

TERMS OF THE "AMERICAN"

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

THE "AMERICAN" is published every Saturday at TWO DOLLARS per annum to be paid half yearly in advance.

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.

CHEAP WATCHES & JEWELRY

Philadelphia Watch and Jewelry Store, No. 96 North Second Street, corner of Quarry.

Boot & Shoe ESTABLISHMENT

DANIEL DRUCKEMILLER, At his Old Establishment, in Market Street, Sunbury.

Respectfully informs his friends and the public generally, that he continues to manufacture to order, in the most perfect manner.

CHEAP HATS AND SHOES

warranted of the best material, and made by the most experienced workmen.

In addition to the above, he has just received from Philadelphia a large and extensive supply of Boots, Shoes, &c.

REPAIRING DONE WITH NEATNESS AND DESPATCH

Sunbury, August 15th, 1845.

PIANOS

THE SUBSCRIBER has been appointed agent, for the sale of CONRAD MEYER'S CELEBRATED PREMIUM ROSE WOOD PIANOS.

A CARD

Having had the pleasure of trying the excellent Piano Forte manufactured by Mr. Meyer, and exhibited at the late exhibition of the Franklin Institute, I feel it due to the true merit of the maker to declare that these instruments are quite equal and in some respects even superior, to all the Piano Fortes, I saw at the capitals of Europe, and during a sojourn of two years at Paris.

COUNTERFEITERS' DEATH BLOW

The public will please observe that no Brandreth Pills are genuine, unless the box has three red bells upon it, (the top, the side and the bottom) each containing a fac-simile of my handwriting.

CERTIFICATE OF AGENCY

For the sale of Brandreth's Vegetable Universal Pills.

Northumberland county: Milton—Mackey & Chamberlin, Sunbury—H. B. Masser, M'Evansville—Irland & Meitzel, Northumberland—Wm. Forsyth, Georgetown—J. & J. Wells.

Union County: New Berlin—Boggs & Winter, Solingrove—George Gundrum, Middleburg—Isaac Smith, Beaverstown—David Hubler, Adamsburg—Wm. J. May, Millburg—Mensch & Ray, Hartleton—Daniel Long, Freeburg—G. & F. G. Meyer, Lewisburg—Wells & Green.

Columbia county: Danville—E. B. Reynolds & Co. Berwick—Shuman & Ritzenhouse, Cawtiss—C. G. Boalts, Bloomburg—John R. Meyer, Jersey Town—Levi Bissel, Washington Robt. McCay, Limestone—Ballie & McNeib.

Observe that each Agent has an Engraved Certificate of Agency, containing a representation of Mr. BRANDRETH'S Manufactory at Sing Sing, and upon which will also be seen exact copies of the new labels now used upon the Brandreth Pills Boxes.

Philadelphia, office No. 8, North 8th street, June 24th 1845.

George J. Weaver, ROPE MAKER & SHIP CHANDLER

No. 13 North Water Street, Philadelphia.

AS constantly on hand, a general assortment of Cordage, White Twines, &c. viz: Tar'd Ropes, Fishing Ropes, White Ropes, Manila Ropes, Tow Lines for Canal Boats, &c.

Philadelphia, November 12, 1845.—17.

OLIVE OIL

The first quality Sugar House Molasses, only 12 cents per quart; also, a superior article of yellow Molasses for baking, only 15 cents per quart—for sale at the store of HENRY MASSER.

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 Messer & Eiseley.

Sunbury, Northumberland Co. Pa. Saturday, May 15, 1847.

Vol. 7—No. 84—Whole No. 846

From the Phila. Ledger, May 8.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO. Another Victory—Total Route of Santa Anna.

Pitched Battle by General Scott—Six Thousand Mexican Prisoners taken—Five Hundred Americans Killed and Wounded—Gen. La Vega again a Prisoner—Santa Anna Escaped—Gen. Shields Mortally Wounded—General Pillow Slightly Wounded—Major Sumner Killed—Lieut. Maury, Gibbs and Jarvis Wounded.

We received last night, through the Telegraph from our correspondent at Fredericksburg the highly important news from Mexico, of a desperate battle between General Scott and Santa Anna, at Cerro Gordo, in which victory again perched upon the American banners, and Santa Anna was completely routed.

The victory, like most of those won in the present war, has not been gained, however without severe loss on our side, the killed and wounded of our brave troops amounting to four or five hundred. We shall be anxious to receive a more detailed and particular account of this last, and, we hope, the final and decisive fight.

We wish to know particularly the share the Pennsylvania troops had in winning it, and who among them, if any, have paid for its purchase by the sacrifice of their lives. Like all the first accounts, the fact of the victory is announced merely, leaving the particulars, equally as interesting to the public, to follow.

FREDERICKSBURG, (Va.) May 7. By the Steamship McKim, which left Vera Cruz on the 20th, the following glorious news has been received from the scene of action.

On the afternoon of the 17th ult., the advance under General Twiggs, numbering 8178, encountered the enemy, when a severe, but indecisive, conflict ensued. As the general order shows that General Scott's intention was to give battle only on the 18th, this action was brought on by the Mexicans. The main battle occurred on the 18th, and resulted in the complete triumph of the American arms.

PLATE DEB. RIO, April 17—11 o'clock, A. M. The division of Gen. Twiggs started two hours since, and a heavy cannonading has already commenced upon his lines from the artillery of the Mexican forces.

5 o'clock, P. M.—I have just returned from the scene of conflict, and a bloody one it has been on this side of the farthest Mexican fort. No one was seen in possession of it last evening, but this morning it was found to be occupied by the enemy's light troops, and to force it at once was deemed impracticable.

For this purpose, the Rifles, under Major Saltner, besides a detachment of artillery and infantry, were ordered to charge up the rugged ascent. This they did gallantly, driving the Mexicans after a desperate resistance.

They were obstinate in their defence, and great numbers of the enemy were killed, while on our side the loss was severe. Major Sumner was shot in the head with a musket. Lieut. Maury and Gibbs, of the Rifles, were wounded; also Lieut. Jarvis, of the 3d Infantry. I could not learn that any of our officers were killed—the entire loss on our side was estimated at one hundred.

About 3 o'clock, the enemy made a demonstration on a fort in the neighboring heights to the one our men had captured as if with the intention of retaking it, but it all ended in their marching down the hill, blowing a most terrific charge on their trumpets, firing a few shots and then retiring.

Their appearance, as they came down the hill, was certainly most imposing. The cannon on the hill meantime kept up a continuous firing on Gen. Twiggs' lines doing little execution, however, other than cutting down the trees and brush. As we returned to camp the fire was still continued.

The enemy had evidently ascertained the position of the road, which has just been cut, with accuracy, but the balls principally went over.

At 3 o'clock, Gen. Shields was ordered to support General Twiggs, with three regiments of volunteers.

CAMP PLATE DEB. RIO. The Americans have achieved another glorious and brilliant victory against an outnumbering force, which looked as impregnable as Gibraltar. One after another their works have been taken.

To-day, five Generals, Colonels enough to command ten such armies as ours and other officers innumerable, have been taken prisoners, together with six thousand men, and the rest of the army driven and routed, with the loss of every thing—ammunition, cannon, baggage and baggage trains, and nothing but the impossibility of finding the road, which prevented our dragoons from reaching their works, enabled any of Santa Anna's grand army to escape, including his own illustrious person.

Santa Anna's travelling coach, with all his papers, valuables, and even his wooden leg, has fallen into our hands, together with all the money belonging to the army.

No one anticipated when aroused from his bivouac this morning, such a complete victory. Five hundred will cover the total loss of the Americans in killed and wounded; had it not been for the positive cowardice of Santa Anna, who ran before the battle was half lost, it would have been far greater.

No one can estimate the loss of the Mexicans. They are scattered in hats by the road side and in every direction.

What disposition will be made of the prisoners is not yet known; they may be all set at liberty on parole, on account of feeding them and in order to accelerate the advance movement of the army.

It was General Scott's intention to push on towards the City of Mexico with all haste.

APRIL 19th. The route of the Mexicans last evening was total and complete. The remains of the army were pursued to within 4 miles of Jalapa by Gen. Twiggs, at which point they all dispersed, so that there was none to follow.

Santa Anna himself escaped by cutting a saddled mule from the harness of his magnificent coach, mounting him and subsequently taking to the chapparel. A service of massive silver, all his papers, money, and every thing in the carriage, even his dinner, was captured.

The Mexican loss upon the height was dreadful, the ground in places around was covered with the dead and wounded. Col. Patacio was found there mortally wounded. Their loss on the retreat was terribly severe; every by-path was strewn with the dead. Had our dragoons been able to reach them in season, all would have been killed or captured—Santa Anna among them.

Canales, with his noted lancers, had the prudence to vanish early. Even up to this time it is impossible to give anything like a full and correct list of the wounded officers. The Mexican officers taken prisoners had arrived at Vera Cruz. Gen. Shields is severely, and it is feared mortally wounded.

Gen. Pillow was slightly wounded while storming the fortification commanded by Gen. La Vega. A number of other American officers wounded.

EDITORIAL DIGNITY.—The editor of the London Times in remarking on the late scandalous affair of the King of Bavaria, says:

"We cannot conclude our remarks without alluding to circumstances in these proceedings which really tend to compromise the character of our own peculiar craft. The last time that King Louis appeared conspicuously on the European stage, was in the capacity which he had just assumed of sole journalist for his own dominions. He is not only Bavaria's monarch, but he is patentee and editor of the State Gazette, and he should remember that he has now a double reputation to sustain.

For the sake of his new profession his Majesty must be cautious. If a king can do no wrong, an editor can do a great deal, and we can assure him that, he will find no such impunity accorded to him in his latter capacity as tradition and loyalty secure him in his former."

Of course we have no right to interfere in European affairs, but we think that the Times and other leading Journals of Europe should omit such a fellow as King Leopold from the editorial fraternity, by striking his paper off their exchange list. If such characters as crowned heads get into the editorial profession, its respectability will be gone.

A CURIOUS CALCULATION.—What is a billion? The reply is very simple: a million times a million. This is quickly written, and quicker still pronounced. But no man is able to count it. You count 100 or 170 a minute; but let us even suppose that you go so far as 200, then an hour will produce 12,000; a day, 288,000; and a year, or 365 days (for every four years you may rest from counting, during leap year) 105,120,000. Let us suppose now, that Adam, at the beginning of his existence, had begun to count, had continued to do so, and was counting still—he would not even now, according to the usually supposed age of our globe, have counted near enough. For to count a billion, he would require 9,512 years, 34 days, 5 hours, and 20 minutes, according to the above rule. Now, supposing we were to allow the poor creature twelve hours daily for rest, eating, and sleeping—he would need 19,024 years, 69 days, 10 hours, and 40 minutes:

LETTERS FROM CALIFORNIA.

MONTEREY, California, Nov. 1, 1846.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN: Gentlemen:—In wishing to give you all the true information in my power respecting California I cannot avoid mentioning its productions of many various kinds of exquisite fruits.

There are twenty-one Missions in Upper California, and each of them have one or two large orchards, consisting of from four to ten acres of land. All of these orchards are full of fruit trees, of different kinds and classes, and notwithstanding they have had no care taken of them for the last six or eight years, (many of them are not so much as fenced in) still they yield fruit in abundance, and to my certain knowledge, none of these fruit trees have been pruned, or attended to in any manner whatever (unless to strip them of their fruit) for the space of ten years.

Besides the orchards, which contain apples and pears of various kinds, peaches, pomogrates, plums, nectarines, and in the more southern part of the Territory, oranges in abundance. They have each, with the exception of two missions, one or two large vineyards, which produce both the blue grape and the Muscatel in the highest perfection; the vines some individuals take the trouble to prune every year, and in the month of September gather the rich clusters, which very amply rewards them for their trouble.

November 6th, 1846.—In the year 1825 California was overstocked with horses, and horned cattle, and sheep; and the natives considering horses of less value than sheep or horned cattle, killed off many thousands of the former that room might be left, and pasture for the other kinds. They would make large pens near some wood, and then twenty or thirty men would muster, and drive in horses and mares by hundreds, and after picking out such of them as they considered to be of the best quality, they lassoed and strangled the remainder.

In the year 1827, Captain Jedediah Smith came into this country overland from St. Louis, and bought three hundred and ninety seven head of horses and mules, of the best kind that could be found in the country; and only one horse amongst them cost as high as fifteen dollars—the average price he paid for them was about nine dollars.

In 1829 some New Mexicans came here, and bought many hundreds of mares, at the low price of fifty cents each, and among them were some very splendid animals; the following year, the wild Indians began to steal horses from the settlements, and between these, and the New Mexican traders, the settlements have been left literally without a horse to saddle.

But still, California, rich in all her productions, has a resource, which with some attention from government, may be made inexhaustible. On the Tulare plains are numbers of wild horses and mares, I think I may say, without the least exaggeration, that I have seen on it's plain in the course of two days travel, forty thousand wild horses and mares, and amongst them are some as noble looking animals as ever I saw in my life.

These for the last fifteen years have formed a complete nursery of horses for California. But the natives, who have no thought whatever, and have no feeling for dumb animals, if they are allowed by the authorities to act as they have been doing for the last ten or fifteen years, will soon destroy this whole race of useful animals. The people here form in parties of eight or ten men, and go and catch as many of these horses as they can; they are generally gone ten or fifteen days, and should they through mistake catch a mare, they immediately slaughter her from mere wantonness. And in the months of April and May, which is the time the mares are breeding, they very often start a band of from two hundred to a thousand head, and as they run them hard, the young colts are either trampled down or left behind; and all those so left are killed in the night, by wolves or foxes; consequently it may easily be conceived how many hundreds of each year's breed are lost and destroyed in this manner.

November 8th, 1846.—Perhaps there is no country in the world, generally speaking, where the inhabitants are so much on horseback, as in California, or where there are better riders—and it may almost literally be said that many of them are born on horseback, as I shall show in the sequel.

We may likewise almost say that they are married on horseback, for the day the marriage contract is agreed on between the parties, the bridegroom's first care is to beg, buy, or borrow and sometimes steal, the best horse that can be found in his district; at the same time, by some of these means, he has to get a saddle, with silver mountings about the bridle, and the overleathers of the saddle must be embroidered. It matters not how poor the parties may be, the articles above mentioned are dispensible to the wedding.

The saddle the woman rides has a kind of leather apron which hangs over the horse's rump, and completely covers his hinder parts as far as half way down the legs; this likewise, to be complete, must be embroidered with silks of different colors and gold and silver thread; from the lower part, upwards, it opens in six or eight parts, and each of these parts is furnished with a number of small pieces of iron or copper, so as to make a jingling noise like so many small cracked bells. I have seen one of these aprons with three hundred and sixty of these small jingles hanging to it.

The moment a child is born on a farm in California and the midwife has had time to clothe it, it is given to a man on horseback, who rides post haste to some Mission with the new born infant in his arms, and in company with the future godfather and godmother, who present it to a priest for baptism; this sacrament having been administered, the party return and the child may rest sometimes a whole month without taking an excursion on horseback, but after the lapse of this time it hardly escapes one day without being on horseback until the day of sickness or death.

Thus by the time a boy is ten or twelve years of age he becomes a good horseman, and it is difficult to get him to do any kind of work on foot, and almost any Californian would think less hard of riding one hundred miles than he would of working four hours on foot; add to this that most of the labor in California has necessarily been effected by means of men on horseback. The taking care of cattle and horses, lasting them, and going such long journeys as they are constantly obliged to travel, has made them expert horsemen to an extraordinary degree.

The horses themselves are of a hardy nature, as may be seen by the inhuman manner in which they are generally treated by the natives. If a man wants to travel from thirty to forty miles from his place of residence, he saddles his horse and mounts him; on his arrival at the town or place of destination, he ties him to a post; he may in some cases give him a drink of water, and should he remain away from home four or five days his horse gets nothing but water, without food all that time, and if he is a horse of the middle class of Californian horses, he will travel those thirty or forty miles back again with the same free gait at which he started on a full belly and good condition; of course this is only in the summer season when the grass has good substance and the horse is in good order.

I suppose this will hardly be credited by some of the farmers and horse jockeys in the United States, but it is nothing beyond the truth, and besides, a horse when completely equipped for a journey in this country generally carries besides his rider a weight of from fifty-five to sixty pounds of saddle gear, and should the weather be rainy and the saddle get wet, the weight is doubled. It requires two large tanned ox hides to fit out a Californian saddle, add to this the wooden stirrups three inches thick, the saddle tree, stout iron rings and buckles, with a pair of spurs weighing from four to six pounds, a pair of goat skins laid across the pommel of the saddle, with large pockets in them, and which reach below the stirrup, and a pair of heavy holsters with the largest kind of horse pistols, and I think it will be found I have rather fell short than exaggerated in my statement of the weight which a horse in this country has to carry on a journey, notwithstanding they travel very freely and are active in their motions.

November 25th, 1846.—I shall now give you an account with the descriptions of the principal classes of timber in California, beginning with the red pine tree. This tree commonly grows from two hundred and fifty to three hundred feet high. I have measured one when felled that was three hundred and twenty-seven feet from the butt to the point or head; this was by no means an uncommon sized tree, being but nine feet in diameter where it was cut off, and the largest ever I saw measured while standing was forty-two feet in circumference. I have heard of much larger ones, but never saw one; these trees all run very regular in their dimensions from the bottom to top. The heart of a young tree begins to turn red at about six years old, the outside from two to three inches in thickness, always remaining white; the bark is stringy and difficult to cut through, even with the sharpest axe; it may well be compared to the husk of the cocoa nut. The leaf and burr are very similar to those of the spruce tree; it contains some resin and I have seen several trees felled in the spring of the year which have discharged as much as a barrel of water the moment the axe has struck the heart of them.

The timber which this tree produces is invaluable for its durability, the worm does not enter it after it has been put to use, though while the tree is standing there is a worm which is very injurious to it, always entering at the bottom of the branches where the knot is almost equal to a flint stone, and always eats upwards, so that a tree is very often found to be sound and good as high up as the first branch, and above that is sometimes found greatly injured by the worm; but whenever the tree is cut down and dried this worm dies, and no other insect ever enters the wood, and if it is properly seasoned before being put to use, I cannot say if ever it rots at all, unless it is put in some place in the ground where it is exposed to the wet and dry seasons alternately, and even then it lasts an immense length of time. I am well acquainted with a rich farmer in this country who built a cattle pen of this wood in the year 1824, and the stanchions, where none of the outside or white part of the tree has been used, are not the least decayed. Several of the old houses in the Mission of San Carlos were pulled down this year for the purpose of getting the timber they contained, and which was red wood, and the beams and lintels were as sound, to all appearance, as the day they were put into these houses, which must have been some sixty or seventy years ago, and yet by driving the plane once over them they showed as beautiful and bright a red as the day they were cut down.

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, \$36; half column, \$18; three squares, \$12; two squares, \$9; one square, \$6. Half-yearly: one column, \$18; half column, \$12; three squares, \$8; two squares, \$6; one square, \$5 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.

ly, and even then it lasts an immense length of time. I am well acquainted with a rich farmer in this country who built a cattle pen of this wood in the year 1824, and the stanchions, where none of the outside or white part of the tree has been used, are not the least decayed. Several of the old houses in the Mission of San Carlos were pulled down this year for the purpose of getting the timber they contained, and which was red wood, and the beams and lintels were as sound, to all appearance, as the day they were put into these houses, which must have been some sixty or seventy years ago, and yet by driving the plane once over them they showed as beautiful and bright a red as the day they were cut down.

For shingles this timber has not its equal, either for the ease with which it is worked or for its durability. I have seen a man make by hand that is to say split, shave and joint, fifteen hundred a day for two months at a time.

This tree is fond of hilly ground; it is seldom found on level places, but in the valleys and on the sides and tops of mountains, it grows in immense groves, and the great demand there is for it both in this country and at the Sandwich Islands, proves the superiority of it to all other kinds of timber on the shores of the north Pacific Ocean. I have called it the red pine, because I have heard many disputes between botanists as to its proper name, and it appears to me to resemble some species of pine nearer than any thing else.

RUNNING THE GUARD.—Gen. Taylor at one period during the Florida war, issued strict orders that no spirituous liquor should be admitted inside the lines. This was a sad privation, and caused the whole command to become the driest set of fellows that ever camped in a swamp. One of the soldiers, driven to desperation, resolved to run the guard, or we should say crawl the guard. Providing himself with a jug, he succeeded, at the risk of a bullet, in passing out with the article and in with the liquor; but just as he was nearing the tent where his mess was waiting for the supply, he encountered the General leisurely sauntering through the encampment.

"Here, you, sir!" inquired the commander in a severe tone, "what have you got in that jug?"

"Water, General," said the soldier.

"Come here, sir, and let me smell that water," said his commander.

The murder was out; he approached, lowered, and submitted the jug.

"You lied to me, sir," said the General, "and deserve punishment."

"I got it from Bill Ranson's shanty, sir," said the soldier, "and if it aint water he deceived me."

"He did, eh?" inquired the commander—"then Bill Ranson deserves the punishment. Pour it out, and go tell him that if he don't furnish your mess more wholesome water I will raise the very d—l with his establishment."

The soldier poured it out, and the General walked on, but the former returned to his tent without trying Bill or the guard a second time. When he returned to the mess he said he wasn't quite as dry as when he started, for the General had caused every pore in his body to flow a stream of perspiration.—St. Louis Register.

Jefferson. Mr. Jefferson was beyond the ordinary dimensions, being upwards of six feet two inches in height, thin, but well formed, erect in his carriage, and imposing in his appearance. His complexion was fair, hair, originally red, became white and silvery in old age, his eyes were light blue, sparkling with intelligence and beaming with philanthropy; his nose was large, and forehead broad, and his whole countenance indicated great sensibility and profound thought. His manners were simple and polished, yet dignified, and all who approached were rendered perfectly at ease, both by his republican habits and genuine politeness. His disposition being cheerful, his conversation was lively and enthusiastic; remarkable for the purity of his colloquial diction and the correctness of his phraseology. He disliked form and parade, and his dress was remarkably plain, and often slovenly. Benevolence and liberality were prominent traits of his disposition. To his slaves he was an indulgent master. As a neighbor he was much esteemed for his liberality and friendly offices. As a friend, he was ardent, unchangeable; as a host, the munificence of hospitality was carried to the excess of self impoverishment. He possessed great fortitude of mind, and his command of temper was such that he was never seen in a passion.

As a man of letters, and a votary of science, he acquired high distinction. In the classics, and in several European languages as well as in mathematics, he attained a proficiency not common in American students.—Statesman's Manual.

In Pittsburg a young man named Drum acts as a bar keeper in a hotel. An acquaintance, for whom he was preparing a whiskey punch, remarked that he never before understood Shakespeare's expression of the "spirit stirring Drum."