

...any of the lower animals; they eat and drink at midnight, enough for a week, they dance by dozens on a space too small for two; and they issue from a tainted atmosphere at 110 of Fahrenheit, into a January frost at zero. Each housekeeper offers a dance but once annually, but each person attends one nightly for months successively. Such dancing we condemn as a great evil physical and moral.—Public Ledger.

WAR WITH MEXICO. COMMENCEMENT OF THE HOSTILITIES!

From the Galveston News Extra, April 30.

On Thursday morning, 23 ult., a Mexican came into Gen. Taylor's camp and reported 2,000 Mexicans, crossing the river some twenty miles above. That afternoon Captains Hardee and Thornton were sent with two companies of cavalry, 67 men in all, to reconnoiter. On Friday they fell into a ambush of the enemy, and Lieut. Cain and thirteen men were killed, Capt. Thornton missing, and Capt. Hardee, and 40 men prisoners. On Saturday afternoon the Mexicans sent in a wounded man, who made the above report. These Mexicans, it is stated, were commanded by Canales and Carabajal. 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 Isabel, at which place is the train and all of the stores belonging to the Army—Gen. Taylor not having on hand over ten days provisions. There are at Point Isabel 90 artillery men, 20 dragoons, about 250 teamsters, and about 150 citizens and laborers, and the entrenchments not half finished.

The steamer Monmouth landed Mr. Catlett on the night of the 28th ult. at Port La Bacca, with despatches from Gen. Taylor calling on Governor Henderson for 40 companies to be mounted men, to rendezvous at Corpus Christi, when they will be mustered into service and supplied with provisions the four companies will rendezvous at Galveston where transportation will be furnished.

The steamer Augusta was to have left the Brazos St. Iago on Monday night for New Orleans with Gen. Taylor's call on the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for 8,000 troops. Should immediate relief not be sent to Point Isabel, 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 Matamoros 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 Isabel, as by saving that place only will we have it in our power to render the army timely assistance. Texas! you have now at last a glorious opportunity of retaliating on these perfidious Mexicans the many injuries they have done you, and of entering that war into the heart of their own country, the cruelties of which they have so often made you feel.

[From the New Orleans Bulletin Extra.]
BULLETIN OFFICE, 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 Matamoros state that the Mexican forces are at least 8,000 men, well equipped, with an excellent park of artillery. 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 preparation 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.

OFFICE OF THE TREASURY, NEW ORLEANS, (10 o'clock) May 2d.
The Legislature has just passed, by acclamation, a bill appropriating ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, to equip and forward Volunteers from this place to Point Isabel, or whatever point they may be required.

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.

From the Picayune, May 3.

Col. Charles Doane arrived in this city at an early hour yesterday morning, from Brazos Santiago, which place he left on the 28th ult. in the steam schooner Augusta. Sixty miles west of the S. H. Pass he was transferred to the steamship Galveston. He is the bearer of important despatches from Gen. Taylor, and of a requisition upon the Governor of Louisiana for four regiments. The previous news received that the Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande, is fully confirmed, and a detachment of American troops has been cut off. But for the details we refer to the following account of operations kindly furnished us by Col. Doane.

On Thursday evening, the 23d inst. Gen. Taylor received information that a body of the Mexican army had crossed to the east side of the Rio Grande, at a point some 20 miles above his encampment. Early on the following morning he despatched Capts. Thornton and Hardee, of the 21 Regiment Dragoons, with a detachment of 70 men to examine the country above and Capt. Kerr of the same regiment, with a company to examine the country below the encampment. The latter returned to camp without having made any discovery of Mexicans.

The former, however, fell in with what he considered to be a scouting party of the enemy, but which proved to be the advance guard of a very strong body of the enemy, who were posted in the chaparral, immediately in the rear of Gen. Taylor's camp. Capt. Thornton, contrary to the advice of his Mexican Guide, charged upon the guard who retreated towards the main body, followed by Capt. Thornton, when in an instant he found himself and command surrounded by the enemy, who fired upon him, killing as it is supposed, Capt. Thornton, Lieut. Kane and Mason, and some twenty-six of the men, and taking Capt. Hardee and the remainder of the command prisoners. The Mexican commander sent into Gen. Taylor's camp a cart with a soldier badly wounded, with a message that he had no travelling hospital with him and could not, therefore, render the soldier the assistance which his situation required.

It is supposed that the detachment of the enemy on the east side of the Rio Grande consists of at least 2,500 men, under the commands of Cols. Carasco and Carabajal, both old and experienced officers, and that their object is to cut off all communication between Gen. Taylor and Point Isabel, the depot of provisions. In the execution of this object, they have fully succeeded, and have thereby placed the American army in a most dangerous position, as it will be utterly impossible for Gen. Taylor, with the limited number of men now under his command, say 2,300, to force his way through the dense chaparral in which the enemy are already strongly posted.

On the 22d, Gen. Taylor received from Gen. Ampudia, by means of a flag of truce, communication in very offensive terms, complaining of his having blockaded the Rio Grande, to which he replied, that Gen. Ampudia had himself been the cause of the blockade, in having expressly declared that unless Gen. Taylor commenced his retreat beyond the Nueces within twenty-four hours after his displaying his flag upon the left bank of the Rio Grande, he would consider war as being declared, and would act accordingly. Gen. Taylor furthermore stated that he would receive no further communications, from the Mexican commander unless couched in language more respectful towards the Government and people of the United States.

Gen. Taylor's position, in the rear of Matamoros, is sufficiently strong to withstand successfully an attack of the whole Mexican force, and commands the town, which with the batteries already mounted, could be held to the ground in an hour or more. Gen. Taylor has in camp full rations for 15 days, which he thinks can be made to last 30 days, by which time he is in hopes to receive large reinforcements from Texas and Louisiana, upon each of which States he has made a requisition for the immediate equipment of 4,000 men. 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 the Mexican army is daily receiving large reinforcements from the interior.

It was supposed by the American officers that Gen. Arista reached Matamoros on the evening of the 22d ult. with a brigade; but up to the period of the writer's leaving camp, no communication had been received by Gen. Taylor from Gen. Arista. (Subsequently to his leaving the camp on the 26th ult. Col. Doane learned that Gen. Arista addressed a polite note to Gen. Taylor informing him that he, Arista, had assumed the command of the Mexican forces.) At Point Isabel great fears were entertained of a night attack, which from the present exposed situation of that post, could not be otherwise than successful if conducted with energy. The post is defended by Major Monroe, with detachment of 80 or 100 men. There are also at the post about 200

armed wagons and 50 laborers under the orders of the Quarter master, and some 100 citizens furnished with arms by the U. S. Ordnance officer; organized under the command of Captain Perkins, and denominated the Front Guard. A company of 50 Mexican cavalry were 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 21st ult., about three miles from Camp, frightfully mutilated and entirely destitute of clothing. The body of Lieut. Porter, who was killed some days previous by a party of bandits, under the command of Ramon Talon, had not been found.

The principal officers known to be in command of Mexican forces, and Gens. Arista, Ampudia, Moza and Canales, Cols. Carasco and Carabajal; all men of talent.

The extra of the Galveston News says that requisition have been made upon the Governors of Alabama and Mississippi for troops, though our own informant says nothing of this. The News supposes that Gen. Taylor would open his fire upon Matamoros on the morning of the 28th ultimo.

We have also received an extra from the office of the Galveston News, where the intelligence was received by the steamer Monmouth, with Capt. Catlett on board, a bearer of despatches from Gen. Taylor to Gov. Henderson, of Texas, calling upon him for aid.

The New Orleans Delta of April 22, says that a Mexican paper, the *El Tiempo* of the 18th publishes one of the greatest specimens of the Mexican *fanfaronade* that we have ever seen, and we would willingly translate it entire for our readers were it not too long. Here is a fragment of it:

'Point Sta. Isabel is a prey to our enemies, and Brazos de Santiago is crowded with eleven vessels, destined to protect the usurpation. And can we tolerate such an insult? Are we not strong enough to wash away that ugly stain with the blood of the Yankee? Shall we look with stupid eyes at the occupation of our abundant and immense possessions? Even from this distant spot we hear the clamor of our brethren, who, at the sound of the usurping trumpets, fly affrighted from Point Sta. Isabel, setting their houses on fire as they abandon them. * * * And Taylor, their chief, looks astonished at the great people who prefer reducing their cities to ashes, and die on the battle field rather than submit to an infamous alliance.'

'Why do we not commence the attack? Does any one fear that our army is not sufficiently strong? Are we not perfectly aware of the cowardice of the collective and turbulent legions of Americans? Our army consists of honorable veterans educated in sufferings and perils—that of our enemies has been formed only by vagabonds, who have been gadded to the battle field for money, and as mere adventurers, who no better than the stranglers of India, who are always disposed to spill human blood, without any other interest than to satisfy their brutal thirst.'

The stranger only needs a cord, and has been brought up in such exercises: but the base Yankee uses a rifle, which he aims well, and thus commits murder upon his fellow beings with the most astonishing coolness, but never when he sees that danger is at hand. Society claims the destruction of these bandits, who, with the bible in their hands and 'civilization' on their lips, are constantly digging the graves of those who are better than themselves. Alas! good Mexicans!—at them!—who fears, on open ground, those miserable beings who, like treacherous reptiles, only attack when hidden in the bush, but never do it openly or honestly.'

A letter had been received at Mexico from California, which stated that Captain Fremont, of the U. S. exploring expedition, had made his appearance near Monterey, with some fifty men, and he was ordered not to approach by the Governor, Jose Castro.

From the Washington Correspondence of the Public Ledger.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 2 P. M.
The Message which I alluded to in the telegraphic dispatch yesterday was sent to-day by the President, and has produced considerable sensation. The President declares that every effort to effect an amicable settlement of our difficulties had failed, and it was now his painful duty to announce a state of war existing between Mexico and the United States.

Immediately on the message being read Mr. Calhoun rose and contended that the assumption of the President of a state of war was incorrect, according to its sense, as implied by the Constitution, Congress was the only power that could declare war, and it was for it to decide whether the col-

lision which had taken place was sufficient justification to resort to war.

The Message was sent to the House at meridian. It opens by reference—1st: To our relations with Mexico as stated in the annual message. Explains that his desire was to fix the boundary of Texas, and to adjust the claims of our citizens, which had been standing for twenty years, that all his efforts having failed to produce an amicable arrangement, he has now to announce the state of war. He showed how a Minister came to be appointed in October, 1845. Our Consul at Mexico was desired to inquire if a minister would be received. An affirmative answer was given, if our forces were withdrawn from Vera Cruz. Mr. Silldell was appointed in November. Herrera was desirous to receive him, but circumstances of a political nature prevented it, and on the 24th of December he was refused. Parades succeeded in January, and Mr. Silldell was again instructed to present his credentials, and again refused.

Here ensued the difficulties now before the public. Forces were kept at Corpus Christi until it was known that Mexico would not recognize a Minister. Texas had asserted the boundary of the Rio Del Norte in 1836, and the army was ordered there on account of the convenience of carrying provision and obtaining supplies.

Ampudia notified Gen. Taylor on the 12th of April to retire within the period of twenty-four hours, and again Arista, on the 24th, notified Taylor that he considered hostilities had commenced. Taylor has called upon Texas for four regiments, and on Louisiana for four more. He invokes Congress to recognize a war, and recommenced authority to be given to call in a large body of volunteers for twelve months, and that liberal provisions be made to enable him to procure supplies, &c.

The message has been ordered to be printed, and will be sent off by the evening mail.

The House has a bill up for raising volunteers and supplies, which will be closed at 3 o'clock P. M.

From the Washington Union.

MOMENTOUS.
We stop the press, that we may give to the American people, without a single day's delay, the following extract, just put in our hands. The writer is a gentleman of the purest patriotism and of great ability. And is not connected with our missions abroad, but he never writes upon any subject on which he is not accurately informed; and in the present instance we have every reason to believe that his statements and views are the result of the amplest opportunities which any one could desire for ascertaining the truth from the highest and most unquestionable sources.

Extract from a private letter from an American citizen now in Europe, dated

LONDON, April 13, 1846.

It is now generally believed, in the best informed circles, that Sir Robert Peel will succeed in effecting the change proposed by him some time since, in the corn laws, and that he will, then, with his ministers, retire from office. This will happen at a very early day—probably before the middle of next month. A new cabinet will, of course, be immediately formed, after the dissolution of the present one, under the selection of Lord John Russell; and Lord Palmerston, it is confidently asserted, will be restored to his old post of Secretary for Foreign Affairs. The chief obstacle to the formation of a ministry by Russell, at the time of Peel's resignation, was the objection urged against Palmerston on account of the hostile feelings which he was known to entertain against France. It was feared, on both sides of the channel, that he would be instrumental in destroying the 'entente cordiale' which subsisted between Guizot and Peel, or rather between the two governments.

In anticipation of the early resignation of the Peel ministry, Palmerston availed himself of the Easter holidays to make a visit to the French metropolis, where he still continues, for the purpose, it is very evident, of reconciling Louis Philippe to his restoration. He has been most kindly received by M. Guizot, and the other members of the cabinet, and his mission doubtless will terminate successfully. His sentiments with regard to France will hereafter be entirely pacific, because his continuance in office would be of but short duration

were they to become otherwise, but I have awful forebodings that our country is to find in him an inveterate, deadly enemy. In his new born zeal for the welfare of France, he will at once seize upon Guizot's 'balance of power' doctrine in North America, and use his position and his talents to consummate the most desperate purpose at any time contemplated by England or France to check our growth or diminish the influence which our institutions are exercising over the other nations of the earth.

I most sincerely regret that there should be so slight a prospect for adjusting the Oregon question before Peel's administration is at an end. Such an event could have been consummated, if there had been even a moderate degree of good management in Congress. Had the 'notice,' so sincerely, and I may add so patriotically urged by the President been promptly authorized to be given, with the elevated ground upon which our title was placed by the correspondence which accompanied the message there is not the shadow of doubt but that everything could have been, before this, amicably arranged, and to the general satisfaction of the people of the United States. But I distinctly foresee that such a result is no longer obtainable by negotiation. Startle not, when I state to you, as my candid belief, that even should the notice arrive by the 25th inst., under the House resolution, nothing like the *clear line* of the 49th parallel can be secured! Peel could not be prevailed upon to settle at that, just as he is going out, if the 'notice' was now before him; and if we were disposed to compromise on that boundary, Russell will hesitate long; in my opinion, before he will offer it.

Thus have we been carried, by the timidity of the Senate, to the brink of a precipice, where war, with all its horrors—its demoralizing influence—is beheld in the distance. The arguments against our claim in that body, and the various propositions made there to adjust the question definitely, regardless of the opinions of the Executive, have rendered *diplomacy* upon the subject a mere mockery. Added to these difficulties which the administration has encountered, is the press of the opposition, which seems to have no holier object than to invalidate our ownership of the territory and to impugn the *motives* of the President for insisting on our rights. No do they stop here; for they are vastly augmented by the pens of such restless and mischievous spirits as * * * and

Under such adverse circumstances, I frankly confess to you that I cannot discover a solitary hope for maintaining our rights in Oregon, except by the last resort—the *ultimo ratio* of nations. I is a melancholy reflection to me, one which bows me down with a load of grief, but one which I cannot dismiss from my mind since * * * How differently did I view this matter before I left our country! I then imagined that Peel was secure in his place and that England would yield all that she could, consistently with honor, before she would strike. I now perceive, however, that she regards the executive power of my country, as far as it is wielded in the controversy, utterly paralyzed by the action of the Senate, and, intoxicated almost to insanity with the recent success of her arms in the East, the pacific sentiments which prevailed in the public mind, as relates to the United States, are rapidly giving way to those of a hostile and beligerent character.

The Washington Correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger under date of Mar 9, says:

Letters from England, received by the Cambria, appear to be nearly unanimous in the expression of an opinion that no new proposition for an adjustment of the Oregon controversy will come from that side of the Atlantic, and that the danger of a rupture between the two countries is imminent. One of these, which has been published, dated London, 18th April, refers, as you will perceive, to the remarkable change in the tone of the London Times noticed in my letter of yesterday, and another declares the perfect conviction of the writer that the preservation of peace has depended entirely upon Sir Robert Peel and Lord Aberdeen

who are to be superseded, as it is supposed, in the course of the present month. With these facts, and the state of our affairs with Mexico before us, who can doubt the policy of placing the country promptly in a state of preparation to resist aggression?

DEMOCRAT.
"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"
BLOOMSBURG:
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1846.

WAR WITH MEXICO.

It will be seen by extracts, which we publish, from New Orleans and other papers that war has actually commenced between this country and Mexico. The news has created great excitement throughout the country and volunteers are flocking by thousands to the aid of General Taylor.

The President, on Monday afternoon last sent into both Houses of Congress, a Message, detailing the events that had occurred between our army and that of the Mexicans and calling upon Congress to authorize measures to be taken to repel the invasion. Upon the receipt of the Message in the house, a bill was introduced authorizing the President to raise 50,000 Volunteers and appropriate \$10,000,000, and, passed by a vote of 174 to 14.

By such a generous impulse were the members of the House moved, after the passage of the bill, that they took up the one from the Senate increasing the number of men in each company from 60 to 100 and extending the enlistment from three to five years. It was passed almost by acclamation.

The Senate had not acted upon the bill raising volunteers at the last date. A town Meeting was held in Philadelphia in Wednesday of a call of the Mayor to express the opinion of the citizens upon the state of the public affairs.

Five companies of artillery from Fort M'Henry and three from Fortress Monroe have been ordered to the seat of war in Texas. They are to start at the earliest possible convenience.

The New Orleans Bulletin of May 4 says:

No later information has been received from the army on the Rio Bravo than was published in our second edition on Saturday morning. We have seen, however, a number of private letters, which give a clearer insight into the state of affairs. From the best information we can get, we do not anticipate any serious disaster to the main body of the American Army. The camp of Gen. Taylor is so well situated & entrenched that letters from himself and other officers of the army evince no apprehension whatever.

The McCook Case.

After all the great bulwark against social vice, is the jury-box. Private rights find there their redress; assailed innocence its refuge. More than this, public virtue looks there for its protection against the spread of demoralizing crimes: The verdict in the McCook case, is a triumph of law, of virtue, of truth, over corruption, defamations and vice. The sympathizers with the culprit—the low-mouthed whippersnappers of slang—the kindred spirits whose indignation goes up to fever heat at the detection of a brother-sinner—stand justly and signal rebuked by the verdict of a firm and honest jury.

The prosecution in its conduct and results affords but little matter for criticism. The fact that the defendant intended to influence a Representative with money is clear, we may say indisputable. In all the court room defence, in all the out door and bar room declamation, this has never been seriously denied. What room is there, then, for objection to the prosecution or its results?

The sentence of the Court is, however, we think, open to objection. Why was not imprisonment a part of the punishment? A fine of \$200 and costs (for the sentence amounts to that) is inadequate altogether to the offence. (The fine, \$600, is but \$200 over the amount paid by Mr. McCook, and on application to the Court, returned to him.) A few weeks ago, a man convicted of passing a counterfeit Bank Bill was sentenced by the Court of Quarter Sessions of this County for three years to the Penitentiary. Is the offence of corrupting the source of legislation—of bribing those who make the laws, less dangerous and enormous, than that of passing a false note? The Court had, beyond doubt, the power to imprison McCook, and it is singular indeed that it was not exercised.

The North Branch Canal is now in full operation.