

Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

CLEARFIELD, PA., FEB. 26, 1848.

NEW SERIES—VOL. I, NO. 13.—WHOLE NO. 1088.

TERMS

The "DEMOCRATIC BANNER" is published weekly, at \$2 per annum—or \$1 50 if paid in advance. No paper can be discontinued (unless at the option of the editors) until all arrearages are paid. Advertisements, &c., at the usual rates.

POETRY.

From Neal's Saturday Gazette.

POOR MARY.

BY F. BENJAMIN GAGE.

Oh! do not laugh at her, my child,
Nor ever speak one word unkind,
For 'wild'ring doubts, and dark despair
Have crossed poor Mary's mind.

She was the loveliest of us all,
The morriest at our morning play,
But bitter sickness came and swept
Poor Mary's mirth away.

A burning fever scorched her brow,
For long, long months she never smiled,
And when that fever passed away,
Poor Mary's brain was wild!

She heeded not her father's smile,
Nor kisses of her sister's dear;
And when her mother spoke to her,
Poor Mary shrieked with fear.

And when she passed the school to-day,
Upon her schoolmates kind she gazed,
Then turned in fear and ran away—
Poor Mary's brain is crazed!

Oh! do not laugh at her, my child,
Nor speak to her one word unkind,
Since doubts, and darkness, and despair
Have crossed poor Mary's mind.

Written for Neal's Saturday Gazette.

Major General Worth.

General William J. Worth is said to be the handsomest and most soldierly looking officer in the army. His height is over six feet, and his person commanding. On horseback he presents a figure of unequalled grace. His nature is somewhat impetuous, like many brave and frank men. He is exceedingly popular among his soldiers. As one of the heroes of Monterey, as the victor at Molino del Rey, his name will go down to posterity second only to that of Scott and Taylor.

Worth, like many other able men in the army has risen from the ranks. He began life as a clerk in a mercantile house in Albany, New York, the latter being his native commonwealth. On the breaking out of the war of 1812, however, fired with that patriotic ardor which is a leading trait in his character, he enlisted as a common soldier. Another clerk was his companion. Fortunately for Worth, his friend soon committed some indiscretion, for which he was placed under arrest. In this emergency he applied to Worth, who undertook to write a petition for him to the Colonel. This officer happened to be Scott, who, struck with the elegant style of the writer, enquired the name of the writer, and sending for him, made him his private Secretary. Scott did not stop here. He procured for Worth the commission of a Lieutenant in the 23d regiment of infantry. From that hour up to their unhappy difference in Mexico the closest intimacy existed between Worth and Scott!

In the battle of Chippewa, Worth proved the correctness of Scott's estimate of character, by signaling himself especially; and was consequently rewarded with the rank of captain. In the battle of Lundy's Lane, Worth, after several hours of severe fighting, received a dangerous wound. In consideration of this he was raised to the rank of Major. After the peace he was, for a considerable period, superintendent of the West Point Military Academy; a post which is always a guarantee of high ability on the part of the occupant. In 1824 he was appointed a Lieutenant Colonel in 1832 a Major of ordnance; and in 1838, Colonel of the eighth regiment of infantry, which is the rank he still holds in the line. Subsequently he was raised successively to the brevet-rank of Brigadier and afterwards of Major General, the first for his gallantry in the Florida war, the last for his brilliant conduct at Monterey.

The character of brevet-rank is but little understood out of the army, and therefore we shall devote a few words to its explanation. In England, the highest rank known in the line of the army, is the rank of Colonel: all the superior officers holding their appointments by brevet. The commission of colonel is there coveted chiefly for its emoluments. A Major General, a Brigadier General, even a Lieutenant General, is not paid as such, but lives on the pay of his regiment, if he holds a colonelcy. Here it is different; for here the Brigadier General and the Major General each receive pay proportioned to his rank. Brevet-rank was introduced here by Washington, but fell into disuse until the last war, when President Madison conferred the brevet of Major on Taylor, for the latter's gallant defence of Fort Harrison. After this, brevets were of frequent occurrence. Every colonel of ten years standing is made a brevet Brigadier General; by a rule of the army. A brevet is frequently conferred also for merit. Both the brevets of Worth are of this latter character.

When Taylor, Twiggs and Worth met at Corpus Christi, before the Mexican war broke out, it difficultly arose as to who should command in case of Taylor's absence. Twiggs claimed it, though only a

colonel, because an older colonel than Worth. The latter claimed it also, because a brevet Brigadier. But Twiggs asserted that a brevet conferred no right to outrank a full commission. The matter was referred to Gen. Taylor, who, adopting the rule laid down by Jackson, decided against Worth. On this Worth, following a precedent set by Scott, resigned his commission & hurried to Washington. During his absence the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma were fought; on hearing the intelligence of which, Worth recalled his resignation & rejoined the army. Every one knows how gallantly he fought at Monterey! He was rewarded for that bloody day with the brevet rank of Maj. General.

There are but two full Major Generals in the army, Scott and Taylor. Gaines is only a brevet Maj. General, like Worth. Scott and Taylor receive the pay and rations of Major Generals: Worth receives only the pay and rations of a colonel, that being his rank in the line. Any full Brigadier in the line would outrank and command Worth. This is an anomalous state of things. It will be seen that brevet rank is merely honorary, conferring neither increased pay nor power. It might happen that Worth would be forced to serve under some very inferior officer, in consequence of this unsubstantial character of brevet rank.

When it was determined to besiege Vera Cruz, Worth with most of the other generals, was detached from Taylor's army, and placed under Scott. At the landing at Vera Cruz, Worth commanded the first division, and took the lead consequently, in leaving the ships. Having effected his disembarkation in the face of the enemy, he drew up his troops in gallant style, and awaited the arrival of the other divisions. On the capitulation of Vera Cruz, Worth was at the convention that dictated the articles; and when the city was taken possession of by the Americans, he rode in advance, at the head of a brilliant cortege into the public square. He was now appointed Governor of Vera Cruz. When the army began its march for the interior, the van, for awhile, was under the command of Twiggs, but subsequently, it fell to Worth again, who was the first to enter Puebla in consequence. It was at this city that the unfortunate series of misunderstandings between him & Scott arose, which have interrupted a friendship of thirty-five years' continuance. This is not the place to canvass the amount of blame rightly belonging to each party. Both, perhaps, have been somewhat in the wrong.

At the battle of Contreras, Worth was not present—the hero of that day was Gen. Persifer Smith. But at Churubusco, his division was engaged at the *tele du point*, and fought, under his own eye, with astonishing intrepidity. It is the characteristic of Worth that he can inspire his soldiers with a portion of his own headlong valor, and thus secure victory. The march around the southern side of Lake Chalco was suggested by Worth, to whom the practicability of the road was communicated by Col. Duncan, of Worth's division. The change in the route of the army thus induced, placed Worth again in the van. When Scott determined to storm *Molino del Rey* he committed the almost desperate attempt to Worth. Owing to an insufficient reconnaissance the loss of the assaulting columns was immense: they were even repulsed at first, and would have been defeated but for the arrival of Cadwalader with the regre. At Chapultepec the storming party was principally selected from Worth's and Pillow's regulars.

Throughout the whole war, Worth has carried himself in the field with a splendid gallantry that has fascinated the popular imagination. As an officer he may be said partly to resemble Murat, & partly to resemble Ney; for he has the dash and air of one, with the indomitable courage of the other!

State of Ireland.

The news from Ireland, received by the *Combrin*, presents a melancholy picture; that unfortunate country, desolated by want and misery, is also apparently overrun by thousands of desperate outlaws, who pillage and murder with impunity. *Wilmer & Smith's Liverpool Times*, of the 1st inst., says: At no former period has the social state of this unfortunate country been so appalling. Murders, threatening notices, crimes and outrages of every species and degree, are the order of the day. Added to all this is the extreme destitution of a large number of the poorer classes. It is most painful to be obliged to record, in every publication, the details of such sanguinary and barbarous deeds. Nevertheless, it is a duty that we owe to our readers. The short period that has elapsed since the despatch of the last mail furnished melancholy proof of the disturbed condition of the southern and western provinces. We subjoin some of the details: A Dublin paper of the 23d, in referring to the subject says:— "We deeply grieve to state that further accounts of the insubordination have been received since our last, and from districts heretofore apparently free from agrarian crime, we have repeatedly stated it as our opinion that the parties engaged in the

perpetration of the frightful outrages that disgrace the country are, in almost all cases, idle vagabonds, altogether regardless of the sufferings of the poor, but who take advantage of the prevailing destitution to organize secret confederacies. Up to this time we have not heard of a single case where persons really distressed have been concerned in this system of atrocious crime. Some of the best landlords in the country have become obnoxious to these miscreants, and threatening notices have been served upon them."

The *Galway Vindicator* thus describes the distress which prevails in Limerick.— "From four to five hundred wretched creatures, principally women and children, whose appearance bespoke misery, besieged the workhouse gates on the 16th ult., and sought admission to the interior, which is at present overcrowded with paupers. Such was the apprehension of the master, that a strong party of city police, under head constable Joynt, were called out to assist in keeping off the crowd—no easy task under the circumstances. Previous to the arrival of the police, the starvation multitude entered a turnip field adjoining the workhouse, and helped themselves with the raw vegetable, which they ate on the ground. The relieving officer, Mr. Donnelly, and his clerk, Mr. O'Connor, exerted themselves to admit as many as possible, while several old persons were discharged on condition of receiving out door relief, in order to make room for the most necessitous applicants. It was melancholy to hear the lamentations of two or three hundred men, women and children, when retiring from the workhouse, having been refused admission for want of room.

The state of Sligo is thus described:—"A fearful reign of terror is being established throughout the county. The highest officer of the county—the head of the magistracy—had to make a hasty and undignified retreat from his seat to avoid the deadly blow of the noonday murderer. Such outrages are common. Notices of a threatening character have been served upon very many landlords and their subordinates. At Drumcliffe, one of those fearful documents was posted, in which a declaration of war was made against some of the highest men in the county, as well as those of influence, rank and station. With an infatuation which we cannot account for, those who did most good during the famine have been selected as objects of attack."

Shocking Inhumanity.

The trial of James Goodwin, for the murder of his wife at Montreal, on the 30th inst., discloses a degree of brutality seldom reached by any creature bearing the form, and claiming the character of humanity. It seems that this man Goodwin, who had a family, a house and something of an establishment, for some reason which does not clearly appear, turned his wife out of doors, and refused to allow her to enter the house again, dead or alive. She was supposed to be partially deranged, and took refuge in a pig-pen near the house, where she lived from November until February, when she starved and froze to death. We make the following extracts from the testimony given at the Coroner's inquest:—

Rev. F. S. Neve—Resided on the Ottawa, about six miles from the residence of the prisoner. In consequence of something which he had heard in the month of December, 1846, he believed that the deceased was in a pig-pen, near the residence of her husband. Prisoner said he had not confined her, but had turned her out of his house, and she had gone to the pig-pen herself—that she might get out as she got in—that she was very comfortable, as she had plenty of straw, and that she received food from his family. Witness saw the body of the deceased in a pig pen, after her death. It was horribly emaciated, and had on it only one garment, with a cap, and rags bound round the feet—there was straw strewn over the pen, & a coverlet; but no bed whatever.

The only door to the pen was a hole about three feet high, where he supposed the animals were accustomed to go in.—The hole was open; and there were other open holes. The weather had been very severe, and there was no fire. On the removal of the rags from one of the feet, part of the foot was found to be gone, as if cut off with a coarse axe. There were bruises on her face, which might have been caused by her turning on her face.—The body was drawn up, and the wrists clutched a tin vessel, which would contain about half a pint. Prisoner did not attend the inquest; but pursued his ordinary avocations. He told the prisoner, when he saw him before the death of the deceased, that if he would take care of his wife, he (Mr. Neve) would pay him for it. Prisoner refused.

Mary Goodwin, sister of the prisoner.—Prisoner and deceased had been married twenty years; they had seven children, of whom the youngest was twelve years the 26th of last December. Deceased came into the pen the first week in November, and died the first week in February. She continued there till she died.—She came out twice and got a drink at the house; she did not get into the house during all that time—when she went to the door he ordered her off.—That was the

only. He told her to go off out of his sight, for she had denied him being her lawful husband. Prisoner allowed deceased to go into her at first; but afterwards she did not; but sent word by the children to inquire after her feet, which witness knew were frozen. When the children told the prisoner of her feet being bad, he made plasters and sent them out.

When the deceased went into the pig-pen she had a good gown with a nice quilted skirt and a cap, but nothing else. Witness afterward took her a quilt, and then, as she was complaining of the cold, gave her another. Deceased was fed the night before she died. She had a tea-pot and a tin with bread and meat, and the children took the food, and brought the vessel back again. When the children took her breakfast in the morning their mother was dead. Witness was neither ruler nor governor of the house, and did not like to insist upon anything, and prisoner refused to admit deceased in the cold weather when they expected her to die.

John Alexander Sturgeon, M. D.—He was requested in February last to go and see the dead body of the woman in the pig-pen. He had to creep in on his hands and knees with great difficulty, in consequence of an accumulation of substances within. The smell was so offensive that he was obliged to retire. Having had the roof removed, he found some straw, under that a clean quilt, and under that a quilt or cloak. She was crouched up with her knees up to the chest; the body was frozen to a complete mass of ice, up to the middle, and the arms were quite rigid, being stiffened by death and frost. She could not have eaten for thirty-six hours—the indications were those of starvation for a considerable time. The frost would have been enough to kill her; but it had not time to do so; death was caused by a determination of blood to the extremities, which was induced by exposure to cold and starvation. The pig-pen was seven feet square, and where the woman lay only 2 feet 4 inches high.

This wretch of a husband was acquitted of murder and convicted of manslaughter.

Mexican Intelligence.

The steamship *McKim*, and the barque *Archimides*, and the ships *Napier* and *Danvers*, all arrived at New Orleans from Vera Cruz between the morning of the 6th and 7th inst. The first brought dates from Vera Cruz to the 24th, and Tampico to the 31st—the second from Vera Cruz to the 27th, and the two last to the 29th.—From the New Orleans papers, we subjoin the following items of news:

Several vessels had arrived from the seat of war, among which is the steamer *McKim*, which arrived at New Orleans on the 7th inst., bringing intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 24th ult., and Tampico to the 31st.

Letters from Vera Cruz bring us contradictory accounts of the peace rumors that are current in this part of the world. Some assert that peace is on the eve of consummation, and others that it is as far off as ever.

The courier sent by Mr. Peoples from Vera Cruz, with a copy of the President's message for the *American Star*, published at the city of Mexico, was, on his return, captured by the guerrillas, within a few miles of Vera Cruz, taken into the chaparral, and stripped and shot.

Col. McClelland, with two hundred mounted men, and three hundred infantry, had started from Vera Cruz, to follow up the Orizaba road, to cut off the robbers who are represented to be congregated in large numbers on the main road to the National Bridge.

There had been fifteen cases of small pox at Vera Cruz, and great fears were entertained that it would spread throughout the city.

The *Free American* of the 27th ultimo, brought by this arrival, announces the arrival of Capt. Whipple, from the city of Mexico, bringing news that Orizaba had been captured and was in possession of a body of troops despatched from the capital.

The train which left the capital on the 14th ult., arrived at Vera Cruz on the 27th, without molestation. This train comprised about two hundred wagons and the troops necessary to guard them.

They report having met Gen. Marshall and Col. Miles with their respective commands, on the 17th, at Puebla.

A Tampico correspondent, of the *N. O. Commercial Times*, says:—"In my last, I gave you a short description of Tampico, its resources and probable destiny; and in this, for want of some stirring event, 'by flood and field,' I give you a few items of local character, which may not, perhaps, be uninteresting to some of your readers. Col. DeRussy, of the Louisiana Regiment, has been for some weeks past engaged in surveying and clearing a steamboat channel through one of the mouths of the Tamasi river, about three miles above this town, and it is expected that the work will be completed to-morrow. This is a highly important improvement, both in a military and commercial point of view, as the Tamasi is navigable for steamboats to within sixty or eighty miles of San Luis de Potosi and its rich mining districts."

By this route troops can be poured into the centre of Mexico at comparatively little expense, and when this is done, a rich and profitable trade will spring up between the interior and Tampico.

Since the opening of the roads between Victoria and this place, trade has been very brisk, particularly in the dry goods line. It would astonish your readers if they could see the droves of pack mules that leave here daily for the interior.

The British courier arrived from the city of Mexico at the city of Vera Cruz on the 22d ult. This courier was robbed once on his way up to Mexico, and twice on his way down; but he lost none of his correspondence.

The *Picayune* says, "that there are peace propositions on their way to Washington from the Mexican Government, there remains not a doubt. But no one here has positive information as to the true character of these propositions.—Some one of the thousand versions may chance to be the correct one." The letter from which this is extracted, is dated the 22d from Vera Cruz, and from a source upon which we rely with confidence.

No news of importance was brought down by the British courier, save that a pronunciamento has been made by Mariano Avila, Governor of San Luis Potosi. It represents the opinions of that State as well as of Guadalupe, Guanajuato and Zacatecas, in regard to peace, to which they profess to be utterly opposed. It calls earnestly upon the other States to co-operate with them in organizing forces to defend the country, and to levy taxes for the support of the war. The correspondent of the *Picayune*, at Vera Cruz, attaches very little importance to this pronunciamento. The governor of San Luis has long been playing the fire-eater, and the people of his State are so fearful of being invaded from Saltillo, or Tampico, or from the city of Mexico, that they are eternally urging the people of other States to unite and carry on the war.

The *Picayune* has been allowed to make an extract from a private letter received by a commercial house of this city:—

VERA CRUZ, Jan. 23, 1848.

There is a very large and valuable train which leaves in the morning for Jalapa.—It is composed in part of Government stores, and property belonging to friendly Mexican merchants. It is a more valuable one than any that has yet been upon the road. A large force of guerrillas, about 900, under Col. Zenobia, are known to be waiting off the road to attack it, and Gen. Twiggs, who is exceedingly anxious to chastise this noted personage, has adopted the following *quis de guerre* to accomplish his object: "The guerrillas have their spies in this city who will report the starting of the train, which will then back after going about three miles on the road. Meanwhile the escort, composed of two field batteries, two companies of dragoons and four of infantry, will leave the road and endeavor to come upon and surprise the guerrilla force. The Georgia Independent Horse Riders, Lieut. Anderson, are a part of the escort.

On the 7th a brigade of the American forces left Guajimalpa for Lerma, and arrived at the latter place unmolested. At Pachuca our troops were received with a white flag, and were freely accommodated with provisions and lodgings. On the 9th, the American detachment reached Toluca, and entered the town without the slightest resistance.

The Mormons.

The St. Louis Republican contains a long letter from the Twelve Apostles, giving a history of the privations and sufferings of the Mormons since their expulsion from Nauvoo, and their future prospects and intentions. Their principal abiding-place hereafter is to be in the valley of the Great Salt Lake; and if they succeed according to their expectations, their central position between the Pacific and the Mississippi, their numbers, and united prospects will give them an importance that they have not been able to attain in the United States. Their numbers we are assured, will be greatly increased this season. It is confidently asserted by those who ought to know, that at least 20,000 persons are in expectation of joining the church during this summer. The number of their members, and the extent and industry of their system of proselyting, exceeds the belief of those not informed of their real operations. We believe that no sect has ever sprung up that could boast of the same number of members within the same space of time. They have, notwithstanding the opposition which they have encountered, pushed their missionaries and preachers into every continent, and many of the islands of the sea, and have made proselytes everywhere. Their progress has been as incredible as their beliefs absurd. The present site of their chapel, in the midst of mountains, on the margin of the Great Salt Lake, and cut off on all sides from other settlements by a belt of sterile mountainous country of nearly five hundred miles in breadth, gives to their present position and enterprise a novelty which will attract hundreds to them; and they confidently look forward, within a very short period, to the formation of a large and powerful settlement in this place. *Indiana State Journal*.