

# Columbia Democrat.

"I have sworn upon the Alter 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  
SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN, A FEW DOORS BE-  
LOW MARKET-STREET.

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.

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COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.

DECEMBER 26, 1846.

SYNOPSIS OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY'S REPORT.

The Mediterranean squadron has not been continued during the last year, but is proposed to revive it as soon as circumstances will permit. The station of Maton has been discontinued, at the earnest request of the Portuguese Government, and measures are in progress for the removal of the public stores at that place. The East India squadron, consisting of the Columbia 74 and the sloop Vincennes, is supposed to have sailed for Japan and Kamtschatka in the month of May or June last, and to have returned to Macao, about this time. They will probably commence their homeward cruise, via the North Pacific, in January or February next.

Orders were sent to Com. Biddle in January last, to proceed to the West Coast of Mexico and assume the command of the squadron there, but no acknowledgment of them has been received at the Department.

The Brazil squadron consists of the frigate Columbus, Com. Ritchie, and the brig Bainbridge, Lieut. Commanding Remington, under Commodore Rossau. —The African squadron consists of the frigate United States, the sloop Marion, brig Dolphin and Boxer, and store ship Southampton—86 guns in all.

A full and interesting narrative is given of the operations of the Pacific squadron since the war, both Com. Sloat and Com. Stockton, and copies are annexed of the official reports of these officers. The Squadron now consists of the Savannah, the Congress frigates, the sloops Portsmouth, Levant, Warren and Cyane, sloop Shark, and store ship Erie. The sloop Independence is on her way out with Com. Shubrick, who, on his arrival, will assume command of the squadron, and the sloop Preble has sailed for the same destination.

The doings of the Home Squadron are also fully narrated and copies are annexed of the official reports of Com. Connor in reference to the blockade, the designs on Alvarado, the affair at Tabasco, and the taking of Tampico. Full justice is done to the Commodores of both these squadrons, in whom the confidence of the department seems unabated. Extracts from the instructions under which they acted, show also a disposition on the part of the Government to avoid all collision with Mexico, if possible. The vessels comprising the navy of Texas seem to have found unworthy of repair, with the exception of the Austin, which is at Pensacola; the others have been ordered to be sold.

The estimates of the department are based on the employment of 10,000 men, though no more than 8,600 are now in service. Authority is asked to build four sea steamboats to be employed in connection with our squadrons abroad.

The practicability of the dry-dock at Pensacola is also urged upon the favorable attention of the Secretary, and the attention of Congress directed to it.

Provision should be made for the punishment of offenses committed by our troops and by persons connected with the army.

A further increase of the regular army is recommended.

The exclusive employment of naval officers as naval storekeepers abroad is not thought to be wise, and a modification of the law on the subject is recommended.

The Naval School is spoken of in terms of approbation, and the same application is asked for it as was had last year. A suitable notice is also given to the observatory, where valuable operations are beginning to attract the attention they deserve.

An addition to the number of Assistant Surgeons is very much desired, and the department also recommends an increase in the rank and file of the marine corps and in the number of warrant officers. The report concludes with advising that authority be given to the President to appoint one out of five or six midshipmen at large, irrespective of the place of residence of the persons appointed, provisions might thus be made for cases of peculiar merit which are now excluded.—Nothing is said in the report of the system of promotion.

The Secretary confines himself to a faithful narrative of the doings of the Navy, with a few practical suggestions such as are mentioned above. His report is a very interesting one.

SYNOPSIS OF THE WAR REPORT.

It is chiefly occupied with a history of the commencement and progress of the Mexican war operations, embracing the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, the three day's conflict at Monterey, the termination of the aristocracy, the conquest of San Fe and the Californias, etc. etc.

Satisfactory, though not official information had been received of the taking of Monclova, but not of Chihuahua. Gen. Kearny's detachment was expected to reach the Pacific about the last of November.

The operations of Col. Fremont and Commodore Stockton, west of the Rocky Mountains, are referred to with commendation. Authentic information but no official report had as yet been received.

The military force of the United States has been augmented from 7640 to 30,000. The duties of the department have been assumed and embarrassing.

The department of Tamaulipas, on the right bank of the Rio Grande, for several hundred miles from its mouth, New Leon, Coahuila and Chihuahua have all in effect been wrested from the Central government of Mexico, and the Mexican authorities, both civil and military, displaced in New Mexico and the Californias, all in the short space of seven months.

The regular army created under the law of the last session, when filled up, will amount to 16,000 officers and men, but it does not now exceed 10,300. The want of success in filling up the ranks is attributable probably to the large number of volunteers called out since the passage of the bill increasing the army. It is impossible to tell what number of troops the exigencies of the war may require. The volunteers enlisted who have encountered the enemy have more than justified the high expectations formed of this description of troops; but it is no disparagement of them to say that a regular force would be preferred in a war to be prosecuted in a foreign country.

Considerations of economy also are decidedly in favor of troops being engaged to the colonies of foreign States. This is our service during the war. The Secretary is most solicitous that this subject should receive the early attention of Congress and tory in two wars with one of the most powerful nations of the earth. If war is declared against us by Mexico, in total dis-

trust in that God who has given us the victory over the people who will cleave us by their numbers, and claim a discharge at the end of their year's gird of rights of justice, of friendship, and the laws of nature, I now tender my services.

A plan recommended by Gen. Meigs yields to you, in behalf of my country, when

you represent, in your credit and honor. I do not wish to enter the regular army. I do not wish to engage for and during the war, embarrassed as I am in my private fortunes; nor do I wish to leave my affairs, so long as it may be our policy to defend our soil alone from the foreign invader. These duties can be discharged without my aid, with ease and without difficulty but if you should feel it your duty to pursue the policy of carrying the war into the enemy's country, to plant our banner at Santa Fe, Vera Cruz, Mexico, or California, and give liberty and stability to free government, where disorder and anarchy now predominate, where no kindred spirit of freedom can animate those high officers who represent an oppressed people, and who may have precipitated them into a war to preserve the power which they seem prepared to hold;—when that time shall arrive and that policy shall be determined, then I am ready to raise a corps of Kentucky volunteers, of any number from one thousand to five thousand men, to serve twelve months from the commencement of marching orders, after organization, with a promise to re-engage after the expiration of the year, if the honor and situation of the country should require it—men who will make no other promise than this: that they will do their duty as citizen soldiers; and that God has allotted for man to do for his country, they will try to do and if I am again spared to meet the enemies of my country in battle, in a war on our part so just, and forced upon us by ignorance, ambition, foreign influence, and selfishness, I will try to see the duties of the citizen soldier handsomely, bravely, and gallantly performed, to the honor of the corps, and the benefit of our country.

The crisis has arrived; war, I suppose, is declared. We know not who may be at the bottom of it. Our country will soon be a unit, and the voice of treason will not be heard in our land. The discordant notes of the press—whether it was tweedledum or tweedle-dee—will be lost in the general hubbub of our country, for victory over our federal Union, including the additional brilliant star of Texas.

As a citizen, I thank you, and congratulate my country for your prompt action in concentrating the naval and military forces of the United States on the land and on the sea, ready to meet our enemy.

Accept this hasty letter, written in tumult and bustle of busy private life, from one who wishes you every blessing and every honor which results from a faithful discharge of your public duty to your country.

Most respectfully,  
R. M. JOHNSON,  
Col. JAMES K. POLK,  
President of the United States,  
City of Washington.

Good Advice.—Dow, Jr., in his sermon of last week, gives the following very excellent advice to the young ladies of his flock: The buxom, bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked, full-breasted, bouncing lass—who can darn a stocking, mend trousers, make her own frocks, command a regiment of pots and kettles, feed the pigs, chop wood, milk cows, wrestle with the boys, and be a lady without a company, is just the sort of girl for me, and for any worthy man to marry—but you, ye pining, moaning, lolloping, screwed up wasp-wasted, putty-faced, consumption mortgaged, music-murdering, novel-devouring daughters of fashion and idle pleasure—you are no more fit for matrimony than a bullet is to look after a family of fourteen chickens.

The truth is, my dear girls, you want generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraints—more kitchen and less parlor—more rug and less sofa—more pudding and less piano—more frankness and less mock-modesty—more breakfast and less bustle.—Liven yourselves a little—enjoy more liberty, and less restraint by fashion—breathe the pure atmosphere of freedom, and become something nearly as lovely and beautiful as the God of nature intended.

Use of a Nose.—A good story is told of Mozart at the time he was a pupil of Haydn. The latter challenged his pupil to compose a piece of music which he could not play at sight. Mozart accepted the banter, and a rupper and a champion were to be the forfeit. Every thing being arranged between the two composers, Mozart took his pen and a sheet of paper, and in five minutes dashed off a piece of music—and much to the surprise of Haydn, handed it to him saying—

"There is a piece of music, sir, which you cannot play, and I can't—you are to give the first trial."

Haydn smiled contemptuously at the visionary presumption of his pupil, and placing the notes before him, struck the keys of the instrument. Surprised at its simplicity, he dashed away until he reached the middle of the piece, when stopping all at once, he exclaimed—

"How's this, Mozart? how's this? Here my hands are stretched out to both ends of the piano—and yet there is a middle key to be touched! Nobody can play such music—not even the composer himself."

Mozart smiled at the half excited indignation and perplexity of the great master, and taking the seat he had quitted struck the instrument with such air

of self-assurance that Haydn began to think himself duped.—Running along the simple passages, he came to that part which his teacher had pronounced impossible to be played. Mozart, as anybody is aware, was favored, or at least endowed with an extremely long nose—a prodigious nose, which in modern dialect, "stuck out about a foot." Reaching the difficult passage, he stretched out his hands to the extreme ends of the piano, and leaning forward babbled his nose against the middle key which nobody could play!

Haydn burst into an in moderate fit of laughter; and after acknowledging the scorn declared that nature had endowed Mozart with a capacity for music which he had never before discovered!

Deserters from the Army.—One of the editors of the New Orleans Picayune, who was at the capulation of Monterey, speaks as follows of the deserters recognized in the Mexican ranks:

The deserters we saw ourselves as they marched out in the ranks of the enemy, and more miserable wrecks to look at or a more miserable company than that in which they were found, it would be difficult to imagine, to meet with in the wide world. One fellow in particular, a worthless scoundrel, named Riley, who had deserted from Capt. Merrill's company of the 5th Infantry, received a passing salute from his old comrades as he went out of the city, which he will not forget in a twelve-month. He had deserted from near Matamoros early in the spring, had succeeded in reaching the Mexican lines, and was at once taken into the artillery and made captain of a gun. He was tall, stalwart fellow, yet utterly worthless—noisy, quarrelsome, yet cowardly wrecks, and his reliance from the company was even a master of rejecting rather than regret.

On the second day of the evacuation, seated upon the first gun as we passed, came the renegade Riley. The deserter was ill at ease, notwithstanding his comfortable seat, as the column passed through the thoroughfares which were lined with the Americans, but it was not till his eye caught some of his old comrades that the spirit of the wrecks alighted upon him. The company knew that he was to pass out, and had stationed themselves near a barricade, opposite the quarters then occupied by Col. Donato, as the best position from whence

to give him a broadside of reproach: "Riley, ye desarin' thase, ain't ye ashamed of yerself?" said one of his former messmates, an Irishman, and one of the best soldiers in the company. The color entirely forsook the face of the runaway. "Whin ye dessired why didn't ye go among decent white people and not be helpin' these bloody niggers pack off their varmin?" concluded the speaker, his comrades keeping up a running accompaniment of groans & hisses. This was too much. Riley jumped from the gun, every limb trembling with abject fear, and as he passed through the barricade the wrecks supported his tottering knees by placing a hand on the revolving wheels of the carriage. Not until the barricade was passed, and he was out of hearing of his former comrades, did he remount his gun, and even then, so utterly prostrate were all his faculties he had scarcely strength to climb upon the carriage. Such was one of the scenes we witnessed at the evacuation of Monterey by the Mexicans. Other deserters were in the ranks of the enemy—runaway negroes as well—but none of them was as well known as was the traitor Riley, not one of them received such a blighting shower of contempt, such a withering tornado of scorn.

The Dutchman's Dangerous Geese.—There goes the old Dutchman who had the dangerous geese!" exclaimed a friend in the country the other day, calling our attention to a Dutchman of the oldest school who was walking slowly along the road. We asked an explanation. Why, when the Yankees first began to settle in here, he was joined one morning by a slab-sided specimen of 'em, as he was picking up the quills that his geese had dropped, in there chattering morning waddies, by the edges of an oblong pond on the roadside. Presently one of the geese stretched out his long neck at the Yankee, who started and ran as if a mad dog were at his heels.—"I told 'im," said the old Dutchman, "not to be afraid dat de geese wouldn't hurt um any; but de geese did run after him dough, clear over de hill a ways; and none of 'em wouldn't give up no rest any more, whenever he come along de street. I p'lieve dey had p'bly ag'm Yankee. Mein Gott! it's curious, dough, bet de geese always went away, and didn't come back any more!" the secret of that was, that the Yankee, who was so afraid of the Dutchman's geese, had thrown out kernels of corn, among which was one with a fish hook attached. Once swallowed, the angry goose was soon in tow after the flying fugitive.

The Eldest Daughter.—The department of the older children of the family is of great importance to the younger. Their obedience or insubordination operates throughout the whole circle. Especially in the station of the eldest daughter of eminence. She drank the first draft of the mother's love. She usually enjoys much of her council and companionship. In her absence, she is naturally viceroy. Let the mother take double pains to form her a correct model to make her amiable, diligent, domestic, pious; trusting that the imagination of the soft, wakened hearts of the younger ones, to whom she may, in the Providence of God, be called to fill the place of maternal guide.

A newspaper is like a wife, because every man ought to have one of his own.—Ex.

A newspaper is not like a wife, because every man thinks he may borrow his neighbor's.