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TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN."

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

H. B. MASSER, Editor.

(Office in Centre Alley, in the rear of H. Masser's Store.)

THE "AMERICAN" is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum to be paid half yearly in advance. No paper discontinued till ALL arrearages are paid.

No subscriptions received for a less period than SIX MONTHS. All communications or letters on business relating to the office, to insure attention, must be POST PAID.

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.—JEFFERSON.

By Masser & Eisely. Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, March 13, 1847. Vol. 7--No. 25--Whole No. 337

Gen. Houston and Santa Anna.

BY C. EDWARDS LESTER.

The battle of independence had been fought. Seven hundred soldiers had met nearly three times their number, and came off victorious. Six hundred and thirty men were left dead on the field; among them were one officer, four colonels, two lieutenant colonels, seven captains and twelve lieutenants. Multitudes had perished in the morass and bayous. Of the surviving, upwards of two hundred and eighty were wounded, and there were nearly eight hundred prisoners. Only seven men were known to have escaped from the field. And yet, incredible as it may seem, this bloody engagement had cost the Texans the lives of only seven men, and less than thirty had been wounded. It was incredible, and when the commander-in-chief [illegible] the next morning, he asked—

'Are we really victors, or is it only my dream?'

At 10 o'clock the next morning, Gen. Houston sent a detachment to bury those who had fallen in battle, but decomposition had taken place so rapidly, the troops returned and reported they could not execute his order! This extraordinary circumstance excited the greatest surprise, and the Mexican prisoners accounted for it by resolving it like the defeat of the previous day, into a 'malignant blast of destiny.'

In the meantime, a large number of Texans were scouring the prairie throughout the day, bringing in prisoners. The grass was every where four or five feet high, and those who had not been taken the day before, were now crawling away on their hands and knees, hoping thus to make their escape. Santa Anna had not been taken, but the victors were scouring over the fields in search of the Dictator.

'You will find the hero of Tampico,' said Houston, 'if you find him at all, making his retreat *on all fours*, and he will be dressed as bad at least as a common soldier. Examine every man you find, closely.'

Lieutenant Sylvester, a volunteer, of Cincinati, was riding over a fine prairie on a fine horse, about three in the afternoon, when he saw a man making his way towards Vane's bridge. The moment he saw he was pursued, the fugitive fell down in the grass. Sylvester dashed on in that direction, and his horse came very near trampling him down. The man sprang to his feet, and apparently without the slightest surprise, looked his captor straight in the face.

He was disguised in a miserable rustic dress. He wore a skin cap, a round jacket, and pantaloons of blue domestic cotton, and a pair of coarse shoes. But his face and his manners, bespoke too plainly, that he belonged to a different class than his garb betoken: and underneath his coarse disguise, Sylvester saw that he wore a shirt of the finest linen cambric.

'You are officer, I percieve, sir,' said the horseman, raising cap politely.

'No, soldier,' he replied, drawing out a letter addressed to Almonte.

When he saw there was no hope of escape, he inquired for Gen. Houston. By this time, Sylvester had been joined by several of his comrades and mounting his prisoner behind him, they rode off together on the same horse to camp, several miles distant. As he rode by the Mexican prisoners, they exclaimed with the greatest surprise, as they lifted their caps, '*El President:*'

In a single moment the news spread through the camp that Gen. Santa Anna was a prisoner and the Dictator was taken by Houston. The general was lying on the ground, in consequence of his wound, had now fallen into a doze. Santa Anna came up behind him and took his hand Houston roused himself, and turning over gazed up in the face of the Mexican when he extended his left arm, and laying his right on his heart, said—

'I am Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, President of the Mexican Republic, and I claim to be your prisoner of war.'

Houston waved his hand to a box, for it was the only seat in the camp, and asked his prisoners to be seated; and then sent for Almonte, who spoke English perfectly, requesting him to act as interpreter.

Almonte approached his captive general with evident respect and grief, and the following conversation took place between the two commanders; Houston in the meantime lying on the ground, resting on his elbow. Great pains have been taken to get as nearly as possible the exact words used by the speakers, and those who were present at the interview have insured us that all here related they do remember, and they recollect nothing else of importance.

Santa Anna, (after embracing Almonte and recovering perfectly from his embarrasment,) rose, and advancing with the air of one born to command, said to Gen. Houston—

'That man may consider himself born to no common destiny, who hath conquered the Napoleon of the West; and it now remains for him to be generous to the vanquished.'

Houston—You should have remembered that at the Alamo.

S. A. You must be aware that I was justified in my course by the usages of war. I had summoned a surrender, and they refused.—The place was then taken by storm, and the usages of war justified the slaughter of the vanquished.

H. That was the case once, but it is now obsolete. Such usages among civilized nations have yielded to the influences of humanity.

S. A. However this may be, I was acting under the orders of my government.

H. Why you are the government of Mexico.

S. A. I had orders in my possession commanding me to do so.

H. A Dictator, sir, has no superior.

S. A I have orders, Gen Houston, from my Government, commanding me to extirminate every man found in arms in the province of Texas, and treat all such as pirates; for they have no government, and are fighting under no recognized flag. This will account for the positive orders of my government.

H. So far as the first point is concerned, the Texan flatter themselves they have a Government already, and they will probably be able to make a flag. But if you feel excused for your conduct at San Antonio, you have not the same excuse for the massacre of Col. Fannin's command. They capitulated on terms proffered by your General. And yet after the capitulation, they were all perfidiously massacred, without the privilege of even dying with arms in their hands.

Those who were present say that when Houston came to speak of the Goliad tragedy, it seemed impossible for him to restrain his indignation. His eyes flashed like a wild beast's and in his gigantic effort to curb his wrath, cold sweat ran off from his brows in streams.

S. A. I declare to you, General, (laying his hand on his heart,) that I was not apprised of the fact that they had capitulated. Gen. Urrea informed me that he had conquered them in battle, under this impression I ordered their execution.

H. I know, General, that the men had capitulated.

S. A. Then I was ignorant of it. And after your asseveration I should not have a shadow of doubt, if it were not that Gen. Urrea had no authority whatever to recieve *their capitulation.* And if the day ever comes that I can get Urrea into my hands, I will execute him for his duplicity in not giving me information of the fact.

Here the conversation was suspended for a while, and Santa Anna requested a small piece of opium. It was ordered by Houston, who asked if he would desire his marquee and luggage, and the attendances of his aids and servants. Santa Anna thanked him very politely, and said 'it would make him very happy since they were proffered by his captor.'

While the order was being given, Almonte manifested a disposition to continue the conversation with Houston. After remarking to the Texan General that fortune indeed favored him he asked him why he had not attacked the Mexicans the first day the armies met.

'You had reason to suppose we should be reinforced. And yet if you had risked a battle that day you would have another story to tell perhaps, for our men were then ready to fight, and so anxous for battle to come on that we could hardly keep them in their ranks. Why did you wait till the next morning, General.'

'Well,' replied Houston, 'I see I was right, I knew that you expected I should bring on the battle that day, and were consequently prepared for it. Now if I must be questioned by an inferior officer in the presence of his General, I will say that was just the reason why I did not fight; and besides, I thought there was no use in having two bites at one cherry.'

After some remarks of Almonte, which irritated Houston, and which, in the opinion of all who heard it, ill-befitted the occasion, he said—

'You have come a great way to give us a great deal of trouble;—and you have made the sacrifice of the lives of a great many brave men necessary.'

'Oh,' flippantly, replied Almonte, 'what are six or eight hundred men? And from all accounts, only a half a dozen of your *brave* men have fallen.'

Houston replied—

'We estimate the lives of our men, I percieve, somewhat higher than you do,' and gave him a look which seemed to say—'taunt me again and you don't live an hour.'

Almonte very politely changed his tone.

'You talk about reinforcements, sir,' said Houston, raising himself up, 'it matters not how many reinforcements you have, sir, you never can conquer freeman.' And taking from his pocket an ear of dry corn which he had carried for four days, only a part of it being consumed, he held it up and said, 'Sir, do you ever expect to conquer men who fight for freedom whose General can march four days with one ear of corn for his rations?'

The exhibition of the ear of corn stirred up all the enthusiasm of the Texan soldiers, and they gathered around their General, and asked him to allow them to divide the corn. 'We'll plant it, said they, 'and call it the Houston corn.' 'Oh, yes, my brave fellows,' said the General smiling, 'take it along if you care anything about it, and divide it among you—give each one a kernel as far as it will go, and take it home to your own fields, when I hope you may long cultivate the noble arts of peace as well as you have shown yourselves masters of the art of war. You have achieved your independence—now see if you cannot make as good farmers as you have proved yourselves gallant soldiers. You may not call it the Houston corn: but call it *San Jacinto* corn—for then it will remind you of your own bravery.'

It is also said that in one of his despatches that day to the people of the Sabine the General said [illegible] 'Go home and turn and plant corn.' The soldiers distributed their corn, and it now waves over a thousand green fields of the Republic.

Santa Anna had become interested in the conversation, and Almonte related to him what had been said. The Mexican General seemed to be transported with rage, and he cursed Almonte for losing the battle. He was mortified beyond measure, to think that his large army, perfectly armed and munitioned, with officers whose camp was filled with every luxury, should have been conquered by an undisciplined band of raw troops, incompletely armed, and whose officers were destitute of most of the necessaries of life. It is worthy to remark also, that Santa Anna afterwards said—

'That this was the first moment he had understood the American character; and that what he had witnessed, convinced him that Americans *never could be conquered.*'

THE NEW TREASURY NOTES.—These notes dated 4th February, are made payable two years after date to an assignee, and the assignee endorses them to bearer; and then they pass from hand to hand like a bank note by delivery.

On the face of the note are stamped these words—"Principal fundable at the option of the holder in U. S. 6 per cent. Stock, with semi-annual interest, redeemable after 1867."

On the back of the $1000 notes, is an interest table ready computed, as follows:

$60 per annum,
5 per month,
3½ for 20 days,
1¾ for 10 days,
82½ cents for 5 days,
16½ " for 1 day.

This renders the computation easy when either paid in for duties, or as now is doing rapidly, paid in for conversion.

GALVANO-MAGNETIC BATTERIES.—It may not be generally known to the medical profession, nor to the conductors of the magnetic telegraph, says a correspondent, that the plates of galvano-magnetic batteries may be preserved by using an aqueous solution saturated with the sulphate of copper and the sulphate of zinc, instead of a dilution of strong acids.

Dr. Duncombe has found that when he used a dilution of the strong acids that both plates of the battery were destroyed, when he used a saturated solution of the sulphate of copper the zinc plate was destroyed. But when he used a solution of the sulphate of copper and of the sulphate of zinc, both plates were preserved nearly and the magnetic power was as easily generated as when the former solutions were employed.

May not this simple fact facilitate its introduction into the propelling of machinery, as it so materially diminishes the expense of generating magnetic motion?

COUNTERFEIT MEXICAN COIN.—Eli Hathaway, the Captain of a schooner, has been convicted in New Orleans of issuing counterfeit Mexican coin. About seven hundred dollars of the spurious article was found in his possession. The dollars are the best imitations seen for a long time, but may be detected by the letters U and P in the word "Republica," being out of line. In the word "Libertad," too, the letter T is higher than the R. They are made of a chemical compound somewhat resembling glass, and covered over with a silver coating not thicker than fine letter paper. It is said they were made in Boston, and intended for the Texas market, and as there is no knowing to what extent they may have been circulated, the community should be on the look-out to detect them.

COM. PERRY arrived at Norfolk lately, on his way to assume the command of the naval forces in the Gulf of Mexico. He will sail in a few days in the Mississippi, now undergoing repairs at the Gosport Yard. When he reaches the Gulf the combined attack by sea and by land on Vera Cruz and the Castle will be made.

The N. O. Tropic says that the hog crop of the United States the last season, is worth three times the amount of the cotton crop. The boots and shoes manufactured in the United States are of much more cash value than the cotton crop. Hats, bonnets and caps, made in the Union, are of greater value than the whole crop. Indian corn three times more valuable. Hay and wheat are more than equal.

Operations of the Gulf Squadron.

The Mobile Herald has the following letter of late date, giving a diary of the operations of the Gulf Sqadron:

UNITED STATES SQUADRON,
Off Anton Lizardo, Feb. 4, 1847.

I believe the briefest and most intelligible mode of giving information of events, is by dates and in writing you the unconnected acts transpiring in the Squadron, I will adopt it as far as practicable.

On the 19th of January, the Commodore transferred his flag to the Princeton, and proceeded on a cruise to Laguna, a village, or rather succession of villages situated on a large lagoon about thirty miles northward of Campeachy, and 200 southward of Vera Cruz. We were lying at anchor in the lagoon, and on friendly terms with the inhabitants, notwithstanding which, however, boarding nettings were placed around the vessels at night, and all other precautions of defense taken. The Princeton by reason of her draft, could not approach the shore within several miles, but the Vixen came out and communicated. Of course nothing of interest had occurred, the vessels merely maintaining a blockade.

On the 27th, the Princeton returned to her anchorage and the Commodore to his own ship. During his absence, the prize steamer, Petrita, brought down from Vera Cruz on the 23d, Lt. Col. Alfonse Delapu, of Louisiana. His adventures are rather romantic, as far as I can learn. Under instructions from Gen. Scott, he set out from New Orleans to visit Vera Cruz and the surrounding country as a spy, and to cover his intentions proceeded from the Havana, and obtained a passport to Vera Cruz as a Frenchman, (he is of French descent, and speaks the tongue like a Parisian.) After arriving there he penetrated as far as Jalaps, ascertained the probable number of men that could be thrown into the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, the length of time which it is provisioned, &c., and the general tout ensemble, the material, &c., that would oppose Gen Scott's contemplated attack. During his stay he narrowly escaped detection, being suspected and subjected to several close examinations. Being informed that the authorities intended committing him to the Castle as a spy he had barely time to escape on board a French merchant bark lying at Sacrificios, from which he was taken and brought down by the Petrita. His escape was singularly providential. The men of the boat supposed him one of the passengers of the boat and carried him off under mistake. They were waiting for one of the passengers, and being ordered authoritatively in French "to shove off," obeyed unhesitatingly. Again, the arrival of the Petrita at Sacraficios was purely accidental, nor should I omit to state that the French bark had been brought into Anton Lizardo as a prize, a few days before, and had just been let go.

On the 23d, three vessels ran the blockade at Vera Cruz, notwithstanding the vigilance of the Albany and St. Mary's; in fact steamers are the only vessels to blockade effectually.

On the 25th, the French brig Princess Marie was brought in by the Albany. She was taken near Campeachy and awaits the Commodore's decision. The same day the small schooner Mariner, arrived from Havana, with despatches from the Commodore, supposed relating to the fitting out of privateers from that port under Mexican colors.

On the 29th the Porpoise returned from Tampico, and the sloop Mariner proceeded to that place with Col. Alfonse Delapu on board as a passenger. Of course he communicates with Gen. Scott as early as possible.

On the 31st, the Porpoise went out to cruise and the Princeton left for the blockade of Alvarado.

Feb 3d, the French brig Princess Marie, was permitted to leave here for Sacraficios, the French Commodore guarantying that no part of her cargo should be landed. The same day the Petrita brought down intelligence from Sacrificios that the advanced guard of a column of our forces advancing from Tampico upon Tuspan, had been defeated and sixty of our soldiers made prisoners. Santa Anna was also reported to be still at San Luis Potosi.

The rumor is now current that our whole naval force has been ordered to collect here on the 20th of this month to be in readiness to co-operate with Gen. Scott in the expected attack on Vera Cruz, and it is the general impression throughout the squadron that we shall have a fight at last.

THE BLUE BELLES OF AMERICA.—There are several newspapers and periodicals in this country under the editorial charge of ladies, and since the explosive nature of cotton has been demonstrated, it may be truly said that every lady controls a *magazine.*

A NEW ROAD TO FAME.—We see it stated that the Medical faculty of New York have passed a vote to have the attending physician's name accompanying all obituary notices of their patients.

PRICES OF ADVERTISING.

1 square 1 insertion,	$0 50
1 do 2 do	0 75
1 do 3 do	1 00
Every subsequent insertion,	0 25

Yearly Advertisements: one column, $25; half column, $18, three squares, $12; two squares, $9; one square, $5. Half-yearly: one column, $18; half column, $12; three squares, $8; two squares, $5; one square, $3 50.

Advertisements left without directions as to the length of time they are to be published, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

☞Sixteen lines or less make a square.

Late from the Brazos.

Prospect of an assault upon Saltillo—Gen. Butler's Outposts driven in—Six thousand troops at Saltillo under Gen. Taylor—Rumors of an Engagement—Preparations at Matamoros to repel Gen. Urrea—Embarkation of Troops for Lobos—Gen. Scott sailed.

The N. O. Picayune gives the following late intelligence from Brazos:

Gen. Wool apprised Gen. Taylor towards the end of January, that he anticipated an attack at Saltillo. In consequence Gen. Taylor left Monterey on the 1st. Feb. with his staff for Saltillo. He took with him Bragg's battery and Thomas' battery, the 1st Mississippi Rifles and May's squadron of dragoons. Capt. [illegible] his company of mounted men, also for Saltillo. Capt. Gordon, with a detachment of 150 recruits for the different regiments, also left Monterey for Saltillo.

The schr. Cora arrived at New Orleans on the 27th, from the Brazos, bringing dates to the 19th ult. The intelligence before received of an expected attack upon Saltillo is confirmed. All Gen. Butler's outposts had been driven in and the assault, if made at all, was anticipated during the few first days of February.

Gen. Taylor's command at Saltillo would exceed 6000. Many believed that when the Mexicans found him in such force, the idea of an attack would be abandoned; many others, however, were still of the opinion that Santa Anna meditated no serious blow in that quarter, and that the movement was but a faint one to cover his design of moving with the main body of his forces to Vera Cruz. Rumors have reached New Orleans that a general engagement had already taken place, but the Picayune attaches no credit to them.

Much apprehension was felt at Matamoros of an attach by Gen. Urrea, who is understood to be this side of the mountains with four thousand men, one half of whom are not to be surpassed by any in the Mexican service, the remainder are composed of Rancheros. Col. Davis is in command at Matamoros, and has distributed muskets and ammunition for the citizens in case of an attack. He had also sent to Point Isabel for several pieces of ordnance. The Picayune's correspondents do not deem the danger threatening Matamoros to be very imminent.

The troops were embarking at the mouth of the river as fast as possible. Gen. Scott sailed on the 13th for the Isle of Lobos. Gen. Worth would not embark till all the troops were on shipboard. The general supposition was that the army could not move from Lobos before the 18th of March.

Late from Tampico.

More particulars of the Capture of Kentucky Volunteers by Gen. Minon—Rumored Movements of Santa Anna.

WASHINGTON, March 3—9 o'clock, P. M.

A slip from the office of the New Orleans Picayune, dated on Wednesday last, at 12 o'clock, contains advices from Tampico to the 13th ult. The Tampico Sentinel of that date contains an extract from a paper of the City of Mexico of the 2d ult., giving more full details of the capture of the seventy Americans by Gen. Minon.

A letter in the Mexican papers, dated San Luis, Jan. 27th, announces the arrival of the prisoners, and rebukes the rejoicings which had been going on. The affair is called a bloodless victory. Gen Minon's force was 2,000 strong. The same letter declares that the Americans were surprised early in the morning at a watering place.

The Sentinel states that many rumors are afloat with regard to movements of the Mexicans, and it was supposed, with some truth, that Santa Anna had moved towards Monterey, and it is possible that Gen. Minon was in command of the advanced guard. He is an excellent cavalry officer, and accompanied Santa Anna on his return from exile.

The capture alluded to may rouse the drooping spirits of the Mexicans. The names of the seventy Americans are published. Cassius M. Clay is amongst them. There are in all two majors, three captains, one lieutenant, three sergeants, and sixty-one privates.

PAREDES IN PARIS.—A letter from a highly intelligent and well informed gentleman at Paris, dated January 30th, published in the Providence Journal, says that the writer was informed, a few days since, on very high authority, "that Paredes is in Paris, endeavoring, but without success, to entangle this (the French) Government in the affairs of Mexico; that Paredes gives it as his opinion that the Mexican war will be a long one."

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—A meeting of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, has been held to make arrangements to extend the Telegraph to that city.

DEATH FROM TIGHT LACING.—A servant girl was found dead in her bed, at Mons, near Caen, the other day—her death being occasioned by sleeping in tight stays to preserve her shape.