

## Mradford Aleporter.

Towanda, Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1847

The Presidency.

Who will be the choice of the Pennsylvania Democracy for President? is a question addressed us often, at home and from abroad. We are no more capable of answering the question now, than wewere a year since. If we were dependent for information only upon some few papers, published in some wilderness counties, without a circulation beyond its own precincts, we might conclude, that the De- than this, to submit the principles of the Proviso to mocratic Bress of Pennsylvania had spoken gener- the people, cannot again occur. The south, with ally for Hon. James Buchanan. Our means of information however, repel such a conclusion, we slavery to this new territory. Is not the question, shall not therefore assist to extend an impression, then, legitimately before the people? Shall we which we know is without truth. There are cer- wait until slavery has subverted the free soil! We tain papers, distinguished for their fealty to John might then as well attempt to abolish in if the states, Tyler, and overflowing with admiration for men as to drive it out of territory were it is established. who sustain democratic principles in importion to It is useless to plead the law of nations, or any oththeir interests: that saw no democracy, but in the Ta- er law which prohibits slavery in Mexico: what rift of '42; that fly afrighted before a federal panic, slave holder regards them? The right which they as if chase I by a simoon; there are certain papers a sert, of going there with their slaves, convinces of this stripe, that show the fondness of a love-sick- their regard for any such prohibition. It is imposswain, for James Buchanan. We are glad to number among them, one or two honorable exceptions, ry-we cannot avoid it, if we would. The south Usually at this period, preceding the National

Convention, the choice of Pennsylvania, is well ascertained. But little has as yet been said in primary meetings, and the true Democratic presses are silent. There is less of dictation abroad, than is accustomed to be practised; the people are less fettered by the premature action of politicians. We are encouraged to expect a decision from the people, when it comes, that will rebuke the attempt of a mercenary press, to arrogate the right of speaking for them.

The Democracy of Peunsylvania in 1844, after the declination of Mr. Buchanan, united with great this: Shall soil which is now free, remain free! unanimity on Madin Van Buren. The country had demanded his nomination so clearly, that it could not be mistaken: Mr. Buchanan seeing it, wisely and generously withdrew from the contest. The disastrons result of "Hard cider" campaign of 1840, were followed by a calm; it was the period of "Sober second thought," then it was that the people, overwhelmed with a conviction of the fraud that had been practiced upon them, resolved to vindicate the men, with whom their principles had fallen. We do not recollect ever having seen the Democracy more firm; or more eager for the strife; or more certain of a triumph surpassing in moral greatness any the world had before witnessed, than at this time, with Martin Van Buren as their standard bearer. But the National Convention saw fit to affirm the decision of the campaign of 1840; to incorporate new doctrines in the Democratic creed, and to pledge allegiance to no man, who did not favor the southern policy. When the wrongs thus inflicted on the democracy of the North, are to cease, or be atoned for we know not. The councils that prevailed in the National Convention, still demand such a candidate as suits them, and in the in Northern Pennsylvania. alternative pledge their united opposition. What shall we do? We are not asked to conciliate, or compromise; but to surrender like a whipped cur. . Have we' become so tame? must every honest ted democrat cower, and become the mere vassal of Southern barons! No, we have learned a differrent lesson in the school of democracy.

We protest, that we have not in any way, the most remote, attempted to incorporate in the democratic creed, any new doctrine. We have, and will resist any such attempt. The south have made the innovation, they persist in it; they demand submission; Mr. Van Buren's Texas letter was repugnant; the south set up the cry "off with his head," and off it went. Oh, shame, where is thy blush? The duty of the democracy is to us plain. We must regain the position we have lost. Power and patronage must cease to be omnipoten', and democracy, which knows no sectional divisions, must triumph or fall. We owe it to ourselves as a party; we owe it to the country and the world in vindication of the principles of the government of this great, and free Republic, to again call Martin Van Buren from his retirement, to again unite on him, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency in 1848. Such are our views; what the decision of the party in this county may be, will soon be known. We believe however the sentiments expressed by us in this article, will meet with a general response in Bradford.

## Broken Banks.

- Quite an excitement has prevailed here for the last two days, caused by a rumor that several of the Banks in the interior of the State, had suspended payment. Some of those considered the safest in the state were included in the downfall; such as the York Bank, the Wyoming Bank, the Miner's Bank at Pottsville, Harrisburg Bank, &c. With the exception of the Lewistown Bank, we can find nothing in our latest advices, to sustain the report. The Lodger of the 17th inst., says, "There have been many rumors of bank failures affoat, which could not be traced to any authentic source." The rumor is also contradicted by other papers.

We should not be surprised to hear of the failure of some of the rotten shaving shops, so plenty in this State. We caution the public to beware of them, and particularly of an institution not far distant, lately galvanized into an ephemeral existence.

Bor Worners.-A young lad, was severely wounded at Athens, on Friday last, by the discharge cated, and the boysthrowing missiles at him, when he suddenly turned and fired into the crowd, the entire load, of small shot taking, effect upon the legs, hands and bowels of the boy, wounding him hereafter. severely, but not dangerously. The Dr. was lodged in iail at this place to await his trial for the assault.

LITERARY Society-An Association has recent ly been formed in Durell " for the dissemination give our readers a full account of its doings. of useful knowledge." The object is to procure a Library by subscription-for the benefit of those who choose to contribute. We are pleased to see such a praiseworthy effort made in Young Durell. It is an example which should be followed in every township in the county, and cannot fail to produce he most beneficial result.

The Provise

It is said, we eaght to wait until territory is acquired, and them until slavely is attempted to be planted on the woil, before the principles of the Province are arged. Those that make his object tion, cannot claim to be sincere. The object to put off the question; and if the course they sug gest be adopted, to turn in, and with the south, and protest against any interference with domestic institutions of the states. Wait until territory is acsupposed that slavery can be abolished in such territory, if it is found there on its acquisition? Then why should we wait? If the views and policy of the present administration are sustained, then is the territory already acquired. The President distinct. ly avows, that if territory cannot be acquired as indemnity, by treaty, it must be held by conquest. The question is settled; territory is already acquired. and will be held, unless the country is driven into a dishonorable peace. A more proper time, one voice, has declared its determination to extend sible to avoid this issue between freedom and al avedemands that the free soil acquired of Mexico, should be the home of slavery. In every convention of the slave states, a bold and fearless declaration is made, that without regard to party, they will oppose the nominee of the National Convention, unless he is pledged for the extension of slavery. The question is not considered impracticable at the south; nor is it by them, regarded as premature; these and other objections, equally foolish, are left to the discovery tof certain wise men of the North. It is useless to attempt to fog this question. It is involved in no intricacy. It is plainly We take the affirmative; we love freedom and abhor slavery in every form. The people will proclaim for freedom; they too abhor slavery. There is no use of attempting to drive back the people, by telling them, that the south are entitled to have it all their own way.

Improvements in Our Berench.

During the past summer and fall, quite an improvement has been effected in the appearance of our Borough by the erection of a considerable number of new buildings.

The brick building of Bugros Kingsbery, was first finished, and has been for some time occupied. It is erected on the site of the old store, and is a most commodious and well finished building, three stories in height. The north store is occupied by B. Kingsbery & Co., where they have ample room for the accomodation of their numerous enstomers. The building is, we believe, at present, entirely occupied. In the third story the Sons of Temperance have their Hall; one of the most beautiful furnished and spacious rooms of the kind

The vacancy left by the fire last spring, has partly been built up, by the Messrs. MERCURS, MON-TANKE and CARTER. Their building is just completed and comprises one of the most elegant formerly the stand of Messis. Mercurs, is now owned and occupied by Messrs. Montanye's & Cc., Dr. Carter is still on hand at his old location, where the fire found him in March last, much improved in convenience. The North part of the building has been rebuilt by Messrs. Mercur's. The store next to the Dr. is occupied by N. N. Betts. The Messrs. Mercur's have but just removed to the corner on the north, where they have one of the larrest and best finished stores to be found this side of Stewart's. No pains or expense has been spared to make it everything desirable in a country store. and if their numerous customers come "with a rush," they may be sure of being waited upon

The masonry and brick work of the new Court House, are finished, and the building nearly enclosed. When finished it will be a credit to the County and an omament to the town.

Mr. C. L. Ward has finished the foundation of a tavern stand on the site of the Old Eagle Tavern. It will be speedily completed in the spring, & is desizned to be a commodious hotel, with stores, shops, &c., in the first story.

Besides the buildings erected by the public spirit of our business men, a number of dwellings have been built, to the great improvement of our town. The appearances are favorable for the erection of a still greater number of buildings the coming summer. The residue of the "burnt district," will doubtless be rebuilt in a better and more permanent style, and with the other buildings in progress and to be exected, by extending and increasing the facilities, will give a fresh impetus to the business of our town.

## Estimal Convention.

The preference seems generally given to the 4th of July, as the time of holding the Convention. To this we have no objection. We have a choice as to the place of holding it. We have ever been at a loss to discover any good reason why it should be held at Baltimore: it has no more facilities for being reached than sundry other places; it is very remote from the centre, subjecting many delegates to heavy expenses in getting there. Cincinnati in our opinion is the most proper place. We know of no objection, that can be urged against this place, for holding the Convention. Justice to the of a gan in the hands of Dr. Cresswell, of Chemonder and South West, demands that the Couven-mong, N. Y. It appears that the Dr. was intoxic tion be held in a plant less remote from the centre. There are many, and to our minds indubitable reasons, why the place should be changed from Baltimore; we may have occasion to allude to them

> Concarse.—The proceedings of this body, are as yet, quite uninteresting. Now, that the officers are elected, and the committees appointed, we shall expect an exciting session. We shall endeavor to

> THE VIGILANCE COMMITTEES are necessarily deerred until next week. Also, the proceedings of a public meeting recently held in Sullivan county.

Poz. Doc.-We are indebted to His Exceller JAMES K. POLK, Hon. JAMES BUCHAMAN, and Hon. DAVID WILMOT for important favore,

Eswapaper Berrewers, &c.

During the past Court weeks, we have been visited by finite fraumfor of our friends from the courtry, and several have been loud in their complaints. that they were deprived of the enjoyment ing the Reporter, for which they pay regular at every houset unit should. One is pession your regular nuisance—the newspaper borrower Another is deprived of it by the next more dishon est practice, which some have got into, of stealing quired; why not wait until slavery is there? is it it, before he can hardly glance over it; while an other finds fault, because he can only get it from the Post-Office after it is soiled and rumpled, and sometimes - hardly legible. There are grievous troubles, surely, but they can be remedied. Let the borrower be told of the paltry meanness of the trick he has acquired; that your family would as soon see the cholera coming, as his hated visage to borrow the paper before it is half read; that the printers would be glad to send him a fresh one every week-provided he rays for it. In short, in justice to the printer, and yourself, refuse him; flatly, and then you will be rid of him.

As to the stealing, it is punishable by law; the Post Masters know it is no part of their duty to permit the paper belonging to subscribers to be read. and if they are guilty of it, they should be reported to the Department, where they have a very efficient and summary mode of making such things right. The following will explain how. It is a copy of a letter addressed to the Editor of the Germantown (Ohio) Gazette.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. APPOINTMENT OFFICE, Nov. 2, 1847. Siz :- If you will name the Postmasters who fail to notify publishers when their papers are not taken from the office by those to whom they are addressed, or who neglect to do their duty in any other particular, they will be required to live up to the law and instructions or the particles will be placed in other hands.

W. J. BROWN, aw and instructions of the Department or their of

Very respectfully, &c., W. J. BROWN, 2d Ass't. P. M. General.

DEFUNCT.-The publication of the "Tioga Herald," has been suspended. The editor finds farming more advantageous than printing a Whig paper in Tioga. The Herald was a well printed and spirited sheet.

The "Wyoming Co. Record." is also no more Mr. Worden, goes to Lewistown, where a better opportunity presents itself, for the acquisition of the root of all evil."

THE MELANCHOLY DEATH OF DR. WAINWRIGHT FROM THE BITE OF A SNAKE .- The New York papers give the following particulars of the melancholy death of Dr. Wainwright from the bite of a snake:-On Thursday afternoon Dr. W. received from a brother-in-law in Alabama, through one of our packets, a number of rare plants, &c., the productions of that section of the Union-and, probably, for the purpose of furnishing a subject for more scientific experiments, a rattlesnake, six feet long, was con-

ained in the invoice. The reptile was securely boxed, but it seems that Dr. W., for the purpose of exhibiting it to some friends in the evening, took the box to the Broad way House, corner of Grand and Broadway, where, knocking off the top, the snake was let loose upon the bar room floor. Throwing itself into a coil, the dangerous creature immediately commenced that ow hum, or species of ringing, (not the rattle.) which is peculiar to the species, and seemed in rlined to remain quiet; probably the change of climate produced a sort of torpor, and it was repeatedly teased with a ctick, without betraying much vinoneness. Indeed, one gentleman ventured so far as to raise it with the toe of his boot escaping un-

After being exposed some twenty minutes to the gaze of those present, Dr. Wainwright attempted to return the snake to the box, and for that purpose inconsiderately seized the venomous thing with hi NAKED HAND! when in an instant, with only the rattle, the rentile mised his head, threw back his upper jaw, and streck-the fangs entering between the fingers, and fastening on the inside of the ring-finger of the right hand! who have a convenient and well-filled store. Immediate measures were taken to prevent the spread of the poison through the system. The flesh in the neighborhood of the wounded part was cut out and Dr. Wainwright removed to his house in Crosby street, where other medical and surgical aid was called, without delay, and in a few minutes the room was filled with his professional friends, among whom were Dr. Whittaker Parker and Caldwell, of the Institute. Energetic means were made use of to counteract the effect of the venom, but maccountably, all known remedies seemed to be of no avail, and the entire arm commenced swelling most learfully. At this juncture we are informed that Dr. Wainwright, with much presence of mind, begged to have an amputation of the whole arm performed, but, after consultation this course was deemed inadvisable, and the victim, enduring the most excruciating agony, continued to sink, and finaly expired at half an hour after midnight—the lamp of life going out at last quietly and with, apparently, no struggle.

The unhappy man seemed to possess his full fa-culties almost to the last moment, and was perfect ly aware of the fate to which he was inevitably hastening. Some fifteen minutes before his decease, turning to a friend who was supporting him, "this is horrible!" said he, as he felt the extreme pain leaving his hand, and the sensation of ease slowly creeping up the arm from the seat of the woundthis is horrible !- to know that death is gradually feeling his way to my vitals!-that arm is dead al ready? and placing the uninjured hand over his heart. "the destroyer will be soon be here!!"—
This acute knowledge of his sure dissolution, which as a medical man, he musi have possessed, could have been nought else than truly fearful.

The body, after death, presented the usual ap-pearance of decease from the bite of those bideous reptiles, it being frightfully swollen and mottled.

Mr. Van Buren's Letter.-Mr. Van Buren has declined being a candidate for the next Presidency in reply to a letter from the editor of the Wilkshai re Farmer and Journal. The letter announcing his determination will be read with great interest, and will assign to him in the judgment and affections of the American people, if possible, a higher place than he has heretofore held. The condition of the country demands that the counsels and talents of such men should be brought actively to our aid in the present emergency, and however great the sac-rifice would be to Mr. Van Buren to be drawn again into the arena of political strife we have the guaranty of his past life to confirm us in saying that the call of the democracy of the Union upon him to lead their column in 1848, would not be refused. We should rejoice to hear such a call made. It would reflect the greatest honor upon the Democracy of the Union, and would ensure success beyond a contingency, and with success the certainty of an adastment of the difficult and embarraceing questions that have sprung up in connection with our war with Mexico and the prospect of an extension of

erritory.

It will not be questioned by any one that Martin Van Buren ranks amongst the ablest men of this or any other nation: that his qualities of mind are peculiarly adapted to the trying crisis which we are approaching, and that no man deserves more the bands of the people.—Cayuga (N. Yi) Era.

Some of the whig press, especially of the city, have asserted that the Wilmot Proviso was a test at the late election. How such a conclusion is arrived at, we cannot conjecture. In this section of the State the subject was never mentioned, and we know that many of the warmest of Gov. Shunk's supporters were in favor of the Proviso. Mr. Wil-mot himself, and his friends, were warm supporters of Gov. Shunk, as the vote in his district will show. -Sunbury American.

Proceedings of the XXXth Congress. FIRST ABSSION.

Wissission Dec. 13th, 1817.

It Santra. The bedde mat at 120 clocks Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Slices.

The Vice President laid before the Senata the annual seport of the Secretary of the Treasitry, and on motion of Mr. Breese, it was ordered that 20,-00 copies of the report be printed for the use of On motion, it was resolved that the Military and

Navy Committee be incremed to seven each. On motion of Mr. Sevier, the Senate then procoled to the election of officers, when the former officers were re-elected almost unanimously. On Mr. Mangum's motion, the Chairman of the

Standing Committees were appointed without going into a ballot. They are as follows:-

On Foreign Relations-Mr. Sevier. Finance-Mr. Atherton. Commerce-Mr. Dix. Manufactures-Mr. Dickinson. Agriculture—Mr. Sturgeon. Military Affairs—Mr. Cass. Militia-Mr. Rusk. Naval Affairs—Mr. Fairfield. Public Lands—Mr. Breese. Private Land Claims-Mr. Yulee. Indian Affairs-Mr. Atchison. Claims—Mr. Mason.
Revolutionary Claims—Mr. Bright.
Judiciary—Mr. Ashley.
The Post Office and Post Roads—Mr. Niles. Roads and Canals—Mr. Hannegan. Pensions—Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana. District of Columbia—Mr. Camerou. Patents and the Patent Office-Mr. Westcott. Retrenchment-Mr. Turney. Territories-Mr. Douglass. Public Buildings-Mr. Hunter Contingent Expenses—Mr. Felch. Printing—Mr. Bradbury. Engrossed Bills—Mr. Downs. Enrolled Bills—Mr. Rusk. Joint Committee on the Library—Mr. Pearce. On motion of Mr. Mangum, the election of the

Wasuington, Dec. 15. In Senate -The Senate was called to order at

12 o'clock by the Vice President. The following resolutions were presented by Mr. Calhoun, and ordered to be printed.

Resolved, That to conquer and hold Mexico, either as a province or by incorporating it into the

emaining members of the Committees was post-

oned until to-morrow.

Union, is inconsistent with the avowed object of the war, contrary to the settled policy of the government, in conflict with its character and genius, and in the find must be subversive of all our free and popular

Resolved, That no line of policy in the further presecution of the war should be adopted which may fend to consequences so disastrons. Mr. Dickmson offered the following resolution

Resolved, That, in organizing a Territorial goemment for territories belonging to the United States the principles of self-government upon which our federative system rests will be best promoted, the true spirit and meaning of the constitution be bserved, and the confederacy strengthened, by eaving all questions concerning the domestic poli cy therein to the legislatures chosen by the people bereof.

Resolved, That true policy requires the governnent of the United States to strengthen its political and commercial relations upon this continent, by the annexation of such contiguous territory as may conduce to that end, and can be justly obtained and that, neither in such acquisition nor in the territorial organization thereof, can any conditions be constitutionally imposed, or institutions be provided for or established, inconsistent with the right of the people thereof to form a free sovereign State, with he powers and privileges of the original members of the confederacy.
On Mr. Niles' motion, the heads of the Bureau

and those of the Departments were admitted to the privilege of the floor. Adjourned.

In the House,-The House was assembled at 12 ed Chaplain, delivered a fervent prayer.

The Speaker announced Mr. Vinton's resolution, with John W. Houston's amendment, as the first Messrs. Rhett and Caleb Smith spoke ably in

support of the resolution.

Mr. Root followed, and advocated the passage of the resolution carnestly and ably, including many facetious remarks. A message from the President was received and

read, giving his reasons tor vetoing the River and Harbor bill of the last session. Mr. Wentworth moved that the message be reorted to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Vinton moved to refer the subject to the select committee. He argued that the message and eport should go out to the country together." bale sprung up in which the participators were Messrs. Barker, Sims, Stewart and Schenck.

Isaac P. Holmes offered resolutions for a peace with Mexico. Adjourned.

TROUBLE THREATENED IN ILLINOIS.—The St. Louis Friend of the People" states that at a meeting of men calling themselves settlers in township 27 and 28, N. R. 4 E., convened at the house of a Mr. T. Bloomfield, Joe Davies county, on Nov. 2, 1847, it was unanimously resolved, that if any person shall enter any land that is claimed by a settler, in the above named townships, within two years from the time the same was offered for sale, that we will consider such person as a robber and pirate, and treat him as such. If any person shall enter any land that is claimed by a settler, that he, nor any other to whom he may sell or transfer it, shall never have peaceable possession, until the settler has a just and fair compensation for the same, while

water runs, and grass grows.

That paper adds: "We do not know the number of individuals who were present, and became the avowed authors of the proposition embraced in the oregoing resolutions; we hope, for the honor of our country, they were few in number. But be they lew or be they many, we trust and believe they will neet with the universal denunciation of civilized society.'

THE LEWISTOWN BANK.—The Lewistown Gazette

of Saturday, says: "This institution which had enjoyed the confidence of our community, with but few exceptions since its resumption of business last year, closed its doors on Wednesday last. That resumption was generally believed to have been made on a firm asis, and hence not a little feeling was manifested when the fact became known, as numbers of its notes, varying in amount, were in the hands of all classes. What the liabilities are, and what the resources, is more than we can tell. A belief in its solvency—at least so far as direct liabilities were concerned—we know was entertained by many of our citizens who had no kindly feelings towards the institution, but whether events will justify that heief, remains to be seen. We trust that such will be the case. In the meantime we would advise noteholders not to part with them heodlessly—a few weeks may determine their real market worth

A PARTHER KILLED IN BUCKS COUNTY .- On Fri. day last, says the Bucks County Intelligencer, as Charles Jackson and Lewis Murray were passing through the woods of Mrs. Belbrough, adjoining the farm of our friend Geo. W. South, Esq., in Bensalam tp., they discovered an animal lying in a brush neap. As they approached it, it rose, as if to spring at them, when Jackson levelled his gun, and shot it through the head. Upon examination it was found to be a young panther, and is supposed to have escaped from a cage of wild beasts that were conveyed along the Bristol tumpike a few days before. It measured, from tail to nose, 4 feet

Another Candidate -Com. Stockton, the " big gun" of the navy, is spoken of for the Presidency. revenue from this source will be small.

Report of the Secretary of War.

w better to an are proceed to its publication of columns at such length as will enable as to put the most intensiting portion thereof entire a substance of the whole in an abridged form.

In consequence of the dispersed substance of the important process accounts gatements could not troops in the service, accurate statements could not e returned by the Adjutant General; but from the best means of information, the aggregate force is estimated at 43,538, of which 21,509 are regular troops and the remainder volunteers. Of this numhere are under Gen. Scott, in garrison, &c., on the line, 32,156. Under Gen. Taylor 6,727. In Santa Fe, and that section 3,634. In California about 1,000. (Allowing for deductions by reason of sickness and other casualties, the effective force is

considerably below this estimate.

In relation to the raising of the new regiments, organizing and despatching them to the army, the cretary observes that the best energies of the department were employed, and the duty performed

with reasonable expedition.

The campaign of the present year is regarded as having commenced immediately after the capture ot Monterey. The temporary suspension of hostilities which followed that event, terminated on the 13th of November; one reason for abridging its continuance, being its apprehended interference with operations in Tamanlipas and along the Gulf

The Secretary then adverts to the proceedings against Saltillo, Tampico and Victoria, and observ es that Tampico had been taken by Com. Perry, previous to the arrival of the military column, and subsequently turned over to the land forces. The proceedings of Gens. Taylor and Wool, in e

tablishing a defensive line from Parras to Tampico and the occupation of Victoria, bring up the period of the arrival of Gen. Scott upon the Rio Grande. In view of the fact that the conquest of California and New Mexico, and the occupation of Tamaulipas, New Leon and Coahuila would not dispose the enemy to terms of accommodation, it became necessary to assail the more vital parts of the Mexcan republic; and as the advance upon the city of Mexico could not advantageously be made from the force. The great expense of raising, organizing, Rio Grande, the attention of the government was turned to Vera Cruz for that purpose. Holding the line of the Sierra Madre, aggressive movements were to be directed on a new line from Vera Cruz and perhaps embarrassing demand upon the tre and Gen. Scott assigned to conduct the movement; and upon him as senior officer the chief commar of the operations in the enemy's country devolved. -In preparing for the expedition, it became necessary to draw largely on the previous line of operations, and thereby reduce it to a defensive condi tion; the number and description of troops thus withdrawn was necessarily left to the General-in-

During the time occupied in these preparation the forces under Gen. Taylor assumed defensive positions, from Saltillo and Monterey down the line o the mouth of the Rio Grande. The enemy beng reported in considerable strength in the neighborhood of Saltillo, Gen. Taylor threw forward his advanced force to Agua Nueva, and on the 20th of Febuary, being assured of the enemy, only thirty miles in his front, Gen. Taylor fell back to Buena Vista, encountered him on the 22d, and after a severe and sanguinary conflict, achieved a glorious triumph. The secretary pays the well merited tribnte of glowing acknowledgement of the gallantry of Gen. Taylor, his officers and men in this action.

The expedition against Vera Cruz from the i land of Lobos, the investment of the city, its surrender, with the fall of San Juan de Ulloa, are detailed with honorable testimonials of the gallantry and skill

of the achievement.

After some unadvoidable delay on the 8th of April he column moved on towards the city of Mexico. and in this connection the Secretary adverts to the successive actions and victories which attended upon the American arms, including the battle of Cer-

ro Gordo, the occupation of Jalapa, Perote, with its strong castle and armament, and the city of Puebla. After waiting for reinforcements and receiving them, the column moved on in August against th capital, and encountered the enemy at Contreras and Churubusco. The armistice and negotiations are spoken of with the failure of the same, and the detection of the defensive design; the subsequent engagements of El Molino del Rey and Chapultepec, and the dispersion of the Mexican army, the tail the movements and objects contemplated in try of the city of the Aztecs on the 14th of Septem-

ber briefly detailed. The subsequent siege of Puebla, by Santa Anna the battles of Huamantla and Atlixco, with the various well contested conflicts with the guerilleros, are alluded to.

The report then proceeds to the achievements of our arms in another portion of the enemy's country under Gen. Kearney These we have already noticed, have all been published considerably more in detail in our columns than they are to be found in the report, and it is inexpedient, therefore, even to recapitulate them. Appropriate and honorable mention is made of the distinguished services of the gallant and enterprising officers and men engaged in the operations in that quarter; Gen. Keamey, Col. Doniphan, Col. Price, Lt. Col. Fremont and Capt. Headly, being named in this connections.— The military and civil government of California is now in the hands of Col. Mason, a communication from whom is referred to as showing the present state of affairs in that country. The present force stationed there is deemed insufficient, and it thought advisable to augment the number.

In regard to future proceedings, the Secretary "Our further operations must, in my opinion, be conducted in one of the three following modes: take and hold an indemnity line; to recede from all places and positions now occupied in advance of and cease from all aggressive operations beyond that line; second to overrun the whole country, and hold all the principal places in it by permanent garrisons; and, third, to retain what we now possess, open the lines of communication into the interior and extend our operations to other important places the prospect of advantages shall as our means and indicate—keeping a disposable force always ready within approachable limits, to annoy the enemy, to seize supplies, enforce contributions, and fustrate his efforts to collect means and assemble troops for the purpose of protracting the war,

"A full-discussion of the comparative merits of these modes of conducting our military operations would extend this communication to an unwarrantable length; I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to a few prominent considerations relative to each "With reference to a speedy peace, with proper

the line policy is regarded as objectionable. If and 7,846 remained to be examined.

Our present position cannot command acceptable Provisions for the families of officer terms of pacification from Mexico, retiring to an and staff who have fallen under epidents. indemnity line would certainly fail to produce such a result; it would weaken the inducements of the enemy to put an end to hostilities. Restored, by our voluntary surrender, to the possession of his capital and important department, and relieved from the pressure of our arms, and from all apprehensions of further conquest and annoyance, the limits we might select, he would be left with more abundant resources than he now possesses, to prepare, at leisure and in security, to strike an etective blow with concentrated forces at our detached posts. To hold these posts safely, to retain possession of the seaports we now have, (if that should fall within the policy.) and to prevent incursions into the territories which we might choose to appropriate to ourselves, would, in my opinion rejuire a force as large as would suffice to maintain that we now occupy, and to carry our operations still further in the interior of the enemy's country. and make him feel the calamities of war in a way best calculated to induce him to seek for peace. But if in this I am mistaken, and the line should enable us to reduce the number of our troops, still, it will not, as I conceive, thereby effect reduction of our actual expenditures for the war.

"In consequence of the interruption of intercourse between the seaports in our possession, and the central parts of Mexico, the collections on im-ports have hitherto been inconsiderable. If the line policy is adopted, this intercourse will continue to be interrupted, and, consequently, the receipts of ence, upon all these subjects, to this of the Com-

"Under the operation of the line-policy, all expectation of lessening the burden of sus pectation of lessening the burden of sustaining our trapps by deriving supplies and contributions from this enemy, would be disappointed. The supplies in the vicinity of our posts would be withdrawn our much, as soon as bir design to seize and appropriate them was ascertained or suspected.

But, were butterwise, as our posts would be remote from the whalth and resources of the country, the amount which could be obtained would be income. amount which could be obtained would be income siderable.

siderable.

"So far from deriving advantage from the line policy, by way of obtaining assistance from the resources of the enemy, towards the support of our troops, we should, I apprehend, confer upon a portion of the people of Mexico a direct benefit, by opening to them at our posts a market, in which we should become the purchasers of their products at an exorbitant price. These considerations, without bringing into view others, have led me to one out bringing into view others, have led me to one of the other modes of operation I have mentioned, as preferable to that of occupying an indemnity line.

"In regard to the second mode suggested—that of occupying the whole country—the wide extent of territory embraced in the Mexican republic, the many important points to be garrisoned, and the long lines of communication to be kept open, present difficulties of no ordinary magnitude, if our occupancy is to be of such a character as to supersede the Mexican authority, and require the temporary establishment of civil government. In carrying this plan into effect, it would not be reasonable rely upon the favorable disposition, or even neu-trality, of any considerable part of the Mexican pec-ple, until some assurance of the stability of our power was derived from its continuance. Our posts must therefore be strong, and our forces numerous, in order to secure the many and long lines of communication, to disperse and chastise the guerilla bands which would obstract them, and to suppress the more powerful aprisings of the people where-ever they may be attempted. I cannot safely estimate the force requisite to carry into full effect this plan, at less than seventy thousand men. To insure the presence of that number in the enemy secontry, and at places where they would be wanted, it would be necessary to raise a much larger body of troops as soon as needed to give effect to this plan, would, I apprehend, bring a very heavy,

urry.
"The third mode presented is, in my judgment, presented to the others. Beyond certain limits, it admits of expansion and contraction; but as a fixed condition, all now held is to be retained, and no part surrendered, but in compliance with treaty stipulations. This plan also contemplates further acquisitions, extending to other important points, more or less numerous, as circumstances may war-

"Notwithstanding our victories have fallen with crushing weight upon the assembled armies of Mexico, most of those who hold in their hands the decision of the question of peace, have stood beyond the range of the physical evils inflicted by the war. By extending the heatre of it, and changing the mode of conducting it, they can be made to feel its pressure. In consequence of our liberal and hunane policy, we have, as yet, scarcely touched the substance of the wealthy and influential classes in Mexico. As the Mexican army has long been to them the instrument of oppression in the hands of their successive rulers, its destruction has not deeply enlisted their sympathies, or alarmed their fears.
Our army has afforded them better protection than their own; and thus, by our presence and our forbearance, they have, within certain limits, hitherescaped exactions from either. But our successes have now opened the way to act upon and mfluence those who probably can, if they will, put an end to hostilities. By making them suffer the usual calamities of war, they must be made to de

sire peace.
"In addition to the troops required to garrison places to be retained, it is proposed to have in the ield a competent force for aggressive operations to strike the enemy whenever he may present a vulnerable point to open avenues from the ports in our possession into the enemy's country, and to cover and subject to our control some of his rich mining districts and productive agricultural regions. It is not deemed proper to point out in more de-

The Secretary proceeds to state the number and character of troops that would be requisite for the purpose. After some suggestions relative to the naintenance of the existing establishment, a proposition is submitted to raise ten additional regaments of regular forces for the war, at an early period; and to confer authority to accept the services f volunteers, should additional aid be necessary.

Considerable deficiences are stated to exist in some of the war appropriations in consequence of the excess of volunteers called into service, and the unexpected rise in the price of provisions and other causes. Some reference is made to the appropriation of the Mexican revenue, but no estimate is nade of the expected amount from this source, and therefore it is not presented as a means of reliance. The appointment of officers with a per centage compensation is recommended, for the collection of hie revenue.

An inquiry into the unsettled ctaims of citizens of California against the United States is urged upon the attention of Congress, much dissatisfaction having already been manifested on this subject. Several other minor matters of pecuniary obligation are also presented.

The recommendation of the last report, that the

volunteers be provided with clothing in lieu of the money now paid as a commutation, is repeated. Also, the recommendation in regard to a retired list

of officers of the army.

The reports of the several subordinate officers of this department are submitted, and afford gratifying proofs that their respective duties have been ably

and faithfully discharged. The exterior and permanent defences of the country are spoken of as having steadily progressed

The Military Academy at West Point is represented in a very favorable light, and provision for an annual board of visiters asked for. An addition of six army surgeons is suggested to

serve during the war.

The establishment of an army asylum, for wounded and disabled soldiers, is recommended.

The affairs of the Pension-office are briefly atverted to. The excess of labor devolving upon it in the Issue of scrip and certificates, has made additional aid indispensable. There have been 7.314 certificates for land, and 900 of scrip issued. There indemnity and security—the only object of the war have been rejected or suspended, 2,210 applications,

Provisions for the families of officers of the line and staff who have fallen under epidemic disease in the service, is recommended. The modification of the pension law, that it may apply as favorably to regulars as to volunteers is suggested as very de-

sirable.

The condition of the Indians affairs is favorable. represented. The policy of separating the Indians from configuity with the whites has been steady pursued and with avorable results. The surres ful removal of the Choctaws, in which some barrasment has occurred, is now anticipated. Treaties have been negotiated with different bands of the Chippewas, for lands west of the Missiscippi. Tranquility has generally prevailed, except among some of the Sioux, who have committed outrages against the Winnebagoes, Omahas, Ottocs and the riendly Patrness. Measures have been taken to punish the aggressors. The depredations upon Santa Fe trains have been committed by Indians not under the control of the U. States.

The anomalous condition of our relations and the control of the U. States.

the Indians in Texas has embarrassed the action of the department. A special agency has been appointed to visit the several bands in that state. has been attended with success. Legislation in the subject is suggested. Further legislation is also shown to be necessary in relation to Stockbodge Indians.

The work of education has steadily progressed mong the various tribes, and promise reficial results. The report concludes with a refermissioner on Indian affairs.