

WAR NEWS.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 10th inst., has papers from the city of Mexico to the 17th of November, a fortnight later than any other advices. Active preparations were making for the meeting of Congress. About forty of the deputies had already arrived from the different departments, and the government paper urged the assembling of the body even in advance of the appointed time, on account of the urgency of the matters requiring legislative action.

The events of the war with the United States; the necessity of great resources to sustain it, and some other points relative to the same important matter, are enumerated as the principal business to be brought before the Congress. Gen. Almonte continued in the department of war, and his numerous published orders in relation to the service evinced much spirit and activity.

We find in the Mexican papers official communications from the authorities of the different States assuring the Government that the dissensions and threats of dissensions which appeared in the capital in October last have not availed to disturb tranquility in the States.

We find a paragraph including the American army under Gen. Taylor might be expected from the North by the way of Saltillo about the 21st of November, threatening San Luis. It will receive a terrible thrashing says the editor, as the reward of his temerity.

We see nothing definite in relation to the army concentrated at San Luis; nor do we find any mention whatever of the dissension which are reported by way of Tampico to exist in Santa Anna's ranks. Various propositions are made for investing Santa Anna with dictatorial powers. The measure is urged in a memorial from San Luis. The advance of Gen. Taylor's division of the army toward San Luis was expected early in November, and corresponding activity was evinced in completing the fortification and otherwise providing for the defence of the city. Senor Vallamil has been appointed minister of finance.

On the 10th of November, Santa Anna transmitted to Mexico where it was published in the Government Diario, the subjoined interesting correspondence between Gen. Taylor and the Mexican commander.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Monterey, Nov. 5, 1846.

Sir,—In the Convention agreed upon on the 24th of September, it was conceded that the American forces should not pass a stipulated line before the expiration of eight weeks, or until they should receive orders or instructions from their government. In conformity therewith I have the honor of apprising you that my government has directed me to terminate the suspension of hostilities, and accordingly I consider myself at liberty to pass the designated line after the 13th inst., by which date I presume this communication will have reached your hands at San Luis Potosi.

I have been informed that several Americans, who were taken prisoners at Chino and other points, are now at San Luis, detained as such. I trust you will deem it an act of justice to release these men and allow them to rejoin the forces under my command.

When the convention was entered into to which I have referred, I entertained the hope that the terms in which it was conceived would open the way for the two Republics to agree upon an honorable peace, and, acting upon this conviction, I at once released the prisoners of war who were in my power, among whom were three officers. At that time I did not know that there were any American prisoners who had been sent into the interior. I trust that my conduct will be deemed a sufficient ground to justify you in yielding to this request and to the dictates of humanity toward the American prisoners who I am told are at San Luis.

In case Major Graham, the bearer of this communication, reaches your headquarters, I take the liberty to commend him to your courtesy, and I shall be

pleased to receive by him your reply to this communication, whatever it may be. I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR, Major General of the Army of the United States. To Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, Commander in Chief.

LIBERATING REPUBLICAN ARMY, San Luis Potosi, Nov. 10 1846.

Senor General: At 10 this morning, by an official communication of the Governor of Coahuila of the 8th inst., I received your letter of the 5th, apprising me of your intention, by order of your government, of breaking the convention agreed upon at Monterey, on the 24th of September last, and passing on the 13th of the present month the line there designated, by which date you supposed I should receive your communication.

Believing that the terms stipulated in said convention should be religiously observed by both parties, I have taken no step which should tend to vacate it; but in view of the obligation you deem imposed upon you by the orders of your government, I confine myself by replying, that you can, when it pleases you, commence hostilities, to which I shall correspond accordingly.

In regard to the American prisoners, let me say that there are only seven of them at this post, a list of whom is annexed; and, relying upon your representation in regard to the release of several Mexicans, I have determined to respond to your generosity by doing the same to the seven referred to, whom the commissary of this army will supply with \$70 for their sustenance upon the road.

You remark that when the convention was entered into at Monterey, you entertained the hope that the terms in which it was conceived would open the way for the two Republics to agree upon an honorable peace. Lying out of the question whether that convention was the result of necessity or of the nobility now disclosed by you, I content myself with saying, that from the spirit and decision manifested by all Mexicans, you should banish all idea of peace while a single North American in arms reads upon the territory of this Republic, and there remains in front of its posts the squadron which make war upon them. Nevertheless, the extraordinary Congress will assemble in the capital towards the end of the present year, and that August body will determine what it shall judge most suitable for the honor and the interests of the nation.

Major Graham has not arrived at my quarters. Had he done so, he would have been received in the manner due to his rank and employment, and in conformity with the wishes expressed to me in his behalf by you.

I have the honor of offering you the assurance of my distinguished consideration. God and Liberty. ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA. Senor Maj. Gen. Taylor, General-in-Chief of the Army of the United of the North.

ARMY MOVEMENTS AND INCIDENTS.

The Charleston News of the 13th inst. furnishes extracts from an interesting letter dated Tampico Nov. 25th, which are as follows:

Tampico Under American Government.—We arrived off the bar on Sunday forenoon, the 22d inst. and were loudly cheered by the fleet lying there as we passed them. We returned to, and the band struck up 'Hail Columbia!' We were compelled to wait three or four hours for high water, to get in the river which we effected about dark, with the assistance of the boats from the fleet.

When we landed the American flag was hoisted, and our column of 500 men, displaying the regimental colors of the 3d Artillery, marched into the square, surrounded by thousands of silent and stippled Mexicans. The command on shore was transferred by Com. Conner to Col. Gates, and the usual mutual exchange of compliments was made. The city surrendered without resistance. The Mexican soldiers, after destroying the armament of the Forts and towing into the river some 6,000 muskets evacuated the place, leaving the inhabitants to take care of themselves. It seems that a report had reached them that Gen. Taylor

was advancing with 10,000 men on the other side of the river—the appearance of the boats of the fleet confirmed their impression, and, like Falstaff, they argued 'that discretion is the better part of valor'; and left the Naval Commander undisputed possession.

We are now here hold the supreme authority, and though our number is small, still we endeavor to make our foothold secure, by strengthening the fortifications one of which is about 900 yards and the other one mile distant from the city. We are also fortifying the roads and avenues leading to the city.

The command stationed here now consists of companies B, Lieut. Anderson D., Captain Brooks, and F. Lieut. Arnold of the 2d artillery, Companies D, Captain T. W. Sherman, and H. Lieut. Steptoe, of the 3d artillery, Companies A, Lieut. Miller, and B, Captain Hunt, of the 4th artillery, in all about 500 effective men. We are all busily engaged at work on the fort, which were dismantled by the flying enemy and placing the city in a state of defence against their return, which is more than probable. Should they attack us it will probably be with a much superior force but they will find us like your noble State motto—'Animis Opibusque parati!'

Tampico is situated on a point formed by a bend of the river, having a lagoon in the rear. The houses are built of stone, handsomely plastered and painted, the roofs are chiefly of slate, consequently the cistern water is pure and good. The reservoirs are all they have to depend upon—the river water, though fresh, is unfit to drink and is used only for cattle. Water is brought from the country on mules, or on donkeys, and retailed out. The streets are remarkably clean—the stores are well filled with merchandize, and their cafes are remarkably clean and genteel. The inhabitants who remained are most of the poorer classes, and number about 3,000.

The market is well supplied with all the necessities of life, which we purchase at very cheap rates. Good fresh beef at four cents per pound, milk 12 cents per quart, and vegetables of all kinds as cheap as can be procured in your market. Though the inhabitants are somewhat sullen, and they prefer that we should remain among them, as we pay for every thing we get, and they would be compelled to furnish their own troops, at much more reduced prices, with very little chance of being paid, for they state that the arbitrary execution of their military chiefains is robbery in its worst form.

Mr. Buchanan.—Mr. Geo. Y. of Tennessee, in his speech of Wednesday in the House, stated that the Secretary of State had, at the same, declared that he would lose his right arm before he would sign a treaty recognizing the parallel of 49 degrees as the boundary. The Union in reply thereto says:

'We are authorized to say, that neither at the time referred to, nor at any other time did he make such an unequal declaration, as the one here ascribed to him. He did, however, repeatedly say, from the commencement of the last session, to the very few friends with whom, from their official position in Congress, he felt himself at liberty to converse on the subject, that he never would sign such a treaty, unless in obedience to the previously expressed will of 2 thirds of the Senate, the coordinate branch of the treaty-making power under the constitution.'

The Post Master General's Report.—The Postmaster General in his report, proposes various changes in regard to postage. First, that a single letter hereafter shall weigh one quarter instead of half an ounce, except when written on a single sheet weighing less than half an ounce. 2d. That the same power be given to the Post-office Department to prevent a violation of its revenue laws, as is now given to the Treasury Department to prevent smuggling. 3d. That all letters passing over mail routes which relate to the cargo, be free when unsealed, subject to the inspection of the Post-office agent when fraud is suspected. 4th. That all newspapers should be charged with postage according to their weight and size, and the distance to be carried, and that newspapers, not sent to regular subscribers should be rated at a higher postage than those which are. 5th. That the postage on printed matter be paid in advance, and that the postage on letters be either paid in advance, or else the letters rated with double postage. Some of these changes may probably be found advantageous, but that which gives the same power to Postmaster as is given to the Revenue Officers, who may enter at pleasure any shop in which they may suppose smuggled goods to be concealed, is strongly objected to, and would probably lead to an abolition of the Post office.

DEMOCRACY.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1846.

AGENCY.

V. B. PALMER, Esq. is authorized to act as Agent for the 'Columbia Democrat,' and to receive all monies for Subscription and Advertising at his Agencies in Philadelphia No. 59 Pine-street. New York " 160 Nassau-street. Boston " 16 State-street. Baltimore S. E. cor. Ball and Calvert-sts. Merchants-Mechanics and Tradesmen may find it to their advantage to advertise in this paper as it is the only one published in the County seat and has a greater circulation in the county than any other paper published within its limits.

AN APPRENTICE.

To the Printing business is wanted at this Office. An active boy 15 or 16 years of age will receive good encouragement.

The Printer is much in want of a few bushels of WHEAT, CORN & BUCK WHEAT, of those who owe him upon subscription. He would also like a few bushels of POTATOES.

Joseph Yeater—Esq. of Franklin township has been appointed by the court Auditor for Columbia County in the place of Peter Kime Esq. elected commissioner.

VOLUNTEERS.

The first Regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, having arrived at Pittsburg on the 18th inst., proceeded to the election of officers when F. M. Wynkoop, of Pottsville, was elected Colonel, Samuel F. Black, of Pittsburg Lieut. Colonel and F. L. Bowman of the Wyoming-Artillery M. J. General Cadwalader of Philadelphia has been appointed General of the Brigade. All parts of the State furnishing volunteers are represented by the distribution.

THE COLUMBIA GUARDS.

This fine company is accepted by the Governor to constitute a portion of the second Regiment from Pennsylvania, and will start from Danville on Monday next (Dec. 28th) for Pittsburg. We will publish a list of the officers and men as soon as we can obtain it. The company will contain from 60 to 70 men—it would be larger but 14 or 15 of its members joined the Wilkesbarre company when it went through Danville as there was no prospect then that their own company would be accepted. The citizens of Danville have raised about \$800 for the Guards, and an additional sum has been raised at other places in the county. The citizens of Danville will also assist the families of the married Volunteers during their absence. The Guards will go in sleds as far as Hildsburg, if the snow continues if not in wagons. Conveyances will be liberally furnished to send them on, and they will carry with them the best wishes of their fellow citizens for their safety, success and prosperity.

THE MESSAGE.

This important exposition of public affairs has, by this time, been generally perused in the country, and if it has met its desert, has been well received and its main sentiments approved. Upon the subject of the Mexican War, the vindication of the Administration is complete. The facts set forth in the message in relation to it, are sufficient to convince any unprejudiced mind, that we have not been rash, unjust or blood-thirsty, in our conduct toward Mexico; and that while we have, for years, pursued a pacific and forbearing policy, she has been continually insulting our Government, injuring our commerce, and violating her treaties with us. The present war is upon our part, a just one; and the President's message will convince all who do not wilfully close their ears against truth, that it is so. Those who have falsely and traitorously characterized it as a war of aggression and injustice, must be covered with confusion by the array of unanswerable facts in the message, and will not probably be in a hurry to repeat their volubilities upon their own country and its Government.

Upon other subjects besides the war, the message is brief but explicit. It exhibits the fact that up to Dec. 1, 1846, the whole increase of debt since the President came into office, is only about six millions of dollars. This explodes the whispering of Whig orators and editors, who have made such an ado about the national expenses. At the late session of Congress, Mr. Webster put down the national expenditure at half a million of dollars a day, or over \$450,000,000 a year!! being only a mistake of a hundred millions!! This did for an electing story a while, and now that facts and figures prove its falsehood, we suppose it will be succeeded by other humbugs equally valuable and interesting.

The truth is, the present national Administration is economical as well as honest. By the report of the Post Master General it is shown, that during the past year an increase of Post Offices and a large increase in the number and extent of mail routes, have accompanied a decreased expenditure by that Department. This is the way in which the system of cheap postage can be made to succeed. The reports of other Departments show that its spirit of economy is not confined to the Post Master General; but that it permeates through all branches of the government administration. This is what the voters of the Union desired in 1844, when they elevated Mr. Polk to the Presidency. They were satisfied that he would not favor a splendid system of administration and lavish expenditures, and they have not been disappointed. By his vetoes of the French Spoliation Bill and of the River and Harbor Bill, at the last session of Congress, he saved over six millions of dollars to the national treasury; and by the enforcement of a rigid economy in the expenditures of Government, he has kept it in credit and fulfilled the just expectations of the people.

The message is adverse to disturbing the Tariff act of 1846, and insists that the new law be tried; and that then, if experience exhibits defects to it, it will be time to modify it, in short that it shall not be condemned in advance and quitted. The confident anticipation is indulged, that it will work well in practice, and it is believed to be correct and just in principle.

Other topics in the message, will have struck the attention of our readers, upon which we will not stop to comment. The whole of the message is well written, and it will have an important and healthful influence upon public opinion.

We publish this week in another column, a letter from the veteran Col. Johnson to the President in regard to our Mexican relations. It was written, as will be observed by its date, more than a year since, in anticipation of the war that has since broken out, and is characteristic of the man whose heart and arm have always been on the side of his country. We invite to it the attention of all our readers.

AN INSTRUCTIVE FACT.

On the 21st of March 1819, Richard Rush (who was then our Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of London) had an interview with Lord Castlereagh, the Foreign Secretary, among other things, in relation to the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambster in Florida, by the order of General Jackson.

Lord Castlereagh said to Mr. Rush:—'That the course which the investigation [into Gen. Jackson's conduct] had taken in the House of Representatives at Washington, was calculated to embarrass the cabinet of England, the speeches of our own members having sharply denounced Gen. Jackson. There,' he said, 'were evil and dwelt upon in the English journals, and cast by the opposition into the teeth of the ministry, who had viewed the subject in rights different from those members of Congress.'

At another interview, July 19th of the same year Lord Castlereagh said, in relation to the same case of Arbuthnot and Ambster:—'That had the English cabinet felt and acted otherwise than it did, such was the temper of Parliament, and such the feeling of the country, he believed war might have been produced by holding up a finger!'

What a striking illustration we have here of the impolicy and danger of arguing against one's own country, in case of a difficulty with a foreign power!—The inflammatory speeches of our members of Congress was a main element of producing such excitement in England, as almost to plunge the two countries into a bloody war, and it was only averted by the good sense and firmness of the English ministry!

Gen. Jackson was clearly justified by the facts, in executing the British emissaries, who had stirred up the Indians to butcheries of our people, and so thought the English ministry;—but the same spirit that now denounces the acts of our Government in regard to Mexico, prompted bitter denunciations of Gen. Jackson then, for executing the blood-thirsty wretches who had caused the murders along our Southern frontier!—

This country has so far triumphed over its foes, in spite of sympathy for their cause by partisans among us; and it will again. The only satisfaction that traitorism can enjoy, is the vile one of knowing that it has encouraged the more blood and made our triumphs cost more blood and treasure than they otherwise would. Let them enjoy that satisfaction for it is the only one to which they are fairly entitled.

MEXICAN SYMPATHIZERS.

It is perfectly manifest, that the conduct of some prominent political men in the United States, in arguing against their own country, has tended not only to produce the existing Mexican war but also to influence the Mexicans to additional efforts since its commencement.

When Mexicans see prominent citizens of the United States, denouncing the war as unjust and aggressive, and charging upon their own government the fault of its commencement,—could we expect that they would not be incited and inflamed to prosecute the war, and that they would turn a deaf ear to our overtures of peace? No other consequences, could with reason be expected, but these; unless we assume that Mexicans differ from every other race of people in the world.

In an exchange paper, we find the following item among the late news from Vera Cruz.

'Letters have been received in Mexico (Vera Cruz) that President Polk has become the object of particular dislike to his fellow citizens, through the pertinacity he has displayed in war. The people in the North are said to be on the verge of revolution, through the enormous expenses incidental to the hostilities now existing between the United States and Mexico.'

The foregoing sounds natural enough to come from one who had been reading the Abolition newspapers, or some of the stand old organs of Federalism in our seaboard cities; and it is with such scraps of comment—such inflammable twattle—that the enemies of the country are supplied from the laboratories of partisanship among us.

ROAD AND BRIDGE VIEWS.

As a matter of interest to our readers in this county, we publish, below, the new law in relation to road and bridge views. The duties of Viewers and the rights of persons through whose lands Roads are laid, are but imperfectly understood, and the publication of the law therefore may be useful.

ACT Relative to public roads in certain counties therein named.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That hereafter the number of road and bridge viewers appointed by the courts of quarter sessions of the counties of Butler, Allegheny, Luzerne, Lycoming, and Clinton, shall be three, one of whom shall be a surveyor, if deemed necessary; and every view and review shall be made by the whole number of persons so appointed, a majority of whom shall concur in their report, in order to its confirmation by the court.

SECTION 2. That in all cases of the appointment of viewers in said counties, to view and locate a public or private road, or to review a public road, the said viewers or any one of them shall, before proceeding to make their view or review, give public notice by at least three advertisements, put up in the vicinity of the contemplated route of such road, of the time and place, where the said viewers will meet for the purpose of making such view or review, at least five days before such meeting.

SECTION 3. That if the viewers shall decide in favor of locating a public road, or to make any change in the location of the public road which they were appointed to review, it shall be the duty of the viewers to endeavor to procure, from the persons through whose lands such location may be made, releases (or releases of damages) that might arise from opening the same; and in every case where said viewers shall fail to procure such releases, and it shall appear to them that any damages will be sustained, it shall be their duty to assess the damages and make reports thereof, signed by a majority of their number, and return the same, together with the releases obtained, to the proper court of quarter sessions.

SECTION 4. That it shall be the duty of said court to examine carefully the amount of damages assessed as aforesaid; and if said court shall be satisfied that the amount of damages assessed in any case is such that the public interest will be subserved by its payment, and the opening of the road, said court shall confirm such view or review, and the assessment of damages which shall be paid as now directed by law; but if said court shall not be satisfied, the said