

# The Indiana State Sentinel.

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### Blowing Hot and Cold.

The whigs are led into remarkable displays of inconsistency on the subject of the Mexican war. Many of them are at heart Tories, and would rejoice though in secret, at the defeat and destruction of our armies. Few however have the moral courage to avow such sentiments; and they are not often exposed, except incidentally. Others care but little about the cause of the country, and praise or condemn our military achievements, according as they hope to be able to detract from the character of the administration, or further the advancement of whiggery to political power and its offices. One instance of such inconsistency, among many others, may be found in the Louisville Journal of April 7. From a long and in-lubricious article in one column, we select the following paragraph, which is the gist of the whole:

"If national glory can be reached only through such mournful scenes, it is not a possession to be coveted. To our country to be rendered more prosperous, our people happier and better by this cruel war! Are the arts of civilization and the triumphs of the peaceful spirit of religion to be promoted by the carnage of Buena Vista? No—for no such purposes was this great calamity brought upon the country. The war was begun to advance the popularity of certain detestable politicians and unworthy aspirants for office; and it has been continued for the disgraceful purpose of extending our territorial limits, already far too extended for our population! If the war were waged to secure our liberties, or to shield our firesides from the ruthless invasion of a hired battalion of foreign tyrants, it would then present some attractive feature to our countrymen, and the tidings of each victory would be received with feelings of exultation. But how different is the feeling with which the victories of our troops in Mexico are regarded! We see no demonstration of great joy, and our streets are not noisy with expressions of delight. This would not be the case if the war were considered necessary. The war is viewed as unjust and the objects sought to be secured by it are not considered desirable; hence, although persons feel pleased that our soldiers are victorious when led against the enemy, and although all are ready and anxious to utter panegyrics on the gallantry of our officers and men, yet but few wish to hear of any further victories however brilliant, or desire that any more bloody trophies shall be reaped on the soil of Mexico."

In this our own government is assailed, and great sympathy is manifested for the "poor Mexicans." The sincerity and depth of this sympathy may be measured in some degree perhaps by the following paragraphs in a parallel column of the very same paper:

"All honor and glory to old Rough and Ready. What other American general has ever gained four such victories as those of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey, and Buena Vista!"

"We earnestly hope that Santa Anna will not be able to rally his defeated army for a second conflict with Gen. Taylor. In the great battle of Buena Vista his army was driven to desperation by hunger, and we trust that it got a bellyful of fight, if it got nothing else."

"It is said that when dogs are trained for fighting, they are kept without food for about forty-eight hours before the encounter. Hence it would seem that an animal fights best when half-starved. This may account for the desperate fight made by the Mexicans at Buena Vista."

### The Indiana Brigade.

Various anonymous letter-writers and whig newspapers have made the sweeping and disgraceful charges of cowardice and desertion of their standard against the Indiana troops during the late bloody battle at Buena Vista. Some have stated that they quailed and flattered when first ordered to charge the enemy, but admit that they afterwards rallied and did brave and gallant service; some have asserted that so appalled and hesitating were they that Adj. Gen. Lincoln was shot down by the enemy while attempting to rally them, and that he spent his last breath in reproaching "Indiana cowardice;" and a correspondent of the New Orleans Tropic, writing over the signature "Buena Vista," makes both these last charges and adds to them that our troops, or a portion of them, ingloriously fled in disorder to Saltillo, seven miles from the scene of action, and reported that General Taylor was defeated! The first charge may possibly be true, since nothing is more common, even amongst the best and bravest men, than that they should be seized by momentary panic when entering into battle for the first time; but from what we can gather from all quarters we feel confident in pronouncing all such charges as we made by the Tropic's correspondent *baseless slanders*. Gen. Taylor brings no such charge against the Indiana volunteers in his official despatches; Gen. Lane, under whose immediate eye they fought for two days, has written a letter since the battle which we see published in the N. A. Democrat, and he not only mentions no such conduct, but speaks in terms of enthusiasm of his men; Maj. Coffey who brought the despatches of Gen. Taylor for the government, in a conversation with the editor of the N. O. Delta bore testimony to the good conduct of the Indiana troops, and we therefore conclude that the author of the slanderous charges is some "regular officer," who has made them from interested or spiteful motives. A member of the Mississippi Rifles, whose station was near the Indiana brigade, and who consequently had the best opportunity of knowing, in writing to his brother at Terre Haute in this State, says "the Indiana troops wavered only from misunderstanding their orders, and no blame attaches to them, but their behavior was gallant and worthy of the occasion."

If it were necessary to defend the honor and good name of our brave and self-sacrificing volunteers, we could place the guilt of fleeing before the face of the enemy in quite a different quarter, but it is not, and we refrain from doing so in the hope that on other fields the really guilty may retrieve the fame which they lost at Buena Vista.

**PALMER HOUSE, INDIANAPOLIS, April 17, 1847.**  
Messrs. C. G. Wiggins—Gentlemen: In your paper of the 13th, announcing the withdrawal of Judge Peaslee from the canvass for congressional nomination, in your editorial you make a remark which I conceive reflects unfavorably upon my prospects as an aspirant for nomination. How you could say that Judge Peaslee and Wick were the only prominent candidates, when four out of the nine counties composing the district have instructed for me, and among the number some of the most reliable democrats. I hope the remark was not designed to pour cold water on my pretensions and favorably another's.

Yours, very respectfully,  
J. H. COOK.

In making the remark, we stated, that they were the only candidates "so far as we had heard." As Dr. Cook had not to our knowledge, publicly announced himself; and as we had never interchanged a word or line with him on the subject, we were cautious to speak guardedly. We assure him we had no intentions of "pouring cold water" on his pretensions, or of interfering in any manner whatever, with the nomination of any gentleman. Whoever gets the nomination, shall receive the ablest support we can render; and this has been our intention from the first.

The Boston Courier says that the British steamer of the 1st of April took out a larger amount of exchange than ever went before in one vessel since the line was established. The returns of specie for this, and for freights, in due time, must be immense, and cannot fail to produce a favorable effect upon the money matters this side of the water.

A NEW NICKNAME FOR THE EVIL ONE.—The Boston Post states that on Sunday week last, in his sermon, the Rev. Mr. Stone, in speaking of Satan, styled him "the Rough and Ready" of the squadron of hell.

### The State Journal—Past and Present.

Ever since the reception of the Tory anti-war speech of Tom Corwin, the previous *latent* federal spirit of the Indiana Journal has been exhibited in a most rampant and bitter style. The effect of this has been, to enlist the whig press generally, of this State, in a regular crusade against the cause of their own country, and the principles of republican liberty on this Continent, and in favor of Mexico and her Spanish tyrants, whose history, from the time of the Spanish conquest to this hour, has been but a record of piracy, and crime of all degrees. True, there is an exception or two: which may be found in the Brookville American and the Wayne County Record; but these only serve to sustain the general fact to which we have adverted. Why is this? Why should we here in Indiana have a worse development of Toryism than can be found even in the region of the Hartford Convention! For it is a fact, as humiliating as it is disgraceful, that so far as the Whig press is concerned, in no State of the Union has it displayed a spirit so unpatriotic as it has in Indiana. Whether this spirit has reached our volunteers or any of them, and influenced their conduct in battle; or whether they have been suspected, and condemned without cause, in consequence of these infamous manifestations, is a matter for time to determine. At present, we believe the charges against them to be unfounded. Could we believe them,—could we believe that they had evinced the same spirit in the field which has been displayed by our whig editors at home,—we should desire to leave the State instantly, never more to return.

But our object is not now to discuss these questions. We took up our pen simply for the purpose of calling attention to the proceedings which were had in this city in May, 1846, when the news of the Mexican war first came to hand. Then all parties seemed for the moment to be united in favor of sustaining the rights and honor of our common country. The leading men of either side appeared only anxious to outstrip each other in patriotic zeal in favor of our own common country and its cause. The principal editor of the State Journal willingly held the second post of official honor in that war meeting; and other distinguished whigs gave in their adhesion with great alacrity. What has caused the great change which has come over them! Is it any thing more than a fear that a Democratic administration may participate in the credit of a successful prosecution of a war which all first approved! Can it be any thing else, and is that a sufficient reason to justify such "moral treason." We leave the decision of these matters to the people; and to aid their reflections, we republish the proceedings of May, 1846, and commend them to the careful reading of our whig friends especially.

From the State Sentinel, May 20, 1846.

### PUBLIC MEETING.

In obedience to a call made early on Monday morning, a very large number of the citizens of Indianapolis, and others from different parts of the State, now in attendance at the seat of Government, assembled at the Court House, at 3 o'clock, P. M.; whereupon, on motion of HUGH O'NEAL, Esq., Gen. J. P. DRAKE was called to the chair, and, upon motion of N. B. BOYD, Esq., JOHN D. DEFRIES was appointed secretary.

On motion of HUGH O'NEAL, Esq., it was Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed to report resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting in regard to the existing war with Mexico. The following gentlemen were appointed said committee, to-wit: Messrs. O'Neal, Harris, Peaslee, Fuller, E. B. Bond, Thomas Dowling, George B. Thome, Gen. H. Hanna, H. S. Lane, and Maj. D. Mace, who immediately retired for the purpose of preparing suitable resolutions.

A. F. MORRISON, Esq., moved that the act of Congress, passed in relation to the war with Mexico, be read, which was agreed to.

Mr. MORRISON, by request of the chairman, proceeded to his reading. When read, H. O'NEAL, Esq., moved that the committee appointed for the purpose, make the following report:

WHEREAS, The cherished malice of the Mexican Government towards the people and Government of the United States, has at length resulted in an audacious invasion of our territory by her troops and the shedding of American blood on American soil;

Therefore resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the time has come when every consideration of duty and patriotism requires us to vindicate with decision, the honor, the rights, and the interests of our country.

Resolved, That in any conflict involving the national honor the people of the West, without regard to political distinctions, will be found united as one man, zealously supporting the government of their country and rallying round the national flag.

Resolved, That the crisis which has now arisen demands prompt and energetic measures; and we therefore heartily approve of the recommendation of the President that a large and overpowering force should immediately be sent to the seat of war, as the best means of bringing the collision with Mexico to a speedy and successful termination.

Resolved, That any appeal which may be made to the patriotism of the people of Indiana, in order to raise the requisite force, will be met with that promptness and cheerfulness which have ever characterized the gallant and indomitable citizens of the West.

Which were concurred in by acclamation.

HENRY S. LANE, Esq., being called by the meeting, addressed it in that peculiar strain of inspiring eloquence, for which he is so distinguished, and which is possessed by few others of our country.

Judge PEASLEE presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That we expect that the Congress of the United States will make ample and speedy provisions for raising and maintaining an army sufficient, not only to repel the enemy from our soil, but sufficient to carry the war into the enemy's country, and to plant the Star Spangled Banner in the city of Mexico, upon the walls of the Montezumas, as the best mode to secure an honorable peace.

Col. THOMAS DOWLING, of Vigo, being called upon, addressed the meeting in a few eloquent and patriotic remarks.

Gov. WHITCOMB was called to the stand and addressed the meeting briefly and in an appropriate manner. He congratulated the meeting on the spirit of patriotism which seemed to pervade every person present, and pledged himself in the event of a call upon Indiana for troops, to render all assistance in his power.

Gen. J. P. DRAKE offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be published in all the newspapers in this city and State, and a copy be also sent, by his Excellency the Governor, to each of our members of Congress, and to the President of the United States.

### Mr. Walker's Report.

We give below the report of Mr. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury. We learn that immediately after the commencement of the war, the imposition of duties in the ports of Mexico, was well considered by the President and his Cabinet, and approved, if Mexico should determine to protract the contest. Orders to collect these duties in California were actually transmitted, as has been shown, as early as the 5th of November last, which orders have probably reached their destination before this date. It would have been enforced sooner at Tampico and Matamoros, but for the hope that the contest might be terminated by peaceful negotiation. Money being the sinews of war, the revenues of the belligerent are as necessary to their success as armies or navies; and these revenues, being public property, may be seized and confiscated and diverted to our own use during the contest.

Mexico now seizes all our public property and revenues, wherever she can find them. She is endeavoring also to enlist the whole world in a general spoliation of our commerce and revenue, by the seizure of American merchant vessels and cargo on the high seas, so as to weaken our resources and augment her own. The Secretary of the Treasury calculates on a large addition to our resources from these duties.

### TREASURY DEPARTMENT, March 30, 1847.

Sir:—Your instructions of the 23d instant have been received by this department, and in conformity thereto, present you herewith, for your consideration, a scale of duties proposed to be collected as a military contribution during the war, in the ports of Mexico, in the possession of our army or navy by conquest, with regulations for the assessment and collection of such duties, together with the reasons which appear to me to recommend their adoption.

It is clear that we must either adopt our own tariff, or that of Mexico, or establish a new system of duties. Our own tariff could not be adopted, because the Mexican exports and imports are so different from our own, that different rates of duties are indispensable in order to collect the largest revenue. Thus, upon many articles produced in great abundance here, duties must be imposed at the lowest rate in order to collect any revenue; whereas, many of our articles are not produced in Mexico, or to a very considerable extent, and would therefore bear there a much higher duty for revenue. A great change is also rendered necessary by the proposed exaction of duties on all imports to any Mexican port in our possession, from any other port or country, which would be in the nature of a prohibitory duty, and would largely increase the revenue which we might collect. It is reasonable, however, for reasons of obvious safety, that this Mexican coast-wise trade should be confined to our own vessels, as well as the interior trade, above any port of entry in our possession, but that in all other respects, the ports of Mexico held by us should be freely opened at the rate of duties therein recommended to the vessels and cargoes of all the world.

The ad valorem system adopted by us, although by far the most just and equitable, yet requires an apparatus to ascertain the actual value of every article. This demands great mercantile skill, knowledge, and experience, and therefore, for the want of skillful appraisers—a class of officers wholly unknown in Mexico—could not at once be put into successful operation there. If, also, as proposed, these duties are to be ascertained and collected as a military contribution through the officers of our army and navy, those brave men could more easily perform almost any other duty than that of estimating the value of every description of goods, wares, and merchandise.

The system of specific duties already prevails in Mexico, and may be put by us into immediate operation; and if, as is conceded, specific duties should be more burdensome upon the people of Mexico, the sooner it is likely they will force their military rulers to agree to a peace. It is certain that a rigid and enforcing system of warfare, collecting no duties in their ports in our possession on the gulf, and levying no contribution, whilst our armies purchase supplies from them at high prices, by rendering the war a benefit to the people of Mexico rather than an injury, has not hastened the conclusion of a peace. It may be, however, that specific duties, onerous as they are, and heavy contributions, accompanying a vigorous prosecution of the war, may more speedily insure that peace which we have failed to obtain from magnanimous forbearance, from brilliant victories, or from proffered negotiation. The duties, however, whilst they may be specific, and therefore more onerous than ad valorem duties, should not be so high as to defeat revenue.

It is impossible to adopt as a basis the tariff of Mexico, because the duties are extravagantly high, and the prohibitions, consequent, are so numerous, producing innumerable frauds and smuggling. There are also sixty articles, the importation of which into Mexico is strictly prohibited by their tariff, embracing most of the necessities of life, and far the greater portion of our products and fabrics.

Among the sixty prohibited articles are sugar, rice, cotton, boots, half boots, coffee, matts of all kinds, leather of most kinds, flour, cotton yarn and thread, soap of all kinds, candles, tallow, lard, molasses, timber of all kinds, saddles of all kinds, coarse woolsen cloth, cloths for cloaks, ready-made clothing of all kinds, salt, tobacco of all kinds, cotton goods or textures, chiefly such as are made by ourselves, pork, fresh or salted, smoked or corned, woolen or cotton blankets or coverings, shoes and slippers, wheat, and grain of all kinds. Such is a list of but a part of the articles whose importation is prohibited by the Mexican tariff. These prohibitions should not be permitted to continue, because they exclude most of our products and fabrics, and prevent the collection of revenue.

We turn from the prohibitions to the actual duties imposed by Mexico. The duties are specific throughout, and almost universally by weight, irrespective of value, are generally protective or exorbitant, and without any discrimination for revenue. The duties proposed to be substituted are moderate, when compared with those imposed by Mexico, being generally reduced to a standard more than one half below the Mexican duties. The duties are also based on a discrimination throughout, for revenue, and, keeping in view the customs and habits of the people of Mexico, so different from our own, are fixed in each case at that rate, which, it is believed, will produce in the Mexican ports the largest amount of revenue.

In order to realize from this system the largest amount of revenue, it would be necessary that our army and navy should seize every important port and place upon the Gulf of Mexico, or California, or the Pacific, and open the way through the interior for the free transit of imports and exports, and especially that the interior passage through the Mexican isthmus should be secured from ocean to ocean for the benefit of our commerce, and that of all the world. This measure, whilst it would really and effectually cross our revenue from these duties, and facilitate communication between our forces upon the eastern and western coasts of Mexico, would probably lead, at the conclusion of a peace, to results of incalculable importance to our own commerce and to that of the world.

In the meantime the Mexican government monopoly in tobacco, from which a considerable revenue is realized by Mexico, together with the culture there which yields that revenue, should be abolished, so as to diminish the resources of that government, and augment our own, by collecting the duty upon all the imported tobacco. The Mexican interior transit duties should also be abolished. The prohibition of exports and duties upon exports should be annulled, and especially the heavy export duty on coin and bullion, so as to cheapen and facilitate the purchase of imports, and permit the precious metals unobstructed to flow out freely from Mexico into general circulation. Quicksilver and machinery for working the mines of precious metals in Mexico, for the same reasons, should also be admitted duty free; which, with the

measures above indicated, would largely increase the production and circulation of the precious metals, improve our own commerce and industry, and that of all neutral powers.

In thus opening the ports of Mexico to the commerce of the world, you would present to all nations with whom we are at peace the best evidence of our desire to maintain with them our friendly relations, to render the war to them productive of as little injury as possible, and even to advance their interests so far as it safely can be done, by affording to them the means of maintaining the advantages of a liberal commerce with Mexico. To extend this commerce, you will have unsealed the ports of Mexico, repealed their interior transit duties which obstruct the passage of merchandise to and from the coast; you will have annulled the government duty on coin and bullion, and abolished the heavy export duties on the precious metals, so as to permit them to flow out freely for the benefit of mankind; you will have exempted the long list of their prohibited articles, and reduced more than one-half their duties on imports, whilst the freight scope would be left for the mining of the precious metals. These are great advantages which would be secured to friendly nations, especially when compared with the exclusion of their commerce by rigorous blockades. It is true, the duties collected from these imports would be for the benefit of our own government, but it is equally true, that the expenses of the war which Mexico insists upon our prosecuting, are borne exclusively by ourselves and not by foreign nations. It cannot be doubted but that all neutral nations will see in the adoption of such a course by you, a manifestation of your good will towards them, and a strong desire to advance those just and humane principles, which make it the duty of belligerents, as they are engaged, as little injurious as practicable to neutral powers.

These duties would not be imposed upon any imports in our own country, but only upon imports into Mexico, and the tax would fall upon the people of Mexico in the enhancement to them of the prices of these imports. Nearly all our own products are excluded by the Mexican tariff, even in time of peace; they are also excluded during the war, so far as we are concerned, by the blockade of the ports of Mexico; and they are also excluded from the ports not blockaded in possession of Mexico, whereas the new system would soon open to our commerce all the ports of Mexico, so that they shall fall into our military possession. Neither our own or foreign merchants are required to send any goods to Mexico, and if they do so voluntarily, it will be because they can derive a profit upon the importation there, and therefore they will have no objection to the duties levied in the ports of Mexico. The whole money collected would inure to the benefit of our own government and people, to sustain the war, and to prevent, to that extent, new loans and increasing taxation. Indeed in view of the fact that the government is thrown upon the ordinary revenues for peace, with no other additional resources but loans to carry on the war, the income to be derived from the new system would be a large one, if the duties, if the duties are adopted, would be highly important to sustain the credit of the government, to prevent the embarrassment of the treasury, and to save the country from such ruinous sacrifices as occurred during the last year, including the inevitable legacy to posterity of a large debt and onerous taxation. The new system would not only arrest the expensive transfer and ruinous drain of specie to Mexico, but would cause it in duties, and in return for our exports, to re-convert to our country to an amount, perhaps, soon exceeding the nine millions of dollars which it had reached in 1835, even under the restrictive laws of Mexico, thus relieving our own people from a grievous tax, and imposing it where it should fall, upon our enemies, the people of Mexico; as a contribution levied upon them to conquer a peace, as well as to defray the expenses of the war, and to maintain our army and navy, without duty into the Mexican ports, which we may occupy from time to time, and affording those goods, including the necessities of life, at less than one-half the prices which they had heretofore paid for them, the war might in time become a benefit, instead of a burden to the people of Mexico, and they would, therefore, be unwilling to terminate the contest. It is hoped, also, that, after a peace, it will never renew our present prohibitory and protective system, but that liberalized, enlightened, and regenerated by the contact and intercourse with our people, and those of other civilized nations, they will continue the far more moderate system of duties resembling that prescribed by these regulations.

In the mean time, it is not just that Mexico, by her obstinate persistence in the contest, should compel us to overthrow our own financial policy, and array a great nation in her high and prosperous career. To reimpose high duties, would be alike injurious to ourselves and to all neutral powers, and, unless demanded by a stern necessity, ungenerous to those enlightened nations which have adopted, contemporaneously with us, a more liberal commercial policy. The system you now propose, of imposing the burden, as far as practicable upon the enemies, the people of Mexico, and not upon ourselves or our friendly nations, appears to be most just in itself, and is further recommended as the only policy which is likely to hasten the conclusion of a just and honorable peace.

A tonnage duty on all vessels, whether our own or of neutral powers, of one dollar per ton, which is greatly less than that imposed by Mexico, is recommended in lieu of all port duties and charges. Appended to these regulations are tables of the rates at which foreign money is fixed by law, as also a separate table of currencies by usage, in which a certificate of value is required to be attached to the invoice. There is also annexed a table of foreign weights and measures reduced to the standard of the United States, together with blank forms, to facilitate the transaction of business.

It is recommended that the duties herein suggested shall be collected exclusively in gold or silver coin. These duties can only be collected as a military contribution, through the medium of our brave officers of the army and navy, who will, no doubt, cheerfully and faithfully collect and keep these moneys, and account for them, not to the Treasury, but to the Secretary of War or of the Navy respectively. It is recommended that these duties be performed by the commandant of the post, whether naval or military, aided by the paymaster, or purser, or other officer, the accounts of each being countersigned by the other as a check upon mistakes or error, in the same manner as is now the case with the collector or naval officer of our several principal ports, which has introduced so much order and accuracy into our system. It is suggested that, as in some cases the attention of the commandant of the post might be necessary for the performance of other duties, he be permitted to substitute some other officer, naming such officer to the Secretary of War or of the Navy, and subject to their direction.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,  
R. J. WALKER,  
Secretary of the Treasury.

TO THE PRESIDENT.

ORNAMENTAL TREES.—We notice that ornamental trees known by the name of "Fride of China," have been placed on the sidewalk in front of the Astor House, in a great improvement, and we would like to see the sidewalks of Broadway, from the battery to the upper extremity, shaded by these beautiful trees.—N. Y. paper.

Why can't we follow the above good example, here in Indianapolis! If we did, and should plant Washington street, for a mile, on each side, with ornamental shade trees, we should in a very few years have the most beautiful street of any town in the West. Do not let us have this cheap but desirable display of good taste and comfort. Its cost will be nothing in comparison with the utility and beauty.

WAYS AND MEANS OF THE UNITED STATES.—The Washington Union says: "It is estimated that on the 1st of January next, after meeting all the expenses of the war, there will probably be a balance in the treasury of near \$2,000,000."

### Surrender of Vera Cruz, and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa!

Three Hundred and Thirty-five Mexican Officers taken Prisoners!

On the 22d, at 4 P. M., Gen. Scott opened a heavy fire from his batteries, consisting of nine mortars, four long 24s and two long 32s, and on the 23d, four 65 Paixhan guns and two long 24s, manned by officers and seamen of the navy, opened a most destructive fire, making breaches through the walls, and sweeping the streets of the devoted city. It was here that Midshipman Shulrick and seven seamen fell, while gallantly sustaining the honor of their country. The fire was kept up from our batteries until the morning of the 26th, at which time the commencement of a northern gale a mutual suspension of hostilities. The "Mosquito Fleet," consisting of the steamer Spitfire, Captain Tatnell, steamer Vixen, Captain Saut; schooners Bonita, Lieut. Benham; Petrel, Lieut. Shaw; Reefier, Lieut. Strerett; Tampico, Lieut. Griffin; and Falcon, Lieut. Glasson; all under the immediate command of Captain Tatnell, got under way from Sacrificos soon after the opening of our land batteries, and stood close into the city. From this position they threw a large number of shell and round shot into it, which caused much destruction. They came to anchor at night in the position which they had taken, and at daylight on the ensuing morning they moved to northward of the Washermen Shoals, and recommenced the cannonade. At this time they were within a quarter of a mile of the castle, the Spitfire throwing several shells into it.

The fortilla sustained their position until 7 o'clock, and then they retired at the signal of recall from the flag ship. During the whole time they were under the guns of the castle and city, and notwithstanding a heavy and incessant fire from the guns of the castle and Fort Santiago, they retired without the loss of a man, the destruction of Capt. Tatnell's "right leg" being the only casualty sustained.

The preliminaries for a surrender were entered into and arranged on the 27th and 28th, and on the 29th the enemy, to the number of 4,000, marched out of the city and stacked their arms in the presence of our whole army; their officers being allowed to retain their side arms, and their liberty on parole. The parole of the officers also required that the men should not serve again during the war, or until exchanged.

Morales, who had command of the city, had refused its surrender as long as a shot was left, a soldier to man a gun; he was deposed on the 28th, and the surrender received through Gen. Landero.

Early after the commencement of our fire, the gallant Capt. Vinton, of the 3d Artillery, one of the brightest ornaments of our army, fell from a cannon shot which carried away the top of his head. He had commanded the company of Gen. Worth, situated at the line kiln, within 750 yards of the city, from the first approach of our troops to the investment.

On the 25th, Col. Harney, with a squadron of dragoons and a few of the 1st and 2d regiments of Tennessee mounted men under Colonel Campbell and Col. Haskell, a detachment of Seftoe's flying artillery under the command of Lieut. Judd, in all 300 men, had a sharp conflict with the cavalry of the enemy, in force of 1000 or more. The Mexicans were on the opposite side of the Medina river, about nine miles from our camp, and were strongly posted, having thrown up a formidable barricade, protecting the bridge across the river. This proved no obstacle to the impetuosity of our men; they carried the bridge and cut to pieces and dispersed the Mexicans, after a short but decisive conflict. Individual feats of gallantry were frequent during the melee, mention of which will be made hereafter. Lieutenant Neill, adjutant of the 3d Dragoons, received two severe wounds from a lance, but they are not dangerous. Of the Mexican officers who were captured at Vera Cruz five were generals, eighteen were colonels, thirty-seven lieutenant-colonels, five majors, ninety captains, and one hundred and eighty lieutenants, in all three hundred and thirty-five.

Gen. Worth has command of the city, which is occupied by his own and the division of General Pillow. Major Scott, of the 5th Infantry, has command of Fort Concepcion on the north of the city, with one company of artillery and one of infantry; Major Wright of the 8th that of Fort Santiago on the south, with a similar force.

Col. Belton has command of the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa with three companies each of artillery and infantry.

Later from the Brazos.

The Flag of the 27th ult., gives further accounts from Santa Anna's army. They were communicated by a letter dated from Tula, the 11th of March, written by a Mexican officer to a friend in Matamoros. The letter says Santa Anna arrived at San Luis Potosi on the 8th ult. He returned at the head of a remnant of one of the divisions of the army with which he marched out to attack Gen. Taylor—the remaining two divisions having marched to several points where food might be procured for the famishing soldier. The writer remarks of the battle and retreat: "We have suffered a far greater loss than in any engagement ever before fought in the country—upwards of four thousand were left on the battle field or died on the retreat—the army was destitute of provisions of any kind, and the soldiers were rendered furious by their privations and sufferings, insurrection broke out on the side of the ranks, and I may say, the army under Santa Anna is virtually broken up." This letter also mentions the death of several citizens of Matamoros, officers in the Mexican army, who were killed in the late battle.

Gen. Taylor arrived at Monterey on the 9th of March with the 1st Mississippi Rifles and the Kentucky Cavalry in an escort, and from an article in the American Pioneer (a paper published at Monterey) we infer that he was yet there on the 15th. What day he left Monterey we are not informed, but all accounts agree that he was in pursuit of General Urrea. We extract from a letter in the Flag, dated Camargo, the 22d ult., which purports to derive its information from Major McCulloch:

Old Zack is down on this side of the mountains, hunting up Urrea with a sharp stick. The old hero is wrothy at being assailed in his rear and having his broad cravat demolished, and if he lays hands on the Mexican general will flay him alive. Urrea will doubtless effect his escape, for he would sooner meet the devil with odds than old Zack. At the last account he was at Linares, making straight shoot for the Tula pass.

Important from Santa Fe.

The following highly interesting letter from Santa Fe, we copy from the St. Louis Union. It gives the details of the massacre of Taos, and the subsequent battle fought by our troops:

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, SANTA FE, Feb. 10, 1847.

Dear Sir:—I intended, some days since, to have written you a letter upon a subject to which your attention is now called, but the circumstances of such an exciting nature, and the difficulties with which I was surrounded, prevented me. The time has now arrived, when I deem it my duty to submit to you a few remarks, the nature and subject of which are too horrible and too revolting for the pen of any American to place upon paper, and throws horror into the mind of any man. I will endeavor to give you the particulars of a sad and melancholy event, which took place in Don Fernandez de Taos, on the morning of the 19th January.

I will not here state the extent of the excitement which prevailed here among the people. The whole of the troops were ready and anxious to meet the enemy. Mr. St. Vrain applied to Col. Price for a volunteer company of mounted men, comprising the citizens of Santa Fe, or such as were willing to go. The Colonel granted the application, when in a short time sixty-five men reported themselves ready. The enemy had left Taos, and were making their way toward this city. On the 22d January, Colonel Price in person, marched from this place, with four volunteer companies of infantry, together with St. Vrain's company, making in all, about three hundred

men. We marched about ten miles and camped, and on Sunday, the 23d, we commenced the march, for about fifteen miles, to a town called Santa Cruz, at which place the enemy were seen. Capt. St. Vrain's company being in advance, had already entered the town, when the enemy were seen at a distance advancing toward the town, numbering some fifteen hundred. The enemy discovered Captain St. Vrain's company, and scattered toward the mountains, and our company retreated back to Col. Price's command, and reported the facts. The Colonel ordered the whole command to prepare for battle.

(Here follows an account of the murder of Gen. Bent and Captain Burgin, already published.)

I will now return to the troops, where I left them, in Taos, on the 4th. The command started for the Puebla, an Indian village, some three miles from Taos, where the enemy had fortified themselves, and were waiting our arrival. This Puebla contains two strongly fortified houses, together with a church, three two houses are some three stories high, and contain some five hundred rooms each, and have been built for ages. The materials are all of such a strongly built that a cannon ball has no effect. The howitzer commenced playing upon them, but the ammunition wagon had not arrived. We returned back to Taos, and the next morning the whole command moved toward the place, and commenced a heavy cannonade. The enemy discovered the movement, and the infantry under the command of the most beautiful charges, and yet the most dangerous is that I ever saw or read of, and the result was at first, that some seven were shot down and a number wounded, among whom was Captain Bugner, who received a fatal wound in his lungs, and died on Sunday morning. The United States has thus lost one of the bravest men in the army. He was a gentleman and a soldier. He was ahead of our troops, and met the enemy face to face, and fought with as much bravery as was possible for a man to fight, until he received the wound, when he was taken from the field. The fighting continued, however, until the church was taken and fired, when the rascally cowards fled from their mansion towards the mountains, but Capt. St. Vrain's company was there, and met them and cut them down as fast as they appeared. The sun had by this time gone down, and the men were compelled to stop fighting. The whole Puebla was taken, and the victory won. From one hundred and fifty to two hundred were killed, and the number of wounded could not be ascertained. We lost some 13 killed and about thirty wounded; and thus ended the war, at least up to the time of writing this letter. The troops have all returned, except such as are stationed in Taos.

An express has this day arrived here from Colonel Doniphan, at El Paso, stating that General Wool has not yet arrived in Chihuahua, and that ten thousand troops are there ready to receive our men when they arrive. Col. Doniphan has, before this, commenced his march for that city, and if Gen. Wool is not there upon his arrival he will have some hard fighting.

THE MARKETS.—By the latest foreign arrivals it appears that the prices of American provisions were sustained.