

THE SOMERSET HERALD.

AND FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' REGISTER.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1847,

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New Series.]

THE SOMERSET HERALD.

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THE TEEMING WEST.

We received a few days since, a letter from a friend in Adams county, Ill., in which the writer describes that part of the West as being beautiful and fertile in the extreme. On an area of three and a half miles square, he says, there was raised the last season, about 30,000 bushels of wheat and a like quantity of corn, besides heavy crops of oats and grass. One farmer alone had 2,000 bushels of wheat, and another had 1,600 bushels. All this is the product of prairie land, just brought under cultivation.

Quincy, the seat of justice for Adams county, is on the east bank of the Mississippi, on a bluff, 150 miles above St. Louis, and 40 below the Mississippi Rapids. The town is handsomely built, with a large public square in the centre, inclosed, and planted with trees. An extensive business is carried on at this place, as may be inferred from the fact, mentioned by our correspondent, that at one flouring mill alone, there were manufactured in 4 months, commencing last August, 14,000 barrels of flour, and that not infrequently from 4,000 to 6,000 bushels of wheat are sold at the several mills and trading houses in and near the town in a single day. Truly, the West is a great country.

UNITED STATES STOCK IN THE CHES. & OHIO CANAL.

The following we copy from the Cumberland Civilian of the 26th ult.

On Thursday last, in the House of Representatives, the Hon. Andrew Stewart of Pa., gave notice that at an early day he would ask leave to introduce a bill for the conditional transfer of the stock held by the United States in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company on terms to secure the early completion of that work to Cumberland.

We trust that this important measure will receive the approbation of Congress, and speedily become a law. Mr. Stewart deserves, and will receive, the thanks of the friends of the Canal, for this evidence of interest in the success of that noble improvement.

IOWA SENATORS.

The St. Louis Republican of the 16th ultimo says:

The Legislature of Iowa failed to meet in joint session on the 5th instant, to elect Senators in Congress. The election stood adjourned to that day, but the Locofoco members of the Senate, fearing the result, refused to meet the House in joint session, and it is now probable that no election will take place at the present session. If this should be the result, then the State will be without Senators for two years to come, because the next session of the Legislature will not be held until November, 1848, and the Governor cannot make temporary appointments, as the office never having been filled, no vacancies can be said to have taken place.

ILLINOIS & MICHIGAN CANAL.

The Sangamo Journal says, the Canal report has not yet been made, but that, since the re-commencement of the work, \$604,000 have been expended upon it, and that the estimate for its completion is a trifle more than \$707,000. The bondholders will, therefore, be able to finish the work for about \$1,300,000, which is less by about \$300,000 than the original estimate. It is believed that the work will be completed by next September.

THE CENTRAL RAILROAD.

A few nights since, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, a committee of gentlemen volunteered to obtain subscriptions of 1500 shares of stock to the Central Railroad, that number being still necessary to secure the charter. The committee reported on Saturday night, and announced with no little satisfaction, that they had obtained subscriptions to 2,227 shares.—The result is indeed most creditable, and while we thank the committee on behalf of our citizens, we also venture to congratulate the community at large. This great work may now be regarded as fairly commenced.

The Legislature will, no doubt, now afford every facility to this company to enable them to prosecute this great Pennsylvania work, and insure its completion at the earliest practicable day, by the

prompt passage of such additional laws, or amendments to the original act, as may be required.—*Har. Int.*

THE EXECUTIVE AND THE ARMY.

We are among those who have been slow to believe, though it has been frequently charged, that animosity was cherished by the Administration towards General TAYLOR, because we could not conceive any motives, even of party policy, for such hostility against a citizen who has unquestionably rendered distinguished service to his country, and entrenched himself thereby safely in the public esteem. But it cannot be doubted, considering the recency of the fact of the publication of the Letter of Gen. TAYLOR, that the "General Order" published in our columns to-day has direct reference to that officer.

How many hundreds of unofficial Letters from Officers of the Army, of every grade, up to that of Gen. TAYLOR, have been published all over the country within the last year, without calling forth any rebuke from the Executive! So far from it, have not many of such letters been published, without a lisp of disapprobation, in the newspaper in this city which is the recognised organ of the Government; published not only without any expression of dissatisfaction, but, on the contrary, with high commendations? As late as in that paper of yesterday morning we find precisely such a Letter from "an officer of Gen. Wool's command." We do not say that the Regulation which has been thus waked up from a sleep of more than twenty years—which had been in fact disused so long as to become obsolete—may not be in itself, as a general rule, a proper one. But we do say that it has not been heretofore considered as an order to be strictly observed; in proof of which many instances can be remembered, in which it has not been regarded, nor has the departure from it been visited with any reproof, much less with such a public rebuke as that conveyed in the revival and republication, obviously with that intent, of the Regulation of 1825.

The effect, besides, of the promulgation of the order at the present particular moment, is that of EX POST FACTO legislation; a proceeding directly against the spirit of liberty, and so recognised by the organic law of the Republic.—*NAT. INT.*

ARMY GENERAL ORDER.

GENERAL ORDERS, } WAR DEPARTMENT,
No. 3. } ADJ. GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, Jan. 28, 1847

The following Regulation has been received from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washing- }
ton, January 28, 1847. }

The President of the United States directs that paragraph 650 of the General Regulations for the Army, established on the 1st of March, 1825, and not included among those published January 25, 1841, be now republished, and that its observance as a part of the General Regulations be strictly enjoined upon the Army.

By order of the President,
W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

The following is the paragraph of the General Regulations for the Army established on the 1st of March, 1825, referred to above:

"650. Private letters or reports relative to military marches and operations are frequently mischievous in design, and always disgraceful to the army. They are therefore strictly forbidden; and any officer found guilty of making such report for publication, without special permission, or of placing the writing beyond his control, so that it finds its way to the press within one month after the termination of the campaign to which it relates, shall be dismissed from the service."

By order: W. G. FREEMAN,
Assistant Adjutant General.

FIRES IN OHIO.

On the night of the 23d ult., twelve or fifteen houses were destroyed by fire at Chillicothe. They were mostly small frames, occupied as stores and mechanic shops, and composed the block known as Hollow's Row, which had been standing for many years.

At Ripley, Ohio, on the 21st ult., a fire broke out in the iron foundry of Beatty & Burt, which was destroyed, together with the mercantile house of McMiller & Reynolds and other buildings.

VESSELS FOR EUROPE.

Vessels for Europe were never in greater demand in Philadelphia than at this time. Freight has advanced enormously since the arrival of the steamer.

NO MORE!

Flow on, sad stream, unto the sea,
Thou flowest on as ever;
But the heart most dear, no more is here,
Forever and forever.

No more! I hear it in the pines,
Through which the night winds roar,
These stars will shine in eyes of thine
No more, O, never more.

Sigh on! sad autumn wind sigh on!
She lies in the grass beneath,—
I make my moan by her grave alone,
For the violets have here breath.

O, lonely night! O, wandering moon!
Hast thou no word for me?
O, love and sorrow! O, day and morrow!
Must ye forever be?

FROM MEXICO.

LETTER FROM GEN. TAYLOR.

We lay before our readers the following letter, which tells its own story too well to need any comment. It is but just, however, to its heroic writer, whose courage and judgment are equalled only by his honesty and modesty, to state that it was written to a near friend and relative, now resident in this city, endeared to him by very many years of personal intimacy, to whom he unbosoms all his purposes, opinions and feelings, without the least reserve. This friend would not have taken the liberty of making public a communication of this nature, did not the recent manifestations of the envious malignity of the Administration and its servants and friends towards the man who alone has saved them and their country from the consequences of their rashness, ignorance and incapacity, make it necessary and just that the object of their base detraction should, at this critical moment be heard in his own defence, by the whole people, in his own simple and honest language.

We have more of this sort to communicate, and shall soon be able to show that, in his defence against his own secret personal enemies and selfish detractors, as well as against the armed enemies of his country, the old hero of the Rio Grande is ever "ROUGH AND READY."—*New York Express.*

HD. QRS. ARMY OF OCCUPATION, OR IN-
VASION, Monterey, Mexico, Nov. 9, '46.

My dear *****
Your very kind and acceptable letter of the 31st of August, ***** reached me only a short time since, for which I beg leave to tender to you my sincere thanks. [A few confidential remarks on certain public transactions are here omitted.]

After considerable apparent delay on the part of the Qr. Master's Department, in getting steamboats into the Rio Grande adapted to its navigation, I succeeded towards the latter part of August, in throwing forward to Camargo, (a town situated on the San Juan river, three miles from its junction with the Rio Grande, on the west side, nearly 500 miles from Brazos by water and 200 by land, and 140 from this place,) a considerable depot of provisions, ordnance, ammunition and forage, and then, having brought together an important portion of my command, I determined on moving on this place. Accordingly, after collecting 1700 pack-mules, with their attendants and conductors, in the enemy's country, (the principal means of transportation for our provisions, baggage, &c.) I left on the 5th of September, to join my advance, which had preceded me a few days to Serralvo, a small village 75 miles on the route, which I did on the 9th, and, after waiting there a few days for some of the corps to get up, moved on and reached here on the 19th, with 6250 men.—2700 regulars, the balance volunteers. For what took place afterwards, I must refer you to my several reports—particularly to my detailed one of the 9th ult. I do not believe the authorities at Washington are at all satisfied with my conduct in regard to the terms of the capitulation entered into with the Mexican commander, which you no doubt have seen, as they have been made public through the official organ, and copied into various other newspapers. I have this moment received an answer to my despatch announcing the surrender of Monterey, (and the circumstances attending the same,) from the Secretary of War, stating that "it was regretted by the President that it was not deemed advisable to insist on the terms I had proposed in my first communication to the Mexican commander, in regard to giving up the city,"—adding that "the circumstances which dictated, no doubt justified the change." Although the terms of capitulation may be considered too liberal on our part by the President and his advisers, as well as by many others at a distance, particularly by those who do not understand the position which we occupied, (otherwise they might come to a

different conclusion in regard to the matter,) yet, on due reflection, I see nothing to induce me to regret the course I pursued.

The proposition on part of Gen. Ampudia, which had much to do in determining my course in the matter, was based on the ground that our government had proposed to his to settle the existing difficulties by negotiation, (which I knew was the case, without knowing the result,) which was then under consideration by the proper authorities, and which he [Gen Ampudia] had no doubt would result favorably, as the whole of his people were in favor of peace. If so, I considered the further effusion of blood not only unnecessary, but improper. Their force was also considerably larger than ours; and from the size and position of the place, we could not completely invest it; so that the greater portion of their troops, if not the whole, had they been disposed to do so, could, any night, have abandoned the city, at once entered the mountain passes, and effected their retreat, do what we could! Had we been put to the alternative of taking the place by storm, (which there is no doubt we should have succeeded in doing,) we should in all probability, have lost fifty or one hundred men in killed, besides the wounded,—which I wished to avoid, as there appeared to be a prospect of peace, even if a distant one. I also wished to avoid the destruction of women and children, which must have been very great, had the storming process been resorted to. Besides, they had a very large and strong fortification, a short distance from the city, which, if carried with the bayonet, must have been taken at a great sacrifice of life; and, with our limited train of heavy or battering artillery, it would have required twenty or twenty-five days to take it by regular approaches.

That they should have surrendered a place nearly as strong as Quebec, well fortified under the direction of skillful engineers,—their works garnished with forty-two pieces of artillery, abundantly supplied with ammunition garrisoned by 7000 regular and 2000 irregular troops, in addition to some thousand citizens capable of, (and no doubt actually) bearing arms, and aiding in its defence,—to an opposing force of half their number, scantily supplied with provisions, and with a light train of artillery—is among the unaccountable occurrences of the times.

I am decidedly opposed to carrying the war beyond Saltillo in this direction, which place has been entirely abandoned by the Mexican forces, all of whom have been concentrated at San Luis Potosi; and I shall lose no time in taking possession of the former, as soon as the cessation of hostilities referred to expires,—which I have notified the Mexican authorities will be the case on the 13th inst. by direction of the President of the United States.

If we are (in the language of Mr. Polk and General Scott) under the necessity of "conquering a peace," and that by taking the capital of the country,—we must go to Vera Cruz, take that place, and then march on the city of Mexico. To do so in any other direction, I consider out of the question. But, admitting that we conquer a peace by doing so,—say, at the end of the next twelve months,—will the amount of blood and treasure, which must be expended in doing so, be compensated by the same? I think not,—especially, if the country we subdue is to be given up, and I imagine there are but few individuals in our country who think of annexing Mexico to the United States.

I do not intend to carry on my operations (as previously stated) beyond Saltillo, deeming it next to impracticable to do so. It then becomes a question as to what is best to be done. It seems to me that the most judicious course to be pursued on our part would be to take possession at once of the line we would accept by negotiation, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, and occupy the same, or keep what we already have possession of; and that, with Tampico, (which I hope to take in the course of the next month, or as soon as I can get the means of transportation,) will give us all on this side of the Sierra Madre, and, as soon as I occupy Saltillo, will include six or seven States or Provinces, thus holding Tampico, Victoria, Monterey, Saltillo, Monclova, Chihuahua, (which I presume General Wool has possession of by this time,) Santa Fe and the Californias, and say to Mexico, "Drive us from the country"—throwing on her the responsibility and expense of carrying on offensive war; at the same time closely blockading all her ports on the Pacific and the Gulf. A course of this kind, if persevered in for a short time, would soon bring her to her proper senses, and compel her to sue for peace, provided there is a Government in the country sufficiently stable for us to treat with, which I fear will hardly be the case for many years to come. Without large reinforcements of volunteers from the United States—say ten or fifteen thousand, (those previously sent out having already been greatly reduced by sickness and other casualties)—I do not believe it would be advisable to march beyond Saltillo, which is more than two hundred miles beyond our depots on the

Rio Grande—a very long line on which to keep up supplies (over a land route, in a country like this) for a large force, and certain to be attended with an expense which will be frightful to contemplate when closely looked into.

From Saltillo to San Luis Potosi, the next place of importance on the road to the city of Mexico is three hundred miles; one hundred and forty badly watered, where no supplies of any kind could be procured for men or horses. I have informed the War Department that 20,000 efficient men would be necessary to ensure success if we move on that place, (a city containing a population of 60,000, where the enemy could bring together and sustain, besides the citizens, an army of 50,000,) a force which, I apprehend, will hardly be collected by us with the train necessary to feed it, as well as to transport various other supplies, particularly ordnance and munitions of war.

In regard to the armistice, which would have expired by limitation in a few days, we lost nothing by it, as we could not move even now, had the enemy continued to occupy Saltillo; for, strange to say, the first wagon which has reached me since the declaration of war was on the 2d instant, the same day on which I received from Washington an acknowledgment of my despatch announcing the taking of Monterey; and then I received only one hundred and thirty-five; so that I have been, since May last, completely crippled, and am still so, for want of transportation. After raking and scraping the country for miles around Camargo, collecting every pack-mule and other means of transportation, I could bring here only 80,000 rations, (fifteen days' supply,) with a moderate supply of ordnance, ammunition, &c., to do which all the corps had to leave behind a portion of their camp equipment necessary for their comfort; and, in some instances among the volunteers, their personal baggage. I moved in such a way, and with such limited means that, had I not succeeded, I should no doubt have been severely reprimanded, if nothing worse. I did so to sustain the Administration. *****

Of the two regiments of mounted men from Tennessee and Kentucky, who left their respective States to join me in June, the latter has just reached Camargo; the former had not got to Matamoros at the latest dates from there. Admitting that they will be as long in returning as in getting here, (to say nothing of the time necessary to recruit their horses,) and were to be discharged in time to reach their homes, they could serve in Mexico but a very short time.

The foregoing remarks are not made with the view of finding fault with any one, but to point out the difficulties with which I have had to contend.

Monterey, the capital of New Leon, is situated on the San Juan river, where it comes out of the mountains—the city (which contains a population of about twelve thousand) being in part surrounded by them—at the head of a large and beautiful valley. The houses are of stone in the Moorish style, with flat roofs, which, with their strongly enclosed yards, gardens in high stone walls, all looped for musketry, make them each a fortress within itself. It is the most important place in Northern Mexico, (or on the east side of Sierra Madre,) commanding the only pass or road for carriages from this side, between it and the Gulf of Mexico, to the table-lands of the Sierra, by or through which the city of Mexico can be reached.

I much fear I shall have exhausted your patience before you get half through this long and uninteresting letter. If so, you can only commit it to the flames, and think no more about it, as I write in great haste, besides being interrupted every five minutes; so that you must make great allowances for blots, interlineations, and blunders, as well as want of connexion in many parts of the same.

Be so good as to present me most kindly to your excellent lady, and accept my sincere wishes for your continued health, prosperity, and fame.

I remain, truly and sincerely,
your friend,
Z. TAYLOR.

NEXT PRESIDENCY.

On the 8th of January, the Democrats in the Missouri Legislature held a meeting in the capitol at Jefferson city, and adopted resolutions recommending a national convention, to be held in Baltimore on the first Monday in May 1848, to nominate President and Vice President of the United States. Hon. Thomas Hart Benton was recommended by the meeting to the democracy of the nation, as a proper candidate for the next Presidency.

A Whig meeting in Missouri has nominated the Hon. John J. Crittenden for President.—*Pa. Int.*

The Monmouth Intelligencer announces the death, at the residence of his daughter, at Point Pleasant, in that county, on Friday the 15th ultimo, of John Chamberlain, in his 105th year. He was a revolutionary pensioner, and raised eleven children, whose offspring amount to 175—children, grand, great, and great grand.

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Correspondence of the New Orleans Delta.

MATAMORAS, January 9, 1847.

General Scott returned here on the 6th instant from Camargo. He told me that every thing was quiet above, and no probability of any hostile collision at present. He said for the next ten or fifteen days he should be at the Brazos Santiago, and in this place. He was asked in my hearing to what point he would go when he should leave here; he replied to the point circumstances should make it necessary at the time. No one is authorized to say on what point he will move, or when he will go.

The various regiments in depot along the river for months past are under orders to march as soon as the new troops coming out shall arrive to relieve them.—Generals TAYLOR and PATTERSON are marching on Victoria, and must soon be there, if not already arrived. The engineers, with the pioneers and their escort, had at the last accounts nearly reached Victoria, on the route General TAYLOR is marching, not having met the least opposition. There is no positive information from the column of General PATTERSON since he left San Fernando. There is no doubt of his advancing in safety.

It will be gratifying to the friends of General Scott to learn that he is very well received by the troops. His commanding and military appearance, combined with the suavity of his manners, has dispelled the prejudices and opinions of many who had never seen him. Gen. TAYLOR—that sturdy old soldier—is much gratified to learn of the arrival of the General-in-chief of our armies. He has fame enough to prevent any fears of a rival, and is gallant and generous enough to be willing to share opportunities for distinction with a brother officer as brave and as generous as himself. There will be no rivalry between Generals Scott and TAYLOR but upon one point, and that will be, who can best serve the country.

My information from Saltillo is to the 29th ultimo, and from Monterey two days later. A correspondent, speaking of the message of the President of Mexico, says "it breathes war, but with becoming diffidence." The best-informed inhabitants at Saltillo and Monterey are of opinion the Congress will accept the proposition of our President to appoint ministers to negotiate, and say they are for a peace. Here the message excites no sensation, so far as can be yet seen.

General BUTLER commands at Saltillo, and has the brigades of WOOL, WORTH, and LANE, besides the artillery and dragoon corps in that neighborhood. There is no apprehension of any attack. The main body of the Mexican army was still at San Luis. General MARSHALL has the chief military command about Monterey, whilst Colonel GARLAND continues to govern the city.

General TAYLOR, it is said, arrived at Linares on the 30th ultimo. If so, he has reached Victoria before this time.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.

PLAN OF OPERATIONS AGAINST MEXICO.

The editor of the Spanish paper in New Orleans, who was recently appointed one of Gen. Scott's aids, but whose commission was subsequently revoked, gives the subjoined as the new plan of operations against Mexico, under Gen. Scott, and we notice that letters from Washington state that it may be relied on as correct:

Gen. Taylor, instead of moving upon San Luis Potosi, will repair to Saltillo, where he will remain for a short period. Gen. Scott, after having made some arrangements on the Rio Grande, will hasten to Tampico, where he will assume the command of 7,000 volunteers recently called out and ordered to assemble at that point. From Tampico Gen. Scott will march towards Vera Cruz, and Gen. Taylor will make a simultaneous movement towards Tampico with all the troops he can muster, after leaving sufficient force to garrison Saltillo, Monterey, Victoria, &c., and in union with Gen. Worth's division, will join Gen. Scott, who will have at his command the new military arm of rocketeers and howitzers.

At the proper moment, fifteen or sixteen vessels of the American Squadron, with a force of from 230 to 300 guns of all sizes and calibres, will appear off San Juan d'Ulloa, and begin the attack upon the castle. According to the new plan of operations, the land forces will rendezvous at the mouth of the river Antigua which empties into the Gulf a short distance to the North of Vera Cruz and ascend the same to where the main road to Jalapa crosses it. If this plan be speedily put into execution, there can be no doubt but that Vera Cruz and the castle will as speedily fall into the power of the American forces; but if any faith be put in Santa Anna's declarations, it is plain, he will be able to cut off the advance of General Taylor from Saltillo.

The suit of Mrs. Gen. Gaines, in which she obtained a verdict of \$17,000,000 in the district of Louisiana, is shortly to come before the Supreme Court of the United States, on an appeal.