

Columbia Democrat.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson

H. WEBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT.

OPPOSITE ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MAIN-ST.

TERMS:

The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents, if not paid within the year. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrearages are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. LETTERS addressed on business, must be post paid.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEWSPAPERS.

No man is willingly without a newspaper.—Cowper describe it as: 'Tis folio of four pages, happy work Which not e'en critics criticise; that holds Inquisitive attention while I read Fast bound in chains of silence, which the fair Though eloquent themselves, yet fear to break.

What is it but a map of busy life,— Its fluctuation and its vast concerns!

Locomotion has scarcely improved more than newspapers since Cowper wrote, and is not more subservient to the general welfare.—Every man looks for his newspaper. Were the judges to abdicate, and the courts to suspend their functions, no man would at once miss and regret them, except for the loss of a column of amusement in the newspapers, but the day and hour, when the postman 'with his twanging horn,' 'the herald of a noisy world,' or the mail train leaving its great bags of almost a ton weight of letters, should go to its destination without newspapers, would be full of consternation. We cannot picture the general alarm, the fidelity uneasiness, which would spread itself into innumerable conjectures as to what commotion could have laid an embargo on the newspapers. For the mail to arrive without the journals, would be like the approach of day followed by no rising sun. Whenever the fact is alluded to, every man becomes instantly sensible that society could not exist in its present wonderful ramifications without newspapers.—They are not merely the offsprings of the natural system of society, they are essential parts of it, which will outlive the throne and the peerage.

A DESPERATE ADVENTURE.

[FROM CAPTAIN FREMONT'S EXHIBITION TO THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.]

While encamped, on the 24th of April at a spring, near the Spanish trail, we were surprised by the sudden appearance among us of two Mexicans—a man and a boy; the name of the man was Andres Fuentes, and that of the boy (a handsome lad, eleven years old) Palmy Hernandez. With a cavalcade of about thirty horses, they came out from Puebla de los Angeles, near the Pacific; had lost half of their animals,—stolen by Indians,—and now sought my camp for aid. Carson and Godey, two of my men, volunteered to pursue them with the Mexicans; and, well mounted the three set off on the trail. In the evening Fuentes returned, his horse having failed, but Carson and Godey continued the pursuit.

In the afternoon of the next day a warwhoop was heard, such as Indians make when returning from a victorious enterprise; and soon Carson and Godey appeared driving before them a band of horses, recognized by Fuentes to be a part of those they had lost. Two bloody scalps, dangling from the end of Godey's gun, announced that they had overtaken the Indians as well as the horses.

They had continued the pursuit alone after Fuentes had left them, and towards nightfall entered the mountains in to which the trail led. After sunset the moon gave light, and they followed the trail by moonlight, until late in the night, when it entered a narrow defile, and was difficult to follow. Here they lay from midnight till morning. At daylight then resumed the pursuit, and at sunrise discovered the horses, and immediately dismounted and tying up their own, they crept cautiously to a rising ground which intervened from the crest of which they perceived the encampment of four lodges close by. They proceeded quietly, and had got within thirty or forty yards of their object, when a movement among the horses discovered them to the Indians. Giving a warwhoop they instantly charged into the camp, regardless of the number the four lodges might contain.

The Indians received them with a flight of arrows, from their long bows, one of which passed through Godey's shirt collar, bare missing the neck. Our men fired their rifles upon a steady aim, and rushed in. Two Indians were stretched upon the ground, fatally pierced with bullets, the rest fled, except a lad who was captured. The scalps of the fallen were instantly stripped off; but in the process, one of them, who had two balls through his body, sprang to his feet; the blood streaming from his skinned head, and uttered a hideous howl. The frightful spectacle appalled the stout hearts of our men; but they did what humanity required, and quickly terminated the agonies of the savage. They were now masters of the camp, which was a pretty little recess in the mountains, with a fine spring and apparently safe from all invasion. Great preparations had been made for feasting a large party, for it was a very proper place for a rendezvous, and for the celebration of such orgies as robbers of the desert delight in. Several of the best horses had been killed, skinned, and cut up for the Indians living in the mountains, and only coming into the plains to roll and murder, make no other use of horses than to eat them. Large earthen vessels were on the fire, boiling and stewing the horses' beef; and several baskets, containing 60 pairs of moccasins indicated the presence or expectation of a large party. They released the boy, who had given strong evidence of the stoicism, or something else, of the savage character, by commencing his breakfast upon a horse's head, as soon as he found he was not to be killed, but only tied as a prisoner.

Their object accomplished, our men gathered up all the surviving horses, 15 in number, returned upon their trail and rejoined us at our camp in the afternoon of the same day. They had rode about 100 miles in the pursuit and return, and all in thirty hours. The time, place, object, and numbers considered, this expedition of Carson and Godey may be considered among the boldest and most distinguished which the annals of western adventure, so full of daring deeds, can present.

Two men in a savage wilderness, pursue, day and night, an unknown body of Indians into the defiles of an unknown mountain—attack them at night with out counting numbers, and defeat them in an instant—and for what? To punish the robbers of the desert, and revenge the wrongs of Mexicans whom they did not know. I repeat, it was Carson and Godey did this—the former a native of Boone's county, Missouri, the latter of (French patronage) born in St. Louis, in the same State; both of them trained to western enterprise from early life.

The following Anecdote connected with the decisive battle of the 9th is too good to be omitted.

'The battle commenced by heavy cannonading on both sides. Gen. Taylor, in passing his lines, accosted Capt. May, of the 2d dragoons, and told him—'Your regiment has never done anything yet—you must take that battery—He said nothing, but turned to the command and said—'we must take that battery—follow!' He made a charge with three companies—at least the remainder of three companies—supported by the 5th and 8th regiments of infantry. They cleared the breastwork, rode over the battery, wheeled and came through the enemy's line, whilst the fire of the infantry was so deadly in its effects as to carry all before it. Capt. May made a cut at an officer as he charged through; on his return he found him standing between the wheels of a cannon fighting like a hero. He ordered him to surrender. He was asked if he was an officer? Capt. May answered in the affirmative, when he presented his sword, remarking—'You receive Gen. Vega a prisoner of war.' Captain May gave him in charge to one of his sergeants who had lost his horse in the charge, ordering him to conduct him to Gen. Taylor out of the line.

Capt. May's attack is spoken of as being one of those splendid efforts which would have adorned the brightest feather of the plume of Murat, in the palmiest days of his glory. It cost him 18 horses, with a few of the gallant riders. The victory, says the extra from which we copy, entirely belongs to U. S. army volunteers having arrived in time to share in the honors of the day. It will convince our country, that West Point affords the material of exhibiting the courage and bravery of the American soldiers.

I trust we will hear no more of dismounting our gallant dragoons, the affair of the 9th shows them to be the arteries of our defence.

BOYS OF SIXTEEN.

We like to see active and industrious boys of fifteen and sixteen years of age; we know they will make smart men. There are scores of such in this city who are learning mysteries of trades or working behind the counter. They are cheerful and happy, have a pleasant look and a kind word for all.

But there are other boys who are dull and lazy. At sixteen years of age you will find them hanging about the corner, or wasting their time in idle society. They will not work to support themselves and are obliged to call on their parents for their support. Such boys will turn out miserable tools. Few men care to take boys who have arrived to sixteen or seventeen years of age—who have contracted idle habits and partially formed their characters. Those lads love to dress well and make a good appearance and parade about the streets to show themselves, but they are good for nothing to a mechanic or merchant, and never can be, unless they cast off their lazy habits and engage in some business.

In many instances parents are remiss in duty—they will neither let their sons go in this place nor the other, for fear they will soil their hands or dirty their clothes, and so they keep them dandling about the house till they become altogether too old to find places. The sea generally brings them up at last, unless they rust out and die of what is politely called the consumption.—(Port. Bull.)

A tradesman in the west of England having heard that it was usual, for safety, in sending bank notes by post, to cut them in two, adopted that plan last week, but instead of keeping one half by him until advised of the safety receipt of the other he enclosed them both in one letter!

WAR WITH MEXICO.

From the Washington Union.

OFFICIAL.

We have received at an hour too late for any special remarks upon them, the official despatches from the War and Navy Departments. We lose no time in laying them before our readers. It will be seen that they confirm substantially the accounts already published.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Point Isabel, Texas, May 7, 1846.

Sir: I respectfully report that I shall march this day with the main body of the army, to open a communication with Major Brown, and throw forward supplies of ordnance and provisions. If the enemy oppose my march, in whatever force, I shall fight him. Occasional guns are heard in the direction of Matamoros, showing that every thing is right in that quarter.

Yesterday the recruits under Lieutenant McPhail arrived here. After filling up the companies of the permanent garrison. (A 1st artillery, and G. 4th artillery,) the remainder of the detachment, with its officers was placed under Major Munroe's orders, to assist in the defence of the depot. The men are yet too raw to take the field, though efficient for garrison defence. They will be permanently assigned as soon as practicable.

The four companies of the first infantry are hourly expected, and will be a reasonable reinforcement. The first shipment of volunteers from New Orleans may also soon be looked for. Their arrival will enable me to open the river and free our communications.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. Com'g The ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Camp at Palo Alto, Texas, May 9, 1846.

Sir: I have the honor to report that I was met near this place yesterday, on my march from Point Isabel, by the Mexican forces, and after an action of about five hours dislodged them from their position, and encamped upon the field. Our artillery, consisting of two 18-pounders and two light batteries, was the arm chiefly engaged, and to the excellent manner in which it was manoeuvred and served is our success mainly due.

The strength of the enemy is believed to have been about six thousand men with seven pieces of artillery, and eight hundred cavalry. His loss is probably at least one hundred killed. Our strength did not exceed all told twenty-three hundred, while our loss was comparatively trifling—four men wounded, several of the latter mortally. I regret to say that Major Ringgold, 3d artillery, and Captain Page, 4th infantry, are severely wounded. Lieutenant Luther, 2d artillery, slightly so.

The enemy has fallen back, and it is believed has repassed the river. I have advanced parties now thrown forward in his direction, and shall move the main body immediately.

In haste of this first report, I can only say that the officers and men behaved in the most admirable manner throughout the action. I shall have the pleasure of making a more detailed account when those of the different commanders shall be received.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. commanding The ADJUTANT GENERAL, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Camp at Resaca de la Palma, 3 miles from Matamoros, 10 o'clock, P. M. May 9, 1846.

Sir: I have the honor to report that I marched with the main body of the army at 2 o'clock to day, having previously thrown forward a body of light infantry into the forest, which covers the Matamoros road. When near the spot where I am

now encamped, my advance discovered that a ravine crossing the road had been occupied by the enemy with artillery. I immediately ordered a battery of field artillery to sweep the position, flanking and sustaining it by the 3d, 4th, and 5th regiments, deployed as skirmishers to the right and left. A heavy fire of artillery and of musketry was kept up for some time, until finally the enemy's batteries were carried in succession by a squadron of dragoons and the regiments of infantry that were on the ground. He was soon driven from his position, and pursued by a squadron of dragoons, battalion of artillery, 3d infantry and a light battery, to the river. Our victory has been complete. Eight pieces of artillery with a great quantity of ammunition three standards and some one hundred prisoners have been taken, among the latter Gen. La Vega, and several other officers. One general is understood to have been killed. The enemy has recrossed the river, and I am sure will not again molest us on this bank.

The loss of the enemy in killed has been most severe. Our own has been very heavy, and I deeply regret to report that Lieut. Chadbourne 8th Infantry was killed on the field. Lieut. Col. Payne 4th Artillery, Lieut. Col. McIntosh, Lieut. Dobbins 3d Infantry, Capt. Hoop, and Lieut. Fowler, 5th Infantry, and Capt. Montgomery Lieut. Gates, Selden, McClay, Burbank, and Jordan 8th Infantry, were wounded. The extent of our loss in killed and wounded is not yet ascertained, and is reserved for a more detailed report.

The affair of today may be regarded as a proper supplement to the campaign of yesterday and the two taken, exhibit the coolness and gallantry of our officers and men in the most favorable light. All have done their duty and done it nobly. It will be my pride in a more circumstantial report of both actions, to dwell upon particular instances of individual distinction.

It affords me peculiar pleasure to report that the field-work opposite Matamoros has sustained itself handsomely during a cannonade and bombardment of 100 hours. But the pleasure is alloyed with profound regret at the loss of its heroic and indomitable commander, Major Brown, who died to-day from the effect of a shell. His loss would be a severe one to the service at any time, but to the army under my orders it is indeed irreparable. One officer and one noncommissioned officer killed, and ten men wounded, comprise all the casualties incident to this severe bombardment.

I inadvertently omitted to mention the capture of a large number of pack mules left in the Mexican camp.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Bt. Brig. General U. S. A. Com'g. The ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Resaca de la Palma, May 11, 1846.

[Orders No. 59.]

1. The commanding general congratulates the army under his command upon the signal success which has crowned its recent operations against the enemy. The coolness and steadiness of the troops during the action of the 8th, and the brilliant impetuosity with which the enemy's position and artillery were carried on the 9th, have displayed the best qualities of the American soldier. To every officer and soldier of his command, the general publicly returns his thanks for the noble manner in which they have sustained the honor of the service and of the country. While the main body of the army have been thus actively employed, the garrison left opposite Matamoros has rendered no less distinguished service by sustaining a severe cannonade and bombardment for many successive days. The army and the country, while justly rejoicing in this triumph of our arms, will deplore the loss of many brave officers and men who fell gallantly in the hour of combat.

2. It being necessary for the commanding general to visit Point Isabel on public business, Col. Twiggs will assume com-

mand of the corps of the army near Matamoros, including the garrison of the field work. He will occupy the former lines of the army, making such dispositions for defence and for the comfort of his command as he may deem advisable. He will hold himself strictly on the defensive until the return of the commanding general.

By order of Brig. Gen. TAYLOR, W. W. J. Bliss, Act. Adj. Gen.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Point Isabel, Texas, May 12, 1846.

Sir: In making a hasty visit to this place, for the purpose of having an interview with Commodore Conner, whose squadron is now at anchor off the harbor, arranging with him a combined movement up the river. I avail myself of the brief time at my command to report that the main body of the army is now occupying its former position opposite Matamoros. The Mexican forces are almost disorganized, and I shall lose no time in investing Matamoros, and opening the navigation of the river.

I regret to report that Major Ringgold died the morning of the 11th inst. of the severe wounds received in the action of Palo Alto. With the exception of Capt. Page, whose wound is dangerous, the other wounded officers are doing well. In my report of the second engagement, I accidentally omitted the name of Lieut. Dobbins, 3d Infantry, among the officers slightly wounded and desire that the omission may be supplied in the despatch itself. I am under the painful necessity of reporting that Lieut. Blake, topographical engineers, after rendering distinguished service in my staff during the affair of the 8th inst., accidentally shot himself with a pistol on the following day, and expired before night.

It has been quite impossible as yet to furnish detailed reports of our engagements with the enemy, or even accurate returns of the killed and wounded. Our loss is not far from 3 officers and 40 men killed, and 13 officers and 109 men wounded while that of the enemy has in probability exceeded 300 killed, more than 200 have been buried by us on the two fields of battle.

I have exchanged a sufficient number of prisoners to recover the command of Capt. Thornton. The wounded prisoners have been sent to Matamoros—the wounded officers on their parole. General La Vega and a few other officers have been sent to New Orleans, having declined a parole, and will be reported to Maj. Gen. Gaines. I am not conversant with the usages of war in such cases, and beg that such provision may be made for these prisoners as may be authorized by law. Our own prisoners have been treated with great kindness by the Mexican officers.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Bt. Brig. Gen. U. S. A. com'g. The ADJUTANT GENERAL of the Army, Washington, D. C.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Fort Polk, Texas, May 12, 1846.

[Orders No. 60.]

As a mark of respect to the Magistrate of the Republic, the work constructed in this place, to cover the main depot of the army, will be known as 'Fort Polk.'

The Commanding General takes this occasion to express his satisfaction with the dispositions made for the protection and defence of this point, so vitally important to the efficiency and security of the army. To Major Munroe, the commanding officer, Captain Sanders, of the engineers, Major, Thomas and McRae, and Captains Sibley and Hill, of the quartermaster's department, Captain Ramsey, of the ordnance, and Lieut. Montgomery, of the subsistence departments, credit is especially due for their zeal and activity.

The General returns his thanks to the numerous citizens who volunteered their services in the defence of the depot. Their assistance added materially to its strength and to his confidence in its ability to resist an attack. The reinforcement from the brig 'Lawrence' under Lieutenant Renshaw, and the large force of seamen and marines so