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expended could not be better applied to the interests of Ireland.

THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY.

Mr. MAGUIRE asked the First Lord of the Treasury in what condition are our relations, diplomatic and otherwise, with the republic of Paraguay, more especially in reference to the recent dispute respecting the imprisonment, and subsequent liberation, of an alleged British subject, named Canstatt, by the Paraguayan Government. Also, whether, in consequence of the re-admission of the State of Buenos Ayres into the Argentine Confederation, her Majesty's Envoy will again reside in the city of Buenos Ayres, the commercial capital of the Confederation, instead of in the city of Parana, as at present?

Lord PALMERSTON said that it was quite true that the diplomatic relations between this country and Paraguay had been suspended in consequence of the arrest and cruel imprisonment of Mr. Canstatt, who was detained for a considerable time in prison, and was at last released. His release was owing to an expressed intention of a British cruiser that was in the River Plate to seize and detain a Paraguay vessel which was at Buenos Ayres. That expression, however, did not succeed, for the vessel got up the river, but that manifestation had the effect of inducing the Paraguay Government to release Mr. Canstatt. A demand was made upon the Paraguay Government for compensation to Mr. Canstatt; but that being refused, diplomatic relations with Paraguay had been suspended, and would not be resumed until the Paraguay Government should make a proper compensation to Mr. Canstatt. As to the other question of the hon. gentleman, he had to state, that on the province of Buenos Ayres being separated from the Argentine Confederation, the British mission was established at Parana, but lately correspondence had taken place which he believed would lead to a reunion with the Confederation. Until that settlement was arranged the British mission would remain at Parana. What would take place afterwards would entirely rest upon what was done between the province of Buenos Ayres and the Argentine Confederation.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH IRELAND.

Mr. SCULLY asked the Under Secretary to the Treasury when the new arrangements will commence for facilitating the postal and passenger communication between London and Dublin.

Mr. LAING said the commencement of the

AWARD OF THE AMERICAN PARAGUAY
COMMISSION IN FAVOUR OF PRESIDENT
LOPEZ.

[FROM THE LIVERPOOL DAILY POST.]

THE reply of Lord Palmerston to the question put by Mr. Maguire, a few days before the rising of Parliament, respecting the state of our relations with the Republic of Paraguay, affords another instance of the difference [which the Premier is accustomed to make in his manner of dealing with powerful States and those comparatively weak. Canstatt, a pretended British subject, but in reality a Monte Videan citizen, as he himself before his detection repeatedly declared, convicted of conspiring to assassinate President Lopez and his family, and owing his life at this moment to the President's clemency, is to be backed in his claim against the Government of Paraguay for compensation for his imprisonment! A striking illustration has, in the meantime, been just afforded of the danger incurred by a Government when it acts hastily upon the representations of over-zealous agents at a distance. Commissioners were appointed by the Government of the United States and of Paraguay, under the recent treaty between the two republics, to settle the claims of an American company against President Lopez, and their award has just been made. The company was organised in 1852, with a view to the development of the resources of Paraguay, and a Mr. Hopkins, who had recently been appointed American Consul at Asuncion, was entrusted with the management of the enterprise. The most favourable concessions were made by the Paraguayan Government, and several branches of industry, such as the sawing of lumber and the manufacture of tobacco were undertaken with a fair promise of success. Capital being wanted to enable the company to carry on their operations more advantageously, \$10,000 were advanced by President Lopez, without security, though it was afterwards alleged that he had crushed the enterprise through jealousy of foreigners. Mr. Hopkins, however, was not the right man for his place, and by his overbearing manners and encroaching propensities, managed to create an unenviable reputation among his neighbours, and finally to embroil himself with the Government, towards whom he acted with inconceivable ingratitude and insolence. He even claimed as his own some land on which a barracks stood, which he had been allowed temporarily to occupy. At length his behaviour grew so intolerable that President Lopez determined to withdraw the concessions unless another manager was appointed, and Mr. Hopkins had his *exequator* as Consul withdrawn. He then declared the Paraguayan Government guilty of a breach of faith, and abandoning the undertaking, applied to his Government for redress. Having neglected the notice of the Paraguayan Government to remove the property of the company, it was sold after his departure, and the proceeds placed at his disposal. President Lopez not only did not reserve enough to repay himself the liberal loan he had made, but even made an offer of \$250,000 to the company, in order to avoid, if possible, any misunderstanding with the Government of the United States. The company claimed \$400,000, which President Lopez refused to pay; and hence the costly and useless naval expedition to Asuncion, which, owing to the judicious management of the American Commissioners who accompanied it, resulted in a treaty of commerce, without a shot having been fired. The claims of the Hopkins Company were referred to arbitration, being first swelled so nearly five times their original amount, by charging at full value for steamers, machinery, &c., rendered useless, by the forfeiture of their concessions, and for a steamer and its cargo which were lost, thousands of miles away, at the mouth of the Amazon! The principal witnesses examined by the Commissioners were American citizens, familiar with the operations of the company, of which many of them were members. The *New York Times*, a journal not at all likely to adopt views unfavourable to the *prestige* of the United States, unless they are based on the strictest justice, says:—"The award may, in fact, be said to proceed upon the showing of the claimants themselves. Their case was its own refutation. Out of their own mouths they are condemned." The award of the Commissioners was to the effect that the claimants had "not proved or established any right to damages upon their claim against the Government of the Republic of Paraguay; and that, upon the proofs aforesaid, the said Government is not responsible to the said company in any damages or pecuniary compensation whatever." The journal just quoted speaks of it as "an act of international justice, which will redound infinitely more to the credit of the country than all the honours harvested by the imposing folly of the Paraguay expedition." Lord Palmerston may read in these words the judgment that will be passed upon any attempt he may make to coerce Paraguay into awarding compensation to Canstatt for his imprisonment at Asuncion. The British Government, like the American, acted too hastily upon the representation of its agent, and, from all that has hitherto transpired, appears to have placed itself as much in the wrong. However, the parallel will not, we suppose, be quite followed up by putting this country to the expense of an expedition to Paraguay, with a costly mission to accompany it, after the precedent of Lord Elgin's mission to China. The claims of Canstatt are at least as untenable as those of Mr. Hopkins, and any attempt to enforce them must necessarily, therefore, involve a sacrifice of the national dignity and the requirements of justice, the very qualities which Lord Palmerston himself called upon Paraguay to exhibit. It is to be observed that Senor Jose Berges, the Paraguayan Minister to the States, has conducted the negotiations in a manner that commanded the greatest admiration and respect in Washington; and there cannot be a doubt that the same also would be the case in this country had Senor Calvo, the Paraguayan Minister accredited to England and France, and who has been received with such cordiality at the Tuileries, been also received at the Court of St. James', and enabled to afford the needful explanations respecting the existing unfortunate misunderstanding.