

Democratic Nominations.

For Governor, JAMES WHITCOMB. For Lieutenant Governor, PARIS C. DUNNING.

Our Terms.

The following will hereafter be the permanent terms of the Weekly Indiana State Sentinel: One copy, one year, \$2.00. Three copies, one year, 5.00. Five copies, one year, 8.00. Ten copies, one year, 15.00. Twenty copies, one year, directed to one person, 30.00.

Semi-Weekly.

(Published three times a week during the session.) One copy, \$4.00. Three copies, \$10.00.

The State Debt.

Towards the settlement of the immense debt of the State of Indiana, all eyes have been turned for some years. While every honest man, of whatever political party, has spurned the idea of repudiation, without stopping to inquire whether the debt has been incurred by fair or foul means, or by whom incurred, yet did none, until the present Governor conceived the project, ever advance an idea towards accomplishing the object of avoiding that stigma on the State.

To obviate these difficulties, we know has been a labor of no little intensity to Gov. Whitcomb. He had the great mass of the State affairs to unravel and place in order (a work of no little labor, as will be learned by reference to the first and second reports of the present Auditor of State, to which we direct especial attention, that the people may partially learn by whom and how they were robbed and plundered)—but he had also to originate and perfect a plan by which the State could be relieved without the ruin of her almost entire laboring population.

The Evening edition of the Journal of Commerce of the 15th, brings us an account of a very destructive fire in Nantucket. Churches, banks, insurance offices, post office, printing offices, the wharves, and stores and dwelling houses, all were swept away. Buildings were blown up, until the powder was exhausted, and water was very scarce.

EFFECTS OF THE NEW TARIFF.—We are permitted to make the following extract of a letter from a distinguished gentleman in Pittsburgh to a member of Congress, dated 6th July instant: "The intelligence of the passage of McKay's bill produced great consternation in this city yesterday. Iron fell \$2 per ton, and wool 2 cents per lb. instantly, and a further decline is looked for to-day."

THE REJECTED OHIO VOLUNTEERS.—The Whig candidate for Governor of Ohio, who rejected certain volunteers because they were democrats, and also to please the Native American faction, rejected three German companies, for which he was politely chastised by the Secretary of War, finds himself in rather a bad fix in consequence.

There has not been a day in two weeks that we have not heard of Whigs who intend to vote for Democratic candidates. We have also heard of a few individuals professing to be Democrats, who are to vote for the Whig candidates in this county. The Whigs need not count this as gain, for we believe they have voted on that side for years.

WARM WEATHER.—Papers every where are complaining of the heat, and stating that the thermometer rose in different places from 84 to 99—the latter being the highest we have noticed. Here, we had a comfortable week with the mercury ranging from 94 to 102 in the shade, and 118 to 134 in the Sun. We enjoyed it finely; but it has now got back to 80 to 86, and rain will do the rest, if nothing else.

A fellow, lately discharged from a penitentiary where he had been confined for horse-stealing, now residing in or near Spencer in this State, has been sending us vulgar and obscene papers. If we had time, we don't know but we would send him back to his old quarters. We advise the people of Owen to look out for their horses and hen-roosts.

The Whig Lie about Capt. Tipton and the Governor.

In various parts of the State, prominent men, as well as Whig editors, are giving circulation to the report that Captain Tipton insulted Gov. Whitcomb at New Albany. Some accounts say that he "pulled his nose; and others that "he shook his fist under his nose." This is part of the batch of falsehoods concocted and circulated by the old Junto here, because Gov. Whitcomb interposed and prevented their robbing the landholders under the infamous land fraud law.

Now, we know from authentic sources that the statement is false in every particular. But to place the facts before the people in such a form as to silence the slanders both against Capt. Tipton and Gov. Whitcomb we have called on Adjutant General Reynolds, who roomed with Gov. Whitcomb at the time this insult is said to have been given, and he authorizes us to say, that Capt. Tipton did not, to his knowledge, personally mistreat or insult Gov. Whitcomb in any manner; but that on the contrary, Captain T. made a call on his Excellency a short time before their departure from New Albany, which call was in his presence, and so far as he could perceive, was of the most courteous character.

We are astonished at the reckless meanness that can induce politicians to manufacture and circulate a falsehood, that must, if true, disgrace Capt. Tipton in the eyes of every honorable man, for the poor gratification of heaping a little momentary contempt upon our patriotic Governor. The same sort of thing was done at New Albany when MARSHALL'S "Daily Bulletin" (of the 17th June) implicated Messrs. McDonald and Austin, two as honorable men as the State affords, and both devoted Whigs,—in one of the foulest of frauds, by charging the Governor with imposing on the Bartholomew Volunteers, respecting their provisions, furnished by them, Mc.D. and A., and which were of the best kind and in abundance.

THE OLD JUNTO WILL NEVER FORGIVE WHITCOMB FOR PREVENTING THE LAND FRAUDS CONTEMPLATED BY THEM. The people will remember them, also.

GREAT FIRE IN NANTUCKET, MASS. The Evening edition of the Journal of Commerce of the 15th, brings us an account of a very destructive fire in Nantucket. Churches, banks, insurance offices, post office, printing offices, the wharves, and stores and dwelling houses, all were swept away. Buildings were blown up, until the powder was exhausted, and water was very scarce.

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The Graduation Bill.

The Senate bill to graduate the price of the public lands has been amended by the lower House of Congress by the substitution of Mr. Kay's amendment, and passed that body by a vote of 92 to 90. The following is the substitute, in which it is believed the Senate will concur:

That all public lands which shall have been offered for sale twenty years or more on the 1st day of December, 1846, shall thereafter be subject to entry at one dollar per acre for the term of five years; all the before described lands then remaining unsold shall be subject to seventy-five cents per acre for another term of five years; and all such unsold at the end of the last mentioned term may be entered at fifty cents per acre.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the quantity of land which the President of the United States shall hereafter proclaim and offer for sale in any one year shall not exceed three millions of acres.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That upon every reduction in the prices of said lands which shall take place by the graduating process of this act, the occupants or settlers upon any of the said lands shall have the right of pre-emption at such graduated or reduced prices, which right shall extend to a period of six months from and after the date at which the respective graduation shall take place; and any land not entered by the respective occupants or settlers within that period shall be liable to be entered or purchased by any other person until the next graduation or reduction in prices shall take place, when it shall, if not previously purchased, be again subject to the right of pre-emption for six months, as before, and so on from time to time as said reductions shall take place.

A United States Senator at Last! Caucuses of the two branches were held on Thursday evening last, for another effort to nominate a United States Senator. In the House caucus, James W. Bradbury, of Augusta, was nominated on the first ballot, by the following vote: Bradbury 49; J. Anderson 29; W. B. S. Moor, 3; Hamlin, 2; Lowell 1; total, 84.

In the Senate caucus, Mr. Bradbury was nominated on the sixth ballot. The balloting was as follows: Bradbury, 11; 12; 12; 12; 13; 14. Anderson, 8; 7; 7; 5; 2; 1. Hamlin, 6; 6; 7; 10; 12; 12. Wells, 1. Lowell, 1.

The House voted unanimously to sustain the nomination. No day fixed for the election. It will probably be within a few days. This important question is at last put to rest. Mr. Bradbury is favorably known to the Democracy of the State of Maine as a gentleman sound in the faith, an eloquent speaker, and of high talents and industry. We have no doubt he will discharge the duties of that elevated office with credit to himself and honor to the State.—Eastern (Maine) Argus.

Latest from the Camp—Official. ARMY OF OCCUPATION. "June 24, 1846." "Some volunteers have arrived at Brazos Santiago from Tennessee, presumed to be of the twelve months' quota. The volunteers which previously arrived from New Orleans have nearly all moved to Barita, except two regiments in this place. I shall bring them up the river as soon as I can procure transportation, which we are impatiently awaiting. The volunteers from Texas are encamped near Pat Isabel, and are now organizing under the direction of the Governor. "We have no authentic intelligence from the interior of Mexico. The army at Linares is believed to be moving towards Monterey, much reduced in numbers by desertion and sickness. It is rumored that Bustamante is at the head of the government, and that Paredes is advancing with a large force to this frontier."—Union, July 14.

MURDER OF COL. JAMES L. SCHOOLCRAFT. A letter received in the Senate, this morning, by General Cass, announces the murder at Sault St. Marie, at the foot of Lake Superior, on the 6th July inst., of Col. J. L. Schoolcraft, a brother of the distinguished and well known traveler and writer of the name, Mr. Henry B. Schoolcraft, who is now in this city. The deed was perpetrated by John Tanner, a captive brought up among the Indians, and more than an Indian in the ferocity of his character. This person was a sort of half outlaw, prowling about the place. No causes for the act are known or have been stated. The deceased commanded the militia of the country, was a merchant in large business, and of great hospitality. And his assassination, by secrecy, it seems, has produced great excitement in the place. He leaves a widow and family of young children.—Union.

A NEW ISSUE IN NATIVISM.—William D. Baker, who is recognized as a leading member of the Native party in Philadelphia, says, in a letter to the Sun of that city: "Let the doors of our Native American Associations be thrown wide open, that all may enter, Natives, Irish, Germans, Scotch—all who are opposed to the insolent demands of the Court of Rome, as made to American officers, by the paid emissaries of a foreign power."

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, July 13, 1846. MESSRS. EDITORS.—In the Sentinel of the 8th inst. I see an editorial from which I infer that the editor of the Rustville Jacksonian has seen proper to take special offence at one of my letters to you. You say he scorges me. That may be; and all I have to say is, that he "scorges it blind," and strikes in the dark, as will appear from the following facts: 1st. It is notoriously true, (i. e. it is notorious here, though perhaps not in Rustville,) that on the passage of the Notice Resolutions, in a firm unsatisfactory to the ardent advocates of our fighting title to all of Oregon, up to 54 40, more than a sufficient number of Senators to defeat Democratic action upon the Tariff and other matters, did declare their purpose to vote against a modification of the Tariff and Whig Senators did boast that from thenceforth every leading measure of the Administration would be defeated.

2d. Your correspondent heard sundry Democratic members of the House at the same time say, in their anger, that the Democratic action on the tariff should be defeated. 3d. Your correspondent never heard that Senator Bright made an declaration of that sort, such as is so boldly named. That idea seems to have been first suggested by the Editor of the Jacksonian. The exact contrary has been uniformly under stated from Senator B's own declarations. If grave statesmen will utter such declarations as are above stated, they can expect no better than that these threats should become public, and especially that the correspondents of the other text should be held to their duty to state the same in their letters. If the editor of the Jacksonian really desires to know whether or not Senator Hannegan made some such declaration or threats as is above stated, he can ascertain that fact by addressing himself directly to that Honorable Senator, whose personal frankness, regard for truth, and pride of character will secure to the editor of the Jacksonian, a prompt and pointed answer. The editor of the Jacksonian will be under no obligation to publish the answer, nor will it be under no important; because it is clear that if Senator Hannegan did make such threat or declaration, it was the result of momentary excitement. His next votes show this conclusively—votes in strict accordance with the democratic tariff creed. And those votes are made the more satisfactory by being accompanied by every first rate speech he has ever made.

That my statement to you was accurate can be established by the voice of common fame here, as well as by many living witnesses who heard the declarations. Whether one of those declarations or threats may or may not be carried out by Senator Semple, from Illinois, does not appear. It is very much feared that he may vote against the democratic tariff, and if so, it will be fatal, unless some other Senator die, be indisposed, or resign. I, for one, hope he will do right, though he has, like others, threatened to do wrong, and reiterated the threat in very strong language within the last few days, or else his friends misrepresent him.

On Tuesday morning the condition of things remained nearly the same. Only one regiment was formed, and a written protest signed by sixty-four members of the Laneville Legion, one of the companies presented as making up the regiment formed by agreement of the Captains, was presented to the Governor, protesting against going into that regiment. This protest was not read, but was, for regarding the Captains as the representatives of the wishes of their respective companies, the regiment had been made of nine companies, with the Captain of another, while nearly his whole company was protesting against it.

Several of the Captains who had thus united, insisted upon this regiment being recognised as formed. Captain Tipton and Gibson, both of whom had not agreed, Monday evening and on this morning, made warm speeches, and introduced general charges, that politics had been brought into the question, and that persons who were not volunteers had interfered with the view of making political capital. Other Captains denied that they knew of any such interference, and called upon these gentlemen to name the persons who had so interfered. This was declined to do, but the question was put to them directly, whether they meant to include in these charges members of the political party only, they both unhesitatingly declared that they did not mean so, but that they meant to charge men of both political parties, that they meant to charge one no more than the other.

Under these circumstances the Governor very properly declined to consider any regiment as organized. He said that he would have been extremely impossible to organize the other two upon a satisfactory plan. The regiment thus formed was widely scattered, embracing the companies from Allen, Cass, Jefferson, Clark, Ford, and Harrison counties. It was manifestly the desire of the privates, and indeed of all the members of the several companies, who had no personal interests in the elections, to have the regiments formed as nearly as possible by uniting companies from adjoining counties, so that the men who were best acquainted would be thrown together. Finding then, after three days trial, that the companies could not agree, the Governor announced that it was time to adopt some other course. A resolution was then offered and passed by a majority of all the Captains, respecting the Governor, to organize the companies into a regiment himself, "and the principle of contiguous territory." This he did in the course of the day, but he withheld his final decision until the next day, with the view of still giving the several Captains who were included within the lines drawn an opportunity to exchange one with another, if they thought proper. As laid off by the Governor, one regiment included all the companies on and north of the National road, and the other two regiments, those east and west of a line drawn nearly north and south from the National road. He was still desirous, however, to render this division as satisfactory as possible, by allowing any voluntary changes of companies when the wish should be mentioned. Finding, however, that no changes of this kind were likely to be agreed upon, at the next day at noon he published his general order, organizing the regiments, and directing the elections for field officers.

The above is a plain statement of the facts as they occurred. They were known to a great many persons, and we appeal to all who were present to say whether they are not stated correctly. The great object manifested by the Governor throughout, was to form the regiments according to the desire and will of the volunteers themselves, and we are satisfied that it is only necessary for the facts to be generally known to remove all the impressions injurious to him which may have been credited by the calumnies of his enemies.

ORATORY.—The Cincinnati Advertiser has the following on a young Cincinnati would-be orator. It is decidedly rich, and bears a remarkable likeness to efforts of the kind on banking and the tariff made by young fledged politicians of the whig school "out west." "A DAMPER TO ELOQUENCE.—Amusing scenes occur occasionally in grave assemblies. During the late session of the New Hampshire Legislature, a newly fledged orator made his maiden speech in the House of Representatives. A bill had been brought in to tax bank dividends, and watching his opportunity, the debutant addressed the members: "Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Dover, who introduced this bill does not seem to be aware of its inevitable results. He would strip the widow"—(roars of laughter; and cries of)—"the widow who!—what widow?—not in this public hall, I hope, &c.") "As soon as the tumult subsided into some degree, and the orator could make himself heard, he indignantly proceeded:—"Gentlemen need not think to put me down by clamor. Is there no sympathy here for the widow and the orphan? I say, sir, that this is worse than stripping. Put on this tax and I say you drive the widow to her last shift."

"Here the clamor became so great, that the speaker, despairing of being heard, resumed his seat. It was almost ten minutes before the House could transact its regular business."

"The New York True Sun, of the 11th, says: "Yesterday, at 2 o'clock, the quiet neighborhood of Hempstead Branch, L. C., was thrown into the utmost confusion by a rumor, (which soon rapidly spread,) that two young married females—a Mrs. Flowers, and a Mrs. Jones, the latter only 17 years of age, had eloped with two men, almost strangers to them, the former with a school teacher named George Hudson, and the other with a carpenter named Joshua Eastis. Fortunately, neither of the women has any children, and their husbands may, therefore, congratulate each other in getting so easily rid of their bad bargains. Eustis had a horse and wagon belonging to himself, with which he brought his paramour to Brooklyn, and afterwards, as has since been ascertained, started by the 7 o'clock boat for Albany, leaving his vehicle at S. Carman's stable. The other runaways also came down in a similar conveyance, and they too, went to Albany. What renders the affair still more singular is, that the men have each abandoned wives of exemplary character, who, fortunately have no children to curse their recreant parents."

The Formation of the Regiments.

The formation of the several companies of Indiana volunteers into regiments, has given occasion to a great variety of false and slanderous operations against Governor Whitcomb. For the present, we shall content ourselves with refuting all these slanders in mass, by a simple statement of facts connected with the Governor's action in this matter.

The formation of the companies into regiments was looked to with much interest. There were a great number of candidates for the field officers, all of whose prospects would be more or less influenced by the manner in which the companies should be united. It was therefore quite natural that some should desire the regiments to be organized in one way and some in another, while it was morally impossible to please all. Under these circumstances, and indeed under any circumstances, the Governor was desirous that the different companies should agree amongst themselves and relieve him from the necessity of interfering. His first step, therefore, was to call a meeting of the Captains, as representatives of their respective corps, and to request them to endeavor to agree upon a mode of uniting the regiments into companies each. This course, so far, was perfectly satisfactory to all the Captains present, except that Captain Gibson, a Whig, objected to any agreement of this kind being held binding, unless all the three regiments should be thus formed by voluntary association. He said, in substance, that twenty companies might agree by bargaining backwards and forwards, or otherwise, to form two regiments, and leave the other ten companies scattered all over the State, who would thus be obliged to come together, although they might be very unwilling to do so. To this the Governor replied that if two regiments were formed by voluntary association, he should consider it as near an approach to a satisfactory arrangement as could probably be made, and as the whole three regiments would then, in effect, be formed, he should feel bound to organize the third, that was left over.

The meeting then separated to meet the next morning. On that morning (Saturday) no agreement having been made, the time was extended to Monday morning. On Monday afternoon, the time having been still extended for the purpose of giving time for agreement, there was another meeting, when it was announced that a regiment was formed, but that it was found impracticable to form another. Still desirous, if possible, to procure a voluntary organization, the Governor extended the time to Tuesday morning, when he would feel himself obliged to interfere, as further delay would be very injurious to the interests of the public and of the volunteers themselves.

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Late from Oregon.

We have conversed with Mr. Palmer, formerly of Indiana, and Mr. Smith, formerly of Ohio, who passed our city on the steamer Balloon on yesterday evening, on their route from Oregon City, which place they left on the 5th of March last. They travelled through without much difficulty. The Indians on their way were friendly and made no hostile demonstrations against their party, which consisted of eighteen men. They met the first party of emigrants at Fort Laramie, on the 10th of June, under the command of Captain Martin, of Platte county, and continued for two hundred miles to meet other parties, having from six to forty wagons. A band of emigrants with 212 wagons were bound for California. The number of wagons accompanying the several parties which they met, amounted to 341, and an estimate of five persons to each wagon was not considered too large. The emigrants were generally in good health and fine spirits. The party under the command of Col. W. H. Russell was met 160 miles this side of Fort Laramie. There was no truth in the report of the death of Gov. Hogg.

One of the companies under the command of Capt. Smith of Iowa, lost 150 head of cattle, supposed to have been frightened off by the Pawnee Indians, with the design of theft. A gentleman by the name of Trimble, of Iowa, accompanied by a young man from the same Territory named Harrison, started in search of them. They returned about 40 miles and found five head of cattle, which they drove back for about ten miles. When they were suddenly attacked by twelve or fifteen Pawnees who were lying in ambush. In the struggle which ensued Mr. Trimble was killed, pierced by three arrows. A gun was fired at him by the Indians, and he was seen fall from his horse. The Indians were in the act of stripping Mr. Harrison, when two of the emigrants arrived, and they immediately dispersed, taking with them the horses of Messrs. Trimble and Harrison. Early in the morning of the next day, nine of the party of Messrs. Palmer and Smith went in search of the body of Mr. Trimble. They did not find it, but discovered pools of blood, two bloody arrows, his pocket knife, hat and whip; all of which circumstances confirmed the fact of his death. About twenty of this party, with four wagons, returned to the frontier, guarded by a company of Messrs. Palmer & Smith.

Messrs. Palmer & Smith estimate the population of the Territory at about 6,000, and rapidly increasing. There is an abundance of provisions and a surplus of agricultural products. A brisk commerce is carried on with the Sandwich Islands. The barque Toulon, Crosby master, (of New York,) left the mouth of the Columbia river, bound to the Sandwich Islands about the 1st of March, and freighted with a full cargo of fish, lumber, flour, &c.

George Abernathy, formerly of New York, is Governor; John E. Long, of Kentucky, Secretary, and Peter H. Burnett, of Missouri, Circuit Judge of the Territory. The Iowa laws have been adopted as the provisional code of the Territory. One party, among which was one of our informants, had explored the country north of the Columbia river as far as Puget's sound. The silly tales about its sterility, are grossly false, and have with many others of a similar character been manufactured by the Hudson Bay Company. It is a fertile country, admirably well suited to the production of wheat and other small grain. Its general features are rolling and mountainous, but interspersed with the most fertile valleys covered with heavy and valuable timber, with occasional plains and prairies, well watered and the streams abounding in fish. A belt of country from 40 to 60 miles in width, extending around the southern portion of the sound, is of a level character. It is believed that there will be a large settlement of Americans on the north side of the Columbia the present season.

The Hudson Bay Company at their fort at Puget's sound, have extensive and well cultivated farms. In December last they slaughtered about 500 head of the finest cattle, fattened entirely on "the range." The British brig Modeste, 18 guns and 160 men, has been lying all the winter in the Columbia, at Fort Vancouver. It was supposed she would remain there until relieved. The armed British ship Anacortes, in Puget's sound in September last. Several American whalers laid in the straits of St. Juan de Fuca the last winter. So far, they had met with but little success.

Mills at present are scarce in the country. There are six grist, and eight saw mills in operation. Dr. McLaughlin's merchant mill, with three pair of burrs, situated on the W. Hamlet, will complete in the next day, and quality of the flour manufactured by it, with any mill of the same size in the United States. Messrs. Palmer & Smith brought with them between 600 and 700 tons.

We have seen the two first numbers of the Oregon Spectator, dated the 5th and 19th of February, and published in Oregon City. It is a neat sheet, and is edited with spirit and ability by W. G. T'Vault, Esq.

Later from Texas. We copy the following from the New Orleans Bee of the 9th inst.—"By the arrival of the steamship Galveston we have received our files of papers to the 4th inst. The Galveston left Brazos Santiago for Galveston on the evening of the 1st ult., and reached that city on the 2d inst. "Capt. M. K. Snell who arrived at Galveston on board the steamship, has authority to raise from three to five companies of foot. Gen. A. S. Johnson has been elected Col. of the 1st Regiment Texas Infantry on the 30th ult., and Mr. Wells of Nazco, Capt. Lawrence, three men and a boy, started in a small boat to reach the L. M. Hitchcock, lying outside the bar at Brazos. The boat was capsized and two of the men and the boy were drowned. One man swam ashore, and Capt. L., after holding upon the boat a long time, finally swam to the point of Padre's Island, where Capt. Nagle went to his assistance, and brought him off safe. He is much bruised, and greatly exhausted, having remained in the water from four to six hours.

As a specimen of the absurd stories circulating about the camp, we may mention that at the departure of the Galveston, a rumor prevailed that Paredes was at Monterey, with 50,000 men; that his camp covered a mile square, was perfectly impregnable, being protected with two hundred pieces of artillery and that he was determined to await an attack and defend himself to the last.

An affray took place on the 29th ult. at the camp between two Texas mounted men, in which one by the name of Walker was shot and immediately killed. The high pressure steamer Potomac, which left this port a few days since for the Rio Grande, was wrecked, as we learn, in the recent heavy gale about six miles beyond the pass of San Luis. Our information is, that the sprang a leak which continued to increase until the Captain was compelled to run her on shore. She had about one thousand bushels of coal on board and other freight. Capt. Lumsden and some of his company were passengers. The boat, it is said, will be a total loss, and the freight greatly damaged. The country all around the Rio Grande has been flooded by incessant rains. The Texas Advocate, published at Victoria, says that a good looking Mexican, not long since, went into a settlement above Victoria, and by representing that horses would sell in Matamoros for the large sum of \$400 each, persuaded some young men to go with him; since which they have not been heard of, and it is supposed they have been murdered. It is also stated that about two months ago some people from the same neighborhood went to Gen. Taylor's camp with several wagon loads of butter, eggs, &c. From the camp they started to Point Isabel, but have not been heard of since. No doubt is entertained but that they were murdered by the Mexicans on the road. Reports of rather an indefinite character had reached San Antonio, that the Mexicans were concentrating a large force at Presidio de Rio Grande, for the purpose of marching against San Antonio. The report failed to excite much alarm among the Texans. Seven companies of Mounted Riflemen from the Red River counties of Texas passed through Austin on the 19th ult. on their way to San Antonio, where they would be mustered into the service of the United States. They are said to be well equipped, and are to be composed of the best class of Texas citizen soldiers.