

To Correspondents.

W. A. H. Connersville.—The Democratic State Central Committee is still in existence. Capt. John Case is Chairman, to whom letters may be addressed.

A Novel Movement.

Ex-Governor Slade, of Vermont, visited this city, during the past week, as the agent of an association at Cincinnati for the promotion of national education in the west, in our common schools. This association, we learn, is composed of different denominations, and is expected to co-operate with associations at the east, by the importation of well qualified female teachers. There are, in the eastern States, according to the census of 1840, an excess of females over males above the age of twenty, of upwards of twenty thousand, and in Massachusetts there are 2,565 male and 4,997 female teachers—the average monthly wages of the former \$31 71, and of the latter \$13 15. This, in the minds of many, is an all-powerful argument in favor of well qualified female teachers. The plan of the association is this: Benevolent ladies and others at the east agree to incur the expense of sending out well qualified female teachers, if places are designated at the west, by western associations, where they will be well received and employment given.—Assurances are given by Governor Slade that well qualified female teachers will be thus sent, if proper places are found where they will find employment to any extent. In order to insure complete success in the scheme, Miss Becher (a sister of Henry W., and who is said to be well acquainted with western character from her residence and travels in the Mississippi valley,) is to collect these teachers at Albany, New York, where they are to remain a short time, and where she is to deliver lectures to them in relation to the best method of teaching, and with a view of qualifying them for their new homes in the west, by imparting to them a knowledge of western character, and the difficulties they will have to encounter in their new fields of labor. A committee has been appointed consisting of gentlemen of the city of Indianapolis, of which Judge Blackford stands at the head, having this whole subject under consideration. We are not at this time, sufficiently advised to give any opinion on the subject. We think we can safely risk the opinion, however, that even if the scheme should not entirely succeed in accomplishing the avowed purposes of those engaged in its prosecution, it will aid an end perhaps equally important and desirable, by bringing on lots of tight and tidy yankee girls to wife our spirited and hardy western b'hoys, to the benefit of themselves and the country. They have thousands of surplus girls at the east, and we have as many surplus young men at the west; and except they can be brought together by some enlarged, safe and systematic plan, a large class must live and die in single wretchedness. We should go for any feasible plan by which that wretchedness can be alleviated, and made to give place to all the joys of wedded bliss!

The New Albany Bulletin of the 21st Dec. in noticing the execution of Fields, in Crawford county, for murder says: "We also learn that a petition signed by 1700 men and women, of that county, was presented to the Governor praying a change of his punishment to 'Penitentiary for life'—but their prayer was not heard."

We are authorized to say, that after all the exertions for the purpose, extending down to within barely time to get the communication from Indianapolis, only 125 names were procured and forwarded to the Governor in favor of a change of punishment, and that among these there was not found the name of a solitary female in favor of the slayer of his own mother.

We ask the New Albany Bulletin, as an act of justice, to give this an insertion in its columns. We extend the same request to the papers which have copied the Bulletin's article, and among the rest to the Salem News, the editor of which, while he had charge of the Bloomington Herald, denounced the Governor for the exercise of a similar clemency, and where the prisoner had not murdered his mother.

The New York Express has published a private letter from Gen. Taylor, said to have been written to Gen. Gaines, in which the writer finds fault with the Administration, and cracks up his own achievements as altogether unparalleled in the annals of either ancient or modern warfare. We have taken the earliest opportunity to copy this letter. Gen. Taylor will find that his friends have done him the poorest service imaginable in giving it to the public. This being done, it not only justifies but requires those who are dissatisfied with his course, to speak out, and let the people have the truth. We heretofore have been restrained from doing this because we did not feel disposed to imitate the federal whig policy of assailing any of those engaged in the public service against the public enemy, however inefficient we may have regarded their policy or their acts. Taylor himself being now exposed, by his own friends, in secretly assailing our own government, we consider ourselves justified in showing up his errors, and in holding him responsible for their commission. We have a few private letters from the army, which may throw a little light on this subject.

SECRET HISTORY OF THE WAR.—Some of the newspapers are just now publishing what they call the "secret history of the war." Those who will read this "secret" history and then compare it with the public history of events since Gen. Taylor pitched his tent at Corpus Christi, will see that the whole "secret" is as much gannon as any thing else. They will perceive at once that it is a "bug-bear" got up for some purpose, perhaps, of very little importance. It has always been supposed that Arista desired to form an independent republic of Northern Mexico; and that Mexico, under Herrera, offered to negotiate for peace. It is well known too that Herrera, in consequence of his wish for peace, was overthrown by Paredes, who compelled Arista to advance and fight. It is, perhaps, probable that we might have prevented a battle or two by fomenting a revolution in Northern Mexico, but was it the business of our government to assist in the dismemberment of a neighboring republic, except in a legitimate war with that republic? Of course not.

THE BILL TO REDUCE AND GRADUATE THE PRICE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS, which is now before the House of Congress, provides that all public lands which have been offered for sale fifteen years or more, prior to Dec. 1st, 1846, shall be subject to entry at one dollar per acre, for the term of five years; if then unsold, shall be subject to entry at seventy five cents for another term of five years, and after that term, at fifty cents an acre. At each reduction the settlers on any of these lands shall be entitled to pre-emption at the reduced rates. All acts providing for an exemption of taxes upon land sold by the United States for five years from and after the day of sale, are repealed by this act. The only objection which seems to possess Congress in relation to the public lands, appears to be to devise means to get rid of them as soon as they can.

Gen. Taylor's friends who have furnished us documents the present session, will please accept our thanks. Also, we are indebted to Colonel MERRILL, of the Indian Department, for valuable favors. We respectfully solicit a continuance of such favors. Our private correspondent must not think that we are neglectful. Our hands are more than full; but his suggestions are not lost.

The Indiana State Sentinel.

Published every Thursday.

INDIANAPOLIS, FEBRUARY 11, 1847.

[Volume VI: Number 34.]

Query?

Has the bill and supplemental to the bill, providing for the payment of the funded debt of the State of Indiana, commonly called the "Butler bill," passed the legislature, and now is it a LAW of the land?

I take it that it is not. The latter clause of the 8th section of article third, of the constitution of the State of Indiana, and which of course is paramount to all "rules and regulations," says "two-thirds of each House [of Assembly] shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members."

A quorum means such number of any officers as is sufficient to do business. Two thirds, then, of either House shall be sufficient to do business.

On the failure of a quorum in either branch of the legislature, nothing can be done, only the adjourning from day to day and compelling the attendance of absent members.

There are fifty Senators, as provided by the apportionment of last winter—two-thirds of which is thirty-four members, (or thirty-three and a third of a member)—as you cannot go over two-thirds of a member, and cannot take one-third of a Senator to make up a quorum, without the remaining two-thirds. Of course there must be live and acting two-thirds of fifty commissions; and the two-thirds of whatever commissions there may be in action. It makes no difference whether the Senator holding a commission dies, or resigns. This may be proven by the supposition (and which was realized in Ohio) that a sufficient number of members resign for the special purpose of breaking a quorum,—there is no doubt it can be done—it would make no difference in principle if a sufficient number to break a quorum, by a fatal epidemic, died, and no business could be done. If this is so, for a number sufficient to break a quorum, the same reason will serve where one dies or resigns—two-thirds cannot be taken of the number that remain.

At the past session, as before stated, there were fifty members composing the Senate, two-thirds of which was thirty-four. But after a few weeks session, one member—Mr. Curry—died, leaving forty-nine members. The despoiling of the passage of the Butler Bill contended that thirty-three is a quorum, for it is the two-thirds of forty-nine.

When this aforesaid Butler Bill came up on its final passage in the Senate on Monday, after its return from the House, there were voting for and against it, in all, thirty-three votes. The bill then is not a law of the land, for the reasons above given.

A measure of the importance of such a bill, wherein the interests of millions of the inhabitants of a State, and perhaps for centuries, will not be attempted to be put into force, or made the basis of any action, after the action of thirty-three men out of fifty upon it. It may, however; but the action will be upon an unstable and sandy basis. The approval of it by the Governor will not cover the defect—he is the law-making power only so far as the approval, if the Senate, or House does not pass it; yet his approval will not make it a law.

Should the bondholders, however, or their agent attempt to carry out the provisions of that attempted bill, by enforcing it in any action at law, or in any manner in a court of justice, it will be decided for the reason aforesaid that there is no LAW of the land, as attempted by the provisions of said "Butler Bill."

MORE TROUBLE.—A Cincinnati paper says:

Gen. Scott is in hot water at the White House, in consequence of Gomez having published the whole of the government plan of the campaign against Mexico. Gen. Taylor is in trouble, and it is said has applied to be relieved from the command of the army. He comes home just in time to get up a persecution fever, and try his hand in aid of Judge McLean, his relative, who desires to be President."

The facts as to the last part of this paragraph will develop themselves in good season, no doubt. As to Gomez, the following paragraph from a New Orleans correspondent of the Charleston Mercury may enlighten our readers:

"A good deal of talk has been occasioned at New Orleans by an incident which will not, I think, find its way into papers. Gen. Scott found it necessary to have one of his staff familiar with the Spanish language, and a Mr. Gomez, who is, I understand, strongly recommended by one or two high government officers, was the one selected. He received yesterday a commission as Lieut. Col. of Dragoons, from Gen. Scott, and was formally mustered into the United States service. Immediately upon this the strongest representations were made to the General about this man, who is pretty well known as the editor of a Spanish paper, La Patria, which has taken strong ground against our government in the present war, and in which some articles thoroughly Mexican (i. e. almost treasonable) have appeared and been severely commented on, so we spoke of as 'Mexican sheets,' and the very last man who should occupy a confidential station about the Commander-in-Chief. These statements, which came from men of both political parties, had their effect, and to-day the commission has been revoked to the satisfaction of every one."

A DUEL.—It is stated that a duel was recently fought near Utica, Ind. The parties were Edward C. Marshall of Cincinnati, (brother of Thomas F. Marshall of Ky.) and a Mr. Ward of Missouri, and formerly of Ky. They are said to be relatives, and the difficulty was of long standing. The weapons selected were rifles—distance 75 paces. At 12 o'clock M., the fight came off. Mr. M. having by lot the first shot, fired at the word "one," and his adversary at the word "two"—the words being given almost simultaneously. The doctor's shot missed, while his opponent's took effect in the fleshy part of the thigh. On being shot, Dr. Marshall turned round; Mr. Ward walked up, and the doctor extended his hand to him, which was accepted, and the parties left the ground good friends. It is said that just before firing, Mr. Ward handed his second a note, in which he stated that he did not wish to kill Dr. M., but that he would hit him within an inch of where the ball did actually take effect.

The Whigs during the continuance of their protective policy, frequently urged the imposition of duties on tea and coffee; and why have they changed their course at the present time? One whig paper, the New York Courier and Enquirer, uses the following language on this subject:

"We respect the honest motives of those who on principle oppose this duty; but we utterly despise the want of principle exhibited by politicians who oppose the measure solely from motives of expediency, and with a view to cripple the administration in carrying on the war with Mexico. If we had always been opposed to the duty instead of in favor of it, we should advocate the measure now as a war measure, and demand it by patriotic considerations. There can be but one opinion amongst honest men, in relation to the Whig presses, which a year ago censured the Secretary of the Treasury, for not daring to recommend the revenue duty,—and now, in time of war, oppose its being levied! We are not of that class."

DAGUERRETYPE MINIATURES.—Kelsey, at his room in Norris's Block, can show photographic likenesses equal to any that we have ever had the pleasure of seeing here or elsewhere. We advise our friends, and enemies too, if we have any (!) to give him a call if they desire true representations of their phizzes. If they are naturally handsome, he charges nothing extra; and if they are ugly, he will not grumble if the originals charge the defect upon the process. Mr. Kelsey will remain in this city but a few days longer.

A Journeyman Printer is wanted at Connersville, Indiana, by Brother Horngress.

Common School Convention.

At a meeting of the citizens of Indianapolis, friendly to the cause of common school education, held in the Court House on Monday evening, Jan. 25, 1847, Calvin Fletcher was appointed Chairman and Harvey Brown, secretary. Whereupon, after the object of the meeting had been announced by the chairman, a committee consisting of Messrs. H. W. Beecher, E. R. Ames, J. S. Bayless, J. M. Ray, and O. Butler, were appointed to make arrangements preparatory to the holding of a State common school convention in Indianapolis on the fourth Wednesday in May next, and report their proceedings to this meeting on Wednesday evening next.

On motion the meeting adjourned to assemble on Wednesday evening in the lecture room of Rev. Mr. Gurley's church.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 27, 1847. The meeting having assembled pursuant to adjournment, Rev. Mr. Beecher, chairman of the committee, previously appointed for that purpose, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Legislature of Indiana, at its present session, has passed a joint resolution recommending a State common school convention, to be held at Indianapolis on the fourth Wednesday in May next, and whereas, we heartily concur in the objects of said convention. Therefore,

1. Resolved, That all persons friendly to the cause of common school education are cordially invited to attend the said convention; and that literary associations engaged in the promotion of education, and voluntary assemblies of the citizens, be requested to send delegates to said convention.

2. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make arrangements for the entertainment of the delegates.

3. That a committee of seven be appointed to correspond with and procure the attendance of gentlemen from abroad; also to prepare and issue a circular to persons friendly to education in every county in the State, setting forth the objects of said convention, and the importance of its success in relation to the condition of common schools in each township of the State, so far as it can be obtained.

The Chairman appointed Messrs. Blake, Hubbard and Hanaman a committee of arrangements, and Messrs. Beecher, Ames, Bayless, Ray, Butler, Bolton and Cressey a committee of correspondence, under the second and third resolutions.

Mr. Gibson presented a paper containing the following expression of sentiment, which was unanimously adopted:

The joint resolution passed by the Legislature holds out the recommendation to every citizen of the State, friendly to the common school interest, who can conveniently spare the time for that purpose, to come up to the Capital and deliberate with his fellow citizens on this great question. Indiana has just gained the applause of our sister States for her munificence in the education of her deaf and dumb, and she is to be congratulated for her laudable efforts to bring back to rest and ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate insane. Why, then, should she not, as the great act of her policy, rise up as one man and send the lights of literature and science to every cabin in the land? We have a splendid legacy handed down to us for the support of common schools, and a constitutional provision at all times stating members of our Legislature to be in the face of that subject; and the present Legislature, alive to its duty on this question, has recommended a common school education convention.

We have but to look at the census of 1840 and other statistics, to see the wants of Indiana, as well as other States in this great and mighty valley, where the star of empire is now rapidly wending its way. We reject that great movement is now being made, in which the whole west will unite, to carry on the great work of common school education. Let not Indiana be behind her sisters, but let the news of this movement be spread broadcast over the State; let our editors recommend it; let the school teachers, as a great and powerful army, further on the work; let our attorneys, while attending our spring courts, see that this grand speech be made on the subject at every county-seat; let the pulpits also speak out on this great question, which is to result, we trust, in a more enlightened christianity. Finally, let all who have influence, in any sphere of life, see that this convention is well attended, not doubting that the result will be the adoption of a system of common school education, at the next session of the Legislature, that will add to the glory and honor of our beloved State. What patriot, christian or philanthropist who has it in his power, will fail to attend an interesting convention—a convention which we trust will tell most favorably upon our destiny in centuries to come.

Mr. Bolton concluded by offering the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we heartily concur in the objects of the common school convention to be held in this place on the fourth Monday in May next, and we hereby pledge our votes to the support of the same.

On motion of Mr. Gurley, the thanks of the meeting were tendered to Gov. Slade for his interesting address. And thereupon the meeting adjourned.

CALVIN FLETCHER, Chairman. HERVEY BROWN, Secretary.

A fire recently occurred in Lewisville, Henry county, the particulars of which are furnished to the Cincinnati Gazette, as follows:—On the morning of the 23d instant, about 4 o'clock, a fire broke out in a two story dwelling house occupied by Doctor Jones. The flames spread to the destruction of an entire square in this thriving town, embracing thirteen houses, warehouses, stores and dwellings. A small portion of the loss was covered by insurance. The entire loss will not be less than \$10,000. Mr. Eli Davis, one of the principal merchants of the place, is the main loser; his loss will probably be \$5,000; partial insurance.

A terrible fire occurred in Boston recently, which destroyed upwards of one hundred houses. It commenced in a bowling saloon attached to the Neptune Hotel, and extended through Beverly and Milford streets. The night was intensely cold, and the water froze so fast as to greatly impede the operations of the firemen, and this, with a strong wind (blowing almost a gale) prevailing, caused the great extension of the fire. The loss of property was immense. The buildings were mostly workshops occupied by mechanics. No less than seventy families, many of them poor, were rendered homeless by this terrible fire, on one of the coldest nights of the season. Many of them suffered exceedingly. Some of the firemen were frost-bitten while laboring to subdue it.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE, Johnson Co., Ind.—We have the catalogue of the officers and students of this Institution, which seems to indicate a prosperous state of affairs. The whole number of students is 75. The college building is not yet completed, but it is expected to be finished during the next summer. The collegiate year commenced on the 21st September last; the next quarter begins on March 8th. Tuition terms from \$12 to \$20 per year.

MARBLE WORKS.—We would call attention to the advertisement of Mr. Baird. Dealers in these articles would do well to cut it out and preserve it.

From the Army.

Arrival of Col. Kinney at Tampico.—News from Gen. Taylor.—Affair of Col. May with the enemy.—Loss of eleven Dragoons.—Occupation of Victoria.—Position of our forces, &c.

By the arrival of the big Georgians, at New Orleans, from Tampico, which place she left on the 4th ult., we have news from various points of the theatre of war.

Col. Kinney, who has proved himself since the commencement of the war to be invaluable, from the variety of his information, and daring and adventurous spirit, reached Tampico on the 12th inst., straight from Victoria. He was with the first column of troops under General Quitman, in the advance on that city, which they entered on the 9th inst. The Mexicans seemed inclined to dispute the ground with Gen. Quitman, only retreating as the latter advanced, for the last forty or fifty miles, toward Victoria, and finally, only leaving that place in the rear, as the American force entered it in front. In consequence of there being no cavalry with Gen. Quitman's column, Col. Kinney was ordered to lead the advance, and left Gen. Taylor and Montezuma, accompanying the vanguard of Gen. Quitman in the advance on Victoria. From hence, confiding in his knowledge of the language and manners of the Mexicans, Col. K. left Victoria for Tampico almost alone, and in three days performed the almost incredible journey of two hundred and fifty miles, running the gauntlet as it were, through a country studded with the enemy's posts, and followed by hundreds of others of a similar description. At Sotola Marina he fell in with a company of sixty rancheros, but not at all dismayed, he proceeded to the Alcaide, and summoned him to prepare for the reception of Gen. Taylor, who had sent him forward to collect supplies. The rancheros dispersed in consternation, while he pursued his way unimpeded. At the ranch of La Cruz, thirty Mexican dragoons under Sanchez were stationed here by the command of Gen. Valencia. On his route he moved off, effectually deceiving the enemy. On his route was stationed Ramano Falcon and his band—the individual charged with the murder of the lamented Col. Cross—but Col. K. by courage, artifice, and an iron constitution, was able to elude this freebooter and all his followers.

SALTILLO.—Generals Butler, Wool and Worth were at Saltillo on the 1st inst.; their united forces were rather over than under six thousand troops. Small parties of Mexican soldiers are occasionally seen in the vicinity, but are supposed to be detachments of a force amounting in all to one thousand five hundred or two thousand men, who occupy the desert country between San Luis and Saltillo, and who have orders to destroy the water tank in the event of an onward movement of the American army to Santa Anna's head quarters. These are the ground forces were rather over than under six thousand troops.

TULA.—There was, from recent accounts, a rather large Mexican force assembled at Tula, principally from the 1st and 2d Regiments of the 1st Division. In the neighborhood of this place were also Gen. Urrea, Romero, and Fernandez, with troops, whose number is variously estimated.

AMBUSCADE.—COL. MAY.—This gallant officer, in a reconnaissance made by order of Gen. Taylor, had the misfortune to lose eleven dragoons with his horses, and seven pack mules. It appears that the General wished to ascertain the passes in the chain of mountains between Monte Morales and Linares, for this purpose sent out Col. May and eighty dragoons to make the desired examination. In short, Col. May, in exploring a narrow pass, not sufficient to admit two men passing abreast, had his rear guard, consisting of a Lieutenant and twelve men, including a sergeant, cut off, with the exception of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers, by the enemy. This was done by the latter's rolling in their path a quantity of stones forming a kind of barricade. The Mexicans then fell on them, and from their superior numbers, as it is supposed, made an easy capture. The Lieut. and Sergeant escaped. The Mexicans are said to be rancheros or banditti, but nothing is positively known about the prisoners. Col. May, on hearing of the mishap, returned to the spot where the path was encumbered, but he could find no further traces of his own men or the enemy. The ground was found to be stained with blood in some parts, which gave rise to the belief that it had been the scene of something like a conflict.

VICTORIA.—At the latest dates there were about 6000 men at Victoria, under the command of General Taylor, who had with him the united divisions of Generals Patterson, Twigg, Quitman, and Pillow. He said that Gen. Taylor will await the commands of the General in chief, before any movement is made. The general impression at the head quarters of Gen. Taylor is, that the American forces will concentrate in or about Tampico, whence a vigorous demonstration will be made against Vera Cruz.

TAMPICO, JAN. 10.—An expedition, consisting of five companies of regulars and five of the Alabama regiment, is ordered to report for a march at 3 P. M., to-day; it has been in preparation for several days, and is destined for a descent upon Tusan. General Shields will command in person.

The brig Foam was wrecked on the bar of Tampico during a gale on the 6th ult.

TAMPICO, JAN. 11.—I wrote you yesterday that an expedition would leave that city for Tusan, but I was very confidently misled. The rumor for the past few days was allowed to spread that the force was destined for this place, and the Mexicans despatched columns carrying the intelligence. Reinforcements were called in from the surrounding country, and we hear now that there are 2,000 men on the qui vive for an attack. The Government steamers commenced firing yesterday at noon, and every preparation appeared to be making to cross over to Puebla Vieja, en route for Tusan, when the commanding officer at the lines received orders to march his men towards Altamira. It was a perfect surprise to every one, and whether any good would result to it or not, Gen. Shields deserves credit for the ruse.

I am assured from head quarters that the object is to open a communication with Gen. Taylor at Victoria, and it is deemed expedient to send the present force to meet his advance. From 2,000 to 3,000 Mexican troops are known to be between here and there, and very possibly Gen. Shields will have an opportunity to cope with them. But few of the regulars posted here have yet been active in this war, and all are desirous of sharing the honors of their companions in arms who have heretofore been more fortunate. May opportunity offer—I need say no more.

The number of men is about 650, which reduces the force remaining there to 950; but no attack is to be expected on this place, except by the very route which Shields has now taken; so that, although reduced in numbers, we are not weakened in strength.

TAMPICO, JAN. 12.—Orders and counter-orders. Col. Kinney, of Corpus Christi, arrived this morning with despatches from Gen. Taylor—he left Victoria on the evening of the 9th inst., having ridden over 200 miles in three days. He was attended a portion of the way by four dragoons, and came through only two attendants. Gen. Shields received orders from Gen. Taylor to suspend operations for the present.

Gen. Taylor and Patterson are at Victoria with 6000 men awaiting orders from Gen. Scott. It is not supposed that any movement will be made against San Luis Potosi. It is pronounced the strongest fortified post in all Mexico, and Santa Anna has said that the man that takes it is welcome to the capital. I believe that a change of warfare will take place on General Scott's assuming the command. The mountains will be retained and Vera Cruz subjected by a land attack—then I for Mexico! But you are doubtless better informed of the plans of our Government than myself. At all events there yet remains everything to be done.

A Democratic State Convention in Connecticut has nominated Hon. Samuel Ingham as their next candidate for Governor.

Sketches in the Camp.

BY AN EX-REPORTER OF THE STATE SENTINEL. No. 13.

On the 9th of Dec., Gen. Lane came to our camp in great haste with orders for the 1st Regiment of Indiana to move on Monterey. On the 10th the whole Regiment left the mouth of the Rio Grande for Camargo, in the J. E. Roberts and the Rough and Ready. The Marion Volunteers, the Fountain Riflemen, the Wabash Rangers, and the Montgomery Volunteers took passage in the J. E. Roberts, and the rest of the Regiment in the Rough and Ready. John Gallispy, of the Fountain Riflemen, fell overboard and was drowned just before the boat hit the landing. In our passage up the Rio Grande the Roberts run aground several times, but owing to the model of the boat and the skill of the crew, it was got off the sand bars without much difficulty. After passing Matamoros, we observed no town until we were in sight of Reynosa. It is true we passed some wood yards where there was a few scattering houses that presented a view, at a distance, similar to a negro quarter on the Mississippi, but as we approached nearer, it was plain to be seen that their houses were far inferior to the meanest kind of negro huts. These ill constructed houses were built of mud and cane, and with less mechanism than a Beaver dam. The scenery of the Rio Grande is beautiful, though man had but little to do in making it so—it is the beauty of nature, not of art. The banks of this rapid stream abound with evergreens, tropical shrubbery, leafless thorn bushes, and even beautiful flowers, in December. The largest timber to be found here is mesquite. Ebony also grows here, though in such abundance as the mesquite. The largest tree I have seen would not exceed two feet in diameter.

On the 14th the J. E. Roberts arrived at Camargo, three miles up the San Juan. Camargo is certainly as bad looking place as it has been represented to be by those who have gone before us. The stone buildings are flat roofed and in a state of dilapidation—some cracked on every side, while others have commenced falling down. The mud and cane buildings look more like cow houses or hog pens than dwellings for human beings. Camargo is the most dusty place I ever saw. In a windy day the dust flies so thick that one can hardly see three steps before him.

On the 15th the Rough and Ready arrived with the remaining six companies of the 1st Regiment, and they immediately commenced building, and in the mean time the 3d Regiment had all their baggage packed and were starting off for Monterey. The 1st and 2d Regiments will leave here as soon as they break their mules.

A Mexican Captain with ammunition and baggage has been taken by the Kentucky Cavalry, and is a prisoner of war.

On the night of the 17th a Mexican was caught while trying to set fire to the magazine. He is closely confined and will be tried for the offence. The Whiteville arrived the same day with the remaining three companies of the 2d Regiment.

On the 18th every thing was put in readiness to start for Monterey on the following day. On the 19th the whole encampment struck a light a great while before day. We have just cut our breakfast, commenced loading up our guns and are only waiting for daylight to take up the line of march. The boys are all wide awake; but I am sorry to say that some that are unwell and anxious to go ahead will have to be discharged, or left in the hospital, because there are not more than wagons enough to carry the baggage and provision.

Camargo, Mexico, Dec. 19, 1846.

No. 14.

When the 1st and 2d Regiments left Camargo, they did not proceed more than six miles when the 1st Regiment was ordered back to the mouth of the Rio Grande and Matamoros. Both Regiments continued on to the next watering place, where they all encamped. Before morning Gen. Lane received another order from Gen. Marshall, but of a different nature—it commanded him to station a part of the 1st Regiment at Camargo and the remainder at Mier. Gen. Lane was under marching orders of a superior officer (Gen. Patterson) he did not seem to consider it his duty to obey the 1st Regiment back until arrived further orders from Head Quarters. Gen. Lane was greatly applauded by the officers as well as the privates of the 1st and 2d Regiments, and his firmness met their entire approbation.

On the 20th we continued our march. The soil over which we passed was as dry as powder, and one would not suppose from appearances that it had rained for two months. We arrived at Mier and encamped for the night. It will be recollected that this was the place where 201 Texans attacked the Mexican troops over 2,000 in number, and killed a great number, but the Texans were taken prisoners after their ammunition had been exhausted. The Texan prisoners were cruelly treated, and finally decimated and a portion of them shot. Mier contains about 3000 inhabitants—it is built mostly of stone, but has a portion of mud and cane houses, like all other Mexican towns.

We took up the line of march on the morning of the 21st and passed over a rolling plain of the morning, impregnated with iron ore. After travelling about seven miles, a ridge of mountains were visible. We encamped on the Alamo, a stream of swift running, cool water; and the best we had tasted since we left Indiana. Two companies of regulars, that commenced the march on the day sooner, had their tents pitched at the same place.

On the 22d, we continued our march, but the regulars left the camp about one hour and a half sooner, and kept ahead of us, though some of their men were so much exhausted that they fell back as far as the Indians Regiments. The rain commenced falling in small drops, and continued to rain nearly all night. We encamped at Pontiguita where three companies of the 2d Regiment were already encamped. We left the encampment on the 23d and arrived at Seralvo on the same day. This place looked as though it was once a town of some importance; but the walls of some of the buildings had commenced falling down, the convent had been abandoned, and was occupied by soldiers, and the church was without a Priest; and you know a church in Mexico without a Priest, is of as little service as a school without a schoolmaster.

The next morning (the 24th) we left Seralvo, and after marching about seven miles, the two Regiments halted at a little creek, near a rancho, when we were met by an express ordering the 1st Regiment to return to the Rio Grande—eight companies to be stationed at Matamoros, and two at the Mouth. The 1st Regiment encamped, and the 2d passed on to a dry creek bottom and pitched their tents. The camp was supplied with water from the springs. Ariole, our Interpreter, killed a very fat Turkey, which afforded us a very fine Christmas meal the next morning before daylight. Christmas was a very delightful day—it was none too cold for comfort. In fact, some parts of the chapparal abounded with flowers, and I gathered as fine a bouquet as the ladies in Indiana could have gathered in July, and when I looked at three of the prominent flowers and observed that they were red, white and blue, like our national colors, could not refrain from reflecting that coming events cast their shadows before them, and that the time would come when the area of freedom would be extended over this uncultivated land, and that industry would supercede idleness. We encamped at night on Pagan's creek. The mountains were apparently but a short distance from us on the left. Gen. Marshall with a portion of the Kentucky Cavalry and the 2d Dragoons, encamped about a mile from us on the same creek. The next day (the 26th) we passed Ramos and Marin, and encamped within about three miles of the latter place, and by this time I had nearly worn my eyes out in looking at the mountains. The next day we continued our march. The mountains appeared to be but a few miles distant, but we travelled for hours, and did not seem to get any nearer.

We at last arrived at the camp near Monterey. It was five miles from the city, though we could not see it from the camp; but the Bishop's Palace was visible on the right of the city. The 3d Regiment of Indiana volunteers had left for Saltillo before our arrival, and the 2d was ordered to proceed to that place immediately. The 2d Regiment remained in camp one day to prepare for the march, and on the 29th we commenced the march for Saltillo, and passed through Monterey. I shall not speak of the last named city. Much has been written of this city—its strong fortifications have been spoken of freely. I will only say that every American who may chance to visit this city will be proud of the gallant soldiers that fought their way into the city by such, charged upon the breast-works of the enemy, and scaled the walls of their forts.

The most beautiful scenery in Monterey was Arista's Garden. I only had time to stop a few minutes; consequently shall not attempt a graphic description. It is laid out with taste that would do credit to any country. It is watered by pools running from the mountains and conducted in channels to all parts of the Garden; but I am compelled to say that the variety is not as great as might be expected in this tropical climate. Great additions might be made to the shrubbery. After passing this beautiful Garden and the Bishop's Palace, we next passed the mill about 4 miles from the city, with the inscription on it of "Mejino de Jesus Maria." It was very neat in its appearance, being built of stone and costed over a million, which made it very durable. It had no bolt, but a hand screw was used, separate the bran from the flour. We rode on to Santa Catarina and encamped. Our route was through a mountain pass, and at moonlight. The next day we encamped at La Rinconada, having travelled 24 miles, the last 18 of which was over a dusty road where a drop of water could not be found. The men suffered greatly. I was much amused to see the various inclinations of the boys—some marched in rank with the Regiment, others managed to get out of the ranks, for the purpose of searching for precious metals at the foot of the mountain, had wild flowers, or run ahead and take a game of poker.

La Rinconada is in a narrow mountain pass—a row of trees and Maguay plants are set out upon both sides of the road as it passes through a rich valley. There is also a swift running stream and a water-fall, but the crystal rivulet runs but a short distance from the hacienda and stops.

I have not much to say relative to the movements of the army. Gen. Taylor has gone to Victoria with a force, and Gen. Butler and Gen. Worth are at Saltillo with another portion of the army. There is no news from Saltillo of any importance.

LA RINCONADA, MEXICO, Dec. 31, 1846.

Mrs. LEVET, COL. FREMONT.—The Washington correspondent of the Commercial Advertiser, writes a graceful letter respecting New Year's Day at the President's house, in which we find a flattering notice of the daughter of Col. Benton, who married the gallant Fremont.

"Look there in the centre! Who is that young and lovely creature with such intelligence and lovely and agreeable manners, now chatting French with this diplomat, then Spanish with that, anon Italian with another. What a wife she would make for an Ambassador! Soft you say. That lady is married, and a mother. She has more discernment than her father, far seeing as he is, and was disobedient enough to think for herself, and to unite her destiny to a young lieutenant, who in the tide of time may, for aught I know, become President of a republic on the Western side of this continent."