

OUR MEXICAN RELATIONS. We are waiting to be informed what Mexico is going to do about it—we mean about Col. McKenzie's raid. The Mexican Minister, it is true, has not yet called the attention of our Government to the alleged violation of treaty stipulations, but we have been solemnly informed by a Matamoras journal, which is understood to have a semi-official authority, that the act was one of "aggression." Furthermore, this organ exhorts the Mexican Republic to stand up for its rights, and demand immediate reparation. Now, let us understand ourselves. The Mexican authorities were notified some time ago that unless they stopped the marauding parties, the United States Government would take the punishment of the Indians into its own hands. The Mexicans responded that they must refuse permission to our Government to send troops into Mexico to bring Indians back to Texas, but expressed a willingness to return the Indians whenever the latter signified any desire to return. To this answer the Mexicans were again informed that the United States Government was determined to stop the raids at all hazards, and that if they were continued, troops would pursue the guilty parties until captured, even if it took them into the interior of Mexico. Here was fair notice. The Mexican authorities had ample warning, if they would not stop these raids upon our border, that we would; that if they were unable to assert their own authority against these marauders, we would have to interfere for our own protection. And this is just what our Government has done. Mexico may as well understand at once, that while we have no desire to violate its Territory, yet we have borne the raids and robberies and outrages of its inhabitants, until patience has ceased to be a virtue, and henceforth, if the Mexican authorities cannot we will apply the proper remedy. A government that is too weak to assert itself, is not entitled to a very great amount of consideration. Indeed it is almost next to useless to enter into treaty stipulations with such a nation. But the Matamoras paper further persists in "fearing" that the action of Col. McKenzie will lead to hostilities. Very well, then so be it. Indeed, hostilities, if Mexico wants them will not be such a bad thing for us after all. A war on our frontier would "in less than no time" lead to cutting off another slice for the purpose of rectifying and strengthening our boundary. If Mexico insists upon it and as our great mission is to "extend the blessings of freedom and equal rights," we would not hesitate very long about taking under our protection the States of Nuevo Leon, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Sonora, Lower California, and the Northern end of Durango. There is no doubt that a healthy and an energetic mixture Yankee population in those effete and decaying States would be a good thing on general principles, if not otherwise. If we cannot have the international comity with Mexico which is recognized by the law of nations, we must at least defend ourselves from Mexican raiders; and if Mexico chooses to be offended and go to war of course that government will have to take the consequences. Annexation may be the only effectual remedy, after all. And then, you know, "Manifest Destiny."

THE ORIGIN OF MOUNTAINS. Professor James D. Dana contributes to the "American Journal of Science and Arts" a very learned treatise on some results of the earth's contraction from cooling, including a discussion of the origin of mountains and the nature of the earth's interior. In speaking of the kinds and structure of mountains, he draws a hitherto neglected distinction between: 1. A simple or individual mountain range of mass, which is the result of one process of evolution, and which may be distinguished as a monogenetic range, being one in genesis; and 2. A composite or polygenetic range or chain made up of two or more monogenetic ranges combined. Appalachian chain

the mountain region along the Atlantic border of North America—is a polygenetic chain, and consists of several other ranges, principal among which are: the Green Mountains, the Alleghenies, and the Highland, including the Blue Ridge and Adirondacks. Of these, the first was completed essentially after the lower silurian era, the second immediately after the carboniferous era, and the third are pre-silurian in formation. Mountain-making is shown to be very slow work. After the beginning of the primordial, the first period of disturbance of North America of special note was that at the close of the lower silurian, when the Green Mountains were finished.—This interval between the beginning of the primordial and the metamorphism of the above range was at least 10,000,000 years. The next epoch of great disturbance in the same Appalachian region was that at the close of the carboniferous era, in which the Alleghenies were folded up; and, altogether, it is stated that the Appalachians were at least 35,000,000 years in making. The displacements of the Connecticut river sandstone and the accompanying igneous eruptions, which occurred before the cretaceous era, took place for some 7,000,000 years after the Appalachian revolution. Thus it is demonstrated that the atteral pressure resulting from the earth's contraction required an exceedingly long era in order to accumulate force sufficient to produce a general yielding and plication or displacements of the beds, and to start off a new range of prominent elevations over the earth's crust.—Scientific American.

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