

The People's Advocate.

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MONTROSE, NOV. 18, 1847.

E. W. CARR, Sun Building, N. E. corner of Third and Dock Streets, Phila. is authorized to act as Agent for the "People's Advocate," and receive and receipt any moneys due the same for advertising, &c.

The official despatches from General Scott relative to the taking of the City of Mexico, have at last reached the Department at Washington. They will be published in the Union commencing on Monday evening of this week.

THE LICENSE QUESTION.—The late decision of the Supreme Court at Pittsburgh on the unconstitutionality of the "No License" law, has aroused the friends of Temperance in that vicinity to adopt some means to meet the crisis. Public meetings have been held, and the question just settled by the Court warmly discussed on both sides.

A STRANGE BALLOT.—The following is a sample of some of the ballots which were voted in New York at the late election: "The force of a Regular Democratic Nomination consists in its fairness and justice. A clear violation of those great principles, is not only calculated to bring regular nominations into disrepute, but resisted, renders them the engine of wrong and evil, rather than a fair medium of presenting the claims of candidates, and the wishes of the Democratic constituency."

On Friday last the steamboat Hendrick Hudson ran into a sloop on the North River, and sunk her. One man was killed by the collision.

STUNK'S OFFICIAL MAJORITY was reported to be 17,977. Add the majority at Perote, in Mexico, the returns of which have just been received, and it will be 18,023; there is a regiment and a half to hear from. The returns will probably be in before the inauguration takes place.

General Quitman has resigned the Governorship of the city of Mexico, and succeeds Gen. Taylor in command of the forces on the Rio Grande.

WISCONSIN.—Gov. Dodge, of Wisconsin, has issued his proclamation, setting apart the 25th day of November for thanksgiving. This, we believe, is the sixteenth appointment of the same day by various governors.

CLOSING THE WAR.—A mass meeting of the people, without distinction of party, is called in Louisville, Kentucky, to take counsel upon the best mode of bringing the war to an honorable conclusion.

CONNECTICUT U. S. SENATOR.—The vacancy occasioned by the death of J. W. Huntington has been filled by Gov. Bissell, in the appointment of ex-Governor Roger S. Baldwin.

ANOTHER MOVE ON THE POLITICAL CHESS BOARD.—The leaders of that portion of the Democratic party who adhere to the Wilnot Proviso, are making preparations for continuing their separate organization for the next Presidential election, when they will have a candidate of their own.

Mr. O. N. WORDEN retires from the management of the "Wyoming Record" this week, and Mr. Geo. M. REYNOLDS, of Hopedale, does not succeed him. What next?

Periodicals.—The "Democratic Review" for November, is promptly on our table. Its contents, as usual, are of that high order of excellence, which must command the approbation of a large portion of the reading public. Published by John W. Moore, 107 Fulton-st. New-York, at \$3 00 per annum.

"Blackwood's Magazine" for October contains a humorous article headed "Magna America." It appears that the writer of the above article secured a copy-right in this country for the purpose of preventing Mr. Scott from re-publishing this number of the Magazine. The enterprising American publishers, however, were not to be thwarted in their purpose: they have promptly issued the Magazine, including the interesting contraband article. The Magazine is re-published in this country by Messrs. L. Scott & Co. 79 Fulton-street, corner of Gold, New-York, and furnished to subscribers at \$3 00 per annum.

No. 6 of "Chambers' Miscellany" is received, and the contents are fully as interesting as those contained in previous numbers. Published by Gould, Kendall & Lincoln, 59 Washington-street, Boston, at 25 cts. per No.

Gen. Taylor in Tennessee.—A Nashville paper speaking of Gen. Taylor in connection with the Presidency, makes one of the following strong and pleasing language: "That the vote of Tennessee will be cast for Gen. Taylor at the next Presidential election may be regarded as a fixed fact. He can beat any man of either party twenty thousand votes in the State. As there can be no mistake whatever as to this fact, it may be well that it should be distinctly understood throughout the Union, as well as

those who prefer Gen. Taylor, as by those who prefer some other man."

NEW YORK RE-ENTERED.—The Washington correspondent of the Public Ledger, who appears to be well informed of the course of political affairs at the Capital, hints that the Democratic party leaders there hope to come out safe without the aid of New York, in which case she is to be left alone to go where she chooses. The writer says: "The result of the election in Michigan is not only considered as highly important in itself, but just after the tremendous Whig majority in the State of New York, a means of changing very materially the programme of the next Presidential campaign. Every thing now seems to depend on the prospect of the Democratic party to count out without New York; for in that case little will be done to satisfy the turbulent factions of that State. The Wilnot proviso will never be forced on the administration in any manner or shape; for in the shape in which it is now presented it not only involves the question of slavery, but in intimate connection with it, that of territory, on which the administration has sinned its reputation. In proportion as there is fear that New York will entirely roll over to the Whigs, the other states which the Democrats hope to carry, will be considered, and if concessions are to be made, they will be made to them, and not to those who ask for their sword in hand."

The trial of the notorious Madame Restall, in New York, has finally resulted in a conviction of a misdemeanor. Mr. Brady, her indefatigable counsel, moved an arrest of judgment, but the Court overruled, and sentenced the prisoner to one year's imprisonment in the Penitentiary. Judge Edmonds subsequently granted a stay of proceedings.

Gen. Taylor.

The Baltimore American, one of the ablest papers in the country, contains a strong article in favor of Gen. Taylor for the Presidency, which closes with this language: "Finally, and at any rate, we gather from the indications in Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and other States, that General Taylor is unquestionably in the field. He has not made himself a candidate for the Presidency; the People have done it. He has announced the terms upon which he will stand, and those terms are accepted. Gen. TAYLOR is in the field, he will not withdraw nor be withdrawn; for he never retreats; he never surrenders. The People who have called him to his position will sustain him there. They claim him as their own. Conventions may recognize, but they cannot appropriate him. GEORGE WASHINGTON is now to have a successor."

Talbot has written an account of the loss of the ship Empire, which was transporting the United States troops from New York. The vessel struck on a coral reef at Abaco. The letter says: "As soon as we struck, sentinels were immediately placed over the main hatch, who prevented any of the soldiers from coming on deck, or interfering with the management of the ship. Our position was very critical for the six hours that intervened from the striking of the ship until daylight revealed our true situation. During the long interval of time I have seldom or never seen more cool courage than was exhibited by the whole command, as they calmly awaited the fate which promised but destruction."

The dawn of day, however, disclosed to the westward, and about a mile distant, a low chain of reefy islands; and still further west, the wooded shores of the island of Abaco, proving that we were more than fifty miles out of our reckoning—a strange and fatal error. As it became more light, we discovered a large ship two miles to the east, which was just escaping from the same danger that had overtaken us; while from the shores of Abaco we could see the light sail of the wreckers pushing boldly forth to sea. Soon a little fleet of the egg-shell craft, in which the wreckers tempt the waves, hovered about our dismantled vessel, like wolves over the carcass of a buffalo. Many of them boarded us, and, contrary to the opinion generally received of this class of men, exhibited much willingness in rendering assistance. With their aid, in less than three hours the whole command, with most of the personal baggage, were safely landed in Fowl Key."

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.—Letters have been received at the Navy Department, by the U. S. brig Dolphin, which has just arrived at New York, in 22 days from Porto Praya (Cape Verde Islands) Lieutenant Commanding Bell gives some account of his cruise. He had overhauled an American brig (the W. Huntington) on the night of the 31st of August, owned in New York, from Rio Janeiro, with the usual assorted slave cargo on board, and lumber enough for a slave deck. He was informed, also, that the Malaga had precisely such a cargo, except the lumber. The American brig Senator, boarded in March last, was out from Rio with such a cargo, and similarly chartered. The master of the J. W. Huntington reports that she (the Senator) now lies scuttled in Rio. Having safely landed 500 slaves at Cape Frio, she proceeded into Rio, under Brazilian colors, where her owners were suffered to strip her of all her furniture, and then the government seized her, as a no document vessel.—The American crew having left her at Loango, where the slaves were taken on board. Lieut. Bell says: "The American factory at this place is the principal trading establishment under the American flag on the Southern coast; there being branches of it, as at Amizetto and Loango, owned by Messrs. Bouchons & Hunt, Bales, Maxe, who are said to be doing a fair business in guns, ivory, copper

and ebony; that house sends out from six to eight vessels annually." "From the same source understand upwards of thirty American vessels annually come freighted from Brazil by Brazilians to the south coast; some of them, as is well known, taking a return cargo of slaves and Brazilian colors, their American crew first leaving them. But the most of them are believed to leave the coast carrying white passengers only."

Lieut. Bell deserves the thanks of his government for his efforts to suppress this abominable traffic, and his exposure of American merchants so shamefully engaged in it.—Ledger.

THE NEW REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.—The Washington Union publishes some recent advices from the west coast of Africa, showing the progress of the new republic of Liberia. "A constitution has been adopted which concludes with the following appeal: 'Therefore, in the name of humanity, and virtue and religion—in the name of the Great God, our common Creator, and our common Judge, we appeal to the nations of Christendom, and earnestly and respectfully ask of them that they will regard us with the sympathies and friendly consideration to which the peculiarities of our condition entitle us, and to extend to us that comity which marks the friendly intercourse of civilized and independent communities.'"

The declaration of rights is copied from the State constitutions of the United States. It declares all power to be inherent in the people, all free governments instituted by their authority and for their benefit, that all men have a right to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and guarantees the liberty of the press. The young republic commences well, and we hope it will receive the support from the citizens of Liberia that it deserves.

License Question in New Jersey.

The election to determine, by a popular vote, whether the people will have any tavern licenses, for the sale of intoxicating liquors, granted for their respective townships or not, will take place on the 7th of December.

The Public Works.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the Board of Canal Commissioners for their persevering efforts to repair the damage to the public works occasioned by the recent freshet. Their personal attention has been unremittingly devoted to that object. A large force has been collected, and the work pushed forward with an energy which has removed all doubts of the practicability of repairing the entire line before the opening of the Spring business.

The main line is now navigable from Columbia to the Rope Ferry on the Juniata. On Saturday next, we understand, the water will be let in from New Hamilton to the Rope Ferry, sufficient to pass boats not very heavily laden. In consequence of the mechanical structures to be repaired or rebuilt, it was not possible to open the line before the close of the present season. But the arrangements which have been made will ensure the completion of all the repairs some time in February, so that there is now a certainty of the whole line from Philadelphia to the opening of the navigation.

The branch at the head of Dunsmuir's Island has been repaired, which gives an uninterrupted navigation to the head of the North Branch Division.

On the West Branch Division we are assured the water will be let in from Loyalsock to Northumberland, about the 15th instant. The repairs on the remainder of that division will be completed by the 1st of January.

It is gratifying to know that notwithstanding the interruption at one of the most profitable periods of the year, the receipts from tolls will exceed \$1,500,000.—Harrisburg Argus.

THE NATURAL LIMITS OF A REPUBLIC.—In the 14th number of the Federalist, the following pregnant sentences occur. They are of interest at this juncture. "They are the deliberately expressed opinions of a sound thinker, one of the sages of the country."

"The error which limits republican government to a narrow district, has been unfolded and refuted in preceding papers. I remark here that it seems to owe its rise and prevalence to the confounding of a republic with a democracy. As the natural limit of a democracy is the distance from the central point which will permit the most remote citizens to assemble as often as their public functions demand, and will include no greater number than will join in these functions, so the natural limits of a republic is the distance from the centre, which will barely allow the representatives of the people to meet as often as may be necessary for the administration of public affairs."

Science is doing something every day towards removing limits founded upon such obstacles, and at no distant day the only limit to a republic will be the oceans which bound a continent.

BEAUTIFUL.—The Navy positively refuses to assist in transporting men and material for the war. It is too much like work and the merchant service, for gentlemen whose only pride is fighting—which, however, in some way or other, they have managed not to do much of. So government has been forced to expend some millions in paying merchantmen for service which the Navy could and ought to have done, but would not. Among other items a million and a half was paid for small vessels at New Orleans, every cent of which could have been saved to the people of the United States, if the navy did not feel above being useful, and if Congressmen did not prefer ditting with and petting naval officers, to the care of the public interest. No Secretary of the Navy can make the sea nobility do good; republican service, while almost every senator and representative has, or expects to have, a member of his family provided with spauldres and a salary for life in our Army or Navy. It is a joint-stock family concern, and they make rich times out of the service.—N. Y. Sun.

FROM THE ARMY.

From Mexico. Further Particulars—Vox of the Pennsylvania Volunteers—Santa Anna's Dismissal—His Account of the Action of Huamantla.

SANTA ANNA.—The most important news by the late arrival is that of the dismissal of Santa Anna from the command of the army. General Rincon succeeds him. The following is the official letter, addressed by the Minister of Foreign and Domestic Relations to the fallen Dictator, conveying the unwelcome intelligence:—

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, Minister of Internal and External Relations. Sir.—His Excellency the provisional President of the Republic, profoundly impressed with his duty towards his country, convinced of the necessity of re-establishing public morality in the nation, of giving more vigor to the discipline of the army, for some time relaxed and almost extinguished by its civil dissensions; desiring, also, to manifest to the population of the metropolis of Mexico, and other cities in the power of the enemy, whose fate is not indifferent to your Excellency, in fine, considering that in all well organized countries, generals of the army have to answer before a tribunal for the faults they have committed, and the reverses which they have experienced in their campaigns, he, the Provisional President, directs that you transfer the command-in-chief of the army to General of Division Don Manuel Rincon, and until that officer is on the spot to assume it, you will place it in the hands of General Don Juan Alvarez. His Excellency, the Provisional President, also directs that you establish your residence in such a locality as you shall deem convenient, and which may be in accordance to the views of the Supreme government, and that you here await, under the guarantee of your word of honor, the orders for the assembling of a court martial, composed of general officers, to try your Excellency for the loss of the actions in which you have commanded during the present war, and principally for the loss (capture) of the capital of the Republic.

His Excellency, the President, thinks it due to your honor that it should be cleared and thoroughly purified by a judicial investigation, the result of which he hopes will be favorable and honorable to you. With the usual compliments, &c., God and Liberty. Toluca, 7th October, 1847.

To his Excellency, best deserver of his country, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

Santa Anna in his account of the action of Huamantla, says the Americans lost one hundred men, the American account says 16, but the American account of Santa Anna's loss was equally extravagant, for the enemy instead of being slaughtered like sheep, and several hundred killed, Santa Anna says he lost only seven men.

The first number of the North American of the 29th of September, published in the city of Mexico, in speaking of the Mexicans, says:—"We will establish Colleges on the site of your barracks, in which your children shall be educated." The Monitor says, "we should be happy to see this idea realized, but as it takes some considerable time to effect this, we would, in the meantime, wish to see the Colleges that we possess into military barracks."

SAN LUIS DE POTOSI.—The State of San Luis has recognized, without a dissenting voice, the General Government established by a decree of the 16th of September. The State is remarkable for the great efforts which it has made in the defence of the country.

AGUS CALENTES.—The Mexican deputy sent from the State of Agus Calentes to Queretaro, has received the most positive injunctions from his constituents, neither to admit, listen to, or in the least approve of, any treaty with the North Americans, until first their forces shall have retired from their country, and the fleet from blockading their coast.

The Pennsylvania volunteers garrisoned at Perote voted for Governor of Pennsylvania on the 12th of October, as follows: For Governor—Shunk, 66 Irvin, 20 Canal Commissioner—Lohgstreth, 66 Patton, 19 Morton, 1

This is only one battalion of the first regiment. The other battalion is at Puebla, and the second regiment is at the city of Mexico.

Padre JARAUTA.—El Jorocho, the Vera Cruz correspondent of the Patria, in a letter dated the 20th ult., says that Padre Jarauta has abandoned the field of Mars, and resumed the peaceful monastic life. A few days previously he went to Huastaca, where the Governor of the State resides, and there resigned his commission as chief of the guerrillas. "To this is to be attributed the removal of the difficulties in the way of travelling between Vera Cruz and Jalapa. It was Jarauta who assembled the scattered bands of robbers under the guerrilla flag, and now he is gone; they have disappeared. For our part, we think it was a wholesome fear of the Texan Rangers that induced this guerrilla chief to abandon his occupation; if he had continued to infest the road, he would have been sure, one time or other, to fall into their hands."

THE LAMENTED WALKER.—Among the brave who have nobly fallen during the war with Mexico there is not one around whose head have clustered laurels more abundantly than this intrepid officer. Captain Walker was one of those spirits that seem to be designed by fate to acquire renown by taking their physical energies in the heat of a hand-to-hand fray; in the crowded melee, when the quick eyes and ready hand, backed by the dauntless heart, enable them to wrest from Fortune her brightest plume. A modern Homer, ready to pluck bright honor from the pole-star moon; or dive into unfathomable depths; or pluck up drowned honor by the locks; this gallant fellow was the model of a hero in partisan warfare. His loss at this moment is a public one of the greatest magnitude; for it will be difficult to find another, like him, possessing such varied attributes for action and command. Capt. W. was for a considerable time a Texan prisoner of war in Mexico, where he was forced, with other captives, like himself, to work in the wards of the metropolis. We regret that he did not live to accomplish what he more than once expressed to us as the

dearest wish of his heart, viz: to ride his horse in triumph over those streets in the city of Mexico, which he had labored to construct and repair. His death will be deplored all over the Union.—N. O. Times.

A correspondent of the Pionero, giving an account of Walker's death, says: "Capt. W. fired his revolver, but unfortunately missed his aim, when the old man killed him with his lance and fled, exclaiming that he had avenged the death of his son." Capt. Walker's last words to his men were "Although your Captain has fallen, never surrender, my boys." As soon as Captain Walker had fallen, Capt. Lewis took command of the battalion and ordered the streets and other places to be scoured, which was immediately done, and but a few minutes elapsed before the village was entirely clear of the hostile portion of the inhabitants.

"Many of the houses of the village were sacked and destroyed, and it is much to be regretted that after Gen. Lane had passed on, a number of stragglers, who had been intoxicated in the village, were put to death by the Mexicans. Accounts vary as to the number who were killed in this way, and a private letter which I have seen sets the number down as about forty men, and other accounts make it larger.

The diligence which left Vera Cruz on the 20th inst., on its return to the city of Mexico, was attacked, it appears, in the vicinity of Santa Fe, some two leagues from here. The drivers, two Mexican boys, were found tied to the wheels, with their throats cut in the most barbarous manner. The mules had either broken loose, or were carried off by the assassins, as all but two had disappeared. One trunk, the property of Mr. Nathan, of New York, who is now residing in Jalapa, and the only luggage in the vehicle, was plundered by those marauding ruffians. Fortunately there were no passengers.

The Mexican Congress did not assemble at Queretaro on the 5th inst. The Monitor says that the typhus fever is raging to a very considerable extent among the American troops in the capital.

EARTHQUAKE.—On Saturday the 2nd of October, the shock of a severe earthquake was felt in the City of Mexico, lasting two minutes and four seconds. Beds were rocked like hammocks in a ship at sea; open doors were slammed to and fro, and it was with difficulty any person could keep their feet. The people ran into the streets, and all knelt with clasped hands and upturned faces. It is described by the editor of the North American as a most thrilling and sublime sight. This was the severest shock which has been felt in Mexico since the great one of 1844, which threw down houses and made the earth crack. In various parts of the city, says the North American, the shock left traces of its power. The fountain in the Grand Plaza was so moved that the water was thrown out of the reservoir in large quantities; houses were cracked, and standing water ran several yards. It is difficult to describe the sensation, felt for the first time during the shock of an earthquake. Almost every one in the city became sick at the stomach, and experienced a dizziness equal to the severest vertigo; and, added to this unpleasant feeling, was an almost utter prostration of the system, which rendered them in a measure helpless, had any great exertion been necessary. The house wocopy is one of the strongest and firmest in the city. It is described by the editor of the North American as a most thrilling and sublime sight. This was the severest shock which has been felt in Mexico since the great one of 1844, which threw down houses and made the earth crack. In various parts of the city, says the North American, the shock left traces of its power. The fountain in the Grand Plaza was so moved that the water was thrown out of the reservoir in large quantities; houses were cracked, and standing water ran several yards. It is difficult to describe the sensation, felt for the first time during the shock of an earthquake. Almost every one in the city became sick at the stomach, and experienced a dizziness equal to the severest vertigo; and, added to this unpleasant feeling, was an almost utter prostration of the system, which rendered them in a measure helpless, had any great exertion been necessary. The house wocopy is one of the strongest and firmest in the city.

From the Public Ledger, 13th inst.]

LATE FROM MEXICO.

Death of Col. Roberts, 2nd Pennsylvania Volunteers—Return of Midshipman Rogers, Maj. Gaines &c.

From the Durango Journal, of the 14th ult., is derived the information that the United States frigate Portsmouth, arrived in the waters of Mazatlan on the 22d of September, from Monterey, in California. The U. S. Squadron, consisting of the frigate Congress, Date, the Cyane, and a transport, left Monterey on the 1st of September, for Mazatlan and San Blas, and for those of Guayaquil and Acapulco. Major Gaines, Capt. Cassius M. Clay, Capt. Heady, Major Borland, Capt. Dauley, and Midshipman Rogers came home, and we are happy to add, our associate, Mr. Kendall. Mr. Bankhead, the British minister, arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th ult., and was received with military honors. A duel was fought about the 24th ult., between Capt. Porter, of the Rifles, and Capt. Archer, of the Volunteers. At the second fire Capt. Archer was shot in the abdomen—a severe but not dangerous wound. A duel was fought, near Vera Cruz outside the Gate of Mercy, on the 1st inst., between Capt. Warrington and White, with muskets, at sixty paces. At first fire Capt. Warrington received a ball through the fleshy part of his leg, below the knee. The "Leonidas" letter made a great stir in the army. One of the above duels grew out of it.

DEATHS OF OFFICERS.—We regret to learn from the Star that Col. Roberts, of the 2d Pennsylvania regiment of volunteers, died at the camp on the 3d of October. Lieut. Joseph D. Bacon, of the 8th infantry, died on the 12th ult., of wounds received at the battle of Chierubueno. Lieut. E. B. Daniels, of the 3d Artillery, has died of his wounds. Lieut. Steen, of the South Carolina regiment, and Capt. Huddleston, of the 14th Infantry, are dead; the former of his wounds, the latter of a bowel complaint.

Dr. Wm. Roberts, of the medical staff, and attached to the 5th infantry's surgeons, died on the 12th ult., of a wound received at the King's Mill. Capt. Pierson, of the New York regiment of Volunteers, died on the 10th ult., of wounds received in attacking Chapultepec. Assistant surgeon Trewell died at Vera Cruz on the 24th ult., of cholera. Lieut. Shackelford, of the 2d Artillery, has died of his wounds. As far back as the 14th ult. Generals Pillow and Shields were able to do about.

The steam frigate Mississippi arrived here on the 22d of Oct.

A court martial was in session at Vera Cruz on the 28th of the trial of Capt. John H. King, Military Surgeon. Gen. Marshall is ill at Vera Cruz and will not be able to go up with Gen. Patterson. He will wait till General Butler's division arrives. The steamer A. R. Hetzel, Capt. Baker, arrived at Vera Cruz from Mobile on the 30th. He had to throw overboard all his horses, having encountered awful weather. The steamer Florida was in the same gale, and had thrown overboard all her mules.

There were several blocks of an earthquake at the city of Mexico, on the morning of the 2d of October, and again at midnight on the 5th. They do not appear to have been very severe, as no damage was done in the city, with the exception of cracking a few walls.

A new paper has been established in the capital, entitled La Razon. It is published entirely in Spanish, is a Democratic paper, and advocates the re-establishment of the constitution of '24.

Gen. Mora y Villamil has been appointed Secretary of War.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN WALKER.—The Pionero, speaking of Captain Walker's death, says: "Capt. W. left the Castle of Perote in command of three companies, in advance of Gen. Lane's train. Nine miles south of Puebla he met 900 Mexicans, said to be under the immediate command of Santa Anna. In charging, Captain W. received a lance wound entirely through the body, and also a leg by a cannon shot. His personal antagonist in the charge, and who lamed him, was a celebrated guerrilla chief. It is said that he had sworn vengeance against Captain W. But he too, fell in the conflict, and by Walker's hands, receiving two balls from his revolver.

Captain Loyall and eighteen men of his company of mounted Georgians, and from six to ten of the Rifles, are also known to have been killed in the charge of Captain Walker. A man, named Raborg, of Baltimore, interpreter for Capt. Walker, lost a leg from a charge of artillery. Col. Wynkoop writes that the Mexicans were slaughtered after this like sheep.

Correspondence of the Public Ledger. From Washington.

Interesting Information.—The Success of Cheap Postage.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18, 1847.

At the time that the Cambrian sailed, Major Hobbie, first Assistant Postmaster General, had not yet concluded a postal arrangement with the British Government. Negotiations proceeded very slowly, and it was with great difficulty that Major Hobbie obtained access to the persons who alone have the power to facilitate the matter. I imagine that the preliminaries are too long, and that the arrangement to be concluded is, on the part of the British authorities, so full of little details and minute, that our agent before returning to this country, will scarcely have time to arrange more than the basis of an amicable understanding between the Post Office Departments of the two governments, to be perfected subsequently as circumstances may permit.

More cheering than this news is that from France and Germany, where our Agent did not meet with the slightest obstacles, and where all the arrangements are now perfected, which will lead to a regular, constant and cheap communication with them. England will yield to the point, when Congress will be ready to act in the premises, and not before.

The reduced postage on letters is beginning to work exceedingly well, and the deficit in the revenue occasioned by it is rapidly disappearing. From 800,000 dollars the first year of enacting the bill, it had dwindled down to 340,000; and during this year the deficit will hardly reach the figure 240,000. Emboldened by this unexpected happy result of a measure which so much contributes to civilization, the Postmaster General will probably propose in his report, the introduction of a uniform system of cheap postage throughout the Union, similar to the penny postage in England—a measure which will be hailed with universal applause throughout the whole community, without distinction of party.

Should any thing interfere with the P. M. General's designs in this respect, it will be the extension of the Railroad Companies, who already receive an undue proportion of all the compensation paid by the Department to contractors for mail routes. If these companies were to relent and evince a more liberal spirit toward the Department, and through it to the public, a uniform five cent postage would inevitably be the result, and the present Postmaster General would be the first to press it upon the consideration of Congress. As the case now stands there is nothing but a strong probability for the Congress to consider the question, and to decide in its favor of the country.

Eight hundred and twenty-nine new Post Offices have been added during this year to the list, while the finances of the Department are managed with admirable skill and have never been in a better condition than at the present moment.

I believe that the estimates of the War and Navy Department will not be near so large as is generally expected—the former will most likely exceed thirty, the latter certainly fall rather short of ten millions of dollars. With the resources which the Secretary of the Treasury's Report may point out, the government will scarcely require more than fifteen millions, and these I think might be raised without contracting a new loan, but by the use of the Treasury notes, bearing from 5 to 6 per cent interest. This small amount might easily be carried as a floating debt, and would not require to be funded.—Finance sustains at this moment a floating debt of more than 600 millions of francs, or 100 millions of dollars.

I propose to say a word on the stone and floating debts, respectively in my next letter. Here I would only state, for the information of those whom it may concern, that Commodore Barron claims priority of invention in case of the balance docks; over Alexander Gilbert of New York, and has taken the necessary steps to secure his rights. His patent dates from 1837.

Ossawatimisi.—The Colony of Liberia has declared its independence, and we may properly expect to have a negro representative in the city of Washington, how the correspondence will receive this new member of the family.