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A TOUCH OF THE POETICS.

A newspaper bearing the following original inscription, passed through a Post office in Wyoming county, a few days since:—

"This is to Miss Lucinda Drake,
The charming girl I'll ne'er forsake;
She does reside in Elba town,
Which is a place of great renown;
This town, it is in Genesee,
Where L. and I would like to be;
The county is in New-York State,
The very place to get your mate."

Report of the Secretary of the Navy.

The Report of the Secretary of the Navy has not yet been presented to Congress, but by the kindness of the Chief Clerk of the Department, we are enabled to present the following synopsis of it:—The Mediterranean squadron has not been continued during the last year. It is proposed to revive it as soon as circumstances will permit. The station at Malton has been discontinued at the earnest request of the Portuguese Government, and measures are in progress for the removal of the public stores from that place.

The East India squadron, consisting of the Columbus, 74, and the sloop Vincennes, is supposed to have sailed for Japan and Kamtskatka, in the month of May or June last, and to have returned to Macao about this time. They will probably commence their homeward cruise via the North Pacific in January or February. Orders were sent to Com. Biddle in January last to proceed to the west coast of Mexico, and assume command of the squadron there. No acknowledgment of the receipt of them has been received at the Department.

The Brazil squadron consists of the frigate Columbus, Commander Ritchie, and the brig Bainbridge, Lieutenant commanding Pennington, under Commodore Rosseau. The African squadron consists of the frigate United States, the sloop Marion, brigs Dolphin and Boxer and store ship Southampton, 96 guns in all.—A full and interesting narrative is given of the operations of the Pacific squadron since the war, both under Commodore Sloat and Commodore Stockton, and copies are annexed of the official reports of these officers. The squadron now consists of the Savannah and the Congress, frigates; the sloop Portsmouth, Levant, Warren and Cyane; schooner Shark and store-ship Erie. The razee Independence is on her way out with Com. Shubrick, who will on his arrival assume command, and the sloop Preble has sailed for the same destination.

The doings of the home squadron are also fully narrated, and copies annexed of the official reports of Com. Conner in reference to the blockade, the designs on Alvarado, the affair at Tabasco, and the taking of Tampico. Full justice is done to the commanders of both squadrons, in whom the confidence of the department seems unabated. Extracts from the instructions under which they acted show also a disposition on the part of the Government to avoid all collision with Mexico, if possible.

The vessels comprising the Navy of Texas seem to have been found unworthy of repair, with the exception of the Austin, which is at Pensacola. The others have been ordered to be sold. The estimates of the department are based on the employment of 10,000 men, though no more than 8,500 are now in service.—Authority is asked to build 4 sea steamers to be employed in connection with our squadrons abroad. The practicability of the dry dock at New York is not doubted, and the work is urged upon the favorable notice of Congress. A dock at Pensacola is also recommended, and other improvements to increase the efficiency of the yard at that place. The restriction on the Memphis work, adopted at the last Congress, it is thought may be advantageously removed.

The exclusive employment of naval officers, as naval storekeepers abroad, is not thought to be wise, and a modification of the law on the subject is recommended. The naval school is spoken of in terms of approbation, and the same appropriation is asked for it as was had last year. A suitable notice is also given to the officers of the observatory, whose valuable operations are beginning to attract the attention they deserve. An addition to the number of assistant surgeons is very much desired, and the department also recommends an increase in the rank and file of the marine corps and in the number of warrant officers.

The report concludes with advising that authority be given to the President to appoint one out of five or six midshipmen at large, irrespective of the place of residence of the person appointed. Provisions might thus be made for cases of peculiar merit which are now excluded.—Nothing is said in the report on the system of promotion.

The Secretary confines himself to a faithful narration of the doings of the Navy, with a few practical suggestions, such as we have mentioned. His report is ably written, is clear and interesting.

Report of the Secretary of War.

This Document has not yet been printed. A brief synopsis, made from the original Report, has been furnished us.—The Secretary gives a full history of the commencement and progress of our Mexican war operations; the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma and Monterey are narrated; then we have the termination of the armistice; the conquest of Santa Fe and the Californias, and accounts of the various movements of the armies.

Satisfactory, though not official information has been received of the taking of Monclova, but not Chihuahua. Gen. Kearney's detachment was expected to reach the Pacific about November last.—The operations of Colonel Fremont and Commodore Stockton west of the Rocky Mountains, are referred to with commendation. Authentic information but no official report has been received of their operations.

The military force of the United States has been augmented from 7640 men to 30,000 men. The duties of the War Department have been arduous and embarrassing. The Department of Tamaulipas, and the right bank of the Rio Grande for several hundred miles from its mouth, New Leon, Coahuila and Chihuahua have all in effect been wrested from the enemy; and the Mexican authority, civil and military, displaced in New Mexico and the Californias—all in the short space of seven months.

The regular army, under the law of last session, when filled up, would amount to 19,998, officers and men, but does not now exceed 10,300. Our success in the field is attributable probably to the large number of volunteers called out since the passage of the bill increasing the army. It is impossible to tell the number of troops which the exigencies of the war may require. The volunteers called out who have encountered the enemy, have more than justified the expectations formed of this description of troops; but it is no disparagement to them to say that regular forces would be preferred in a war to be prosecuted in a foreign country. Considerations of economy are also decidedly in favor of troops engaged to serve during the war. The Secretary is most solicitous that this subject should receive the attention of Congress, and that a body of troops should be raised to take the place of those volunteers who will claim a discharge at the end of their term of service.

The plan suggested by General Macomb in his report in 1836, is recommended now in reference to regimental field officers. Provision should be made for offences committed by our troops, and by persons connected with the army. An increase of the regular army is recommended. The estimated appropriations for fortifications for next year amount to \$495,690. The report then goes on to speak of our national defenses; of sappers, miners and topographical engineers and their present organization; of the ordnance bureau being inadequate; deficiency in the medical staff of the army; history of operations in mineral lands the past year; number of pension agencies, 44, exclusive of Navy pensions, and number of pensioners about 20,000.

Sub-Treasury act contemplates the employment of officers therein named as pension agents, and renders it doubtful whether those hitherto employed are not suspended. He recommends that authority be given to continue the present agents at a reasonable compensation.—Three thousand four hundred and thirty-four Indians have been removed West of the Mississippi river since last annual report. New treaties with Indians are referred to, and the solicitude of Government to promote the welfare of the Indian tribes is feelingly expressed.

The Pauper story.
DISTRESSED EMIGRANTS.—Two vessels arrived in this port on Monday, having on board 312 passengers, 34 of whom were dead, and 41 in such a miserable plight as to be sent to the City Hospital, where they now lie wavering between life and death. One of these vessels was the Lagonia, from Bremen, where she sailed on the 1st of September—having been out 110 days; the other was the Pontiac from Liverpool, where she sailed October 20th—having been out 63 days. The Capt. of the Pontiac is G. W. Tucker, who called at the Alms House and mentioned the following particulars:—The number of deaths on board his ship was 19; the entire navigation devolved upon himself and six sailors, his first and second mates having both been taken sick; the former was a raving maniac during the whole passage; he had crossed the ocean a number of times, and had never experienced such a severe and protracted storm before; and his last loaf bread was distributed among the passengers some three days before he made the port, and he says that the sufferings of all on board were melancholy in the extreme. These are facts which ought to command the immediate action of our city authorities with regard to the importation of paupers.—[N. Y. Express.

CONGRESS.

Mr. DAVIS' resolution calling on the President for copies of instructions to Gen. Kearney and Com. Stockton, as to the governments they have established in New Mexico and California, has been adopted in the House of Representatives, and a spirited debate is now going on in that body on the President's Message generally. We regret that our limits prevent us from giving a sketch of this debate, which is very interesting. The imputation of treason, cast by the President upon those who differed with him as to the policy or necessity of the war, is commented with becoming freedom and independence, and with a severity which causes that functionary and his friends to quail under the rebukes administered, and to regret that the language was ever used. It is shown that the President himself, in admitting Santa Anna through the blockade of the coast of Mexico, has given more "aid and comfort to the enemy" than any body else, or all other persons put together, and if there is treason to be imputed to any one, he it is himself, who has been guilty of it. The Whigs nobly perform their duty to the country, now that we are engaged in the war, by voting supplies to carry it on, and hushing it to a speedy and honorable conclusion. This is the right spirit.

The President sent a message to the House on Tuesday in reply to Mr. Davis' resolution, from which we extract the following paragraphs:—

"These orders and instructions were given to regulate the exercise of the rights of the belligerents engaged in actual war over such portions of the territory of our enemy as by military conquest might be taken possession of" and be occupied by our armed forces—rights necessarily resulting from a state of war and clearly recognized by the laws of nations. This was all the authority which could be delegated to our military and naval commanders, and its exercise was indispensable to the secure occupation and possession of the territory of the enemy which might be conquered. The regulations authorized were temporary and dependent on the rights acquired by the conquest.

"Among the documents accompanying the Report of the Secretary of War, will be found 'a form of government,' 'established and organized' by the military commander who conquered and occupied with his forces the territory of New Mexico. This document was received at the War Department in the latter part of last month, and as will be perceived by the report of the Secretary of War, was not, for the reasons stated by that officer, brought to my notice, until after my annual message of the 7th inst. was communicated to Congress.

"It is declared on its face to be a 'temporary government of the said territory,' but there are portions of it which purport to 'establish and organize' a permanent territorial government of the U. States over the territory and to impart to its inhabitants political rights which under the constitution of the U. S. can be enjoyed permanently only by citizens of the United States. These have not been approved and recognized by me."

It will be perceived from these passages that KEARNEY and STOCKTON acted in some measure on their own hook.

The following paragraphs we copy from the report of the proceedings of Tuesday by a correspondent of the Baltimore American:

Mr. DAVIS of Ky., made a brilliant speech in rebuke of those who stood forth as the servile defenders of the Executive power. He argued upon the extraordinary spectacle which was presented to the American People in the defenses of the President, who had, without consulting Congress, and in a reckless violation of the Constitution, involved the country in a war with a Foreign Power; and yet, for pointing out and condemning an act like this, charges of treason were made.

Mr. Davis rejoined to those who were charging the Whigs with treason by a most pointed retort. What was treason? It was giving aid and comfort to the enemy. And had not the Executive done this in admitting Santa Anna into the city of Vera Cruz? Suppose Commodore Conner, Morris, Perry or any other naval commander had done this, would not they have been arraigned and tried for treason, and most justly? Supposing they had been found in conference and correspondence with Santa Anna, would they not have been dragged before the House, under Court Martial orders! Unquestionably they would. And this was precisely what the Executive had done and he could not escape from the dilemma in which he was involved.

MEXICAN ELECTIONS FAVORABLE TO PEACE.—The *Franco Americani*, published in New York, states that a letter has been received from the City of Mexico, dated November 17, in which it is affirmed that the elections have taken turn decidedly favorable to peace, and that the overtures of the United States will be taken into serious consideration by the Congress.

REMEMBER THE POOR.

When Providence blesses
In basket and store,
And conscience confesses
That you need nothing more;
When Plenty is smiling,
With comforts beguiling,
All labor and strife—
Then think of the needy!
Remember the poor!
For good ever ready,
Drop aid at their door.
Wherever another
In anguish you find,
Speak joy to that brother!
Breathe balm on his mind!
His look of sad pleasure,
The tear and the smile—
Repay in full measure,
And gladden the while!

NEWS FROM THE ARMY.

The steamer Alabama arrived at New Orleans, on the 14th inst., with dates from the Brassos on the 11th, and from Monterey to the 1st inst.

The steamer Sea was totally lost in the Brassos on the 6th inst.—all hands saved.

The news is considered interesting as regards the disposition of the forces in Mexico; and particularly so as indicating future movements of the army. The drift of the intelligence points to a crisis of bloody import. We cannot condense, but present the entire news as we received it from the Picayune.

A duel had been fought at the mouth of the Rio Grande, between Capt. Stewart and Col. Thomson, of the U. S. Quartermaster's Department. After an exchange of shots the difficulty was amicably settled.

We are informed that 65 or 70 wagons belonging to our army, had been captured between Camargo and Monterey, not a great distance from Seralvo, and that Col. McKee's Kentucky regiment, with a part of the Ohio regiment, had been despatched to re-capture them. We are inclined to think there is some mistake about this, and that the report is one of old Canales stories trumped up for effect at this time.

A correspondent of the Picayune, at Brazos, writes as follows:

It was my good fortune to meet this morning an old friend in a gentleman direct from Monterey, who gave me the data for what follows. My informant left Monterey, on the 27th of November. Gen. Taylor had returned from Saltillo; and expressed himself pleased with the appearance of the city, which was in quiet possession of the troops under Gen. Worth. Saltillo is about 65 miles from Monterey and has an elevation of some 2000 feet above the latter place. The cold, in consequence, is frequently quite intense. Gen. Taylor saw ice while he was there. The most delicate fruits are said to abound in Saltillo. No demonstration against Gen. Worth had been made by the enemy, although only at the distance of 20 miles from him. His scouts had discovered about 3,000 Mexican cavalry, said to have been sent from San Luis Potosi for the purpose of grazing their horses.

Gen. Wool had been ordered by Gen. Taylor to occupy forthwith the town of Parras, a small but beautiful place 75 miles northeast of Saltillo. Gen. Wool would have no opposition at Parras, as the inhabitants were prepared to receive him peaceably. His troops are represented to be in the finest health and discipline.

The ultimate plans of Gen. Taylor had not, of course, been fully developed, but sufficient was known to render it quite certain that something like the following outline was to be adhered to. He had received intelligence from the Government of the call for additional troops. He would therefore occupy all the posts, towns, &c., either immediately or remotely, on the line of operations to Tampico. Lieut. Col. Riley now occupies Mount Morales with the 2d Regiment of U. S. Infantry. Gen. Taylor would himself take up his line of march for Victoria, where rumor has it, Santa Anna has 10,000 choice troops. This city is indispensably necessary to Gen. Taylor, in order that he may secure his lines of communication in an attack upon San Luis Potosi. Santa Anna knows its importance, and will no doubt resist its possession by our troops. But I shall not speculate. Gen. Taylor intended to march as soon as provisions could be hastened up—which would probably be by the 10th December, with the 3d, 4th and 7th Infantry, the Dragoons under Col. Harney, who had arrived at Monterey, Bragg's battery, and two regiments of volunteers, which latter had not been designated. It would seem that Gen. Taylor himself attached some importance to the rumor of Santa Anna's 10,000 troops, as he heads in person the expedition against Victoria. After taking this

point, which he most assuredly will do, it is thought he will make no further demonstration until desired reinforcements reach him from Tampico.

Should Gen. Butler's health admit of it he will be left at Monterey in command; otherwise Col. Smith, of the Rifles, will be detained for that purpose. Gen. Butler's wound was not improving; indeed, it is said to be getting worse.

The air of Monterey is considered unfavorable to wounded invalids, and the surgeons have advised, that all such should leave the country if practicable.

The Mexicans, finding that they cannot successfully fight "Uncle Sam's boys," either in the open field or behind entrenched works, have resorted to the insidious means of seducing our men to desert by offers of tempting bounty and high promotion, and it is to be regretted that in too many instances their villainous schemes have succeeded. The Alcalde's son was arrested a few days since and imprisoned, having been detected in carrying on this species of war, and remains a prisoner still. When the Alcalde, who has been treated with all kindness and consideration by Gen. Taylor, heard of his son's imprisonment, he remonstrated with the General against his further detention.—The old man "biled over" in a moment, and "let out" on the Alcalde in hot style. He told him, in no measured phraseology, that he was well convinced of his son's guilt and not entirely free from suspicions of his worthy self; and that if he did not at once assist in restoring those who had been seduced to desert, he would hang his son and himself too, as high as Human hung! A deserter, who fought against us at Monterey as an officer, had been seen in the city, a tool of Santa Anna. His name is Reiley, and deserted from the 5th infantry before the battles.

It is said, and on good authority, that Santa Anna, fearing the Congress about to assemble at Mexico would not carry out his measures, or fully sustain him, detached and marched to the capital 7000 men under the pretense of putting down another outbreak of the populace, being well aware that Gen. Taylor cannot attack him in his strongholds at San Luis for some two months or more. Santa Anna, it is no news to say, is a most worthy foe, and in respect to knowing the position of affairs has the advantage of Gen. Taylor, and he is determined to resist. It is now conceded by the officers of our army generally, that the Mexicans will fight. San Luis Potosi is in a strong state of defence, and daily being strengthened still more, and it may be that the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca, and those of Monterey, were but specimens of what may occur before San Luis. Officers believe that a harder fight than any one yet is before them.

San Luis Potosi is one of the richest cities in all Mexico, being directly in the mining districts, and you may depend upon it the Mexicans will make the big stand here. One thing, however, is certain; old "Rough and Ready" is not going to be caught again deficient of any thing—either in men, munitions or besieging cannon. Nor will he be again deceived by "white flags" or treacherous parleys. You may deceive him once, but twice, never! But more of this hereafter. My letter is already too long, and I fear has but little interest to you.

In closing, I will add that Maj. Gen. Patterson had left Camargo with the Alabama and Illinois regiments, and was conveying those troops down to the mouth of the Rio Grande, intending to go to Tampico by water. Having duly reported his intentions to the commanding general, an express was despatched and arrived in time, ordering Gen. Patterson to go to Tampico by land. Gen. P. and staff have arrived at Matamoros.

Brig. Gen. Pillow is at that place, going out of the country on sick leave.

THE WAR.

A few Loco Foco Editors, whose stupidity is the only commodity which outweighs their malice, are constantly charging the Whigs with hostility to the Government in its prosecution of the War with Mexico. Nothing could be more untrue. The Whigs did not wish the Government to go to war, because they did not believe that every preliminary process of adjustment had been tried or exhausted. But after the Rubicon had been passed, and war was upon us, the Whigs who had votes to cast, voted in favor of every measure brought forward by the Government to carry on the war. They not only voted supplies; but pressed resolutions to encourage the enrollment of volunteers, by increasing their pay. The same policy will be continued. No Whig will lay a straw in the way of a vigorous prosecution of the War. Those who vilify them, and accuse them of treason, could be bought with Mexican gold.—Alb. Jour.

THE PLAINFIELD BANK.—The *Plainfield Republican* states that the citizens of that place, among whom are the mechanics and merchants generally, have entered into a general agreement no longer to take the notes of this bank.

A New Office.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia "North American," gives the following as the outline of a plan which, he avers, is seriously entertained by the Administration:

"It is designed to apply to Congress for the creation of an office of Lieutenant General which is to be conferred upon the Hon. Thomas H. Benton. This rank, unknown to our service, but in Europe understood, I believe, to represent Majesty, will devolve upon him the supreme command and the plan of operations.

After the taking of Vera Cruz, which is not doubted, the three divisions of the army, from Tampico, Vera Cruz, and whatever point General Taylor's force may have reached, will be ordered to advance and concentrate on the city of Mexico. There assembled, the Lieutenant-General will assume the civil functions of a Commissioner, authorized to propose terms of peace and to negotiate the basis of a treaty. Such is the skeleton of a plan to bring this war to a close."

Late accounts from Washington state that it is positively determined by the administration to ask of Congress the appointment of this officer.

The Washington Fountain further says, that it is not generally known that Col. Benton's opinion and advice were asked by the Government after the battles of the 9th of May last, and that he is the real author of the operations in New Mexico and the Californias. Nor is it so well known, that his opinion and advice were again asked by the government after the storming of Monterey, and that he is the author of the basis of operations against Vera Cruz, and the Mexican Capital.—But that such are the facts in the premises is no longer doubted even by the most sceptical.—Pa. Intel.

LATER FROM FORT BENT.

From the St. Louis Republican, Dec. 7.
A letter from Fort Bent, written on the 30th of October, communicates some information which is of interest at the present time. The proper officer was busily engaged in forwarding to Santa Fe, on an average, about thirty wagon loads of provisions per week.

"It will be hardly possible," says the letter, "to get all the stores into Santa Fe this Winter, from the very bad condition of the trains which arrive here. About 140 tons of provisions are stored in this fort, all of which have to cross the mountains this Winter if possible.

"There are now on the road between this and Fort Leavenworth some dozen trains of wagons part of which cannot get here this Winter, though enough can get to Santa Fe to last the army until next spring. Uncle Sam's braves have tremendous appetites in this country, and a wagon load of provisions do not go far with them."

The writer says that the Indians are getting troublesome between Fort Bent and the States. "The Pawnees attacked a provision train, a few days ago, near the crossing of the Arkansas, and killed one man. The Arapahoes killed two last week, on the road between this and Santa Fe. After our troops get through with the troops on the other side of the mountains, they will have to commence on this side, and after thrashing some half dozen nations in all, there will be no more trouble with them."

Messrs. St. Vrain and Folger arrived at the Fort on the 29th of October.

The P. M. General has issued a circular to his deputies, directing them to remove the wrappers from all transient newspapers, printed circulars, price currents, pamphlets, and magazines, received at their offices, and if found to contain any manuscript or memorandum, either written or stamped, or any marks or signs, except the name and address of the person to whom it is directed, then they shall be charged letter postage, by weight; which, if the person receiving shall refuse to pay, they shall be sent to the office whence they came, and the offender prosecuted for the penalty of \$5. The name of the sender, written or stamped on the wrapper, shall subject him to the same penalty.

FIRE AT SEA.—The packet ship T. P. Cope was struck by lightning, at sea, on the 29th ult. Some hemp and tallow below was set fire to, and also the rigging. The fire soon communicated to the cargo—the hatches were closed—and the fire kept smouldering until the 6th inst., when the passengers and crew (82 in number) were relieved by the packet ship Emigrant. Soon after, the flames burst from the ship in every direction. For nine days the crew of the Cope labored incessantly, expecting every moment to be driven into the sea. Their escape was almost miraculous. The Cope was a splendid Philadelphia Packet Ship, owned by the enterprising Merchant whose name she bore.