LATEST REPORT FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

From the cause to which we have more than once had occasion to allude—the studied concealment or mystification of public affairs by the recognized organs of the Government—it is no uncommon thing for us to receive indirectly, and through unofficial channels, the first hints of things of high importance which are in the course of transaction, or are meditated, by the Executive Department of our Government.

Of that character is the information in the following letter, which reached us in a New York paper yesterday. It may or may not be true, as the source of the writer's information may or may not be reliable. From our guess at the author of the letter, however, it would not have been written had not the writer himself placed confidence in the truth of its contents:—*National Intelligencer.*

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 18, 1847.

"There is some reason to believe that peace is what I hear to-day, that a Treaty is about to be made, or has been made, with somebody in Mexico, which the Commissioner, Mr. Trist, recognizes as a Government; or rather I should say that the Administration, during the ballot, will recommend a treaty of peace with Mexico before or soon after the commencement of the next session of Congress.

"The Treaty now talked of will probably embrace the States of New Leon, Coahuila, and a part of Chihuahua in our limits, and the pecuniary compensation to Mexico will be increased.

"There is much information on this occasion, as well as heretofore, reckon without their host. But it is very likely that, Santa Anna has been deposed, and the announced, the present Provisional Government might be induced again to negotiate, and perhaps to enter into a treaty.

"Whether it will be an actual or mere paper peace remains to be seen."

THE LATEST FROM THE MEXICAN CONGRESS.—El Arco Iris, of November 3d, the following:

"We have been informed that on the 10th ult., fifty-five members of the Congress of Queretaro assembled at the city of Queretaro, and that they had already several preparatory meetings. It is also reported that the Minister of the Republic has called to Queretaro all the Governors of the different States, in order that they may give him their opinions on the subject of war. Then if they be for it, undoubtedly he will request them to point out the means of putting it into vigor and effect for peace, to propose the basis upon which a treaty may be made."

GENERAL SCOTT'S MEXICAN SUN COMPANIES.—The New Orleans Picayune, speaking of the Mexican Spy Companies recently employed by Gen. Scott for carrying his dispatches to Vera Cruz, says:

"We have had some further conversation with different gentlemen from Col. Dominguez' spy company. Between 7 o'clock on the evening of the 17th ult. and 9 o'clock the next morning, this company marched eleven Mexican leagues and back again, fighting two engagements in the meanwhile. They first encountered Col. Yamos in a hacienda. They totally dispersed the command of Yamos, after an obstinate defense, and burned the hacienda. Two leagues further on, they came upon a detachment from the guard of Vamos, after or private defense, and burned the hacienda. Two leagues further on, they came upon a detachment from the guard of Vamos, after or Torrejon's command. The detachment was surprised in a corral, used as a cattle yard, with high walls. Five Mexicans were seized with a panic, but escape was almost hopeless, the walls not being easily scaled. A great many were killed. After this carnage was over, Col. Dominguez found that Torrejon's main body was but a mile or two off, and evidently stationed to cut him off. He deemed it prudent to return to Puebla, where he arrived."

A letter from Vera Cruz to the New Orleans Delta also makes the following allusion to them:—

"One of the most stirring events of the time, and one which created quite a sensation here, took place this morning—namely, the arrival of company No. 1, of Scott's Guerillas. They need not mistake for themselves, and spoke to one who understood English. They left the city of Mexico 25th ult., and had form one of the companies which have been fighting under the banners of our own victorious General for seven months."

COL. WYNKOOP AND CAPT. WALKER.—A letter from a member of the late Capt. Walker's company, published in the American, says:

"The body of Capt. Walker was recovered, after the defeat, with military honors, to a carriage supposed to belong to Gen. Santa Anna, received by the Pennsylvania regiment, under command of Col. Wynkoop. This officer, who had been at variance with Capt. W., burst into tears on looking at the body of the deceased, and exclaimed, "I would have given six years of my existence if I could have spoken to Capt. Walker before he died."

The New Orleans National, of the 12th inst., says:

"We had the pleasure this morning of conversing with Capt. Taylor, of the 3d Artillery, who was in the battle of Huamantla, and by the side of the gallant Walker when he was killed. There have been many reports as to the means by which the brave ranger met his death, but the evidence of Capt. Taylor, who was an eyewitness, is fully relied on, and decisive. He says that Walker was standing in front of the plaza, giving his orders, when he received a ball in his side, and one in his eye."

A LONG SHOT.—In the "Flag of Freedom" of the 20th October (published at Puebla, in Mexico), is a proclamation of Colonel Childs to the troops under his command, congratulating them upon the happy termination of the siege, which had lasted only *eleven twenty-eight days.* The gallantry and good conduct of the whole force is commended.

BRAVERY OR SUICIDE.—Two cases are recorded recently, which deserve more than passing notice. At the battle of Huamantla, Sergeant LARAM was by the side of Captain WALKER in the Plaza, when the charge was made, and was saved by his sword, which was bent double, and struck at the lance aimed at him and received by himself. He died in a few minutes. He was honest and faithful, and a favorite of his master. "In death they were not divided."

The other instance we find recorded in a letter written by Lieut. JAMES EDNER, and published in the Harrisburg Argus.—It will be remembered that when the transport steamer struck near Fort Key, but one man was lost, who Lieut. E. says was steering the ship when she struck, and attempted to save her by putting the helm hard; but when nearly hard down the rudder struck the rocks, which carried him over and over several times, using the handles of the wheel tearing his thigh every revolution. The flesh was torn off from the bone to the hip. Lieut. E. asked him why he did not let go. He said "four hundred lives are more valuable than one."

This brave sailor's name should be known and remembered; he is beyond the reach of this world's recompense, for he did not survive his injuries.

INTERESTING INCIDENT.—After the storming and capture of Chapultepec, the gallant 9th Infantry, under Maj. Seymour, (the brave and lamented Ransom having just before fallen on the heights of Chapultepec) found itself with others at the aqueduct, under the walls of the city.—Here it remained a more or less exposed target from the enemy's cannon and escopetas. Bomb shells, grape, canister and musket balls flew thick and hissing among them, killing and wounding a number of his best and bravest men. Lieut. Jackson, commanding E. of the 9th, was shot, receiving an escopeta ball in his breast, which, glancing off, whizzed upon the ground for a great distance, and was killed him on the spot but for a fortunate incident—he carried in his vest pocket a pocket Bible, a present to his mother, with the gift of his sister just before leaving his New England home. The ball struck the Bible and made a dent in it, but it proved as good a breastwork on the occasion as the cotton bags did at New Orleans to the men behind them. It saved the life of its owner. Thus, the sister, in the presentation of this sacred and holy token of affection, was the means of saving the life of a brother, in one of the bloodiest battle fields of Mexico. Both the book and the ball, though previously utter strangers, made a deep impression upon each other, and will probably not soon forget their part in company.

ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH MEXICO.—It seems that our country intends to deal in the true mercantile spirit with Mexico, and and so open with her a regular account current, in which each battle will be entered as a debit against her, and she is to be credited with every piece of territory which we seize. The charge up to the battle of Monterey (inclusive) amounted to precisely enough to pay for Upper California, Buena Vista added another slice of land, and Gen. Scott's battles before his arrival at the city of Mexico swept nearly one-half of the whole country in liquidation. Her new charges; and his capture of the city has so swollen our account as to demand the whole of Mexico in liquidation. How we are to be compensated should more battles be fought we know not, unless, indeed, in accordance with the resolution of the Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, we proceed to "annihilate" the inhabitants.

In thus 'reducing the war to a dollars and cents business, we descend from the exalted position of a nation fighting for justice and honor, and exhibit a huckstering disposition disgraceful to a great nation. It was not our purpose to chastise the enemy, let us not descend to the meanness of *charging him so much per blow* which we give him. The guerillas are stigmatized as robbers for plundering a country, yet we would *seize upon their whole country*, and dignify the act by calling it an act of indemnity. The conquest and annexation of Mexico, whatever coloring we may attempt to give to the act, will be considered by the civilized world as the result of avidity to the seizure and partition of Poland, and will *offer a stigma to our country which ages will not be able to efface.*—*Baltimore Clipper.*

GENERAL TAYLOR.—The New York Mirror states, on the authority of one of Gen. Taylor's friends, that he will not, during his six months' absence, visit Washington, or attend any public meetings, nor in any way seek notoriety, but will employ himself exclusively in the management of his private affairs, which have suffered from long neglect.

PRACTICAL CONQUEST.—Lieut. Thomas J. Myers of the Massachusetts regiment, has "annexed" himself to a beautiful señorita, near Monterey. The fair Mexican brings her lord the cool sum of $80,000. Lieut. Myers is a prisoner, and is about establishing a newspaper at Monterey.

The editor of the Washington "Union" says that "the Democrats are in favor of the diffusion of republican principles throughout the world." We wonder if they expect to diffuse republican principles throughout the world by reducing to subjugation the only great republic beside our own upon the face of the whole earth.—*Louisville Journal.*

AWFUL STEAMBOAT ACCIDENTS.—*Bursting of a Boiler—Collision of two boats—Forty Lives Lost.*

The Louisville Courier, of Nov. 22, states that the steamer Carolinian, from Pittsburg bound to Pearl River, burst her boilers on Friday last when near Shawneetown. Mr. Peacock, of Pittsburg, who was a passenger on board, was instantly killed, and four of the deck hands were badly scalded, one of whom died subsequently. The boilers are said to have been defective.

It also falls to our task to narrate a still more dreadful accident than the above.—Early on Thursday evening last, the steamboat Tempest, bound down the river, and the Talisman, from Cincinnati for St. Louis, came in collision about ten miles below Cape Giradeau, on the upper Mississippi, by which the Talisman was so badly injured that she sunk immediately in deep water. The total number of passengers that were carried down with the sinking boat is estimated at forty, but some the loss is still greater.

The ladies and other passengers rescued lost every thing, escaping in their night clothes, and in that condition were taken to Cape Giradeau on board the Tempest.

UNJUST SUSPICION.—A lady in Boston recovered twenty dollars damages from a dry goods merchant, who, having missed a pair of gloves after she had left his shop, followed her and placed his hand upon her shoulder, telling her that he had missed the gloves and requested her to return. Before she returned the gloves were found. She sued him for an assault.

THE STAR & BANNER.

GETTYSBURG,

Friday Evening, Nov. 26, 1847.

FOR PRESIDENT,

GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT.

CITY AGENCY.—F. D. PALMER, Esq. at the office of Messrs. Tyson & Kennedy, *Philadelphia*, 160 Nassau street *New York*, and South-east corner of Baltimore and Calvert street, *Baltimore*, and E.W. CASE, Esq. Sun Building, N. E. Corner Third & Dock sts. and 110 S. Fourth st. Philad'a are our authorized Agents for receiving Advertisements and Sub-scriptions to the "Star and Sentinel" at the usual rates.

IN ATTENDANCE TO THE PRINTING BUSINESS.

EF We be taken off the Office, if early application be made. The applicant must be possessed of correct habits, and from 14 to 17 years of age.

EF The following gentlemen were, on the 15th inst. elected Directors of the Bank of Gettysburg, for one year. At a meeting of the new Board, on Monday last, all the officers of the Bank were re-elected:

Robert Smith, Wm. D. Hime, George Swope, William R. Stewart, William Gaulper, George Yeaman, Jacob Rice, Jacob Lott, Leopold Leopold, Jacob Wirt, George W. M'Clellan, Joshua Motter, Joseph A. Sherfy.

EF The election on the 8th instant, for officers of the Gettysburg and Petersburg Turnpike Company resulted in the choice of the following individuals:

President—George Sauyer.
Managers—William M'Sherry, John B. McPherson, Jacob Culp, Sen., Jacob Wirt, Richard Dorsey, J. H. M'Clellan.
Treasurer—John B. McPherson.

PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEERS.—The several Regiments of Pennsylvania Volunteers have signally distinguished themselves in the series of battles that have been fought since the landing of Scott's army at Vera Cruz. It was the fortune of the First Pennsylvania Regiment to plant the first standard on the mud walls of Vera Cruz; the colors of the same Regiment were the first to traverse the Mexican capital at Huamantla; and at the storming of Chapultepec, perhaps the bloodiest of the whole series of struggles, Capt. LEVERING of the Volunteers was the first to plant a Regimental color on the walls of that citadel. It is scarcely necessary to say that the heroism which has distinguished them in the battle field, in Mexico, has also given graces to many of the noblest of them. Glory, though dazzling, is still a stern mistress, and will imbe by wrought by fearful sacrifices. Almost every mail brings the Sorrowful tidings with messages that tell of desolated hearths and blasted hopes.

Many gallant spirits have fallen, we notice in the York papers the names of JACOB DANNER and WM. BURKE, of that place. A beautiful instance of devoted fidelity and generous friendship is recorded of the latter. Enrich fell during the siege of Puebla, and his body lay near the enemy's breastwork—so close that to get possession of it was considered impossible. Burke and his companion, JERRY CANDY, crept up alone just as day was breaking, and brought away the remains of his friend.

DEATHS AT PEROTE.—The Philadelphia Sun publishes a list of the names of all the Volunteers who have died at the Hospital at Perote—amounting to nearly three hundred!

DEATH OF CAPTAIN CALDWELL.—We regret to learn from the Lewistown Gazette, that Capt. JAMES CALDWELL, of the Wayne Guards, died on the 18th of September, in Mexico, of wounds received on the 13th. He had taken a gallant part in the storming of Chapultepec, and subsequently at the City gates, where he was severely wounded.

MR. CLAY'S SPEECH.—The authentic copy of Mr. Clay's Lexington speech has not yet made its appearance, but is still by the Philadelphia papers to be on its way to that city. In the mean time the Locofoco Press—and some few practical shows that continue to flout the Whig flag, but evidence so devoted a regard for principle as to secure the sensible conclusion that the Whig party is of its colors, and abandoning its organization, preparatory to its entering upon the great political struggle of next year—are greatly annoyed by the unanswerable positions laid down in the resolutions of the great Statesman, positions which will in all probability constitute the basis upon which the Whig party of the Union will go to pecipitate the Chieftain of Scott. He opposed science, courage, and unremitting toil, and patient, indefatigable and of every previous code of warfare, he overcame the obstacles and opposition, fortressed and apparently impregnable, from which valor the boldest would not have thought to attack. "The story is not at least a portion of Mr. Clay's speech, by mail week. A correspondent of the Louisville Journal, writing from Lexington, says of it:

"The speech of Mr. Clay was great, not in flowing rhetorical figures of speech, but because of the great mass of truths which it presented. It was powerful in its argumentative and earnest conviction to every mind. It delineated most powerfully all the evils of the war, and showed with the less waste of money and blood, filling the land with mourners and impoverishing the country, and that, too, with the fairest prospect, without the shadow of hope of anything in the shape of reimbursement. The eloquent speaker and statesman, he said enough when the national honor called for it, and it was urged in accordance with the constitutional rights of the people; but this way, said he, was a blot upon the glory of the nation which time can never efface. And when the old patriot spoke of his country's honor being tarnished in the eyes of the nations of the earth, his lip grew warm that of deep and burning indignation. He awarded unparalleled glory to the American army, and to Gen. Taylor, in Mexico, yet, as you will see from his resolutions, he urged the immediate adoption of the war, and the speedy end of terminating the war. His resolutions were unanimously adopted by the vast multitude present, including the ladies, who, by their whole lovely countenances signified their assent. It is worthy of remark that when the speech was over, there were cheers, but three noes—two of them given by rabid Locofocos, and the other by an idiot."

LATER.—Mr. Clay's speech appears in extra of the Philadelphia North American of Tuesday. The reader of the Star will receive it in our next week.

THE QUAKER AND THE HOOSIER.—A friend who has lately returned from a tour through a portion of the Western "Wild" delivered related to us the annexed incident as having occurred under his observation at a small town in Iowa, which is "too good to be lost." A Quaker and a Hoosier happened to meet at the door of the sinfulness and wickedness of War in general, and Mr. Polk's Mexican War in particular, accordingly commenced a thoroughly Quaker argument for a time in lows, and somewhat of a swag without the conversation turned upon the War with Mexico and the men who have figured or participated in the bloody drama. The Quaker seemed anxious to draw out his Hoosier friend on the subject, but not succeeding too well, finally pressed matters home with the pointed inquiry—

"Friend, does thee not think that this War is very wicked?"

"Don't know," was the Hoosier's reply.

"Well, does thee not think that Gen. Taylor is a bad man—murdering so many of his fellow beings?"

"Don't know," again responded the representative of Hoosierdom. Not altogether satisfied with these rather indefinite replies, he of the drab coat continued his pointed inquiries:

"Does thee think, friend, that Gen. Taylor will ever get to Heaven?"

"Don't know what he thinks 'bout that; but one thing I do know—if ever old Zack takes a notion to go there, *all the devils in hell won't keep him out!*" thundered the Hoosier, with a strength of lung that compelled to kindle at last. The questioner, however, *stood*, without waiting for further development.

THE POSTAGE LAW.—We are pleased to see in the Country Press, especially—is moving in the matter of a repeal of the law of last session which reimposed a postage upon newspapers circulated in the mail, within thirty miles of the office of publication. All that is necessary to secure its repeal—and that, at *once*—is for the Press to bring its influence to bear in the proper quarter. The mass of our intelligent newspaper readers is memorialize Congress without delay. It was an unjust and unwise policy of the Government to impose a tax upon the intellectual food of the masses, in order to supply the deficit in the Post Office revenue, occasioned by the unnecessarily extensive franking privilege. If ever, in the course of the concession to perfect and members of Congress cannot afford to pay their own postage, let Government do it for them. The reading public at least, should not be required to do it, the plea that no requiem is as unjust as it is unwise, and should be immediately repealed.

AN EXTRAORDINARY RIDE.—In the course of the Pennsylvania Canal Boat Race, in progress at Washington city, affusion was made to a great ride made in California, in March last, by Lieut. Col. FREMONT, from Los Angeline to Monterey and back, 900 miles, in eight days, including stoppages. The distance is full 800 miles! Col. Fremont was accompanied by a friend and his servant. Each of the party had three Californian horses, nine in all, to take their turns under the saddle. The six loose horses ran ahead, without bridle or halter, and required some attention to keep to the track. When wanted for a change, say at a distance of 20 miles, they were caught by the lasso. None of the horses were shot, as is the practice among the Californians. The most usual gait was a swaying gallop—the party making an average of 175 miles a day. One of the horses was ridden thirty-five miles, carrying Col. Fremont, without change or apparent fatigue, and then, on being changed, took the lead and kept it during the balance of the day's ride. The whole distance of 800 miles was made in eight days, including a detention of a day and a night at Monterey, two half days at Obispo, (going and returning) and the necessary stoppages at night for sleep and rest!

CONGRESS will assemble on next Monday a week, the 5th of December. The Whigs have 117 members in the House, the Locofocos 110, and the Natives, 1. It is thought that Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, will be chosen Speaker. The session will be a long, and, no doubt, stormy one. Our readers will be kept duly advised of its doings.

A CHANCE.—Attention is invited to the advertisement of Mr. JOHN B. MCCREARY, who designs quitting the mercantile business in Petersburg, (Y. S.) and offers for sale the valuable property now occupied by him.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Yesterday, designated by Gov. SHUNK as a day of thanksgiving, prayer, &c., was observed in this place by a general cessation from business. Appropriate and interesting discourses were delivered, in the presence of large congregations, by Prof. BACHMAN, in the Presbyterian Church, in the morning, and by Rev Dr. WATTSON, in the English Lutheran Church, in the evening. The same day was to have been observed in Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Maryland, N. Jersey, Delaware, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Michigan, Georgia and Wisconsin, and the Governors of Iowa, Arkansas, Alabama and Vermont have chosen December 25, for their thanksgiving day; and Louisiana, December 11. In all twenty-two States.

ARE DINGS.—We are requested to announce that the following gentlemen have become members of this Association:—James F. Fahnestock, D. M. Smyser, Esq., Wm. R. Stoller, Esq., H. J. Stable, Esq., D. Harper, Sn. Wm. R. Stewart, Wm. M'Sherry, Esq., Wm. W. Wright, Thos. A. Weikert, Esq., B. F. Gardner, J. A. Gardner, Prof. Wm. M. Reynolds, D. M. Cassatt, Esq. As the number of Paintings, so will be made on the 24th of December those who wish to participate in the privilege of membership this year, will see the propriety of at once entering their subscriptions.

LOUISIANA.—It has been definitely ascertained that the Whigs will have a majority in the Legislature of from two to five on joint ballot—a majority of twenty in the Senate, and of twenty-five in the House. Gloriously will the cities of New Orleans, Carrollton, Lafayette, and Jefferson—the Commercial Emporium of the Union, and the Gem of the Mississippi Valley, and the Gem of the Mississippi Valley, and the Gem of the Mississippi Valley