

IMPORTANT FROM THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

HOSTILITIES ACTUALLY COMMENCED.

GEN TAYLOR'S COMMUNICATION CUT OFF. Attack of a Company of the U. S. Dragoons upon the Mexicans—Twenty six of the U. States troops killed, and the rest made prisoners—Gen. Taylor expected to attack Matamoras on the 28th ultimo—Requisition of the Governor of Louisiana for troops—Legislature Voted \$100,000—Great Excitement among the Texas and Louisiana Volunteers!

The Southern mail of Saturday and Sunday bring extras from the New Orleans papers to the 2d instant, with the following important intelligence from the army on the Rio Grande. The news that hostilities had actually commenced, had produced a great excitement in Galveston and New Orleans, and a large body of volunteers were already prepared to march to Gen. Taylor's assistance.

From the New Orleans Bee—Extra. SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 2, 6 o'clock.

COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES!

From the Galveston News Extra, Apr. 30. On Thursday morning, 23 ult., a Mexican came into Gen. Taylor's camp and reported 2,000 Mexicans, crossing the river some twenty miles above.—That afternoon Captains Hardee and Thornton were sent with two companies of cavalry, 63 men in all, to reconnoitre. On Friday they fell into an ambush of the enemy, and Lieut. Kane and thirteen men were killed, Capt. Thornton missing, and Capt. Hardee, and 46 men prisoners. On Saturday afternoon the Mexicans sent a wounded man, who made, the above report. These Mexicans, it is stated, were commanded by Canales and Carabajal.—After the fight, the Mexicans of this side of the river were largely reinforced, and have surrounded Gen. Taylor's camp, cutting off all communication with Point Isabel, at which place is the train and all of the stores belonging to the Army.—Gen. Taylor not having on hand over ten days provisions. There are at Point Isabel 90 artillery men, 20 dragoons, about 250 teamsters, and about 150 citizens and laborers, and the arrangements not half finished.

The steamer Monmouth landed Mr. Catlett on the night of the 25th ult., at Port La Bacca, with despatches from Gen. Taylor, calling on Governor Henderson for 40 companies of Riflemen, 60 men each, 20 of the companies to be mounted men, to rendezvous at Corpus Christi, when they will be mustered into service and supplied with provisions—the foot companies will rendezvous at Galveston where transportation will be furnished.

The steamer Augusta was to have left the Brazos St. Iago on Monday night for New Orleans with Gen. Taylor's call on the Governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for 8000 troops. Should immediate relief not be sent Point Isabel, it will most probably fall into the power of the enemy, with all the army stores, and the destruction of the whole army may follow.

Gen. Taylor's works in front of Matamoras would be completed on the morning of the 28th, at which time it was expected the fire would be opened on the city. Troops should not await the call of the Governor, as it will be a week before it can reach this place, but hurry to the relief of Point Isabel, as by saving that place only will we have it in our power to render the army timely assistance. Texans! you have now at last a glorious opportunity of retaliating on these perfidious Mexicans the many injuries they have done you, and of carrying that war into the heart of their own country, the cruelties of which they have so often made you feel.

We are indebted for the above to Mr. Benj. S. Grayson, who has just returned by the Monmouth. He informs us that Capt. Catlett left the army on Sunday night, with a Mexican guide and passing down the river reached Point Isabel on Monday morning with Gen. Taylor's despatches to the Governor of Texas. The Monmouth was unable to leave until Monday night, in consequence of having to discharge, and take in provisions to be sent into Corpus Christi for the volunteers as fast as they arrive. These were left at St. Joseph's where the White Wing is now taking them to their destination.

Gen. Memucan Hunt will leave this city late this evening by way of Velasco and Victoria to rendezvous at Corpus Christi, preparatory to marching to the relief of Gen. Taylor.

TO ARMS! TEXANS, TO ARMS!

The United States Army under General Taylor is surrounded by the Mexican enemy on Texas soil. Gen. Taylor has called upon the Governor of Texas for 2,400 troops—let Galveston show to the world that they are always ready for the defence of their country—let them display the same spirit and alacrity that they did in 1842. Head-Quarters, Galveston Volunteer Battalion, 30th April, 1846.

ORDERS

The commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the companies composing the Galveston Volunteer Battalion, are requested to meet for consultation at ten o'clock this morning, at the Galveston Artillery Armory, at Mr. Crawford's store. The country needs our services! No time should be lost in immediately organizing the several corps of this battalion. The commandant of the battalion has the fullest confidence in the patriotism and zeal of the citizen-soldiers of Galveston! He is sure they will not falter nor hesitate in this emergency! They have always desired an opportunity of showing their prowess to their Mexican enemies; that opportunity has now arrived. It is expected the young men of Galveston will immediately rally as volunteers, nor wait for their services to be required by draft.

A rendezvous will be immediately opened for volunteers to increase the ranks of each of the volunteer corps of the city, and also to organize

an additional company of Infantry or Riflemen. A prompt attendance of the officers is expected at the time and place appointed. By order of C. G. BRYANT, Maj. Com. Galveston Vol. Bat.

If 250 or 300 men, with the proper officers, can be raised by to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock, they will be supplied with arms and accoutrements, and will take passage on board the steamer Monmouth, now bound for Point Isabel.

N. KINGSBURY, Lieut. U. S. A. [From the New Orleans Bulletin Extra.]

BULLETIN OFFICE, May 2, 11, A. M.

The news in our second edition this morning is regarded as of much importance. Letters from authentic American sources in Matanzas state that the Mexican forces are at least 8,000 men, well equipped, with an excellent park of artillery.

The Governor of this State has issued his requisition for twenty-five hundred volunteers, and the soldiers are already in the street, and making the most active preparations for departure. They will leave in the course of twenty-four hours.

The Legislature of the State, with a patriotic promptitude worthy of all praise, have already passed a bill appropriating \$100,000 for the service. The measure passed by acclamation.

[From the Picayune, May 1, 7 o'clock, A. M.]

Col. Charles Doane arrived in this city at an early hour yesterday morning, from Brazos Santiago, which place he left on the 25th ult., in the steam schooner Augusta. Sixty miles west of the S. W. Pass he was transferred to the steamship Galveston. He is the bearer of important despatches from Gen. Taylor, and of a requisition upon the Governor of Louisiana for four regiments. The previous news received that the Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande, is fully confirmed, and a detachment of American troops has been cut off. But for the details we refer to the following account of operations kindly furnished us by Col. Doane.

On Thursday evening, the 23d inst., Gen. Taylor received information that a body of the Mexican army had crossed to the east side of the Rio Grande, at a point some 20 miles above his encampment. Early on the following morning he despatched Capts. Thornton and Hardee, of the 2d regiment Dragoons, with a detachment of 70 men to examine the country above, and Capt. Kerr of the same regiment, with a company to examine the country below the encampment. The latter returned to camp without having made any discovery of Mexicans.

The former, however, fell in with what he considered to be a scouting party of the enemy, but which proved to be the advance guard of a very strong body of the enemy, who were posted in the chaparral, immediately in the rear of Gen. Taylor's camp. Capt. Thornton, contrary to the advice of his Mexican Guide, charged upon the guard, who retreated towards the main body, followed by Capt. Thornton, when in an instant he found himself and command surrounded by the enemy, who fired upon him, killing as it is supposed, Capt. Thornton, Lieut. Kane and Mason, and some twenty-six of the men, and taking Capt. Hardee and the remainder of the command prisoners. The Mexican commander sent into Gen. Taylor's camp a cart with a soldier badly wounded, with a message that he had no travelling hospital with him and could not, therefore, render the soldier the assistance which his situation required.

It is supposed that the detachment of the enemy on the east side of the Rio Grande consists of at least 2500 men, under the commands of Cols. Carasco and Carrabajal, both old and experienced officers, and that their objects is to cut off all communication between Gen. Taylor and Point Isabel, the depot of provisions. In the execution of this object, they have fully succeeded, and have hereby placed the American army in a most dangerous position, as it will be utterly impossible for Gen. Taylor, with the limited number of men now under his command, say 2300, to force his way through the dense chaparral in which the enemy are already strongly posted.

On the 22d, Gen. Taylor received from Gen. Ampudia, by means of a flag of truce, a communication in very offensive terms complaining of his having blockaded the Rio Grande, to which he replied, that Gen. Ampudia had himself been the cause of the blockade, in having expressly declared that unless Gen. Taylor commenced his retreat beyond the Nueces within twenty-four hours after displaying his flag upon the left bank of the Rio Grande, he would consider war as being declared, and would act accordingly. Gen. Taylor furthermore stated that he would receive no further communications from the Mexican commander, unless couched in language more respectfully towards the Government and people of the United States.

Gen. Taylor's position, in the rear of Matamoras, is sufficiently strong to withstand successfully an attack of the whole Mexican force, and commands the town, which, with the batteries already mounted, could be razed to the ground in an hour's time. Gen. Taylor has in camp full rations for 15 days, which he thinks can be made to last thirty days, by which time he is in hopes to receive large reinforcements from Texas and Louisiana, upon each of which States he has made a requisition for the immediate equipment and transmission to Point Isabel of four full regiments of militia. It is thought by the superior officers of Gen. Taylor's Army that 20,000 men will be required within a very short period, as it is well known the Mexican army is daily receiving large reinforcements from the interior.

It was supposed by the American officers that Gen. Arista reached Matamoras on the evening of the 22d ult., with a brigade; but up to the period of the writer's leaving camp, no communication had been received by Gen. Taylor from Gen. Arista.

[Subsequently to his leaving the camp on the 26th ult. Col. Doane learned that Gen. Taylor is

formed him that he, Arista, had assumed the command of the Mexican forces.]

At Point Isabel great fears were entertained of a night attack, which, from the present exposed situation of that post, could not be otherwise than successful if conducted with energy. The post is defended by Major Munroe, with a detachment of 80 artilleryists. There are also at the post about 200 armed wagoners and 50 laborers under the orders of the Quartermaster, and some 100 citizens furnished with arms by the U. S. Ordnance officer, organized under the command of Captain Perkins, and denominated the Fronton Guards. A company of 50 Mexican cavalry were seen on the night of the 26th within five miles of Point Isabel. They were supposed to be a corps of observation.

The body of Col. Cross was found on the 21st ult., about three miles from Camp, frightfully mutilated and entirely destitute of clothing. The body of Lieut. Porter, who was killed some days previous by a party of banditti, under the command of Ramon Taloon, had not been found.

The principal officers known to be in command of Mexican forces, are Gen. Arista, Ampudia, Mexia and Canales, Cols. Carasco and Carabajal; all men of talent.

The extra of the Galveston News says that requisitions have been made upon the Governors of Alabama and Mississippi for troops, though our own informant says nothing of this. The News supposes that Gen. Taylor would open his fire upon Matamoras on the morning of the 28th ultimo.

We have also received an extra from the office of the Galveston News, where the intelligence was received by the steamboat Monmouth, with Capt. Catlett on board, a bearer of despatches from Gen. Taylor to Gov. Henderson, of Texas, calling upon him for aid. We give the letter to the Galveston Committee in full, as it best shows the urgency of the case.

Letter of Capt. Catlett to the People of Galveston.

On board Steamer Monmouth, Off St. Josephs, April 28, 1846.

Gentlemen: I am the bearer of a communication from Gen. Taylor to Gov. Henderson, requesting to be immediately reinforced by twenty companies of foot riflemen. My destination is Victoria, and thence to Austin. I was instructed by the General to send an express from the former place by land to your city with communications to Lieut. Kingsbury, and at the same time to spread the information through the country. But it having been left discretionary with me, and the Monmouth being available, I have determined to send the communications by her, and also to write to you, in order to facilitate as much as possible the sending of our troops.

I was instructed by Gen. Taylor to end out from Victoria expresses in such directions as I might deem most advisable, so as to have all the men possible on their march to his relief without awaiting the orders of the Governor. You will have it in your power to send to the Lower Brazos, Houston and Montgomery sooner than an express can go from Victoria. I therefore leave that to you, knowing that it will be promptly attended to. I shall send to Matamoras, Texas, Richmond and San Felipe. If you have an opportunity, please send to Washington. I shall send there from La Grange.

General Taylor is in a very precarious situation at his camp near Point Isabel. I believe a reinforcement of two hundred men would save that place. This is vastly important, as a large amount of commissariat and ordnance stores are deposited there, and if that place should fall, General Taylor will be left without resources of any kind.

The place of rendezvous for the foot companies is suggested by the General at Galveston; that of the mounted men at Corpus Christi; at which place there will be provisions and forage. No party less than 400 should think of going through on the direct road to Matamoras; as there is a large force of Mexicans on the Aroya Colorado for the purpose of cutting off reinforcements in that direction. Small parties can cross from Corpus Christi on to Padre's Island. Arrangements are made for crossing from the lower point of the Island to Point Isabel.

If two hundred men could be raised even temporarily at Galveston, I am decidedly of opinion it would be better to send them forthwith by the Monmouth—the security of Point Isabel is of the last importance.

From the best information we could obtain, the force of the Mexicans is set down at seven thousand certain, and reports go as high as twelve thousand.

All communication is now cut off between the camp and Point Isabel, except by running the gauntlet. I came out in the night of the 26th with a guide, and was prowling all night through chaparral, swamps and lakes.

Capt. Baker will be able to give you all the particulars of what has happened, the situation of Point Isabel, &c. &c.

The old General is as cool as a cucumber, and has so strengthened his position that I am of opinion nothing can move him but starvation.

In haste, your obedient servant,

W. G. CATLETT.

Messrs. Williams and others.

N. B.—A propeller has left for New Orleans with a requisition upon the Governor of Louisiana for troops also. I have thought a steamer might be leaving Galveston immediately for New Orleans, and for fear the propeller should be detained, would it not be well to state the facts to the Governor, that the troops might be in readiness by the arrival of the propeller? There is no mistake as to the order, the Captain will explain. Yours, &c., W. G. C. REPORT of the steam schooner Augusta, Gillett, ordered to proceed to New Orleans by the U. S. Quartermaster at Point Isabel, with important despatches. Crossed the bar at Brazos Santiago on Tues-

day, the 29th ult., at 6 o'clock, A. M. On Friday, 1st instant, when 60 miles west of the S. W. Pass, at 12 o'clock, M., was hailed by steamship Galveston, laid to and put Col. Doane, bearer of despatches, on board the Galveston.

Left in port steamer Cincinnati, Smith, just arrived with baggage and arms for the U. S. Army, from Aransas; U. S. steamships Col. Long and Neva, lightning vessels in the harbor; schr. Ellen and Clara, Griffin, for New Orleans; steam schooner James Cage, Sherman, do.; Mexican schooner Juanita, lately arrived from New Orleans with stores for the Mexican army, was taken possession of by order of Gen. Taylor, and ordered to return to New Orleans, without discharging her cargo; United States brig of war Lawrence, Commander Mercer, and United States schooner Flirt, Lieut. Sinclair, commanding, were blockading the mouth of the Rio Grande; schooner Bello del Mar, stranded on the bar of Brazos Santiago, was condemned and sold on the 25th ult.; United States steamship Monmouth was despatched, on the evening of the 27th ult.; for Port Labacca and Galveston with a requisition from Gen. Taylor on the Governor of Texas for two regiments of cavalry and two regiments of foot—militia.

OFFICE OF THE PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, (10 o'clock, May 2d.)

The Legislature has just passed, by acclamation, a bill appropriating ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS, to equip and forward Volunteers from this place to Point Isabel, or at whatever point they may be required.

The city is in great excitement. Guns are being fired from the Public Squares, and drums and flags are paraded through the streets. Louisiana will do her duty in this crisis.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 1st instant has the following paragraph:

THE BLOCKADE OF THE RIO GRANDE.—We learned, last evening, that formal protests had been made before the British Consul by the English houses which had shipped cargoes on board the schooners Equity and Florida, which were turned back by the United States brig Lawrence, off the mouth of the river Rio Grande.

The Picayune has also the following correction:

THE ARMY.—Misapprehension Corrected.—General Worth.—Our readers cannot fail to have been struck by the number of officers reported by the city press to have arrived here in the New York on her last trip from Galveston. Enough were reported to have officered several regiments. This was entirely the result of misapprehension. We learn that but three gentlemen connected with the army did in fact arrive; these were Gen. Worth, Maj. Van Ness and Lieut. Smith. Gen. Worth, it is known, has transmitted his resignation to Washington; the other gentlemen named came here on important business connected with the service.

U. S. TROOPS.—About 150 recruits lately arrived from New York, left in the steamboat N. York yesterday, and several companies infantry are daily expected from Jefferson Barracks, to join the forces under the command of General Taylor.—N. O. Jeffersonian, 1st inst.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.—We understand

that the following companies and officers of the 16th Regiment U. S. Infantry, now stationed at Jefferson Barracks, are under marching orders for Texas, and will leave as soon as possible: Lt. Col. Wilson, Commanding; Co. K, Bt. Maj. Abercrombie; Co. E., Capt. A. Miller, 2d Lt. Plummer; Bt. 2d Lt. Dilworth; Co. G. Capt. E. Backus, 1st Lt. G. W. F. Wood, 2d Lt. S. D. Carpenter; Co., Capt. J. H. Lainotte, 1st Lt. G. Barry, 2d Lt. J. Terrett.

LOCK OUT!—Counterfeit Notes on the following Banks in this State, are in circulation: Bank of Pennsylvania; Honesdale Bank; Lancaster Bank; Lebanon Bank; Bank of the Northern Liberties; Moyamensing Bank; Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Bank; Northern Liberties; Bank of Northumberland; West Chester Bank; Kensington Bank.

GREAT DAY'S WORK ON THE READING RAILROAD.—The Philadelphia North American states that on the 20th April the business receipts of this road were over \$7000, or at the rate of \$2,170,000 per annum. This is the largest business ever done in a single day by any railroad in the world. The Great Western railway in England never approached it, we are informed.

IN MEMORY OF WASHINGTON.—An incident occurred last week on board the boat Potowat, Capt. Rodgers, worthy of note. The boat runs upon the Potomac, and the Washington and Richmond line, and always rings the bell as she passes Mount Vernon, in honor of the illustrious dead, whose mortal remains are entombed there. On the occasion mentioned, the Harmonicon singers (Bostonians) were on board, and the boat stopped opposite to Washington's Grave, while they sang the melody "Washington's Grave," in so touching a manner, the whole company standing uncovered, as to bring tears to the eyes of most on board.

A DIAMOND.—The Dahlonaga (Geo.) Times of the 23d inst. says:—We were shown on Tuesday last, a diamond of the first water, about the size of a large pea, belonging to the Rev. Pendleton Cheek, of Henry County. It was found at the Union Gold Mines not long since. Mr. Cheek informed us that several others had been found at the same place, but not so large as the one shown us. This is a new discovery, and one that promises to open to our State vast resources of wealth, as it will give a fresh impetus to the energies and enterprise of those engaged in digging from the bowels of the earth its hidden treasures.



Saturday, May 16, 1846.

V. B. PALMER, Esq., at his Real Estate and Coal Office, corner of 3d and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, authorized to act as Agent, and receipt for all monies due this office, for subscription or advertising.

Also, at his Office No. 100 Nassau Street, New York.

And S. E. Corner of Baltimore and Calvert sts., Baltimore.

In our advertising columns this week our readers will find the advertisement of Mr. A. B. Marshall, one of the most enterprising merchants in Philadelphia. The principle he has adopted, to ask and take but one price, is the true one. His stock of goods we know to be such, that never fail to recommend themselves.

We also call attention to the advertisement of Robert B. Walker, who keeps an extensive assortment of Carpeting, Oil Cloths, &c., at his well known store, No. 25 North Second street, Philadelphia.

Andrew S. Wingert, of Selingsgrove, also advertises his Tin and Sheet-Iron ware manufactory. Those who want a really good article, well made, cannot go amiss by calling on Mr. Wingert.

THE ARMY.—The critical position of Gen. Taylor and the American Army, on the Rio Grande, has caused great sensation throughout the Union, particularly at Washington. The committee on military Affairs held a meeting on Tuesday morning, and determined to urge, on the following day, the passage of a bill authorizing the President to receive 50,000 volunteers, appropriate \$10,000,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary. We have collected for our readers all the news that is important on this subject, to the exclusion of much other matter.

THE LATE RAINS have caused a considerable freshet in the Susquehanna, without, however, causing any damage that we can learn. The bosom of the river is again covered with rafts and logs on their way to market. The Shamokin Creek, at Shamokin, we are informed was within 18 inches of being as high as during the March freshet.

THE WAR BILL has passed both Houses of Congress. This bill authorizes the President to call out 50,000 volunteers, and appropriates 10 millions of dollars. In the House, the bill passed on Monday by a vote of 174 to 14. J. Q. Adams, Mr. Giddings and the abolitionists generally voting against it. In the Senate, the bill was passed on Tuesday, by a vote of 40 to 2. Mr. Calhoun, and Mr. Mangum were opposed to the preamble which declared that war existed, but finally voted for the bill. T. Clayton and Davis, alone, voting in the negative.

Large meetings have been held, and troops are every where assembling to offer their services. Capt. Thornton and Lieut. Mason have returned to the camp in safety, Capt. Thornton having cut his way through the enemy, sword in hand. Messrs. Savery & co., of Philadelphia, have orders to cast 100 tons of cannon balls, immediately.

GREAT FRESHET AT POTTSVILLE.—The late rains have caused great damages at Pottsville and vicinity. The accumulation of water from the mountain streams was so sudden, that there has been great loss of property as well as a number of lives. The new works on the Schuylkill Navigation much injured, between Pottsville and Port Clinton. We copy the following particulars from the Philadelphia Ledger:

"One of the coffer dams of the canal here has withstood the flood, but the No. 1 Lock at Port Carbon, and the lock at Mount Carbon, are sadly injured. The whole work done to them since the freshet of March, is destroyed. The new lock just commenced at Allen's, two miles below, and the embankment adjoining, are also seriously damaged. It is thought much destruction has visited the new work on the canal at several points lower down.

Since writing, it is ascertained that most of the bridges on the Minehill railway are swept away; six bridges also on the Mill Creek road. The Schuylkill valley road has escaped, and all its branches, except that at Belmont; where considerable damage is done. The whole fixtures of Lawton's colliery, at the head of Mill Creek, are swept away. This destruction would in some places occasion considerable delay, and endanger the supplies of coal; but the activity of these people will put all to rights in ten days. The canal locks, of course, are expended; at least a month will be required to restate them. It is now out of the question for the canal to be opened before some time in August. I am sorry to say the small pox prevails here.

In addition to the above account of the freshet, we learn by a passenger, who arrived from Pottsville yesterday afternoon, that the damage between Port Clinton and that place, on the public works, is very extensive.

Approaching Fort Clinton, he observed several canal locks entirely submerged, the embankments of the canal washed away, and at one place a lock was carried off, leaving but one of the walls standing. The damage to the Schuylkill navigation, in his opinion, is very great."

By Special Messenger from Washington.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS, Up to its Adjournment, at 7, Monday Evening.

Important Message of the President—Mexico and the United States—The Country declared to be in a state of War—Important Debate in the Senate—Fifty thousand Volunteers and ten Millions of Dollars voted by the House

WASHINGTON, May 11th, 1846. } 5 o'clock, P.M. }

In the Senate to-day, soon after the reading of the journal, the following Message from the President of the United States was received and read. The galleries and lobbies were crowded to suffocation.

The message, after stating the relations between the U. S. and Mexico—the mission of Mr. Slidell as Minister, and his final rejection, proceeds to say:

In my message at the commencement of the present session, I informed you that upon the earnest appeal both of the Congress and convention of Texas, I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position "between the Nueces and the Del Norte." This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexican forces, for which extensive military preparations had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of the United States to annex herself to our Union; and, under these circumstances, it was plainly our duty to extend our protection over her citizens and soil.

This force was concentrated at Corpus Christi and remained there until after I had received such information from Mexico as rendered it probable, if not certain, that the Mexican government would refuse to receive our envoy.

Meantime, Texas, by the final action of our Congress, had become an integral part of our Union. The Congress of Texas by its act of December 19th, 1836, had declared the Rio del Norte to be the boundary of that republic. Its jurisdiction had been extended and exercised beyond the Nueces. The country between that river and the Del Norte had been represented in the Congress and in the convention of Texas, had thus taken part in the act of annexation itself, and is now included within one of our Congressional districts. Our own Congress had, moreover, with great unanimity, by the act approved December 31st, 1845, recognized the country beyond the Nueces as our territory by including it within our own revenue system; and an officer, to reside within that district, has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became, therefore, of urgent necessity to provide for the defence of that portion of our country. Accordingly, on the thirtieth of January last, orders were issued to the general in command of those troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte.

The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the commanding general, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war, or commit acts of hostility indicative of a state of war. He was specially directed to protect private property and respect personal rights.

The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on the 25th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoras, where it encamped on a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field works. A depot has also been established at Point Isabel, near the Brazos Santiago, thirty miles in rear of the encampment. The selection of his position was necessarily confined to the judgement of the general in command.

The Mexican forces at Matamoras assumed belligerent attitude, on the 12th of April. General Ampudia, then in command, notified General Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and to retire beyond the Nueces river, or in the event of his failure to comply with his demands, announced that arms, and arms alone must decide the question. But no open act of hostility was committed until the 24th of April. On that day, General Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to General Taylor that "he considered hostilities had commenced and should proceed them." A party of dragoons of sixty-three men and officers were on the same day despatched from the American camp up the Rio del Norte on its left bank, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed, or were preparing to cross the river, "became engaged with a large body of these troops, and after a short affair, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appeared to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender."

The President then refers to the grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexico upon our people during a long period of years, and our forbearance on all occasions, and proceeds:

Instead of this, however, we have been exacting our best efforts to propitiate her good will upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own, she has effected to believe we have severed her rightful territory, and official proclamations and manifestos, has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for purpose of reconquering Texas. In the meantime, we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, before the recent information from the front of the Del Norte. But now, after reiterated messages, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and American blood upon American soil. She proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, that the two nations are now at war.

As war exists, and notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon, by every consideration of duty and patriotism, to vindicate, with