

**FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.**

The New Orleans Delta of the 13th inst., says:—  
 On the 1st instant, the main body of the army of occupation marched from its camp on the Rio Grande, leaving a garrison in the field work opposite Matamoras, the 7th Regiment of Infantry, and two companies of Artillery, commanded by Capt. Loud and Lieutenant Bragg, the whole commanded by Major Brown of the Infantry.

Although it is believed that some 1200 to 1500 shot were fired by the enemy during the period, but one casualty occurred, a sergeant of company B, of 7th Regiment of Infantry, having been killed. Not one of our guns were dismounted, though the enemy's fire was for some time concentrated on the 18 pound battery, and the shot frequently struck the embrasures.

At five o'clock on the morning of the 4th, the firing was commenced by the enemy and continued for twelve or fifteen minutes, and kept up at long intervals during the day, but without effect. The amount of damage done to the enemy beyond the silencing of their batteries cannot yet be correctly known. Capt. Walker, of the Texan volunteers, brought the despatches to Point Isabel.

On the 2d the army encamped at Point Isabel. On the morning of the 3d a heavy cannonading was heard in the direction of Matamoras, which continued during the day, and at long intervals during the night of the 4th. Owing to the difficulty of communicating with the forts no intelligence was received at headquarters respecting the result of the cannonading; until the morning of the 5th. A party was sent forward to communicate, and brought a despatch from Major Brown, announcing the particulars, a brief statement of which follows:

At five o'clock on the morning of the 3d a fire opened upon the fort from one of the Mexican batteries, and was continued with seven guns. The fire was immediately returned, and the battery silenced by our guns in thirty minutes—two of the enemy's guns supposed to be dismounted.

The enemy then commenced firing from the lower fort and harbor battery, a brisk fire of shot and shell was kept up, but without damage to the fort or garrison. A continued fire was now kept up by our 16 pounders on the enemy's guns and the city, the Consulate flags being still respected.

The fire of the enemy was kept up without cessation till half past 7 o'clock. At 10 it was temporarily suspended, but recommenced and continued at intervals till 12 o'clock at night.

It is supposed that 5,000 or 6,000 Mexicans attacked the fort, and the chapparrel is full of them.

Gen. Taylor's troops are in fine spirits and good health.

The Picayune also contains a confirmation of the rumored safety of Capt. Thornton and Lieutenant Kane. C. C. F.

Correspondence of the Picayune.

**POINT ISABEL, May 5, 1846.**

Gentleman—When the express came in this morning I hurriedly penciled down the gratifying intelligence which it brought us, expecting the boat would leave in a few minutes. If now only waits for Gen. Taylor's official despatch which is being prepared for Washington. Having heard the official report from Major Brown read, and having a letter before me from there, I will give you further particulars accordingly.

On the morning of the 3d, at reveille the Mexicans opened their batteries upon the work throwing balls and shells without intermission until sunset, finishing with half a dozen extra ones at tattoo for a lullaby.

At reveille, on the 4th, they opened again, sending a few shots and shells, which compliment was repeated at noon. Our artillery silenced the fort opposite ours in half an hour after the firing commenced on the 4th, and knocked three embrasures into one. This caused them to stop firing there for a considerable time, to repair damages. Our artillery also dismounted several of their guns, and from appearances must have killed many men. On our part but one Sergeant, of the 7th Infantry, was killed—

being shot in the head with 3-lb ball. He was carried to the hospital, when strange to say, a shell fell and blew the remainder of his head off. Some twenty men were standing around the hospital when the shell burst, several were knocked down, but none injured. One artillery soldier was slightly wounded by a piece of shell, and many narrow escapes.

We only kept up our fire for about two hours—saving our ammunition while theirs was being thrown away. From their having thrown from 1500 to 2000 shots and shells, and killing but one of our men and wounding another, you may judge they are none of the best artillerymen, and that we had good defences. Their shot redred a good many of our tents unserviceable, but all our men are in good spirits, and anxious to come to close quarters.

Our picquet guard is now firing at a party of Mexican soldiers, about a mile below the fort. The chapperel between this and the fort is like a beehive, so full it is with Mexicans. It is thought that they will make an assault on the rear of the fort, and try to repel the march of the troops from this place returning. Gen. T. leaves as soon as a reinforcement arrives here, which will enable the work to be defended without the force which he brought down from above. In haste yours, S. S. F.

**GLORIOUS NEWS**  
**From the Seat of War.**  
**THE MEXICANS TWICE ROUTED**  
**AND 1200 KILLED.**

From the Baltimore Sun, Extra.

Our express reached Washington in advance of every thing, and was communicated by the energetic correspondent of the Baltimore Sun through Morse's Magnetic Telegraph.

The news is taken from the New Orleans Picayune of the 17th inst. and an extract from the office of the Mobile Advertiser, of the 18th.

There have been two engagements between General Taylor and Mexican Troops the first occurring on the 7th inst. when Gen. Taylor was returning from Point Isabel to his camp opposite Matamoras. In this the Mexicans, numbering from 5000 to 7000, were repulsed. Our army was sleeping on the field of battle on which next day 200 Mexicans were found dead, and several pieces of artillery, stores, &c. were captured by the American army. Major Riggold died from a wound received in this action. Of the two days' battle, we can only give the following particulars from the Picayune.

The U. S. steamer Col. Harney arrived this morning, just as our paper was going to press, from Brazos Santiago. She left on the 13th inst. The news is glorious to our arms. She brings official accounts of a second battle between the Mexican and the American forces, which took place on the 9th of May, commencing at half past 3 P. M. within 3 miles of Camp Taylor.

The action was on the edge of a ravine, and one mile from the chapparrel, which was near 2 miles in width. The Mexicans commenced the action with their artillery, which was posted so as to sweep a narrow passage through which Gen. Taylor was advancing there being a swamp on the other hand.

Gen. Taylor immediately ordered a charge in the teeth of the enemy's destructive fire, and the troops promptly responding carried the enemy's guns at the point of the bayonet. So sudden and impetuous was the attack, that General Arista had no time to save his papers, which, with all his correspondence, fell into the hands of Gen. Taylor.

The action lasted one hour and a half, in which time six hundred Mexicans were killed or wounded and the Americans took three hundred prisoners, and eight pieces of artillery.

The Americans lost in the action about sixty-two killed and wounded. Among the killed were Colonel McIntosh, Lieut. Cochran by the bursting of a shell, Lieut. Inge, and one or two others, whose names are not given.

Col. Kane, Lieuts. Gates, Verbank, Hoos, Luther and others, were among the wounded.

We regret to say that Major Riggold, who was wounded on the 7th inst. died on the 10th, and was buried with military honors.

The total loss of the Mexicans in both actions was at least twelve hundred.

The Mexican forces amounted to at least 6000 men, while that of the Americans did not exceed 1600 men.

An exchange of prisoners took place subsequent to the battle, by which Captain Thornton and Lieutenants Hardee and Kane were released. Lieut. Deas was not demanded.

Among the prisoners taken by Gen. Taylor was Gen. Veja. For him two American officers were offered in exchange, but it was declined to give him up, save in exchange, for an officer of equal rank, whenever one should be taken.

Gen. Veja was allowed to be accompanied by one of his Aids, a Lieut. Colonel, as a friend.

The Mexican army was so confident of victory that every preparation had been made to celebrate it, but all their preparations fell into the hands of the Americans.

In their flight many of the Mexicans took to the river, and were drowned in their attempts to swim it.

Gen. Taylor reached his camp the afternoon after the action, leaving there his whole force. He started the next morning for Point Isabel, and arrived there on the evening of the 10th, without molestation.

On the morning of the 11th he started back to his camp opposite Matamoras. We need not say that he and his army are all in fine spirits.

Further information has been received that the American Consul and all the American residents at Matamoras had been arrested and sent to Saltillo, a small town about 30 miles from Matamoras.

Correspondence of the N. O. Tropic.

**BRAZOS SANTIAGO, May 19.**

At the receipt of the first battle, I wrote you a short account; the result of the second is now on hand, and it is most decisive. It now appears that the Mexicans had only five thousand men in the field at the first battle, and four thousand stowed away in the chapparrel near the battle ground. It was their intention to have made but a slight attack the first day, but being so closely pressed they were obliged to fight in order to make good their retreat to where the 4000 were in the chapparrel. In the first fight a general officer had his head shot off; it is not yet ascertained who he was, as his body was recognized by his dress as he lay upon the field.

Gen. Taylor advanced the morning of the first battle into the chapparrel, then sent 800 picked men under the charge of Capt. McCall, to reconnoitre, he advanced unmolested until near 3 P. M., (the army following at a distance,) when Capt. McCall sent word to Gen. Taylor that he had received a charge of grape shot from the enemy, and lost two men.

The army was then deployed, and Capt. May, 2d dragoons, ordered to charge the battery that had thrown the grape, and to take it if he lost every man. The battery was commanded by Gen. de la Vega; who was taken prisoner.

Our little army then rent the air with their huzzas, and rushing shouting upon the enemy, committed the most dreadful havoc among them, taking eight pieces of artillery, 155,000 rounds of cartridge, and 500 packed mules: Gen. Arista's campbedsteads contained all his private and public baggage papers, which latter will be of great value, as we have the key of the whole campaign, which will enable Gen. Taylor to form his plans so as to entirely defeat their designs.

We took all and every thing they had 400 prisoners and the army baggage. The enemy had between 5,000 and 9,000 troops in the two battles but we with 1,800 troops completely routed them.

We exchanged prisoners, got Capt. Thornton, Hardee, and his little band. Our officers while prisoners were well treated, having lived with Ampudia ever since they were taken. Gen. Taylor would not exchange for Lieut. Deas as a prisoner of war, as it would be sanctioning his crossing the river, which he did not, having reprobated his crossing in the severest manner.

In this second and glorious battle battle we lost about the same number of men as in the first, but had more officers wounded. Capt. Walker, with his heroic band of rangers, was the last that fired at the Mexicans. The army left him & his comrades on the bank of the river, shooting at them as they attempted to cross.

To-morrow Gen. Taylor leaves here to make an attack on Matamoras, in connection with Com. Conner, who has sent a boat expedition up the river.

I forgot to mention that Gen. Taylor arrived here yesterday, with all our wounded, between 50 and 60, with General Romulus de la Vega, one Mexican Captain and Lieutenants, who go with this letter in the Col. Harney.

The Augusta, from New Orleans, arrived last evening. The mules from Matamoras, some 500, were sent in to day, as well as the Mexican wounded.

I should not forget to mention that all the shell, ball, and grape shot of the Mexicans are made of brass or copper. This letter I must close, with details of glory enough for one day.

From the N. O. Tropic—3d edition—1 P. M.

THE GALVESTON ARRIVED.—The Galveston is just in, having left Brazos Santiago on the evening of the 13th inst. We hasten to lay the news by her before our readers:

From the Galveston Civilian of the 17th.

On the morning of the 13th, Gen. Taylor and his staff, with the guard that had brought down the train, &c., started for his camp. He was met by an express a few miles from Point Isabel, informing him that 8,000 fresh troops had arrived in Matamoras, 2,000 of which had crossed over, and 1,100 more had crossed the Rio Grande at Barrista; near Buachica, not more than 8 miles from Point Isabel. Gen. Taylor returned to Point Isabel at once, and made preparations to leave the next day, with such forces as were arriving.

The steamship Galveston landed 450 Infantry (regulars and volunteers): the Augusta landed about 250: Capt. Price arrived via Padre Island from Corpus Christi with his company of seventy mounted rangers. They all reached the point on 13th. The Telegraph and Jas L. Day will doubtless land their troops, amounting to upwards of 800, at Point Isabel on the 14th. Great credit is due to Capt. Jeremiah Smith of the Steamship Cincinnati, and Capt. R. Mc Baker, of the Monmouth, for the skill, energy, and promptness shown in the management of their boats in transporting troops and supplies across the bay at Brazos Santiago.

Gen. Paredes is at the head of 15,000 troops, on his way to Matamoras: It may possibly be that the fresh troops arrived at Matamoras, is the advance division of his army: No doubt the enemy were fully advised that Gen. Taylor had left for Point Isabel, and his plan is to try and capture him on his return, whilst a strong force crossing above, is to come down upon his army. Gen. Taylor appeared highly pleased with the intelligence; for since the war has opened, and no mistake, the excitement and activity attending operations, opens a new era to his vigorous achievements, and all have marked how much better he looks than when confined to the masterly inactivity of Corpus Christi campaign.

**THE FORT.**

The Mexicans have continued their firing into the fort opposite Matamoras, nearly ever since Gen. Taylor left the works.

The brave and gallant Major Brown died on— from a wound received in his thigh by the explosion of one of our enemy's shells. His wound was not considered dangerous, but he was placed in one of the bomb-proof burrows, and mortification ensued from the want of fresh air. His death is deeply deplored by the army; his intrepid conduct in foiling every attempt of the enemy to reduce the fort prepared them in a measure to anticipate the result of these conflicts with our brave army.

The strength of the fort and skill with which it is defended, its incomprehensible to the Mexicans; and indeed, well it might be, for they have thrown upwards of 1400 shot and shell into the works, and every morning they present the same appearance, our loss has only been two or three in the fort. The constant practice the enemy have had in firing at it, has taught them the proper bearing to give to their guns, and almost every shot falls within the works. The fort is never idle, and the ramparts and dwellings of Matamoras exhibit ruins as plainly as those of a hundred centuries, when gaping forth their lamentation lot and behold what desolation is here!

We find in the New Orleans Bulletin the following detailed account of the battles of the 7th and 9th.

**POINT ISABEL, May 12, 1846.**

By the last departure I wrote you briefly of the operations of the army up to that time, of the bombardment of the fort opposite Matamoras, and the movement of Gen. Taylor with the main body to this place for the purpose of strengthening its defences.

Having effected this, he marched without waiting for reinforcements, on the evening

of the 7th, and on the 8th, at 2 o'clock, found the enemy in position, in front of a new paper and official bulletins called him chapparrel, which lies opposite to the timber a cowardly sailor. In answer to the summons, the officers plunged their swords into the parapet, and replied, to the hill! Up to the evening of the 9th, 1500 shells and 3000 shot had been thrown, and the only loss was that of the brave commander, Maj. 3d infantry, then two, eighteen pounders, Brown, and 1 sergeant and 1 private killed then the artillery battalion. The left was composed of the 4th and 8th infantry, and Duncan's battery. A daring reconnaissance by Capt. J. E. Blake, showed the enemy's line to be of nearly twice the strength of ours, with heavy reserves in the chapparrel. The Mexicans opened the action with their artillery, the range of which was hardly great enough to reach our line which was moving slowly forward, and some got into the thickest of their shot and halted. Their fire was returned from all of our batteries, and I venture to say that no field of battle ever displayed such skill, or rapidity of fire and evolution.

The first and only important movement, attempted by the enemy, was a detachment of their cavalry to make a detour around a clump of chapparrel on our right, and attack the train. Captain Walker, of the Texas rangers, promptly reported this, and the 5th infantry was detached to meet it, which it did handsomely receiving the lancers in square, and driving them by a well delivered volley. The cavalry then pushed on again for the train, and found the 2d infantry advancing in column of divisions upon them. They then retired, and as they repassed the 5th, they received a fire from Lieut. Ridgely's two pieces, which had arrived at the nick of time. Two field pieces, which were following the enemy's cavalry, were also driven back with them.

Meanwhile the enemy's left was riddled by the eighteen pounders, which slowly advanced up the road—Duncan's battery on his left, neglecting the enemy's guns, threw their fire into the Mexican infantry and swept whole ranks. The 8th infantry on the left suffered severely from the enemy's fire. The grass was set on fire, at the end of an hour's cannonading and obscured the enemy's position completely, and an interval of three quarters of an hour occurred. During this period our right, now resting on the eighteen-pounders, advanced along the wood, to the point originally occupied by the Mexican left, and when the smoke had cleared away sufficiently to show the enemy, the fire was resumed with increased rapidity and execution. Duncan divided his battery on the left, giving a section to Lieut. Roland, to operate in front, and with the other he advanced beyond the burning grass, (which was three feet high, and the flame rolled ten feet in the strong breeze) and seized the prolongation of the enemy's right, enfilading that flank completely. Night found the two armies in this position.

On the 8th, the General packed the heavy train collected the enemy's wounded in hospital, buried their dead, arranged our own wounded, (among whom we have to regret the sudden death of Major Riggold, and probably Capt. Page,) and moved on in pursuit of the enemy on the Matamoras road. They had taken post in the chapparrel the second time occupying the bed of a stream called Resaca de la Palma, with their artillery on the road at the crossing. I have no time for details of this affair. The general brought up his troops by battalions and posted them, with brief orders to find the enemy where they could act in the road.

The dragons were held in reserve, and as soon as the Mexican batteries, Gen. Taylor told Capt. May that his time had come: 'Here's the enemy's battery, sir, take it on its volleys,' May dashed upon it with his squadron, and lost one third of it, but he cleared the battery and captured its commander, Gen. Vega, in the act of raising a port fire to fire a piece himself. May took his sword and brought the general off. The enemy remained the guns, and lost them a second time to the 5th infantry. Capt. Barbour, of the 3d infantry, with his single company and a few men from the 5th, who joined him in the chapparrel, threw his back against a clump of bushes and received and gallantly repelled a charge of cavalry.

Capt. Duncan, with his battery, did terrible execution. He is a most promising officer. Lieut. Ridgely was also among the foremost. In truth it was a series of brilliant skirmishes and heavy shocks, in which 1500 fighting men met 6000 hand to hand—overwhelmed them with the precision of their volleys, and the steady coolness of the bayonet, and drove them from the field with the loss of their artillery, baggage, pack mules, fixed ammunition, & near 2000 rounds of muskets.

The fort, meanwhile, had been summoned, with use Mexican duplicity, and told of a newspaper and official bulletins called him chapparrel, which lies opposite to the timber a cowardly sailor. In answer to the summons, the officers plunged their swords into the parapet, and replied, to the hill! Up to the evening of the 9th, 1500 shells and 3000 shot had been thrown, and the only loss was that of the brave commander, Maj. 3d infantry, then two, eighteen pounders, Brown, and 1 sergeant and 1 private killed then the artillery battalion. The left was composed of the 4th and 8th infantry, and Duncan's battery. A daring reconnaissance by Capt. J. E. Blake, showed the enemy's line to be of nearly twice the strength of ours, with heavy reserves in the chapparrel. The Mexicans opened the action with their artillery, the range of which was hardly great enough to reach our line which was moving slowly forward, and some got into the thickest of their shot and halted. Their fire was returned from all of our batteries, and I venture to say that no field of battle ever displayed such skill, or rapidity of fire and evolution.

It ought to be mentioned that some of our regiments are not full, and two of them only have about 300. Many instances occurred, of men handing their canteens to the wounded Mexicans, and turning from them to fire upon others. There was not a single occurrence of cruelty towards the enemy. The morale of the army is at its highest—it can now accomplish any thing, and they would die for a commander who does not ask them to go where he is not willing to lead, and in whose judgment they fully confide.

Gen. Taylor has just given Gen. Vega a letter to Gen. Gains, and a letter of credit on his factor. The officers here and in the main body vied with their commander in delicate attentions to a brave and accomplished enemy, who won their admiration on the field, and was taken like a soldier in full harness, and fighting gallantly to the last. Our loss about 30 killed and 140 wounded. In haste, H. H. Mexican loss at Palo Alto, set down by themselves at 450, at Resaca de la Palma, 2000 missing. Since the battle our dragons have been exchanged, grade and the Mexican wounded sent over to Matamoras. By the next arrival you will hear of the town, and probably an offer from them to receive Mr. Stidell in any capacity.

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From the New Orleans Picayune of the 16th.

**LATE FROM MEXICO.**

The latest accounts received in the capital from Matamoras represent the American position as being most unskillfully selected and inadequately defended. The American troops are represented as thinning off by desertion and sickness; disorder is said to exist among them growing out of questions of rank, the infantry is said to be composed of adventurers of all nations without skill or discipline, and in case of action, they are expected to desert in whole companies at a time. Our artillery is highly praised; the cavalry is thought pretty well off, but totally deficient in numbers. On the other hand, the Mexican troops and the inhabitants of the frontier are said to be animated by the highest enthusiasm, and to be confident of success. A few days more will tell the story.

The proclamation of Gen. Ampudia to the English and Irish in the American ranks which we translated some days since, we find in the papers of the capital. Had there been any doubt of its authenticity, it is now set at rest.

**Tax! Tax!**

Last year Columbia County, on four weeks notice, collected and paid over into the State Treasury THE WHOLE amount of her State Tax, and received as a compensation for her promptness, a deduction of 5 per cent, amounting to \$581 90. The same officers again renewed, and Columbia County may this year claim a deduction of \$680 00.

The same necessity for promptness and energy exist now as then. The honor of our Commonwealth is at stake, and nothing but energetic action on the part of Tax Collectors and Tax Payers can save the State from disgrace. The Tax Collectors of the several townships in Columbia county for the year 1846 are hereby requested to proceed forthwith and collect and pay over into the County Treasury, on or before the twenty fifth day of July next, the whole amount of State Tax charged in their respective Duplicates.

By order of the Commissioners,  
 E. MENDENHALL, Clerk,  
 COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE,  
 Danville, May 28 1846.

N. B.—Those Collectors for years 1843 and 1844, who are still in arrears, are hereby notified, that unless the whole amount of their Duplicates is settled off, on or before the 1st day of July next, they will be proceeded against according to law.—And the Collectors for the year 1845 are requested to settle up the arrears of their Duplicates by the 25th day of July next. The low rate of Taxes laid this year for County purposes and the extra expenses, which the County will necessarily incur in building Bridges, renders it absolutely necessary that all Taxes due from former years be immediately paid over.