communication was ordered to be dispatched by the Tybee:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,  
*Santo Domingo City, February 14, 1871.*

SIR: By desire of the commission of inquiry to Santo Domingo, I have the honor to state, for the information of the Department, the circumstances under which Mr. Re-



bello was admitted aboard the United States steamer Tennessee on the departure of the commission from New York.

Mr. Rebello was employed by me as clerk and copyist, and to assist me in such duties as might be proper for him to perform for me as the secretary of the commission, and with the understanding that his relations to the commission and to me were to be strictly confidential. Soon after setting out on the voyage, Mr. Rebello refused to render me any assistance, and applied to the commissioners for employment. The commissioners declined to employ him except in some capacity in which he could be useful to me in the discharge of my duties as its secretary, and to which I would recommend him. Finding that I could not conscientiously do this, I was forced to discharge him. He had already received \$200 payment of his wages, which I understood to be at the rate of \$200 a month.

I beg leave to add that, after the commission declined to employ Mr. Rebello, except upon the terms above stated, he avowed himself to be the assistant editor of the New York Sun.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ALLAN A. BURTON.

Hon. HAMILTON FISH,

*Secretary of State, &c., &c., &c., Washington, D. C.*

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 14, 1871.*

The commission met at 9 o'clock a. m., the commissioners all present.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That whereas it is desirable to explore both sides of the island, and to economize time, the commission divide into two parties; one to proceed in the Nantasket to Puerta Plata and visit La Vega, the other to go in the Tennessee to Ocoa Bay, touching at Jacmel, and to rendezvous at Port-au-Prince on the 7th of March.

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *Wednesday, February 15, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members present.

General Hungria, formerly minister of war under Baez, having taken refuge in the British consulate to avoid arrest for treasonable correspondence, and the commissioners having applied to the consul for an interview with him, and the consul being reluctant to grant it without some authority from the government, the commission therefore applied for such authorization, and the following answer was received:

[Translation.]

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 15, 1871.*

HONORABLE GENTLEMEN: President Baez has particularly charged me to say to you that, according to what he expressed to you on the day of your reception in this capital, there is not, nor can there be, any inconvenience in the members of the honorable commission putting themselves in communication with persons that are opposed to annexation, or to the present government, even though such persons have for any reason whatever taken refuge in foreign consulates, and that, on the contrary, the President, as well as his cabinet, will see with the greatest satisfaction that the honorable commissioners from the United States act in these, as in other cases, with perfect liberty.

I improve this opportunity to assure you of my greatest consideration, subscribing myself your most obedient servant,

M. M. GAUTIER,  
*Minister of Foreign Affairs.*

Hon. B. F. WADE, A. D. WHITE, and SAM. G. HOWE,

*Commissioners from the United States to the Dominican Republic, &c., &c., &c.*

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the secretary address the following note to the president of the senate, advising him of the wish of the commission to visit that body at half past 10 o'clock to-morrow morning:

UNITED STATES COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO SANTO DOMINGO,

*Santo Domingo City, February 16, 1871.*

The United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo beg the acceptance of

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their compliments, and will thank the honorable president of the Dominican senate to inform them if it will be convenient for the commission to have the honor of visiting the senate at half past 10 o'clock this a. m.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the following note be sent to the Dominican secretary for foreign affairs this evening, to wit :

The president and members of the United States Commission of Inquiry have the honor to present their best compliments to his excellency, Señor Manuel M. Gautier, secretary for foreign affairs of the Dominican Republic, and beg to inclose a list of inquiries relating to matters treated of in their conference of yesterday. They hope that his excellency may find it convenient to give them the detailed information at an early day, as they expect to sail from this city on the afternoon of Saturday next.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 15, 1871.*

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That General H. V. N. Boynton be requested to make inquiry as to the feasibility of sending a message to General Cabral looking to a meeting with him, and that he report to the commission at the earliest convenient day.

At 9 o'clock p. m. the following papers were received from President Baez, to wit:

[Translation.]

ESPECIAL DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT ON THE EASTERN BORDER—DUPLICATE.  
No. 26.]

GRAND CITIZEN: I hasten to advise your excellency of an event of the greatest importance which took place to-day in this heroic village.

The whole population, with marvelous unanimity, has solemnly proclaimed its adhesion to the Great Republic of the United States, hoisting on the house of the military commander the starry banner side by side with the standard of the cross. This has been to me, most excellent sir, a most agreeable surprise, and is a happy inauguration of our inevitable political transformation. I have not been able to impede this manifestation of the will of the entire people of the place.

Who can turn the course of the Amazon? Who is able to resist the torrent of the sublime Niagara? I fear, with too much reason, that on my way through the other towns along this line I will find repeated what has happened in Higüey.

I salute your excellency with God and liberty.

J. CAMINERO,

*General Agent on Special Service of the Government.*

His Excellency General BUENAVENTURA BAEZ,  
*President of the Republic of Santo Domingo.*

[Translation.]

Most Excellent General DON BUENAVENTURA BAEZ, *President of the Republic of Santo Domingo :*

MOST EXCELLENT SIR: I have the honor to inform you, as I do the minister of the interior, under this date, of what has taken place here with reference to the incorporation of this Republic with that of the United States of America, assuring you at the same time that the same will be repeated in the other towns under my command, for they are all of the same way of thinking, as I am reliably informed.

I improve this occasion to offer my services to your excellency, with sentiments of the highest consideration, your true and loyal servant and friend, who kisses your hand,

ANDRES P. PEREZ.

SEYBO, *February 13, 1871.*

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 16, 1870.*

DEAR SIR: The president of the senate has received the note you forwarded through me. He begs me to let you know in order that you should inform the honorable commission that, owing to the president's indisposition and the absence of two members, it will be better to postpone the visit until Saturday, 18th, at 10.30 a. m.

I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

E. COEN.

ALLAN A. BURTON, Esq., *Secretary.*

Adjourned.



SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 16, 1871.*

In pursuance to an informal consultation among the commissioners, Mr. Howe set out this morning on a trip of exploration from this city to Seybo. A person calling himself J. A. Jesurum presented to the commission a statement of Jesurum & Zoon, of Curaçoa, concerning a claim set up by the latter against the Dominican Republic. The commission acknowledge the receipt of the same by a note at the foot of a copy of said statement.

The following communication was received from the president of the ayuntamiento of Santo Domingo City, to wit:

[Translation.]

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 16, 1871.*

*The City Council of the Capital:*

HONORABLE SIRs: The government of this city, over which I have the honor to preside, has decided to visit, in a body, the worthy and honorable commission over which you so worthily preside, and which represents at the same time the Congress, the Government, and the people of the great North American Republic, to make known to it their attachment and sympathies for the idea of uniting the Dominican Republic and the former. With this view I will thank you to be so good as to signify a time when that honorable body will be pleased to receive the government of the city.

With sentiments of high and distinguished consideration, I have the honor of subscribing myself your obedient servant,

E. MA. VALENCIA, *President.*

SIR: The United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo have had the honor to receive the attentive communication which you have been pleased to address them on this day, advising them of the intention of the ayuntamiento of this capital to visit the commission in their corporate capacity. Duly appreciating this mark of friendly respect, I hasten to inform you that the commission will have pleasure in receiving the body over which you so worthily preside on to-morrow evening at 8 o'clock.

I improve this opportunity to offer the assurances of my highest consideration and most cordial esteem.

B. F. WADE,  
*President of the Commission.*

Hon. Señor Don E. MA. VALENCIA, *&c., &c., &c.*

Adjourned.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 17, 1871.*

The commission met; absent, Mr. Howe.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved,* That Professor Ward be requested to examine and report on the country lying on the north coast of Santo Domingo between the junction of the peninsula of Samana and the main land and Puerto Plata, said examination to be completed on or before March 1, and \$150 is hereby appropriated for that purpose.

*Resolved,* That Captain McCook be requested to take Professor Ward on the Nantasket to such point near Samana as may be agreed upon as most convenient, and that he also be requested to afford such other facilities to Professor Ward in transporting his assistants from Samana to the above point as may be desirable.

At 8 o'clock p. m. the municipal government of the city called in a body, and, after the usual interchange of courtesies, a free and informal conference took place between the several members of the commission relating to numerous points of inquiry embraced in the resolution of Congress authorizing the appointment of the commission, which was taken down by the stenographer.

Adjourned.



SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 18, 1871.*

The commission met; absent, Mr. Howe.

At the time named by the senate, Messrs. Wade and White of the commission, Mr. Howe being absent on an expedition to the province of Seybo, proceeded to the executive palace and were formerly received by the senate of the Dominican Republic. A conference was afterward held regarding claims against the government now pending before the senate.

The commission, represented as above, then proceeded to the house of the chief justice of the republic, and, after paying its respects, held a conference regarding the administration of justice in the republic, and on various other subjects.

The commission, represented by the above members, then proceeded to the office of the minister for foreign affairs, and asked for and received the original treaty between the United States and the Dominican Republic, signed and sealed by Manuel Maria Gautier and Raymond H. Perry, and also the treaty having reference to the lease of Samana. They were both carefully read aloud by the commissioners, one commissioner reading the English and the other comparing the Spanish, and they were found to contain no article besides those already published; and no article or clause was found conferring or looking toward any grant, concession, gift, payment, or benefit of any kind to any individual in any case whatever.

The commissioners then put the following questions to President Baez, and to his ministers of foreign affairs, national affairs, and war: "Has there been promised by you, or any of you, to any official, or any person in the service of the United States, or any other individual whatever, any grant, gift, payment, concession, or benefit of any kind, conditioned or consequent on the preparation or ratification of all or any part of these treaties, or either of them?"

And the president and his ministers aforesaid answered "No."

The commissioners then asked whether there were any other treaties with the United States than those now held?

And the president and his ministers answered "No."

President Baez then made the following statement, to wit: That after the signing of the treaty with the United States, in accordance with the custom general in Europe at the making of treaties, he had wished that the Dominican Republic should confer a gift of a moderate amount on General Babcock, and seeing that the public domain afforded the most ready means of doing this, he proposed that the Dominican senate should confer a gift on General Babcock of a piece of land; that General Babcock refused, and in such a decided manner that the subject was not again alluded to; that in making this proposal he could not have had any idea of unduly influencing General Babcock, since the treaty had already been made, but that he did so entirely in accordance with the custom of making presents at the making of treaties, and for no purpose and with no other thought whatever.

At 8 o'clock p. m. the ministers of finance, war, and for foreign affairs called and held a protracted conference with the commission, the substance of which was taken down by the stenographer.

A communication in regard to ecclesiastical property was received from the apostolic vicar. [See documents.]

A communication was received from the Dominican senate, inclosing a list of claims recognized by that body against the government, dated on this day. [See documents.]

Adjourned.



OCOA BAY, *February 23, 1871.*

The steamer Tennessee having arrived here yesterday, and Mr. Howe not having reached here by land from Santo Domingo City, and Mr. White having gone overland from Santo Domingo City to Porto Plata, Mr. Wade proceeded to the city of Azua, where he was received by the authorities of the city and province, and an address made him, to which he responded; after which an informal conference touching the subjects of inquiry embraced in the resolution of congress took place, and the testimony of various witnesses was heard, all of which was taken down.

AZUA, *Friday, February 24, 1871.*

After an excursion of inquiry to the country for the purpose of examining the cane-fields and the manufacture of sugar in the neighborhood of Azua, Mr. Wade returned to the Tennessee.

OCOA BAY, *February 28, 1871.*

The commission met; absent, Mr. White.

*Resolved*, That Captain Temple be requested to sail directly for Port au Prince.

Adjourned.

BAY OF PORT AU PRINCE, *March 4, 1871.*

According to previous arrangement Commissioners Wade and Howe were received by President Saget with full honors.

United States Minister Resident Bassett and wife, Consular Agent Conard and wife, the United States consul at Cape Haytien, and the consul of Liberia in the port were received by the commissioners aboard the Tennessee in the usual manner.

Adjourned.

BAY OF PORT AU PRINCE, *March 6, 1871.*

The commissioners met; absent, Mr. White.

The following letter from Mr. Bassett, the United States minister resident to Hayti, with the inclosure, was received and read, and its consideration postponed:

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Port au Prince, March 6, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a dispatch in translation (inclosed A) addressed to me by the Haytian government through its minister of the interior, referring to communications of your commission with General Cabral, and to your address made at the national palace on the 4th instant. I beg to call your attention to this inclosure, and to ask that you will favor me with a reply at your earliest opportunity.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

EBENEZER D. BASSETT.

HON. BENJAMIN F. WADE,

*President of United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo.*

A.

[Translation.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF INTERIOR, PORT AU PRINCE,  
*March 5, 1871, 68th year of independence—8 o'clock p. m.*

MR. MINISTER: I have the honor to announce to you that a messenger from General Cabral has presented himself at the frontier, and demands the authorization to come to the capital to place in the hands of the commission of the Republic of the United States, now in this city, some dispatches, of which he is the bearer, in answer to that which the commission addressed to the said general. As the government intends to observe the strictest neutrality in the affairs of the Dominican Republic, it desires to



know from the commission, through you, if the said commission would receive the messenger in question.

I profit by this opportunity to pray you to let me have a copy of the discourse that the honorable Senator, president of the commission, pronounced yesterday at his official visit to the President of Hayti, in the national palace.

Receive, sir, the renewed assurance of my high consideration.

P. LORQUET.

Mr. EBENEZER D. BASSETT,

*Minister Resident, &c., &c., &c.*

Adjourned.

BAY OF PORT AU PRINCE, *Hayti*, March 9, 1871.

The commission met, the members all present, Commissioner White having arrived in the Nantasket yesterday.

Messrs. White and Howe sent the following reply to the letter of Mr. Bassett of the 6th instant, Mr. Wade declining to take any further steps in the attempt at conferring with General Cabral :

MARCH 9, 1871.

DEAR SIR: Your letter covering a communication of the Secretary of the Interior of Hayti, &c., is received.

The secretary asks if the commission would receive the bearer of a dispatch from General Cabral. Assuredly the commission will be glad to receive the communication alluded to, since it must be in answer to one made by it to General Cabral.

The commission presumes that the letter is an open one; at any rate, it has no objection to the Haytian authorities having knowledge of its communications with parties beyond the frontier.

As the commission will be here but a short time, it hopes that the matter may have immediate dispatch.

With due consideration,

A. D. WHITE.

S. G. HOWE.

Hon. Mr. BASSETT.

In pursuance of the foregoing correspondence, the commissioners met on this, the 9th instant, at the house of Mr. Conard, United States commercial agent in Port au Prince, General Wenceslao Alvarez and Señor Don Juan Francisco Travieso, plenipotentiaries, as they styled themselves, accredited to the commission by General José M. Cabral. The commission having inspected and found in due form the letters of credence of the above-named gentlemen, the president, Mr. Wade, received for the commission two communications addressed to the commissioners by General Cabral on February 25 and March 3, 1871, respectively, and the same having been read by the commission, Mr. Wade asked General Alvarez and Señor Travieso if they had any other authority from General Cabral than to deliver the communications above referred to, and they answered that they had not. Mr. Wade then objected to holding any further communication with these gentlemen, and retired; after which, and at the same and at two other several meetings held on the same day, Messrs. White and Howe conferred with the plenipotentiaries of General Cabral, and returned answers to the communications above named, which correspondence here follows, except the original letters addressed by the commission to General Cabral, which were not communicated to the secretary.

[Translation.]

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL, GENERAL OF DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ARMIES, AND SUPERIOR CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, &c., &c.—No. 37.

SAN JUAN, *February* 25, 1871.

GENTLEMEN: Being informed that the Senate of your nation, in sending you to the territory of our republic, has done so with a view of your ascertaining if it be true that the





Dominican people desire to be annexed to the republic of the United States of America, it is my duty, as a good citizen and as chief of the revolution which I head, to make known to you, that the Dominicans are opposed to carrying out the scheme of said annexation; that the majority of them desire only to preserve the political sovereignty of their nation; to be free and independent; preserving at the same time good relations of peace and harmony with all civilized nations of the world, and chiefly with the enlightened and grand republic of the United States of America.

In representing the contrary, the government of Señor Baez has been wanting in truth, and the means that have been used to make the cabinet at Washington believe that annexation is acceptable to the Dominicans has been the result of the arbitrary conduct, the tyranny and the terrorism which he has exercised over the inhabitants of the country, by imprisoning, expelling from the country, shooting all those who have heretofore spoken out, or that now speak out, against the idea of annexing our republic.

Availing himself of bad faith, he has attempted to cause it to be believed that the revolution, which I have the honor to lead, is without principles of order, and that it is made up of people without conscience, calling us robber chiefs and utterly demoralized and powerless. The falsity of all this is palpable when it is remembered that it is now three years since the revolution was proclaimed in this the southern province, and far from his being able to suffocate it, he has not been able to make it recede a single step.

That you may the better understand the bad faith and want of credit of that government, I call your attention to the untruthful proceedings that it has sent within the last year to the Congress of your nation wherein it is falsely asserted that the towns of San Juan, Las Matas, Bánica, Cercado, and Neyba desired annexation, they being at the same time under the rule of the revolution, and having made solemn protests against being annexed, which protests were also sent to the Congress.

In addressing you these lines I have as an object to induce you to inquire in person of the inhabitants of these towns as to their wishes in this respect, as well as in regard to the spirit with which the revolution is carried on. By this means you will comprehend better the public sentiment, and perhaps be satisfied of the truth of what I have said, and that it is in consequence of the depths of tyranny in which Baez holds it submerged that the whole country has not protested against annexation.

If I should merit the honor of a visit from you, you will have the goodness to advise me.

I subscribe myself, with sentiments of high consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

JOSÉ MARÍA CABRAL.

Messrs. BENJ. F. WADE, SAMUEL HOWE, A. D. WHITE,  
*Members of the Commission of the  
United States Government in Santo Domingo.*

[Translation.]

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—JOSÉ MARÍA CABRAL, GENERAL OF DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ARMIES AND SUPERIOR CHIEF OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT, &C., &C.—NO. 3.

HEADQUARTERS AT YAQUE, *March 3, 1871.*

GENTLEMEN: Being informed of the contents of your communication dated on the 21st ultimo, and also of your additional letter dated on the 28th of the same month at Azua, I deem it proper to answer you, that I having no power to enter upon any kind of negotiation, nor into any treaty that may tend to annex my country, and both the army and people whom I have the honor to lead having in March of last year protested against the same, it seems to me that the interview proposed by you would be wholly useless.

If you have instructions from your Government to take the opinion and wish of the Dominican people upon this point, as you state you have in your communication, the best mode of doing so would be to visit their towns and settlements, so as to assure yourselves the better of what I have already said to you in my communication of the 25th ultimo, and you will see personally that we have not only protested by writing against annexation, but, in fact, for more than three years been protesting with arms in our hands.

Señores General Wenceslao Alvarez and Francisco Travieso are commissioned to meet and invite you to come to their districts, and if you desire to honor us with your visit, they are charged to accompany you.

With sentiments of consideration and esteem, I have the honor to subscribe myself your attentive servant,

JOSÉ M. CABRAL.

Messrs. BENJ. F. WADE, AND. D. WHITE, SAML. G. HOWE,  
*Members of the Commission of the  
United States Government in Puerto Principe, (Port au Prince.)*



BAY OF PORT AU PRINCE, *March 9, 1871.*

SIR: The undersigned members of the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo have received, by the hands of Señores General Wenceslao Alvarez and Don Juan Francisco Travieso, the two communications which you were pleased to address the commission on the 25th of last month and on the 3d instant respectively, and hasten to state that it will not be convenient, for the present, to enter upon the investigations indicated, but it is probable that they may be able to do so soon, in which case they will avail themselves of the attentive offer of services made by General Alvarez and Señor Travieso.

The undersigned have the honor to be, with due consideration and esteem, your obedient servants,

AND. D. WHITE,  
SAML. G. HOWE.

General JOSÉ M. CABRAL, *fc., fc., fc.*

UNITED STATES STEAMER TENNESSEE,  
*Bay of Port au Prince, March 9, 1871.*

SIR: It has become necessary for the commission to go to Jamaica, and communicate by telegraph with the President of the United States.

If circumstances will allow it, one or more of the commissioners will return, and probably arrive at Barahona in a steamer, on or before the 19th of March. They hope that they will then be able to have a personal interview, and to visit the neighboring country.

The commissioners regret that they cannot make a *positive engagement*, but they hope to be able to carry out this.

With due consideration,

A. D. WHITE,  
S. G. HOWE,  
*Commissioners.*

General JOSÉ CABRAL, *fc., fc.*

Adjourned.

BAY OF KINGSTON, *Jamaica, March 11, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The following communication from E. Jacobs was received and read:

Professor WHITE: I find my expenses from Samana to Azua \$128, as near as I can make them out. I must have expended more, as I have but \$60 left out of \$350 when I started. If the commissioners choose to refund the first-named sum, as consideration for the two reports I have furnished, it will be acceptable and satisfactory.

Respectfully,

E. JACOBS.

MARCH 11, 1871.

Whereupon, after discussion of the motion of Mr. White to allow the the claim of Mr. Jacobs, the same was allowed on a statement made by Mr. White, to the extent of \$128.

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the following telegram be sent forthwith to the Secretary of State, which was done:

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, *March 11, 1871.*

SECRETARY OF STATE:

Tennessee bound home, coaling here. All well.

ALLAN A. BURTON, *Secretary.*

On motion of Mr. Howe,

*Resolved*, That the commission hold personal interviews with the several gentlemen who have made expeditions to different parts of the island, with a view of obtaining, by conversation, information which possibly may escape them in making written reports.

Adjourned.



U. S. STEAMER TENNESSEE, (Long. 82.18, Lat. 20.20,) *March 18, 1871.*

The commission met, all the members present.

On motion of Mr. White,

*Resolved*, That the scientific and other gentlemen attached to the expedition, and who have been making investigations under the rules of the commission, and who have not reported, be requested to furnish forthwith, and before leaving the ship, a report of their investigations, and especially with regard to the questions given them by the commission; and if they be not ready to make a full report on their specialties, that they make a preliminary report.

Adjourned to meet again at 9 o'clock a. m. to-morrow for the purpose of the commissioners comparing projects of reports.

AT SEA, BETWEEN CAPE SAN ANTONIO DE CUBA  
AND KEY WEST, FLORIDA, *March 19, 1871.*

The commission met at 10 o'clock a. m., the members all present.

A draught of a report to be made by the commission to the President of the United States, written by Mr. Wade, was read and considered, after which a recess was taken until 3 o'clock p. m.

The commission met at the hour agreed upon, when a draught of a report to be made by the commission to the President on the political condition of Santo Domingo, written by Mr. White, was read and considered.

Mr. Wade offered the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the collections made by the scientific gentlemen who have accompanied this expedition be inventoried by them and deposited in the Smithsonian Institution, subject to the disposition of Congress.

During the discussion of said resolution the commission took a recess until 7 o'clock p. m.

The commission having met according to agreement, a draught of a report, written by Mr. Howe, on the physical, moral, and mental condition of the people of the Dominican Republic, was read and considered.

Adjourned.

MARCH 25, 1871.

The commission met, the members all present.

On motion of Mr. Wade,

*Resolved*, That General Franz Sigel, Frederick Douglass, and Allan A. Burton be requested to report to the commission the result of any observations that they may have made regarding the subjects of inquiry embraced by the resolution of Congress authorizing the appointment of this commission, said gentlemen having accompanied the expedition in its investigations.

Adjourned.

CHARLESTON HARBOR, S. C., *March 26, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

It is ordered that the following memorandum be entered on the journal of the commission, and a copy handed Captain Temple, of the Tennessee, which was done:

The commissioners of the United States to Santo Domingo, before leaving the Tennessee, desire to place on their minutes the following memorandum.

We feel in duty bound to record our hearty thanks to Captain Wm. G. Temple, of



the United States steamer *Tennessee*, for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the many and difficult duties imposed upon him in connection with our mission. His foresight in planning the different parts of the voyage so that the greatest advantage could be taken of all the time at our disposal, his skill and prudence in the management of his ship, his care in regard to everything of substantial importance, and his independence of mere formalities, his tact in dealing with many difficulties which, arising from the unexpected number of persons of different aims and pursuits embarked in his ship, and which under circumstances of less fitting quality might have led to constant ill-feeling, and his courtesy under all circumstances, have earned both our gratitude and respect, and it is with pleasure that we here record our sincere thanks to him and our best wishes for his welfare.

ARLINGTON HOTEL, *Washington, April 3, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The following communication was laid before the commission, to wit :

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
*Washington, D. C., April 3, 1871.*

SIR: In reply to the inquiry you make as to the disposition of specimens collected at the expense or under the auspices of the United States Government, I have the honor to inform you that, by the law of Congress organizing the Smithsonian Institution, it is the official curator of all collections of natural history, geology, &c., belonging to the United States, and that in accordance with this enactment all the specimens collected by the Wilkes, Gilliss, Rodgers, Perry, and other naval expeditions, and the Pacific Railroad Boundary and geological surveys, are now in its custody.

I may further state that an annual allowance is made by Congress for the preservation and exhibition of these and such other collections as may be made, and also for the distribution of the duplicates to academies, colleges, and public museums.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HENRY,  
*Secretary Smithsonian Institution.*

Hon. A. A. BURTON.

Adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 5, 1871.*

The commission met, the members all present.

The following communication was received, to wit :

LABORATORY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
*Washington, D. C., April 5, 1871.*

SIR: The crystals of salt forwarded to me for examination contained no traces of alkaline or earthy salts; they are very pure samples of crystalline chloride of sodium, and do not require re-solution and crystallization to separate impurity.

Respectfully,

THOMAS ANTISELL,  
*Chemist to Department of Agriculture.*

A. A. BURTON,  
*Secretary Santo Domingo Commission.*

The commission having completed their report, it was communicated to the President through the Secretary of State.

Adjourned.

The foregoing is a true and faithful record of the proceedings of the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo.

ALLAN A. BURTON,  
*Secretary.*

WASHINGTON CITY, *April 5, 1871.*



## SPECIAL REPORTS MADE TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

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### I.—GENERAL SIGEL ON THE DEFENCES OF SAMANA.

*To the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: In response to your honorable board, requesting me "to examine and report in relation to the capacity of the bay and peninsula of Samana, as regards its own military defence and its strategical advantages in regard to the protection of American interests in adjacent waters," I have the honor to submit the following report:

The bay and peninsula of Samana form the northeastern part of the Dominican territory—the bay extending from its entrance at Balandra Head on the east to the mouth of the Yuna River on the west, about twenty-five English statute miles, with an almost uniform width of eleven miles; presenting therefore a surface of at least two hundred and seventy-five square miles. It is protected in its whole length toward the north and northeast by chains of mountains, the northeastern stretching out in bold front much similar to that of the "Palisades," from Cape Cabron to Cape Samana and Balandra Head, and the other from Monte Diablo in the east toward the west, as far as the valley of the Gran Estero.

That part of the bay which lies near its entrance and extends as far as the village of Santa Barbara de Samana, a distance of nearly eight miles, embracing Clara Bay and Samana Bay proper, has been carefully surveyed and pretty accurate charts are in the hands of the United States Government. From these charts, as well as from personal observation and practical experience with the frigate Tennessee and the sloop of war Nantasket, the following data bearing on the military question have been ascertained:

A group of islands and rocks, five in number and called Levantados Cayos, divide the entrance of the bay into two separate channels—a northern, the main channel, and a southern, called from its winding form La Media Luna; of which two channels, only the northern is passable for large vessels. The width of the main channel between Pascal Cay, the most northern of the five islands of Levantados, and the opposite point of Cocoa, is two thousand yards; minimum depth from south to north, nine fathoms; maximum, twenty-three fathoms.

Having passed through the main entrance or "narrows," the channel widens and leads into the bay of Clara, a perfectly safe basin for a fleet of the largest men-of-war and merchant vessels. The length of this bay from east to west is four thousand yards; minimum depth in this direction, sixteen; maximum, twenty-eight fathoms; width from north to south, eight thousand yards; minimum depth, six; maximum, twenty-two fathoms.

From Clara Bay a channel about two miles in length leads in a north-western direction to the bay of Samana proper, at the northwestern end of which the little village of Santa Barbara de Samana is situated. Width of this channel from five hundred to seven hundred yards; minimum depth, four and a quarter; maximum, eleven fathoms. It is bordered on the north and west by the hilly shores of the peninsula of Samana,





on the south by the island of Careñero and a line of rocks and shoals, stretching out nearly the whole length of the channel, and making it thereby a safe anchoring place and refuge for small and middle-sized vessels. The sloop Nantasket, of nine guns and drawing fourteen feet of water, was lying in that channel between the island of Careñero and the village of Samana; the frigate Tennessee, of twenty-three guns and 2,530 tons, drawing twenty-two feet of water, was anchored opposite Clara Bay, about two miles from the village of Samana and five and two-third miles from Balandra Head, the entrance of the bay.

It will be understood, from the above, that the Levantados Cayos, if put in a state of defense and brought into connection with each other, are the most important barriers against an attempt to force the entrance to the interior of the bay. Strong and excellent as this position is, hostile vessels might, however, try to pass alongside of the northern shore of the bay and to force their way through the main channel. To give greater security, batteries could be constructed at Cocoa and Bonnhomme Points, so that any vessel venturing into the channel would be brought under the concentric fire of this triangular system of defense, whose guns could easily command and reach every point of the narrow surface of water lying between the Levantados, Cocoa, and Bonnhomme, as the most northerly of the Levantados Cayos (Pascal Cay) is not more than two thousand yards distant from either Cocoa or Bonnhomme Point, whilst the distance of the two latter from each other is not more than two thousand three hundred yards.

The channel of Media Luna, between the Levantados and the shoals, which extend as far southeast as Point Icaco, is, as mentioned before, very narrow, and can not only be very easily reached and defended from the southeastern front of the largest cay of the Levantados, (Banister Island,) but also obstructed by sunken vessels, torpedoes, &c., or even a battery may be built opposite Banister Island, on the shoals themselves, which might be done without great difficulty.

The entrance into the bay of Clara, being in this manner protected and closed against the enemy's vessels, there seems no necessity for a special defense of the bay of Samana proper; but in case this bay should be regarded as a kind of refuge for smaller vessels and as a naval retreat, containing the depôts of the Government, the most important objects for defensive works would be Gorda Point, at the entrance of the channel, also the heights near the village of Samana, where now two old forts exist, (Fort Libre and Fort Santa Barbara,) which perfectly command the channel and its surroundings, and the spur of land, the southern end of which is called Caballo Point, whose battery would not only prevent a bombardment of the village of Samana from the open bay on the south, but also protect large vessels lying-by on the south side of Careñero Cay, where there is deep water and good anchoring ground.

The defence of the Bay of Samana, in its totality, would, of course, not be perfect without holding possession of the peninsula itself and of the approaches to the bay and our fortified positions on its shore. On account of the topographical condition of the country it would be a matter of great difficulty if we should undertake to defend all those approaches and to close all the little doors, trails, and paths by which an enemy may find his way from the northern to the southern shore of the peninsula, provided he can land where he pleases. Nature, however, has done more against such attempts than the greatest efforts of military art and science could do, as it has girded the northern and northeastern shore with an almost continuous and unapproachable



wall, offering no safe harbor, where a fleet could find shelter against the impetus of the sea or serve as a secure base to troops landed and operating into the interior. Besides this we would be at liberty to close our forts and batteries and make each of them an independent work, protected against surprise and attack from any side. And to provide for all emergencies in time of war, the heights, overlooking the bay or forts and batteries, may be entrenched; the same may be done in regard to the most suitable points alongside of the northern shore, as, for instance, Port Yaqueon, (Jackson,) and the mouth of San Juan River, and communication prepared to the south, west, and east of those points, so as to prevent or flank any hostile movement directed from the north side against the interior and southern part of the peninsula.

Port Yaqueon commands the western end of the peninsula and the waters of the Gran Estero; St. John commands the approaches to Samana, and Cocoa Point, with Monte Diablo, close the approaches from the northeastern side, while in regard to the defense of the Bay of Clara and Samana proper, the Levantados Cays and the Heights of Samana are the most important points. This system of defense is indicated under the supposition that the Bay of Samana shall become a great commercial harbor, and the principal naval station of the United States in the West Indies, and that, in case of war, it should be able to hold its own either against the attack of a single power like England, or against a combination of powers. But places of this kind cannot be created in a short time; they will grow and develop slowly; and in the same degree as their population and wealth increase, the means of defense may be increased and perfected, the expenses being paid by the profits gained.

As to the strategical part of the question, *i. e.*, "the strategical advantages of the bay and peninsula of Samana, in regard to the protection of American interests in the adjacent waters," I beg leave to remark that, as far as I can understand this question, the interests of the American people in the West Indies, South and Central America chiefly consist in the greatest possible facility for commercial intercourse and enterprise; in the peaceful expansion of the political system, in which its own security rests; in the most liberal protection of all citizens of the republic who may temporarily or permanently settle in the West Indies, on the Spanish Main, and in Central America; and finally, in a more direct influence on the destiny of the populations who are now struggling in different parts of the Antilles for political and social regeneration and material prosperity. To promote, and, if necessary, protect these interests by force of arms, the United States should be brought into closer connection with the West Indian Islands. There should be an intermediate point from which, as a commercial and military base, the United States could reach, in a short and direct way, their objects of trade and enterprise, and keep or send out their fleets for the purposes of protection and defence. Such an intermediate point would be Samana Bay, with the adjacent territory, and for the following reasons:

1. The bay of Samana is the nearest great and safe harbor in the West Indies which can be easily reached by the open sea from the northeastern coast of the United States. It affords a very convenient and secure harbor for traffic with Santo Domingo and Hayti, and an intermediate station for the other West Indian Islands, for Central and South America.

2. It presents, in its own locality and surroundings, a most important strategical point, because it can not only furnish a great quantity of provisions for troops and material for building purposes, but it also



commands the mouth and valley of the Yuna River, with its inexhaustible productive capacity. From the valley of the Yuna, communication exists with the valley of the Grand Yacqui and the most populous part of the Dominican territory, (Santiago,) while, from the southern shore of the bay, (Savana la Mar,) the plains of Seybo and the capital of St. Domingo can be reached. Considering that railroads may take the place of earth roads, and that all the points on the coast of Santo Domingo and Hayti—Puerto Plata, and Manzanillo, as well as Santo Domingo City, Bani, Azua, &c., can be reached from Samana by water, the military importance of the bay will be readily acknowledged.

3. As the harbor of Môle St. Nicholas on the northwestern coast of Hayti commands the "Windward passage," so the bay of Samana commands the "Mona passage," which leads from the Atlantic Ocean (Europe and the eastern shore of the United States) to the Isthmus of Panama and the coasts of South America.

4. Since the Island of Hayti or Santo Domingo forms the center of all the islands extending from Key West to Trinidad, our naval forces could strike on the shortest line from Samana against any of those islands. And while our general and great base of resources and supplies lies not far from us and behind us, from which we could draw fifty thousand men in a few weeks if necessary, it would be almost an impossibility for European powers to send large transport fleets across the ocean, *in the face of our whole eastern coast*, whence expeditions and cruisers could be started to attack them and to interrupt their communication with Europe or Canada. To compete on a grand scale with the United States in the Gulf of Mexico or the Carribean Sea, no European power would have a sufficient base of resources in their West Indian possessions, (Jamaica with Kingston included;) which fact at one time induced England, France, and Spain to attempt to create a more ample base in Mexico. As this operation has signally failed, foreign powers will very naturally shrink from military interference hereafter in American affairs.

It is true that neither in a military nor commercial point of view has the bay of Samana ever been preëminent in operations heretofore, but it must be remembered that the selection of harbors, at the time of Spanish conquest, did not so much depend on their facility to receive the agricultural products of the country as on their convenience for shipping the products of the mines, for which purpose Santo Domingo, Azua, and other places on the coast were better situated; besides this, the very advantages of the bay, its narrow entrance and its facing "against the wind," must have been always serious obstacles to sailing vessels, while they can hardly be regarded so now, when a steam-tug can disengage the largest ship and lead it out into the open sea. The uses of steam and the state of nautical science, the objects of commercial enterprise—to develop the agricultural resources of a country and to dig as well for the products of its fields as for gold and silver—the capacity, safety, and beauty of the bay the fertility of the surrounding country, the facility of communication and defense, with the experience of modern warfare and modern means of fortification, all these speak for Samana Bay; and if once held well and taken care of by a free, enlightened, and energetic government and people, it may become one of the greatest ports and strongholds of the Antilles.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully yours,

F. SIGEL.

ON BOARD THE TENNESSEE, *March 18, 1871.*



## II.—PRELIMINARY GEOLOGICAL REPORT OF OBSERVATIONS UPON THE PENINSULA OF SAMANA.

BY W. P. BLAKE.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, HISPANIOLA, *February 1, 1871.*

*To the Honorable United States Commissioners to Santo Domingo :*

In accordance with your wishes, my attention immediately after arriving at Santa Barbara de Samana, January 2, 1871, was first directed to an examination of the reported coal formation of the peninsula.

Some of the reasons for supposing the existence of such a formation are here presented in foot-notes consisting of extracts from various reports and authors.\*

I first visited the locality mentioned in the report of Captain McClellan, and then proceeded to other localities farther west, and near the head of the gulf.

The result of the examinations, briefly stated, is: That the reported coal is not like the true coals of Pennsylvania or England, but is a lignite or brown coal, of fair quality. It is similar to the brown coal or lignite of the Cowlitz River, Oregon. It is found in regular beds, varying from two to five feet in thickness, a portion of which only is pure lignite. I do not think that there is over two feet in thickness of compact workable lignite. This lignite is not suitable for the use of ocean steamers. It is too light and bulky, and doubtless contains a large portion of volatile matter. It may be utilized for steamers upon the gulf, and perhaps for local engines as cheaper than wood, when the cost of cutting and carting the wood is included. It will probably afford a very good gas for illuminating, and might be used for this purpose, in the event of there being any large towns or cities upon the gulf or its vicinity.†

Specimens of this lignite were secured at the different places for the

\* In the "Resources of Santo Domingo," by J. Warren Fabens, p. 24, I find a quotation from the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, as follows: "There have been discoveries of immense beds of coal in the bay of Samana, and the Brigadier Buceta, who was sent to examine them, reports that these mines are of incalculable production. The coal is found near the surface, and is easily mined and with little expense. The analogy which these mines present to the famous English mines of Cardiff is said to be extraordinary. The steamer Fernando Cortez has already taken a portion on board and tested it, and the captain pronounces it the best coal he has yet tried." Schonburgh says: "Near the rivulet Almacen are large veins of bituminous coal, which are likewise met with farther to the eastward. The layers are horizontal, the direction east-northeast, but as far as the investigations have been carried on the coal is too bituminous to be employed in steamers. I do not think, however, that in any of the localities where the coal is found excavations to a depth of ten feet have been made. The geological structure of the country does not preclude the possibility that coal of a good quality may be found below."

According to Kimes, (p. 109,) Mr. Pennell states that the coal deposits "commence at a point called Los Robalos, ten miles westward of Santa Barbara, and crop at intervals as far as Las Canitas, at the head of the bay, and it is thought extend to the base of the mountains separating the Vega Reale from the sea."

Captain McClellan, in his report of 1854, mentions the occurrence of bituminous coal in many places on the peninsula. He twice visited the locality examined by the French and English, about nine miles from Samana and about one hundred yards from the beach, on a small stream. He also mentions the occurrence of coal at Punta Gorda.

† Illuminating gas might be used to great advantage for culinary purposes in the tropics, where a large and hot fire of coal or wood is undesirable. With a gas stove or burner of proper construction, heat sufficient for ordinary cooking purposes can be had in a few moments, and it can be as quickly extinguished. It would be much more satisfactory for cooking purposes in the tropics than it is in colder regions.



purpose of giving them a proper chemical examination upon our return. or as soon as the requisite facilities for such work can be obtained, Such an examination will enable me to give more definite and satisfactory information upon the value of the lignite, the amount and quality of the gas it will give, and its heating power. An examination of the fossils which I was so fortunate as to secure will also enable me to give some definite statement of the age, geologically, of the deposits, but I have no doubt that they are of later epochs of the tertiary.

#### MOUTH OF THE YUNA RIVER.

After having obtained all the information possible regarding the lignite beds, I decided to visit the mouth of the Yuna River, about six miles distant from Las Canitas. But before starting I had given up the hope of being able to cross the bar and ascend the channel of the principal mouth, for not only my pilot but one of the oldest residents of that vicinity\* gave independent testimony of the shallowness of the water upon the bar and the danger of attempting an entrance except at high water and when the wind did not blow strongly from the east. I was assured that no boat drawing over two feet of water could safely enter, and that even a boat of that draught might strike in passing. There are three mouths visible, but the volume of water of the stream is discharged by the southern and principal mouth. This outlet is marked by the projection of the land and by a long line of drift-wood and stranded trees brought down by floods. There is also a long bar upon which the rough water of the gulf breaks furiously under the prevailing trade wind, sweeping in as it does from the sea without obstacle. This wind and the waves resulting from it appear to increase in violence toward the head of the gulf, especially at some distance (a mile or two) out from the northern shore.

There is still another branch of the Yuna (or another mouth) extending northward to the sea in the valley between the peninsula and the eastern end of the Monte Cristi range of mountains. This slough, or branch, is said to be so full at times of high water in the river that it breaks through or across the bar at the mouth, and thus establishes water communication between the ocean and the gulf and makes an island out of the peninsula. The peninsula is represented as an island upon the old maps, and it is most probable that the channel has been gradually filling up by deposits of the river.†

#### OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

Most of the persons seen by me upon this trip were of the African race or of mixed blood, African and Castilian. On favorable occasions their opinions were asked upon the subject of annexation to the United States, and no opposition to it was at any time expressed, but, on the contrary, those who expressed any positive opinion were much in favor of it. There are no towns or special centers of population between Almacen, on the Yuna, and Samana, but there is almost a continuous line of small farms or plantations from Canitas eastward, and located chiefly upon the terrace or table land between the gulf and the mountain range.

\* Don Joaquin Hernandez, to whom I had a letter of introduction from the commandant at Samana.

† Captain (now General) McClellan describes this ground as low and swampy, much cut up by inlets and overgrown with mangrove bushes





## INFORMATION MAP.

In the course of the expedition I made observations upon the topography, geology, meteorology, productions, &c., of the region, as far as circumstances would permit, and took the bearings of the principal headlands for the purpose of making a sketch-map of the northern shore of the gulf from the town westward as far as the mouth of the Yuna River, which place I visited but could not enter. Without claiming accuracy for this map I present it, believing that the information it gives may be of some value to you and to any party that may hereafter visit that region for the purpose of making an accurate survey. It will also serve to show the position of the places mentioned in the appended copy of my notes, to which reference is made for information in detail in regard to the lignite beds and for other information concerning the trip.

I append also the result of investigations made at my request in the vicinity of Samana by Mr. Joseph S. Adam.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM P. BLAKE,  
*Geologist of the Commission.*

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JOURNAL OF EXPEDITION TO THE UPPER END OF THE GULF OF SAMANA.

*January 26, 1871—Bay of Samana.*—Left the United States ship Tennessee in the cutter of the Nantasket with ten men, an officer, and a coxswain, and pulled to the town, where, through the aid of the commandant, I secured a pilot and we left under sail, the sea wind being fair, at 11 a. m.

We passed between Escondido Cay and Carenero Cay. The channel is not deep. At low tide the water breaks for most of the distance, but boats drawing not more than two and a half or three feet of water may pass if the channel is known. In a little depression of the surface nearly to the water level across the end of the point a warehouse and dock have been built by Messrs. Spofford Brothers for the accommodation of their steamers. The rock formations at this point are distinctly stratified and are inclined eastwardly at about 25 degrees. The beds consist of alternations, irregular in thickness, of sand and a coarse conglomerate, and I regard them as beach shingle accumulations deposited possibly at the angle at which they now stand. The small cays to the eastward, and which form the southern wall or breakwater for the harbor, appear to be of the same kind of materials.

On getting outside of this point we feel the full force of the wind, and a long point of land is seen jutting southward into the gulf. This is Punta Corozos, and it has a small cay or islet at its extremity. We steered for this point direct about W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S., at from four to five knots an hour before the wind.

Before reaching Point Corozos we pass a great many little coves or bays between small points of land, most of the beaches being sandy and shaded by groves of the cocoa-nut palm. Beyond these beaches and groves there are patches of green grass or sod, and small thatched cottages, one above another, on the hillsides. The guide says that he has a place there with his brother, and that they raise yams, cacao, some coffee, and sugar-cane.

At and beyond Rio de los Cocos, the hills are higher, but the plantations are numerous. The higher hills beyond are densely wooded. In the foreground there is a fine open clearing on a point with isolated



palm trees and a field inclosed with a stockade fence made of logs set upright in the ground, and close enough to exclude hogs. Before reaching the extreme point (Punta Corozos) we pass the mouth of a small brook or stream called Rio Pasquale.

On passing Point Corozos we open up a view of Punta Mangle, the next principal point beyond. There is less wind under the lee of Corozos. A part of the bay to the westward is lined with a dense growth of the mangrove, the roots rising from the water.

The higher hills beyond the low ground between the two points are not so much cultivated as those nearer the town, but the land is very rich, and there does not seem to be anything to prevent these hills from being covered with productive plantations.

Upon the eastern side of Point Mangle there is a ruin or foundation of stone, well laid up and looking like the bastion of a fort, but said to be the foundation of a building formerly used for drying coffee.

East of Punta Mangle a terrace or mesa formation commences at the foot of the mountain, and extends westward, affording beautiful locations for houses and plantations. This mesa is cut at intervals by streams (brooks and rivulets of small volume) descending from the higher hills, and by their eroding action the little transverse valleys are made, and a succession of promontories or elevated points is formed. The surface of these points is from ten to thirty feet above the bay. They thus have good drainage not only directly into the bay but into the side valleys. All along the shores upon this mesa there are thatched cottages of rude and simple construction, at intervals, and near a small stream called the Botio there is a very pretty place, with a lawn in front and a bread-fruit tree. The Botio drains a narrow valley of considerable extent.

Off Punta Grigri we changed our course toward a village called Los Robalos, the place near which coal beds are reported to be, and we landed there so as to visit and examine the place. We ran the boat upon a smooth shelving pebbly beach, and got on shore through the shallow water. This beach is strewn with masses of coralline rock and pebbles of a compact blue limestone, the latter evidently the debris of the higher hills or mountains, and the former probably thrown up by the waves from neighboring outcrops or projections of the old reef formation.

The pilot set out to find some one who would guide us to the spot, and some time was expended in visiting one plantation after another. These plantations are not large, being small patches of an acre or two only, a part, perhaps, inclosed. At the first one I was charmed by the beauty of the scene. A rounded point clear of trees and about an acre in extent stretched to the beach. On one side there was a grove of palms, and on the other some wild orange trees loaded with ripe fruit, the branches intertwined with the convolvulus in full bloom. The little house was simply a thatched square structure with apparently only one room, the walls being formed of sticks set vertically in the ground and only partly filled in with brush and mud. Some naked children were playing about the door, and a mulatto woman inside was ironing calico dresses.

The locality of the coal said to have been inspected some years before by Captain McClellan was pointed out to me by a native Dominican, and was not far up the bed of a small brook, within a few hundred yards of the beach. The ground is low, and there are no well defined exposures of rock or strata likely to contain coal. But in the midst of these alluvial deposits I found masses of brown coal or lignite, apparently broken out



from their original bed, and accumulated at that place. Of this, however, owing to the thickness of the vegetation, the water and mud of the stream, I could not be certain, for it is possible that a firm bed of lignite underlies the surface deposit. It was, however, evident that the combustible was not true black coal of good quality, and as I had been informed that the best place to find it in quantity was at Las Canitas, farther west, I decided to go there.

Returning to the beach, I found that the men had landed some of the provisions, and were busily engaged preparing a lunch under the wide-spreading arms of a tree adorned with beautiful parasitic and epiphytic plants. The portable boat-stove had been landed and set up, and did good service. It was refreshing to here enjoy the cool sea breeze, after having been in the sultry air of the forest. On this beach there were many pebbles of blue, red, and white limestone, almost all of them much veined with white, and some much brecciated. There was also considerable yellow jasper, and some white quartz, but no granite pebbles could be found.

At 4 p. m. we set sail and left the place, and soon after passed a point to which the steamer Tybee is said to have been, on her last trip, for the purpose of getting tobacco. Passed the headland called Cabeza de Toro, a beautiful point, partly cleared, with a smooth grassy surface, and groves of palms. No mahogany trees were noted upon the point. Beyond this headland there is an inlet, or estuary, apparently, much overshadowed by trees, and which the pilot says is remarkable for the foulness of the water; it is very black, and stinks badly. Saw a party of men crossing the upper end on the backs of bulls.

We reached another headland and anchored under its lee, where there is a sandy beach of small extent. This point has several houses upon it, and is known as Santa Capuza. We made our preparations to remain here for the night, and took the stove and provisions on shore to prepare for supper in a grove of palms.

The extreme point is formed of low ragged cliffs of calcareous rock without much soil. The view from this point was glorious; the sun was just setting behind clouds and threw a flood of soft mellow light over the headlands behind us, and upon the mountain ranges upon the southern side of the gulf. The land at the head of the gulf was in sight, and formed a long, low, level line. The range on the south was dim in the haze at the base, but the outline of the summit was distinct. Westwardly, along the northern shore, several long points of land stretched out into the gulf, arresting the eye before it rested upon the lowlands of the delta of the Yuna. The rocks of this point are remarkably rough and ragged. They project in sharp pinnacles and knife-like edges. The color is a dark gray. They yielded quickly to the hammer and the broken surfaces showed a yellowish gray, or cream-like color in the interior. This rock is porous and fossiliferous, containing fragments of corals and of shells. Some vertical sheets of rock, more compact and dense than the rest, stood out above the general surface, and gave out a clear ringing sound when struck by the hammer. They are calcareous, but did not appear to be fossiliferous. They seem to be the result of infiltration, or the deposit of finer materials than those composing the body of the rock, and to have been deposited in fissures after the consolidation of the principal mass. These sheets are nearly vertical, and they trend N. 40° to 45° E. The owner of the nearest house sent me an invitation to enter it and remain all night. This I declined, preferring to sleep on the seat of the boat. The scene at supper was very picturesque. It had grown dark, and in order to have light the boys of the



neighborhood made large bonfires of dried palm leaves. This illuminated the whole grove of palms and showed that we had numerous curious spectators. Men, women, and children, dogs and pigs, had turned out in force to see the strangers. The dogs and pigs were nearly starved, and looked like mere skeletons. After supper we packed up and crowded into the boat to sleep until morning. At 8 p. m. the sea breeze continued to blow a little, but it died out soon after, and during the night the thermometer fell from 75° to 72° at midnight, and at 5 a. m. to 71°. The temperature of the water, 74°; barometer, 30.14.

*January 27—Santa Capuza to Canitas and beyond.*—We started at 5.50 a. m. and rowed toward the second point of land beyond, near which the coal is said to occur. A few miles beyond our anchorage the current from the Yuna River was first distinctly noticed. The color also of the water changed; it was tinged with sediment and vegetable matter. Temperature of the water, 71°.

At 6.45 anchored on the east side of Punta Gorda, and landed for the purpose of visiting the coal outcrops. The beach was sandy and strewn with pebbles of quartz, shells of several genera, and water-worn masses of lignite. There were also considerable accumulations of black sand in ripples. Upon the trunk of a tree I found two or three beautiful shells, *Littorinas*, of a light green color, and noticed some beautiful lizards.

I started out to the coal outcrops under the guidance of the proprietor of the land. Passed inland up the hill to a newly-made clearing of some four or five acres in extent in the midst of the forest. It was partly fenced by posts set upright in the ground side by side, close enough to keep out wild hogs. Most of the timber cut on the tract was lying in piles, and so thickly that one could almost cross the field by stepping upon the sticks alone without touching the ground. The soil was very moist, rich, and clayey, passing in places into sandy loam, but always slippery, unctuous, and greasy. Leaving this field, we struck off into the virgin forest among trees of remarkable appearance. The trunks of almost all of these were smooth, the bark whitish, or greenish, the roots of some spreading outward in buttresses, and almost all of the trees festooned with vines depending to the ground like cords and ropes. These our guide seemed to take especial pleasure in dividing by a single adroit stroke of his sharp thin-bladed *machete*. Some of the vines cut in this manner, by a single blow, were at least three inches in diameter. I was surprised to find the forest so open, or free from undergrowth, permitting one to go in almost any direction.

On reaching a ravine, with a little brooklet running through it, I found the first outcrop of the lignite in a regular bed, accompanied by a layer of fossils of marine or brackish water shells much broken up. They include the genus *Neritella* among others not yet determined.

These fossils are above the lignite, but in close contact with it. The exposure of the lignite and of the fossils is not very distinct, being nearly in the bottom of the bed of the brook. Not far from this place some pits have been dug, and cuttings made to expose the beds, but the work is not fresh; it is partly filled up and overgrown by vegetation. The best outcrops are still farther up the ravine, where the descent of the brook is more rapid. I found two or more outcrops of beds standing on edge at a considerable angle, and from three to five feet thick, about two feet in one place, being compact, workable lignite apparently free from earthy impurities. It is distinctly stratified, but the precise trend and dip of the strata could not be satisfactorily determined. I could not be certain that these several outcrops were of the same or of



closely contiguous beds. There appear to be several beds. The inclosing formations appear to be soft argillaceous sandstone. The banks are soil-covered and much overgrown. After securing specimens of the lignite for analysis, we returned to the boat and set sail for Canitas. Shells of the following-named genera and species were picked up on the beach: *Nerita*, *Neritella virginica*, *Arca domingensis*, *Cerithium* (*littoratum*?) *Donax*, *Venus granulatus*, *Amphodesmia*, *Bulla intermedia*.

At Canitas we anchored, and I went on shore to the house of Don Joaquin Hernandez, an old and influential resident of this section, to whom I had a letter from the commandant at Samana. His house, built like nearly all the others that we have seen, is pleasantly located on a bluff overlooking the gulf. There is considerable cleared ground about it, and many orange trees in full bearing. From this point the mouth of the Yuna, and the beautifully irregular summits of the mountains on the south of the bay, are distinctly visible.

The bluffs at this place are formed of a soft argillaceous sandstone of a rusty yellow color. Upon the beach I picked up many oyster shells of small size. They have the appearance of fossils and may have been washed out of the bank. It is said, however, that living oysters (*Ostrea deltoides*) are abundant at the head of this gulf.

From Canitas I sailed diagonally across toward the principal mouth the Yuna. The trade-wind was blowing quite fresh, and it was evident from the roughness of the water on the bar that we could not safely enter. A large quantity of drift-wood was observed here at one side of the main channel. The entrance is easily recognizable by a patch of tall tufted canes growing on the flats of the north shore.

Having passed by the mouth of the river, we headed the cutter for the entrance of the bay of San Lorenzo\* on the south shore, famous alike for its caves and pearls, intending to reach it before night, or some good anchorage west of it, and to camp for the night; but before we had got half way over from the mouth of the Yuna the wind blew so fresh and raised such a heavy sea that we deemed it imprudent to continue on that course, and so put about and made for the north shore. After a long and hard pull with the oars we reached Cabeza de Toro at sunset, and remained there for the night securely anchored under the lee of the rocky point. The proprietor of this place is a colored man of prepossessing manners and address, who has lived there for twenty years. He accompanied me over the place, showing me a large grove of coconut palms, where the shade is so dense that nothing will grow below them. He has a sugar-mill here, with vertical wooden rollers geared together. He expressed himself as much in favor of the annexation of the country to the United States.

At this anchorage the thermometer at 8.30 p. m. stood at 70°. The wind began to blow from the land, but was variable. Night clear, heavy dew, barometer 30.12. The rocks here are like those of Santa Capuza.

January 28—*Cabeza de Toro to the Tennessee off Samana*.—The temperature of the air at 6.50 this morning was 71°. We hoisted anchor and rowed to the eastward, keeping as much as possible under the lee of the projecting headland to avoid the head-wind and rough water. At 7.34 we were opposite Robalos; at 8.30 opposite Point Mangle, and at 9 a. m. stopped at Point Corozos on the west side. I landed here and visited a succession of rich gardens or small plantations, which cover a considerable surface on this headland. The soil is very rich, and the place is thickly inhabited by colored families, who have small

\* Known also as Bahía de los Perlas.





houses and brush huts. They raise rice, sugar-cane, corn, bananas, plantains, oranges, pine-apples, and many other useful tropical products. The land is not divided off by fences or any distinct landmarks, but the boundaries of the different plantations appeared to be well known. We here obtained a large supply of superior oranges, bananas, and fresh cocoa-nuts. Upon the sandy beach of this headland I picked up shells of the genera *Capsa*, *Nerita versicolor*, and *Spondylus*. From this point we were obliged to row against a strong wind and heavy sea until reaching the ship at 3 p. m.

I compute the distances passed over from the ship to the head of the gulf to be nearly as follows:

	Miles.
Anchorage of ship to Point Corozos.....	5½
Point Corozos to Robalos .....	4¾
Robalos to Cabeza de Toros .....	2
Cabeza de Toros to Capuza .....	2½
Capuza to Punta Gorda.....	4
Punta Gorda to Canitas .....	2
Canitas to west end of gulf, (estimate) .....	2½

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### III.—NOTES ON THE GEOLOGY OF THE VICINITY OF SAMANA.

BY J. S. ADAM.

On Wednesday morning, the 25th, with Mr. Burr as guide, I went up the bed of a brook (which empties into Samana Bay, north of the coal-station) to nearly the summit of the hill. The rock forming the bed of the brook consists of bluish limestone, in many places discolored by iron. The dip of the bed was apparently to the east, and as far as I could judge corresponded to the dip of the conglomerate rock upon the shore of the bay. Loose boulders of quartz were numerous.

Passing out of the brook-bed, and to the eastward, we ascended an abrupt hill, and on the summit came upon the ruins of a cluster of old Spanish houses. The walls of a reservoir, basin of a fountain, and a conduit for water were still standing, and in a good state of preservation. The water had evidently been brought from quite a long distance to the north, and from the side of one of the hills of the same range upon which the ruins are situated. The rock on this height is similar to that in the brook-bed.

In the afternoon Mr. Burr rowed me around the point of rocks west of the coal station. The rock here is conglomerate, with small seams of sandstone passing through it. The dip is to the eastward, and has the same angle as that at Mr. Price's store, (on Caballo Point.)

On Thursday, the 25th, I made a circuit of the island upon which the coal station is situated. The rock here was conglomerate, and had the same general appearance as the rock before mentioned. I afterward crossed over to the village, and then walked back of the town nearly a mile and a half, crossing three small ranges of hills. The path was steep in many places, the soil reddish clay. On the first hill from the town, honeycombed limestone occurred, and on the second and third ranges broken quartz-rock. On each of these hills the "red clay" occurred in great abundance.

About an eighth of a mile back of the village a spring of clear and



good water gushes out of the side of a hill, and, running down, joins with a small stream which crosses the road about a quarter of a mile farther on. These waters, when joined, form the stream which, after flowing through a small tract of swampy land, empties into the bay on the western border of the town. Much of the drinking water of the village is obtained from this spring.

On Friday, the 27th, I walked from the town over the hills to the westward, to a small bay about a mile and a half from the town. On the hills I found only loose limestone rock, and on the west shore of the bay conglomerate.

I visited the north shore of Samana Bay, opposite the anchorage of the Tennessee, on Saturday the 28th. The rock here is coarse conglomerate, with veins of sandstone running through it, of some fifteen inches in thickness. The dip is to the eastward.

In the afternoon of the same day I walked around from Santa Barbara de Samana to the point where Mr. Price's store is situated, and at this place met yourself, by appointment. On the side of the hill between the town and this point no rock whatever was visible above the soil. On Sunday, the 29th, I crossed over to the shore north of the steamer, with Mr. Douglass.

We met here an old resident who had lived on his plantation of some two hundred acres for more than sixty years. His chief business was the making of sugar.

Nearly a half mile above where we landed, I came upon quite a large brook, and close to where it empties into the bay I observed over fifty fish, each of which would weigh over half a pound. They are called the "mountain mullet," and have very much the appearance of the chub of New England.

South of the landing I was shown a grove of cocoa-nut trees, where a battle took place only three or four years ago; it is said that the marks of bullets can still be seen on the trees.

J. S. ADAM.

Professor W. P. BLAKE.

#### IV.—REPORT ON THE BOTANICAL FEATURES, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, AND TIMBER GROWTH OF THE PENINSULA OF SAMANA.

*To the Honorable Santo Domingo Commissioners :*

GENTLEMEN: The short interval allowed for botanical examinations on the peninsula of Samana has been improved by a very fair local collection of plants, numbering about two hundred species. Several of these are apparently undescribed, but can only be determined by a more thorough examination and comparison with authentic specimens in scientific herbaria. Of articles in common cultivation, I note the common plaintain; (*Musa paradisiaca*), the banana, (*Musa sapientium*), the yam, (*Dioscorea alata*), the sweet potato, (*Ipomœa batatas*), the "melanga," (*Colocasia esculenta*), tapioca, (*Janiplia manihot*), arrowroot, (*Maranta arundinacea*), sugar-cane, (*Saccharum officinarum*), "cacao," yielding chocolate, (*Theobroma cacao*), bread fruit, (*Artocarpus incisa*), coffee, (*Coffea Arabica*), rice, (*Oryza sativa*), Indian corn, (*Zea mays*).

Of grasses cultivated for fodder, common Indian corn is frequent, being sown at all seasons and gathered before the grain ripens. Sugar



cane leaves are also in frequent use. Besides these a species of grass is cultivated known as Guinea grass, (*Panicum maximum*), also several species of native *Panicum* and *Paspalum* are fed to cattle and horses in limited pasture grounds. In addition to these the foliage of a large number of trees and shrubbery are in extensive use as fodder, among which the one most prized is a species of nettle tree (*Trophis Americana*.)

Of cultivated fruits the following were noted as most frequent. [It not being the best fruit season, few of them could be obtained as mature fruits.] The mango, (*Mangifera Indica*), of luxuriant growth, and producing a great variety of different flavored fruits, now just in blossom; oranges, including the sour and the sweet varieties, ripening at all seasons, (*Citrus aurantium*;) the pine-apple, (*Ananassa sativa*;) the papaw, (*Carica papaya*;) mamme, (*Mamea Americana*;) pomegranate, (*Punica granatum*;) shaddock, (*Citrus decumana*;) star-apple, (*Chrysophyllum canaito*;) nispero, (*Sapota achras*;) sweet sop, (*Anona reticulata*;) cherymolia, (*Anona cherimolia*;) sour sop, (*Anona muricata*;) tamarind, (*Tamarindus Indica*.)

#### PALMS.

Two species of palm are common. One of these, the common coconut, (*Cocos nucifera*), forms groves on the sandy beaches at the outlet of mountain streams, where it bears fruit abundantly. The "palma real" (*Oreodoxa regia*) forms scattered groves in the interior. The fruit of this species is in common use as food for hogs and cattle. The large sheaths of the leaves supply material for thatching and lining the sides of houses: also for floor-matting and coarse baskets. The external ring of hard woody fibres on the main stem are pressed out into thin sheathing boards.

#### TIMBER-PRODUCING WOODS.

Mahogany (*Swietenia mahogoni*) has been mostly cut down near the coast, where it is convenient for shipping, but forms vast unbroken forests in the interior. The nearly allied cedar of the West Indies (*Cedrella odorata*) is also found abundant in the interior, furnishing a valuable wood for various purposes, well known as the material from which cigar-boxes are made.

Of other woods observed, the following may be noted: *Dalmarèe*, (*Calophyllum Calabar*), a valuable timber tree; cherry, also called laurel, (*Cerassus occidentalis*), forms a large tree, supplying valuable timber for various purposes; *Acoma*, a species of *Bucida*, also a valuable wood; canoe wood (*Eriodendron infractuosum*) grows of immense size, used especially for making canoes; *Anona* is a good house-timber; *Greegree*, a species of *Bucida*, is adapted for ship timber, being very durable; *Lourea*, the botanical species not recognized, furnishes good board-timber; *Cabomba*, a species of *Guarea*, is a red-hearted wood, used for board timber; *Barata*, species not known, is a common framing timber; the sand box-tree (*Hura crepitans*) is frequent, and grows to a large size; the wood, however, is soft and of little value; *Bursera gumifera* is also a common tree, but the wood is of little value except for fuel.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The vegetation in the vicinity of Samana Bay is very luxuriant. Rains continue more or less through the dry season, though vegetation is partially suspended, and most trees drop a portion of their old leaves. The



winter temperature is agreeable, ranging from 70° to 85° F., which is pleasantly tempered by alternating land and sea breezes. The land rises abruptly from the water's edge in most luxuriant forest-covered hills of a very broken outline. The soil is a tough yellow clay, very adhesive, and the narrow shaded roads are very difficult to travel over. Most of the travelling into and from the interior towns is accomplished by pack animals. Nature is exuberantly rich, but art has done little to develop this portion of the country.

Respectfully submitted.

C. C. PARRY,

*Botanist attached to San Domingo Commission.*

SAN DOMINGO CITY, February 14, 1871.

## V.—REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT SURROUNDING THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA DE SAMANA.

BY DR. W. NEWCOMB.

*To the Honorable the United States Commissioners to the Dominican Republic:*

GENTLEMEN: The topography of this district is favorable to complete drainage, and has an important bearing upon the general health of the inhabitants. No extensive swamps or marshes have been met with to furnish a concentrated malarious atmosphere. Near the town or village of Santa Barbara is a limited marshy place, which may easily be drained, or it may be flooded with salt water at each high tide, which would destroy effectually its injurious influences. A few sporadic cases of a mild type of intermittents were met with among the natives, probably due to the marshy place above alluded to. The mortality in a population stated to be about three thousand has been approximately ascertained from various sources, and amounted during the last year to seventeen; number of births, to about three hundred.

In the descendants of Americans, *so called*, numbering now about five hundred, the deaths for the last year amounted to three; one the result of accident, and the other two, over seventy years of age, from disease. So far as the natives and acclimated inhabitants are concerned, the whole district may be deemed very decidedly healthy.

The supply of water to the inhabitants of the village is derived from mountain streams, quite pure and healthy, and from wells in the village strongly impregnated with chloride of sodium.

The thermometer during the day on shipboard, in the harbor, ranges quite steadily in the day-time at 82°, but the heat is scarcely oppressive with a free trade-wind; but in the sun the direct rays are anything but agreeable, and to the unacclimated dangerous.

The vast amount of tropical vegetation with which the district is covered, and the frequent showers which occur, with the succeeding sunshine, present the most favorable conditions for rapid decomposition of vegetable and also of animal matter, and the constant development of miasmata. The soil seems to be permeated by various species of ants, which seize with avidity upon this decomposing material, and act as true scavengers in compensation for their slight inconvenience to the inhabitants. From a long series of observations in the tropics I feel quite safe



in pronouncing them a powerful sanitary corps in preventing the necessary results of decomposition.

The prevalent diseases are various forms of fever, affections of the liver, dysentery, and diarrhœa—the first dependent upon malarious influences, and the last to errors of diet.

Past history teaches us that at Samana, as at other tropical situations, persons from the temperate zones require to observe the following rules to avoid, as far as practicable, the peculiar climatological diseases: 1. Temperance in eating, with regularity of meals; 2. Avoidance of spirituous liquors; 3. Protection from the sun, especially near meridian; 4. Avoidance of night air, and protection from wet, especially of fresh water; 5. Avoidance of excessive fatigue; 6. A moderate indulgence only in tropical fruits. With attention to these rules the first year's residence is usually passed in security, but with all the precautions that can be used, the second year will, in most cases, require him to pass through the ordeal of an acclimating fever. The severity of this fever will depend much upon the prevailing diathesis at the time, and the greater or lesser amount of the violations of the laws of health preceding the attack. It is often but slight, and soon passes away with little medication. In others it assumes the form of a congestive, continued fever, with considerable risk of life. In the worst cases, in crowded cities especially, the still graver form of typhus icterodes, or yellow fever, occurs, terminating rapidly in convalescence or death, according to the gravity of the attack and the constitution of the patient. We may thus explain the spontaneous generation of this fever, one case furnishing a sufficiency of fomites to lead to the production of an epidemic of this formidable disease. We have thus the elements for explaining the fearful mortality which swept off a large number of the Spanish army in their attempts to subjugate the sparse population of the Samana district. Every rule referred to was systematically and constantly violated, partly from necessity and in part from recklessness, and with a result most certain to be repeated in the future under the same concurrence of circumstances.

As a compensation for these formidable fevers of the tropics, the lungs escape (with few exceptions) the devastating effects of phthisis pulmonalis, or consumption, and the formidable list of bronchitis, congestion, croup, diphtheria, pneumonia, catarrh, &c. Affections of the liver and bowels are perhaps no more frequent here than in temperate regions, while the formidable typhus nervosus of New England is unknown to this region.

Excepting on elevated ground, at from 3,000 to 5,000 feet, northern white men as laborers can scarcely prove to be available until thoroughly acclimated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. NEWCOMB, *M. D.*

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SAMANA BAY, *January 25, 1871.*

In an excursion of about five miles into the interior from the village, the following observations were made:

A marshy place, easily drained, at the west part of the village, receiving the waters of a mountain stream, would, of course, produce a considerable amount of malaria. In the interior found two cases of intermittents of a mild type among the natives. The vegetation extends from the coast to the summits of the mountains, and presents the luxuriance common to tropical regions, possessing a well watered and fertile





soil. The imperial palm of Humboldt (the cabbage palm of the natives) has a remarkable development, many of them attaining a height of 120 feet or more. Numerous clumps of the bamboo, of 80 feet in height, were met with, and give a character to the landscape; groups of the cocoa-nut palm, solitary trees of the beautiful mango, occasional orange and lime trees, quite extensive plantations of the cacao, with many of the trees heavily laden with the fruit, from which the chocolate of commerce is prepared, and a few calabash trees laden with its ponderous fruit, as large as an ordinary pumpkin, were noted. Two or three patches of upland rice seemed to flourish in its unnatural position. Patches of sweet potatoes, yams, arrow root, and a species of aram, closely resembling an esculentum of the Sandwich Islands, of the upland variety, were frequently met with. The views from the summit of the mountain overlooked the region assigned by President Boyer to colored American immigrants, and disclosed hundreds of cottages with their small surrounding openings in the forest for cultivation. Upon entering numbers of the cottages, found the inhabitants contented with their miserable habitations, but complaining of the uncertainty of retaining any personal property, as experience in the past had taught them that internal dissensions resulting in civil war rendered them the subjects of pillage; and as these wars were of frequent occurrence, their prosperity had been destroyed, and the desire for accumulating property had been crushed out. Evidences of some degree of refinement of feeling were frequently seen in the cultivation of flowers around their houses.

All were strongly in favor of annexation to the United States, as furnishing them security from foreign and internal aggressions. All that were visited were descendants of American immigrants, and conversed freely in English. I do not hesitate in pronouncing them superior in intelligence to the same classes in South and Central America, or of the Mexican rancheros.

W. NEWCOMB.

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VI.—REPORT OF A TRIP ACROSS THE ISLAND OF SANTO DOMINGO FROM SAMANA TO SANTO DOMINGO CITY, MADE BY H. P. WADE AND E. JACOBS, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OF UNITED STATES COMMISSION TO SANTO DOMINGO.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 1, 1871.*

*To the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: We have the honor to submit the following report of a trip made in compliance with your instructions across the island of Santo Domingo from Samana to Santo Domingo City:

On the 25th of January we crossed the bay of Samana to Savana la Mar, a distance of eighteen miles. There is no dock or other artificial landing provided here. Shoal water extends about two hundred yards from the shore, and at that distance even the smallest boats must stop.

The town is built after the prevailing fashion of the country, the dwellings being of frame-work, sided with boards made from the outside of the royal palm, and covered with palm-leaf thatch. Very few of them have any other than earth floors, but they are kept in a very neat condition.

Carlos Delan, a colored man of considerable intelligence, is commandant of the place. We learned from him that they have a popu-



lation of three hundred, of which about one hundred and eighty are males. There is very little sickness among them. They have a Catholic church and the entire population are members.

As a general rule, they live in well-defined families. There are few exceptions to this, and the indiscriminate mingling of the sexes is considered disreputable. They live mostly by agriculture and stock-raising. Patches of land are cultivated varying from two hundred to five hundred feet square, this amount being sufficient to furnish fruit and vegetables for one ordinary family. Besides what they consume they sell a sufficient amount of beef and pork to provide them with flour and a few other necessities.

We saw no implements for domestic purposes excepting the ordinary hoe, ax, and machete, the latter being used for every purpose from fighting to cultivating the soil. Plows of any description are unknown. The ground is seldom, if ever, broken up, seed being planted by merely dropping it in small holes made with the machete.

The domestic animals consist of horses, asses, cattle, hogs and goats. No attention is paid to the improvement and breeding of the cattle; they roam at will over the savannas, receiving no more care than is necessary to keep them partially domesticated. Hogs are kept in a similar manner.

There are no schools or other means of public instruction. Only about twenty out of the entire population are able to read and write.

Regarding the ownership of the lands we could gain but very little information. A very few own the patches they cultivate, but the great majority rent the land, paying \$2 per year to an agent who visits them for the purpose of making the collections; but whom he is acting for or who owns the land they have no definite idea. Some are of the opinion that it belongs to the government, and others that it is the property of private individuals.

By questioning several of the prominent men on the subject of annexation to the United States we ascertained that they are all enthusiastically in favor of it, looking upon the result of such a measure as the end of all their political troubles.

Relative to the union with Spain Mr. Delan said that Spain got hold of them before they had time to think or know anything about it; that they submitted, thinking they would be better off than under the bad rulers they had had. They soon found, however, that the Spaniards treated them worse than their own bad men had done, and for that reason only they desired to get rid of them. He said that he could see no objection to a union with Hayti under one government, as then the Haytians would cease troubling them. There is an evident fear, not so much of Hayti as of some other power making them trouble through it.

On the morning of the 26th we left the town of Savana la Mar and passed over the savanna of the same name, which is about three miles wide. The soil is a dark brown, and would indicate, at the north, a considerable degree of fertility. The substratum, as shown along the streams, is of gravel intermingled with a tenacious red clay. The savanna is interspersed with small clumps of timber, and crossed by several small streams of good water. It produces a very heavy growth of grass, not unlike in appearance that on the prairies of the United States. Some two hundred cattle and as many hogs subsist upon it without apparently diminishing the supply.

After entering the forest on this side of the savanna, which is of a very luxuriant growth of the many varieties of timber of the island, we commenced a series of ascents, gaining in altitude as we proceeded until we



reached a point overlooking the bay of Samana. From this point our route was over descending ground to the banks of the Yabon River, along which we followed two or three miles before crossing. Thus far there was no ground passed over which is not susceptible of cultivation, but along the banks of this river it is a black muck, very deep and of the richest character.

The Yabon is the largest river between Samana and Santo Domingo. At the point where we crossed it is about fifty yards wide at low water. The water is very pure, and is excellent for drinking.

Leaving the Yabon we passed over similar hilly ground, and through forests until we reached Savana del Valle, ten miles from Savana la Mar. This savanna is more heavily interspersed with timber than the one first mentioned. The character of the soil is much the same, and presents abundant evidence of fertility. There is very little stock on it, excepting hogs.

Here are about a dozen families, more grossly ignorant and indolent than any we had before seen. Their dwellings are much the same as those at Savana la Mar, but smaller and not so well built. The only means of livelihood these people have is selling the domesticated wild hogs, which they drive to the Samana market as necessity requires.

We questioned one man who seemed to be the most intelligent among them, and found that their only idea of, or care for, annexation, is that it will keep them out of the army, and leave them to the enjoyment of their own chosen mode of life.

From Savana del Valle our route lay over a hilly country, more heavily timbered than any we had yet passed. Occasional trees of mahogany, one of which must measure twenty-four feet in circumference six feet above its base, were passed by on the trail; also various dye-woods and other valuable woods. In this range of hills we crossed the Casni River, a stream of very pure water, nearly as large as the Yabon. After crossing the Casni the character of the hills changed. They became more rugged and were in many places covered with rocks.

The forest all along our route was perfectly alive with birds of numerous varieties, among which were parrots, macaws, cocatoos, and one very closely resembling the crow of the States.

About dusk we reached the Savana Grande, one of the largest on our route, and one that affords excellent grazing to numerous herds of horses, cattle, hogs, and goats.

We spent the night at the house of Señora Manuela Ambros, a Dominican woman, ninety years of age, who with the members of her family welcomed us very cordially upon our arrival.

The population of this savanna consists of about twenty-five families, numbering in all some two hundred souls. They are more industrious and intelligent than any we have met since leaving Samana. Shortly after our arrival quite a crowd of them gathered around the house, and when informed who we were, and that the commission was at Samana, they raised a unanimous shout, and greeted us with the most enthusiastic expressions of delight. They said they had long looked and hoped for annexation, but had begun to think it would never come.

These people raise a large number of cattle and hogs, and some horses and goats. Their stock looks well, and shows considerable care. They cultivate the yam, banana, and plantain. Cocoanuts grow wild in abundance. Like all others on this part of the island, they are devout Catholics, but have no church nearer than Pulgarina, a distance of about twelve miles. A few persons here can read and write.

Leaving Savana Grande the next morning, we passed over high roll-



ing land nearly devoid of timber, for nearly four miles. The soil on this tract is not so rich as that of the savana, but it furnishes very good grazing for stock.

Having crossed the above tract we again entered forest-covered mountains similar to the ranges already described. Before going far we crossed a fine stream of water, and within a mile another large stream, very strongly impregnated with copper. After crossing this stream the hills became more rocky, and presented in many places strong evidences of iron.

We continued winding over and around these hills, gradually ascending, until about noon, when we reached the Peak of Castellanos, from which point we had a beautiful view of the great Savana Guabatico, spreading away for miles before us, and of the mountains to the east and west. Here we began a rapid descent that continued with few exceptions nearly two miles, and at last brought us to the level of the Savana Guabatico. Three miles further on we reached the little town of Pulgarina, where are about two hundred and fifty inhabitants scattered over quite an extent of country, but considering themselves as one village. They are intelligent and industrious, cultivating, for this country, quite extensive patches of land, some of the inclosures we noticed containing as much as ten acres. In them we found under cultivation bananas, figs, lemons, coffee, plantains, squashes, beans, cucumbers, tobacco, and sugar-cane; the latter we were informed had not been replanted for five years and was of a very rank growth, which is the best indication we could have of the soil of this vast savanna.

We questioned these people regarding their views of annexation. They all said they were delighted to think there is at last a prospect of it; that they have been praying for it a long time as the only thing that will put an end to the continual political revolutions, and give them peace. There is a Catholic church near this place, which all the people of this and some neighboring savannas attend.

After a short stop at Pulgarina we continued our ride over the savanna until after 11 o'clock at night, when we reached the town of Guerra on this side. During the whole distance across (some twenty miles) we did not pass a single house until within two miles of Guerra. There is but very little timber on this savanna, in small clumps along the water courses. As far as the eye could reach on every side, the savanna was thickly covered with herds of fine looking cattle. Grass grows very luxuriantly, averaging from one to two feet in height, notwithstanding the vast numbers of cattle subsisting on it. Large fires, kindled by the natives for the purpose of burning the dry grass, were running over the savanna in every direction. We noticed several places where the dry grass had been burned off only about two weeks, and already there was a fine crop of fresh grass nearly six inches high.

The town of Guerra consists of some four hundred cottages, and with its surroundings has a population of about two thousand, all of whom, so far as we were able to ascertain, are strongly in favor of annexation. Here we saw the first wheeled vehicles on the island, consisting of two large carts used for transporting logs of mahogany, &c. On the north side of the town is a pretty little lake of good pure water.

From Guerra to Santo Domingo City, the surface is fine and undulating, of about equal proportions of timber and savannas. The soil is very rich.

The whole route from Guerra is well watered and thickly settled. The continuous inclosures (the largest of which did not embrace more than ten acres) presented a fine growth of sugar-cane, and some of them



Indian corn just tasseling out. Bananas, oranges, plantains, &c., were abundant. We passed several droves of fine beef cattle being driven to the Santo Domingo market.

Noticeable among features of the route from Guerra are the remains of what has been, in some remote period of the past, a great highway, about one hundred feet wide, lined on either side with a *sabea* hedge, the trees now averaging more than a foot in diameter, by fifty or sixty feet high, and extending nearly the whole distance from Guerra to Santo Domingo City. We questioned a number of men on the route and they all spoke very strongly in favor of annexation.

Between Samana and the city of Santo Domingo we were unable to find a single person opposed to annexation to the United States, or one that knew of any one else that was. On the contrary, they are all looking forward to it with intense longing.

We reached the gates of the city of Santo Domingo at 12.30 o'clock p. m., January 28, being two and a half days from Savana la Mar, and three days and a half from Samana.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

E. JACOBS.  
H. P. WADE.

## VII.—NOTES ON A TRIP THROUGH THE VEGA REAL.

BY E. WALLER.

The journey was by boat for a distance of some thirty miles up the river Yuna, and thence on horseback for the rest of the way, a distance of about two hundred and fifty miles, to the city of Santo Domingo.

On the river Yuna, while in the boat, no towns or villages were encountered, although some localities at which a house or two might be situated (as at Almacen, where there was a single store with its out-buildings) had received names. Off of the Yuna, about forty miles to the northwest of Almacen, where we left the river, is the town of San Francisco de Macoris, which contains some two hundred houses and about one thousand inhabitants. Westward from Macoris about thirty miles is Conception de la Vega, and about southeasterly from La Vega the small town of Cotui, containing about one hundred and fifty houses and five hundred inhabitants.

The trade of these towns is principally in agricultural products, as tobacco, sugar, and some cacao and coffee; some trade also being made in mahogany, hides, and wax; while on the shores of Samana Bay, besides these products, oranges and cocoa-nuts are also articles of export. From along the coast of Samana and the lower Yuna, these articles find a market at Santa Barbara; while those from the western portion of the Vega Real are sent to a market at Puerto Plata.

The enterprise of the inhabitants of all the region traveled over was small, and the trade of the towns was by no means active. The country between Almacen and Macoris gave evidences of greater industry than in other parts, but that was not great.

The river Yuna is the grand means of communication between the eastern portion of the Vega Real and the outside world. It is about one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet in width, up as far as Cotui, but is usually navigable for the natives' canoes as far as ———, the average depth being about eight to ten feet in the dry season, except at its mouths, of which there are two principal ones, called respectively the





boca pequeño and the boca grande. At each of these there is a shifting bar, on which there is, in the driest seasons, at high tide, three to five feet of water. The current is swift and strong, especially after heavy rains. On each side of the river below Almacen the land slopes back from the river's bank to broad and shallow lagoons, into which, when the river is swollen by the rains, a current sets, relieving the main channel.

The roads in the interior are about fifty feet wide, except in the mountain regions, where they are only about ten feet or less in width, being simply clearings; and no care is taken of them, except to cut down once a year the small bushes which root in the roadway. They are as a consequence generally intersected with muddy channels, rendering them impassable for wagons of any kind, and after heavy rains difficult, if not impracticable, even for the pack-horses and mules.

In education the people are quite deficient, there being but one school in Macoris, and another at La Vega, and none in the other cities visited. These schools were not attended by more than twenty-five to fifty children, a very small proportion of those in the place.

With regard to health, the natives declared that disease was very infrequent among them; and all appeared so healthy that this statement was readily believed. It is generally understood, however, that foreigners must expect a mild acclimating fever if they remain for a considerable time in any portion of the country.

All of the land in the Vega Real appears to be very rich and capable of cultivation, but hardly one-tenth of it seems to be under cultivation. But little care is necessary to raise crops, and since there is so much virgin land, rather than take the trouble of plowing and manuring the land when it begins to show signs of exhaustion, the natives prefer to clear land for another plantation, which is readily done by burning through or cutting down the timber and brushwood; and after appropriating some of the trees of which they can make a profitable use, the rest is left to dry and decay, or else is burnt off. On the land thus cleared they raise principally tobacco, sugar-cane, upland rice, and plantains; the two latter only for domestic consumption, however; though among the spurs of the Cibao Range, near Cotui, the plantain is used to shade the coffee tree. Besides these products there are usually to be seen growing near the houses some cocoa-nut palms, orange trees, cacao broma, cassava or bread-fruit trees, the fruits of which are only used for home consumption.

In the woods, particularly in those along the river Yuna, are pastured numerous hogs, which have been marked by their owners and then left to run and feed on the seeds, nuts, &c., to be found in the woods. These hogs are so wild that they are hunted by the aid of dogs whenever their flesh is needed for food. On the savannas are pastured many herds of cattle, each beast also marked (usually by a cut on the ear) with the private mark of the owner.

In the woods were seen the mahogany, the larger and valuable trees near to the road having been cut off, only the smaller ones having been left; the palma real, so much used by the natives; the ceiba or cotton-wood; and others. The guava bush also grows wild, apparently throughout the district; while along some of the streams in the hilly regions was seen the bamboo, and in various places the cabooya plant and pine-apple. On the hills to the west of La Vega were many yellow pines, the wood of which is very resinous; but the natives know no other use for the wood than that of firewood.

The Vega Real below Almacen is a low-lying, marshy plain; above that and generally throughout the Vega the ground is gently rolling,



intersected by frequent small streams, and interspersed with savannas of greater or less extent. The soil is generally calcareous and clayey, particularly rich and black in many places, especially in the low lands lying near the Camu River, the main branch of the Yuna.

The geological formation wherever seen was a tertiary limestone, showing in many places the fossils peculiar to that formation.

The following is also submitted regarding the points upon which the commission requested information:

1. *Population*.—Of the population of the region of La Vega Real, about one-fifth are blacks and the remainder mulattoes and Spaniards, principally the latter. The number of each sex is about equal.

2. *Physique*.—The general physique is good, but the capacity for labor apparently not equal to that of the laboring classes of the Southern States.

3. *Dwellings, &c.*—These are of palm-wood frames covered with palm boards and roofed with palm leaves; the ground beaten smooth forms the floor, over which sometimes there is laid a wooden flooring. The houses are usually divided into two rooms, one of which is used as a sleeping apartment by the women and usually contains a bed; the other is the sitting and eating room and at night the sleeping apartment for the men. The kitchen is in a small building separated from, and at the back of, the main house. The domestic animals are chickens, geese, dogs, cats, horses, asses, and mules. Cattle and hogs are seldom seen about the dwellings. The habits are indolent. The only implements employed in husbandry are the hoe and machete.

4. *Cultivation*.—The land is usually cultivated in tracts of about three to five acres. Little or no agricultural skill is exercised.

5. *Religion*.—This is almost universally Catholic. In each commune there is but one church, from which many of the dwellings are so distant that the residents come very little in contact with the priest.

6. *Education*.—Apparently the children are instructed by their parents in reading, writing, and simple arithmetic, but sometimes not even in those branches; very few attend schools.

7. *Tenure of land*.—The land is held in *comunero* right, which gives a man as much land as he can clear and cultivate, which is usually a small tract.

8. *Annexation*.—On this question the people were unanimous in desiring that it should take place, giving as their reasons generally that the political disturbances to which the country is now subjected prevented all enterprise.

9. *Union with Hayti*.—This none seemed to desire, all being too inimical to the Haytians to desire such a union.

Respectfully submitted.

ELWYN WALLER, *E. M.*

## VIII—NOTES ON THE AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF SAMANA PENINSULA AND THE VEGA REAL.

BY H. BRUMMEL.

HON. B. F. WADE, A. D. WHITE, AND S. G. HOWE,  
*Commissioners to the Republic of Dominica:*

GENTLEMEN: Having been detached to accompany the expedition in charge of Professor H. A. Ward to examine the peninsula of Samana  
S. Ex. 9—6



and the valley of the Yuna, as botanist, I beg leave to present the following report :

We left the ship on January 29 and proceeded to the bay of Cacao in a small canoe and camped on shore for the night. The next morning we reached Balandra Head about 10 o'clock and pitched the tent; made an excursion into the country from this point. The land here is exceedingly fertile; passed a number of plantations consisting chiefly of bananas, plantains, cassava, bread-fruit, chocolate, and the other various fruits and vegetables of the country. Further on saw some plantations of corn and sugar-cane. The vegetation was dense, and bamboos and palms were seen sixty feet high. The aspect of the country was hilly and well adapted to the growth of coffee and chocolate, the land being moist and well shaded. Returned to Balandra Head.

Next morning started with the intention of doubling Cape Samana, but found it impossible owing to the heavy seas, and were compelled to land at Port Francais, a small hamlet and the shipping point of the mahogany and yellow-wood from this end of the peninsula. These woods are cut at some distance inland upon the highlands and conveyed to the shore by oxen and horses, dragging them along the roads. The soil at this place is rather thin, but the vegetation is luxuriant. The same day hired horses and crossed with part of the baggage to the north shore and camped on the beach in the bay of La Galera and visited the bay of Rincon. The distance across is about twelve miles; the vegetation is dense and timber averages fifteen inches in diameter. There are no plantations here, the country being used as a grazing ground by the natives. Hogs are very plenty, running at large; they are hunted with dogs when wanted. Limestone of a coralline nature is abundant in this neighborhood and the shore is lined the whole way with it or lime sand. The next evening returned to Port Francais; camped on the beach, and in the morning sailed across the bay of Samana to the bay of Pearls, twenty miles distant. The north shore of this bay consists of low savanna land and is principally covered with mangroves; the south shore consists of bluffs and small islands of limestone, rising nearly perpendicular from the water's edge to the height of two hundred feet and covered with vegetation mostly of a succulent and epiphytal nature. It is the abode of numerous pelicans and other aquatic birds. This bay was at one time the seat of pearl fisheries and is noted for the caves of San Lorenzo, containing beds of marine shells, probably fished up by the ancient Caribs. It is at present uninhabited.

The next day sailed down the coast to Savana la Mar, a town of about one hundred houses, situated in the plains of the same name; they are level and partly prairie lands. The population are principally engaged in stock-raising, the manufacture of tobacco, and trading stock to the valley of the Yuna and the neighboring islands. They are mostly mulattoes of Mestizo origin, the last known remnants of the Caribs being seen in this end of the island. The same day we crossed the bay to Santa Barbara de Samana, fourteen miles distant, reaching there about 8 o'clock at night.

The next day, we made arrangements to ascend the Yuna River, and made the necessary preparations; the day after, we left the town, and reached the plantation of General José Chiquit, and camped for the night. The land here is a rolling plain, about a mile wide and twelve or fifteen miles long, fairly settled with numerous small plantations, with the mountain range rising back of it to the height of nine hundred or one thousand feet. Next day reached the coal region at Punta Gorda.



The coal is of the lignite order, so far as was seen, in thin veins. The land here is also extremely fertile, and covered with dense vegetation.

The whole peninsula of Samana is subject to the influence of the northeast trades, and consequently moist throughout the year, showers being frequent in the dry season, and steady rains in the wet season. The peninsula is exceedingly well adapted to the growth of coffee and chocolate in the hilly portions, and corn, cotton, tobacco, sugar-cane, and upland rice in the rolling lands. Bananas, plantains, cocoa-nuts, bread-fruit, and cassava flourish everywhere; also, yams, sweet potatoes, eddoes, and the other principal tropical fruits and vegetables. The plantations, or cultivated patches, are principally fenced with cuttings of sand box-trees and hedges of the maja, (*Bromelia pinguin*, L.) which grows three feet high. The population on the peninsula is about two thousand. The principal articles of export are cocoa-nuts, cattle, hides, chocolate, mahogany, and yellow-wood; they are sent to the United States and Europe. Vegetables are shipped to the neighboring islands. The production is limited, as the demand is not great. Land which has been abandoned is generally covered with an undergrowth six feet high in three years. The cultivation is simple, holes being dug with the machete, or long knife, and afterward the weeds are kept down, and the ground slightly stirred with the hoe. Three crops of corn have been made within the year; but the ears are not as large as in the States.

On the 4th, 5th, and 6th of February we ascended the River Yuna to Almacen, thirty-five miles from the mouth. The river is about sixty yards wide, and varies in depth from ten to twenty-five feet, according to the amount of rain falling in the mountains. It is exceedingly crooked, and the current about four miles an hour. The land along the banks, from the mouth for about twelve miles up, is principally alluvial, and subject to overflow, and is generally used for stock purposes. The river is obstructed with a bar at its mouth, shifting with every freshet, with about two and a half feet water at low tide. It is navigable about forty-two miles for boats drawing three feet water. The banks of the river have numerous plantations, averaging from one to twenty acres, and sugar-cane flourishes, and the principal tropical productions. Almacen is the principal shipping point for the tobacco grown in the neighborhood of San Francisco de Macoris, about four thousand pounds having been brought in the day after our arrival.

At this point we left the canoe, and, taking horses, proceeded overland to Macoris, about thirty miles away, passing through rolling land, with some prairie. The land here is fertile, and the vegetation dense. From Macoris we proceeded to Concepcion de la Vega, about twenty-five miles distant, arriving there at night. The next day left for Cotui, forty-five miles farther, and thence rode to Cevico, twenty miles.

In riding from Macoris to Cevico we passed through the center of the Vega Real or Royal Meadow. This is undoubtedly the finest body of agricultural land upon the island, and well adapted to the growth of cotton, tobacco, sugar-cane, corn, and the principal fruits and vegetables. It is sparsely settled at present, and the principal occupation of the natives is raising stock. Food enough could be easily grown in this valley for three millions of people. The thermometer ranges from 85° to 91° in the shade during the day, and 60° to 64° at night, the year round. The country is exceedingly well watered, the streams being clear and rapid, and all good water. Vegetation is everywhere dense, and immense numbers of horses, cattle, and hogs roam over the prairies. The horses are of medium size and sure-footed, being the principal means of conveyance. The cattle are of medium size and in good con-



dition. The hogs, with long slender heads and narrow bodies, look nearer the wild form than anything in the United States, and they roam at will through the country. Wild guinea-fowls and numerous other birds are plentiful, the noise at times being deafening.

From Cevico we commence to ascend the mountains, passing through two ranges, crossing the second and highest through a gap about twelve hundred feet in elevation. The range is covered with vegetation to the top, and is well adapted to the growth of coffee and chocolate. After crossing the central mountain chain we reached the savannas, passing through alternate belts of timber and savannas until reaching Savana la Grande, about sixty-four miles from Cevico. The land is poorer from the mountains to this place, and is well suited for grazing purposes and the growth of cotton and tobacco. From Savana la Grande to Santo Domingo is about six miles, and the soil is mostly a red loam, rather thin, with outcroppings of limestone. The population is scattered loosely along the route, and the houses are mostly one-story, built of framework, and thatched with the sheaths of the leaves of the palma real, or royal palm.

The people appear to be contented and of a good disposition, no persons being seen drunk upon the island except foreigners. They are about equally divided between mulattoes and blacks, the former predominating in the interior. They generally express themselves in favor of annexation; as they have been disturbed so much by internal wars, they wish a more permanent form of government that will enable them to improve their possessions, their moral condition, and pecuniary advantages.

H. BRUMMEL,  
*Assistant Botanist, Santo Domingo Commission.*

## ·IX.—ON SOILS FROM SAMANA TO AZUA.

BY E. JACOBS.

In remarking upon the soils of Santo Domingo we are liable to errors from the fact that but a very limited portion of them have ever been cultivated; so that practical tests of their adaptability, in nine-tenths of the country through which we traveled, were entirely wanting. Much of the soil upon the savannas is a light-brown, sandy loam, and, as a general thing, not deep, though the valleys of small streams and ravines are an exception to this, being darker and deeper. The growth of wild grasses is very luxuriant upon all savannas not affected by drought. The substratum in most cases is clay, varying in color from white to a dark red.

Savana la Mar has a deep, dark-brown soil, over a reddish clay-bed, mingled with gravel. This savanna is finely watered, having numerous small streams passing through it to the bay of Samana. The appearance of the few patches in cultivation gave evidence of remarkable fertility. Sugar-cane, bananas, yams, and sweet potatoes were of large growth. It has numerous little clusters of timber scattered over its surface. Passing from this savanna into the hilly, timbered country on the route to Santo Domingo City, the red-clay surface predominated, with occasional ledges of rocks of the same complexion; yet the timber and all the smaller growths gave evidence of fertility.

Savana del Valle, ten or twelve miles from Savana la Mar, has a lighter





soil, both in color and depth; yet it produces abundantly all the crops of the climate. It is a small savanna compared with that of la Mar, and would undoubtedly make fine cotton plantations.

From Savana del Valle to Savana Grande, a distance of eighteen or twenty miles, the surface is varied and the forest unbroken. The soil most of the way is deep and black, being largely made up from the decayed vegetation of ages, where there is no interruption of its growth. With the exception of two respectable mountain peaks, these lands are all susceptible of cultivation, and cannot fail to be highly productive.

Savana Grande is a high, rolling prairie, interspersed with clusters of timber to the extent, probably, of one-fourth of its surface. The soil is thin, and mingled with gravel; yet there are no arid spots, and its wild grasses are abundant.

From Savana Grande to the peak of Castellafios, through alternate forests and savannas, there is every variety of soil, the poor and thin predominating as we approach the mountain peak. There is much of the red rock and thin, red soil, but none of it so poor as not to produce grass for numerous herds of cattle and goats.

Savana Guabatico, extending from the foot of Loma de los Castellafios to San Antonio de Guerra, represents a very large tract of beautiful and. Like other savannas, its surface is interspersed with clusters of imber, where wild fruits abound. The soil varies in character, but the lark brown predominates. The substratum is white clay. The few small patches in cultivation give evidence of its productiveness in sugar-cane, coffee, cotton, and all the tropical fruits. It is tolerably well watered, and will be valuable when plows are introduced. The character of the soil is much the same as that between Guerra and the Ozama River.

From Santo Domingo City to the River Haina the soil is light, upon a coral-rock foundation. This kind of soil is very rich, and when found of sufficient depth for cultivation, is highly productive. From the Haina across the Nigua to Nizao River, a distance of twenty miles or more, the soil is a rich, black, sandy loam, and its cultivation is more frequent than anywhere on our previous route. There are many flourishing plantations of sugar-cane and coffee of respectable size.

West of the Nizao vegetation on the savannas is entirely burned out with the drought, and the soil is light and sandy; though upon this kind of soil at Bani, coffee, cotton, and sugar-cane were said to flourish. The soil is of much the same character all the way to Azua.

At Azua, or rather between Azua and the bay of Ocoa, there is a rich, well-watered section between the Bia and Jura Rivers, of perhaps one hundred square miles. The best sugar plantations on the island are located there.

Along the base of the mountain ranges near Azua the soil is a deep, rich, black, sandy loam, and always well watered by numerous mountain streams.

As an evidence of the fertility of this soil, there exists at Azua a field of cane said to have been planted over seventy years ago. Though the present appearance is tangled and irregular, the product, properly saved, would probably be at least one ton to the acre.



## X.—BOTANY OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF SANTO DOMINGO.

BY PROF. C. C. PARRY.

*To the Honorable Santo Domingo Commission :*

The ordinary tropical fruits and cultivated vegetable products before enumerated in my report on the botany of Samana peninsula, belong equally to all the habitable districts along the southern coast. Sufficing to supply the simple wants of its unenterprising inhabitants, no attempts are made either to improve varieties, or introduce new articles for consumption or export. Of native plants adapted to economic uses not before noticed, I may mention the plant known under the common name of "Zauga" (*Zamia integrifolia*.) This plant, which is abundant all over the district, has a large tuberous root, from which starch is extracted.

In certain limited districts we meet with the fiber plant known as "Cabouja," the *Foucroya Cubense* of botanists. The large fleshy leaves of the plant yield the fine white fiber so extensively used in the manufacture of ropes.

Of palms, besides those previously noticed, may be enumerated *Thry-nax argentea*, *Acrocomia lasiospatha*, *Sabal umbraculifera*, all of which are extensively used for various purposes of thatching or domestic manufacture.

As common articles of export besides mahogany and West India cedar, before referred to, large amounts of logwood, (*Hæmatoxylon Campeachianum*,) fustic, (*Maclura tinctoria*,) and lignum-vitæ, (*Guaicum officinale*,) are brought from different points in the interior or along the coast for shipment at the principal seaports.

As indirectly connected with the native vegetation, may be noticed the abundance of honey and wax, which also forms an important item in the exports of Santo Domingo City; the continuance of the flowering season throughout the year, affording a constant supply to these exceptionally industrious inhabitants of this favored district.

In the vicinity of Azua, there is a limited arid district along the sea-coast, characterized by dense growths of cacti, including ten or more species; in the same section we meet with extensive tracts occupied by the showy plants of the West India agave, (*A. Antillarum*.) This plant affords a useful fiber only second to that of *Foucroya Cubense*. In the rich valleys adjoining the town of Azua, sugar-cane of superior quality is extensively cultivated.

In the mountain districts of this region the vegetation assumes a distinctly northern aspect, the higher ridges being occupied by pine groves, composed of *Pinus occidentalis*.

## GENERAL FEATURES.

In the absence of a complete list of the plants of Santo Domingo, which would necessarily involve more extensive exploration, and comparison with authentic specimens, than the short time at our disposal would allow, the following may be presented as a brief review of the general features of the island in its botanical and agricultural aspects:

Aside from the general facts of the geographical position of Santo Domingo within the tropics, its insular character, and exposure to the regular trade-winds of the North Atlantic Ocean, necessarily involving a warm and moist climate, productive soil, and favorable commercial



facilities, the principal distinguishing feature of this island is presented in the large extent of its elevated mountain ranges. This plainly-marked physical feature, which everywhere meets the eye, serves not only to give a pleasing variety to the landscape, but also to supply the conditions of a much wider range of agricultural production than would be possible otherwise. The highest mountain ridges, attaining elevations of from 5,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea, are clothed to their summits with a dense growth of native forests, and their crests and slopes are seen frequently enveloped by clouds and fog, indicating a moist, cool atmosphere.

Hence, botanically and agriculturally, the country is naturally divided into distinct districts, viz:

First. An irregular coast line, frequently presenting abrupt rock-bound shores, or extending in the form of gradually elevated plains to the interior mountain ridges.

Second. Wide, open valleys and interior basin plains, bounded on either hand by elevated mountains.

Third. The mountain slopes and ridges, rising to elevations of from 3,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea.

First. The coast line or maritime belt includes some of the least productive and most forbidding portions of the island. It embraces, along the northern and southern coasts, arid, sandy, and rocky tracts, which, being shut off from the influence of moist winds, present desert features in the growth of cactuses, dwarfed thorny trees, with scant foliage, and an intricate maze of shrubbery next to impassable for man or beast. The moist, sandy lagoons forming at the mouth of rivers are occupied by dense mangrove thickets, and in more favorable locations stretches of smooth sandy beaches are agreeably set off with groves of cocoa-nuts or other graceful palms. Again, at other points, as in Samana Bay, the wooded slopes drop down abruptly to the water's edge.

In the vicinity of Santo Domingo City the broad ocean swell dashes against perpendicular, rocky walls, which are fantastically washed out and fissured by the waves, at only a few points presenting narrow patches of sandy beach.

It is on these less productive, and even desert tracts, that some of the most valuable native vegetable products are to be found, including especially the durable *lignum-vitæ*, the commercial logwood, and fustic. In similar districts we meet with the valuable leaf fiber-plants, including the *Cabouja*, *Magwey*, *Bromelia*, &c., all of which are in common use in the manufacture of cordage, and the dressed fiber derived from these different plants will eventually form a very important article of export.

The more extended plains stretching inland to the interior mountain ranges exhibit certain varieties of soil, in connection with the chemical composition of the underlying rock, or superficial deposits, being either sandy, gravelly, or argillaceous, and thus adapted to the different varieties of tropical food-plants.

Here also the vast number of tropical fruit trees can be cultivated to an unlimited extent, and, with more attention given to improved varieties, the fruit product may be made to form a remunerative branch of commercial industry. In other districts, appropriately termed "*savannas*," stock-raising is carried on to advantage, and several shrubs adapted for browsing still further extend the stock-supporting capacities of a large scope of country.

Second. The large alluvial valleys and basin plains of the interior are especially adapted to the growth of sugar-cane, which here grows with a luxuriance unknown in less favored localities. The scope of country



adapted to this staple can be much extended by a proper system of irrigation, by which the higher fertile grounds adjoining the river-bottoms may be supplied with that degree of moisture necessary to perfect this class of cultivated plants. Cotton and tobacco will also here find, at different points, a congenial soil for the production of their peculiar staples.

These extensive valleys, as yet unexhausted by cultivation, will naturally concentrate the great bulk of the agricultural population, where large estates and populous cities, made accessible by railways to the commercial seaports, will, in due course of civilized development, present a marked contrast to their present sparsely-peopled wastes.

Third. The mountain slopes, now in great measure clothed with luxuriant native forests, will constitute the first and most direct source of wealth to an enterprising and industrious population. Owing to the difficulties of transportation over the rude country roads, only passable for pack animals, much of the valuable timber growth, including mahogany and a great variety of cabinet woods and ship timber, is still growing in its native forests, while that adjoining the coast has been stripped to supply the commercial demands. When once made accessible by suitable wagon-roads or railways, all this source of wealth will be laid open to enterprise, and in the process of clearing the most suitable ground will be made available for the growth of coffee and other analogous agricultural products.

One peculiarity of tropical forests consists in the number of different species in the same locality; thus no large bodies of a single species of tree are met with, as in northern woods, but a great profusion of different forms promiscuously scattered. These include, in the West Indies, over two hundred different species. This fact, however, is less conspicuous at the higher elevations, where pine groves and analogous northern forms make their appearance. At an elevation of from five thousand to six thousand feet above the sea we meet with the atmospheric conditions favorable to the growth of *Cinchona*, yielding the medicinal quinine. As the supply of these valuable *Cinchona* barks from their original sources in the South American Andes is threatened with extinction, from the wasteful methods employed in their collection, great attention has been given, especially by the British government, to its cultivation in suitable districts in the East Indies.

The result of numerous experiments having now fully established the conditions necessary to their successful culture, the colonial government of Jamaica, in the West Indies, has recently established a *Cinchona* plantation in the Blue Mountain range in that island. Having had an opportunity to visit this location during the explorations in connection with the Santo Domingo Commission, and to ascertain the views of the intelligent botanist in charge, (R. Thomson,) the conclusion is safely reached that a larger scope of country in the mountainous districts of Santo Domingo is adapted to this important class of cultivated plants than any other insular locations in the western hemisphere. In this same connection may be noticed the great advantage which these elevated districts offer, not only for sanitary retreats, where those enervated by long exposure to tropical heats can find relief in a cool atmosphere, only a short distance from their ordinary low-land residences, but also in the capacity for raising the ordinary northern fruits and vegetables, so much prized by those who have been always accustomed to their use.

The facility with which all tropical plants and trees can be transferred from one region to another within the tropics is evidenced by the



great number of East India species now naturalized throughout the West Indies, including by far the majority of ordinary tropical fruits and vegetables, as well as common weeds. Thus, from other remote sources may reasonably be expected hereafter large additions to the agricultural wealth of Santo Domingo, on whose inviting soil may be introduced the Eastern dyes, spices, vegetable oils, gums, and drugs of commerce.

The following may be summed up as comprising the prominent features which characterize Santo Domingo as a desirable agricultural region :

1. An insular position exposed to the equalizing influences of the surrounding sea, insuring abundant moisture for the fullest growth of all tropical products and affording the largest commercial facilities for export to adjoining northern countries.

2. A natural division of closely adjoining districts, including arid tracts on the coast, adapted to the growth of valuable fibers, woods, dyes, &c.; a region of plains and large interior valleys, varying in soil and exposure, from comparatively barren to exuberantly fertile, adapted to a variety of agricultural products; a large extent of mountain slopes densely wooded, including some of the most valuable timber products, which, when cleared of their native forests, afford the most desirable locations for the cultivation of coffee and other tropical staples; a still more elevated district, suited to the cultivation of Cinchona, as well as the usual varieties of northern fruits and vegetables, and affording sanitary retreats to those living in the adjoining low lands exposed to continuous tropical heats.

3. An extensive field for the introduction of new varieties of plants and useful tropical products of other lands, on soils unexhausted by culture, and capable of supporting a vast population.

Respectfully submitted.

C. C. PARRY,

*Botanist Santo Domingo Commission.*

## XI.—ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF SANTO DOMINGO CITY AND VICINITY.

BY DR. W. NEWCOMB.

*To the Honorable the Commissioners to Santo Domingo :*

•GENTLEMEN: Appointed to the responsible position of determining the sanitary condition of the various places visited by your honorable body, I feel it a duty to avail myself of every possible means in my reach to arrive at correct conclusions with reference to climatic diseases in particular, not treating upon those common to all localities.

The city of Santo Domingo, with its suburbs, rests upon a limestone formation, which is but slightly covered by disintegrated material of the same character, more or less mixed with vegetable mold. The drainage of the city has been carefully attended to. The streets are generally narrow, and in some sections the buildings are very much crowded. The extremes of temperature for the past year, as shown by registering thermometers, are sixty-six and ninety-two. For the past week, at the palace, the variation has been ten degrees, ranging from 72° to 82° Fahrenheit. The prevalent winds have, during the same period, been from the northeast, accompanied by frequent showers, only one day dur-





ing the time being free from rain. At night the wind carries an amount of moisture that irritates sensitive lungs, and would aggravate diseases of the air-passages, and be most unfavorable to consumptives. Cases of tubercular phthisis occur among the natives not unfrequently, the exciting cause due, undoubtedly, to the fact referred to.

From representations made by persons acquainted with the eastern and southern portion of the island, the same atmospheric condition is found to exist, and invalids with weak lungs should carefully avoid this section when seeking a residence for sanitary purposes.

The serpent tribe is but poorly represented, and no venomous snakes are met with on the island.

Centipedes are quite common, and are found in numbers burrowing under stones and among decaying wood. Their bite is rarely serious, and of the species found here never fatal. The larger specimens, from eight to ten inches in length, have the power of inflicting a severe and painful wound, readily cured by the application of ammonia.

Scorpions, of a small black species, found under similar circumstances as the centipede, are occasionally met with. Their sting is painful, and may be, under certain circumstances, sufficient to excite considerable febrile action. No fatal cases have been recorded from the venom of this insect.

Tarantulas are said to be found here occasionally, but notwithstanding a diligent search for them none have been met with.

A very minute animal, similar to the flea, and designated here as the *nigua*, requires a more extended notice. The female *only* attacks the exposed parts of the surface, more particularly the hands and feet, and penetrates the skin in an insidious manner, so as not to attract notice. She soon fills herself with blood, and commences depositing a multitude of minute eggs, which become sacculated. A dull itching supervenes, which is not uncommonly referred to any other toe or finger instead of the one in which the *nigua* is deposited. A careful examination will soon detect the true point of perforation, as the enlarged animal is slightly projecting above the surface. By a careful manipulation with a needle, the entire sack, with its contents, can be removed, leaving but a slight wound, which heals kindly and without any special care.

Wood-ticks are found, but only attack quadrupeds, unlike those of Panama and Central America, which seem to prefer to commit their depredations upon mankind.

The true oriental leprosy is met with in a few cases, sufficient, however, to have attracted the attention of government, and a leper hospital has been established within the walls of the city for their reception. Thirteen cases, all contained in the hospital, were visited, and presented the various phases of this incurable disease, from its earlier to the last stages. The occupants have been declared lepers, some two, five, ten, fifteen, and seventeen years since. The manifest symptoms are anæsthesia of the extremities; loss of eyebrows; tubercles of the skin, especially of the hands and face, gradually passing into ulceration, with enlargement of the fingers, which become contorted and flexed on the hand; in some cases ulceration, by which joint after joint drops off from the fingers and toes; ulceration of the *alæ nasi*; general swelling of the face and ears, and, in the last stage, imbecility of mind; closure of the nostrils from swelling and ulceration; difficult respiration, bronchial infiltration, and death.

It is fortunate that the patient generally is not conscious of his true condition, and that life or death have neither charms nor terrors for him, and either would be equally acceptable. Not so, however, in all



cases, for one of the patients of fifteen years' standing, with a fine education, still pursues his studies with avidity, without apparently affect ing his mind. The ravages of disease have affected him much less than is usual for the same time, although he stated that he could hold his fingers in a flame of fire without any sensation of pain.

In the city hospital are about a dozen patients, three of whom were received from gunshot and saber wounds; none of the others were of much interest, excepting a single case of ascites, symptomatic of an enlarged spleen, produced by repeated attacks of intermittent badly treated. This was the sole purely climatic case found having its origin in malarious influences.

Much has been said about the extensive and almost universal prevalence of syphilis upon this island. Having practiced my profession upon the Sandwich Islands for five years, where the various forms of that disease are most extensively met with, and having during that time treated over 6,000 cases, making the subject necessarily one of close investigation, I feel myself tolerably well posted upon the subject.

In looking at the native population, as we pass through the streets, without having met with a single case of *rupia syphilitica*, disfigurement of the face from loss of the nasal bones, or a failure of voice from the destruction of the palatal bones, or met with a case of syphilitic nodes, or ulceration of the tibia, I do not hesitate in pronouncing the general prevalence of that disease a miserable mistake, so far as this population is concerned. In the purlieus of any of our large cities at home, I could in the same population point out a dozen of such cases of secondary disease as I have referred to. I would not make the statement that no such disease exists; but from hospital examinations, the declarations of dozens of intelligent natives, and my own observations, I am quite ready to declare that the statement that it prevails extensively in this city is an error of great magnitude. Where are the children with glandular swellings about the neck, the hereditary results of this disease found in every third native child on the Sandwich Islands? Where are the evidences of sterility, the necessary sequence of the moral depravity of the adults, which is telling so fearfully on the existence of the Hawaiian nation? Certainly not in Santo Domingo City, where the smooth faces and necks glisten in the sunshine, reflecting health and vigor in the rising generation. Certainly not here, where the streets and doorways are teeming with glowing black eyes, from the infant of a few days old to those of the age of puberty. Such contradictions are not in nature, and the gross slander should be met and refuted.

Gonorrhœa may have been confounded with syphilis—an inexcusable blunder. This last does not, like the former, poison the system, and render hereditary descent an exception to a general rule. It does not stamp upon an infant progeny the results of its own violation of the rules of morality and decency.

Since the foregoing was written, I have had an opportunity of testing its correctness by consultation with the physician of the United States steamer *Yantic*, which for six months has been in the habit of giving freedom on shore to the seamen and marines. He quotes from his returns the following, viz: gonorrhœa, 3 cases; soft chancre, 1 case.

It should here be noticed that true Hunterian chancre is indurated at the base and sides, and quite opposite in its character from "soft chancre." This last is the result of an abrasion with the poison of gonorrhœa, brought in contact with it, not leading to absorption into the system, or secondary symptoms.



So complete is this evidence, that to pursue the subject further would be a waste of time, and exhaustive to the patience of the commissioners.

I have met with one case of bronchocele or goitre; and elephantiasis, sometimes erroneously classed with leprosy, is only occasionally met with, but is far less common than on the islands of Santa Cruz or Barbadoes, or in Georgetown in British Guiana.

This disease is one of the cutis, which becomes enormously hypertrophied or thickened, so that the leg, on which it most frequently occurs, is enlarged to the size and closely resembles in appearance the leg of an elephant, from which resemblance comes the name.

Calling the population of the city and suburbs 10,000, which is a fair estimate, and taking the returns (which are authentic) of births and deaths, we arrive at the following result. This is for the year 1870:

Deaths by the record.....	163
Births registered in cathedral.....	335
Births registered in three other churches.....	672
	<hr/>
Total births.....	1,007
	<hr/> <hr/>

Except from information, no opinion can be given in reference to epidemic diseases. The indications are that the country will compare in a sanitary view with the average of our New England or Western States. The number of old persons show perhaps a greater percentage of octogenarians with more centenarians than can be found in most places of its size in the United States.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. NEWCOMB, *M. D.*

NOTE.—An element of error may be fairly presumed from the great discrepancy which appears between the number of births and deaths. This may be in part explained from the circumstance that only those passing through the registers of baptism and interments are recorded. The Protestants are not recorded in baptism, and probably not in interments.

W. N.

## XII.—NOTES OF A TRIP FROM SANTO DOMINGO CITY TO SAN CRISTOBAL.

By W. NEWCOMB.

*To the Honorable the Dominican Commissioners:*

Accompanied by a guide, and with Mr. Marvine as a companion, started on the 11th of February for an exploration to San Cristobal, distant seven leagues. From that place, designed visiting some caves at a distance of seven miles in the limestone formation common to the south portion of the island, while Mr. M. was to diverge from San Cristobal to examine the copper mines at a still greater distance.

The country for the first ten miles is quite level, with an indifferent cart road leading to the Rio Jaina, which we crossed by a rope ferry. The greater part of the distance to the river is a forest, with but occasional small clearings, and we learned upon inquiry that most of it belonged to the government.

We noticed along the road considerable piles of log-wood fitted for



market, and several logs of the valuable satin-wood. A great variety of fruit trees, many of them unknown, seemed struggling with the forest trees which had encroached upon their domain, and furnished an apt illustration of the contest going on between civilization and the savage state, with the chances in this country at least greatly in favor of the latter becoming the victors in the contest for supremacy.

Beyond the river Jaina the main road was left, and we followed a mule path leading among the hills and vales through a track which would be deemed impassable by an ordinary traveler.

Upon either hand of this track an occasional opening would reveal slight attempts at agriculture, and numerous crosses with piles of stone surrounding them were frequently seen.

These crucial ornaments were the result of a desperate effort made by priests and people to avert the predicted destruction of the islands in the West Indies, and terrible convulsions in South America, by earthquakes. The stones were brought from a distance as penitential offerings after the poor inhabitants had no other means left as votive offerings, these having been exhausted in masses and other pious efforts to avert the threatened calamity. We arrived at San Cristobal about sunset, and were welcomed by one of the chief men of the hamlet, to whom we had letters of introduction. The village contains about 200 houses or huts, and the estimate of the population by our host placed the population at fifteen to each house. This appears to be a large estimate, and should probably be diminished at least one half.

Goats and fowls were abundant, and provided us with an abundant supply of eggs and milk. In the morning early, started for a visit to the caves, over a mountain road, but giving evidence of more successful industry on the route than before witnessed. Large patches of bananas, plantains, tobacco, rice, and fields of cane of large size and of a fine color were met with. Fruit trees were also abundant, among which we noticed the orange, guava, tamarind, anona, cocoa-nut palm, cacao, avocata, pear, cassia fistula, and the still more beautiful mango and bread fruit. In some cases these were strangely intermingled with the regal palm, mahogany, logwood, calabash tree, and the curious sand box tree. This last we noticed was used as a living fence, planted so close together as to present a palisade, impenetrable to cattle, and sixty feet high. The fruit, when ripe in the sun, explodes with a noise like that of a pistol, and the seeds are showered down through the leaves with a rattling sound, producing a startling effect upon the stranger. The constant and rapid detonations in all directions, however, soon reassures him that he is not the target for a platoon of musqueteers. The humming of bees, and the varied notes of the mocking bird, the occasional flitting of the beautiful green toady, the noisy tappings of numerous woodpeckers, and the quick rustling of the active lizzard, with the cool morning mountain breeze, combined to make the passing scene one of unusual beauty.

By a walk of a mile or more down one declivity and up another we reached "Cueba Grande," or the big cave, which is entered by a narrow aperture, and gradually enlarges and occasionally contracts, for some 200 yards in extent, sending off numerous galleries to the right or left of no great length. The height varies from a few feet to 30 or 40; the surface being dry and smooth, affords no water for percolation, and, of course, is wanting in that essential of beauty in most caves, the glittering stalactites and stalagmites, which assume so many grotesque and beautiful forms. The floor resounded under our footsteps as though still lower cavities existed, shut off from observation.



"Cueva de los murcielagos," or the cave of the wind-bats, is situated at great distance from the one described, and is only remarkable from the vast number of bats which take refuge in it by daylight. Soon after entering its mouth a roaring was heard like the breakers on a rock-bound shore, increasing in intensity and continuity as we advanced, until the sound became deafening. These bats at night pass out for their food, and it is stated by the natives that they feed on the grapes which grow in abundance on the mountains in the vicinity. Their deposits on the floor of the cave render traveling slippery, and for some distance we noticed various plants growing in the dark, with the sickly white color which robbed them of their characters as seen in the sunlight. Securing specimens of the inhabitants we bade adieu to "Cueva murcielagos," to wend our way through a tropical shower to the pueblo of San Cristobal.

In passing up the mountain road on our way to the caves we counted 110 women and 17 men taking produce to market in a distance of three miles, many of them on donkies, others on foot with loads upon their heads. This strange discrepancy in the number of the sexes was explained by the statement that the men were in hiding to prevent being sent as soldiers to the frontier. Every one proclaimed annexation to the United States to be the only hope left for the Dominican.

W. NEWCOMB.

### XIII.—JOURNEY FROM SANTO DOMINGO CITY TO AZUA.

BY GENERAL F. SIGEL.

*To the United States Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with your letter of instructions of February 7, our party was prepared to start for Azua on the 9th, and consisted of the following persons besides myself: Isaac Smith, colored, and born in Porto Rico, interpreter, and a dragoon furnished by the minister of war, to act as guide and to take charge of our cargo.

#### I.—SANTO DOMINGO TO SAN CRISTOBAL.

We left the city of Santo Domingo on the morning of the 9th of February, at 11½ a. m., and passing through the Puerta de Condé, took the road to the Haina, which leads along the southern coast of the island. The road is from 15 to 30 paces wide, level and sandy, and inclosed on the right and left by bushes, short trees, and plantations. After a three hours' ride, at 2.20 p. m., we reached Haina River, which is at the crossing point 24 brazos (fathoms) wide, and 5 brazos (30 feet) deep, while the distance from the ferry to the mouth of the river is about one mile, (English.) The river is passed by a flat-boat, built (as I was told) at the expense of the Dominican government, and sold to the present proprietor. On the east and west sides of the river there are fourteen houses, inhabited by about forty people, who live on what they raise around the little village and what they can get from travelers.

After having rested about an hour we left the eastern side of the river, crossed over in the boat and followed the road to the right (north-west) through a hilly and well wooded country, the principal trees being the sand-box (hura) and the palm; at 4.10 p. m. we passed (west) for forty minutes, or about three miles, over a plateau with stony and





dry soil, moderately wooded, here and there embellished by patches of cultivated land, (rice, bananas, and plantains;) then (northwest) down a pretty rough road, until we reached, at 5 p. m., the Río Viejo, a clear, pretty little stream, about six paces wide, which we forded, and then came upon an excellent road, from twenty to thirty paces wide, which brought us, at 5.15, to the river Nigua. This is a strong stream, flowing during the whole year, and emptying about 8 miles from the crossing point into the ocean. The river is about sixty paces wide, and from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet deep at the crossing point, the dry bed about one hundred paces wide. There is no ferry-boat at this point; we therefore forded the river and arrived, at 5.25 p. m., at the village of San Cristobal, where we were very kindly received by the commandant, General Bernabel Polanco, and other inhabitants. We also met here the party who had left Santo Domingo early in the morning of the same day, and which consisted of Messrs. E. Jacobs of the Ciucinnati Commercial, C. C. Fulton of the Baltimore American, and W. Conard of the New York Herald, besides their interpreter and guide, Mr. Gustav Taylor Marciacq, of Samana, and Mr. Jeremiah James, inspector general of agriculture and second alcalde, also of the town of Samana.

The village of San Cristobal with its surroundings is probably one of the finest, healthiest, and most advantageously situated spots on the southern coast of the island. Its situation is somewhat elevated, but level, and protected on the north and northwest by chains of mountains which enhance the beautiful aspect of the scenery. The river passes along not far from the village, furnishing plenty of excellent drinking water, and, if demanded, abundant water power for all kinds of industrial purposes. We were informed by different persons, among them the alcalde of the village, that there were gold, salt, and coal mines about ten miles from the place, in the mountain region, and that specimens of the coal could be procured, but considering that the time was not sufficient to visit the mines, we could not gain all the information desired.

As to the special questions the commission wishes to be answered, I have obtained the following information:

1st. The village (pueblo) of San Cristobal, the center of the community (township or población) of the same name, which latter forms part of the department of Santo Domingo, contains 400 inhabitants, living in about 120 houses. Of the inhabitants about three-fourths are negroes and mulattoes, the others white people. Some of the original settlers were French, of whom there are from 20 to 30 in the village. This information is given by the commandant. He also said that there are 15,000 inhabitants in the community, (población,) which number seems to me too high. The proportion of males to females is about 1 to 3.

The village was laid out in 1823, twenty leagues from the old mines of San Cristobal, named after a fort which Columbus built for the protection of the mines. The first inhabitants received, in 1823, a caballeria (180 acres) of land from the Dominican government, on which the village was built. The region around Cristobal is called "Los Ingenios," from the water-mills which were first established there and were afterward used as sugar-mills.

2d. In physical condition the men are hardy and capable of enduring great exertion and fatigue; adequate to all the labor at present required or which may be required under a more energetic system.

The men are not accustomed to do much work, less, as it seems, on account of the climate than on account of the uncertainty of the condition under which they live. Being not very far from the district of Azua, they are in a state of armed peace, subject to constant excite-



ment, and, as they are comparatively few in number, the demands for military service, guard, and out-post duty, and mail service between Santo Domingo and Azua, take up much of their time. This is especially so with the young and strongest men, the most able to work and to produce.

3d. They live in wooden houses, containing from 2 to 4 rooms, and their food consists of fresh and dried beef, poultry and eggs, rice, sweet potatoes, beans, many kinds of tropical fruit, coffee, chocolate, and sweetmeats prepared of oranges or other fruits.

4th. I could not gain correct information relative to the proportion of the land under cultivation in the community. As to the instruments of labor, they are the ax, the hoe, the knife, and machete. They raise horses, cattle, goats, and hogs; also poultry; but no special care seems to be taken in regard to the breeding of horses and cattle.

5th. There is a Catholic priest (Padre Juanino) in the village and a Catholic church. The inhabitants are Catholics.

6th. There exists a private school in the village conducted by Señor José Llavéria, from whom I gained the following information: The number of children visiting the school is 29, all boys. The teacher takes \$1 a month for the instruction of a pupil, and pays \$3 rent for the school-house per month. He intends to have a public school established by the ayuntamiento (town council) for boys and girls, and said that Protestant children would be received and treated the same as children of Catholic parents.

As to the general instruction of the population, General Polanco said that, of the 15,000 inhabitants of the community, about 400, *i. e.*,  $\frac{1}{37}$ , could read and write. It seems that a great desire exists of increasing the means of education and instruction.

7th. The community possesses a caballeria of land, on which the village is built. There are private proprietors of land, but no high rents are exacted from the people.

8th. In Cristobal the inhabitants are unanimous in their desire for annexation. They long for protection, peace, security of their property, and the fruits of their labor, and have shown their sympathy by all kinds of demonstrations.

9th. They do not fear a subjugation by Hayti, and say that they do not desire a union with the Haytian government, as it would practically consist in nothing else but a substitution of Haytian officials for their own, (Dominican.) They hate the Haytians on account of the direct and indirect assistance given by them to Cabral, and for their arbitrary rule when they held possession of Santo Domingo under President Boyer. They do not expect any material advantages from a union with Hayti, but expect them from the United States.

Annual productions of the community of San Cristobal, as given by General Polanco:

Sugar: 6,000 quintals, value \$2 50 to \$3 per quintal, (of about 100 pounds.)  
 Coffee: 4,000 quintals, value \$8 per quintal.  
 Tobacco: 40,000 pounds, value 5 cents a bunch of three pounds.  
 Rice: ———, value \$5 per quintal.  
 Cacao: ———, value from \$1 to \$2 a box (almo) of eight pounds.  
 Cotton: ———, \$4 a quintal.  
 Bananas: from 20 to 50 cents a hundred.  
 Beans: ———, \$8 per quintal.

## II.—FROM SAN CRISTOBAL TO BANI.

On the 10th of February I left San Cristobal, in company with the other party, (Messrs. Fulton, Jacobs, and Conard,) at 6.30 o'clock



a. m., taking the road west to Bani; at 8. a. m. we passed a coffee plantation, on the left of the road, crossed two dry river-beds, and continued on an excellent road, from 20 to 30 paces wide, until, at 8.45, we passed a stream and followed the same road. At 9.34 we crossed another stream, and at 9.35 arrived at the forks of two roads, when we took that to the left, southwest, until we reached, at 10 a. m., the neighborhood of the Nizao River. After having passed over a stony and barren piece of land, 600 paces wide and evidently forming an outlet of the river at the rainy season, we crossed at the ford and reached the west side, where the dry bed extends about 450 paces. The river itself is about 150 feet wide and 3 feet deep at the ford, with clear water and swift channel, and empties, about 15 miles from our crossing-point, into the ocean between Point Nizao and Point Catalina. The region between the rivers Nizao and Nigua, back of the coast, is fertile, well wooded and watered, and offers great facilities for cultivation.

We rested at the west side of the river until 11.30 a. m., when we started again for Bani. At 11.31 a. m., in the direction west, we passed a small stream, and at 11.37 another one, very well supplied. At 12 o'clock the road led down steeply for a few minutes, direction southwest, then passed on from 4 to 7 paces wide. At 12.30 p. m. we had missed the road, finding ourselves going due east instead of southwest; turned back 1 mile and stopped at a farm-house on the left, at 1 p. m., two leagues from Bani. Then turning into the main road, leading down and narrowing to 3 paces, we found that Mr. Fulton had remained behind. We therefore halted (Mr. Conard and myself) about one league from Bani, not far from a point where the shore-road from Santo Domingo joins the back road from San Christobal to Bani. Here again the road was very good, and 30 paces wide, and remained so. Started at 2.50 p. m., reached the village of Paya at 3.10, crossed the river Bani at 3.45 and entered Bani at 3.50, where Mr. Fulton had already arrived some time before, having found his way to the village by another road.

At about half a mile before reaching Paya the woods open into a beautiful plain, at the southern end of which the village (Paya) is situated amid the bushes and trees, while a magnificent mountain chain incloses the plain in the direction northeast to southwest.

Paya has about 80 houses and 300 inhabitants, and in its general features the village is similar in character to Bani; it lies, however, somewhat more elevated than the village of Bani, from which it is separated by the Paya River (now dry) and an extensive, low woodland.

### III.—BANI.

At our arrival in the village we were very kindly received and quartered in the capacious house of Mr. Jules Grangerard, an old French settler, who treated us in a most hospitable manner. The commandant of the place, Colonel Faustino Ortiz, had come out about two miles to receive us. He is a true type of a Spanish Dominican soldier and gentleman, stalwart and indefatigable, an excellent horseman, frank and simple, but very polite in his speech and manners. The large reception room of Mr. Granjerard was very soon crowded with the principal men of the village, and quite a "levee" was held for several hours, after which a sumptuous dinner was served; speeches were made, and the greatest harmony and enthusiasm prevailed in regard to the "annexation question." There were many smiles and huzzas when "Uncle Sam" was mentioned. After dinner the church and school-house were visited and information gathered from all sides. The fol-

lowing morning the "newspaper men" started early for Azua, while I remained in the village to gain some more knowledge about matters which seemed to me of interest.

At 8 o'clock in the morning, February 11, I rode down with the commandant and Mr. Granjerard to the bay or rather roadstead of Bani, which is three and a half miles from the village, due south. A wide, firm, sandy road, passable almost the whole year, leads through the plain to the beach. On both sides of the road and amid the low bushes there are trees of *lignum-vitæ* and olive, and here and there huts, but no plantations; the fertile soil commences with the mountain slopes toward the northwest. At the beach, which is very fine, I found about \$30,000 worth of timber piled up, among it large blocks of mahogany and a great number of other blocks of "madera," wood, all belonging to Mr. Granjerard and ready for shipment. Mr. Granjerard said that the war in Europe had interrupted this kind of trade for the present, but that in ordinary times he sends off fifteen to twenty cargoes of wood annually in chartered vessels to Hamburg, a cargo valued at \$10,000, which business brings him \$5,000 to \$6,000 profit a year.

In the afternoon we rode to the river Bani, followed its right bank northwest for about two miles, and passed a place where the Spaniards had erected a small earthwork on an eminence of the left bank, to command the passage of the road at this point. The road is narrow, level, (as far as we went,) and on both sides thickly wooded with small sized trees.

After our return to the village a meeting took place, at which the following persons were present:

*Faustino Ortiz*, commandant of the place, colonel; 49 years of age; of Spanish descent; married; had six children; three died. Of the remaining, two are boys and the other a girl. Has an extensive farm (campo) not far from the village on the left side of the road to Azua. Would be glad to be relieved of his military duties and attend to his farm.

*Jules Grangerard*, Frenchman by birth; 58 years of age; 30 years in the country; wood merchant and importer of dry goods, wines, &c.; has three children, two boys and one girl.

*Fr. E. Baehr*, German by birth; 31 years of age; married; had two children, of whom one died; merchant, exporter of woods and importer of dry goods; proprietor of a farm in the neighborhood of Azua. Mr. Baehr is four years in the country, and speaks Spanish perfectly well. He is well acquainted with political, social, and commercial affairs of the Bani district and the country in general.

*Lorenzo Diaz*, black; 59 years of age; farmer; alcalde of Bani; married, and father of eight children, four of whom died.

*Manuel Mania Seldaña*, 31 years of age; of Spanish descent; lawyer, and principal teacher in the public school of Bani; proprietor of land; is married and had four children, of whom two died and two are living.

*Adolpho Gonzales*, 23 years of age; Spanish descent; assistant teacher at the school; married, and without children.

In the course of conversation the following information relative to the questions of the commission was obtained:

1st. The village (pueblo) of Bani contains about 300 houses and 1,500 inhabitants, of whom 1,200 are of Spanish descent. The community contains 5,000 inhabitants, of whom about 80 per cent. are of Spanish or Spanish-Indian descent. There are about three times more females than males. The village is laid out in rectangular streets, and



covers a pretty large surface of the plain, which extends for miles around.

2d. The inhabitants of Bani have very regular features and a fine appearance. They are more uniform in a physical point of view than those of any other town or village in Santo Domingo that I have seen. They are tall, healthy, and capable of work, and able to endure fatigue.

3d. Their houses are built of wood, generally covered with shingles, and contain two or three rooms, sometimes four.

4th. They live by farming, and ordinarily cultivate as much land as is necessary for the support of a family, *i. e.*, 100 or 200 yards square. There exist larger plantations, of which the surplus products are exported. (See list at the end.) Cultivation is done by hand. Domestic animals of nearly every kind are raised, and with the best results. Horses, cattle, sheep, asses, and goats are numerous, and in several instances have been exported to Venezuela, Curaçoa, and to other places. The mercantile business is in the hands of ten or twelve persons, but there is a general tendency in the population for trade and other profitable business.

5th. The Roman Catholic religion is the prevailing religion, almost without exception, and there is a pretty large Catholic church in the village. There is only one Protestant and one Jew in Bani. Crimes like murder are rarely committed, and property is generally much respected, as everywhere in Santo Domingo.

6th. There are two public schools in Bani, one for boys, with about fifty pupils, and the other for girls, with twenty-five; so that elementary instruction is provided for; but this relates only to the village, not to the whole community, of which only about twenty per cent. can read and write. The school-house belongs to the community. The principal teacher of the school receives thirty dollars and the assistant teacher fifteen dollars a month salary. Both are very intelligent young men, and seem to perform their duties with zeal and punctuality.

7th. All the land within the limits of the community of Bani (with the single exception of a tract called Catalina, about five miles from the village, measured by order of the Dominican government and belonging to one proprietor) is the property of the community and is cultivated by its members. It is rented out for a small sum (five to ten dollars) to those who wish to take possession of it for farming purposes or to build upon.

8th. All persons I met with approve of the annexation of Santo Domingo to the United States in some way.

9th. Some of the reasons which are now inclining the people of Santo Domingo to annexation to the United States had favored the annexation to Spain, *i. e.*, the desire for peace and order, security, and "better times," in general. The spirit of republicanism was not strong enough to resist these very natural forces, and Santo Domingo was annexed, through the instrumentality of Santana, although even at that time submission under Spanish rule was not general and absolute, which will become clear from the fact that a short time after annexation had been effected thirty prominent Dominicans were shot on account of publicly opposing the annexation of the republic to the Spanish crown! The Spaniards, once aroused and excited by the demonstrations of a small minority, resorted to arbitrary measures, punishing the innocent with the guilty, and provoking by their absolutism even those Dominicans who had been favorable to the Spanish rule. It is true that Spanish gold circulated freely, especially in the cities where the troops were quartered, which circumstance, however, raised the price of food and





other articles to an enormous height without producing any change in the system of labor or improving the condition of the people in the interior. Licentiousness, paired with disease in the camps, became an element of demoralization and alarm; and this condition was made worse by others still more alarming. Spain had considered Santo Domingo a kind of outlet for her criminals, and among others there was sent over in the quality of surveyor of the prison of Samana a former criminal, with the name of Buceta, whose inferior position was soon changed by the Spanish Captain General Ribera into that of governor of Ciboa. The outrageous acts of this man became, in fact, the signal of revolt among the people of Cibao, whence it spread over the whole country, ending with the withdrawal of the Spanish soldiery from the Dominican soil. In short, the "annexed" found gold, but had to pay for it in taxes; they found peace and security, but mixed with repression and tyranny; they found order, but also an army, which brought with it disease and corruption, and could not be regarded as an element of new life and labor. The idea of amelioration and "better times" became an illusion, which very soon changed into revolution and war.

(This is an extract from a written statement and verbal information.)

In regard to Hayti their statements were about the same as that given at San Christobal. It was added that there existed no hatred against the black people of Hayti, but simply against the system of the Haytian government and the "Cacos," or the troops of Cabral.

Annual production of the community of Bani, which form articles of export:

Lignum-vitæ, 8,000 tons, at from \$4 to \$30; dyewood, (Campeachy and Fustic,) 15,000 tons, at \$5 to \$8; mahogany, (crutches and logs,) 10,000 tons, at \$10 to \$60; sugar, about 10,000 quintals, at \$3 to \$4; coffee, about 2,000 quintals, at \$8 to \$11; cotton, about 2,000 quintals, at \$5 to \$6, with seed; cocoa, 500 quintals, at \$9; wax, 2,000 quintals, at \$25 to \$30; gum of lignum-vitæ, 1,500 quintals, at \$10 to \$20; tobacco, 500 quintals, from \$6 to \$9; tortoise shells, 300 pounds, from \$2 to \$3 a pound.

All kinds of tropical fruit and vegetables are raised in the vicinity of Bani, and the greater part of the product of the highland of Maniela are brought down for sale and export. Salt is found in the Salina, 12 miles from Bani, near Calderas Bay.

#### IV.—FROM BANI TO AZUA.

I started from Bani for Savana Buey and Azua at half-past 5 o'clock in the morning of the 12th of February, in company with Colonel Ortiz, Mr. Smith and two dragoons serving as guides, and, as the colonel said, an "honorary escort." Passing out of Bani to the west, on a good, level road, and making about a mile, we stopped at the colonel's "Campo," consisting of three houses and a tract of land, perhaps 2 miles square, and principally used as a pasture for horses, cattle, &c., woodland and pasture-land in almost equal proportion. Two miles farther on the colonel returned, and at 7.5 a. m. we reached Matanzas, which was said to be one league distant, but is about 5 miles from Bani. "*El Campo de Matanzas*" is situated on a plain about 1 mile square, with a small pond near the center. It counts from 25 to 30 houses and about 100 inhabitants. We stopped at the house of Señor Pablo Guerrido, from whom I learned that the campo is used as a general "rendezvous" for hundreds of cattle and horses, which are either the property of the inhabitants, or are sent there from Bani and other places, to be under the care of the herdsmen of Matanzas. The cattle and horses raised there are mostly sold to Santo Domingo and Azua.



Arriving at Savana Buey, (cattle plain,) we dismounted at the house of "Ciudadano Comandante y Inspector Generale de Agricultura, Manuel de Reglea Baez," whom, unfortunately, we found sick of common fever, and reclining on a rocking-chair. After his sister had read for him my letter of introduction, he entered into a conversation and gave me, with the greatest friendliness and in a very intelligent manner, all information desired. The village numbers about 40 houses and 150 inhabitants. There is neither a church nor a school in the village, and the people have to go to Bani to attend religious service.

The region between Bani and Savana Buey is a plateau, which rises gradually from the plain of Bani toward and within half a mile from Savana Buey, to an elevation of about 250 feet, when it terminates abruptly and the road leads down to the lowland of the Ocoa. It is extensively but thinly wooded, and the soil is light and dry, but in the rainy season it produces plenty of grass; the water is quickly absorbed or led off by the ravines and dry beds, leaving the highland a good and safe pasture-ground.

Distance from Bani to Savana Buey at least 16 miles. After a two-hours' rest, I resolved not to stay at Savana Buey, but to reach Azua the same day, although the distance is at least 35 miles. We therefore left Savana Buey at 11.40, crossed the Ocoa River and reached Azua at 9 o'clock in the evening. About 2 miles from the town, or, as it is called, City of Azua, we were challenged by the "donde viene" of an isolated sentinel sitting at his watch-fire. The answer "San Domingo" passed us farther on, until we crossed the river Via by the ford and reached the main guard of about 20 men, whose commanding officer finally led us to the house of Mr. Gibbs, where we found good quarters.

The country between Savana Buey and Azua is very changeable for about 10 miles. Passing first nearly south, through thinly-wooded, level land, we turned to the northwest and crossed two dry salt marshes, one 400, the other 1,000 paces wide; then turning west, we entered a palm forest, called "Palma de Ocoa," with majestic trees, black soil, and watered by a clear rivulet, where we rested, as the sun was extremely "piquant." Most of the palm trees are from 40 to 50 feet high and from 3 to 4½ feet in circumference. One mile farther off we again crossed dry bottom-land ½ mile long and ¼ of a mile wide, and touched the "Grand Beach," (Playa Grande,) for the first time. The road now follows the bay of Azua on its eastern shore for 1½ miles, then turns to the northwest into the woods, leading for 2 miles over a very rough, stony, and dry ridge, ups and downs changing rapidly, with cactus, small trees, shrubs, and aloes on the way. Then coming down toward the bay, we again crossed dry bottom-land and passed into the woods, where we saw some fine cattle roaming about, and belonging to one of our Bani dragoons. Toward 4 o'clock we touched the bay again, and had the first view of the beach of Azua on the opposite side. The road passes now in its long, weary trail through the level, monotonous forest region between the arc of the bay on the left and the mountain range on the right, until it reaches the neighborhood of Azua and rises to the banks of the river Via.

#### V.—AZUA.

The city and community of Azua belong to the province of Azua, which comprises four communities: Azua de Compostela, Neiba, San Juan de la Maguana, and Las Matas de Farfan. The city lies on the northwest side of the bay of Ocoa, about 4 miles from the beach and harbor of Tortugas, and is bounded on the north by a ridge about 250



feet high, overlooking the city and the great plain to the south and west; behind this ridge rises the principal mountain chain, which incloses the plain of Azua from southeast to northwest—the direction of San Juan. On the east side of the city the little river Via passes by, which furnishes excellent drinking-water, and runs down toward the bay, from northwest to southeast. Toward the west, southwest, and northwest, the city is inclosed by wooded lowland for a distance of from 3 to 5 miles, but after crossing that line the country presents almost one large field of “conucos,” or plantations of sugar, bananas, and platanos, &c., which are fed by springs, little streams, or small canals from the streams, and the river Hura, producing such a luxuriant growth of the sugar-cane as can hardly be found anywhere else. Especially the extensive estate of Mr. Marchena, with its buildings and sugar-mill, is a veritable gem of natural productiveness and beauty, and a great example of industry and taste. The city extends from east to west and from north to south about 1,000 paces each way; is regularly laid out in streets from 11 to 14 paces wide, cutting each other at right angles, and has a large public square, La Plaza, 200 paces long and 100 deep, where the Catholic church, the theater, the guard-house and market-house, the commandant's quarters, and the temporary quarters of the President of Santo Domingo, are standing. The names of the streets are not well known to the people, and it was with some difficulty that I could find them out. They are, in the direction from north to south, as follows: 1. Via, (alongside the river Via); 2. Santa Lucia; 3. Esperanza; 4. El Sol; 5. San Pedro; 6. Los Remedios; and from east to west: 1. San José; 2. Las Flores; 3. La Estrella; 4. Consistorial; 5. St. Juan; 6. Concepcion; 7. La Luna; and 8. El Oviedo.

From the east side of the city, and over a dilapidated bridge across the river Via, which is fordable in the dry season, a good road leads southeast to the beach, branching off at one-half a mile from the bridge, to Bani and the highlands of Maniela. On the west side the road leads to Neyba, branching off about 5 miles from the city northwest to St. Juan, and 6 miles farther on southwest, to Galindo and the “Surza,” or hot sulphur springs of Galindo. On the southwest corner of the city the road leads to the Conucos and the old town of Azua, destroyed by the great earthquake of 1751; and on the northwest corner to the plantations on the Hura River, (Barro abajo, Barro medio and Barro arriba,) to the petroleum wells, (3 miles from the city,) and to Sajaona, (18 miles,) the very extensive estate of President Baez.

The city of Azua contains about 450 houses, with 2,500 inhabitants. The houses are built of wood, except three, which are built of stone and cement. They generally consist of one story with two to four rooms, with a yard or open ground attached. The most important street is Consistorial, as it contains many stores of small and some of larger size. There are two schools in the city—a public school, maintained by the “ayuntamiento,” or council, in their own building, and of which Señor Rafael Garido Soza, the secretary of the ayuntamiento, is the principal teacher, and a private school conducted by Don Antonio Du Quesnay, a very intelligent gentleman, speaking French and English, besides Spanish, very well.

The community of Azua has about 8,000 inhabitants, of whom 600 were under arms and doing military duty during our presence in the city. At that time the most lively preparations were going on to meet an attack of the “Cacos,” (Cabral's followers,) who were said to be on the advance, 3,000 strong, from Neyba and San Juan; and it was also reported that they had crossed the Neyba River in the west and the



Yacki in the northwest. A proclamation was read and three alarm shots fired on the 19th of February; the men streamed in from all sides, and were assembled and armed on the plaza. Within three days' time over 2,000 men were brought together from all directions, of whom over 1,700 remained in the city and neighborhood, and the rest were sent on outpost duty. Three howitzers were in position on the plaza; scouts and spies were sent out, and the city of Azua presented quite the aspect of a warlike camp. In a commercial point of view Azua is the most important point on the southern coast of Hayti and San Domingo. It is the natural emporium of the great plain of Azua, which extends from Caldera Inlet to the river Neyba, and as far north as the mountain chain of the Cibao, embracing a surface of 1,500 square miles. It is the center of the great highway which connects the capital of San Domingo with Lake Henriquillo in the west, and San Juan in the north with the bay of Ocoa in the south. This bay is the most capacious and the safest on the whole southern coast of San Domingo and Hayti, and offers three separate harbors for the accommodation of all kinds of vessels and all kinds of trade: Caldera Bay, on its southeastern entrance, Puerto Viejo, (old port,) on the west side, and the bay of Tortugeras, the nearest to Azua, on the northwest side. Caldera Bay and Puerto Viejo are very easy to defend, and especially adapted for vessels of light draught, the more so as they are perfectly protected against gales and hurricanes.

VI.—TOUR TO THE PETROLEUM WELLS, TO AZUA VIEJO, TO THE "AGUA HEDIONDO," TO THE SULPHUR SPRINGS OF GALINDO, TO CHARCA DE MATIA, AND TO SAJAONA.

On the morning after my arrival in Azua, Monday the 13th of February, I rode out with General Valentine Baez, commander-in-chief of the department of Azua, to the petroleum wells. They are about 3 miles from the city, between the river Hura and the mountain chain on the east. I saw three places with petroleum pits, one stagnant; from the other the gas was bubbling up. There was also a third one, some distance from the two others, and near by a little stream, on whose surface the oil was floating down. General Baez said that one of the wells had yielded 365 gallons a day. Don Antonio Du Quesnay told me that a certain Mr. Folsom, an American, began to work the wells; that he was backed by the firm of Mann & Co., of New York, and that he spent about \$10,000 in machinery, &c., but that he returned two years ago to the United States, leaving in Azua a young man, (German by birth,) as engineer, who nearly starved for want of support, and was finally enabled to return to the United States. Mr. Folsom is said to have died.

In the afternoon of the 13th a general excursion to the plantations took place, and after having made a tour of about 20 miles, we returned to Azua. On this tour we saw the ruins of a church of Azua Viejo, (old Azua,) also a number of huts now standing on the place of the former town, destroyed by the earthquake of 1751.

The next day, the 14th, I visited a place where it was said I would find a "mineral spring," but which proved to be nothing more than a miserable pool of water, tasting of saltpeter, and coming out by drops from under a rock. The inhabitants call it, very appropriately, the "Agua Hediondo," *i. e.*, "stinking water."

On the 16th I visited, with Mr. Jacobs of the Cincinnati Commercial, the hot sulphur springs (*surza*) of Galindo. We left Azua in company with Colonel Soza of the Dominican forces, Mr. Smith, and two dragoons,



and arrived at the plantation of Captain C. Ortez, commandant of Galindo, at 9 o'clock in the morning. The plantation is a fine spot, situated on the slope of a mountain range, called Buso, and produces, besides the sugar-cane, different kinds of tropical fruit and vegetables. It is the most northwestern habitation of Galindo, which lies 16 miles southwest of Azua and some 4 miles south of the road to Neyba. After resting a while, we were led by the captain to the "surza" or springs, which are about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile distant from his plantation. There, just at the declivity of the mountain, whose surface is covered with masses of a whitish stone, a hot spring gushes out in immense volume and with great swiftness. The stream which it forms at its source is 3 feet wide and in its channel 6 inches deep, and can fill several hundred barrels an hour. The water has a very strong taste of sulphur, and its temperature is such that we can just bear it in bathing or drinking. About 100 paces from this spring, and coming out from the same mountain, is another, at least as strong and even warmer than the first, but without the taste of sulphur. There is also a strong cold spring not far from the two warm springs, so that by this proximity of waters of different temperature and different chemical quality, as well as by the beautiful surroundings of the place, Galindo has a good chance to become of great importance in the future. On the west side of the mountain range, separating the valley of the Tabara from that of the Neyba, near a place called Pargatal, and a day's journey from Galindo, there are other warm springs, said to be even superior to those at Galindo, but the most important are found on the west side of the river Neyba, opposite to the mouth of the Biahama, and 30 miles to the northwest of Azua. General Baez told me that twenty years ago his mother staid for a month at the springs of Galindo, and that the warm baths and drinking of sulphur water cured her of the rheumatism. He also said that Santana, the former President of the republic of Santo Domingo, used the warm baths of Biahama with very good effect.

When we came back to our resting place, at the captain's plantation, Mr. Jacobs left for Azua, while I went on 5 miles farther to a point called Charca de Matia, near the main road to Neyba, where I found the last picket of the Dominican forces. It was under the command of Colonel Orselio Leandro Lopez, and numbered twenty-five men, of whom ten were present, and fifteen were out scouting toward the river Neyba. After some conversation and inquiries, I returned with Colonel Soza, on the direct road to Azua, and arrived in my quarters at nightfall, having made about 40 miles on that day.

From the 17th to the 23d great bustle and excitement existed in Azua, on account of the "rapid advance" of the "Cacos." President Baez and staff arrived in the city. The Tennessee, with the commissioners on board, was said to arrive "to-day" or "next day," and all excursions for longer distances therefore ceased. When the president of the commission did arrive in the Tennessee on the 22d, and it was ascertained that we would not leave for several days, I engaged Captain Pimentel Diaz, of the Dominican forces, as guide, and visited (on the 24th) a place on the fork of the roads to San Juan, Bani, and Maniel, where the last battle was fought between the Azuans and Spaniards. The former, who were only one hundred and fifty against two thousand, held their ground with great bravery for four hours, and then retreated toward San Juan.

On the 25th I went, in company with Captain Diaz, as far as Sajaona, about 18 miles northwest of Azua in the direction of San Juan. The road leaves Azua at the northwest corner of the city,





and leads through a level, dry woodland for about 5 miles, when the first plantation appears on the right, and not far from it another on the left. Then the country continues very fertile for 8 miles, when the Hura River is reached, which we forded, as it was only two feet deep in the channel, although twenty paces wide. Then a steep mountain must be crossed, separating the valley of the Hura from that of the Tabara. Not very far from the foot of the mountain we came up to a little plateau, with two huts on it, and called El Puerto, from which we enjoyed a beautiful view toward the mountain chain of the Ocoa and into the plain of Azua. Farther on, after thirty minutes' ride, we reached the summit of the mountain, where we found the advanced post of the Dominican forces, in all thirty-seven men. We descended on the other side to the foot of the mountain, where a road branches off to San Juan, and after having passed through a level country, well wooded and showing a great number of full-grown trees of different kinds, we crossed two arms of the Tabara, and reached Sajaoua, a very small habitation, consisting of a wooden dwelling-house and two additional huts, belonging to the estate of President Baez. The female part of the inmates had left for more secure quarters across the mountains, and the men were on the "lookout," but soon four of them came in, all armed, and gathered around us. They were, of course, tired of war, and prepared to receive protection and annexation without protest. They informed me that the "rapidly-advancing" Cacos were more than 20 miles farther off, toward San Juan, on the river Yaqui, and that only the scouts and spies of the enemy were venturing into the neighborhood of Sajaoua. We remained over two hours, resting and chatting, and left at 2.10 p. m. for Azua, where we arrived a little after 6 o'clock in the evening.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
F. SIGEL.

MARCH 25, 1871.

#### XIV.—NOTES ON REPORTED MINERAL DEPOSITS LYING BETWEEN SANTO DOMINGO CITY AND AZUA, ETC.

BY A. R. MARVINE.

Inasmuch as one of the commissioners, as well as other parties, have traveled over the main road lying between Santo Domingo and Azua, and have reported on the adjacent country, &c., and as nothing connected with my specialty that would interest the commission occurs upon the same, I will confine my report to those sections of the country visited only by myself.

##### THE NIGUA VALLEY.

The valley of the river Nigua for five miles above San Cristobal is of considerable width, and presents a rolling surface which has been extensively cultivated, the sides of the hills forming a fair soil for coffee and plantain culture, while cane, rice, &c., are grown in the flatter bottoms. Besides the one hundred women at the market place, I met some one hundred and twenty more, with only from fifteen to twenty men, within a distance of a few miles, straggling along the road to the city, mostly on foot, with some few on mules, and carrying small contributions of sugar-cane, plantains, sweet potatoes, coffee, sugar, maize, rice, and various fruits. The great disproportion between the sexes was caused,



in part, by a late draft of men for the army opposing Cabral. The desire for a speedy consummation of annexation was unanimous, and evidently sincere; but since its only object to them is relief from internal wars, some were found here, as elsewhere, who were indifferent to whom they might be united, provided it was *not Spain*, the preference to the United States seeming to be given only because annexation to that power had been agitated for some time. The houses contain generally but two rooms, and are not closely built, while the manner of living does not differ materially from that observed by others near San Cristobal.

Situated in this beautiful region and about 4 miles above San Cristobal is Latoma, an interesting spring, issuing directly from crevices at the base of a steep limestone hill, forming a limpid pool apparently 10 feet deep and 15 feet wide, and flowing away in what is, for this country, a respectable river. A dam, about 10 feet wide, has once evidently extended across this stream a short distance from its source, the remains of which may still be traced some 10 or 12 rods. The stream has succeeded in undermining it at one point, and in wearing a bridge-like opening of considerable span, after passing through which it falls some 12 feet in a picturesque cascade. The material of which it is made resembles a conglomerate, being composed of pebbles cemented into a hard mass by a peculiar mortar, and seems, by the manner in which it is eroded by the water, to have been laid in horizontal layers. Leading from the dam, the remains of an old sluice-way for the transport of water may be traced for many yards.

This remnant of a former industry is suggestive of many uses to which this unemployed power might be applied at the present day. The Nizao, Bani, and Ocoa Rivers, which I have visited, and undoubtedly other and larger streams of the country can, in places, be readily utilized for water-power, in place of man and horse power, to dress, grind, or crush the various products of the country, as well as for irrigation. This region is somewhat cooler than that about Santo Domingo City, and would undoubtedly become a place of resort in case of an influx of strangers upon the island.

Above Latoma is a high limestone cliff, exposing strata dipping  $12^{\circ}$  to S. S. E., just north of which and about six miles from San Cristobal the valley contracts and becomes narrow and tortuous, inhabited by few people, and having little room for cultivation. Green, with some brown, metamorphic slates here appear in the bed of the Nigua. The metamorphism has quite obliterated the original bedding, and has replaced it by innumerable seams, ramifying apparently in all directions. Some more prominent seams, however, appear to indicate a bedding inclined at a high angle, as if unconformable with the limestone before mentioned. The road follows the stream closely, crossing it many times, and is practically unavailable as a road for transport. About twelve miles above San Cristobal a hard, compact limestone is again encountered, dipping  $25^{\circ}$  to S. by E. The road, turning to the south and west, again penetrates the slates, in which Cazneau's mine is situated. These limestones would form an excellent building-stone, as well as good lime, though not equal to the younger coast-limestone for this purpose. Amid the immense limestone and slate boulders of this valley are many smaller ones of syenite, porphyry, &c., of various kinds, pointing to developments of these rocks further in the interior, where they probably form the axis of the island.

#### COPPER MINES ON THE NIGUA.

Cazneau's mine consists of three openings, situated at the foot of a



cliff of the aforementioned metamorphic slate, which rises from the southeast bank of the stream some fifteen miles above San Cristobal. The rock seems to contain at this point several zones of disseminated iron pyrites, the weathering of which has formed diagonal stains, dipping about  $60^\circ$  to the south, across the face of the bluff. The principal zone incloses a soft, clayey-like belt, from 4 inches to 2 feet thick, which may be a gossan in a very advanced state of decomposition. It is on this that the main adit is driven, having a strongly defined "head," dipping  $60^\circ$  to N. by E., for its "hanging wall." It extends about 50 feet into the rock, and terminates in a shaft of unknown depth. Underlying the gossan are irregular quartzey belts, 3 or 4 inches wide, the intermediate rock carrying thickly disseminated pyrites which extend, though sparingly, into the intercalated quartz. This adit runs S.  $81^\circ$  E. The second starts from the mouth of the first and runs S.  $32^\circ$  E. A soft stratum is visible, but less pyrites and no quartz beds. The third opening is about 120 feet north of the other two, runs S.  $35^\circ$  E., is 15 feet long, carries quartz and pyrites, but no gossan. The only mineral I observed was iron pyrites, mostly occurring in octahedrons modified by the cube. But one small stain of copper was observed. The gossan may promise something below, but a poorer surface-show I could not well imagine, and had not Mr. Gabb, the Government geologist, informed me that a number of tons had been shipped to New York and yielded a large per cent. of copper, I would hesitate strongly in stating that any copper would be found here. But even if it did exist the difficulties in the way of transportation, combined with the present low price of copper, would prevent any paying operations. I was unable to visit the more largely exploited region of El Cobr .

#### VALLEY OF THE BANI.

Mineral deposits of various kinds were reported as existing on the Bani River. The general trend of the valley is S.  $20^\circ$  E. It is narrow and somewhat tortuous, the little land that is available for cultivation being owned by the alcalde of the district and cultivated for him by a few people, who raise coffee and plantains principally, the two generally growing together, the latter shading the former. Considerable coffee is sent from this valley to Santo Domingo yearly. The mode of living is somewhat more primitive, if anything, than in and about the towns. Annexation seemed understood and appreciated. The formation consists of conglomerates, grits and sandstones, variously intercalated, the whole being much faulted, often twisted and distorted and tipped nearly vertical in places. Some shales follow toward the north and finally green and brown metamorphic shales, precisely like those of the Nigua. These rocks form a soil supporting a fine forest vegetation, and one moderately adapted to the coffee culture.

Five miles above Bani a stream runs in from the west, the water of which is said to be often too salt to drink, the main source being a salt spring in the mountains. It was perfectly fresh when visited. Small salt incrustations were observed, however, along lines of faults in the upturned sandstone and conglomerate strata. Above the alcalde's, which is about 7 miles north of Bani, several stains occur in the rocks, which were pointed out as the "mines," but are indicative of nothing save iron pyrites. Above Ricol and about 13 miles above Bani a small exposure occurs on the west bank, much resembling that at Cazneau's mine. It is in the same green metamorphic slate and consists of a soft, gossan-like zone, accompanied by hard pyritous layers. Strike, N.  $86^\circ$  W.; dip,  $60^\circ$  toward the north. Iron pyrites occur in cubes



modified by the octahedron. No promises for mining operations are here held out.

#### CALDERAS SALT POND.

The path from Savana Buey to Calderas Bay follows the beds of dry streams southward across the flat acacia and cactus region which borders the coast for many miles. These two plants attain a far larger development than about Azua, the acacia being also loaded with large and beautiful festoons of the Spanish moss. The whole region is wholly uninhabited. The formation is of sandstones, shales, and fine conglomerates, the slight anticlinals and synclinals of the first small east and west foldings, accompanied by faults, being well exhibited on the banks of the Rio de los Semarones. This river, when it has water in it, joins the Rio Honda upon the flat, barren, Llanos de la Rio Honda, formerly an extension of Calderas Bay. The southern side of the Llanos and base of the peninsula inclosing the bay are covered by interesting and very large sand dunes. This peninsula extends nearly westward for over three and a half miles, terminating in Point Salinas, where it turns north for a distance of over one and a half miles, most of this distance having a width of about one-half of a mile. Nearly the whole area of this portion of the point is occupied by the Salinas or Salt Lake, which supplies all this section of the island, including the city of Santo Domingo, in part, with salt. Its contour nearly follows that of the point, being separated from the water on the east and west sides by a narrow rim of sand, often less than 300 feet wide. This is high enough, however, to prevent communication with the sea, and a slight dam at one point insures a complete separation from the bay in case of unusual storms. Near the point, on the outside, twelve fathoms of water are found within 300 feet of the shore, and within the bay there are two points where six fathoms of water extend almost directly to the beach.

The area of this pond is about one-quarter of a square mile. The water during the rainy season, or from April to November, is not saturated. During the dry season, however, the evaporation is sufficient to reduce it to the point of saturation in about three months, the salt generally beginning to deposit in the middle of February. Rains during December and January will much delay this deposit, and may prevent it altogether, some years having passed in which no salt could be collected. Some small portions of the pond are partially separated from the main body, in order to facilitate evaporation. In favorable seasons, when the salt has attained a thickness at the bottom of 2 to 2½ inches, from thirty to thirty-five men are sent from the neighboring towns to collect it, and take up temporary quarters at the pond for that purpose. From daylight till 10 a. m., and from 4 to 6 p. m., are the working hours, not only the sun but the water being too hot at noon to work in. The men enter the lagoon to about 18 inches in depth, armed with two pieces of wood 12 inches long, and scrape the salt into heaps of 4 feet diameter, and reaching often above the surface of the water. A light frame, with a piece of canvas 4 feet square stretched upon it, is then held on the bottom while the heap of salt is scraped upon it; the whole is then carried to the shore by two men, and deposited directly upon the large heaps or carried to them by men in the palm-leaf sacks of the country. These large heaps are about 5 or 6 feet high and 12 or 16 feet in diameter, two men working together to form one, and taking about two days, while three days are consumed in covering one with a water-proof cover of the leaves of the palma de cana, of which a number fortunately grow upon this portion of the point. My informant stated that from one hundred to two



hundred of these heaps may be made during a favorable year. Considering that two men could construct and cover one heap in five days, one hundred heaps would require over one month's work of 30 men. A hemispherical pile 12 feet in diameter and 6 feet high would contain 361 bushels; one hundred such piles, 36,100 bushels. This water must have evaporated to one-tenth of its original volume before the saturation was complete. Considering that the area of the lagoon is one-quarter of a square mile, with an average depth of 18 inches, there would be nearly 1,250,000 bushels of solid salt in it; and were one hundred piles the usual yearly consumption, this would last only thirty-five years. Of course these numbers are only approximate, though they show that the actual amount of salt *now* there is small. This amount, however, could be indefinitely increased by an occasional judicious admission of sea-water at proper seasons. The distance from Savana Buey to the Salinas is between twelve and thirteen miles, the path needing much clearing out in the cactus region, and being practically impassable for any large amount of transportation over the sand dunes. These are escaped by crossing the bay in a boat before loading on mules, and the one-half of the salt gathered which is consumed inland is thus taken. The remainder is taken to Santo Domingo City in sloops and schooners. I was told that this salt brought \$2 per barrel in 1869, and from \$1 to \$1 50 during the last year.

#### THE NEYBA SALT MOUNTAINS.

The disturbances in the Neyba Valley prevented an examination of the reported salt deposits of that region. The general statement was that there were two large hills, one to the north and one to the east of Lake Enriquillo, composed of pure crystallized salt, and covered by an easily removable coating of soil. The latter hill is two miles long, with but few difficulties in the way of opening easy communication with the coast at the harbor of Barahona, on the west side of Ocoa Bay. A cubical specimen, about 8 inches on a side, and said to come from this region, was of the clearest transparent crystallized variety, and apparently very pure. Were the deposits of this quality throughout, or approaching it, and of the magnitude reported, they would become at once of the greatest value.

#### THE AZUA PETROLEUM WELLS.

About four miles northwest of Azua, and easily accessible by fair roads, are strong evidences of petroleum. Two wells have been started, and considerable oil yielded. These, I understand, were dug by Mr. Fulsom, of New York, between three and four years ago. The two are driven about 20 inches apart, one having the auger and stem still suspended in it, being started upon the breakage of the auger in the other. Gas is still bubbling up through the latter, though it is filled with stones, and I was able to gather a pint of the oil. It seems to be a heavy oil, resembling a lubricator, and free from much naphtha, though this may have been eliminated by the exposure to the tropical sun to which the oil had been subjected. In a small clearing 300 feet to the northwest are some boulders coated with crystalline incrustations of sulphur, a strong odor of the latter prevailing. The pools of a nearly dried up neighboring water-course are covered with oil, while the surrounding gravelly soil is saturated with it, and cemented into a black conglomerate-like mass. I was told that above fifty barrels of oil had been pumped from the unfinished well. Eight of these were sent to Boston, but the duties were prohibitory, and though pronounced of excellent quality by the custom officers, the oil was thrown away. The rest remained upon the





beach near Azua till the sun opened the staves and the oil was lost. Such discouragements, with want of capital, prevented further progress.

The soil about the wells is the same gravelly alluvium that forms the surface of all the flat region lying about Azua, and at the bases of the mountains. None of the adjacent streams have cut through this to the country rock, which is not here exposed. On the river just above Azua, however, the sandstones, conglomerates, and shales of the cretaceous (?) group, here hardly affected by metamorphism, are found dipping at a high angle ( $55^{\circ}$ ) to the north; and though south of Azua, as at the wells, the alluvium still hides the rock from sight, near Savana Buey, twenty miles to the east, the same formation has a steep southward dip. If the general nearly east and west strike at these two places is preserved between them, it would place the oil-wells somewhat north of a rather sharply bent anticlinal axis, part of the northern half of which still remains, forming the mountains north of Azua, while the top and southern half have disappeared. It would be difficult, however, under these uncertainties, to predict the chances for a permanent supply of oil. The engineer undoubtedly kept records of the boring, and could throw much light on the subject.

#### REPORTED GOLD MINES.

Gold mines are reported at Rancho Arriba, on the head-waters of the Nizao, as well as at several points on the Jaina River. So far as I could gather, these reports are due to small quantities of gold occasionally obtained from the river alluvium by women washing clothes in the streams. Mining here would probably never pay. I cannot state the original home of this gold, nor whether it would be found there in sufficiently concentrated deposits to pay.

#### FORMATIONS AND SOILS.

The limestone formation about the city of Santo Domingo probably corresponds to the "coast limestone" of the Jamaica geologists, and if so, is of the post-tertiary period. It lies horizontally, and abounds in the remains of living corals, affording some very interesting transitions of the latter into compact limestone. It occurs again on Ocoa Bay, south of Azua. The soil overlying it is of a red ferruginous, often argillaceous, character, seemingly derived from the decomposition of the underlying rock and the washing out of the more soluble lime portions. The lime thus dissolved has been precipitated from the waters carrying it in places, forming occasional patches of white marl, sometimes being pure carbonate of lime. It forms a fair soil at first, but appears to be easily exhausted unless fertilized. Many deserted farms testify to this, the inhabitants preferring, after four or five years, to clear and cultivate new spots. Small trees and underbrush soon spring up, and by decay refertilize the exhausted region.

At Mount Hatteya, a few miles east of San Cristobal, I encountered a fine conglomerate-like formation, containing a small pecten and other fossils. The probable unconformability, before mentioned, between the metamorphic series and the limestone bluff about five miles north of San Cristobal renders it possible that the latter formation is closely allied to the Mount Hatteya group, though I had no opportunity to trace any direct connection. The caves near San Cristobal, visited by Dr. Newcomb, are in limestone, which, with the rock observed at La Toma, probably also belongs to this group. I found it nowhere else, consider it of limited extent, and cannot place it in the geological scale, though it must be older than the "coast limestone" and newer than the next



group.\* This is the often metamorphosed conglomerate, sandstone and shale formation before alluded to. I found it near Calderas, with an east and west strike, and think it forms all, or nearly all, of the wide, flat southward-projecting point running into the Caribbean Sea between Ocoa Bay and Santo Domingo City. I found this formation as far back as Maniela, about forty miles from the sea. It varies much in nature, coarse conglomerates predominating in places, shales and sandstones in others, sometimes the latter being quite pure, and apparently forming a good building material. It is toward the interior, and at the east, that the metamorphism is the highest. Two indistinct fossils, in connection with results in Jamaica, seem to place these rocks either at the top of the cretaceous, or near the bottom of the tertiary, group.† River boulders show that probably no formation exists between this and the igneous rocks, so called, which probably form the axis of the island. The conglomerates themselves are apparently formed from these rocks, being composed largely of syenites, &c., with limestone boulders seldom present. The flat ocean-border region is covered with alluvium from the preceding formation, is naturally generally a gravel, and often even a heavy conglomerate. This is not often wholly derived directly from the underlying conglomerate, by disintegration in place, nor brought by any sort of glacial agencies, as almost all exposures show it stratified, sometimes a stone from some one region predominating in certain layers, giving them distinct casts of color. No evidences of glaciation were observed whatever.

Much of this surface alluvium is very stony and naturally unproductive, but where much disintegrated it should be fertile, being composed of the many ingredients of the heterogeneous derivative rocks. When so situated that lime can also become an ingredient, this fertility would be much increased. I think it is to such a situation that Mr. Manhera's plantation, southwest of Azua, owes its richness. A result of the Jamaica survey is that "from the conglomerate group the resulting soils are of a decidedly fertile description, especially in moist regions. This tendency to fertility is augmented where sediment from the calcareous districts is deposited on and mixed with the local soils; thus the product per acre at Cave Valley is double that of the marly alluvium of Drax Hall, near the coast." The Albion estate, 16 miles east of Kingston, said to be the finest in Jamaica, receives its water-supply for irrigation from a lime region. This water is strongly impregnated with lime, and is allowed to flow over the soil in liberal supplies even during the wettest seasons, for the sake of the fertilizing properties of the lime which is deposited, when thus mixed with an arenaceous and argillaceous soil. The alluvium of the Maniela valley is very thick, the Ocoa River and tributaries having cut 100 feet into it in places. The complete drainage thus effected, combined with the rather stony nature of the ground, render the savannas less fertile than the smaller mountain valleys, where a rich soil is found, apparently mostly derived from the shales. More extensive observation than is afforded by a hurried passage over one line of travel would throw much light on this interesting and important subject of soils.

Respectfully submitted.

ARCH'D R. MARVINE.

OFF KEY WEST, *March 20, 1871.*

\* Mr. Gabb considers this formation as probably belonging to the miocene tertiary. See *American Journal of Science and Arts* for April, 1871, p. 252. The general geology of the island, as carefully worked out by Mr. Gabb, will here be found clearly described.

† Mr. Gabb (*ibid*) proves them to belong certainly to the secondary, and possibly to the cretaceous, age.



XV.—OBSERVATIONS OF C. C. FULTON, ETC., FROM SAMANA TO AZUA.

AZUA, February 15, 1871.

*To the Honorable Commission of Inquiry to Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: We have completed our overland journey from the bay of Samana to Azua, a distance of more than two hundred miles, and in compliance with your request, we respectfully lay before you the result of our observations on the character of the people of the interior, the agricultural capabilities of the land, as well as the sentiments of the people on the subject of annexation.

Our object in thus striking into the interior was to satisfy ourselves as to the real facts of the various issues that have been raised at home relative to the whole subject.

The country from Samana to Santo Domingo is rich and beautiful, and the mountains present a scene of tropical attractions that could scarcely be excelled, the trees being vocal with birds of gay plumage, as parrots, &c.

The scenery from some of the mountain ranges, especially that looking out upon the great savanna of Guabatico, from a peak of Monte Castellanos, is, we think, equal to any landscape in the world.

The capacity of the land for cultivation could only be judged from the profuse vegetation in the gardens of the settlers, as nothing like manure is used anywhere. Bananas and sugar-cane towered high above the fences, and the growth of the forests indicated a soil of the most vigorous character. The savanna of Guabatico somewhat resembles our western plains, is about forty miles square, and has a vegetation of high grass, on which large herds of fine, glossy cattle were grazing, not generally so large as our northern cattle, but still of good size. There is, as is usual on all such plains, a scarcity of running water. Throughout this entire section the cultivation seemed to be confined entirely to the production of only sufficient for the wants of the household.

During this entire journey we kept aloof from government officials, spending our nights and making our stopping-places during the day at the cabins of the country people, who received us in the kindest and most hospitable manner, making us feel as safe as if we were journeying in our own country.

The announcement that we were Americans gave joy to the people, and when questioned on the subject of annexation their countenances brightened, and their eyes sparkled with delight. Our interpreters were two Americans long resident at Samana, Messrs. E. Marciacq and Jeremiah James, and they, being known to most of the people, secured for us free and untrameled converse. The answer in every case was that they had waited long and anxiously for the consummation of annexation; that there was no difference of opinion on the subject, all being favorable. They spoke of Cabral as a robber and a drunken vagabond, and of Baez with affection. During our whole trip we made inquiry everywhere for some one or more persons opposed to annexation, our desire being to converse with them, but were assured that no such person could be found in the country.

The reason given to us for not cultivating the soil was, that they never knew when they planted whether they would not be forced into the army before harvest time, or whether, if they gathered their crops and raised cattle, all would not be taken from them by revolutionary



bands. Then their boy children were taken from them and compelled to enter the army at fourteen years of age, and there was no encouragement for labor or the accumulation of its products. They wanted peace and a stable government, and believed annexation to be the only means of obtaining it.

As to the character of the people of the interior, we were very favorably impressed. The great mass are of undoubted African descent, or mixed blood, and some of Indian and Spanish origin, but nearly all have the grace of manner and dignity of address of the Spaniard. But few passed us on the road without a pleasant and manly salute, there being none of that abject manner which is so common among the race in our Southern States. They are strong and athletic, of good stature, and show marked kindness to each other. The habit of carrying a sword has grown out of the disturbed condition of the country, and the machete is a necessity to his existence, being used for every purpose from the carving of his dinner to the hewing down of a tree, while he performs nearly all the labors of agriculture with it.

We also found the people of the interior, generally speaking, to be of a much superior order to those of the seaboard towns. The former are manly and outspoken, while many of the latter are cringing and reserved, as if fearful of allowing it to be known that they have any opinion on any subject.

The latter portion of our journey, from Santo Domingo City to Azua, was through a better-watered country, but on a portion of it the land was very inferior. Many of its mountain streams presented dry beds, this being the dry season, while others were contracted to very narrow channels, but still a rushing stream of pure water indicated springs in the mountains near their sources.

Between Santo Domingo and San Cristobal, our first stopping-place, the soil was very good, and what little of agriculture there was indicated great fertility. The same may be said of the second day's journey between San Cristobal and the Nigua River, the land being very rich. It was mostly a dark glutinous loam, frequently resembling on the surface the adobe soil of California. Sometimes, where a gully had been washed out, we could trace the same fertility to the depth of several feet. Occasionally, also, there was unmistakable evidence of marl mixed with the earth.

After leaving San Cristobal, the cactus made its appearance, and the soil at many parts of our route was poor and sterile. Most of the streams were dry, but the Nizao, the Nigua, and the Ocoa, still shed considerable volumes of water. The herding of goats seemed to be the principal occupation of the people, and a few sheep of very excellent quality were grazing at Savana Buey. Between Bani and the latter place the soil was very sterile, and the cactus lined the roadside, standing erect, in some instances, to the height of thirty feet, some of it, including the century plant, being in full bloom. We passed one coffee plantation near the Nigua River which was in a flourishing condition, indicating the capacity of the soil for this product.

The letters sent to us by President Baez before leaving Santo Domingo threw us in contact mostly with government officials at all the leading cities on the route, who paid us every possible attention, sending with us, from station to station, guards of cavalymen as a token of honor. We, however, sought and obtained every opportunity to communicate with the people, and found them more earnest than the officials in their advocacy of annexation. They seem to look for it as the Jews looked for the coming of the Messiah, as the great event in the future on which



rests all their hopes of happiness and prosperity. Male and female alike partook of this enthusiasm, and at Bani, where our reception by an old French citizen was truly hospitable, we were addressed in behalf of the citizens.

Whatever may be the opinion elsewhere as to the propriety of annexation, there can be no disputing the fact that these people are not only unanimous on the subject, but enthusiastic in favor of its speedy consummation. They even anticipate that the refusal of the United States to extend to them the hand of fraternal fellowship will be the signal for a renewal of the internal strife which has been their bane for centuries.

We are now at Azua, which is about four miles inland from the head of the bay of Ocoa, on the Bia River, which, however, is not navigable. Hence it is an inland town, and has a less attractive appearance and a poorer population than any town we have yet visited. It is the nearest of any of the cities to the Haytian frontier, the headquarters of the revolutionists, and has six times been totally destroyed by fire. This may have driven most of its best citizens from it, but it has now a population of about 1,500, consisting principally of a helpless and improvident mass of humanity. Money is a rarity, although it is surrounded by an agricultural district that cannot be excelled on the island. The causes which retard agricultural labor elsewhere have had their effect here, though there has been a marked improvement under the Baez administration, and the product of the present year will exceed that of any that has preceded it during the present generation. Sugar-cane is shown here which is said to have been first planted seventy years ago, while in Louisiana the plant has to be renewed every second year.

As to the mineral claims which have been set up for the island, we have but little positive information. At San Cristobal we were pointed to mountains in which some of the mines of gold, silver, and copper, successfully worked by the Spaniards, are located, and at the base of which petroleum now flows freely. The mountains near Bani also put forth the same claim, while those around Azua are known to yield salt and petroleum. Several barrels of the latter have been sent north, and pronounced the best lubricating oil yet discovered. It is generally admitted that the presence of petroleum indicates the absence of coal. But few specimens of coal have been shown us, and we are constrained to doubt its extensive existence anywhere on the island. The mineral mountains are of immense height, probably six to seven thousand feet, and as it would have required several days to explore them we were unable to devote the time required.

At Azua the feeling for annexation is earnest and outspoken. Our arrival on Sunday created the greatest commotion in the town, the people thinking the American flag was immediately to be raised. They speak with dread and horror of Cabral, who has once burnt most of their town, and, should annexation fail, look for his return among them with fire and sword.

The governor of Azua, General Valentine Baez, is the brother of President Baez. He has the same good address and kindly manner, and commands the respect of all who come in contact with him. On the afternoon of the 13th we accompanied him in a ride among the sugar plantations in the vicinity of the city, embracing in our ride an area of about twenty miles. We found the roads good, and a large force of men cutting away and burning the undergrowth, and otherwise improving them. There was also considerable land being cleared, sugar-mills being erected and repaired, and new fencing constructed. The plantations were large, well fenced, and the cane towering from ten to





fifteen feet. We passed by at least twenty plantations and mills, and finally, on our return, stopped at the plantation of Mr. Marchena, about three miles from the city. It contains about 600 acres, nearly all of it in cane, and came to the conclusion that we never saw farm or plantation anywhere in such admirable condition. There were neither undergrowth near his fences nor weeds in the avenues between his fields, and his fences were all straight and substantial, order and system being everywhere observable. His buildings and shrubbery evinced a refined taste. As evidence of what can be done by energy, industry, and system in Santo Domingo, the plantation of Mr. Marchena should command the attention of the Commission on its visit to Azua.

As to the health of the island, our inquiries have satisfied us that good health is the rule and sickness the exception. We have exposed ourselves to the heat of the sun, the dews of the night, and were once for five hours exposed in a heavy rain-storm, but have all enjoyed uninterrupted good health.

In conclusion, we would respectfully state to the Commission that we each and all came to the island in extreme doubt as to the propriety of its annexation to the United States, but our conclusions now are that there is nothing here, either in the character of the people, the nature of the climate or the soil, to prevent Santo Domingo, under a stable government, from becoming one of the most prosperous, productive, and happy States in the American Union.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES C. FULTON,  
*Editor of Baltimore American.*  
E. JACOBS,  
*Of the Cincinnati Commercial.*  
WM. CONARD,  
*Of the New York Herald.*

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## XVI.—JOURNEY FROM SANTO DOMINGO TO AZUA.

BY E. JACOBS.

On the 9th of February, in company with C. C. Fulton, of the Baltimore American, and W. Conard, of the New York Herald, I left Santo Domingo City for an overland trip to Azua, a distance of 104 miles. Passing out of the city by the western gate, and along the coast road, we found many private residences which gave evidence of luxury in some past age, but now presented an appearance of dilapidated aristocracy. The buildings are mostly constructed in the style common in the island, with palm boards and thatch roofs, but with more ample porches and out-buildings. The yards are large and well filled with fruit, shrubbery, and flowers. The inclosures are protected by evergreen hedges, with gates at the entrances. As we proceeded the road was lined with the saba hedge, and lying back were the small plantations of a few acres each, inclosing plantains, bananas, oranges, figs, Indian corn, yams, and other vegetables and fruits. Some three miles out, on the sea-shore, are the walls of an old abandoned fort, in a good state of preservation. The soil is thin, of a reddish color, on a substratum of coral rock, which often comes to the surface. Some eight miles from Santo Domingo City we crossed an inlet from the sea, by a ferry, at the mouth of the river Haina. Some five or six miles farther along we passed the Nigua church, and half a mile farther crossed the river Nigua by a ford. After passing



the Nigua the soil was much improved and gave abundant evidence of fertility. But small portions of it were improved, the plantations being small, few in number, and far between; the forests were larger, and the timber, comprising all the varieties, of heavy growth. There are no savannas between the Haina and the Nigua. Large numbers of cattle and goats were ranging the forests. The cattle, for size and color, are almost an exact representation of our Alderny stock; but their horns are longer, and in that respect they resemble the Cherokee cattle of our country. After crossing the Nigua we traveled in the general direction of its source to the town of San Cristobal, which is but a little distance from its banks and on a handsome savanna. We were kindly received by the comandante, Barnabel Polanco, a stout colored man, to whom we had letters from the governor. We spent the night with the comandante, and were visited by large numbers of citizens, who were well-behaved, and manifested the greatest anxiety for annexation. The population of the village is about 1,500, and of the commune about 15,000. There is one Catholic church, of which all the population but two are members. There is a school, with 29 male pupils. The teacher is making an effort to establish another for girls. There are in the commune from four to five hundred who can read and write, or, as the teacher expressed it, scribble a little. They raise cattle, sheep, horses, donkeys, and hogs; and cultivate coffee, rice, sugar-cane, corn, and tobacco. They estimate the annual products of the soil at 6,000 quintals of sugar, 600 of coffee, and 40,000 pounds of tobacco.

It is claimed that the land belongs to the commune, and cannot be sold. Each resident has as much land set off to him by the public administrator as he may wish to cultivate. This officer is elected by the people and holds for three years. No person is known in this commune who is opposed to annexation. They seem to understand that the United States has a civil, not a military government, and that by annexation to it they will rid themselves of the burdens of war. On the 10th of February we left San Cristobal at an early hour, and passed through a rich, undulating country, mostly covered with forests, and but little cultivated. The largest palms we have seen were between San Cristobal and the Nizao. The Nizao is the largest river we had yet seen. It is wide and rapid, but at this time fordable. Its bottoms are nearly or quite a mile wide, covered with boulders and gravel, which have been borne down from the mountain by its current. After passing the Nizao the ground was parched with drought, and vegetation in all the openings completely burned out by the tropical heat. The soil is hard, full of gravel, and covered with boulders. As an exception, however, we passed two or three miles through a forest of exceeding rich soil, covered with dye-woods, *lignum-vitæ*, and a dense growth of chaparral. A large business is done in dye-woods, Campeachy being the most prominent. The surface of the country is fair and undulating. Some three or four miles before reaching Bani we emerged from the forest upon a savanna, across which, and before reaching the river Bani, we came upon a little cluster of buildings, where the principal trade is in *lignum-vitæ*, which is gathered here for market. The soil of this savanna appears to be poor, though the natives say it is productive in the rainy season—that is, from May to October. There are few gardens or inclosures of any kind except rude pens for corraling goats. A little beyond this cluster of buildings we passed the Bani River, a small stream of pure, swift-running water, and found beyond its banks an enormous growth of cactus, some of them throwing up forty or fifty stalks from ten to forty feet high. Two miles after crossing the river we reached the town of



## BANI.

This place is also situated on a dry, sandy-savanna, and near the mountain range. The comandante, Señor Ortiz, read our letter and paid us every attention. The white element predominates, and is a mixture of Spanish and French. Mons. Grandgirard, a French citizen, entertained us in French style and with hearty French politeness. The village has about 2,000, and the commune about 6,000, inhabitants. There are two Catholic churches, to which all the population belong except one Protestant and one Jew. They have two schools, and about 15 per cent. of the population can read and write. There is more intelligence and refinement here than in any other place we have yet seen on the island, the city of Santo Domingo not excepted. Several copies of a paper published at Santiago are taken, and the paper has a correspondent here. The entire population are enthusiastic in favor of annexation to the United States. Not a man is known who opposes it. The annual products of the commune are about 10,000 quintals (100 lbs.) of sugar 20,000 of coffee, 2,000 of cotton, 500 of cocoa, 100 of tobacco, 12,000 tons of dye-woods, 10,000 of mahogany, 10,000 of *lignum-vitæ*, 400 quintals of gum guayac, 600 of wax, and 4 of tortoise-shell, and about 15,000 gallons of honey. They have about 10,000 head of cattle, 24,000 sheep and goats, and 6,000 horses and asses. There are said to be two mines of salt, one of coal, and one of gold—all within three leagues. We saw a fair specimen of the coal, but as the owner of the mines was absent we did not visit them. F. E. Baehr, an intelligent German, has started a cotton plantation. He is now harvesting his first crop, which is a success. On the 11th we started for

## SAVANA BUEY.

The whole distance of six leagues to Savana Buey we found the same evidence of drought, and a poor, hard, rocky surface. The ground is not hilly, though considerably broken. We passed through the dry beds of several large rivers, one of them within three miles of Bani. The timber is of a stunted growth; the palms are small and of a new variety. The only water fit for drinking is found in wells, sixty or seventy feet deep, and not cool when obtained. There are few houses, and no gardens, nor any evidence of an attempt to cultivate this barren soil. There are herds of cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys. The cactus shows a more vigorous growth than anything else. Among the small growth of timber is a dense chaparral, so close as to be almost impenetrable. Some ten miles from Bani, upon a little elevation, we had a fine view of the ocean. Savana Buey is situated in a basin formed by hills around the mouth of the Ocoa River. On the hilltop, before descending into the basin, the view is very fine. It would be delightful, were it not that vegetation has been burned out by the sun. There are about twenty families, and their huts are naked and desolate as the sands of Sahara could make them. The commandante, Manuel Regla Baez, was confined to his room by sickness, but his family paid us every attention in their power. The population is about 100. They live upon their herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. Honey and wax are raised in considerable quantities. They have neither church nor school, but there are a few of the females who came from the city of Santo Domingo who can read and write. All are in favor of annexation, and many are well informed about our Government. There was an intense desire in the commandante's family to learn the American language. Leaving



Savana Buey on the 12th, we almost immediately descended the banks of Ocoa River. It has a wide bottom, covered with boulders, trees, mahogany logs, and immense piles of gravel, which have been borne down from the mountain by the rapidity of its current during freshets. The river, in a single channel, would have been too large to ford; but it is divided into several, four of which we forded, and passed through the dry beds of several others. Passing over the river bottom a mile or more, we went down the sandy bed upon its western side, two or three miles. Its currents are rapid to Ocoa Bay, into which they empty. Passing a spur of the mountains, we came upon a rich piece of bottom land, covered with a dense growth of palms, of a different variety from those of other sections through which we had traveled. The trunks are large and short, twenty or thirty feet high, with short, wide-spread fern leaves, clustered at the tops. At a distance of seven or eight miles from Savana Buey, we came to the shore of Ocoa Bay, some distance to the west of the mouth of the river, and kept along its shore, sometimes upon a sandy beach, then across salt marshes and under jagged rocks near the water, and finally took to the hills, losing sight of the bay. The growth of cactus along this hilly path was so dense in places that it would be difficult for man or beast to pass through. The shores of the bay for miles are lined with coral rock, and afford fine specimens. Coral reefs are seen in the bay, with their irregular tops projecting above the water. Over rough, rocky, barren hills, covered with cactus and a small growth of chaparral, we again came to the shore of the bay. We here found a flat, rich soil, covered with forest, in which *lignum-vitæ* and a small growth of mahogany predominated. Again we entered upon naked, barren hills, and, passing under a burning sun, we reached Azua at noon, February 12. We could only judge of distance by the time occupied in travel, by which rule we make the distance from Santo Domingo City to Azua something over one hundred miles.

#### AZUA.

The present site of Azua is between two small rivers, the Bia and Jura, and about four miles from Tortugas Bay, a branch of Ocoa. It was formerly located on a handsome plateau near the bay, but was totally destroyed by an earthquake one hundred and twenty-two years ago. The ruins of an old cathedral are still seen upon the spot. The present town, or city, is composed mostly of huts, made in the style of the country, covered with palm boards and palu-leaf thatch, with the ground well beaten down and cleanly swept for floors. As exceptions, there are four buildings in the place made of concrete, plastered and colored. There is not a glass window in the place. The population, in 1863, was 2,550, and remains about the same. They have one Catholic church, one public and several private schools, with about 100 pupils in all. The commune or district of Azua, in 1863, contained 7,550 inhabitants. It produces annually from 20,000 to 30,000 quintals of sugar, 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of honey, 500 quintals of wax, 400 quintals of gum guaiac, and 200,000 gallons of molasses. The trade in valuable woods is considerable. They have exported, the last year, 50,000 feet of mahogany, 400 tons of *lignum-vitæ*, 500 tons of fustic, 100 tons of campeachy, 30 tons of Brazil-wood, and smaller quantities of satin-wood, rosewood, cochineal wood, espanello and libey woods. The supply of all these woods is unlimited. The health of the place is good. The only contagions in seven years, ending in 1871, were cholera and small-pox, from which there were 410 deaths, and during the same period 135



deaths from other causes. The moral condition of the place is not so favorable, there being in the same period only 118 marriages, and 2,580 children baptized.

Between Azua and the bay of Ocoa, and the rivers Bia and Jura, there is one of the finest sections of land in the island. It is irrigated by numerous springs of pure water, and well adapted to the culture of sugar-cane. It has many fine plantations, one of which belongs to Señor Mauchera, and for its extent, neatness, and order of its cultivation, probably equals any that can be found in Louisiana. The owner has suffered the loss of his buildings by fire five times within as many years by revolutionary incendiaries. The territory alluded to embraces about one hundred square miles.

#### GALINDO.

On the 16th I visited the Surza Springs at Galindo, sixteen miles southwest of Azua. The first three or four miles of our route was over the rich lauds between the Bia and Jura Rivers, the latter being dry at this time. Beyond the Jura the country is flat, and covered with chaparral. The American aloe, or century plant, with its tall blossoms, sometimes thirty feet high, is spread over the plain and covers the mountain slopes. Cactus of every description is abundant, and wild cotton an occasional feature. We passed through the dry beds of several rivers, which bore evidence of being very large streams during the rainy season. Another feature of this journey was the great number of parrots and millions of butterflies. When we reached the foot of the mountain slope, there were fine streams of pure, cool water, and as we progressed, all evidence of drought disappeared. As we ascended the mountain by easy grades, the soil became rich, and at Galindo the plantations of bananas, plaintain, yams, sweet potatoes, cotton, &c., would compare favorably with the best we have seen. From the house of Señor Carlos Ortez, where we left our horses, we went up the mountain by an unfrequented path, through a heavy forest, something over a mile, to the foot of precipitous rocks, where we found the great hot sulphur spring. The volume of water discharged is immense for a spring. At a moderate calculation, it cannot be less than 500 barrels per hour. The water is hot, and has a strong smell and taste of sulphur. There is another small hot spring a few yards to the left. Thirty or forty yards away is another large spring, slightly warm, free from sulphur, and having a pleasant, saltish, acidulated taste. There are probably a dozen other springs within a compass of a hundred yards, varying in temperature and medicinal qualities; but having neither the experience nor appliances for testing them, we have left the matter to other hands. A small mahogany tree stands directly over the mouth of the largest spring, and a large palm tree a few yards to the left. This spot cannot fail to be appreciated, whenever peace and prosperity shall visit this war-cursed land. A finer climate does not probably exist on earth, and all the luxuries of two hemispheres are richly clustered in this great garden of the Antilles.

E. JACOBS.





## XVII.—SANITARY CONDITION OF PORT AU PRINCE.

By W. NEWCOMB.

The city of Port au Prince is situated at the head of a bay which is formed by a deep indentation on the west end of the island, the southern branch of the land extending 140 miles, and the northern, perhaps nearly an equal distance, the extremities being separated by an open sea of more than 100 miles in width. The island of Gonaives is stretched for 40 miles along the central part of the approaches; and although at a distance of 15 miles from the anchorage breaks the force of the sea on the west.

After turning the southern cape, a succession of high lands, in places rising to 7,500 feet, stretch along upon our right up to the city. Upon the east is an opening, or savanna, which extends entirely across the island leading to the south to reach the bay of Ocoa. Upon the north-west is another high range of mountains, forming the boundaries of the passage of St. Mark's. The city is consequently pent in by mountains, which shut off the trade winds, and the malarious regions extending over the plains have, a portion of the time, the land breeze sweeping over them, carrying pestilence on their wings to the heart of the city. In the summer the heat is extremely oppressive, relieved at night by the breeze which occasionally sweeps down the mountain slopes.

The yellow fever finds here a favorite haunt, and the filthy condition of the city feeds the pestilence with its natural pabulum, and renders this notoriously one of the three great centers in the West Indies for the malignant type of this formidable disease.

The city itself is favorably located for drainage, receiving from the distance of about 5 miles a mountain stream, conducted by an underground aqueduct to the city in a rapid current. This supply is sufficient for a much larger city, and the waste water sweeps down each side of the several streets, occasionally intercepted by slight dams to conduct the current into the cross streets. In very many cases puddles are thus formed that soon become stagnant, and add to the malarious influences already so deadly from cesspools, and the heretofore mentioned action of the land wind.

The inhabitants are huddled together in a manner that tends to increase the dangers of pestilence, and add an animal poison to the already miasmatic influences at work to produce disease. To intensify all these causes, a general filthy condition of the inhabitants in certain portions of the city, and of their premises in particular, and we shall find all the necessary elements combined for the generation of the most perfect forms of typhus, icteroides or yellow fever.

To sum up in a few words the whole of these causes, we have a densely crowded population with filthy habits. A concentration of vegetable and animal poisons in a hot and confined atmosphere, and historical facts to illustrate their necessarily fatal results.

Your geologists will doubtless report upon the earthquake phenomena met with upon the western portion of the island, which has been an occasional cause of fatality to the residents.

Respectfully submitted.

W. NEWCOMB, *M. D.*, &c.



XVIII.—PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE EXPEDITION ACROSS THE ISLAND FROM SANTO DOMINGO CITY TO PUERTO PLATA, BY THE WESTERN OR BANAÑO ROUTE.

BY W. P. BLAKE.

*To the Honorable United States Commissioners to Santo Domingo:*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following preliminary report of the expedition across the island of Santo Domingo, made in accordance with your instructions.\*

My party consisted of nine persons.†

We left Santo Domingo City February 9, and reached Puerto Plata, on the north coast, on the 26th of February, having been seventeen days upon the journey, including stoppages in the cities of La Vega, Mocha, and Santiago. I remained a week with the party at Puerto Plata, until the sailing of the Nantasket for Port au Prince, where we rejoined the party on the Tennessee.

The route taken from Santo Domingo City to La Vega was the Western or Banaño road, leading to the valley of the Jaina and its tributaries, and through a gold region, which was worked anciently to a considerable extent. Time was taken for the proper examination of this field, and at the principal interior cities we remained long enough to see the people, and ascertain their sentiments upon the question of the annexation of the country to the United States.

The road for about 10 miles from Santo Domingo has a general northwest direction, and ascends gently over the coralline limestone formation of the coast. It then commences ascending the foot-hills and spurs of the mountains along the Jaina River. The general axis of this mountain range extends east and west and forms the water-shed between the streams of the southern slope of the island and those of the Yuna River, which flow into the gulf of Samana. The road continues up the valley of the Jaina, and after crossing the first range of mountains, reaches the region of country in the interior generally known as the Cibao. It then winds among the spurs of the great central mass of mountains crossing the many tributaries of the Yuna, and finally descends to the city of Concepcion de la Vega, the capital of the province of La Vega, located at the western end of the great interior valley of the island, the Vega Real or royal plain of Columbus.

From La Vega the road skirted the hills and followed the gently undulating surface of the western part of the plain to the city of Mocha, a place of considerable importance in the Cibao as a depot for tobacco and other products of that region. From Mocha to Santiago, a distance of some 20 miles, the route led over low hills, which here form the divide between the waters of the Yuna, flowing eastwardly to the gulf of Samana, and the waters of the Yaqui, flowing westwardly to Manzanilla Bay, near Monte Cristi.

From Santiago to Puerto Plata on the coast, about 45 miles, the road extends northwestwardly, crosses the Monte Cristi range of mountains,

\* The instructions and correspondence connected therewith will be found in the journal of the Commission, pp. 42, 43, 44, 46.

† The party consisted of Professor Crane, of Cornell University, charged with the duty of making a special report upon the political, moral, and social condition of the people; of Mr. J. S. Adam, chemist and mineralogist; Mr. Charles Wright, botanist; C. Ruenebaum as guide; three muleteers, and one servant; we had five riding animals and five peck animals.



and then follows the short slope to the city, which is the principal commercial center of Santo Domingo.

#### THE TOPOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

The great central plain, known as the Vega Real, is the most striking feature in the topography of the island. As seen from Santo Cerro, the hill near La Vega where the battle was fought between Columbus and the Indians, and where he planted the cross, it appears like an ocean stretching out to the eastward in an unbroken surface as far as the eye can reach, and is covered with a thick tropical forest. Clearings in this forest for plantations are rare, but thin columns of smoke, rising here and there among the palms in the distance, give evidence of habitations. On the south side, at a distance of 20 miles, the site of the town of Cotuy was indicated at the base of the mountains, and on the other side the town of Macoris, just at the foot of the mountains on the north side—the Monte Cristi range. This range, which extends from Monte Cristi on the west as far as Samana on the east, forms the northern boundary of the Vega Real. Its southern boundary is formed by the range already mentioned, which forms the divide between the waters of the southern slope to Santo Domingo City and those of the interior. The low and irregular hills extending from one range to the other, across the western end of the plain, serve to separate it from the great valley of the Yaqui on the other side. Eastwardly the Vega Real merges into the gulf of Samana.

Looking at the relief of the surface in a general way, we may consider the gulf of Samana, the Vega Real, and the valley of the Yaqui as one great trough-like valley, extending longitudinally from east to west through the island from Samana to Manzanilla Bay. A depression of the island a few hundred feet would permit the ocean to flow through this valley and thus make a long, narrow island out of the Samana and Monte Cristi range. The importance of having a clear perception of this great topographical feature of the country will be evident when we consider the influence it has upon the climate, the productions, and the accessibility of the interior.

The Vega may be regarded as from 50 to 60 miles in length and from 15 to 20 in width, giving an area of about 800 square miles. The whole of this surface, excepting the river channels, may be considered as capable of successful cultivation. The soil in general is a deep, rich loam, formed by the deposits of the many streams which descend from the mountains on both sides. Over much of this valley the soil is black, being highly charged with carbonaceous matter. This was noted particularly about Mocha, between La Vega and Santiago. It is favorable for the growth of tobacco, sugar-cane, and coffee, all of which are successfully grown in that region. But the agriculture of the interior of Santo Domingo is not necessarily confined to the valley lands; the slopes of the surrounding hills are also soil-covered and favorable for cultivation.

In the Cibao, including the Vega Real, the chief product at present is tobacco. It is perhaps the only product of consequence grown in excess of the wants of the population. It is sent over the mountains to Puerto Plata, on the north coast, by pack trains, and is exported from there chiefly to Hamburg.

The configuration of this great valley of the interior, opening to the eastward in the gulf of Samana, favors its thorough ventilation by the trade-winds. They sweep through the island from one end to the other,



giving great uniformity of temperature, diminishing the heat of the day, and removing the excess of humidity which would otherwise render the heat oppressive. The trade-winds, when they reach La Vega and Santiago, are drying winds; they absorb rather than precipitate moisture. That the easterly trade-wind prevails during the year, and follows the great valley from east to west, is shown by the trees on the ridges back of La Vega, where they are permanently bent over toward the west. Such a record is conclusive and satisfactory.

The seasons at Santiago are known as the dry and the wet, and each is considered to last for six months. Rains begin in October or November, but are most certain in November, and they last until February or March. The heaviest rains are in the spring time, but they have showers at other seasons. The maximum temperature is said to be 90° in August, and the minimum 58° in January.\* During the whole of the journey across the island and the stoppages at La Vega, Mocha, and Santiago, I never found the heat oppressive. There were no sultry days or nights; the wet-bulb thermometer rarely rose above 70°.

The effect of elevated land in absorbing the moisture from a prevailing sea wind is well shown in several districts upon the island, but especially in the great valley of the Yaqui, west of Santiago, where the climate is very different from that of the Vega Real. The country becomes more and more dry as you progress westward, and only a few miles from Santiago there is a marked change in the vegetation; it contrasts strongly with the vegetation east of Santiago and upon the Vega. The vegetation of the two valleys lying in the same straight line is totally dissimilar. In the Yaqui Valley thorny plants and shrubs abound; the acacias are numerous, the agave, (*Agave antillarum*), and a great number of species of cactacea. It is a region where irrigation must be resorted to, in order to secure full crops.

The same generalization will apply to all other valleys on the island similarly situated under the lee of a broad stretch of country or of a mountain chain. We thus have a dry region to the westward of Santo Domingo about Azua, and a region where salt can be made by solar evaporation at Caldera Bay. So, also, the mountains of Hayti, on the leeward side of the island, appear barren in comparison with the better-watered slopes of the ranges to the windward.

#### ROAD TO THE INTERIOR.

The road from Santo Domingo to the interior by way of Banao can hardly be dignified by the name. It is a very poor trail, almost impassable during or directly after a wet season. The deep clayey soil becomes worked to a soft paste of mud through which the horses and mules must wade sometimes girth-deep. A large part of the trail we followed was worse than the isthmus road from Cruces to Panama in the year 1853. The trail by way of Cotuy is described as much better, but it is longer. Very little or none of the produce of the Vega Real is taken southward to Santo Domingo; it is sent on pack animals, by way of Mocha and Santiago, over the mountains to Puerto Plata. The topographical description already given, and a glance at the map, will show in a moment that the natural outlet of the Cibao is down the valley of the Vega Real to Samana.

One of the first great necessities for the development of the resources of Santo Domingo is a railway along this great valley from Santiago

\* Some observations of temperature during my stay in Santiago will be found in the tables appended.



to Samana, by way of or with branches to La Vega, Mocha and Macoris. It would follow the northern shore of the gulf along the terrace which borders the mountains from the mouth of the Yuna to Samana. The materials for the road-bed are abundant. The forests will furnish the logs for ties, the streams the power to saw them, and to break rock if need be for ballasting the track. No heavy cuttings will be required over the entire distance. There is a natural grade. The chief expense will be in raising the road-bed and in bridging the numerous small streams. Stone suitable for abutments is abundant.

A railway from Santiago to Monte Cristi or Manzanilla Bay down the Yaqui Valley has been suggested, and is advocated by some of the residents of Santiago as more likely to be immediately profitable than one in the other direction, because there is a greater quantity of mahogany, logwood, and other valuable timber in that direction. But this advantage would probably be more than compensated by the greater fertility of the valley of the Yuna.

#### FOREST PRODUCTS.

The part of the road from Santo Domingo to the mountains led through a region where logwood is abundant. Many persons were engaged in cutting and carting it to Santo Domingo for shipment. There are great numbers of young trees of both mahogany and logwood.

Along the Jaina, in the gold region, I first saw pine trees. These form groves or forests along the tops of the ridges from that place to and beyond La Vega. They generally exclude other trees, and the ground is open and free from undergrowth. This is probably due to fires which have swept over these hills, as shown by the blackened and partly-burned trunks. The specific name of this pine is not yet ascertained. It appears to differ from the pine of Cuba. It grows tall and straight, and has a hard heart, well charged with pitch. The inhabitants of the mountain region make great use of it to light their cabins at night.

In the Monte Cristi and Samana range of mountains, mahogany abounds, especially in places remote from trails, or difficult of access, where it has not been convenient to cut and get it out to the coast for export.

A large amount of mahogany is cut in the mountains and hewed into blocks about two feet long, sixteen to eighteen inches wide, and nine inches thick, two of which make a load for a mule or horse. The best portions of the tree are selected. Great numbers of these are taken to Puerto Plata, and shipped from there to Hamburg and to the United States. Large logs of mahogany, too heavy to be moved, were seen rotting along the trail from Santiago to Puerto Plata. Satin-wood, fustic, and lance-wood may be added to the list of woods valuable for export. Details regarding the trees and useful plants seen along the route will be found in the appended preliminary report of the botanist.

#### THE GOLD REGION.

For the greater part of the distance between the Jaina River and the Vega Real we traversed a gold region comparing favorably in its indications of the metal with the gold regions of Georgia and the Carolinas. Some portions of this region along the Jaina were anciently worked in a rude and imperfect manner by the Indians and Spaniards. Within a few miles of the ruins of the ancient city of Buenaventura, but on the





opposite side of the Jaina, there are ancient pits and mining shafts partly filled up and overgrown, known among the people as *Puits de los Indios*. It is evident that the miners, whoever they were, followed the bed of a ravine to its head and then sunk pits at intervals, probably at the prolongation of the placer, and excavated the gravel between them in the same manner as California miners "coyote" their claims.

There are doubtless some hill deposits along the Jaina that would pay to work if water can be delivered upon them without too great an outlay. There is no lack of water in adjoining streams, and there is sufficient fall or drainage for the tailings. Some of the favorable-looking places in that vicinity have been prospected by Mr. Ohle, a Californian, but with what success I was not able to ascertain. Several pits sunk by him in different places down to the bed-rock were full of water and could not be examined.

Considerable quartz was found in the river beds, and in some of the creeks it was very abundant and had a favorable appearance. Outcrops of veins were also seen and some samples were collected for examination. One or two small "colors" of gold were washed out from the superficial gravel in one of the brooks. I used a small *batea* borrowed from the owners of a cabin in the vicinity. In Santo Domingo City I saw an ounce or more of gold from this region washed out by women, chiefly along the Jaina. It had the usual form of river gold, some of it quite coarse, but most of it in thin flattened scales.\*

Gold also occurs upon the Verde, and upon some of the tributaries of the Yaqui, and there are reports that masses weighing several ounces have been found in these streams. There is no doubt that there is a gold region of considerable extent and promise in the island, but I did not see anything to excite great enthusiasm regarding the deposits or to encourage the expectation of immediate large returns from mining operations there. There is enough, however, visible to justify the labor and expense of carefully prospecting the ground. The rocks are talcose slates, with masses of serpentine here and there, and are very similar to those found in almost all gold regions.

#### IRON ORE.

There is an abundance of brown iron ore along the route. It occurs in blocks lying loosely upon the surface or in horizontal interstratified masses, but is always combined with sand or gravel, forming a cemented mass like the iron cement of California miners. The quantity is practically inexhaustible, but it is questionable whether it is sufficiently pure to make good pig-iron. Specimens were obtained for analysis.

#### THE GEOLOGY.

It is premature to attempt to report on the geology of the route traversed, except in a very general way, as there has not been time to locate the observations upon a map, nor to examine the rocks and fossils collected at different points.

The coralline limestone formation which appears to skirt the island in horizontal beds, forming the basis of the terrace-like slopes from the mountains, is, perhaps, the most interesting formation. It abounds with corals in various degrees of change by mineralization. I am disposed to regard it as an old fringing reef. It shows the recent and uni-

\* An assay of twelve ounces of Jaina River gold, made at the United States Mint in 1870, showed a fineness of 0.946.



form elevation of the whole island. Similar formations in local patches were found in the mountains even as high as 2,000 feet. They abound in corals also, and the forms appear to me to be more like those of the Pacific Ocean than those now living in the Caribbean. It will be very interesting to compare them not only with Pacific forms, but with the genera and species now existing and dredged from deep water about the island.

As the road approaches the mountains the coralline rock is succeeded by stratified argillaceous beds, in which the iron ore occurs. The ore is, apparently, the result of infiltration from above—from strata now removed by denudation. The ferruginous stratum, being hard and unyielding, has probably arrested the denudation or washing away of the softer strata at that horizon, and was thus left, as it is generally found, covering the surface and rendering tracts of country, acres in extent, comparatively barren for want of depth of soil.

From these stratified formations we passed upon uplifted metamorphic strata, chiefly hornblendic slates with some mica slate and patches of serpentine. In the gold region there are talcose slates with quartz veins resembling those of Georgia and the Carolinas. Serpentine is a very abundant rock in the interior, and forms the basis of many of the pine-covered ridges and bare, grassy hills. This predominance of magnesian rock may account for the absence of forest growth upon some of the hills and savannas. In the beds of the streams, as the Jaina, for example, the greater part of the boulders are hard syenite; masses of granite are rare. Hornblende is the predominant constituent of the rock. Magnesia in combination thus may be considered as characterizing the rock formations of the island.

At Santiago there is a thick series of argillaceous strata of a greenish color, containing fossil marine shells in a fine state of preservation and indicating that the formation belongs to the Tertiary era.

In the Monte Cristi range there is a very interesting group of stratified rocks consisting of sandstones, limestones, and argillaceous shales, all uplifted at high angles. The combined thickness of these beds is great. On the Puerto Plata side of the island the bordering coralline formation is much more regularly stratified than on the south side and it contains a considerable amount of sand.

#### OPINIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

In the journey across the island we traveled without an escort, and were everywhere cordially received and hospitably treated, not only by the authorities, but by the people generally in the cities and by the wayside. We nowhere met with any evidence of dislike or opposition to our coming or examining any part of the country or visiting any of the people. At La Vega, Mocha, and Santiago, in company with Professor Crane, I met the principal citizens collectively and afterward individually and alone, and had full opportunity to converse with them and ascertain their views. In each of these cities I was surprised to find so many persons of culture and refinement of manners and sentiment; men full of patriotism and appreciation of the value of free institutions, good government, education, industry, and general progress. With such persons, and with all Dominicans with whom I came in contact, of whatever station, there was but one sentiment in regard to the annexation of Santo Domingo to the United States. They favor it because they expect thereby to secure stable government, freedom from revolutions, security for life and property, development of the resources of the island, and



advancement generally. The complaint is made on all sides, by the rich and poor alike, that under the present order of things there is no inducement to improve their plantations and to amass property. Any personal property, especially stock, is liable to be taken away from them any day for the maintenance of the army of one side or the other.

That there are persons avowedly opposed to annexation is not denied by the Dominicans, but we were uniformly assured that the number of such persons is small, and that most of them are discontented, turbulent spirits, who have no property or position—the “canaille,” “vagabonds,” who have nothing to lose but all to gain in times of confusion and strife.

There seems not to be much anxiety in regard to the easy acquiescence of the Dominican people in our laws and customs, in the event of annexation, but one of the most thoughtful and cautious Dominicans whom I met expressed a hope that in the event of annexation American rule might commence gradually, so that changes and restrictions might not operate harshly at first. The overbearing, arbitrary rule of the Spaniards was mentioned as one of the causes of the revolt against them.

I visited and examined the public and private schools at La Vega, at Mocha, and at Santiago, and was highly gratified.

I add a brief preliminary report on the botany, by Mr. Charles Wright, and a table of thermometrical and barometrical observations taken along the route by myself and Mr. Adam.

I desire, also, to express my thanks to Professor Gabb, in charge of the geological survey, for information regarding the roads and stopping places in the interior.

Regretting that the time allowed me does not permit of giving many interesting details of the journey, this brief statement is respectfully submitted.

WM. P. BLAKE.

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## XIX.—BOTANY OF THE ROUTE FROM SANTO DOMINGO TO PUERTO PLATA.

BY C. WRIGHT.

SIR: In presenting a report on the botany of the route pursued by the party under your charge from the city of Santo Domingo to Puerto Plata, several causes combine to render it for the present less definite and complete than would be desirable. The journey was made at a season of the year when fewest plants are in flower, and not many in fruit. Called to join this commission almost at a moment's warning, no time was afforded to obtain books suitable or sufficient to determine the plants found here; and the only books brought were left on the ship from a desire to reduce the luggage to the smallest possible dimensions. Moreover, no time could be saved to examine the plants in their fresh state, and to study them carefully, without neglecting the specimens gathered, by the careful preservation of which they might be more critically examined at a future time. Even the inquiries for the vernacular names of trees met with received unsatisfactory answers. The muleteers and guide seemed to know few of the trees of the mountain regions. Even when inquiries were addressed to the inhabitants, answers, whether thoughtless or intentional, so absurdly wrong were given that I despaired of gaining much reliable information which would serve to connect with certainty the vernacular names of the plants with their scientific ones.



A more particular report must consequently be postponed till a critical examination of the specimens can be made.

About the city of Santo Domingo red-wood (*Hæmatorylon campechianum*) grows abundantly, and young mahogany trees, from a foot in diameter and under, are seen in considerable numbers. *Zamia integrifolia*, from the root of which starch is made, is found in inexhaustible abundance around the city.

The small savannas which succeed the belt of timber first crossed seem less fertile, though at this season clothed only with the dead and brown remains of the grasses of the past year; in the wet and warmer seasons they must yield a luxuriant growth of grass adapted to the rearing of cattle and horses. Some plants furnish food for swine also, as is shown by the rooting of these for their tuberous or bulbous roots. The forests afford but few grasses fit for the food of cattle, but there is one tree, ramon, (*Trophis Americana*,) which is carefully spared when lands are cleared, the leaves and twigs of which, in the dry season, are an excellent substitute for grass, which then falls. Cattle and horses eat this greedily. Several other kinds of shrubs are eaten by cattle, but especially by asses and goats, which manage to get a living from almost any green thing.

In the mountainous regions several species of leguminous trees were observed, as *Hymenea Courbaril* or *Algarobo*, a large timber tree, with very hard wood, used for the cylinders of sugar-mills for crushing the cane; *Cassia fistula*, once in some repute as a medicine; satin-wood, probably *Bucida capitata*—a very hard and handsome wood from a tree of large size. Several lauraceous trees were seen. The same or similar ones in the other West India islands furnish valuable timber for building purposes, and it is probable that the former are identical with these or of equal utility. *Oxandra virgata* (lancewood) gives a strong, very elastic wood, much used for the shafts of carriages. Its fruit is an important food for hogs; it is quite abundant in the mountains. On the crests of the mountains, in all directions, as far as could be seen, pines were growing in abundance, and contrary to what is commonly the case in a rich soil. Majagua, (*Hibiscus arboreus*,) the celebrated Cuban bast-wood, the bark of which furnishes a coarse but strong cordage in universal use, wherever a rope or string is needed, and which is not a bad substitute for chains, grows in considerable quantity at Samana, and was seen more sparingly along streams in the mountains. *Guaiaacum*, (lignum-vitæ,) more common near the coast, was also noticed on the road before arriving at Puerto de Plata. Mahogany logs occur along the road, left to rot there, owing to the difficulty of getting them to the coast. And the people often sacrifice large trees for the sake of procuring a branch suitable for some construction which they have in hand. Guayava, spontaneously abundant near settlements and villages, continues for some months each year to yield food for hogs and cattle, besides the use made of it by the people for the preparation of jellies and conserves. Anonas of three or more species afford a most delicious fruit. Mangoes spring up spontaneously in all cleared lands near habitation, when the seeds are dropped, and in pastures yielding a fruit much esteemed and eaten also by swine and cattle. Few, if any, berries or similar wild fruits of any excellence are known.

Palms, in consideration of their very great usefulness, have not been planted, nor spared when springing spontaneously, as they should have been. The products of this tree are applied to a greater number of uses than those of any other known tree. They inclose and cover the houses as well as form their floors. Many domestic utensils are made of them.



The fruit nourishes successively cattle and swine. Bees extract much of their products from the flowers. Yet these trees are rare in all the district from Santo Domingo City to Puerto de Plata. The manaca (Geonoma) palm is similar to the palma real, and is applied to the same uses, though less employed, perhaps, from the more remote situations—the summit of the higher mountains, which it affects. The leaves of the palma caña (Copernicia) are preferred to all the others for the covering of houses. Of the other five or six species of palm none are known to be of special utility.

Respectfully submitted.

CHARLES WRIGHT, *Botanist.*

Professor W. P. BLAKE.

*Thermometrical and barometrical observations—Santo Domingo City to Puerto Plata.*

Date.	Hour.	Dry-bulb, C.	Reduced to F.	Wet-bulb, F.	Barometer.	Remarks.
1871.						
Feb. 8	11.00 p. m.	22	72	63.50	30.	
9	5.10 a. m.	22	72	64	30.	
9	6.00 a. m.	22	72	64	30.	
9	12.30 p. m.	26	79	.....	29.84	At cemetery by roadside.
9	2.30 p. m.	24	75	70	29.83	.....
9	5.30 p. m.	24	75	70	29.82	.....
9	6.00 p. m.	23.5	74	68.5	.....	} At first camp.
9	6.30 p. m.	22.7	73.5	67	.....	
10	4.00 a. m.	16	61	60.5	.....	.....
10	6.00 a. m.	17	63	64	29.86	.....
10	7.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.83	On the road
10	8.10 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.98	Savanna Santo Rosa.
10	9.30 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.99	Arroyo Lebrun.
10	1.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.76	.....
10	10.40 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.9	At creek.
10	11.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.78	.....
10	11.10 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.95	Arroyo Laga.
10	12.52 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.46	Top of hill.
10	2.45 p. m.	27	81	69	29.64	At river Jaina 29.70
10	5.00 p. m.	23	73	70	.....	Cloudy
10	7.00 p. m.	21	70	70	29.68	.....
10	8.45 p. m.	19	66	66	29.68	.....
11	6.00 a. m.	18	64	64	29.64	.....
11	3.00 p. m.	26	79	70	.....	Dry-bulb, F. 79
11	6.00 p. m.	23	73	68	29.66	A little rain
12	6.00 a. m.	19	66	66	29.66	.....
12	11.53 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.38	Crossing of Jaina.
12	1.25 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.28	.....
12	4.15 p. m.	21	70	70	29.08	Savanna Puerta.
12	5.00 p. m.	20	63	68	29.06	.....
12	9.00 p. m.	18	64	64	.....	.....
13	6.00 a. m.	16	61	62	.....	.....
13	7.00 a. m.	18	64	64	.....	.....
13	8.10 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	28.83	.....
13	8.55 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	28.72	.....
13	9.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	28.76	.....
13	9.15 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	28.67	Summit.
13	9.45 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	28.76	Loma Laganetta.
13	1.00 p. m.	25	77	70	.....	.....
13	5.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.36	.....
13	5.00 p. m.	24.5	76	69	.....	.....
13	6.00 p. m.	23	73	68	.....	.....
14	5.30 a. m.	14	57	68	29.34	Maimon River.
14	6.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.55	.....
14	7.10 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.32	.....
14	9.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.59	.....
14	11.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.58	.....
14	1.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.58	Yuna River.
14	3.30 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.25	.....
14	5.30 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.64	Savanna Guyabi.
14	7.30 p. m.	19	66	66	29.66	Do.
15	6.00 a. m.	16	61	60	29.66	Do.
15	7.45 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.76	Jima River.





## Thermometrical and barometrical observations, &amp;c.—Continued.

Date.	Hour.	Dry-bulb, C.	Reduced to F.	Wet-bulb, F.	Barometer.	Remarks.
1871.						
15	10.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.32	
15	10.25 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.54	
15	10.45 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.24	
15	11.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.38	
15	12.00 m.	27	81	70	29.75	
15	1.45 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.84	
15	3.45 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.75	Concepcion de la Vega.
15	8.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.80	Cloudy.
15	10.30 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.82	Do.
16	6.00 a. m.	17	63	62	29.76	
16 <sup>W</sup>	9.05 a. m.	22	72	64	29.76	
16	12.30 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.75	
16	3.30 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.65	
16	4.00 p. m.	27	81	70	.....	
16	6.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.69	
16	8.30 p. m.	24	75	.....	29.73	
17	7.00 a. m.	21	70	68	29.75	
17	9.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.74	
17	12.00 m.	26	79	70	29.70	
17	4.00 p. m.	27	81	70	29.68	
18	6.00 a. m.	21	70	68	29.70	
18	7.50 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.72	
18	9.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.12	} Santo Cerro.
18	11.30 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.11	
18	1.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.50	} Foot of plain.
18	2.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.50	
18	5.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.41	} Mocha.
18	6.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.42	
18	8.00 p. m.	15	59	66	29.44	
19	7.00 a. m.	18	64	64	29.46	
19	9.45 a. m.	23	73	70	29.50	
19	12.00 m.	.....	.....	.....	29.45	
19	1.30 p. m.	27	81	.....	29.40	
19	3.00 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.40	
19	6.30 p. m.	24.5	76	66	29.42	
19	7.30 p. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.45	
20	6.00 a. m.	14.5	58	56	29.44	
21	8.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.45	
21	9.00 a. m.	23	73	69	29.48	
21	10.00 a. m.	25	77	68	29.48	
21	11.00 a. m.	26	79	70	29.45	
21	12.00 m.	25	77	70	29.42	
21	1.00 p. m.	26	79	70	29.40	
21	2.00 p. m.	24.5	76	71	29.38	
21	3.00 p. m.	25.5	78	72	29.35	
21	4.00 p. m.	24.5	76	70	29.36	
21	5.05 p. m.	23	73	69	29.38	
22	9.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.42	
22	10.00 a. m.	24	75	70	29.44	
22	.....	.....	.....	.....	29.18	Top of hill.
22	6.20 p. m.	24	75	68	29.36	
23	6.00 a. m.	16.5	61.5	60	.....	
23	6.30 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.41	Clear; no wind.
23	7.00 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.42	Top of hill above river.
23	7.15 a. m.	.....	.....	.....	29.55	At river Yaqui.
23	8.30 a. m.	23	73	68	29.48	
23	10.00 p. m.	21.5	70	66	29.48	
24	5.30 a. m.	17	62	62	.....	
24	6.15 a. m.	18.25	65	62	29.44	
24	8.00 a. m.	21.5	70	66	.....	

XX.—REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CONDITION  
OF THE PEOPLE OF THE INTERIOR OF SANTO DOMINGO.

BY T. F. CRANE.

*To the Honorable United States Commissioners to Santo Domingo :*

I have the honor to report that on the 7th of February last, at Santo Domingo, I received from A. A. Burton, esq., secretary to the commission, a resolution requesting me to proceed from Santo Domingo to Puerto Plata, via the western route to La Vega and Santiago, and report to the said commission on the social and political condition of the people, their views and wishes respecting annexation to the United States, &c.

In accordance with these instructions I joined the scientific expedition, under the charge of Professor W. P. Blake, and left Santo Domingo on the 9th of February. I arrived at Puerto Plata on the 26th of February, having traversed the provinces of Santo Domingo, La Vega, Santiago, De los Caballeros, and the district of Puerto Plata.

Such investigations as were possible were made at the houses where we stopped on our journey, and every opportunity was embraced to learn the views of the country people whom we met on the roads or afterward saw in the towns. I also passed through and remained some time in the following towns: Yuna, Vega, Mocha, Santiago, and Puerto Plata, which represent a population of about fifty thousand souls. I submit for your consideration the following report as the result of my investigations:

The route from Santo Domingo to La Vega was chosen for scientific reasons, and was not the main road, or camino real. The population was sparse, and, from their total lack of opportunities, extremely ignorant; there are no schools or churches between Santo Domingo and Yuna, a distance of fifty miles. Some families had heard of America but not of the United States; the majority took no interest in politics; the few who were at all well informed were favorable to annexation. This was especially the case nearer Santo Domingo, where the country people had suffered from foreign invasion and forced contributions to their own government.

At Yuna, a town of about two hundred inhabitants, we found a great improvement both in the country and people; the former more thickly settled and better cultivated, and the latter more intelligent. All with whom we conversed were strongly in favor of annexation, from the usual reason of desire for peace and deliverance from the present grievous military system, which appropriates the best horses and cattle for the use of the army, and summons the men at a moment's notice from their fields to take part in the frequent revolutions, or to aid in repelling Haytian aggressions. The people between Yuna and La Vega expressed themselves in the same manner.

La Vega is a quiet, cleanly town of three thousand inhabitants, who are remarkably intelligent, and well informed on all the important topics of the day. The fertility of the soil and the unsettled condition of the country which offers no incentive to labor, have prevented the development of the material resources of the province, and caused much idleness among the people, who, as they express it, have no certainty of reaping what they have sown.

The land is divided among many small proprietors, who raise coffee and tobacco, and what is not consumed at home is sent to Puerto Plata to be exported. These landed proprietors, large and small, without an



exception, to our knowledge, are the strongest adherents and advocates of annexation.

They are sufficiently well acquainted with the character of the Americans and the spirit of their government to feel assured that annexation will bring with it not only peace and order, but other attendant advantages, such as immigration and capital for the development of the country. Those whose interests do not lead them to support annexation for its intrinsic advantages favor it because it is a government measure, and whatever opposition there may be in the province springs from the same cause, and not from any opposition or antagonism to the United States. There seemed to be a lack of confidence in the stability of their own government, and a general confession of a want of unity among the people, which, with the numerical superiority of the Haytians, might, in the future, lead to disastrous results.

While a feeling of antagonism naturally exists between Santo Domingo and Hayti, there is no evidence that fear of subjugation is the principal cause of the desire of the Dominicans for annexation to the United States. They desire permanent peace, which they believe will result from the protection of a powerful state, and point with pride to the long list of overwhelming defeats which they have inflicted upon the Haytians to prove that they have no reason to fear them.

As we advanced to the north we saw greater evidences of industry and activity. The country around Mocha is renowned for its coffee and tobacco, which are exported in large quantities.

In 1870 two million pounds of tobacco and five hundred thousand pounds of coffee were exported. It is also a section which, from its proximity to Santiago and the coast, has suffered greatly from invasion as well as from civil war. But, in spite of all its reverses, the town is steadily growing, the country is being cleared, and the people appear industrious and intelligent.

It is but natural that an agricultural population, whose means are drawn from the soil, should desire intensely to be secured from pillage and invasion. There is, at this moment, a general state of discouragement; no one cares to enlarge his plantation, or sow larger crops, for his house and fields may be burned next month in some revolutionary outbreak; or if his crops come to maturity there will be no one to gather them, for most of the able-bodied men are in the army, and liable, at a moment's notice, to be called away to the frontier.

These are briefly the reasons given by the people for desiring annexation. They are essentially an agricultural people, and desire to connect themselves with a great nation, who will protect them from foreign enemies and insure internal tranquillity.

Santiago de los Caballeros is, after Puerto Plata, the most important town in Santo Domingo. It is a city of merchants who rule the inferior merchants of the interior, and are in turn ruled by the foreign houses of Puerto Plata and St. Thomas.

It was more difficult to arrive at the political opinions of Santiago than it had been elsewhere. The outspoken frankness of the farmer gave way to the cautious circumspection of the merchant, whose interests are mostly outside of his own country, and who fears competition from capitalists.

It is undoubtedly true that there is an opposition in Santiago, (town and province,) which it is unnecessary to explain by the influence of foreign merchants, and which really is but one of the results of the incorporation with Spain. They fear that if annexation takes place the Americans may be unwise in the manner in which they carry it out,



as the Spaniards were, and that a revolution or other troubles may result, from which they would be the first to suffer.

It was afterward found that the same feeling existed to a greater extent in Puerto Plata. All acknowledge that annexation would improve the country by giving it peace and tranquillity, that business would increase and all prosper. I believe the large majority of the inhabitants of Santiago desire annexation, certainly those do who are possessed of some degree of education. The lower classes have been prejudiced against the United States ever since the time of the Haytian rule in 1822-'42, and the blacks have been told that in the event of annexation they would be sold into slavery. I do not think, however, that these classes are large or influential.

There is also in Santiago considerable opposition to the existing government, an opposition not growing out of the annexation policy, but on account of its domestic policy, management of the national revenues, &c. This opposition, however, is to a great extent favorable to annexation, regarding it as a means to rid themselves of what they consider a bad and inefficient government.

The sentiments expressed by the people of Santiago are heard in Puerto Plata, a flourishing sea-port, with an extensive foreign trade, principally with Hamburg. I learned from persons of reliability that there was considerable opposition in the northern part of the island to the idea of annexation, arising partly from the unpopularity of the present government, and partly from a strong feeling of nationality and desire for self-government.

I would add that those holding these views were persons of education, who had no prejudice against the United States, but who did not think that this was the right time or way to effect annexation. All those who were in any way opposed to annexation were in favor of leasing the peninsula of Samana, and stated their belief that an American colony there would convert the whole island to annexation in five years, so that the people would unanimously demand it.

As regards the social condition of the Dominicans, I would say that they possess an amount of education and culture very remarkable, when one considers the unsettled condition of the country, and the almost total lack of means of education. The impoverished condition of the government prevents anything being done for a system of public education, and although appropriations have been made for that purpose they have never been paid, so that the entire subject of education is left to the respective towns, and regulated by the ayuntamientos or councils.

These communal schools are primary, but French and English are taught to some extent in nearly all of them. Some slight provision is made for free instruction in these schools. The town council pays forty dollars monthly for their support, and has twenty-five free scholarships, which are given to the most deserving poor children; the other pupils pay according to their ability, from one to two or three dollars monthly.

There is one and sometimes two such schools in each town, attended by an average of thirty pupils, who showed in their recitations and exercises a very creditable degree of proficiency, and great natural aptitude for study.

Besides these schools, which are attended only by boys, there are a number of private schools for girls, with about the same course of instruction as the others.

Although the opportunities for education are so limited, the people are in general very intelligent and well informed.



The people are extremely religious, especially in the country; the children are carefully educated in religious matters at home, and a compendium of their faith is taught in all the schools.

There was no opportunity for ascertaining whether the inhabitants of the interior are tolerant or not, for although there are Protestants in Santiago their number is small and they have no church.

In Puerto Plata, however, there is a Methodist church, and the best possible feeling exists between the two denominations.

The educated are tolerant, and the various priests expressed their belief that there would not be the slightest trouble in religious matters if the Dominicans were allowed the free exercise of their own faith.

The marriage rite is very generally respected, except, perhaps, among the lowest classes, who claim that they cannot afford the fees demanded for the due celebration of marriage by the priest, a sum variously stated at from eight to sixteen dollars. But there is a distinct recognition by society of the immorality of this course.

There is everywhere great regard for the external proprieties of life, cleanliness of person, and neatness of dress. I was in one of the largest towns of the republic during the carnival season, when masking and public balls are universal, but saw nothing contrary to decency or morality, and hardly a case of intoxication. The same is true of the celebration of the 27th of February, the anniversary of national independence, at Puerto Plata. I did not see a single beggar during the entire journey. This may be attributed to the few wants of a tropical country, and the ease with which those wants are satisfied; but it is also due to that pride which they have inherited from their Spanish ancestors. The people of the interior are distinguished for their mildness and courteous manners. I never saw a child struck or spoken harshly to. Nor is their politeness reserved for strangers, but marks their every-day intercourse with each other.

The most striking proof of the pacific character of the people is to be found in the fact that notwithstanding the unsettled condition of the country for so many years, its internal dissensions and wars with foreign powers, it is still possible for a stranger to travel anywhere in the republic unarmed and without danger. Although the nature of our mission was very generally known, not the slightest insult or uncivil treatment was offered to any of us. Another striking proof of this disposition is that in spite of the national dislike of Hayti there are at this moment many hundreds of Haytians living quietly and pursuing undisturbed their avocations in the Dominican territory. The same is true of the Spaniards. Many soldiers even remained in the country, and at the present day some of the most prosperous merchants of Santiago belong to a nation which caused the destruction of that place only six years ago.

The universal testimony in the interior and north in regard to the incorporation of Santo Domingo with the Spanish monarchy was that the measure was in no sense a popular one, but originated by General Santana for the solution of the difficulties in which his government found itself. It was never submitted to a vote of the people. The governors of the different provinces were requested to inform the people of it, which they seem to have done in a very insufficient manner, leading them to believe that a protectorate, and not incorporation, was intended by the government. When the truth was learned the people seem to have acquiesced from their great desire for peace, and received the Spaniards in a very friendly manner. The country was immediately occupied by a large military force, incompetent and arrogant officials were sent from Spain, new laws were introduced, and old Dominican customs attacked.





This was especially the case at Santiago, where the tyranny of General Buseta was unendurable; and when the Dominicans saw the honor of their wives and daughters assailed they rose and drove the Spaniards from the country.

In conclusion I would present the following as the condensed result of my journey:

1. The people of the interior are very superior to those on the coast. They are intelligent, well-informed, and some attention is paid to education, although but a small proportion can read or write.

2. They are extremely religious, and of a mild, peaceable character. Crime and drunkenness are almost unknown, and honesty is universal. Immorality does not exist to any greater extent than among the uneducated of any land.

3. The large majority of the people are unquestionably in favor of annexation to the United States.

Respectfully submitted.

T. F. CRANE.

KINGSTON, JAMAICA, *March 15, 1871.*

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**XXI.—NOTES ON THAT PART OF THE NORTH COAST OF ISLE OF SANTO DOMINGO WHICH LIES BETWEEN CAPE CABRON AND PUERTO PLATA, A DISTANCE, FOLLOWING THE CONTOUR OF THE COAST, OF ABOUT TWO HUNDRED MILES.**

BY H. A. WARD.

The mountain range which forms the peninsula of Samana attains its greatest elevation near the northern coast, some of its highest peaks, *e. g.*, the Pilon d'Azucar, 1,936 feet high, rising almost immediately from the sea-line. The shore-line, as we go west from Cape Cabron, is bounded by abrupt hills, rising from the water's edge, and wooded heavily from the base to the summit. The proximity of these hills is such that there is no arable land on this shore, and it is only at the mouths of the little mountain streams, the San Juan and the Limon, that there are a few native habitations. The shore is, moreover, lined with coral reefs, which at certain points rise above water and form cayos, or low, sandy islands, of a few acres in area. Such are Las Canas, Limon, and Las Ballaenas, the latter a group of five small isles about one mile from the shore.

There is no harbor along this coast from Cape Cabron for 45 miles westward. Here is Puerta Yaquesson, (Port Jackson,) and beyond it a large bay—Jackson's Bay—with a coral reef stretched nearly across the entrance, but with quiet, deep water and a sandy beach within. Jackson's Bay is much frequented by small fishing vessels, which, in the season, catch the green turtle on the cays and beach, and also occasionally take the blackfish, (grampus,) which visits the waters of this point alone of the Santo Domingo coast. At this point the mountain range of the Samana peninsula terminates, its western end descending abruptly to a valley of low, swampy land, which is ten or twelve miles in width, and extends southward until it joins and merges with the delta of the Yuna River. In this valley lies the Gran Estero, a channel or series of natural canals which here cross from the river northward to the sea, and cause the peninsula of Samana to be, in fact, an island. There are several channels by which the water flows through into the sea. One



of these, opposite Jackson Cay, is called Las Canitas; another is Limon; another, six miles to the west, is Caño Colorado. We entered this latter at low tide, with about three feet of water on the bar. When about 100 yards inside, we met the junction of two streams, each about 150 feet wide, which approached in an abruptly converging angle. We ascended the left-hand one of these for a distance of five or six miles. Its only borders were mangrove bushes, which grew directly out of the reddish-black, brackish water. The channel grew gradually narrower as we proceeded, but retained a pretty constant depth of about ten feet, and attained a slight current. The mangroves at length so encroached on either side as to often quite overhang the canal and render the passage for our boat extremely difficult. The water here was nearly fresh, and flowed with some current from the direction of the Yuna, from which river it doubtless comes. From the point which we reached we could look eastward into the basin of Samana Bay, and a few miles more would have taken us quite through.

We returned convinced that this Gran Estero passage, which was much traversed by small vessels a century ago, can again be cleared with small expense and labor, and a most important avenue be opened for supplies and commerce from the north shore to the head of Samana Bay. From the mouths of Gran Estero the coast curves abruptly around to the northwest, with a low, sandy shore and low land in the interior beyond. Six miles up the shore we came to Matanzas, a small village of thirty houses. Here is a small harbor which was formerly much frequented by coasting vessels, but its entrance is now checked by sand, and its commerce quite at an end.

The inhabitants hold little communication with other points, and subsist on the productions of their small fields and the fish from the sea. In the month of May the turtle come on shore in great numbers to lay their eggs, and are caught for flesh and shell.

There is a low stockade fort upon the shore at Matanzas, with one old cannon pointing seaward, rusted and rotted with its carriage into an immovable position. A comandante and a dozen soldiers, from the city of Macoris, form the police of the village and of the surrounding country. There is no church nor school here, nor have there been any for twenty years past. The priest of Samana visits them once a year in the fishing season, and exchanges spiritual consolation for tortoise shell and guava preserves, which his peons carry home for him. We met here a pleasant doctor, Signor Martinez, who inhabits the only house in town which has a board floor. He fled from Puerto Plata to escape the frequent political revolutions, but complains that the constant good health of the 200 inhabitants of Matanzas leaves him with little to do. He earnestly desires the annexation of the island to the United States. So also does Señor Tomas Rodriguez, who is here temporarily with a small assortment of goods—the only store in town. He talks eloquently on the subject of the frequent revolutions on the island, which he attributes in part to the inefficiency of the government, and in part to the opportunities for plunder which these occasions offer. His commercial houses in Puerto Plata, Santiago, and Santo Domingo were utterly destroyed by fire in the last Spanish revolution, and he declares his and his associate's loss at \$300,000. He expresses himself as greatly fearing the months which will intervene between the departure of our "commission" and the final decision of the question of annexation. He says that this interval will be employed by Cabral, and by emissaries of the Haytian government, in stirring up insurrection throughout the island, and in seeking to teach the people distrust of the



American nation. If the project of annexation fails, he purposes leaving the island forever.

There are three roads, or bridle-paths, from Matanzas. One leads to the southeast, in three days, along the shore and over the mountains to Samana; one, west, across a hilly country to Macoris, a two days' ride, and one along the shore northward, in one day, to Tres Amaras. The two former roads do not at present average one passenger per day, and he must ply his machete vigorously on the rapidly encroaching vines which overhang his path. The hills west of the Matanzas lie far in the interior, and the land between them and the sea appears to be low and heavily timbered, with many palms.

In proceeding northward along the shore we crossed, in a distance of about sixteen miles, the mouths of four rivers; the Nagua, Boba, Sajon, and Salado. These are all of moderate size, but the bar of sand across the mouth of each sets back the water in a sort of lagoon, extending far up into the interior. I ascended two of these rivers for a few miles, but found little of interest in a practical way. The immediate coast seems in this region to be the only inhabited part of the country. At the mouth of each of the rivers is stationed a canoe to ferry passengers. The horses swim across, while vigorous shouts of their masters and blows in the water drive away the sharks. We pass many very neat, thrifty plantations as we travel north along the shore, with many fenced fields of plantain and of Indian corn, partly shaded by groves of coconut—palm, and the palma real.

This latter tree is of the utmost service to the natives, who use nearly every part of it for home or field purposes. The lower, more solid portion of the trunk furnishes posts for the four corners of the house, while the outer rind of the upper part splits readily into thin boards, which serve as clapboards to ceil the walls. Shorter sections of the trunk serve, when placed on end, as stools or as mortars, and other sections laid down horizontally are hollowed out for bread-bowls, pig-troughs, or cradles, one or all, as the necessities of the family may require. The leaves of the tree are used for thatch, particularly the lower part, which spreads out in a sheet ten or twelve inches wide and five feet long, and of the consistency of a thick pasteboard, very tough and flexible. This leaf serves entire for a shingle, a shutter, a mat, or a saddle-cloth; is held over the head as an umbrella, folded into a basket, or twisted into a bag. Cut into strips, it forms the cord for all packages, the tether for domestic animals, the line for catching fish, and the wick for the household lamp. Finally, the fruit of the tree is eaten by the cattle and the rejected seed by the pigs. A grove or cluster of the palma real is thus an essential adjunct to every house; and use and beauty were never more charmingly blended than in this noble tree.

Sixteen miles north from Matanzas we cross the Rio Salado, wading our horses out to sea to get the shallow water on the bar. The hills to the west, which have been quite blue in the distance, now send a low range eastward, which runs quite out into the sea, forming several bold capes. One of these, which we first meet, is Punta Savauella, and the second, ten miles beyond, is Cape Frances Viejo, which is the landfall of most ships approaching the island from the northeast. This range is of coralline limestone; a very modern rock, in which the individual coral stocks show plainly in the now consolidated sand. This rock decomposes easily, and is much affected by all aqueous agencies. The waves of the sea have worn the shore cliffs with deep erosion, channeling profound furrows, and leaving fantastic, projecting masses, bristling with sharp points.



Traveling along such a shore is quite impossible for the barefooted men and unshod horses. So our path leaves the sea and passes through the woods; still north and parallel to the shore. The way is in part level and in part hilly, and is often rendered very difficult and tedious by the masses of sharp, broken coral which lie very thickly sprinkled over the surface, half buried in the black vegetable soil. There have been two distinct upheavals along this north coast, one which has formed cliffs now from one to ten miles inland, and one which has determined the present shore-line.

These inland cliffs rise in many places in a white wall 200 to 400 feet in height, its top crowned with the great forest trees which clothe the plateau beyond.

The sides of this cliff, and of many smaller rock masses which stand as outposts in the forests beyond the main line, are very cavernous, and the thousand visible cavities are surrounded by wild bees which have here established their hives. These latter are visited by the natives, who twine ladders of vines and bamboos and thus gather the honey and wax. The wax is poured in a melted state into palm leaves, making cakes of about 40 pounds each. Several hundred of these cakes are annually exported from this neighborhood.

Near Cape Frances Viejo is the small settlement of Tres Amaras, a cluster of about twenty farm-houses, with highly cultivated land around them. Here we saw fine fields of Indian corn and plantations of plantains, sweet potatoes, yams, and melons; with the orange tree, cocoa-nut, bread-fruit and palma real sprinkled pleasingly among them. I stopped at the house of Señor Ramona Acosta, who received me with much hospitality, and showed me with pride the improvements on his farm. He had lately been clearing a square tract of about twenty acres, and had surrounded it with a fence of upright stakes, planted in the ground below and bound tightly together by withes above. These fences are for a time very effective, but they require frequent renewing, as the soft wood decays very fast. In this neighborhood hedges of aloes are planted by the side of the fence, and when the latter fails they are so advanced and firmly knit together as to take its place.

Almost the entire labor of the Dominican farmer appears to be expended in the original preparation of the land, by cutting down and burning the forest trees and undergrowth. This is usually a work of two or even three years, the natural decay of the wood being made available in disposing of the larger trunks. In the mean time a crop of tobacco is planted, and flourishes luxuriantly in the loose, ashy soil. When the subsequent planting of the plaintain, cocoa, or other stocks has been accomplished, all further care seems to be at an end, and the crop looks out for itself and yields its fruits from year to year. Fields which have been seeded down to grass acquire a strong turf, which resists the encroachments of weeds, and forms a fair quality of pasture-ground. There are no savannas in this part of the island, and consequently few cattle or flocks. Each farmer has one or two horses, which browse here and there, and are fed, when extra food is required, on the leaves of the ramon, a low shrubby tree which is cultivated for this purpose. But the general paucity of cattle and horses is fully compensated by the multitudes of hogs. These run through the woods by thousands, feeding on the fruits, nuts, pods, melons and gourds, and scavenging along the shore for crabs, shells, and other marine food left by the retreating tides. These hogs are branded when young and



turned loose, never to be cared for again until shot or caught by the dogs of the owner to supply meat to his family.

From Tres Amaras the road leads west across a wooded plateau of coral rock in which frequent small streams had cut deep beds, and present an occasional waterfall of twenty or thirty feet in height. About fifteen miles west of Tres Amaras the path strikes the Rio San Juan, and crosses it three times in the course of as many miles. In its bed are pebbles of quartz, porphyry, and slate, which have come from the central parts of the mountain chain to the southward. On the San Juan—some twelve miles from its mouth—is the little settlement of Cacao, so called from the cocoa tree (*Theobroma cacao*,) which is here cultivated to a considerable extent. The product is made into thin cakes, about two inches square, and sold in the market of Puerto Plata. In the preparation of this chocolate—as in that of the coffee, tobacco, sugar, wax, &c.—the Dominicans are singularly careless. And thus it results that these products command a less price in foreign markets than is paid for the same coming from Puerto Rico, Cuba, or other islands. When speaking on this point to Señor Dejana, owner of a plantation near Cacao, he admitted the fact, but said that for himself he dared not invest in utensils and machinery which would be broken by the first insurgents who came along. He would obtain these and enter upon a course of more scientific agriculture if annexation to the United States, which he fervently desired, should take place.

Turning northwest from Cacao, the road gradually descends toward the coast, which it strikes six or eight miles distant at the mouth of the Rio Tapica. This river is here about 100 feet wide. On its upper waters grow forests of mahogany, which is cut and squared in the woods, dragged by oxen to the river, and floated down to the mouth. Here it is accumulated in large rafts or groups of logs chained together, each lot belonging to a different owner, and marked with his brand. Several thousand of these logs now lie in the still water of the river within the bar. A party of eight naked natives were employed in taking them by sea, swimming with a log each through the surf, to a point three miles west. Here is a small bay, and a wagon-road—the only one which I have seen on the island—extends from it for about four miles through the woods to La Goleta. Here is a small land-locked bay, with water so deep that small vessels anchor close to its sandy beach and load with mahogany, which the carts have brought there or which has been floated from the mouths of numerous small rivers on this part of the coast. Four vessels now lie here loading for the ports of New York and Boston.

From La Goleta the path lies mainly along a sandy beach for a distance of twenty miles to Puerto Plata. The country here is level for many miles back from the sea, and there are by the way a number of fine cleared plantations, the property of American and German colonists who have been attracted by the fertility of the soil and the trade in mahogany. The portion of the coast passed over by me between Tres Amaras and the mouth of the Tapica is so hilly that hardly more than one-fifth of it can be brought under the plow. But nearly all of it may be cultivated with the hoe after the native style. From La Goleta to Puerto Plata the country is all arable, and, as before stated, is very fertile.

In closing my brief report of the country which I have passed over, I would particularly attest to the friendly disposition of the inhabitants. They were ever ready to welcome me to their houses, and to serve my wants of every kind, so far as possible. They are an humble, unsophis-





ticated peasantry, whose information extends little beyond their immediate neighborhood. They seem to have little disposition to carry on extensive trade, or to realize all that is possible from their farms and herds. Indeed, the bar which is placed on all agricultural transactions by the utter absence of roads for the transportation of their produce is such as to induce a lack of enterprise approaching a state of apathy. With a soil fertile beyond all description, and a countless number of fruits, grains, and woods growing wild, and appealing, as it were, for cultivation, the exertions of the Dominican farmer are mainly restricted to the growth of such of these as subserve the daily use of himself and family. From this, together with the sparseness of the population, it results that in the entire Dominican portion of the island there is probably not one per cent. of the land under cultivation which there might be.

In my intercourse with the people in this and in other portions of the island, I took some pains to obtain from them a full expression of their views on the subject of annexation to the United States. There is but one opinion held among them, and this is usually expressed in the fullest and most unequivocal manner: "We desire to belong to the United States; to be a part of that great nation." "We are waiting very anxiously to know how this question will be decided." Many reasons are given for this desire, but none so frequently as the cessation of civil discord, which they expect to follow in the immediate wake of annexation. The farmers all say that they care not to produce crops which they may be robbed of by the marauding soldiers of some insurgent faction, or to introduce upon their farms improvements which will be burned or destroyed by these parties. They are all waiting anxiously for annexation and a firm government, which, to them, means peace and material prosperity.

Very respectfully, &c.,

HENRY A. WARD.

PUERTO PLATA, *March 4, 1871.*

## XXII.—REPORT UPON THE VALLEY OF THE RIVER YAQUE,

AS IT APPEARS FROM THE ROUTE TRAVERSED BY MESSRS. BLACKWELL AND HAZARD, FROM SANTIAGO DE LOS CABALLEROS TO MONTE CHRISTI, MARCH 3, 4, AND 5, 1871.

### *To the American Commission of Inquiry in Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with the instructions from Mr. Commissioner White, we left Santiago on horseback, accompanied by a servant with baggage, &c., at 1 p. m. on the 3d of March, 1871, to report upon the character and agricultural capabilities of the Yaque Valley.

The river Yaque rises in the great central mountain chain of Santo Domingo, known as the Cibao. It receives a number of tributary streams which drain fertile valleys, and flows in a northerly course until it reaches Santiago. The Cibao range is largely composed of crystalline rocks, and is evidently of an older formation than the coast range, which forms the opposite boundary of the plain or valley through which the Yaque flows westerly from Santiago to the sea. The height of the coast range varies from 2,500 to 1,000 feet, diminishing in height as it approaches Monte Christi. Near Santiago it is largely composed of limestone, but as it approaches the sea, of sandstone and shale.

For the first eight miles after leaving Santiago we followed the north bank of the river to a ford just below the mouth of a small stream



which flows from the coast range and enters the Yaque from the north. Our course lay through the valley and over the foot-hills. The alluvial lands were rich, the ridges fertile but stony, both covered with forest; the aspect of the country parched, but tobacco luxuriant. At the crossing the Yaque was more than 100 yards wide; it flowed over a pebbly bottom, very swift and clear, and about girth-deep to our horses.

On the south bank we rode seven miles through alluvial lands, and then ascended a low bluff of gravel and clay to the general level of the plain, at a point called Platenay. Up to this point houses and small clearings were frequent, and the fields of tobacco were luxuriant, though very imperfectly cultivated.

But on reaching the plateau, through gullies washed by rain, exposing beds of gravel and clay, the vegetation suddenly changed. Numerous varieties of cactus covered the parched ground. The espartago, with its thorny stem and flat, fleshy leaves, grew thirty feet high. These leaves, and those of some other varieties of cactus, are eaten by cattle, goats, sheep, and hogs. The cayuco negro, with its long, branching, upright spines, grew everywhere; also the cayuco blanco, a smaller variety. The glutinous flesh of this plant is used instead of okra to thicken soup. The ground was in some places bare of grass and baked like an adobe brick. In other spots the grass was yellow and sparse. Many trees were leafless. The aloe, or maguey, appeared with a flower-stem fifteen feet high, crowned with clusters of orange-colored blossoms. The air was sweet with the fragrance of a tree which exudes a species of gum. Several species of acacia were numerous; also trees called by the inhabitants cocarache, baitoa, &c.

Passing over this singularly dry and uninviting region, we observed heavy showers of rain falling upon the southern slopes of the coast range of mountains, which bounded the valley upon the north. Ten miles farther west we crossed a dry branch of the Amina River, near its confluence with the Yaque, and stopped over night at a house on its bank. Here we were kindly received by an intelligent family formerly resident in Santiago. The palm house contained three rooms as usual, the middle one being used as entry and living room, the side ones as sleeping apartments. It is the custom of travelers to eat their meals, store their baggage, and swing their hammocks in the central apartment. The cooking is invariably done in a separate building near by. These people lived by raising cattle. On the partition wall, constructed of palm slats, was posted an illustrated page of Harper's Weekly, containing portraits of distinguished men. The place is named Guiamagao. While waiting for our baggage to come up, we conversed with the family. They said that the soil and climate are too dry to raise anything but maize, tobacco, and cattle; that no rain falls for many months at a time in this plain; that the sugar-cane and sweet orange cannot be raised except upon the alluvial lands on the margin of the river. Yet they prefer the locality to the moister and more luxuriant localities. They describe the climate as singularly healthy, and the nights as always cool.

Next morning our servant purchased a handsome burro, or jackass, for which he paid \$24 in American gold. One mile farther west we crossed the Amina, a clear, rapid stream; thence, five miles beyond, after passing several dry beds of streams, we reached the Mao, a considerable river, likewise flowing from the southern mountains and emptying into the Yaque. There are fine alluvial lands upon the banks of these streams, especially on the Mao. In the alluvial gravel of the latter stream gold has been found. We were shown a specimen brought into Santiago by Mr. Spear: flat flakes of rusty gold obtained by washing in



a pan. Near the banks of the Mao we saw an enormous higo tree, with twelve huge buttresses projecting from its trunk. Some idea of its size may be had from the fact that a large tree of the same species was growing within one of these buttresses, which extended their long roots for over forty feet upon the surface of the ground.

Ascending again through deep, crumbling gullies of gravel and clay to the level of the plain, we passed through a similar dry region covered with cactus, &c., and reached the pueblo or village of Santa Cruz de Mao, a collection of about twenty palm houses, and the dwellings of stock-farmers, whose cattle graze in this wilderness and in occasional small savannas. Here we took a wrong road, and traveled seven miles along the alluvial bottom lands of the river, which contain numerous small settlements. Retracing our steps, we were guided to the camino real, a wide, level road which runs farther back from the river, over higher ground, through a dry country covered with a forest of cactus, gum guaiacum, and divi-divi, interspersed with small savannas. There were ridges and small hills also, covered with quartz pebbles and fragments of metamorphic rock, which were apparently incapable of cultivation and destitute of inhabitants.

At 2.30 p. m. we reached the Gurabo River. It was almost dry, and ran through bottom-lands with stunted trees and a sandy soil. Large numbers of cattle were gathered here, attracted by the water. In spite of the drought, they were fat and sleek. After crossing the Gurabo the soil began to improve. We passed occasional ridges of sandstone and of limestone. There were numerous tamarind trees and abundance of divi-divi, &c.; but the country seemed uninhabited. At 8 p. m., after a long, hard ride, we reached the banks of the Yaque, a mile above Guayabin. We found it a deep, swift river, flowing beneath bluff banks 25 feet high. The ferryman, who lived upon the opposite bank, regarded our calls with profound indifference. After an hour's delay we succeeded in crossing the river in a canoe by moonlight, swimming our horses. On the opposite bank we found a party of soldiers guarding the ferry. Half a mile lower down we entered the pueblo of Guayabin.

Inquiring for General Frederico Garcia, to whom we carried an official letter from General Carceres, governor of Santiago, we were directed to the house of his brother, which appeared to be a sort of hotel, one-half of it being used as a sleeping apartment, the other half occupied by a billiard table and faro bank. About thirty men were gathered here, and seemed to be enjoying the game. Some difficulty and delay occurred in finding the general. During the search, we were presented with a curious native punch, consisting of milk, eggs, nutmeg, and rum, which, happily for us, answered the purpose of meat and drink. The general at length appeared, accompanied by several of the principal men of the place. He was profuse in his compliments, and regretted that the poverty of the town prevented him from offering us greater hospitalities. He says that the valley is capable of raising all tropical products in great abundance by means of artificial irrigation, which can be readily obtained, but that without this the soil and climate are too dry. In Guayabin we found a number of Dominicans, formerly resident upon the frontier of Hayti, on the banks of the river Dajabon. In consequence of the guerrilla warfare waged by Luperon and Pimentel, Dominican exiles, sustained by Haytian marauders, these people have been compelled to abandon their homes, and withdraw within the Dominican lines. Here, too, we met an American, Mr. Frank Mitchell, of Boston, who was traveling in company with an interpreter from Puerto Plata.



Next morning, after we had breakfasted on coffee, and bread swarming with ants, General Garcia sent a dragoon as our escort and guide to Monte Cristi. We rode eleven miles through a dry but fertile region near the banks of the river, and through a parched and almost barren region of cactus, &c., farther back, to the house of the general's father, Don Ambrosio Garcia, a man of note as a wealthy stock-farmer and extensive land-owner. His house, built of frame and thatched with grass, stands upon a little hill commanding a fine view of the valley and mountain ranges that bound it. In spite of the extreme purity of the air and delightful breeze, this country seemed to us almost a desert. Yet there was a garden attached to the house on some adjoining low-land, containing kidney-beans, peas, tomatoes, maize, limes, squashes, bitter oranges, tree-cotton, and a great variety of vegetables and fruits. The testimony of this intelligent and reliable gentleman, Señor Garcia, in regard to the valley of the Yaqui, is briefly as follows: It consists of a fertile strip of alluvial lands adjoining the river, thence a high, rolling plain extending on both sides to the base of the mountains—the lower portions of this rolling plain capable of irrigation, and with irrigation capable of producing every species of tropical vegetation, especially sugar-cane, but without irrigation yielding only maize and tobacco. The southern slope of the northern range of hills is generally dry and barren for about fifty miles from Monte Cristi. But the northern slope of the southern range of hills is fertile. The country extending from Manzanilla Bay to Savanata and thence to San José de las Matas is exceedingly rich and productive, containing savannas and fine timber, well watered with living streams and abundance of rain. The dry lands of the Yaqui Valley are especially valuable for cotton. Coffee and cacao cannot be profitably raised upon them; nor can sugar-cane, unless the soil is irrigated. It commonly rains during the months of April, May, June, and July. Then all is green and bright, with grass growing up the now parched hillsides to the very doors of his house. August and September are hot and dry. During October, November, and December, there are frequent northers, occasional rains, and an atmosphere much cooler than at present. February and March are always dry and hot, as we fully experienced. But during the whole year the nights are cool and the roads are always good. The country is extremely and exceptionally healthy. Cattle, goats, sheep, and hogs fatten during the dry season on certain species of cactus. Horses, mules, and asses do not eat it.

At 8 p. m. we reached Monte Cristi. The immediate vicinity is parched and barren; but it has a fine harbor, an excellent site for a city, and a beautiful climate. In consequence of a change in the bed of the river, there is no good water within several miles of the town, but it is estimated that the river can be restored to its ancient bed at small cost by cutting a canal; some say for the sum of three thousand dollars. As a general rule, the country lying south of the Yaqui River, and distant from it some ten to twenty miles, is considered equal in soil and climate to the very finest portions of the island.

To those who have visited the sugar-plantations of Jamaica and other dry lands fertilized by irrigation, the dry region of the Yaqui Valley will be estimated as possessing agricultural capabilities of a high order. The river affords an unfailing and abundant supply of water for this purpose, and the development of wealth and population is only a question of time. The character of the country is peculiarly favorable for the construction of railroads at a moderate expense, from Manzanilla or Monte Cristi to the interior.



The above is submitted as the result of the investigations of the detachment acting under your instructions, composed of  
Your obedient servants,

HENRY B. BLACKWELL,  
SAMUEL HAZARD,  
*Late Brevet Major United States Volunteers.*

### XXIII.—PRELIMINARY REPORT UPON THE MINERAL RESOURCES OF SANTO DOMINGO.

*To the Honorable United States Commissioners to Santo Domingo :*

GENTLEMEN: The most important of the useful minerals of Santo Domingo, so far as I have been able to ascertain, are iron ore, gold, copper ores, lignite, salt, and petroleum.

#### IRON.

A brown ore of iron is very abundant over considerable areas in the interior, either in beds or lying in detached blocks upon the surface. It is the species known as limonite, but is combined with silicious sand and gravel, forming a solid cemented mass. Whether it has phosphorous or other hurtful impurities can only be ascertained by analysis or trial. There is an abundance of limestone for flux, and charcoal could be had at a moderate cost, but I doubt whether, even under favorable circumstances, pig-iron could be profitably produced there in competition with localities where a variety of ores can be obtained, and where skilled labor is abundant.

#### GOLD.

There is a very considerable extent of gold-bearing country in the interior, and gold is washed from the rivers at various points. It is found along the Jaina, upon the Verde, and upon the Yaqui and its tributaries, and doubtless upon the large rivers of the interior. Some portions of the gold field were worked anciently by the Spaniards and Indians. Details regarding these localities will be found in my report of the journey across the island. There are doubtless many gold deposits, not only along the beds of rivers but on the hills, which have never been worked; and there probably is considerable gold remaining among the old workings. The appearances of the soil and rocks are such as to justify the labor and expense of carefully prospecting the gold-region. The conditions for working are favorable. The supply of water for washing is unlimited, and sufficient fall or drainage can generally be had. The women in the interior obtain a small quantity of gold by washing the gravel in *bateas*, and it is said that there are two or three Americans in the mountains engaged in gold-washing, and that they occasionally visit one of the towns to buy provisions.

#### COPPER.

Ores of copper occur on the southern flank of the mountains between Azua and the river Jaina. Samples obtained by me are yellow copper ore of fair richness, and some samples are of the species known as variegated copper. The beds are said to compare favorably with similar deposits of ore in the foot-hills of the mountains in California. I was not able to visit the mines, but samples were obtained for assay.





## LIGNITE OR COAL.

The lignite deposits of the Samana Peninsula have already been made the subject of a special investigation and report. No evidences of the existence of older and true coal could be found.

## SALT.

The native salt in the mountains west of Neyba is widely known for the abundance and beauty of the crystalline masses it affords. The quantity is supposed to be inexhaustible, but as no member of the party was able to reach the locality it is impossible to give any facts regarding it from direct observation. A fine cubical block of this salt, weighing about ten pounds, was obtained by Judge Burton, secretary of the commission, at Azua. It is very clear and transparent, comparing with the ice-like masses from the salt mountain near the Great Colorado in Arizona; and it is so pure that it does not attract moisture and deliquesce like salt made from sea-water by solar evaporation. There is at Caldera Bay a *salinas* or natural salt pond of considerable extent, where salt is obtained from the sea-water by solar evaporation during the dry season. A large part of the salt used upon the island is obtained from this place, and the production might be very greatly increased. The quality of the salt is fair. This locality was specially examined by Mr. Marvine, and is described in detail in his report.

## PETROLEUM AND OTHER MINERALS.

Petroleum oozes from the ground in the vicinity of Azua, and one or two wells have been bored in search of a larger supply. Several barrels of it were obtained and shipped to Boston, but the results have not been such as to encourage a continuance of the work.

Other ores and minerals of value have been reported from time to time by travelers as existing in the mountains of the interior. I have no facts or observations to verify or disprove these reports. It is evident that there is a great region in the interior as yet but little explored, even by the Dominicans, and it would not be surprising if discoveries of new localities of gold, and perhaps of other metals and ores of value, should hereafter be made when the recesses of the mountains are penetrated by prospectors skilled in searching for mineral veins.

The foregoing is to be regarded as only a brief notice of such of the minerals of the island as were seen by myself or associates during our visit.

I deem it my duty to add that the impression produced upon me by what I have seen and heard of the mineral riches of Santo Domingo does not justify any enthusiastic expectation of wealth to the island from its mines. Its mineral wealth consists rather in its deep rich soils, well watered by rapidly flowing streams descending pure and limpid from the mountain-sides, available for power and for irrigation if need be. The atmosphere and meteorological conditions are also favorable to the growth in the highest degree of perfection of all useful tropical products.

In conclusion, I beg leave to direct your attention to the necessity of making some chemical examinations of the copper ores, the salt, the lignite, the iron ores, and the petroleum, and perhaps of some other useful minerals, when our collections, so rapidly made, shall be unpacked and properly classified and examined.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. P. BLAKE,

*Geologist and Mineralogist of the Commission.*

MARCH 23, 1871.

S. Ex. 9—10



## DOCUMENTS.

### I.—STATEMENT OF CITIZENS OF BANI.

[Translation.]

BANI, *February 25, 1871.*

DEAR SIR: I have the honor of sending you herewith the statement you were pleased to ask of what we mentioned during the visit we had the pleasure of paying you when you passed through our village. Be assured that it contains nothing but the truth.

With sentiments of the highest consideration, I remain your obedient servant,

U. GUERRERO.

Hon. SAMUEL G. HOWE, *Azua.*

The undersigned, as members of the town council of Bani, and under our word of honor as private citizens who have witnessed all political events in this country from 1844 to date, declare that the people of Bani were not consulted nor called upon to vote on the annexation to Spain, only a few citizens having been requested to sign the declaration or pronouncement, after the hoisting of the Spanish flag; which signature was refused by the citizens, Basilio Echavarría, Rudecindo Herrera, José A. Billini, and others among the most distinguished of the people. We likewise affirm that the Spanish flag, hoisted in this village on the 18th of March, 1861, had been sent by the commander of the war steamer Pizarro, anchored for a few days previous in the bay of Calderas, to the military commander of this commune during the night of the 17th, and that for several days before the annexation, and on that on which it was accomplished, the Spanish men-of-war Pizarro and Hernán Cortés were anchored in said bay and had been performing service by turns on said station.

In witness thereof the citizen, Basilio Echavarría, the only one of those above mentioned now actually living here, signs with us this declaration, which we give for the information of the Hon. Samuel G. Howe, member of the American commission, who asked it of us for purposes concerning his mission to this country.

BANI, *February 24, 1871.*

U. GUERRERO,  
*President of the Council.*  
ESTEVAN BILLINI,  
*Mayor.*  
LORENZO DIAZ,  
*Alcalde.*  
MANUEL M. SALDAÑA,  
*Secretary.*  
BASILIO ECHAVARRÍA.

### II.—NOTES CONCERNING THE RECENT HISTORY OF SANTO DOMINGO; WHICH, WITH THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS, WERE HANDED TO THE COMMISSION BY MR. SECRETARY GAUTIER.

[Translation.]

In the year 1849 General Baez was elected President of the republic by a great majority of the electoral colleges, and completed his constitutional term, which has been the most brilliant the country ever had. Public credit rose to a height unknown before or since. All debts were



paid, the value of paper money then in circulation was fixed, our arsenal furnished, the war material increased, our navy reënforced, scientific education, as well as primary and all other instruction, were brought to a higher standard. An army was organized sufficient to maintain order and uphold the principles of the republic, and the national treasury was filled with the money derived from our well-regulated customs. That was also a period of peace. Baez solicited and obtained from America, France, and Great Britain a joint mediation, and although the United States accepted it with certain reservations, it was realized with the other two powers and resulted in the pacification of the country.

General Baez then retired to private life; but Santana, fearing that the man who had governed better than himself might become his political rival, decreed his banishment, which General Baez suffered without any opposition whatever.

The administration of Santana was, as usual, disastrous and bloody. His bad policy rendered the mediation so ineffectual that the Haytians resumed their periodical invasions. Soulouque invaded the country, but was driven back.

The resources of the country were soon exhausted; the paper money fell into discredit, and Santana, being unable to stay the course of events and the current of public opinion, resigned, declaring that his government was a failure, and retired to his estate at Seybo. He did not, however, exhibit the disinterestedness of which General Baez had given him so eloquent an example, for, instead of abandoning his ambitious plans, he transported to his own province of Seibo three hundred quintals of gunpowder, eighteen cannons, and more than three thousand muskets. There he prepared new plans of revolution to violently seize power, though he had formally agreed that General Baez should be recalled to govern the country as President, according to the almost unanimous desire of the nation. Santana, the congress, and all the citizens interested in the coming of Baez, requested the diplomatic body to use their influence to obtain his acceptance. General Baez refused it at first, then hesitated, and more than one urgent appeal to his patriotism was necessary to induce him to return from his exile.

Once at the head of the public administration, and after having suppressed several attempts at insurrection, the foreign merchants residing in Cibao, abusing the credulity of the country people, whose produce they bought at great profit, organized a revolution against which the government fought for a whole year, and which would certainly have been suppressed but for the interference and scandalous coöperation of the English agent, Mr. Hood, who, violating every just principle, showed himself an open partisan and abettor of the revolution against the lawful government to which he was accredited.

Cabral fought at that time under the orders of Baez, and though he endeavored to remain in the country, he was at last, in 1858, compelled to leave, being unable to endure the persecutions to which he was exposed as a friend and partisan of General Baez.

While the latter was engaged in Europe on private affairs, the country was hastening into the abyss that ambition, ignorance, and the bankruptcy inevitably consequent had prepared.

Santana, impelled by the situation, struggled against the Haytians; but without influence, without resources, he threw himself into the arms of the cabinet at Madrid, which, without a previous examination of the country, without reliable information, without inquiry into the state of affairs, and not caring to know the character of Santana and the influ-



ence exerted by him, annexed the country to Spain, thus converting the republic into a wretched colony of a monarchy.

What the result of the annexation to Spain was is well known. The causes of its instability and failure must be the subject of a special report.

As soon as the province of Cibao rose against the Spanish rule, the chief that headed the Dominicans, General José A. Salcedo, wrote frequent letters to General Baez, then in Europe, advising him to come to the island, because the population counted on him to govern them as President. While this was going on in the northern provinces, Cabral in the south called the people, in the name of Baez, to rise, assuring them that the revolution against the Spaniards had no other object than the calling of Baez to govern the country; and he wrote to the latter in the same spirit as Salcedo, entreating him not to disappoint the hopes of the country. Santana, on his part, before effecting the annexation to Spain, and in order to facilitate that movement, had indirectly assured the people of Azua that it was for the same purpose.

Notwithstanding the urgent solicitations of the representative of the Dominican revolution in Cibao, and the letters of Cabral assuring Baez that all was done in reliance upon him, he never gave any answer nor consented to accept anything. He had not caused the annexation, nor did he mingle in the contest resulting from it; much less would he assume the moral responsibility of consenting to such deeds.

It is necessary to notice that Cabral, having returned to the country after the Spanish occupation, though he had declared himself against annexation, swore allegiance to the Spanish throne, offering both his sword and blood to the captain general. As the latter did not think he was in good faith, he sent him handcuffed to Puerto Rico, in company with Señor Damian Baez and thirty-three others, and then General Baez took the necessary steps with the queen to obtain their immediate liberation.

Cabral, after the abandonment of the island by the Spaniards, rose in the capital against the government of Pimentel, then acting President, and those who were aiding him made him assume the ridiculous title of "Protector." He succeeded easily in this insurrection, because Pimentel, in his quality of administrator, had done nothing but commit blunders, and, further, because Cabral himself had deceived the population, making them believe that his object was only the return of General Baez to power, thus profiting by the general aspiration of the republic. And as Cabral called himself, and was thought to be, a personal and political friend of General Baez, he was able without difficulty to maintain the deception for some time.

The population, however, began to understand very early, by certain acts of the supposed Protector, that they had been deceived; and several notable persons endeavored to make him understand the pernicious course upon which he had entered, and to what consequences such conduct might lead him.

General Pedro Guillermo, who had opposed the Spaniards, among other things, told him that they (himself and Cabral) were not men capable of governing; that they ought to leave the place for competent persons and attend to their rural pursuits.

Cabral did not listen to his old and true friends, but followed the advice of four or five scatter-brains who aspired to the direction of public affairs, but lacked merit to obtain their object under any other system than that of the Protector. Very soon the latter perceived that a country could not be governed by a title based on fraud, especially when public opinion was aware of it.

The men who had looked to General Baez before and after the war



against the Spaniards, and who composed the majority of the inhabitants of the country, watched the conduct of Cabral and, when they understood it fully, protested against it. The voice General Pedro Guillermo raised in the province of Seibo, proclaiming General Baez President of the republic, was answered in all the other provinces, without a single shot having been fired. General Pimentel also joined in the movement heartily.

Cabral himself, in the presence of such an imposing popular demonstration, joined it, and in order to palliate his previous conduct, desired to be a part of the commission which the national assembly and provisional government sent to Curaçoa, composed of fourteen citizens, to entreat General Baez to return to the country and accept the government. Cabral had already informed him beforehand of the will of the country. (See Documents A, B, C, D, pages 152, 153, 154.)

Upon the refusal of General Baez, Cabral insisted in the most pressing manner, assuring him that the least hesitation compromised the fate of the republic. After repeated entreaties General Baez consented to return; and when constructing his government his first care was to conciliate Cabral and Pimentel, appointing the former minister of war, and the latter minister of the interior. A short time afterward these two men, enemies and rivals though they were, united to conspire against President Baez. Cabral having gone to Curaçoa under pretext of having his eye-sight attended to, this was the signal for a movement on the frontier, Pimentel assisting him in the basest manner.

President Baez being unwilling to take any steps that might result in bloodshed, having done nothing himself toward his return to the country to which he had been recalled by the people, instead of having the treacherous Prime Minister Pimentel arrested, sent him to Cibao to learn the wishes of the population there, assuring them that, as he had returned in response to the call of a great majority, he was likewise disposed to yield to the wishes of the contrary minority. (See Document E, page 155.)

Pimentel, instead of doing so, spread the news that General Baez was ready to embark; and in consequence of this he was arrested in Moca and put in irons. Having escaped and being pursued by the immense party of Baez, he came and took refuge in this city, (Santo Domingo,) where the government allowed him, carrying out its determination of avoiding bloodshed. While the conspiracy fomented by Pimentel was going on in Cibao, Cabral embarked from Curaçoa for Hayti, entered the Dominican territory through the southwest frontiers, protected by the government of Geffrard. He reached San Juan, but was unable to proceed farther. President Baez, however, having determined to resign his office, sent to him General José del Carmen Reynoso, his friend, for the purpose of concerting an arrangement beneficial to the country, and to render civil war impossible. This last effort of President Baez was without result. (See Document F, page 155.)

Cabral came to the capital after Pimentel. His ancient friendship for Baez was sacrificed to the love of power. He is incapable of governing his own will, and continually yields to the suggestions of those who surround him in order to take advantage of him.

From that moment his march has been from blunder to crime, and from deceit to malevolence. President Baez, by sending General José del Carmen Reynoso, Cabral's intimate friend, to San Juan, had more over in view to have him advised to come to Santo Domingo, in order that he might be at the head of affairs before the embarkation of Baez, thinking thereby to give some guarantees to society. To such an ex-





treme did the indulgence of Baez reach, and thus he answered the unworthy conduct of that ambitious and unfaithful officer.

Cabral arrived at this capital, with the people that he had with much exertion collected on his way by assuring them that he was in accord with Baez, who had called him, he having to go to Europe. He deposed Pimentel, and commenced a system of persecutions as gratuitous as it was horrible. He approved all the orders of arrest which his minions desired, against worthy and inoffensive citizens; exiled a large number of them at different times; demanded the delivery of Generals Manuel A. Caceres and Telésforo Hernandez, and of Daniel Lajara, who had taken refuge in the British consulate, and whom the consul delivered without opposition; and when General Carlos Baez, brother of the President, arrived at this port on board the Dutch schooner *Anna Elizabeth*, deceived by the pilot of Cabral, who assured him that everything was quiet and his brother in power, notwithstanding the flag that should have protected him and his innocence, he was shut up in a dungeon of the *Torreón del Homenaje*, where he remained more than two years subject to an infernal treatment of exquisite torture.

Generals Salcedo, Mocion, and many others were subjected to the same treatment, after having been imprisoned by means of deception.

Then, in September, 1866, the supporters of Cabral assembled a mock convention, which decreed a new constitution for the republic; at the same time the President was elected by direct vote of the people. The result of this mode of election was that a great part of the electors voted for General Baez; but their votes, which might have been the majority, were annulled and falsely counted for Cabral. Such was the report of many who voted for General Baez, and did not see their votes mentioned in the returns. Having appointed his cabinet, Cabral, from the weakness of his character, became the mere plaything of his corrupt ministers. While they were distributing among themselves and their creatures the spoils of the public treasury, he traveled all over the republic like a courier, in compliance with their recommendations, the exclusive object of which was to keep him away from the center of the government as a convenient nullity docile to their caprices.

His stupid administration, or rather his misgovernment, provoked the revolution that, starting at Monte Christi, went on, proclaiming the name of Baez from province to province, from city to city, from village to village, to the utmost boundary of the republic. When this happened, and the whole country except the capital, which he held by force, uttered a cry of reprobation against those worst of rulers, Cabral and his government, in order to save themselves, conceived the idea of selling Samana to the United States, with the intention of distributing the money among themselves, and going abroad to enjoy the fruit of such a measure.

But Cabral, convinced that he had no influence whatever, if not of his own worthlessness, neither decreed a popular vote nor consulted the people, nor spoke the truth. He confined himself to laying the state of affairs before his congress, which in its turn rose against him, and when a committee was sent demanding of him to come and confer with that body, Cabral shut himself up in the fortress with his ministers and officers, and had the cannons loaded in order to subdue the legislative body and all citizens opposed to his views; and all were opposed, because they saw clearly that it was merely an expedient of the moment and only useful to his clique.

During Cabral's government society, properly called, was completely deranged. Weak and fearful, he invented the torment of the wheel;



and to secure his political prisoners, a torture, which consisted in chaining a group of men, the left foot of one being chained to the right foot of the other so that every movement was a pang, and any attempt to rest an agony. He exiled seven hundred persons, and had Generals Pedro Guillermo, Antonio Guzman, Manuel Rodriguez, and Jové Barriento, assassinated. When pressed by the armed population before the city, demanding its surrender in the victorious name of Baez, Cabral capitulated, but, conscious of his crimes, he embarked on the 31st January, 1868, accompanied by a number of his officers and partisans, who followed him into voluntary exile.

As soon as they set foot on foreign soil they began to give proofs of their restless condition, endeavoring to keep the country in a continual state of agitation, cooperating with the Haytians. The government of President Baez was compelled to defend society and take such measures as circumstances required.

However, for the sake of peace, yielding to moderation and recalling their former friendship and political union, General Baez resolved on sending an envoy to Cabral, then in St. Thomas, to ask him to accept the suggestion made by him to our consul in that island and return peacefully to the country he had forsaken. President Baez appointed as messenger young Marcos Cabral, nephew of General Cabral, and then in prison by order of the chiefs of the revolution, who had overthrown Cabral. He was set at liberty, and President Baez instructed him to tell his uncle "that all the past was forgotten; that if he would abandon his projects, he might return to his country and to the bosom of his friends, where he would be received with the same consideration which he enjoyed before he left their ranks." Young Cabral fulfilled faithfully his mission to his uncle, who pledged himself to return and abandon that life. He proposed to the government to land at a point contiguous to the southern frontier, with intention, he said, to oppose the treacherous plans of Luperon, who was promoting a war of caste. But as the consul said to him that it was not customary to appear in those deserts without going first to the government before which he should present himself, and as some of his former ministers and officers thought that on finding himself face to face with President Baez, Cabral would be quiet and only do the will of his benefactor, chief, and friend, they filled him with fears, excited his suspicions, and revived his hesitation, which is one of his most notable faults, so that after having promised to the consul and his nephew, he turned back.

A few days afterward he embarked for San Marcos, (Hayti,) and there, under the auspices of Nissage Saget, was reconciled with Luperon, and signed a compact to make war against Baez's administration.

From that time, March, 1869, Cabral adopted the life of a rebel, leading the hordes of robbers that have desolated our frontier towns, for the benefit of and supported by the Haytians. Whenever he dared to advance in his raids he has been beaten back by the government troops.

Cabral, unable to think for himself, or to take any resolution whatever, has only been efficient when under the shade of Baez and his friends. Once left to himself, he follows the inspirations of every one who wishes to use him. For this reason he became the lieutenant of Nissage Saget, whose interests he serves as a docile instrument, and to whose blind rage he recently made the horrible sacrifice of President Salnave and his companions in misfortune.

Such is Cabral, the man whom reports manufactured by Messrs. Hatch, Perry, and others like them, have represented as a man of great influence in this country; whereas, it is well understood he is a mere



incapable, without energy or the capacity of leading a body of civilized men; unable to perceive the consequences of his own acts, he has always tried to shift his responsibility on his minions and advisers. Never has the country legally elected him, and when he did hold power for a few months it was in consequence of surprise or treason.

As for Baez, the following circumstance perfectly explains his character: He has filled the presidency of the republic four several times, and with the exception of his first election, which took place in the quiet times in 1849, when he was elected by the electoral colleges without any struggle, on the other three occasions, in 1856, 1865, and 1868, he was abroad, where either his enemies in trouble or his victorious friends went to solicit his return. He never thought that power should be seized by arms, and always held it his duty, as an invariable principle, to consult and investigate the general will of his country.

Another fact of the highest importance confirms this assertion. After General Baez, in April, 1868, had been proclaimed president, all the people of the republic spontaneously and freely conferred on him the dictatorship as the means considered by them most effectual to give him entire liberty of action, without restraint of any kind, that he might save the republic. The ruling thought of the masses since then has been the annexation of this republic to the United States.

President Baez refused the dictatorship tendered to him by the sovereign national convention on the 18th of May of the same year, after having duly consulted the popular will. (See Documents G, H, I, J, pages 157, 158, 159.)

The reasons given by President Baez to the sovereign convention and the people agree with his uniform political principles, viz, the observance of constitutional restrictions in the administration. Deserving the confidence of the people and having nothing else in view but the general good, the acceptance of absolute and discretionary power might be misinterpreted, and might show want of faith in the acts of the government, it being more just and dignified that in a question so grave as annexation the people should decide upon their own destinies by ballot. Upon this question he consulted them freely, calling on them to assemble in their several localities for a general vote. The result showed that there was a perfect accord between the government and the governed.

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A.

*José M. Cabral to Buenaventura Baez.*

GOD, COUNTRY, LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL, GENERAL OF DIVISION OF THE DOMINICAN ARMIES AND PROTECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC.

CITIZEN: A general popular movement proclaims you President of the republic, without having fired a single shot in the whole country or committed any disorder whatever. You may count on the support of the swords of the meritorious generals Manzueta, Pimentel, Frederico Garcia, Adon, and Esterea. It would be superfluous to explain how your prudence is indispensable in this capital at a moment when the passions of some must be restrained, others directed in the way of order, and efficient provision made for the necessities of the country, whose situation demands the administrative action of a government full of skill



and prudence. I hope you will hasten your coming to this capital, entreating you to do so as soon as possible. Accept the testimony of my perfect consideration and friendship.

JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL.

SANTO DOMINGO, *November 1, 1865.*

To the Citizen General DON BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

B.

*Buenaventura Baez to José Maria Cabral.*

CITIZEN PROTECTOR: I had the satisfaction of receiving the official communication which you were pleased to address to me, dated 1st instant, in which you informed me that a general popular movement in the whole country calls me to the presidency of the republic; that this movement was effected without firing a single shot or committing any disorder whatever; that I can count on the support of the swords of the meritorious generals Manzueta, Pimentel, Frederico Garcia, Adon, and others; and that, moreover, my presence is indispensable at a moment when the passions of some must be restrained, others directed in the way of order, and efficient provision made for the necessities of the country whose situation demands the administrative action of a government full of skill and prudence.

The proof of confidence that the Dominican people have just given to me, supported by the first military notabilities of the country, fills me with a satisfaction which is rendered complete by the fact that you, citizen general, the superior chief, communicate it to me. On all occasions during my political life, I have respected the will of my fellow-citizens. I shall not be to-day inconsistent with this principle. If such a will be manifested freely and by means of universal suffrage, I shall do everything in my power to hasten my return to the capital. It is but one day since I returned from Europe, and my broken health does not allow me to embark immediately. Meanwhile I hope that order will not be disturbed in the country, intrusted, as it is, to you and to the worthy chiefs by whom you are surrounded. If before my arrival the opportunity should be presented of manifesting to the Dominican people my sentiments of gratitude, I beg you, general, to be their faithful interpreter. I beg you also to express my esteem and thanks for their offers to Generals Manzueta, Pimentel, Frederico Garcia, Adon, and other patriots.

Please accept the renewed testimony of my best friendship, with which I have always had the honor of distinguishing you, citizen protector.

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

CURAÇOA, *November 5, 1865.*

To the Citizen General JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL,  
*Protector of the Republic.*



## C.

*J. B. Curiel to Buenaventura Baez.*

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—NATIONAL  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

CITIZEN GENERAL: The national assembly, over which I have the honor to preside, at its session of the 14th instant was pleased to issue the decree, a copy of which I inclose, and by which you are nominated, in accordance with the will of the people, President of the Dominican Republic. The assembly, by giving their vote to you, have done nothing more than to recognize the eminent qualities that distinguish you, confirming at the same time the universal suffrage previously expressed by the great majority of the country. The nation that appoints you to rule its destinies, hopes that you will not disregard its call, and that your patriotism, again put to the test on this occasion, will save this country from the conflicts to which past events have brought it. The committee appointed by this assembly to advise you of your nomination is charged to inform you of the great importance of your return to assume the supreme power, both for the good of the country and that you may receive the manifestations of affection with which your fellow-citizens regard you.

With sentiments of high and distinguished consideration, I remain, citizen general, your obedient and faithful servant,

J. B. CURIEL.

SANTO DOMINGO, *November 16, 1865.*

Citizen General BUENAVENTURA BAEZ,

*President of the Dominican Republic.*

## D.

*Pedro Guillermo to Buenaventura Baez.*

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—PEDRO GUILLERMO, GENERAL OF BRIGADE OF THE DOMINICAN ARMIES, AND PRESIDENT OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.

CITIZEN PRESIDENT: I have the high honor of informing you that the wishes of the Dominican people were fulfilled in seeing you elected to the first magistracy of the state. The documents witnessing your election will be delivered to you by the committee appointed for the purpose by the national assembly, and by Generals José Maria Cabral and Eugenio Contreras, and Citizens Cesareo Guillermo and Manuel Guerrero Leso, charged with the same mission by the government. Until you come to take possession of the supreme power, I am charged with the direction of the provisional government, and I can assure you that during this interval it will be my greatest care to preserve the public peace and avoid all embarrassments to your administration of the country—a difficult task, which all patriots and thinkers believe can be trusted only to your experience and wisdom. I inclose a copy of my proclamation when I assumed the provisional government. It will better explain to you what are my sentiments, and when we meet you will be more and more persuaded of my particular adhesion to your





person, and of the confidence which I entertain that you alone can raise this beloved country to that degree of civilization and progress of which it is worthy, after it has made so many and costly sacrifices to restore independence and liberty. General, your arrival in the country is now a necessity; do not suffer us to wait for you; hasten to fulfill as soon as possible the wishes of the people and army, whose enthusiasm for you is boundless. The members of the committee in general, and my son in particular, are charged to present to you my respects and consideration.

With these sentiments, I have the honor to declare myself your most faithful friend and fellow-countrymen, Citizen President,

PEDRO GUILLERMO.

SANTO DOMINGO, *November 16, 1865.*

To the Citizen General BUENAVENTURA BAEZ,  
*President of the Dominican Republic, Curaçoa.*

E.

*Buenaventura Baez to Pedro Antonio Pimentel.*

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ, GENERAL OF DIVISION, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC.

CITIZEN GENERAL: I have just been informed that there was an insurrection in Cibao, having as its object to put down this government. While absent from my country, and without my doing anything to return, I received a committee informing me that the whole people called me to power. My further investigations confirmed the truth of this fact. Then, submitting to the national will, I came and placed myself at the orders of the great majority. Immediately, and without attempting to inquire into the causes of this movement, I determined to send you at once to Cibao to tell the inhabitants of those provinces, in my name, both the motives that prevailed on me to accept the presidency of the republic and the following words, which I wish impressed upon the minds of all: As a servant of my country I came to fulfill the wishes of the great majority. If, however, a respectable minority wish me to withdraw from power, I am disposed to satisfy them, being convinced that in this manner also I will serve my country by preventing bloodshed. There is no worthier organ than you to interpret these sentiments to those provinces—sentiments which you never had occasion to doubt. God and liberty!

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

SANTO DOMINGO, *April 26, 1866.*

To the Citizen General PEDRO ANTONIO PIMENTEL.

F.

*Buenaventura Baez to José Carmen Reynoso.*

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ, GENERAL OF DIVISION, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC.

CITIZEN GENERAL: When I accepted power I trusted that the great



majority of the country, among which were the first men of the restoration, honestly believed that my efforts would serve to establish peace and progress in the republic. I took no step to occupy a position which presents only difficulties and annoyances, and by shunning which I would not experience those disappointments that sicken the heart of an honest man. There is not a single proof, not the least indication, of my having aspired to the popular election in order to obtain the first magistracy. On the contrary, if I ever desired to do anything for the country, it would have been by aiding and supporting another candidate. My letters to my friends before the events of the 26th of October, 1865, of which General Cabral was informed, attest my sincerity. If anybody is to blame it is those who did not believe me. There are in circulation documents proving that I was called back to the country; in which documents the names of Cabral, Pimentel, Manzueta, Federico Garcia, Pedro G. Martinez, Rodriguez, Objio, and of almost all those who appear in the revolutionary ranks, are prominent. I have in my possession a large number of letters from all the generals—perhaps one or two may be excepted—congratulating me on my return, and offering me their services. Notwithstanding this, within the five months that I have been in power, I have had to face as many rebellions. And let it not be said that they have been provoked by measures taken by my government, for the first one broke out a few hours before I took the oath. Wearied with fighting against factions, and wishing to prevent civil war, as soon as I had knowledge of the last insurrection in Cibao I sent General Pimentel to those provinces, delivering to him a letter, a copy of which I attach to this, and which is marked No. 1. General Pimentel was not able either to fulfill my wishes or avoid bloodshed. The people, of their own free will, preferred to fight, and Cibao is to-day the theater of a civil war which I behold with sorrow, and desire to stop. In proof of this, and with knowledge of what was going on, notwithstanding the attitude that General Pimentel assumed in Cotuy, I addressed him another letter, (copy is marked No. 2,) renewing in it my promise. In the midst of this situation General Cabral appeared on the southwest frontiers to rekindle the civil war there, which was then almost extinguished.

I will not characterize General Cabral's conduct; let it be done by others. But I wish to save those people from greater misfortunes; and as my being President is the pretext for stirring up their passions, I think that my resignation will put an end to such agitation. The most important question now is how to prevent disorders and new reactions. If a national convention is convened, it is necessary that all towns should be lawfully represented, and every citizen should possess the same rights and guarantees.

To this end you, together with General Santiago Suero, will go to Azua, whence you will take measures to reach San Juan, or name a place for General Cabral to meet you, in order to explain to him the situation of the country and my determination. You will advise him to keep his position and await the result of events in Cibao; for which purpose he may communicate with the revolutionary government of Santiago. You will also inform him that I am by all means determined to leave the presidency for a more capable or more fortunate person. However, you will inform General Cabral that the army stationed in Azua has received orders not to attack; but if they attempt to drive it away it will know how to preserve its position. I trust that you, as well as General Suero, will efficiently contribute to end these civil strug-



gles, which exhaust the riches and strength of the country and impair its credit abroad.

Please accept the sentiments of my distinguished consideration. God and liberty!

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

SANTO DOMINGO, *May 13, 1866.*

To the Citizen General JOSÉ DEL CARMEN REYNOSO,  
*Minister of the Interior and Police.*

G.

*Copy of a paragraph from the message sent by the provisional government of the Dominican Republic to the sovereign national convention, April 15, 1868.*

In the decree by which you were called together, you will find the four important subjects which you have to consider.

As for the first and second, we must inform you that since the date of that decree the people have spontaneously proclaimed President Baez dictator of the republic. We send you the official proceedings received to this day, prepared for the purpose in all the provinces and districts. You must judge and decide on this question respecting public opinion. Educated by a most eloquent experience, the country without doubt has perceived that forms do not protect the individual and society, except when those charged with administering them obey the behests of duty, comprehend their mission, and observe in practice a sound morality. For this reason it trusts its destinies in the hands of the illustrious citizen who promises guarantees, peace and progress, sure of being protected, and of not being deceived. The last act of the people is, as we have said, the result of experience and reason. They wish to put an end to this game of playing with institutions and governments which has caused our internal ruin at home, and brought scorn and shame upon us abroad.

As soon as you have fixed upon the form adapted to the republic, it will be necessary that you proceed to the appointment of the officers mentioned in the third provision by the decree calling you together.

H.

*National Convention to Buenaventura Baez.*

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—THE SOVEREIGN NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

GRAND CITIZEN: The official reports transmitted from all points of the republic to this body having been examined, it appears from them that you are proclaimed dictator by the great majority of the people.

The committee appointed to inquire into this matter has recognized this fact, and the sovereign national convention in its session of to-day has so proclaimed it.

While communicating it to you in a solemn manner, I also inform you that this body will take no other action, not even that of dissolving until notified by you of your intention.

The convention, inspired with the same enthusiasm that animates the



people of the republic in proclaiming you dictator, being the faithful echo of the nation which it represents, confers on you at the same time the title of Grand Citizen, to which your enlightened patriotism entitles you.

SANTO DOMINGO, *May 18, 1868.* God and liberty!

JACINTO DE LA CONCHA,  
*President of the Convention.*

To the Grand Citizen General Don BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

I.

*Buenaventura Baez to the National Convention.*

GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—BUENAVENTURA BAEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES: I received your esteemed letter of yesterday, in which you inform me that the great majority of the people have deigned to proclaim me dictator of the republic.

So great a proof of confidence fills my soul with a satisfaction above all measure, and doubly imposes upon me the patriotic duty of exhausting all means of saving the country of February 27, and August 16, from anarchy, dissolution, and ruin.

However, honorable representatives, I do not think that in order to fulfill this mission the immense centralization of power conferred by the dictatorship is indispensable. On the contrary, I need the coöperation of the national representation of which the "conservative council" is the constitutional expression, and also that of the other public functionaries and agents of the administration.

Let the people of the republic undertake with firm resolution the regeneration of the country, and it will be saved in spite of the predictions of evil prophets and the machinations of bad citizens.

Called to take upon my shoulders the weighty charge of directing the destinies of this country, so shaken by convulsions and lacerated by deep wounds, I cannot deceive myself as to the necessary means of fulfilling a duty so sacred as that of offering guarantees to society; and I shall ever be cautious in accepting a greater amount of authority than is indispensable to answer the national wish.

Therefore, honorable representatives, I solemnly declare to you that while I accept and appreciate in the highest degree this proof of deference so unequivocal, I refuse the dictatorship, which I deem unnecessary, and shall refer my action to the people in a proclamation, stating the reasons on which I ground my course.

It remains that I should speak of the honorable title which the convention has deigned to confer upon me, enhancing in the eyes of the nation my poor services. I thankfully accept it, although its patriotic signification lessens still more my littleness, which, by a supreme effort of my will, I shall endeavor to raise to the height of the civic importance that such a title presupposes.

With sentiments of high consideration, I have the honor to subscribe myself, &c., &c.,

BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

SANTO DOMINGO, *May 19, 1868.*

To the honorable REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE SOVEREIGN CONVENTION.



J.

## GOD, COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

*Buenaventura Baez, the President of the republic, to the people and the army:*

DOMINICANS! The great national convention, the lawful representatives of the immense majority of the republic, has just transmitted to me the official proceedings conferring upon me a dictatorship unlimited in its time and unconditional in its exercise.

The convention itself on informing me of this event, adding to the ovation a vote of confidence that does me honor, declared that it was waiting for my answer, abstaining even from decreeing its own dissolution. I am sensibly affected by so evident a manifestation of confidence which justifies my political past, and indemnifies me for many a bitter calumny and many a bloody injustice. Yes; the public functionary who, after having four times exercised the first magistracy of the State, obtains the spontaneous offer of such a tremendous power, which historic records represent as exceedingly fearful, can assert without boasting that he possesses the affection of the heroic nation to which he has the honor of belonging.

Still it seems to me that I understand the object of your wishes; you are tired of fratricidal struggles, of barren sacrifice, of blood! The public ruin, your deplorable and involuntary misery—everything tells the presence of an evil that has not been rooted out, that has not even been characterized, but which really exists. This evil, so intense, so dangerous, is misgovernment; its cause, the fatal mania for political convulsions. As long as the country must employ its resources and exhaust its credit; as long as it must weaken itself by useless efforts, serving as the theater of the destruction of its own sons, who only fight for its corpse—presidency, dictatorship—all systems of government will infallibly be in time discredited. Only those people that are sensible, obedient to the laws, sober in the exercise of their rights, can ascend, without dizziness or reverses, the steep road of progress and true civilization.

You wish to shake off the constant misery of which all complain; you wish peace and tranquillity, to secure your property and guarantee the future of your children, and in order to realize such a natural aspiration you resort to a dictatorship as a remedy for an enormous evil. Like you, I wish for such inestimable benefits. It will be my pride to place the country of my birth in the absolute possession of such great benefits; but, believe me, it will not be as president nor as dictator, that I shall have the happiness of doing it. Do you know under what title only? Under that of magistrate of a nation as judicious and industrious, as great a lover of its liberties, as obedient to the empire of laws.

For myself, while I am determined to try the most difficult means in order to secure your happiness, I choose the presidency and renounce the dictatorship which Sylla stained with blood, and which all the glory and magnanimity of Julius Cæsar could not render desirable. I renounce it, Dominicans, in the name of liberty, in the name of your rights, in the name of your own safety! Hope for everything from law, which is the firm rule that governs. Fear everything from arbitrary power, which is, or may become, a strangling halter. The fundamental compact of 1854, declared in force by the national convention, contains in itself authority sufficient to save the country in case of imminent danger, leaving intact public liberties and common guarantees.





Any constitution whatever is good, if, solving the social problem of order, combined with the greatest possible degree of liberty, it suits the character of the people for whom it is framed; and there is in the people the firm resolution of saving themselves by respecting it.

On the contrary, when nations are seized with that fatal marasmus which drags them to death; when, all moral ties being relaxed, they go on blindly, and the monster of anarchy shows its threatening head, then a fundamental code is absolutely useless, and authority, whatever be its name, is a powerless thing.

Dominicans! I renounce the dictatorship with which you honor me, because in my efforts to save you I rely on the goodness of God and your own good sense. I perceive on the political horizon of the country clearer and serener days, which will dawn as soon as the great majority of good citizens will it. I shall be happy, if by renouncing the title of dictator, I can obtain that of pacificator of the republic.

Long live the Dominican Republic! Long live national independence!  
BUENAVENTURA BAEZ.

SANTO DOMINGO, *May 21, 1868.*

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### III.—RIGHTS TO ECCLESIASTICAL PROPERTY.

[Translation.]

#### VICARAGE GENERAL OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTO DOMINGO—ECCLESIASTICAL GOVERNMENT.

In accordance with the request of the honorable commission of the United States now in Santo Domingo, for the purpose of arranging with the present government the conditions of annexation of this republic to the United States, the undersigned, apostolic vicar of this archdiocese, has the honor to state, for the information of the honorable commission, that all those who, under former governments, and under the laws existing at the time, may have acquired, within the republic, ecclesiastical property or liens on the same, and who may be in possession thereof, as well as their successors and alienees, shall never be disturbed in their possession by the church or its rulers.

This solemn declaration having been made, the said apostolic vicar reserves and declares that on the other hand the secure and pacific possession of all the property of the church, owned or possessed by it, or which may of right belong to it, and which may not have been alienated, such as churches, monasteries, convents, and their appurtenances, rents, incomes, houses, fields, &c., shall be held to be and respected as the lawful property of the Catholic Church, and that it is never to be disturbed in the enjoyment of the same.

Done in the office of the apostolic vicarage, in the city of Santo Domingo, this eighteenth day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one.

+ SEÑOR LEOPOLDO AGUASANTA.



*Extract from the concordat between the Holy See and the Dominican Republic.*

[Translation.]

ARTICLE 17. In view of the benefits that may result to religion from this convention, the Most Holy Father, at the request of the President of the republic of Santo Domingo, and to promote the public tranquillity, decrees and declares that all those who, under former governments of said republic, and in pursuance of the laws in force at the time, may have bought ecclesiastical property within the limits thereof, or who may have received the rents and profits of the same, and who may be in the possession thereof, neither they, their successor or representative, shall ever be in any manner disturbed in their enjoyment by the Holy See, the Pope, or his successors; and the said holders of said property, and receivers of its rents and profits, shall enjoy the same securely and pacifically as their own, it being irrevocably understood that any attempt to invade this right, or to reacquire the property or its rents or profits, is never to be made. All the property that may remain unsold, whether held by the government or individuals, and which, in the broadest sense, belongs to the church, chapels, convents, monasteries, brotherhoods, establishments for public beneficence, pious uses, and the poor, shall be immediately restored to the church. The property thus to be restored shall be under the management and control of the archbishop, who, with the consent of the municipality first obtained, shall dispose of it for the endowment of new churches, convents, and other ecclesiastical houses, giving preference to those that may have for their object the religious and civil education of youth of both sexes, and the alleviation of suffering humanity. These new endowments shall remain irrevocable after they shall have been confirmed by the Holy See. The church shall also be entitled for the uses aforesaid to the governmental quota of the salary of the nominal appointees of the archbishopric, canonical dignities, and chaplaincies which may be vacant.

IV.—CLAIMS PENDING BEFORE THE SENATE.

[Translation.]

SENATE OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

The senate has the honor of inclosing to the honorable commission from the United States of America the accompanying memorandum of claims pending before this body:

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 18, 1871.*

*Memorandum of claims on file in the archives of the senate for loans to the government at different times, and other consideration.*

1st. Pedro Beliard, the sum of.....	\$1,360 00
2d. José Maria Gerez, the sum of.....	232 00
3d. Denisa Loiseau, the sum of.....	1,614 00
4th. Mondestin Beliard, the sum of.....	5,445 00
5th. Ezequiel Garcia, the sum of.....	8,997 00
6th. Santiago Rodriguez, the sum of.....	500 00
7th. Cayetano Rodriguez, the sum of.....	1,374 71
Total.....	<u>19,522 71</u>



By a resolution of the senate it was decreed that all claims not yet presented should be retained by the party interested until a law embracing them all might facilitate their liquidation.

The debt of Messrs. Jezurun & Son dates from the year 1857, and between that time and the present has been differently estimated, and it is now in the chamber of accounts, in order that the latter may inform the senate concerning its origin and amount.

V.—NATIONAL DEBT AND REVENUE.

[Translation.]

OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,  
*Santo Domingo, February 20, 1871.*

HONORABLE SIR: I have the honor of forwarding to you inclosed two certified statements; one showing the national debt of this republic to the 31st of December, 1870, according to the records of this office, and the other showing the revenue received at the treasury during the same period.

With sentiments of the most distinguished consideration, I am your most obedient servant,

LUCAS GIBBES.

To the Honorable PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION,  
*from the United States of North America.*

*Statement of demands against the national treasury December 31, 1870, as appears upon the records in the office of the auditor general of the treasury.*

DEFERRED DEBT.

Bonds, national loan:

This sum was issued from this office in coupon bonds for the loan taken from merchants to meet the national expenses, in accordance with a resolution of the government dated March 25, 1867, during the administration of Cabral..... \$117,389 02½

Notes in circulation:

Notes issued by this office, due at eight months, in accordance with an agreement with the merchants and a resolution of the government dated 29th November, 1867....	30,164 80
Notes due at sixty days, in accordance with an agreement with the merchants and a resolution of the government dated December 13, 1867.....	5,467 75
Notes issued for divers purposes, according to agreement with the merchants and resolution of the government of January 23, 1867.....	55,067 84½
Bills of exchange drawn by this office against the collector of customs at Puerto Plata, and now in process of liquidation.....	13,176 35
	\$221,865 77

PUBLIC DEBT.

Bonds issued to consolidate the debt of the war of the restoration against Spain, under resolution of government July 6, 1867.....	102,820 00
Demand notes issued under resolution of government, balance in circulation, \$147,575 18½, at a discount of 400 for 1.....	368 93½



Notes of the committee of credit, issued under resolution of government, balance in circulation \$88,832 30, at 30 for 1. (By a decree of government, both of above issues are directed to be liquidated and paid at the rates of discount named.)	\$2,961 07	
Notes in circulation issued by the present administration for divers purposes, under a resolution of the government.	9,761 36	
Ditto issued at sixty days' sight.....	1,153 00	
		\$117,064 36½
Individual claims that have been allowed :		
San Pelayo and Herrera, Havana, subsidy to Spanish mail steamers, under contract and resolution of government..	7,600 00	
Briscoe, McDougall & Co., St. Thomas, for war material furnished to the government October 10, 1867.....	2,566 25	
Francisco Fontana, St. Thomas, government draft.....	3,000 00	
Town council of Bani, loan to government.....	926 25	
Isaiah Woodbury, New York, balance due on account.....	\$2,889 94	
Ditto for drugs.....	1,908 65	
		4,798 59
J. A. Jezurun & Son, of Curaçao, balance on account.....	1,598 59½	
Funkhauser, New York, for 300 barrels of flour.....	3,600 00	
Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, for 300 Remington rifles with sabres, and 218,000 cartridges for ditto.....	18,750 50	
Marc Raffin and Jacques Roller, Paris, balance due for payment of draft on account of government.....	1,000 00	
Rosman & Luemberg, Paris, allowed by decree.....	13,000 00	
Bank notes in circulation, authorized by resolution.....	4,130 00	
		60,970 18½

## LOANS.

Loans without interest.....	20,223 20	
Hartmont & Co., £38,095 4s. 9d. was received on account of loan contracted May 1, 1869, but was forfeited by failure to comply with the contract. A claim by them for £50,000 has been recognized, but is still undetermined, say.....	250,000 00	
J. A. Jezurun & Son, of Curaçao, for a loan of \$20,500, under contract of December 7, 1865, for which government became bound for \$25,000, at 4½ per cent (interest not included here).....	25,000 00	
J. A. Jezurun & Son, balance due for war-schooner Capotillo and her invoice of war material, \$18,511 28, (interest on same at 6 per cent. from January 2, 1866, not included here).....	18,511 28	
		313,734 48
Total.....		713,634 80½

Besides, there are in circulation bonds of the consolidated interior debt issued in 1859, with accruing interest, which, after deducting those paid by the Spanish government, amount to about \$60,000.

There are various claims arising from damages, &c., in the war for the expulsion of the Spaniards, which have been returned to the holders as not established in due form.

Very considerable sums are also due to the various civil and military employés of the government in payment for services, not yet liquidated.

I certify that the foregoing debt statement, amounting to \$713,634 80½, is correct.

J. M. HERRERA,  
Chief Clerk.

SANTO DOMINGO, February 18, 1871.

Approved:

LUCAS GIBBES,  
Auditor General of the Treasury.



## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY.

Summary statement of receipts at the treasury of the republic during the year 1870, to wit :

Tonnage .....	\$27,206 60
Entrance .....	1,469 95
Light-house .....	679 01
Anchorage .....	1,469 95
Pilotage .....	1,429 27
Lighterage .....	216 00
Interpreter .....	614 20½
Signal-men .....	594 16½
Quarantine .....	430 16½

## CUSTOM RECEIPTS.

Wharfage .....	6,793 38
Additional municipal tax .....	1,105 36½
Additional municipal tax for steamers .....	5,886 14
Water .....	241 00
Import dues .....	601,393 64½
Export dues .....	71,419 20½
Coasting licenses .....	7,511 11
Deposits .....	132 43
Additional entrance fees .....	14 00
	<hr/>
	\$728,605 58½

## TAXES AND IMPOSTS.

Registry and mortgages .....	2,147 06½
Licenses .....	12,721 86½
Stamped paper .....	18,574 50
Postage stamps .....	1,093 69
Postal revenue .....	929 42½
	<hr/>
	35,466 55

## NATIONAL PROPERTY.

Sales and rents .....	150 00
Incidental receipts .....	8,462 62½
	<hr/>
Total .....	772,684 76
	<hr/>

I certify that the above statement agrees with the accounts of the national treasury, as appears by the records of the auditor's office.

JOSÉ LOILO CASTILLO,  
Chief Clerk.

SANTO DOMINGO, February 16, 1871.

Approved.  
LUCAS GIBBES,  
Auditor General.

## VI.—NOTE TRANSMITTING DOCUMENTS.

[Translation.]

SANTO DOMINGO, February 20, 1871.

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with the wish expressed by you to the government, I have the honor to inclose herewith the following documents: A memorandum touching several of the questions which were the object of our interview; a statement of the debt of the republic; an account of the revenues; another of the population; a list of the grants made by the Dominican government, with remarks; and fifteen authenticated copies of grants actually in force.





It will afford my government the highest satisfaction if such documents meet the wishes of the commission.

I improve the opportunity to repeat to you the sentiments of my most distinguished consideration by subscribing myself your most faithful servant,

M. M. GAUTIER.

Hon. B. F. WADE, AND. D. WHITE, and SAM. G. HOWE,  
*Members of United States Commission to the Dominican Republic.*

VII.—MEMORANDUM ON THE POLITICAL CONDITION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

[Translation.]

THE EXECUTIVE.

The executive power of the Dominican Republic is vested in a magistrate called the President of the republic, who appoints and removes at will four secretaries of state for the following departments: Justice and public instruction; internal affairs and agriculture; finances and commerce; war and navy.

The President commits the transaction of foreign affairs to such secretary as he deems expedient.

All government measures taken by the executive must be considered in the council of secretaries, and in special cases the senate is previously consulted.

The President of the republic is chosen by the electoral colleges of the provinces and districts. Each elector votes for two individuals, one of whom must not live in the province or district that elects him. The vote of the electoral colleges is sent under seal to the senate, which opens it in public session and proclaims as President him who has received an absolute majority of votes. When there is no such majority, the senate determines the election, choosing between the three candidates who have received the most votes.

In the same manner the vice-president is elected to replace the President, in case of death, resignation, removal, or temporary impediment; but, unless such exigency arise, he has nothing whatever to do with either the executive or legislative department of the government. The President and vice-president of the republic are elected for a term of six years, with a difference of three years from the time of election of one to that of the other. The former cannot be reëlected, nor can the latter, if he has been President three years.

The electoral colleges are composed of electors chosen by the primary assemblies of the various communes in the provinces or districts, convened by the alcaldes, and which meet by absolute right on the first Monday in November of every year. The electoral colleges meet at the capitals of the provinces and districts on the first Monday of December of each year, or when they are called together in extra session under the circumstances determined by the constitution.

In order to be eligible to the primary assemblies of the communes, one must actually be in the enjoyment of civil and political rights, have a domicile, and reside in the respective commune, and either be the owner of landed property or a public officer, or an officer in the army or navy, or licensed for the practice of a profession or trade, or a professor of



some science or liberal art, or a six years' lessee of a farm in actual cultivation.

In order to be eligible for an elector it is necessary to be in the enjoyment of political and civil rights, to be twenty-five years of age, and to own landed property, or to be a public office-holder, and be domiciled in the commune where the election is held. His functions extend to a term of three years.

The primary assemblies, moreover, elect their respective town councils, and the electoral colleges choose the senators.

The republic is divided into five provinces and two districts, and these into communes and military posts, which again are sub-divided into sections. Each province and district has a governor, appointed by the executive, to whom he is responsible. The governors direct all that concerns the government, order, and security of their jurisdiction, having as their subordinates all public functionaries residing within its limits.

In each commune and military post there is a military commandant, appointed also by the governor, who, besides his military functions, superintends the country police.

The communes or towns that are such by law elect for their own economic-political government a council nominated, as already stated, by the primary assemblies.

The councils of Santo Domingo and Santiago de los Caballeros elect eight regidores, (local officers,) and one *sindico*, (superintendent.) Those of Azua, La Vega, Samana, Seybo, and Puerto Plata, five regidores and one *sindico*; and those of the other towns three regidores and one *sindico*.

The term of office of the *ayuntamientos* or councils is for three years, and they can be re-elected.

The town councils have charge of the property of their respective communities. Communal property consists in the lands known by the name of *ejidos*, (commons,) included within the limits assigned by public decree or private donations, to each commune at its establishment, either arable lands, or building lots, squares, and public streets, and all other property lawfully belonging to it.

The revenues of the *ayuntamientos* are, the rents from said town property; proceeds from excise, boats, wagons, and markets; licenses for public spectacles; fines for infractions of the police regulations; interment tax; assessments for public illumination; tax for the support of watchmen; fees for registration of carts and carriages, and other taxes imposed by general legislation.

Corporations of towns have obligations; hence their expenses. Such are: contributing for public instruction in their community; the support of a body of watchmen and the public illumination; paying their officers and the police; keeping and repairing municipal property; and they may aid in the construction of highways; help in the foundation of institutions of benevolence, and in cleaning, embellishing, and ameliorating the burying-grounds.

All appropriations made by town councils must be approved by the ministry of the interior.

#### LEGISLATIVE.

The legislative body is composed of nine senators, elected by the electoral colleges; two of them representing the capital; two, Santiago de los Caballeros; one, La Vega; one, Azua; one, Seybo; and the other two, the two maritime districts of Puerto Plata and Samana. Senators



are elected for a term of six years, and may be reëlected indefinitely. Their legislative sessions last three months, and may be extended one month by the body itself. The executive power has the right of convening the senate in extra session. When their legislative duties are concluded, they act as a consulting body—a kind of council of state on certain matters pointed out by the constitution.

The right of introducing bills belongs to the senate as well as to the executive, with the exception of those on taxes and the responsibility of ministers, which belong exclusively to the senate.

The acts passed have no force before being signed by the executive, to do which five days are granted. If the executive refuses its signature the act does not become a law, and when the senate does not agree on the measure recommended by the executive, it does not become a law. The constitutional theory of the country in matter of laws has for its basis their mutual agreement.

The senate appoints the committee on accounts to examine the accounts of the republic, which is composed of five members.

#### JUDICIARY.

A supreme court of justice, in which the highest judicial power of the republic is vested, is composed of a presiding justice, four associate justices, and an attorney general, representing the executive power. Each one of the associate justices and the attorney general for the government has an alternate or substitute.

The supreme court has general appellate jurisdiction, and from its decisions there can be no further appeal. It tries also all suits against its own members; against the president and vice-president of the republic on the impeachment of the senate; against the senators and foreign ministers. It likewise has jurisdiction over crimes of violence, and is a court of admiralty over maritime seizures. As a court-martial, it hears appeals from sentences passed by a council of war. Its functions last five years, and only cease by a definite sentence.

Courts of first instance, which sit at the capitals of provinces and districts, are composed of a judge of first instance, a consulting judge, and attorney, with their respective assistants and substitutes. They have original jurisdiction over all causes, suits, and complaints commenced before them, according to the importance of the fact or the amount in controversy, and hear appeals in cases of minor importance coming under the jurisdiction of alcaldes. They are appointed for the term of five years by the executive.

Courts of first instance have jurisdiction as consular tribunals of commercial affairs. Each commune and village has at least one alcalde, who acts as a conciliating judge or peace-maker, takes cognizance of cases of simple police, claims of small importance, and can interdict wrongful possession whatever be the amount in controversy. These interdictions bear only on contested possession, without determining the titles to property, that function belonging to courts of first instance.

Alcaldes are removable by, and their appointment devolves on, the executive.

#### THE ARMY.

The republic had, during the first years of its existence, a regular army, numerous in proportion to its population and resources. Two regiments of one thousand soldiers, more or less, each; an artillery brigade of five hundred; a body of navy yard workmen of three hundred



members; and a squadron of cavalry amounting to about two hundred and fifty horsemen, formed the standing garrison of this capital, without reckoning the national guards, that performed active service in times of danger.

The rest of the republic had its local garrisons organized in a manner analogous to that of the capital, so that the regular standing army reached eight or ten thousand men. At the moment of a sudden invasion, therefore, the government could at once send one or two regiments to reënforce the southern frontiers, without leaving the capital unprovided for.

As for the north, (Cibao,) there was never necessity of sending troops there, owing to its being a more populous region, and the communities, being close together, could at a moment's warning unite without having to travel great distances.

The Dominican fleet, which formerly had fourteen or more ships, two being frigates and some brigantines, protected our coasts and transported our garrisons, artillery, ammunition, and provisions, and kept the Haytians within their boundaries. The Dominican navy counted on its registers more than five hundred sailors, native and foreign.

After the departure of the Spanish forces, nothing was left of our former organization. The men who did not follow the Spaniards remained retired and scattered. Our ships were disarmed and sold; the war material was thrown into the sea or broken to fragments; all the heavy bronze artillery was carried to Cuba or Porto Rico, as well as the field-guns and light pieces; what was left had been spiked, and is almost worthless.

Without resources, and only by dint of will and energy, we have succeeded in organizing two bodies or battalions, called the "Ozama," and the "Restoration," the ranks of which are not yet full; also, a brigade of artillery and a body of workmen for the dock. These latter constitute the garrison of the capital, while the "Ozama" and "Restoration" battalions are almost continually at Azua. The city of Santiago has a battalion of sharpshooters; San Cristoval a company of one hundred men permanently enlisted; Azua the light battalions "Ligero," "Auxiliar," and "Chavalos." A few companies are in Vega, Moca, Puerto Plata, &c. A brigade of artillery is composed of four companies, each having a captain, a lieutenant, a second lieutenant, a first sergeant, four second sergeants, a cornet, a drummer, four first corporals, four second corporals, and fifty soldiers. The staff of the brigade is composed of a colonel, two lieutenant colonels, an adjutant, second lieutenant, standard-bearer, and a sergeant drum-major.

The battalions of infantry are composed of six companies, and each company of a captain, lieutenant, second lieutenant, first sergeant, four second sergeants, two cornets, four first corporals, four second corporals and fifty soldiers. The staff is composed of a colonel, two lieutenant colonels, an adjutant of subaltern rank, a second lieutenant, standard-bearer, and a cornet orderly sergeant.

The continual state of war that has afflicted this country for many years has caused the creation of an excessive number of officers, who do not belong to any specific corps, but at the head of our militia perform service in extraordinary cases. The republic being unable to give them any other reward, has granted them their grades or rank.

And although at certain times such grades were bestowed with profusion, and without any reference to true merit or aptitude, it cannot be denied that there is a considerable number of officers, both superior and subaltern, distinguished for their services and bravery, as well as for



their especial skill in leading our masses to fight; for in moments of extreme danger to the country every citizen is obliged to take up arms.

#### PROMULGATION OF MARTIAL LAW, OR DECLARATION OF STATE OF SIEGE.

According to our constitutional system, no place or port of the territory can be declared in a state of siege, except in case of foreign invasion, actual or imminent, or of internal commotion; and in both cases the declaration belongs to the executive, after previous consultation with the senate. This provision is in harmony with another by which the executive is authorized, in cases of armed internal commotion, in those of rebellion or hostile invasion, and when informed of the existence of any project against the security of the state, if the defense of the latter and the protection of society should require it, to take all such measures as are deemed indispensable for the preservation of the republic, suspending them as soon as their cause shall cease, and giving to the legislature a detailed account of the preventive measures that may have been taken. In this case the executive exercises this power in conjunction with the senate. The state of siege produces in our republic the same effects that it does in France, whose laws we have adopted.

#### LEGISLATION, (CODE AND LAWS.)

A decree of congress—July 3, 1845—declared in force the French codes of the restoration, with such modifications as might be made by the law organizing the tribunals, and other laws of the country. That decree was reiterated on the 7th of August, 1865, after the evacuation of the country by the Spaniards, in order to return to our former system, interrupted by their legislation since the year 1861.

The republic does not possess a body of collated legislation, to show at a glance the differences existing between the codes of the restoration and the laws which modify them. The instability of its past political existence has not allowed such systematic study of law as has brought progress and repose to other nations. One of the notable modifications existing, worthy of special mention, is the suppression of courts of cassation, intended to take cognizance of forms. Our inferior and supreme courts take cognizance of both the substance and forms of the causes, suits, and complaints submitted to them.

Divorce, authorized by the Code Napoleon, and abrogated by the restoration code, is not admitted here, and ill-assorted married couples have no other legal resource but separation of body and property, viz: *Quoad thorum et cohabitationem*.

As to the criminal legislation, the Dominican legislators, with sorrow, saw themselves compelled to abolish trials by jury, as the distances to be traveled by jurors, bad roads, the unsettled condition of the country, the scarcity of means to pay traveling expenses, &c., rendered the maintenance of this legal guarantee impossible.

It is unnecessary to add that such penalties as public exposure, amputation of the parricide's hand, brand of infamy, &c., are not a part of our penal code, being contrary to our institutions.

#### TENURE OF LAND.

Landed property, at the time of the conquest of this island and during the following centuries, was held in the manner then prevailing as a





consequence of feudalism. Society being divided between lords and vassals, masters and slaves, (first the native and then the African,) the land was made productive by the sweat of the unfortunates who did not reap and enjoy its harvests, and it passed undivided into the hands of the privileged heir, in conformity to the laws of primogeniture and entail, in order to preserve the lustre of family names.

Religious communities, considered as corporate moral persons and feudal lords, also possessed landed property, and as they had no family pride, and their only interest was that of the corporation, their property, forever indivisible, became a resource for the poor colonist, who, unable to acquire an estate, gratuitously or conditioned on a burden or service, as did the nobility, found a means of living by his own work, by renting monastic lands, paying a certain annual fee, or the offering of tithe and the first-fruit of his crops.

When the Spanish government, forgetting its feudal traditions, erased from its code all entails and rights of primogeniture, and secularized mortmain property, taking the inheritances of ancient convents and declaring them government property, the lands were sold, and all property not tied up already by exceptional laws, began in time, by the course of ordinary successions, to present the peculiar appearance of subdivision or lands held in common, under which we are about to describe it.

The original owners held by a complete title, and most of them were provided with a document called Amparo Real, (royal guarantee,) by which the King guaranteed the validity of their acquisitions. At the death of the proprietor of an estate in the country, of whatever description, whether lots, farming, sugar, or pasture lands, his children and wife, if he had any, inherited that property as measured and marked, that is, contained within known limits and fixed on the plat and survey. The proprietor having been married under the rule of conjugal community of property, his surviving wife was entitled to one-half of the land, and the children born during the marriage to the other half. The family continuing to live on their estate, contained within the same limits, though possessed by a plurality of owners, established certain rules among themselves, in order to live together each by his own work, without actually dividing the farm, each of the brothers and sisters having a right equal to that of each of the others, and the widow her own equal to that of them all.

When those brothers married and had children, that division of shares was further subdivided, that is, in theoretical right but not in fact; every one holding proportionate to his right with reference to the extent of the entire tract inherited, as shown by the titles.

The causes that originally prevented the actual division of the ground were various:

1st. The high cost for surveying, which, multiplied according to the divisions made, would not only absorb, but exceed the small value of the lands.

2d. The nature of such property itself, which generally cannot, in fact, be conveniently and equitably divided, all being united as constituent parts of a farm, viz: the savannas, or plains, for the pasture of horned cattle, horses, and sheep; the woods, supplying timber, and whose shade is indispensable to animals during the heat of the day and throughout the hot season; the palm groves, furnishing boards and covering for the building of huts, and food for swine, and the fibers of which supply cordage to the country people; finally, the lands fit for



cultivation, and running waters or ponds for the use of both man and beast.

As it would be impossible to give pasture, wood, arable land, and water to each of the owners, or to deprive them of a single one of these elements without causing them irreparable damage, the necessity arises for harmonizing their interests through community of possession under a common title.

When any of the proprietors wishes to sell his share, after having offered it to his coöwners and been refused, he can sell it to a stranger, who enters, not into the community of the family, but into that of the proprietorship, as coöwner.

The Haytian government, looking at the amount of land in this part of the island, invented the law of July 8, an enactment destitute of every characteristic of a law, properly so called. Instead of being the expression of a social necessity, it was the cry of lawless rapacity, taking advantage of its possession of power; instead of conciliating interests, it ruined them by spoliation; instead of respecting the sacred right of property, it corrupted and restricted it, and destroyed the authority and efficacy of the ancient laws concerning property, succession, purchase, validity of contracts, possession, and prescriptions, that shielded those rights, by an intrusive and brutal inquisition into past transactions.

By that law all landed proprietors were obliged to present their titles before a committee appointed in each locality. After the examination of such titles, a forced and arbitrary estimate was made, the result of which always was the spoliation of the lawful owner; because instead of taking into consideration the fact that the owner's title, showing the original price of a tract of land described by fixed limits, established the owner's right to it, the Haytian authority gave only one-third or a fourth part of the whole to the proprietor, pretending that what was possessed was too much for so little money, and declaring the great remainder left by that spoliation public property.

Thus the chiefs and officers of Hayti obtained lands at the expense of the rightful and legitimate property of the people of the country; and this was one of the principal causes that led the Dominicans to separate from the Haytians. All these lands passed to the Dominican government by a decree of the "central governing committee," issued in 1844, confiscating the property of the Haytians who left our territory to join the enemy; which decree was subsequently confirmed by a legislative enactment incorporating these lands as property, as a slight indemnification for their vandal irruptions, the burning of our villages, the destruction of trees, and devastation of our fields.

#### CLAIMS.

The obligations, (vales,) which were the first government expedient adopted to compromise with the general will, unanimously declared against paper money, whose criminal abuse had absorbed the public wealth and precipitated bankruptcy—these bonds, which were received at par at the treasury in payment of duties, were sold to the public at discount as great as 84 and even 90 per cent. Under these circumstances, and in view of the facts that the employé of the government who received them was compelled by necessity to accept \$16, \$14, and even but \$10 for each hundred he had earned by hard work, and that the public treasury was exhausted, because it only received paper instead of coin, a decree was published withdrawing bonds from circulation, and offering to indemnify the holders for the amount paid out, as



proved by them in accordance with the regulation adopted for the purpose; and at present they are canceled by the different financial officers in accordance with special regulations for each locality; consequently the bonds issued by the administration of Santo Domingo were more depreciated than those of other localities. At present this is not a question of importance.

Church claims no longer exist. The project of a concordat between the Holy See and the Dominican Republic, which was on the point of being definitely concluded, contained an article in which sales, grants, and other legal acts of the times when preceding governments had disposed of ecclesiastical property, were declared valid, on condition that in future property possessed by the church should be respected, and it should be allowed to acquire property by the munificence of the pious. In proof of this see the statement of the apostolic vicar of this archdiocese, Right Reverend Leopoldo Aguasanta, given at the request of the commission, in which, exercising the power conferred on him by his holiness, he states in the most explicit form these renunciations and guarantees. Vide Doc. III, p. 160.

Hayti has never presented any claim against Santo Domingo, and it is probable that such a thing was never thought of, for, on the other hand, the iniquity of its conduct, the injustice of its invasions, the burning of our cities and villages, the demolition of our edifices, the destruction of our forests, and devastation of our fields and crops, the continual depredations and plunderings by the Haytians, form grounds on account of which the Dominican Republic might justly at any time present claims for indemnification.

Spain has never said a word about any kind of claims. If it had not the political wisdom to know how to preserve the sympathies of a people of the same origin with itself, it had at least the dignity to keep a timely silence—no mean merit. This is not to be understood as meaning that if Spain had formally presented claims we would be disposed to grant or recognize them. On the contrary, this republic knows the history of the devastation of the country, and the force of her own incontestable right to assert her position with energy, sustained by the official admissions of the Cortes, and appealing ultimately to the impartial arbitration of friendly powers. But we repeat that nothing has been said on this subject.

As for the claims of France, it is scarce necessary to stop to consider them. The debt of Hayti to France is in the nature of restitution for spoliations committed. It was the only possible reparation for the damages inflicted upon French colonists—a debt of blood which the Haytians alone shed, and which they alone must pay. So France thought; so Hayti itself understood it, and therefore acknowledged the debt.

Mr. B. Ardouin, in his history of Hayti, speaking of this matter, says that on this account France recognized the Dominican Republic (see the treaty of 1852) without any condition whatever, which it never would have done without having before exacted her share of the payment had that been a common debt.

#### PUBLIC LANDS.

It is at present a most difficult task to state with precision the amount of land belonging to the state, although it is generally known to possess a very considerable quantity. This was a difficult question even in the times of the earlier republic, that is, before the annexation to Spain, and



since then, in the war with that nation, the public archives almost entirely disappeared. According to the estimate, more or less correct, of citizens best acquainted with these matters, the state owns about one-third of the lands in the republic. But were such an estimate exaggerated, it certainly cannot own less than one-fourth, there being places, such as the district of the South Yaque River, toward the frontiers, belonging almost wholly to the state.

The grants of land made by the government are those mentioned in the geological survey contract, and that for the railroad from Santiago to Samana. Both are subject to important conditions to be fulfilled by the grantees.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The scarcity of our pecuniary resources and other causes due to the want of knowledge in this important branch of administration on the part of former functionaries, together with the inconveniences incident to a state of war, have prevented the establishment of public education on a large scale, reaching the high standard desired by the present administration,

During the first administration of President Baez, (from 1849 to 1853,) besides innumerable primary schools, two central colleges were founded, one in this capital and the other in Santiago, well endowed, in which, particularly in that of this city, courses of literature and science were established, and they were remarkably successful.

As early as the year 1848, by a decree of the national congress, May 2, of that year, a seminary was established, and there was appropriated for its support the rent of four houses in this city belonging to the state, and the revenue of the estate "Injenio Frias" or "Basora," which were put at the disposal of the rector. Those who came after thought it best to lay waste and destroy those nurseries for the young, out of hatred against their founder and patron.

Primary education in the communes is at the charge of the municipalities as an obligatory expense, independent of the protection and aid granted by the state. The municipalities now support twenty-one schools, more or less important, (seventeen for boys and five for girls,) at an annual expense of \$8,636, each municipality according to its means, as it will be shown by the following statistics :

Santo Domingo, five schools for boys and three for girls.....	\$1, 620
Santiago, five schools for boys and three for girls.....	3, 290
Macoris, (San Francisco, &c.,) one school for boys .....	480
Bani, one school for boys.....	216
San Cristobal, one school for boys .....	72
Ocoa, one school for boys.....	84
Azua, one school for boys.....	290
Samana, one school for boys.....	150
Vega, one school for boys.....	684
Moca, one school for boys.....	600
Puerto Plata, three schools for boys and one for girls.....	1, 200
	<hr/>
	8, 636
	<hr/>

There are also several private institutions of some importance.

The state has voted a sum of \$17,136 toward the support of public instruction, distributed as follows :

Two high schools in the city of Santo Domingo, one for boys and the other for girls .....	\$3, 420
The same in Santiago.....	2, 880



Four for boys and four for girls in Azua, La Vega, Seybo, and Puerto Plata..	\$3, 120
For girls primary schools in Santo Domingo and Azua .....	960
Primary schools in communes unable to support them.....	3, 000
Endowment of the seminary.....	3, 756
	17, 136

If it had been possible to pay regularly the above amount, there is no doubt that public education would have received a considerable impulse, but our economical exigencies did not permit such appropriations, and therefore the wishes of the government were not fulfilled.

#### ANNEXATION.

The following, while concise, is plain and simple history :

1. The neighborhood of Hayti, so fatal to us for seventy years, is an obstacle to the progress of the country and a continual menace to its independence and existence. The two nations differ in their manners, their ideas, and tendencies. Hayti cherishes hatred against a race, prejudice against everything foreign, isolation in the midst of civilization, and doctrines unnatural and bigoted ; while the Dominican Republic proclaims equality of civil rights among all its people, admits the rights of all foreigners as determined by their own national laws, offers its citizenship freely to whomsoever wishes it, opens its doors to civilization without fear of contagion, and disregarding caste lives in relations of equality and brotherhood with all men.

Though the republic has been and will be able to defeat the Haytians on the field of battle, such an indefinite war cannot but destroy its population and check its progress, while the enemy, greater in number, living in a smaller territory, can always at will take the initiative in aggression, without having to endure the consequences of the war.

2. The industrious provinces of Cibao in 1849, as soon as the electoral colleges had elected Baez president of the republic, sent to him a memorial signed by the most respectable citizens, landed proprietors, officials, merchants, and military men, entreating him to open negotiations with the Government of the United States for the purpose of ascertaining if the annexation of the country to that republic could be arranged.

Slavery in the Southern States rendered annexation impossible at that time. A free and civilizing republic with slaves was, to a nation composed of heterogeneous races, an inadmissible political contradiction, and social prejudices as well as legal inequality, produced and fostered by slavery, opposed a fatal obstacle to our cordial relations.

Baez answered by suggesting that such a step be put off until better times. He had faith in the future, and awaited the reaction of ideas, and the triumph of the philosophy of humanity over material interests.

That fortunate day came. Four and half years of tremendous strife, of incalculable sacrifices, and unflinching self-denial were necessary before it dawned, while the Dominican Republic joined its prayers to those of the freemen of the great North for the triumph of so holy a cause, and rejoiced at every episode in that sublime history.

At that moment this republic was itself with unequal forces fighting Spain, whose features showed the cankerous sore of slavery still prevailing in Cuba and Puerto Rico—Spain, which, in order to govern and civilize us, brought in a collection of barbarous laws, mingled with the codes of the ninth century, the reminiscences of feudalism and the inquisition—Spain, which, by abolishing our philosophical legislation and





substituting this code of her own, demonstrated her incapacity and showed that she had not reached the moral advancement attained by this country, despite its relatively narrow limits.

Just as both these American republics emerged from their struggle, Mr. Seward visited this capital, conferred with President Baez and his government, and was, perhaps, not displeased with what he saw and learned. The treachery of two of Baez's ministers, (Cabral and Pimentel,) who had just before manifested for him the strongest political attachment, produced in the mind of the President a feeling of dissatisfaction which he could not overcome. It seemed necessary to stain the country with blood by making great examples in order to purge society from men as corrupting as they were corrupt; and fearing that his motives would be misinterpreted, and he would be considered as actuated merely by his personal interests and feelings, he preferred to resign and retire abroad.

Then General Cabral, having seized the power, had the majority of the votes electing Baez burned, drove seven hundred citizens into exile, invented new torments for prisoners, and murdered numbers of influential men. In order to secure for himself and his abettors a less precarious position, he proposed the sale or lease of Samana to the United States. His object was to strengthen his personal position; but he did not succeed, nor could he, for instead of keeping pace with public opinion, he sought to prevent a general uprising against a government which had become the sport of those by whom he was surrounded.

The last message of President Johnson, in which the Dominican Republic was referred to with an intimation of the possibility of its annexation to the United States, produced such an agreeable impression on this government that the whole cabinet resolved to express their congratulations to him, and accordingly signed such a document.

Upon the election of President Grant, this government cultivated more intimate relations with the cabinet at Washington, which they found their most frank, noble, and steadfast friend.

After a confidential envoy had been sent from Santo Domingo to the United States, General Orville Babcock, not in any diplomatic character, came here for the purpose of seeing the country. Nevertheless, in the conversations held with him, he was assured that if the United States would afford us their protection against all foreign interference in our domestic affairs, this government, assured of public confidence and supported by public opinion, was certain that a popular vote would result in favor of annexation to the United States; which step, as the more honorable, was considered preferable to the leasing of Samana or the dismemberment of the country. It was added that the poverty of our resources placed us in great embarrassment in buying necessary arms and ammunition and in maintaining ourselves, we being unwilling to receive further proceeds from the English loan of which we had only received £38,095 4s. and 9d.; and that we desired to obtain the sum of at least \$150,000 on account of rent of Samana, or as a part of the amount to be paid by the United States in case of annexation.

In November, 1869, General Babcock again came, accompanied by Generals Ingalls and Sackett, and Mr. Perry, a commercial agent appointed for Santo Domingo, the latter with powers to sign treaties; an agreement was concluded, as the honorable commission is aware, by which the sum of \$100,000 in gold and \$47,229 91 in arms and ammunition were delivered to the Dominican government.

The men who direct the destinies of the Dominican people, respecting themselves and others, were far from thinking of employing dishonest and secret means for the annexation of their country to the United



States. They knew that the American people could be convinced but not bribed; and that political simony in this case would have been a useless shame. The free will of the Dominican Republic and the consent of the United States are the only elements necessary to attain the object in view.

Bearing these facts in mind, it can easily be understood that there could not have been any grants of land nor gifts to either officers or private citizens, and there never was any idea of an additional secret treaty in the interest of any party whatever. If gratuitous slander has dared attack the pure and well-established reputations of Generals Babcock, Ingalls, and Sackett, it is none the less true that the conduct of those gentlemen was irreproachable and worthy of representing the American Government.

In conclusion—the Dominican cabinet and the thinking men of this country have believed that annexation to the United States would be advantageous to both parties, and it never entered their views that it might become the subject of venal speculation. They thought it advantageous for Santo Domingo, because it would resolve definitively its social problem, securing for it liberty, order, peace, and all guarantees under a liberal political form of government—the object of their dreams and aspirations for half a century—rendering forever impossible the pretensions to dominion cherished to this day by the neighboring republic of Hayti.

On the other hand, they entertained no doubt that the addition to the Union of a state possessing the geographical, topographical, and geological character of Santo Domingo would be a valuable acquisition to the United States, as the complement of their political greatness and economical resources, and a fulfillment of the American doctrine, even if it cost the sacrifices which some defamers have conjured up to frighten the consciences of philanthropists and patriots in the United States.

The reasons set forth in the last two messages of President Grant in support of annexation are so comprehensive and forcible as to render any amplification on our part unnecessary.

M. M. GAUTIER,  
*Minister of the Interior, &c.*

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 20, 1870.*

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#### VIII.—DEBT STATEMENT.

[Translation.]

The debt of the Dominican Republic is largely composed of the past salaries due to the public employés. The reason of this arrearage is that the greater part of the revenues of 1868, 1869, and 1870, have been used in the payment of the public debt, created for the expenses of the war against Spain, and in the conversion of the paper currency emitted by the previous administration. The amount remaining of the revenues has been insufficient to cover the aforesaid salaries. To give an idea of this part of the administration it will be sufficient to show that the customs receipts of the republic have almost entirely redeemed the amount of \$2,628,300 left in circulation by Cabral, and which was repudiated by the country. Beyond this they have liquidated the amount of \$243,070 in Spanish war bonds.



Beginning with these data it may be estimated that—  
The arrears of salaries for which we are indebted, amount, for the whole republic, to .....

\$600,000 00

PUBLIC DEBT.

Debt for Spanish war expenses, in bonds of \$10 each, without interest .....	\$324,160
Redeemed in 1867 .....	\$7,900
Redeemed in 1868 .....	73,610
Redeemed in 1869 .....	118,420
Redeemed in 1870 .....	43,140
	243,070

81,090 00

Certificates of this debt are received in payment of twenty-five per cent. of the customs dues.

TREASURY NOTES, (paper money.)

Balance in circulation, \$147,575 18, at nominal discount of 400 for 1, that being price fixed by senatorial decree .....	368 93½
Notes of the committee of credit, (other paper money,) balance out of comptroller's office, nominal \$88,832 30, which at exchange of 30 for 1, fixed by the same decree .....	2,961 07
Notes in circulation, (vales,) issued by the comptroller, being obligations of the present administration .....	9,761 36
Same at sixty days' sight .....	1,153 00
	14,244 36½

14,244 36½

VARIOUS DEBTS.

To San Pelayo & Herrera, of Havana, subsidy for mail steamers, in arrears .....	7,600 00
To Briscoe, McDougall & Co., of St. Thomas, debt to them for supplies credited during Cabral's administration .....	2,566 25
To F. Fontana & Co., of St. Thomas, debt for a bill of exchange paid on account of the nation during the Cabral administration .....	3,000 00
To town council of Bani, loan received .....	926 25
To Isaiah Woodbury, of New York, debt for account due him from national bank to order, and for amount of government fund due him on liquidation of bank .....	2,889 94
To Jesurun & Son, of Curaçoa, for balance on account for goods supplied to government .....	1,598 59½
To J. R. Funkhauser, of New York, on account of 300 barrels of flour supplied to government March 21, 1868 .....	3,600 00
To Isaiah Woodbury, of New York, invoice of medicines .....	1,908 65
To Schuyler, Hartley & Graham, of New York, for Remington rifles and cartridges .....	18,750 50
To A. Mendez, of Paris, chargé d'affaires of the republic, on account of advances made for Dominican government to December 31, 1870, according to documents in office of ministry of foreign affairs, No. 33, v. 14, folio 21 .....	6,602 84
	49,443 02½

49,443 02½

DEFERRED DEBT.

This consists in notes (vales) and obligations of the Cabral administration unpaid on account of their doubtful origin, the sum whereof amounts to \$221,845 77, divided as follows:

Bonds of so-called national loan based on (in lieu of) the paper currency .....	117,389 02½
Notes, (vales,) issued at eight months, given in exchange for paper money at \$20 nominal for \$1 silver .....	30,144 80
Same given at sixty days' sight .....	5,467 75
Notes (vales) for divers purposes, based on (in lieu of) paper currency .....	55,667 84½
Bills of exchange drawn by treasurer on subordinate officers, and not paid .....	13,176 35
	221,845 77

221,845 77

NOTE.—The government is consolidating the above deferred debt, which may justly and legally be reduced to less than one-third of its nominal amount.



## NOTES OF NATIONAL BANK.

Notes of the extinct national bank of Santo Domingo, countersigned by the general treasurer and put into circulation, if paid in full, amount to ..... \$4,130 00

## LOANS.

To J. A. Jesurun & Son, of Caraçao, for loan of \$20,500 in cash, according to contract of December 7, 1865, which acknowledges a claim of \$25,000 at 4½ per cent. per annum. (Interest due upon aforesaid.) . . . . 25,000 00  
 To same, balance on account of schooner Capotillo, with an invoice of munitions of war. (Interest due on the same, at 6 per cent., from January, 1866) ..... 18,511 28  
 To Hartmont & Co., of London, £33,095 4s.9d., received on account of loan contracted on May 1, 1869, and annulled for want of fulfillment December 31, 1869, for which sum is claimed £50,000 at 6 per cent. annual interest, the same subject to discussion for non-fulfillment of conditions ..... 250,000 00  
 Loan without interest contracted by treasurer, April, 1868, and paid in bills of exchange to comptroller general ..... 20,223 20  
 Of this sum a certain part must be rebated on account of guns advanced by Señor H. Victoria, of St. Thomas, to the lenders, and for expenses in virtue of aforesaid contracts.

## DEBT OF 1859.

There is a sum of this date in circulation, the amount of which is unknown, because we are ignorant of the amount redeemed during the rule of the Spanish government, but which cannot exceed \$50,000 or \$60,000 ..... 50,000 00  
 Total ..... 1,334,487 64½

## PENDING CLAIMS.

Jesurun & Son have a claim before the Dominican senate for balance on loan of \$100,000 made to the Dominican government in 1857, contested by preceding administrations since 1853. By direction of senate this claim is under consideration by the chamber of accounts.

Another claim for hire of schooner Amalia, of same date. This claim is less than \$10,000.

Claim of Rofman & Lowenberg, of Paris, for \$13,000.

Another claim for a bill of exchange of \$1,000 in favor of Mark Raffin & Jacques Roller, of Paris.

Claim of General Baez, for destruction of stock-farm (hato) in La Barranca, Azua, and other spoliations, on his lands of Palomino and Sajanoa, occurring from 1858 to 1863, presented to Spanish government and its commissioners, sent by royal order to estimate the amount of loss. The claimants estimate the total loss at \$70,000.

There are various claims before the senate, an account of which has been rendered to the commission. (See statement of Auditor General Gibbse, pp. 161, 162, 163.)

Claim of \$10,000 of W. L. Cazneau, for the devastation of his estate of Esmeralda, in October, 1863, under the Spanish government. (Not yet examined.)

Claim of J. C. Castellano for his expenses claimed to have been incurred in the Dominican legation at Paris in 1859. The account, which is deemed inadmissible, presented by this gentleman, June 29, 1867, amounts to 131,719.40 francs.

Claim of Señor A. Postel, of Havre, for advances made on account of government to its envoy at Rome, in 1867. This claim is just. It is from 4,000 to 5,000 francs.



In view of the aforesaid data, the Dominican government believes that the debts of the republic can be fully liquidated with the amount of \$1,500,000.

M. M. GAUTIER,  
*Minister of the Interior, &c.*

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 20, 1871.*

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IX.—REVENUES.

[Translation.]

The revenues of the republic, according to our present system, are :

From customs dues, comprising import duties, export duties, port charges, and other sources of revenue, comprising registry of deeds and mortgages, licenses, stamped paper, postage stamps, and rents of national property.

As yet, nothing has been received from the two last named, owing to the condition of the country and the character of its legislation.

During the year 1868 the total revenue derived from the above sources amounted to \$478,768 43, as follows :

CUSTOMS DUES.

Tonnage .....	\$22, 111 11
Entrance fees .....	1, 326 32
Light-house .....	417 74
Anchorage .....	1, 326 32
Pilotage .....	1, 090 90
Lighterage .....	145 00
Interpreter .....	562 00
Signal-men .....	562 00
Quarantine .....	406 00
Wharfage .....	4, 110 19
Additional municipal tax .....	604 66
Additional municipal tax for steamer .....	3, 528 27
Water, (for ships) .....	222 00
Import duties .....	355, 044 43
Export duties .....	56, 503 89
Coasting licenses .....	7, 349 43
Deposits .....	205 00
Additional entries .....	24 00
	<hr/>
	\$455, 539 32

OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE.

Registry of deeds and mortgages .....	1, 248 04
Licenses .....	9, 370 19
Stamped paper .....	11, 586 37
Postage stamps .....	761 01
Receipts from mails .....	263 50
	<hr/>
	23, 229 11

Total revenue for 1868..... 478, 768 43

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But it is necessary to note that the year 1868 was one of the poorest, with respect to revenue.

In 1869 the total revenue amounted to \$760,028 16. The increase was due to increased importations and exportations, which were owing to the improved condition of the country over that of 1868, as well as the facility with which the duties were paid in depreciated currency.





The receipts for the year 1869 in the custom-houses of Santo Domingo and Puerto Plata, are shown by the following table:

Custom-house.	Import dues.	Export dues.	Port charges.	Totals.
Santo Domingo.....	\$161,722 99	\$17,639 74	\$23,705 63	\$203,068 36
Puerto Plata .....	338,679 01	58,186 49	31,307 25	428,172 75
	500,402 00	75,826 23	55,012 88	631,241 11

In order to explain this difference, it is necessary to examine the following comparative statement of commercial movements in 1868 and 1869:

Value of imports in 1868.....	\$1,109,014 93
Value of imports in 1869.....	1,416,022 43
Difference in favor of 1869.....	307,007 50
Value of exports in 1868.....	\$981,238 68
Value of exports in 1869.....	1,384,389 32
Difference in favor of 1869.....	403,150 64

It thus appears that the year 1869 was one of the most favorable. The receipts for said year (1869) are in detail as follows:

Import dues.....	\$507,138 59
Export dues.....	77,708 46
Port charges.....	56,927 75
Registry of deeds and mortgages.....	1,121 02
Licenses.....	12,464 07
Stamped paper.....	12,156 81
Postage stamps.....	1,556 22
Receipts from mails.....	1,651 29
Rents of national property.....	1,120 13
	671,844 34
Casual receipts and amounts due as appears by various documents received, but not yet settled.....	23,183 93
	700,028 27

The year 1870 gave a like result, viz:

CUSTOMS DUES.

Tonnage.....	\$27,206 60
Entrance fees.....	1,469 95
Light-house.....	679 01
Anchorage.....	1,469 95
Pilotage.....	1,429 27
Lighterage.....	216 00
Interpreter.....	614 20½
Signal-men.....	594 16½
Quarantine.....	430 16
Wharfage.....	6,793 38
Additional municipal tax.....	1,105 36½
Additional municipal tax for steamer.....	5,886 14
Water, (for ships).....	241 00
Import duties.....	601,393 64½
Export duties.....	71,419 20½
Coasting licenses.....	7,511 11
Deposits.....	132 43
Additional entries.....	14 00
	\$728,605 58½



EXCISES, IMPOSTS, ETC.

Registry of deeds and mortgages.....	\$2, 147 06½	
Licenses .....	12, 721 86½	
Stamped paper .....	18, 574 50	
Postage stamps .....	1, 093 69	
Receipts from mails .....	929 42½	
		\$35, 466 55

NATIONAL PROPERTY.

Sales and rents .....	150 00
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EXTRAORDINARY.

Casual and amounts yet to be collected.....	8, 462 62½
	772, 684 76

The increase of import duties arises from the facility with which they were paid in paper so depreciated that this increase was of no use to the treasury.

M. M. GAUTIER,  
*Minister of the Interior, &c.*

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 20, 1871.*

X.—POPULATION.

[Translation.]

The Dominican Republic has never been able to take a reliable census of its population, and all the estimates made have been based on the census taken in 1819. According to the work of Moreau de St. Mery, on the Spanish part of the island of Santo Domingo, the population in 1789 amounted to 125,000 souls; but it is believed that this estimate was incorrect, for the census of 1819 fixed it at only 63,000. Starting with this datum, and supposing that the population doubled in twenty-five years, it would give at the end of fifty years 252,000 souls, which is the figure most generally accepted. But wars and the emigration of many families at the times when the Spaniards abandoned the island must have greatly reduced the population.

The most reliable recent source of information on this subject is the basis adopted by the ecclesiastical court in the arrangement of parishes, which gives a population of only 207,000 souls, divided according to the following table:

Provinces.	Communes.	Population by communes.	Population by provinces.
Santo Domingo .....	Santo Domingo .....	10, 000	41, 400
	San Carlos .....	3, 000	
	Bani .....	4, 000	
	Ocoa .....	1, 300	
	Las Minas .....	1, 000	
	Guerra .....	1, 600	
	San José de los Llanos .....	3, 000	
	Bayaguana .....	1, 000	
	Monte Plata .....	2, 500	
	Yamaza .....	1, 400	
	Victoria .....	600	
	San Cristoval .....	12, 000	



Provinces.	Communes.	Population by communes.	Population by provinces.
Azua .....	Azua .....	10,000	36,000
	Neyba .....	12,000	
	Barahona .....	4,000	
	San Juan .....	5,000	
	Las Matas .....	3,000	
	Cercado, Banica, &c. ....	2,000	
Seybo .....	Seybo .....	12,000	29,600
	Higuey .....	8,000	
	Hato Mayor .....	8,000	
	San Pedro Macoris .....	1,600	
District of Samana.....	Samana .....	1,300	2,100
	Sabana de la Mar .....	800	
Vega .....	Vega .....	10,000	53,300
	Cotui .....	5,000	
	Bonao .....	1,800	
	Jarabacoa .....	2,500	
	San Francisco Macoris .....	16,000	
	Moca .....	18,000	
Santiago .....	Santiago .....	25,000	35,800
	Dajabon .....	800	
	Guayabin .....	4,000	
	Sabaneta .....	3,000	
	San José de las Matas .....	3,000	
District of Puerto Plata..	Puerto Plata .....	8,000	9,500
	Mente Cristi .....	1,500	
	Grand total.....		207,000

According to this estimate the provinces of the south, including the district of Samana, contain 109,100 souls, and those of Cibao 98,000; but this is probably incorrect, as from its well-known production and consumption, and the number of men it can bring into the field, the provinces of the Cibao are evidently more populous than those of the southern side of the island.

The foregoing data embrace the most reliable information that can at present be furnished concerning the population of the Dominican Republic.

It will be observed that this estimate does not include the frontier communes of Hincha, San Rafael, and San Miguel.

M. M. GAUTIER,  
Minister of the Interior, &c.

SANTO DOMINGO, February 20, 1871.



## XI.—GRANTS AND CONCESSIONS.

[Translation.]

*List of grants and concessions of various kinds made by the government of the Dominican Republic to individuals and companies.*

Grants.	Remarks.
No. 1.—Concession to Mr. William L. Cazneau for the introduction of immigrants into the provinces of Santo Domingo and Azua, and the establishment of colonies along the frontier of the republic, granted May 23, 1866.	Expired and null.
No. 2.—Concession to Mr. Davis Hatch, made September 27, 1866, for working the rock-salt mines in the commune of Neyba, and the construction of a railroad from the coast at Barahona to said salt mines.	Forfeited for want of compliance with its conditions, and null, as the property and mine, the subject of the grant, are ascertained to belong to a private individual, and the mine had been previously worked. Now being carried out.
No. 3.—To Mr. J. W. Fabens for a geological survey and general mineralogical exploration of all the provinces and districts of the republic, made July 3, 1868. (P. 185, &c.)	Now being carried out.
No. 4.—Agreement entered into with Mr. R. M. Funkhouser, October 7, 1868, for the establishment of a line of mail steamers between New York and New Orleans, and the ports of this republic, for which he is to receive 5 per cent. of the import and export duties on merchandise carried on said line of steamers. (P. 188.)	Being carried out.
No. 5.—Permission to Señor Pedro Antonio Delgado to take guano from Alta Vela.	Annulled by a resolution of the government, with the consent of the senate. Being carried out.
No. 6.—Concession to Mr. Edward H. Hartmont for taking guano from Alta Vela, in connection with the contract for a loan, May 8, 1869. (P. 191.)	Being carried out.
No. 7.—Concession to Mr. Edward H. Hartmont, February 1, 1869, for the construction of a railroad from Monte Cristi to Santiago, or from Santiago to Yuna. Upon the fulfillment of the special conditions of this concession, there was to be a grant of land.	Forfeited by the failure of the grantee to make the survey of the line of said road within the time stipulated.
No. 8.—Concession to Messrs. Edward Prime and Edward P. Hollister, July 4, 1869, for the establishment of a national bank; extended September 2, 1869.	Annulled for non-compliance with the conditions of the concession.
No. 9.—To Mr. Edward H. Hartmont to work mines of Samana in case loan of £420,000 should be effected.	Null, the loan not having been effected, and the concession forfeited December 31, 1869.
No. 10.—Concession to Mr. Frederick H. Fischer, of the city and State of New York, for building a railroad from the city of Santiago de los Caballeros to the banks of the Yuna River, or to any point on the peninsula of Samana, September 9, 1869. (P. 192.)	Being carried out, a survey having been submitted.
No. 11.—Concession to Señor Felix Montecatini, August 3, 1867, for building a railroad from the banks of the Ozama River to Cuayo-Medina, in San Cristoval; renewed and extended April 5, 1870, in favor of Messrs. F. Shumacher and Louis P. Angenard, to whom it had been transferred by contract made in Baltimore, January 22, 1868.	In force. (P. 195.)
No. 12.—Concession to Mr. Julian Graungerard for building a railroad from the city of Azua to Caobas, June 3, 1870. (P. 196.)	In force.



*List of grants and concessions of various kinds, &c.—Continued.*

Grants.	Remarks.
No. 13.—Concession to General Leon Guilamo for constructing and working such telegraph lines as may be necessary in the republic, November 12, 1870. (P. 198.)	In force.
No. 14.—Concession to General Carlos Baez for rent of salt-works at Bani, May 18, 1870. (P. 199.)	In force.
No. 15.—Concession to Colonel Telesfora Volta for the salt-works at Beata Island, September 12, 1870. (P. 200.)	In force.
<i>Grants of mines.</i>	
No. 1.—To the Industrial Progress Company, to work a copper mine, Cobre, commune of San Cristobal, November 5, 1866. (P. 201.)	
No. 2.—Concession to Mr. Wm. L. Cazneau, of a copper mine in Monte Mateo, Cambita, commune of San Cristobal, January 18, 1867.	
No. 3.—To the same, a copper mine in Mano Matuey, Cambita, commune of San Cristobal, July 12, 1867. (P. 202.)	Consolidated August 10, 1870, into one concession, under the mining law.
No. 4.—To the same, a copper mine at the place called "Loma de la Boca de Diamante," in the commune of San Cristobal, July 12, 1867.	
No. 5.—Concession to Señores Cambiaso & Co. for the working of a copper mine at a place called Cuayo, Medina, Upper Haina, San Cristobal, October 24, 1867. (P. 204.)	Same as two last preceding.
No. 6.—Concession, February 25, 1870, to the enterprise known as the Santo Domingo Company, of the mining circuit called "Buena-ventura," on the Upper Haina, commune of San Cristobal, in virtue of the geological explorations made in the province of Santo Domingo, and in fulfillment of the contract of July 3, 1868.	This concession is to be modified so as to make it conform strictly to the geological contract, which the government will do. (P. 205.)
No. 7.—Concession to Señor Felix Montecatini, March 19, 1867, of a mining circuit, Cuayo, San Cristobal.	Forfeited and renewed in favor of Messrs. F. Shumacher and L. P. Angenard, June 28, 1870.
No. 8.—Concesssion of the above-mentioned mining circuit to Messrs. F. Shumacher and L. P. Angenard. (P. 206.)	
No. 9.—Concession to the Santo Domingo Company of a mining circuit called Camu, September 16, 1870. (P. 207)	

The Dominican government has made no grant or concession of land to any foreign government or nation.

M. M. GAUTIER,  
*Minister of the Interior, &c.*

SANTO DOMINGO, *February 20, 1871.*





## XII.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY CONTRACT.

[Translation.]

GOD—COUNTRY—LIBERTY; DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, POLICE, AGRICULTURE, AND FOREIGN RELATIONS.

*To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting :*

I certify\* in due form that the annexed is a true copy of a contract for the geological and mineralogical exploration and survey of the different provinces and districts of the Dominican Republic, entered into on the 4th day of July, 1868, between the Dominican government and General William L. Cazneau, a citizen of the United States of America, represented by Colonel Joseph Warren Fabens, also a citizen of the United States of America, the original of which is on file in the archives of this department.

In testimony whereof I, M. M. Gautier, Secretary of the Interior, Police, and Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic, hereto sign my hand and affix the seal of said department.

Done in the City of Santo Domingo on this 20th day of February, 1871, in the XXVIIIth year of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and the IVth of the regeneration of the Dominican Republic.

M. M. GAUTIER.

[SEAL OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE.]

*Contract for the geological and mineralogical exploration and examination of the different provinces of the Dominican Republic, between the undersigned, to wit, Señor Manuel Maria Gautier, Secretary of the Interior and Police, and Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic, representing his government, of the one part, and Colonel Joseph Warren Fabens, a citizen of the United States of America, a resident of this capital, where he elects to have his domicile, and represented in this matter by his attorney in fact, General William L. Cazneau, likewise a citizen of the United States of America. It has been agreed as follows :*

## PREAMBLE.

The Dominican Government, desirous of being able to inquire, in a reliable manner, as to the existence of mineral lands with which the republic abounds, according to common repute, and to make known to the civilized world the certainty of such wealth by means of scientific examinations and results, so that there may no longer remain any doubt on the subject, and that foreigners may not fear to bring their capital into the country, which would at once secure the national credit and many other advantages of known utility, in view of the representations and propositions made to the government by Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, it has been agreed and contracted as follows :

## ARTICLE 1.—GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.

The Dominican government fully authorizes Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, by himself, or by any company organized for the purpose, to make, or cause to be made, a geological examination and a general mineralogical exploration of all the provinces and districts of the republic, in the manner and form and under the conditions and obligations hereinafter set forth.

## ARTICLE 2.—NOMINATION OF A CHIEF GEOLOGIST.

In order to begin and carry out the scientific labors named in the preceding article, and it being necessary that they be under the direction of a competent person, who may give satisfaction to the contractor, the Dominican government authorizes Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives, to nominate a chief geologist, under

\*A certificate of authentication similar in form to the above is attached to each of the following grants; it is not deemed necessary to print them.



whose inspection and superintendence said work is to be executed, such nomination being ratified in advance, provided, as is expected, that the person selected shall possess the scientific knowledge and accredited practical experience required in such cases.

**ARTICLE 3.—ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITIONS.**

Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives, bind themselves to meet and pay, on their own account, all the expenses that may be necessary, as well that of the transportation, maintenance, and salaries of the persons, as all others, of what kind soever, that should be made in order to carry to its end the scientific exploration treated of in this contract, or which may be incident to the same, without any exception whatever.

**ARTICLE 4.—MANNER, FORM, AND MODE OF THE EXAMINATION AND EXPLORATION.**

Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives, by the geologist and his assistants nominated for the purpose, shall proceed to explore the different regions of the republic, province by province, and district by district, making a careful geological investigation, and submit to the Dominican government the result of their operations in the following form:

1st. Every three months there shall be sent to the ministry of the interior a true and correct report of the explorations, examinations, and discoveries made, with the result of the analysis of the plans indispensably necessary to be made, and of the specimens and geological designs that may be useful for complete illustration in every shape, so that the government may be able to offer for sale on advantageous terms the localities examined. This report must explain with the like clearness and precision and indicate with certainty whether the lands examined be adapted to agriculture or mining, and in the latter case point out and specify in what their mineral value consists.

2d. At the end of each year after the beginning of the works indicated, the chief geologist shall from his quarterly reports make a general report in the form of a review, accompanied by the plans, designs, &c., from which may be made known to the civilized world the result of his geological investigations. At the conclusion of the undertaking a general work on the subject shall be made up; and,

3d. The work of exploration being once begun is to be continued until its final completion, and shall be made in the following order:

1. The province of Santo Domingo.
2. The province of La Vega.
3. The province of Santiago.
4. The district of Puerto Plata.
5. The district of Samana.
6. The province of Seybo, and
7. The province of Azua.

**ARTICLE 5.—CONCESSION OR "TITULO REAL"**

As a compensation for the labors and expenses of the exploration the Dominican government grants to Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or to his representatives, in fee simple, the one-fifth part of the lands that may have undergone the geological examination in the manner above set forth, with the right to select and set it apart, so that it may be immediately enjoyed as the quarterly reports may from time to time be submitted to the government; provided, always, that the lands to be thus selected shall belong to the state, it being declared that the titles issued shall at once stand admitted on an equal footing with grants made under the laws relating to the development of mines.

**ARTICLE 6.—EXCEPTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

In case a mine or mineral deposit discovered by means of the geological exploration aforesaid shall be found on the property of an individual, it shall be obligatory on Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives, to come to an understanding with the owner of the surface, in conformity to the existing laws on the subject of mines.

**ARTICLE 7.—EXCEPTION OF OTHER MINES.**

The grants mentioned in article No. 5 shall not be made in the perimeter of the lands where grants may already have been made for the working of mines according to existing legislation, nor on those lands which may contain stone-coal, they being formally excepted in this contract.

**ARTICLE 8.—PRIVILEGE.**

The Dominican government binds itself to not make any other grants of mines after the ratification of this contract and before the time agreed on for the presentation of



the first quarterly report of the work of exploration, but after that it shall have the right to make such disposition as may be convenient, of the lands explored and that may be proceeded against according to law.

**ARTICLE 9.—NOMINATION OF A RESIDENT SUPERINTENDENT.**

To facilitate the prompt and efficacious adjustment of questions or doubts that may arise in the future, concerning the present contract, General William L. Cazneau, formerly plenipotentiary of the United States of America near the Dominican government, is hereby nominated and recognized by both parties as the resident contractor or superintendent, with the powers and character of special representative in this city of the general interests of the aforesaid geological undertaking, and through whom any circumstance whatever, the subject of doubt, may be presented directly to the Dominican government for its consideration.

**ARTICLE 10.—TIME WITHIN WHICH THE WORK IS TO BE COMMENCED AND FOR ITS PROSECUTION.**

The execution of the present contract must be begun within six months from this date, and at the expiration of that period without such beginning having been made said contract is hereby declared null and void, unless such beginning be prevented by irresistible force duly proved; and Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives, shall not be at liberty to commence said work of exploration after the expiration of the time specified for making the beginning provided, unless in case of irresistible force as above stated, and the Dominican government shall stand released from the obligation of Article 8. The longest period for the conclusion of the work is fixed at three years.

**ARTICLE 11.—RATIFICATION.**

This contract shall be submitted to the executive power of the Dominican Republic for approval, and General William L. Cazneau now accepts and ratifies the same and guaranteeing its fulfillment by his attorney, Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens.

Done in duplicate and in good faith, in the city of Santo Domingo, on the 3d day of July, 1868.

MANUEL MA. GAUTIER.  
WILLIAM L. CAZNEAU.

A secret and additional article to the contract entered into between the government of the Dominican Republic and Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens on the 3d day of July, 1868, the first party named by its representative citizen, Manuel Maria Gautier, secretary of the interior and police and acting secretary for foreign affairs, and the second part by his special attorney-in-fact, General William L. Cazneau.

**ADDITIONAL ARTICLE.**

With the object that, during the time agreed upon for the execution of the geological and mineralogical works referred to in the contract celebrated by the undersigned on the third day of July, instant, no prejudice accrue to the republic, it is agreed that in case the Dominican government shall see fit to enter into any contract or contracts concerning any particular mine in the provinces or districts in which the geological labors may not have been begun, it shall have the right to do so, and in such a case and under equal conditions giving the preference to Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, or his representatives. This article shall have the same force and effect as if it had been included and inserted word by word in the contract of yesterday, third of July of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight. It is to be ratified at the same time and separately by the executive power of the republic, it being kept secret by the latter while it may be deemed opportune, and General William L. Cazneau accepts and ratifies the same, guaranteeing its faithful observance by his attorney-in-fact, Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens.

Done in duplicate and in good faith, in the city of Santo Domingo, on the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

MANUEL MARIA GAUTIER.  
WILLIAM L. CAZNEAU.



## XIII.—GRANT FOR LINE OF NEW YORK STEAMERS.

[Translation.]

*Concession for the establishment of a line of American mail steamers between the ports of New York and New Orleans, in the United States of America, and the ports of the Dominican Republic.*

It is agreed and stipulated by and between the undersigned, Señor David Coen, formerly minister of finance of the republic, duly authorized by the Dominican government, of the one part, and Mr. R. M. Funkhouser, formerly president of the Chamber of Commerce of St. Louis, United States, and his associates, by Mr. John P. O'Sullivan, their attorney-in-fact, of the other part, as follows :

## ARTICLE 1.

The government of the Dominican Republic authorizes Mr. R. M. Funkhouser and his associates to establish a monthly line of American mail steamers between New York, New Orleans, and the city of Santo Domingo, and other ports of the Dominican Republic, carrying mails, passengers, and all kinds of merchandise and mineral products between said ports. Said steamers may extend their voyage or voyages to any other ports of the Antilles whenever they may have passengers and cargo therefor.

## ARTICLE 2.

The said Funkhouser and his associates bind themselves to place a light-draught American steamer upon special service along the coast of the republic, and to make monthly trips to the island of St. Thomas. They also bind themselves to increase the number of such steamers, if commerce shall require it. Said steamers shall carry passengers, mails, and all kinds of merchandise and mineral products, and may extend their trips to the neighboring islands whenever they may have passengers and cargo therefor.

## ARTICLE 3.

In consideration of the great difficulties incident to the establishment of said lines of steamers and the heavy outlay necessary for the purchase of vessels, provisions, &c., the Dominican government agrees to pay to the said company, in part remuneration for its expenses, a sum equal to fifteen per cent.\* of the import and export duties levied upon all merchandise brought to or carried from Dominican ports by the steamers of said company, the adjustment and payment to be made every three months, in gold or silver, by the treasurer in Santo Domingo, or such other person as shall be named for the purpose.

## ARTICLE 4.

The steamers of said company may, whenever deemed proper, transfer passengers and cargo from one steamer to another at any hour of the day or night free of charge. A government agent shall be present to witness the transfer and see that the custom-house of the port where the transfer takes place receives no prejudice.

\* There is a discrepancy between the per centum here given and that stated in the foregoing list of grants, which states it at five per centum.—TRANSLATOR.



## ARTICLE 5.

The soldiers and officers, agents, mails, and cargoes belonging to the Dominican government shall be carried at half the established rate of prices; the official correspondence of the Dominican government shall be carried free.

## ARTICLE 6.

The steamers of said company shall be exempt from all port charges; and all provisions, coal, and other materials specially intended for the use of said steamers shall be free from all duties. Vessels that may arrive laden with coal, provisions, &c., for consumption on the steamers of said company shall also be exempt from port charges on such articles; other portions of their cargoes shall be subject to custom dues.

## ARTICLE 7.

The Dominican government binds itself to grant to said company the lands necessary for the construction of coal depots, wharves, and warehouses. Said lands shall be free from all taxes or contributions, and they shall be used exclusively as the property of the company while this contract shall remain in force. Upon its termination the contracting parties shall appoint a committee to appraise the warehouses that may have been built by said company, which shall become the property of the Dominican government upon the payment of their appraised value.

## ARTICLE 8.

If on account of bad weather it shall be impossible for a steamer to land at her port of destination the captain shall signal the fact from aboard, and may continue his voyage, leaving the passengers, baggage, and merchandise in the nearest Dominican port, unless those interested demand that they be landed at the ports called for by their tickets. In said case the company shall disembark the passengers and baggage on the return of said steamer, or another steamer of their line, free of all expense; and the merchandise shall be landed at the point called for by the bill of lading on the return of the steamer or some other steamer of said line.

## ARTICLE 9.

The steamers of said line shall make their regular time to their ports of destination according to their contracts and the regulations to be hereafter established. If from any unavoidable casualty they shall fail to do so, the fact shall be certified by all the officers on board.

## ARTICLE 10.

If from any fortuitous cause the sailing of the steamers on their schedule time be prevented, the commander of the port in Santo Domingo and the consuls of the Dominican Republic in the United States shall certify the cause of delay.

## ARTICLE 11.

Frequent inspections of the vessels shall be made, to see that they are neat and in good condition. They shall also be furnished with





necessary medicines, suitable to the diseases most prevalent in the country and in the ports along their route. Said medicines shall be furnished without charge.

ARTICLE 12.

The company shall fix the days of arrival and departure of each steamer in and from each of the ports of the voyage, and shall give notice thereof to the Dominican government one month before this contract shall take effect. If commerce shall hereafter require it, the company reserves to itself the right to put another steamer on said line.

ARTICLE 13.

If any agent or officer of the company shall be guilty of smuggling, or of abetting such offense, either on shipboard or on land, he shall be removed from his position, and never afterward be employed by the company, and moreover be liable to punishment according to the laws of the country.

ARTICLE 14.

The company shall have the right to use in loading and unloading their steamers such of their boats as they may have in port and suitable for the purpose.

ARTICLE 15.

The Government desiring to afford facilities for a healthy and legitimate immigration, will permit all immigrants that may arrive upon the steamers of said company to land free of all duties on professional instruments and agricultural implements.

ARTICLE 16.

The company reserves to itself the right to navigate the navigable rivers of the country with their steamers free of all duties and contributions so long as this contract shall remain in force.

ARTICLE 17.

This concession shall continue in force for twenty-one years from this date, renewable by mutual consent. The government of the Dominican government will give its amplest protection to the company that may be formed by Mr. R. M. Funkhouser and his associates pursuant to this contract, and will grant no subsidy or privilege over the same route that may be prejudicial to this company during the term of this contract.

ARTICLE 18.

This line of steamers shall be established without unnecessary delay, and within, at most, one year from this date; and if not done within that time, this concession shall be null and void.

ARTICLE 19.

If, from any cause, said company shall fail to perform the service stipulated by this contract, for six months, without the previous consent of



the government, the latter shall have the right to rescind the contract, and will thereby be released from all the obligations herein stipulated.

Done in duplicate, and in good faith, in the city of Santo Domingo, on the seventh day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight.

DAVID COEN.  
J. P. O'SULLIVAN.

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XIV.—GRANT OF GUANO AT ALTO VELA.

[Translation.]

*Agreement for the concession of the guano or phosphate of lime on the island of Alto Vela.*

It is agreed and stipulated between the undersigned, Mr. Richard Curiel, minister of finances of the Dominican Republic, acting on behalf of his government, of the one part, and Messrs. Hartmont & Co., merchants, No. 7 Union Court, London, of the other part, as follows:

ARTICLE 1.

The government of the Dominican Republic grant to Messrs. Hartmont & Co. permission to work the layers, beds, and rocks of guano or phosphate of lime which are found in the island of Alto Vela in such manner as is determined hereinafter, for a term of fifty years, beginning July 1, 1869.

ARTICLE 2.

Messrs. Hartmont & Co. bind themselves to bear on their sole and exclusive account all the expense of the operations necessary for working the guano or phosphate of lime mentioned in the preceding article.

ARTICLE 3.

Messrs. Hartmont & Co. bind themselves to carry out this agreement at the latest by the 1st of January next, and to export annually a quantity of at least ten thousand tons of guano or phosphate of lime.

ARTICLE 4.

The grantees shall have the right to construct houses, shops, roads, docks, wharves, or anything else necessary in the island of Alto Vela during all the term of this concession without paying any rents, taxes, or imposts to the government for the land occupied. All the lands of the island are placed at the disposition of the grantees, and the government is prohibited from permitting other persons to settle on the island. After the expiration of this grant, the grantees shall dispose of their materials, houses, &c., for their own profit, and as they see fit.

ARTICLE 5.

The tools, utensils, machinery, provisions, fuel, and other materials which shall be imported into the Dominican Republic, destined for the establishments for working Alto Vela, shall be exempt from all import duties. All persons employed by the grantees in working their conces-



sion, whether they may be Dominicans or foreigners, shall be exempt from personal imposts; but the grantees, in employing them, shall not choose Dominicans among those in the military service.

#### ARTICLE 6.

The grantees shall pay to the Dominican government a tax of one dollar and sixty cents in coin for each registered ton of guano or phosphate of lime which they shall export from the island of Alto Vela. The quantity shall be determined by the ship's register. No other tax of any sort whatever shall be due on the exportation of the guano or phosphate of lime, and the ships engaged in carrying on this exportation shall be exempt from the payment of the coasting tax and of every other tax except those of tonnage, light-house, quarantine, pilotage, and drinking-water, the two last-named taxes being due only in case of ships which shall take a pilot on board, or which shall take in water in one of the ports of the republic.

#### ARTICLE 7.

The revenues resulting to the Dominican government from these operations shall be devoted to the loan contracted for the Dominican Republic through the agency of Mr. Hartmont. The grantees of this concession, or their attorneys, are hereby authorized to pay into the hands of the contractors of the loan all sums due to the Dominican government on the workings herein granted; this until the entire reimbursement of the loan. When this reimbursement shall have been effected, the tax shall be paid directly into the hands of the government. In case the grantees shall not export the minimum quantity stipulated in these articles, the Dominican government shall have the right to declare the present concession null, and to dispose of it as it shall see fit.

#### ARTICLE 8.

Messrs. Hartmont & Co. shall have the right to transfer part or the whole of their concession to other houses, to a company, or to a commission of the titles of the loan above named.

#### ARTICLE 9.

The present concession shall be maintained under all circumstances, in peace as in war, and even when one or several of the grantees or their attorneys or assigns may be subjects of a government with which the Dominican government may be at war, or with which diplomatic relations may not be established or may be interrupted.

Done in good faith and in duplicate at the city of Santo Domingo the eighth (8th) of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

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#### XV.—RAILROAD CHARTER, SANTIAGO TO SAMANA.

[Translation.]

#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas in view of its high importance, and in order to give an effective impulse to the development of the commerce and industry of



the country by the establishment of railway communication between the city of Santiago de los Caballeros, the commercial center of the province of Cibao, and the banks of the river Yuna, or some point on the peninsula of Samana; and whereas Mr. Frederick Fischer, of the city and State of New York and the United States of America, desires, in conjunction with his associates, to establish said line of railway: Therefore, the executive power of the Dominican Republic, by a resolution in council, and with the consent of the senate, grants to the said Frederick Fischer and his associates permission to establish the said line of railway in the manner and with the conditions, liabilities, privileges, benefits, and obligations following, viz:

First: The Dominican Republic grants to Mr. Frederick Fischer, of the city and State of New York, United States of America, and to his associates, the right and privilege of constructing and operating a line of railway extending from at or near the city of Santiago de los Caballeros to the banks of the river Yuna, or to some other point on the peninsula of Samana, and within the following limits: Between the parallel of north latitude of said city of Santiago and that of the mouth of the Yuna river, or  $19^{\circ} 19'$  and  $19^{\circ} 27'$  of north latitude, eastward from the meridian of said city, granting to them the enjoyment of said line of railway for the term of ninety-nine years from the time it is put in operation.

Second: Said grantees shall have the free right to lay out and build said railway between the points mentioned, and the government also grants to them the land necessary for the construction of said road and the establishment of its stations, depots, and other necessary appurtenances out of the public lands along the line thereof. If it shall be necessary in laying out the road to pass through and occupy the lands of any individual, they may proceed according to the rules and forms prescribed by the laws of the republic regulating the appropriating of private property to public use, and the grantees shall make compensation to the owners of such property in accordance with the judgment that may be rendered by the experts appointed in such proceeding. All the lands mentioned in this article, as well as the capital invested in the railway and the property and appurtenances of said line, shall be exempt from all taxes and contributions during the term of this concession. The grantees shall have, moreover, authority to use the public lands adjacent to the line of said railway, and to take therefrom stone, timber, and other materials which may be necessary for the construction, maintenance, and repair of the same.

Third. The Dominican Republic concedes to the said grantees every alternate square league to the right and left of said railway within the limits of two leagues on each side of the road, out of the public lands which may not have been sold or adjudged to others at the date of this concession, allotting to them on the one side of the road those having the even numbers, and on the other side those having the odd numbers. When the grantees shall have completed four consecutive leagues of said railway, ready in all respects for the public service, the government will issue patents for the said four leagues which have been completed.

The grant of lands provided for in this article shall not include the lands of the peninsula of Samana, if the grantees shall extend said road to a point upon said peninsula; but in that case they shall have only the right of way in that part of said peninsula which the road may traverse, the meridian of the principal mouth (boca grande) of the Yuna River being fixed as the line of demarkation for the concession of said lands.



Fourth. Said grantees shall have the right to import free of duty into the republic through the ports open to foreign commerce all the rails, cars, locomotives, and other material of any kind, which they may require for constructing, operating, and repairing said railway; and the republic will exempt from military service the persons employed by the grantees upon the work of said road.

Fifth. Within six years after the route of said road shall have been definitively fixed, the grantees shall construct and put in practical operation a proper and sufficient railway, with all the necessary equipments, and within the limits mentioned in Article 1. In case the road shall not be completed, the grantees shall forfeit to the Dominican Republic the total receipts which may be derived from the use of that part of the road which may be ready for traffic at the expiration of that time, until the rest shall have been completed: *Provided, however,* That in computing the time, no period shall be included during which the work may have been interrupted or suspended by the act of the Dominican government, either on account of foreign war or internal commotion. The grantees shall carry free the mails of the government, and at all times transport its troops, and munitions of war, and arms, when the same shall be required by the proper department; and the government shall always have the preference in the use of said railway for the objects above mentioned, by making a compensation which shall not exceed one-half of that paid by individuals for a like service.

Sixth. The republic concedes to the grantees the sole and exclusive privilege of establishing, controlling, and operating, under the same conditions as those specified with respect to the line of railway, telegraph lines along the entire length of said road. The grantees shall have the right to select the way or route over the public land or lands of individuals, and across all bays, lakes, and rivers, for the purpose of establishing said lines of telegraph; they shall have the right to take from the adjacent public land, stone, wood, and other materials necessary for their construction, operation, and repair.

Seventh. Said grantees shall have full right of navigating the river Yuna, and of constructing, controlling, and operating at the terminus of the railroad at Samana the docks, wharfs, and other works which may be necessary for the use of the railway, whether on the peninsula of Samana, or on the banks of the river Yuna.

Eighth. Whenever Mr. Edward H. Hartmont, in virtue of his contract with the republic, dated February 1, 1869, shall have made his election for the railway from Santiago to Monte Cristi, or the railway to some point near the Yuna River, the republic will give notice of the fact to these grantees, and within one year from such notification said grantees shall complete the exploration of the route of the road herein provided for, and file a map thereof in the department of the interior. In case of the said Hartmont, instead of electing to build the road to Monte Cristi, shall elect to build one to some point toward the river Yuna, said Frederick Fischer, and his associates, shall have the right to construct and operate a railway from the city of Santiago, or near it, to Monte Cristi, or to some point on the bay of Manzanilla, on the same basis, and under the same conditions, and with the same concessions of land as if the said road had been made to the banks of the Yuna.

Ninth. It is a condition precedent to the maintenance in force of this concession that the stipulations of the last preceding article be fully complied with; and it shall be absolutely null and void if the work shall not have been begun within one year, except in case of hinderance from unavoidable cause, which fact shall be duly established.





Tenth. The Dominican Republic will give its high protection to the grantees, or to the company, which they may form, and binds itself to not make any concession which may conflict with the present, within the limits specified in Article 1, and all property and privileges acquired, or that they may acquire, in virtue of this concession, shall be guaranteed by a special treaty to be celebrated between the Dominican Republic and the United States of America.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo, on the 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1869, the XXVIth of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and the IIId of the regeneration of the republic.

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XVI.—RAILROAD CHARTER, SANTO DOMINGO CITY TO AZUA.

[Translation.]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas Messrs. F. Schumacher and Louis P. Angenard, of the city of Baltimore, United States of America, on the 12th day of July, 1869, presented their petition, showing that on the 22d January, 1868, they purchased from Mr. Felix Montecatini, in said city of Baltimore, among other things the franchise of making and using a railway from the landing on the river Ozama near San Carlos, crossing the Haina and terminating at Cuayo-Medina, in conformity to the concession granted to him by the preceding administration, August 3d, 1867, but the surveys for which had for unavoidable cause not been made, and said franchise therefore forfeited, on which account they ask to be allowed one year more to comply with the preliminary conditions of said concession, and six years for the completion of the entire work, and authority to extend said line to the city of Azua:

The same having been duly considered, and in view of the fact that the concession has been forfeited, and that it embraces powers that the executive is not competent to grant, and that for these causes it cannot be renewed as asked by the petition; but nevertheless, taking into account the expenses already incurred by the petitioners, and the importance of establishing a railway between this capital and the city of Azua, it is

*Resolved—*

ARTICLE 1. That a concession be granted to Messrs. F. Schumacher and Louis P. Angenard to construct a railway beginning at the landing on the Ozama River, and passing outside of San Carlos, and crossing the Haina, and thence to Cuayo-Medina in San Cristobal, thence to the city of Azua, the capital of the province of that name; and to control and operate the same for their own profit for ninety-nine years; at the end of which period the railway shall become the property of the government without any remuneration on its part.

ARTICLE 2. The exploration and survey of the route of said road are to be commenced immediately in order that a plot may be speedily presented to the government, and that the government may then take the proper steps in view of the carrying out of this concession.

ARTICLE 3. The government will give to Messrs. F. Schumacher and Louis Angenard gratuitously the lands necessary for the construction of a double-track road, and for the workshops and dwellings for employés, depots, and warehouses of the railway, out of lands along its



track belonging to the government. In addition to said lands, the government will give to them lands on both sides, the quantity and locality of which shall be the object of a special concession as soon as the plat of the exploration and survey shall be filed.

ARTICLE 4. The soldiers, military officers, agents, and goods of the government shall be transported on said road for one-half of the rate of charges established for individuals; and the mails and mail agents shall be transported free of charge.

ARTICLE 5. The tools, machinery, utensils, and other articles imported into the republic for the necessary use of said road shall be exempt from all import duties.

ARTICLE 6. Messrs. F. Schumacher and L. Angenard shall have the right to sell or assign this concession to other persons or to form a company of stockholders for the construction of said railway.

ARTICLE 7. This concession shall be absolutely null and void unless the work be commenced within eighteen months from this date, and the plot mentioned in Article 2 filed.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo on this fifth day of April in the year eighteen hundred and seventy, the XXVIIth year of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and the IIIrd of the regeneration of the republic.

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XVII.—RAILROAD CHARTER, AZUA TO CAOBAS.

[Translation.]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas in view of its high importance and in order to give an effective impulse to the development of the commerce and industry of the country by establishing a railway communication between the city of Compostella de Azua, a commercial center and capital of the province of the same name, westwardly from said province to the commune of Caobas, upon our frontier; and whereas Mr. Julian Grandgerard, merchant, living in the commune of Bani and province of Santo Domingo, desires, in conjunction with his associates, to establish said railway, for which end he has petitioned the government:

Therefore, the executive power of the Dominican Republic, by a resolution in council, to be laid before the senate for its approval, grants to the said Julian Grandgerard and his associates permission to establish said line of railway, in manner and form and with the conditions, liabilities, franchises, advantages, and obligations following, viz:

First. The Dominican Republic grants to Mr. Julian Grandgerard and his associates the privilege of constructing and operating a line of railway beginning at or near the city of Compostello de Azua, and running westwardly to the frontier village of Caobas, said grant to continue for the term of ninety-nine years from the day on which the road shall be completed.

Second. Said grantees shall have the free right of way for the exploration and construction of said railway between the points mentioned. The government grants to them, moreover, the lands necessary for the construction of said road, and the establishment of the stations, depots, and appurtenances necessary to it; said lands to be of the public lands along the line of the road. If, in laying out and constructing said road, it shall be necessary to occupy or make use of private property, they may proceed according to the rules and forms prescribed by the laws of



the republic regulating the appropriation of private property to public use, and the grantees shall make compensation to the owners of such property, in accordance with the judgment that may be rendered by the experts appointed in such proceeding. All the lands mentioned in this article, as well as the capital invested in the railway, and the property and appurtenances of said line, shall be exempt from all taxes and contributions during the term of this concession. The grantees shall have, moreover, authority to use the public lands adjacent to the line of said railway, and to take therefrom stone, timber, and other materials which may be necessary for the construction, maintenance, and repair of the same. In addition to said public lands, the government concedes to said grantees the necessary extent of land on both sides of the road, the quantity and locality of which will be the subject of a special grant, as soon as the survey and plat of the line shall have been filed.

Third. Said grantees shall have the right to import, free of duty, into the republic, through the ports open to foreign commerce, all the rails, cars, locomotives, and other materials of any kind which they may require for constructing, operating, and repairing said railway, and the republic will exempt from military service the persons employed by the grantees upon the work of said road.

Fourth. Within six years after the route of said road shall have been definitively fixed, the grantees shall construct and put in practical operation a proper and sufficient railway, with all the necessary equipments, between the points mentioned in Article 1. In case the road shall not be completed, the grantees shall forfeit to the Dominican Government the total receipts which may be derived from the use of that part of the road which may be ready for traffic at the expiration of that time, until the rest shall have been completed: *Provided, however,* That in computing the time no period shall be included during which the work may have been interrupted or suspended by the act of the Dominican Government, either on account of foreign war or internal commotion. The grantees shall carry the mails of the government free, and at all times transport its troops and munitions of war and arms, when the same shall be required by the proper department; and the government shall always have the preference in the use of said railway for the objects above mentioned, by making a compensation which shall not exceed one-half of that paid by individuals for a like service.

Fifth. The republic concedes to the grantees the sole and exclusive privilege of establishing, controlling, and operating, under the same conditions as those specified, with respect to the railway, telegraph lines along the entire length of said road. The grantees shall have the right to select the way or route over the public lands, or lands of individuals, and across all bays, lakes, and rivers for the purpose of establishing said lines of telegraph, and they shall have the right to take from the adjacent public lands stone, wood, and other materials necessary for their construction, operation, and repair.

Sixth. One year's time is granted to said Julian Grandgerard to complete the exploration and survey of said line of railway, and to file the plat thereof in the department of the interior; and in case the same shall not be done within that time, this concession shall be absolutely null and void, except it be prevented by unavoidable cause, which fact shall be duly established.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo, on the third day of June, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy, the XXVIIth of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and IIIrd of the regeneration of the republic.



## XVIII.—CHARTER FOR TELEGRAPH LINES.

[Translation.]

## EXECUTIVE POWER—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas, on the 5th day of the current month, citizen General Leon Guilamo petitioned the minister of the interior, police, and agriculture, asking the privilege for ninety-nine years to establish throughout the Dominican territory such lines of telegraph as the government may deem useful or necessary, at his own charge and for his own benefit, but to be regulated by such rules as the government may prescribe; and whereas the establishment of lines of telegraph are of great public utility, constituting as they do in this age an element of civilization and an efficient auxiliary to commercial transactions and the official measures of the public administration; and in view of the merits and services of citizen General Guilamo, and in view of the powers vested in the executive by section 24 of article 35 of the constitution, it is

*Resolved—*

First. To declare, and it is hereby declared, that the establishment of lines of telegraph, putting the capital in communication with the different cities and communes of the republic, is of public utility.

Second. For the reason declared in the preceding article, the Dominican government concedes to citizen General Leon Guilamo the privilege of establishing, by himself or by a company or companies organized for the purpose, and putting in operation such lines of telegraph as he may deem expedient, and such as the government may indicate; the costs of the survey, exploration, and determining of said lines to be at his sole expense.

Third. In surveying and laying out said lines, the said General Leon Guilamo and his associates or assigns shall have the right to select the way over any of the public lands or the lands of individuals, across the lakes, bays, and rivers; and shall have the right to take from the adjacent public lands such stone, wood, and other materials as may be necessary in the construction, maintenance, and repair of said lines.

Fourth. When necessary surveys and explorations for the establishment of said lines of telegraph under this concession have been completed, the grantee, or his representatives, shall, before entering upon said work, file with the minister of the interior a description of the same, together with the maps and plans that may be deemed necessary for the due information and approval of the government.

Fifth. When the government shall desire to establish a telegraph line between points between which the grantee shall not have established a line, it shall be the duty of the grantee, or of his representatives, to construct and put the same into practical operation within the time which may be required, according to the judgment of competent persons; and, in case this shall fail to be done, the government shall have the right to grant the privileges of constructing and operating such lines of telegraph to other persons or companies, without prejudice to the use of the lines already established.

Sixth. The following lines are considered of first necessity: first, from the peninsula of Samana to Neyba, passing through the capital and Compostella de Azua; second, from the capital, Santo Domingo, to the city Santiago de los Caballeros, with a branch from the last-named place to Monte Christi, and one to Puerto Plata. The grantee, or his representatives, shall put these lines in operation in the order above named, and with such modifications as they shall deem useful and necessary.



Seventh. The proceeds of said lines shall inure for the benefit of the grantee, his associates or successors, they being bound to send, free of charge, telegrams which may relate to the administration of criminal justice, public order and war, sent by the authorities or magistrates who may have legal power so to do.

Eighth. All the effects and machinery that may be introduced by the grantee or his representatives for the establishment and operation of said lines of telegraph, shall be free of all duties.

Ninth. The grantee, or his representatives, shall enjoy the benefit of the lines which may be established by virtue of this concession for and during the term of ninety-nine years, at the expiration of which time said lines shall be the property of the state, which will provide as it may deem best for their management.

Tenth. Regulations for the public management of said lines shall be agreed upon after their establishment by the government, and the grantee, or his representatives, and as to manner of using and superintending the same, and the orderly regulation thereof. But such regulations shall in no manner prejudice nor impair the essential provisions of this concession.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo the 12th day of November, 1870, the XXVIIth year of independence, the VIIIth of the restoration, and the IVth of the regeneration of the republic.

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XIX.—GRANT OF THE BANI SALT-WORKS.

[Translation.]

*Communication from the minister of finance, dated May 18, No. 469, and copy of the contract for the renting of the salt-works at Bani for fifty years, entered into between the minister of finance and Carlos Baez.*

No. 469.] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE,  
Santo Domingo, May 18, 1870.

CITIZEN: I inclose you herewith, for your information and official action, a copy of the contract for the renting of the salt-works at Bani for the term of fifty years, entered into between the minister of finance and Carlos B. Baez, in conformity with the resolution of the honorable senate, adopted on the 28th of March last, and which was communicated to me by that high body on the same day, and approved by the superior government. God and liberty.

R. CURIEL.

To the Citizen AUDITOR GENERAL of the Treasury.

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An agreement entered into between us, General Ricardo Curriel, minister of finance and commerce, of the one part, and Señor Carlos B. Baez, general of the armies of the republic, and a member of the senate, of the other part, witnesseth:

Pursuant to a resolution of the honorable senate, adopted on the 28th day of March of this year, which was first communicated on that day in an official note by the president of that high body, a contract is entered into for renting the salt-works at Bani to Señor Carlos Baez, his associates and heirs, or whomsoever by any right whatsoever shall rightfully represent them, according to the following provisions:

First. General Carlos B. Baez binds himself to, by himself or by means of others, or a society organized for the purpose, put the salt-works at Bani in such a state of pro-





ductiveness as to be deemed an important branch of industry, and to that end he is to construct all the works and make all the improvements necessary.

Second. Said concession is made to General Carlos B. Baez for the term of fifty years, at the end of which time the improvements, establishments, and constructions which may be found made at said salt-works shall belong to the state.

Third. The grantees shall pay to the government five per centum of the product of the salt-works, either in salt or its equivalent in money, for which purpose they shall be required to exhibit to the agent of the government, or other authorized person, their books, and to give all necessary information. This payment shall be made in a manner at the option of the government, and, when in money, it shall be made at the end of every three months.

Fourth. Such foreign vessels as shall take in cargo at the salt-works shall not be required to take out a coasting license.

Fifth. If, at the end of one year after the lease heretofore made to the authorities of the town of Bani, (from which time the period of fifty years, the term of this concession, is to be computed,) the grantees shall not have begun the works of construction before mentioned, &c., this concession shall be null and void, and the grantees shall be bound to pay the sum of four hundred dollars in coin as rent for said year.

Sixth. The salt from the works at Bani that may be introduced into the other communes and provinces of the republic while this concession shall be in force, shall be free from all municipal taxes.

Done and signed in duplicate and in good faith, in the city of Santo Domingo, on the 10th day of May, 1870, in the XXVIIth year of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and the IIIrd of the regeneration of the republic.

RICARDO CURIEL.  
CARLOS B. BAEZ.

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## XX.—GRANT OF BEATA SALT-WORKS.

[Translation.]

No. 818.] DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE,  
*Santo Domingo, September 12, 1870.*

CITIZEN: I inclose for your information and official action the annexed copy of a contract for a concession for fifty years of the island of Beata to citizen Colonel Telesforo Volta, made by this department pursuant to a resolution of the senate, which has heretofore been communicated to you. God and liberty.

R. CURIEL.

To the Citizen AUDITOR GENERAL of the Treasury.

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By virtue of a resolution of the honorable senate, adopted on the 17th of June of this year, and communicated to this department on the same day in an official note, No. 54:

### ARTICLE FIRST.

The citizen Colonel Telesforo Volta is hereby authorized to establish and carry on salt-works on the island of Beata for the term of fifty years, and to have the benefit of the products thereof, and dispose of the same freely, whether they shall be carried on by him or by a company, said enterprise being subject to the following conditions: First. The work for the establishment of the salt-works shall be begun within two years from the date of this concession; second, five per centum of the proceeds of said salt-works shall be paid into the public treasury; third, all vessels which shall come to carry salt from said works shall be cleared from some port of the republic, and pay port dues and tonnage. The enterprise shall be subject to all the laws in force in the republic applicable to such enterprises in general.

### ARTICLE SECOND.

This enterprise shall enjoy the exemption from payment for coasting licenses, which, by the resolution of the national congress approved April 16, 1867, was granted to foreign vessels carrying salt out of the country.



## ARTICLE THIRD.

The tools and instruments which may be imported to be used in this enterprise are hereby declared free from all duties.

## ARTICLE FOURTH.

This concession shall expire if, within the time fixed by the first section of article 1, the work for the establishment of said salt-works shall not have been begun.

Done in duplicate in Santo Domingo the 12th day of September, 1870.

R. CURIEL.  
TELESFORO VOLTA.

## XXI.—GRANT OF COPPER MINE CERCADO DEL COBRÉ.

[Translation.]

GOD, THE COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

In view of a petition addressed to the minister of the interior and police by a joint-stock company called the Society of Industrial Progress, established in this city, asking for a concession for the working of a copper mine discovered, and heretofore worked by virtue of legal authority for that purpose, at a place called "Cercado del Cobré," in the jurisdiction of San Cristoval; and, further, in view of the fact that the proper formalities, which are required by articles 23, 24, and 25 of the law of mines, declared in force in the republic by a resolution of the national congress approved April 12, 1866, have been complied with; and in accordance with the advice of a council of the secretaries of state, I hereby grant to the said Society of Industrial Progress the necessary permission, reserving the ultimate right of property, and without prejudice to third persons, to work, by itself or other companies, the said mine; and they shall have the right to use and dispose of its products for their own benefit, under the following conditions:

First. They shall prosecute the working of said mine continuously and actively.

Second. The working shall not be deemed actively prosecuted unless there shall be at least six laborers engaged therein.

Third. The work shall be conducted according to the rules of the art, and the enterprise and laborers shall be subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the police regulations.

Fourth. They shall answer for all damages and injuries that may accrue to third parties by reason of the working of the mine.

Fifth. They shall also make compensation for injuries caused to neighboring citizens by the accumulation or diminution of water.

Sixth. They shall pay annually to the public treasury two dollars for each square kilometer [one square kilometer = 247.1 acres] of the superficies of the mine.

Seventh. They shall pay into the public treasury five per centum of the gross product of the mine, to be delivered in the port of Santo Domingo.

Eighth. They shall, as far as possible, employ in the work Dominican operatives and workmen.

Ninth. They shall make out a map and plan of the mine, and submit it for the approbation of the government.

Tenth. All controversies and difficulties that may arise between the government and the company, or between the company and individuals,



in consequence of this concession, or of working the mine, are to be decided by the tribunals of the republic and according to the laws of the country.

Eleventh. The Dominican operatives that may be employed in the mine shall be exempt from military service, except when the government shall need them for the establishment and preservation of the public tranquillity.

Twelfth. The vessels which may arrive at the ports of the country laden with machinery, instruments, and other things indispensable to the establishments for the elaboration of the minerals that may be taken from the mine, shall be exempt from port duties.

Thirteenth. The instruments that may be brought into the country for the elaboration of the minerals are declared free of duty.

Fourteenth. The present concession shall cease if, at the end of six months from its date, the working of the mine has not been begun.

Santo Domingo, November 12, 1866; the XXIII<sup>d</sup> of the independence, IV<sup>th</sup> of the restoration of the republic.

JOSE MARIA CABRAL.

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## XXII.—REISSUE AND CONSOLIDATION OF GRANTS OF THREE MINES.

[Translation.]

### EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas General William L. Cazneau has presented his petition, dated on the 25th of March of the current year, in which he represents that he is the lawful owner of three contiguous mining circuits, called respectively Monte-Mateo, Mano-Matuey, and Loma-Diamante, all situated in Upper Nigua, commune of San Cristobal, and province of Santo Domingo, by virtue of the titles issued to him on the 18th of January, 12th of July, and 13th of December, 1867, and according to the demarkation and plans annexed to the same; and whereas the said General William L. Cazneau desires to consolidate the said three circuits into one, by authority of the government, in order to proceed with the exploration and working of the same on a more extended scale, by means of a company which it is proposed to organize under the style of the Cazneau Union, with a view of working actively the various deposits and placers which are found in said circuits, in order that each and all of them may be worked according to the rules of the mining art, and most profitably; and that in case those interested shall see fit, they may at the same time form within said circuits an independent branch (enterprise) for the extraction or reduction of mineral products, or both.

In view of the foregoing representations of the said General Cazneau, and by virtue of the provisions of article 31 of the law of mines, now in force, it is—

*Resolved*, To grant, and by these presents there is granted, to General William L. Cazneau, or to his associates or representatives, the right of occupying and controlling his said three mining circuits of Monte-Mateo, Mano-Matuey, and Loma-Diamante, as a single and distinct mining property, under the title of Cazneau's United Zone, having the same extent and form heretofore granted in three contiguous parts, and now united into one, according to the annexed plat made by Arthur Pennell, civil engineer; and the said grantee, or his representatives or associates,



shall have the right to work the metals and mineral deposits contained in said zone, and to reduce and dispose of said products freely, and as they shall see fit: *Provided*, that in so doing they in no manner violate the laws of the country, and that they comply with the duties and forms hereinafter set forth.

The grantee and his associates shall also have the right to employ in operating the machinery and works the river and currents of water that flow across said United Zone, and the government binds itself not to make grants or concessions to other parties which may prejudice the concessions herein expressed, whilst the said General Wm. L. Cazneau or his representatives and associates shall comply with the following conditions and obligations:

First. To answer for all damages and injuries which this work may cause to third parties.

Second. To contribute, in proportion to the benefit received, to the expense of the drainage of mines closely neighboring, and for general galleries of drainage or transportation, whenever the same shall be authorized by the government for the group of mines, or for the whole of the mining district in which these mines are situated.

Third. To employ in the mines, besides the colonists and mining officers who may be introduced from abroad, Dominican citizens, who shall constitute a majority of those employed.

Fourth. To strengthen the mines with supports within the requisite time, whenever by the ill-management of the workmen they shall be in danger of falling in, and to comply with all the requirements of the laws and regulations in regard to this subject; and,

Fifth. To pay annually two dollars into the public treasury for every square kilometer [247.1 acres] of the superficies of the mining circuit as a fixed rent, and conform to article 34 of the existing law of mines.

Wherefore, and in virtue of this title, and in conformity with article 7 of the existing law of mines, there is granted to Wm. L. Cazneau, his associates and representatives, the right in perpetuity to said mining circuit called Cazneau's United Zone, with the right to work the same and to receive the products thereof for his own use and benefit, or to alienate it at will, in conformity with the requirements and with the guarantees of the civil laws in force in the republic relating to such property; and in order that the foregoing conditions be complied with and punctually observed, as well by the grantees as by the authorities, tribunals, corporations, and individuals whom it may concern, we have ordered this patent of concession to be issued.

Done, signed, and sealed in the city of Santo Domingo, the capital of the Dominican Republic, on the 10th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine, the XXVth year of the independence, the VIth of the restoration, and IID of the regeneration of the republic.

The President of the republic.  
(RUBRIC.)

Countersigned:

The Minister of the Interior and Police in charge of the Department of Foreign Affairs.  
(RUBRIC.)



## XXIII.—GRANT OF COPPER MINE BOCA DE CUAYO.

[Translation.]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT—GOD, THE COUNTRY, AND LIBERTY—  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC.

Whereas Messrs. Cambiaso & Co., merchants of this place, have opened and explored a copper mine situated at a place called Boca de Cuayo, district of Medina, Upper Haina, jurisdiction of San Cristobal, province of Santo Domingo, I have resolved to issue to them the present grant, in accordance with the provisions of article 28 of the law of mines, of three pieces of mining territory, comprising thirty square kilometers, and in the form laid down in the plat made by Senor Felix Montecatini, hydrographic engineer, attached to the papers in this case in the archives, under the following conditions :

First. The said Cambiaso & Co. shall work said mines according to the rules of the mining art, and they and their workmen shall be subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the police regulations.

Second. They shall be liable for the damages and injuries that may accrue to third parties by the working of the mine.

Third. They shall also make compensation to neighboring citizens for injuries caused by the accumulation of water on their lands ; and when required, at specified times, they shall not diminish said water.

Fourth. They shall contribute, in proportion to the benefit received, to the expense of drainage of the closely neighboring mines, and for general galleries of drainage or transportation, whenever the same shall be authorized by the government for the group of mines, or for the whole of the mining district in which their mines are situated.

Fifth. They shall keep the mining in active operation, with at least six laborers for each piece of land herein granted, during the entire year.

Sixth. They shall strengthen the mines with supports within the requisite time, whenever, by the ill-management of the workmen, they shall be in danger of falling in ; provided they shall not be hindered therefrom by unavoidable causes.

Seventh. The working of the mines shall not be suspended with an intention of abandoning them, without first giving notice to the civil government, and leaving their supports in good condition.

Eighth. They shall, in short, comply with all the requirements of the law and rules regulating concessions of the nature of this present one.

Ninth. They shall, upon its exportation, pay one dollar for each ton of copper taken out of said mines.

Tenth. They shall pay two dollars annually into the public treasury for each square kilometer, (247.1 acres,) of the superficies of the mine.

Eleventh. They shall, as far as possible, employ Dominicans as operatives and laborers.

Twelfth. All controversies and difficulties that may arise between the government and the company, or between the company and individuals, in consequence of this concession, or of working the mines, shall be decided by the tribunals of the republic, in accordance with the laws of the country.

Thirteenth. The tools and other things that may be introduced into the country for the working of said mines are declared free of all duties.

Fourteenth. This concession shall expire unless the working of the mines be put in operation within six months.

Wherefore, in virtue hereof, I grant to Messrs. Cambiaso & Co. the





mine aforesaid, so long as they comply with the preceding conditions, they having the right to work the same, and receive and dispose of its products freely, to alienate it at will, subject to the laws, and enjoying at the same time all the rights and benefits guaranteed by the law of mines to such grantees. And that said conditions may be complied with and punctually observed, as well by the grantees as by the authorities, tribunals, corporations, and individuals whom it may concern, I have ordered this patent of concession to be issued.

Done in the national palace of Santo Domingo on the 24th day of October, 1867, the XXIVth of the independence, and the Vth of the restoration.

JOSÉ MARIA CABRAL.

Countersigned:

APOLINAR DE CASTRO,

*Minister of the Interior and Police.*

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XXIV.—GRANT OF THE MINING PROPERTY BUENAVENTURA.

[Translation.]

EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas, by virtue and in fulfillment of a contract entered into on the 8th day of July, 1868, between the Dominican government and Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, and duly approved by the honorable senate of the republic, for the scientific examination of the different provinces of the Dominican Republic, the company organized for that purpose, entitled the "Santo Domingo Company," undertook and has completed said work in the province of Santo Domingo, and has filed by the hand of the recognized resident manager, General Wm. L. Cazneau, in the department of the interior, the result of said examination, in a detailed report, with a topographical, geological, and mineralogical plan and map of said province, all executed under the direction of Mr. Wm. M. Gabb, chief geologist of said company and enterprise; and whereas the said resident manager, Wm. L. Cazneau, on the 9th day of January last, petitioned that, in fulfillment of said contract and in behalf of said "Santo Domingo Company," as a compensation for the outlays made by it in the expensive and difficult examination of said province, the result of which has been submitted, a concession be made of a mining circuit situated on the Upper Haina, commune of San Cristobal, province of Santo Domingo, called "Buenaventura," according to the plan annexed to the petition:

In view of said documents, and in fulfillment of the contract aforesaid, it is resolved to issue, and there is hereby issued, to the company called the Santo Domingo Company, represented by its resident manager, General Wm. L. Cazneau, domiciled in the city of Santo Domingo, a patent of concession for the mining circuit called Buenaventura, situated in Upper Haina, in the commune of San Cristobal, and province of Santo Domingo, containing 140 superficial square kilometers, in the form laid down on the map and plan, which appear as part of the papers filed in the case, signed by the resident manager; the said company, its representatives, and successors, having the right to work the mineral deposits which may be found within the limits of said circuit of Buenaventura, to reduce its products, and dispose of them freely; provided the same be done according to the laws of the country, and in



conformity with the conditions hereinafter set forth. There is also granted to the said Santo Domingo Company, its representatives and legal successors, by virtue of the contract aforesaid, of the 8th July, 1868, at the rate of one-fifth part of the lands of the state explored and examined by the Santo Domingo Company, all the lands of the state not in cultivation within the limits of said circuit; provided that this concession shall not include any lands leased or granted to third parties, in order that said company may possess, colonize, and dispose of them with the rights, guarantees, and franchises set forth in said contract of July 8, 1868.

Said company shall have the right to use for its works and machinery the currents of water which may flow over said circuit, and the government binds itself not to grant to other persons or companies any mineral rights, nor make any grant that may prejudice the rights granted by these presents; it being understood that said company, its representatives and successors, are to observe in their mining operations the following general conditions:

First. The mines and mineral deposits in said circuit of Buenaventura are to be worked according to the rules of the mining art, and the laws, prescriptions, and regulations of the republic governing such matters, the grantees enjoying such franchises and privileges as are accorded to the most favored enterprises.

Second. They shall be liable for all damages and injuries caused to third parties by the working of the mines, and the construction of ways for transportation, and for other purposes.

Third. The mining operations shall be commenced within one year from this date, and shall not be suspended, with the intention of abandoning them, without first giving notice to the civil government, and leaving the supports (of the mine roof) in good condition.

Fourth. All the requirements of the laws and regulations relating to grants of this nature, and to such property and its products, shall be faithfully fulfilled.

Wherefore, in virtue hereof, we grant to the said Santo Domingo Company, said mining circuit of Buenaventura, in order that the said company may work the same, have the benefit of and freely dispose of its products as it shall see fit, subject to the laws of the republic, enjoying at the same time all the rights and benefits conferred by the law of mines on grantees of mines.

And in order that all the foregoing may be fulfilled and punctually observed by the grantees, tribunals, corporations, and individuals whom it may concern, this patent is issued.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo, 25th of February, 1870, XXVith of the independence, the Vith of the restoration, and the IIIrd of the regeneration of the republic.

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#### XXV.—GRANT OF COPPER MINE CUALLO.

[Translation.]

#### EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas Messrs. F. Shumacher and Luis P. Angenard have petitioned the government, representing that on the 22d of January, 1868, in the city of Baltimore, in the United States of America, they purchased from Señor Felix Montecatini, among other things, a copper



mine, situated in a place called Cuallo, district of Medina, jurisdiction of San Cristobal, province of Santo Domingo, which had been granted to the said Montecatini by the executive power of the republic on the 17th day of March, 1867; and therefore asking permission of the government to enter into the peaceable possession of said property, so acquired, and that if there be any cause for the forfeiture of said grant, that the same be again granted to them, in view of the fact that they have in good faith paid the purchase-price thereof in good faith; and whereas, under the 15th clause of said concession, the same has been forfeited by the failure to commence the working of said mine, according to the terms of the concession; and whereas Messrs. Angenard and Shumacher acquired the same in good faith, believing that the mine was being worked and not forfeited, and have shown a just claim to their possession thereof, worthy of attention, and against which there appears to be no obstacle; and whereas the preliminary formalities of the law regulating the discovery of mines have been complied with in this case, and rights thereby acquired, and a grant issued therefor, and the same have been transferred to said Angenard and Shumacher, whereby they stand in the place of the first explorer; for these reasons, and in order to encourage enterprises which directly conduce to the progress of the country, by a resolution of the council of state, it has been

*Resolved*, That said concession of March 19, 1867, of a copper mine at a place called Cuallo, district of Medina, jurisdiction of San Cristobal, and province of Santo Domingo, made to Señor Felix Montecatini, is hereby declared forfeited; and said mine is granted to F. Shumacher and L. P. Angenard, according to the terms of the former grant, in conformity with the plan filed in the papers in this case, with the same rights, title, and obligations as are specified in said concession of March 19, 1867, except the 15th clause, making it the duty of the grantees to come to an agreement with the owners of the surface land embraced in said concession.

Done in the city of Santo Domingo, this 28th day of June, 1870, the XXVIIth year of the independence, the VIIth of the restoration, and IIIrd of the regeneration of the republic.

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#### XXVI.—GRANT OF MINING PROPERTY—CAMÚ.

[Translation.]

#### EXECUTIVE POWER OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

Whereas, on the 8th day of July, in the year of our Lord 1868, a contract was concluded, having been previously approved by the senate, between the Dominican government and Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, for a geological examination and mineralogical exploration of the Dominican Republic, in fulfillment of which a company, organized under the title of the Santo Domingo Company, undertook and completed, during the first six months of the current year of 1870, the work therein agreed upon in the principal part of the province of Conception de la Vaga, and has filed, by the hands of the recognized resident manager, General Wm. L. Cazneau, in the department of the interior, police, and agriculture, the result of said examination; and whereas the said resident manager, on the 10th day of August last past, petitioned that, in fulfillment of said contract and in behalf of said Santo Domingo Company, a grant be made to said company of a mining circuit, situated on



the rivers Camú and Timenoa, in said province of Conception de la Vaga, called Camú, according to the plan annexed to said petition, and in pursuance of the stipulations of the contract aforesaid, it is resolved to issue, and there is hereby issued, to the company called the Santo Domingo Company, represented by its resident manager, General Wm. L. Cazneau, domiciled in the city of Santo Domingo, a patent of concession for one-fifth part of the public land in said circuit called Camú, situated between the rivers Camú and Timenoa, in the province of Conception de la Vaga, embracing a superficies of 323 square kilometers, in the form laid down in the map and plan which appear as part of the papers filed in the case; the said company, its representatives and successors, having the right to occupy and work said land and have the benefit of the mineral deposit therein, which grant is made to said company as its fifth part, accruing by virtue of said contract of July 8, 1868; and as to the lands of individuals that may be found within the limits of said mining circuit, the said company shall come to an agreement with the individual owners thereof, in accordance with the provisions of article sixth of said contract:

Wherefore, in virtue hereof, we grant to the said Santo Domingo Company the fifth part of the public land within said mining circuit of Camú in the manner afore stated, in order that the said company may work the same, have the benefit of and freely dispose of its products as it shall see fit, subject to the laws of the republic, enjoying at the same time all the rights and benefits conferred by the law of mines on grantees of mines. And in order that all the foregoing may be fulfilled and punctually observed, as well by the grantees as by the authorities, tribunals, corporations, and individuals whom it may concern, this patent is issued in the city of Santo Domingo, capital of the republic, on the 16th day of September, 1870, the XXVIth year of the independence, VIIth of the restoration, and IIIId of the regeneration of the republic.



## STATEMENTS OF WITNESSES.

SAMANA, January 28, 1871.

Governor JOSÉ SILVANO ACOSTA states:

Question. General, will you give your age, residence, place of birth, and official position?—Answer. I am forty-seven years of age; was born in Samana; I am a creole; my official position is civil and military governor of the province of Samana.

Q. How many revolutions have there been on the island within your knowledge?—

A. There have been three revolutions here; one by Baez; one by Cabral; one by Lupeiron, beside the Spanish reoccupation.

Q. Were they destructive to property?—A. The property of the whole country suffered greatly from those revolutions. Lupeiron robbed the people of everything they had, and none of them paid for any property they took.

Q. What do your people think about annexation?—A. We have thought very much about it, and are very favorable to the idea. All the people on this peninsula are agreed about it. I do not know the sentiment of the interior. Our people all expect protection by annexation, and desire it; every father of a family and every family want tranquillity.

Q. Do they apprehend revolution in case they are not annexed? What is the condition of the country?—A. Of course we fear it constantly. The people here are on the constant lookout, occupying themselves in preparing for their defense; and as a matter of course, the industry of the country is neglected. The able-bodied men are always liable to be called out. The whole country is military; every one is a soldier. We also fear the Haytians. In case of danger here, we fire a cannon of alarm, which calls all, young and old together, with their arms, and messengers are sent to the interior and to the capital to give warning, and the men all come together for the defense. If any do not come, we send for them and bring them by force, and punish them by fine and imprisonment. The last call of that sort was made when Lupeiron invaded us in 1869. We called them out also against the Spaniards. They served gratuitously; 7 reales (70 cents) per week are issued to them in money for rations; when there is no money they give it to them in bread.

Q. Which class most desires annexation, the whites, creoles, or blacks?—A. They are all alike in that; we all want tranquillity.

Q. Do any desire union with Hayti?—A. I do not know of any here; I speak only for this place.

Q. Why did you formerly invite the Spaniards to come here?—A. That request came from the interior of the island; they invited the Spaniards because they wanted tranquillity; the inhabitants of Samana also wished them to come.

Q. How did you come to dislike the Spaniards?—A. Because they maltreated us very much—not here in Samana, but in the interior. They punished, and beat, and maltreated the people, and levied forced contributions. We had not been in the habit of paying such contributions before the Spaniards came.

Q. What concessions of land have been made by the municipality of Samana to foreigners?—A. None that I know of; I know of none that own it absolutely, but some have it leased or rented.

Q. What American citizens hold lands here?—A. Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Fabens. Their lands are together; they lie adjacent; it is the site known as "Pueblo Viejo." I know of no other Americans who do; if there had been any, I think I would have known them.

Q. If your people could have protection by annexation to some other country than the United States, would they still prefer annexation to the United States?—A. We prefer the protection of the United States.

Q. Should the United States refuse to annex the Dominican Republic, and England, France, or Germany should then offer to annex your people on favorable terms, would your people unite with one of these nations?—A. I think they would, for the sake of tranquillity.

Q. When were you appointed governor of this province?—A. Under the Spaniards; I have been here continually since.

Q. To whom does the island of Levantados belong?—A. To the national government; the collector of customs has charge of it.

Colonel ENRIQUE ABREU, commandant of Santa Barbara de Samana, states:

Question. State your name, residence, and official position.—Answer. Enrique Abreu;





Samana; I have resided here about two years and a half; I am appointed by my government as special agent.

Q. Do you know of any grants or concessions of land here to any foreigners, citizens of the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. What do you know of the Fabens grant?—A. The Dominican government entered into a contract with Mr. O'Sullivan to establish a line of steamers. In that contract it was stipulated that there should be sufficient land granted to enable them to build their stores and warehouses, and dwellings for the agents of the company. This contract has been published in the official paper. That concession was sold by Funkhouser, to whom it had been granted, to Spofford & Tileston, before the raising of the American flag. The Funkhouser contract was made in the beginning of 1868. I remember the time, because Mr. O'Sullivan came here just about the same time, on a Dominican vessel. I remember it distinctly; that was at the beginning of December; that contract was a formal contract, approved by the government, and published officially. I know of no other concession. Mr. O'Sullivan has a piece of land, rented from the municipality of Samana for twenty-five years, one hundred Castilian varas (333 feet) long, but not much in depth. It is at the west end of the town, and extends around the bay to the boundary of Spofford & Tileston.

Q. Why was that given to Mr. O'Sullivan?—A. He came with a letter from Mr. Cazneau, and a particular letter from Minister Gautier, commending him to me, and I and the municipal council, considering that the land was valueless to us, and that Mr. O'Sullivan intended to bring in a large immigration, rented the land to him. That was the 8th or 10th of December, 1868; the books of the municipality show the date. It was for twenty-five years, at \$72 per year. I think it requires the consent of both parties to renew it.

Q. Do you know of any other grants of land by the municipality to American citizens?—A. I do not.

Q. Have you heard of any grant to Mr. Cazneau?—A. No, sir; and I know of no land Mr. Fabens holds, except as the agent of Spofford Brothers, formerly Spofford & Tileston.

Q. From your official position, would you be likely to know if any grants or concessions had been made?—A. Yes; I came here immediately after the signing of the treaty with the United States, with the strictest orders to prevent any concession or grants of lands in any way whatever, whether to rent or occupy by any parties, of any government lands. A list of all government lands here was sent to the United States to President Grant. I gave a list of all lands owned by the government to Mr. Fabens for General Grant, in order that they should not be conveyed afterward without the government knowing it. They were all mentioned in the government register. It was an exact statement of all the government lands. I gave it to Colonel Fabens, and asked him to transmit it to President Grant; the Minister of the Interior, Gautier, approved of it. The islands here (Levantados) in the Bay of Samana belong to the government absolutely.

Q. Has the question of annexation to the United States been extensively agitated here of late; and if so, what is the sentiment of the people?—A. It has been agitated; I know the opinions of all the people; a vote was taken here on the subject, and only two voted against it; that vote was a fair expression; no person was obliged to vote either way; we all wish annexation, because we are wearied and tired out with revolution and civil war.

Q. Would you prefer protection without annexation to annexation?—A. Under ordinary circumstances, I would prefer a protectorate of the United States rather than an annexation of the country to the United States; but I do not think such a protectorate is really possible, because in order to be efficacious in this island it involves such an intervention, so constant and so complete, as to really incorporate the island.

Q. Was there a very general desire for the Spanish occupation here several years ago?—A. It was not very strong among the people. It was brought about by General Santana. It was a surprise. The feeling against Spain began to show itself, and in fourteen months the revolution began in Cibao, and Santana went there and quelled it.

Q. What was the cause of the ill-feeling against the Spaniards?—A. Because of their cruelties. They shot some of the most prominent Dominicans, as Juan Baptista, Colonel Vidal Pichardo, Enrique Perdrome, Ignacia Espaillet. They were all popular young men. Young Perdrome belonged to one of the most respectable families in Santo Domingo. They were mostly shot at Santiago. The Spaniards generally substituted Spaniards for Dominicans in the internal administration of the country, although the treaty specified that two-thirds of the civil employes or authorities should be Dominicans; also, that all officers of the Dominican army who could pass a suitable military examination should be received into the same grade in the Spanish army which they formerly held in the republic. That they violated. They made a complete discrimination against the Dominicans, officially and socially. They brought a Spanish archbishop from Spain, who preached very severely against Free-Masonry, and refused Christian burial to many Masons, which was a new thing in the Catholic



church in Santo Domingo, and had a bad effect. There are many curés of the Catholic Church who are Masons.

Q. Is there a party in the island who desire union with Hayti?—A. No, not even the negroes; they despise the Haytian negroes. In twenty-two years there have been only two marriages in Santo Domingo between Haytians and Dominicans. The Dominicans and Haytians have an antipathy. The Dominicans would not want union even if they could govern the whole island.

Q. In case annexation with the United States does not take place, do you think the Dominicans would seek annexation to any other power?—A. I doubt it; as to Spain, she is to us dead; as to France, there is no attachment to her in the country at large; as to England, she has always meddled in the affairs of the island, but she is not liked by the people. England would side with Cabral now; and if Cabral came into power she would side with Baez.

Q. Do you know of any attempts of European powers to form relations looking to the annexation of this island?—A. The Prussian government, or North German Confederation, has asked for information concerning the commerce of the island, especially with reference to tobacco, and the port and town of Samana. I have that directly from the friends of Mr. Pou, the German consul at the city of Santo Domingo. That produced a considerable effect in the city of Santo Domingo. Mr. Pou is there still, but he is not the German consul. He has not received his exequatúr. He is a citizen of Santo Domingo, and the Dominican government has its own reasons for not receiving him in the capacity of Prussian consul. The commerce of the northern side of the island, especially Puerto Plata, is in the hands of the Germans. There are sometimes as many as eight North German vessels at Puerto Plata. They monopolize the tobacco trade.

Q. We are inquiring now the number of bonds and notes here, and how much they are worth. First, who issued them?—A. Baez, during his first term, issued bank-notes which were received for customs as long as there was peace, and maintained their full value, dollar for dollar; then Cabral obtained power and the notes of Baez depreciated.

Q. Can you give the amount of the notes issued by Baez during his first presidency?—A. Two hundred and some odd thousands of dollars. Shortly after Cabral's accession to power he began to issue paper money in large quantities; so much of it that the doubloon, worth, when paper money was at par, \$16 50, became worth \$125 in 1867. Finally, Cabral issued money in such enormous quantities that it was worth absolutely nothing. Four thousand dollars were paid for a gold doubloon. Then, when Mr. Baez came in, the people declared that they did not wish any more money manufactured without a guarantee; but when the natural resources of the Baez government became insufficient, the customs revenue not yielding sufficient money to defray the necessary expenses, Mr. Baez was obliged to issue bonds to the public officials, both military and civil, in payment for salaries.

Q. How were these bonds issued?—A. In this manner: The administrators of finance at the two financial centers, Santo Domingo and Puerto Plata, were authorized to issue bonds to pay the employés of the government, both civil and military. These bonds were receivable for customs on their face value; they were good for their face value at the custom-house of the place where they were issued; that is to say, the bonds issued at Santo Domingo were received for customs at Santo Domingo City, only; and those issued at Puerto Plata were receivable at Puerto Plata, only. There were no other bonds, except those two classes, issued at Puerto Plata and Santo Domingo. I do not know how many of those two kinds were issued. They paid the salaries of everybody in those bonds—the ordinary expenses of the government. That lasted for perhaps three years. They soon began to diminish in value, and went down to 8 or 10 per cent. Then the government issued a decree that they would be received at the custom-house at twice their market price; that is to say, at 20 per cent., and a person holding the bonds sent them to Santo Domingo or Puerto Plata, as the case might be, for redemption; but he would receive, then, only another promise to pay in gold a sum equal to 20 per cent. of the bond he had sent. When I got that I kept it, waiting for better times. I think those called in had no market value for purchasing goods, and they were not receivable for customs. During the war with Spain the government gave to its creditors, from whom it had taken horses, food, and everything else to carry on the war, promises to pay, in notes of \$10 each. Of that issue one-third of the customs dues in any case could be paid; the other two-thirds cash. A very little of that now remains. It was said that there were \$400,000 or \$500,000 of that issued. It has pretty much disappeared of late. What remains of it is worth to-day, I think, 60 or 70 per cent.; that is to say, anybody could buy \$7 or \$8 worth of goods with a \$10 note.

EUGENIO GARCIA (alcalde) states:

Question. Please state your age, official position, and residence.—Answer. I am alcalde of Samana; I am in my sixtieth year; I was born here.

Q. If you know the sentiment of the people about here in regard to annexation will you state it, and the reasons for it?—A. The people of Samana and the country about



here desire annexation, so far as I know. We desire it in order to have tranquillity; that we may labor and have the fruit of our labor. I know the opinion, for my position brings me into close contact with the people.

Q. What do you know about grants of land here to Americans?—A. The government has not granted any lands here, but the municipality has rented out lands to people of the town. The municipality has rented lands to Mr. O'Sullivan, and Mr. Fabens, and others whose names I do not recall. The municipality has rented 300 or 400 varas to Mr. Fabens, I think, as the agent of Spofford & Tileston. It is at \$112 a year rent, and is in perpetuity.

Q. Do the laws of the municipality permit such a concession?—A. No; I called the attention of the municipality at the time to the fact that the law did not permit such a grant to be made.

Q. Why was the grant made?—A. They misrepresented the fact to the alcalde. The municipality was somewhat deceived in regard to it. They supposed they were leasing to the United States; that it was for the benefit of the United States and to promote immigration. The grant to Mr. O'Sullivan is on the west side of the bay, adjoining that of Mr. Fabens. It extends from the mouth of the river southwest; it extends from Pueblo Viejo (old town) to Mr. Fabens's land; it is nearly half a mile. It is for \$72 per year. I do not remember for how long a time it was made, nor its conditions. The municipal council is composed of the president, Victor Desruisseaux, and four members. The alcalde does not belong to it. He is the judge. His authority extends over the peninsula of Samana.

Collector BENITO GARCIA states:

I have lived in this town thirty-four years; am collector of the port of Santa Barbara and secretary to the municipal council. In December, 1869, the municipality made a lease of some lands to Mr. Fabens, in Southwest Samana, about 1,000 feet in length and 800 feet in width, at an annual rent of \$112, renewable forever, on certain conditions being complied with. In December, 1868, the municipality also made a lease of some lands to Mr. O'Sullivan, at an annual rental of \$62, for twenty-one years, renewable at the expiration of that time. This grant to O'Sullivan has a water-front of 900 feet; but I do not know how far it extended into the interior of the country. The Fabens grant is much larger than the O'Sullivan grant. He (O'Sullivan) has the right to erect buildings; but in my opinion there is nothing in his lease which entitles him to prevent the discharging of cargoes on the beach. I think the municipality in the lease reserves the right to build a street along the edge of the water. Before O'Sullivan can erect a building on this tract the location of it must be authorized by the municipality. But this restriction as to building is provided for by general law, and is not specifically reserved in the grant or lease. I am of the opinion that the grant, according to the laws of the municipality, is legal. I know of no other grants or leases made to American citizens. The government is the sole owner of the island of Levantados.

Q. You are acquainted with the opinion of the people on the subject of annexation to the United States?—A. Yes, sir; the people both in town and country are generally in favor of it; I have talked with them from the east and the west, and the north and the south, and they are all anxious that it should take place.

Q. What reason do they give for such a universal desire to be annexed?—A. We cannot continue as we are; we are always in disorder; there is no power in the country able to suppress these disorders; I think the people would prefer annexation to the United States to annexation to any other country.

Q. Why do you like the United States?—A. Because it is a republic like our own; because everybody is equal before the law; we all understand that perfectly well—that in the United States there is equality before the law.

Q. How generally did the people desire incorporation with Spain?—A. The people were not consulted in the matter; they expected a protectorate and actual incorporation.

Q. Why did you drive the Spaniards out so soon after you had invited them?—A. They began by despising all the colored people; they treated us like dogs; according to the terms of the arrangement, two-thirds of the civil and military employes were to be taken from the Dominicans, and one-third were to be Spaniards; but it was expected that they would be Spaniards from Spain, and not Spaniards from Cuba.

Q. What is the difference between the Spaniards from Spain and the Spaniards from Cuba?—A. In Cuba, they are slaveholders; in Spain, that is not the case.

Q. Were the people consulted in regard to the annexation to Spain?—A. The people were brought together, and compelled to sign; they signed under the idea that Spain was to exercise a protectorate. The vote on annexation to the United States was taken in a totally different way; notice was given fifteen or twenty days in advance—giving full details in regard to the matter, and the vote was free.

Q. In the case of the Spanish annexation, how long a notice was given?—A. Two or three days; it was done very quickly; I think the record of the vote on annexation to the United States is in existence.



Q. Give us some information, as brief as possible, as to the manner of the expulsion of the Spaniards.—A. Seven persons commenced an insurrection on the Haytian border; the fight commenced in August, 1863, and ended in July, 1865.

Q. Did all races and colors—white and black—unite against the Spaniards?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do the people here, or any part of them, desire annexation to or union with Hayti?—A. No.

Q. Cannot the negroes agree with them?—A. No.

Q. Why should the Dominican black man like the Dominican white man better than the black man of Hayti?—A. Because they do not like them.

Q. What is the commerce of this place? State a little about it in your own way.—A. We import a little cotton cloth, flour, dry goods.

Q. What do the people pay in? What commodities do they send abroad?—A. Cacao, coffee, tobacco, yams, fruit, honey, eddoes.

Q. Is the commerce increasing?—A. Slightly; business, before the American occupation, was altogether a system of barter; but since the occupation, we have had a little money in circulation; it would be very easy to increase the amount and quantity of the articles in which we trade; I know nothing about cessions of mines, &c., in the peninsula of Samana.

EDMUNDO DE VARE states:

Question. Be good enough to state your age, occupation, and place of birth.—Answer. I am thirty-four years old; a carpenter; and a native of Samana. I am a member of the council and have been for the last three years.

Q. As member of the council, do you know anything about grants of land made to Americans or other foreigners?—A. I do not.

Q. I call your attention to a grant of land to Mr. Fabens; was there not some land granted to him?—A. At the time the Fabens concession was made I was in Puerto Plata, and I do not know exactly the terms of it.

Q. What do you know about the O'Sullivan grant?—A. I was in Puerto Plata when both grants were made. I know of no other grants to foreigners. I do not know the number of feet embraced in the grants to Fabens and O'Sullivan. The O'Sullivan grant extends from the limits of the town around to the land of Fabens.

Q. When a man's land runs down to the water, can he build up there, or must he leave room for a road next the water?—A. When a man owns land of that description, in order to build upon it he must ask the permission of the council.

Q. Does the town council compel him to leave a street between his possession and the water?—A. The law compels the proprietor to leave a street between his buildings and the edge of the water.

Q. Do you know the feeling of the people in regard to annexation?—A. Yes. All the men who love tranquillity and order desire it; all the people in the interior desire it.

Q. Do the black men of Santo Domingo desire annexation as much as the white men?—A. Just the same.

Q. Do the colored people of Santo Domingo feel any sympathy, or desire to be united, with the colored people of Hayti?—A. There is not one.

Q. What is the reason?—A. The reason is that the Haytian negroes wish to be constantly at war with the Haytians and the mulattoes, while the negroes of Santo Domingo want to be at peace and in harmony with all.

LEWIS HORAN states:

Question. Where are you from, Mr. Horan?—Answer. I am a Virginian by birth, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Santa Barbara for the last three years.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. I carry on trade and business as far as the place at present permits.

Q. Are you acquainted with the opinions of the people on the subject of annexation?—A. Yes, sir. I have excellent opportunities for knowing the state of public feeling here, and they are all universally in favor of annexation. They desire it because they are tired of revolution, and think that a good, wholesome government would be to their advantage.

Q. What is the character of the people?—A. I visited the interior some time ago, and I found there a very industrious, honest people. In my opinion there are too many ambitious leaders among them.

Q. What is the nature of the present government in regard to the people; is it a military establishment, or otherwise; and are the people liable to be called out frequently?—A. Here we have been accustomed to stand guard for the last three years. Fifteen men or so are detailed one week and fifteen the next; the first returning to their work as soon as they are relieved.





Q. Do they get pay?—A. As far as the revenue will permit it. I think they fare rather badly.

Q. Did you say they are an industrious people?—A. Yes, sir; and they would be more so if they had a good government.

Q. Suppose we should set up a government here, do you think we should have any difficulty in keeping order?—A. Not if it was properly conducted. The Spaniards were here some two years, and I think it was through bad management that they did not remain longer. I was not here. I arrived at Santo Domingo two or three months before the Spaniards left. The calling in of the Spaniards was rather a hasty operation. There was scarcely any negotiation pending that the inhabitants generally knew anything at all about. I have heard from those who were in office under the Spaniards—Colonel Abreu and others—that they were treated very well, received very handsome salaries. How it was with most of the people under them I cannot tell. There were complaints on both sides.

Q. What do you know of grants of land here to Americans?—A. I know of none at all. I know of several leases. I have leased some—a piece on the public road, probably 200 or 300 yards, going back, as the deed says, to the public domain, that is, the government land. This is from the municipality. I pay \$60 a year; a very high price apparently; but if we have annexation it will be cheap. It is for twenty-five years, with the privilege of extension at the same rate. It is west of the town, which, as you see, is very limited. It is not over half a mile from the Catholic church, and is over a quarter of a mile. It dates from January 1, 1870. The former occupant paid only \$6. That was Mr. Joseph Hamilton, a colored man; he assigned his lease to me, or rather, my son. I have heard of Funkhouser & Co., and of Fabens, and of Spofford & Tileston, and of Spofford Bros., and of Judge O'Sullivan holding property on the bay by lease from the municipality on the west side of the town around to the point; but who is the actual lessee I do not know; and I have heard of Judge O'Sullivan holding a piece on this (east) side of the town. I do know that either of these parties hold titles.

Q. What do you know of the feeling in regard to annexation?—A. All I have heard speak of it are in favor of it. They want a strong, substantial government. Every one in business wants it for the sake of safety.

Q. How was the vote on annexation taken here?—A. I was here. I believe it was fairly taken in the way they vote here. I was not at the polls. It is customary when anything of the kind takes place here that messengers are sent around and names taken, and the people called in to vote. I have a property in town that I hold by purchase from a private party, but do not know at what moment it will be destroyed or taken away from me.

Q. What does a native do when he gets a little more money than he wants to use?—A. He hides it in the earth; I have heard of a great deal of that among the people, and from what I have seen, I think it is a characteristic of the people to hide away money for safety. Recently I was in the interior buying cattle, and a gentleman would not deal with me at first because he thought I was one of the government speculators or buyers, who go around and give paper for fifty or one hundred cattle, and the people never really get any pay for them; this was a very wealthy man.

Q. Is that the way government indebtedness is paid?—A. That is about the way they transact most of the government business; they have nothing else but the paper; the successive governments have seized stock all over the country in that way, paying for it in paper money. I hold now \$1,000 of paper money issued by Cabral, which is just as good as any I could buy, I think; almost every one has some of those bonds or stock given in payment of articles or salaries, or what not; some are by Cabral, some by Baez, some one, some another; they have no quoted market price; they run all the way down from a discount of 50 to 75 per cent.

Q. Are crimes common in the interior?—A. They are very seldom committed; in traveling in the interior I found the people very peaceable; I carried arms but from custom; I had no use for them; I have seen all the people carrying arms when traveling; in making my excursions in the interior, I found the people there a very peaceable, industrious class. A month or two ago I held a bond of a class which President Baez had declared that all those holding such bonds could pass them into the collectors of custom-houses and take their receipts, which would be made good afterward. I passed mine in and wanted to use them in paying duties, but it was refused, and they told me it would have to be arranged for at a later day. The bond I passed in was one representing \$200 in specie, to be received for exports and imports, issued by Baez's government. Baez's proclamation called them in, the collector to give receipts for them. I handed mine in afterward in lieu of duties; it was refused and I had to pay my money; Cabral's money, issued during his administration, were bank-notes calling for dollars in money, metal; those have been called in; two or three notifications have been issued; the last one was at five cents on the dollar; it was so insignificant that I would not take the trouble to send them to Santo Domingo; I thought I would wait and see whether our Government would assume it.





Q. You considered that the chance of our Government assuming them was greater than five per cent. ?—A. Yes, sir; I judged that from reading General Grant's message.

Q. What amount is there of Cabral's paper ?—A. I believe the original issue was only \$300,000, and a great many have been drawn in.

Q. Have you any means of forming a judgment as to the amount of Baez's bonds ?—A. I have not.

Q. Do you know other people here who hold Baez's bonds ?—A. There is no money at all here, and has not been since December 6, a year ago; all the rest of the business is done in exchange, except an occasional vessel; a little schooner comes in and pays up port charges and duties. When I ascertained the way they were doing business here in these bonds, I knew if I paid duties in money I would soon be bankrupt. I never heard what was the amount of the indebtedness of the government from any reliable authority; I believe the newspapers claim that it is a million and a half.

FRANKLIN FABENS, jr., states:

Question. Mr. Fabens, we are taking some testimony touching annexation. Will you be good enough to tell us how long you have resided here ?—Answer. About eleven months.

Q. Have you been over the country much ?—A. No, only across the bay.

Q. From all the observations you have made, what do you think is the sentiment of the people as to annexation ?—A. I should say the common people have not much idea of it, but those who know anything are in favor of it.

Q. Do you find much opposition to it in the conversations you have with the people ?—A. None of it here, sir.

Q. As to the title to land, and the sales of lots, and concessions of land, what do you know about that ?—A. You can buy from private parties, but the most of the land about the town belongs to the municipality, and can only be leased.

Q. You have a lease, I believe ?—A. I have not; my father, Colonel Fabens, obtained a lease some time in 1869 for the steamship company.

Q. Where is the land then leased by Colonel Fabens located ?—A. Down where we were yesterday, extending just below the corner.

Q. Did it cover any of that portion where we were ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much did he buy there ?—A. It was a lease.

Q. It was a lease ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To how much did it amount ?—A. About an acre; there is a water-front on both sides, more, however, on one side than the other. The extent of the water-front on this side is about 400 feet and on the other 700 or 800 feet.

(At the request of Mr. White, Mr. Fabens then pointed out on the map the boundaries of the land leased by his father, and explained that it extends 400 feet on the inside of the bay and 800 feet on the outside.)

Q. What is the extent of the rights that you acquire on the water-front as against the municipality? Do you own so that you can build out a wharf and exclude the municipality in front of your land, or do you own only to high-water mark ?—A. I believe we own so as to be able to build a wharf or wharves. I have not read the lease, and I speak this from what I suppose.

Q. You never inquired into what the municipality understood by the grant in this lease ?—A. I believe it is stipulated in the lease that if the government requires any land for a custom-house or for storehouses they shall deliver it to them, either as a free gift or at a price appraised by the United States Government.

Q. By the United States Government ?—A. By the United States Government.

Q. If you want to build on the water's edge, do you have to consult the authorities of the town as to how near the edge of the water you shall go, so as to preserve the road or street in front of you ?—A. I believe not over where we have built. Down on this side there is a regular road, what is called a public road, about 40 feet wide. That is the only road that I know of there.

Q. That extends only to the property ?—A. It runs through, I believe. It comes out to the water-front.

Q. Then there is a road reserved between your buildings and the water-front ?—A. There is; there is only one main road that I know of to be left.

Q. That is a public road ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know anything about the O'Sullivan grant ?—A. I know a little from hearsay.

Q. Do you know that the lease is in the name of O'Sullivan ?—A. It was taken by O'Sullivan for Vanderhorst, in trust for him. He was to put on a steamship line; both of those leases were made for the benefit of the steamship company.

Q. Did he put on his line according to his agreement ?—A. He failed to put on his line; it was then turned over to Spofford, Tileston & Co., who put on the line.

Q. Is Mr. Fabens a member of that firm ?—A. No, sir.

Q. Who holds the lease now ?—A. Spofford & Brothers.

Q. Fabens simply acts as agent ?—A. Not at present; Mr. Price is their agent now; Colonel Fabens obtained the lease for them.



Q. Then, what is the exact connection of Mr. Fabens with it?—A. Merely as the agent of the company in, at their request, obtaining the lease.

Q. I thought you said Mr. Price obtained it?—A. Excuse me. Mr. Price is now the agent.

Q. He had nothing to do with obtaining it?—A. No; he was sent down here as agent afterward.

Q. Then, Colonel Fabens, so far as you know, has no interest in the grant?—A. No; it is not his property.

Q. How was he paid for his services?—A. I do not know what they agreed to pay him, or whether they agreed to pay him in land or money. I believe they agreed to give him some portion of that grant for his services.

Q. You were not here during the Cabral and other troubles?—A. I was not.

Q. Do you know anything about the bonds issued by the government here—whether they are worth anything?—A. I cannot find out that they are worth anything; there has been a proclamation issued by the senate and signed by the president that they should be delivered to the custom-house officers, who would give receipts for them at their face value.

Q. What particular bonds did they make that arrangement about?—A. Custom-house bonds, receivable for duties.

Q. What government put them out; who issued them?—A. That I cannot tell.

Q. You do not know whether it was the Baez or the Cabral government?—A. I do not know; I have never seen any of them.

Q. You never heard any estimate of their value, so as to form an opinion?—A. Their current value was about one-fourth of their face value; I heard some conversation on the subject between the captain of the Tycoon and the English consul. The latter asked, if the republic was annexed to the United States, whether they would be redeemed at their face value by the United States.

Q. Did you ever hear the number of those bonds that were in circulation?—A. I did not.

Q. Cabral issued money, did he not?—A. Cabral issued a heap of money.

Q. Has that any value now?—A. No.

Q. Is there much of it held by parties?—A. I should not think there was; I do not know.

Q. Do you know of any other Americans who hold leases?—A. Mr. Horan may have a lease of some land or lots here.

Q. Do you know whether Mr. Cazneau holds any land?—A. I do not; I do not think he has any lands here.

Q. Do you know of any grants or leases of land which are held by any parties upon the island of Levantados?—A. I believe that was included in the lease first made to Colonel Fabens by the government.

Q. On the island of Levantados?—A. Oh, no; on Flag Island—that is, the island where the flag is raised.

Q. But that has been recalled?—A. Yes, sir. It belongs to the government.

J. L. MARCIAQ states:

Question. How long have you been on the island?—Answer. Here in this part?

Q. Yes.—A. About nine months.

Q. Where were you before that time?—A. In Hayti; at Port au Prince.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. I have a little store here; in Hayti I was director of the lyceum.

Q. Are you a citizen of the United States?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Your native place, if you please?—A. France.

Q. Where did you get your residence in the United States?—A. New Orleans.

Q. Have you traveled over this part of the country?—A. I have been over to Santo Domingo City by land and water, and I have been from Santo Domingo City to Azua.

Q. Does your occupation bring you into contact with many of your people?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In passing through the country have you had the means of knowing the sentiments of the people relative to annexation to the United States?—A. All the people with whom I am acquainted are in favor of it. I do not know any one against it. I cannot say how it is in Santo Domingo, but here, in Samana, I have never heard any one oppose it.

Q. You have been in the Haytian part of the island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did they think about the question there?—A. They oppose it.

Q. Why, so far as you know?—A. Well, on account of the white men.

Q. They do not like the white men there?—A. No, sir.

Q. Did they talk anything there of annexation to the United States?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the opinion about it when you were there?—A. At that time, according to my knowledge, one-third of the people were in favor of it. They had voted to give the Mole St. Nicholas.



Q. Is there any disposition manifested by that people to form a connection with this portion of the country so as to have one government?—A. I know that this part of the island would have no connection or association with them.

Q. So that if they desired to be annexed they would want to come in as a separate state?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you explain the hostility that seems to exist between the two governments and the two peoples?—A. I cannot very well. In the time of Boyer the Haytians behaved very badly. The Dominicans are as much afraid of the Haytians as the children are of their parents. Parents, when they wish to frighten their children, mention the Haytians. The feeling is nourished in that way.

Q. There is no actual war existing between the two governments now, is there?—A. And this one?

Q. Yes.—A. I do not think it. I think that the President of Hayti is supporting underhand this man Cabral, but I am not sure.

Q. Saget is intriguing to restore Cabral?—A. I do not think he, Cabral, has any hope.

Q. Do the negroes of this country dislike the negroes of Hayti?—A. Yes, sir. The negroes here call themselves "white" and call the Haytians "niggers."

Q. Does a full-blooded negro dislike the negroes of Hayti?—A. Well, the full-blooded negroes here call the Haytians "niggers."

Q. They speak different languages; does that account for the hostility?—A. Yes, sir; but there are other things as well as language.

Q. Are there any agents of England at that government that fan that feeling?—A. I do not know, but I believe that Mr. Salmave was killed through the intrigue of St. John Spencer, the English consul.

Q. Most of the negroes here are from the United States. How is it with the native negroes in the interior?—A. I have not seen the interior, but I think they are the same, at least in this province.

Q. Do you know of any bonds issued by Cabral that have been received in payment of customs?—A. Well, for the officers, when they cannot pay, they give something which they call bonds; they were good to be paid at the custom-house.

Q. Are those very generally held?—A. Not many here; they are in Santo Domingo City.

Q. Do you know what they value them at?—A. Some are valued at 50, some 20 cents on the dollar.

Q. Yes, sir. But how is the discount?—A. At one time a one-hundred-dollar bond was sold for seven, ten, and twelve dollars.

Q. Have you ever seen any of the money issued by Cabral?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know any one who has any of it?—A. Yes, sir; in Santo Domingo City.

Q. Have you heard that large amounts of it are held in the hope that it will be redeemed in case of annexation?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are a trader; what do the country people bring you in to sell?—A. Coconuts, yams, eggs, tobacco, &c. I am one of the largest dealers here. They come to my house.

Q. What do you give the people who bring you goods; what do you pay them?—A. I give them goods, cotton cloth, liquors, canned fruit, codfish, rice, shirts, waistcoats, shoes, sometimes.

Q. Are the shoes from the United States?—A. No, sir; not now; the first time we had some shoes from the United States.

Q. Do you think that commerce would increase by annexation?—A. Oh, yes, sir; of course the increase in population would make that better.

Q. Do you think there would be an increased demand for American goods here?—A. Yes, sir. I have sent goods to the States recently—honey, beeswax, cocoa-nuts, hides, and cacao.

Q. Any coffee?—A. No.

Q. Sugar?—A. They send sugar from Azua. The price of sugar there is about three and a half cents per pound.

Q. You have been in New Orleans and in France; how do the habits of the people here compare with the habits of the people of the United States and of France as to temper, getting drunk, &c.?—A. Well, they drink a little.

Q. But I mean in comparison with other countries.—A. The people of the country are generally temperate. I have not seen much drunkenness here; I have seen extraordinary drunkenness in New Orleans. I have never any disorder in my house.

Q. Is crime frequent here?—A. No, sir.

Q. Much violence?—A. No, sir. I have never known anything like assassination.

SAMANA, January 29, 1870.

BENJAMIN BURR states:

Question. Captain Burr, please state your age, residence, place of nativity, and occupation.—Answer. I am thirty-three years of age; am a citizen of the United States;



was born in Brewer, Maine, directly opposite Bangor. I came into this bay of Samana in January, two years ago. I have leased this place in connection with my brother-in-law. I have myself leased 10 or 12 acres; and in conjunction with him we have this place, which contains about 100 acres. I have cleared and cultivated about 21 acres of that since I have been here. I have raised corn and a great many melons, a few Irish potatoes, some sweet potatoes, pine-apples, bananas, plantains, and some yams.

Q. How do you find the soil, climate, laborers, crops, &c., as compared with farming, as you have been accustomed to it in the United States?—A. I find the soil very rich, indeed, very rich. I judge from my corn. I labor very hard every day myself; not quite so much as I did at first. I labored so hard for the first three months that I did not go into the town in that time, though it is only a quarter of a mile distant. I can only judge of the practicability of Northern men laboring in this climate by myself. My brother-in-law and myself both worked very hard, indeed; harder than I ever worked at home in my life. I do not think we ever did so much work before. But I now weigh five pounds more than I ever did before, and he weighs thirty pounds more than before. I can labor here without trouble at all, and I should think other people could; but I do not personally know any others of our people who have tried it. I work as many hours a day as I was accustomed to do at home, but I do it differently. I work in the morning until about 11 o'clock, and then I stop until 2, and then I go on until dark. The days here are of nearly equal length, and I work full as many hours here as at home.

Q. Are you acquainted with the people around here; and if so, what is their disposition?—A. I am very well acquainted with all the people on the peninsula of Samana, except on the extreme end and about the River Yuna. They are a very quiet, orderly people. There have been two or three disturbances. One man was shot in town since I have been here. One or two people were down at Cacao at a wedding and got intoxicated, and one was hurt. The affair in town occurred on a public day. There was a dance in the evening, and about 12 o'clock this difficulty arose. The affair in the country was on account of family troubles. A son murdered his father. The affair at Cacao was a drunken quarrel among friends. These three are all I know of. Such things are very rare indeed.

Q. Would a governor clothed with the authority of our territorial governors find difficulty in keeping order among these people?—A. I do not see why he should, I am sure. This governor in town here, who is a black man, Acosta—they think everything of him—will go with him anywhere and fight to the last.

Q. What is their disposition as to education?—A. There is something queer about education here. Not very often, but perhaps once in fifty, you will find Spaniards who have a good education; who can read and write Spanish. They are scattered all around the island. I do not know where they got their education. There are no schools; nobody to teach.

Q. Do the heads of families desire that their children should learn?—A. I do not think they do. I speak of the Spaniards, not the American negroes. The Spaniards do not seem inclined to send to school. The American negroes are very anxious to send their children to school, and do send them.

Q. Is there any religious prejudice?—A. I do not hear a particle of it. The Roman Catholic religion is the prevailing religion, and of course on public days, as saints days, on such days they have soldiers to go into the Catholic Church. It is a part of the ceremony. They take these American negroes that happen to be on duty on that day and they do not find any fault. I have seen Protestant soldiers on duty at these ceremonies. They never have any talk or disputes at all. There is a Methodist church in the country two miles from here, and they are building a new one in town. There is no religious animosity, that I have seen. They do not seem to quarrel over it in any case I ever heard of.

Q. How many laborers have you employed, and how efficient are they?—A. I should think I have had altogether one thousand different persons, at least. I do not say I have had that many that belonged on this peninsula of Samana, but all were natives of Santo Domingo. The greater portion of them are very good about work. I go off and leave them to work, and find them generally very faithful. I hire very few of the Americans here; I hire altogether Spanish. The most I ever had at one time was one hundred and fifty men and women on the place. I generally, when I have as many as one hundred and fifty, put them in gangs—one here and one there—and when I come around at night to look at the work, if one has done more than another, I talk to them about it, and they have a little pride each to be the one to do the most. I get a great deal more work out of them in that way. They are good laborers. The fact is, I have never paid them enough for their labor. I could not afford to pay them enough, there being no market to sell the produce.

Q. Are they honest?—A. I have a man here now that I have had but a week, and whom I know nothing about, yet I leave everything here just as you see it. These doors are open. There is no catch to fasten the front door at all. My beef and pork





are all open, and everything else. I do not know but they may take something now and then in the shape of "grub," as we call it; but I never lose anything. I have always considered it advisable to lock such things as dry goods, in which I paid them off. I had a little room, where my billiard table is now, in which I locked up dry goods, so as not to tempt them. I should be a great deal more particular at home with that number of laborers than I am here. I have had no theft at all. There have been some petty thefts in town.

Q. How do the people feel on annexation to the United States?—A. I have made it my business a great deal of late to find out somebody that is against it, and I cannot find a man who will say he is against it. The Spanish inhabitants do not talk so much about it as the descendants of this American negro colony; they do not seem so enthusiastic; but they say they want a more secure and permanent government. They want not to fight any more—to go to work and earn something and enjoy it. That is their talk; whether they mean it or not, I do not know. I think this question is thoroughly known and understood all over the island. I do not think anything is kept back from the people at all. I believe the general sentiment is in favor of annexation:

Q. How far does your land front on the bay?—A. I think it is about 1,000 yards.

Q. Who owns next to you toward the town?—A. I join the town land. I understand it is leased by Judge O'Sullivan, next to me and between me and the town. He has also leased on the other side of the town. I tried to get the land next to mine myself, and was told that Judge O'Sullivan had leased it, and I could not have it. If he has leased it the lease should be on the records of the town. I think within the last year they have kept the records pretty well. The town lands extend to my west line. East of me the land is owned by the man whom I leased from, Mr. Thelisma Joubert.

Q. What Americans hold lands here?—A. I have never looked over the records. I only know what I hear. There is the steamship company of Spofford Brothers & Co., of New York; Judge O'Sullivan; Lewis Horan has a small piece of 20 or 25 acres, I think, on the road west of the town.

Q. Is the land on the peninsula of Samana generally held in large or small lots?—A. I think the greater portion is held by small proprietors. On the other side of the mountain there are large tracts of land held; but most of the land over there is government land. I only know of the land around in this section. A great deal is owned in small tracts—very small.

Q. What are the best titles?—A. They consider here that the best title is an old Spanish title, or the French titles. I consider best the old titles traceable to the first part of this century. I suppose they are so considered generally. The American negroes here have titles granted by Boyer—Haytian titles. They are considered perfectly good.

Q. Do you know of any confiscations of land?—A. I do not. I never heard of any land being confiscated. It may be taken for debt. I have known pieces of land where a man died and his wife would not claim the land because there were more debts on it than it was worth, so that the government had to take it. It was for debts of all kinds. As I understand it, when a man dies here, if his widow does not want to take it with his debts, she throws the land out, and will not have anything to do with it, and the government then takes the land, and hires somebody to take care of it; it advertises the land, that all who have any judgment or claims shall come in and present them. They come in, and the government settles the matter up. I know of a place in that case, because it was a place we tried to get when we first came; it was the title we were afraid of.

Q. Do you know of any grant or lease of land to American citizens, or other parties, by the general government of the Dominican Republic since November, 1868, or since the treaty?—A. I do not. I have not heard of any.

Q. Have you ever seen the names of any Americans attached to any lands here; that is, posted up on stakes, or land marked with their names?—A. No, sir; if there had been anything of the kind I would have seen it. The only surveyor who has been about here was the one sent here by Spofford Brothers & Co. to survey the little town they staked off, west of Samana. He only stayed a few weeks.

Q. How does Indian corn grow here?—A. Very nicely indeed. I raise splendid crops. I never saw corn growing in the Western States; but they raise a great deal better crops here than in New England. I have seen corn in Virginia also that was very nice.

Q. How about vegetables?—A. I think that northern vegetables would grow very well here, if we had northern seed. I think the seed would have to be changed every year, and brought from the North. It does not seem to go to seed here. Our potatoes here would not sprout. You cannot raise them unless you bring the seed every year. Such things as cucumbers and melons grow excellently. The squashes are the best I ever saw in my life, and in large quantity. Water-melons are most splendid. Tomatoes grow nicely. They do not raise many here. The great trouble here about such vegetables as beets, cabbages, cucumbers, &c., is that that they are not so good as ours. They do not taste so well; they do not seem to be so nice. Still they are good.

Q. What will an acre of your land yield in value per year?—A. I can raise more





produce off of an acre of land here in a year than I can raise off of an acre of land in Massachusetts in a year or season; but it will take me a whole year to do it. I get two or three crops a year off here. One year after another, I can here beat any acre there. I do not know about the money value now; I cannot say that this land will give two or three times as much as land does at home; but I say the land will give more every year—a third more every year than an acre at home. Take a crop of bananas, for instance, they yield all the year, and taking all the year, I can get more off an acre here than you can at home.

Q. Does it take as many acres here to support a family as at home?—A. No, sir; not by considerable. You must raise tropical fruits in the tropics, and there is not one-quarter part so much labor. If you raise yams, eddies, sweet-potatoes, bananas, and plantains, any little piece of ground will give a family food enough, and they can have it ready for growing and eating in forty days from landing. I do not think it requires near as much land here to support a family as in Maine or in the Northern States. A man landing here and going right to work could raise enough to feed his family in two and a half or three months; that is, at the end of three months he could get enough right off of his land to feed himself and his family. If he brought three months' provisions with him it would be enough.

Q. How does the sugar-cane and coffee do here?—A. I do not know a great deal about it, but I have seen a great deal of sugar-cane, and I know how this compares with other places in the West Indies. As far as my knowledge goes, this place is better for sugar-cane than any other West India Island that I know of; I judge from what I have seen and what people have told me who have come direct from Cuba, and who understand the sugar business. I could show you a sugar plantation or patch of an acre or two that has been running without replanting for thirty years, and it is a better sugar-cane patch now than I ever saw on the island of Antigua. They let it go on for five years and then cut it all down and burn it off, and it grows up again. I am sure it has not been replanted in thirty years. As far as I have seen, coffee grows very nicely here; it grows wild all around here; I should pronounce this a great coffee country. The only trouble is about starting it. You cannot plant coffee at first and wait for it to grow. You must plant something else—have your land doing something else. These farms all have coffee planted among other things.

Q. Are there insects here that are destructive to crops?—A. I never hear of any trouble about insects attacking any kind of crop. I gave onions one trial here, and they were killed by insects. My other vegetables did well. I do not consider that I gave the onions a fair trial. Cucumbers grow here better than at home. Melons grow here very rapidly; you do not have to plant them; you cannot keep them from growing; throw out a seed anywhere and it comes up.

Q. How deep is the soil?—It is from 10 to 20 feet deep immediately about here, and that is the general rule as far as I have observed. It seems very rich. We plant corn and it comes up splendidly—rank—as much so as at home where we have dressed the soil a great deal. No manure or dressing is used here. The land requires to let it grow up to brush for a year or two and then clear it off again. The soil is so rich I do not think manure or dressing would do any particular good.

Q. How about destructive hurricanes or floods?—A. I never have felt anything of the kind as hurricanes or heavy rains in my two years. It has been very quiet.

Q. How about earthquakes?—A. We have had two very light shocks since I have been here. They were so light that a stranger would not have known what they were.

Q. Do the natives have large families here?—A. Yes, sir; all have very large families.

Q. How about security?—A. I feel just as safe as I did at home. I do not think there is any danger. We have been out and did not return until 10 o'clock at night, when there was considerable money in the house, and the doors were not locked, and I did not feel alarmed; did not look or search about on returning.

Q. What is the proportion of the different races in this neighborhood?—A. There are very few pure whites, very few indeed. There are a great many more mulattoes than blacks. All are perfectly friendly, so far as I know. I never heard of any prejudice on account of color; I never heard it mentioned. I have heard entirely different from that down in Hayti.

Q. What kind of a country is across at Savana La Mar?—A. I have been there, and for about fifteen miles along that coast. The land there is meadow, and is better adapted to cattle-raising than for the residence of people. During a part of the season it is a little wet. There are not very many cattle there now. I think those lands are capable of supporting a large amount of cattle. There is a grass grows there well suited to cattle; and there are cattle and horses there. There is about the same relative number of men of different colors there as here.

Q. Are there scorpions and centipedes here?—A. I have not seen more than two or three scorpions, or centipedes, or tarantulas here. Their bite is considered painful, but not dangerous. I do not know of any serpents here that bite at all. I have made in-



quiries, because I was always afraid of these things. When I first came I was very much afraid of it; but they said there was nothing of the kind here, and nobody was ever known to be bitten by any kind of snakes here.

Q. Do you know about the issues of bonds by the different governments here?—A. Not much. I have had a great many chances to buy those bonds, but have never bought any at all. I do not think they are held here in considerable quantities. Mr. Horan has a few; I do not know of anybody else who holds them.

Mrs. BURR, wife of Mr. Benjamin Burr, states :

Question. Living here, almost a lone woman, state whether you have been afraid of trouble by night or day, from want of security.—Answer. Not at all. I have stayed two nights in the house all alone. My husband went away at one time down the bay, and stayed two days and nights. When I first came here I was careful to fasten the doors at night, before going to bed; but I do not do it now. That front door has not had a lock or hook on it since I have been here. It was pulled out the week after I came. Anybody could come up here at night, and come right up into this house.

Q. Do you occasionally go to town through the woods?—A. Yes, sir; I have been down town alone. I have been down to meet my husband after 5 o'clock alone. I felt perfectly safe. I may say that in any part of the country in New England I should not dare to walk alone through the woods at 10 o'clock at night, as I have done here. I have been through the woods at 10 o'clock at night on one or two occasions. Once when there was a festival, a public day at Santa Barbara, I came up at 10 o'clock and I did not feel unsafe. I should not have dared to do that at home. I should have been afraid of drunken people, or something like that.

Q. Have you experienced any trouble in your health, or that of your little boy, from the climate?—A. My own health is very much better here than at home. My lungs are very weak. I had a constant cough. Ever since I was five years old, I had a cough as soon as cold weather came on, and it lasted until spring. Here I have never had but one cough, and that they called a whooping-cough, which was contagious, and we all had it. That lasted my child about six weeks. I had it about a fortnight. Then there was no more of it. I have never had a cold since I came here. My lungs are stronger. I used to have a constant pain in my lungs, and through my shoulders. I have not felt that at all here. My lungs are not diseased—only weak.

Q. What is the comparative comfort here and in New England, during warm weather?—A. I very much prefer the weather here. Down in Maine when we have a warm day, by 4 o'clock one has to change one's dress, and put on lighter clothing, but here it is not so. The temperature is more even. Here there is a breeze during the day, and it is a great deal more comfortable here. Heat affects me very much. At home I have been sick abed three days at a time on account of heat. Here the heat never affects me at all. I would not like to say anything to induce one single person to come out here. They should come on their own responsibility; but I will say that if I had any friends whose lungs were weak, I should advise them to come here; but not if their lungs were diseased, for I think the tropics are worse for them. My little child had a lung fever when he was four months old, and his lungs have always been delicate. In the fall and winter months Harry would have four or five attacks of fever, and we would think he was going to have scarlet fever. His lungs alarmed us very much. That was at home. Here we have not felt any uneasiness.

Q. How is it in regard to scarlet fever?—A. I have made many inquiries, because I am very much afraid of it myself. The people here do not call things by the same name as we do, but as near as I can find out they have what I think is scarlet fever, but it does not seem to be so fatal as ours, and it does not leave the children in the same condition as our scarlet fever so often does. In my own village I have seen children lamed and crippled from it, and I have felt afraid of it.

Q. What proportion of people die of fevers here?—A. I think where one person dies here of fever, there are ten die of consumption at the North.

Q. Do you hear much of dysentery and diseases of that class?—A. I have never heard of but two cases here, and of none among children. I don't think there is as much of it here as at home. If there are many cases I should hear of it, because I am very nervous in regard to my little boy, and always asking questions of the colored Americans, who come here a great deal. I consider the country healthy, so far as I know. I should not have any hesitancy in advising those where I lived that that was the fact.

Q. Do fevers here run to typhoid?—A. No, sir; it is generally simply a bilious fever; what we call at home a slow fever. That is, those I have seen. There has not been any yellow fever here since we have been here. The people do not seem to be in terror of it. They say the yellow fever was here during the time of the white Spanish; but it did not prove fatal at all. During the white Spanish year they had the black vomit. The servant girl I have here had it, and she has told me that she was only sick one day. She says she was not very strong for two weeks. I asked if she was afraid she was going to die; she said "no."



Q. Have you any trouble from vermin, as scorpions, tarantulas, centipedes?—A. I have been here a year, and I could not tell you what a scorpion or a centipede was like, if I had not seen them in bottles, and I have been up on the hills and all around, and up to the old Spanish foundation.

JOSEPH P. HAMILTON states:

Question. Please state your place of birth, residence, age.—Answer. I was born on the island, January 23, 1827, about three miles from Santo Domingo City, and have lived principally on the island. I was in the United States from August to November, 1845; my parents were from Philadelphia; I am a member of the Methodist church here, and am a local preacher; I reside at Samana.

Q. How extensively are you acquainted with the people through this country?—A. I have been in this place, Santo Domingo City, Azua, Barahona, and Higüey; I was there, off and on, for seven years; I was a merchant in mahogany.

Q. What is the sentiment of the people in regard to annexation to the United States?—A. For twelve or fourteen years the people's ideas have been drawn to the United States; they are now talking about it; it is all their dependence—both those who came here from the United States and the natives. When a man labors and labors and labors and finds it all vain; when revolutions and troubles are constantly in the country, destroying all that he gets, the time will come when he must be disgusted, and he will renounce his own nationality for the sake of security, that his labor may produce something. There is no security now. Take my own case; I married in 1850; I was then a very poor man; in 1857 I was worth about 60 or 70 doubloons; then the revolution broke out with this same President Baez, and we had to run and leave everything, and we lost all; still I was young and strong, and I went right to work again; in 1858 the war ended; in 1861 I was worth \$3,500; then came annexation to Spain, and in 1865 I was again worth nothing; all was lost in the revolution driving out the Spanish; I sold the remains for \$520; they had torn my property to pieces. I had some four or five houses of my own, including a grocery store worth \$1,500, and a large bee establishment, with three hundred or four hundred hives. They were destroyed; they tore my houses in pieces to get wood. The Spaniards did not dare to go to the woods for wood, because the natives would shoot them whenever they saw them. The Spaniards did not behave to our people as they promised, and the people thought they could drive them out, and did so. The Spaniards taxed me and threatened to sell my property. I told them I had no money to pay; to sell it; they let it go on, and kept saying they would sell it, but finally never actually sold it, and were driven out. Before the Spaniards came there were no taxes on property. Under the Spaniards, my brother John was taxed \$50 and paid it. I had more property, and was taxed more. The property was in the village, across the Ozama River from Santo Domingo City, called Pajarito, (Little Bird.)

The Spaniards maltreated the poor colored people. People would come down to town with things to sell, and the Spaniards would take them at the price they chose to pay. The people were ignorant and frightened, and took it; but they said, "If it is that way now, what will it be by and by?" When the archbishop came, he stopped our religion (Protestant) here, and at Puerto Plata, and everywhere. The Methodists could not worship publicly; but they did privately. Here our people spoke up so much about it that the governor said we could hold private worship in the country, but shut up our public place of worship. Mr. James, the preacher, asked him to be so good as to give him that in writing, and he did so, and they retired to the country and worshiped privately. After the Spaniards were driven out public worship was resumed. Since then there has been no trouble between us and the Catholics. The governor himself—Cabral's governor—made us a present of 2,000 feet of lumber. The present government has treated us very well. The government of the island never attempted to interfere with our religion.

Q. Do Catholics and Protestants intermarry?—A. Some; not much.

Q. Do the heads of families here generally own the land they occupy?—A. A great many of them own lands of their own, and lease it from the government. They generally occupy their own land, and live by working their farms. The farms average about five carreaux, or sixteen acres. About four or five acres are under cultivation, depending on the size of the family. They can support themselves from that much.

Q. What is the principal food?—A. First, the bread of the country is the **plantain**; then there are sweet potatoes, corn, rice, yams of three or four kinds, eddoes, beans, peas, sugar-cane, cassava, arrow-root, and coffee; a great many do not raise their own coffee, but buy it from the others; they drink coffee here three or four times a day.

Q. Can they raise all these vegetables for a family on four or five acres?—A. Yes, sir, it is enough. Go into a plantain patch, and if you are looking up and not down at your feet you will slip down stepping on the rotten ones. We cannot sell them. We have beef, and pork, and goats. There are no sheep around here. There are turkeys, ducks, chickens, and other poultry. Our families generally eat meat. We buy wheat flour from abroad, and the people generally eat it. I have always a barrel of



flour in the house. Poor people here never have trouble in getting enough to eat. On the contrary, those that are not disposed to cultivate enough to eat can get yams wild in the woods, sometimes half a barrel of yams in one hole. There is no trouble in getting a living here.

Q. Have you contagious diseases here?—A. No, sir; there is one, I do not know the name in English. Now and then one or two have it, but they keep it in the country. We do not allow it in town. If either of my children take it, I must take him to a small house out in the country and leave him there.

Q. Is it leprosy?—A. It is something similar to that. It breaks out like small-pox. It is not small-pox. I sometimes think it is like the sickness Job had, because they like to be in the ashes by the fire.

Q. Do the legs swell?—A. No, sir; but it breaks out in boils.

Q. Is it curable?—A. Yes, sir; they get over it, but it is contagious while they have it, and they seclude them while they have it. There is hardly any other kind of sickness. Ever since I have been married, twenty-one years, I have not had two days' sickness, nor has my wife. My children, when they are small, sometimes have fits, or worms work on them.

Q. Do they have scarlet fever?—A. No, sir. I had the measles about twenty-three years ago; whooping-cough comes along now and then.

Q. Do you know of people dying here of consumption, colds, and coughs?—A. Yes, sir; pretty often. The reason coughs and consumption are so plenty here is because our young people deprive themselves of rest, are out at nights, getting wet, catching cold, and not taking care of themselves. Almost all the cases arise from such exposures.

Q. Is there any yellow fever or vomito?—A. None, except brought in by foreigners, and it did not spread in the country.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. I work a farm and am a carpenter, and have charge of the American flag. I was in the mahogany trade for seven years in the city of Santo Domingo and Higüey.

Q. Where is the mahogany trade chiefly located?—A. It used to be in Higüey; that is, the mahogany that came down to the city; also at Seybo, and all the way down to the city of Santo Domingo. The mahogany trees are away back on the high lands, but the best mahogany grows down on the level land and in the valleys. I am told that there is plenty of it on the east end of the peninsula of Samana, but there is only one cargo shipped from this place every year. The vessel comes, and they go to work and bring it to the beach, and the vessels take it off right there. Last year there were two vessels; one went up to the head of the bay and took a cargo, and the other out to the east end. This is considered good mahogany here, but the best grows down on the level ground, because on the mountain it cannot get its strength from the depth of the earth, and it always comes out defective with a kind of dry rot in the heart of it.

Q. Are there paupers here who have to be supported?—A. There are some poor old persons who have to be supported by relatives or neighbors.

Q. Do any ever die of starvation?—A. It was never heard of. Yesterday, for instance, a great many came in here from the country to the meeting to hear Mr. Frederick Douglass, and if one is here like that and has nothing to eat, we say, "Come in and get some dinner." We don't ask if he is hungry, because we know that he has come from home.

Q. How many schools have you in town?—A. Two; one is at the Baptist house, kept by young Lewis Judd; there is another man assisting, Mr. Gerad. Mr. Judd is a white man from the United States, and has been here two years. He and his father came from Port au Prince, driven out by the revolution. His father, who was sixty-five years old, knocked about too much, and died of the fever. The Americans here care most about education. It is not supported much among the natives, especially back in the country. They do not care whether they get education or not. A great many of the English-speaking colored people can read and write. Many of the Spanish people born here can read and write.

Q. Do you think that with a little experience they would be able to vote intelligently on public questions?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How was the vote on annexation taken here?—A. It was conducted pretty well. I signed for a good many of them who did not know how to sign. If a man had not an opinion in favor of annexation he would not come forward. But he would not have been harmed on that account. He could stay at home and nobody would ask him why.

Q. Suppose anybody had come up and voted against it, would he have been punished by the government, or would the people have disliked him for it?—A. I don't know whether he would have been punished by the government, but he would have been what we might call a spotted sheep. He would be afraid the government would look on him so.

Q. Did the people in their hearts want annexation?—A. Yes, sir; because when the least thing happened to them they would say, "I hope the Americans will come and take this place, and we will get out of this trouble."





Q. What is the character of the Spanish inhabitants ; are they peaceable and industrious ?—A. Yes, sir ; if you were going from here, by land, to some city on the island, you need only take provisions to last until you came to the first house. There they would come out, help you off of your horse, and while one part of the family fixed a bed for you, the others would get you coffee, and milk the cows and spread the table for you. They are very hospitable. The next morning they would take you to the road. They would not charge you one cent. I am speaking of the native people.

Q. How about security ?—A. I have been told that now and then somebody might come out on the road to attack you, but a revolver would keep them off. Nothing of the kind ever happened to me. I have slept on the mountain and in the llanos.

Q. How large a place is Higüey ; what kind of a place ?—A. It is a little larger than Samana, and about the same sort of life as here. There are no Protestant churches there ; several of our old American people who came out in 1824 are distributed about there. It is the level llanos country, and is covered with grass, meadow land, in some places trees. There are pretty large droves of cattle and horses there ; but it would support millions and millions of animals.

Q. What sort of country is at Savana la Mar ?—A. It is not very healthy ; is swampy.

Q. What is the country between there and Santo Domingo city ?—A. It is very bad, a wild growth all the way.

Q. Could an immigrant purchase land here ?—A. Yes, sir, without difficulty, anywhere through the country. The old Spanish titles and Boyer's titles are the best.

Q. Is the general health good ?—A. Yes, sir ; take my family ; there is my wife, is thirty-nine, and her mother who is sixty-four, and her grandmother, who is one hundred and four. The old lady came here in 1824 and has dozens of descendants, and is lively and hearty.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAUX states :

Question. State your age, residence, and occupation.—Answer. I am fifty years of age ; reside here ; am president of the municipal council of Santa Barbara de Samana, and as such I have charge and am custodian of the public records, of the mortgages and deeds, and all documents relating to transfers of property. [He produces the book in which deeds are registered.]

Q. Does the law require that all deeds that are valid should be recorded in that book ?—A. Yes, that is always the case. When such a transaction takes place, the deed is delivered to me to be recorded. There are no other deeds not placed on this book ; all are here.

Q. In this deed or lease to Fabens, December 11, 1869, is this proviso : " Provided, There be no law to prevent the same."—A. I saw that inserted. There are no laws either for or against it, but in order to make it as sure as possible they inserted that clause. They did not wish to do anything against the laws of the country.

Q. Do you know of any deeds or leases to American citizens except Mr. Fabens and Mr. O'Sullivan ?—A. There is a little piece of land, 150 Spanish varas, (350 feet square,) east of town, to Captain Benjamin F. Clarke, of St. Thomas, and one to Mr. Lewis Horan, near the village, for twenty-one years, at \$60.

Q. State fully in reference to those leases.—A. This register shows that lease No. 15 is to Benjamin F. Clarke, for twenty-five years, at \$18 per year, made July 1, 1870, for municipal land east of the town, extending 160 feet in breadth to the Royal Road of the cemetery, and from there to the west 225 feet up to the top of the hill, in the form of a parallelogram, bounded on the north by the land occupied by Samuel Johnson, and on the west by a part of the land occupied by B. F. Clarke, and on the south by that belonging to John Coates, on the east by the Royal Road to the cemetery. Also, another lease July 1, 1870, for land east of town, from a point above the Royal Road, near the land occupied by David Simmons, and extending to the north 360 feet, and thence southeast 300 feet as far as the corner southeast of the property belonging to Lewis Horan, above the Royal Road ; from there east along the Royal Road 190 feet to the point already mentioned, forming a triangular lot bounded on the east by the land belonging to David Simmons, B. F. Clarke, and John Coates ; on the north and east by a part of the land of Wm. E. F. Horan, and on the south by the Royal Road, on the following conditions : to pay \$22 per year for twenty-five years from date. These men, John Coates and David Simmons, are colored people of American descent, who came here from the United States in the former immigration. When Luperon captured the town he carried away all the archives and records except this book. It is the record of deeds, leases, &c., for the whole peninsula of Samana.

T. F. CRANE states :

Question. Have you examined the record book of deeds, conveyances, leases, &c., of Samana, presented by Mr. Desruisseaux, the president of the council ?—Answer. I have ; carefully.

Q. Are you assistant professor of modern languages in Cornell University, Ithaca, New York ?—I am.





Q. Do you find any conveyances to American citizens in that book; if so, to whom?—  
A. The only conveyances to American citizens, as I am informed, are those to Messrs. O'Sullivan, Fabens, Clarke, and Horan. They are in the Spanish language, and I have, at the request of the commission, translated those to O'Sullivan and Fabens into English.

The following is a translation from the official registry of deeds, conveyances, &c., in the possession of the above-named president of the council :

The first entry in the book is dated January 1, 1867. The said book is not folioed nor paged, but consists of seventy-six pages, and contains up to the present time fifty-six records of conveyances, &c., numbered from the beginning of the year; for instance, in 1867 there are eighteen; in 1868 there are eight; in 1869 there are nine; in 1870 there are twenty-one, and no entry for the present year of 1871. From all appearances the book is in a good state of preservation, and there are, apparently, no erasures. It is bound in marble paper and leather.

[Translated from the Spanish.]

DECEMBER 1, 1868.

No. 3.—J. P. O'Sullivan—\$62 annually for twenty-one years.

We, Victor Desruiſseau, president of this district, having examined the petition of Mr. J. P. O'Sullivan for a lease of a piece of land belonging to this commune, said piece of land being situated between the mouth of Pueblo Viejo and a little bay, measuring 930 English feet, in a straight line from one extremity to the other, and fronting on the sea in its whole length; of such a depth as it can have toward the interior—

[NOTE.—Colonel Abreu explains this by stating that this property in the interior to the limit of the property owned by the commune is 900 feet deep in the widest part.]

Under the following conditions the lessee shall pay annually, to the commune, the sum of \$62 at the end of each year. The present lease is for the space of twenty-one years.

Done and executed in the room of the council on the day, month, and year above mentioned.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAU.

DECEMBER 1, 1868.

No. 4.—J. P. O'Sullivan—\$4 annually for twenty-one years.

We, Victor Desruiſseau, president of the council of this district, having examined the petition of Mr. J. P. O'Sullivan for a lease of a piece of land belonging to this commune, the said piece of land being situated in the place named Pueblo Viejo, measuring 84 English feet front, and all its depth, (bounded on the east by the lands of Mrs. Araminta Dishay, on the west by the lands of Mr. Joseph Wright, on the south by the sea,) on the following conditions: The lessee to pay annually to the commune the sum of \$4 at the end of each year; the said lease is for the term of twenty-one years.

Done and executed in the council room on the day, month, and year above named.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAU.

DECEMBER 1, 1868.

No. 5.—J. P. O'Sullivan—\$4 annually for twenty-one years.

We, Victor Desruiſseau, president of this district, having examined the petition of Mr. J. P. O'Sullivan for a lease of a piece of land belonging to this commune, said piece of land being situated in the place named Pueblo Viejo, measuring 90 English feet front, and throughout its whole depth, (bounded on the east by another piece of land rented by Mrs. Nancy Johnson, and on the south by the sea,) on the following conditions: The lessee shall pay annually to the commune the sum of \$4 at the end of each year. The lease is for the term of twenty-one years.

Done and executed in the room of the council on the day, month, and year above named.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAU.

DECEMBER 11, 1869.

1869.—No. 6.—Joseph Warren Fabens.

We, Victor Desruiſseau, president of the council of this district, having examined the petition of Mr. Joseph Warren Fabens, representative of the parties interested in a lease made on the 1st day of December of the last year, to Mr. J. P. O'Sullivan, in the place

S. Ex. 9—15



called Pueblo Viejo, and the property between the flats to a corner of the same, desiring that the said lease in perpetuity should be granted to him, and under the same conditions expressed in the said instrument, and the municipality by these presents has resolved, on this date to grant in perpetuity the aforesaid leases, provided there be no law to prevent the same on fulfilling the prescribed conditions.

Given in the regular meeting room of the city municipality on the day, month, and year above named.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAUX.

DECEMBER 11, 1869.

No. 7.—Joseph Warren Fabens, per annum \$112 in perpetuity.

We, Victor Desruisseaux, president of the council of this district, having examined the petition of Joseph Warren Fabens to grant him a lease of the communal property, said piece of land extending from the corner of the bay of the Muddy Flats, measuring 1,683 English feet in a continuous line east to west from the boundary of this last point fronting on the waters of this harbor, with the whole of its depth extending to the extremity of the southern shore of the sea on the east, on the west to the point Escudido, bounded on the west by the land of the heirs of the late William Horton, (may he rest in peace,) point of direction, under the following conditions: The lessee binds himself to pay annually to the commune the sum of \$112 at the end of each year, and its duration will be perpetual if the conditions are complied with.

Made and given in the room of the council of this commune on the day, month, and year above mentioned.

VICTOR DESRUISSEAUX.

The present act having been signed by the interested party together with us.

*Statement of the number of marriages and deaths on the peninsula of Samana, from July 14, 1870, to December 31, 1870, copied from the official registry kept by T. Joubert.*

Marriages .....	14
Deaths .....	13

DEATHS.

No.	Name.	Date of death.	Age.
1	Señor Severin .....	July .....	76 years.
2	Señor Goullandeux .....	July .....	40 years.
3	Señorita Francisco .....	July .....	26 years.
4	Juliana Johnson .....	July .....	16 years.
5	Mr. Robles .....	August .....	11 years.
6	Philippa Calatano .....	August .....	No age given.
7	Matteo Cardeo .....	August .....	80 years.
8	Maria Shepeard .....	August .....	27 years.
9	Henrietta Barrette .....	August .....	6 years.
10	Gaspard Garcia .....	August .....	4 months.
11	Carlito Delion .....	November ...	No age given.
12	Elvi Marteo .....	November ...	80 years.
13	Dr. Judd .....	December ...	60 years.

BIRTHS.

*Number of births on the peninsula of Samana from July 14, 1870, to December 31, 1870.*

Males .....	38
Females .....	32

*Births during January, 1871.—Males, 10; females, 6.*

*Deaths during January, 1871.—Male, 1; age, 43.*

GEORGE LEWIS JUDD states:

Question. How long have you lived on the island?—Answer. I came to the country when a child. My father was a Baptist missionary. I came out last in 1864. I am now teaching the school in Samana. My father died last December. He was engaged for



three years in writing a history of the country, which I suppose is now in course of publication in charge of Hon. G. H. Hollister, of Bridgeport, formerly minister resident from the United States to Port au Prince.

Q. Are you acquainted with the sentiment of the people in regard to annexation to the United States?—A. I believe I am, almost more than any one else in the country; I circulate so much among them.

Q. What is their sentiment; what kind?—A. They are waiting, hoping, and begging that the Americans will come here. They were not satisfied with the Spaniards, because they came with guns and bayonets, and treated the people almost as slaves. They forbid any one to enter town with a machete, which is not so much a weapon as a necessity to these people. I am conversant with this people and their history from the time of the caciques, from the books collected by my father. For the slightest offenses they forced people to work on the roads and do military duty when their families were in need. Besides, this people knew, for they are intelligent, that the Spaniards were slaveholders in Cuba on one side and Porto Rico on the other. The Spaniards sometimes would say they would make them all slaves. There are wonderful mineral resources in this island, especially gold and silver; but the people never talk to white men about that, or tell that there is gold since they gained their liberty, because the Spaniards are always hunting gold. The histories collected by my father showed that there was \$30,000,000 of gold and silver annually exported from this island at one time, shortly after the period of Columbus. The people here think if the whites knew there was gold and silver they would pour in and make them slaves; that has until lately been the general feeling among colored people, but now they know the Americans have abolished slavery and there is no fear of them. These people are naturally peaceable, but these revolutions have rendered them somewhat turbulent. The governments are despotic. Right over there in that hut, which you can see from the window of my school-house now, a man was forced away to serve for three years, leaving his family unprovided for and sometimes sick. Left to themselves, these people are quiet and willing to work if they can get anything for it. They desire education. I intend, if I have health, to open a night-school next month, with twenty or thirty grown-up persons for scholars, who have begged me to do this. Among the children I do not find much difference between the white and colored; some are smart and some are not. The imagination of the colored children is greater than that of the whites. In anything like writing or painting they will imitate in a moment, where a white child has to have time and practice; in more profound things they find more difficulty than the whites, perhaps. They are more children of nature than the white race. The parents here are anxious to educate the children. They will walk for miles to sell ten cents' worth of provisions to come and buy an A B C book from me to teach their children.

Q. Are you acquainted with the Haytian government?—A. I lived there from a child. My father and family were friends of Salnave, the legitimate president, and I am now an exile from Hayti.

Q. Is there any desire here for union with Hayti?—A. No, sir; they will fight that to the death. They are antagonistic people. There is a difference of language and race and character. They never will unite, unless it be under the United States. If annexation takes place here there will be a great exodus from Hayti coming here. If Samana is occupied as a naval station it will be crowded from all sides. I know there was a feeling in favor of annexation in Hayti in Salnave's time, not among the colored' people, but the blacks.

Q. Is there prejudice on account of color here?—A. There are very few whites. There is a slight prejudice between mulattoes and blacks. Mulattoes think they know more and should rule. The pure blacks are the best friends of the whites generally, for they pride themselves on their pure African blood. A mulatto hates his mother, perhaps, because she was black, and is mad at his father because he cannot be white too. Affairs have gone on from bad to worse in this country for sixty years. There is no patriotism in the country. The only salvation is for some other government to step in. The people here all know this fact and want annexation. The prejudice of color is strong, but it is only a family affair. In public affairs no distinction is made. There are often intermarriages. I believe the blacks of the whole island, Dominican and Haytian, would be glad to unite under the United States, but never by themselves alone. I am in correspondence with many people in Hayti now, who are waiting for that. There is a Haytian family here in the next house. The mulattoes are anxious for annexation; they are tired out. In Hayti three-fourths are blacks. In Dominica three-fourths are mulattoes. There is a greater proportion of blacks in Samana than in any other part of Dominica. There is a strong prejudice between the Haytians, who all speak French, and the Dominicans, who all speak Spanish; but they would unite readily with an English-speaking people and government, for it is neutral ground, and that language is not associated with their causes of hatred.

Q. What schools are here?—A. Mr. James has a school besides mine; I have twenty-four pupils; three are grown-up girls; one does not know her A B C's.



Q. What is the tuition fee?—A. One dollar a month. I carry them through the elements. Of course they have not gone very far. This is the first month of my school here; my father kept it about eight months before his death. It will probably increase. There are two women up town who pretend to give some schooling; they do not keep an organized school, but teach five or six scholars.

Q. What do they generally want to learn, Spanish?—A. No, sir; English altogether. All my scholars talk English; the people feel the want of it; they know the Spanish and this French creole patois; after hearing them chat in the street in Spanish and French creole you would be astonished to see them read and write English. This American colony about here have preserved their nationality with great persistency for the forty years they have been here, in spite of revolutions. There has been great destruction by revolutions; where this school-house stands there was formerly a fine house which was burned by Luperon.

Q. Is this place healthy or not?—A. It is marshy close about this house; but if it was drained it would be a healthy town; my father lived in Hayti twenty-five years as a missionary. Back on these hills the health is excellent. There has never been yellow fever here except when it was brought here. In Port au Prince it is found almost all the time, but it is not feared. The small-pox there is common, but it is no more than what we call chicken-pox in the North. Ten years ago Port au Prince was considered unhealthy, but it has been improved until it is not half as bad as Havana. You can find in this island any climate you wish; just over Port au Prince there are white clover, strawberries, peaches, apples, blackberries, and Irish potatoes, and the climate of New York. So in the higher regions, across here toward the center of this end of the island. On the heights above Samana you can raise most of our northern vegetables, though the seed is now run out, I am told by the American people up here.

Q. Of what disease did your father die?—A. Of fever. He had had chills and fever before. When he was sixteen years old he was given up by four doctors because of lung complaint; his left lung was gone, and he had bronchitis. This climate preserved his life for a long time; that was why we came here instead of going to the United States, when we found it necessary to go or be killed. It was in winter, and as I am acclimated now, I could not go North in winter without danger. The blood changes here; if you cut yourself in a northern climate it runs thick in drops; here it is thin.

General THEOPHILUS JAMES states:

Question. State your residence, where you have lived, and your occupation.—Answer. I am a resident now of Samana. I was born here, and when near twelve years old was sent to England, where I remained seven years, and was educated. I returned to the island in 1861, and resided in Hayti. I resided chiefly at Acqui, where I was collector of customs and official interpreter. I was an adherent of President Salnave, and took an active part in his behalf in the war waged for his overthrow. I served on his staff for a time as aide-de-camp and inspector of the first division of the army of the south. Subsequently I commanded the seventeenth brigade, and at the time of the catastrophe held that command under Major General Seid, then in command of the citadel of Port au Prince. I then fled to Nassau, and subsequently came to Samana, where my brother is pastor of the Methodist Church. I have several times visited the United States.

Q. State your means of knowing the sentiments of the people in regard to annexation to the United States, and what you believe their sentiments are.—A. Within the past year I have made several journeys through different parts of the island, as, over the peninsula of Samana, across to Savana la Mar, on the opposite of the bay; to Puerto Plata, around on the north side of the island; to Monte Cristi, near the northwestern corner of the republic; and to many other places. I was in Monte Cristi and in the interior back of that place for seventeen days last month. I think I know the sentiment of the people pretty well all over the north side of the island. I believe they are in favor of the annexation of the country to the United States—strongly so, and so strongly so that they would be willing to make almost any sacrifice to secure it. The feeling is so strong that I fear the consequences if the proposed annexation should not take place, as troubles and disorders will then arise, for the dissatisfaction of the people with the government would be such that another revolution would ensue, and affairs would go on again as of old. Our hope here in Samana is, that the United States, if it does not receive this republic by annexation, will at least hold on to this point for awhile, until we can get the protection of some other power if they cast us off. Should the United States refuse them, I believe the Dominican people would, fifty to one, favor annexation to some other strong government, as England, or almost any one, except Spain. All are against Spain. They desire annexation to the United States for the sake of peace and tranquillity; that each man may enjoy what he earns by his labor. We do not expect or wish any foreign power to come in with a sack of doubloons to put in every man's pocket; but we want to be able to work with a prospect of enjoying the fruits of work; that we cannot do now.

Q. What is the desire or feeling in regard to education?—A. The people around here,



who are descendants of the colored Americans who came in 1824, are very desirous of education. Now there are scarce any means of education whatever. A teacher is hard to find, and the people are too poor to pay much, and there is no organized means of general education; but I believe, and I have heard the same from the best informed and most respectable among the people, that a school system, enforced by law, would be well received and supported.

Q. How is land held and worked, and what is its value here?—A. The land around here is generally held in small farms. A great many own their lands, though perhaps almost as many rent. The part the family cultivate and live on is generally only three or four acres, which is enough. The growth is so tremendous in this country that they cannot keep it down on more ground than that, and that raises them an abundance. There is a pretty large population all over the peninsula of Samana. Land within two miles of here, back on the hills, is perhaps worth \$4 or \$5 per acre, but if annexation takes place it will be much more valuable. Close around the village here prices would be much higher. After you get off twenty miles, as across on the savannas, south of the bay of Samana, most of the land belongs to the government, and there are fewer people. They become still fewer toward the mountains of the interior. The lands are almost everywhere good.

Q. What kind of military force is there for the defense of the country?—A. There is a very inferior military organization now through the country under the general command of the national government at Santo Domingo, and under the immediate command about here of General Acosta, the governor of the district of Samana. There are perhaps one thousand five hundred or one thousand eight hundred men on the peninsula of Samana who are enrolled as soldiers, but not more than half have arms, and of their arms not more than half are tolerably good; the remainder are of little value. The force has no regimental organizations. There are a few companies which may be considered as partially organized; they have captains, but the real organization is made by the orders of the governor when trouble arises requiring the use of military force. He says to one, "You take this squad or company," and that is a commission.

Q. What are the proportions of the different races, and their mutual feelings?—A. In the eastern part of the island the mulattoes are more numerous than the blacks; there are few whites. There is no prejudice observable, so far as I have observed, between people on account of color. I am a full black myself. I think the sentiments of the full blacks are perhaps a little more friendly to the whites and to annexation than the mulattoes are, but there is scarcely any difference.

Q. How do the morals of this people compare with those of the people of England and those of the States you have visited or resided in?—A. I have lived for years in England and have visited New England, several of the Middle and Southern States, and I think the morals of the people equal to or better than in any of those countries. In little things there is sometimes deceit, but there is almost no crime. It may happen that in a dance, or when drunk, men quarrel and get hurt, but it is very seldom. Stealing valuable property or robbing does not occur. Why, when the steamer Tybee came in the last time a considerable part of her cargo, consisting of goods in small and large boxes and packages of all kinds, lay on the wharf for several days without a guard or watch, day or night, and nothing was taken. There are generally no locks on the doors here, and it is even more so in the interior. People's fields join without fences and they do not quarrel about the division of the crops where there is no clear line of separation.

Q. What is the condition of the country as to healthfulness?—A. I think this the healthiest country I have ever known. There is little disease except the fever of the country, which is easily broken.

Rev. JACOB JAMES states :

Question. State your place of nativity, age, residence, and profession.—Answer. I was born in the United States; came here in 1825 and have been on the island ever since except occasional absences at Turk's Island or elsewhere near. I am forty-eight years of age. I have been preaching for about six years, and am now the preacher in charge of the Methodist church in Samana and vicinity.

Q. What is the condition of your charge?—A. We have about two hundred and fifty members of the church, all good Christians, trying to do right. We are increasing in numbers, and I believe the greater part have a true Christian spirit and are growing in grace. To-day the preaching, and class meetings, and exercises took up the time until almost sundown. The attendance is good. The children come to church and Sunday school. I left the Sunday school going on when I came away, (5 p. m.) Most of the brethren are Americans who came from the United States, or whose parents did. We are all colored people. I am a full black.

Q. Is there any prejudice on account of color?—A. None among them at all. We are all of one heart and one mind, all united in the love of Christ, and we hope the day will come when our number will be increased by our American friends coming in here. We try to keep our people together here as Americans, so that they shall not





fall away into the ways of the natives and almost become natives, as they have done too much at Puerto Plata, where they are all mixed up. Our people are honest working people. Although we have been here so long, we have preserved our feelings as Americans. Most of our people make their living by farming and by trades; some cut trees, and saw boards, and hew out frames for house-building. They raise produce and sell it, to be shipped to St. Thomas, Turk's Island, and other places. About half of the people own their farms. Their places are about fifteen acres each. One family can cultivate about three acres well, but not more if they keep it in good cultivation.

Q. Are you acquainted with other parts of the island?—A. I have at various times in my life traveled through the island; have been in Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo City, Santiago, and other places, all through the interior. Last year I was through to Puerto Plata.

Q. How do the people, so far as you know, regard annexation to the United States?—A. Every one of them is for annexation to the United States, praying God earnestly that it may take place. The fact is, in this country you will find the natives and everybody else in favor of annexation. There may be some few of the lower class in the interior and a few at Puerto Plata opposed to it, but very few. Men who have been or want to be officers, and idle, drunken, worthless fellows who want to see disturbances, and who live by such things, are opposed to it. The people generally are for it. Why, this thing has been talked of here for twenty years. When General Santana was in power we wanted it and hoped for it; but some objection to it would be raised then, because the United States was a slaveholding country. But now the United States is a country of freedom. We all know that, and all want to join the United States. We had newspapers here during the war, telling us all the news when the rebellion was going on.

Q. What is doing in the way of education here?—A. In education we are doing what little we can among ourselves. We are not willing to have our children grow up in ignorance, and we have little schools to teach them what we can. As for the natives, the government does not do anything for them, and they don't do much for themselves. We had a good school-house which we were building here, but the Spanish war came and they burned it up. The natives have about no schools. Here and there one pays to have his children taught. Of my congregation about one-quarter can read the New Testament and their hymn books. They sing from the books, and a good many from the giving out of the hymns. Many of the hymns they know by heart. The revolutions and wars have got us down so that we cannot do as we would have done. We once had a church here, and a school-house and a mission house, and did much in the way of scattering books and teaching the people; but all was destroyed and burned up in the wars. One difficulty has followed another, and we have never been able to get upon our feet. Now we are hoping for better things from annexation. Since the flag was raised here a year ago vessels have been going back and forth, so that we get a little means, and we are now building our church, as you see; it is 50 feet by 38; the frame is up, and next week we will commence to shingle it.

Q. What is the condition of the country as to health?—A. The country is healthy; the families are generally large; there is not a fresh grave in our graveyard.

Q. State as to food and wages.—A. The food here generally is plantains, yams, eddoes, sweet potatoes, rice, corn, peas, beans, coffee, chocolate, sugar-cane, from which they make their own sirup or molasses, cassava. The wages for a day's work of a carpenter is \$1 to \$2 now, and of a common laborer 50 cents. Work here is generally done by the job.

Q. How did your people start here, and how are they satisfied?—A. Our American people here got their land from Boyer's government. He promised and gave to immigrants five carreaux, or about sixteen acres of land to each, so that they became property owners and citizens right away. They are glad they came. At first a few were dissatisfied. They had not learned the language, the place was wild, and they were ignorant of the fruits and food, and crops and work; but after they had got well started they became satisfied. The rising generation, which is taking their places, knows the maxims and ways of this country, and they are ten times better pleased to be here than in the States. Colored people coming here from the States could do very well. In three or four months a man could raise for himself corn, sweet potatoes, beans, &c., a great deal more than his family could consume. In five months they could have so much rice they would not know what to do with it. If we only had roads, which could be built without very great expense, leading up into the country, everything would be more valuable there. Things can only be disposed of at the water side to vessels. Every family now produces more vegetables and fruits than they want, leaving them to rot and waste.

Q. What kind of money do you use here?—A. The money used here now is American gold and silver. The paper money has disappeared. Several of the people here have a good deal of the old paper money laid away unless they have destroyed it. I had \$15,000 of one issue by Cabral, but it is good for nothing, and I have used a good deal of it for wrapping paper, or in any way it came handy. Cabral has issued another lot



since that one, and it is not redeemed. All the paper money of every kind is good for nothing.

Q. Is there much litigation here?—A. There are sometimes lawsuits, but none in our church. I generally settle their business disputes.

Q. Do the people here prefer independence, a protectorate, or annexation?—A. If this republic could have a government of its own we would be glad, but this needs to be rearranged and reconstructed. There are too many officers of the government, too many big men, too many idle men lurking around in the government service. Of course there should be a proper number of men to administer the government, but no government in the world could support such a number of officers in proportion to the people as we have now. During the war President Baez, in order to gratify men, gave them a grade, and after the war was over, it seemed hard to put those men down; but the government cannot pay them because they are too many, and so they are idle and discontented. The people are burdened. In a little village like this you will see men sitting around everywhere doing guard, and an officer to every ten or fifteen of these men. One officer would be enough for the whole of this town; let the rest quit their idleness and go to work. We do not want to be united with Hayti on any terms. The Haytian laws would not suit here. The Haytians are an overbearing people. They beat their men in the army like the Spaniards did. They think nothing of striking a man on parade. I think if we were annexed to the United States the people would generally be quiet. There is such a small number who oppose annexation, or favor disturbance, that the rest, if backed by the name and power of the United States, would subdue them so fast that they could not commence trouble. We would keep order. You must expect that in a vote on any question there will be some opposite votes. The people are in ignorance and darkness, and cannot see the light, but the best are all united in favor of annexation.

*Summary of testimony taken by F. Douglas among American colonists at Samana.*

Question. What is the present number of the colony that settled in the vicinity of Samana Bay in 1824?—Answer. From five to six hundred.

Q. What is the number of males as compared with females?—A. The sexes are about equal in number, the excess, if any, being in favor of the males.

Q. What is their general physical condition, especially with reference to bodily strength and capacity for labor?—A. The people are generally healthy and able to work.

Q. What is the condition of their houses as to the number of rooms?—A. Each house has two or three rooms, and the family does not sleep in one room together.

Q. What is their mode of life; how are they employed?—A. The people are mostly farmers; many of them own the land, and some of them rent.

Q. What do the people use generally as food; what do they eat?—A. Plantains; of these there are three different kinds; they have, besides, sweet potatoes, yams of different sizes and qualities, Indian corn, rice, peas, pork, beef, poultry of all kinds, sugar, and coffee.

Q. Are there any who cannot support themselves?—A. There are a few old and infirm people who cannot support themselves, but all who are able to work can support themselves, and have food to spare.

Q. How much land is considered a good farm here?—A. Most of the families have sixteen acres.

Q. How many acres are kept under tillage?—A. About three are as many as they can take care of.

Q. Can a family support itself on three acres of land?—A. Yes; and have more than they can consume.

Q. What tools or farming implements are used by your farming people?—A. Hoes, axes, crow-bars, machetes, and pickaxes.

Q. Don't they use plows and cultivators?—A. No, they do not; have never seen a plow in this country.

Q. What other occupation than farming do your people pursue?—A. Some of them hew timber in the woods, others follow sawing with the whip-saw, and some are carpenters.

Q. What is the number of your church-members?—A. There are two hundred members of the Methodist church in Samana.

Q. What is about the average attendance upon public worship?—A. From three to four hundred.

Q. Have you regular religious services?—A. We have regular religious worship; have preaching every Sunday and prayer-meeting every Wednesday night.

Q. What advantages have you for education?—A. The government does nothing here for education; we, however, keep up both a day-school and Sunday-school.

Q. About how many children attend these schools?—A. Between eighty and ninety.

Q. Suppose you wanted to borrow money, what interest would you have to pay?—A. About six per cent.



Q. What are the opinions and feelings of the people concerning annexation to the United States?—A. We do not know a man here who is not in favor of it.

Q. Why are your people so generally in favor of annexation?—A. They are tired of war, and they think that under the Government of the United States they will have peace and prosperity. The people have no heart for exertion under their present uncertain government, for as soon as they earn a little property, some great man puts himself at the head of a revolution, and brings on war, and one side or the other plunders the people of their property. Besides, they feel that they cannot be worse off than they now are. The people feel that they want a strong government to lean against for protection, and they believe that the United States would give them protection. Most of the able-bodied men of the country are compelled to leave their work and do military duty, and this keeps them from their proper work on their farms.

Q. When the revolutionary leaders take your property, do they pay for it?—A. Yes. They give us some printed slips of paper. I have a bag-full of these promises to pay, but they are worthless, and most of my neighbors have lots of it. They take our cattle, our horses, and everything we have, and leave us this stuff for pay.

Q. Why did Santo Domingo, after the general demand for reunion with Spain, so soon and so unanimously seek to sever that connection?—A. The people of Santo Domingo were deceived in that reunion. They did not know the extent to which they were binding themselves. They thought that they would be left to manage their own internal affairs, and that Spain would only exercise a general supervision. Besides, at the time Santana made that treaty he was menaced by Hayti and by revolutionary leaders at home, and he thought to save himself by throwing himself in the hands of Spain. It is believed that even he did not know the extent to which he was committing his country to Spain. When the Spaniards came they soon opened our eyes to the real situation. They began by imposing heavy taxes on the people. They had promised us religious liberty, yet they forbade us to hold Methodist meetings in our church, and behaved to the people generally in a haughty and overbearing way. They whipped their own soldiers brutally in the streets, behaved badly to our women, and began to talk loudly of making the Santo Domingo people slaves. The people became alarmed for their safety, and saw no way of escape but by throwing off the yoke of Spain, and driving her soldiers away.

Q. How far does the desire for annexation to a foreign power arise from the fear of subjugation by Hayti?—A. There is not much fear of subjugation by Hayti. We had some such fears under Salnave, but have none now. Our people want annexation to the United States because they believe that it will deal justly by them, and will protect the country against revolution.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 4, 1871.*

WILLIAM M. GABB states:

Question. Please state your name, and where you are from.—Answer. Wm. M. Gabb; I am a native of Philadelphia.

Q. How long have you been acquainted with the republic of Dominica?—A. It is about two years.

Q. In what are you engaged?—A. I am in charge of a geological survey of the Dominican Republic.

Q. What have been your means of knowing the condition of the people and country?—A. I have been traveling constantly, and with every facility that the government could afford me, everywhere among the people.

Q. What are the proportions of the different races?—A. If you could make an average shade of all the colors of the people of the republic, I think it would be somewhere near the shade of a quadroon. Many are pure white, more are pure blacks; but in the intermixture, the proportion of white is much greater than black, so that if a general or average shade could be struck it would be about quadroon.

Q. Is there much prejudice on account of color?—A. There is no prejudice, because social equality here is based not on color at all. The darker portion, especially where they are a little intelligent, are always on the lookout for a slight from white men, but they have no prejudice, and if treated as they ordinarily are, they show no prejudice whatever. On the contrary, a white man is always treated better than a black by the blacks themselves.

Q. What is the religion here?—A. The universal religion is the Roman Catholic. There are two small communities of American negroes who call themselves Protestants, but do not belong to any definite sect.

Q. Is there any religious prejudice?—A. These two little communities are so small and unimportant that there is no feeling about them.

Q. If Protestant immigrants came in would the Catholics persecute them?—A. I do not think they would.

Q. What are the people's habits as to sobriety and industry?—A. They have been so completely ruined by these civil wars that their industry is confined to cultivating



what is absolutely necessary for their own subsistence and the purchase of the few little necessities they require. They are afraid to attempt any enterprise of importance, lest the next revolution will destroy it. I believe, however, that with a certainty that they would not be disturbed by revolutions they would gradually assume habits of greater industry, but never, of course, to the extent that a New England farmer does. They always give as a reason for not being more industrious that the next revolution will tear it to pieces.

Q. Are the people peaceful or turbulent?—A. They are remarkably peaceful; quarrels occur among them sometimes, as at balls, and they sometimes use their knives pretty freely, but that is the exception.

Q. What is their character as to honesty?—A. In petty matters, of say twenty-five cents, they are always trying to take advantage, but in major matters they are remarkably honest. The same man who would steal a quarter of a dollar could be safely intrusted with a twenty-dollar piece to go alone through the country, without his giving security. In traveling I know of no country where there is less danger. I have been through Mexico a great deal, and all over California, and I would rather travel here than in any other country I have seen.

Q. Would strangers settling here be disturbed?—A. No, sir; unless the strangers would, as in California, set a bad example and teach these people to be dishonest. They are not naturally inclined to it. I have never been anywhere on the island where I had any suspicion that I was in the slightest danger of ill-treatment. I have traveled over this country at night and alone, miles and miles, and the idea of being unsafe never occurred to me. It is necessary that, as I am in charge of the geological survey, I should make a personal examination of the whole country, not intrusting the work entirely to my assistants. I travel usually with my black boy, and I often leave him leagues behind, I going on right through the woods.

Q. Are you acquainted with the sentiment of the people generally in regard to annexation?—A. I have conversed with all classes of people wherever I have been on this subject.

Q. How do they stand on that question?—A. I have hardly ever found a man who had anything to say against it. The feeling in favor of annexation to the United States seems to be almost unanimous. They say it is the only salvation for the country. The most ignorant people say if the Americans come, (that is the way they express it,) there will be no more revolutions; that a man can work and have the reward of it. The more intelligent know there will be no more disturbances; that the vagabond chiefs and Haytians will be quiet, and they thank God for the chance to live again. I think, if a secret ballot were taken in the manner in which it is taken in the United States, with an equal guarantee of future safety to anybody opposed to annexation, that 98 or 99 per cent. of the whole population would vote in favor of annexation unequivocally and without any "ifs" or "buts."

Q. Why are some opposed to it?—A. Some are opposed to annexation by Baez because they want Cabral or Luperon, or whoever their favorite chief is, to have the credit of it. Others are opposed to it for the same reason that you will find people in the United States opposing anything and everything that may be proposed. There is said to be opposition also, and this is the great point, because, according to common report, a few foreign merchants, chiefly in Puerto Plata, fear that if the duties on tobacco are taken away in the United States by annexation, they will lose the chance of sending their tobacco to Hamburg; in other words, their occupation would be gone. Most of these men are agents or correspondents merely of houses in Hamburg or elsewhere, not principals; and by the coming of Americans and American trade, their business would cease by the transfer of trade from their principals to New York houses and other American interests. They are working against annexation. They work by telling falsehoods to the most ignorant persons they can find; among other things, that if the Americans come here they will introduce slavery. That is a very common objection among these few people who are opposed to it. I have talked with them. Those who have been made to believe that are the most ignorant. Another element of opposition, small, it is true, is that there are a few persons who, as chiefs in these disturbances, have everything to gain and nothing to lose, for they do not possess anything. With annexation their occupation would be gone. I think I have mentioned all the classes who are opposed to it.

Q. How is it with the Catholic clergy?—A. The most violent annexationist, if I may use the expression, that I know on the island is a Roman Catholic priest. I have never heard a clergyman speak against it. There was one here who voted against it, but for personal reasons. I do not know what they were, but they were explained as personal reasons. Every man with whom I have conversed on this question, who owns property, or has a trade, or who would in the United States be called a good citizen, without a single exception, is in favor of it without any qualification whatever. Men who are personally against Baez favor him now because he is an annexationist. I have found that over and over again. I have carefully held aloof from all participation in the domestic politics of the island, but during all the time I have been engaged





here I have observed carefully the state of feeling among the people every where on the subject of annexation. I have conversed freely with all classes about it.

Q. State as nearly as you can the amount of public lands.—A. I can only give a very vague guess. The records are destroyed in a good many places by these innumerable revolutions which have been going on. The remaining ones are partly in private hands, partly scattered through all the little towns and notaries' offices. There are no central archives, so far as I am aware. The question is one which it will take a very long time to settle definitely, but which can be settled very peaceably and definitely. So far as to records. I have availed myself of every source accessible of information in regard to each district. Leaving out the province of Azua, about which I know nothing personally, and very little about Seybo, the result I have come to is that, taking the whole area of the republic, valley lands and mountains, when this question is definitely settled, if it is settled by the strict letter of title possessed by individuals, giving patents to those only who have clear titles, and depriving everybody else of his land who cannot show a clear title, probably only one-fourth of the territory of the republic, possibly one-third, will be found to be possessed by individuals; but if a spirit of liberality is exercised in cases where people have a partial title and are in possession, then probably from two-fifths to one-half of the whole territory of the republic will be found to belong to the government. That is my personal opinion only. You will remember that thirty years of possession gives a clear title here.

Q. Has the nature of your employment given you an insight into the title of land generally?—A. In view of the fact that I am authorized to take up for my principals a certain fraction of the lands which we find belonging to the government, it has been my duty, and I have tried to fulfill it, to ascertain as fully as possible how much land we are entitled to.

Q. Is the land in large or small tracts?—A. There are a very few large proprietors. Those are people who have inherited from their Spanish ancestors during the preceding century. I cannot say in regard to the size of their tracts. Among two or three of the largest holders, would be Domingo Larroche, who owns an immense area of grazing land in the province of Seybo; the Bnez family, of which the President is the head and representative, who own large tracts down below here, or to the west of Azua. There are very few outside of those two districts who own really very large tracts. They will count acres by the thousand, or up to ten thousand in some few cases. The remainder are small proprietors. There is a style of proprietorship here that is peculiar, called *comunero*, a kind of community title, in which all the descendants of some previous large holder own a tract in common. The boundaries of the tract are well-defined, and inside of it each has an equal right with the others, and individuals among them have sold and re-sold a hundred, or ten dollars' worth, &c., until now there are certain districts of from one to several thousand acres in which there may be thirty, fifty, or one hundred proprietors, each having a claim on it unadjusted among themselves, but independent of the rest of the world. They would be called small proprietors individually, but altogether they are owners of a large tract.

Q. What is the law of inheritance here?—A. When a proprietor dies, the land descends, so far as I know, in common to all the heirs. That is what is called this *comunero* business.

Q. Is there any law here by which land can be monopolized or entailed by one family?—A. I never heard of any such law of entail here. When a man dies his property descends to his wife and children. I do not know whether there is any provision like the widow's third, but I think I have heard that a widow is entitled to more than the children. It divides up the estate.

Q. Could an immigrant acquire title by purchase; if so, how and where and at what prices?—A. On account of the very imperfect condition of the records, there are a great many titles in dispute in private hands—that is, land that the government makes no pretensions to; but with a little care, any person can find land where the title runs back to thirty years of undisputed possession, which makes the title perfect. I have bought land here without trouble, and after investigation was satisfied with the title. The law is that each land district has its notary. The deed is written by the notary, the money paid in his presence, the deed signed in his presence by both the purchaser and vendor; then the notary takes possession of the record, and sews it up with a lot of others, making it a part of his book in his office. The purchaser can obtain a certified copy by paying a slight fee. That is the mode of registering conveyances among private individuals. An individual can obtain a title to land from the government by demonstrating that it is government land and then paying the fee. I do not know what the government sells at at all. The selling price among private individuals varies with the locality; but land in this neighborhood, within a few miles of the city, is worth, fancy prices aside, \$2 to \$3 per acre. When you go six or eight or ten miles from the city, but still in this province, it will average about \$1 per acre; whereas in some of the more distant regions on the north side of the island, you can buy half a dozen acres for \$1, of land that would be considered a most magnificent farm in your State (Ohio) or mine. Of course it is entirely unimproved. As to improved lands, I





bought a tract a mile and a half from this city a year ago, which had about \$600 worth of improvements on, as I estimated them, and contained half a *caballaria* of one hundred and eighty-seven acres and a fraction, or ninety acres, more or less, and for it I gave \$1,000. Then, again, within the last month, I have bought a whole *caballaria* (one hundred and eighty-seven acres) within rifle-shot of the church on the hill, in the suburb of San Carlos, which you see from here, and for it I gave \$200.

Q. Would a farmer coming in here and wishing land have any difficulty in finding land for sale which he could purchase?—A. None at all.

Q. What is the condition of these people as to health?—A. Sometimes, when they expose themselves very carelessly, they suffer from trifling intermittent fever; apart from that, there is no disease I know of due to local causes. There is a great deal of syphilis, with its natural results, elephantiasis, &c., among the poorer classes, who take no care of themselves. But I consider that people who take reasonable care of themselves are entirely without danger—people who treat themselves as in the Middle States, say on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Q. Is there yellow fever?—A. I have never heard of an authentic case of yellow fever in this republic, and I have made this a special point of inquiry since the Spaniards were here and crowded their soldiers into barracks, and gave them very unwholesome food. They were shut up here when the natives were trying to drive them out, and were exposed to every kind of hardship, and you know what soldiers are. There was an epidemic of cholera then; but since I have been here, I am sure that the health of this city, and of Puerto Plata, has certainly been better than the health of New York City during the same time. The only part of the country that can be called unhealthy is the coast. The interior is as salubrious as the interior of Pennsylvania or Virginia.

Q. Are the people hardy or weak in constitution?—A. They are people of good frame, and strong, as you see here, but in sustaining fatigue, as compared with my own party, made up of half a dozen men from various European nations, their powers of endurance are not as great as with our people. I never saw a Dominican I could not jure out, and all my party have had the same experience.

Q. What is the price of labor here?—A. In making my contract for laborers on my own farm, I allow them to go at about forty cents a day, and they appear to be satisfied and work well. They board themselves. My servant I pay ten dollars per month and board him. That is high, because he is a particularly good servant, and I am anxious to keep him; but all his friends think he is doing remarkably well.

Q. How about finding laborers?—A. My great trouble about finding laborers is that I have every day to turn off men and refuse them work. That is in the city. But far in the interior labor is more scarce. The great drawback is, as in this case down at Azua. If I had a body of laborers, and the press-gang were going out, probably all would be carried off suddenly by the press-gang. That difficulty would be removed by annexation. There is little skilled labor here—a few mechanics, as carpenters and blacksmiths.

Q. Where do the people here generally procure clothing?—A. They buy from the shop-keepers cotton goods that are brought in latterly from New York, formerly almost altogether from Curaçoa and St. Thomas. They almost universally make up the clothing at home. That is the rule everywhere.

Q. What is the character of the soil?—A. It is universally rich. While the mineral resources of the country are not a matter of any great importance, the agricultural possibilities are something so enormous that I do not want to commit myself too much for fear of being open to the suspicion of enthusiasm.

Q. What does it produce?—A. The present staples are, for export, tobacco, coffee, sugar, and a very little cacao; for domestic consumption, corn, rice, plantains, sweet potatoes, yucca, (which is called in South America manioc, and is the plant from which cassava bread is made,) two or three varieties of pumpkins and beans, a few yams, and peas.

Q. What timbers are valuable and abundant?—A. Mahogany grows wherever there is limestone. The mahogany of Santo Domingo has, I am informed, a very high reputation abroad—more so than that of other countries in this region. Logwood grows almost everywhere, but that is not so famous abroad as the mahogany. Lignum-vitæ grows in the dry countries in the western half of the republic. Fustic (called here *mora*) grows here, but is of less importance. There is a small quantity of satin-wood, which I think grows in the same dry region as the lignum-vitæ. There are half a dozen other woods which are hardly known abroad, which will do for inferior cabinet-work, and some of them are highly ornamental. The mahogany, on account of the difficulty, almost impossibility, of transportation, while it has been cut off near the coast and larger streams where it could be floated away, is almost untouched in the far interior. Facilities for transportation would open a new mahogany field. I have seen in the woods a thousand sticks of mahogany 18 to 20 feet in length, and averaging as squared sticks, I think, three feet in diameter, being dragged to a stream by bulls with twelve animals to a stick.



Q. How fast does mahogany grow?—A. It is supposed to grow an inch in diameter per year. It must be two feet thick before it is worth cutting. I am told that it is cultivated in Jamaica. Logwood can be cultivated by a man with the expectation of reaping the profit himself—not leaving it all to his children.

Q. What is the estimated population of this republic?—A. I spent some time, a few days ago, in making out an estimate, counting town by town, village by village, road by road, and province by province, and taking Seybo by a rough estimate from the sources, and the rest by observation where I had been over it, putting them together, to my surprise I barely made out one hundred thousand souls. I have been almost everywhere over the republic. I gave that to a correspondent.

Q. How many did you set down for Samana peninsula?—A. One thousand. Samana, Seybo, and Azua I took by estimates from others, not having been through them. I have been on almost every road on the Cibao Mountains, and through and through every other province on almost every little trail on the mountains. It was not a rough estimate, but carefully made in detail.

Q. Can better roads be built?—A. It is simply a matter of engineering. Take the principal routes—for instance, from here to Puerto Plata, across the island, by way of La Vega and Santiago, there is no difficulty in building an ordinary wagon-road, such as would be required by commerce and travel. A portion of it runs over an easy graveled county; crossing the mountains the road could be corduroyed. I cannot answer for the country west of Ocoa River and the province of Azua; but take the Cibao country, that is, the whole northern slope and valley, and I know it. I use the word Cibao to designate the whole valley north of the central range, including the Vega from Samana Bay westward. That is almost a perfectly level valley. Then, on these plains, on the south side of the range, except right around here, where there is limestone, as soon as you get on the gravel, you have a very easy country for roads. A plow and road-scraper would easily make a road through the llanos. It is a prairie land, very flat, and, being undrained, the water stands, and the ground becomes saturated. But with a very little draining you could have a good road.

Q. Do animals pasture there in large numbers?—A. Not in what we would call large numbers, for the reason that there is no value to stock except as beef, and they are liable to be carried away by any plunderer who comes along. It is a land similar to the San Joaquin Valley in California in the character of the soil. The llanos contain from nine hundred to one thousand square miles.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 7, 1871.*

WILLIAM M. GABB, recalled, states further:

Question. What amount of land have Mr. Cazneau and Mr. Fabens acquired from the government, so far as you know, aside from the geological survey company, at Samana or elsewhere?—Answer. I know of no land whatever granted by the government to General Cazneau or Colonel Fabens, outside of the Santo Domingo Company contract for the geological survey which I represent.

Q. You allude to the lands granted to the company for making the survey?—A. Yes, sir, the Santo Domingo Company furnishes the money to make the survey, and receives in compensation therefor one-fifth of the land actually surveyed and reported on.

Q. How long has the company been engaged in making these surveys?—A. I reached Santo Domingo about the 1st of March, 1869. A little work had been done previous to my arrival, in January; I commenced work immediately, and the work has been prosecuted without cessation since that time.

Q. How many men are engaged with you in that?—A. I have seven assistants, six foreigners, besides the natives employed as servants or casually. There are seven geologists; all the assistants are professional men.

Q. What number of laborers do you have to employ?—A. We employ, according to circumstances, from one to four or five men in each party, varying constantly.

Q. Have all of them been engaged during the time you have mentioned?—A. Most of them have been engaged all the time I have mentioned; some only a part of the time, but the greater part since the beginning of the work.

Q. Of what provinces have you finished the survey?—A. The provinces of Santiago, La Vega, and the district of Puerto Plata.

Q. Are all your assistants competent geologists?—A. No, sir, they are with one exception topographical assistants, that is, engineers; one is a geologist.

Q. What do you pay these men?—A. The pay varies according to the rank and term of service. For instance, to Mr. Runnebaum I pay \$75 a month, and have promised to raise his salary this January to \$100. To another I pay \$150, to others \$75.

Q. Do you maintain these men in the mean time?—A. Yes, sir, they have their traveling expenses.

Q. And their servants?—A. Yes, sir, four or five each.

Q. How much is paid to them?—A. A boy, sometimes \$4 or \$5 a month; a man, \$10 or \$15.



Q. What additional expense are you put to besides all this?—A. There is the purchase of the outfit and horse-feed. In short, the current expenses of the traveling party.

Q. Anything for reagents?—A. Very little, for I have to do the chemical work in the States.

Q. What is about the gross amount you have expended on the work?—A. Up to the present time I think it is somewhere between \$30,000 and \$40,000. I think it would be somewhere near \$35,000.

Q. Can you give an idea of the amount of land you have already surveyed?—A. It is the whole republic, less the peninsula of Samana, the province of Seybo, and Azua. Without a map I could not indicate an idea of the limits very well or estimate the square miles.

Q. What does your survey comprise? Do you lay it off in tracts with boundaries?—A. No, sir. A geological survey implies, first, an accurate topographical map; second, laying out on that, in color, all the different geological formations; and third, the preparation of a report giving an account of the technical geology, or of any matters of mining interest, especially with reference to the economical value of mines, and any other matters that may seem useful—for instance, agricultural resources. These last are not strictly implied, however.

Q. You speak of a topographical map. Is there any complete topographical map now in existence?—A. The map of Sir Robert Schomburgk is an excellent map, but not sufficiently accurate for our purposes.

Q. You are to receive a very large tract of land for this work—one-fifth of all these provinces?—A. We will receive, the government says, one-fifth of all the land which we can prove is property of the government, not subject to private claim. The burden of proof rests with us. As yet we have rarely received but a very small portion of land due us.

Q. What method do you adopt in taking your fifth?—A. I am at present designated to do the selecting, and of course in the interest of my employers I am bound to select the best I can get.

Q. You take one-fifth of all the public lands in the provinces?—A. That is what we are entitled to. It is not very clearly defined yet how we are to manage that. I select, for instance, in Santo Domingo Province a tract. In that tract is private property. The government gives a patent, with the distinct statement in the concession that any private lands will not be granted. But, according to the French mining law, if in the lands selected by us mines are found and denounced, as it is called, by us, we have the same rights as others. We have the right to take the mine, and compensating the owner for the surface land above the mine which is opened; that is, under the French mining law.

Q. Can you take your fifth in any one tract in the province, or can you take it in as many different places as you please, if you do not in the aggregate of the tracts thus selected take more than one-fifth of the whole?—A. There is a question on that point now between myself and the government. That is a matter now in controversy, whether the lands are to be taken up in one solid area representing one-fifth of the region, or whether we are to take smaller tracts, amounting in all to one-fifth.

Q. Can you give an idea of the amount of public lands in the republic?—A. I think I have already answered that. I said I thought when the land-titles were all settled, that in the strict letter of documentary proof that was afforded, probably not more than one-fourth—or say one-third to one-fourth—of the land would be found to belong to private owners; but that if a spirit of liberality were exercised by the government—granting to those who had a reasonable amount of proof of their titles the land which they possessed—I think two-fifths to one-half would be found to belong to private owners.

Q. Then from one-half to three-fifths is public domain upon a very liberal construction of the rights of private owners?—A. Yes, sir; that is my personal opinion only, and the question is a very uncertain one.

Q. Has land been considered valuable heretofore?—A. Not very.

Q. What do you know of O'Sullivan's grant?—A. I only knew of it by having a talk with Judge O'Sullivan; not otherwise. My impression from that conversation was, that the grant is by no means a liberal one on the part of the government. It is to enable Mr. O'Sullivan or his associates or assigns to build a railroad from Santiago to some point, to be selected by them, on the Samana Bay, down the valley La Vega, conditioned on their commencing it within a certain time.

Q. Has the grant lapsed?—A. No, sir; the grant has been saved, by the judge having come here and fulfilled the first condition of the grant; that is, he brought out an engineer and made some investigations and submitted to the government a map of the proposed route, designating it, and the termini, in a general way. There is a further condition, that after having submitted plans to the government, the work must begin within a specified time. That time has not elapsed.

Q. Have they commenced work yet?—A. They have not, because Judge O'Sullivan



left here on the last trip of the Tybee, with the promise to be back here immediately. I suppose that the work or survey will commence in two or three months.

Q. What was the shape of this grant?—A. I can only tell by hearsay, from O'Sullivan, that it is the exclusive right to build a railroad from Santiago to Samana, the government binding itself not to grant, if they fulfilled their conditions, any other right to transport parallel with them or interfering with them, having the same terms. If they build a railroad they are to receive lands; I do not know whether they are leagues or miles. I think they are square leagues, extending a certain distance on each side of the road.

Q. Alternate sections?—A. Yes, sir; for a width, I think, of two leagues on each side, provided the lands so located are government property. In case they are found to be private property, he has not the right, as in the case of similar grants in the United States, to locate his lands somewhere else. He must take his chances. In consequence of the form of that grant, I am pretty well convinced that the amount of land they will obtain from the government will be hardly worth mentioning. That is not a thickly settled country, but most of the region through which it runs belongs, under the *comunero* system, to many persons, the heirs of such, and such an estate.

Q. Is that the only grant O'Sullivan has, so far as you know?—A. I know of no other. I have never heard of any other. O'Sullivan was the grantee for the steamers. He, however, transferred all, or the greater part of his right, in that to the present owners of the line.

Q. From what source do you understand that American parties, O'Sullivan and others, obtained their concessions of land on Samana Bay?—A. I have never heard any account of that. Now that you mention it, I have heard that Colonel Fabens has a contract of land somewhere there, and that there is a building there; whether it is Fabens's or Spofford & Tileston's I do not know, but the son of Colonel Fabens is there or was there when I was there, located in a little board house opposite the town of Samana. I do not know about the ownership of that.

Q. Is that line a stock company?—A. It is a company of ten or twelve private gentlemen who have never issued or sold stock. The contract was transferred to Colonel Fabens, and he transferred to gentlemen in New York. The original grantee is simply Colonel Fabens, and then, after the company was organized, he transferred to them his right and title. He was simply acting as a trustee. The contract was so made because he was a diplomatic representative of this government in the States, and he was acting simply as the agent of the government to make this contract there. In order to facilitate matters he was made grantee, so that he could transfer the grant.

Q. Do you know of any other concessions of grants of lands?—A. I have been told that there has been an additional grant of land made to Mr. Shumacher, who is a resident of this city, to build a road from here to Azua with a contingent grant of land, but building a road to Azua is so chimerical that you need not trouble yourself about that.

Q. Do you regard such a road as feasible?—A. It is impossible, for such a road would never pay under the present condition of affairs, and the physical features of the country are rather difficult, especially the route, as I have heard him talk about it; it goes right across the hills instead of around them; besides, there is no trade there. That concession, as is the custom, is forfeited in a year or so if not carried out.

Q. Do you know of any concessions made to other parties besides Americans?—A. I have only heard reports coming from the United States with regard to other parties.

Q. By what name is your company which is prosecuting the geological survey known?—A. The present title of the company is the Santo Domingo Company.

Q. Mention some of the names of the many men connected with it.—A. The president is William L. Halsey, 35 William street, New York; of those interested are Mr. S. L. M. Barlow, of New York; Mr. McFarland, a lawyer in the same building with Mr. Halsey and Mr. Barlow, and Mr. McCormick, the reaper man; I think Ben. Holliday, the Californian, is in it; also a Mr. Norris, who is vice-president of Holliday's line of steamers; he is an old Californian; also Mr. Frederick Frank, of New York; also Mr. John Young, who I think is now vice-president of one of the railroads near Chicago.

Q. Do you know anything about the "Santo Domingo Mining and Commercial Company;" is that your company?—A. No, sir; it is not.

Q. Here is a report by Peter F. Stout, of that company.—A. I know of him. He is not in this country now. He has been in the States now for two years. That is an old exploded affair of 1866. I have never heard of that company, except through that pamphlet.

Q. You never heard of any person exploring in behalf of it? Here is a pamphlet entitled, "Description of the Rock Salt Mines of San Domingo, 1864."—A. That must have been connected with the enterprise Mr. Hatch was interested in. That has lapsed now by not taking proper care of it.

Q. Do you know anything about the mining in Hayti?—A. I know nothing whatever of it.





CHRISTIAN RUNNEBAUM states:

Question. How long have you been on the island of Santo Domingo?—Answer. I arrived with Professor Gabb two years ago next March.

Q. What has been your occupation principally since that time?—A. Making a topographical map of the island.

Q. Has that given you an opportunity to know the people and their opinions?—A. It has. I had to deal with them all the time. I can tell you pretty well the details of this province and the province of Cibao and the district to the eastward of the province of Cibao and in Seybo.

Q. Are they acquainted with the question of annexation, and if so, what is their disposition on that subject?—A. Among the people of these remote districts they are discussing annexation. In the eastern province in Seybo I never saw people more interested. They are also pretty much so in Cibao—that is, in favor of it, except that there are some merchants there, especially at Puerto Plata, who are not in favor of it. The common people everywhere understand that with annexation they will receive the value of their labor, which they do not get now. They want a strong power to protect them. They all know very well that this government cannot protect them. Every once in a while they have to go and fight and leave their families.

Q. What parts of the country have you been most acquainted with?—A. I have been perfectly acquainted with the provinces of Santo Domingo, Cibao, and La Vega, and the northwestern part of the province of Santiago, and the district of Puerto Plata.

Q. What proportion of the people of those districts do you think favor annexation to the United States?—A. I can assure you that the whole population of the country is in favor of it, except, perhaps, some in Santiago. I have too little acquaintance there to speak.

Q. Who oppose it?—A. I am sorry to say that men from my own country there; the German merchants there oppose it.

Q. Are they the most considerable opponents of it?—A. They are—they and their dependents; and the whole tobacco trade is in their hands.

Q. What reasons do they give for opposing it?—A. I presume the only thing is that the tobacco trade will go to the United States. They are working for Hamburg and Bremen houses. I am a German myself.

Q. Has your occupation led you to become well acquainted with the topography of the country?—A. Yes, sir; I have surveyed the most of the roads of the country.

Q. What proportion of the country is arable to such an extent that farmers could use it?—A. I do not think there is one-fourteenth part of the island in cultivation.

Q. How much is capable of cultivation?—A. Pretty much everything, except that for myself I do not like this coast formation. You can judge that everything is capable of cultivation here by the trees that grow everywhere.

Q. What is the condition of the part not cultivated?—A. It is woodland. It is pretty well gone to nature back in the interior. You can see some ruins of former cultivation, but it has mostly gone back to nature.

Q. What kinds of valuable timber have you found in those parts that are not cultivated?—A. You find mahogany and logwood, or campeche, lignumvitæ; this yellow wood, fustic, cedar, satin-wood, which is very common in this province of Santo Domingo and in the western part.

Q. Is the mahogany cut off adjacent to the streams and the coast?—A. It is cut off near the coast, but there is a quantity still.

Q. How is it in the interior?—A. On the road from Santiago to Monte Cristi—about ten miles from Monte Cristi—there is an immense quantity that I have seen there. In surveying, I have been taking observations from hills and going through woods in the interior of the island, and I have observed that there is an immense quantity there yet.

Q. Is there any considerable portion of the country covered with pine?—A. Yes, sir. In the neighborhood of La Vega there is a very large amount of pine, and also in this province of Santo Domingo.

Q. Are there any others than German merchants there who are opposed to annexation?—A. Not that I know of; I was east in the province of Seyba, and they asked, "When are they going to bring in annexation; will it be soon?" I have only spent a month in that province, but I have never received such hospitality before.

Q. What makes them so anxious for annexation?—A. They seemed to want to have tranquillity. They work, and when they are just going to get their crops, they must go to fight. They want peace.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 4, 1871.*

WILLIAM READ states:

Question. Please state your residence and place of nativity.—Answer. I was born in Boston, and am still a citizen of the United States, though I have resided in this country for the last twenty-five years, off and on.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. I am a merchant. I import and export.





Q. Have you been in the different parts of the Dominican territory and lived in the interior?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you had much business relations with the people of the interior?—A. Yes, sir, business relations. I have occupied them cutting wood, mahogany, and other woods for me, and buying and selling, &c.

Q. As workmen in the interior, how do they compare with our northern people, as lumbermen, for instance?—A. Of course there is a difference between this country and the United States. They do as much work, in my opinion, comparatively, as our lumbermen do in the United States. I mean, taking into consideration the climate.

Q. In your opinion, how does the climate affect a man's power of working?—A. That would be a very difficult matter to answer. It depends upon the length of time he is in the country. When a man gets acclimated, I think, he can do as much work; that is to say, a foreigner can do as much work as a native.

Q. Once acclimated, can a lumberman here do as much work in twenty-four hours as he would in Maine?—A. No, not quite. Taking into consideration that a man can work here all the year—for you know, of course, lumbermen in Maine can do very little work in the winter time, and here they can work every day in the year; therefore, I think they can do as much work here in a year as in Maine.

Q. In your intercourse with the natives in the interior, have you found them disposed to be industrious or lazy?—A. Rather lazy, apathetic.

Q. Have you found them temperate or intemperate generally?—A. Generally they are a temperate class of men. Intemperance is not a prevailing vice with them.

Q. Have you found them in your business relations reliable or unreliable as compared with other people you have intercourse with at home or elsewhere?—A. I consider them a very honest class of people, or they were until lately—until within the past six or eight years.

Q. To what do you attribute the change?—A. I attribute it to so many revolutions in the country. It is on account of the revolutions. I do not say they are naturally dishonest, but they cannot fulfill their obligations.

Q. Do you think they are in the habit of hoarding money, hiding it?—A. Yes, there is no doubt about that. That is on account of the enormous issues of paper money by these different administrations. When they obtain any silver or gold, they will hide it or spend it very sparingly.

Q. In trading with them, would you give them as much credit as other people and have as much reliance upon their honesty?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think, upon the whole, the people of the interior, the agricultural population, have been gaining or losing within the last ten years?—A. I think they have been losing, sir. Of course, where a man is liable to be pressed into the service at any moment, and have no one to attend to his farm or anything of the kind, he is obliged to be a loser in the end.

Q. You say the people hoard up money because they dread new changes?—A. They dread any further emission of paper money.

Q. How do the negroes feel toward the blacks of Hayti?—A. There is an antipathy toward the blacks of Hayti, merely on account of the language; nothing further.

Q. Is there no antipathy to them as Haytians?—A. There is on account of language; they do not understand them. It is very difficult for those who do not understand their language to sympathize with persons.

Q. We have been told that the Haytians are held up to common people here, even the little children, as bugbears, to frighten them.—A. I do not know that, sir.

Q. Have you children?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How do you have them instructed; are there schools?—A. There are schools here; private schools.

Q. Have you a good private school to which you send children?—A. No, sir.

Q. You would not call it good in Boston?—A. No, sir.

Q. Would you call it good in the Southern States?—A. No, sir; they merely learn to read and write.

Q. Are there many schools of that kind that you know of in the city?—A. Yes, sir, several.

Q. What proportion of the people in this city can read and write of those that come to your store who reside in the city?—A. I should think at least one-half.

Q. You mean one-half of those we see in the streets, of different colors?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How about all those outside in the country?—A. Very few of them read and write.

Q. Is the land held by proprietors in large tracts, or divided up among small owners?—A. There is a large portion of the country that is what we call in Spanish *tierra comunero*, belonging to different people, each having such an amount, a hundred dollars' worth or a thousand dollars' worth, in a certain district of country. A person who has the value of a hundred dollars has the same right of cutting wood, mahogany, &c., as a person who has a thousand dollars. It is all held in common, and each one has the same privilege, no matter whether he is the owner of ten or a thousand dollars' worth.



Q. They must be inhabitants of a certain commune?—A. Yes, sir; but not those outside of them. There are certain lands that have been divided out and measured belonging to different individuals.

Q. How do they come by it? Is it because some man has left his property to his children, and they have gone on holding without dividing it up?—A. Yes, sir, I presume so. That is the only way I can account for it.

Q. Suppose a stranger settles down there, does he acquire any right?—A. No, sir, unless he purchases it.

Q. Then who does he pay for it?—A. He pays some one who has right.

Q. Can a man sell his communal right?—A. I presume so. You can buy a \$50 or a \$100 right, and have the right to work it off.

Q. Are there any large proprietors in the interior holding extensive tracts?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they lease the lands to those occupying them?—A. Some of them are leased, some are not. One of the largest landed proprietors resides here in the city. He owns about one-third—I will not say one-third, but one-sixth—of the land in the eastern end of the island, in different sections, on the north and south side. His name is Don Domingo de la Rocha.

Q. Were you here when the Spanish protectorate was asked for?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the vote then taken a free and fearless expression of opinion?—A. No, sir.

Q. They asked, according to the account, unanimately for the protection of Spain, and then we find that in less than two years they united to kick the Spaniards out?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To what do you attribute the change?—A. Those who were opposed were always opposed to it, even though they signed for the protectorate. Then Santana was driven in. What I attribute it to was this: it was direct taxation. They are not accustomed to direct taxation at all in this country. The policy of the Spaniards when they arrived here, of course, was different from our government; monarchical government. They taxed a negro that came from the country on his canoe; each canoe was taxed so much; his land was taxed so much; his cattle was taxed so much. The people are not accustomed to that. They say here, I am obliged to serve the government for nothing; they neither pay me nor ration me, and I am obliged to go to the frontier whenever a revolution breaks out, and serve for nothing, and of course when they tax me afterward it is an imposition. That was the cause of the opposition to the Spaniards.

Q. Do you know anything about their bringing in Spaniards from Cuba and Porto Rico to govern who were unpopular?—A. No, sir. The first regiment that landed came from Porto Rico.

Q. Some have said that the Spaniards, instead of bringing real Spaniards here, brought Cubans and Porto Ricans, who were accustomed to regard black men as slaves, and therefore did not treat the colored people here as they should.—A. There might have been a few officials, but here they were mostly Spaniards from Spain.

Q. We have been told that the Spaniards did not give the Dominicans their fair proportion of offices; do you think that is true?—A. Yes, sir. I have no doubt about that.

Q. We have been told that in the interior especially they were brutal to the inhabitants, abusing them.—A. Yes, sir, that is so; not only in the interior, but here in the city likewise they were brutal.

Q. Do you think the people united pretty heartily to drive them out?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have a good deal of interest here, of course, and must want to see security and peace in the country. Suppose there should be no annexation to the United States nor to any other power, do you think the Dominican government, or such a government as they might set up, could protect themselves against the Haytians?—A. No, sir; they might do it for a short time, but not for any length of time.

Q. Do you think the Haytians have any disposition to possess themselves of this end of the island?—A. I do not know what disposition they have. I have never visited any part of Hayti—that is to say, any of those places.

Q. But you think the Dominicans would not be able to defend themselves long against them?—A. No, sir; I do not think they would be able to sustain themselves.

Q. Is that on account of the greater resources of Hayti, or the greater fighting ability?—A. On account of the greater resources of the country. These people have always beaten them in defending their own territory, with quite a large disparity of numbers.

Q. Is there a feeling among the Catholics against the Protestants here?—A. There is no antipathy between the two.

Q. In case of annexation, if people should come in, do you think there would be any feeling of antipathy on that account?—A. None, I think.

Q. Is there social intercourse between the colored people here and the Spanish part of the population?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they intermarry at all?—Yes, sir.

Q. Are there any Spanish-speaking white families, which keep themselves up as



white families, here in Santo Domingo—any of pure white blood, who keep on pure white blood, and do not intermarry with the other race?—A. No, sir. You see in the same family white, mulatto, and sambo, as you call it.

Q. Is the term "sambo" a term of reproach?—No, sir.

Q. If you speak of a black as a sambo he does not take offense?—A. They do not call a pure black negro a sambo; it is between a mulatto and a negro that is called a sambo.

Q. What is a mestizo?—A. Everything is mestizo; that is to say, white and black, mulatto and black—everything that is a mixture of the two peoples; it makes no difference whether it is white or black. Mulatto and black is mestizo, and white and mulatto is mestizo.

Q. There is the white man, then the mulatto, the result of marriage between the white and black?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then the mestizo, the result of a marriage between the mulatto and black?—A. Yes, or between the white and mulatto; any mixed blood is so called.

Q. The sambo is the result of the marriage between the mulatto and black?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have lived here and in other countries; what do you think of the salubrity of this island as a general thing, taking the whole country and seaports, and comparing it with our own country?—A. I consider it a healthy country. A man requires to take care of himself.

Q. Just as he does in a New England winter?—A. Yes, sir; a man must take care of himself; that is to say, in the middle of the day a man cannot do the same work as in the United States. I consider it a healthy country. I enjoy as good health here as in the United States.

Q. Does every one coming here have to undergo an acclimating fever?—A. No, sir; a good many come in who never have a fever at all; some classes have it very severely, and some very little.

Q. How much tendency to dysentery and diarrhœa is there?—A. There is no more than in any other countries.

Q. Have you ever known any destruction of property here to any extent by earthquakes?—A. No, sir; not since I have resided here.

Q. How much yellow fever have you ever seen here?—There are not twenty cases a year in this city.

Q. Have you any idea what proportion of those twenty are fatal or mortal cases?—A. Probably two or three—two in twenty, say—not more. In fact, there is no yellow fever here at all; there is a fever that turns into yellow fever; it is what I call an intermittent fever, and for want of attention it will turn into yellow fever; but, if it is attended to immediately, there is no yellow fever whatever.

Q. Have you ever known, in the twenty-five years you have resided here, a general run of malignant yellow fever, which sweeps off a large proportion of the population?—A. No, sir.

Q. Have you known any considerable destruction by hurricanes?—A. Yes, sir, there has been.

Q. Are they frequent?—A. Not very; the last, I think, we had in 1866 or 1867; I do not exactly remember; there is an account in the archives of the consulate of the last hurricane; it was in 1866 or 1867, I think.

Q. How severe was it?—A. It was very severe for three or four hours; it unroofed the greater part of these thatched houses, and a large number of them were, of course, entirely destroyed.

Q. Did it destroy much shipping in the harbor and about?—A. Yes, sir; it blew the vessels right ashore, and several were wrecked. Take a house built of stone like this, with a roof like this well put on, and a hurricane would affect it very little. It is a pretty solid house.

Q. Are you able to foretell these hurricanes by the barometer?—A. Yes, sir; the barometers always fall. Most generally these hurricanes take place during the hurricane season, from July to October. During those months we seldom have a northerly wind, but generally a southerly or southeasterly wind prevails. Just before a hurricane a wind will blow from the northward for forty-eight or fifty-six hours and the barometer falls. I noticed that.

Q. Is there much destruction of life?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do things flying in the air kill people?—A. No, sir; they are mostly light. Perhaps if a piece of galvanized zinc should strike a person it might kill him. There are very few persons in the street then. It generally rains very heavily. Only those who are obliged to be out are in the street. There were some losses of life among the shipping. One or two vessels went ashore.

Q. What are your means of collecting a debt?—A. I trust a man's honesty.

Q. If he cheats you can you recover by law?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that resorted to?—A. It is in some cases.

Q. Is there imprisonment for debt?—A. No, sir.



Q. What is the mode of coercing a debtor?—A. Attaching any property he has. If he has no property of any kind, of course you do not take any process against him whatever. Generally speaking, they are a very honest class of people. They pay their debts here if they possibly can.

Q. Do you know anything about the price of land in this part of the island?—A. I cannot give you that information. It has been very cheap indeed. Land is always cheap here.

Q. How about real estate in this city?—A. It is very cheap indeed. My house is \$40 a month, and it is one of the largest houses in the city, and fronts on the market-place. It is over the store on the square.

Q. Is yours the large house with the cord and tassel cut in stone or plaster over and around the door?—A. Yes, sir; I rent the whole of that entire building for \$40 a month. It is two stories high.

Q. Is there a court-yard?—A. Yes, sir; two yards; one front and one back. The situation is about as good as there is in the city.

Q. To whom does that property belong?—A. To a family named Alvarez.

Q. Has any of the old church property or convents passed into the hands of individuals?—A. I don't know. This place where I reside used to be the residence of the monks, but whether any of them were related to this family or not I do not know. They are descendants from the old Spaniards.

Q. Do you know whether the Catholic Church, as such, still owns any considerable property here; do they own the ground of the ruined churches and convents?—A. I presume you will not find any of the archives of the church property in this city; I think they are all in Spain. They were taken to the court of Spain.

Q. Do you know of any individual owning a convent or church?—A. There is one little chapel here owned by Don Domingo de la Rocha. That is a private chapel, or was.

Q. Was it not a private chapel in his family?—A. I do not know.

Q. How has he escaped the general confiscation and destruction?—A. I do not know. He was formerly alcade here during the Haytian rule, under Boyer's administration, and he was minister under Santana.

Q. How is Santana regarded?—A. At first, of course, every one was in favor of Santana. He is dead now. He died when the Spaniards were here. He made himself popular by commanding the troops and beating the Haytians when they were advancing when the Dominicans raised a revolt here or revolution. The Haytians had marched as far as Azua, and he took charge of the troops, and commanded them, and beat the Haytians, and became popular with the people, and they elected him president.

Q. Have there been times when they bartered goods here?—A. Yes, sir; when the paper money was considered worthless.

Q. Is there much of that old paper held among the merchants?—A. Of the paper money there is not a large amount.

Q. How in regard to the old bonds of the first Baez administration, and of the present one?—A. Of the former administration of Baez I do not think there is any, or but very few. During the administration of Cabral they took all the bonds of Baez in payment of the duties, at a certain price, 25 per cent.

Q. Were you here when Cabral got the upper hand of Baez and came in?—A. No, sir; I was in the United States.

Q. Were you here when Baez got the upper hand the last time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did that take place?—A. The minister of war, General Hungria, who is now a refugee in the English consulate, where he took refuge two months since, was the first man who raised the standard of revolt in favor of Baez on the north side of the island. He landed with sixty or seventy men at Monte Cristi and captured it, and captured several towns.

Q. You were then in peace under Cabral?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was the date?—A. I think it was 1867, on the 7th of October, he landed at Monte Cristi with sixty or seventy adherents, and as he captured the different towns, he being acquainted with the people, he collected forces, until he captured the principal town, Santiago. Then he laid siege to Puerto Plata and captured that, and so on, and then came to the south side here, and Azua, which is the birth-place of Mr. Baez, and of course they were in favor of Mr. Baez, and they pronounced immediately. They drove Cabral's partisans out of the place, and came up until they laid siege to the city.

Q. How large an army had they?—A. Not more than two or three thousand men.

Q. Just Tom, Dick, and Harry, with guns in their hands?—A. Yes, sir; anybody and everybody.

Q. How did it affect things here when the siege was going on?—A. There was very little business doing at the time.

Q. How long did the siege hold out?—A. Only a few days; then Cabral capitulated by the English consul.

Q. Did he capitulate regularly, or just clear out?—A. He capitulated regularly.

Q. How did he escape Baez?—A. By the terms of the capitulation he was allowed



to go. Baez was not in the country. They capitulated on the 30th or 31st of January, 1868. We were besieged here only fifteen or twenty days. Under the terms of capitulation all who wished to leave left on schooners or men-of-war here.

Q. Were they English or American vessels?—A. The schooners were Dominican vessels, and they took them all to Curaçoa. Cabral went off then.

Q. He has come back since?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Then Baez was called in by Hungria?—A. He was called in. He arrived here some two months after the city capitulated. I think he came in the latter part of March, 1868.

Q. What is supposed to be the difference between him and the minister of war Hungria?—A. I do not know, sir. The vice-president Gomez, is likewise. He is still in the interior, but he is a fugitive.

Q. Why did Hungria want to take refuge from Baez?—A. He was afraid, probably, that Baez would imprison him. They had some difficulty, but I never knew what it was all about. I knew of it the day it took place, and I understood at the time that Baez threatened to imprison him, and he a day or two afterward took refuge with the English consulate.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 7, 1871.

ERNEST DE SOBOTKER states :

Question. How long have you resided on the island?—Answer. Fourteen months; in this city all the time.

Q. What is your employment here?—A. I came down as cashier of the National Bank of Santo Domingo.

Q. What have been your opportunities of understanding the sentiments of the people?—A. They have been good. I have been among all classes of people in this community since my arrival, people in all classes of society.

Q. Have you heard the subject of the annexation of this republic to the United States talked of freely?—A. Yes, sir; it has been talked of very freely, and a great many articles also in reference to it have been published in the newspaper published here.

Q. Do you think you are well acquainted with the sentiment of the people on this subject?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of them do you suppose favor annexation to the United States in this city?—A. At least two-thirds.

Q. What classes of men are more favorable than others; are they the best informed?—A. No, sir; not altogether. The laboring classes, the working classes, seem to be very much in favor of it, more so than any other class. They all say they want rest and a chance of doing and making something.

Q. Is that subject discussed freely among the people or do they act under restraint?—A. It is talked of freely.

Q. Do you know whether the government puts any restraint upon the people in the expression of their sentiments upon this subject here?—A. Not to my knowledge. I cannot advance any opinion as to the rest of the country, but I know, from my own knowledge, that at least two-thirds of the people here are in favor of annexation.

Q. What reasons do they give for being in favor of it?—A. They allege as one of the principal reasons that at present they cannot prosper, they cannot work for a livelihood with any hope. They are in a constant state of misery. They wish to work to improve themselves, and it is impossible now. There are many small proprietors, with eight or ten acres, which they cultivate, and they want to enjoy the fruit of their labor.

Q. What are the reasons urged by those opposed to it?—A. I really have not had any opportunity to learn their reasons very well. I have simply heard it assumed very often that some are opposed to it, but I do not know what their reasons may have been.

Q. How are the people here as to intelligence?—A. I think they are naturally intelligent, but they have been wanting in opportunities to acquire knowledge.

Q. Are there any means here whereby the common people can have an education if they want it?—A. No, sir; not in the present state of affairs.

Q. What do you say as to their honesty and integrity?—A. Of that I can speak highly. I have never known of one case of robbery since I have been in the city.

Q. Do you know how the ecclesiastical orders view the subject of annexation?—A. I have had conversations with three clergymen in this city, whom I know, on that subject, and they favored annexation.

Q. How is it with the mercantile classes, the trading people?—A. I think they all favor it. The mechanics of all kinds, the small shop-keepers, they favor it.

Q. Do you know anything about this party of Cabral?—A. No, sir; I have never meddled with the politics of the country. Since I have been here there have been several rumors of attempted invasions on the part of Cabral, but the government has driven him back.

Q. What seems to be the general opinion here in regard to Cabral?—A. I have been given to understand that Cabral was merely a tool in the hands of certain parties. I have never seen him.





Q. Do you ever hear this subject of annexation talked of publicly and openly?—A. Yes, sir; I have had many conversations publicly at the hotel in the public room about the subject of annexation, discussing both sides of the question. This has occurred repeatedly, and I have heard it discussed and talked of it down town since your arrival.

Q. Did you discuss it as freely as we discuss politics in the United States?—A. Yes, sir; as freely as you would discuss a question of politics in open conversation.

EUGENE MILLER states:

Question. Please state your residence, occupation, and place of nativity.—Answer. I reside at Santiago, in the northern part of the Dominican Republic, and have been there for two years; I was born in Germany; I am an apothecary.

Q. Have you made many acquaintances there?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the general sentiment of the people there as concerns the annexation of the country to the United States?—A. All the world there is in perfect accord on this subject; everybody of any position or standing is for annexation there as the only means to get out of the troubles; they consider this present condition of things a very wretched one, and that seems to be the only way to get out of it; there is some opposition to it, but there are few persons who are opposed to it, and those few oppose it merely as a way of opposing the present administration; they are opponents of the present government, and therefore opposed to its policy, which is supposed to be annexation to the United States; I know personally of but two men who are opposed to annexation; one is a German, who is a clerk or agent of a house at St. Thomas, and therefore his interest is opposed to it; the other is a Dominican, who is very much opposed to the present government.

Q. What is the reason ordinarily assigned for the desire for annexation?—A. The reason is the suffering under the present system, and the sufferings of the people of the plain or valley of La Vega are greater than those of the town.

Q. Is that plain well populated?—A. There are many people there, though it would hold many times as many more; around Santiago there are a great many people; La Vega is in the district of Cibao.

Q. Is there any difference between the sentiment of the people in the rural districts and those of the town?—A. No, not on this subject; they all feel alike about it; at first there was an opinion spread abroad that the Americans would be worse than the Spaniards; that they were accustomed to slaves, and would treat the people badly; but opinion has reacted from that very strongly as the truth has been known, and now there is a very general feeling in favor of annexation.

Q. What are the means of instruction at Santiago?—A. There are three schools, one government school and two by private parties; they are all primary schools.

Q. Is there any provision for higher instruction?—A. No.

Q. Are there any schools in the country of Cibao?—A. I do not know; I think there is none in the country around there, because the government has no funds for that purpose.

Q. Do you believe that in time a better system of education could be organized among those people?—A. Yes, sir; a better system could be easily organized. The people are teachable. There is great intelligence among them now, especially the people of the plain of La Vega.

Q. Are the two schools you call private schools church schools?—A. No; they are kept by private parties.

Q. Is there any newspaper at Santiago or Puerto Plata?—A. None.

Q. Is there any printing-office at Santiago?—A. There is a little printing-office where they do a very little printing for advertisements, or something of the sort, as tickets. There is a somewhat larger one at Puerto Plata.

Q. If the people had the opportunity, do you think they would like to learn?—A. I am quite sure they would, but there have been no facilities for education.

Q. What reasons have you to assign for the expulsion of the Spaniards?—A. There is one voice there against the Spaniards where I live. The governor sent there was tyrannical. As an arbitrary act he would get the people out at three o'clock in the morning by beating the drums, saying they were too lazy.

Q. What are the principal objects of trade at Santiago?—A. The only object of commerce at Santiago is tobacco. That is the reason that business men there are so closely allied to St. Thomas. There is some opposition among the German merchants at Puerto Plata to annexation; but so far as I have talked with them, I never discovered that it was very strong. The only reason would be that they are so closely connected with St. Thomas, which would decline, of course, in case of annexation. They are also connected elsewhere abroad. The trade there is all tobacco trade. All the Germans are engaged in that branch of business at Puerto Plata. There are some Germans at Santiago, mostly engaged in tobacco. Some few are artisans.

Q. How large is Santiago?—A. I do not know; it is not equal to the city of Santo Domingo.

Q. From what part does the tobacco come?—A. From the plain of La Vega.



Q. Is it not likely that the people of the plain of La Vega may contract prejudice against annexation to the United States from the merchants?—A. No. It is only the German merchants connected with St. Thomas who have this prejudice. The others have not. They see clearly enough that annexation to the United States would give them a larger trade than at present. All the small middlemen between the people of the country and the large merchants are for annexation, because they think the trade will be more brisk with the growth of the country.

Q. What are the principal productions of that valley now?—A. Almost entirely tobacco. The main thing that comes in is tobacco. Sugar can be raised there very easily, but tobacco is an easier crop to raise.

Q. How does the tobacco raised there compare with that of Cuba, of Havana?—A. The tobacco is just as good, but they have not had so much experience in preparing it.

Q. How are the people around Santiago as to industry?—A. Under the present system, they are indolent. Under a better system, I think they would become industrious. The people have lost a great deal through their conduct with the Haytiens.

Q. Are there many thefts?—A. In ordinary times there are no crimes of violence, but at times of festivity, dances, &c., sometimes people are hurt, for they all carry the machete. The people of the country are not given to riot or drunkenness. They are a hospitable people.

Q. Would there be any opposition there to people from the United States coming in and settling?—A. No; I do not think there would be any.

Q. What is the condition of that country as to health, as you have learned it in your business as an apothecary?—A. The health of the country is very good, excellent.

Q. What are the ordinary maladies?—A. Almost the only disease is syphilitic. I lived eleven years in Hayti, and they often had the fever there, but at Santiago they never have any of it. Santiago is a city on a height.

Q. Are the people generally married, or do they live in a state of concubinage?—A. They are generally married.

Q. What are the ordinary amusements?—A. The dances of the country, but the great amusement is cock-fighting. Everybody goes to that. The officials take a leading part in it. I do not think the priests go into it.

Q. Do the laboring people generally own the land there, or are they tenants of great landlords?—A. They are small holders.

Q. How far has this venereal disease spread among the people?—A. It is spread very generally in the community. Persons in good condition have it.

Q. Is it not likely to destroy the race?—A. Certainly. The men who have the disease try to be treated for it, but the women do not.

Q. Is there any leprosy or elephantiasis?—A. Yes, sir; that is part of it. There is not much elephantiasis there. I think this difficulty I have mentioned is increasing. You do not notice it so much in the fathers and mothers as in the children.

Q. State whether you have regularly prosecuted studies in medicine.—A. I have. I took a course of medicine and pharmacy at the University of Berlin.

Q. Is there much prostitution there?—A. There is a good deal of it, more especially in the towns.

Q. Are there any Protestants at Santiago?—A. There are Protestants, but no Protestant church.

Q. Are there any colored or black Americans?—A. There is a colored Protestant church at Puerto Plata.

Q. What special opportunity have you had of knowing of the prevalence of syphilitic or venereal diseases?—A. I have had an opportunity to know as I am a pharmacist. I sell to the people of the plain of La Vega and all the city. The people of the city are more treated by physicians, but the people of the plain buy more medicine.

General A. N. RIGAUD states:

I am at present sojourning in this city, Santo Domingo. I am an exile from Hayti, where I was formerly an officer. My position and official relations have made me acquainted with a great many of the inhabitants and the officers of this republic.

I think the population of the republic is from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty thousand. There is a great variety of races in the island, but the principal ones are the Spanish and the intermixture of the Indian and Spanish. The old masters, who were Spaniards, had free intercourse with their female slaves, whence originated the class of mulattoes. I consider the people here generally to be of considerable natural intelligence; but they have been always badly governed. The land generally is very fertile—much more so in this republic than in the western or Haytian end of the island. But circumstances have led the majority of the people of the interior more to the care of animals, and this, to some extent, has encouraged indolence. Under a good government, I think this republic would support over four millions of people. I never have seen any signs of strong prejudice between the different classes or races of people.



There is no system of public education existing here. There are some private schools, but of little importance, which are principally kept by women. There is a sort of college in this city kept up by the ecclesiastics. It is not for boarders, but it is a day-school. There are no professors. There is toleration of all religions. This is guaranteed by the Dominican constitution, and is a fact. In the best society here there is a prejudice against admitting any woman who is kept by a man as a mistress; but concubinage among a great many of the people here prevails. I think that the people in this city are not of average honesty in commercial dealings. There is a clique of commercial traders here who make it a point to keep down the scale of morality among other traders, in order to discourage all persons from coming here and entering into trade. They wish to have the monopoly, and try to keep it by every means. But the Dominican people, the great mass of them, are not thievish at all, but an honest race. The bad characters generally left the island with the Spaniards. There is perfect security here now, so that very few people think of locking their doors by night, even in the city. All sleep with their doors open.

There is a very general and intense desire for annexation to the United States—an enthusiasm for it. Recently rumors have been spread around among them that annexation would be injurious to them; but I believe that at least three-fourths of the people are very desirous of annexation to the United States. I have had a good deal of intercourse with people from the interior of the country, and in crossing the country have met them; they are almost without exception in favor of annexation. These traders generally give it the cold shoulder.

Cabral is of little importance. He is nothing himself; but there are certain classes of people who, for their own purposes, put him up. He is a sort of figure-head of these managers, but his party is a very insignificant one, and his movement, will, I think, be of no importance. These rumours about Cabral having received reinforcements, and becoming formidable, have been set afloat recently in order to prejudice this commission with regard to the state of things in the island. The soil of this part of the island is far richer in agricultural and mineral resources than the Haytian Republic. There is a strong hatred between the people of the two sections of the island. This hatred is not ineradicable. Its existence is due mainly to the governing classes in the two parts of the island. The governments have also endeavored to keep up this feeling of hatred between the two places, and it is mainly the result of political causes, and could be entirely removed. Salnave had in contemplation a plan for bringing about a sympathy and union between the two ends of the island, but he was unsuccessful. He fell into the power of Cabral, who sold him to Saget for \$5,000, and he was put to death. His death destroyed all that movement of union. At present the Haytian government are doing everything in their power to blow the flame of hatred between the two parts of the island. They supply Cabral with the means of carrying on an insurrection and opposing this government. To their government it seems a question of life and death to prevent the annexation of this people to the United States.

The leading people in both ends of the island have said that the negroes of Hayti and the negroes of Santo Domingo have a certain sympathy, arising from a community of races and religion. I believe this is true. I think there would be very little difficulty in establishing a kindly feeling between them. The mulattoes of Hayti have always aspired to a certain superiority and domination over the blacks, and this has been a leading cause of their troubles from the time of their first independence. During the twenty years of common government over the two parts of the island, there was a considerable intercourse between the mulattoes of Hayti and this part. There was a sympathy between the white class there and here. I believe I know the people well after a long experience in Hayti, and I declare that I think the opposition of Hayti now to annexation to the United States is caused chiefly by the government and by the interested class; while there is, on the other hand, a considerable party of intelligent persons in Hayti who look upon the annexation to the United States of Hayti as the only remedy for their political disorders. The people there are suffering from their bad government and all its consequent evils, for, although they have a good constitution and good laws upon the statute-book they are constantly violated, and they afford no security to the citizens. This party, I think, is constantly growing. Formerly the preference of the people was for English protection. The English were popular; but various circumstances, which I need not recount, have brought about a complete change in opinion, and the English have become the objects of general dislike, while the desire for protection by, or annexation to, the United States has grown stronger, and is growing stronger every day. There are now thirty Haytian exiles who were banished by name, and there are a considerable number who are self-exiled. I know of fifty at Puerto Plata, and thirty in other parts of that neighborhood, and Monte Cristi, Santiago, &c. They are watching their opportunity for an opening or demonstration against the existing government of Hayti.

It is the most natural thing in the world that these traders and merchants here and in other parts of the island should oppose annexation, because their monopoly would then cease; and it is a matter of history generally that commercial men oppose politi-



cal progress and change. They uniformly endeavor to embarrass the government; they refuse it assistance when loans are asked, on terms that would be considered highly favorable, if there was no disposition to embarrass the government—a feeling of unreasonable distrust.

It was Americans who saved my life after the overthrow of Salnave; they took me on board the ship Seminole and treated me with great kindness and consideration. I shall ever be grateful to them and their country for the protection I then received.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 6, 1871.*

THOMAS A. M. BASCOME states:

Question. What is your age?—Answer. Twenty-six.

Q. Where do you live?—A. I live here at present; but I have lived at Guayabin.

Q. How far is that from here?—A. Twenty-one miles from Monte Cristi.

Q. Where were you born?—A. In Bermuda.

Q. How long have you been on this island?—A. I have been off and on here; but I have been living here for about three years; the first visit I made here was in 1864.

Q. What is your employment?—A. Keeping store.

Q. Have you been around the country with Mr. Gabb on his surveying expedition?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. State what your opportunities have been to know the feeling of the people.—A. I have been in several portions of the island.

Q. What opportunities have you had of knowing the minds and opinions of the people in the interior?—A. I have been among them a great deal, nearly everywhere.

Q. Has the subject of the annexation of Santo Domingo to the United States been agitated among the people?—A. Oh, yes. President Baez's son has been down among the little villages, talking to the people, addressing meetings. All the people clap their hands for annexation, and like it very much. There is no one against it.

Q. What reason do they give for desiring annexation?—A. Because they say that they can work, and will not be obliged to go to war all the time.

Q. Now there are some who are opposed to it?—A. Yes.

Q. Who are they?—A. Vagabonds; persons of no character, no consequence; ignorant persons. Some of the merchants have been telling them that when the country is annexed they will be made slaves, and all such things as that.

Q. They fear that they will be reduced to slavery?—A. Yes, sir; but now a great many of them begin to find out that it is not so. I tell them different; that they can work and get money for their work. Those merchants make fools of them; take their produce and give them a few yards of cloth. But I tell them that they will be able to sell their produce for money.

Q. You are pretty extensively acquainted with the people of the interior; what do you say of their habits of industry?—A. They are a very industrious people, most of them.

Q. Are they people who love peace, or are they quarrelsome?—A. Very peaceable. As I say, there are some who like rows.

Q. How is the country where you have been as regards health?—A. The people are healthy. I have been in all parts of the country and have never had so much as a fever.

Q. Do you ever hear of the yellow fever among them?—A. Never, sir.

Q. What is the timber of the interior; what kind of trees grow there?—A. Almost all sorts of wood; logwood, mahogany, yellow wood.

Q. What do they do with it?—A. They ship it to America.

Q. Almost all the mahogany is cut off, is it?—A. Oh, no. There is a great deal of yellow pine along by Puerto Plata; large trees of it.

Q. How large?—A. Large trees and small; trees that have never been touched.

Q. Where is the mahogany?—A. There is a great quantity of it about Monte Cristi; the owners are too poor to cut it out. On the boundary line between Hayti and Santo Domingo there are persons that have a large quantity of land and mahogany. They are waiting for annexation to sell it to some persons who can purchase it from them. They cannot sell it to the persons living here because they have no money to pay for it.

Q. You say the country is healthy?—A. Yes, sir; a very healthy country.

Q. You think there is an abundance of logwood?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do the people in the interior own the land that they occupy, or does it belong to great land-holders?—A. The way it is here is this: there are persons who own what they call \$10 worth of land; they have no land-mark. Some of them own \$1,000 worth of land, but he who owns only \$10 worth has as much as the man who holds \$1,000 worth.

Q. How large a piece is \$10 worth?—A. As far as a man can see.

Q. Is there no person to claim it?—A. It is government land.

Q. Oh, government land?—A. Yes, sir; government land.

Q. Nobody disputes the possession?—A. No one takes any interest in it.





Q. How do the people live here; in families, married, or otherwise?—A. A great many of them are married and a great many of them not. The majority are married.

Q. And occupy this land that they own or give \$10 for?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What race seems to be in the majority?—A. The mulattoes; but there are places where the whites prevail.

Q. What is the feeling between these different races of people?—A. None at all; no prejudice against color.

Q. How about the Haytians; do they like them?—A. They do not.

Q. How about Cabral?—A. Cabral is on the Haytian side; they keep him there; they wont drive him away to some other place.

Q. Do you know him?—A. I knew him very well when he was here.

Q. What kind of a man is he?—A. He is a tall person; some like him and some dislike him.

Q. What is he trying to do; do you know? what is he trying to bring about?—A. He wants to take the government again; but there are too many against him. There are more against him than for him.

Q. If he is a respectable man, what objection have they to him?—A. They have got it so now that he cannot come back. All the persons who were for him compromised themselves with the government and turned against him.

Q. Has he any considerable number of persons around here friendly to him?—A. No; not that I know of.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to state?—A. No; I think that the inhabitants of this country are all for annexation.

**P. A. MESTRE states :**

Question. What is your age?—Answer. Thirty-eight years.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. I am in business; I have lived here two years.

Q. What means have you of knowing the views and opinions of the people of this city and country?—A. I am in correspondence with people in the country, and I hear those speak who come to trade with me.

Q. Has the subject of annexation been agitated among them?—A. Yes, sir. The people here are much interested in it; they are willing to see it take place.

Q. What reason do they give for wishing to be annexed to the United States?—A. They are tired of being always in revolutions, and they think that with peace they will have the opportunity to work.

Q. They suppose that annexation to the United States would relieve them from these revolutions?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of the people, in your opinion, are anxious for annexation?—A. I cannot give you any certain information about it.

Q. Give us an opinion from your acquaintance with them?—A. I cannot give my opinion because I am not much acquainted.

Q. Do you suppose one-half of them are in favor of it?—A. I can give my opinion as to this city, but not outside.

Q. Well, the people of this city?—A. Here there is a great majority.

Q. Some, however, oppose it?—A. I suppose so.

Q. What reasons do they give for their opposition?—A. I do not know, sir.

Q. Were you acquainted with General Cabral?—A. I had no acquaintance with him. The only person I know is Mr. Luperon, because I was in Puerto Plata, about three years ago.

Q. How do your neighbors stand on the subject of annexation?—A. Their wishes are, to be annexed.

Q. You are not acquainted with the country outside?—A. Nothing at all.

Q. Were you born at Porto Rico?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the condition of that island, as compared with this, in fertility, &c.?—

A. In my opinion, the agriculture is more extensive; here it is more what you call new, because the lands are not so tired as they are in Porto Rico.

Q. There you have slavery?—A. Yes; we raise much larger crops there than they do here. I can give you a statement of the crops in Porto Rico if you wish it.

Q. What are the main articles of export from Porto Rico?—A. Sugar, coffee, molasses, dyewoods, &c.

Q. You have traveled about this island?—A. Only to Puerto Plata.

Q. What do you think is the productive capacity of the two islands?—A. This would produce three times more than Porto Rico; the soil is richer and not worn out.

Q. Have you ever heard any reason assigned why this people invited the Spaniards, and then, after they had invited them, disliked them and drove them out?—A. I cannot inform you on that subject; you know the Spaniards are very despotic; they came here and raised taxes on the people who were previously unaccustomed to pay any.

Q. Those are the only reasons you know?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How about your health since you came here?—A. I was always sick in Porto Rico; but I have been well since I came here.





Q. What means of public instruction have you in Porto Rico? Are there colleges and schools?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They are generally under the care of the church?—A. Yes.

Q. Have you a Protestant community in Porto Rico?—A. If it is there, it is very private.

Q. It would not be allowed by law?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is that because the people are opposed to it, or because the ecclesiastics are opposed to it?—A. In Porto Rico they are all Catholic.

Q. But suppose the people were willing, would the opposition come from the ecclesiastics, or from the people themselves?—A. From the people themselves.

Q. Is the Catholic religion the established religion in Porto Rico?—A. Yes.

Q. They do not support other denominations there?—A. No.

Q. Is there much fever in Porto Rico?—A. More than here.

Q. What sort of fever do they have there?—A. Intermittent fever.

Q. Do they have much yellow fever?—A. No, sir; sometimes you will find it in the town on account of the life that some people lead.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 7, 1871.

DAVID COEN states:

Question. How long have you resided here, Mr. Coen?—Answer. I was born here, and educated in France and England.

Q. What business do you follow?—A. I am a general merchant; my father is Danish consul.

Q. What are your opportunities for knowing the opinions of the people here, both in the city and country?—A. I know the people very well; and I was sent to Washington last year as commissioner to explain to President Grant the condition of the country and the state of public feeling in the republic.

Q. Then you are extensively acquainted with the people?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you please to state what their opinions are on the subject of annexation?—A. I am confident that the majority of the people are in favor of annexation. You will, perhaps, find some opposition among those who have relations with Cabral, but they are not really against annexation; they oppose it because their friends are not here to participate in effecting it.

Q. What proportion of the people favor annexation?—A. I think that nine-tenths of the people are in favor of it, especially in all the small places. On the southern side of the island I am certain that the people are unanimous in their desire to be annexed.

Q. What kind of people are they in the interior; quiet and orderly, or turbulent?—A. They are quiet; travel is safe. My father, when in business, was accustomed to send large sums of money to Puerto Plata, and his messenger always went alone with his bag of doubloons; nobody would say a word to him.

Q. What kind of a man is Cabral?—A. I knew him when he was President. I think he is a man of very little education. He is indecisive and vacillating; the mere instrument of those who oppose Baez. A month before his fall he proposed the leasing of Samana to the United States, and two or three months afterward opposed it.

Q. Is that the position of Cabral?—A. Yes, sir. Proposals were sent from here in 1867 or 1868 through Mr. Pujol to negotiate for annexation. A few months afterward he issued a protest against it, but I am almost certain that the protest was not made by him.

Q. Who are those persons behind him that instigated this opposition?—A. A few merchants and others who left with him, thirty or forty in all, who had compromised themselves with the present government, on which account their return was prohibited. These men are using Cabral as an instrument.

Q. What are the personal habits of Cabral?—A. He is a very temperate man; they say that he is a brave man. He is not a bad man, according to my idea; but I do not think that he is a statesman.

Q. As near as you can learn, what force has he got?—A. He has no military force at all, according to what I hear. He has been three years on the frontier, threatening every day to come; but he never comes. The other day it was reported that he was marching with three thousand troops, but he has not come yet. Cabral is kept in his present position by the Haytians.

Q. Has he any means of supporting an army?—A. He has no means whatever; he has some help from Hayti, no doubt.

Q. Has he arms and ammunition?—A. Nothing, except what he receives from the Haytians.

Q. Is he a man of wealth?—A. No.

Q. The people here entertain fears of Cabral?—A. Well, although we know and feel that this threatening by Cabral amounts to nothing in reality, still we cannot allow ourselves to be surprised, and are obliged to keep a small force at Azua to watch



him. It gives trouble every time they say "Cabral is coming." We are obliged to take men from their work and send them to the frontier. At the end of a fortnight they come back. It is a plague, this constant alarm.

Q. What reasons do the people give for desiring to be annexed?—A. The strongest reason is that the Dominican Republic cannot live by itself, and needs the protection of some strong government to make it thrive and prosper. Most of the people desire it on that account. We are tired of war, and anxious for security and peace. I wish to tell you something about the people here. If the commissioners had come to this city a year ago they would have seen all the houses decorated with the American flag, and found the people expressing their joy at the prospect of annexation; but they are depressed and disheartened now, and have not much hope that it will take place. They have not the confidence that they had twelve months ago. That is exactly my own position and feeling.

Q. Because it failed last year, they have not much faith that it will take place at all?—A. Yes, sir. The people really wish for annexation; but they are afraid to indulge in too much hope.

Q. Is there any restraint on the people? Are they afraid to speak their minds on the subject?—A. No, but they do not speak as freely as I would wish them. It is a part of the Spanish character to be reticent. Then we have no press here to educate the people.

Q. What is your opinion as to the health of this place?—A. I do not think the city is unhealthy. In the months of August, September, &c., we have, as they have everywhere in the tropics, a little fever and ague, but the interior of the country is considered very healthy.

Q. Do you have cholera?—A. I have never known a case of cholera here. I never heard of it as an epidemic. You have had two or three United States vessels here and they have had no sickness on board.

Q. Are there any schools here?—A. There are several schools. I am sorry that there are not more public schools. There are private institutions and men who devote themselves to teaching. We have several men here who have never been abroad, or out of the country, who speak several languages. Spanish and French are generally spoken by the young men here.

Q. What do you think is the population of the republic?—A. I was very friendly with Mr. Schomburgh, who was the British consul here. He made several investigations, and in 1856-'57 estimated that there were one hundred thousand people in the republic. I think there are between one hundred and twenty and one hundred and thirty thousand.

Q. Do the large estates here belong to individuals, or does the government own them?—A. I cannot give you a correct idea about that; the government owns a large quantity of land.

Q. What is land worth in the town? How do the lots sell?—A. It is very cheap. My father occupied and owned a large quantity of land, but he never had an offer for any of it.

Q. If settlers should come here, could they buy it tolerably cheap?—A. Yes, sir. Formerly you could buy lots of land for very little money.

Q. Suppose farmers should come here, could they easily buy land, one hundred acres or so?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there any prejudices against immigrants?—A. No, sir. The people here are very hospitable.

Q. In what does your merchandise principally consist?—A. In dry goods, muslins, linens, &c.

Q. What products of the country are brought in for export?—A. Mahogany, lignum-vita, logwood, beeswax, hides, sugar, coffee, and fruits.

Q. How did the Spaniards act when they were here?—A. Some people say that the Americans, if Santo Domingo should be annexed, will, in a few years, be driven out as the Spaniards were. Now, there is no comparison whatever between the two cases. Spanish annexation was effected in a most mysterious and underhand way. And when they did come, they brought with them corrupt officials, who plundered the people. Gambling-houses sprung up all over the city; they made this people vicious, and did nothing whatever to benefit the town or the country. Speaking the same language as the inhabitants, they were received socially, and at the end of five or six months you could hear that a Spanish officer had seduced this and that girl. These were the causes that led to the revolution.

Q. The Spaniards sent no laboring men here?—A. They sent no one here except bankrupt merchants and corrupt officers. The city was full of gambling-houses. We have not a gambling-house in the place at the present time.

JOHN JONES states:

Question. What is your age, Mr. Jones?—Answer. About sixty, sir. I came here when I was fifteen years old, and have lived in this city ever since.



Q. How extensively are you acquainted with the people in the town of San Domingo?—A. I know almost all of them.

Q. What part of the United States did you come from?—A. The James River, Virginia.

Q. What is your business?—A. A carter.

Q. How long has this question of annexation been agitated here?—A. About a year or more.

Q. Are the people with whom you are acquainted with for it or against it?—A. A great many are in favor of it; some few are against it.

Q. What reason do they give for desiring it?—A. They are in favor of it in this manner: They want to go to work; they are bound down, and not free; they do not like to go to the frontier to fight; they want some nation to abolish all this, so that they can go to work.

Q. You do not like to be dragged about?—A. No, sir.

Q. You are not free to work?—A. We are not free to work, and we are not free in sentiment.

Q. Who puts you under restraint?—A. We cannot speak our sentiments.

Q. Are not the people here free to say whether they are in favor of annexation or against it?—A. It does not matter anything about that. Some of them are afraid to speak their minds.

Q. Of whom are they afraid?—A. Of the government; there is nobody else to be afraid of.

Q. Then the government will not let you say what you want to say about annexation?—A. No, sir.

Q. Why did you come here?—A. When we came the government was different.

Q. Did you like that government better?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You had more wars then?—A. The Haytian government kept us all in peace.

Q. Suppose a man is in favor of Cabral instead of Baez, can he speak his feelings?—A. No, sir.

Q. What would be done with him?—A. Transport him.

Q. Where would they send him?—A. To Curaçoa or some other place.

Q. What did they do with the eleven men who voted against annexation?—A. I do not know.

Q. They tell us that eleven or twelve men voted against annexation; have you any reason to think that they were transported?—A. I have heard so; I do not know any of them. I did not go among them. I follow my cart and remain in my house.

Q. You do not know anything about it except from hearsay?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do the people prefer Baez or Cabral?—A. Baez.

Q. Are there many who seem to like Cabral?—A. No, sir; not many.

Q. Do any of your people prefer Cabral?—A. No, sir; not as I know of.

Q. Have you ever seen Cabral?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of man is he?—A. He is pretty much the same color as Baez, slim and tall; I was under his government.

Q. If you are afraid to talk, there is no use of further investigation.—A. I am not afraid to talk.

Q. What do you mean then when you say that the people are under restraint?—A. What I mean is, if you speak your sentiments; suppose I speak in favor of Cabral, they look on me as an enemy. Do you understand?

Q. I understand you, you dare not give your opinion?—A. I do here.

Q. You mean to say that you are afraid to express your opinion outside, but that you are not here, before the commission?—A. That is it.

Q. That is what I supposed you meant. What is your opinion about annexation?—A. With all my heart.

Q. How are others with whom you are acquainted?—A. I am acquainted with a great many, and they are all praying to God for it. Don't you know in all states, in all governments, in churches, there is not every one of one mind; they cannot be.

Q. Another point, are you a Protestant?—A. I am a Methodist.

Q. Do you have any ill treatment from the government here?—A. No, sir; only from the vagabonds. Sometimes they come to stone the church.

Q. Like they do in New York sometimes?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did the Spaniards let you have complete freedom?—A. No, sir; they shut up all the churches. We protested to the United States Government.

Q. Did you get an answer?—A. They gave it back to us again. I give you my full sentiment on this question—my heart and everything for it.

DAVID BROOKS states:

Question. What is your age, sir?—Answer. I am sixty-eight years.

Q. How long have you lived in this country?—A. I have been here about forty-eight years.

Q. Where did you come from?—A. From Baltimore.



Q. Have you always lived in this town of San Domingo?—A. Ever since I have been in the country.

Q. Have you always been healthy here?—A. When I came here I had about five months' sickness.

Q. What kind of sickness?—A. Fever.

Q. Are the people generally healthy or sickly?—A. Healthy.

Q. Yellow fever ever here?—A. No, sir.

Q. What are the principal diseases here?—A. The serious diseases here, sir, are fevers.

Q. There are a great many old men here?—A. Yes, sir; but you can hardly tell the old ones from the young ones; the old look like young, and the young like old.

Q. You say the fever is the serious thing. Do they ever have any deaths from consumption?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there any deaths from any other diseases specially?—A. A great many by small-pox; we have had a good many deaths from bowel complaint.

Q. Now, I will ask you a very peculiar question, because our attention has been called to it: Do you know of diseases of very general prevalence, arising from bad habits—the men with the women?—A. I do not know anything about it.

Q. Have you ever heard anything about it—that there was much of it?—A. No, sir.

Q. What is the opinion of the people on annexation?—A. You know, gentlemen, I have very little to say; but where I have found five against it there are twenty or thirty for it. For my part I have very little to say.

Q. Why don't you take a part in it?—A. Well, I am for it.

Q. What is the reason that persons favor annexation?—A. Well, sir, because the people cannot govern themselves. They are striving to get a living; they don't like hard work, and they are prejudiced.

Q. Is there any other reason?—A. Well, when a man is prejudiced he does not want any one to live but himself.

Q. Is there any other thing which they expect? Do they expect any more peace?—A. I do not know, sir. The people are evil-hearted.

Q. You say there are about five out of twenty who oppose annexation. Why do they oppose it?—A. Well, I don't know.

THEODORE HALL (black) states:

Question. What is your name?—Answer. Theodore Hall.

Q. What is your age?—A. I am about sixty-two, sir.

Q. How long have you lived in this country?—A. I was one of the first immigrants who came out here.

Q. What is your trade or occupation?—A. I keep a boarding-house, and attend to the sick.

Q. Are you well acquainted with the opinions of the people?—A. I think I am.

Q. We are endeavoring to ascertain whether the people desire to be annexed to the United States, or whether they are opposed to it.—A. Well, it is like all other things—we are not all of one mind. The principal portion of the people, and especially the poor people, are all in favor of it. The poor people of the country, day in and day out, cry out that they wish it was done.

Q. What reasons do they give for desiring it?—A. Well, the reason is this: When there are troubles the men are always called off to war. First, it was with Hayti. We had no peace with them. After we were done with them, we came here and found the gates shut against us; we made a fight to get in; our families would come to the walls and talk to us. The next time the men would get to work and make a little money, and then they would be called away again. The women could not attend to the farms, and the crops would rot. Every man who has suffered in this way, nearly every one, is in favor of annexation.

Q. They expect that there would be an end to all that?—A. Yes, sir. They hope it will be all done away with; they know that they would be able to work.

Q. What proportion of the inhabitants is in favor of annexation?—A. Three-fourths of them and more. Up in the country the women ask me, "Did the gentlemen come," and I say, "I cannot tell." "Do you expect it will be done this week?" "No; it may be a month or two months." "Oh, my God, is it possible!" That is the way they talk. Their husbands are on the frontier line, and the crops are neglected.

Q. You were here when Cabral was President?—A. Yes, sir; I was here during the revolution, when we shut the gates against the present President, eleven months and fifteen days, during which all our provisions were brought from Curaçoa.

Q. How many people here favor Cabral—prefer Cabral to Baez?—A. You will not find ten poor men in Cabral's party.

Q. Who are the people that belong to Cabral's party?—A. Cabral's party is composed of the "wharf merchants"; they are the only persons who uphold him; "half-merchants" I call them.

Q. Why do they uphold him?—A. Because they carry on the government themselves. They twist and turn him every way they please.



Q Has your health been good since you come here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are the diseases of the country?—A. When we first came here we had a great deal of sickness. We had the yellow fever and the black vomit.

Q. How much of that have you seen of late years?—A. Nothing whatever; we have had no sickness here for the last eight or ten years.

Q. Is there much consumption?—A. Not much.

Q. Some, I suppose?—A. It cannot be otherwise, because they are so full of frolicking; they go to dances late at night, and after that sit out in the streets and smoke cigars, and the dew strikes into their lungs.

Q. Let me ask you a very peculiar question. Do you know anything about those diseases which arise from men associating with bad women? Have you heard anything about them? It has been stated that such diseases are very prevalent.—A. I do not see anything of the kind passing.

Q. How did the Spaniards treat you?—A. I do not know whether they are worth talking about; that business was unjust altogether.

Q. How did they treat the people?—A. Since you ask me the question I will tell you. Santana, after he found that he could not get ahead of the Haytians, said to the people that he did not know what he would do. So he and his ministers determined to invite the Spaniards to return. The Spaniards wrote back that they would come if they received so many votes. The government officers were then sent down on the wharves to question the people on the subject. One of them came to me: "What is your name?" They put my name down. "We want to see if we cannot get the Spaniards back here; we cannot do anything on account of the Haytians, and we are trying to get the Spaniards to help us." I answered that I was not in favor of the return of the Spaniards and asked for my passports.

Q. How is Baez regarded by the people here?—A. Baez is the best President we have had; no one can govern the country better than he can.

ELIJAH R. GROSS states:

Question. How long have you lived here?—Answer. About forty-five or forty-six years; I came from Philadelphia with the American colony.

Q. You have lived in the city ever since?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know the sentiments and opinions of the people here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your employment?—A. The first civil employment I held here was that of postmaster general; before that I was a colonel in the army, and have been a judge for the last nineteen years.

Q. Under whose administration were you postmaster general?—A. Under the Haytians; I held the office about three years. Santana then came in and under his administration I was elected a judge.

Q. Tell us what you know about the feeling of the people here in reference to annexation?—A. I suppose that about two-thirds of the population are in favor of annexation. Those opposed to annexation belong principally to the mercantile classes, but the generality of the people favor it. The merchants oppose it because they dread the competition that they think will follow it.

Q. What do the poor people expect to gain by annexation?—A. They argue in this way: In the present unsettled state of affairs they are liable to be called away at any time from their homes and families and sent to fight, and they suppose that all that would be cured by annexation. They believe that they would have a stable government and that there would be an end to war. They have been informed that the United States is not a military power and that the people there are not all the time under arms.

Q. Do they they understand all that?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you here in the time of Cabral?—A. Yes, sir. I did not hold office under him, but I knew him very well.

Q. What kind of a man is he?—A. A fine man.

Q. You can speak to us now in perfect confidence, as if you were in the city of New York.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You say he is a "fine man;" what are his habits?—A. I do not think he is as intelligent as our present incumbent, but as to his morality, he is a fine fellow. I have known him from a boy.

Q. What was the objection to his rule here?—A. In the beginning, after the Spaniards left, Cabral was the first to enter the city. There was a strong party in favor of making him President, but the friends of Baez made an unexpected revolution in another portion of the island. They marched to the city of Santo Domingo. Cabral was provisional governor at the time. He went to Monte Cristi to get troops, but did not succeed in raising any. During his absence Pimental rose up in the city and proclaimed Baez President, to which the assembly assented. Commissioners were appointed to notify Baez, who was at Curaçoa, of his election, and Cabral consented to be one of them. He then accepted the office of war minister under the Baez adminis-





tration; but he was discontented and after a few months left for Curaçoa, where he began to plot against Baez, which finally resulted in his attaining to power.

Q. How long did he remain?—A. More than a year; but I think he was elected for four years. I think it was his intention to effect annexation if possible. He sent Mr. Pujol to the United States to negotiate the sale or the lease of the Bay of Samana, but according to our constitution, at that time, it could not be done.

Q. The constitution of 1854?—A. Yes, sir. Baez then succeeded in driving Cabral out; but Cabral is, I have no doubt, as much in favor of annexation as I am.

Q. You feel quite sure that Cabral was in favor of annexation?—A. Yes.

Q. Do you know what force Cabral has?—A. His force is very limited; his military headquarters are at San Juan.

Q. How about his dealings with the merchants?—A. They favor him a great deal, because he gave them greater privileges in the way of the remission of duties.

Q. What is the number of inhabitants in his district?—A. It is very small. Banica, for instance, has only about one hundred families. I do not think that it is possible for him to support an army; he pretends to exercise military authority, but it is more menace than anything else.

Q. Are the people here generally in favor of or opposed to President Baez?—A. The majority support him; he has more enemies among the wealthy than among the poor men.

Q. What are Cabral's relations to Hayti according to your idea?—A. I believe that he is sustained by Saget.

Q. Let me ask you a little about education and religion here. To what church do you belong?—A. The Methodist church. Under different administrations our freedom of worship has been interfered with; the late Catholic archbishop especially distinguished himself in that respect. The Spanish bishop who was here under the Spanish rule took our church from us and kept it while the Spaniards governed the country. The present vicar-general has not interfered with us in any way. The present constitution guarantees us the free exercise of our religion.

Q. How about education?—A. We have a college and some private schools here, but it is prohibited to teach Protestantism in them; they are kept by the Catholic clergy; the private schools are under the protection of the church. I try to educate my own children at home.

Q. Can the children of the American colonists read and write?—A. Yes, sir, in Spanish, but not in English; they speak Spanish better than English.

Q. What has been your health since you came here?—A. Extremely good; my family has enjoyed excellent health also. I think of the entire number of the American colonists who came here, about one-third died of fever which was brought on by exposure and intemperance.

Q. What is the average number of children in a family?—A. Eight or ten.

Q. Are many children born blind, deaf, or dumb?—A. No; and there are not many insane people here.

Q. There is one question more. It has been stated to us that there is a great deal of disease here arising from illicit intercourse between the sexes; how is that?—A. It is too true, sir. It prevails among almost all classes.

Q. How do you know?—A. I am pretty well acquainted among high and low; but a woman who lives with a man as his mistress is not received in society.

Q. What do you think is the feeling of the Catholic priesthood on the subject of annexation?—A. They are opposed to it.

Q. On what ground?—A. They say that it will interfere with the free exercise of their religion, if not destroy it. I have tried my best to convince them to the contrary.

SAN DOMINGO CITY, February 9, 1871.

ELIJAH R. GROSS, accompanied by twelve members of the Society of the Bible, states:

Question. Are there similar benevolent societies or mutual aid societies like yours and connected with it?—Answer. There are five societies besides ourselves, and each consists of thirty members and upward. Ours is lately organized, and we have only twenty-two members.

Q. How do you regard the subject of annexation to the United States?—A. We are unanimous in favor of it. I cannot tell the disposition of any of the rest of the societies except our own as societies, but I can speak of the individual members of the different societies. I am acquainted with the members, and I have not come across one dissenting voice.

Q. Have the different societies the same general objects as your own, to help those who fall sick and bury the dead?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is done in the way of educating the people here?—A. In our society we have an article to the effect that our children shall be attended to, particularly in the case of the death of their parents, by the society.



Q. Have you any schools?—A. No, sir; we have one school in this society.

Q. Do your young men attend that school?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they study the English or the Spanish language there?—A. Both.

Q. Why do they want annexation?—A. The principal object in desiring annexation is security.

Q. What is the chief purpose of your society?—A. To care for the sick and for families, and to bury the dead of the society and take care of their families.

Q. Have you anything in the way of savings banks?—A. No; the anarchy of the country would prevent anything like a savings institution. We pay \$1 50 a month each into the fund. As the name of the society shows, the first object is to promote a knowledge of the Bible, and we also help each other, as I said, in sickness and bury the dead and take care of orphan children, giving them education when possible.

Q. Will those among you, who are desirous of annexation, please to raise your hand?—A. (After all of those present had raised their hands.) Before we go I want to say that we hope your generous efforts will be successful in favor of annexation. It will be an act of humanity, and will be bestowing an invaluable blessing upon us. If it does not come I cannot tell you how miserable will be our situation.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 7, 1871.*

JOHN HAMILTON states:

Question. What is your age?—Answer. Seventy-one.

Q. How long have you lived here?—A. About forty-seven years.

Q. In the city?—A. I live in the country.

Q. Where did you come from?—A. Philadelphia. I was born in Maryland, near Baltimore.

Q. What is the feeling of the people here in regard to annexation to the United States?—A. All the people with whom I am acquainted are in favor of it; they are all in favor of it in the country.

Q. You think that in the country the sentiment is favorable to annexation?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How is it here?—A. Well, here too. I will tell you what a man said to me a few days ago. We were talking about the war, and he said, "I tell you we can never have peace here until we have annexation." I was talking yesterday morning with a young man. "How," said he, "is annexation?" I answered, "I am afraid that there are some in this town not in favor of it." He answered me, "There is danger and trouble in the country."

Q. What sort of people do you think are opposed to annexation?—A. They who consider that they have most learning—the merchants and the "wharf" men. When the country people come in to deal with them they take them into their rooms and tell them to vote against annexation.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 18, 1871.*

JUAN NEPOMUNCENO TEJERA, president of the supreme court, states:

Question. Mr. President, we have been instructed by our Government to inquire into the general condition of the country, the organization of its courts, &c.; will you be good enough to give us some information on the subject?—Answer. I shall be very happy to give you all the information in my power. In the first place there is an alcalde in each district who acts as a sort of justice of the peace; then there is a judge of first instance in all of the principal towns of the provinces; then there is a supreme court of the nation, which is a court of last resort. I am the president of the supreme court.

Q. How many judges are there?—A. There are five judges of the supreme court.

Q. How are the judges appointed?—A. The electoral college in each district sends in a list of nominations, and the senate, from the nominations thus sent in, selects the judges.

Q. How are the judges of first instance appointed?—A. By the senate also; all the other judges are appointed by the president of the republic.

Q. Are criminals ever tried by the supreme court?—A. Yes; the supreme court has jurisdiction over all offenses.

Q. What is the length of the term of the judges?—A. Four years.

Q. For how long a term are the judges of first instance chosen?—A. Four years.

Q. How about the alcaldes?—A. They hold at the pleasure of the executive.

Q. Have you anything like a jury?—A. We have no jury. The constitution commands it, but they do not exist.

Q. What is the reason of that?—A. It is not convenient.

Q. Why is it not convenient; is it because it is not convenient to bring the people together, or because the people are not educated?—A. It is left to the election of the judges to call a jury or not. The people are very poor, and to take them away from



their work for fifteen or twenty days would be a hardship and cruelty. Then there are political reasons and other complications, so that they (the judges) do not think proper to summon juries.

Q. What code of laws have you?—A. The Code Napoleon is the foundation of the legislation of the country.

Q. Has it been changed in any essential particular?—A. It has been modified in some particulars, but it is mainly in existence here.

Q. Are the crimes defined by statute or not?—A. The penal legislation is drawn from the penal legislation of France. In some instances the definitions of crime have been changed.

Q. Is crime frequent in the republic?—A. It is very rare.

Q. For what crimes are criminals generally punished?—A. Homicide, assassination, and robbery. Assassination is punished by death; robbery by imprisonment.

Q. Is robbery of the person of frequent occurrence?—A. No.

Q. How in regard to burglary?—A. Burglary is unknown. The law provides for its punishment, but you may go all over the republic unarmed without the least danger.

Q. Are there no burglaries?—A. Very few. I cannot recollect a single case. It is possible that some foreigners may have perpetrated some, but the natives none at all.

Q. Have there been any executions?—A. There have been two in three years, but they were two Spaniards who murdered a captain.

Q. How is adultery punished?—A. They can be divorced for life.

Q. Give us the names of the principal crimes and offenses which are tried in the civil courts.—A. Petty thefts, &c. There is not much litigation. The crime of homicide is very uncommon.

Q. Are there many suits arising out of disputes about land?—A. Sometimes there is little trouble about boundaries. The land is, as a general thing, held in common.

Q. Is there much litigation on that account?—A. No.

Q. Do you think that the courts of justice are held in sufficient respect by the people?—A. They have a very high respect; every one bows his head in submission. The people here are a very good people, very submissive; they respect authority.

Q. How is it that a people so obedient to law have so many insurrections and revolutions?—A. It is owing to two causes: first, the ambition of chiefs; and second, the ignorance of the multitude.

Q. Would not that same difficulty be likely to exist if the country were annexed to the United States?—A. When an insurrection breaks out here, the people, without investigating the cause of it, submit and yield obedience; they are carried away by it.

Q. Do you not anticipate the same difficulty under the American Government, in case the republic should be annexed?—A. That is a very difficult question to answer. The people desire peace and tranquillity; they are anxious to be at work; but I cannot answer for the chiefs. As far as I am concerned myself, I want peace, for my own comfort and the comfort of my family.

Q. Do you think that a general system of education is possible?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think that if schools were established the people would send their children to them?—A. The law provides for public schools in the principal towns and districts, but it has been found impossible to carry the law in that respect into execution outside of a few principal points. If schools were established all over the republic they would be well attended, because the people are desirous of seeing their children educated.

Q. What was the cause of the ill-feeling against the Spaniards which led to their expulsion?—A. At first the people were very well satisfied under the Spanish rule. There was order, justice, money, and tranquillity; but afterward five or six ambitious Dominicans arrayed themselves in opposition to the Spanish rule.

Q. What was the cause assigned?—A. To cut a figure themselves.

Q. Had not the Spaniards in some cases been arbitrary? Did they not impose taxes?—A. They were not arbitrary; that is what has been said, but it is not true. In Santiago there was a barbarian who perpetrated enormities, but he was finally removed.

Q. The insurrection began there?—A. Yes.

Q. Did not the Spaniards interfere a little more than was done before with the ordinary matters of the people? Was there not a law passed by them against allowing the little children to run naked on the streets?—A. No, but they made the people keep naked children off the streets; but as soon as complaint was made to the officers it was set aside. The real cause of the insurrection was the report and the fear that the people of the interior were to be enslaved and to be sent to Cuba and Porto Rico.

Q. What is the cause of the deep feeling against the Haytians?—A. I cannot say; it has always been so.

Q. Do you think it is because the Haytians hold a portion of their territory?—A. No, that is not it.

Q. Does any antipathy exist in the Dominican Republic between the black man, the colored man, and the white man?—A. There is none.



Q. There is no distinction here—the people would as soon vote for a black man as a white man for office?—A. There is not the least antipathy.

Q. How large a proportion of the people living here are unmarried?—I cannot say, but they are nearly all married.

Q. Is there a feeling of shame which attaches to the idea of a man and a woman living together unmarried?—A. They do not pay any attention to it, but the idea is that it is not right.

Q. Is an unmarried woman who lives with a man received in society?—A. No, she is not.

Q. The president showed us the list of those who voted against annexation, and we saw your son's name among them, with his reasons therefor. We were glad to find that he had the independence to do that and obey his convictions.—A. Yes, he voted against annexation. I voted for it myself; but I would vote against it if I thought that this republic could maintain itself as an independent power. I would prefer independence; but as without annexation there must be anarchy, I favor annexation.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 10, 1871.*

The Society of the Most Excellent Jesus having called upon the commission, the members state:

Question. What is the object and character of your society?—Answer. It is for mutual protection and aid. Such societies are very common here. There must be fifty or more of them. These societies are quite ancient. They have existed here a long time.

Q. Are there any signs or secrets like the Masons have?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you pay contributions periodically, and assist each other?—A. We pay twenty-five cents each per month. There are fifty or sixty members. There are as many women as men. We provide for the burial of members. Our society does not provide for the families of the deceased, but relieves the sick and buries them. We hold monthly meetings and receive contributions. The officers are a director and four major-domos, or stewards, and a treasurer. At the end of every year the contributions are distributed. By the vote of the society the treasurer pays it out. Each member contributes whatever he sees proper, voluntarily. It is our intention to establish a savings bank.

Q. What are your occupations?—A. One of us is an officer of the custom-house; one is in the quartermaster's department; one is a sawer of mahogany; one is a fisherman; one is the son of a carpenter.

Q. How do your members generally view the question of annexation? Please state freely what you think about it.—A. We are all glad of the annexation movement, so glad that we wish it was effected already. We want annexation because then we can find a place to work. Now there is so much war that we cannot get work. The government cannot give soldiers anything. It is on account of this miserable state of things that we have this society.

Q. What is your religion?—A. In our society there is only one religion—the Catholic; but we have no ill feeling toward the Protestants whatever.

Q. Are there any people here opposed to annexation?—A. Yes. These rich people are opposed to it because now they can live as they want to, and live off of us; but then we can work and they cannot live off of us as they do now. We may work all day, and if they want to they can pay us off with a dollar or what they please. That is the reason some of them oppose it. We mean the merchants.

Q. The land-owners?—A. No, sir; the merchants. Not them that have the little shops, but them that have the stores. Some of them are opposed to annexation.

Q. Suppose you could have perfect security without annexation, would you, or would you not, prefer independence?—A. We desire annexation, and not a protectorate. There is nothing so good for us as annexation.

Q. Do you understand the nature of the United States Government?—A. We all like it, and we understand the American nation.

Q. Do you know how that government is carried on, whether a monarchy or a republic?—A. It is a republic.

Q. It is said in the United States by some that it would be impossible to make republican institutions work well in this tropical country. What do you think about it?—A. We do not think it is impossible. We believe it is possible.

Q. Do you understand the representative system in the United States?—A. Yes, sir. We understand the representative and responsible character of the American Government.

Q. How can we be sure that some disaffected leader will not lead off a party into insurrection?—A. That has been the practice, but it has been so much indulged in here that we are worn out with it. The people, chiefs and all, long for peace and tranquillity, that we may labor and have what we work for.

Q. If annexation took place and this island should be attached to the United States and some factious man went off to the mountains and raised war, do you think the people generally would stand by the United States against such a man?—A. We are so tired



of revolution that such a thing would not be probable; but if it was to take place they could not get up a rebellion, for the Government of the United States could protect us and prevent these revolutions. The people would not go off after them, and the people and chiefs would not expect to make much headway against the United States.

Q. How many men do you think Cabral has with him now?—A. We do not know. One of us (the mahogany sawer) has been on the frontier for six months, and it was there supposed that Cabral had only a handful of men.

Q. What is about the number of the Dominican army?—A. We can raise five, six, eight, or ten, or eleven thousand men in time of war.

Q. If this Dominican army cannot put down Cabral with a handful of men, how could the United States Army, if it came here, put down an insurrection in the mountains?—A. Whenever the Dominican army pursues Cabral, and he finds himself in danger, he gets out of the way with his few men, going through the mountains into Hayti, for the Haytians protect him and encourage him, but they would not dare to do that in case this country belonged to so powerful a nation as the United States. One of us has been three years with the army on the frontier. Cabral gets help and recruits from the Haytians. Not long ago we captured on the border twenty-six or twenty-eight Haytians as prisoners. The Haytians have no regard for our people at all, and do not keep faith with them.

Q. We are glad to have met you, and thank you for calling.—A. (By an aged member, mentioned above as a fisherman.) I am now becoming a gray-headed man. I have lived in turmoil all my life, seeing war and trouble. Your coming to this city is welcome, for I hope your visit will bring peace and repose to me until I die, and then to my children after me.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 11, 1871.

Dr. PEDRO MARIA PIÑEYRO, chief physician in the government hospitals, (accompanied by Fermin Gonzalez, a merchant of the city, Cayetano Rodriguez, president of the council of war, and Dr. J. M. Lunas, assistant physician of the government hospital.)

Question. We have come here to ascertain among other things what your people think of the subject of annexation to the United States.—Answer. The present state of the country demands a prompt remedy, and the desire is generally among the people that our republic should be placed under the protection of a strong and powerful nation, who would have with them but one interest. The people are tired of civil dissensions and all desire peace, and they find no other way of obtaining it except by a union with some great protecting power. The power we desire to unite with is the United States. These sentiments you will find general everywhere in the republic. We have called upon you on our own suggestion alone, in order to become acquainted with you, and we will give you any information you may desire which is in our power.

Q. What are the prevailing diseases in the country?—A. The fevers. It is owing to the want of drainage and to the damp state of the country in the neighborhood of the city. The people get wet and do not change their clothes, and this brings on the fevers. In the neighborhood of the Ozama it is unhealthy for the want of drainage, more so on the opposite side of the river than on this. I attribute that to the corrupt vegetation, not to any unwholesomeness of the climate. These fevers are bilious; but, according to the temperament of each patient, after a certain stage of the disease, they may take another form. Many have brain fever, but they never take the form of typhus or yellow fever. A man addicted to drinking, and taking one of these fevers, would after a time have brain fever.

Q. Does the sudden change of temperature between morning, 11 o'clock, and the evening produce catarrhs and colds?—A. In November and December we do have catarrhs, and a person suffering with them, if he exposes himself to wet and damp, it may produce pleurisy or consumption, but such cases are rare. They are also subject to catarrhs during that season.

Q. Under what circumstances does yellow fever occur?—A. During all my practice I have never known but one case of yellow fever, and the patient was cured and is alive now.

Q. Have you known any cases on ship-board?—A. I have seen several cases of what has been called yellow fever, but in my opinion it was not yellow fever, nor epidemic or contagious. These fevers are generated to a serious degree owing to the temperament of the patient. Sailors, for instance, having rough life and bad habits, when under the treatment of physicians who do not understand the nature of the disease, get the yellow color which induced them to believe it was yellow fever, but it was really not the case.

Q. What are the epidemics here?—A. The only things that can be truly called epidemics here are these catarrhs I have alluded to. About eight years ago there were some cases of dysentery of which some four or six patients died. But since that time there have been no such number.





Q. Everybody dies at some time; of what do they die mostly around here?—A. Some die of consumption and diseases of the lungs. I have known one family in which five died of it. They all resided under the same roof and were constantly in contact, and I attribute it either to this contact or to inheritance, for one member of the family who was absent did not die of the disease, but he is still alive. In reference to the diseases of the brain and nervous system in cases of these fevers, to which I have alluded, some patients at certain stages become delirious, but that is easily subdued, according to the treatment they receive.

Q. How is it with people not acclimated here?—A. In a great many cases the want of resources and means occasion death. A man gets sick, and his resources are exhausted after a certain lapse of time, and he dies for the want of care. Strangers come to this place on steamers and sailing vessels, and by land, and I have never known any unusual mortality among them. I have only known a very few stray cases in this place.

Q. How many subjects have you in your hospitals, and what are their diseases?—A. The patients in the hospital average fifteen to twenty. It is called the military hospital, but in fact is both civil and military. All patients who apply are received. In the generality of cases, when a patient applies, his disease has gone so far, and he has become so debilitated that he comes there almost as a last resource; but nevertheless very few die in the hospital.

Q. Have you any cases of leprosy in this city?—A. There is a special hospital for them. The government is occupying itself with these at present. We are ordered to examine into cases of leprosy. In the city we found twelve, of which there were about eight or ten in the first and second stages of the disease. At present there are twelve cases in the hospital.

Q. Is it contagious?—A. Being ordered by the government to make this investigation, I formed a committee of five doctors, of whom three are foreigners, to study it. Of the cases already mentioned, I found all in the first or second stages, which we did not consider contagious according to the authorities and our experience; but owing to the fears of the people of this disease, those patients were ordered to be kept in their own houses, and not to come in contact with the people.

Q. Do you consider that leprosy is hereditary?—A. In some cases I consider it hereditary.

Q. Would you advise a man to marry a girl who had the first symptoms of the disease?—A. No.

Q. Is this disease of recent origin, or has it always existed here?—A. There have always been some cases of leprosy. The writers consider that the disease is hereditary.

Q. Did it come here with the Spaniards?—A. I cannot say. I think not.

Q. Is this disease increasing or not?—A. It is to be supposed that having been once introduced, it must naturally increase, because it is an incurable disease.

Q. Is it the same disease described as leprosy in the eastern parts of Europe? Do the fingers fall off?—A. It is the same disease. In some cases the fingers fall off. That is in the third stage of the disease.

Q. Are these glandular diseases and diseases of the throat and other parts of the body believed to arise from contaminated blood?—A. There are some cases of glandular disease. I attribute the greater part of the diseases here to want of proper aliment and nourishment.

Q. Are there many cases of scrofulous diseases?—A. A few.

Q. Are any of them, such as diseases of the scalp, attributed to hereditary contamination of the blood?—A. There are not.

Q. Are there any cases of what are called secondary syphilis?—A. A few.

Q. Are there many cases of primary syphilis, such as chancre?—A. I have seen a few cases. I have cases at present, two cases at the hospital, of two buboes.

Q. Among the women of the town are there many cases?—A. I have never seen any cases of women. They are very retired about it. Among the public women there may be a few cases.

Q. Do you know of any other towns of six or seven thousand inhabitants, as Caracoa, to compare with this in that respect.—A. Yes, sir; there are a thousand times more cases there than here; that is a commercial and noted town.

Q. How is it as to gonorrhoea?—A. It is very frequent in men.

Q. Then why do not the women have it?—A. They are very reserved and will not go to medical men to be cured.

Q. Do you consider syphilis entirely different from gonorrhoea?—A. They are two distinct diseases.

Q. Do you employ vaccination?—A. We practice vaccination; but, owing to the carelessness of the people, only to a very small extent. Whatever cases of small-pox we have had here have been imported.

Q. Does the government require vaccination in the army?—A. The government does not make it compulsory. The greater part of the persons vaccinated are children.



Q. Is the mortality among children comparatively great?—A. No, sir; it is about the same as adults.

Q. Have you any means of knowing how many people die? Is there any record?—A. Yes, sir; there is a record kept by the government.

Q. Is there a record of births?—A. Yes, sir; the archives of births will be found in the principal churches, and a record of deaths is kept by the government. Every parish keeps its own record.

Q. In this district, where is the record kept?—A. In the cathedral. Every child baptized must have a permission from the authority.

Q. Is there any case known in which a child has grown up without being baptized?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there much scarlet fever?—A. There are some cases; but owing to the treatment here it is easily subdued. As soon as the eruption takes place it passes away.

Q. Does it leave them in bad condition, deformed?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are there many blind?—A. Some.

Q. Are there any cases of deaf mutes?—A. There may be a few cases.

Q. (To Dr. J. M. Lunas.) Do you agree with what has been said by Dr. Pedro Maria Pifeyro.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. (To Cayetano Rodriguez.) Have you a standing army?—A. No, sir.

Q. What do you rely upon for defence when you are attacked?—A. That does not belong to my department. I am judge of a military tribunal—judge advocate.

Q. Do many cases come before you for military discipline?—A. Very few.

Q. Under what circumstances are civilians tried before military courts?—A. Only when martial law is enforced.

Q. Is the military tribunal permanent?—A. It is permanent.

Q. How is it composed?—A. Of seven judges. There are seven for each province.

Q. Do these military provinces correspond with the provinces from which senators are chosen?—A. No; each province has seven judges of the military tribunal; but I do not know how many senators are named from each province. There are five provinces.

Q. How many judges does it take to constitute a court to try an offender?—A. For a council of war, or a tribunal, it is necessary that seven be present.

Q. (To Signor Firmin Gonzalez.) What is the feeling among the merchants here as to annexation generally?—A. They are very much in favor of annexation.

Q. Are there no exceptions?—A. There may be some; but I do not know them; the generality think as I do. I think they all would agree with me.

Q. Why do you think an American occupation would be likely to fare better than the Spanish occupation did?—A. It would be a spontaneous act. The Spanish government was not in harmony with the people here. The experiment of that government was tried in Spain and failed. They tried it here also; the principal cause of the revolution against the Spaniards was their arbitrary manner of governing, especially of the governor of Santiago, a city that contains more inhabitants and more resources than this. His name was Buceta. The people of Santiago petitioned that this governor should be removed, but the Spanish government would not consent to his removal. The Spaniards held possession of this city to the last. There was no manifestation of revolution made here; the Spaniards held this city until they abandoned the island. Each one may have had his private feeling in the matter for or against the Spaniards, but as far as this city was concerned, there was no manifestation made, and the Spaniards held out here until they left the island.

Q. What do you think are the opinions of the people generally, in regard to annexation, in the country back of this?—A. As I understand it, they all desire annexation. They say they have good reasons for doing so; I traveled a great deal in the country in transacting business, and have come into contact with a great many of these people.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 18, 1871.

Examination made at the printing office in the city of Santo Domingo, by Commissioner White.

*Statement of the foreman.*

Question. How many papers are published in the city of Santo Domingo?—Answer. Two regular weekly papers and one little paper published occasionally.

Q. What is the circulation of the Boletin?—A. Six hundred in all.

Q. How much of that is in the country?—A. Very little. About twenty-five copies are sent to Puerto Plata; twenty-five to Santiago, and a few to other places. The government sends out quite a number to different parts of the country.

Q. How many paying subscribers are there in the city of Santo Domingo?—A. About seventy.

Q. What is the name of the other paper?—A. El Leveranta. It has about six hundred subscribers. The third paper is a very small affair, amounting to nothing. There are no other papers published in Santo Domingo. There was one published in Santiago at one time, but it failed to receive sufficient support, and died.



SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 14, 1871.*

M. MARLE states:

Question. Please state your age, residence, and acquaintance with the history of this country.—Answer. I am ninety-five years of age; am a native of France; have lived in this country for fourteen years, and have made the history of this country a special study; I reside just across the river Ozama, opposite this city, in the village of Pajarito.

Q. Please state the changes in the government in 1865 and 1866, and since.—A. There were three leaders, Pepillo, Polanco, and Pimentel, who succeeded each other in a few months. Pepillo was shot by Polanco, who was imprisoned by Pimentel. These men were all of the Cibao, and that fact caused jealousy here in Santo Domingo to see three men calling themselves presidents arising there one after another. Hence there arose a local feeling, and Cabral was set up as president by this part of the island. Cabral was of so small account, and felt himself so small a man for the chief place, that he did not formally accept, but his friends pressed it so hard, and urged it so that he at last consented to accept the position of protector of the Dominican Republic. This was in 1865. There were thus four presidents in 1865 and 1866. The inhabitants of this city feared that the capital would be removed to Santiago, in the Cibao, that being a larger and richer city. They feared that the capital would be taken there permanently. Then Cabral, having been made protector, entered into an arrangement that Pimentel should come here and they should govern the country together. Neither seems to have felt strong enough to hold the country by himself; but as soon as Pimentel got here Cabral kept him as a sort of prisoner. He did not give him position. They gave him a good house in a nice street, but kept him under a sort of surveillance. He seemed to be contented with it. His friends, thinking the title of protector was not sufficient to enable him to govern the country, and did not give him the position in the eyes of the country which he ought to have, caused him to be nominated for the presidency. They went through the forms of an election, called together the adherents of the government and others for an election, but it was a pretense only. Then trouble arose in Cibao again on account of this jealousy. There was also trouble in Seybo and Higüey. A revolution broke out at Seybo, and at the head of it was a man named Guillermo. He came up through the llanos or prairie country toward this city, until he reached the village of Pajarito, on the other side of the river Ozama. Then he summoned the city to surrender. As he could not read nor write, I wrote for him the summons of surrender to the city of Santo Domingo. In it he declared that he was the advanced guard of the army of Seybo, and he summoned the city to surrender. The city sent commissioners, and desired to have conditions. Guillermo would not adhere to any, but declared he must have the city at once. He had about four hundred men in fact, which he called his great army. Pimentel, who was a prisoner here, gave as his opinion that this was all a comedy; that all this insurrection was in the name of Baez, and they would all go in for him; so he started the cry, "long live Baez." Then Pimentel went into the national assembly and cried, "long live Baez." The next thing Don Pedro Guillermo came into town and took possession of it in the name of Baez. At this time Baez was absent at Curaçoa. The commission was named at once to go to Curaçoa to call in General Baez. That commission was composed of Joseph Maria Cabral, of the son of Guillermo, and of the principal men of the time. Baez returned and took possession of the government by virtue of a decree of the national assembly, which, before being dissolved, had declared him President. This was about the end of the year 1865. Baez at first had not been inclined to come, but hesitated. When he had returned, Baez, from gratitude to Pimentel, who had aided him, made him one of his ministers. Then the intrigues commenced in the Cibao. Now Luperon arose. Luperon and Garcia and others fomented an insurrection in Cibao. This Luperon was a sort of gallows-bird. Garcia was a man of some ability as an officer. Baez, seeing the situation, came to the conclusion and declared that he did not wish to govern if the people did not wish to have him, and he sent to ascertain what was the feeling of the Cibao. He sent Pimentel, who knew the people of that country. Pimentel, arriving there, joined the other side. They marched on the capital, Pimentel at the head of the army. They had not a large force. Pimentel summoned the city to surrender. Baez did not wish to resist, and left the country with his friends, going over to Curaçoa, or St. Thomas. He would have been able to do something, but he was determined not to. Pimentel entered with Garcia and Luperon. Then they formed a triumvirate. This was in August, 1866. Cabral, in this time before mentioned, was Baez's minister of war, but Cabral in the mean time had got on bad terms with Baez. His friends had stirred him up against Baez. He was here when the triumvirate took command, and was recognized as a man of influence and importance, and a general. But the fatal thing to their government was the fact that all of these three men were from Cibao, and the people here were jealous of them, because they were afraid of a transfer of the capital from here to Cibao. It was for that cause that Cabral was constantly urged by people here to put himself at the head of a movement against the government. At first he was unwilling to do it, but the triumvirate them-



selves at last saw that the situation was one which they could not hold for a long time, and they relinquished it to support Cabral. They left the city, and gave up power. In the absence of any authorities, Cabral's friends urged him and he took possession of the executive power. No election was had, and no action of the national assembly, but some time afterward they took care to have it sanctioned by a nominal election held in the usual way, by sending out orders to the commandants. Movements then began to take place in Seybo and other provinces, and at last in Cibao, and those in Cibao were far the most serious. In a short time the partisans or friends of Baez had obtained the control of all the Cibao. Cabral marched against them, but was defeated and came back to this city, and then just rested quietly here. Then for a month the insurrectionists of Cibao were besieging this city. At the head of this insurrection besieging us was Memet Cacéres. Cabral did nothing to prevent it. His partisans wished to sustain the siege, and he did nothing. The city held out for a month. The besiegers just encamped outside of the city. There was no attack. The people in the city sometimes amused themselves by firing cannon at them. Very soon the people began to go over to the opposition camp. After a month there was a capitulation. I think this was about the 1st of February, 1868, that this capitulation took place. Then another commission was sent to Baez to bring him back to govern the country. They sent him commission after commission. At first he did not seem inclined to go. But at last he came, after a month. I think in the last days of January, 1868, the capitulation was signed, and Baez entered about the latter part of February. Since that the government has been undisturbed except by petty movements. About six months after Baez came into power there was an insurrection, at the head of which was Juan Rosa, in Seybo. Rosa attacked the commandant's quarters there, and the commandant was about to yield, but finally rallied, and in the end they captured him. He was tried by court-martial and executed in Seybo. Since that time there have been some insignificant attempts at insurrection. The only serious one is that chronic revolt in the neighborhood of Neyba and Barahona, and San Juan. A war has gone on there until the country is depopulated and deserted. It was a good country naturally, but ruined by these devastating wars. The Haytians, ever since the evacuation in 1844, have continued to hold some portions of the Dominican territory, as the village of Las Caobas, Hincha, and sometimes Banica. The Dominican and Haytian Republics have been constantly at war since 1844, and all that district, although really belonging to the Dominican Republic, has remained in the hands of the Haytians. The Haytian flag is almost the only flag they have ever seen in these towns since 1822. In fact there has never been a Dominican flag established in that district.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 17, 1871.*

E. M. VALENCIA, president of the city council, accompanied by the members of the council, ten in number, states :

We have come, representing the government of this city, to call upon you, representing the great republic. It was part of our duty to call the people of this country to vote on the question of annexation, and I have the satisfaction of saying that that vote was given with the greatest liberty, and from its results you can judge of the desires of our people. All the men of best sense, the principal proprietors, in fact the thinking men, are now hoping for this change, which will bring a new and happy era to this country.

Question. We desire as part of our mission to ascertain exactly what are the wishes of the people on this question of annexation, especially what proportion are opposed to it. We do not wish to influence you at all, either way.—Answer. We can assure you, in good faith, that the people sincerely and truly desire annexation. Owing to the past disasters which we have suffered and because of our old patriotism we desire it, that this country, which is so rich in resources of every kind, may have a stable government and peace, which are all that it requires in order to become one of the most prosperous in the earth.

Q. We have heard that the vote on annexation was not fair and free, but under restraint. What was the fact?—A. In fulfillment of my duty as president of the council I was present at the taking of the vote. It was part of my office to explain the object of this vote to the people, and they all spontaneously agreed to it, with a few exceptions, and those people who objected to it were free to do so and were unmoled. They are here residing in their houses to-day. On the day that the people were called up to vote the American and Dominican flags were carried through the streets by the people in great triumph. As I said, it was my duty at the poll to explain the object of the vote. All were heartily in favor of it, though a great many had one objection to it, and that was the tardiness with which it was to be consummated.

Q. We suppose there is more or less opposition to annexation in the city, is there not?—A. The number of votes for and against proves that. There were sixteen votes opposed to it in this city, which were signed against it. Among that number there was one who, after having signed against annexation, made it his business to speak





unfavorably of President Baez and his government, and tried to excite the spirit of certain people, but it was not because he had refused to vote in favor of annexation.

Q. What reason did they give for going against annexation?—A. It was merely through a question of pride to do so on account of their nationality. They had no fixed programme to combat this question. They are all persuaded of the benefits that will accrue to the country.

Q. Is the sentiment as strong now as when they gave that vote?—A. The people are convinced to-day that the country must either belong to the Americans or to the Haytiens; that of the two evils they naturally choose the least. This is not the case, generally speaking, for a great many take a higher view of it and a true view. I think the annexation feeling is stronger to-day than when the vote was taken.

Q. Is there any considerable number of people here or about here who favor Cabral?—A. In this city Cabral has but a very few adherents, because they have had an experience of his bad administration. There are a few exceptions who, through motives of ambition and with the interest of governing, favor him; but the people as a rule have had sufficient experience to prove to them that Cabral is not a good administrator of government. All experience has proved that Baez is the man of greatest popularity and strength.

Q. Are the Cabral men those who would favor or oppose annexation?—A. History proves that there can be no real opposition on their part, from the fact that while Cabral was in the government they themselves desired to annex this country; and I attribute this opposition to mere party feeling.

Q. What do you think is the military force of Cabral?—A. I cannot state the number of his followers. Those men are, many of them, almost savages, who do not appreciate civilization and order and have no political force whatever. They are leading a sort of vagabond life on the frontiers, and maintain themselves by the sweat of other people. The Haytiens uphold them.

Q. Have you any means of knowing the number of inhabitants in this republic?—A. The census has been very much neglected, but the population is estimated at two hundred thousand. The provinces of the Cibao are the most populous.

Q. Are the inhabitants increasing or decreasing?—A. Increasing.

Q. What is the population of this city?—(After conferring with the other members of the council.) A. It is from five to six thousand.

Q. What is the condition of the city as to health?—A. The city is very healthy. Oftentimes fifteen days pass without a death. There are certain diseases, originating in imprudence committed by foreigners in eating fruit, which often occur; but those do not arise from any insalubrity of the climate.

Q. What months are considered the most unhealthy?—A. June, July, August, and September; during the rainy season.

Q. Does the municipality in its own right own much land around the city?—A. At the time of the separation of the Haytiens, the municipality did not manage their own funds, and for that reason a great many lands were disposed of; but notwithstanding, the city still possesses a considerable amount of lands.

Q. On what terms have they been accustomed to dispose of lands, by sale or rent?—A. By sales and donations, or gifts.

Q. Do they let them out for a term of years?—A. All those belonging to the municipality are leased; they are not actually sold; but when the payments are made according to the agreement there is no limit of time. The municipality has rented to Mr. Cazneau two sites near his residence. He wanted to buy them, but the municipality could not dispose of them in that way and they rented them.

Q. How much land was there in these plots?—A. Twenty-eight varas front and forty-eight deep.

Q. How much rent was paid for a piece of land like that?—A. Five cents for each square yard per annum.

Q. Is that in perpetuity?—A. He can hold this land as long as he meets these payments. The sites for houses are generally rented in that manner.

Q. Have any other lands been rented here to Americans?—A. Yes, sir; to Mr. Brown and others. All the Americans who are here rented the sites on which their houses were built. We rented to all persons, without any distinction of nationality.

Q. Have larger parts been rented to Americans than they have been accustomed to rent to persons of other nationalities?—A. No; there are very few Americans who have rented lands.

Q. Are they rented to them at prices higher or lower than to others?—A. At the same prices. At present they do not pay any rent for those sites, owing to the poor condition of the country. The generality of the people who rent these sites are living on the outskirts, and the government does not exact the rent from them.

Q. Has any land been rented, or sold, or leased to any officials of the United States?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there a record kept of all these leases to which access can be had, and are they granted openly by the municipality?—A. It is done openly, and there is a record kept.





That record is in the municipal palace. During the time of the Spaniards, they interested themselves somewhat in carrying out this matter properly, but owing to the revolution, it was neglected. But there is a law by which the council is compelled to keep a record of all the lands.

Q. Have any lands been rented to Americans for water-fronts upon the river or harbor?—A. The water-front where the Spaniards had their ice-houses, the old lime-kiln. Mr. Cazneau asked for a concession to build a small mill and wharf there for embarking the produce from his mines. He asked for fifty yards, but in the concession made to them it was designated that he should have sufficient room to build the wharf only.

Q. Are there any other lands rented to the Americans on the water-front?—A. None to my knowledge.

Q. Has not Mr. Cazneau a right to the water-front for a long piece and just north of the city limits?—A. Mr. Cazneau bought a small estate outside of the limits of the city here of a private individual. During the time the Spaniards were posted here, several hundred were on his property there and committed great devastations. He asked for an indemnity, but I do not know whether he has any or not. His estate has a front on the river.

Q. How far does it extend?—A. It is very small. I cannot say exactly the amount of land, but Mr. Cazneau has bought a good deal of land in that neighborhood from private individuals.

Q. What part of this island do you suppose the most fertile?—A. I can say without fear of mistake that all the country is fertile; but I can mention especially the San Juan country, and San Christobal and the Cibao. In the Cibao all the products of the country are found. As a proof of the fertility of this island, I may say that notwithstanding the great many disasters and revolutions which we have suffered, we have never wanted for beef, but always have had a plenty of beef. The fertility of the land supports a great many cattle.

Q. Is this soil well adapted to coffee?—A. Very well. The want of means and negligence on the part of the people are the causes why the coffee is not more cultivated than it is.

Q. Are you acquainted with the opinions of the people in the interior of the country and their sentiments on the question of annexation?—A. In all the towns there has been not the least opposition. They are all perfectly satisfied with the idea, and the country people are all happy with the hope of annexation.

Q. In your opinion, has the entire abolition of slavery in the United States and the admission of the former slaves to equality of rights, had anything to do with the sentiments of the people here?—A. The news of the abolition of slavery in the United States was received with great enthusiasm. The people here are very liberal in their ideas and views.

Q. Was the discontent here of the Spanish rule in any way connected with the fear of the reestablishment of slavery?—A. No. The enemies of the Spanish rule circulated that rumor, but intelligent men did not suppose so.

Q. What was the principal reason of the opposition to the Spaniards?—A. One of the principal reasons was that the commander-in-chief sent to Santo Domingo was an anti-annexationist, and did everything in his power to displease the people. If, instead of sending General Rivero, they had sent General Vargas, or some others, the dissatisfaction would not have been so great here.

Q. What kind of a government did the Haytiens establish here?—A. That government was despotic. It had the name of being democratic, but was really absolute. The people had to undergo very great ill treatment. All the young men, from the most respectable families, were taken away and put in the armies, and for that reason a great many families emigrated.

Q. Did the Spaniards increase the taxes?—A. The Spaniards attempted to carry out a system of taxation, but they did not do it with the necessary tact. If I am permitted to say so, it is a question that requires a good deal of tact in this country, inasmuch as the people have never been used to much taxation of any kind.

Q. Is it true that the Spaniards made troublesome regulations; among others, imposing a fine upon any one who allowed naked children in the street?—A. Yes, that is true. The fine was five dollars. The Spaniards, when they came into possession, had very little tact in administering the country. In the then condition of the country, it was unreasonable to expect from it what they wanted to realize. They established many offices and an ecclesiastical department, and a great many Spanish employés, who wanted to force from the country resources which it had not at that time.

Q. Did they bring employés from Porto Rico and Cuba or from Spain?—A. They were from Spain. Some of them had been residing in Porto Rico and Cuba.

Q. Did the Spaniards displace the holders of minor offices here, or allow the Dominicans to remain in?—A. They kept a great part of the Dominicans in their offices. A great many of the Dominicans got offices. Among others, Delmonte was administrator of the exchequer.



Q. Was there any legislative body at that time?—A. The ayuntamiento, or city council, was the only body the people created.

Q. Was there any general representative body for the whole country?—A. There were only local laws. There was an administrative council composed of citizens of the country.

Q. Was there any interference with the Masonic fraternity?—A. The Spanish government did not allow Masons. One of the lodges was taken away from the Masons and used as a barrack.

Q. Was that done mainly by the church or by the State?—A. This act was mainly due to Santana.

Q. Were the Spaniards willing to accommodate all other religions as well as the Catholic?—A. They did not tolerate all religions. They prevented the Protestants from exercising their faith.

Q. Does the constitution of your republic permit every one to have a religion according to his conscience?—A. The religion of the Dominican Republic is Catholic, but the constitution allows liberty of worship.

Q. Do you understand that in the United States there is no state religion, but every church is absolutely free, with no greater power than any other? Would the people here be willing to accept that provision?—A. The people would not oppose it. The Catholic religion is the principal one here. It is the religion of the government, almost all the people being Catholics.

Q. But do you understand that in the United States no one religion can be favored more than another?—A. Yes, sir; we understand it perfectly, that each church must be sustained by itself.

Q. Would your people sanction such a government?—A. Yes; all the people are aware of that feature in the American government. Under the Haytian domination, the Methodists had churches here, and the Israelites also.

Q. Are they tolerated now?—A. Yes; every one has the right to observe the religion he pleases. It would be against the constitution to prevent a man from observing his own faith. There are some of our people very well posted up in the affairs of the United States.

Q. How would your people prefer to come into the United States, as a Territory or State?—A. I think your own Constitution provides for that. You generally admit them according to the number of the population, the richness of the country, the state of the inhabitants, &c.

Q. That is in the discretion of Congress. Do you understand that as a Territory you will have the right of representation in Congress?—A. If you consult public opinion, you will find that we, of course, will be desirous of coming in on the best conditions we could get.

Q. It is a matter of some importance to us as well as to you, for if we will have a share in governing you you will have a share in governing us.—A. Yes, we understand that. We understand perfectly well that we cannot enter as a State, for our lack of population and of riches, and of qualification in the people, would prevent that; but it would be merely a question of time.

Q. In the United States we regard a system of schools as desirable to fit people for political rights. Do you think such a system could be established here?—A. The people would be very happy to have such institutions. The generality of the youth are desirous of knowledge and education. The young men are very studious, but the want of resources and means has prevented the establishment of such institutions heretofore. The town council, owing to its very limited resources, has only been able to establish five schools on a very small scale—two for girls and three for boys. The establishment of educational institutions would be very gladly hailed by the people. They feel the want of them greatly.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 11, 1871.

GEORGE FOUNTAIN states:

Question. Please state your age, residence, nativity, and occupation.—Answer. I am thirty years of age; I was born here in Santo Domingo; my parents were from New York; I am a calker for vessels; I learned my trade here; my master was an American.

Q. What wages do you get?—A. Two dollars and a half a day.

Q. What hours do you work?—A. From 6 to 12 o'clock; then we go off and get dinner, and then from 2 to 6.

Q. Can you work from 6 up to 12 in the heat here without trouble?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can people of your color work until that time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there any white men here who work at your trade?—A. Yes, sir; two Spanish men work near me.

Q. Do they work ten hours a day too?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you hear of their suffering from heat?—A. No, sir.



Q. Do you know what sun-stroke is?—A. Yes, sir; they have it sometimes here. Then they give the man some medicine.

Q. What was your father's trade?—A. He was a sawer of planks.

Q. Do you know any old men who work through the day?—A. Yes, sir; Perry Brooks, John Jones, and plenty of others. The Spanish people are all old people.

Q. What do you do when you do not have calking work?—A. I wait on the river, for there are sometimes small boats to calk, and I find any little boat to fix or color.

Q. Do you make a good living here?—A. Yes, sir; there is plenty of time at home in Santo Domingo. There is poor living, but we have to live as we can.

Q. Do you know any mechanics with trades like yours who have laid up money?—A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know of any who save money, get a house and a wife and be comfortable?—A. Yes, sir; they have houses and are married.

Q. Do people of your color always get married, or do they merely get a woman and live with her?—A. They get married.

Q. Are you a Catholic?—A. No, sir; a Methodist.

Q. Do the Catholics always get married generally?—A. Yes, sir. In a Catholic church a man has to pay \$8 to get married, though.

Q. How many children did your mother have?—A. My mother had eighteen children. She has got six living now.

Q. Did they all come to this country?—A. When my mother came to this country she was twelve years old. She came from Boston and was married here. The children died young.

Q. Have you had pretty good health?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there much sickness about where you live?—A. No, sir; sometimes the chills and fever. Sometimes they die with it in August, October, and November.

Q. Did you ever know anybody to have yellow fever?—A. No, sir, not colored people. When the Spaniards were here some of them died with yellow fever.

Q. Do you recollect when the Spaniards came here?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was there any vote by the people about the Spaniards coming?—A. No, sir; there was no vote, because we did not know it. We did not know anything about their coming until the very day they put up the Spanish flag. We belong to the marine force. They called us out that day for parade, and when we got on the square they sent the soldiers back and took the arms away from us. Then General Santana spoke. He said that we must go in like children to their mother to the Queen of Spain. He spoke, and a few other generals spoke, and said if you say anything now we will put you in prison.

Q. Do you remember anything about the vote concerning annexation to the United States?—A. Yes, sir; I signed a paper here in the government building.

Q. How did you know the vote was to take place?—A. The governor let it be known that it was to be and we went there freely.

Q. Did you know what you were going to sign?—A. Yes, sir; Governor Damian Baez told us. He gave orders to call everybody to come and sign freely. He told us all it was the vote for American annexation.

Q. Where were you?—A. I was down at the river then.

Q. Did Governor Damian Baez come there and tell you that?—A. No, sir; the captain of the fort came down there and told all the marines. He called us all together and told us to go up to the governor's and sign. Then the governor told us it was for the election for American annexation, and whoever wants to sign can sign and those who do not want to need not sign.

Q. Did everybody go?—A. All signed.

Q. Supposing you had not wanted to sign, what would you have done?—A. I would not have gone; all went free to sign.

Q. Do you think they would have made you any trouble if you had staid away?—A. No.

Q. Can you read?—A. In Spanish I can a little.

Q. Were there papers put up around in public places stating where this vote was to be taken?—A. They put it in the paper about eight days before the vote.

Q. Do you know of any people who did not vote, who did not like it?—A. I know all the poor people, white people, and the rest, who had a good trade, were all very glad of it; they are the people I work with; I cannot work with rich people; and they were all very glad of annexation. I see all the country people that come down to sell in the market, and hear them talk; they were all very glad of it, because they were suffering so much; the government could not pay them when they served.

Q. Have you ever gone as a soldier?—A. No, sir; I go around among the vessels as a calker.

Q. Were you ever in the war at all?—A. Yes, sir; I was in the great revolution of 1865, when Santana was fighting with Baez. Here I got a ball in my face; I was wounded on the fort at Santiago where the fight took place by the gate; the enemy were on the other side, and we on this side; we were fighting for Baez.



Q. Have you ever seen Cabral?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What sort of a man is he?—A. He is a good man, and a popular man; but the best mother for us all is this man Baez.

Q. Why?—A. Because he is so good to poor people; he is an excellent man; you can go to his house and speak to him; but then he cannot give you anything because the government is so poor; Cabral is one of the first generals.

Q. Where did you learn to read and write?—A. Here in Santo Domingo at school.

Q. Do your colored people have a school?—A. Yes, sir; Spanish.

Q. Can you talk Spanish?—A. Oh, yes, sir; I can speak it better than the American language.

Q. Among yourselves what language do you generally speak?—A. Spanish; my mother and father speak American; my brothers and sisters speak Spanish; when he is in the house, we speak American; we have American prayers at night before we go to bed.

Q. Is that usual in the families of the colored people here, to have prayers before they go to bed?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever feel an earthquake?—A. Yes, sir; but I was small then. It was the great earthquake of 1842.

Q. Did it shake the houses down?—A. Yes, sir; they have told me so.

Q. Have you experienced any bad hurricanes?—A. Yes, sir; about three years ago, on the 3d of October, the zinc roofs of some houses were blown off; I do not know of anybody being killed.

Q. Do you know of any earthquake since 1842?—A. No, sir; not great ones; we have had little ones.

Q. Do you belong to any mutual benefit society?—A. Yes, sir; to the Bible society; the president is named François; the vice-president is Mr. Gross; we pay in every month a dollar or a dollar and a half, and if one falls sick, they call a doctor, and in case one dies they bury him.

Q. Do you know anybody who is a friend of Cabral, or differs from you in opinion; we want to hear from all sides?—A. No, sir; everybody is about the same on this.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 12, 1871.

Rev. THEODOSIO RAMIREZ ARIEDO states:

Question. Please state your occupation and residence.—Answer. I am curate of La Vega, where I reside.

Q. What is the condition and feeling of the people there as regards annexation?—A. The district of Cibao has been overrun by war and desolated until the people are worn out. They cannot labor with any hope of reward, and there is no other salvation for them but annexation to the American Union. There is no other protection from the incursions of the Haytians. There is a very small minority of people there who are against annexation.

Q. How extensively are you acquainted with the opinions of the people there?—A. My curacy contains about eighteen thousand people, and there are not two against annexation whom I know to be such. Almost all are in favor of it; they are nearly all Catholics in this country, and there is constant communication; we have consulted a great deal about this; my knowledge extends particularly over my own curacy, but also in general over the whole island, and I know that the opposition to annexation is very inconsiderable; in my curacy it consists mainly of colored people from Hayti, but it is very little; to them it is very natural.

Q. Is the land of Santo Domingo as good as the neighboring countries?—A. I am a native of Porto Rico, and I have resided in Venezuela and Havana, and have seen much of the West India Islands, and this is the best of them all.

Q. Has the church extensive lands in the Dominican Republic?—A. In the time of Boyer the churches were despoiled very considerably, and my curacy has now only about \$100,000 worth of land. I do not know about the lands of the church in general on the island. My parish of La Vega is in the province of Cibao. There are two or three churches in it; one in the town, and two in the country. I have control of the three churches.

Q. Are there any convents or monasteries?—A. No, sir; neither in Santiago nor La Vega.

Q. How much property is now enjoyed by those three churches?—A. The land is held in trust. It has been willed by testament, and about \$100,000 is so held for the use of the church. I hold it while I am curate, and after me my successor. Under Boyer they abolished the rights of the church. I was not here myself and do not know the extent of its value; but there were all manner of depredations committed at that time on the church by the followers of Boyer. I do not know the extent of the losses. We understand very well that in the United States my church is perfectly free and independent, and has the protection of the laws; but here we are without those



things, and that is my reason for annexation. In that case my church and its property will be protected.

Q. Were you at La Vega during the occupation of the Spaniards?—A. No, sir. I arrived in this country in 1865, but I can give you some information on the subject, as it was the question of the day when I arrived.

Q. What were the reasons that the Spaniards were disliked?—A. The Dominicans here were governed by them the same as the Cubans and Porto Ricans, not by laws, but despotism, and all these West Indies desire laws and republican government for protection. The Dominicans have the same reasons for disliking the Spaniards that the Cubans and Porto Ricans have.

Q. Did the people apprehend any danger of the Spaniards reestablishing slavery?—A. Very much so. That was one of the principal objects. The people were afraid the Spaniards were going to import slaves from Africa.

Q. How far does the insurrection of Cabral at this time threaten the stability of the country?—A. Cabral has been two years in the south with a handful of men, and he has not advanced a step forward. Baez has the masses of the people in his favor and Cabral cannot overthrow him. Baez must fill his term of the presidency.

Q. What number of followers has Cabral now?—A. About two hundred men. There is also a rumor that there are three regiments or companies there from Hayti, but of Dominicans he has not over two hundred. I went down with the expedition of Salcedo on the 24th of last July, and Cabral had eight hundred men. They fought for seven hours and Cabral lost three hundred killed and wounded and retired defeated.

Q. How is it that with so small a force Cabral can hold out so long?—A. As long as Cabral has relations with Hayti he can maintain himself, because when the Dominicans advance upon him he retires to Hayti and the Dominicans cannot follow him. When the Dominicans retire he comes in again.

Q. How is he furnished with supplies and provisions?—A. They get cattle in the woods on the mountains and find plenty of plantains and potatoes in the country; and besides that, Nisage, the Haytian president, furnishes him with supplies and provisions. It is not necessary here to have money to make a revolution, because the country contains all that is required for subsistence.

Q. What are the principal products of the region where you reside?—A. Tobacco and coffee, not much coffee. Tobacco is more cultivated in Cibao. Cibao produced 100,000 ceroonos of tobacco last year.

Q. How is that tobacco compared with Cuban tobacco in the market?—A. I can form no comparative estimate, because the tobacco here is not regularly cultivated; that is, they do not go through any scientific process. It grows up naturally, after the seed is planted, until it has ripened.

Q. Is there any sugar there?—A. A little; enough for the consumption of the province.

Q. Is the soil adapted to its culture?—A. Yes; better than in Porto Rico or Cuba.

Q. Is there any uncultivated land there?—A. I have traveled seven leagues through virgin forest without finding a single house.

Q. What kind of land?—A. The Cibao is level land. From a little hill where my church stands you can look right down the plain all the way to Samana, and see that immense valley; that is, from Santo Cerro Hill.

Q. What sorts of timber grow there?—A. Mahogany is very abundant; roblé, or oak capa, and various others. There is plenty of pine there. Those are woods for building purposes. There are some wild cattle there. Since the war with the Spaniards the number of cattle has been decreasing. There has been a constant state of war. The different parties would enter, and take all the cattle they wanted, and carry them off.

Q. What are the most prevalent diseases there?—A. It is very healthy; intermittent fever is the most frequent disease.

Q. Is the region well watered?—A. There are very fine rivers. The best watered district in the republic is found in the Cibao.

Q. Are there many diseases of the chest?—A. No, sir; in the city of Santiago there may be a few cases. In Arabacao it freezes, and every morning you can find ice floating. That is in the province of Cibao, on the road to San Juan.

Q. What proportion of the population live in marriage?—A. The greater part of the people in the Cibao are married. There are a few cases where they live together without marriage, but the greater part are married. That is owing to the religious spirit in the country. This religious feeling in the province of the Cibao is the reason there is no revolution there. The greater part of the people there devote themselves to industry. There can be no revolution in Santo Domingo without the Cibao. That is the key-point of all revolutions.

Q. It has been stated by Mr. Miller that there is wide-spread disease, arising from immorality, in that province, especially Santiago.—A. There are a few cases of such disorders among the lower classes and people who are not cleanly in their habits.

Q. Are there many cases of leprosy?—A. Very few, and they in the city.

Q. Is there a considerable proportion of people there who arrive at old age?—A. I





have buried people of one hundred years, of ninety years, and of eighty years, and there are some there now of a hundred years.

Q. Is there a reasonable proportion of old men, say of seventy or eighty?—A. Yes, sir. In the Cibao very few die young, except they meet with an accident.

Q. Is there much fatality among children?—A. There is a great proportion who die before they are nine days old; but I attribute that to the treatment they receive after birth.

Q. Is there much scarlet fever among children?—A. No, sir.

Q. Is there much small-pox?—A. For more than three years there has not been a case of small-pox.

Q. Is vaccination much used?—A. It is used, but it is very difficult to get. There is no prejudice against it, but it is owing to the negligence of the doctors. There are no doctors named specially for that purpose by the government, and they do not occupy themselves much with it.

Q. Are there any schools there?—A. There is a school in my parish, and at Santiago there is a college and there are two schools. In La Vega, besides a school, there are several ladies who teach.

Q. What are the main branches taught in the schools?—A. Arithmetic, grammar, reading, and writing.

Q. Do they teach languages in the ordinary schools?—A. In Santiago they do.

Q. What modern languages?—A. French and English.

Q. What ancient ones?—A. Those who dedicate themselves to the church study Latin. There are about eighty pupils in the school at La Vega. There is a great want of teachers. The government does not make any appropriations for that purpose.

Q. Is that school at La Vega the only one in your parish?—A. Yes, sir. The schools are in the towns. A great many living in the country have teachers to come to their houses.

Q. Is there any newspaper printed in La Vega?—A. No, sir, none in the province, nor none at Santiago nor Puerto Plata. There is a small press for printing cards at Puerto Plata.

Q. Are there any bookstores or libraries in La Vega, Santiago, or Puerto Plata?—A. None. The only saving plank we have got is the United States. I have been exiled from my country, and I cannot go back there, and I suppose if this annexation does not go through I will have to go on to Venezuela. In case of annexation a great many intelligent young men will come here from Porto Rico. My own family and friends will come up from Porto Rico.

Q. In case of annexation, do the people here wish to come in as a Territory, with their own legislature, with judges and governor sent from the United States, or as a State?—A. It would be better, owing to the difference of language, for the first one or two years, that the governor should be a Dominican.

Q. As a Territory they would be represented in Congress, and could make their own laws.—A. There is now no law here, nor anything else. It is a regular vagabondage, to use a French expression, and, like all the rest, I desire a change and annexation, because in my own parish I very often do not know at what time the revolutionists may come in and carry me off. I have avoided a great many revolutions and held many in check through religious influence, because I have a great moral force among the troops. I am very well known among them all, and have been able to hold them in check somewhat. Every person we have had to govern this republic has agitated this question; but the only trouble is, every one wants the glory of carrying it through himself, and to oppose the others.

Q. Do you think Cabral would desire annexation if he could manage it himself?—A. Yes; he would have sold the country long ago. Cabral's idea was to sell Samana to the United States and the rest of the republic to the Haytians. Then it would have been all up with us, for we would have been killed.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, February 18, 1871.

*Memorandum of conversation with MM. Gautier, minister of the interior; Felix Del Monte, minister of justice and public instruction; Richard Curriel, minister of war.*

During the Spanish occupation there was an attempt on the part of Hayti to negotiate a treaty establishing a new boundary—the boundary of Banica—Hayti offering half a million of piasters in consideration for the territory yielded; but it was refused. In all the constitutions the original limits, as fixed by the ancient treaty of 1777, have been recognized. The Haytians have never formally declared any right to the disputed territory, except the mere right of force. They have occupied it several times. The Dominican government has also occupied it several times, but it could not keep an army there. At Caobas and the majority of the towns around there the people have been driven away—farther back into the Dominican Republic—in this direction; but those people are Spanish, and they have been driven out by force, not by choice. If



the Haytiens claim that territory by right of force, the Dominicans, too, have that claim equally, for they have repeatedly held it by force. The old inhabitants were by preference Spanish. A good many Haytiens have come in and settled there, since the country has been so long held by that people; that is, the farthest portion, which lies close to Hayti; but everything goes to prove that these same Haytiens would not think of going away if this country was annexed to the United States; but, on the whole, they would prefer the security and stability that would ensue from incorporation with the American Government. There has been no chance for a free expression of their opinion, for they are right under the power of the Haytiens, and it would not be safe for them to speak. It is a very difficult matter to know the population of the disputed district, because the incursions of the Haytiens, the constant disturbances, and the fact of its being a disputed territory, have driven out a great many of the inhabitants, who have gone elsewhere to live, to the Cibao, to this place and vicinity, and to other places.

As to the monuments of the old boundary line of 1777, Mr. Curiel has seen those on the north side. The Haytiens have attempted to destroy the evidences of this line, but whether they do or not, the features of that line are laid down so distinctly on the map and are so plain and are described so well that they cannot be removed. They are natural limits. There are plain marks all along that line that cannot be destroyed. Near the northern end of the line there are some fortifications by the Haytiens, one beyond the river Massacre. There are no diplomatic relations between this republic and Hayti, and never have been except in one case when Salnave, the Haytian president, sent five commissioners to Cabral; they got as far as the preliminaries, but when Salnave discovered that Cabral was playing into the hands of Jeffrard, they broke it all off. The relations which existed between Salnave and Baez were very good. Without any treaty they kept on very peaceable terms, but after Salnave was overthrown this man Nisage Saget became a very bitter enemy.

Dr. GUERERO states:

I am a Dominican, aged about fifty; was governor of the city in 1867; knew Cabral intimately. He is a mere soldier, without any breadth of capacity. Cabral was an ardent friend of annexation. He forwarded all measures favoring annexation. Cabral opposes annexation now solely because he cannot have a finger in the pie. Cabral is now only the tool of the Haytian government; has no resources of his own, but is entirely dependent for supplies upon the Haytiens. I have been an advocate of annexation ever since I became satisfied that Dominican independence was impossible. I think that they could not maintain themselves against Hayti. The people of the city and neighborhood are all but unanimous in favor of annexation. I have a large practice and see many people. They talk to me confidentially, and all of them, whether friend or not of the present administration, look to annexation as the only hope of the country.

As to diseases, they are principally fevers, but not of a malignant type. The sudden changes from the coolness of the evening and early morning to mid-day heat, cause catarrhs, chills, fevers, &c. My mode of practice is eclectic. I do not give much medicine. Charges are \$1 a visit; \$2 after dark; \$4 after bed-time. It is not the custom to pay cash, and it is very difficult to collect bills. There is a sort of medical bureau, composed of four physicians, whose duty it is to examine candidates and give licenses.

SANTO DOMINGO CITY, *February 4, 1871.*

\_\_\_\_\_ states;

The people of the interior are opposed to annexation. I don't say all of them are, but a majority of them are opposed to it. Those are the little traders who bring in produce that I see. They feel a doubt. They have an antipathy to foreigners. It is difficult to understand them—to know what they do wish exactly. There is not a man in this city, not even the bitterest enemy of the administration, who would not answer you yes, if you ask if he wishes this country to be annexed to the United States. He would say yes to any foreigner. There was nothing in the vote taken here; the people never voted. Each alcalde in the different districts of the city had orders from the military governor of the city, Damian Baez, to call upon every citizen and order him to come up to the governor's house, and they had a paper there telling them that they wished this country to be annexed to the United States; "this country is to be annexed to the United States, and if you wish it, sign your name." They knew of course the consequences if they did not sign; that they would be banished, or imprisoned, or ordered to the frontiers to do military duty, and therefore of course every one signed his name, perfectly willing, except two or three, who were sent to the frontier, and one or two who were banished. It was not a free and fair vote, as it would be in the United States; nothing like it. Those who desire annexation are mostly government officials, partisans of this man, who are so deeply compromised with him that their fear



is that should the other party come into power they would have to leave the country if annexation does not take place. I know a great many friends of the other party. Some of them are desirous of annexation, but the greater part are against it. I have conversed with several of them. They are perfectly willing to either rent or sell the bay of Samana to the United States for any purpose whatever. They think by the gradual increase of the people of Samana the annexation of this part of the island would take place after a certain length of time. People would see the character of the people and government of the United States there at Samana, and they would gradually fall into it and become annexed. That party propose the cession of Samana, but are opposed to the annexation of the whole island—the greater part are. They have an idea that if this country is annexed to the United States, the immigration would be so immense that it would almost, you may say, exterminate them—swamp them. Most of the traders favor annexation. It will bring money, immigration, and business.

FEBRUARY 12, 1871.

*Testimony of ——— an officer of the government.*

I am of English parentage; a Dominican subject; residence here; forty years of age; am well acquainted with the West India Islands generally. Consider this one to be among the most, probably the most, fertile of all; the climate is very healthy. Men with a little discretion can accomplish more manual work at agriculture, in the course of a year, than in the northern part of the temperate zone, where winter is severe. The indolence of the inhabitants is not the necessary result of climate, but of antecedent social and political conditions. Any improvement and progress are hopeless while the feeling of insecurity with regard to property prevails. People will not take heed of to-morrow when they know not what to-morrow will bring forth. There is no school system, and no schools worthy the name out of a few large towns. There are the elements of municipal institutions, but they cannot be developed while an irresponsible central government, exercising arbitrary authority, exists. The constitution provides for the liberty of the subject, guarantees the free exercise of his rights as a citizen, protects him from exile, imprisonment, or maltreatment without lawful trial, and means of defense; but the constitution always has been disregarded by those in power. Unless circumstances are entirely changed, those in power must, for self-defense, override the constitution and disregard civil rights. They must exile or imprison those who intrigue for their overthrow. With regard to the enmities between the eastern and western inhabitants of the island, I do not agree with most of those who have testified. I think that a fusion and mutual good feeling between the blacks of Hayti and those of Santo Domingo, living on either side the boundary, is clearly perceptible, and that, with a little management, the affinity of race and religion would overcome an enmity arising out of temporary conditions.

The great mass of the people of Santo Domingo have little thought or care about the form of their government. They are manipulated by a comparatively small number, who busy themselves with politics. I and many whom I know desire the independence of Dominica, but are utterly hopeless of obtaining it. And Dominica has not and cannot have, without changes, now apparently hopeless, the capacity or the materials for an independent government. They give it up in despair.

Question. By union with Hayti, would there not be sufficient means for organizing a powerful and independent nation, covering the whole island?—Answer. This would give them even smaller chance of progress than being left alone. It would be a step downward. It would be subjecting themselves to those inferior to them in capacity and aspirations. They must reach upward to a union with those superior to them in political and social intelligence and aspirations; not stoop to those beneath them in their present condition, and in their aspirations for the future.

With regard to Cabral, I know him personally. I think he would be glad to meet the commission. I do not believe that he would venture to do so within the Dominican territory, not because he would doubt Baez's good faith. He must know that if Baez were inclined to betray him, he would not dare to do it in the present relations with the United States; but he would fear being shot from behind a tree by some irresponsible person. I think that Cabral would readily meet the commission at Port au Prince. I think that although Cabral has the sympathy, in his opposition to the Baez government, of a not inconsiderable party of intelligent Dominicans, his real support is drawn from foreign sources, through Hayti, for the Haytian government.

*Statement of ———.*

Question. Were the people of Santo Domingo called on to express their opinion in regard to the Spanish annexation?—Answer. No.

Q. How was it effected?—A. General Santana sent for the governors of the provinces, told them about the negotiations he was carrying on with Spain, and asked them to



explain it to the people of their departments. On March 15 he issued a circular inviting the population of the city of Santo Domingo to meet in the cathedral square, to witness the declaration of the incorporation to Spain. There were about two hundred soldiers present, and also a detachment of military at the military headquarters close by. Fifteen or sixteen Spanish officers, who had arrived from Spain the month before, were also present.

Q. Had those officers been sent about the island?—A. No; they remained in Santo Domingo City, and were paid by the Spanish government.

Q. They were preparing this movement?—A. When they sent for the officers, they (the officers) had no idea what was going to take place. Then they had two Spanish war steamers, the Pizarro and the Don Juan of Austria, in Calderas Bay. These steamers arrived at Santo Domingo City on the day the proclamation of annexation was made. That night they sent over to Santiago de Cuba to inform Serrano of the movement that had taken place in Santo Domingo.

Q. What were the proceedings—the steps in the matter?—A. General Santana informed the people who had assembled what was to be done. There were General Leger, who intended to make opposition; General Ramon Mella, who was plotting to make opposition, and other prominent persons, present. General Mella, who had been arrested a few days before, was set at liberty on the morning the act of incorporation was proclaimed. General Leger, who had been denounced some time before, was brought to the palace on the same morning, and when Santana called out, "Hurrah for the Queen!" he turned to Leger, and asked him to do the same. I was there at the time myself, and they wanted me to say something—to make some demonstration; but I refused. There was no consultation of the people. General Santana's secretary read the act of incorporation, and called out, "Hurrah for reincorporation!" The Dominican and the Spanish flags remained flying all day side by side.

Q. How soon after that did the Spanish troops come in?—A. That night a schooner was sent to Porto Rico. The captain-general was then at Mayaguez. A battalion was immediately sent from Porto Rico; in five or six days another battalion was sent from Havana, and after that a regiment came. These four battalions composed the Santo Domingo army until troops were sent from Spain. About five or six thousand men in all were sent.

Q. Why were the Spaniards driven out?—A. The principal reason was that they did not treat the people well; they were brutal and insulting.

Q. How soon was the first manifestation of revolt made?—A. When General Sanchez and General Cabral came through the Haytian to the Spanish lines, and at Cibao proclaimed the republic. Santana marched with troops from Santo Domingo to Azua. From that point he dispatched General Alfau with troops to attack them. Alfau was successful, and captured nearly all of them, except General Cabral. About twenty-five were shot.

Q. How were they driven out?—A. Buceta, the Spanish general at Santiago, was very brutal, and oppressed the people. He insulted them in every way possible; dumped the garbage one day in front of the city hall, until finally some young men engaged in a rebellion against him, which was, however, put down. They attempted to take the fortifications from the Spaniards, but they were captured, tried, and shot. A general prosecution was then instituted against everybody who was supposed to be in sympathy with the rebels. The queen ordered an amnesty to be granted, but her orders were not obeyed. The revolt spread, and finally became general. Pimentel and Polanco became the leaders of the revolution.

Q. When was the republic first proclaimed?—A. On the 16th of April, 1863, at Capotillo, after the defeat of the Spanish General Buceta.

Q. Was a President chosen then?—A. They marched down to attack Santiago, which the Spaniards burned, and retired into the fortifications. The republic was again proclaimed at Puerto Plata, with Pepillo Salcedo as first president. But a movement was made against him even before the Spanish troops had left. They suspected that he was in communication with the Spaniards, and that he was endeavoring to reinstate them. General Polanco led the movement against him, overthrew him, and was himself proclaimed President. After that, Salcedo was sent on a mission to Puerto Plata, and was assassinated on the way. General Pimentel then made a movement against Polanco, and was in turn proclaimed President. All this took place before the Spaniards left the island. When the Spaniards left, Pimentel was President, and Manzueta the military leader.

Q. What became of Santana?—A. In the beginning of the war, he was at the head of the Spanish troops.

Q. What was his rank?—A. Before the war, he was captain-general, but he resigned and retired to his farm. When the war broke out, he offered his services to the government, and was put at the head of the troops that marched to Santiago. Manzueta was at Llamasa.

Q. Was it supposed that Santana had been rewarded by the Spaniards for effecting annexation?—A. No; he effected reincorporation without any reward whatever. He





despaired of the country, and asked the Spaniards to take possession of it to save it. The Spaniards did not give one cent to Santana or to anybody else, and the Dominicans did not reserve anything to themselves—no land, no fortifications, no building of any kind; they gave up everything to the Spaniards, but the Spaniards guaranteed the Dominican currency, which was afterward redeemed at 250.

Q. How much of the island did the Spaniards occupy?—A. The whole.

Q. Up to the old boundary line?—A. They did not touch that question with the Haytians.

Q. Did they occupy San Juan?—A. They occupied San Juan, Los Matas, Neyba, and Cibao.

Q. Did the Haytians retire from these places?—A. They never occupied them.

Q. You say the Spaniards occupied up to the old line of 1776?—A. The 1776 line embraces Cahoba, San Miguel, Banica, San Raphael. That country the Spaniards did not occupy. But the Dominicans, after they rose against the Spaniards, put the Dominican flag in Banica, where they still hold it.

Q. Did the Spaniards occupy clear up to the old boundary line between France and Spain?—A. No.

Q. Did the Haytians continue to occupy it?—A. Yes; the Haytians never made proposals to the Spaniards for its cession.

Q. You feel quite certain about that?—A. I think I do; some marauders went to Los Matas, and stole some horses and oxen. General Rubercaba visited Hayti with a fleet, and the Haytians paid \$25,000 in American gold as an indemnity. That money was brought to Santo Domingo City and divided among the sufferers.

Q. How far did the Spaniards occupy?—A. The Spaniards occupied San Juan, Neyba, Cibao, Los Matas, and all the small hamlets along that line.

Q. What towns are on the Haytian side?—A. Banica, San Miguel, San Raphael, and other small places are on the south side.

Q. After the Spaniards left who came into power?—A. The Spaniards, as I said, left on the 15th of July. General Cabral and General Manzueta were at the head of the troops around Santo Domingo City; when the Spaniards evacuated the town they entered. But while they were waiting outside the walls, Pimentel marched from Santiago, which was the seat of the government, to the southern frontier, to prevent a movement, headed by Salnave and General Benito Mociou, against President Geffrard. Cabral and Manzueta meanwhile entered the city of Santo Domingo and raised an insurrection there against Pimentel, who, as soon as he heard of it, resigned, and Cabral was proclaimed protector.

Q. Was he proclaimed protector by the military or by the people?—A. By the people. They met in the cathedral square, his generals, friends, &c., and cried, "Vive Cabral." The band played, and that was all. They had not a single gun. About one hundred persons were present. The people of the interior knew nothing whatever about it.

Q. There we have the first government after the Spaniards were driven out—the protectorate of Cabral; what followed?—A. A decree was issued, calling Congress together to frame a constitution and elect a President. But then, and even before Congress met, the brothers of Baez were conspiring in his interest.

Q. Buenaventura Baez?—A. Yes.

Q. Who had already been President?—A. Who had been President.

Q. What followed?—A. Cabral was secretly in favor of Baez even while he himself was protector.

Q. Well, then came the national assembly?—A. Yes. While the assembly was framing a constitution, Pedro Guillermo headed a movement at Higüey, and the cry was, "Hurrah for Cabral, Manzueta, and Baez!" They marched to Seybo without opposition, and arrived before Santo Domingo City, but were denied permission to enter. Cabral was in favor of admitting them, but the populace would not allow him to open the gates. In a few days Cabral went to San Cristoval to raise troops, and during his absence Pimentel headed a movement in the city in the interest of Baez, acting in conjunction with Guillermo, who was on the other side of the Ozuna River. Guillermo in a few days entered Santo Domingo and assumed command. But the assembly refused to recognize his authority, and sent for Cabral, declaring that he was protector and the head of the government until a President was appointed. Guillermo wanted to make Baez President. There was an article in the constitution which provided that Congress should appoint the first President. Congress was in favor of appointing Cabral, and as soon as Manzueta became satisfied of that fact, he went to the chamber and said, "Congressmen, you must proclaim Baez President, or I will shoot all of you." He drew his sword, and Baez was proclaimed President. Commissioners, of whom Cabral was one, were then appointed to visit Baez at Curaçoa, and notify him of his appointment. That was in October, 1865.

Q. What was the next change?—A. When Baez got into power, he made Cabral minister of war, and Pimentel secretary of the interior. But Cabral was a mere cipher. He became disgusted, and in a short time asked permission to go to Curaçoa for the





benefit of his health. He went and never returned. Then Baez endeavored to change the constitution. He presented the claim of Jesurun to Congress, which everybody knew was a mere private transaction of his own.

Q. Well, make this a connected story.—A. Luperon never recognized Baez, but finally, at the request of his friends, he retired to Turk's Island. Then he, (Luperon,) Cabral, who was at Curaçoa, and General Valverde, who was an exile at St. Thomas, formed a conspiracy against Baez. They wrote to Pimentel, asking him to head the revolution and offering him the presidency, but Pimentel declined to cooperate with them, at first, on the ground that he had promised Baez his support as long as he acted fairly and honestly. But as soon as Baez endeavored to alter the constitution, he felt that he was released from his promises and united with Cabral, Luperon, and Valverde. They overthrew Baez, who had been only about five months in power. Pimentel then appointed a junta, with General Bobadillo as chairman, and marched to the Cibao, where Luperon and Garcia were still fighting against Baez. In a short time they returned to the city and formed a triumvirate.

Q. Where did Baez go?—A. To St. Thomas. He took with him \$50,000, which he had stolen during his administration. The triumvirate of Luperon, Pimentel, and Garcia was then proclaimed, but it remained in power only a short time, and was succeeded by Cabral, who was elected President by a direct vote of the people. He remained in power about two years and two months.

FIFTEEN MILES FROM AZUA,  
*En route to Maniela, February 25, 1871.*

JUAN PABLO SANCHO states:

Question. Will you please to state your name, age, place of nativity, and occupation and family.—Answer. My name is Juan Pablo Sancho; I was born here; I am sixty years of age; I live in this house, and cultivate the land here; I have a wife, three boys, and two girls, all living; none of my children have died.

Q. Have you much sickness here?—A. No; here in the mountains it is very healthy. The only disease is the calentura, or chills and fever. One woman now in the family is sick with it.

Q. Do you attend any religious service?—A. Our priest is in Azua. The river Vanilejo, a little way ahead of you, is the dividing line between this parish and the next one—Maniela.

Q. What crops do you raise?—A. Chiefly plantain, coffee, and sugar-cane.

Q. How much land have you?—A. I can hardly tell you; we have as much as we want.

Q. Can you take all that joins you?—A. Yes; the limits are not definitely fixed. There are \$600 worth of land, and there are seven brothers of us who own it together jointly. We own all from here, on this river, down to the other stream that you crossed an hour ago—the Rio Grande—perhaps two leagues.

Q. Which do you prefer, Baez or Cabral?—A. We all like Baez better than Cabral. If Cabral came here, he would take away all the arms we have.

Q. Will he come?—A. Who knows? There is an alarm now down in the lowland country about Azua that Cabral is disturbing the country. My two other sons have gone to the army. They will be back in a day or two perhaps.

Q. Do you care anything about annexation to the United States one way or the other?—A. I would like it.

Q. Why?—A. Whatever satisfies the government is satisfactory to me. I am friendly to the government. President Baez has been a friend to us long ago, and I feel that whatever he does must be done for the best.

[By the wife of the witness: If General Baez did not have another house in the world to go to and came here, I would receive him to my house and do all that we could for him; for we are his friends.]

Q. What do you do with the coffee you raise?—A. All the coffee we raise goes to Azua. The plants are now new, and we have not yet produced much more than sufficient for our own use. Last year we produced just enough for ourselves. This year we have not produced anything. My brothers and friends live about here in the mountains in just such little houses as this one in which we live, and in the same way.

Q. Why do you not try to live in a better style and more comfortably?—A. We cannot get anything here without having a revolution come along and destroy all that we make. There have not been any disturbances lately just close about here, but we are always afraid of something of the kind.

Q. Is there much crime about here?—A. There are no criminals of any description. If any one were to be doing such a thing, the officers of the government would soon catch him; but nobody wants to hurt any one here. You can travel over the roads at any time of the day or night and not be molested in the slightest.

Q. Where do you get your clothing?—A. We buy the stuffs—cotton mostly—down at Azua, and make it up ourselves.



Q. Are you of Spanish blood?—A. My grandfather was a Spaniard from the Canary Islands. I call myself a creole.

Q. Do the people around here generally observe to get married before they live together; are you married?—A. Yes, sir; this is my wife. My sons are married.

FOUR MILES NORTH FROM MANIELA, *February 25, 1871.*

AUGUSTE GAUTIER states:

Question. Please state your age, residence, place of nativity, and occupation.—Answer. I am fifty-eight years of age. I was born near Cherbourg, in France. I reside here on my farm, which is situated in the valley on the slope of the mountains above the large valley of Maniela. It is about four miles from here to the town of Maniela.

Q. What crops do you raise?—I have taken you into my field and now show you the crops growing around you. I raise sugar-cane, which you can see in all directions on the farms here and below, coffee, tobacco, cacao, beans of every kind, peas, cauliflower, celery, chicory, cabbages, (I will give you some of them,) lemons, tomatoes, corn, oranges, carrots, pine-apples, sweet potatoes, yams, bananas, Irish potatoes, plantains, radishes, water-cresses, oranges, and onions, and many tropical fruits and plants beside these could be raised here. All these I grow on my farm. I will give you samples, from the patches here about you, of the radishes, potatoes, cabbages, lettuce, peas, beans, tomatoes, and onions, that you may see whether they look as well and taste as well as those raised in the United States. The air is cool enough here to ripen these fruits very well, and the soil is as rich as it can be.

Q. How much land have you in your farm?—A. I have all the land I can cultivate here. The land is not measured as with you. That is not the custom here. There is enough land here for every one. You can buy a right for about \$50, and then you can take of the unoccupied land all you can cultivate; but as soon as you stop cultivating it, you must use it for pasture for animals or for something else, or fence it in if you want to insure keeping it. My place is over five hundred yards square, cleared out of the forest here now. A man cannot come in around here and take unimproved land at his will, but he must have a right, for which he must pay. I paid \$25 for this right. The property is worth many times that, with my improvements on it now. The best places around here are taken up now, for the others unoccupied are further from water. Different places will cost different prices, from \$3 to \$25. A man before me had bought this right and cultivated it a very little in coffee trees and plantains, and then I purchased it of him. This is in the commune or parish of Bani. On the other side of the Ocoa River, which runs through the valley below us, lies the commune of Maniela.

Q. Have you any opinion that you care to express in regard to annexation to the United States?—A. Yes; I am well pleased with that. Everybody around here says they are in favor of it, and I believe they are. I hope it may take place soon. We want it bad enough.

Q. Have you had any disturbances here during the war?—A. We have not had any trouble immediately about here with the wars. During the time of the Spanish occupation they came near here, but they did not come up far enough to disturb me at all. The people around here have always been quiet.

MANIELA, *February 25, 1871.*

General JEAN CHERI VICTORIA states:

Question. Please state your age, place of nativity, residence, and occupation.—Answer. I am seventy years of age. I was born at Bordeaux, France, and reside in Maniela, of which I am alcalde, or judge.

Q. Please state what facilities you have had in the course of your experience in this and other countries for knowing the condition of the people of this republic as compared with other peoples, and of understanding their sentiments.—A. I have resided on the island of Santo Domingo about fifty years. At fourteen I accompanied my father to the United States, where he was traveling for his health. I was at Philadelphia, Charleston, and other places in the United States for about two years, when I returned to France. I went again to the United States, and remained at Newport, Rhode Island, five or six months. I subsequently resided in Martinique and St. Thomas for a short time before I came to Santo Domingo. During the greater part of the time since I have been here, my residence has been at Bani, of which district I was governor for six years. I was also governor for a short time of San Juan, at another time of Neyba. I was governor for over a year of Azua. In 1849 I supported Santana, to whom I was chief of staff, with the rank of general of brigade, and was in the city of Santo Domingo opposing Manuel Ximenes. In 1856, when Santiago and the north was in revolution, I marched against the insurrection by order of the President, Santana, with two thousand three hundred men, cooperating with the President, who marched by another route. I have been through many revolutions. In case of one revolution, which broke out at Azua, I marched with only two thousand troops, raised at Bani and San



Cristoval, and in forty hours we entered Azua and suppressed the revolution. I was at Bani during the Spanish occupation, and part of the time was here. I was president at one time of the town council or ayuntamiento.

Q. What are the means of education here?—A. There has been a small school here, which was taught by my secretary. He had ten scholars, and was paid \$8 a month, I believe; but he has quit and there is no school now. In Bani there are two schools, one for boys, kept by a man, the alcade's secretary, and one for girls, kept by a woman. Around here part of the people, perhaps one-fourth, can read and write. You will remember that in this place the greater part of the people are of Spanish blood.

Q. What is the religion of the people here?—A. Catholics. There is no priest in Maniela now, but the priest from Bani comes up every three months, baptizes the children, performs all the other duties of his office, collects the fees, &c. There is a cock-fight every Sunday.

Q. What is the character of this place for climate and health as compared with the United States and France?—A. The climate just here is exceedingly cool for the tropics, and very equable. The health generally is excellent. I think it the healthiest country I ever knew. There is no doctor in this town. There are very few diseases that prevail; only light fevers occasionally occur, of which the people cure themselves. I think that, as compared with the lowland or coast cities of this island and with any other country that I ever saw, this is exceedingly healthy throughout this valley and mountain region; for the region is not confined to this valley that you see, or this district, but extends for a great distance to the north and west, where many wide and beautiful and very rich valleys are to be found, such as the valley of Banica, the valley of San Juan, and all the region around them. They are about as cool as this and as fertile. I have lived in both those places. San Juan is especially rich by nature, and is well adapted for cattle as well as for crops. Neyba and Azua are surrounded by neighborhoods that are much lower and more level than this, and the climate is of course warmer. During April we have a good deal of rain here, and it becomes warm as the summer months come on, but never oppressively hot, for the mountains are all about us. The cool weather commences again in October, ending in April with the beginning of the rains. Northern people can come in here from such places as New York State, and live with perfect security to health, working as they do at their present homes. I believe this to be perfectly practicable. I think this place, or one like it, the very best suited for such people. It will take them a year to become entirely acclimated, but the fever, to which they are liable unless they take care, is so very slight that it amounts to nothing here. I recommended long ago to President Baez that he should adopt a system of bringing immigrants who enter this country into an elevated region like this, where they could remain for a year or more, until acclimated and accustomed to the country. Most of the land is unoccupied, and a very great immigration could be supported in addition to our present population.

Q. Do you have trouble on account of earthquakes?—A. I have seen heavy earthquakes here, especially the great earthquake of 1842. There has not been one now for a long time, ten years or more, that has been of any importance. Almost every year there is a very slight trembling occurs, but these shocks are so slight that not one person in a dozen feels or knows of them.

Q. Are any sheep raised upon these mountain pastures?—A. I have raised sheep here and they grew very large. They grow larger in this region because it is so cool and the pastures in the mountain valleys are good. They grow very fat. Mine used to weigh about forty pounds dressed; but stock is now very much neglected. I remember that I had a mutton dinner, to which I had invited guests, on the day that the great earthquake of 1842 took place, and the earthquake interrupted us by rattling the dishes.

Q. Do you have any disturbances here from the wars?—A. There has been much disturbance of industry throughout the country; Bania has been burned; Azua has been burned twice; this place has not suffered so much, but the people here suffer with the rest in general; there is an excitement now prevailing about Cabral breaking into the country below, and there have been one hundred and fifty men sent down to Azua from here to fight Cabral.

Q. Do you know Cabral personally?—A. Yes; I know him, or did once, very well; when I commanded an expedition against the Haytians in the war of 1846-48, he served under me as a major, commanding some troops from San Cristoval; he was a pretty able officer, in my judgment, for his position, but he is not a man of sufficient character and force to succeed in his present undertaking; if annexation were to take place, he would stop at once; the mere raising of the American flag would finish him.

Q. What crops can you raise on the land here?—A. A great variety; the land around here is exceedingly fertile; it is best right along the water-courses; not that it is more fertile than other land, but more convenient; for it is all rich to the very tops of the mountains; we can raise a great many things; in my yard there before you, which you can see from where you sit, I have raised Irish potatoes. The air is cool and pleasant, quite cool for a tropical country, and men can work like they do in your country. We now raise a great deal of sugar about here, some cotton, a good deal of coffee, plantains



in quantities, as the plantain is the principal food; so too of sweet potatoes and yucca, yams; tobacco does well here; so does corn, rice, cabbages—there are very good cabbages here—radishes, celery, carrots, lettuce, cacao, figs; there is a fig-tree now in my yard; we have plenty of tomatoes; they are so common that we do not sell them; bananas, water-cresses, cucumbers, both large and small kinds; pine-apples—not many now; beans, peas of every sort; chiccory, lemons, three kinds of oranges; apples would grow here if they were tried, I think, because I have often eaten apples grown on land of the same character and elevation in Hayti, but apples have not been tried here; there are a great many other fruits and plants besides those I have named.

Q. What are the products of your forests?—A. In the forest here around and above us, there are a great many useful woods—mahogany and lignum-vitæ, and a great deal of live-oak of excellent quality; the mahogany grows all around us here, but it is cut away for three or four leagues out; beyond that it is still growing.

Q. What is the method of measuring and of holding land here?—A. The land here is not measured by metes and bounds to each holder, but it is held in comunero, as we call it, or in common. Each one has a right to his proportion—so many “dollars”—and can use any part of the tract which is in the comunero, which may be a very large tract. If a man has five hundred dollars described in his conveyance as a cut of mahogany in a particular place in comunero, he has the right to cut off the mahogany, and nobody else has that right; but he has not the right to the land after the mahogany is cut away. This arose in a custom of getting wood out, and it has become a law. Here in the town the land is bought from the town council at \$4 for the lot or piece, and on that you can build a house, and it is yours. In this country, after a person leaves his house and land for more than a year, and a house shall be burned and the improvements disappear, another may enter upon it, and it is considered his. This is not law, but it is the custom of the country. A person coming into this country and desiring to buy a farm, can buy an improved place and have it as his own private property just as in any other country. The right to the mahogany in comunero, and the right to land in comunero, are distinct rights. I sold to Don Pedro Ricardo, a merchant of Santo Domingo, a cut of mahogany near here for \$2,000. Afterward he told me to sell him \$50 of property—that is, of land, which I call property or proprietary right. The \$2,000 gave him the mahogany, but the \$50 gave him a right or title to the land in the commune or parish, in any part of it which he found unoccupied, to farm it or use it as much as he needed. The land here is not measured, because it would cost more to measure it than the land is worth. This method of dividing land that I have described has arisen from the fact that it is not measured by metes and bounds. A person buying a right in a comunero, which includes several square leagues, can take any part or all of it that is not occupied, no matter how much it may be, provided he does not touch those already on their improved land, nor the land behind them from which they draw their necessary timber. They must be allowed to draw their timber in order to boil their sugar. He can take the land he wants, but he must occupy it—use it.

Q. How many people are there here?—A. There are about three thousand population in this community of Maniela. They furnished one hundred and fifty men, which they have just sent down to the army, and probably could send more than that many more after them if the necessity became very great. The population of the district of Bani numbers at least five thousand.

Q. Are there any mines in this vicinity?—A. Not now; there were ancient mines in this vicinity, and I have seen gold taken by the women, at Bani, from the river where they were washing clothes.

Q. What is the feeling of the people here in regard to annexation?—A. It is the desire of every one. Every person here is looking for annexation to the United States as the Jews of old waited for the coming of the Messiah. You cannot find a man who is not anxious for it. All want annexation. All say that the Americans are the people they want to be united with, and they do not want to have anything to do with the Spaniards. They do not like the English either, nor the French, but they do want the Americans. Every one thinks that the coming in of the Americans will bring about quiet and law, prosperous business, and a flourishing state of the country. It will bring in men of energy and of capital. It will bring profitable work for our poor people. It will bring Americans here who will work and who will be a good example for our people. Then the country will have peace, and the man who works can enjoy all that he makes.

Q. Do Americans ever come here?—A. Very few. I remember one very well: Lieutenant David Porter, who is now an admiral, passed through this country twenty-five years ago, and called upon me. I was then governor of Azua, and I entertained him for several days at my house.

Q. Are the people much divided in sentiment here between Baez and Cabral?—A. No; Baez is popular with every one here, and his government is supported heartily by these people.

Q. What are your duties and jurisdiction as alcalde?—A. I am judge of all cases arising among the people here in the Maniela community. I have jurisdiction in cases involving sums not exceeding \$300. In all cases involving sums exceeding \$30, the





defeated party has the right of appeal from my judgment to the high court in Santo Domingo. If \$30 or less is involved, my decision is final.

Q. Is there much sugar raised about here?—A. Yes; it is a profitable crop, or would be if the sugar could be disposed of. There are about a hundred sugar-mills—that is, cane-crushers and boiler apparatus—in this community, and there are over two hundred about Azua.

MANIELA, February 25, 1871.

Colonel ALEXANDER GUERERO states:

Question. Please to state your residence and office.—Answer. I am a resident of the town of Maniela, and am commandant of the military forces of the place.

Q. What is the military strength of this community?—A. We have just sent out one hundred and fifty men to go down, temporarily, to Azua, in order to aid in checking and driving out Cabral. I could send down two or three hundred more should it become necessary to send all the able-bodied, arms-bearing young men.

Q. What are your means of knowing the condition and character of the people here?—A. I have resided here all my life; I am intimately acquainted with them.

Q. You have listened to the statements made by General Victoria; what is your opinion in regard to their correctness, or otherwise, so far as concerns the climate, productions, resources, and character of this region and people?—A. I agree with him in his testimony on all these subjects. He says truly that every one here desires annexation. The very ground wants it and cries out for it.

JOAQUIN SAMUEL states:

Question. State your occupation.—Answer. I am an engineer; I am employed in building and repairing sugar-mills and other small machinery. I came here to Maniela about a month ago from Azua to put up an iron sugar-mill.

Q. Have you observed sugar countries elsewhere than here?—A. Yes, sir; in many parts of this island, in Cuba, Porto Rico, Louisiana, and many other places.

Q. How does the country here compare with others as a sugar-producing country?—A. This soil is one of the best, if not the very best, that I ever saw for producing sugar. The sugar raised here is better than the sugar raised in Cuba, at Havana, or any other place. The sugar is whiter and better. The molasses, too, is much whiter here than in Havana.

Q. Is there much sugar-raising going on here?—A. There are a great many little patches. I find there are over a hundred sugar-mills in this district; but it is a very small industry compared to what it might be.

Q. Do you find the people talking about annexation?—A. Yes; they are everywhere very anxious for annexation to the United States.

AZUA, February 23, 1871.

ANTOINE JOSEPH LEMERCIER DU QUESNAY states:

Question. Please state your residence and place of nativity.—Answer. I live here in Azua, and have lived here since 1862. I arrived in Santo Domingo in 1861, and came over here in May, 1862. I am a native of Jamaica.

Q. What has been your opportunity of becoming acquainted with the sentiments of the people around here in this country?—A. I have managed here to be of service to the people. I am a schoolmaster, and make my bread by teaching. I know the people around here, generally, because I have a chance of going to every house, for the schoolmaster here visits about. Besides, I understand a little of medicine, and I doctor them when they are too poor to pay a doctor.

Q. What are the sentiments of the people in this country in regard to President Baez?—A. Judging the country throughout, I believe the greater part of them are in his favor; but taking the people from Santo Domingo City this way, I know that they live only for Baez—that is, they believe in him as if he was God Almighty. They want him and nobody else but him.

Q. What are their sentiments in regard to being annexed to the United States as a territory?—A. They believe the annexation will be of great benefit to them.

Q. Why?—A. From what I can ascertain, their hopes of benefiting themselves, and of getting out of the misery and trouble they are in, run in that direction. I believe that is the principal point. They have the expectation of being able then to work their lands in quiet, and obtain what they have not had until very lately.

Q. Is that sentiment pretty general here?—A. I believe it is. Last year the governor of the place, General Valentine Baez, managed to get troops from other places, when anything was said about Cabral coming in, in order to let his people here, who had suffered so much, work at their lands a little. They found a great benefit from it, and they know the advantages of peace.

Q. How often does Cabral make inroads here and stir up commotion and trouble?—





A. I have not taken it down, but I believe Cabral has two or three times made attempts, but we have never had a chance of even seeing his face.

Q. You have seen other West India islands; how does this compare with others in regard to soil, productions, and climate?—A. I call this better than the other islands. It has been lying fallow for want of hands and development a long time. This place is put down as having three corn-crops a year. According to history, this was, in times by-gone, called the Pearl of the Antilles.

DAMION ORTEZ, first officer of the custom-house, states:

Question. What is the amount of customs receipts at this port per annum?—Answer. About \$5,000.

Q. What is the value of imports and exports?—A. We make returns to the government every quarter; I do not know the value of the exports.

Q. How do the people stand on the question of annexation, so far as you know?—A. They are all in favor of it; first, because it will protect them from the Haytians, and give them an opportunity to work. I know no one here who is opposed to it.

Q. Do any of the people here favor Cabral?—A. I do not believe he has a sympathizer here; his army consists of about five or six hundred men; he has been endeavoring to take Azua for four or five years, but he has never come more than half-way; when he is whipped, he retires to the frontier. The government is too poor to support an army in the mountains, and he returns when our troops come home.

Judge JUAN ELIAS SALAZAR states:

Question. What is your occupation, sir?—Answer. I am the judge of court of first instance in this district.

Q. Do you know the sentiment of the people here in regard to annexation?—A. Yes, sir. The people here feel that it is impossible to sustain themselves any longer as an independent power, and in order to escape war and bloodshed they desire annexation to the United States as their only salvation. I do not know any one who is opposed to it.

Q. Are there no Cabral men here?—A. No. Cabral has three small villages. He is assisted by Hayti.

Q. What is the population of those towns?—A. I do not think it is more than five or six thousand.

Q. How long have you been a judge?—A. For the last four years. Crime is very rare here, and there is very little litigation.

Q. What do you think of the health of this place?—A. Azua is regarded as remarkably salubrious.

Q. What is the character of the people for industry?—A. The people are very industrious, but they are dragged away from their farms by constant wars. The greater number of the people here are married.

General CARLOS B. BAEZ states:

Question. What is the extent of the country through which Cabral makes his raids?—Answer. Cabral claims from the Haytian line to the river Neybo.

Q. Is that a thickly-settled country?—A. The land is fertile, but the population is very scant. I do not know the exact number of people there, but he has about five or six hundred men under his command.

Q. Does Cabral use force to bring out his men?—A. Yes. The man who does not respond to the call is shot.

Q. It is said that he captures and carries off women and children in his raids. Is that true?—A. It is perfectly true. It happened only a few days ago at a place called Las Palmas.

Q. What are Cabral's resources?—A. In the first place the assistance which Hayti gives him; and, in the second, his depredations and raids.

Q. How does he gather a force together in time of danger?—A. By firing a gun, and, if that is not responded to, he sends men into the country to bring the people in.

Q. What proportion of the inhabitants in Cabral's district are white?—A. About one-half.

Q. There is a considerable number of black people you say; do they sympathize with the Haytians, and desire to be under the Haytian rule?—A. No, they do not like Hayti.

Q. How many men have you under your command in the province of Azua?—A. About fifteen hundred.

Q. Why are you obliged to have so many men under arms?—A. Because we are menaced by Cabral and Hayti.

ELIAS DE LA CRUZ, alcalde, states:

Question. How old are you, sir?—Answer. Forty-two years of age.



Q. What is your occupation?—A. I am alcalde.

Q. Please state what you know about Cabral.—A. I am acquainted with Cabral, but I cannot say positively where he resides now. I do not think he has more than one thousand people in his district. He occasionally takes some of our people prisoners and shoots every man of prominence who falls into his hands.

Q. How did he get Salnave into his possession?—A. He lay in ambush for him, overpowered him, and delivered him to the Haytians. The people here believe that he was paid for it.

RAPHAEL GARRIDO SOSA, notary public and secretary to the council, states :

Question. How long have you lived in Azua?—Answer. Five years; I am a Dominican by birth.

Q. How extensively are you acquainted with the opinions of the people here on the subject of annexation?—A. I have excellent opportunities of knowing the popular sentiment from my position, &c., and I think the people are all in favor of annexation. I know no one who is against it. We want a government that will give us peace and protect us from the Haytians.

Q. Are the people here anxious to be educated or not?—A. They all desire instruction very much.

Q. What proportion of the grown-up people can read and write?—A. There are a good many who can read and write; the population of this town is about two thousand; the population of the province of Azua (the city not included) is about five thousand. As a general thing every one in the city can read.

Q. Are you acquainted with Cabral?—A. Yes, personally, but I do not know the population of his district or the force he has under him.

Q. Do you know how many votes were cast here for annexation to the United States?—A. I can give you the exact number from the record which I keep.

M. Sosa subsequently gave a certificate of the vote on annexation to the commission, of which the following is a copy :

#### AYUNTAMIENTO DE AZUA.

The undersigned, secretary of the common council, certifies that the number of men who gave their votes in this commune in favor of annexation to the United States amounted to 1,256, as appears on the books in my charge.

RAPHAEL GARRIDO SOSA.

FEBRUARY 23, 1871.

EVARISTO AYBAR, judge advocate, states :

Question. How long have you lived in this country?—Answer. Three years; I am a native of the island.

Q. Do you know the sentiment of the people here on the subject of annexation?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is it?—A. They clamor for it.

Q. Do you know of anybody against it anywhere?—A. No.

Q. Do you know Mr. Cabral?—A. Yes, very well.

Q. What part of the country has he?—A. Two or three small villages.

Q. What are their names?—A. Neybo, Las Matas, San Juan; the population of these villages is between two and six thousand.

Q. How many men has he under his command?—A. The largest number he was ever known to have was five or six hundred.

Q. What countrymen are they?—A. A good many of them are Haytians. I have no idea where Cabral is now.

Q. You are judge advocate in the army; what are the general military offenses?—A. Treason.

Q. What is the punishment for that offense?—A. Death by shooting.

Q. Are your soldiers generally orderly?—A. Considering the little discipline that we have, they are very good.

Q. How long do you keep them under arms when they are called out?—A. Long or short, according to the circumstances. They have been called five or six times since the beginning of the Cabral disturbances. The government has a small standing army. If Cabral were out of the way ten men in every town, to act as a sort of police, would be sufficient to preserve the peace. The soldiers are paid ten cents per day while they are in the field; five cents in silver, and a pound of meat worth five more. There are about two thousand soldiers in Azua at the present time.

TELESFORO OBJO, merchant, states :

Question. How long have you resided here, sir?—Answer. I was born in Santo Domingo, and have been forty years in Azua. All the people here without a single excep-



tion are in favor of annexation to the United States, because they desire peace and want to see an end to war and bloodshed:

Q. Are you acquainted with Cabral?—A. I know him very well. He is a man without much education, who, simply because he displayed some valor, was made a general.

Q. What is the extent of the territory over which he rules, and its population?—A. He has got two or three small towns, but the population has for the most part left them and come here. He is assisted by Hayti to a large extent. The Dominicans have driven him repeatedly across the Haytian border, but the government is too poor to maintain an army there, and he returns as soon as our forces retire.

Q. What is the character of the people here?—A. They are a laborious, industrious people; but they are called away from their farms every few weeks to repel threatened attacks of Cabral and the Haytians.

Q. Is this a healthy place?—A. Yes, sir. Invalids come here from other portions of Santo Domingo to recruit their health.

Q. What kind of timber have you here?—A. Various kinds; logwood, satin wood, oak, &c.

Has it all been cut down?—A. Not at all. We have not been able to get it out for want of transportation.

*AZUA, February 26, 1871.*

General **JUAN SANTANA** states:

I am a native of Azua; seventy years of age; have served twenty-eight years. I was captured after being wounded. I was taken prisoner and taken to San Juan. This battle occurred on the 9th of May last. I remained a prisoner four months. The forces of Baez attacked San Juan. Cabral's forces were routed and I was released. Cabral's force amounted to some one hundred and ten men when the battle took place in which I was taken prisoner. Among them were four or five exiles; the rest were people from the frontiers. When the forces of Baez released me, Cabral had about fifty men and the Haytian General Cambien; his troops were all Haytians. The troops of Cabral receive supplies and arms and ammunition from San Marcos. I have seen muskets brought to San Juan from San Marcos for Cabral. During the time I was a prisoner San Juan was mostly occupied by Haytians.

**CELESTINO PEREZ** states:

I reside in Las Cortaderas; am by occupation a cultivator; thirty-seven years of age. On Monday, the 20th instant, a force of Cabral made a descent on the place and pillaged it, carrying off a number of women and children, among them my wife. Cabral's force was of about five hundred men. After he had captured his prisoners all the spoils they could not carry off were collected in the houses and set fire to. I fled to the woods in company with some others, and with great difficulty arrived at this place. I suppose that the women and children carried off by Cabral were taken to San Juan. Judging from the appearance of Cabral's troops I believe them to be "Cacos."

**JULIANA LOPEZ** states:

I am twenty-eight years of age. On Monday, the 20th instant, some troops of Cabral (cannot tell the number, but a great many, by their appearance, were "Cacos") made a descent on Las Cortaderas. The men were unable to offer any resistance and fled to the woods. Cabral and his troops carried off my mother and two children and two women called Juana de Velasquez, Gregoria de Mata, and two children. Juana de Velasquez tried to escape, was pursued, and severely wounded with a machete before she was captured. After they had taken all the spoil they could carry they collected the rest in the houses and set fire to them. The houses were entirely destroyed. I was left entirely destitute.

**FRANCISCO DE LA CRUZ** states:

I am forty years of age; am a cultivator; reside at Las Cortaderas. On Monday, 20th instant, some of Cabral's people attacked Las Cortaderas. The men were unarmed and unable to resist. My brother was killed while trying to make his escape; his wife was carried off. The woman Juana Gomez and Maria La O. Bantieta and three children were also carried off with several other women and children. The attacking force might have been from three hundred to four hundred men. Everything we possessed was taken from us. The spoils that could not be carried away were burned in the houses.

**AMELIA RODRIGUEZ** states:

I am sixteen years of age. On the same day my mother, two brothers, and one sister were carried off by Cabral's men.



**LORETO PEREZ states:**

I am fifty-eight years of age; a cultivator; a native of Azua, residing at Cortaderas. On Monday, the 20th instant, at about 5 o'clock, the families residing at Las Cortaderas were surprised and attacked by a party of Cabral's men, numbering from four hundred to five hundred. The inhabitants tried to make their escape from them, but a great many women and children were unable to do so. My wife and two daughters were captured and carried off; also Inez Gomez and one child; Isabel Lasala and two children; Maria de Las Nieves and three children; Juliana Feliz and four children; Antolina Ruiz, Victoria Perez and four children; and Antonia Aybar. After these persons were carried off a party remained behind and collected all the property in the houses and set fire to them. Everything was destroyed. Cabral's force may have been from three hundred to four hundred men; the greater part I knew to be "Cacos."

**EUGENIO RAMIRES states:**

I was born in Neyba; am fifty-six years of age; was fighting for Baez at the commencement of the revolution; was wounded and taken prisoner by Cabral's men; was sent by Cabral to Miravale to the Haytians; was sent to Caobas to live; was released by the kindness of Anton Coloso, Haytian general, in October. Since the month of October I heard that all Dominicans in Haytian territory must go out and aid Cabral. I went to the general of Hayti and inquired if true. I was told it was an order of the President of Hayti, and that not only Dominicans, but Haytians, must go out to cover Cabral's rear. I then escaped and came to Baez. I came from San Juan as a spy day before yesterday. San Juan was entirely occupied by Haytians. Oscar Bubé, Haytian general, is with Cabral. About eight hundred Dominicans form Cabral's vanguard; the Dominicans form the rear. José, minister of Nisage Saget, was with a commission in San Juan; General Colosa, General Saley, division, and eleven or twelve Haytian generals. All food and war materials are brought from Hayti. I was compelled by force to carry arms from San Marcos, in Haytian territory, to Casiman, near La Matas, in Dominican territory, to Cabral. In the month of December they wished to compel me to carry arms; I then escaped, and have been trying to make my way here since. When Cabral lost the action at San Juan last year he fled to Caobas, and wished to retire altogether, but Nissage told him not to pay attention to rumors of Americans, but to continue, telling him that he would give him money, provisions, men, and arms, and that if he had listened to rumors he would not have defeated Salnave and become President.

Names of men (Dominicans) who were compelled to carry provisions, and had seen balls, flour, muskets, from San Marcos: Antolina Ruiz, Victoria Perez, four children, Antonia Aybar and family, (one cattle, and nine asses;) Eusebio Congo, native of Bani; T. Trinino, native of Caobas; Don, native of Caobas. Rubesindo Ramirez had to give his horse to transport arms. Juan de Dios Sanchez also had to give his horse; Nicolas Sanchez, idem; Gregorio Valensuelo, ditto.

**Colonel PAUL FELS states:**

I am a tailor by trade. I was born at Cape Haytian, and was a colonel in the body-guard of President Salnave, of Hayti. After Salnave's capture by Cabral, I was taken prisoner by Cabral and detained eleven months at Sebasqua. At the end of that time I escaped to Azua, and accepted service under the Dominican flag. While I was at San Juan, the prisoner of Cabral, I continually saw arms and munitions of war coming from Hayti; I saw arms and supplies from Hayti in March last. I pray God that annexation to the United States may take place in spite of Cabral or Saget, that I may return to my wife and children.

**THEODORE SALOMON, a Dominican negro, states:**

I am a shoemaker by trade; I came in with Salnave's army; lived in the woods for ten days, and was directed to the Dominican lines by a woman, where I have since remained, and taken service as a soldier.

**PEDRO ALLAGRATIA CUELLO states:**

I am a Dominican; nineteen years of age. While I was on my father's plantation at Cachon de Hato Vijo, in December, 1870, gathering food for my mother, I was made a prisoner by a general of the Cacos and taken to San Juan. While at San Juan I saw fifty muskets brought from Hayti, by way of the Banica road, to Cabral. I was taken from San Juan to Neyba. At the latter place they gave me a musket, and told me that I should march with them to fight against the Dominican government. I consented, but resolved to escape the first opportunity. When they arrived at a place called Guanaratuá they discharged their muskets to frighten away the scouts of this government. I escaped on Saturday last and got to the lines of General Baez, to whom I gave up my musket. General Baez returned the musket, and told me to remain with him.



[Cuella produced the musket, which he states was given him by Cabral at San Juan. At the request of Dr. Howe, it was given to the commission by President Baez. It has the letter H. stamped on the stock.]

FLERIMO LOUIS states:

I am a Haytian; fifty-four years of age. Nisage, in January last, sent out a commissioner to gather cattle to be sent to Cabral. I saw the cattle sent to Cabral. On the 21st of January Nisage dispatched agents from Port au Prince to recruit for Cabral. Some of the people refused to go, and fled to the woods; others were arrested and sent to Cabral's lines. Last December Nisage issued a proclamation, in which he stated that Baez was making arrangements to sell his country to the Americans, and called on the Haytians to protest against it.

PORT AU PRINCE, *March 9, 1871.*

T. VILLENUEVA, examined by Mr. White:

Question. Please state your age and occupation.—Answer. I am thirty-four years old, and a tailor. I left Puerto Plata on the first of May, 1870. I headed a movement against Baez.

Q. Why?—A. A paper was presented to us which we were asked to sign. They told us that it was an alliance that was contemplated, and not absolute annexation. When we found out what was actually intended, we made a revolution.

Q. What took place in that revolution?—A. It was discovered; we were arrested and sent to Santo Domingo City. I was then expelled to New Grenada.

Q. Why did you come from New Grenada here?—A. I first went to Curaçoa, paying my own passage, which was \$22. I then came to Jacmel, the fare to which was \$12, and from Jacmel here, which was \$6 more.

Q. How did you raise the money to pay your expenses?—A. I knew how to work.

Q. Do you hope to join Cabral?—A. Yes. There are several of us here who are endeavoring to save money enough to pay our passage to his lines, since we cannot cross the Haytian frontier to him.

RAPHAEL M. LOVELACE, examined through an interpreter by Mr. WHITE:

Question. How old are you?—Answer. Nineteen years.

Q. What is your occupation?—A. A soldier. I was formerly secretary to Baron de Montalembert.

Q. When did you leave Santo Domingo?—A. On the 27th of December, 1870. I signed in favor of annexation, although I was opposed to it, because I did not wish to set an example of insubordination. General Montalembert was at first in favor of annexation, but I afterward succeeded in convincing him that it was all wrong and induced him to join in a movement against Baez. Montalembert and some others were put in prison, where he still remains. Baez at first determined to shoot him, but the feeling of the people was against so extreme a measure.

Q. How did you get away?—A. I was released at the request of my brother, M. Lovelace, who is a general under Baez. After my release I entered into another conspiracy against Baez and was again arrested, during the night, in the house of a girl who had compromised herself with me. I was taken before the governor and accused of having been in the house of one who was an enemy to the government. They charged that I had opposed the policy of annexation after having assented to it. I stated that my sentiments were patriotic according to the teachings of the revolution. They then gave me my passports and compelled me to leave immediately on a schooner for Curaçoa. I do not know who paid my passage.

By Mr. HOWE:

Q. Have you tried to join Cabral, to reach him from this point?—A. No; I never tried it, because they told me that there was no communication between Hayti and Cabral's country.

AUGUSTE GARCIA, examined by Mr. WHITE:

Question. Please state your age and occupation.—Answer. I am twenty-four years of age and engaged in commerce.

Q. Where were you born?—A. In Santo Domingo City; I was obliged to leave there on the 13th of January, because I voted against annexation.

Q. How did they drive you out of the country?—A. My passports were given to me.

Q. When?—A. Eight months after the vote was taken.

Q. Were there any other charges against you?—A. President Baez told me himself that it was not annexation but protection that was meant, and as soon as I became convinced that annexation was really intended, I took part in a revolutionary movement against the Baez government. Three companies entered into this movement.





By Mr. Howe :

Q. Were you beaten cruelly ?—A. No.

A. What did they do with the others ?—A. Seventy were put in prison and forty were sent away. I was sent to St. Thomas, from which place I came to this city.

Q. Had you any intention of joining Cabral ?—A. Yes; but I was told here that I could not cross the frontier. I paid my own passage from St. Thomas to this place.

Q. How much did you pay ?—A. Fifteen dollars.

Q. How did you come ?—A. On the English steamer Neva.

ANGEL MARIA CAMINERO examined by Mr. WHITE :

Question. What is your age ?—Answer. Sixteen years. I was born in Santo Domingo City, and left there on the 13th of January last. I was a refugee at the Italian consulate or four months.

Q. Who was the consul ?—A. Mr. Cambiaso. I am known in Santo Domingo by everybody.

Q. Why were you a refugee there ?—A. I was arrested at Puerto Plata because I would not consent to annexation to the United States, and was put on board the Tybee and brought to Santo Domingo City.

Q. Did not the captain of the Tybee know you were a prisoner ?—A. No. I paid half of my own passage. When we arrived at Santo Domingo I ran away and took refuge in the house of the Italian consul.

Q. Were there any other refugees there ?—A. Yes; General Sandoval from Los Llanos; he was offered his liberty if he would vote for annexation.

By Mr. HOWE :

Q. How did you get away from Santo Domingo ?—A. The government gave me my passport.

Q. Do you know what became of General Sandoval ?—A. No.

By Mr. WHITE :

Q. With whom did you come around on the Tybee ?—A. With Colonel Carlos Martinez.

Q. Why did you not tell the captain of the ship that you were a prisoner ?—A. I told the supercargo of the vessel; I do not remember his name.

By Mr. HOWE :

Q. Were you taken out of the steamer, or did you leave of your own accord ?—A. When I arrived there Colonel Martinez was a little drunk and I got away.

Q. Did you not know that no one could take you from that American ship ?—A. Yes; but as the American consul at Santo Domingo had placed guards at his gate with orders not to give an asylum, I was afraid.

Q. Who told you that ?—A. The consul's servant.

By Mr. WHITE :

Q. Where did you see the servant ?—A. The same man told me that he was there as a guard.

*Statement of Mr. ——— to Mr. White and Mr. Howe.*

PORT AU PRINCE, HAYTI, March 9, 1871.

I am a foreigner, and have lived here thirty-two years. I have good reason to believe that munitions of war and even troops are sent across the Haytian frontier by the Haytian government; that the Haytian officials compel both Dominicans and Haytians to assist Cabral; that Cabral's army is composed of Haytians and Dominicans. Cabral has assured the Haytians that he can bring Dominica under the Haytian flag. I know that Cabral has not more than three or four hundred followers. I knew Cabral in Santo Domingo, and I was also intimate with the French consul. I think that the French consul contrived to defeat Cabral's plan of annexing Santo Domingo to the United States at that time.

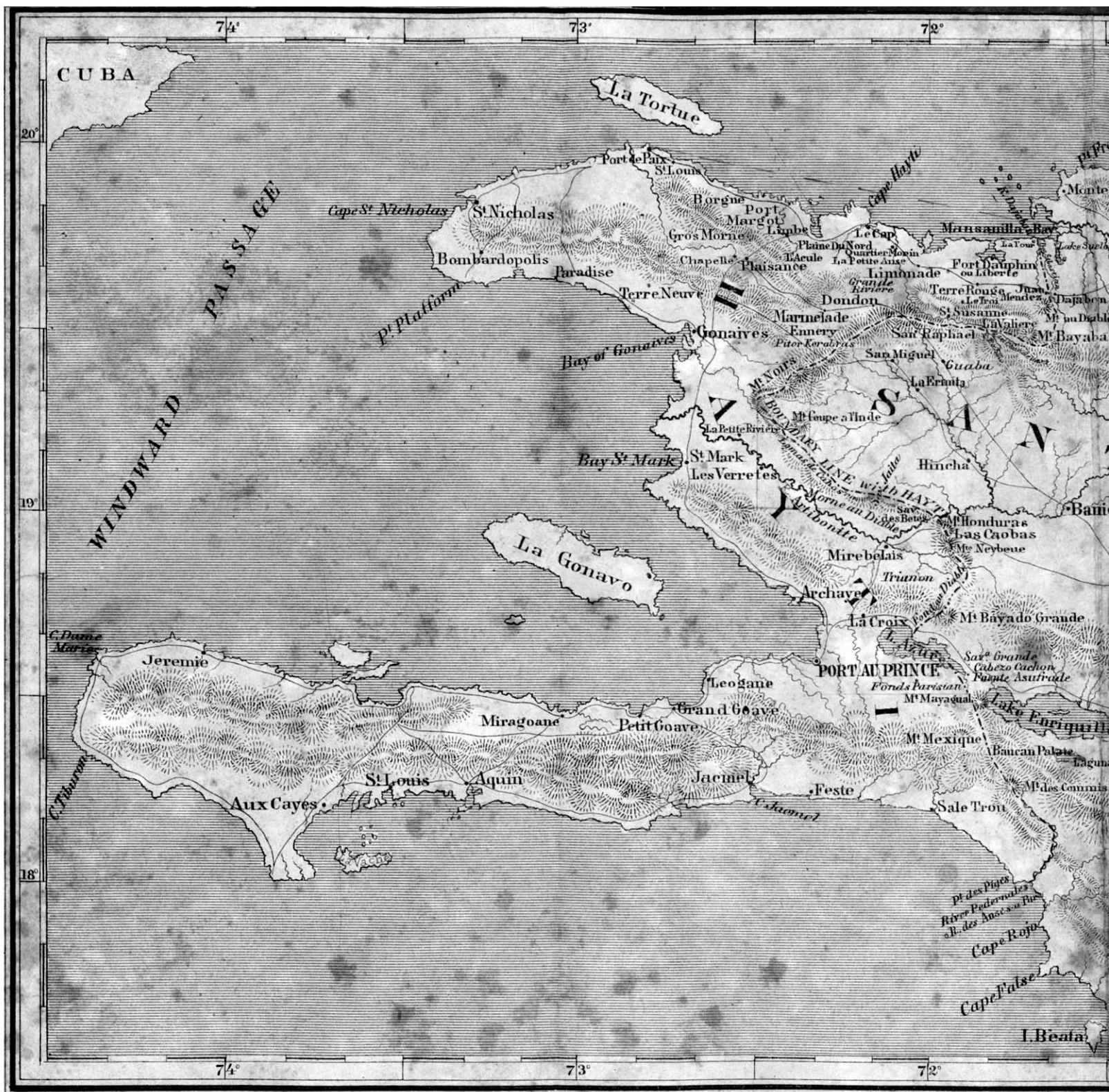
Question. Are you quite sure that Cabral desired annexation to the United States ?—Answer. I am sure that it was the French consul who defeated Cabral's plan for the leasing of Samana to the United States. Cabral is a man without head, but a good man. Luperon is a brutal man. I have known him to shoot a man; to rob the treasury and to send the money to his wife.

Q. Where, in your opinion, is the Journal of the Revolution, Cabral's paper, printed ? In San Juan ?—A. No. There is only one printing-press in the republic, and that is at Santo Domingo. The paper is printed here in Port au Prince. There is an annexation party in Hayti, and by a turn of circumstances it may become very strong.

Q. Why is annexation so violently opposed here ?—A. They who oppose annexation in Hayti are government employés. The people do not care very much about it; their patriotism is extinct.









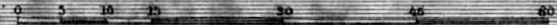
# MAP of the Island of SANTO DOMINGO

Compiled from the large official map published in 1858  
by order of the President of the Dominican Republic,  
under the supervision of M. Mendes,  
an officer in the French Corps of Engineers, and Knight  
of the Imperial Order of the Legion of Honor.

Proyecto de Digitalización  
Academia Dominicana de la Historia



SCALE OF ENGLISH STATUTE MILES.





*Proyecto de Digitalización*  
Academia Dominicana de la Historia



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