SOMERSET HERI

TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.? HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE. AND FARMERS' AND MECHANICS'

\$2 50 WILL BE CHARGED.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY JONATHAN ROW, SOMERSET, SOMERSET COUNTY, PA.

New Series.]

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 1847,

Vol. 5.-No. 23.

ROUGH AND READY." Thy country hails thee, Hero Chief, There's victory in thy tramp, No foe can meet thy eagle eye, Thy patriot ardor damp.

On Palo Alto's bloody plain, Resaca's field of palms, Thou gave'st new glory to our name, New lustre to our arms.

Victorious still at Monterey, Thou didst what few would dare, And foremost in that bloody fray, Thy form was everywhere.

Though paltry souls may dare assail The deeds thine arm hath done, Black envy's shaft can never dim The laurels Thou hast won.

Go on! go on, old Hero Chief, There's glory in thy brow, Thy name is on each patriot tongue, Thy fame's THY COUNTRY'S NOW.

BURNA VISTA:

ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

We find in the New ORLEANS TROPIC of the 30th ultimo the subjoined highly interesting account of the Battle of Buena Vista, from the pen of an accomplished gentleman who shared its honors and its perils. It is full of interest, as presenting the most graphic description of the scenes of that ensanguined field which we have yet seen .- Nat. Intel.

Correspondence of the New Orleans Tropic. CAMP AT BUENA VISTA, FEBR. 24, 1847.

On the morning of the 22d intelligence reached General Taylor at his camp, on the hill overlooking Saltillo from the south, that Santa Anna, whose presence in our vicinity had been reported for several days, was advancing upon our main body, stationed near the Rancho San Juan de Buena Vista, about seven miles from Saltillo. The General immediately moved forward with May's squadron of Dragoons, Sherman's and Bragg's batteries of Artillery, and the Mississippi regiment of Riflemen, under Col. Davis, and arrived at the position which he had selected for awaiting the attack of the enemy about 11 o'clock. The time and the place, the hour and the man, seemed to promise a glorious celebration of the day. It was the 22d of February, the anniversary of that day on which the God of Battles gave to freedom its noblest champion, to patriotism its purest model, to America a preserver, and to the world the nearest realization of human perfection; for panegyric sinks before the name of Washington.

The morning was bright and beautiful. Not a cloud floated athwart the firmament or dimmed the azure of the sky, and the flood of golden radiance which gilded the mountain tops and poured over the valleys, wrought light and shade into a thousand fantastic forms. A soft breeze swept down from the mountains, rolling into graceful undulations the banner of the Republic, which was proudly streaming from the flag-staff of the fort and from the towers and battlements of Saltillo .-The omens were all in our favor.

lor exhibited the same comprehensive sagacity and masterly coup D'ALL which characterized his dispositions at Resaca de la Palma, and which crowned triumphantly all his operations amid the bladotted over with hills and ridges, and ted by broad gullies, until they mingle in- the time effectually silenced his fire. might require.

Mexican army, arrived, bearing a beauti- tion. Santa Anna, suggested by considerations the mountain, and, though our artillery in full retreat. for our personal comfort, which has pla- had wrought great havoc among its numfeat was inevitable, and that, to spare the commenced an inglorious flight. The ed." This was at once believed to be a ingratitude; evinced no appreciation what- to the great delight of the enemy, who ted to meet the representative of Santa ever of Santa Anna's kindness, and in- rent the air with shouts of triumph. Seformed him that whether his force amoun- veral officers of General Taylor's staff ted to 20,000 or 50,000, it was equally a immediately dashed off, to arrest, if pos- had, the Mexicans themselves re-opened matter of indifference; the terms of ad- sible, the retreating regiment, and restore their fires, thus adding treachery of the justment must be arranged by gunpow- it again to reputation and duty. Major highest order to the other barbarian prac-

Anna's infantry had succeeded in getting Bryan, were working such carnage in the a position high up the mountains on our ranks of the enemy as to make the colleft, from which they could make a noise umns roll to and fro like ships upon the without exposing themselves to much billows. His triumph at the Indiana redanger, and at a distance of three hundred | treat was but for a moment, and his shouts yards opened a most tremendous fire up- of joy were soon followed by groans of tructive a fire as to silence the enemy's on Col. Marshall's regiment. This was anguish and the shrieks of expiring hunreturned by two of his companies, which dreds, were dismounted and detached for the purpose as soon as they could arrive now opened its fire and driven back a but victory. Again, our spirits rose .within a neighborly range. The skir- large party of lancers, advancing in that The Mexicans appeared thoroughly routmishing continued until after dark, with direction. Along the entire line the battle ed; and while their regiments and divisno result to us save the wounding of three raged with great fury. Twenty-one thou- ions were flying before us, nearly all our men very slightly.

force as consisting of fifteen pieces of ar- sand Americans, sent forth to conquer a roar of artillery. In this charge the first In the choice of his position Gen. Tay- his superior.

> renewed on the morning of the 23d at an storm. early bour. This was also accompanied

nois regiment, under Lieut, Col. Weather- turn that flank, and for this purpose had knows no waking. mits of the mountains. The two squad- menced a rapid and extended discharge artillery under Lieut. Reynolds, now ses.

American General showed the greatest vines they pursued their shameful career fit to notice it, and Gen. Wool was depu-Dix, of the Pay Department, formerly of tices which distinguish their mode of The messenger returned to his employ- the 7th infantry, was the first to reach the it appeared that the Mexican commander, them. He was answered by three cheers, of his cavalry from joining the main bogrieved at our stubbornness, was almost showing that though the men had little dy, it could only have been done by a mined to have no further intercourse with they were not unmindful of an act of dis- have been an undoubted breach of faith. such ungrateful audacity. At length he tinguished gallantry on the part of anoth- Although a portion of the lancers during mustered resolution to open a fire from a er. A portion of the regiment immedithis interim had regained their original mortar, throwing several shells into our ately rallied around him, and was recamp without execution. While this formed by the officers. Dix, in person, was going on, Captain Steen, of the 1st then led them towards the enemy until dragoons, with a single man, started to- one of the men volunteered to take the eral seemed to be stationed with his staff, and, though not in time to repair the disbut before he completed the ascent the aster which their flight had created, to reparty vanished, and when he reached the trieve, in a slight degree, the character of top he discovered that two regiments had the State. While the day, however, by thrown themselves into squares to resist this disgraceful panic, was fast going ahis charge. The Captain's gravity was gainst us, the artillery was advanced, its overcome by this opposition, and he re- front extended, and different sections and pieces, under Sherman, Bragg, O'Brien, Just before dark a number of Santa Thomas, Reynolds, Kilburn, French, and

sand of the victims of Mexican oppres- light troops were ordered forward, and tillery, including some 24-pounders, six peace. The discharges of the infantry Illinois regiment and McKee's Kentuck-The firing on our extreme left, which of artillery reverberated through the a suddenness which was almost magical,

by quick discharges of artillery from the pressed forward on our left, and threaten- but a handful to oppose the frightful maszing lines of Monterey. The mountains same quarter, the Mexicans having establed a charge upon the Mississippi rifles, ses which were hurled upon us, and could rise on either side of an irregular and lished during the night a 12-pounder on a under Col. Davis, who had been ordered as easily have resisted an avalanche of broken valley, about three miles in width, point at the base of the mountain, which to support the Indiana regiment, and had thunderbolts. We were driven back, and commanded any position which could be succeeded in preserving a fragment of it the day seemed lost beyond redemption. scarred with broad and winding ravines. taken by us. To counteract the effect of in position. Col. Davis immediately Victory, which a moment before appear-The main road lies along the course of an this piece, Lieut. O'Brien, 4th artitlery, threw his command in the form of a V, ed within our grasp, was suddenly torn arroyo, the bed of which is now so deep was detached with three pieces of Wash- the opening towards the enemy, and a- from our standard. There was but one as to form an almost impassable barrier, ington's battery, having with him Lieu- waited his advance. On he came, dash- hope, but that proved an anchor sure and while the other side is bounded by preci- tenant Bryan, of the Topographical En- ing with all the speed of Mexican horses, steadfast. pitous elevations, stretching perpendicu- gineers, who, having planted a few shells but when he arrived at that point from larly towards the mountains, and separa- in the midst of the enemy's gunners, for which could be seen the whites of his eves, both lines poured forth a sheet of body of American lancers were stationed

Mexican infantry with great steadiness grape from Revnolds's six-pounder .- the enemy, and give such overwhelming soldiers. We all remember, in the histo- and the men to moor."

These dispositions had been made for and success; their field officers, McKee, The lancers once more rallied, and, di-destructiveness to its effect that the army ry of the Peninsular War, how powersome time, when the enemy was seen Clay, and Frv, passing along their line, recting their course towards the Saltillo was saved and the glory of the American fully the citizens of Saragossa, and other advancing in the distance, and the clouds antmating and encouraging the men by road, were met by the remainder of Col. arms maintained. * * * Spanish towns, co-operated against the of dust which rolled up before him gave precept and example. The second Illi-satisfactory evidence that his numbers nois regiment also received the enemy's lans, who drove them towards the mounwere not unworthy the trial of strength fire with great firmness, and returned an tains on the opposite side of valley, sort of mutual consent, after the last car- the Mexican commander that the citizens upon which we were about to enter .- ample equivalent. While the fierce con- where, from their appearance when last mage wrought among the Mexicans by especially the women, should leave the He arrived upon his position in immense flict was going on the main body of Col. visible, it may be presumed, they are still the artillery, both barties seemed willing town, but few in fact left. This is deepmasses, and with forces sufficiently nu- Hardin's regiment moved to the right of running. In this precipitate movement to pause upon the result. Night fell, and ly to be regretted. Many deplorable merous to have commenced his attack at the Kentuckians, and the representatives they were compelled to pass through a the American General, with his troops, scenes must ensue from the bombarding once, had he been as confident of success of each State seemed to vie with each rancho, in which many of our valiant slept upon the battle ground, prepared, if or storming a town where are gathered as it subsequently appeared he was soli- other in the honorable ambition of doing comrades had previously taken refuge, necessary, to resume operations on the many innocent women and children. The citous for our safety. The first evidence the best service for their country. Both who, from this secure retreat, opened morrow. But ere the sun rose again up- Mexican women are somewhat remarkadirectly afforded us of the presence of regiments gallantly sustained their posi- quite an effective fire upon them. It is on the scene the Mexicans had disappear- ble for their bravery. In this, as in all the Santa Anna was a white flag, which was tions and won unfading laurels. The reported, moreover, that hundreds of the ed, leaving behind them only the hundimly seen fluttering in the breeze, and veterans of Austerlitz could not have ex- Arkansas cavalry were so well satisfied or ds of their dead and dying whose bones are vastly superior to the men. In the anon Surgeon General Lindenberg, of the hibited more courage, coolness, and devo- with the result of this single effort, that are to whiten their native hills, and battles of Monterey and Buena Vista ful emblem of benevolent bravado and In the mean time the enemy's cavalry other, and accordingly kept on their way in their enemies that compassion which of contending hosts, conspicuous for their Christian charity. It was a missive from had been stealthily pursuing its way along to town, and there reported Gen. Taylor can have no existence in the bosoms of devotion and self possessed courage in

At this time the Mexican force was ced us under lasting obligations, propo- bers, the leading squadrons had passed much divided, and the fortunes of the day sing to General Taylor terms of uncon- the extreme points of danger, and were were with us. Santa Anna saw the cri- est, two of which passed through his to the brilliancy of any victory we might ditional surrender; promising good treat- almost in position to attack us in rear. - sis, and by craft and cunning sought to ment; assuring us that his force amounted At this critical moment the Indiana regito upwards of 20,000 men; that our de- ment turned upon its proper front and Taylor, desiring to know "what he wanteffusion of blood, his proposition should efforts of Col. Bowles to bring it into po- mere RUSE to gain time and re-collect his be complied with. Strange to say, the sition were vain, and over hills and ra- men, but the American General thought Anna, and to say to him that we "wanted" peace. Before the interview could be warfare. The flag, however, had accomer, and we waited in silence to hear the deserters, and seizing the colors of the plished the ends which its wily originator war of his artillery. Hours rolled by regiment, appealed to the men to know designed, for though our troops could without any movement on his part, and whether they had determined to desert have effectually prevented the remainder sometimes seen where the balls fell fastdisposed to retrace his steps, as if deter- disposition to become heroes themselves, fire, which, while the parley lasted, would position, a formidable number still remained behind. Upon these the infantry opened a brisk fire, while Revnolds's artillery, beautifully served, hailed the grape wards a hill on which the Mexican Gen- flag. The party returned to the field, and canister upon them with terrible ef-

The craft of Santa Anna had restored his courage, and with his reinforcement of cavalry he determined to charge our line. Under cover of their artillery, horse and foot advanced upon our batteries .-These, from the smallness of our infantry force, were but feebly supported, yet by the most brilliant and daring efforts nobly maintained their positions. Such was the rapidity of their transitions that officers and pieces seemed empowered with ubiquity, and upon cavalry alike, wherever they appeared, they poured so desartillery, compel his whole line to fall back, and soon to assume a sort of sarve Washington's battery on the right had | QUI PEUT movement, indicating any thing During the night a Mexican prisoner sion and the myrmidons of Mexican des- followed them with a most deadly fire, was taken, who reported Santa Anna's potism were arrayed against five theu- mingled with shouts which rose above the thousand cavalry, and fifteen thousand in- followed each other more rapidly than the jans were foremost. The pursuit was fantry, thus confirming the statement of sounds of the Swiss Bell-ringers in the too hot, and, as it evinced too clearly our fierce fervor of a FINALE, and the volleys | deficiency in numbers, the Mexicans, with ceased soon after sunset on the 22d, was mountains like the thunders of an Alpine rallied and returned upon us. They came in myriads, and for a while the carnage The myriads of Mexican cavalry still was dreadtul on both sides. We were

While our men were driven through the ravines, at the extremities of which a to one at the base of the principal range. From the movements soon perceptible lead that scattered him like chaff, felling to pounce upon them like tigers, Brent and On the right of the narrowest point of along the left of our line it became evi- many a gallant steed to the earth, and sen- Whiting, of Washington's battery, gave the roadway a battalion of the first Illi- dent that the enemy was attempting to ding scores of riders to the sleep that them such a torrent of grape as to put them to flight, and thus saved the remford, was stationed in a small trench, ex- concentrated a large body of cavalry and | While the dispersed Mexican cavalry nants of those brave regiments which had tending to the natural ravine, while, on infantry on his right. The base of the were rallying, the 3d Indiana regiment, long borne the hottest portion of the fight. the opposite height, the main body of the mountain around which these troops were under Col. Lane, was ordered to join Col. On the other flank, while the Mexicans regiment under Col. Hardin was posted, winding their way seemed girdled with a Davis, supported by a considerable body came rushing on like legions of fiends, with a single piece of artillery from Capt. belt of steel, as their glittering sabres and of horse. About this time, from some the artillery was left unsupported, and Washington's battery. The post of ho- polished lances flashed back the beams of unknown reason, our wagon train dis- capture by the enemy seemed inevitable; nor on the extreme right was assigned to the morning sun. Sherman's and Bragg's played its length along the Saltillo road, but Bragg and Thomas rose with the cri-Bragg's artillery, his left supported by batteries were immediately ordered to the and offered a conspicuous prize for the sis, and eclipsed even the fame they won the second regiment of Kentucky foot left; Col. Bissell's regiment occupied a Mexican lancers, which they seemed not at Monterey, while Sherman, O'Brien, under Col. McKee, the left flank of which position between them, while Col. Mc- unwilling to appropriate. Fortunately, and Brian proved themselves worthy rested upon the arroyo. Washington's Kee's Kentuckians were transferred from Lieut. Rucker, with a squadron of the 1st of the alliance. Every horse with O'Briin front of the narrow point of the road- tion near the centre. The second Indiana viously wounded and Capt. Eustis con- had advanced to within range of grape, way, in rear of which and somewhat to regiment, under Col. Bowles, was placed fined to his bed by illness,) was present, sweeping all before him. But here his the left, on another height, the second Il- on our extreme left, nearly perpendicular and by order of Gen Taylor dashed a- progress was arrested, and before the posted. Next on the left, the Indiana pose by a direct fire the flank movement persing them by his charge as effectually squadrons and battalions fell like leaves chieve a bloodless victory. From all we brigade, under Gen, Lane, was deployed, of the enemy. These dispositions hav- as the previous fire of the Mississippi ri- in the blasts of autumn. The Mexican soldiers in Vera while on the extreme left the Kentucky ing been promptly effected, the artillery flemen. May's dragoons, with a squad- were once more driven back with great Cruz seem inspired with much spirit and position directly under the frowning sum- multaneously the Mexican infantry com- Pike, and supported by a single piece of ces of artillery which were without hor- the city without some strong manifesta-

they deemed it unnecessary to make an- whose moans of anguish were to excite they were every where, in the very midst

ter material for their application. Major of the women and children. Bliss bore himself with his usual gallant- In vigorously defending Vera Cruz the assistant Surgeon, Hitchcock, would be ellist does, on a point of honor, and even

ent commanders.

ot which it has been purchased. I am ter, and on the "brave charge of his invinunable to state our loss, but it has been cible soldiers." It is a victory with the very severe, and proves the battle of Bue- Mexicans to show FIGHT against our na Vista to have been by far the most ter- troops. rible conflict in which our troops have

right and ready to pursue it. Hardin they would equal any troops in the world. was one of Nature's noblest spirits, a solwill deny that in him-

· Were the elements So mixed, that Nature might stand up To all the world-THIS WAS A MAN."

BUENA VISTA. But I cannot go on.

FROM THE N. O. DELTA, MARCH 31. OPERATIONS AROUND VERA CRUZ .- The opinion we have already entertained, that battery occupied a position immediately the right of our line so as to hold a posi- dragoons, (Capt. Steen having been pre- en's battery was killed, and the enemy the Mexicans would make a vigorous and accept of the overtures so often prestand at Vera Cruz, receives daily confirmation. They reckoned without their lineis regiment, under Col. Bissell, was to the direction of our line, so as to op- mong them in a most brilliant style, dis- showers of iron-hail which assailed him, host who thought Gen. Scott would acavalry, under Col. Marshall, occupied a of both armies opened its fires, and si- ron of Arkansas cavalry under Capt. loss, though taking with them three pie- zeal, and are determined not to yield up Republics. tions of bravery and patriotism. There rons of the first and second dragoons, and upon our line from the left to McKee's claimed their share in the discussion, and Thus thrice during the day, when all are about five thousand effective soldiers the Arkansas cavaly under Col. Yell, regiment. Our artillery belched forth its when the Mexicans had again assembled seemed lost but honor, did the artillery, in the town, and a large number of townswere posted in rear, ready for any ser- thunders with tremendous effect, while they had to encounter another shock from by the ability with which it was manou- folk, men and women, who in siege can be lowing toast was given: - "May we have vice which the exigencies of the day the Kentuckians returned the fire of the two squadrons, besides a fierce fire of vice, roll back the tide of success from rendered extremely useful in aiding the all the women in the country to short

administering to the wounded, and cheer-Throughout the action Gen. Taylor ing the last flickering thoughts of the dvwas where the shots fell hottest and thick- ing soldier. It would give a dark tinge clothes. He constantly evinced the achieve before Vera Cruz, if helpless greatest quickness of conception, women and children were mingled with fertility of resource, and a cool the victims of the fierce storm we are aunerring judgment not to be baffled. bout to let loose on the devoted city. Let Gen. Wool was wherever his presence it be borne in mind, however, that our was required, stimulating the troops to ac- General, to avoid such sad results of war. tivity and exertion. The operations of has offered a free passage through his Gen. Lane were confined to his own bri- camp to all the non-combatants of the cigade, and his efforts were worthy of bet- ty, and has indeed solicited the departure

ry, having his horse, as at Palo Alto, shot | Mexicans are influenced more by a pride in the head. Mr. Crittenden, a son of of character and a sense of shame tor the Senator from Kentucky, was conspic- their previous defeats, than by any patriuous in the field as a volunteer aid to otic impulses, or by any hope of succeed-Gen. Taylor; and the Medical Director's ing in the conflict. They fight as the duest, binding up a wound or dressing a with the show at least of courage and chibroken leg, with true professional zeal; valry. Defeat to them is a matter of and anon galloping with the ardor of an course, but its mortification are soon forametur knight, conveying orders to differ- gotten, if it has been achieved at great sacrifice of life. Thus we find Santa In this, as in every case of arbitrament | Anna, after a precipitate fight from the by the sword, the laurel is closely entwin- bloody field of Buena Vista, claiming the ed with the Cypress, and the lustre of a victory over Taylor, chiefly on the ground brilliant victory is darkened by the blood of the heavy loss he inflicted on the lat-

It is not known in what way General been engaged. Captain Lincoln, Assist- Scott will cenduct his operations around ant Adjutant General to Gen. Wool, fell Vera Cruz-whether he will content himearly in the action, while proudly distin- self with the unquestionable honor of a guished by his efforts to bring the flying long siege, and starving the poor Vera regiment back to their position, and with Cruzanos into terms, or whether he will us last breath bore testimony against In- cast the hazard of his die upon the bloody diana cowardice. Col. Yell was pierced arbitrament of a storm, and revive the by a lance while gallantly leading his re- glories of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane giment against the Mexican cavalry. The under the heavy fire of San Juan d'Ulua. noble Hardin met his death gloriously The latter plan will be the most brilliant while conducting the last terrible charge. and glorious, and we think the least des-Col. McKee after having gallantly sus- tructive and dangerous to our troops .tained the honor of Kentucky throughout | The delay of a siege, besides the casualthe action, fell in the foremost rank, and | ties incident to the exposed portion of our Lieut. Colonel Clay was cut down at al- lines, which are even now within range most the same moment with Hardin and of the guns of the castle, and which we McKee, while giving his men the most presume are to be advanced still nearer brilliant example of noble daring and lofty to the city, will bring our troops in contact with a foe more formidable than Mex-Others have fallen, but their names are ican valor and prowess. The vomito not known to me, nor is for me to pro- would thin our ranks faster than all the nounce the eulogy of those whose manes guns of San Juan, and Vera Cruz would I have recorded. Other and abler pens find in this scourge a wall of defence will do justice to the character and mem- more invulnerable than the sevenfold ory of the illustrious dead, whose devo- walls of Troy. To carry the city by tion to the Republic they have written storm will, we think, the most judicious with their blood and sealed with their and effective mode of operations, and the lives. Lincoln was a gallant officer and one most suited to the character of our accomplished gentleman, of pure heart troops. The valor and energy of our raw and generous impulses, and worthy of his volunteers will languish under a long revolutionary lineage. Yell was a warm siege, in a warm elimate and exposed bofriend and gallant man, quick to see the sition. In a combined attack on the city

When Vera Cruz is taken it will, we dier tried and true, a rare union of the presume be garrisoned, and the body of best qualities of the head and heart. Me- our troops will be marched to the high and Kee was wise in council and brave in the | beautiful town of Jalapa, situate about field, with a heart moved by the tenderest thirty miles from the seacoast, but sevensympathies and most noble impulses .- ty miles by the road from Vera Cruz .-And what shall I say of Clay-the young Here they can be maintained in health. the brave, the chivalrous-toremost in the and well supplied with all the comforts fight-the soul of every lofty sentiment? and necessaries of life. If a proper decidevoted to his friends add genorous to pline is preserved, as we are sure will be his enemies? He fell in the flower of his the case if Gen. Scott remains in comage and usefulness, and has left no wor- mand, these troops will be in fine condithier name behind him. If he was not tion to march towards the capital in the the "noblest Roman of them all," few fall. It will be necessary, however to impose a tight rein upon our volunteers when encamped in the lovely valley of Jalapa,, or lured by the influences of the climate, and removed from the restrains of a well-ordered society, they may share the fate of Hannibal's veterans when encamped at Cannæ, who, worn out by lux-THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR. ury and dissipation, fell an easy prey to the wary enemy. But we trust that these dangers may be avoided by the speedy termination of this unfortunate war. Our unfotuate and obstinate enemy will, we trust, awake from his delusion, ferred by us, and unite in terminating so destructive a war. All the glory and brilliancy achieved by either nation can

"Blazon the evil deed or consecrate the of a war between two neighboring Re-

At a dinner of the shoe and leather ma. nufacturers of Danvers, Mass., the fol-