EDITED BY THOMAS RITCHIE.

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WASHINGTON CITY, WEDNESDAY NIGHT, JUNE 10, 1846.

CONGRESSIONAL.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND GEN. GAINES.

[CONTINUED.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, September 30, 1845.

SIR: Your letter of the 10th instant has been received, and submitted to the President. He has directed me, in reply, to reiterate what was said in my communication of the 28th ultimo in regard to your motives in making the requisition on the governor of Louisiana for State troops, to be sent to the army in Texas, under the command of General Taylor; but after mature consideration of all you have offered as a justification for your assumption of this authority, he cannot satisfy himself that there were sufficient grounds to apprehend the existence of an emergency for such an extraordinary procedure on your part.

The power which you have exercised could be resorted to only in cases of extreme public peril. An error of judgment, with such motives as the President has with pleasure conceded to have governed your conduct in this case, cannot be regarded as "a crime," or an offence subjecting the officer to trial. While, therefore, he does not approve of your making the requisition for troops without his authority—because, with all the information you appear to have possessed, he would not have deemed the exigency such as to require a similar proceeding on his part—he does not perceive any necessity for ordering a court-martial for that official act.

As the head of the War Department, I cannot withhold an expression of my regret at finding so many irrelevant and some exceptionable topics introduced into your letter. The intrusion, into an official despatch, of personal matters referring to transactions of past years, and having no perceivable connexion with the direct object of it, on which no specific action is asked for from the department, is, in my judgment, a disregard of the propriety which should characterize official communications, and an example of unwholesome influence upon the discipline of the army.

I am very far from desiring to lay any undue restrictions on the correspondence with this branch of the government; but the requirements of military propriety, not less than the general regulations of the army, fix limits which should not be transcended.

If any officer thinks he has been injured in his rights, his proper course is to make a direct appeal for redress; if he has matter of charge against another, let him make a direct appeal for redress; if he has matter of charge against another, let him make his specifications and call for a proceeding in the way designated by regulations and military usage. Complaints and charges presented in this manner will receive proper attention. Unless with reference to such results, they should not, in any form, and certainly not by incidental and indefinite allusions, be incorporated into the ordinary correspondence with the department. In this view of the subject, I cannot but regard, not only your letter of the 10th instant, but others of previous dates, as exceptionable.

WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

To Major General E. P. GAINES.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,
New Orleans, September 24, 1845.

SIR: I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th, in which you say you are surprised to learn, as you do from mine of the 3d instant, that I consider your instructions to Gen. Taylor of the 23d ultimo a virtual approval of my requisition for Louisiana volunteers.

In reply, referring you to my letter of the 10th inst., I have to report that Gen. Taylor has, for more than a year past, had the command of one of the brigades of my division, and I have never, until the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., been honored with any authority whatever disconnecting that brigade from my command, otherwise than *as upon temporary service*—as a brigade *detached upon some secret service*, on the accomplishment of which I had reason to expect the brigade, or the greater part of it, would return to the ungarrisoned forts near me.

I had never received a copy, nor any paper purporting to be a copy of any authority given to Gen. Taylor to go to Texas until after the date of my requisition for Louisiana volunteers of the 15th ult. Nor did any copy of instructions received by me since that period, notify me that Gen. Taylor's brigade was no longer to be considered as a part of my division; consequently, I was not relieved of the highly responsible and important duty of watching the movements, and giving *light* and *strength* to that brigade of my division; nor could I omit or neglect the faithful discharge of this duty, without putting it in the power of any vainglorious adversary to bring me under the pains and penalties of a trial and conviction before a general court-martial.

I may be asked why I permitted Gen. Taylor to embark for Texas without official information of his authority. I answer, that I was assured by the general that he had instructions from the War Department to make the movement, but that his instructions were confidential. Gen. Taylor's word, which I am sure he would not violate for all the wealth of Mexico, was all I desired to justify his movement; and I distinctly stated to him that, as his instructions were confidential, I would not see them until they were forwarded to me from the proper authorities of the War Department.* I, however, added: "*Should you get into any difficulty, I will promptly sustain you.*" I had for more than thirty years past determined that no invidious neglect or intrigue on the part of any officer of the government towards me, should ever for a moment tend to divert my attention from my duty.

Under all the circumstances detailed in my letter of the 10th inst., added to what I have here stated, finding that the President of the United States had seen fit to authorize my junior (Gen. Taylor) the meritorious chief of one of the brigades of my division to call on the governors of some of the western States, in certain emergencies, for a part of the militia force of those States, I could not but construe this authority into a virtual approval of my call on Gov. Mouton for the chivalric volunteers, under that excellent commander, Major Gally, to fly to the assistance of Gen. Taylor, who has been for several weeks without any other field-pieces than the very efficient train sent to him under our Louisiana commanders, who would do honor to our regular service.

It is now apparent that all the once scattered sections of Gen. Taylor's army of occupation have been happily concentrated without any such disaster as I (with thousands of other men of some experience) had reason to anticipate might occur between the 15th and 20th of August. I heartily rejoice at this result. It may be the means of saving the United States and Mexico from a war—a war which has to me too much the appearance of a family disturbance—*a civil war*, (the most frightful of all the horrors of war to the honest votaries of free government,) not to be averted, if possible, by every rational precaution.

My conduct, however, is not to be judged by what has happened subsequent to the embarkation of the Louisiana volunteers, but by the actual state of things as represented to me at the point of time when I made the call, and which prompted me to make it; acting as every judicious officer is bound to act upon the sound principle that the work of *preparation for war* ought never to be put off until *the work of destruction* upon *our frontier by a savage or half-savage foe has been begun or completed.*

All which is respectfully submitted for the information and final decision of the President of the United States.

EDMUND P. GAINES,
Maj. Gen. United States army,
commanding the western division.

Hon. WILLIAM L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

*On learning from General Taylor that the instructions he had received were *confidential*, I not only abstained from making any inquiry about them myself, but I think I did not even mention to the officers of my staff, (in whose prudence and honor, I have the highest confidence,) that he had applied me of the fact *that he had confidential instructions.* Convinced as I am, that whenever the President sees fit to detach a brigade, regiment, or company, or even an officer upon any *secret enterprise*, it becomes the duty of all commanders advised thereof to abstain from communicating the simple fact of the movement being under secret orders, as the chances of success in most secret enterprises are lessened by every communication as to the service being sent.

E. P. GAINES.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, October 10, 1845.

SIR: My several communications to you, (the last of which dated the 30th ultimo, could not have been received when yours of the 24th was written,) supersede the necessity of a reply to it in detail. Admitting what you take for granted, that General Taylor was under your immediate command, before he received orders to go into Texas, and even assuming, as you do, that after he passed with his forces by orders from this department beyond the clearly defined limits of your division, he might be regarded as a part of your command, (an assumption not at all warranted by the facts of the case) these considerations have, in my judgment, very little or no bearing upon the question in relation to your procedure in making the requisition for the Louisiana militia, and would not, if the President could adopt your views thereon, affect his opinion upon that act.

The views of this department relative to the service and military operations in Texas having been fully explained, I presume there will be no longer any misapprehensions on the subject.

WM. L. MARCY.

Maj. Gen. E. P. GAINES,
U. S. army, New Orleans.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,
New Orleans, May 11, 1845.

SIR: The rumors from the seat of war, contained in the enclosed papers, suggest the prop
remarks which follow:

1. It is very desirable that General Taylor may have suspended his movement from Point Isabel to his fortified encampment near Matamoras, until joined by the two companies of artillery from Pensacola, and several companies of volunteers from this city and from Texas, who, I think, must have been at Point Isabel by the evening of the 7th inst. Be this as it may, however, this movement will be likely to afford to the general an opportunity of testing the actual strength and chivalry of his antagonists, and therefore it cannot fail to be attended with important results. That he will surely triumph over the numerous forces opposed to him I confidently believe; but his loss will probably be considerable.

2. Under this and every other view that can be taken of the subject, it is obvious to me that no time should be lost in the concentration of Tennessee, Kentucky, and other volunteers to the Rio Grande.

3. Convinced as I am that Mexico would not dare to commence hostilities without having been encouraged by British agents, with the hope of help from the British navy, there is reason to apprehend that the ports of Texas may be soon blockaded. In this event, we shall have no other means of sending to the Rio Grande reinforcements or supplies than by land via Fort Jesup. This would embarrass us greatly. To obviate in some degree the great evil of being confined to this route, and to have some of that most efficient force which marked the character of Gen. Jackson's, and Generals Coffee's and Carrol's corps, I have determined to invite into the service several regiments of *mounted gun men*, to rendezvous at Fort Jesup in the present month, and to press forward from thence to the Rio Grande, through Texas. The battalion of the 1st infantry embarked for Point Isabel on the evening of the 9th, with three companies of Louisiana volunteers, in fine health, and ready for action.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major General United States army
Commanding.

To the Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War, Washington.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 18, 1846.

GENERAL: I am instructed by the Secretary of War to acknowledge your letter received this evening of the 11th instant, and to say that he desires you will countermand your call for the "several regiments of mounted gun men," which you state were to rendezvous at Fort Jesup on the receipt of this letter, as this requisition will interfere with the arrangement already made by the War Department relative to the quota of volunteers to be called into the service of the general government from the several States, under the new law. The volunteer force called into the service from Louisiana, Alabama, &c., on your authority, and which you have previously reported, I am instructed to say, meets the approval of the department.

I am, general,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

Brevet Major General E. P. GAINES,
Commanding Western division,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
May 18, 1846.

SIR: It being understood that Major General Gaines has made a call on your excellency for volunteers to rendezvous at Fort Jesup, Louisiana, I have to inform you that this was done without the authority of the President, and that the general has this day been instructed to revoke the same. You are requested to take no measures to comply with that call.

WM. L. MARCY.

His excellency WM. OWSLEY,
Governor of Kentucky, Frankfort, Ky.
His excellency A. V. BROWN,
Governor of Tennessee, Nashville, Tenn.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,
New Orleans, May 8, 1846.

SIR: Apprehending that the bad treatment which the volunteers of this city, (called out by me last summer,) experienced from those who were entrusted with the power of ordering their payment, but who have left them calumniated and unpaid, might retard or defeat our present attempt to obtain volunteers in this State, I have taken measures to desire the governors of several of the neighboring States to *anticipate* the call which I am sure the President will now authorize, and at once to obtain a few companies at Mobile. For this purpose I deemed it proper to avail myself of the services of that accomplished officer, Major Chase, of the corps of engineers—whose equal, in point of *efficiency* and practical military mind I have seldom if ever seen among the officers of his age or rank since the brilliant scenes of the years 1813 and 1814, presented to my admiration, and that of the army, the gallantry and extraordinary usefulness of our lamented Major Wood, of the same corps.

To the memorandum of Major Chase, I refer you for a report of the late patriotic and chivalric movements at Mobile. Since his departure from that city I have learned that five beautiful companies were prepared to embark direct to Point Isabel. I have reason to hope that these corps will be followed by several others in the course of this evening or to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major General Commanding.

To the SECRETARY OF WAR.

Memoranda of the proceedings of Major Chase, United States engineer, acting under the orders of Major General Gaines, commanding western division of the army.

New Orleans, May 3d.—General Gaines informed me, at 8 o'clock, a. m., that he intended to send troops from Fort Pike, Wood, and Pensacola, to Brazos Santiago, and directed me to assist in the movement. Saw Colonel Hunt, deputy quartermaster general, and recommended that the mail-steamer Fashion should be immediately chartered and sent to Fort Pike and Wood, and thence to Pensacola, in order to transport the troops direct to Brazos Santiago. The owners of the steamer charged $20,000 for one month, or $12,000 for a single trip. These exorbitant demands were rejected. Suggested to General Gaines that a requisition be made on Commodore Latimer, commanding naval forces at Pensacola, for the steam-frigate Mississippi to proceed to Brazos Santiago with the troops, and with an additional number of boats, to assist in the landing of the troops generally. A requisition was made accordingly, and an order given to Colonel Crane to embark the troops forthwith. I was charged with the delivery of the despatches at Pensacola, and also to muster into service, *en passant*, any men that might volunteer at Mobile. Left town per mail steamer. On passing Fort Pike sent a note ashore to Captain Van Ness, to be prepared per a movement at a moment's warning, and requested him to inform Captain Nawman at Fort Wood. May 4th, arrived at Mobile at half-past 9 o'clock, a. m.; saw Captain Todd, of the Mobile Artillery; informed him that I was ready to muster volunteers into service; recommended that his fine company should volunteer, and proceed this day direct to N. Orleans, and embark on board the steamer Galveston, which would probably sail on Tuesday, the 5th. Capt. Todd was in favor of the proposition, and invited me to meet the officers of Col. McCoy's regiment at the armory, at 10 o'clock; (Capt. Todd's company was attached to this regiment;) made the same proposition to Col. McCoy, and urged that at least two companies be despatched this day; that time now was more valuable than numbers. I informed him that these companies would arrive in time to embark in the first steamer despatched to the Brazos Santiago, and go in company with a battalion of the 1st regiment of United States Infantry, and a battalion of United States Artillery. I was especially desirous that the Mobile Artillery and Rifles should go, for they enjoy a high reputation for discipline and efficiency. Col. McCoy rather declined my proposition, being desirous, I believe, that his whole command should go direct to the seat of war. Captain Crawford, of the Rifles, invited me to meet his company, to whom I made similar statements as above, which were heartily responded to.

On invitation I went with Judge Bragg to meet a committee of citizens at the custom-house, and gave all the information desired. On stating the importance of sending off volunteers to New Orleans this day if possible, and that I would muster into service any willing to go, General Desha, one of the committee instantly replied that he would go for one, and taking 100 or 150 men, would be ready to embark this day at 3 o'clock, p. m., with an alacrity and energy corresponding with his noble offer, he proceeded to assemble the volunteers.

At my request, the mail-steamer Fashion deferred her usual hour of departure to 3 o'clock, p. m. Transportation was engaged for Gen. Desha's command. Being obliged to leave Mobile at half-past 1 o'clock for Pensacola, I was not able to muster Gen. Desha's company into service, but gave him an order to report to division headquarters in New Orleans, where orders would be given for the mustering of his men.

The collector of the customs, postmaster, judges Bragg and Goldsweather, Gov. Gayle, and other members of the committee, as well as the citizens generally, evinced the best disposition by personal exertions and pecuniary contributions to meet the demand made on their patriotism.

The committee having made a provisional arrangement with the owners of the mail steamer Day, to carry troops direct to Santiago, it was expected that Col. McCoy's regiment and other volunteers would depart shortly. I accordingly reported to General Gaines and requested that an officer of staff be sent to Mobile to muster them into service.

May 5th, arrived at Pensacola at half-past 9 o'clock, a. m., delivered despatches to Col. Crane, and forwarded those for Commodore Latimer by Lieut. Talcott of the ordnance. Col. Crane issued orders for the embarkation of the troops—the steamship Mississippi had sailed for Vera Cruz on Monday evening. Offered my services to procure transportation. Proceeded to the navy-yard and engaged, through Lieut. Talcott, the brig Virginius at $800. Commodore Latimer permitted the remainder of the brig's cargo of coal to remain on board as ballast, and undertook to fill up the necessary supply of water from the cistern of the navy-yard in the shortest time possible.

Half-past 12 o'clock, p. m., delivered orders to Captain Taylor, commanding at the Barancas, and despatched a note to Capt. Webster at Fort Pickens, giving him notice of the movement of troops. At 5 o'clock the brig came to the Barancas wharf, and at 6 o'clock the troops were embarked. The brig proceeded to Fort Pickens to take Capt. Webster's command on board.

May 6th, the brig having got under weigh during the night, was prevented by opposing tides and light winds from reaching Fort Pickens. A small steamer was despatched from the navy yard to carry the troops from Fort Pickens to the brig. Left Barancas at 9 o'clock on my return to New Orleans. It was expected the brig would leave this day at 11 o'clock with a fair wind, and that the troops would be landed at Point Isabel by the 9th or 10th inst.

Credit is due to Col. Crane and his staff; to Com. Latimer, his officers, and men; and to the officers and troops embarked, for the promptness and zeal displayed in this movement.

May 7th, arrived at Mobile. Lieut. Lovell, U. S. A., had arrived under orders to muster volunteers into service. It is understood that they will proceed direct to Brazos Santiago.

The prompt action of Gen. Desha in the premises deserves the highest praise.

May 8th, arrived in New Orleans, and reported at division headquarters.

WM. H. CHASE,
Major of Engineers.

HEAQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,
NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 16, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to report the enrolment and acceptance into the service of the United States of nearly three regiments of good Louisiana volunteers, under the requisition of General Taylor, of the 26th ultimo.

The late tardy progress of obtaining volunteers to meet the very moderate call of General Taylor, has indicated to me the propriety of the views and measures which follow:

1. To insure the prompt enrolment of every talented man whose circumstances admit of his *leaving his home and business*, and entering the United States service, resolved *to conquer or to fall*—the only condition upon which any true-hearted citizen of this Union will ever become a volunteer. I think it my duty as the military representative of the President in the division confided to my command, to avail myself of every prudent occasion in my power to encourage the enrolment and do honor to the *rank and file of the meritorious volunteer corps.* With this essential object in view, I determined, on hearing of the prompt enrolment of General William De Buys (one of the bravest of the brave *defenders* of New Orleans in December, 1814, and January, 1815, though then a youth, and since for several years a major general of the best volunteer corps I have ever seen since the war of 1814, embracing "the New Orleans Legion") to appoint him to act as inspector general to the volunteers under orders for the Rio Grande.

2. There is no official action so essential to the efficiency of volunteers as that of a talented inspector general, whose duties should commence with the organization, and first movements of the volunteer corps, and extend to the field of battle—thence to the depots of prisoners taken in battle, and to the hospitals. For the discharge of these important duties, I know no man more highly qualified than General De Buys.

3. Should you deem my authority to make such an appointment at all questionable, I respectfully solicit the favor of you to approve the appointment, and to take the requisite measures for authorizing division commanders to make such appointments.

4. I have often appointed volunteer and other officers to act as inspector, quarter master, or adjutant general, in the occasional absence of either, with no authority other than that found in my official oath, "*to serve the United States honestly and faithfully, and to obey orders according to law.*" When required to organize a corps of volunteers or any other troops, I inspect them and see that they are ready to do good service. I am in duty bound to supply, as far as I am able, any and every apparent defect, and render them efficient.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major Gen. U. S. A. Com. Western Division.

To the Hon. W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War,
Washington city.

P. S. My letter of this date, which I finished in haste, without retaining a copy, was sent to the post office with but little more than the contents of the first page hereof, without completing my views regarding that excellent officer, General William De Buys. I write this to complete my views upon this subject—a subject of great delicacy and importance to the service.

E. P. GAINES.

HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,
NEW ORLEANS, May 17, 1846.

SIR: I take much pleasure in sending you a copy of General Taylor's report of the 9th instant, announcing the result of two brilliant conflicts with the Mexican army under General Arista, near Matamoras, resulting in a triumph for which the general merits promotion and a gold medal, and every officer under him a sword of honor, and every soldier six months' pay.

This decisive victory by a few slender corps of regulars cannot fail to secure the respect of our deluded neighbors, and open the way to a succession of triumphs tending to convince the Mexican government that we know how to vindicate our rights in war, as well as magnanimously to exercise a spirit of forbearance in our efforts to preserve peace, even until our forbearance is mistaken for timidity.

If we hasten on the volunteers which I have long desired to concentrate upon the Rio Grande, and thus prove our determination to *take* and *hold* the attitude of proud defiance, and speedily to follow up the blow just now struck, the war must be terminated in the present year, if not in a few months; otherwise it may linger, as did the Seminole war, for seven years after it had been terminated!

But this measure will require a considerable outlay of money. This is a truth which is strictly applicable to every efficient measure of national defence. But the intrinsic value of that instruction and experience which the volunteers will derive from a few months' active service will render them equal to the best of regulars, who will delight in giving them instruction—a degree of instruction that will be worth more to this Union than ten times the amount of money their employment will cost.

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
EDMUND PENDLETON GAINES,
Major General U. S. Army,
Commanding the Western Division.

To the Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War,

Extract from a letter from Maj. Gen. E. P. Gaines, dated

"HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION,
"New Orleans, May 1, 1846.

"SIR: Convinced as I am that recent events in Mexico, and upon the western border of Texas must have satisfied you that my views of the last summer and autumn were not such as to justify the extrajudicial reprimand with which you were pleased to assure me of the President's disapprobation of my conduct, I do myself the honor to renew my application to concentrate upon the south western border of Texas fifty battalions of western volunteers.

"I am under the impression that I could have the greater part of this force, concentrated upon the Rio Grande by the 25th of the present month, ready for action. This force would have the benefit of a military school far superior to that at West Point—a military school that would in six months render every officer and soldier of these volunteer corps equal to the best of our *working regulars;* for at West Point they do not learn to work, whilst in a campaign to the Rio Grande, and to the city of Mexico, the history of every day's duty would be a history of incessant labor on the part of every member of the army from the commanding general to the youngest private soldier inclusively.

"I propose to place this force under the command of Gen. Taylor, or, in the event of our difficulties with England being settled, I propose to take command of this force myself, should the President so order. I wish, however, to have nothing to do with any command in that quarter without at least fifty battalions. Ten of which I propose to be mounted. As it has long been obvious to me that no decisive good can result from placing upon that frontier a force unable to maintain the attitude of proud defiance upon the whole frontier bordering upon Mexico, and able to *put down all opposition.*

"A purely defensive policy cannot be maintained with such a nation as Mexico, without ample force to punish such *bandits* as have for many years past marked the character of many of the armed men of that miserable nation, and if necessary to follow them into the heart of their country, and at the same time to protect the good citizens of the country against this lawless rabble."

* * * * * *

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major General United States army,
Commanding the western division.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp on the field of battle,
Three miles from Matamoras,
May 9th, 1846.

SIR: For the information of Major General Gaines, I am directed by the commanding general to say that on his march hither from Point Isabel he encountered at "Palo Alto," on the 8th instant, the Mexican forces, consisting of 3,800 regular troops, and perhaps 2,000 irregular cavalry, with nine pieces of artillery. Our own force, including officers, did not exceed 2,300. After an action of five hours, maintained chiefly with artillery—though the 5th infantry repulsed a charge of lancers—the enemy was driven from his positions, which we occupied for the night. Our loss was four men killed, three officers and thirty-nine men wounded, several of the latter mortally. The loss of the enemy was exceedingly severe, more than one hundred killed—the proportion of wounded not known. Major Ringgold, 3d artillery, and Captain Page, 4th infantry, were severely wounded. Lieutenant Luther, 2d artillery, slightly do.

This morning the army renewed its march, the enemy gradually falling back before it until he reached this position—a ravine crossing the road—then planted seven pieces of artillery, and seemed disposed to make a stand. After a heavy and continued fire of artillery and musketry, the general ordered the battery to be carried, which was handsomely done by a squadron of dragoons and the infantry regiments on the ground. Our victory is complete. Seven pieces of artillery, three standards, a large quantity of ammunition, baggage, and pack mules were taken, together with over one hundred prisoners, including several officers of note. They have returned across the river.

Our loss has been heavy—three officers killed, and twelve wounded; killed and wounded of men not yet known. The officers killed are Lieutenant Inge, 2d dragoons, Lieutenant Cochran, 4th infantry, and Lieutenant Chadbourne, 8th infantry.

Wounded, Lieutenants Colonel McIntosh and Paine, Captains Montgomery and Howe, Lieutenants Gates, Maclay, Selden, Bourbank, and Jourdan, 8th infantry, and Fowler, 5th infantry.

The loss of the enemy has been exceedingly severe, but is not yet known.

The fort under Major Brown has sustained itself handsomely during a bombardment of 160 hours. Its gallant commander died to-day from the effect of a shell, of which great numbers were thrown into the work. The other casualties were one sergeant killed, 10 men wounded.

I write late at night, and in great haste.

W. W. BLISS.

Lieutenant P. CALHOUN,
New Orleans.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 22, 1845.

GENERAL: I am instructed by the Secretary of War to say that the services of the volunteer regiments of foot, of the State of Missouri, tendered by his excellency Governor Edwards, and accepted by you at New Orleans about the 4th of May, have been accepted, and will be regarded as a portion of the force called into the service of the United States by authority of the President.

I am, general, very respectfully,
Your obd't servant,
R. JONES,
Adjutant General.

Brev. Maj. Gen. E. P. GAINES,
Comd'g West. Div., N. Orleans, La.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 23, 1846.

SIR: Major General Gaines having made calls on the governors of Alabama, Mississippi, and Missouri for volunteers to be sent to your aid, you are informed that these calls have been recognised by the President to the extent of the number already furnished by them. You will receive them in the same manner as those embraced in your requisition. The department is not advised of the number sent to join you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Brig. Gen. Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding Army of Occupation,
On the Rio Grande, Texas.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
May 22, 1846.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to the President of this day's date, and, in answer, to inform you that the President has recognised the call made on you by Major General Gaines, to the extent mentioned in that communication—to wit: the troops which may have left the State of Missouri for New Orleans, the place of rendezvous, before the notice of your order changing their destination.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. L. MARCY.
Secretary of War.

His Excellency JOHN C. EDWARDS,
Governor of Missouri.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
May 23, 1846.

SIR: Although General Taylor, who alone was authorized by this department to make requisitions for such volunteer troops as he might require, did not embrace the State of Alabama* in his recent call for such additional aid, I have the honor to notify your excellency that the call made on you by Major General Gaines, and which was so promptly responded to by the patriotic citizens of your State, has been recognised to the extent of the number furnished and sent to Texas.

Your excellency is requested to inform this department what number has responded to the call.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA,
Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

*A similar letter was sent to the governor of Mississippi.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 28, 1846.

SIR: His excellency the Governor of Kentucky has notified this department that, in compliance with a call from you, under date the 4th instant, he has caused to be organized and sent forward a volunteer force, composed of eight companies, denominated the "Louisville Legion," destined for Texas.

This call, as you must be aware, has been made by you without the sanction of law, and as similar calls appear to have been made by you on other States, without authority from the President or this department, and which are calculated to embarrass the government, you are hereby directed to discontinue your independent action in these matters, and to confine yourself to carrying out the orders and views of the President, so far as they may be communicated to you from this department. You will forthwith revoke any calls you may have made on States for volunteers or militia, beyond the number already sent into Texas, or to General Taylor, under these calls.

The Louisville Legion having been sent forward, although contrary to the views and wishes of the department, as conveyed in a communication to his excellency the governor of Kentucky of the 18th inst., the President has thought proper to give directions to have them received and mustered into service.

You will therefore cause the Legion to be embarked for Point Isabel, to report to General Taylor, should it have arrived in New Orleans.

The appointment of General De Buys, as inspector general of volunteers, which you report in your letter of the 16th instant, as having been made by you, is not recognised or confirmed. The President himself has no authority to make similar appointments, under existing laws, nor are you authorized to add to your own staff by appointments from civil life. No such appointments will be recognised.

The department has reason to believe that you have called into service, persons to be employed as artizans, &c. Such a measure is unwarranted by law, and is disapproved.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WM. L. MARCY.

Brevet Major General EDMUND P. GAINES,
Commanding western division, U. S. A.,
New Orleans.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DIVISION
New Orleans, May 21, 1846.

SIR: I have the satisfaction to report to you that Major General Lewis and the principal general, field, and staff officers, with a great part of the field division of Louisiana militia under his command, constituting the best irregular troops I have ever inspected since the close of the war 1814-'15, have offered their services for immediate duty upon the Rio Grande.

I have replied, that I would most gladly avail myself of their offer if the present operations upon the Rio Grande were such as to require the description of force of which the first division of the Louisiana militia is composed—or if I had not good reason soon to anticipate *service upon a theatre, and upon a scale better adapted to their legionry organization, their past services and their wishes.* It is believed that the infantry and riflemen already with General Taylor, with such as are in march, or nearly prepared to embark for the Rio Grande, are sufficient to enable him to carry into effect the instructions of the President as soon as the general is joined by a few regiments of "*mounted gun men.*"

Under these circumstances I have been constrained to decline the present offer of the first division of Louisiana volunteers. I have assured them, however, of my fervent desire to have the benefit of their co-operation in the anticipated service which a few days may bring about. I allude to the probability of a war with England, or active operations towards the city of Mexico; with some Indian troubles upon the northern border of Texas.

With great respect, your ob't servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Major General United States Army,
Commanding Western Division.

Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,
New Orleans, May 22, 1846.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the honor of your letter of the 13th instant, enclosing the proclamation of the President of the United States of that day, announcing the existence of war between this country and the republic of Mexico, and directing me to act in reference to this change of our foreign relations in the discharge of my official duties, so far as they may be affected by it.

Hoping to hear from you soon, sanctioning the measures which I have taken to anticipate your orders for hastening to the seat of war the force and supplies required by General Taylor, with such additional force and supplies as the changed aspect of our relations with Mexico, and the probability of our being obliged to encounter another foe upon the sea-board of Texas, as well as the northwestern border of the inhabited part of that State.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
EDMUND P. GAINES,
Maj. Gen. U. S. Army,
commanding western division.

The Hon. WM. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
June 1st, 1846.

SIR: Since my letter to you of the 28th ultimo, I have received yours of the 21st and 22d of May, from which it appears that you contemplate sending General Taylor "a few more regiments of mounted gun men," and that under the belief of more extended military operations, you give encouragement to volunteers that they will soon be called into service, which will probably lead them to make immediate preparations, and to incur expenses with that view.

As you were instructed, in my letter of the 28th ultimo, your action in calling for or receiving volunteers, independent of the instructions of this department, and beyond the requisitions of Gen. Taylor, is wholly unauthorized and illegal, and you are again instructed, not only to stay all such proceedings, but to recall any requisitions you have made, and act no further upon the subject without special authority first had from this department.

The Louisville Legion having been accepted with the understanding that they are to form a part of the quota of volunteers to serve twelve months, unless sooner discharged, called for by this department from Kentucky, you will cause them to be sent forward with all despatch to Point Isabel, as directed in my letter of the 28th ult.

WM. L. MARCY.

P. S. Since writing the above, it is understood that staff appointments, such as paymasters, quartermasters, inspectors, &c., have been conferred by you on citizens. Such appointments are altogether illegal, and will not be confirmed or recognised; nor will the assignment of staff duties, of any description, to citizens, be recognised or sanctioned.

WM. L. MARCY,

Major General E. P. GAINES,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
June 2, 1846.

By direction of the President, Brevet Major General Gaines is relieved from the command of the western division of the army, and will repair to Washington without delay.

Brevet Brigadier General George M. Brooke is assigned to the command of the western division.

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE UNION.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

We find it utterly impossible, with the present pressure upon our columns, to record as fully as we could wish, the prompt and enthusiastic responses which are made throughout the Union to the call of the government for volunteer forces to carry on the war. If, in the notices, we have already given any States have been omitted, we trust that all our readers will do us the justice to believe that the omission has occurred through accident merely, and to our regret.

We can find space to-day only for the following details. The general fact is well known that the whole country is roused to the most earnest and vigorous action. The Mobile Register very truly says, "in what other country in the world would such a spectacle be found on the signal of a prospective demand on their citizens to bear arms in the public service? Here is an army sprung up in a day, of strong young men—many of the men of substance—men engaged in private occupations of importance to themselves—all free at least to hold back if they pleased, and leave the burdens of a war to be provided for when it should come by the pains and at the cost of the government. But they are in advance of the wants of the government. They go ahead of the call, by eagerly anticipating the need for their services; and they are struggling with each other for the precedence, which shall be allowed to go forward for the defence of the country.

"There is no country in the world where such another proof of instinctive attachment to the cause of the country for its own sake is possible; and when foreign governments, insolent in the power of organized armies and vast navies, maintained by oppressive laws for objects in which the multitudes have no personal interest, presume to speak slightingly of the capacity of this country to maintain a war, here is a significant, unanswerable, and overwhelming fact with which to refute the error. Such a people, so prompt to rush to the standard of their country before the word, are invincible against all the cohorts of any power which shall rashly assail them. For a real danger of invasion from any formidable quarter, the coast would in a few weeks bristle with a million of bayonets."

OHIO.

The following, says the "Cincinnati Weekly News," is a tolerably accurate account of the number of men enrolled in the several volunteer companies of this county.

Washington cadets	90	men
Montgomery guards	130	"
Cincinnati greys	85	"
Jefferson greys	60	"
Morgan riflemen	50	"
Kosciusko blues	50	"
Mounted riflemen	85	"
Cumminsville infantry	35	"
German infantry battalion	400	"
German rifle companies	100	"
	1,085	

In addition to the above, it is estimated that about 100 Cincinnatians have enrolled themselves in companies formed on the Kentucky side of the river.

We understand a large company will leave Dayton to-day, for Camp Washington.

Two companies are reported to have been formed in Columbus, one in Zanesville, one in Chillicothe, one in Cleveland, one in Mansfield, and one in Wooster. These are expected to be mustered into the service of the United States in a few days. This looks well for Ohio.

MORE YET.—*Preble county*—We are pleased to learn that Joseph S. Hawkins has raised a volunteer company, and will pass through our towns on Saturday or Sunday next. Well done, Preble county.

Warren county.—A volunteer company has been organized in Warren county, and will appear at Camp Washington on to-morrow.

Jefferson county.—The city greys of Steubenville have agreed to volunteer.

From present indications, Ohio will give a noble response to the call made upon her for troops for the Mexican war. The 4th brigade, consisting of Huron and Erie counties, met at Norwalk on Thursday last. There was an immense mass of people in attendance; we heard the number estimated at from 6,000 to 8,000. They were addressed by Gen. McLaughlin, E. M. Stone, and T. B. Sturgiss, esqrs. Over one hundred have already volunteered from this brigade, and we understand near two hundred have volunteered from Richland county. This is three or four times the amount that these counties would have to furnish if the 2,400 required were raised over the State, according to the population.

Among the volunteers are Maj. Gen. McLaughlin, of Mansfield, formerly member of Congress; Maj. Noah Newton, jr., a lawyer of Norwalk; and from this place we send a representative of the printers, Mr. Owen Francis, a young man every way worthy to grace almost any station that may fall to his lot.

PORTSMOUTH VOLUNTEERS.—A rendezvous was opened for volunteers on Monday last, by the major-general of the 2d division Ohio militia, and some twenty-five were sworn in; daily additions are being made to their number, and they now number thirty-three. They voluntarily take their muskets on their shoulders in defence of their country's rights. They will probably repair to the rendezvous at Cincinnati in ten days.

The book will be found at the store of Mr. John Clark, who will attend to receiving volunteers during the absence of the major-general.

THE SPIRIT OF KENTUCKY.

To the editor of the Washington Union:

SIR: All is life and action, not only in the city of Louisville, but throughout the counties, so far as we have been able to hear. The Louisville Legion, composing nine