

Herold's Capostor

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1848.

SCOTT AND THE COURT OF INQUIRY.

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1848.

You have doubtless, ere this, read the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry, held in the city of Mexico, as far as heard from. There is not an American heart that does not burn with indignation at the mean and cowardly course pursued by the administration towards Gen. Scott. The war-vorn veteran of two wars, The gallant hero of Chippewa and Churubusco, of the whole Niagara frontier, and of the brilliant achievements between Vera Cruz and the Capitol of Mexico. The glorious bird of Jove, whose plume was the waving signal of victory wherever it fluttered, is now degraded and picked at by the owls and buzzards of party corruption and profligacy! A paymaster of the army, and a volunteer general, whose only exploit in Mexico was spraining his ankle in an evening walk with a black-eyed daughter of the public enemy.—These insignificant creatures are sent out to torment and vex the victorious General, whose military achievements outshine the splendors of the great commanders of classic times. What thoughts these proceedings suggest to the patriot and the man of justice!

The mousing military owls at home, chafed with disappointment at the public enthusiasm clustering round the name of Zachary Taylor, and having their weak and jealous eyes blinded with the glory of that gallant old General's conduct, set about annoying him. They tried to ensure him for his humanity at Monterey, they resorted to every despicable means to degrade him in the eyes of his admiring countrymen.—Gen. Taylor wrote a letter to his friend General Gaines, defending himself, which letter was published. This was an unparliamentary offence! That the gallant old General should dare to be indignant at the course pursued towards him, was looked upon as a contempt to the miserable creatures around the White House, who wished, without deserving any credit, to monopolize all military glory for themselves.

Accordingly, an old and almost obsolete regulation of the Army was exhumed from long disquietude, and reannounced with all the invigorating power which the President and the Head of the Department could give it. That this was meant only to annoy General Taylor, was very painfully evident at the time. This very revived order had scarcely been published, till the organ of the Administration was publishing, with the approving silence of the Cabinet, letters from officers, puffing the creatures of Executive patronage, and even puffing themselves.

This general order that no officer should publish in newspapers, unauthorized reports or reports, was of course sent to Gen. Scott. He was bound to see it obeyed. He had evidence before him, that Gen. Pillow and Col. Duncan had both violated the order and he arrested them, and asked the President to order a Court Martial. Instead of this, however, though the prisoners had both acknowledged that they had violated the order, the President appointed only a Court of Inquiry—proving his indifference on the subject.

It was only intended to shut the mouths of Gen. Scott and Gen. Taylor, and other gallant Whig officers. The creatures that were bred in the corruption of executive patronage, and that had been attached to the army, like moral serps upon the body, were not only encouraged, but appeared in violation of this order. And even now, at this day, wherever an officer, seeking in the crawling spirit of de-luded humanity, to ingratiate himself in executive favor by infamous charges against the Whig party, dips his pen in the blackest of falsehoods, the effusions of that pen is eagerly spread out before the public in the columns of the Administration organ, with the silent approbation of the cabinet. Thus do they violate their own orders day by day, and reap a party benefit.

Gen. Scott in the fulfillment of his duty is arrested merely because he tried to enforce the orders emanating from the Department. So eager were they to get Gen. Scott into difficulty, that they ordered a Court of Inquiry to examine the charges made against him by Gen. Worth, when in fact Gen. Worth makes no charges at all. Gen. Worth makes no charges, and adds no specifications; all he does is to make an appeal from Gen. Scott's decision, to the President. This the Administration refuses to entertain, and order the Court to inquire into them when there was absolutely no charges at all.

The whole conduct of this Administration toward Gen. Scott will I trust, yet be exposed. It will then appear that from the first movement, when the country was unnecessarily and unconsciously plunged into a war with Mexico, the infamous designers of this work of unnecessary butchery were thick with the blood of both nations, and played with heads of slaughtered American citizens as the means of party profit. No sooner had this war broke out than Gen. Scott was ordered to hold himself in readiness to take the field.

This determination roused the fears of the party chieftains here. They held caucus. They availed in the White House, renouncing against the sending of so gallant and experienced a soldier to the field of battle. Plans were hatched and successfully carried out, for some time, to annoy him and keep him at home. What did they care for the success of our arms? A paltry party advantage was cheaply gained, in their opinion, at the cost of the blood and suffering of our gal-

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