

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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SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN, A FEW DOORS BELOW MARKET-STREET.

TERMS:

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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 Mahon 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 Kamchatka 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. Rethie, and the brig Bainbridge, Lieut. Commanding Remington, under Commodore Rosseau. 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 Sycowak, the Congress frigates; the sloops Portsmouth, Levant, Warren and Cyane, schr. Shark, and store ship Erie. The reserve 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 Tampico, 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 New York is not doubted, and the work is urged upon the favorable attention of Congress. A dock at Pensacola is also recommended, and other improvements to increase the efficiency of the yard at that place. The restrictions of Memphis work adopted at the last session of Congress removed.

The exclusive employment of the 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 Monterrey, the termination of the armistice, the conquest of Santa Fe and the California, etc. etc.

Satisfactory, though not official information had been received of the taking of Monclova, but not of Chihuahua. Gen. Kearney'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 7040 to 30,000. The duties of the department have been arduous 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 California, 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 16,998 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 called out 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 serve during the war. The Secretary is most solicitous that this subject should receive the early attention of Congress and that a body of troops should be raised to take the place of those volunteers who will claim a discharge at the end of their year's service.

A plan recommended by Gen. Macomb in his report in 1837, in reference to regimental and field officers, is approved of by the Secretary, and the attention of Congress directed to it.

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

A further increase of the regular army is recommended.

The estimated appropriations for fortifications for the next year is \$495,600, including their defence and the support of the sappers and miners and topographical engineers. The present organization of the ordinance bureau is deemed inadequate. A deficiency exists in the medical staff of the army. A history is given of the operations in mineral lands during the past year. The number of pension agencies is forty-four, exclusive of navy pensions, and the number of pensioners about twenty thousand.

The independent treasury act contemplates the employment of officers therein named as pension agents, and renders it doubtful whether those hitherto employed are not suspended. It is, therefore, recommended that authority be given to continue the present agents at a reasonable compensation.

Thirty-four hundred and thirty-four Indians have been removed from the East to the West of the Mississippi since the last annual report.

New treaties with Indians are referred to, and the solicitude of government expressed for the promotion of the welfare of the Indian tribes.

COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

WHITE SULPHUR, Scott county, Ky.

August 24, 1845.

Dear sir: We are informed in every direction, by rumor which seems entitled to credit, that Mexico has declared war against the United States!! And for what? Because of the annexation of Texas!! Future ages will scarcely credit this folly and rank recklessness and injustice, when we recollect and connect with it the late treaty entered into by Mexico and some of its functionaries of Texas, by which Mexico agreed to the independence of Texas, if the latter would refuse to become a part of the United States, from which Texas had been separated, by a mysterious want of sagacity in sagacious men upwards of twenty years ago. Thus Mexico withdrew her less than shadow of a claim to Texas, with a provision hostile to the United States, for which she deserved our indignation and our execration, if we did not know that she was set upon by France and Great Britain, and, in her desperate condition, like a drowning man catching at straws, acted the automaton of these great European powers.

What was it to Mexico, whether Texas became a part of the United States, or remained independent? The United States had never wronged her, but had contrived at injuries received from Mexico, out of our sympathy for a power adjacent, which exhibited some desire for liberty, and to initiate the United States in her glorious and free institutions; and Mexico knows that she can dare a stocking, mend trousers, make her own frocks, command a regiment of pot and kettles, feed the pigs, chop wood, milk cows, wrestle with the boys, and be a lady, without 'company' is just the sort of a girl for me, and far any worthy man to marry—but you, ye pining, moaning, lolling, screwed up, wasp-waisted, putty-faced, consumption mortgaged, music-murdering, nail-devouring daughters of Fashion and little pass—you are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of four seen chickens.

The truth is, my dear girls, you want generally speaking, more liberty and less fashionable restraints—more kitchen and less parlor—more leg and less sole—more pudding and less piano—more frankness and less mock-modesty—more breaking and less bustle.—Loosen 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 designed.

This is another proof (if another is wanted) to satisfy to us that the United States can never enjoy tranquility, prosperity, happiness and peace, so long as we are surrounded by other nations not republics, and the colonies of foreign States. This is our condition. Let us not grieve or repine, but trust in that God who has given us the victory in two wars with one of the most powerful nations of the earth. If war is declared against us by Mexico, in total disregard of right, justice, of friendship, and the laws of nations, I now tender my services to you, in behalf of my country, when you represent, to your credit and honor, 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 retirement and the management of my private 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 precariously to hold;—when that time shall arrive and that policy shall be determined on 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 that they will do their duty as citizen soldiers; and what 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 tweedle-doo or tweedle-dee—will be lost in the general shout and huzzas of our country, for victory for 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 haste 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 buxum, bright-eyed, rosy-cheeked, full-breasted, bounding lass—who can dare a stocking, mend trousers, make her own frocks, command a regiment of pot and kettles, feed the pigs, chop wood, milk cows, wrestle with the boys, and be a lady, without 'company' is just the sort of a girl for me, and far any worthy man to marry—but you, ye pining, moaning, lolling, screwed up, wasp-waisted, putty-faced, consumption mortgaged, music-murdering, nail-devouring daughters of Fashion and little pass—you are no more fit for matrimony than a pullet is to look after a family of four seen chickens.

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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 champagne 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 cannot 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 any body 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 his difficult passage, he stretched out his hands to the extreme ends of the piano, and leaning forward bubbled his nose against the middle key which no body could play!

Haydn burst into an in moderate fit of laughter; and after acknowledging the 'corn' 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 capitulation 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 wretches to look at or a more miserable company than that in which they were found it would be difficult to imagine, so 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 3d 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 wretch, and his ridicule from the company was even a matter of regret, rather than regret.'

On the second day of the evacuation, seated upon the first gun as its captain, 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 wretch displayed himself. The company knew they were to pass out, and had stationed themselves near a barricade, opposite the quarters then occupied by Col. Don Juan, as the best position from whence

to give him a broadside of reproach. 'Riley, ye desartin' thafe, 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 desarted why didn't ye go among decent white people and not be helpin' these bloody nagers pack off their varmin?' continued 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 wretch 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 clamber 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 their chattering morning waddles, by the edges of an oblong pond at 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 dodd em,' said the old Dutchman 'not to be avsid 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 came along de street. I p'lieve dey had bitte ag'm Yankee. Meim Got! 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 a natural viceroy. Let the mother take double pains to form her a correct model; to make her amiable, diligent, domestic, pious; tending that the image of those virtues may leave impressions in the soft, waxen 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.—Dr.

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