

News of the Week

Late from the Army, Tampico and Brazos. WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—6 P. M. Tampico dates to the 15th and Brazos to the 18th have been received at New Orleans by the arrival of the steamship Massachusetts. A considerable excitement had been occasioned at Tampico by a report that a considerable body of Mexican cavalry had been seen in that neighborhood. The U. S. steamer Fashion arrived at Brazos on the 15th, with Gen. Jessup, Gen. Pillow left Matamoros on the 14th, and was to proceed to Tampico and wait for Gen. Patterson and the rest of his division and train. Gen. Taylor was to leave Monterey with Gen. Twiggs' division and a portion of Gen. Smith's brigade. It was reported that Gen. Urrin was at Victoria with 600 cavalry. Gen. Wool remained at Paines. Gen. Worth was at Saltillo, where it was reported and confidently believed that Santa Anna had 28,000 men at San Luis. Santa Anna was purging his army of all the officers against whom there was the remotest suspicion of cowardice, retaining only such as he had the most implicit confidence in their bravery and skill. Gen. Ampudia, Col. Carrasco and several others, whose names are not stated, had been imprisoned on charges with cowardice. An order had been issued by Santa Anna, deeming to instant death any officer who shall disgrace his flag by cowardice or officer-like conduct in battle. There is a general desire expressed by the Mexican soldiery to be led against the invaders. About two hundred silk had been received at the hospital at Matamoros within a few days. The regiments were breaking up their encampments and were about to commence their march for Tampico. Deaths were less frequent in the hospital than during the fall and summer months. Murders continue to take place in the interior; three had occurred between Camargo and Monterey. About the 10th Mr. Downing was killed. He was a native of Baltimore, but had resided for a number of years at Corpus Christi. The combined strength of three regiments had left Matamoros for Tampico, comprising in all about 1800 men—sickness and deaths having reduced them to one third of their original strength. The steamship Alabama left New Orleans on the 24th for Brazos, and is believed for Tampico. Gen. Scott and staff were among the passengers. There were also several troops, destined for Tampico, on board, under the command of Maj. Sumner. Late and Important from the Squadron—Loss of the U. S. Brig Somers—Thirty-five of her crew perished—Names of the Lost and the Saved—Prize steamship Tobiasquina not heard from, and all on board supposed to have perished—News from the Army—Capt. of 100 Mules Accident with stores for the Mexican Army—Incident to Col. May.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—7 P. M. The brig Morgan Dix, arrived at New Orleans, brings dates from the Squadron off Anton Lizardo, to the 13th inst. Full particulars have been received of the total wreck of the U. S. Brig Somers, and the great loss of life which accompanied it. The Somers was maintaining the blockade of the harbor of Vera Cruz. On the evening of the 7th she had taken shelter under Green Island, there being every indication of an approaching northerly gale. On the morning of the 8th, a sail being reported from aloft, she was got under way, and stood out for several miles, when the approaching vessel was ascertained to be the John Adams, on her return from Tampico. Her appearance caused great satisfaction to the officers of the Somers, as Com. Perry had informed them that she was to relieve them from maintaining the blockade as soon as she came in. As the Somers was approaching her anchorage on her return, another sail was discovered standing for Vera Cruz, apparently with the intention of running the blockade. She immediately made all sail to intercept her, and in the effort to avoid falling on the reefs to leeward, she was struck by the north-east and thrown upon her beam ends. The strange vessel came rapidly down, but showed no colors, and tacked when near Pajonias reef. Lieut. Parker had reported the appearance of squalls, and the particulars are fully detailed in the New Orleans papers. The Somers continued careering over with great rapidity, and in about half an hour afterwards sunk. The following is a list of the officers and men, carried down with her—Henry A. Clemson, Acting Master; John Ringgold Hayson, Passed Midshipman; Wm. G. Brazier, Ebenezzer Terrell, Chas. H. Howen, James Ryder, James Thompson, Charles Lowe, Thomas Young, William Gellan, Mathias Gravel, Major Cain, Dennis Kelly, Alexander Anker, Charles McFarland, James Terrell, Charles Tarie, John Day, William Putty, Edward McCormick, Wm. E. Hensley, Wm. Q. Ford, John Hargrave, Wm. W. Curdy, Jno. Christopher Myers, Clem. C. Wilson, Thomas McGowan, Joseph Anthony, Adolphe Belmonte, Manuel Howard, Wm. W. Ewers, Henry W. Spear, James Chapman, Lewis Johnson, Ignatius Leopold, Thomas Jefferson, Wm. H. Rose and Peter Hernandez. List of those saved—R. Summes, Lieut. Commanding; M. E. D. Claiborne, Lieut.; John L. Parker, Lieutenant; John F. Steele, Surgeon; Jno. H. Wright, Passed Assistant Surgeon; Francis G. Clark, Midshipman; Edmund T. Stevens, Purser's Steward; Jacob Hazard, Yeoman; Amos Colson, Wm. Johnson, Matthew Brick, Jno. W. Garrison, John G. Venorech, Charles Seymour, Jno. Williamson, Jas. Pollen, John Smith, Henry Stromwell, Thos. Mulholland, Geo. Wakefield, Wm. Kye, Francis Hays, Wm. J. Thompson, Christopher Lawrence, Joseph Todd, Stephen Maynard, S. Bennett, Thos. D. Burns, Wm. Porter, Jos. Shipsey, Joseph Jones, Chas. Dutton, Washington Cooper, Ant. Dix, Frances A. Waldron, and Jas. Chambers. The weather continued until the 10th, and fears are entertained for other vessels. The frigate John Adams and the steamships Massachusetts, Vixen, Petre and Boston were off Vera Cruz, Jan. from Tampico. The frigate Cumberland had sailed for Norfolk. A letter received from on board the Barrigan dated the 23d, states that eight men belonging to the Somers had been picked up by

From California

A letter in the Journal of Commerce from the Rev. Walter Colton, dated Sept. 19, gives the following account of affairs in California: There is no disposition here among the people to offer any resistance. The masses are thoroughly with us, and right glad to get rid of Mexican rule. Had it been otherwise they never would have elected me to the chief magistracy of Monterey. We are all regarded more in the light of benefactors than victors. Their friendship and confidence must never be betrayed. California must never be surrendered to Mexico. If that country has still good claims to her, let those claims be liquidated by an equivalent in money. But it would be treason to the lives and fortunes of the best inhabitants to surrender the province itself. Let Congress annex her to the Union as a territory, and establish a civil government. Mr. Temple, an emigrant printer, and myself, have established a small paper here, the first ever published in California. It is issued every Saturday—its appearance made quite a little sensation. We found the type in an old forsaken cell of a monk, and the paper is such as is used here for cigar wrappers and was imported for that purpose. It is printed in English and Spanish. We are going to send it once to the United States for larger paper and a fresh font of type. With this new engine of power we are going to sustain the genius of American institutions here. Three thousand emigrants from the United States, it is understood, have just arrived at San Francisco, in two companies, one commanded by Captain Hastings, and the other by Capt. Pruszel, and ten thousand more are on their way. THE LUXURY OF UNJUST SUSPICION.—The world is very apt to put the most unfavorable construction upon the acts of individuals, and frequently to hastily subject persons to suspicion of crime whose characters have before stood fair and unblemished. The injustice of this course is made manifest in a case which has happened at Dayton, Ohio. Some time last spring, Messrs. Chambers & Harris, of that city, by mistake mailed for Cincinnati the sum of \$200, which they intended to mail for Springfield. The money not being received by their correspondent in Springfield, suspicion of "phroloining" it fell upon one of the clerks in the Dayton Post Office, Mr. V. B. Howard, (who, the Transcript says, was "a very worthy young man.") Young Howard was of a very sensitive nature, and on being informed of such suspicion, instantly resigned his post, saying that the Post Office was therefore no place for him. He forthwith volunteered for Mexico, left for the Rio Grande with the Ohio troops, and being of a feeble constitution, took sick on the march from Matamoros to Camargo, and died. The finale to this sad history is told in a late number of the Dayton Transcript. "Yesterday the letter, with the money it contained, was returned to the Post Office here from the dead letter office at Washington."

A ROYAL EDITOR.—The King of Bavaria is about to start a newspaper, which, rumor says, he is to edit himself. We can imagine the King sitting on the throne, with an immense pair of scissors in one hand, and the paste brush in the other, writing his Zeitungs, while the printer's devil is knocking at the door of the palace calling for "copy." His Royal Majesty scarcely knows the pains and penalties of an editor, yet, or else he would not be so ambitious of rushing into newspaper authorship. How will he like opening three hundred letters a day—every one of them finding fault with some part of his paper? How will he like being knocked up at three o'clock in the morning to come down to the office and open an express? How will he like collecting his quarterly subscriptions, or answering his correspondents' inquiries—whether his Majesty will be graciously pleased to take out his subscription in coins, candles, German sausages, sour cream, seltzer water, or Bavanian beer? How will he like being proffered a libel? or is he prepared to put in the old plea, "the King can do no wrong?" because the same yarn, of course, would apply to grammatical errors, false syllogisms, erroneous quotations, and all sorts of nonsense, though it is very doubtful whether his readers would take the excuse, and might not write to his Majesty to stop sending in the paper.—Punch. PETRIFIED HUMAN BODY FOUND.—We gathered the following facts from a gentleman of intelligence and undoubted veracity who was an eye witness. They may therefore be relied upon as substantially correct: A few weeks since, whilst engaged in digging a well in the lower part of Lowndes county, Georgia, within about half a mile of the Florida line, the workmen found a human body, completely turned to chalk. They had mutilated the body considerably before they were aware that it was. After they discovered it was a human body, they succeeded in getting nearly or quite all the parts. Our informant, with several other gentlemen of the vicinity visited the spot, and examined it carefully. They say there is not the least doubt of its being a human body. There were several teeth still remaining in the jaw, and the appearance of three having been extracted whilst the subject was living. The body when found was imbedded in a stiff clay about 30 feet from the surface. The surrounding country is a flat pine forest, heavily timbered; no stream of water of any magnitude within ten miles. Our informant was strongly of the opinion that this body had belonged to one of the antediluvian races.—Albany (Ga.) Patriot, Dec. 15. NOVEL SHIPMENT.—We noticed yesterday the arrival of two flat boats direct from Galena, their cargoes consisting of 4600 pigs of lead, consigned to two merchants of our city. These boats started from Lake St. Croix, over 800 miles above St. Louis, took their loads at Galena, and made the trip down in seventy-three days. This is the first flat boat shipment of lead, we believe, ever made to this port.—N. O. Delta. AN AFFECTIONATE WIFE.—"Philaura, dear," said a loving husband to his lawful spouse, who was several years the junior, "what do you say to moving to the West?" "Oh, I'm delighted with the idea. You recollect when Mr. Morgan moved out there, he was as poor as we are, and he died in three years' travel—a hundred thousand dollars."

Congressional

Congressional Proceedings. WASHINGTON, Jan. 2, 1847. The Senate was not in session to-day, having on Thursday adjourned over to Monday. In the House, the first business in order was the resolution to prevent members from making excuses for not voting. The resolution was adopted—85 to 73. The States were then called in order for resolutions, and a great number were offered, chiefly unimportant. Among those offered, were resolutions— To inquire into the expediency of setting apart a tract of land in Oregon for the Indians West of the Rocky Mountains, to be held by them in perpetuity, and securing to them rights independent of the government of the United States. To inquire into the expediency of establishing the duties on the articles in the present tariff at the revenue standard. To inquire into the expediency of reducing the pay of members of Congress, and others, twenty-five per cent, during the continuance of the war. Of inquiry, whether the money bequeathed by James Smithson was in the treasury on the 1st January 1847. To inquire into the expediency of imposing an ad valorem tax on gold and silver plate, &c. &c. Calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information as to whether secret traveling agents are or have been employed by the department, and paid from the treasury. Of inquiry, relative to the trial and execution of seamen on board ship Gumbrieland. Calling on the Secretary of War to report how many regiments have been employed near the mouth of the Rio Grande since the commencement of the war, the number of deaths, number discharged, &c. For printing 10,000 copies of the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on Commerce and Navigation. Relative to the better organization of the militia of the United States. A series, in regard to the war, its causes and objects. The bill to increase the pay of the army of the United States was made the special order for Tuesday next. The bill for the better organization of the army—raising ten additional regiments—was made the special order for Monday. Mr. Wentworth offered a resolution, declaring that it is inexpedient to levy a duty on tea and coffee. Mr. Payne moved to lay the resolution on the table. Negatives, 49 to 160. The resolution, by yeas and nays, was then adopted—yeas 113, nays 48. Mr. Sims, of Missouri, offered a resolution, declaring that the people of the United States are too patriotic to refuse any necessary tax in time of war. Mr. Ballou moved to lay the resolution on the table; motion lost, 32 to 107. The resolution, by yeas and nays, was then adopted—yeas 126, nays none. Notices were given of several bills relating to matters of Iowa, and also of a bill to amend the several acts relating to United States District Courts. Adjourned.

Summary. The Dayton (Ohio) papers state that at Xenon on the 12th inst. a young lad, aged about 15 years, in the house of his grandfather, a Mr. Binkley, was awakened by an alarm under his window. A ladder was placed against the window, and in a few minutes a man appeared opposite the window, upon the ladder. The young lad, inside, waiting, prepared for him, fired at his breast. The ball took effect as the man fell at once. The contract for the second ship of the Steam Navigation Company was made on Monday of last week at New York. The first ship will be launched about the 15th inst. We are very glad to learn that the subscription to the stock of this Company is going on favorably, and that it only falls short \$70,000 of the amount needed \$500,000. This will probably be taken within a week or two. A young man was instantly killed at the Wayne scribe factory, in Maine, last week, by the bursting of a grindstone. He was engaged in grinding some tools on the large stone used for grinding scythes, and was mangled in the most shocking manner; parts of his body being carried up through the flooring into the room above. Rev. John Forsythe, D. D. of Newbury, N. Y. has been appointed Professor of Latin and lecturer on history; and the Rev. Lyman Coleman, of Princeton, Professor of German in the College of New Jersey. General Erastus Root, the venerable and well known politician, died recently in the city of New York, in the 74th year of his age. Gen. Root has occupied many offices of trust. He has been a member of the Assembly and Senate, and Lieut. Governor of the State, and a member of the State Convention of 1821. He also represented his district in Congress. Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, the venerable relict of the first Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, and the favorite aide-de-camp of George Washington, is again waiting the pleasure of Congress, for the sale to the government of her husband's works. They must contain state papers that have no other proprietor than the country. Mr. Wise, it is said, wishes to come home from Brazil, on account of the ill-health of his wife, and the appointment of a Minister in his place will fall, it is thought, upon the Hon. John J. Hoge, of Illinois, whose term in Congress expires the 4th of March next. On the 12th inst. Stephen A. Douglass, Dem. now a member of the House of Representatives, was elected Senator of the United States for six years from the 4th of March next, in place of James Simple, Dem. whose term of service will then expire. The vote stood—Douglass, 100; Edwards, whig 45. A case is now on trial in Mississippi, which, if it takes a proper direction, will go far to state the rage for duelling. A law of the State of Mississippi requires that a man shall pay the debts of each individual whom he kills in a duel, and if an honest jury will sustain the law, and the defendant is able to pay, he will be careful how he engages in a duel.

For the People's Advocate

"Clean the inside of the platter." Incidents in relation to the conduct of Schools and Academies in the back settlements of Pa. now and then occur which are quite interesting. I have heard narrated the history of an Academy, not a thousand miles distant, which was a little amusing, and which from recollection I will endeavor to repeat. When the country was new and sparsely settled, a bountiful Legislature appropriated one thousand dollars, which was to be securely invested for the benefit of an Academy, in a small village in the Northern tier of counties. The money was duly paid over—an early settler and extensive landholder received it, and annually accounted for the \$60 of interest as it accrued. With the addition of stock-subscriptions an appropriate building was erected. Trustees were elected and a school put in operation. Teachers were employed, one after another in rapid succession, until their name was legion. Trustees were elected from time to time, but were found, for a series of years, to consist of the same men. Few or no alterations were made in the Board for twenty successive years. As the population increased, and men who justly made some pretensions to literature came into the place, a disposition was manifested, for the benefit of the Institution, to make some changes in the board. Such were told that they had no part or lot in the matter, that none but stockholders could be allowed to vote, and that it was a business which belonged peculiarly to the pioneers of the place. Well, sometimes they kept up the Academy and sometimes resolved their Academy into a Common School; but managed to keep some of a School most of the time. After the lapse of many years, however, so much difficulty attended their endeavor to drum up the old-fashioned Board, that only two or three met to elect Trustees, when it was concluded that it was not worth while to re-elect the same old Board, as some were absent and others disabled from attendance. Well, what must be done? Why, their places must be supplied. With whom, not classical men, for they may know more about Academy learning than we do, and take all the shine of us? We can take care of that. We will elect some young men, who on hearing Latin or Greek recitations can only hold their books up before their faces without understanding a word; and we can do that, surely, in our most gracious and wise manner. Agreed: you are the best Trustees out. So, true to the suggestion, some young men were selected who knew no more about the dead languages than a mule about the construction of a steamboat, with no other source of ambition to serve industriously than the chance of having children to call their own in futuro time that may require education, who are formally notified of their election. Well, with a new administration, new measures must be adopted. The old Academy must be razed to the ground, or removed from its moorings, and a new one constructed in its place, &c. The citizens are called upon to aid, &c. They replied, as I was told, "Clean the inside of your platter first—let there be first salutary changes in your mode of Direction, such as will be generally satisfactory; and inspire confidence; and when you have thus caught up with the times, you may call on us for assistance with a better grace, and with a better chance of success!" It occurred to me there was much force in the reply. SECRETARIES. PUBLIC MEETING. In pursuance of a call of a number of our citizens, a respectable number convened at the Court house on the evening of the 5th day of January, 1847. On motion, S. S. MULFORD was appointed Chairman, and M. S. Wilson, Secretary. After hearing remarks from Judge Jessup, B. S. Bentley, Esq., and others, in reference to the propriety and necessity of erecting buildings in Montrose, suitable for an Academic School, it was on motion; Resolved, That it is expedient to form a joint stock company of four thousand dollars, to be divided into shares of twenty-five dollars each, for the purpose of procuring ground, and erecting buildings thereon. Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draw up a Constitution of said Company, and procure subscriptions of said stock—said Committee to consist of three, viz: Geo. Fuller, B. S. Bentley and J. J. Post. On motion, adjourned to meet at the Court-house, on Friday evening the 16th inst.—and that the Committee then report progress, &c. S. S. MULFORD, Chm. M. S. Wilson, Secy.

The People's Advocate. Here shall the Press, the People's rights maintain. Claimed by influence, and nurtured by gain. MONTROSE, JAN. 7, 1847. Our subscribers on the Silver Lake Post Route will bear in mind that where the papers are dropped at their doors, by Carrier, he will charge 25 cts. per year for so doing. "Harrisburg Argus." The Argus, a spirited Democratic paper, published at the Capital of our State, by J. C. CANTINE, will be published Daily and Weekly during the Session of the Legislature, on the following terms: Daily, during the Session \$2 00 Weekly, do do 1 00 Six copies of the Weekly to our post office 5 00 Weekly, per annum, 2 00 Weekly, (Daily during session) 3 00 We have this week no news of remarkable events of recent occurrence with which either to edify or amuse our readers. The holy-day occasion has passed off without leaving the record of any very extraordinary disasters. Their observance seems to have been marked with the hilarity and good feeling which ever and anon animate the soul and warm the heart of every happy citizen. Some devoted it entirely to purposes of pleasure—some to religious exercises—others divided their time between the region of serious reflection and pleasurable anticipation; while very many were busily and gaily employed in receiving and extending the greetings of friendship. From the appearance of our Hymenal department, we infer that more than one at a time, seized upon it as a befitting opportunity for the transaction of business at the delightfully circulating altar of Cupid. We were very closely confined to our "Sanctum," by press of job work in addition to our ordinary labors; though our Carrier was much gratified with the welcome and *quid pro quo* in return, which attended the delivery of his "Address." This was to us ample reward for the midnight-labor which it cost us, to "get it out" for him. If our patrons generally will continue to favor us in future, as in the past, and we are permitted to see the day will endeavor, again, on the opening of an other New-Year, to greet you with an expression of unfeigned gratitude for your patronage. A desire to merit such partiality and kindness of your hands, will impel and nerve us on to increased exertion in the laborious enterprise wherein we have so reluctantly but as we trust auspiciously embarked. THE WAR. The latest intelligence from the army will be found in other columns. We have no advice of recently fought battles, though there is evidently much of planning and preparation, for hard fighting. It will not be long, we apprehend, ere we shall hear of a battle either of Victoria, Vera Cruz or San Luis Potosi, as the capture of each, we believe to be in contemplation. Santa Anna will probably, if he dare, give fight in person at the latter place. With Generals Scott and Taylor in command of our brave troops, we have little to fear, save the loss of many precious lives. Though the Mexicans hold out obstinately, that treacherous slave to power, Santa Anna, will soon be compelled to yield to the power of our arms.