

## THE ARIZONIAN.

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Thursday, September 15th—1859.

### THE ELECTION.

Sufficient returns have been received to establish the fact that the vote of the Territory will exceed two thousand. We regret that the excited feeling, growing out of the late difficulty between Mexicans and Americans on the Gila river, should have prevented the Mexican vote from being received at several precincts. This, and the light vote in Mesilla—owing to the fact of there being no opposition candidate for delegate—reduces the vote from five to eight hundred below the actual strength of the population. Mr. Mowry has received, so far as heard from, a unanimous vote in every precinct, everywhere leading the county ticket—except at Tubac. We shall have in our next issue a few words to say in reference to this emphatic endorsement of the past course of our delegate.

We regard with entire satisfaction the fact that five-sixths of the voters of the Territory refused to participate in the New Mexican election—thus vindicating their resolution of the past two years.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS OF NEW MEXICO.

We have had occasion in the last few weeks to condemn the course pursued by the military authorities of New Mexico, in ignoring the right of this Territory to some sort of military protection. It is a subject of such vital importance to our citizens, who have made this far-off and exposed country their home—who having suffered through the gross neglect of those in power in New Mexico, in the loss of valuable property, stolen almost daily by bands of ruthless savages who inhabit our mountains and invade our homes and firesides—in the cruel and uncalled for murders of friends and neighbors at night and in open day by murderous Mexicans who violate our Territory from all quarters—that with them any further forbearance has ceased to be a virtue, and they cry aloud for immediate reform, and for that protection, as American citizens, they have a right at all times to demand and expect.

We have had application upon application to notice this unwarrantable neglect of our rights in the protection of our lives and property, and as the conductors of the only journal in this large Territory through which the wishes of our people can be expressed, we intend, boldly and openly, now and at all times, to give utterance to our views, whenever we believe they may in any way conduce to the interests of our citizens, or the advancement of the territory. We believe we have the right at all times to scan and dissect the motives and actions of those holding positions from the people, no matter where they are to be found, either political or military, and we intend to exercise it. We shrink from no responsibility when the great interests of the territory are in question—and we wish it understood, and we take this opportunity to express it, that so long as we are the conductors of this press, we hold ourselves answerable for the views we entertain and promulgate. We seek for no cloak to screen us, for we alone are responsible.

The sort of military protection deemed adequate for this territory, under the old foggy system at present in vogue in New Mexico, has been of so insufficient a character that it is unworthy of the name, and a disgrace to our country. We had hoped, long ago, to have heard of some change contemplated. We have waited patiently for the dawning of a new system, when the present one might be considered obsolete; but our hopes have thus far been doomed to disappointment—the same weak,

imbecile system is persisted in—they have refused to give us the protection which our necessities imperatively call for, and the little they do grant us, is worse than useless.

Notwithstanding the increase of population, the discovery and partial development of new and valuable mines, the large amount of capital that has found its way to this country, and is continually coming, the rapid settlement of our ranches, and the improvements made on them, with the capital invested in valuable stock, we have less actual military protection than we had at the time they were first ordered into this Territory. This fact we believe undeniable. At the present time, we have in this section no protection whatever; robberies by Apaches and Mexicans are of daily occurrence; it is unsafe to travel our roads and highways alone; mining companies, instead of receiving some protection from Government, are left alone to protect themselves—at a heavy expense they are obliged to support a day and night police, and even with that caution, their property is not safe. Until the present time, for the past few months, no effort has been made by the commanding officer of the only post we have in this vicinity, to follow up and punish the Indians, or to recover the stock stolen. An entire disregard has been paid to our losses and sufferings, and one would suppose, by the unconcern evinced by them for the continual losses of our citizens, that they considered themselves placed here merely as disinterested observers of the amount of provocation which American citizens can endure, without the protection it is their duty to afford. Much of this apparent unconcern may be undeserved on their part. If we look for the real cause of this neglect of the interests of our citizens, in denying us the protection we expect from them, it may be found in their inability to afford it, through gross negligence on the part of the military authorities of New Mexico. What is the character of the military protection afforded us in this section by the commanding officer of the Department of New Mexico? That it is not commensurate with our wants, no one will presume to deny. We have but one post in this extensive section of the Territory, surrounded as we are on one side by the different tribes of the savage Apaches, who daily plunder us with impunity, and on the other an entire frontier open to the depredations of Mexican thieves, who are incessant in their operations, receiving open encouragement from the authorities, who will render little or no assistance to recover stolen property.

It is folly to expect from one single post the protection we need. If it was enlarged, and the force increased, it might be possible; but as it is, we need look for nothing. Some months since, the only post we have in this section was garrisoned by two companies of dragoons—the only arm of the service that is of any avail against the savage Indians of this country. One would have supposed, if the military authorities of New Mexico saw any reason for a change, which they certainly would if they knew our necessities, and which it was their duty to know, would have increased the force with an additional company, if they could not give us a new post; but instead of that, what did they do but withdraw a company to increase the force of a post in the eastern part of the territory, where they were not needed. In their place, they gave us a company of infantry—which we have as much use for in this country as we have of the same number of wooden men, unless it is to garrison a post and protect it while other troops are absent on duty. Instead of increasing the force of dragoons they have decreased it; and in what shape are they left? For the ninety-three men in the company, there are only fifty-six horses, most of them worn out and incapable of any further service—many of them having been in the company ever since, and through the Mexican war. Men will never take care of horses unless they are their own, and each man supplied with one—the result is, they are neglected and unfit for service. When the company

is mounted they present a ludicrous appearance, some on horses and others on mules. The same may be said with their arms—no two men are supplied with the same weapon. We have not space to enumerate the different kinds in use by one company of dragoons alone; but sufficient it is to say, they have in use eight different kinds, and ten different patterns—thus each man has a weapon separate and distinct from the others. In ammunition the same gross negligence has been shown, most of it is of one kind, and thus many of the weapons are unserviceable for want of proper ammunition. We ask is this not a disgrace to the Department of New Mexico. Was there ever such downright stupidity shown before in the administration of any other department of our Government? We hope and believe not. It is time there was a reform, and before we are through with the subject, we believe we will be able to convince every disinterested person that it is needed, and that immediately. We have suffered long enough, through the weakness and neglect of those having the power to aid us in New Mexico, and it is time there should be an end to it.

### Duel between Hon. M. A. Otero and Judge Watts of Santa Fe.

MESILLA, September 10, 1859.

On Sunday last, Mr. Otero, the Democratic nominee for Delegate from New Mexico, made a speech in the Plaza in this town. He was answered by Judge Watts, a Galligo stumper. In the course of his remarks he made allusion to the family of Mr. Otero in such a manner that Mr. Otero gave him the lie. A challenge ensued, and the parties, accompanied by their seconds, surgeons, &c, met yesterday morning, near the Mexican line. Three shots were exchanged. Weapons, Col's navy six-shooters; distance, fifteen paces. After the first fire the seconds endeavored to effect a reconciliation, but were unable to do so. Two more shots were exchanged without effect, when the seconds withdrew their principals from the field. The difficulty still remains unsettled, however, both parties behaved with especial gallantry and coolness. After the second shot Mr. Otero lighted his cigarito, and enjoyed his smoke, while Judge Watts amused himself with whistling.

Galligos will probably beat Otero in the county by about 200 votes, although his friends claimed for him a majority of 1000. The probabilities are that Mr. Otero will be re-elected by a large majority. He has never been a great favorite in Dona Ana, but his manly course during his present visit, has made him a host of friends.

On account of the resolution passed at the Convention held here on the 19th June—there being no opposition to Mowry—but few of our citizens took any active part, or even voted at the election; consequently a very small vote was polled.

[The returns will be found in another column.]

AMENDE.—We regret that an expression—for which the ARIZONIAN must not be held responsible—appeared in a communication in our last issue, in reference to the course of the *Missouri Republican*. For our own part, we are satisfied that the recent election, and other significant facts, which will be brought to the notice of the *Republican*, will at once induce that influential journal to do Arizona justice. At all events, while under our management, the ARIZONIAN, while it will forcibly expose erroneous statements in reference to the Territory, will always do it in a courteous manner.

PENSONAL.—Hon. Sylvester Mowry, Delegate elect from Arizona, arrived in town on Thursday, the 13th inst. Intending to leave for the East at an early day, he is now visiting his constituents throughout the Territory. His reception thus far by his entire people, who have re-elected him unanimously, has been both enthusiastic and heartfelt, and he carries with him the warm wishes of hosts of friends for his success. In a few days he will leave by the way of Tubac and Fort Buchanan for the eastern part of the Territory.

### Fatal Affray in Tucson—Death of Col. R. A. Johnson.

On the night of the 10th inst., a difficulty arose between Col. Palentine Robinson, and Col. R. A. Johnson, which resulted in the death of the latter. Mr. Robinson, early next morning, gave himself up, and upon an examination, which took place before Justice J. W. Holt, on the morning of the 12th, in which a large number of witnesses were examined, all of whom were present at the early part of the difficulty, and a few at the time of its sad termination, he was acquitted. From the testimony elicited in the examination, we gathered the following particulars:

On the evening of the 10th inst., at a house in this place, in which a game of cards was being played, many of our citizens were present, and among them Col. Robinson and Col. Johnson. At the game Col. Johnson had been a considerable loser, and on account of unusually friendly relations existing between him and Col. Robinson, he had been borrowing considerable money from him. Continuing to lose, and making a further demand for more money, he was peremptorily refused; upon which he became exasperated, and attempting to get over the table, he failed, upon which he grasped a heavy candlestick and threw it violently at Col. Robinson; it was evidently aimed at his head, but missed and struck him on the shoulder. Col. Robinson, in return threw a stool across the table, which struck Col. Johnson on the head and knocked him down. He also struck at him with a chair several times in the dark, but it is supposed did not hit him, as he was protected by the stool, which was over him. Friends separated them, and they both left—Col. Robinson going immediately to his house. Both were unarmed at the time of this difficulty. It was hoped this was the end of the affair, at least for that night; but Col. Johnson, finding his head cut by the stool, determined to have satisfaction. He armed himself with his revolver, and proceeded towards the house of Col. Robinson. Upon reaching there, he commenced to use very insulting language. He threatened to have blood for blood before he slept or eat again. His friends endeavored to get him away, telling him he would be killed if he continued on. Col. Robinson asked him to leave and wait until morning; he said he was his friend, and always had been; that he was the aggressor, and the blow he had given him, was only in return for one he had received. Upon refusing to go and continuing the same language, he told him he would be obliged to injure him, and begged him to leave, if not he would shoot. Upon walking around, using the same gross insults, one of his friends took his pistol away, and advancing again to the window a gun was pointed at him and cocked; but Col. Robinson being informed he was unarmed, took it down and told Col. Johnson he would not shoot an unarmed man, and again begged him to leave and go to bed; but if he returned to come armed. He left with two or three friends, who did all that was possible to quiet him and get him to bed; but in about fifteen minutes he returned again, and repeated all he had said before, insulting Col. Robinson and his friends—at the same time daring Col. R. to fire, stating he would kill him on sight. Advancing again towards the door or window of the house, Col. Robinson told him to come no nearer, if he advanced he would fire. Col. Johnson replied, "I am a gentleman—shoot me!" and still continued to advance, when Col. Robinson fired at him. He fell and expired almost instantly; eleven out of sixteen buckshot, entering his breast.

Col. R. A. Johnson served with General Wm. Walker throughout his Nicaraguan career, and held the position of Assistant Adjutant General. He was a gentleman of fine abilities, and was, we believe, a lawyer by profession. He has lived in California for several years past, where he has many friends.

We received a communication from our correspondent at Fort Buchanan, which is unavoidable crowded out. It will appear in our columns next week.