

Sergeant Maj. Price and Captain J. R. Smith, unattached but serving with it, I beg leave also to call attention to the good conduct of Captain Johnson, Ohio regiment, and Lieut. Hawker, 1st artillery, serving on the staff of Gen. Hammer and of Lieut. Nichols, 3d artillery, on that of General Quillian. Captains Bragg and Ridgely served with their batteries during the operations under my own observation, and in part under my immediate orders, and exhibited distinguished skill and gallantry. Captain Webster, 1st artillery, assisted by Lieuts. Donaldson and Bowen, rendered good service with the howitzer battery which was much exposed to the enemy's fire on the 21st.

From the nature of the operations, the 2d dragoons were not brought into action, but were usefully employed under the direction of Lieut. Col. May as escort, and in keeping open our communications. The 1st Kentucky regiment was also prevented from participating in the action of the 21st, but rendered highly important services under Col. Ormsby, in covering the battery, and holding check the enemy's cavalry during the day.

I have noticed above the officers whose conduct either fell under my own immediate eye, or is noticed only in minor reports which are not forwarded. For further mention of individuals I beg leave to refer to the reports of division commanders herewith respectfully transmitted. I fully concur in their recommendations, and desire that they may be considered as a part of my own report.

From the officers of my personal staff and of the engineers; topographical engineers, and ordnance associated with me, I have derived valued and efficient assistance during the operations. Col. Whiting, assistant quartermaster general, Major Croghan and Belknap, inspector general, Captain Sibley, assistant quartermaster, Captain Wagaman, commissary of subsistence, Captain Eaton, Lieut. Garnett, aide de-camp, and Maj. Kirby and Van Buren, pay department, served near my person, and were ever prompt, in all situations, in the communication of my orders and instructions. I must express my particular obligations to Brevet Major Mansfield and Lieut. Scarritt, corps of engineers. They both rendered most important services in reconnoitering the enemy's positions, conducting troops in attack, and strengthening the works captured from the enemy. Major Mansfield, though wounded on the 21st, remained on duty during that and the following day, until confined by his wound to camp.

Capt. Williams, topographical engineer, to my great regret, and the loss of the service, was mortally wounded while fearlessly exposing himself in the attack of 21st. Lieut. Pope, of the same corps, was active and zealous throughout the operation. Maj. Munroe, chief of the artillery, Major Craig and Captain Ramsey, of the ordnance, were assiduous in the performance of their proper duties. The former superintended the mortar service on the 22d, as particularly mentioned in the report of Gen. Worth, to which I also refer for the engineer, and topographical officers detached with the second division.

Surgeon, Craig, medical director, was actively employed in the important duties of his department, and the medical staff generally were unremitting in their attention to the numerous wounded—their duties with the regular regiments being rendered uncommonly arduous by the small number serving in the field.

I respectfully enclose herewith, in addition to the reports of division commanders, a field return of the force before Monterey on the 21st September—a return of killed, wounded, and missing during the operation—and two topographical sketches—one exhibiting all the movements around Monterey—the other on a larger scale illustrating more particularly the operations in the lower quarter of the city—prepared respectively by Lieuts. Meade and Pope topographical engineers.

I am, sir, very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR.

Maj. Gen. U. S. Army commanding, The Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C.

Official Despatches.—We give below the official letter in which Com. Conner reports his success in taking Tampico to the Navy Department.

U. S. Steamship Spitfire,
Before the Town of Tampico.

Nov. 14th, 1846.

Sir—I have the honor to inform the Department that I entered the river of Tampico this morning with all the small vessels of the squadron and a strong detachment of seamen and marines from the Cumberland, Mississippi, St. Mary's Princeton and Ports

pose.

On my arrival at the city, I was met by

a deputation from the citizens offering the

surrender of the place on condition that

their laws, institutions and property be re-

spected.

I will hold the place as long as possible; its importance requires that a garrison of five or six hundred men should be sent to occupy it as speedily as possible. To obtain this object, I have despatched Commodore Perry to Matamoras to make arrangements with Gen. Patterson to have a force

here without delay.

As I deem it important the Mississippi should sail without delay, I must defer a more particular statement to another opportunity.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully

your obedient servant, D. CONNER,

Gond'g Home Squadron,

Hon. J. Y. Mason,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

Operations of the Navy and army—Capture of Tampico.—We announced on Saturday the intelligence received from the

South, through the Telegraph, that Com. Conner had set out on an expedition against Tampico. Further news, received yesterday announced that the expedition was entirely successful, and Tampico is now in possession of the Americans. The garrison at Tampico took Santa Anna's advice and abandoned the place, first having removed their artillery. In the event of the city being taken, it was calculated that a strong force would be required to garrison it, and the American army would be proportionably weakened. On the summons to surrender the town being made, a deputation, composed of the authorities and principal citizens, waited on Commodore Conner, and intimated their readiness to comply. Commissioners were then appointed and the usual stipulations being made and accorded, regarding the due protection of life and property, usual among civilized nations, the stars and stripes soon floated over this bloodless conquest.

There are now but 150 marines and sailors to garrison the town, a very insufficient number, when it is considered that the town contains 4,000 inhabitants, with two towns adjacent, almost connected with it, called Puebla Vieja and Altamira, which considerably increase the population on that part of the coast of Mexico. The Commodore has taken immediate measures to have this important place more strongly garrisoned. General Patterson has been apprised of its capture and a reinforcement requested. Generals Jesup and Brooke, at New Orleans, changed the destination of the troops from Brazos to Tampico, with sufficient ammunition from the Louisiana State arsenal, the use of which was tendered by Gov. Johnson. Within three hours after Com. Perry announced the capture of the place, at New Orleans, all the necessary plans were made, all the requisitions sent out, messengers and even steamboats under way and in readiness to provide for all the contingencies of the case.

The intelligence from the Pacific to the 11th of October represent that the American possession of California is not peaceful and accounts of insurrection are given. The French Consul at Monterey had been arrested by Commodore Stockton, for protesting against the occupation of the country. The last advices from Mexico do not throw much light upon the movements of Santa Anna. It is evident that the Mexicans are thoroughly aroused, and that a strong force is collecting at San Luis Potosi. Various reinforcements had been added and the actual number of troops in garrison on the 28th ult. was set down at 15,000, which were expected to be augmented in two weeks to 20,000. In view of this fact, some anxiety is felt in the Southern towns as to the situation and prospects of our army. The New Orleans Bulletin, speaking in reference to this subject, says:

'The impression is, that Santa Anna is collecting so large a force with a view to assume the offensive and cut off the supplies and retreat of our army. Due allowance however ought to be made for the usual quantity of Mexican exaggeration, both as to numbers discipline and organization. Gen. Taylor is not likely to let them get into his rear even supposing the very ini-

probable case that Santa Anna should attempt to move against him from San Luis from which it would be a most tedious and difficult march to Monterey. From an officer recently from the army, we learn that the whole force under Gen. Taylor is 13 to 14,000 men. It is true a considerable portion of them is on the Rio Grande, under the orders of General Patterson, distributed between the different posts from the Brazos St. Jago to Camargo, but Santa Anna could make no movement in advance without affording ample time to concentrate all these detachments to meet him. We do not believe he has sufficient enterprise or that his army is either in a condition of proper stuff, to attempt by a coup de main to cut off General Taylor's communications by the seizure of Matamoras, or any other point in his rear, and even if he did try it, we have every confidence they would pay dearly for the attempt. The Mexicans have met our troops on three different occasions, and each time they have been soundly flogged, and we are very much inclined to the belief that the views of Santa Anna are at present confined to check the further advance of General Taylor; should he attempt it, and not to make long marches to attack him. Provisions and supplies of every nature are constantly going forward from hence to the Rio Grande, and in such large quantities, as leads to the inference the Government have no present intention to decrease the force in that quarter and for ourselves we think that General Taylor, as heretofore will be able to take care of himself, and also give a good account of the enemy should he meet them.'

The 7,000 volunteers now mustering in to the service will be an addition much needed in Mexico, if the accounts of Santa Anna's force be correct. It will increase the force to over 20,000 men—sufficient to ensure Santa Anna's defeat, and give a great and decisive blow to the enemy. General Scott's presence will also lend new vigor to the operations. Our Government appears to be impressed with a sense of the importance of making a strong demonstration at once, which will bring the war to a close.—*Ledger.*

A slip from the office of the N. Orleans Picayune; dated Sunday, Nov. 22, 11 P. M., furnished the following particulars of a dreadful steamboat accident on the Mississippi:—

The Sultan, Capt. Tuff, which arrived this morning from Vicksburg, brings the particulars of a terrible accident which occurred on the 21st inst., about seven miles below Natchez, in the bend of the river, by which some 20 or 30 lives were lost and a great number of persons were severely scalded.

The Sultan, bound down the river, came in contact with the steamer Maria, Capt. T. W. Dunnica; bound up about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, striking her just forward of the wheel house, and by the violence of the shock broke the connection pipe of the Maria, by which the chief clerk, the second engineer and between 25 and 30 deck passengers were scalded; many of them so severely that there was no prospect of their recovery.

The Maria sank to within about two feet of her cabin floor within five minutes after the collision, drowning between 25 and 30 persons who were on the lower deck. It is thought that Capt. Dunnica was drowned, but it is not certainly known. The cabin passenger were all saved.

The steamboat Talma, Capt. Hite, came down the river soon after the accident, and took on board the wounded and conveyed them back to Natchez to be placed in the hospital. The Sultan remained by the side of the wreck till sunrise next morning, rendering every assistance in their power. We are unable to furnish a list of the names of the killed and scalded. The Maria will be a total loss, it is thought. The bows of the S. were much injured.

Coastwise Commerce.—The coastwise commerce of the United States has greatly increased within a short time. Vessels will enter and clear coastwise at the custom house for Oregon city, Columbia river, as also for San Francisco, Monterey and California, being voyages of as great extent as any foreign voyage, and employing the ablest seamen and navigators. A few years since a northwest coast or California captain would scarcely have dreamed that his successors would have been classed as wags. Experience has taught them to provide, and they have done so, against the

treacherous and treacherous of legislation—a

against the selfishness of wealth—the blunders of the superficial, and the astutenesses of the corrupt. Limitations of power are imposed where its exercise would be dangerous or unwise; and who will not honor them thereto? What Pennsylvania does not regret, that our corporation-ridden and debt-ridden state did not twenty years ago make a similar advancement in constitutional reform?

As matters now stand with us, there is oftentimes cause for looking forward to the meeting of our Legislature, with lively apprehension. It is so now. With a federal majority in both branches, we may apprehend a renewal of the legislation of the Turner era; and we reflect with alarm that our constitutional restrictions upon legislation are slight in quarters where evil may be expected. Except the Veto power now fortunately in firm and honest hands, there is scarcely a constitutional obstruction, to prevent the rash and reckless creation of corporation bubbles all over the state; the floating of our bank currency; and the alienation of state property to purposes of private gain.

The day will come, when the wholesome constitutional reforms of New York and of other states will be introduced into Pennsylvania and made a part of the fundamental law. We trust that that day is not very far distant. For one, we shall hail its advent with pleasure and pride.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

The *Pennsylvanian* has just concluded

a series of articles upon the Oregon question, particularly in relation to the conduct of the Administration and the U. S. Senate. They exhibit, in a clear light, the unwise position which a majority of the Senators assumed, and the mischievous influence which

their speeches and votes exerted upon the negotiations. England had her pretensions to title in Oregon urged upon the floor of the Senate, with greater force and ability than she had ever urged them herself, in any of the negotiations between us on that subject. Speeches of Senators in defense of the English claim went over to England, by every vessel that left our ports, during a period of months; and those speeches too were backed by votes indicating that they expressed the sentiments of a majority of the Senate. What could be expected under such circumstances, with the Senate, a part of the treaty making power, committed against any claim by the U. S. north of the 49th degree? Why just this; that England would concede nothing north of that parallel, and that the Administration would be forced to abandon to England a goodly portion of the territory in dispute. It is difficult to conduct a discussion with a foreign power, while we are divided at home upon the very subject of dispute. But the Oregon difficulty is disposed of; and we only hope that we will reap from it, some instruction for the future.

2.—The Legislature is restrained from creating a state debt over \$1,000,000, except by a vote at two sessions, and by the approval of the voters of the state; and even then provision must be made, at the time, for its payment. (Not in force in case of war &c.)

2.—The Legislature is restrained from passing special acts to create banks or other corporations, (except municipal). Such laws must be general.

2.—No bill can pass but by a majority of all the members elected to each branch of the Legislature, and the yeas and nays, in every case, on last reading, must be entered on the journal.

4.—No private or local bill is to embrace more than one subject, and that shall be expressed in the title.

5.—The Legislature shall not sell or lease the public works.

None of the foregoing provisions are in the constitution of Pennsylvania. We sincerely wish they were. If such a provision as the one first mentioned above had been in our Pennsylvania constitution, we would not have been saddled with our 40,000,000 debt, and subjected to the taxes and mortifications which that debt produces.

The other provisions we have quoted, if they had been in our Pennsylvania constitution, would have kept our legislature pure from log-rolling; the flood of private acts and special corporation bills with which we have been cursed; and we should have heard nothing of that most unwise and ruinous project—the sale of the Public Works.

A fruitful source of evil with us, as states and as an Union, is *Excessive Legislation*—and this both in subject and extent. One of the main and appropriate functions of a republic's constitution is, to restrain legislation—to erect barriers against the rush of its ever restless and invadings tide! And as new dangers to popular rights and public welfare arise, it is the duty of a people jealous of their rights and watchful of their interests, to alter their constitution so as to meet the threatened evil, or if it has already smitten them, to prevent recurrence.

In a number of important points, the people of the State of New York have, in their new constitution, come up to the requirements of this policy. They have done this, too, by a vote, indicating no quiescence or timidity. With a practical knowledge of the defects of the old, they have chosen for themselves a new fundamental law, adapted to their situation and to their

the panels of the pedestal.

A Real Murderer.—James Field has been declared guilty of murder in the first degree, for killing his aged mother, in order to avoid the expense of maintaining her. Surely that was murder in the first degree. The trial took place in Crawford county, Indiana.

Heavy Damages.—Mrs. Nancy Hayes of Louisville, Ky., has obtained a verdict of six thousand dollars damages, for breach of marriage promise, against a merchant of that city named Hayes.

Lieut. Morris, who was killed at Tabasco, is a son of Commodore Morris. He was an aid of Com. Conner, and was acting as a volunteer aid of Com. Perry when he was killed.

The Gale on the Lakes.—The gale on lake Erie appears not to have extended beyond Cleveland east of that place 2 steam-boats and 17 other vessels were wrecked.

Batty's Powder Mills.—Batty's Powder Mills, about eight miles from Baltimore, on the Susquehanna Railroad, was blown up on Monday the 23d ult. with a most terrific explosion. Five men were blown to atoms, and three large buildings 70 yards apart, belonging to the establishment, were scattered over a space of ten acres. The quantity of powder in the mill exceeded two tons. All the buildings within a mile and a half of the mill, in every direction, were more or less injured.

Bears.—Thousands of bears are said to infest North Mississippi, and are making their way from the Mississippi bottoms to the hills, in search of food. The sportsmen of Hernando and Panola are out in full strength after them.

Fifty ships are now loading at New York with provisions for England, where no longer each rod of ground maintains his man.

Royal Flour and a Royal Price.—Last fall Mr. Henry Smith, an enterprising miller of Le Roy, in this county sent six barrels of the choicest superfine Gennessee flour, manufactured at his mill in Wheatland, Monroe county, to Queen Victoria, and for which, in due time he received from her Majesty the comfortable little sum of *three thousand dollars*. The flour was put up in highly finished barrels, nearly varnished, enclosed in sacks, and forwarded direct to the Queen at London. This fortunate experiment upon the appetite of Royalty seems to have suited her Majesty's palate so nicely, that in addition to the ample remuneration for his first adventure, he has recently received an order direct from London, for *three thousand barrels* more of the same sort, which he has promptly forwarded.—*Batavia (N. Y.) Times.*

A Brave Engineer.—The following is an extract of a letter received at Washington from the Gulf Squadron:

The steamer Petrel, captured inside of the bar at Tabasco, is the Champion built in New York in 1835. Upon her arrival off the town of Tabasco, and during the attack, it became necessary to repack her cylinder piston, and this operation (the cylinder being above deck) was performed by D. B. Martin, first assistant engineer of the steamer Mississippi, (who had been sent on board) under a continued fire of musketty, the Mexicans thinking that if they could kill the engineers they would destroy the usefulness of the vessel.

Railroad Matters.—All the contracts for building the New York and Erie Railroad to Binghampton are taken, at a million less than the estimates. The aggregate amount of the contracts is \$1,000,000. At this rate, \$6,000,000 would complete the road to Dunkirk.

Equipments for the War.—The Governor of Pennsylvania has received a letter from the Ordnance Department at Washington, informing him that the following equipments have been directed to be held in readiness at Pittsburgh for the regiment ordered from this State:

880 muskets, National Armory, with appendages complete; 42 non-commissioned officers' swords, 22 musicians' swords, 880 sets Infantry accoutrements, complete, 40 N. C. officers' sword belts, with double frogs for sergeants of companies, 24 N. C. officers' sword belts, with single frogs for principal musicians, musicians of companies and N. C. staff; 25,300 musket cartridges, 1,750 musket flints.

Fifty four tons of poultry (or Thanksgiving day) were sent over the Boston and Providence Railroad on Saturday week from Rhode Island.