

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

H. B. MASSER, PUBLISHERS AND JOSEPH EISELY, PROPRIETORS.

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SHORT PATENT SERMON. BY DOW, JR.

Text: "Fret not thy gizzard."

My hearers—fortitude, patience, and perseverance are the only team horses capable of dragging the lumbering car of man's hopes through the marsh of misfortune.

My friends—when your eddywhirls of anticipation are swept away by the storms of ill fortune, there is no more use in fretting your gizzards about it than there is in a young female victim of seduction trying to stick the fragments of virtue together with tears of repentance.

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SUNBURY AMERICAN.

AND SHAMOKIN JOURNAL.

Absolute acquiescence in the decisions of the majority, the vital principle of Republics, from which there is no appeal but to force, the vital principle and immediate parent of despotism.—JERKINSON.

By Masser & Eisely.

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with irritating solicitude and anxiety, and time tumbles a cart load of cares at your door, "fret not thy gizzard!" for all your grumbling will have no more effect than petitioning Congress to have eternity widened.

ADVENTURES IN TEXAS. ONE OF FANNING'S BATTLES.

I had been but three or four months in Texas when, in consequence of the oppressive conduct of the Mexican military authorities, symptoms of discontent showed themselves, and several skirmishes occurred between the American settlers and the soldiery.

But in the year '34 occurred Santa Anna's defection from the liberal party, and the imprisonment of Stephen F. Austin, the Texian representative in the Mexican Congress, by the vice-president, Gomez Parias.

The first step to be taken was, to secure our communications with the United States by getting possession of the sea-ports. General Cos had occupied Galveston harbor, and built and garrisoned a block fort, nominally for the purpose of enforcing the custom laws, but in reality with a view to cut off our communications with New Orleans and the States.

Our whole force and equipment wherewith to accomplish this enterprise, consisted in a sealed despatch, to be opened at the town of Columbia, and a half-breed, named Agostino, who acted as our guide.

We sent off our guide to the government at San Felipe with news of our success. In nine days he returned, bringing us the thanks of congress, and fresh orders. We were to leave a garrison in the fort, and then ascend Trinity river, and march towards San Antonio De Bexar.

As we marched along we found the whole country in commotion, the settlers all arming, and hastening to the distant place of rendezvous. We arrived at Trinity river one afternoon, and immediately sent messengers for forty miles in all directions to summon the inhabitants.

Young man!—if you find an occasional brauble of disappointment in the blossom-fringe of path of youth, "fret not thy gizzard!"—for, whatever is, is undoubtedly for the best.

over; and in due time, and without any incident worthy of note, reached the appointed place of rendezvous, which was on the river Salado, about fifteen miles from San Antonio, the principal city of the province.

The day after that on which Fanning and myself, with our four-and-thirty recruits, reached head-quarters, a council of war was held, and it was resolved to advance as far as the mission of Santa Espada.

These missions are a sort of picket houses or outposts of the Catholic church, and are found in great numbers in all the frontier provinces of Spanish America, especially in Texas, Santa Fe, and Colahulia.

On reaching San Espada we held a discussion as to the propriety of remaining there until the general came up, or advancing at once toward the river.

When the whole of the dragoons had crossed the water, they marched on for a short distance in an easterly direction; then, wheeling to the right, proceeded southward, until within some five hundred paces of us, where they halted.

As soon as they halted, they opened their fire, although they could not see one of us, for we were completely sheltered by the bank. Our Mexican heroes, however, apparently did not think it necessary to be within sight or range of their opponents before firing, for they gave us a rattling volley at a distance which no carbine would carry.

The commissariat department of the Texan army, was, as may be supposed, not yet placed upon any very regular footing. In fact, every man, was, for the present, his own commissary general.

After this we made no doubt that we should soon have a visit from the worthy Dons. Nevertheless the evening and the night passed away without incident.

took their places, but the dragoons had almost had enough already, and we had scarcely fired ten shots when they executed a right-about turn, with an uniformity and rapidity which did infinite credit to their drill, and went off at a pace that soon carried them out of reach of our bullets.

Although the enemy had doubtless reconnoitered our position, he could not form any accurate idea of our numbers, for with a view to deceive him, we kept the men in constant motion, sometimes showing a part of them on the prairie, then causing them to disappear again behind the vines and bushes.

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As we had expected, the small numbers that had shown themselves, encouraged the Mexicans to advance. They seemed at first taken rather aback by the fall of four of their officers, but nevertheless, after a moment's hesitation, they came thundering along at full speed.

It requires some nerve and courage for men who have never gone through any regular military training, to stand their ground singly and unprotected, within fifty yards of an advancing line of cavalry.

But the Mexican caballeros had no notion of coming up to the scratch a third time. They kept patrolling about, some three or four hundred yards off, and firing volleys at us, which they were able to do with perfect impunity, as at that distance we did not think proper to return a shot.

The skirmish had lasted nearly three quarters of an hour. Strange to say, we had not a single man wounded, although at times the bullets had fallen about us as thick as hail.

ensued. We were in a fair way to deem ourselves invulnerable. We were beginning to think that the fight was over for the day, when our videtts at the lower ford brought us the somewhat unpleasant intelligence that large masses of infantry were approaching the river, and would soon be in sight.

These were certainly rather odd to be opposed to seventy-two men and three officers; for it must be remembered that we had left twenty-four people at the mission, and in the island of trees. Two battalions of infantry, and six squadrons of dragoons—the latter, to be sure, disheartened and diminished by the loss of some fifty men, but nevertheless, formidable opponents, now they were supported by the foot soldiers.

Our arrangement for the approaching struggle was soon completed. Fanning and Wharton were to make head against the infantry and cavalry. I was to capture the field piece—and eight pounder.

The gun was placed by the Mexicans upon their extreme left, close to the river, the shot of which it commanded for a considerable distance. The bank on which we were posted was, as before mentioned, indented by caves and hollows, and covered with a thick tapestry of vines, and other plants, which was now very useful in concealing us from the artillery men.

I had raised my own rifle to my shoulder, when I let it fall again in astonishment at an apparition that presented itself to my view. This was a tall, lean, wild figure, with a face overgrown by a long beard that hung down upon his breast, and dressed in a leather cap, jacket, and moccasins.

It certainly was not the moment to remonstrate. We fired, but our astonishment had thrown us off our balance, and we nearly all missed. We sprang down the bank again to load, just as the men serving the gun were slinging it

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