

The Heroes of the War.

The St. Charles Hotel, yesterday, presented an unusual scene of attraction and interest. Forty or fifty officers of the army were continually passing and repassing through the corridors, and up and down the marble stairs. In front of the hotel were hundreds of packages of different descriptions—the baggage of the officers. Here you would see a gaily colored Mexican blanket that was wrapped up in an old trunk, that from its looks had evidently been through the wars. Then again, a bundle of arms, escarpments, bayonets, swords and pistols—all the trophies taken from the enemy. These were the property of our officers who had fought during the war in Mexico. They brought them home for the purpose of showing them to their families and friends, in order that they should be preserved as the mementoes of things who so worthily maintained the nation's flag in a foreign land.

In the saloon, we saw the gallant General Shields. He is stouter than when we saw him some two years since at Gen. Taylor's camp at Camargo; he then, in his unadorned military uniform, looked like an elegant gentleman. He had not a wrinkle on his brow, and his countenance ever wore a smile. His eyes were closed, and his hands were clasped together with the brilliant fire of hope. And yet, how a short time of service altered a man! Yesterday he looked like the hero of many wars. His brow was wrinkled with the lines of fatigue and suffering, and his upper lip was garnished with a thick mustache. His complexion was bronzed, his arms, from a late wound, hung in a shag; but his eyes were still brilliant with martial fire. There, hundreds who looked around him and sought to grasp his hand, and all were received by him with the most cordial warmth and friendliness. Those around looked upon the gallant hero with feelings of respect and admiration, and there was not one in that broad saloon who went away without saying in his heart that man is a true soldier.

In the private parlors, Maj. General Quitman held a levee. He was surrounded by many officers, all of whom paid him the most respectful attention. The gallant and heroic Quitman—the first American governor of the city of Mexico—seemed to be perfectly at home in that form. He seemed to have been brought in from some distant land, and he seemed to be a stranger in his own country. He was surrounded by many officers, all of whom paid him the most respectful attention. The gallant and heroic Quitman—the first American governor of the city of Mexico—seemed to be perfectly at home in that form. He seemed to have been brought in from some distant land, and he seemed to be a stranger in his own country.

Our attention was next attracted by seeing a man of towering height and gigantic frame, with a chest like that of Hercules, and an eye like that of Mars; he was, indeed, to use the language of Hamlet, made "to threaten and command." With a smile upon his lips, and a sparkle of pleasure in his light blue eyes, he stood the "observed of all observers." He was the gallant and heroic Quitman—the first American governor of the city of Mexico—seemed to be perfectly at home in that form. He seemed to have been brought in from some distant land, and he seemed to be a stranger in his own country.

These were the most prominent chieftains among a large array of heroes. We regret that the crowded state of our columns forbids describing others, many of whom are an eminent part in the late glorious achievements of our army. Many of them bore the marks of the hard-fought battles in which they were engaged, in terrible mutilations and horrible wounds, which were painfully evident to the beholder. May the sacrifices they have made to the national honor be long held in grateful remembrance by their citizens, may they be amply requited for their unflinching and tireless consciousness of having done their duty most nobly and most gloriously.—N. O. Delta.

YASSED-MIDSHIPMAN RODGERS.

We had the pleasure of hearing from the lips of this gallant officer of the Navy, a detail of his misfortunes and sufferings, whilst a prisoner in the hands of the Mexicans. Mr. Rodgers, it will be recollected, was captured whilst engaged on shore in examining the fortifications of the enemy at Vera Cruz—was tried by a civil court and condemned to be shot, but Gen. Landero, then in command of that port, suggested that he should be sent a close prisoner to the City of Mexico, where he was treated with great rigor and harshness, being restricted in his food and deprived of nearly all the comforts and necessities of life. After the battle of Cerro Gordo, Mr. Rodgers had an interview with Gen. Santa Anna. With strong feelings of animosity towards all Mexicans, he entered the President's palace, but he acknowledges that when he saw Santa Anna, he was involuntarily impressed with feelings of respect and admiration for the man. He received from the President assurances of kindly treatment, and many promises, which were never kept. Finally, Mr. Rodgers was released on parole, and catching a favorable opportunity, he returned from the city in the disguise of an English workman on his way to the manufactories near Puebla. To sustain this character, he procured from a friendly Spaniard the usual certificate or passport, and a bundle of false whiskers, moustaches and sideburns, which he wore until he had reached the city. On his way to Puebla he overtook some young ladies with whom he had become acquainted in the City of Mexico, and who were accompanied by their father, gave him great concern, lest they should expose an impostor. But, with the sagacity and kind-heartedness of woman in every age, they perceived his ruse, and received his explanation with a cautious not to recognize him, and kept their secret until they thought he had time to get to Puebla.

Mr. Rodgers says his feelings, when he saw the American sentinel at our outpost near Puebla, were indescribable. He felt as if he could have rushed the rough soldier with joy and delight. He was greeted by Gen. Scott and the officers of the army with much kindness, was appointed on the staff of Gen. Pillow and accompanied the army through all the hard fought battles which led to the capture of the city. He is mentioned in the despatches of Gen. Scott and Pillow in high terms of praise, for his gallantry and coolness.

Mr. Rodgers is quite a young man, of remarkably amiable and pleasing countenance, and easy, off-hand manners; he looks as if the drawing-room rather than the prison, the office rather than the battle-field, had been the scene of his exploits for months past. But, to the close observer, there is a dazed-like expression about the eye, and a feeble, unsteady possession in the general expression of the face, which denote his true character as a man of daring courage and enterprise.—N. O. Delta.

A VETERAN DEMOCRAT.—Nationalist Huntton, Esq., of Unity N. H., now in his eighty-third year, informs the editors of the New-York Argus that he has voted at every presidential election since the organization of our government, his first vote being given for George Washington and his last for James K. Polk. The Argus adds that he is indeed "an old soldier in the democratic cause, but not too old, we trust, to be of further service to his country."

Later from the Rio Grande.

RICHMOND, Dec. 7, 1847.

The schooner Wm. Hazard, from Brazos Santiago, arrived at the South-east pass on the afternoon of the 25th, and came up the City of New Orleans on Sunday the 28th. She left Brazos on the 20th, and brings news to that date, by the correspondent of the Picayune, J. E. Davis, Esq., who came passenger.

A party of the 21 and 31 dragoons was dispatched after the guerrillas that attacked Lieut. Kendall on the 1st inst. but could not find them. Understood that the guerrillas were very severe. Muecho Martinez, one of the armed robbers, was killed, with six men and a number wounded.

Maj. Lane had dispatched forces after the Indians, but they arrived too late. The Indians left the previous day, taking 2,500 cattle, mules and horses, driven from different ranches. Capt. Adams was sent after them, but had not returned to Encarnada, at the first accounts.

Gen. Taylor broke up his encampment at Walnut Springs near Monterey on the morning of the 28th, and with his staff, and General Wood and staff, returned home; he then near Maria they met Van Allen of N. York, bearer of despatches to Gen. Taylor.

The only important dispatch was a copy of the correspondence between the War Department and Gen. Scott, in which the latter expressed the latter's opinion for Gen. Taylor, as no more would be sent forward with the troops from the United States.

It was impossible to collect contributions from the inhabitants to any extent, or to obtain them without paying for it. Between Matamoros and Monterey nearly all the ranches and towns were destroyed.

Lieut. Col. Webb of the 13th regiment, on the 16th October, having received intelligence that a party of guerrillas was encamped near Cerro Gordo, despatched Maj. Worroll with 50 mounted men for their camp, with a guide. The Major and his party made their way through the chapparal and found the guerrillas camped there. They were discovered by the robbers, and, pursued by our party, after firing upon them, killed two and wounded several more. The guerrillas were compelled to abandon about 38 horses and all their equipments, which Novell's party captured.

Gen. Taylor was received at Cerro Gordo with a salute and was waited upon by the officers of the garrison. He arrived at Amor on the 12th, and Monday he left in the steamer Maj. Brown, accompanied by Gen. Wood, arrived at Camargo on the afternoon, and received a salute of artillery from Capt. Hunt's company, and was visited by Col. Fay and his officers. His regiment being stationed at the mouth of the Rio Grande, where he would remain till the 22d, and then leave for Brazos to receive the answer to his application for permission to leave.

The health of Matamoros is greatly improved—very little yellow fever.

It is said the Government is to have the army, and to receive the National Guard to perform.

A decree has been issued ordering the primary elections to be held on the 21st. The second on the 6th of December, and the last on the 27th of the same month.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1847.

There was a great excitement in the Treasury building to-day about three o'clock. Mr. Walker, who was going down the winding stairs, was observed to stagger by a gentleman meeting him, and he had not been caught would have been perhaps killed, by falling on the marble steps. He was lifted in a state of insensibility into a room, and an immediate medical assistance summoned. Every means was used for some time to no purpose, and he expired in about ten minutes, and has not relaxed since. He is exceedingly weak, and must be carefully nursed.

This attack is attributed to exhaustion, brought on by his unrequited labors. For the past few days he has not taken a meal at home. He engaged in preparing his reports to Congress, he has frequently sat up the night. Nature was at last exhausted, and after the transmission of his completed Report to Congress, to-day he overtaxed his powers, and he fell. He was carried to his room, where he was attended by his physicians, but his strength was so exhausted, and he had been so long in a state of insensibility, that he could not be revived. He died in about ten minutes, and has not relaxed since. He is exceedingly weak, and must be carefully nursed.

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THE OBSERVER.

The World is Governed too Much.

W. R. I. E. P. A.

Monday Morning, December 18, 1847.

THOS. H. BULLOCK is a duly authorized agent to procure subscribers for this paper.

We have no later Congressional than is contained in our Washington letter, that is, on Thursday having adjourned after till Monday last to enable the Speaker to arrange the committees.

Did any body ever see worse roads?—I have, for certainly we never did. First we had a perfect deluge of rain, snow and sleet, and then it froze, consequently the roads are almost impassable, and the mails some twenty-four hours behind.

Our thanks are due to Messrs. Larnot of the Reed House, and Brown, of the Eagle, for kindly furnishing us, at a late hour on Friday night, a copy of the Buffalo Daily Express containing the Message. Through their instrumentality we were enabled, in connection with the Gazette, to lay it before our readers on Saturday noon.

The President.

We publish to-day a communication over the signature of "Democrat" urging the claims of the Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN, as the Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1852. Our own views on this question are still unchanged, but as the "Observer" professes to be the organ of the party in this county, its columns are ever open to our friends to express their views on this as well as every other question affecting the interests of the party. We, therefore, as the time is approaching when it will become necessary to select delegates to the 4th of March convention, invite a free discussion of the merits of the different favorites for that station.

We are indebted to President Polk, Mr. Secretary Buchanan and the Hon. James Thompson, for early copies of the Message.

A Good Done Argument.

When I drove to the wall in all their arguments against our right to the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, the whigs invariably assert that the territory is not worth fighting for—it being entirely unfit for cultivation. This last week resort to the same plea, but have abandoned a corollary of the Philadelphia Ledger, says that Gen. Taylor has recently paid \$20,000 for a Mexican grant of eleven leagues (about 4000 acres) between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. Gen. Taylor, besides being a practical farmer, is a practical planter, and knows the value of the land he has purchased.

Mr. Clay's regard for Texas.

As was to be supposed, the Gazette squirms most laughably at our exposure of the way Mr. Clay "almost idolizes truth" in his Lexington speech. "This is not to be wondered at—that print is devoted to the great 'embodiment' body and soul, and any thing tending in the least to invalidate his last great effort, appears to them, no doubt, like rank infidelity. It cannot be helped, however." Mr. Clay did not touch a falsehood in asserting that while Mr. Sillwell was wending his way to Mexico Gen. Taylor was ordered to the east bank of the Rio Grande, and no special plea can be made to the contrary. The Gazette can array it in the midst of garb of "a slight discrepancy in point of history," if it chooses, but the people can see that it is not a very "slight," but a deliberately put forth falsehood. If Mr. Clay did not intend to deceive, why not state facts as they existed? Then there would have been no occasion for explanation or equivocation, and he would have saved his friends a world of trouble. But that would not do—a case could not be made out against the Administration, if facts and dates had been given as they actually were, and as he, standing at the head of a powerful and intelligent party, must and did know them to exist. What justification, then, is there for his attempt to deceive his countrymen? None at all. That Mr. Clay trod that his great name would be able to carry the deception through, and silence all objection, we have abundant reason to believe. And in this we are not alone. Neither is it confined to the presses of the party which the Gazette delights to style "Lexington." Many whig papers, with conscience less tough and cheeks less-bruised than the Gazette, have been compelled to acknowledge that Mr. Clay has not added to his fame as a man of truth by this erroneous statement.

The Gazette's twattle about a "Peace Commissioner" and "Resident Minister," has nothing to do with the issue. That subject has been discussed over and over, and as a matter of course, whigery has exhausted its ingenuity to exculpate Mexico from blame for refusing to receive Mr. Sillwell. The question is did Mr. Clay tell the truth when he said in his Lexington speech, that whilst Mr. Sillwell was wending his way to Mexico with his diplomatic credentials, Gen. Taylor was ordered to transport his cannon and to plant them, in a warlike attitude, opposite to Matamoros, on the east bank of the Rio Bravo, within the very disputed territory, the adjustment of which was to be the object of Mr. Sillwell's mission? We say that he did not, and for proof we refer to the official papers. They show that when Mr. Sillwell was "wending his way" to Mexico, our squadron, to save harmless Mexican blood, was being away from Vera Cruz, that nothing like Mexico might prevent that government from negotiating—that Mr. Sillwell was rejected before he arrived in Mexico, and was apprised of this by Mr. Black whom he met at Puebla; and even his appointment was regarded as additional insult. That he reached Mexico, December 31, and was officially rejected December 31, nearly a month before Gen. Taylor, on Jan. 13, 1848, was ordered to march to the Rio Grande, and hence Mr. Clay's statement is not true.

A large and enthusiastic war meeting was held at Pittsburgh on the 4th, Col. Thos. Hamilton presiding. Among the Vice Presidents, we notice the names of the Hon. Arnold Palmer, and Gen. Clover. The meeting was addressed by Col. McCandless, Judge Shaler and others, and the resolutions introduced by Mr. Harper, of the Post, were of the right stamp, and received a hearty and enthusiastic response from the crowd assembled.

W. G. Gray, Editor of the Cleveland Plaindealer, proposed for a libel upon the postmaster of that city, has been acquitted.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This important document was laid before our readers on Saturday last, and has doubtless received an attentive perusal. Although voluminous in length, it is a state paper of great clearness, and by far the most able document that the present Executive has given to the nation, and we do not know but we may say that it is equal to any which has heretofore emanated from the same department of the Government.

The leading feature of the Message is the war with Mexico, and on this subject the President is clear and explicit. We think after reading it, our friends, the federalists, will have no excuse for asking the object for which the war is prosecuted as they are plainly stated and firmly insisted on. His positions will be read with much interest by all who acknowledge the justness of the war, and contend for its prosecution until we have obtained an honorable peace, together with indemnity for the past and security for the future—and they also cannot fail to perceive signal refutations to the calumnies and falsehoods of the Clays, the Corwains, the Websters, the Greeses, and their train of Mexican sympathizers, who have continually stigmatized it as a cruel, barbarous, unjust and God-abhorred war, waged for conquest by the slave power of the South against an unoffending and much abused neighboring republic.

The President still maintains his position, and we think successfully too, that the war was forced upon us by Mexico herself. Indeed, we see no other position to be taken, unless, like Mr. Clay, we assert that Congress almost unanimously legislated a war. He also maintains that in all the acts of legislation by Congress in regard to the war, the future acquisition of territory as indemnity has been kept steadily in view, and justly says that any peace that does not provide for such acquisition will be disgraceful alike to the government and the people. He cannot therefore consent to withdraw our army from the conquests already achieved either to the east bank of the Rio Grande, as has been contended for by those who consider the war unjust, nor to withdraw it to an established line, and then endeavor to maintain that line, as has been proposed by Mr. Calhoun and his friends. We have neither time nor room to give a synopsis of the able and conclusive arguments presented in the Message against the adoption of this defensive line policy of Mr. Calhoun and his followers. They are, we think, conclusive, and if any of our readers have not perused them with attention, we now ask them to do so. The same remark is equally applicable to the President's exposition of the sound policy of levying military contributions on the enemy's country for the support of the war. The important bearing of this measure upon the speedy attainment of just terms of peace, is obvious. The account given in the message of the measures adopted in pursuance of this policy, will be read, we doubt not, with general interest and approbation. In case the prosecution of the war in this manner shall still fail to secure a peace, it will be seen that the government wisely contemplates the possibility of extending the encouragement and protection of our armies to the friends of peace in Mexico who may seek to establish and maintain a free republican government of their own choice, able and willing to make peace with us upon just and satisfactory terms.

Although the message is long, we trust every one will read it—nothing less than a thorough perusal of it from first to last will enable the people to see the high and commanding position the Executive occupies in regard to all the great questions before the country. He exhibits faithfully the expanding strength, resources and destiny of this great republic. California and New Mexico, both necessary-are considered as acquired; and assurances this paper warrant, are, that no treaty, not providing for these provinces to remain in the Union, will receive the executive sanction. To occupy this new free soil, thousands of emigrants from the old world are crowding our shores, transferring their hearts as well as their allegiance; and under our federative system of state, secure of their rights and liberties. The capacity to defend this country from aggression, is demonstrated in the brilliant and unparalleled victories of our armies—showing to all who would be aggressors, that besides our peaceful conquests, we can become, at a moment's warning, a great military nation. If we turn to the quiet pursuit of life, the message shows that, under complete internal tranquility, our great industrial interests—agriculture, commerce, manufactures—are unchecked by war, and are in unexampled prosperity, and our national credit unshaken. In short, our national prosperity is wide-spread, universal. Such is the annual expose of the executive of the nation. We cannot doubt but that its high American ground will be eyes to the united voice of the people.

The Home Journal.

We have before us a prospectus for a new volume of this truly excellent paper, to commence on the first of January. This paper is one of the few city weeklies that we can cordially recommend to our readers. It is classic and beautiful in execution, and its brilliant and sparkling editorials, are of a character high above what is weekly palmed off in the cheap publications of our eastern cities, to vitiate the taste and weaken the morals of the young into whose hands most of such reading falls. And when we say that it is edited by those Nestors of the polite literature of the country, Messrs. Morris & Willis, we presume it will be sufficient recommendation. We say then to our friends, if any of you want an excellent family weekly from New York, send for the Home Journal. Price, \$3 per year.

Gen. Taylor and suite arrived at New Orleans on the 20th. He had a grand reception. The entire military force of the city and a number of the societies turned out to welcome the old hero. At the time of his reception, many of the distinguished officers and heroes of the Mexican war were present and joined the citizens in paying their respects to the old General.

As the season of gifts is approaching, when sweethearts and wives, lads and lassies, are seeking the beautiful or useful as presents, we would suggest that our friends SPAFFORD has a beautiful assortment of Books for Christmas and New Year. Almost any fancy or taste, we are confident, can be accommodated in his selection.

From Washington.

Gentlemen.—The Whigs on Monday elected their Speaker, Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, on the third ballot. He is a gentleman of ability, but the embodiment of the genuine principles of the Federal party of New England. There were 220 members present. All were in the spot that could be brought there—sick and lame were on the floor, evincing the anxiety of the Whigs to succeed in securing the officers and patronage of the House. With what liberality they will exercise their power time alone will show, but I question if they will follow the example of the last Congress, during which many Whigs in subordinate stations were retained. On Tuesday they elected Thos. J. Campbell, of Tennessee, Clerk—thus turning out of office one of the best officers any House ever had. Mr. Adams voted for French—so also did Mr. Levin. Yesterday in the House the drawing of seats in the election of sergeant-at-arms, postmaster and bookkeeper occupied the greater portion of the session. Mr. N. Sargent, the Oliver Oil-cloth of the United States Gazette, was elected to the office of sergeant-at-arms, Mr. R. E. Horner dovekeeper, and Mr. Johnson postmaster. You will be gratified to learn that a movement was made in the House to-day by Mr. Broadhead of your state to repeal the postage on newspapers under thirty miles. The House has just adjourned until Monday to enable the Speaker to appoint the standing committee.

You will find the President's Message a bold and statesmanlike paper—clear in its recommendations and firm in its positions. The prominent trial still progresses but has outlived its interest. Fremont will be triumphantly acquitted and Gen. Kearny will only have his trouble for his pains. I will promise to write occasionally; that is, whenever by other duties will permit, but the telegraph has so much interfered with the utility of letters written from this place that I shall not feel bound to be very prompt. The old veteran, Hon. J. Q. Adams, looks quite healthy and well, but exhibits the marks of his great age. His voice has greatly failed.

The weather is beautiful here. I am indulged to make this remark because I learn that your winter has also very severely set in. In haste, yours &c.

EM QUOD.

THAT LETTER.—That letter of Col. Winkup's, completely parallel in the last number of the Lexingtonian in this county, is really a curiosity in its way. It may have an effect upon some minds, but the majority, we opine, will look upon it as nothing but a compound of the subtle and most insidious kind of the most shallow partisanship. We have often remarked that a "sycophant" who wished favor of the Administration, but who, from previous political associations, might be supposed to be without its favor, would write just such a letter in order to obtain its regard.

We find the above in the Gazette of the 9th, the week after the scorching letter of Col. Winkup appeared in the Observer. We should have replied to it last week, but the length of the message left us no room for editorial. It is not strange, however, that whigery should attempt to destroy the force of this testimony against their "aid and comfort" course by scribbling unworthy motives to the author, because if it did not do so, it would not be whigery. It is a favorite game with federal whig politicians to attempt to destroy the moral influence of those who dissent from their policy by imputing to them base personal motives. Indeed, we might say it is a natural propensity for they resort to it with the same readiness as the child to its mother's breast. Col. Winkup has dared to tell the truth, and his fair name must be blasted by the breath of party, to break the force of his unswerving revelations. But in his case the Whig press is stopped from objections to him as a witness. In the famous controversy between Gen. Pillow and Col. Haskell, in relation to the scenes at Cerro Gordo, Col. Winkup was vouchered by the whig press as substantiating the statements of Col. Haskell. How can they now attempt to discredit his testimony? His skill and valor on the field have given him a title and the confidence of the country, which no partisan assaults can rob him of. His patriotism has been displayed in brilliant achievements in the country's service, which no sneers of a partisan press can cloud. They may assail his motives—but they dare not deny the truth of his statements, that Mexican journals have published extracts from the whig papers in this country, as conveying grateful assurance that an "entire party" in the United States sympathized with Mexico. Whig though he was, he could not view without indignation the direct tendency of such a policy, in inspiring Mexican resistance and in postponing a peace between the two countries. With the documents in his hands, he could not shut his eyes to the glaring developments, and patriotism and honor called on him to speak the truth, and warn his countrymen against the fatal source of evil in chief in our own borders. If this be true, let the whigs make the most of it! Let them prove Col. Winkup's statement to be false in fact, and they may, with some face, impeach his motives. But he stands not alone in his warning appeals. Daniphan, Curtis, Lane, Reich, all whigs, have spoken trumpet-tongued to the same effect. Gen. Scott himself fell called upon to correct the false impression produced on the Mexican mind by the fictitious conduct of the opponents of the war amongst ourselves. Are all these gallant soldiers to be charged with impure, selfish motives? Let the Gazette answer.

An exchange paper very truly remarks that a genuine Yankee is never at a loss for business. He can peddle, or mend boots—drive coach or wait upon table—lecturize horses, or his fellow mortals—shoe a horse, and mend watches—teach school, or deliver lyceum lectures. In a word, he has a wonderful power of adaptation to any and every condition, to any and every occupation.

Albert Gallatin has published a pamphlet with the title of "Peace with Mexico." It is like Mr. Clay's speech. Both Mr. Clay and Mr. G. are superannuated, it is very evident, and in their sense of self-complicity have forgotten their love of country.

The New York Express understands that the seamstress of that city are about starting a paper, by joint subscription, for the purpose of advocating their interests.

A State Temperance Convention will be held at Harrisburg, on the 19th of January.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

We have, in the Washington Union of the 8th, the report of the Secretary of War, Mr. MARCY. It is a document of great length, almost as long as the Message, which will present our giving any thing more than a synopsis of it. Like the message it is devoted mainly to the Mexican war. It commences with a brief, yet in no respect an exposition of the posture of our affairs in Mexico at the beginning of the present campaign, after the capture of Monterey; it recites the organization of the expedition destined to move first upon Vera Cruz, and thence upon the city of Mexico. Leaving the force designed for this great enterprise at their place of rendezvous on the island of Lobos, the narrative returns to describe in detail the interminable movements of General Taylor's column which resulted in the memorable battle of Buena Vista. Returning then to the main line of military operations against the heart of the enemy's country, the report follows, step by step, the triumphant march of its gallant army under General Scott, in its place of embarkation to the National Palace of Mexico. The collateral expeditions against Chihuahua, Santa Fe, and California, are next summarily described in their due order; their important bearing upon the results of the war depicted, and the signal achievements which marked their successful progress justly portrayed and appreciated. With these events, and with a large number of incidents of the line of operations from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, the military narrative of the report concludes. The estimate and proposed organization of the additional force needed for the war; the supervision of our land policy; itself an extensive and complicated system; the affairs and operations of all the branches attached to the general staff of the army, a full course under the regulation of the War Department; the establishment and management of our long line of military posts from the Mississippi, and the superintendance of the general system of fortifications along our inland frontier on the lakes and on the seas—these are among the objects, forming part of the business of the War Department, are enumerated and discussed. Turning from the past to the future—from what has been done to that which remains to be accomplished—the report surveys the various lines of conducting the war which present themselves to the government, recommends the plain of active operations in the enemy's country, and aims up the strong points of the army, with great completeness and force.

From this report we learn that the whole military force at present on hand numbers 43,536; of these there are 21,500 regulars and 22,036 volunteers. Of this force there are with Gen. Scott, at Tampico, on front, and on the line from Vera Cruz to head quarters at the city of Mexico, 32,027; with Gen. Taylor, 6,737; in Santa Fe, on the Oregon and Santa Fe routes, and in the Indian Territory 3529; and in California and in the States 1019—total, as given above, 43,533. The actual strength, it appears, is much less than this amount, but the number not in active service cannot be precisely ascertained. The Secretary advises that the present organization be completed by enlistment. An enlistment of 7,031 is necessary to complete the regular organization, and to complete that of the volunteers from an enlistment of 12,500 to serve during the war. There appears to be now in the service a numerical force of 21 regiments, 6 battalions, and 133 companies not organized into regiments or battalions. The most important action recommended is the immediate organization of ten additional regiments of regulars, to serve during the war, and he also asks authority to accept, in case of exigency, the services of a volunteer force of 20,000. The Secretary states he has no means of ascertaining the amount of revenue that can be collected in Mexico. The total amount, however, already collected in Mexican ports amounts to \$311,310 46. Of this sum there has been handed over to the Commissary Department \$133,723 33, leaving a balance of \$177,586 14, in the hands of the collecting agents. He further recommends the payment of the excess of States for organizing, transporting and subsisting volunteers—the formation of a retired list—an appropriation for repair, &c., of the public defenses along the seaboard and northern line—an appropriation for the payment of additional clerks employed by the department to furnish discharged soldiers with scrip and certificates of location—a pension for the widows and children of those dying by disease while in service, (no such provision now exists by law)—such a modification of the pension law as to place the widows and children of officers and soldiers of the regular army on the same footing with those of volunteers with regard to pension. On the whole it is a highly interesting and able report, and will be read with satisfaction by all classes.

A Dallas Meeting at Philadelphia.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the friends of the Hon. Geo. M. DALLAS, for the Presidency, came off in Philadelphia last week. Much enthusiasm and a feeling in favor of the distinguished individual named, was exhibited, and a determination to abide by the decision of a national convention expressed. Among other things they resolved that democracy is the guardian of equal rights; that the constitution is as faultless as human wisdom can make it; that the tariff of 1846 is the most in the great reforms achieved by the democracy, and was saved by the casting vote of Mr. Dallas; that the constitutional treaty is just, and it must end only in honorable peace; that the people of the United States have suffered too long and too much under the irresponsible tyranny and demoralizing influences of incorporated combination, whose charters are construed into partial grants of sovereign powers, and are held to test irreclaimable rights; that Pennsylvania, in the last October election, has not only more than sustained her well established reputation for faithful adherence to democratic principles, but has proved her title to the abiding confidence of the nation; and that, as Mr. Dallas has proved himself worthy of the trust of our party in its darkest hour, his name be presented for the presidency.

The New York Express understands that the seamstress of that city are about starting a paper, by joint subscription, for the purpose of advocating their interests.

A State Temperance Convention will be held at Harrisburg, on the 19th of January.

THE PRESIDENCY.

Messrs. EDITORS.—As the time for selecting delegates to the 4th of March election will soon be at hand, it is well that all who have a voice in those matters, should change views in order that the delegates truly represent their constituents.

I am rejoiced to see many of the leading Democratic papers throughout the country "must head" the name of James Buchanan for the Presidency, subject of course to the decision of a National Convention.

That Mr. Buchanan occupies an elevated position in the minds of the people at this time is no doubt. That his course as a public man has, in the most eminent degree, been patriotic, consistent, and Democratic, is a matter of which every citizen will testify. As a member of a foreign court, a senator in the United States National legislature, and a member of the cabinet, he has ever evinced that high-toned American feeling and love of duty and institutions calculated to elicit the respect and admiration of his fellow-citizens. As a Senator, although he will find an able and logical opponent in every one of our states, yet it were always conceded in such contests, his labors were ever sought out to refute the charges against him, and to give feeling toward the speaker so often depicted in public debate. As a member of the cabinet, his official acts and correspondence will use nothing by an arm in union with any of our distinguished predecessors, since the formation of the government. As a citizen, having a private character beyond reproach, it is pre-eminently but few men have fewer personal enemies than James Buchanan.

Then, I say, it is to be wondered if that Democracy begin to arise themselves for the purpose of placing such a man in that high and responsible station? To be sure, some exceptions have been taken to his Black-letter letter, wherein he gives his views of the Missouri compromise, and the whole question of slavery. In regard to these questions, will be long to find in a measure a number of our political friends. Had Mr. Buchanan taken any other view of this matter, it would not have been consistent with his former course. It is a matter of course that the spirit of compromise, so strenuously enjoined upon us by the fathers of our country, he, Mr. B., at once saw the importance of placing this as immediately before the people in its proper light.

It has frequently been asserted by the northern Whigs, and a few of the northern Democrats, in the numerous debates, publications and bickerings on his unfortunate position of slavery, that the concessions were always made to the north to the south. It is forgotten by these people that what was once termed the "North Western Territory" that prospect and now populous section of country, made five free states of this Union, viz. Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin, and their millions of free white inhabitants, the population cities, thriving villages, and families—as a means of being attached to the state of Virginia was ceded by her to the general government and immediately converted into Territory.

In regard to the requisition of any territory from Mexico, it is to be expected that the Southern states will stand up for their constitutional rights. They would be unworthy members of the confederacy if they did not, and you may rest assured that they will not without a struggle. It is anticipated in the North. As for the fear of a portion of it, becoming slave territory, as absurd to assert it, as to believe it is fully set forth in Mr. Buchanan's letter, and is well known to every reflecting man in the Union.

The course of liberty has ever been to will continue to be one and the same. Slavery is becoming unpopular throughout the world, and the time is not distant when the manacles of the slaves of the south will drop from their limbs like reptiles in autumn, brought about by a spontaneous growth of that cream of all human virtues, philanthropy. There is little doubt in my mind but that most of the northern slaveholding states, will, at the present time, (at some not very far future day) have washed out the vile stain of slavery from their soil, and it will be for the honor of the abolitionists. As Mr. Buchanan says in his letter, "let the matter rest where the constitution places it, with the states where slavery existed"—let them take their own course, unless, when a quarter of a century ago, they were sufficient to find a grave for the institution of slavery in most of the southern states. Be it to the point.

Pennsylvania, from her central position, being as it were, the natural impire to settle the conflicting interests between the extreme north and extreme south—her immense general and agricultural wealth, to say nothing of her long adherence to the Democratic cause, and although one of the old thirteen, has not er a Presidential candidate in the field. Certainly presents claims of no ordinary consideration to the Democratic party of the Union.

Then when any other eminent man so distinguished as James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania, speaks as with an epic for the nomination of his favorite son for the Presidency—and however with a spirit of disorgination, for there are other distinguished men, good patriots, and sound Democrats, whose claims are not to be overlooked; but as he is that compromising yet firm and patriotic, it ever manifested by her citizens.

DEMOCRAT.

We have received the first number of the "Patriot Democrat," edited and published by S. D. Carpenter, formerly of the Grand Free Press, at Freeport, Illinois. The Democrat is a respectable looking paper, of the right stamp in politics, and will undoubtedly receive a cordial support from the unbounded "Shucker" Democracy. Indeed we hope Carpenter will meet with better success in his new location than he did in his old one.

"THE TIMES," is to be the title of a new paper at Washington, devoted to Southern interests generally, and Gen. Calhoun and the universal national of South Carolina, in particular. It is to be under the management of Gen. Duff Green, with John of the Washington Telegraph, and is to be both forth and stout against the North in general and democracy in particular, from its long guns and swivel-stand from under.