

THE VOLUNTEER.

John B. Bratton, Editor and Proprietor. CARLEISLE, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1847.

AGENCY. J. V. PALMER, Esq. is our authorized Agent for procuring advertisements, receiving subscriptions, and making collections for the American Volunteers at his office, No. 11, corner of Third and Chestnut streets, Philadelphia.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS FOR GOVERNOR. FRANCIS R. SHUNK, Of Allegheny County. FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER. MORRIS LONGSTRETH, Of Montgomery County.

In our paper of to-day we publish the official reports of Capt. Washington and Lieut. O'Brien, giving an account of the part they and the troops under their respective commands took in the bloody battle at Buena Vista. These reports will prove interesting to many of our readers, who are personally acquainted with these brave officers.

By TELEGRAPH.—By reference to another column it will be seen that we published a letter from Philadelphia, which was prepared in that city a short time before we went to press. Hereafter when any thing of importance transpires in the city, we shall be apprised of it by telegraph a few minutes before going to press, which will enable us to give the news in advance of the Philadelphia daily papers. Our correspondent there is a man of superior attainments, and of correct information. Should a sudden rise or fall take place in the markets, or anything else that might interest our readers, we will be informed of it in advance of all publications. We are determined not to be behind even the Philadelphia daily papers, in giving the earliest news.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS AT MECHANICSBURG, will hereafter receive their papers at Mr. Black's hotel, free of postage. Our friends at Newville and Shippensburg, will in a short time also receive their papers free of postage. We shall announce to them at the time the arrangements are made where they will be left. We are anxious to do all we can to relieve our friends from the payment of postage, and are making such arrangements as we can to that effect. The late law regulating the Post-office department, is an outrage upon the people. Among the first acts of the next Congress will be its repeal.

THE CORN.—The recent rains have put a new life upon vegetation. The corn crop promises fairly—the oats present a good appearance, and also the potato. We hear many complaints made by our agricultural friends of the injury which the wheat crop in this county is likely to sustain from the fly. The fly, although much stunted, has picked up very much within the last two or three weeks.

A Military Encampment is to take place at Shippensburg, commencing on Thursday of next week, and to last three days. We learn that eight or ten companies will be in attendance, among others Capt. Todd's of this place. See advertisement in another column.

Judge HERRMAN has been holding a Special Court in Dauphin county, during the last two weeks, in pursuance of an act of the Legislature of the 9th March last.

CELEBRATION OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—The order of the Sons of Temperance have been making extensive preparations the last few months for a grand national anniversary jubilee, to take place on the third Tuesday of this month, at Philadelphia.

THE BRAVE AND THE FAIR.—The gallant Jack Hays, was married to Miss Susan Calvert, daughter of Major J. S. Calvert, of Texas, on the 12th inst.

Mr. Pakenham, the British Minister, has left this country for England, on leave of absence from his post as envoy, &c. He is to be absent two years, on half pay, (£3000.)

HAIL.—They had quite a thick fall of hail at Cumberland, Md., on Monday, which lasted several minutes.

RECEPTION OF THE PRESIDENT.—The President and his suite were received with enthusiasm in Richmond, Va., on Friday, on their way to North Carolina to attend a celebration. They were met by a large concourse of citizens and military, and welcomed to the city by the Mayor, to which the President briefly responded. They were then escorted to the capitol, where the citizens paid their respects to the President and his lady. After a brief sojourn, they took their departure in the cars for Petersburg.

Lieut. Hunter arrived at New York, on Thursday last. He was received at the American Hotel with cheer by the enthusiastic crowd who assembled on hearing of his arrival. The people are always just—they know how to reward a gallant action, and sweep technicalities aside when they interfere with strict justice.

BE ON THE ALERT. The Harrisburg Union announces the visit to the capital, a few days ago, of Izard, the Federal candidate for Governor, in conjunction with the Federal State Committee. There can be no doubt, says the Pennsylvania, that our political adversaries are already active, and that they design, by some combined and clandestine movement, to consummate a dangerous and extensive organization. We trust our friends throughout the State are also preparing for the coming contest. That we are in the majority in Pennsylvania, is no good reason why we should neglect the great duties of organization and discipline. We should show an effective esteem for our principles, by laboring actively and zealously to make them triumphant at the polls.

We were rejoiced, a few evenings ago, to see at the first meeting of the Democratic Committee of Correspondence for this city and county, so large an attendance of the leading and active members of the Democratic party. Here, we feel sure, everything is right, and that everything will be done to make Philadelphia do better in October. We can only hope that the Democrats in other parts of the State are equally alive to their duty.

THE PUBLIC WORKS. The receipts from the State canals and railroads, of the first of the present month, amount to \$413,311.96, being an increase of \$171,975.47 over the amount received during the same period of last year. The excess of the whole year, it is confidently anticipated, will reach THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, and yet with such gratifying evidence of the increasing productiveness of our improvements, a Federal Legislature was anxious to dispose of them to a Mammoth Corporation, for one-half of their actual value.

The people should be on their guard, not only against a Federal Legislature, but a Federal Governor. Let that party obtain the control of both the Executive and Legislative departments of the Government, and popular rights and interests will at once be rendered entirely subservient to chartered monopolies.

The amount of capital invested in the manufacture of glass at Pittsburgh, is said to be \$800,000.

Francis R. Shunk.

We support FRANCIS R. SHUNK, the Democratic Republican candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, BECAUSE, He is an honest-hearted whole-souled Democrat—a man who has at all times, through good and evil report, steadfastly adhered to the sacred principles of Jefferson and Jackson.

BECAUSE, He is the man of the PEOPLE—in popular with the great masses, who love him because he is honest, faithful, and capable, and has discharged the duties of his office without fear, favor, or affection.

BECAUSE, His public and private character are both without a stain. He has long held a prominent position before the democracy of the State, and has at all times and under all circumstances discharged his public duties faithfully to the people and the Commonwealth.

BECAUSE, He is in favor of the individual liability clause being introduced into the charters of all Banks—a principle so dear to the people of Pennsylvania, many of whom have been so frequently robbed of all they possessed, through the dishonesty of Bankers and worthless Banking institutions.

BECAUSE, As a public officer he has dared (vindictive and malicious as party spirit makes the human heart) to impugn his reputation for strict economy, and an honest discharge of the duties devolving upon him. In every department of the Government in which he has been employed, he has been distinguished for the same probity, intelligence, and uniform urbanity.

BECAUSE, He is thoroughly familiar with all the diversified ramifications of our great system of Internal Improvements, with our equally important system of Public Schools, and with the civil and criminal Jurisprudence of the Commonwealth. In a nonage of those departments of government is he a stranger, but is at home in them all.

BECAUSE, He has been the means of restoring the credit of the State, by regularly paying off the interest as it falls due. No one can point the finger of scorn at Pennsylvania now, as a repudiating State. "No! Old FRANK" is at the helm.

James Irvin. We oppose the election of JAMES IRVIN, the Federal Mexican candidate for Governor—

BECAUSE, He is a FEDERALIST of the old blue-light stripe, and was placed in nomination through the immediate agency of the enemies of our benevolent country and the Nabobs of the city of Philadelphia—those who have been "aiding and abetting the Mexicans," and abusing their own Government.

BECAUSE, He is an ARISTOCRAT, and in favor of the Laws that built up NABOBS and oppresses those who make their living by the labor of their hands, a fact fully established by the Records of the country.

BECAUSE, When a member of Congress he voted for a Bill to fasten upon the People, a great BRITISH BANK, a curse which we only escaped through the independence of President Tyler, who vetoed the monster.

BECAUSE, He tried to get this great bribery bank fastened upon the People after it had been vetoed by the President.

BECAUSE, He voted for the most infamous of infamous measures, the BANKRUPT LAW, by which the people were cheated out of FIVE HUNDRED MILLION OF DOLLARS.

BECAUSE, He voted against RECONSIDERING the vote by which the Bankrupt Law was passed, fearing that this vile measure might be defeated if reconsidered.

BECAUSE, In violation of every principle that ought to govern the actions of a servant of the People, he voted against the Bill to repeal the Bankrupt Law, notwithstanding the voice of the whole country demanded and asked for a repeal.

BECAUSE, He voted against exempting SALT from duty, thus allowing the poor man to be TAXED for his SALT!

BECAUSE, He DODGED the vote to take the tax off of SUGAR, instead of defending the measure, so dear to laboring men.

BECAUSE, He DODGED the vote to TAX TEA and COFFEE, and afterwards voted for a Bill containing a section to tax these articles, in defiance of the wishes of the People of the whole country.

BECAUSE, He is a rich, overgrown Iron Master, a class of men who have no feelings in common with the poor laborer, mechanic, or farmer.

BECAUSE, If elected, he would be a mere tool in the hands of Brokers, Bankers, Speculators, Stock Jobbers, and the Nobility of Philadelphia and other "infected districts."

BECAUSE, He is supported by the same men who created the BUCKSHOT WAR, and who treated the election "as though it had never taken place," by which a Tax of some hundreds of thousands of dollars was fastened upon the people.

BECAUSE, He was an advocate of the GETTYSBURG RAIL ROAD, one of the most iniquitous and unrighteous measures ever enacted by any State in the Union.

BECAUSE, In all his speeches in 1844, both public and private, he proclaimed aloud that, if Mr. Polk was elected, he would have to "close his works and discharge his hands," and yet carries on his business as largely now as ever.

A contemporary has suggested the following ticket for the Federalists:

FEDERAL MEXICAN TICKET. FOR PRESIDENT. GEN. SANTA ANNA, of Cerro Gordo. FOR VICE PRESIDENT. THOS. CORWIN, of Ohio. GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA. JAMES IRVIN, of Centre County. CANAL COMMISSIONER. JOSEPH PATTON, of Cumberland County.

FROM IRELAND. The following is an extract of a letter from a gentleman in Ireland to his friend in Carlisle, received by the last steamer, and which has been left with us for publication:

"I received your kind and affectionate letter, and it gave me great pleasure to learn that you are still in the land of the living. You have, I perceive, heard of the awful and appalling distress, sickness, &c. which is at present raging in this country, arising from the total failure of the potato crop. Awful as are the accounts, they fall far short of the misery and mortality which reigns here at present—and it is only I fear, beginning. But for the sympathy and generosity of the Americans, who have not only filled our vessels from their shores, but have also contributed largely towards relieving the humanity in this country in other respects, our condition would be a scene of desolation. The Gentlemen of wealth here, and all persons who can contribute any little, are doing what they can to avert the calamity, by establishing Relief Funds, Soup kitchens, &c. but with the poor do not receive half the amount of relief which they are entitled to. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, J. G. IRVING, of Carlisle, in His Majesty's wisdom, may show to the Irish people."

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GENL. IRVIN AND THE BANKRUPT LAW.

Of all the infamous measures passed by the "hard side" Congress, the BANKRUPT LAW was the most infamous. It was a measure calculated to demoralize and debase humanity, more than any other that could have been enacted. It wiped out, at one fell swoop, millions of dollars of debt, which had been honestly contracted, and to which the creditors were justly entitled. The bank holding and stock speculation was thus enabled to cheat the poor artisan out of his earnings, for work done in their almost precisely wanted. How many honest poor men wished to take advantage of the Bankrupt Law! None!—No!—It was not made for them, but for the idle drones who are a curse to the community, and who obtain credit by reason of the sine credit they wear, which were purchased perhaps an credit from some one else. The men who clothe themselves in "purple and fine linen" at the expense of others, were the men for whose benefit the Bankrupt Law was passed. The men who had become dishonestly bankrupt, were to be free from their obligations, in order that an army of bankrupts might owe allegiance to the Whig party. Let one of these men be asked for an honest debt, and they will turn round with the coolest impudence, and reply—"I have paid you." A most beautiful law indeed for "all the morality" and "all the decency" party to enact!—And for this law the present Federal candidate for Governor voted! That he did this we refer to the record. (See Journal, H. R. 1st Session, 27th Congress, page 378.) The same volume, page 330, exhibits the vote of JAMES IRVIN against reconsidering the vote by which the Bankrupt Law was passed:—On the 17th of January, 1845, James Irvin voted against the bill to repeal the Bankrupt Law. (See Journal, H. R. 2d Session, 27th Congress, page 214.)

So the Federal candidate is nailed as base coin to the counter. He cannot escape. So conscious are his friends of the dilemma in which he is placed, that they bring to his rescue the aid of the whole Federal party. The editor of the "United States Gazette," one of the leading Federal papers of the State, on the 30th March, 1847, thus discourses in that journal:—"THE BANKRUPT LAW.—Mr. IRVIN, we believe, did vote for the Bankrupt Bill, as did Henry Clay, and every other Whig in Congress."

Here, then, is a fair exemplification of the rottenness of the whole Federal party. It was the Federal party that passed that infamous law, which was resisted tooth and nail by the Democratic members, and in order to rescue Mr. Irvin from the position which the odium of that measure places him, the Federal papers come out and admit that "Henry Clay and every other Whig in Congress" voted for it; which, under other circumstances, with characteristic mendacity, they would have utterly denied.

We take the Federalists at their word, and set them down as the fathers of that measure, and much joy be with them. We look upon it as one of the greatest blots which could have been struck at the morals of the people, and as tearing up by the roots the sanctity of contracts and the most solemn engagements entered into between man and man; and we boldly proclaim that no man who voted for such a measure can ever be Governor of Pennsylvania.

SENSIBLE. We take the following remarks from the money article of the Public Ledger, and we wish our readers to peruse them carefully. The Whigs can derive but little comfort in such statements. They blow the humbug "iron market" sky high. Should the European harvest the present year be a full average, and the produce of the United States, there is a large surplus, and it is not likely to be produced, completely as the granaries of both Europe and America now drained. And should there be any great loss of crops, as is predicted in some of the States, the scantiness of the supply may still further enhance prices. Taking all the cereal grains in the aggregate, we doubt if the annual produce was ever so large, were far, as last year; but the number of acres to be harvested this year is far beyond that of any former year. Some idea of the immensity of the crop may be gathered from the following statistics, made up from the returns of the last season, showing the quantity of cereal grains produced in 1846:

Table with 2 columns: Crop and Quantity. Wheat, 84,823,372 bushels; Barley, 4,161,504; Oats, 123,071,341; Rye, 12,645,567; Indian Corn, 377,531,875.

The crop of 1846 has been estimated at eight hundred million bushels. Should the produce of crops the present year per acre, equal the average of last, the additional number of acres seeded will probably add to the estimated yield of last year two hundred million bushels. Taking the present population at twenty millions, this would give 50 bushels to every man, woman and child in the Union. True, there are deductions for horses, hogs, &c., amounting, probably, to nearly half the whole produce. But it is evident, notwithstanding, that we shall have a very large surplus for foreign countries; perhaps more than our own ships, if not interfered with by the shipping of other countries, would be able to carry away. At present there seems no limit to the demand. At any rate, whatever is the value of any of these articles for export, it is not likely to be less than what they will command for that purpose—the same will be the price of the whole product, although, perchance, not two and a half per cent. if it is exported. If the appreciation of the product of 1846 has been twenty-five cents a bushel on an average, on account of the demand for exportation, (not an extravagant estimate certainly,) the aggregate appreciation is two hundred million dollars!—It is this addition to the Agricultural wealth of the country. For this we are largely indebted to commerce—to comparative freedom of trade. And yet, there are not wanting those who are continually decrying the foreign market for our produce, and shouting for the "iron market." After thirty years of government protection, and all the home market thereby produced, what would the price of Flour be now, were it not for the demand for exportation?—Not four dollars a barrel! perhaps not more than \$3.

The home market we shall have at any rate. Americans will eat, whether manufacturers are unemployed or not. But for all their railing, prices will be, in a fruitful year, like the past was, and the present promise to be, extremely low, unless exhausted by an export demand.

WHO IS RIGHT? The Federal papers all agree in saying that the present war with Mexico was provoked by the President, and declare it unconstitutional, wicked and unnecessary, and that our country is in the wrong! But Gen. Taylor rebukes these Federal calculations. In reply to the question, what were his private opinions in regard to the war, he answered—"Between my Government and a foreign Nation I never ask a question; my GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS RIGHT!" Gen. Scott, also, gives the lie direct to the Federal slander that the war was provoked by America. In his proclamation of the 11th April, he says—"Mexicans Americans are not your enemies but the enemies for a time of the man who, a year ago, misgoverned you and brought about this unnatural war between two great republics."

Democrats: when you hear the friends of Mexico (the Federalists) talk about our country being in the wrong, in waging war against Mexico, and that the war was brought about by President Polk, just poke the above extracts at them. It will shut them up, no doubt about it.

NEW YORK CANAL TRADE.—About 1,000 new canals are estimated to have been added to the New York canals the present season, making, with those previously registered, say 3,500. These at 80 feet length to each boat, would make a line of boats over 53 miles in length.

Counterfeit \$3 notes on the Mechanics' Bank of Newark, N. J. are in circulation. The general appearance of the note is darker and the lines heavier than the genuine.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH FOR THE VOLUNTEER.

Four days later from Europe.—The Money Market.—Flour and Grain.—The Famie in Ireland.—News from Mexico.—Santa Anna's Army.—Gen. Scott.—The weather, &c. &c. PHILADELPHIA, June 3, 1847. 13 o'clock. P. M.

DEAR SIR.—By the arrival of the ship Rainbow, of New York, we have four days later intelligence from Europe. Pressure of the money market, but an advance in the price of flour and grain. This will arrest the downward price of wheat in this city. People still dying off by hundreds in Ireland from the effects of the famine.

By extraordinary express this morning, we have news from Mexico, twenty-four hours in advance of the mail. The Mexican Congress has dispersed; but they were fortifying the capital, and liberal contributions are being made by the clergy and people to sustain the war. The feeling against the U. States was increasing. Santa Anna's army increasing.—He has made a movement upon Puebla. Scott still at Jalapa.

Holders of flour are demanding an advance price this morning, in consequence of the foreign news. We have delightful weather to-day.

THE TARIFF OF 1846.

The able Washington correspondent of the "Pennsylvania," makes the following well-timed remarks on the subject of the present Tariff. The Federalists who professed inevitable "truth" to our country in consequence of the passage of the new Tariff, are held up for the finger of scorn to point at. Read the following—it is true to the letter:—"Will you inform me what has become of the income of the Tariff of 1842? The Federal papers are still as the Tariff on this question. Not a word is heard of the 'blighting effects' of the modified Tariff, except in the revival of business, the millions of hard dollars coming into the country, and the general prosperity of all classes. Can it be possible that the people of this country will ever again become indebted to the last Congress. Every year since the Federal party to gain the ascendancy? Do they want any more evidence of the hollow-heartedness of that party, or the heterodoxy of its doctrines? According to the Oracles of Federalism, this goodly country has been ruined by every Democratic administration. Ruin has been their cry, from Jefferson to the present time; and yet every prophecy they made has proved itself false. When Gen. Jackson seized the 'Monster' by the horns, and determined to bring him to subjection, every Federalist in the land was indignantly engaged in his maledictions upon the head of the Old Hero, and warned the people of the inevitable ruin that would befall the country, should they certainly follow what they were pleased to term, the tyrannical conduct of that man of iron nerve. The hired agents of bank monopolies, at that time, were not more numerous, nor more lachrymose in their appeals to the Representatives of the people, than were the pensioned satellites of the Manufacturers, during the first session of the last Congress. Every thing there will be recalled how our city was thronged with hordes of all descriptions, and of every shade of character, from the representatives of the piously manufacturer down to the bona fide dealer in wooden nutmegs. In the Capitol, on the streets, and in the public houses, there was a continual, ceaseless buzz of voices, all joined in the effort to prevent the passage of the modified Tariff bill. All was done with a gravity, a seriousness, a well affected honesty, that seemed to say to the listener,

"You may believe and never your soul upon it." They assured us that the passage of the bill would be the death-knell of domestic industry—the capitalists would be beggared—the agriculturalist ruined for want of a market, and the laborer starved! Thus it was threatened—has it happened? What say the honest industrious farmer, and the busy street mechanic? Has the laborer commanded a better rate of wages—when did prosperity more generally prevail? Federalism feels its inability to answer these common-sense questions, and faithful to her disposition to evade the true issue, seeks to explain the causes of our prosperity, in the famine now prevailing in Europe. In this attempt they prove themselves to be as green as they are false-hearted. Did they not tell us that the reduction of duty on Iron and Coal would be the certain ruin of Pennsylvania? Were not those interests harped upon from morn till night, and from night till morn,—and how is it now? Have those interests been in the remotest degree injured? Is there a single farmer, or a single blacksmith, or a single cooper, who would satisfy himself, in an indigestible to an Irishman's stomach, as the principles of that party are obnoxious to intellect. Federalism hath sought out many inventions, but by this one, this plan to disarm famine of its terrors, by setting before its intended victims a bountiful repast of 'Blooms and Bar Iron,' the moral of the matter is evident. It is in setting the 'Wooden Nutmeg' system to a length and breadth of action which its Yankee inventor, with all his fertility of genius, and impetuosity of brass, never dreamed of.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND—NOBLE DONATION.

We find the following in the New York papers.—Comment upon such noble liberality is unnecessary. It speaks for itself.—WASHINGTON, May 23, 1847.

DEAR SIR.—We deeply regret to hear from Ireland, that famine is still continuing its work of death.—Feeling it a duty to aid in alleviating this dreadful calamity, we herein transmit five thousand dollars, with which please purchase food, and ship for distribution in the way of effecting the greatest good to the greatest number of the suffering poor.

Yours, most respectfully, CORCORAN & RIGGS.

To MYNDETT VAN SHAIK, Esq., Chairman of the Irish Relief Com., N. York.

Our country and its present sold Prosperity.—The Pittsburg Post speaking on this subject, throws out the following admissible reflections:—"It is surely a circumstance calculated to afford great satisfaction to the people of our country, that while other nations, even in the enjoyment of peace with their neighbors—are laboring under the miseries of death, famine and disease, we are in the midst of prosperity and plenty, even while we are for the rights of our countrymen, and in defence of our national honor. Yet, though this is a fact which all admit, how low are there who seem properly to appreciate the cause that give rise to our present condition as a nation?"

"These causes are numerous; but, notwithstanding this, there is one, operating primarily, which cannot be controlled, or materially affected, under any ordinary circumstances. We are as a people, in the enjoyment of health; we are under the operation of a wholesome system of laws, calculated to promote the interests of the farmer, the artisan, the mechanic, the laborer, the merchant, the professional man—all the interests of society, in a wholesome and natural manner. None are hampered—none are oppressed, under the operation of our present commercial and financial system."

"But, above all the causes conspiring to place us in the position which we occupy, the spirit of energy and industry pervading the people of our land, is the most powerful. This it is which has enabled us, under the most untoward circumstances. This it is, which has enabled us to pass through the fiery ordeal to which we have from time to time been forced to submit, in consequence of improvident legislation. This it is, which will ever bear us onward, and upward, in the way to greatness and glory; and though this spirit cannot be overcome entirely, under our present form of government, it may be, and has been, checked by false steps in legislation, as it has also been, fostered and encouraged when laws have been enacted in accordance with the genius and spirit of our institutions."

FROM GEN. TAYLOR'S ARMY.

CAMP TAYLOR, NEAR AJUA NUEVA (Mexico), February 28, 1847. Sir: Agreeably to your orders of to-day, I have the honor to report that my battery of artillery took position in the line of battle on the 23d instant, at its intersection with the road leading to the heights of Buena Vista. It was maintained during the conflict, and the demonstration of the enemy on this point was promptly repulsed. Two instances, especially, are worthy of notice; the first, about 9 o'clock in the morning of the 23d, when the enemy appeared in very large force, consisting of infantry and artillery, covered by a heavy battery of artillery. The rapidly and accurately directed fire scattered and dispersed this force in a few minutes, with considerable loss on his side, and little or none on our own. The other occurred later in the day—after three regiments of our volunteers had been overpowered by the enemy and a strong body of lancers, in close pursuit of them, was almost instantly driven back by the rapid and accurate fire of our men from the impending destruction. During these operations, four pieces of my battery (which was composed of eight) were detached at different times, under Lieut. O'Brien, 4th artillery, and Brovet 2d Lieut. Scott, topographical engineers, to a distant part of the field, and entirely out of the range. For the part taken by these gallant officers and their brave men, I am compelled to refer you to the report of Lieut. O'Brien, which is herewith transmitted, and which also explains the cause of the loss of three pieces of his artillery.

Without entering into minor details of the engagement, which lasted the greater part of two days, and during a large portion of which my battery was the object of a heavy fire from the enemy's heavy guns, I have only to bear willing testimony to the good conduct of the officers and men, without exception; who served under my immediate command and within the scope of my own eye. Lieutenants Brovet and Whiting, 4th artillery, commanded sections, and Brovet 2d Lieut. Cosh was either in command of a piece or in charge of the battery on several occasions, and their conduct for promptitude and gallantry in carrying out my orders could not be surpassed. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I recommend them to your favorable notice, and, through you, to the consideration of our government. I would also ask for Lieutenants O'Brien and Bryan the rewards due distinguished merit.

Among my non-commissioned officers it might be considered invidious to draw distinctions, where all did so well. The long experience, however, of my 1st sergeant Shields, and the greater skill to which he has attained in gunnery, made the fire of his piece quite conspicuous amidst the general accuracy of the other cannoners.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, J. M. WASHINGTON, Captain 4th artillery, commanding battery. Lieut. J. McDowell, Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Gen. Wool's division, Mexico.

CAMP ON BATTLE GROUND OF BUENA VISTA, MEXICO, February 25, 1847.

Sir: I have the honor to report to you the part taken in the action of the 23d instant, by that portion of artillery which was detached from your battery and placed under my command. On the morning of the 23d instant I was placed on the elevated plain, which afterwards became the battle ground, in command of three pieces of light artillery, viz: one 12-pounder howitzer, one 6-pounder gun, and one 4-pounder Mexican gun. No opportunity was offered for the use of these pieces until the morning of the 23d instant, when I pushed the howitzer close to the mountain and fired a few shells at a body of Mexicans that were advancing along its slope, in order to get possession of the head of the ravine, near which our troops were then posted.—Finding the elevation and distance so great as to cause some of my shot to be wasted, I ordered the battery to be moved to the position assigned it in line. During this time a battery of heavy Mexican artillery was playing against me, at such a distance that it was impossible for me to attempt to return it fire.

Soon after this I was directed by Brigadier General Lane to move my battery forward, in order to take the advance of some lancers who were reported to be coming up the ravine nearest the enemy's line. The 2d regiment of Indiana volunteers was ordered to support me.

On arriving at the point indicated, I found myself within musket range of about three thousand Mexican infantry, while their battery, consisting of six pieces, was pouring in heavy discharges of grape and canister. I opened the fire against the infantry and lancers with tremendous effect. Every shot, whether canister or shell, seemed to tell. The enemy wavered and fell back. I advanced on him about fifty yards. He was strongly reinforced, until, in view of the advanced position of the enemy's line, my pieces were admirably served, but failed any longer to check his advance. Every gap in the Mexican ranks was closed as soon as made. On looking round, at this moment, I discovered that the tremendous cross-fire of the enemy had forced the regiment ordered to support to fall back. Deeming it necessary to maintain alone, and sacrifice my piece, I waited till the enemy came still closer, and then gave the order to limber up and retire. I found that all the horses and all the cannoners of the Mexican 4-pounder were either killed or disabled. The other pieces were in but little better condition. I succeeded, however, in withdrawing them, and retired to our line.

On arriving there, I had not a cannoner to work the guns. All had been disabled or killed. Finding it impossible to replace them either from the other batteries or from any other source, I was compelled to return your battery, which was guarding the pass at the foot of the heights.

You then furnished me with two 6-pounders, with which I again ascended to the battle ground. I then found myself opposed to a strong line of the Mexican infantry and cavalry, and to one of their heavy batteries. I was supported by a body of infantry posted in the ravine on my right and left. The remainder of our artillery and infantry were engaged with the enemy about half a mile, or more, to our left. We kept the enemy in check, while our troops on the left drove the body opposed to them round the head of the ravine, where they united with those against whom we were fighting. At this moment, I received orders to push my section forward. I advanced, and again opened a heavy fire. The enemy was strongly reinforced by infantry and lancers. Finding themselves superior in numbers by their junction with this reinforcement, and with their troops driven from their position, they advanced. The position of things now appeared very critical. If the enemy succeeded in forcing our position at this point, the day was theirs. There was no other artillery opposed to them but my section and one other piece. It was all-impotent to maintain our ground until our artillery came round the ravine from the plain on our left and join us.

I was determined to hold my position, and to defeat the intuzes of my guns. The firing upon the section became more and more destructive as the enemy advanced. It repelled a body of lancers which was about charging on the Illinois regiment. My own loss was severe. I had had two horses shot under me; the one I was then on was wounded and falling. I had received a wound in my right arm, my cannoners, except a few recruits who had joined some days before, were killed or disabled. In the midst of this heavy fire, with horses and men dropping around them, the few recruits who were fit for duty lost their presence of mind; and I found it impossible, with all my efforts, to keep them to their guns. I retained only the pieces to the last, until the enemy came within a few yards of them, when I was forced to retire for want of a single cannoner to load or fire. I was, however, delighted to find that I had maintained my ground sufficiently long to cause the victory to be secured; for, at this moment, the remainder of our artillery arrived, and our position was secured. You are, Sir, well aware that it is often the duty of an artillery officer to sacrifice his piece for the safety of other troops. Such was my position. I could have saved the guns, had I withdrawn them earlier, but, in such case, the day might, perhaps, have been lost.

The large number of killed and wounded (men and horses) in the small command under me, will sufficiently show the nature of the service in which we were engaged. There was but one man and two horses killed by round shot. All the rest were struck by musketry or canister."

It is with unalloyed gratification that I have to speak of the conduct of Brovet 2d Lieut. O'Brien, topographical engineers, who commanded two of the pieces that were first with me. He had been for days suffering from sickness, and ought, in prudence, to have been in bed. I saw him, when exposed to a close and murderous cross fire of grape and canister on one side, and musketry on the front, direct the fire of his piece, and give his commands with the same coolness as if he were on parade. He received a flesh wound in his arm. I beg leave, through you, earnestly to recommend him to the favorable notice of the government.

It is also my duty to commend, in the coolest and bravest of Sergeants Williams and Queen,

of your company, and of Sergeants Evans and Moore, attached to your company—the former of the 1st, the latter of the 2d Illinois volunteers, Corporals Nixon and May, of your company, deserve equal praise. Sergeant Pratt behaved with great coolness and courage, but was, unfortunately, wounded so early, that he could take but little part in the action. All the cannoners, regulars and volunteers, who were with me in the beginning of the action, deserve high praise for their coolness, precision and activity. The same remarks apply to those who were with me the second time, with the exception of a few raw recruits, who, I am inclined to think, were affected rather by the confusion incident to raw troops when exposed to a tremendous fire, than by fear. I held them remained at their posts coolly, I might have delivered two more fires on the enemy before he reached the guns. All which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. P. J. O'BRIEN, Captain U. S. A., Comd'g Detachment Art. To Captain J. M. Washington, Comd'g Company B. 4th Art.

REBOUT AT SATELLO, Feb. 27, 1847.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the commanding general, that upon the action commenced at Buena Vista on the morning of the 23d inst., a large body of the enemy's army, (supposed about eighteen hundred,) under General Minon, left the position they had occupied during the night, and began to move up near the base of the mountains to my left, apparently to make a demonstration on the reduction of the camp, and to attack the position on my right, and at the same time to place themselves in the rear of the army. As soon as they came within range of my guns, I opened from both of my 24-pounder howitzers, which caused them some loss in men and horses, and drove them beyond the reach of my shot. They succeeded, however, in occupying the road between the army and the town, and they remained for some hours, picking up the