

"It is true; I had it from her own lips. If any one were to play a song upon the instrument consecrated to sacred music, it would give her pious feelings a terrible shock—she would almost be tempted to send the instrument back to the maker!"

### The President and Congress.

On the 4th inst., the House of Representatives passed a resolution calling on the President for information respecting the return of Santa Anna to Mexico, and all the correspondence thereto relating. This part of the call was couched with the usual proviso, "if not incompatible with the public interests," and was complied with by the President by communicating to the House copies of all the correspondence relating to the matter, which, however, discloses nothing but what was made known by the President in his message of December, 1846. But the resolution also called upon the President, peremptorily—whether prejudicial to the public interests or not—to communicate to the House copies of all instructions to, and correspondence with, Mr. Bidell, when he was sent as minister to Mexico. This information, the President positively, yet respectfully, declines to communicate, for the very substantial reasons given in the annexed extract from his message on the subject. That the country will sustain President Polk as it sustained the revered Washington under similar circumstances, there cannot be the least doubt; and the present reckless federal majority in the House made to feel the just indignation of an outraged and insulted people.

The resolution calls for "the instructions and orders issued to Mr. Stidell at any time prior or subsequent to his departure for Mexico as Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to that Republic." The customary and usual reservation contained in calls of either house of Congress upon the Executive for information relating to the intercourse with foreign nations, has been omitted in the resolution before me. The call of the House is unconditional. It is, that the information requested be communicated, and thereby be made public, whether, in the opinion of the Executive, who is charged by the constitution with the duty of conducting negotiations with foreign powers, such information, when disclosed, would be prejudicial to the public interests, or not. It has been a subject of serious deliberation with me, whether I could, consistently with my constitutional duty and my sense of the public interests involved and to be affected by it, violate an important principle, always heretofore held sacred by my predecessors; as I should do by a compliance with the request of the House.

President Washington, in a message to the House of Representatives of the 30th of March, 1796, declined to comply with a request contained in a resolution of that body, to lay before them "a copy of the instructions to the minister of the United States who negotiated the treaty with the King of Great Britain"—together with the correspondence and other documents relative to the said treaty, excepting such of the said papers as any existing negotiations may render improper to be disclosed." In assigning his reasons for declining to comply with the call, he declared that "the nature of foreign negotiations requires caution, and their success must often depend on secrecy; and even when brought to a conclusion, a full disclosure of all the measures, demands, and eventual concessions, which may have been proposed or contemplated, would be extremely impolitic; for this might have a pernicious influence on future negotiations, or produce immediate inconveniences, perhaps danger and mischief, in relation to other powers. The necessity of such caution and secrecy was one cogent reason for vesting the power of making treaties in the President with the advice and consent of the Senate; the principle on which that body was formed, confining it to a small number of members. To admit, then, a right in the House of Representatives to demand, and to have, as a matter of course, all the papers respecting a negotiation with a foreign power, would be to establish a dangerous precedent." In that case, the instructions and documents called for related to a treaty which had been concluded and ratified by the President and Senate, and the negotiations in relation to it had been terminated. There was an express reservation, too, "excepting" from the call all such papers as related to "any existing negotiations" which it might be improper to disclose. In that case, President Washington deemed it to be a violation of an important principle, the establishment of a "dangerous precedent," and prejudicial to the public interests, to comply with the call of the House.

Without deeming it to be necessary, on the present occasion, to examine or decide upon the other reasons assigned by him, for his refusal to communicate the information requested by the House, the one which is herein recited is, in my judgment, conclusive in the case under consideration.

Indeed, the objections to complying with the request of the House, contained in the resolution before me, are much stronger than those which existed in the case of the resolution in 1796. This resolution calls for the "instructions and orders" to the Minister of the United States to Mexico, which relate to negotiations which have not been terminated, & which may be resumed. The information called for, respects negotiations which the United States offered to open with Mexico immediately preceding the commence-

ment of the existing war. The instructions given to the Minister of the United States relate to the differences between the two countries, out of which the war grew, and the terms of adjustment which we were prepared to offer to Mexico in our anxiety to prevent the war. These differences still remain unsettled; and to comply with the call of the House, would be to make public, through that channel, and to communicate to Mexico, now a public enemy engaged in war, information which could not fail to produce serious embarrassment in any future negotiation between the two countries.

I have heretofore communicated to Congress all the correspondence of the Minister of the United States to Mexico, which in the existing state of our relations with that republic, can, in my judgment, be at this time communicated without serious injury to the public interest.

Entertaining this conviction, and with a sincere desire to furnish any information which may be in the possession of the Executive Department, and which either House of Congress may at any time request, I regard it to be my constitutional right, and my solemn duty, under the circumstances of this case, to decline a compliance with the request of the House contained in their resolution.

JAMES K. POLK.  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 1848

### Pension Claimants.

We have been kindly furnished by Mr. Johnson, our Senator, with the following rules adopted by the joint committee of the Senate & House of Representatives on Pensions and Gratuities, for the present Session:

1st. Two months service in the Revolutionary or Indian wars prior to the treaty with the Indians at Granville, in 1795, shall entitle the soldier, or his widow, to a gratuity of forty dollars.

2nd. Four months service as aforesaid, shall entitle the applicant to an annuity of forty dollars, payable half yearly, to commence on the 1st of January, 1848.

3rd. Widows of soldiers of the Revolutionary or Indian wars, who were married previous to the date of the services rendered as aforesaid by their husbands, shall be entitled to a gratuity or pension, as the case may be, according to the services performed by their husbands.

4th. Proof of the petitioner being in necessitous circumstances will be required in all cases; or a certificate from a member of the Legislature, stating that he knows, personally, the petitioner to be poor and in need of assistance.

5th. Proof by one or more credible witnesses, that the services were performed in the Pennsylvania line or militia, will be required. But in case the applicant makes oath or affirmation that positive evidence cannot be obtained in relation to services rendered, then the following will be received: A detailed statement of the time and kind of service performed by the applicant, and the officer under whom he served, verified by his own oath or affirmation, and accompanied by the deposition of two or more respectable persons, stating that they are acquainted with the petitioner—that he is worthy of credit—that they believe his statement to be true—and that he is generally reputed by those who have known him, to have been in the Revolutionary or Indian war. The respectability of the witnesses to be certified by two justices of the peace of the neighborhood where they reside, or by one or more members of the Legislature; and the like evidence shall be received in support of the applications of widows of soldiers of the Revolutionary or Indian war.

6th. The applicant must set forth, in his or her petition or accompanying documents, the services performed, the length of time served, and the fact of his or her being in necessitous circumstances; to which statement he or she must be sworn or affirmed.

7th. Those receiving pensions from the United States, shall not be entitled to a gratuity or an annuity from the State.

8th. No person who has received a gratuity at a former session will be allowed another.

9th. A certified copy from the War Department, of the documents on which a pension was procured from the United States, for a soldier of the Revolution, will be considered evidence of the right of the widow to a gratuity or pension, agreeably to the rules aforesaid: *Provided, however,* That the widow shall in all cases prove her identity, by the oath or affirmation of some person or persons having a knowledge thereof, or by general reputation.

### A TERRIBLE SCENE.

The destruction of the steamboat A. N. Johnson seems to have been a most horrible scene. The Maysville Flag says that the explosion blew up the cabin deck, and when many of the passengers opened the cabin doors, to make their escape, they were precipitated into the hold, and there, with twenty-seven horses, were seen writhing in the flames. None of them escaped.

One poor fellow was seen caught under a part of the wreck, when it had burnt nearly to the water's edge. Nothing could save him. As he cast his look of despair imploringly on the spectators, the wreck sunk, carrying him down with it.

The Cincinnati Commercial says: The scene of heart-rending agony on board the boat was indescribable. There were the dead and the dying—the flames bursting from every part of the boat—the shrieks of men as they sank into the flames to rise no more—the wild fright of the horses—all conspired to render the scene beyond the power of language to depict;

but the agony of those who perished instantly by the explosion, sunk into the flames or were thrown into the water to rise no more, were short, and their fate we could almost say preferable to some who survived—their flesh burnt to a coal and peeling from their bones. In the midst of suffering the most acute that the human frame can endure, men in the depth of their agony were begging to be shot, calling for axes and other instruments by which they might end their sufferings.—On the shore and in the adjacent cornfield were to be seen the most frightful spectacles. Heads, trunks, limbs, and every part of the human frame, torn from the other parts and in fragments scattered around.

It is gratifying to know that all the female passengers were saved, the explosion not reaching their cabin. It has been ascertained that about \$20,000 in money was lost. The cause of the explosion is generally supposed to have been a want of water in the boilers; though the second engineer, who was mortally injured, declared in his last moments, that the steam was not high, and that he had tried the gauge cocks and found plenty of water.

Sal. Eve. Post.

### Mexican Affairs.

The Saratoga, which arrived at Pensacola on the 6th, brings fuller advices from the city of Mexico than received by previous arrivals. Lt. Col. Wilson, of the 1st Infantry, late the Governor of Vera Cruz, came over on the Saratoga, on a short visit to his family, residing near Pensacola.

The correspondent of the N. O. Picayune, at Vera Cruz, gives us the following extract of a letter from Mexico, dated December 17:

"The mail from the interior brought us the news of an insurrection in the State of Tamaulipas—the native Indians have risen in strength, taken the town of Oquahuana, and made prisoners of the garrison and authorities of the place. Gen. Garay, who arrived the day previous, shared the same fate. A letter from the wife of one of the prisoners is published in the *El Monitor*, begging that no attempt be made to release them by force, as they are well treated now and should certainly be murdered by their captors."

The new Congress meets at Queretaro in January. A portion of Gen. Butler's train had arrived in the city of Mexico. A party of nine who had started from the train, to join the advance, were attacked in the mountains by a party of robbers. One of them, a physician, fell into the hands of the Mexicans, but they, discovering from his medicines that he was a doctor, let him go, & he arrived safe at Ayolla. He states that he heard shots fired, but saw nothing of the men of his party. As they were well armed, however, there is little doubt but that they escaped.

The following is extracted from the *American Star* of Dec. 17:

**DESTINATION OF TROOPS.**—Most of the troops now in the city are about to leave for other, and, perhaps, distant places.—This change of things must have been foreseen by most of them since their entrance into the city. The Republic is to be occupied by the American forces, until those who have authority to speak and to act for her, give satisfactory evidence that they are disposed to make reparation to the United States, for the injuries her Government has received, and make propositions of peace. Perhaps some of the regiments, at present in this capital, who have seen hard service, would prefer remaining in a city which they have done so much to gain. They will, however, find the different places where they are to be stationed quite as pleasant & agreeable. If there is any thing to do, they are the "boys" to do it. The heroes of Contreras, Churubusco and Chapultepec, are not to be beaten in any engagement. We do not, however, anticipate any severe encounter at any of the points to be occupied. The authorities of the different States and cities must understand, however, that they cannot hereafter have their own way. The Americans will see that the revenues, as the important posts in the Republic, pass into the hands of the United States authorities here, to aid in defraying the expenses of the occupation of the country by their troops. Those who are about leaving will not be wanting in any emergency that may arise.

**RAILROAD MEETING.**—The meeting at Paoli's Hotel at 4 o'clock this afternoon, ought to be well attended, and we doubt not that it will be so. The committee appointed week before last will be prepared to report, and many new facts will be elicited in relation to the cost and grading of the contemplated road from this city to Vera Cruz, as well as the probable amount of transportation, whether of merchandise or passengers. Several distinguished gentlemen have been invited to attend, who will address the meeting. Among them are Gen. Cushing and Col. Herbert.

**Queretaro.**—The *Monitor's* correspondent writes that the contemplated pronouncement would take place on Tuesday last. Tornel is the soul of the conspiracy. Atristain and Hierro had arrived by express, and it was supposed the object of their visit was to make some preliminaries towards a peace.

The Mexicans talk about re-organizing their army. It will prove, doubtless, all talk.

There was ice in the city of Mexico on the morning of the 16th, but it disappeared very speedily after the sun came up.

The advance of Gen. Butler's command—consisting of a regiment of Tennesseans and another from Indiana—arrived in the city of Mexico a little after noon on the 16th. A portion of the train also came

in. They were fifteen days from Vera Cruz. The men looked well, though somewhat worn by the fatigues of the march. The remainder of the train, it was thought, would arrive by the 20th.

### From the War Quarter.

By an arrival at New Orleans from Vera Cruz, we have later intelligence from the city of Mexico. At the last accounts, Gen. Scott was preparing to push forward a column of his army upon Queretaro.—The rumor that a treaty of peace had been concluded on between Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners is contradicted. We find the following in the "American Star," of the 9th ult. The "Star" is published in the city of Mexico.

We wish we could give any assurance to our friends in the United States that the Mexican Government is disposed to do justice, and enter into negotiation with us, but we cannot. The Congress at Queretaro is in a state of great disorder—indeed, it is wholly unable to get a quorum. Something was hoped for from the Council of Governors, to whom the question of war or peace, so far as Mexico is concerned, was specially referred. They avowed themselves in favor of peace, at the commencement of the session; but, either from fear of Santa Anna, or some worse motive, they adjourned a day or two since, referring the matter back to the Supreme Government. This is about tantamount to a determination to do nothing whatever. The new President, Anaya, lacks energy and decision, and we fear nothing good is to be expected of him. Perhaps, with a new Congress, shortly to be chosen, and a new President, something may be done, but of the present authorities we can expect nothing. It is true, there have been commissioners in the city to ascertain upon what terms a peace may be concluded, but there is at present no authority here to act in the premises. Mr. Trist has exhausted his powers, if we may so say, and has nothing further to propose.—The only alternative left, would seem to be for the commissioners, if clothed with sufficient powers—if not, others should be appointed who are—to repair to the United States, and address themselves to the Cabinet at Washington. We certainly cannot see what other course is to be pursued, if Mexico wishes to retain her nationality. Within the present month, there will be 30,000 American troops on the soil of Mexico, and shortly the number will be increased to 50,000. The general feeling of this city is in favor of occupation.

The Washington Union, of the 18th, furnishes the following extract of a letter from an officer of the army serving in Mexico, dated Dec. 6, 1847.

"Well, before this, the new Congress are at work. What will they do? Will they go Corwin and Webster's advice? We are anxious to know. The Mexicans are expecting a revolution every day in the States, and are expecting to see the 'pronouncement' of Senors Webster and Corwin against Polk, war, acquisition of territory, &c. The whigs are protracting the war by asserting that it is unjust, and leading the enemy to believe that we are a divided people, and that the government is bankrupt and on the eve of revolution. We must take territory—and, again, the 'Wilnot Proviso' people are throwing obstacles in the way of peace. Doniphon was right—the whigs do aid and comfort the enemy by their published reports, speeches, &c., against the war. They are copied into the Mexican newspapers, and seized upon by the anti-peace party as arguments to hold out a little longer."

**COMMERCIAL MARINE OF THE UNITED STATES.**—From the New York Herald we learn that the aggregate amount of entrances and clearances are nearly seven millions of tons, being not far short of the whole of the tonnage of the British dominions, in Europe, Asia and America. Of this amount, two-thirds are American tonnage, and one-third foreign. The aggregate amount of men, or seamen, required to navigate such tonnage, is over one hundred and sixty thousand; & of this number, we may reckon probably, one hundred thousand American seamen; and if we add to this number an estimate of the steamboat men employed on the Western waters, the amount will reach one hundred and sixty thousand—so that we have an aggregate of 160,000 men in the United States, accustomed to sailing or to steam vessels.

### Stray Heifer.

CAME to the premises of the subscriber residing in Lawrence township, about the middle of July, a *White and Red Heifer*, marked with tar, and supposed to be two years old. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take her away, otherwise she will be disposed of according to law. AMOS REED, sen.  
Lawrence, tp. Nov. 24, '47.

### Assessments and Appeals.

THE APPEALS for the assessments made for the year 1848, will be held in the Commissioners office, during the Court week, to wit: from the 1st to the 4th of February, inclusive, when all persons entitled by law to a hearing will please attend.

JAMES A. REED,  
ABM KYLER,  
JAMES ELDER,  
Borough of Clearfield,  
January, 5, 1848.

### THIRTY ROMANCES FOR TWO DOLLARS.

WHICH is all that is asked, per annum, for the greatest paper in the world, which will be issued the first week in January, 1848, under the title of

### THE NEWS OF THE WORLD.

It will contain forty columns of the most valuable and interesting Romance reading ever presented to the American public. Among its contents will be the celebrated novel of

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### TO RENT.

WHAT highly valuable property situated on the Susquehanna river, in Burnside township, Clearfield county, and known as the estate of Matthew Irvin, deceased. Said property consists of

### A Grist-Mill, Saw-Mill and FARM,

With a Store-House, Blacksmith-shop and several Tenant Houses, which will be rented separately or all together, as may be deemed most suitable.

As a lumbering establishment, this property, in connection with the Grist Mill and Farm, possesses advantages over any other in the county—being situated immediately on the River, and in the midst of an extensive timber region, and in a populous section of the county.

The above property will be rented either for one year, or a series of years, and possession given on the first of April next.

Terms made known, and any further information given, on application to the subscriber, at Clearfield, on or before the first day of March next.

JAMES T. LEONARD,  
Guardian of the Minor Heirs.  
Dec. 30, 1847.

### Notice to Creditors.

TAKE NOTICE that I have applied to the Court of Common Pleas of Clearfield county for the benefit of the laws made for the relief of Insolvent Debtors, and that the Judges of said Court have appointed Monday the 31st day of January next, (1848,) for the hearing of me and my creditors, at Clearfield, when and where you may attend if you think proper.

CHRISTIAN LANICH,  
Clearfield, Dec. 27, 1847.

### MAP AGENTS WANTED.

The subscriber wishes to engage in the sale of his Maps a number of young and middle aged men of moral and business habits, as travelling agents. Having completed new and greatly improved editions of his Universal Atlas, 73 Maps, a large Map of the World, Reference and Distance Map of the United States, National Map of the United States—also, a variety of other Maps, including several Maps of Mexico, the subscriber is prepared to furnish agents, for cash, at the lowest possible prices.

Address,  
S. AUGUSTUS MITCHELL,  
North-east Corner of Market and Seventh Streets, Philadelphia.

### IN THE MATTER

Of Henry Reams, deceased, late of Brady township, Clearfield county, CLEARFIELD COUNTY, SS:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I, John Keams, Elizabeth Wright, David Wright, William Reams, Jane Reams, Susanah Reams and Henry Reams—Catharine Reams and David Reams, by their guardian Peter Arnold, and John Reams and Henry Reams, assignees of Samuel Reams, Andrew Ross, and Sarah, his wife, (children and heirs of Henry Reams,) and to all other persons interested—

YOU are hereby cited to be and appear before the Judges of our Orphans Court to be held at Clearfield on the first day of February, A. D. 1848, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon; then and there to accept or refuse to take the real estate of the said Henry Reams, deceased, situate in Brady township, said county, at the appraised valuation put upon it by the inquest duly held and returned to the said Court at the November term, 1847, to wit:—the tract of land of 198 acres, appraised at two hundred dollars. Witness the Honorable George W. Woodward, President of said court, at Clearfield, the 18th day of December, A. D. 1847.

WM. C. WELCH, Clk. O. C.