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## From the National Era. A DREAM OF SUMMER.

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Bland as the morning breath of June,  
The South-west breeze play;  
And, through its haze, the Winter noon  
Seems warm as Summer's day.  
The snow-plumed Angel of the North  
Has dropped his icy spear;  
Again the mossy earth looks forth,  
Again the streams gush clear.  
The fox his hill-side cell forsakes—  
The muskrat leaves his nook,  
The blue-bird in the meadow brakes  
Is singing with the brook.  
"Bear up, O Mother Nature!" cry  
Bird, breeze and streamlet free,  
Our Winter voices prophesy  
Of Summer days to thee!"  
So, in those winters of the soul,  
By bitter blasts and drear  
O'er swept from Memory's frozen pole,  
Will sunny days appear.  
Reviving Hope and Faith, they show  
The Soul its living powers,  
And now beneath the Winter's snow  
Lie germs of Summer flowers!  
The Night is Mother of the Day,  
The Winter of the Spring,  
And ever upon old Decay  
The greenest mosses cling.  
Behind the cloud the starlight lurks,  
Through showers the sunbeams fall;  
For God who loveth all His works,  
Has left His Hope with all!

## THE CITY OF CANTON, CHINA.

The rapidly increasing intercourse, of late years, with that strange and mysterious nation, THE CHINESE, as well as the opening in our midst of Peters' wonderful Chinese collection, has created a lively interest in all that relates thereto.—We have a few remarks on the capital:  
Canton is one of the oldest cities in China, and has always been one of the most important. It stands on the north bank of the "Choo-Keang," or Pearl River, about sixty miles from the sea, and is so nearly on a level with the river as to be sometimes inundated to the depth of several feet in the Spring and Fall of the year.  
It has been the principal seat of foreign commerce in China, for over twelve hundred years, and will probably continue to be, notwithstanding the opening of four other ports on the coast at the north, by the Treaty with England, as the trade is already firmly established, and the Chinese have a national dislike of change.  
The Portuguese were the first Europeans to open a trade with China, and reached Canton in 1517, by doubling the Cape of Good Hope. The Spanish, Dutch and English soon followed, and afterwards the Americans.  
The English trade is much larger than all others combined. They sell the Chinese twenty millions of dollars worth of opium, and sixteen millions worth of cotton, cotton goods and woollens annually, and purchase from them about eighteen millions worth of teas, silks and other goods. Part of the eighteen millions of dollars balance in favor of England, is used to pay for the goods purchased by other nations, but several millions are yearly drawn from China by the English, in consequence of which the precious metals are becoming scarcer and rising in value.  
Canton was one of the last places to submit to the present race of Tartars, who obtained possession of it by the treason of one of the Chinese officers, in 1650, after an obstinate siege of eleven months. The Tartars were so enraged by the protracted resistance of the inhabitants, that they sacked the city. Seven hundred thousand persons were slain during the siege and pillage, and the destruction of property was immense.  
For protection against foreign invasion, a wall was built about the city in 1706, and at a subsequent period the suburbs were taken in by an additional wall.—Since then, the city has extended beyond the last enclosure, and the suburbs, through which foreigners can roam, are now about half as large as the town within. The walls, built of stone and brick, vary from 25 to 40 feet in height, and are about 25 feet thick. Twelve gates lead into the city, which, as well as the suburbs, is intersected with canals and ditches. The streets are numerous, but generally short and crooked, in width from 2 to six feet, and average about 6. Owing to their narrow dimensions, wheel carriages are not used at all, and boats and sedans are the only conveyances. The houses are generally but one story high, and built of brick, of a blue or lead color.  
There are no means for ascertaining correctly the number of inhabitants; but, judging from their crowded manner of living, the great number of arizans of every kind, and a population of two or

three hundred thousand living in boats in front of the city, Canton must contain considerably over a million of inhabitants.—Sat. Cour.  
**BREADSTUFFS.**—We fear that the high price of, and great demand for, breadstuffs in Europe, has caused many of our farmers to exhaust their granaries so far as not to have reserved sufficient provision for themselves; and that, as a necessary consequence, before the next harvest shall have been gathered in, they will be compelled to purchase at an advanced price. It was the calculation of many persons, that the prices in Europe could not be maintained, and that they must of necessity recede in this country. Under this expectation they may have sold more of their stock of grain than was prudent, with a view to future purchase at diminished cost. Where this course has been pursued it will be attended by considerable loss, as we see no prospect of a decrease in price or demand for American produce in Europe or this country, until after the approaching harvest.  
But breadstuffs are not the only articles of necessity that have greatly increased in price within a short time, as every house-keeper of the city well knows.—Articles of almost every description in our markets are remarkably high—meats of all kinds, poultry, butter, &c. have advanced at least a third—so that those of humble means find their finances hardly adequate to the maintenance of their families—whilst those of still more reduced circumstances must forego many articles to which they have become accustomed.  
The high prices which have been obtained for breadstuffs, have induced farmers generally to increase their cultivation of grain, particularly of corn; and if the season be favorable, there will be more of that article raised during the present year than in any which has preceded it. Of the wheat crop accounts are not so favorable, the severe and prolonged frosts having been most disastrous to its growth in some places. Still we have no doubt that there will be an abundant supply, not only for our own consumption, but for that of such nations of Europe as may have short crops.—(Clipper.)

**THE WONDERFUL POWER OF MEMORY.**—One of the most remarkable instances on record of the tenacious power of memory is related by Richardson in his "Literary Leaves," where he states that an old English Reporter of the name of Woodfall, had so strong a faculty of recollection, that he could report entire debates in the House of Commons without the aid of notes or any kind of memorandum. He was an editor also, and the accuracy and precision of his reports brought his paper into great repute. During a debate he used to close his eyes and lean with both hands upon a stick, resolutely excluding all extraneous associations.  
He would retain a full recollection of a particular debate a fortnight after it had occurred and during the intervention of other debates. He used to say it was put in a corner of his mind for future reference. He was an uncommon man in two respects: in the singular faculty he possessed, and in hearing aught that he was good enough to be so long remembered.

**AN INCIDENT AT BUENA VISTA.**—During the most gloomy hour of the fight, Sergeant Joseph Langworth, 1st Mississippi regiment, was shot through the thigh. Unable to stand, he sat upright, and shot dead a lancer as he approached him, while engaged in reloading, another lancer trotted past him and raised his lance to drive it into a wounded Lieutenant, a few feet from him. Before his weapon was hurled, however, Langford threw his pistol and struck the lancer a stunning blow on the nape of the neck.—The action saved the Lieutenant but proved fatal to the magnanimous Langford; for, staggering, the Mexican turned and drove his lance into the forehead of the wounded man, coming out back of his ear. Just at this moment, four men, who were approaching with a horse to carry off their comrade, shot the Mexican at the moment he disengaged his lance, and he tumbled across the body of the prostrate Mississippian.

**BURIED ALIVE.**—Many persons are oppressed with a fear of being buried alive, and truly it is a horrible thought. If, however, the statement below should really be the announcement of a positive fact admitted of no exception, there is no need of encountering the danger of being buried alive.  
"A learned Belgian, M. Maindieu, has recently discovered a very simple means of distinguishing between real and apparent death. It consists in creating a small burrow; if there is life, a blister always is formed, even in the absence of all apparent sensibility. If death has already intervened, nothing of the kind occurs."  
The citizens of Jefferson county, Ky., have forwarded a massive silver pitcher to Gen. Taylor's wife. They announced the fact to the General, who expresses himself warmly for this kind token from his early friends.

## From the Kaickerbocker. Lines Written Twenty Years After Marriage.

Dear Wife, some twenty years have flown  
Since you and I agreed to marry;  
That you were rather young, I own,  
But then I was too old to tarry:  
In a single state full long enough  
I'd lived, and wished to try the double;  
Friendship I'd found but meagre stuff,  
And Fame an evanescent bubble.  
From books no more a solace came,  
To soothe in my lonesome times;  
And writing prose seemed very tame,  
And still more stupid stringing rhymes;  
The drama I pronounced a bore,  
I cared not for a mimic passion,  
Or plots and characters of yore,  
When solemn nonsense was in fashion.  
There was a vacuum in my heart,  
A sort of strange and constant longing;  
And through my brain what thoughts would dart,  
How many shapes go wildly thronging!  
My feelings that were like a feather,  
Became so heavy, sad, peculiar;  
At first I guessed it was the weather,  
And then my ancient sweet-heart, Julia.  
But when the former grew quite warm,  
And quite as warmly smiled the latter,  
I found that neither sun nor storm  
Nor gentle Julia was the matter;  
"Who was it then?" I madly cried,  
"It must be some such charming fairy;  
A lovelier one," my soul replied,  
"Delicious, dear, enchanting Mary."  
At first you doubted, then refused  
To listen to my sudden wooing;  
But when you paused and wily mused,  
Upon your charms and my undoing,  
Your tender breast relenting knew  
Something of Love's sublime emotion,  
And finally repaid the true  
Deep fervor of my soul's devotion.  
Sweet wife! did I not tell you sooth  
That we should always love each other,  
That I would always be in truth  
Your more than husband, father, brother!  
Ah! what have you not been true to me!  
My hope, my joy, my pride, my treasure,  
Since twenty years have flown with thee,  
Like dreams of pure unfulfilled pleasure.

## ACTION OF THE MEXICAN CONGRESS.

Immediately on the receipt of the news of Santa Anna's defeat at Cerro Gordo, the Mexican Congress held an extraordinary session. The following account of its proceedings is translated by the New Orleans Picayune from *El Republicano* of the 21st April. It comes in the shape of a preamble and eight articles, and we give it entire:  
"The sovereign constituent Mexican Congress, in use of the full powers with which the inhabitants of the Republic have invested it for the sacred object of saving its nationality, and as a faithful interpreter of the firm determination with which its constituents are decided to carry on the war which the United States are now making on the nation, without desisting on account of any kind of reverses; and considering that, under these circumstances, the first public necessity is that of preserving a centre of union to direct the national defence with all the energy that circumstances demand, and to avoid even the danger of a revolutionary power arising which might dissolve the National Union, destroy its institutions, or consent to the dismemberment of its territory, has determined to decree as follows:  
"Art. 1. The Supreme Government of the Union is authorized to dictate all necessary measures for the purpose of carrying on the war, defending the nationality of the Republic, and saving the federal republican form of Government under which the nation is constituted.  
"Art. 2. The preceding article does not authorize the Executive to make a peace with the United States, conclude a negotiation with Foreign Powers, nor dispose, in whole or in part, of the territory of the Republic.  
"Art. 3. Neither does it authorize him to make contracts of colonization, impose punishments, nor confer any civil or military employments other than those whose appointments are expressly entrusted to him by the constitution.  
"Art. 4. Every agreement or treaty shall be null and void which may be made between the Government of the United States and any authority whatever, which, subverting the actual order of affairs, should set aside or take the place of the legally established supreme powers of the Union.  
"Art. 5. Every individual is declared a traitor, let him be a private person or public functionary, who, either in his

private capacity or invested with any authority, incompetent or of revolutionary origin, may enter into treaties with the United States of America.  
"Art. 6. In the event that the actual Congress finds it impossible to continue its sessions, a permanent committee shall be immediately installed, to be composed of the oldest individuals then found present of each deputation.  
"Art. 7. This committee, in the absence of Congress, shall perform the duties of a Government Council; shall appoint, in case of vacancy, the person who is to take charge temporarily of the Executive powers of the Republic; shall regulate the counting and taking of the votes in the election of a new President; shall call together the national representation.  
"Art. 8. The powers which the present decree confer on the Government shall cease as soon as the war is concluded."  
Such (says the Picayune) is about the amount of the proceedings of the meeting of the Mexican Congress, held immediately after the news had reached the capital of the disastrous defeat of Cerro Gordo. The editor of *El Republicano*, in speaking of this extraordinary session in his paper of the 21st April, says that "to the honor of the legislative body it ought to be observed that yesterday more than sentiments of patriotism were heard expressed. May the common danger thus unite all the Mexicans, and cause to disappear even the names of our sad dissensions!"

## EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PICAYUNE.

JALAPA, MEXICO, APRIL 25, 1847.  
The diligence or stage-coach, is just in from the city of Mexico, from whence they have received papers up to the 22d instant. The news of the terrible defeat at Cerro Gordo had reached the capital, and while it astonished and overwhelmed all classes, the tone of the papers, of the public men, and of the Congress itself, would also show that it had served to inflame the people still more against the United States. Anaya has been appointed provisional President, I believe, and has been gifted with full powers on every point except that in relation to making peace with the United States. This no one thinks of. Congress, in extraordinary session, has even declared any one a traitor who talks of peace. The editor of *El Republicano* says that we may take Puebla; that we may even capture the city of Mexico itself, but that there must be no peace. The duty of the people is to see their cities sacked and destroyed and themselves immolated, before they talk of peace. The guerilla system of warfare appears to be recommended on all sides as their only salvation; by this means they drove out the Spaniards, and in the same way they say they must expel the iniquitous, usurping, and grasping North American from their sacred soil.—Better all die, and be blotted from the seals of nations, than to come to any terms so long as a single hostile foot is on their soil, or a hostile vessel on their coast. Such is the language of the papers, of the civil bodies, and of the military.  
From a passenger—a Spaniard—who arrived in the diligence, we learn that, as yet, they have done little or nothing towards fortifying Mexico. He also says that there is a strong party in favor of peace, although the members hardly dare avow themselves. There are not regular troops of consequence on the route, and all those who escaped at Cerro Gordo, with the exception of a portion of the cavalry, have dispersed in every direction. No one here thinks that the Mexicans can ever make another stand and give another grand battle, but the impression is prevalent that small parties will be organized to annoy the roads, cut off supplies, and kill all stragglers.  
Gen. Salas, who was President *ad interim* before the arrival of Santa Anna from exile, has issued a proclamation announcing that he is empowered to raise a guerilla corps, and calls upon all good Mexicans to join his standard. In his concluding sentence he says that "war to death without pity, shall be the device of the guerilla warfare of vengeance."  
President Anaya has issued a grand proclamation to the Mexican nation, calling upon one and all to turn out to the rescue. He dwells particularly upon the achievements of their fathers—the fathers of the present generation—and earnestly petitions their sons to do likewise.  
*El Republicano* of the 22d instant contains a long list of those persons who have contributed voluntarily towards establishing a foundry for the casting of cannon. The same paper mentions the arrival at Orizaba of Santa Anna, but says nothing of the number of troops he had with him.  
JALAPA, MEXICO, APRIL 27, 1847.  
The diligencia came in this morning from Perote, but from no point on the other side, as the Governor of Puebla has ordered it to cease running this way.—Passengers came through, however, bringing papers and verbal news.  
Among other rumors brought by passengers is one to the effect that Mr. Bankhead, the British Minister, has renewed

his offers of mediation between Mexico and the United States, and that when the diligencia left the city of Mexico the Congress was acting upon his propositions, whatever they may have been. Notwithstanding the fixed and denunciatory tones of the public press, there is certainly a peace party in Mexico, and there may be something in this report of English intervention in the distracted affairs of Mexico.  
An intelligent man with whom I have conversed says that the Mexicans neither will nor can make any opposition at Puebla. The population is one of the worst in Mexico, and the most inimical to strangers; yet the dreadful defeat at Cerro Gordo has completely paralyzed them. At the city of Mexico a few light breastworks have been thrown up, not only as you enter the place by the Vera Cruz road, but on the road leading to the Convent of our Lady Gaudalupe; but nothing like a regular system of defence has been as yet undertaken. Not only the Government but the citizens appear, with all their vauntings, to have become stupefied at the succession of defeats which have befallen their country, and know not which way to turn nor what to do.—Santa Anna has written to the Government from Orizaba, stating that he has 1,500 men, and wants reinforcements and money; but his demands have been unheeded. At the city of Mexico, as well as in other places, the people appear to have lost much of their confidence in the "Hero of Tampico," and many have openly accused him of cowardice at Cerro Gordo, as well as of having sold the battle to the Americans.

## From the N. Orleans Delta of May 6. THE ADVANCE OF OUR ARMY IN MEXICO.

The steamship New Orleans arrived here last evening from Vera Cruz, which port she left on the 29th ultimo.  
We have conversed with an intelligent passenger who came over on the New Orleans. He says that he understood Gen. Taylor had succeeded in communicating with Gen. Scott, and that the object of his despatches was the formation of a mutual understanding between them, with a view of joining their forces preparatory to a descent upon the city of Mexico.  
Gen. Scott pushes on without stop or falter; the destructive storm of Cerro Gordo delays not a day or an hour on his onward march; with a boldness, an energy, and a mastery activity beyond all parallel, he has passed through the considerable town of Jalapa, traversed the dangerous and difficult road thirty miles beyond, and appears, with the old vanguard of the army, under the gallant Worth, before the far-famed castle of Perote.  
CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DELTA  
JALAPA, (MEXICO), APRIL 21, 1847.  
I arrived at this lovely place yesterday, and found that Gen. Twiggs had hoisted the American flag in the city the day before. He followed the retreating heroes of Cerro Gordo to within a few miles of Jalapa, when all traces of them as a body disappeared, and he encamped for the night within three miles of the town that evening, and entered and took possession of it early the next morning.  
Santa Anna did not pass through Jalapa, but in company with Ampudia and Torrejon, turned off to the left at his hacienda, and halted for the night at the "nine mile pass," which was being fortified, but which, on second consideration, it was deemed prudent to evacuate. This evacuation took place yesterday morning, and in the evening Col. Harney's dragoons took possession of the Pass—Gen. Worth following in their footsteps. A number of small arms was taken at the Pass, but they are of little or no value.  
All along the road from Perote and Puebla the Mexicans here say will be opposed, and contrary to the general belief, it is said the commander-in-chief will shortly move in that direction.  
Col. Childs is the military Governor of Jalapa.  
JALAPA, April 23—10 A. M.  
An express has just got in from Perote. Gen. Wool reached that town yesterday, at 11 o'clock A. M. He found it completely evacuated by the soldiers of the enemy, and a Col. Vasquez left behind to surrender it with decency. An immense number of small arms, the big guns of the castle and city, and ammunition were taken possession of.  
Gen. Ampudia, with about 3,000 cavalry, in a wretched condition, was near the town when our troops entered it, when he put off.  
Santa Anna had not been in Perote since the fight at Cerro Gordo, and he is supposed to be somewhere in the mountains.  
Santa Anna escaped through a mountain pass from Cerro Gordo, and was at Orizaba at last accounts, waiting reinforcements. It was said that he designed adopting a guerilla mode of operation for the remainder of the war. The city of Mexico was astounded by the battle of Cerro Gordo. Great preparations were being made for its defence.  
Gen. Worth had advanced one of his brigades, with a battery and a troop of

dragoons, to a place called Tepe Aguila, twelve leagues beyond Perote, to enlarge his circuit of supplies.  
The road from Vera Cruz to the army was infested with armed banditti, who attacked weak parties or trains unprovided with a sufficient escort. Mr. Kendall mentions a report of a number of recruits for the army, going up under charge of Capt. Winder, having been killed by the rancheros or guerillas between Jalapa and Cerro Gordo. Another correspondent writes as follows:  
VERA CRUZ, April 23, 1847.  
An express arrived last evening from Lieut. Dixon, in command of 102 convalescent soldiers from the hospitals in this city, on their road to join their respective regiments at and near Jalapa, stating that the party had been attacked by about 300 Mexicans. The express rider met, two miles this side of where he left Lieut. D., a train of about forty wagons in charge of Capt. Croghan Ker. Some fears are entertained for a train that was some five or six hours ahead of them. In fact, the Mexicans had great rejoicing amongst themselves last evening in consequence of the capture of one of our wagon trains by them. Their accounts have it that our men (the guard) had been literally cut to pieces; but we have but little faith in any thing that comes from such sources.  
The Mexicans have a fine chance now to work upon our trains if they could only raise courage enough to do it. Col. Wilson's force at this place is too weak to spare many from it, and, if the enemy should go to work with determination, they might reap a handsome reward almost without opposition. A few cases of vomito are said to have occurred, but in a very mild form.  
FROM THE VERA CRUZ EAGLE OF AP. 28.  
We understand yesterday that information had been received at Jalapa that Gen. Worth had thrown his outposts towards Puebla, and would march immediately in that direction himself. We are somewhat doubtful as to its truth, however, not being able to trace it to any positive source. The latest information received from Perote, which might be relied on, (we think,) is that issued by us in an extra on Monday last. Generals Scott, Patterson, Twiggs, Pillow, and Quitman were in Jalapa—Gen. Shields still lying in a very doubtful state in an hospital on the battle-field at Cerro Gordo. Rumor says that Puebla will yield without discharging a gun; if so, they will show more wisdom than has been evinced by several other Mexican cities, with hardly a hope for success against us.  
Some of the Mexican officers (prisoners), Major H. G. Bennett, Capt. Montgomery, Lieut. Sorvera, and Lieut. Saunders, 1st dragoons, came passengers in the New Orleans, and 150 discharged volunteers and teamsters.  
[From the N. Orleans Delta of May 6.  
LATEST FROM GEN. TAYLOR'S CAMP.  
We yesterday conversed with an officer direct from Saltillo. He left there on the 14th ultimo. The force stationed there and at Buena Vista, under the command of Gen. Wool, was composed of the 1st and 2d Illinois regiments, the 2d Kentucky regiment, the 2d and 3d Indiana, and the Arkansas cavalry. The 1st and 2d Illinois were about to leave; the term of enlistment of the whole of them will have expired between the 1st and 20th Proximo.  
The artillery force that was in the battle of Buena Vista are still stationed there, as are also Col. May's dragoons. A squadron of the latter, numbering some two hundred, under Lieutenant Rucker, made a scout in the adjoining country.—They found Gen. Minon in the neighborhood of Encarnacion, at the head of a thousand or fifteen hundred lancers. They thought to draw a fight from Minon, but were unsuccessful. Three of the party, who separated themselves from the main body, got killed before they returned to camp, by some prowling Mexicans who hung about their lines.  
The troops at Buena Vista and Saltillo were in excellent health; and the wounded, who were being treated by General Wool, and who saw that all their wants were attended to, were rapidly improving. With the wounded Mexicans, who are in a separate hospital, attended by their own surgeons, it is different. The place is in a most filthy condition. The American Governor of the town had to compel the Alcalde to pay more attention to their wants and to the cleanliness of the place.  
Gen. Taylor is still at the Walnut Springs. He has heard of his nomination for the Presidency by several presses and persons in the United States, but avoids referring to it or saying aught against it. He evidently appears chagrined, but at or about which he does not communicate to those about him. Our informant left his camp on the 18th ultimo. The Kentucky rifles, who were then at the Walnut Springs, were to start for Camargo, on their way home, with the next down train.  
The headquarters of Humphrey Marshall's Kentucky cavalry was at Camargo. T. Marshall's company was at Camargo. But few or none of the volunteers will re-enlist.