

had issued a manifesto calling on the people at all hazards to resist the invasion of the Americans. During the month of January the approaches to Vera Cruz on the road to the interior were strengthened by a battery of heavy guns. Through the same well informed gentleman from whom we learn this fact, we are confirmed in our belief expressed above as to the destination of the troops in the city and castle. He writes: 'I do not see how it is possible to introduce any more troops with any prospect of feeding them.'

A Mexican Journal of the 26th, gives the following account of an engagement with part of the command of General Kearney, who is at the head of the Northern or New Mexican expedition, out of which probably rose the report of the battle at Chihuahua.

On the 25th of December Senor Coyli was at El Paso, at the head of 400 regulars, who, added to the Páenos, or troops raised near El Paso, exceeded 1000 in number. The Americans were at Dona Ana, 400 strong. They advanced upon El Paso. Coyli prepared to fight them, but the evening he was set forth on his march he was seized with a violent brain fever, which rendered him helpless. The command devolved upon Vidal, who possessed little military skill, and expected to surround and destroy the Americans like so many rabbits. He pushed forward 500 cavalry under Opt. Antony Ponce, of which one half were Páenos. The Americans demanded a parley, which was denied, and the fight immediately commenced. Ponce charged at the head of his cavalry, but it was as he was wounded in the first onset. Just then the Páenos ran, and threw each in disorder into the whole that all took took to flight, leaving a howitzer in the hands of the Americans, but carrying off three other pieces. Vidal retired with all speed to Carrizal, forty leagues from El Paso. The loss on each side was not known or is not stated. On the 27th the Americans took possession of El Paso, with 800 cavalry and 400 infantry. The cavalry immediately started in pursuit of the runaways, and although it was not known at Chihuahua on the 2d of January that they had overtaken them it was thought likely they would get possession of two wagons which were in the rear with the park, as well as of thirty men who escorted them.

A letter from Mazatlan, dated the 11th of Jan., is published. Gov. Castro was then in that city. Ex-Gov. D. Pio Pico was in Guaymas. Both were asking men and money to recover the California. They boast indeed, that we have not foot-hold on the land; that with only 90 men an attempt by 700 Americans to take Los Angeles had been successfully repulsed.

A project has been issued in Mazatlan of declaring Santa Anna dictator. This drew from him an immediate declaration that as he did not aspire to the Presidency, he would use all his force to put down any movement in Sonora or any other State, which should threaten to kindle political commotion. The latest dates from San Luis Potosi are to the 26th ult. The army had not moved, but the Vera Cruz Indicator of the 31st ult., thinks that it had done so subsequently, being enabled to do so by the funds raised by the State of San Luis.

The law authorizing the seizure of fifteen millions of property belonging to the Church, promises to be a dead letter. The property consists almost wholly of real estate in different cities of the republic. Even if the law of Congress be enforced, it is said that no one will advance money upon the property so seized, much less purchase it. The whole body of the clergy had protested against the seizure as sacrilegious, and they were supported by a large portion of the lower classes of the people. Santa Anna gave in his adhesion to the measure with great reluctance. Puebla Mexico and Queretaro, among others, were opposed to it; Oajaca had declared in favor of it; still the government appear determined to carry the plan out. It is a favorite one with Gomez Farias and his friends, the Federalists, or Radicalists, as we may call them. One of the clergy in the City of Mexico has been imprisoned for his factious opposition to

to the measure. At our last accounts the Mexican Congress had before it a modification of the law, which would render it less burdensome, without changing the principle.

Our letters say that the late ministers have resigned. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and finances have certainly done so. Senor Ragon, who so recently quarrelled with Santa Anna, has gone back to the State Department. He is an ardent Federalist, and as relied upon to carry through the confiscation of Church property. Neither our papers nor letters mention who now has charge of the War Department. Senor Francisco Suarez Iriarte has taken charge of the finances. He was a member of the Chamber of Deputies, and received their assent to his accepting his present office. To add to the general disorganization, the Mexican Congress is said to have determined to dissolve about the first of the present month.

The Capture of Cassius M. Clay, Maj. Buland, Maj. Gaines, and 80 cavalry, by Gen. Mison, is confirmed.

LATER FROM TAMPICO.

WASHINGTON, March 2-8 o'clock. New Orleans papers to the 23d have been received by the Southern Mail of this evening. They contain advices from Tampico to the 13th, Galveston to the 18th, Brazos to the 16th, and Vera Cruz papers of the 2d inst.

The Louisiana Volunteers wrecked on board the Ondiska are all safe, with the exception of six, whom Col. De Russey was constrained to leave behind. No action had occurred between the volunteers and the Mexicans, and they reached Tampico in safety on the 9th, in general good health but much exhausted by the forced march. Seven were abandoned a few miles from the first encampment, being unable to march, and it was found impossible to carry them through the sand on litters. One subsequently overtook the main body, and the remainder probably fell into the hands of the enemy.

The adventures of the Louisiana volunteers are particularly described in the Picayune. The day they took refuge on the beach opposite the wreck to escape a watery grave, they received visits from several Mexicans in the character of peasants and fishermen. From their conduct and promises the volunteers were led to expect assistance on their way in transporting their stores. These fellows were subsequently discovered to be spies, and on the same afternoon made their appearance with a flag of truce from Gen. Cos, and demanded an immediate and unconditional surrender. Alarming representations were made of swarms of armed Mexicans sufficient to cut off all retreat. Gen. Cos declared his force to be 1000, when in reality he had but 950, all told, the most of whom were raw recruits, who had entered into the scheme in the hope of gain and plunder.

Col. De Russey replied to this demand, but was not allowed admission inside of Gen. Cos' lines. He was given until nine o'clock the next morning, when the Americans were told they must surrender or fight. That night the camp fires were lighted, but the Americans marched away, leaving their knapsacks and burdensome materials, which would impede their march, except sufficient provisions to afford them sustenance.

In twenty-four hours they had marched thirty-five miles, and not an armed Mexican was seen all the way to Tampico. General Cos thought he had stationed a sufficient force upon the road to cut off retreat, and deprive the Americans of all hope of success, but Yankee perseverance foiled him.

There was but about ninety serviceable guns in the possession of the volunteers, the others having been lost in getting ashore from the wreck. This was one reason that Col. De Russey did not wait to meet the expected attack. Gen. Paterson was making extensive preparations to rescue the volunteers when they arrived. General Scott was hourly expected at Tampico.

The sickness among the troops at Tampico had been greatly exaggerated, the general health was excellent. There were about seven thousand men there, eager for action, but kept ignorant of their immediate destination. It was presumed that Vera Cruz would be the next point of attack, and the general opinion was that they would leave Tampico before the close of February.

The St. Catharine was still off Tampico with a portion of the New York regiment on board.

Many of the officers had gone ashore, but the men were not allowed to land.

Nothing had been heard from the Mississippi troops, which were still on board the ship Statesman, but at the last accounts they were suffering deplorably from sickness.

High honors had been paid at headquarters to the late Lieut. David Gibson, of the second artillery. He was a native of Virginia, and a graduate of the military academy at West Point.

Capt. Brown, of the steamboat Pioneer, sent by General Paterson to the succor of the volunteers wrecked in the Ondiska, returned to Tampico on the 7th. He reported that on reaching the wreck of the Ondiska and finding it deserted he had burned her.

Gen. Scott probably left the Brazos on the 16th, on board the Massachusetts, which was said to be waiting for him. Four companies of artillery, under Capt. Smith and Swartout and Lieutenants Shackelford and Vinton, acting as his body guard.

The camp at Palo Alto had been discontinued and Gen. Worth and his staff were at the mouth of the river waiting to embark.

The roads between Camargo and Monterey were almost impassable on account of recent robberies.

The rancheros were gathering in all quarters. At Matamoros they were expecting an attack. The Plaza had been fortified, and the place put in a state of defence.

Gen. Valencia had been relieved from the command at Vera Cruz, and his place supplied by Gen. Vayquez. The Mexicans were convinced that Vera Cruz was to be the next point of attack, and were busily engaged in fortifying the passes of the road to the city of Mexico.

The Merchants of Jalapa had been called upon for a loan of \$4,000.

Nothing has been heard at San Luis of Santa Anna's march.

At Tula and Jalapa they were on the alert in expectation of the attack of Gen. Scott. The news from Texas is interesting, but not enough so to telegraph.

Mexican Intelligence.—The private advices received from Mexico by the New York Sun, furnish some facts which have not transpired through the papers. The Church authorities are paralyzed with horror at the proposition to take the church property for the purpose of carrying on the war. Many of the priests have publicly declared in favor of a peace. One was arrested in the Plaza of the Capital for harranguing the people and enlightening them as to the condition of the Church in the United States. It appears by the account in the papers that he pronounced the Mexican government worse than that of the North American. The latter, he said, protected the Church, while the former confiscated its property. He was arrested and imprisoned, with forty of his followers.

The *El Republicano* mentions the death of a review, by Santa Anna, of a company of American deserters, principally Irish, reviewed by His Excellency the General in Chief. They are perfectly equipped, and are on the point of departure for Tula. This company have made a peculiar standard for themselves, on one side of which is seen the national coat of arms, with the motto 'Long live the Republic of Mexico.' On the other side is a figure of St. Patrick, their patron. We venture to predict that if any of St. Patrick in the American army ever come across these renegades, they will give them such a drubbing as they will be likely to remember the remainder of their lives.

Shocking Tragedy.—Murder and Suicide.—The Pottsville Exporter of the 20th inst., says—On Tuesday last, Mr. Daniel Snyder, of Upper Mahantango, was murdered by his wife, who it appears, arose about 6 o'clock in the morning and while her husband was yet asleep, and struck him in his forehead with an axe, killing him with a single blow. The eldest son who slept on the second floor, was attracted to the scene of murder by the groans of the father; when he was told by his mother that she had done it! She then attempted to throw herself into the well, but was prevented by the interference of some of the children. She then rushed into the house and cut her throat with a razor.

ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER VII.

ON BOARD THE SHIP OCEAN,
January 29th, 1847.

COL. WEBB:—I embrace the last opportunity I shall have this side of the Gulf, to inform you that we have had a pleasant day to day. Yesterday we had a most tremendous storm of lightning, thunder and wind. The most vivid flashes of lightning and deafening peals of thunder, that I ever saw and heard, I saw and heard yesterday, while the rain poured in torrents and the wind blew a perfect hurricane and so heavy was the gale, that hundreds of dollars worth of wood, which had been brought down the river in floats, were torn from their mooring and dashed in pieces by the violence of the waves.

But this morning every thing wore a more pleasing aspect, and this has been the most pleasant day we have had in two weeks. We weighed anchor this morning about 10 o'clock, and got under way, being in tow of one of the large town boats, and we have this day passed through some of the most enchanting scenery, I have passed part of the afternoon at half past, and enjoyed myself very agreeably in viewing the fine plantations, the rich orange grove, and the extensive prairies.

Nothing appears to me can present a finer view than the country which we have passed. Imagine yourselves upon a large vessel, with a company of at least three hundred men—the vessel floating down the Mississippi—the banks on either side skirted with plantations of sugar cane and orange groves, and the country back, for the most part extensive prairie, where the river is bounded only by the horizon, and in the prairie you sometimes see a small patch of live oaks, at others you observe branches of the river winding their serpentine course. All these things added together has made this part of our voyage highly picturesque as well as interesting. If we have good luck in safely crossing the Gulf, I shall be able to say which in my opinion is the finer view, the Ocean or Prairie.

While we have been in motion since we left Danville, every thing has been interesting to me, and I have gained many new ideas with respect to the country bordering on the Mississippi. This is certainly a great river, and the country back from the river is lower than the immediate banks. You no doubt wish to know our destination; this is only conjecture. As yet we have sailed under sealed orders, but the most probable conjecture is that we shall sail for Vera Cruz. If I am spared to write again I shall be able to give you some account of the passage across the Gulf.

Considering all things, but few of the men are sick, as there are only six of Capt. Wilson's company on the sick list and six deserted, but not one man of the company has died, and the general health of the Pennsylvania Regiment is good. I have completely recovered from my cold, and feel in very good health but I expect to be sick enough in crossing the Gulf, as they say that the Gulf is generally very rough at this season of the year, and storms are more common than at any other season.

Respectfully yours,

C. W. FORTNER.

For the Democrat.

"BIT BY THUNDER."

Was you ever bit by a rattlesnake, one of those venomous reptiles the wound of which produces almost certain death? Was you ever bit by a mad dog, and in consequence, get the hydrophobia? Well it was't in either of these ways, that I am going to speak of getting bit.—Pray tell us how it is.—Have patience and you shall hear the whole. You recollect the old adage 'patience is a virtue,' and if we were destitute of this, we should be very unhappy creatures.

Now any one would not be led to suppose on reading the caption, that I meant to convey the idea, that any body was bit by thunder, in this cold season of the year, when thunder is so very rare. No I meant no such thing. I wish the whole story to be laid on the word bit, and then you will get the whole idea.

In order to give you a full insight into the matter of which I am treating, it will be

necessary for me to make a few prefatory remarks, all of which however shall have some bearing upon the subject in question. The 22d of Feb. is a day memorable in the annals of our country, as the one which gave to the world a Washington, and its annual return is hailed throughout our land, with emotions of joy, and celebrated in a becoming manner, by the aged and the young. Well it was not on this day, but then it was only two days after, that the events which I am about to relate transpired.

True every day brings something new. 'The Genus of Bloomsburg had it so. 'This is a great country and we're a great people.' Have any of you ever noticed a little place on the river side, about three miles up from Bloomsburg, commonly known by the name of Espeytown? If you have not I would advise you to go at once, and hire one of Prensuss' fast horses, and go there, for it is destined to attain historic fame.

It is very common for small towns in the country, to strive to see which can be the biggest toad in the puddle, and it is not uncommon for some of them, to strain at a camel and swallow a goat. Now I would not pretend to say that Espeytown was of this sort, not not for the world.

It has been very fashionable, in this part of the country, during the past winter, to get up Caution Parties which are much more fashionable and refined than Balls and differ from them as much as tweedledum from tweedledee. It seems Espeytown was determined not to be left in the lurch, although, entirely out of the question, in making up the parties of neighboring places, yet she was not to be out-done, and therefore went to work in earnest, employed a scientific Dancing Master, and had a regular school. Well the school had been well attended, the quarter nearly gone through, the class had nearly learned two figures, when they resolved that their Teacher deserved, and should have a benefit. It is but justice to the good people of Espeytown to say, that they considered this Dancing Master, an object of charity, being apparently deaf and dumb, (though considered by many a 'perfect humbug') and they therefore no doubt thought they could benefit him, and shine themselves.

In the fulness of their hearts, they extended the invitations to Bloomsburg. Who could resist the temptation to go, when a professor of the art of dancing, was himself to conduct the performance! Twelve couples, arrayed in their Sunday go meeting best, set out about dusk for the scene of their exploits. The sleighing being very good, they got there about the time they started. The ladies being safely deposited each man put away his own horse, and fed him very plentifully on fence rail. By the way, fearing that the town would not be large enough to contain such a company, a house was selected, hard by, only a mile off, where there might be a greater chance to expand, and it was here the company assembled.

For the purpose of having the best of music, the Dancing Master spared no pains, but sent clear to Bloomsburg, and secured the services of one of our citizens, who plays Jim Crow and Yankee Doodle, very well, barring the variations. He was to play in connection with the Dancing Master himself, who of course would be able to keep time with him, inasmuch as he couldn't hear at all. Well they struck up the first tune on the key of A, and that led into a waltz, with which our part of the company were not much acquainted. The first half hour was spent in trying to get the company through the first set. The performance reminded me of an attempt, by an awkward fellow to break colts. First pulling one limber then the other, and getting them pushing about, and finally getting both to balking. The variety in the time, made it very convenient both for the nimble and the slow, for the master would lead off the tune at a rapid rate, and the other musician came jumping along half a mile behind. It is but justice to the musician from our place to say, that he went with great reluctance, as he was not in the habit of playing the fiddle, excepting for his own amusement, or that of a lot of boys who might gather round him, and it was only by dint of great urging by his friends, that he was prevailed upon to go, and I think he must have regretted his course, when he found himself compelled to ride home on foot-back.

After an attempt at a dance had been made for some two hours, it was thought best to have some supper. It is to be remembered was a benefit to the Dancing Master, and of course all the profits were to go into his pocket. So instead of a supper, which would have diminished the profit, each of the company was supplied with a good hunk of ginger cake, which of course made a hearty supper for those from the

place, all having gone from home without their suppers. No body found any fault for it was the masters benefit. Well they hadn't danced all night before the steam in some of the bell-gins began to run low, and a little after ten o'clock some of the company concluded that it was about time for them to mizzle, or at least to see what their bill was going to be. Imagine to yourself Archer Irvin rushing in last haste into the kitchen in search of the master of ceremonies, and on enquiring what his bill was, and being told that it was 'only two dollars,' do you suppose he gave vent to any big expressions, uttered any oaths, and swore he wouldn't pay that much? I wouldn't for a moment have you think such a thing. It was a company of gentlemen that went from Bloom and they wouldn't do such a thing. Immediately after this, for some reason or other, I can't imagine what, the whole Bloom delegation were getting ready for start, when they were coolly told by the master of ceremonies, they might as well dance till morning for it wouldn't cost them any more.' Well six of the company paid their bills, I know, and I suppose the other six did the same for they were gentlemen. I couldn't be possible there were six Archer Irvins in the company. Never! Never!!

The company came away all in fine spirits of course. The Espeytown delegation stayed and danced on, and for what I know are dancing yet. When morning came, our company didn't feel at all sore about the matter. Two of them didn't go up to Espeytown to compromise the affair and get one dollar a head deducted from the price. No! none of these things happened, certainly not. Perhaps some of the promising youth of Bloom would do well to tarry a while at Jorico.

TEXAS.

LETTERS TO OUR READERS.

"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR"

BLOOMSBURG:

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1847.

AGENCY.

F. B. PALMER, Esq. is authorized, Agent for the 'Columbia Democrat,' and accepts all notices for Subscription and Advertising at his Agency in Philadelphia No. 50 Pine-street. New York " 100 Nassau-street. Boston " 16 State-street. Baltimore S. E. cor. Bal. and Calvert-st. Mechanics-Mechanics and Tailors may find it to their advantage to advertise in this paper. It is the only one published in the County that has a greater circulation in the county than any other paper published within its limits.

\$2500 APPROPRIATION.

The bill authorizing the County Commissioners to appropriate \$2500 towards the new Public Buildings at Bloomsburg, passed the House of Representatives on Monday last without opposition, and is now a law. The silly opposition of the Danville people to this just and wise measure, has been evaporated into *very thin air*.

TO TRAVELLERS.

Mr. Joseph Lurich has commenced running a Stage three times a week, between Bloomsburg and Pottsville. It leaves Bloomsburg every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings, and arrives at Pottsville every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening. By this arrangement passengers leave Bloomsburg in the morning and arrive at Philadelphia the next day at noon, by the way of the Reading Rail Road, sleeping at Pottsville. Returning, they leave Philadelphia in the morning and arrive at Bloomsburg the same evening. We hope soon to see this line extended to Tunkanda, and to Muncy. Both of these lines are very much required for the accommodation of travellers, and we have no doubt would be well supported.

The Luzerne Democrat of the 24th ult., says a fire broke out on Tuesday afternoon in the upper part of the Undertaker's shop of C. B. P. Lee, on Main-street. This shop was consumed, together with the building adjoining—the shoemaker's shop of Mr. Russell. The large frame building adjoining, used by John Bach as a smith shop and owned by G. M. Hellenbach, was down in order to arrest the flames—threatened the residences and store of Drake. The store house of Mr. A. D. Myers was much injured in it.

Congress adjourned on Wed both houses night. The three million bill out with the Wilnot proviso.

The State Convention met at Harrisburg last, to nominate a candidate for Governor and for Canal Commissioner. The result when our paper