

THE SOMERSET HERALD.

AND FARMERS' AND MECHANICS' REGISTER.

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SOMERSET HERALD.

The Cumberland Citizen says: The great question before the country is, the pacification of Mexico. Turn which way we may, it is present and before us. Day by day, it grows in importance. It absorbs the entire attention, whether we will or not. It is not a mere question for Government to consider and dispose of. It is a question that goes home to the heart and the interests of every individual in the land. Rich and poor, old and young, black and white, the well and the sick, parent and child—all feel that they have an abiding interest in this vast question.

The Philadelphia Inquirer contains a comparative statement, showing that the number of men killed and wounded in the present war with Mexico has been already more than half as great as the loss sustained in the seven years' war of the Revolution. In the latter the number of killed and wounded, as ascertained by reference to authentic sources, was 8697—in the former, 4491. It is estimated besides, that not less than 5000 have perished from disease, from assassination and in skirmishes with the guerrillas.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, says:—

"As to the levying of a contribution of \$150,000 demanded by General Scott of the city of Mexico, it is far from satisfying the expectation of our Government. A million would have been little enough after what our troops have suffered.— Contributions will henceforth be levied on all large towns, and the one hundred and fifty thousand dollars furnished by the capital is considered as the first installment of a much larger sum due to her wealthy inhabitants."

PROMOTIONS FROM THE RANKS.

Gen. Scott has recommended Sergeants Benson, Wilson and Robinson, of the 2d Artillery; Heck, of the 3d Artillery; Urdogoff, Farmer, Archer and Daily, of the 5th Infantry; Sergeant Major Thompson, 6th Infantry; and Sergeant Major Fink, of the 8th Infantry, for commissions, as rewards for distinguished bravery and good conduct in the late battles. This is the way. The 6th Infantry has already two Captains, Belger and Hendrickson, who were enlisted men, and have been promoted for gallantry in the field.

John Randolph in 1806 thus spoke:—

"I declare in the face of day that this government was not instituted for the purpose of offensive war—no—it was framed (to use its own language) for the common defence and general welfare, which are inconsistent with offensive war. I call that offensive war which goes out of our limits and jurisdiction for the attainment of objects not within those limits and that jurisdiction."

One thousand Colt's Patent Revolving Rifles have been made at Hartford, for the use of the United States Mounted Rifle Regiment. Each rifle is made to hold six charges, which can all be fired in as many seconds; and as they can be loaded very quickly, it is expected that they will prove a terribly effective instrument of war. General Taylor has approved them.

A FALSE PROPHECY.

The London Times of September 3d, alluding to the difficulties and dangers of our gallant little army in Mexico, intimated that, in all probability, General Scott would have to capitulate to the enemy.— Eleven days after, and the American flag floated over the National Palace of Mexico.

THUNDER AND LIGHTNING.—Speaking of the present threatening state of Europe, Major Noah's Times says:—

"We hear the thunder rolling, and only pray that we may not see the lightning flash." There never was any thunder unaccompanied by lightning, which must flash somewhere.

A soldier was sworn into the service of the United States at Cincinnati, last week, who was in the battles of Palo Alto, Monterey, and Buena Vista; and in the last fell, and was left for dead upon the field, reported as dead to headquarters, and published as dead in the official despatches.

From the National Intelligencer.

TRUE AMERICANISM.

We have never yet happened to meet with any expression of opinion by a public assembly more distinctly exhibiting at once the intelligence, the spirit, and the port of Freemen; than the following Resolutions, unanimously adopted at the Whig Convention lately held in the State of New Hampshire:

"Resolved, That, as citizens of a free country, we claim and shall exercise the right at all times, in a candid but fearless manner, of expressing our opinions of the acts whether of the State or National Administration; and whether those acts of the President of the United States in his last Message to brand as traitors all those citizens of the Republic who do not yield a blind obedience to his will, and approve his conduct in the unconstitutional commencement of the present war with Mexico, as an insult to freemen, and fit only to emanate from one who rules over slaves.

Resolved, That War is to be avoided at all times as a great calamity, especially by this country, as not congenial to the spirit of our institutions, or the feeling that should animate us in our intercourse with the nations of the earth; but that we regard the present war with Mexico as doubly hateful, inasmuch as it was unconstitutionally commenced by the act of the President, in disregard of the rights of Congress, and as it is waged for the dismemberment of a sister Republic, upon pretenses that are false, and for a purpose that is abhorrent to all feelings of humanity and justice; and that, although we award to the officers and men engaged in that war all the praise that is due to skill, energy, and courage, yet we regard the glory acquired by our arms as an inadequate compensation for the blood that has been shed, the treasure that has been wasted, and the indelible stain that has been cast upon our national character by the prosecution of a war of conquest and ambition, the first, as we hope it may be the last, in the history of the Republic.

Resolved, therefore, That it is the duty of the Whigs of the country, by all exertions in their power, to extricate the country from the condition into which it has been plunged by the madness of its rulers, and to procure a peace with Mexico as soon as it can be done consistently with the true honor and dignity of the American name, and by the termination of the war, set an example of justice and magnanimity that shall reflect as much honor upon the character of the American people for exercise of the moral virtues as they have acquired by the display of those of a military and heroic kind.

Well done, Whigs of the Granite State!

MORAL SENTIMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

Above our readers have a sample of the Political opinion and spirit of the People. The following, from a different quarter, embodies, we believe, a just exposition of the generally sound Moral sentiment of the country:—

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS just adopted by the Synod of the New School Presbyterian Church of New York and New Jersey, viz:

The Synod of New York and New Jersey, considering the tendency of war to impede the progress of the Gospel, by putting the minds of men in a state unfavorable to the influence of truth and the Holy Spirit, deem it proper and reasonable, in view of the fact that our country is now engaged in war with a neighboring nation, which, as far as it has proceeded, has been unusually sanguinary and disastrous, to express their solemn convictions in the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Synod regard this war both as an exhibition of human wickedness and as a dreadful scourge from the hand of God, which should lead the Church of Christ to great searchings of heart, to deep humiliation and prostration of spirit, and to earnest supplication before the Throne of Mercy.

Resolved, That it is recommended to all the Ministers of the word belonging to this Synod to labor, by prayer, preaching, and all other appropriate means, to impress the minds of men with a sense of the sinfulness and the evils of War, and especially of the existing war with Mexico.

Resolved, That the Synod express the earnest desire that all the people of this land, and especially God's covenant people, see eye to eye in reference to the present and prospective evils of the existing war; and the desirableness of its speedy termination.

CREDITABLE TO HUMAN NATURE

A poor little girl in New York, says the Express, had one of her fingers badly injured by a "Straw Cutter" at the Fair of the American Institute last week.—The case excited much sympathy, and in addition to donation from visitors, the entire receipts of Saturday, the last day of the fair, were generously appropriated for her benefit, by the managers. From these sources she was put in possession of the magnificent sum of \$1,000.

From the Lancaster Examiner.

The well informed Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, Mr. Grund, outlines the President's Message to the next Congress as follows:

"The administration will probably take this ground on the subject. The war was forced upon us by Mexico refusing to receive our minister and listen to our proposal, Mexico being unwilling to listen to what we had to say, we were obliged to take possession of what we believed to be our own, and which was ours by the solemn declaration of Texas and the act of our own Congress, which had made it a collection district. In doing that, we were attacked, and were forced to beat them back and pursue them. Again we halted and offered to treat, provided Mexico would receive our commissioners. Mexico refused, and we had to strike another blow. Monterey was taken, and we again proposed terms of peace, which were equally rejected with scorn. The battle of Buena Vista was fought, and at its victorious close Gen. Taylor again intimated to the President an interim of the Mexican Republic that he should be glad to send his proposition for peace to Washington—he was not even deemed worthy of an answer. Thus we were compelled to reduce Vera Cruz, and to fight the battle of Cerro Gordo.— Again we offered peace, but we had to take Puebla. There we halted and commenced negotiations. We have sent down a commissioner to treat, but the enemy feigning to partially accord to our wishes, fortified the capital and its environs. We are at last compelled to reduce the capital; but after two fearful battles we again halt at the very gates of the city to save Mexico from disgrace and ruin. Again she deceives and employs the time of the armistice in preparing graves for our soldiers. What, then, are we to do? Are we, because Mexico is unwilling to treat with us, to abandon the blood-stained battle-fields—historical monuments of the devotion and heroism of our army? The idea is preposterous; it would involve us in indelible shame and disgrace. It would be encouraging Mexico in her system of deceptions against our commerce, and would render the American name a mockery throughout the world.

The war then must go on. It must be carried on vigorously—but circumstances must determine to what point. We cannot very well fall back to a given line; because this would not end the war; but merely give the enemy the advantage of position. It would cover his rear, and he might concentrate his forces in front against that line. It would give him the advantage of attacking it *ad infinitum*, while ourselves would be restricted to the defensive, in protecting it. It would involve the surrender of our most valuable conquests, and by that means, deprive us not only of the physical, but also of the moral consequence of our victories.

The line policy, therefore, will not be adopted by the administration; but the principle avowed of carrying on the war till all our claims are satisfied. In these claims are included the expenses of the war. These naturally increase as the war goes on, and Mexico has no money to pay for them; consequently she must lose more and more territory; that is, as the war goes on, will our claims for damages increase, will our government demand the cession of additional provinces to be satisfied. As the war is prolonged, the territory of the Republic Mexico must diminish, and pursuing this course of mathematical reasoning, we shall arrive at a period when nothing but the whole of Mexico will pay for our outlay, and the State itself be absorbed to liquidate her debt to us. This is the ground the President will take in his message. He will not avow a conquest which was not of his seeking, nor will he say how far that conquest shall be carried; but he leaves that to the Mexicans, merely intimating that it will be in proportion to their obstinacy and the period of the war. Meanwhile, I half guess that the provinces of Tamaulipas and Zacatecas, either of which is much more valuable than New Mexico, will be claimed as the price of the battle of Chapultepec and the taking of the city of Mexico. More will be added as we go on.

A CURIOUS CHALLENGE.

Mr. F. O. J. Smith, of the Boston Telegraph line, in a communication to the Boston Transcript, offers the following bet:

"I will deposit \$1000 in the Merchants' Bank against a like sum, that I have a Durham bull, whose weight exceeds 2500 pounds, who will travel from Boston to New York city, with a message of one thousand words, in less time than the whole telegraph system patented to House can convey the same message, in consecutive words, from Boston to New York; and I will furnish the wires of the New York and Boston telegraph, free of charge, to the House instruments, to carry out the undertaking. The offer to be accepted and the trial to be made within all the months of October and November of the present year. FRANCIS O. J. SMITH, Telegraph Office, Boston, Oct. 27, 1847."

THE PRESIDENCY.

Gen. Taylor's Popularity.

The popular demonstrations everywhere, show the rapidly increasing and wide spreading popularity of the invincible old Rough and Ready, and the deep hold he has upon the affections of his countrymen. The name of the OLD WHIG HERO is a tower of strength, before which the weak opposition of Polk and his minions must tremble, totter and fall. There is a magic in the name of ZACHARY TAYLOR that captivates all hearts. His wonderfully brilliant military career has excited the admiration of Europe, and placed him second only to Washington, in the estimation of his own countrymen. He combines the qualities of a Hero and Statesman in an eminent degree, and is amply qualified to discharge the duties of the highest office in the world—that of President of this Republic. How our greatest wreath would brighten on the brow of such a man as Zachary Taylor!

Since the time Gen. Taylor was first mentioned in connexion with the Presidency, we have continued to note, in various sections of the Union, the certain indications of his growing strength. The people here know nothing of his popularity in the West and South; they have no idea of the enthusiastic unanimity with which he is supported in distant States. Since the days of the immortal Father of his Country, no man has enjoyed such universal popularity with the masses. In Kentucky the Whigs are almost unanimous for the old Hero, and a State Convention has been called for the appointment of Electors. The same process is now going on in Tennessee; Gen. Taylor is the only man thought of in the State. Missouri presents a solid front for Gen. Taylor. Louisiana is equally unanimous. Georgia has already nominated Gen. Taylor, by Whig State Convention. Mississippi and Illinois have declared for Gen. Taylor *noles volens*. A Whig State Convention is about to be called in Maryland, to nominate the old Whig General. Nearly the whole Whig press of Virginia are for General Taylor; while Alabama and Arkansas are equally decided. In North Carolina Whig opinion is strongly in favor of Gen. Taylor. Strong demonstrations in favor of Gen. Taylor have been made in Pennsylvania; he has been nominated by Whig meetings in various counties, and his name floats at the mast-head of about twenty-five Whig journals in different parts of the State. In many counties in New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, and New York, the Whigs have held meetings and nominated Gen. Taylor.

These indications are too plain to be misunderstood. Should old Rough and Ready be the nominee of the Whig National Convention, as we believe he will, the Whig party will achieve a triumph far surpassing in brilliancy that of 1840. We want a candidate who can be elected; and it is evident that Gen. Taylor is just the man. With the Hero of Buena Vista, victory would be certain. He would sweep the Union like a whirlwind, and would leave not a vestige of Polkism.

We go for principles, however, in preference of men; and should Clay, Scott, or any other man be selected as the Whig nominee, he will receive our cordial and enthusiastic support. We wish it to be distinctly understood, that the nominee of the Whig National Convention is our candidate for the Presidency.—Penn. Int.

THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

The following bill of fare for the Royal Household of England, for one year (1846) may not be uninteresting to economists and the public:—

Bread, £2050; butter, bacon, cheese and eggs, £4976; milk and cream, £1478; butcher's meat, £2012; poultry, £3633; fish, £1073; grocery, £4644; oiled oil, £1703; fruit and confectionary, £1741; vegetables, £487; wine, £4850; liquors, &c., £1813; ale and beer, £2811; wax candles, £1077; tallow candles, £679; lamps, £4106; fuel, £6810; stationary, £824; turnery, £376; braziers, £890; china, glass, &c., £1328; linen, £1085; washing, table linen, &c., £2130; plate, £500.

RICH MEN IN BOSTON.—Peter C. Brooks is worth six millions of dollars.—He is a thorough temperance man and will not allow any of his property to be occupied for selling rum. John P. Cushing is worth \$2,000,000. Abbott Lawrence \$2,000,000. Amos Lawrence \$1,500,000, and Wm. Lawrence \$1,000,000. The last three are brothers. Samuel, Nathan, and Wm. Appleton, also three brothers, are worth a million each. There are seven other individuals in Boston worth a million each.

LONG HUMANITY.—Nathan Lampman, of Coxack, New York, who is now 16 years of age and seven feet one inch in height, bids fair to become a man of higher standing in the world than any man now living, having grown nine inches during the past year, and, on the usual rules of growth will probably reach one foot more. He weighs 192 pounds.—Worcester Transcript.

By a census of the swinish multitude in Ohio published in the Cincinnati Atlas, it appears that that species of population is increasing at the west quite as fast as that of the bipeds. The whole number of hogs in Ohio is now but little short of 2,000,000.

FROM MEXICO.

FURTHER INTELLIGENCE.

By a census of New Orleans we have accounts from Vera Cruz to the 20th ultimo, brought by the steamer Alabama.

Gen. Patterson was expected to commence his march to the interior about the 24th.

The Genius of Liberty (printed at Vera Cruz) has files of papers from the city of Mexico to the 7th. It says that the most profound tranquillity reigned in the capital.

The same paper furnishes the following news from Puebla and the interior:

FROM THE GENIUS OF LIBERTY OF OCT. 19.

The family of Mr. Castro, a respectable citizen of this place, arrived here yesterday evening from Jalapa. On the road to Santa Fe, at a deserted rancho about ten miles from here, they were met by some thirty or forty guerrillas, by whom they were exceedingly maltreated.

Dr. Galven, a native of Havana, who is direct from the city of Mexico, fell in with Mr. Castro's family at Jalapa, and accompanied them to this city. By the kindness of this gentleman we were put in the receipt of very important intelligence from the city of Mexico.

He left the city of Mexico on the 7th of this month, and on the 11th, at 5 o'clock P. M., he entered Huamantla, [a town a little east of the Perote road, and about half way between Perote and Puebla.] There he learned that the force of Gen. Lane had entered shortly before, and so sudden and unexpected was his arrival that Santa Anna had barely time to get away by another quarter of the town.

The Americans captured two pieces of artillery belonging to the force of General Santa Anna, which the latter in his hurry had no time to remove, and also took prisoners, Col. Yega and Iurbide.

Santa Anna, after leaving Huamantla, which he did at the head of one thousand horse, was reinforced by fifteen hundred men of the command of Gen. Reyes, and both remained in the neighborhood of Huamantla till Gen. Lane's departure, after which this town was again taken possession of by Generals Santa Anna and Reyes, who following up the rear guard of the Americans, killed seventy men, principally inebriated stragglers, and took twenty prisoners. The Mexicans had two pieces of artillery with them—one a brass 13-pounder and the other a 16-pounder of the same metal.

Gen. Resa sallied out of Puebla at the head of a pretty considerable force, and was awaiting at El Pinal [a town a few miles south of Huamantla, on the same road to Puebla] the approach of Gen. Lane, whose flanks and rear the Mexicans are reported to have been incessantly harassing. But we are confident that though the Mexicans should muster a force four-fold the amount of that which it is reported that they have, yet General Lane, the Buena Vista hero, will extricate himself with honor and with glory from their midst, and will form a junction with his General, unscathed by the ordeal of passing through the soldiers of Santa Anna and Reyes.

The decree by which it was ordained that Mr. Penya should take charge of the supreme power, in conjunction with two associates, has been repealed, and Santa Anna has again been called upon to assume the reins of Government, if it can be called one, and the command of the army.

Gen. Paredes is in Talancingo, endeavoring, and with some success it appears, to establish his monarchical system. He has of late received some very important converts to his political principles.

Gen. Valencia is at his hacienda, passing away his time as agreeably as he can, taking no part in the national affairs. We suppose he is only hiding his time.

Gen. Bravo is in Mexico, quiet, and on parole.

The semblance of the Mexican Government met according to appointment at Queretaro on the 5th, but there not being any thing like a quorum present nothing was done.

Peace is as far off as ever, the feelings of the people are said to be most strenuously opposed to any compromise with the North Americans; in fact the hostility which exists against us in the interior towns, cities, and villages, is reported to be of the most bitter kind.

The other leading men and generals have gone for the most part to Cuernavaca in the *tierra caliente*. [Cuernavaca is a town seventeen leagues south of the city of Mexico, on the road to Acapulco.] Capt. William H. Churchill, of the 2d Infantry, Assistant Quartermaster, died at Point Isabel on the 19th ultimo, of yellow fever. He graduated at West Point in 1840, and was brevetted captain for his gallant conduct at Resaca de la Palma. Lieut. Jenkins, of the First Dragoons, died of yellow fever at Vera Cruz on the 16th ultimo.

In the storming of Molino del Rey, Major Summer, with his dragoons, charged a heavy column of the enemy's lancers. In doing so, they had to pass under a heavy fire from the enemy's works. The following incident connected with this charge is told by the correspondent of the DELTA. It is not uncommon in history for horses to show such discipline:

While the cavalry were passing in front of the enemy, in order to charge the column of lancers, they were not under the fire more than ten seconds, and, during that time, they sustained a loss of six officers wounded, thirty-two privates killed and wounded, and a loss of one hundred and five horses. There were but two officers that did not have their horses shot under them; but there is one thing very remarkable, that the horses from which the riders had been shot wheeled and moved with the same regularity as though they had been mounted, until they came to halt from the charge, when they all kept on in a body in direction of the enemy."

A BEREAVED WIDOW.

Mrs. Hoffman, of Baltimore, lost her husband, while he was serving his country in Texas less than two years ago, in the capacity of Lieut. Colonel of the 7th Infantry. In the winter of 1844, she lost a son, Lieut. A. T. Hoffman, of the 2d Infantry, who died of a disease contracted while serving in Florida. At the battle of Churubusco, her youngest and favorite child was killed, while serving in the 1st U. S. Artillery, in the capacity of Lieutenant. In the same engagement she had another son wounded, Captain Hoffman, of the 6th Infantry, who is represented as possessing superior attainments as an officer and a gentleman.

SINGULAR DEATH.

On Thursday evening week, a singular and melancholy occurrence took place in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Miss Catharine Leland, daughter of Sherman Leland, Esq., had been in Boston, where she has been teaching a school, and the

family was not expecting her out that evening. Her brother, upon leaving the house, about eight o'clock at night, found his sister lying upon the steps of her father's dwelling, dead! It is believed she must have fallen down in a fit, and thus died upon the very threshold of her father's house.

FIGHT WITH AN EAGLE.

During the latter part of last week, a large eagle was captured near Junction's Corner, in Warwick township, Bucks co. The Doylestown Democrat says: A small boy went, after the cows in the evening, and was attacked by the bird in a furious manner, and after having battled with it unsuccessfully for some time, was relieved by a dog, that at the time came to his rescue. Between the boy and the dog the eagle had to surrender, and was taken home in triumph, with the assistance of some of the neighbors. It is said to have been a noble bird. Its length from tip to tip, eight feet.

It is a delicate subject to speak of, but an ingenious person has constructed what he calls a "skirt expander," by which a lady, even while walking in the street, may make her dress appear larger and smaller in bulk at will, and without permitting observers to note how it is done. Of course it is made of India rubber, and is inflated with air; and the inventor says that while it is very light, it has also the merit of making the dress sit easier and more graceful. It may be a good thing, but we think the inventor had a great stock of impudence to meddle with such a matter.—Exchanges.

A good story is told of a Yankee who went for the first time to a bowling alley, and kept firing away at the pins to the imminent peril of the boy, who so far from having any thing to do in "setting up" the pins, was actively at work in an endeavor to avoid the balls of the player, which rattled on all sides of the pins, without touching them. At length the fellow seeing the predicament the boy was in, yelled out, as he let drive another ball, "Stand in among the pins, boy, if you don't want to get hurt."

An old coat's advantages are numerous. People will not think it worth while to pick your pockets—the ladies will not bother you with their insatiate love—and you will not be teased to take tea with your acquaintances.

"Mr. President," said John Randolph, of Roanoke, breaking off abruptly in the midst of one of his Congressional harangues, "I have found the Philosopher's Stone! It is contained in four words: 'PAY-AS-YOU-GO!'"

Letters from Cork assert that 6,000 persons in that district alone have been saved from death by starvation, by the timely succor brought out by the Macedonians.