

Mr. Wixson is quite ill at Washington, as perceived by the Congressional reports. He was excused on the 9th inst., from serving on the Webster Committee, being under the charge of Dr. Hall, with no prospect of being able to attend to his duties for two or three weeks.

Tax on Coal.

We have had an opportunity of ascertaining, during the past two weeks of Court—something in regard to public opinion respecting the levying a tax on Anthracite coal, at the mouth of the pit. We have found a complete unanimity among all parties in favor of this measure, and a universal commendation of the course taken by our Representatives during the past winter. There is a general feeling that, while we in the North, have freely borne our share of the public burdens—while we have never flinched in sustaining the honor and integrity of the State, and keeping our beloved Commonwealth free from the odious stain of Reputation—yet other sections have been more favored in the lavishing of bounties and in the building and location of public improvements, furnishing the means of easy and cheap access to favorable markets.

The North—we are speaking now more particularly for Bradford—has her sources of mineral wealth, second in point of value to no other section of the State. But her coal and iron must be embosomed in her mountains for years yet to come, while the coal and iron of other counties has a convenient and cheap route to the best markets furnished by the State, and to pay for which we are now struggling and striving. These favored regions are asked—may, they are implored, as an act of generosity to our Commonwealth—borne down by debts accumulated for their benefit—to submit to a tax of ten cents upon each ton of coal mined—and the proposition meets with the most bitter and violent opposition! Our Representatives, in particular, are violently assailed, as are, indeed, all the zealous supporters of the measure.

In turn it is proposed to tax Bituminous coal. While we might submit to this as a means of preserving the credit of the State, yet the justice of the measure can never be admitted. Look at the comparative situations of the two interests. The Anthracite coal region pierced by improvements made by the money of the State—improvements which have been the means of developing its resources, and making it all that it is—the Bituminous coal shut out from a communication by improvements, debared from a market; and enjoying none of those privileges which the State has furnished to the Anthracite—and still depressed and overburdened, sharing equally in the taxes of the State. There can be no justice then in taxing bituminous coal, for it has never experienced any benefit from the improvements of the State—never been the recipient of its bounty.

The true policy is to tax those pursuits and occupations which are enjoying most of the benefits resulting from the incurring of our vast public debt: to tax those sections of country most directly benefited, and whose growing rich upon the depression of other sections. This is all that was asked in the Revenue Bill—but it was refused—and refused too, at a time when the officers of the Administration are straining every nerve to keep the interest on our State debt paid—and when it behooved our Legislators to look round in search of some legitimate object of taxation, to sustain the efforts making for the punctual payment of our interest. This might have been done by the tax on coal; while now the fears of every patriotic Pennsylvanian are aroused for the safety of our credit under the unequal and insufficient provisions of the Revenue bill as passed.

- DEMOCRATIC REVIEW.—This excellent monthly, continues to maintain its high standing. The May number contains a likeness of Hon. Mr. Bowlin, M. C. from St. Louis, Mo., with the following table of contents:
I. The Independent Treasury.—1st House Bill; 2d Report Senate Finance Committee.—Warehousing Bill.—Mints in New-York and Charleston, S. C.
II. Administration of Indian Affairs.—1st Annual Report of the Commissioners of Indian Affairs, transmitted with the President's Message. 1st session 29th Congress. T. Barnard.
2d. Notes on the Iroquois; or, Contributions to the Statistics, Aboriginal History, Antiquities and General Ethnology of Western New-York. By Henry R. Schoolcraft. New-York: Barnes & Well. 1846.
III. Cromwell and his Times.—1st. The Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell. By Thomas Carlyle. 2 vols. New-York: Wiley & Putnam.
2d. History of the English Revolution of 1640. By P. Guizot, Prime Minister of France. New-York: Appleton & Co.
IV. The Old English Polity.—No. II.—Platonic Divines.—Queen Anne's Division.—Surrender.
V. The Favorite.—Translated from the German of Johann Schopenhauer. By Nathaniel Greene.
VI. Papers of an old Dartmoor Prisoner.—Edited by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
VII. Hymn.—By Hon. Caleb Cushing.
VIII. Home.—Struggle of the Republican against the Monarchical Principle in the Argentine Republic.—By W. A. Flagg.
IX. China and its Prospective Trade.
X. Man and the Earth.—By Mary Orme.
XI. Monthly Financial and Commercial Article.
XII. New Books for the Month.
XIII. Political Statistics.—Census of New York by Counties, and the new Appointments.

New Goods.—The great break in the Erie Canal has delayed the supply of goods destined for this place, but we believe our merchants have now very generally received their assortments, and are willing to sell them on reasonable terms, as will be seen by their advertisements. It is hardly necessary for us to tell our readers—for they must have discovered it already—that the cheapest stores are those whose proprietors are willing the public should know that they wish to sell their goods, and consequently advertise.

We believe that our merchants can compete with any of the adjacent towns in selling goods—and we invite the citizens of our county generally, to give them a call and learn from experience.

THE NASHVILLE TRAGEDY.—The Harrisburg Reporter contains a statement from Edward Z. C. Judson, who, it will be remembered, shot Robert Porterfield at Nashville a few months since. He positively denies all and every charge that has been brought against him at Nashville, with regard to his having induced Mrs. Porterfield, and procured all that has been said about her as base libels on an injured and virtuous lady.

RYANER TOO EAST.—The Northern Democrat, at Montrose, is crowding over the "largest circulation in Northern Pennsylvania." We have something to say before that question is decided, and we think the subscription list of the Bradford Reporter is not exceeded by that of any paper in Northern Pennsylvania.

MISS ROBERT.—A man named Clark, Post Master at Cherry Ridge, Wayne Co. Pa., has been detected in robbing the mail, and was arrested by officer A. M. C. Smith, of New York city. He gave bail in the sum of \$2,000 and has since decamped.

THE RIVER.—The late rains have swelled the waters in the Susquehanna to a good "raining pitch," and quite a quantity of lumber has floated past, on its way to the market below, during the few last days.

Conviction of M'Cook.
We furnish below an editorial from the Daily Chronicle, at Philadelphia, respecting the trial and conviction of M'Cook, as well as some comments upon the same by the Pennsylvania Reporter. The Chronicle is an independent, honest paper, most essentially Whig, in all its sentiments and predilections. This class of papers have universally condemned the conduct of M'Cook in attempting to bribe a Representative, and expressed an honest indignation at the corrupt and degrading system of *boriog* practiced at Harrisburg. The Harrisburg Telegraph and its satellite, the Bradford Argus, on the contrary, endeavor to extenuate and screen the conduct of this notorious bank agent, by misrepresentation and vituperation of the gentleman who has dared to array against himself the army of borers and corrupt party presses on either side.

We might give numerous extracts to prove that Col. Piollet's motives have been appreciated, and that his conduct is meeting the hearty approval of every honest man; but we deem it unnecessary, after the result of the trial, the best vindication an honest man could wish.

[From the Philadelphia Daily Chronicle.]

THE CASE OF M'COOK.—The evidence adduced upon the trial of M'Cook, in the Court of Quarter Sessions of Dauphin county, furnishes a tolerable fair insight into one of the incidents of the *boriog* system—as practiced at Harrisburg during the session of the Legislature. M'Cook appears to have been a regular *borer*, one of the genuine "L'boys," and the object to which he was so assiduously employed, was the acquisition of a seat in the Legislature. The whole Mexican force on both sides, is about 5,000, United States Army about 3,000; plenty of yaller skin renegades about 500 fight for Mexico, and 50,000 volunteers from this country in less than ten days, if wanted. The officer from whose letter I write, thinks that 10,000 men will be all that is necessary.

I saw a letter from an U. S. officer in Texas to one of the army in this city, from which I gain something explanatory. The affair of the 70 dragoons took place 23 miles up the river which runs W. by N. of Matamoras, while Point Isabella is N. E. from same place; therefore the whole of the Mexican force, numbering two thousand infantry and twelve hundred cavalry across the river, does not lie between Gen. Taylor and his supplies, and it is considered that the communication can be kept open.—The American army is as well fortified as circumstances and the extended lines will permit. In five days all will be ready for a fire on Matamoras.

A navy roll is now in Lafayette Square, and crowds flock to sign their heritage of glory.—Of course you will publish the entire of the *Ex'tropic*. I know that paper to be able to give the best and most extensive information, through many good correspondents. The issue of the Proclamation will be delayed, as he waits for a written communication from Gen. Gaines.

[Correspondence of the N. O. Tropic.]
BRASSOS ST. JAGO, April 27th.
By the Augusta I sent you some of the items now transpiring around this interesting spot.—The opinion is fast gaining ground here that the imbecility of the Mexicans has been greatly overrated. This is the theatre of real war, not paper squabes, but is the seat of the commencement of a sanguinary conflict, and one it is feared of more importance and longer duration than has been anticipated; but the force is at an end, and the curtain has risen bloody with carnage, the opening of a drama most unexpected, and our country already mourns the loss of some of her first and bravest officers. On Thursday, the 23d, Gen. Taylor received information that a body of the Mexican Army had crossed the Rio Grande some distance above the encampment.

Early the following morning, Capt. Thornton and Harding of 2d Light Dragoons, with a Company of 70 men were dispatched by Gen. Taylor to reconnoitre above, and Capt. Carr of the same regiment with a Company to reconnoitre below the Encampment. The latter returned without having made any discovery.

The former division fell in with what he considered to be a scouting party of the enemy, which proved to be the advanced guard of a strong body of the enemy; who held a situation in the chapparel immediately in the rear of Gen. Taylor's camp. Capt. Thornton charged upon the guard, contrary to the advice of his Mexican guide, and on following the enemy Capt. Thornton found his command surrounded by the enemy who fired on him, killing as is supposed Capt. Thornton, Lieuts. Kane and Mason, and some 28 of the men, and taking Capt Hardee and the remainder of the command prisoners.

The Mexican commander sent in a cart to Gen. Taylor's camp with a soldier badly wounded, with a message that he had no travelling hospital with him and could not give him the assistance his situation required. There is no doubt the detachment of the enemy east of the Rio Grande consists of fully 2,500 men, commanded by Col. Carrasco and Carrajabal, bold and intrepid officers of experience and ability, and were the whole army offered by such men as Carrasco, as I know him personally, we should not be upon unequal footing. There is no doubt their object is to cut off all communication with Point Isabella, this being the general depot of provisions for the American army; they have succeeded and, consequently placed the American army in a precarious situation. It will be utterly impossible for Gen. Taylor to force his way along the dreary chapparel in which the enemy are strongly posted. His command cannot exceed 2,300 men.

Gen. Taylor has an excellent position in the rear of Matamoras; and can hold his position against the whole Mexican army combined, and his batteries can range the city in an hour.—Most of the citizens have left Matamoras, and Gen. Taylor has said that when the regular soldiers of Mexico were seen on the east side of the river, he would destroy the city. His batteries are to be ready on the 27th, complete.—Gen. Taylor has in camp full rations for 15 days; which he thinks can be made to last 30, by which time he is in hopes to receive large reinforcements from the States of Texas and Louisiana, upon each of which States he has made a requisition for the equipment and transmission to Point Isabella of four full regiments of militia.

It is thought by the superior officers of Gen. Taylor's army that 20,000 men will be required within a very short period, as it is well known that the Mexican army is daily receiving large reinforcements from the interior. It was supposed by the American officers that Gen. Arista reached Matamoras on the evening of the 23d, with a large Brigade, but up to the period of my information leaving the camp no communication had been received by Gen. Taylor from Gen. Arista. On the 22d Gen. Taylor received from Gen. Ampudia, by the means of a flag of truce, a complaining of having blockaded the Rio Grande. To which he replied, that Gen. Ampudia had been the cause of the blockade, he having expressly declared that unless General Taylor commenced his retreat beyond the Neeces within 24 hours after his displaying his flag upon the banks of the Rio Grande, he would consider war as being declared, and should act accordingly. Gen. Taylor furthermore stated that he would receive no further communication from the Mexican government, unless couched in language more respectful towards the govern-

ment and people of the United States. At Point Isabel great fears were entertained of a night attack, which, from the exposed situation of that Point, could not be otherwise than successful, if conducted with energy.

This post is defended by Major Monroe with a detachment of 80 artilerists. There are also at the post about 200 armed wagons, and fifty laborers under the orders of the Quarter Master; some 100 citizens, furnished with arms by the U. S. Ordnance officer, organized under the command of Capt. Perkins, and denominated the Sampter Guards. A company of 50 Mexican cavalry was seen on the night of the 26th, within five miles of Point Isabel. They were supposed to be a corps of observation. The body of Col. Cross was found on the 22d ult., about three miles from camp, frightfully mutilated and entirely divested of clothing.

Important from the Occupation Army!
The War already commenced!—Gen. Taylor's Supplies cut off!—Intense Excitement!—War Preparations!
Proclamation of the President!
WAR DECLARED!

[Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.]
NEW ORLEANS, May 2d, 1846.
Gentlemen: I enclose extras issued to the closing of the mail. Gen. Gaines and the various officers of the Army met in consultation today.

The requisition of Gen. Taylor upon the Governor of this State for 2,400 troops reached here this morning, and the lower house of the Legislature immediately appropriated \$100,000 for the equipment of the troops. They will, if it is supposed, be placed under the command of Gen. Persifer Smith of this city, as such was the request of Gen. Taylor.

The whole Mexican force on both sides, is about 5,000, United States Army about 3,000; plenty of yaller skin renegades about 500 fight for Mexico, and 50,000 volunteers from this country in less than ten days, if wanted. The officer from whose letter I write, thinks that 10,000 men will be all that is necessary.

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The body of Lieut Porter, who was killed by a party of banditti, under the command of Romeo Falcon, had not been found. The principal officers known to be in command of the Mexican forces, are Generals Arista, Ampudia Mejia and Canales; and Colonels Carrasco and Carrajabal are men of talent. I am indebted for the above information to the politeness of Col. Doane, who is on his way to New Orleans in the Augusta. P. S.—A messenger has just arrived, after a severe toil and much danger, owing to the proximity of the troops and the state of the prairie.—From him I learn, that Arista communicated promptly to Gen. Taylor, that he had assumed command of the Mexican Army.

We copy from an Extra of the Galveston News, dated Thursday morning, April 30: On Thursday morning, 23d a Mexican came into Gen. Taylor's camp and reported 2000 Mexicans crossing the river some twenty miles above. That afternoon captains Hardee and Thornton were sent with two companies of cavalry, 63 men in all, to reconnoitre. On Friday morning they fell into an ambush of the enemy, when Lieut. Cain and thirteen men were killed, Capt. Thornton missing, and Capt. Hardee and 46 men prisoners. On Saturday afternoon the Mexicans, sent in a wounded man with the report. These Mexicans, it is stated, were commanded by Canales and Carrajabal.

After the fight, the Mexicans on this side of the river were largely reinforced and have surrounded Gen. Taylor's camp, cutting off all communication with Point Isabella, at which place is the train and all of the stores belonging to the army.—Gen. Taylor not having on hand over 10 days' provisions. There are at Point Isabel 90 artilery men, 10 dragoons, about 250 teamsters and about 150 citizens and laborers; and the entrenchments not half finished.

The steamer Monmouth landed Mr. Cattel on the night of the 28th at Port Lavaca, with despatches from Gen. Taylor calling on Gov. Henderson for 40 companies of Riflemen, 60 men each, 20 of the companies to be mounted men to rendezvous at Corpus Christi, when they will be mustered into service and supplied with provisions—the foot companies will rendezvous at Galveston, where transportation will be furnished. The steamer Augusta was to have left the Brazos St. Jago on Monday night for New Orleans, with Gen. Taylor's call on the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for 8000 troops. Should immediate relief not be sent to Point Isabella, it will most probably fall into the power of the enemy with all the army stores, and the destruction of the whole army may follow.

Gen. Taylor's works in front of Matamoras would be completed on the morning of the 28th, at which time it was expected the fire would be opened on the city. Troops should not await the call of the Governor as it will be a week before it can reach this place, but hurry to the relief of Point Isabella, as by saving that place only will we have it in our power to render the army timely assistance.

Texans! you have now, at least, a glorious opportunity of retaliating on these perfidious Mexicans, the many injuries they have done you, and of carrying that war into the heart of their own country, the cruelties of which they have so often made you feel.

NEW ORLEANS, May 2, 11 A. M.
The news in our second edition, this morning, is regarded as of much importance. Letters from authentic American sources in Matamoras state that the Mexican forces are at least 8000 men, well equipped, with an excellent park of artilery.
The Governor of this State has issued his requisition for twenty-five hundred volunteers, and the soldiers are already in the street, and making the most active preparations for departure. They will leave in the course of twenty-four hours.
The Legislature of the State with a patriotic promptitude worthy of all praise, have already passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the service. The measure passed by acclamation.

[From the N. O. Playane, May 2d.]
War!—To Arms!! To Arms!!!
The steamer Galveston arrived this morning, bringing the certain intelligence that the United States Army, under General Taylor, is completely surrounded, and his communication with Point Isabella entirely cut off. Despatches have been sent to the Governor of Texas for an immediate reinforcement of 2,400 men, and a special messenger, Col. Doan, is now in this city, with requisitions upon Governor Johnson for four regiments. The emergency is imminent, and immediate steps should be taken to send the necessary force to the relief of the army.

The city is in great excitement. Guns are being fired from the public squares, and drums and flags are paraded through the streets. Louisiana will do her duty in this crisis.
At Galveston, within an hour after the receipt of Capt. Cattel's letter, there was a public meeting, and it was determined to dispatch 200 men that evening in the Monmouth.
General Taylor has fortified his position so strongly that he can stand a siege, but his communication with Point Isabella being cut off he is in danger of being compelled to take the field with an inadequate force, on account of the shortness of his provisions.
Matamoras is almost deserted. The American army could take the town at once, but under the circumstances of his position General Taylor cannot divide his command or weaken his camp by sending off any considerable number of men from it.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.—PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.
The Senate and House of Representatives: The existing state of the relations between the United States and Mexico, renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my message at the commencement of your present session, the state of these relations and the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse be-

tween the two countries in March, 1845, and the long continued and unredressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican Government on citizens of the United States, on their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present convictions of the condition of affairs up to this time than by referring you to that communication. The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico on liberal and honorable terms, and the readiness of this Government to regulate and adjust our boundary, and other causes of difference with that power, on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me in September last to seek a re-opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results.

In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injury which we have suffered from Mexico, and which had been accumulated during the period of more than 20 years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, defeat or delay a pacific result, was carefully avoided. An Envoy of the U. S. repaired to Mexico, with full powers to adjust every existing difference, but through present on Mexican soil by agreement between the two governments, invested with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly dispositions, his mission has been unavailing. The Mexican government not only refused to receive him or listen to his propositions, but after a long continued series of menaces, have at last invaded our territory, and shed the blood of our fellow citizens on our own soil.

It now becomes my duty to state more in detail the origin, progress and failure of that mission. In pursuance of the instructions given in September last, an inquiry was made on the 13th of October, in 1845, in the most friendly terms, through our Consul in Mexico, of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, whether the Mexican Government would receive an Envoy from the U. S. States, entrusted with full powers to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two governments, with the assurance that, should the answer be in the affirmative, such an Envoy would be immediately dispatched to Mexico. The Mexican Minister, on the 15th of October, gave an affirmative answer to this inquiry, requesting, at the same time, that our naval force at Vera Cruz might be withdrawn, lest its continued presence might assume the appearance of menace and coercion, pending the negotiations. This force was immediately withdrawn. On the 10th of Nov., 1845, Mr. John Slidell, of Louisiana, was commissioned by me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the U. S. to Mexico, and was entrusted with full powers to adjust both the question of the Texan boundary and of indemnification to our citizens. The redress of our citizens naturally and inseparably blended itself with the question of boundary. The settlement of the one question in any correct view of the subject, involved that of the other. I could not for a moment entertain the idea that the claims of our much injured and long suffering citizens, many of which had existed for more than twenty years, should be postponed or separated from the settlement of the boundary question.

Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th of November, and was courteously received by the authorities of that city; but the Government of Gen. Herrera was then tottering to its fall: the revolutionary party had seized upon the Texas question to effect or hasten its overthrow. Its determination to restore friendly relations with the U. S. and to receive our Minister to negotiate for the settlement of this question, was violently assailed, and was made the great theme of denunciation against it. The Government of Gen. Herrera, there is good reason to believe, was sincerely desirous to receive our Minister; but it yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 21st of Dec. refused to accredit Mr. Slidell, upon the most frivolous pretences. These are so fully and ably expressed in the note of Mr. Slidell of the 24th of December last, to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessary to enter into further details on this portion of the subject.

Five days after the date of Mr. Slidell's note, Gen. Herrera yielded the government to Gen. Paredes, without a struggle, and on the 30th of December resigned the Presidency. This revolution was accomplished solely by the army, the people having taken little part in the contest; and thus the supreme power of Mexico passed into the hands of a military leader. Determined to leave no effort untried to effects an amicable adjustment with Mexico, I directed Mr. Slidell to present his credentials to the government of General Paredes, and asked to be officially received by him.

There would have been less ground for taking this step had Gen. Paredes come into power by a regular constitutional succession.—In that event his administration would have been considered but a mere constitutional continuation of the government of General Herrera, and the refusal of the latter to receive our Minister would have been deemed conclusive, unless an intimation had been given by Gen. Paredes of his desire to reverse the decision of his predecessor. But the Government of Gen. Paredes owes its existing to a military revolution by which the subsisting constitutional authorities had been subverted.

The form of government was entirely changed, as well as all the high functionaries by whom it was administered. Under these circumstances Mr. Slidell, in obedience to my directions, addressed a note to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, under date of the 1st of March last, asking to be received by that government in the diplomatic character to which he had been appointed. The Minister, in his reply, under date of the 12th of March, reiterated the argument of his predecessor, and in terms that may be considered as giving just grounds of offence to the government and people of the United States, denied the application of Mr. Slidell.—Nothing, therefore, remained for our Envoy but to demand his passports, and return to his own country.

Thus the Government of Mexico, though solemnly pledged by official acts in October last to receive and accredit an American Envoy, violated their pledge their pledged faith, and refused the offer of the peaceful adjustment of our difficulties. Not only was the offer rejected, but the indignity of its rejection, enhanced by a manifest breach of faith in refusing to admit the envoy who came because they had bound themselves to receive him. Nor can it be said that the offer was fruitless from the want of opportunity of discussing it, as our Envoy was present on his own soil. Nor can it be ascribed to a want of sufficient powers; our Envoy had full powers to adjust every question of difference.—Nor was there room for complaint that our propo-

sition for settlement was unreasonable, or that our mission was unavailing given our Envoy to make any proposition whatever. Nor can it be objected that we, on our part, would not listen to any reasonable terms of their suggestion; the Mexican government refused all negotiations, and made no proposition of any kind.

In my message at the commencement of the present session, I informed you that upon the earnest appeal, both of the Congress and Convention of Texas, I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position between the Neeces and the Del Norte. This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexicans, for which extensive military preparation had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of the U. S. to annex her self to our Union, and under these circumstances it was plainly our duty to extend our protection over her citizens and soil. This force was concentrated at Corpus Christi and remained there until after I had received such information, as rendered it probable that the Mexican government would not receive our Envoy.

Meantime, Texas, by the final act of our Congress had become an integral part of our Union. The Congress of Texas, by its action of Dec. 19, 1836, had declared the Rio Del Norte to be the boundary of that Republic. Its jurisdiction had been extended and exercised beyond the Neeces. The country between that river and the Del Norte had been represented in the Congress and the Convention of Texas, had taken part in the act of Annexation itself, and no included within one of our Congressional Districts. Our own Congress had more than great unanimity, by the act approved the 31st, 1845, recognised the country beyond the Neeces as a part of our territory by including it within our own revenue system, and a revenue officer to reside within that district has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became therefore of urgent necessity to provide for the defence of that portion of our country. Accordingly on the 12th of January last instructions were issued to the General in command of these troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte.

This river, which is the south western boundary of the State of Texas, is an exposed frontier. From this quarter invasion has been threatened. Upon it, and in its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, are the proper stations for the protecting forces of the Government.

In addition to this important consideration, several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these are the facilities afforded by its ports of Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Del Norte for the reception of supplies by sea, the stronger and more healthy military position, the convenience for obtaining a ready and more abundant supply of provisions, as water, fuel and forage, and the advantages which are afforded by the Del Norte in forwarding supplies to such posts as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier.

The movement of troops to Del Norte was made by the commanding General, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that Republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war or commit acts of hostility indicative of a state of war. He was especially directed to protect private property and respect personal rights.

The Army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on the 28th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoras, where it encamped on a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field works. A depot has also been established at Point Isabel, near the Brazos Santiago, 30 miles in the rear of the encampment. The selection of this position was necessarily confined to the judgment of the General in command.

The Mexican forces at Matamoras assumed a belligerent attitude on the 12th of April—Gen. Ampudia, then in command, notified General Taylor to break up his camp within 24 hours, and to retire beyond the Neeces river, and in the event of his failure to comply with these demands announced that arms and open acts of hostility was committed until the 24th of April. On that day Gen. Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to General Taylor, that he considered hostilities commenced, and should prosecute them. A party of dragoons of 63 men and officers were on the same day dispatched from the American camp, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed or were preparing to cross the river, became engaged with a large body of these troops, and after a short affair in which some 16 were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender. The grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexico upon our citizens throughout a long period of years remain unredressed; and solemn treaties, pledging her public faith, for this redress have been disregarded. A government either unable or unwilling, to force the execution of its treaties, fails to perform one of its plain duties.

Our commerce with Mexico has been annihilated. It was formerly highly beneficial to both nations; but our merchants have been deterred from prosecuting it by the system of outrage and extortion which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, whilst their appeals through their own government for indemnity have been made in vain.—Our forbearance has gone to such an extent as to be mistaken in its character. Had we acted with vigor in repelling the insults and redressing the injuries inflicted by Mexico at the commencement, we should doubtless have escaped all the difficulties in which we are now involved.

Instead of this, however, we have been entering our best efforts to propitiate her goodwill, upon the pretext that Texas, a nation independent as herself, thought proper to annex its destinies with our own. She has affected to believe that we have severed her rights territory, and in official proclamation, and in manifestos, has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas. In the meantime we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, even before the first information from the frontier of the Del Norte. But now after reiterated menaces Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war. As war exists, and notwithstanding efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon by every consideration of duty and patriotism to vindicate with