

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JAN. 10.

SENATE.—Mr. Douglass submitted a bill establishing a territorial government for Oregon.

Mr. Hannegan submitted a resolution, declaring that no treaty ought to be made with Mexico, which does not give us a boundary line capable of military defence.

Mr. Ashley, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill establishing a general pre-emption system. The ten regiment bill was then taken up.

Mr. Beverly Johnson being entitled to the floor, a large concourse of spectators had assembled to hear him.

He then declared the war was just and honorable, and proceeded in his argument to sustain that position.

House.—The Speaker announced as the first thing in order, the business on the Speaker's table, which was the joint resolution on the subject of the transportation of the mail between Richmond and Washington.

Mr. Groggin moved his recommitment to the Post Office Committee.

Mr. Braden moved to lay the subject on the table. The yeas and nays were demanded; it was negatived by a vote of 67, nays 123.

The vote was then demanded upon the amendment to the resolution by Mr. Jones of Tenn., which being seconded, the yeas and nays were taken upon Mr. Jones' amendment, and stood yeas 90, nays 90.

On motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Joseph R. Ingersoll in the chair, and took up the President's Message.

Mr. McClernand took the floor in defence of the administration. Mr. Stanton followed on the same side; he, however, opposed Mr. Polk on the subject of internal improvements, and replied to Mr. Rheht's former speech on this subject.

Andrew Stewart then obtained the floor, when the Committee rose.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11.

SENATE.—Mr. Cass, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to increase the medical staff of the army.

Mr. Felch, from the Committee on Public Lands, presented a bill granting alternate sections of the public lands to Michigan, for internal improvements.

Mr. Johnson submitted a resolution for consideration, calling upon the President for copies of Gen. Scott's and Taylor's letters relative to the forced contributions from Mexican citizens.

Mr. Baldwin presented a resolution calling upon the President for copies of correspondence of Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners, during the armistice.

Several Senators gave notice that they would, on future days, introduce bills which they named by title; one by Mr. Dix, relating to drawbacks.

Mr. Mason's resolution to restore the editors of the Union to the privilege of the floor of the Senate, was adopted.

On motion, the Senate laid aside the morning's business, and proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, the ten regiment bill.

Mr. Ashley, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill establishing a general pre-emption system. The ten regiment bill was then taken up.

Mr. Beverly Johnson being entitled to the floor, a large concourse of spectators had assembled to hear him.

He then declared the war was just and honorable, and proceeded in his argument to sustain that position.

House.—The Speaker announced as the first thing in order, the business on the Speaker's table, which was the joint resolution on the subject of the transportation of the mail between Richmond and Washington.

Mr. Groggin moved his recommitment to the Post Office Committee.

Mr. Braden moved to lay the subject on the table. The yeas and nays were demanded; it was negatived by a vote of 67, nays 123.

On motion, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, Joseph R. Ingersoll in the chair, and took up the President's Message.

Mr. McClernand took the floor in defence of the administration. Mr. Stanton followed on the same side; he, however, opposed Mr. Polk on the subject of internal improvements, and replied to Mr. Rheht's former speech on this subject.

Andrew Stewart then obtained the floor, when the Committee rose.

TUESDAY, JAN. 11.

SENATE.—Mr. Cass, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to increase the medical staff of the army.

Mr. Felch, from the Committee on Public Lands, presented a bill granting alternate sections of the public lands to Michigan, for internal improvements.

Mr. Johnson submitted a resolution for consideration, calling upon the President for copies of Gen. Scott's and Taylor's letters relative to the forced contributions from Mexican citizens.

Mr. Baldwin presented a resolution calling upon the President for copies of correspondence of Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners, during the armistice.

Several Senators gave notice that they would, on future days, introduce bills which they named by title; one by Mr. Dix, relating to drawbacks.

Mr. Mason's resolution to restore the editors of the Union to the privilege of the floor of the Senate, was adopted.

On motion, the Senate laid aside the morning's business, and proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, the ten regiment bill.

Mr. Ashley, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill establishing a general pre-emption system. The ten regiment bill was then taken up.

Mr. Beverly Johnson being entitled to the floor, a large concourse of spectators had assembled to hear him.

He then declared the war was just and honorable, and proceeded in his argument to sustain that position.

to the barque Sarah Elizabeth, and the bill exempting colonization vessels from the provisions of the law regulating the number of passengers, were both passed.

On motion, the Senate then went into the consideration of the order of the day, being the Ten Regiment Bill.

Mr. Pease opposed the bill in some pertinent remarks, regretting that he had to differ so widely from his colleague.

Mr. Pease controverted the most of Mr. Reverdy Johnson's position, denying that the boundary of Texas extended to the Rio Grande, and citing Messrs. Benton, Ashley, Ingersoll, and other authorities in support of his denial.

Mr. Butler obtained the floor, and the Senate adjourned over till Monday.

House.—Mr. Evans rose to a privileged question, and moved to reconsider the vote of yesterday laying upon the table the resolution of inquiry relative to the rank of Surgeons in the army, reported by Mr. Schuchert.

Mr. Schuchert explained the character of the resolution with clearness, and regretted that the House should have treated a resolution coming from one of its standing committees, so cavalierly.

The reply of the President to Mr. Groggin's resolution respecting Santa Anna's return, was then taken up and read.

Mr. Adams spoke of the message energetically, and the members of the House crowded around him breathlessly.

Charles J. Ingersoll followed, and justified the course pursued by the President, and moved to refer the subject to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. T. B. Clark moved to give the information in the President's message to the House.

Mr. Tompkins obtained the floor, and gave way to Mr. Ingersoll's motion to adjourn, which was carried.

Another Explosion.—The Pittsburg Telegram correspondent of the Ledger, gives the following particulars of another steamboat explosion.

The steamer Blue Ridge blew up with a frightful explosion, about one o'clock, on a Sunday night last, during the prevalence of a severe snow storm.

The hull sunk in ten minutes, by the rupture of the cabin which was torn off by the force of the explosion remaining afloat, and to this those of the passengers who were saved clung for life.

LATEST FROM MEXICO!

THE LATE BATTLES. Action at Metamoros—From Sixty to Eighty Mexicans Killed—Bravery of Lieut. Ridgely—His Death—Col. Hays' Gallantry, &c.

The Union contains the official report of Gen. Lane, made to the War Department, giving the details of the late brilliant engagement with the Mexicans, in the vicinity of Metamoros, in which the gallant Lieut. Ridgely, of Baltimore, fell mortally wounded.

Having been credibly informed that the enemy were in force at Metamoros with some artillery, and that a military depot was established, at which a large quantity of munitions of war and other public property had been collected, and also that several American soldiers were confined there in close prison, I moved from Puebla towards that place at 7 o'clock on the evening of the 22d inst., with one piece of artillery and 25 men, under the command of Lieut. B. Field.

Although retarded by the rain, which fell incessantly from 10 o'clock until 5, we arrived at Metamoros at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 23d—accomplishing a march of 54 miles in 12 hours. Coming upon the advance guard of the enemy as we approached the town, they were engaged, and driven in upon the main body, when the whole fled along the streets towards a forest lying in rear of the place.

The force of the charge, the suddenness of their flight, and the various avenues by which they retired, rendered it difficult to form a satisfactory estimate of their numbers, which is variously computed at from 400 to 600. In the short and sanguinary action, from 60 to 80 of the enemy were killed and wounded, without the loss on our part of a single man. Among the killed was Col. Piedras, commanding at Metamoros, two captains of artillery, and other officers of various grades. Twenty-one American soldiers were set free and restored to the service, armed with muskets, and mounted upon horses taken from the enemy. Three pieces of artillery—a small one, a long six, and a long 12 pounder—also of bronze, and in good firing condition, 12 tons of shot of all calibres, 12 boxes fixed ammunition, 27 boxes of cartridges, 500 muskets, 500 sabres, 100 quick matches, a large quantity of medical stores, and other public property, fell into our hands; and, with the exception of the artillery, the fixed ammunition, the muskets, and sabres, all were destroyed in consequence of my inability to procure additional means of transportation. The remainder of the day was employed in refreshing the troops, and in destroying military stores; in which last three artillery men, privates Gorham, Russ and Friedman, were considerably injured, but it is hoped, not disabled, by an accidental explosion.

Engagement, Col. Hays displayed the utmost coolness and bravery, as did also Capt. Wells and Lieut. B. Field, of the Texas Rangers. Lieuts. Waters and Lilly, of the Louisiana Volunteers, and the lieutenants of the Texas corps, behaved most gallantly. Lieut. Ridgely, of the 1st infantry, acting as assistant adjutant general, and Lieut. Whipple, of the 9th infantry (volunteer corps), behaved before, with distinguished gallantry, rendering me prompt and efficient assistance during the engagement. They were with the foremost in the charge, and in pursuit of the enemy; and not until all public property was captured, did they think of rest. Lieutenant McDonald, of the 3d artillery, acting as assistant quartermaster, was with me in the charge, and behaved most gallantly, as he ever has done upon all former occasions. Lieut. Douglass and Blake were also in the charge—the former as my aide-de-camp—and both behaved gallantly. It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the good conduct both of officers and men. Never could they believe better than on this occasion.

Early on the morning of the 24th, we moved towards Puebla. Capt. Roberts' company of Texas mounted riflemen, numbering between 25 and 30 men, composed the advance guard. The remainder of the mounted riflemen were in the rear of the artillery. The Louisiana dragoons, under Capt. Lewis, constituted the rear guard. While moving with difficulty through a long mountain pass called the pass of Galaxara, five miles from Metamoros, the train became considerably extended. Retarded by the obstructions of the way, the artillery and a small train of four wagons, containing captured property drawn by Mexican mules and driven by Mexicans, fell upon the rear, and were slowly progressing under my immediate superintendence, when it was reported that the enemy had appeared in front. Col. Hays was immediately ordered to repair to the head of the column, and to engage the enemy with the advance guard. He found a small party of observation running in front; he promptly repulsed them, and with Capt. Roberts and my aid, and Lieut. Ridgely, Whipple, Waters, McDonald, Blake, and my private secretary, Mr. Phelps, numbering all 30 men, gallantly charged, broke, and pursued the enemy across an extended plain, and up a long precipitous ascent towards the mountains, from which they had made the attack. Midway of the hill the enemy halted, and attempted to rally. They checked to the front, but falling rapidly before the continued charge, they again broke, and fled over the summit of the mountain, closely followed by Col. Hays, with his small force.

Here the enemy was reinforced by a reserve of 500 lancers, under the command of Gen. Rea. The mounted riflemen not being armed with sabres, and their revolvers and rifles having all been discharged he ordered his small force to retire to their original position. This order was coolly obeyed, and the men retired in good order, under the full charge of 4 or 500 lancers. Having returned to their position the enemy were immediately repulsed, and the post maintained until the arrival of the artillery under Lieut. Fields, and of the dragoons, under Capt. Lewis, whom I had ordered to the front immediately on perceiving the strength of the enemy. It is due to these excellent officers to remark, that they moved forward to the engagement with that promptitude and alacrity which they have ever distinguished. The artillery was immediately unlimbered when the enemy retired to the mountains, and, receiving a few rounds of grape and canister they disappeared. For several hours they continued to hover about our march, in scattered detachments, too remote for the assault

of our already jaded horses. And though the riflemen dismounted and attempted to reach them on foot, and the artillery was several times unlimbered and brought to bear upon them, it was impossible to bring them to another engagement. Our loss in this affair was two killed and two slightly wounded.

The loss of Lieut. Ridgely, my acting assistant adjutant general, who was mortally wounded while gallantly charging with his comrades by the side of Col. Hays, deeply saddens the feeling of satisfaction with which I report their brilliant conduct of this small party at the pass of Galaxara. Private Wm. Walpas, of the ranger, also fell, bravely fighting among the foremost in the charge. Lieut. Waters, and one other, were slightly wounded. The loss of the enemy in this affair, is not accurately ascertained, but could not have been less than fifty killed and wounded. Of the killed and were two captains, one lieutenant, and also three non-commissioned officers of artillery. During the engagement, the Mexican drivers, after cutting the mules from the teams, made their escape. This rendered it necessary to destroy all the captured property, except the large pieces of artillery, and the sabres, most of which were distributed to the mounted men, and the remainder destroyed. Never did any officer act with more gallantry than did Col. Hays in the affair of the 24th. When he found it necessary to retire for the purpose of reloading—his men having no sabres—he halted in their rear, and as the enemy advanced, deliberately shot two of them dead, and covered his retreat until the arrival of reinforcements. Lieut. Ridgely fell a victim to a gallantry which was never surpassed. Lt. Whipple, my present aid-de-camp, and acting assistant adjutant general, was distinguished for his coolness and bravery. He was among the first in the charge, and, excepting Col. Hays, was the last man to quit the field—Capt. Roberts charged bravely at the head of his company; his horse was shot under him, and he exhibited presence of mind in making his escape. Lt. Waters and Lt. McDonald distinguished themselves in this action—advancing with the first, and retiring only with the last. Lt. Blake and Mr. Phelps were also at the head of the charge, and divide with their comrades the palm for bravery and good conduct. Assistant surgeons Brown and Newton, of the medical staff, merit my thanks for their promptitude and efficiency in attending to their professional duties. Private Glanton, of the Texas rangers, attracted general notice for his extraordinary activity and daring throughout the action, both of the 23d and 24th. Sergeant Mayers commanded a portion of the Louisiana dragoons, and conducted them with ability through both actions. Too much praise can not be bestowed upon Capt. Lewis, for the energy and ability with which he discharged the arduous duties devolving upon him as commandant of the rear guard.

About 10 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, we arrived at Atlixco. After four hours' rest, we moved on to Puebla, where we arrived, without further molestation, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon—having been absent sixteen hours. I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

MORE WASHINGTON RUMORS.—The N. Y. Herald contains a despatch from Washington, stating that an important cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday.

The discussions on the army were the principal subjects of deliberation. It was finally determined that Gen. Scott should be recalled, and a messenger will leave here on Thursday morning next, with orders for Gen. Scott from the War Department, to return home as speedily as possible, and report himself in Washington.

The command of the army devolves on Major-General Butler, as second in rank to General Scott.

The other officers involved in the discussions in the camp, will, as a matter of course, return home. Gen. Scott's recall is doubted on good authority. Mr. Trist is expected to arrive here soon from Mexico.—Pennysonian.

LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS.—OF THE SENATE.—Clerk—Samuel W. Pearson, of Somerset; Assistant—John M. Sullivan, of Butler; Transcribers—J. H. McCully, of Franklin, and J. D. Desmond, of Philadelphia. Sergeant-at-Arms—William Eastburn, of Monroe. Doorkeeper—J. W. Cowell, of Bucks.

HOUSE.—Clerk—William Jack, of Westmoreland; Assistant—William Picking, of York; Transcribers—J. E. Brewster, of Tiga, Joseph C. Mollay, of Philadelphia, John Ziegenfuss, of Northampton, George F. Humes, of Pomona; Sergeant-at-Arms—Daniel McCleery, of Philadelphia. Doorkeeper—Jacob Ziegler, Jr., of Adams.

The editors of the Washington Union having been admitted to a seat on the floor of the Senate, Mr. Reticue says: "It is due to ourselves, as well as to the worthy Senator from Virginia, who was kind enough to make the motion, to say that the movement was made without our knowledge, and of course without any request on our part; and for this reason we feel the more indignant for his kindness. The resolution was adopted without opposition, and by a unanimous vote; and we confess the manner in which it was done was calculated to afford much gratification."

AMERICAN APPLES.—The London Sun says: "The arrivals of apples from the United States in America are beyond precedent in extent, and the quality is remarkably fine. In several instances vessels arriving from New York have brought as many as nearly one thousand packages of this fruit of the excellent description known as the American New Town Pippin. R. J. Pell, of Ulster, has shipped a hundred barrels of New Town Pippins to China; the first shipment of apples made to that country."

THE DARLINGTON ROBBERY.—There have been rumors of the arrest of the robbers of Mr. Darlington, of the West Chester Bank. These are not true. The offenders are known to the police, and can be arrested at any time; but the desire is first to get a clue to the money. There is an odd-quit an anonymous offer had been made to the Bank of Chester County to compromise for its loss, at \$25,000,—which will not be agreed to, of course. The Bank has so arranged that all the stolen notes must be detected if offered, and new plates have been engraved, from which new issues are to be printed.

CINCINNATI, WIT.—As the Reverend Mr. Field, formerly of Westminister, Vermont, went to give his vote at an election, a man of opposite politics expressed surprise at seeing him there, and to confirm his objection quoted the remark of the Saviour, that His "kingdom was not of this world." "Has no man a right to vote?" rejoined the witty clergyman, "unless he belongs to the kingdom of Satan?"—Northampton Courier.

THE METHODIST CHURCH.—The Northern Advocate states that the Methodist Episcopal Conference for the past year having closed their sessions, a large decrease in the number of members is made evident. The tables show that the number of members in 1847 was twelve thousand less than in 1846. The latter year also presented a decrease of about the same number from 1845. No special cause is assigned for this decrease.—Sat. Post.

MARRIAGE FEES.—The Evening Bulletin knows of a clergyman in Lancaster, in this State, whose marriage fees amount to \$1,000 per annum; and conjectures there are clergy-men in this city, whose receipts from this source are nearly if not quite as large. Mr. Streeter, of Boston, married last year 168 couples.

Always Mistaken.—The great error which Federalism has heretofore made, is that of not knowing the people, and not loving our institutions. Of the first it always speaks with indifference—of the last with distrust. How many instances are on record, in which the measures of the Democratic party have been declared to be subversive of all law, and certain to lead to the destruction of our institutions? And yet there are thousands living who have been these very measures tried, and whose sunny predictions falsified, in the abundant success of the Democratic policy.—The purchase of Louisiana and of Florida, the cause of such violent opposition, and of so many discouraging prophecies, has only served, by putting our institutions on a new test, to display new merits and new powers in their extended operations. The war with Mexico has started these political seers away, and accordingly, we have the usual amount of gloomy prophecies, looking to the overthrow of our country by the increased executive patronage to which it has given rise, and the ultimate annexation of a vast and prolific neighboring republic. And yet, solemn as are all these prognostications, who does not remember that others, equally sombre, have been hazarded and successively overthrown? All these prophets mistrust the people, and do not understand our institutions, or else they would not restrict so little counsel from the Past, and so little hope from the Future. We believe it was Mr. Sevier, of Arkansas, who said in one of the characteristic speeches in the National Senate, a year ago, that to believe a certain class of politicians, the country was always wrong or ruined. And he might have added, that they had never yet been known to have either their prophecies, or what is the same thing, their hopes, fulfilled by the practical results of the measures they decried.—Pennysonian.

A LARGE FORTUNE.—A reference to the proceedings of the Supreme Court of the United States, will show that the wife of Maj. Gen. Gaines has gained a suit, which will place her in the possession of a fortune estimated at thirty millions of dollars. This beats John Jacob Astor far enough.—Pennysonian.

THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS.—On the 1st of December the Emperor of Russia completed the twenty-second year of his reign; in three years, therefore, he will have arrived at an epoch which has not been attained by any of the Czsars before him. A fundamental law exists in Russia, which dates before the time of Peter the Great, and by which the Emperor of Russia cannot reign more than twenty-five years. After this period, he is obliged to abdicate in favor of the heir presumptive of the Imperial Crown; or, if he wants to maintain himself on the throne, he does so at the risk of having all the aristocracy of Russia, and being established or strangled in his own palace. Such, at least, were the customs of the Czsars, for a long period has elapsed since any attained the 25th year of his reign. The resolution which the Emperor will take for this important period, has been deeply engaging parties at St. Petersburg. Many suppose that he will abdicate in favor of the Prince Royal Alexander Nicolovitch, who is now twenty-nine years of age, and that he will retire into Germany; but the more general opinion is that he will invoke the Senate, for the purpose of having this barbarous law revoked, and thus be enabled to continue his reign without the fear of the nobles.

The Emperor himself avoids all allusion to the subject.—London Sun.

GALLANTRY.—There is a place in New Hampshire where they never have any old men. When a girl reaches 20, and is still on the ladder of expectation, the young fellows club together and draw lots for her. Those who escape, pay a bonus to the one who gets her. There's gallantry for you.