# ERTISER EXPRESS

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tween Spain and the allied South American Republics, has been inaugurated in Washington, under the auspices of the United States. Pursuant to the recommendation contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 17th of December, 1869, the executive department of the government offered its friendly offices for the promotion of peace and harmony between Spain and the allied Republics. Hesitations and obstacles occurred to the acceptance of the offer. Ultimately, however, a conference was arranged and was opened in this city on the 20th of October last, at which I authorized the Secretary of State to preside. It was attended by the Ministers of Spain, Peru, Chili and Ecuador in consequence of the absence of a representative from Bolivia, the Conference was adjourned until the attendance of a Plenipotentiary from that Republic could be secured or other measures adopted towards compassing its object. The allied and other Republics of Spanish origin on this continent may see in this fact a new proof of our sincere interest in their welfare; of our desire to see them blessed with good government capable of maintaining order and preserving their respective territorial integrity, and of our sincere wish to extend our own commercial and social relations with them. The time is not probably far distant, when in the natural course of events, the European political connection with this continent will cease. Our policy should be shaped in view of this probability, so as to ally the commercial interests of the Spanish American States more closely to our own, and thus give the United States all the promptness and all the advantage which Mr. Monroe, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Clay contemplated when they proposed to join in the Congress of Panama.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the Republic of San Domingo to the United States, failed to gain the requisite two-thirds vote of the Senate. I was thoroughly convinced then that the best interests of this country, commercially and economically, demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I now firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of accepting, as a part of its territory, the Island of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by European nations.

In the Bay of Panama a large commercial city will spring up, to which we will be tributary, without receiving corresponding benefits. The folly of our rejection so aggrieved the Government of San Domingo that she voluntarily sought this annexation. It is a weak power, numbering less than one hundred and twenty thousand souls, and yet possessing one of the richest localities under the sun, capable of supporting a population of 10,000,000 of people in luxury. The people of San Domingo not capable of maintaining themselves in their present condition, must look for outside support. They yearn for the protection of our free institutions and laws, our progress and civilization. Shall we refuse them? The acquisition of San Domingo is desirable, because of its geographical position. It commands the entrances to the Carribean Sea and the Isthumus transit of commerce; it possesses the richest soil, best and most capacious harbor, the most salubrious climate, and the most valuable products of the forest, mine, and soil of any of the West India Islands. Its possession by us will, in a few years, build up a coast-wise commerce of immense magnitude, which will go far towards restoring to us our last merchant marine. It will give to us those articles which we consume greatly and do not produce, thus equalizing our exports and imports. In case of foreign war it will give us command of all the Islands, and thus prevent our enemy from again possessing herself of rendezvous upon our coasts. Our coast trade between the States bordering on the Atlantic and those bordering on the Gulf of Mexico is by the Bahamas and Antilles. Twice we must, as it were, pass through foreign countries to get from Georgia to the West coast of Florida. San Domingo, with a government under which her immense resources can be developed, will give remunerative wages to 10,000 laborers not now upon the island. This labor will take advantage of every available means of transportation to the United States, present islands and seek the blessings of freedom and its sequences, each inhabitant receiving the reward of his own labor. Porto Rico and Cuba will follow in consequence. Slavery is a measure of self-protection, to retain their laborers. San Domingo will become a large consumer of the products of North American farms and manufactories. The cheap rate at which her citizens can be furnished with food, tools and machinery, will make it necessary that contiguous islands should have the same advantages, in order to compete with the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco and tropical fruits, etc. This will open to us a wider market for our products. The production of our own supply of these articles will cut off more than one hundred millions of our annual imports, besides largely increasing our exports. With such a picture it is easy to see how our large debt abroad is ultimately to be extinguished, with a balance of trade against us, including interest of bonds held by foreigners, and money shipments to our citizens traveling in foreign lands, equal to the entire yield of precious metals in this country. It is not so easy to see how this result is to be otherwise accomplished.

The acquisition of San Domingo is an adhesion to the Monroe doctrine is a measure of National protection to asserting our best right to a controlling influence over the Isthmus transit traffic soon to flow from West to East by way of the Isthmus of Darien to fetch up our merchant marine. It is to furnish new markets for the products of our farms, forests and manufactories. It is to relieve slavery insupportable in Cuba and Porto Rico at once, and ultimately so in the Southern States; to relieve the unhappy condition of Cuba, and assist in extinguishing the scourge. It will provide honest means of paying our present debts without overtaxing the industry of the country, our citizens with the best interests of this country, commercially and economically, commenced its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I now firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States have entirely abandoned the project of accepting, as a part of its territory, the Island of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by European nations.

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