NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE WAR.

VIEWS OF THE PRESENT CAMPAIGN.

The following perspicuous views of the progress and prospect of our military operations in Mexico correspond very closely, as the reader will perceive, with the tenor of information on the same subject furnished by the New Orleans correspondent of this paper:

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS BULLETIN OF MARCH 4.

We have recently had an opportunity of conversing fully and freely with several officers of the army lately arrived from Mexico, on the subject of the present position and future prospects of affairs in that quarter, as connected with the war. These gentlemen have been for some time with the army, have borne a share in all the recent operations and present movements, including the capture of Monterey. Their position and opportunities have enabled them to form very correct opinions on the subject, and such as are entitled to the highest weight. The previous information that we had obtained, and the opinions that we had formed, as to the future prosecution of this war, have been more than confirmed by what we have thus recently learned.

As regards the actual position of affairs there, it is believed Santa Anna has no idea of advancing from San Luis, with a view to attack Gen. Taylor at Saltillo, or rather twenty miles in advance of that place, where he is now posted with the main body of his army. The force under the actual command of Gen. Taylor is about 6,000 men, all volunteers, except four batteries of artillery and two squadrons of dragoons, the former about 300 men, and the latter 150 in all. The force at Monterey is about 2,000 men, also volunteers. Gen. Taylor has not a regular infantry soldier with him, the whole having been withdrawn for the operations on the seacoast, under Gen. Scott. He is, however, to be reinforced by five or six regiments of the volunteers, actually arrived or shortly expected, and, when joined by them, his intention, and indeed his orders are, to move forward, and he is making all his arrangements to do so by the 1st of April. Among other preparations, he is constructing small water-tanks, to be carried on pack-mules, with a supply of that necessary, to enable the army to cross the desert, where for a distance of ninety miles there is only one watering place, and that only for a limited number at a time. A mule will carry two of these miniature tanks, each containing eighteen to twenty gallons. The difficulties of the march between Saltillo and San Luis may be judged from the fact that the orders of Paredes, which fell into our hands, were that, in sending forward the troops that subsequently defended Monterey, they were particularly instructed not to allow them to cross the desert in larger bodies than 500 at a time, on account of the small supply of water, even at the watering place alluded to; and this circumstance of itself would oppose a great, if not insuperable, obstacle to any advance of Santa Anna in sufficient force at one time to attack Gen. Taylor, as he would not attempt to cross it in small detachments in face of our army.

At the present moment General Taylor has a most ample supply of provisions, and also full means of transportation, all of which latter is actively employed in bringing up full supplies of every thing from Camargo, preparatory to the intended forward movement, for which the most extensive and active preparations are being made. We learn the transportation means at present are at least one thousand wagons, all with good mule teams, which are procured there at from fifteen to twenty-five dollars each, and, besides which, there will be a large body of pack mules—indeed the latter will be the main dependence after leaving Saltillo, on account of the state of the road. The position at Saltillo is well prepared to resist any attempt of the enemy, and not the least fear is entertained as to the result, should such an improbable event as an attack from Santa Anna occur. As to Monterey, it is prepared to resist successfully the entire Mexican army, could it be brought together for the purpose.

Gen. Taylor is represented as being in the most unamiable state of mind at the withdrawal of the whole of the regular force from his command, leaving him nothing but volunteers for his contemplated advance; which, when joined by the reinforcements, will make his force about ten thousand men, but, if it was only one thousand, he is determined to go forward.

Some of these volunteer regiments have greatly improved, and are improving in drill and discipline; others have actually retrograded in both since they took the field. This is owing to the officers that respectively command them, and particularly to the colonels; all, however, agree that the system of electing officers must be abandoned, as it is totally destructive to all discipline and subordination, as parties are frequently selected and chosen, even for field officers, without any regard to their merits or qualifications, but merely to their popularity or willingness to treat and be generally indulgent.

The force concentrating under Gen. Scott, and intended for the attack on Vera Cruz, will be from thirteen to fourteen thousand men; at least one-half of which will be regulars. It is thought they cannot be before Vera Cruz until the last of the month; the city, it is believed, will be abandoned, but the castle defended. The opinions are various, not as to the final result, but as to the time that will be required to reduce it. If the resistance is any way serious, it is thought some weeks, if not months, will be required.

As regards the subsequent operations, all agree as to the difficulties and absence of any decisive results in penetrating into the interior, even if it could be done in the most successful manner.

Supplies, at least to a certain extent, can be obtained on the route, *but they must be paid for, and on liberal terms; if not, they cannot be had;* every thing of the kind would be removed. The limited quantity, the sparseness of the population, and the nature and extent of the country, would enable them to do so. An attempt to levy contributions, or to take supplies without compensation, would at once be known all along the line of march, many days, if not weeks, in advance of the army, and afford ample opportunity to remove their small stocks, as these people move themselves, families, stocks, and supplies with the facility and promptness of the Arabs of the desert, or of our own Indians; and, as one of our informants observed, we might as well attempt to support an army engaged in war with our tribes of Western Indians by levying contributions upon their villages and wigwams, as to do it with the Mexicans.

Another favorite mode that has recently been urged has been to make the population of Mexico feel the pressure and burden of the war, and thus produce a national feeling favorable for peace. In the first place, in such an extended country, we cannot, by any possibility, bring but a fractional portion of the population into contact with our army, or make them feel the horrors of war, even if we were willing to tarnish our national character by prosecuting it with fire and sword, as some have urged it should be done. The state of civilization in which Mexico is does not admit of bringing home the pressure of a war to the great body of the people. Their wants are small; they have but few even of what we call the necessaries of life, still fewer of the comforts, and none of the luxuries. Such a thing as storehouses, barns, or granaries are almost unknown in the country, and, as already observed, we might as well adopt a system of coercion or contributions upon the Indian tribes of our Western forests. There are a few of the principal towns or cities where something might be obtained, but only little, even there, when the knowledge had been spread ahead of the army that such a system had been adopted.

The policy of Santa Anna will be to let us advance into the interior, should such be the intention, without risking a general battle; but to harass our march, cut off supplies and stragglers, and, where an opportunity occurs, crush a detachment and destroy our foraging parties. His great superiority of cavalry will enable him to do this, and that portion of the Mexican army are represented as being fully equal to our own. They are generally armed with lances, which, though inferior as a weapon to the sabre, the difference is compensated by other advantages which they possess over our mounted volunteers, particularly in their admirable horsemanship, and their well trained horses.

All those from whom we have obtained the information on which our present remarks are founded, unite in the opinion that the capture of the city of Mexico would have no more bearing on the result of the war, or tend to procure a peace, than the capture of Monterey, and that if we attempt to march there, no general battle would be risked to preserve the capital, except it could be given on terms that would render success certain; but that the Mexicans would depend upon harassing us upon our march—defending the passes and defiles, so as to occasion us severe losses; and, after we got to the city, to cut off all supplies, as well as further reinforcements, and let the army gradually melt away and become reduced by natural causes—disease and the casualties which attend every army in an enemy's country. If reinforcements are to be sent, it can only be attempted with such a force as can fight their way through the country, subject to all contingencies, and it is very evident that the chances in the chapter of accidents, whether in advancing to the capital, or holding it after we may have captured it, are all against and none in favor of us—the consequence of any reverse in the attempt would be most unfortunate. In the war of independence, the Spaniards, with a much more numerous force than we have in Mexico, and all regular and veteran troops, repeatedly captured and held the capital, as well as the other large cities, and it never had any result, nor did it lessen the activity of the patriot army, or increase the disposition of the people for peace.

An invading army is unable to conquer any nation, where the people are all hostile, and opposed to them. Spain is a memorable example of this, where Napoleon had possession of her capital, all her strongholds, with 300,000 veteran troops, the country compact, and not one-fifth the extent of what we propose to overrun.

In Europe, Napoleon conquered other countries because the population made no resistance after the regular army was defeated, but at once bowed down before the conqueror; the two hostile armies met as prizefighters, and the country was the stake which belonged to the victors. Not so in Mexico, nor in the United States; here we might have half a dozen armies beaten or destroyed in succession, and every one of our seaports in possession of an enemy, and yet the country and nation would be no more conquered than they are at present. Mexico has 8,000,000 of inhabitants scattered over a vast territory; and, whilst they are disposed to resist, it is folly for any nation to think they can conquer them. We can capture any point to which we may direct our attention and energy, and we can march in and through the country, as we have plainly shown, but we still only command the portion we actually occupy.

Under the circumstances of the case, our losses, from sickness and other causes, must necessarily be much larger than those of the enemy; and besides which we have to replace those losses by sending 2,000 miles, and they do it on the spot, and whilst the loss of a hundred or a thousand men is severely felt in an army of ten or twenty thousand, it is nothing out of a population of eight millions.

The views we have thus given, though previously entertained and expressed by us, are now only embodying those we have recently heard from parties infinitely more capable of forming a correct judgment on the subject than we or any other person could do who has not been on the spot, partaken in the recent military operations, and well acquainted with the position of things there; and we know these same views have been communicated in full to the Government at Washington from the highest sources connected with the army, and it has been strongly recommended that the operations on our part should be confined to the strict blockade or capture of the enemy's seaports, and to retain military possession of such portion of the conquered territory as we now hold until such time as Mexico herself may become tired of such a state of affairs, and ask for peace, and in the mean time throw upon her all the burden and inconvenience of offensive operations.

THE BEAUTIES OF THE SUBTREASURY.

FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN.

It would certainly puzzle a very astute Philadelphia lawyer, whether Whig or Loco, to discover and point out *any* advantages which have as yet resulted or are likely to result, either to the Government or the People, from the establishment of that *greatest* of modern humbugs, the Subtreasury. This Yankee nation has heretofore obtained *some* credit, both at home and abroad, for their talent and ingenuity exhibited in various inventions and improvements in the arts and sciences within the last thirty years; and, in regard to *labor-saving* machinery, their go-a-head itiveness has become proverbial. Whilst, however, the course of the *people* is *onward*, that of the Government is certainly *retrograde*; every thing which it *tinkers* at invariably becomes the worse for mending. And, in regard to the Subtreasury, the "progressive Democracy" is certainly *advancing backwards*. This humbug is in fact a bundle of follies, inconsistencies, absurdities, and expenses from beginning to end. *Nobody* ever petitioned Congress for it, and *nobody* in fact wants it; it only causes trouble, inconvenience, and loss of time to those who have payments to make to or moneys to receive from the Government, and largely increases the expenses of the Treasury, without any corresponding advantages. The public funds, forsooth, were not safe in the Banks where the people keep theirs, and the Government places them for better security in the hands of *individuals*. When the banks held the deposites the Secretary of the Treasury could have them placed at such points as he directed without *any charge;* but the Government is now becoming so *rich* by the Mexican war that they prefer the *risk* and *expense* of carting about the gold and silver themselves. The banks received and paid out the public funds *without charge*; but the Administration, having *so much more money on hand* than they know what to do with, prefer paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to Subtreasurers and their clerks for performing the very same services which the banks rendered for *nothing*. When the banks were the depositories of the Treasury all persons presenting the checks of the Department were *promptly* paid, and without any unnecessary *delay*; but, under the present system, invented by the "progressive Democracy," time is not money, delays are not dangerous, facilities in cash operations are not desirable, expense is a matter of no account, risk is all moonshine, and public convenience is of no consequence. Whilst the banks transacted the business of the Government in receiving and disbursing the public funds, all the operations were simple and expeditious; the coin, instead of being carted about from pillar to post, remained in their vaults in a state of repose, and almost all the receipts and payments were arranged by checks. The Treasury Department transacted its business as merchants do theirs; the specie was not then, as it is now, carted from the banks to the custom-house, from the custom-house to the Subtreasury, from the Subtreasury to the disbursing agent's office, from his office to the counting-house of the merchant or contractor, and from thence back again to the bank. All this loss of time, expense, inconvenience, and delay were avoided. This, however, did not suit the *patriots* at Washington; the patronage of the Government was not extensive enough to satisfy the cravings of the *faithful*—more officers were to be created, and partisans rewarded. Not content with wielding the *sword* of the nation, they wanted to control the *purse* also; and the Subtreasury, established for the ostensible purpose of extending the circulation of coin among the people, was in reality intended to increase Government patronage, multiply offices for its devoted followers, and finally become merged in a great Treasury bank. Thanks, however, to the firmness of Mr. Badger, of North Carolina, [who prevented the bill's passing in the Senate,] the snake was "scotched" in the Senate on the last day of the last session, and it now remains for the new Whig House of Representatives to endeavor to "kill it" at the next.

NOUS VERRONS.

VERMONT AND HER UNIVERSITY.

We understand that the very handsome sum of fifty thousand dollars has been raised during the past year, by private subscriptions, in aid of the *University of Vermont* at Burlington. Of this amount there was subscribed

In Boston, Hartford, and Northampton	$3,805
In New York city	2,106
In Vermont, adjacent to N. Y. and Canada	44,089
	$50,000

Of the amount raised in Vermont, the sum of nineteen thousand dollars was raised in Burlington, a town with but little more than five thousand inhabitants! These facts indicate, at least, the high estimation in which the institution is held by those who have the best opportunities of understanding its character, and who are to be most immediately affected by the influences which it sends forth from year to year. We have good reason to believe that this estimate is in no respect unwarranted. The University has an able body of professors, one of the very best positions for doing good in the United States, a course of study more methodical and wider in its scope than that of any similar institution within our knowledge, and a library which the Hon. George P. Marsh on the floor of Congress has pronounced to be superior to any other of the same size in the United States. Its real estate and other property amounts to about one hundred thousand dollars; and the liberal aid which has just been extended to it will enable its directors to carry it forward with a bolder step and still more energy, in the path it has so steadily and successfully pursued.—*N. Y. Courier & Enquirer.*

The Will of a Clergyman.—Rev. Mr. Cooper, of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who died in Philadelphia last week, left a will, in his own hand-writing, covering nine closely-written pages, in which he states he was born in Caroline county, Maryland, in 1763, and at the age of twenty-one entered the ministry. He left particular directions as to the manner he should be buried, the inscription upon his tomb, &c. He requests that he shall be interred in front of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, in consideration of which he leaves the corporation $1,000, to be used in the purchase of wood for the poor of that church during the winter. To the Methodist Book Concern in New York he leaves $1,000 to be used in printing the Bible. Ten annual ground rents of thirty dollars, the principal sum being $5,000, he devises for the benefit of worn out preachers and their families, and $1,000 to various Methodist churches in Philadelphia.

He gives to each of his nephews and nieces, whose name is Ezekiel Cooper, (with or without a middle name,) named for and after him, the sum of $100. To each and every child or person, the children of friends and acquaintances, who are named Ezekiel Cooper after him, with or without middle or additional names, a neat octavo bible. Particular directions are given as to the quality and description of the bibles and the inscription to be put upon them by his executors. He directs them to be as nearly like those given by Bishop Asbury in his will to persons named after him as may be. After specific devises of personal property to various persons, the residue of his property is directed to be divided between his nephews and nieces, and their children. Rev. James Smith, Peter L. Cooper, and Ignatius T. Cooper, of Kent county, Delaware, are nominated executors. It is supposed that the value of his estate is from $150,000 to $200,000.

The following concise and appropriate prayer was once offered in the Michigan Legislature by a French chaplain:

"O, Lor'! Bless de peeps, and their servant de representatives. May dey make laws for de peeps, and not for demselves—amen."

THE ISLAND OF LOBOS.

The Island of Lobos having become a place of some interest to many of our citizens as the place of rendezvous of that portion of our Army which is destined for the attack on Vera Cruz, we extract the following brief account of it from the correspondence of the Philadelphia North American:

"Island of Lobos, Gulf of Mexico,
"February 7, 1847.

"This letter is written upon the most delightful tropical island ever trodden by adventurers from any clime.

"The Island of Lobos is a lovely little spot, formed entirely of coral, about two miles in circumference, twelve miles from the Mexican shore, about sixty miles from Tampico, and some 130 from Vera Cruz. It is covered (or was before we landed) with a variety of trees and shrubs, the highest of the former perhaps twenty-five feet high, and these are so thickly covered with vines that one can hardly get through them. There is hardly a tree, or shrub, or plant growing here I have ever before seen. Banyan trees spreading over large spaces of ground, their limbs forming props as they pierce into the earth and take root, while the tops, thickly thatched with evergreen vines, form most beautiful arbors. Lemon, line, fig, palm, cane, and a hundred other species of wood are growing with all the freshness and beauty of the Indies. There is plenty of water to be had by digging four to six feet. It is brackish and sweet, but we are getting used to it, and like it nearly as well as ship water. Fish and sea fowl we have in profusion. With these we have a delightful sea air, that fourteen hours out of the twenty-four makes the place delightfully pleasant.

"It will be difficult, I imagine, to convince you, who will read this scrawl beside great coal fires, that we are literally roasting during a portion of the day. The sun is so hot that our faces and arms are blistered if exposed but a few minutes. To-day, by Fahrenheit, in the shade, I scored 92°. The universal remark among the volunteers is, 'If this is *winter*, what will summer be?'

"Gen. Scott is daily expected here, and we shall soon be joined by seven thousand troops from Tampico, &c. There are six companies of Louisiana and four companies of South Carolina troops already here. They arrived on the 3d instant. They are all in fine health, and are encamped beside us."

BREVET APPOINTMENTS.

[FROM THE "UNION."]

We understand that many Brevets were conferred by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the last evening of its session, and that the official general order for publishing the same is in a course of preparation. We announced the other day that the brevet of Major General had been conferred on Brevet Brigadier General Worth for "gallant and meritorious conduct" in the battle of Monterey; and, in anticipation of the official list, we now mention the names of Colonel Persifer F. Smith, of the regiment of Mounted Riflemen, to be Brigadier General by brevet, and Lieutenant Colonel Henry Wilson, of the 1st regiment of infantry, to be Colonel by brevet, for their gallant and meritorious conduct in the capture of Monterey. Lieutenant Colonel John Garland, of the 4th regiment of infantry, to be Colonel by brevet, and Captain Thomas Childs, of the 3d regiment of artillery, and Lieutenant Colonel by brevet, to be Colonel by brevet, for their gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, &c.

IMPORTS OF IRON, COAL, &c

The *Imports* of iron, coal, &c. from foreign countries, into the city of New York, during the month of February, were as follows:

Coal	2,057	tons.
Iron, bar	799	tons.
Do. pig	2,725	tons.
Do. sheet, &c.	5,615	tons.
Lead	6,524	pigs.
Salt	82,784	bushels.
Wool	425	bales.

[*Shipping and Commercial List.*

TRADE UPON THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL.

It will be gratifying to the friends of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal to know that, notwithstanding the work is yet incomplete, it not having reached the point at which the great business in coal and iron is to begin to be done, the trade in agricultural productions has greatly increased. Having access a few days ago to the official reports, I noted that the following mentioned quantity of flour had been transported on the canal within the last five years, viz:

In 1842	151,966	barrels.
In 1843	156,242	do.
In 1844	172,796	do.
In 1845	170,566	do.
In 1846	234,672	do.

March 10, 1847. I.

FROM SANTA FE.

The St. Louis Republican has accounts from Santa Fé to the 14th of January. At that time but little further was known of the movements of Col. Doniphan. Some Mexicans, who were in the battle of Brazito, reported that Col. Doniphan entered El Paso on the 28th of December, and took possession without resistance—the military force which he met on the 25th and defeated having scattered to the mountains.

The attempt to produce a revolution in Santa Fe was to have been made on Christmas night. It was a time when a great number of Mexicans were expected to congregate in Santa Fe for the purpose of attending the ceremonies of the Catholic Church. A very large number were in attendance from all sections of the country; and no doubt by preconcert. A priest from El Paso, habited as a *greaser*, was present and took an active part in all the preliminary arrangements. But the whole plot was disclosed to the Americans by Mexican women, and the authorities were able to secure a good many of the leaders.

FROM THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Buenos Ayres papers to the 12th December have been received at New York.

Messrs. Brent and Graham, Commissioners on the part of the United States, had returned from Paraguay, being unsuccessful in their efforts to adjust the dispute between that State and the Argentine confederacy. Gen. Lopez, the dictator of Paraguay, had agreed, however, to suspend hostilities for the present. He is united with the Brazilian monarchy in an effort to separate the States north of the Rivers *Plata* and *Parana* from the Union, and thus throw open the navigation, as demanded by England and France. The Constitutional Government of Uraguay, under General Oribe, has abolished slavery, which may have an important influence upon its present struggle with the monarchists under Rivera. The latter had been inactive for some time. We observe that a better feeling is evinced between the Argentines and the English and French, which looks like an early peace.

[*New York Sun.*

Duel.—The Buffalo Commercial of the 5th has the following telegraphic despatch from Lewiston:

"A hostile meeting took place this morning between two 'Canadian gentlemen, who came from Hamilton for that purpose. The weapons were pistols—distance fourteen paces. 'Three shots were exchanged, but unfortunately none of 'them took effect."

The Paris correspondent of the Boston Atlas states that "the American war," upon which Count Serrurier, the former French Minister at Washington, has been employed for years, is nearly finished; and that Count de Menou, who was also for many years in the French Legation in America, and long a resident of Washington and its neighborhood, now resides at Paris, and is making investigations in some of the public archives on American affairs, though it is not known with what intention.

Sir Lucius O'Trigger himself could never have placed so high a standard upon the importance of duelling as appears to be entertained by others. The New Orleans Delta tells of seeing a recommendation written by an Irish friend in favor of a young gentleman who is an applicant for a commission in the army. Among other things, he says: "My friend, Mr. ——, is closely connected with the President, his father *having fought a duel with one of the Polks.*"—*North Am.*

ORIGINAL.

THE FLIGHT OF THE VULTURES.

It was stated some days since in the National Intelligencer that immense columns of the American vulture, extending as far as the eye could reach, had recently been seen flying steadily towards the South. The reading of it suggested the following irregular lines:

What darkens the Heavens? what glooms the sky?
What rushing sound is heard?
In countless millions they fly, they fly;
'Tis sounding wings that darken the sky,
Of the murd'rous, the blood-loving bird.

In lengthened train, from the far-off North,
Like an air-born host they come,
As though some monarch had summoned them forth,
And marshalled their columns, from rear to van,
To shadow the earth, the air to fan,
And scare, with noon darkness, the gaze of man.

Whither, oh whither, ye lovers of blood,
Who make armies your prey, and men your food,
Oh whither do ye fly?
Say, is it battle ye scent afar?
Do you hear the mustering sounds of war,
And the groans of men that die?

To the South, to the South, we speed our flight;
To the stormy joys of the madden'd fight,
And the reeking feast at its close:
To the fields all smoking with human gore,
To the pit that yawns, to the half-made grave,
To our meal on the strong, to our feast on the brave,
We fly, we fly.

Wave not so proudly that dancing plume,
Vain child of martial pride!
Nor check thy war-steed with look so proud,
Nor raise thy voice of command so loud,
As forth thy legions ride!

To-night that voice shall be hushed and still:
Nor echo again, from rock or hill,
Repeat its battle cry;
Our cowering wings shall be thy shroud,
Our dripping beaks shall be shrieking loud,
While they plough, full deep, in that haughty breast,
And feed on that flashing eye.

They are ours! they are ours! that marching mass,
As in war's bright hues to the fight they pass,
Or dare the rampart's blaze:
From the shattered wall, from the choked-up trench,
Amid moans, and wounds, and blood and stench,
We shall make a glorious meal!

Scent, scent we already, the tainted gale;
Snuff, snuff the loaded breeze!
On sounding pinions we sail, we sail,
To climes of the sun, where plagues prevail,
And vulture man, with his human heart
Outvies us, and tops our bloody part,
With an instinct more fell than ours.

Then let him hear our ominous cry,
And trembling lift his gaze on high,
As we're passing, in clouds, o'er the blackened sky,
With an army that shrinks his puny powers,
To our supper of flesh, to our feast on the slain,
To our orgies of blood on the battle plain,
Where his proudest pomp is ours!

SIGMA.

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL COMPANY.

We have seen a copy of the Act lately passed by the Legislature of the State of Virginia, "authorizing the State's guaranty to certain bonds of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company." The bill recites that it has been represented to the General Assembly of Virginia that, in pursuance of the act of Maryland for the completion of the canal, the President and Directors of the Canal Company, under a contract for that purpose, have made arrangements to raise the amount of money necessary for the completion of the said canal to Cumberland, provided the further sum of three hundred thousand dollars can be procured; and therefore enacts that to enable the President and Directors, or their contractors, to complete the said arrangements, and to raise the said sum of three hundred thousand dollars, in the mode and for the purpose aforesaid, the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Virginia do subscribe or endorse the guaranty of the State to the bonds of the said Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, to be issued in pursuance of the said act of the General Assembly of Maryland, to an amount not exceeding three hundred thousand dollars; provided, that the guaranty shall not be so subscribed or endorsed by the Treasurer until it shall be shown to the satisfaction of the Board of Public Works of Virginia by the President and Directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, or their contractors, that the said sum of three hundred thousand dollars will secure the completion of the said canal to Cumberland, &c.

An act has also passed the Legislature of Virginia, for buying out from the Corporation of the Alexandria Canal two-fifths of the stock of that canal; or, in other words, issuing its own six per cent. stock to the amount of $272,000, being two-fifths of $650,000, the whole cost of the canal. This is one advantage, at least, that Alexandria has gained by her secession from the District of Columbia.

We are glad to learn from the Alexandria Gazette "that, in consequence of the late favorable action of the Legislatures of Maryland and Virginia, the contractors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company intend making arrangements for an early resumption of the work, with a determination to complete it to Cumberland at the earliest practicable period."

The Anti-Rent Question.—It appears, from a memorial presented to the Legislature of New York by General Van Rensselaer, (says the North American,) that, even after the expenditure of some lives and more than a hundred thousand dollars in money, the anti-rent question in New York is, to all practical intents and purposes, as far from being settled as ever. If any change has been effected, it has been against the proprietors; for the tax laid, passed at the last Legislature, operates most onerously against him, and it is to procure the repeal of that law that the Legislature is now memorialized. A process cannot be served against tenants, and the officers of the law are in many ways hindered or obstructed in the performance of their duty. The landlord suffers, and the tenants prosper wrongfully; for the memorial, in setting forth the grievance complained of, gives the following "picture in little" of the untenable foundation upon which anti-rentism rests:

"Gen. Van Rensselaer states that the leases or grants were mostly made by his father, between the years 1786 and 1790, on applications and selections, made as rapidly as the lands could be surveyed, on terms thought reasonable by the applicants, and with express warranty of title. That the possession taken under such grants has, in every case, been undisturbed, and no instance has occurred where any farm so held has been claimed by any person having or pretending to have a title adverse or superior to the title of the occupants, nor has there been any desire to contest such title, except the recent unusual desire of the owners for a law permitting *them* to contest and invalidate the only title under which they have held for sixty or seventy years."

J. C. Harris, Esq., editor of the Cleveland (Whig) Herald, was last week elected Mayor of that city.

The charter election at Detroit, in Michigan, which took place on the 2d instant, resulted in the choice of Mr. Van Dyke (Whig) for Mayor by a majority of thirty-two votes. The majority against the Whigs at the last election was fifteen.

Specie.—The knowing ones put down the amount of specie now afloat on its way from Europe to the United States at seven millions of dollars. Advices have been received of all except that on board the steamer which left Liverpool on the 4th. That is estimated. The rest is on board sailing ships from London, Liverpool, and Havre. The clear profit on the importation of coin is at present from two and a half to three per cent, making fortunes for the "great houses."

[*New York Journal of Commerce.*

The License Question in Vermont.—On Tuesday of last week the citizens of Vermont determined at the ballot box the question whether the traffic in intoxicating liquors should be permitted any longer. Last year the question of license or no license was determined by each county for itself, but the Legislature at its last session passed a law to submit the question to the people of the whole State, so that the traffic should either be entirely prohibited or allowed on equal terms in every town. Sixty-two towns give a majority of 4,172 for no license, and there is every reason to believe that the whole State has gone the same way.

SKETCH OF Mr. ASHMUN'S REMARKS,

ON THE LAST NIGHT OF THE SESSION.

The Report having been made in the House of Representatives from the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses upon amendments to the Military Appropriation Bill—

Mr. ASHMUN rose. He said that, as he understood the report of the committee of conference, (with which it was proposed that the House should now concur,) it was that the Senate should recede from its dissent to the project of appointing a lieutenant general. The House had put a clause in the bill empowering the President to put a new man, a newly created general officer, a military commander created for political purposes, over the heads of all our brave generals in the field—men who had by their bravery not only won for themselves an immortality of fame, but who had elevated the character and military glory of the country in the eyes of foreign nations and of the world. This was the only important point in the differences between the two Houses; the rest were mere trifles in comparison, mere make-weights, thrown into the scale to secure this principal point. It seemed to be a matter in the highest degree desirable to the Administration to put over the heads of Scott and Taylor a new man, the creature of the Executive, selected either from the halls of Congress, or from among the inferior officers of the army, and that was the purpose and aim of this recommendation of the committee of conference. Before such an iniquity was accomplished, Mr. A. wanted the House to understand distinctly what they were going to do. At this last hour, in the expiring moments of a Congress, gentlemen were called on thus, by a vote of concurrence, to acquiesce in a measure which had three several times been thrust upon the House, and three several times killed by emphatic votes of rejection. This deformed corpse, thrice dead, had now been once more galvanized into life, and it had been distinctly announced in very high quarters that the Administration had patronage enough still to get it through both Houses. And did they calculate without reason on such a result? What had operated to change the views of the Military Committee in regard to this thing? When it had first been presented to them they had at once, and, with a single exception, unanimously reported that it was inexpedient to make such an appointment. What, Mr. A. again asked, had changed their views? Surely some very cogent arguments must have been addressed to them. Mr. A. meant to charge nothing improper; but it might be a somewhat interesting inquiry whether none of the gentlemen placed on that committee had not received, or did not expect to receive, a military appointment under the Government? Mr. A. imputed nothing of an offensive kind to any body: the committee, it seemed, had changed their minds: that was all.

Mr. CARROLL (a member of the Military Committee) here obtained leave to explain, and rose to say that there was at least a portion of the committee who were as much opposed to the proposal now as ever they had been. They were still opposed to giving aid and comfort to the enemy by the appointment of men to the chief command of the army who were incompetent to the station; they desired now, as they always had desired, to see such a post occupied by men of professional experience and military skill.

Mr. ASHMUN resumed. He had no ground to charge any individual member with having thus been influenced since the very extraordinary manner in which some gentlemen had suddenly changed their opinion in regard to this matter of a lieutenant general. He did not certainly know that any member so situated had received a nomination; but he did know that ever since the passage of the ten regiment bill, which put into the hands of the Executive so large an amount of patronage, the effect of that patronage had been very obviously felt in that House; and he further knew that this very day two members of that House had received nominations to places of very high trust and importance.

[Voices: "Who are they? Names, names."]

[A good deal of sensation was manifested in the House, and the conversation became very loud.]

Mr. A. proceeded. They had had some very interesting questions raised here, which touched on sectional interests and feelings; and the breasts of Representatives from the free States had been thrilled by declarations of gentlemen from the South that on the settlement of those questions in a particular way the very existence of the Union depended; and they had seen members here deserting the interests of the free States on these questions.

Mr. SIMS, of South Carolina. "Name them. Who are they?"

Mr. ASHMUN said he had no objection to name them, for he never would be found saying indirectly what he was unwilling to say directly. A member from Pennsylvania opposite (Mr. C. J. Ingersoll) had received the nomination, as he understood, of Minister to France.

[Much sensation.]

Mr. BAYLY here rose and inquired whether that member had advanced any opinions, during the present session, in regard to slavery, which he had not always entertained and uniformly expressed?

Mr. ASHMUN admitted that on the subject of slavery the gentleman had been uniformly subservient to the views of the South.

Here Mr. C. J. INGERSOLL, under very great excitement, rose from his seat on the opposite side of the hall, and, crossing over with rather hasty steps, approached Mr. A.'s seat, exclaiming, "Do you say I have been subservient? When? Where? In what have *I* been subservient?"

The CHAIR called Mr. Ingersoll to order.

There was much sensation in the House. Several gentlemen left their seats; others called to order; and after a few minutes Mr. Ingersoll returned to the other side of the hall.

Mr. BAYLY resumed. He would ask the gentleman to specify one vote which had been given by the gentleman from Pennsylvania this session which was not in strict conformity with his uniform and well-known sentiments and principles.

Mr. ASHMUN said he had listened with great respect to the gentleman from Virginia, and would now——

Mr. SIMS, of South Carolina, called on Mr. Ashmun to say whether any other members of the House had received nominations, in consequence of which they had changed their sentiments.

Mr. ASHMUN, without noticing this interrogatory, went on to say that he had been called on by the gentleman from Virginia over the way (Mr. Bayly) to say whether the member from Pennsylvania (Mr. C. J. Ingersoll) had recently given any votes inconsistent with his previously avowed opinions? In reply, he would say that he did not know that he had on the subject of slavery. On that subject he had uniformly expressed opinions which went to sustain the interests of slavery. As he understood from the history of that gentleman's public life, he had uniformly been in favor of sustaining the slave power in this Government, (and perhaps the gentleman from Virginia might think that that was the best thing he was doing in Congress.) [A laugh.] If the gentleman from Pennsylvania had no other merit than that, Mr. A. would leave him to the judgment of the country. He had not come here to raise a storm as to the merits of that individual or of any other.

Mr. SIMS, of South Carolina, reminded the House that Mr. A. had referred to other individuals as having been influenced by nominations.

The CHAIR called to order.

Mr. SIMS. Let the members he alluded to be named.

The CHAIR again insisted on the preservation of order.

Mr. BAYLY. Does the Chair rule it to be out of order for one member to propound an inquiry to another member who is addressing the House, when the latter expresses a willingness that the question should be put, and is willing to answer it?

The CHAIR replied that these repeated interruptions and personal conversations were all out of order.

Mr. ASHMUN said he had no objections that gentlemen should put their inquiries to him, if it was done in a proper manner.

Mr. SIMS, of South Carolina, said it was due as well to the gentlemen referred to, whoever they might be, as to others, that, as allusion had been publicly made to them, they should as publicly be named.

Mr. ASHMUN said that he believed he was not mistaken as to the object of the gentleman from South Carolina. That gentleman had reference, probably, to a military nomination. Mr. A. would here, with all willingness and freedom say, that a more honorable and independent member was not to be found in that hall than the gentleman who had this day received a nomination to a distinguished military position: nor did he believe that his course of political action had been in the slightest degree influenced by that circumstance. Mr. A. never had had the pleasure personally to know the gentleman from Kentucky to whom he alluded, (understood to be Mr. Tibbatts,) but had observed his deportment here to be marked by uniform personal courtesy, no less than by political independence. And Mr. A. had alluded to the nomination, not as implying any thing injurious or discreditable to that gentleman, but merely on general grounds as one instance of a most pernicious practice, by which the influence of the Executive could be brought to bear with dangerous power upon the Houses of Congress.

Mr. A. went on to say that he had been questioned by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Bayly) in a very pointed manner. Nor did he wonder that that gentleman, coming as he did from a slave State, should be somewhat sensitive on such a subject. In reply to the gentleman's queries, he had replied that he believed the nominee to France had been uniform for the last two years (and he did not go beyond that period of time) on the subject of slavery. But the gentleman's query had covered much more ground. It had been general. He had asked Mr. A. whether that individual had evinced a change in any sentiments on public matters which he had previously maintained? Mr. A. would now say that he had. There had been in that House, as all the country knew, a discussion in regard to the true boundaries of Texas at the time when her annexation was proposed. When the present nominee to France made his speech on that subject on that floor he had announced to the world that the vast desert lying between the Nueces and the Rio Grande had been interposed by the hand of the Almighty himself to form a barrier between the Anglo-Saxon and the Spanish races; and that whichever of them should ever attempt to pass it, would thereby inevitably bring on a war. That same opinion of his was embodied in his official report as chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. There it stood. It was of record. It could neither be blotted out, or talked out, or sworn out. Yet now that same person had declared recently, in the face of this House and of the world, that the Rio Grande itself (and not the desert on this side of it) was the true boundary of Texas. That this had been fixed as the boundary by the hand of God, and that Mr. Polk would justly have subjected himself to impeachment had he stopped short of it. Thus it seemed that the Almighty had planted both, and, though they were at a vast distance from each other, each of them was the true and only line of boundary. He would reply to the gentleman from Virginia, that here was a change, and a notable change, of sentiment on the part of this nominee. Here stood his two different, inconsistent, incompatible opinions, both delivered to the House; and let it be remembered, too, that these were the very opinions (he meant the individual's last and new doctrine) which led to the present war. In his report, made in August last, he stated that the Rio Bravo was the true limit to which we had a right to extend our military occupation of Texas, and that if the President had stopped short of it he would have subjected himself to impeachment; while, in 1845, this same individual had declared that whoever presumed to cross the desert far on this side of it would provoke a war; and further, that never would this Government pass beyond it until Congress should be seized with an inordinate lust of dominion. Was the gentleman from Virginia answered now? [Mr. Bayly said not a word.] Was the country likely to believe that the nomination to the Court of France had been the consequence of this subserviency? Mr. A. did not say that they would. He had his own opinion as to that matter.

The point he had set out with was this: that that House had voted over and over that it would not consent to the appointment of a lieutenant-general, but it had once more been inserted in the bill, and the committee of conference recommended that the Senate should recede from its dissent to the measure, and suffer the bill to pass with this feature in it. It seemed to him extraordinary that the conferees on the part of the Senate should accede to such a report. Mr. A. did not undertake to arraign the conduct of the Senate, or of its presiding officer, (who, he believed, had appointed the Senate's portion of the committee,) but it was certainly very extraordinary that the Senate should first take the ground that no new made politico-military officer should override Taylor and Scott, and then, after smothering the Wilmot proviso, and the adoption of the ten regiment bill, should have now recommended, by a committee on their part, that that ground should be abandoned. But, whatever might be the recommendation of a committee of conference, the Senate, as a body, had the power of holding on to the position it had taken. And now, once more, the watchword of the lovers of the country was, "Look to the Senate!" He trusted that dignified body would stick to its integrity, and that the progress of corruption would be stayed.

Mr. A. said that the effect of Executive influence in that hall had been anticipated and predicted when the ten regiment bill was about to pass; and in that apprehension the Committee of the Whole had inserted a provision in the bill that no member of Congress should be appointed to the commands created, and the House had sustained the Committee. But then came the jugglery; and, since then, all the projects of the Administration (with the exception of the tea and coffee tax—and what had become of that he did not know; he presumed it was coming up again some time between this and midnight) had been carried under the potential influence of the ten regiment bill.

Such was the resistless power of Executive patronage. And so well was this understood and counted on, that it had been declared without disguise, after the rejection of the Wilmot proviso in the Senate, that they would carry the three million bill in this House without the proviso; and the event had proved that they were right. After the decisive vote by which that proviso had been inserted, the country had seen the surprising spectacle of its subsequent rejection by a majority of free votes. The free States, with their majority on this floor, had flattered themselves that they were safe; but they little knew the strength of Executive influence; they little dreamed that among their own Representatives there would be faltering on such a question. Within one short week that same Wilmot proviso had been passed by a majority of nine votes and then rejected by a majority of seven! This was, to simple men at a distance, a legislative miracle; but the question was gone; it was forever beyond their reach; and now it was plain we were to have annexation and slavery with it.

Mr. WOODWORTH, of New York, here asked Mr. Ashmun whether he would not have voted against the three million bill even if that proviso had been retained?

Mr. ASHMUN answered with a very emphatic negative. He had voted to insert the proviso, and when it was inserted he had voted for the bill. How had the gentleman from New York voted?

Mr. WOODWORTH. For the proviso.

Mr. ASHMUN. Yes, the first time; and how did the gentleman vote to-day?

Mr. WOODWORTH. Against it, as otherwise the bill would have been lost.

Mr. ASHMUN. It is as I said. There is the gentleman's vote, for the proviso one day and against it the next.

Mr. WOODWORTH. The bill must otherwise have been lost.

Mr. ASHMUN. Oh, then, as I now understand the gentleman, the Wilmot proviso was not a matter of principle, but a matter of expediency. Under certain circumstances the gentleman, the representative of a free State, is willing to admit slave territory; under other circumstances he is not. The question may be settled in one way on one day and in another way on another. Mr. A. looked at the matter otherwise. But he supposed the whole thing was arranged, and the vote must soon be taken. He had thought and felt that, at some time before the sands of this expiring Congress were quite run out, it was the duty of some one to announce to the country the result of Executive influence within those walls. He had done it; at the risk, no doubt, of the condemnation if not the denunciation of some gentlemen present; but he had only done his duty. These were his opinions, and he felt bound to present them honestly and fearlessly. The issue was with the people.

Mr. LINN BOYD moved the previous question; which, being agreed to, precluded further debate.

The Roxbury city election on Monday resulted in the choice of General H. A. S. Dearborn for Mayor, and the whole Whig ticket for Aldermen, Common Councilmen, and School Committee.

The inhabitants of Ontario, Livingston, Steuben, and adjacent counties held a Convention a few days since, to take measures to connect the New York and Erie Railroad with that from Albany to Buffalo, by a road from Rochester to Corning.

The bill to make *New Bedford* a city has passed both Houses of the Massachusetts Legislature. The New Bedford Mercury says its effect is already manifest: the snow is disappearing from the side walks, the streets are less dirty, and the town behaves itself better generally.

The *Ætna* and *Stromboli*, new brigs recently fitted out at the Charlestown Navy Yard, near Boston, ready for sea, were to sail on Thursday for the Gulf. The Ætna is commanded by Com. G. J. Van Brunt, and the Stromboli by Com. Wm. S. Walker. Their guns were cast by Alger, at South Boston, weigh each about 1,500 pounds, and will carry a shell weighing some 85 pounds. It is stated that—

"These guns will carry at least half a mile further than those at the castle of San Juan, of the same size but considerably lighter. These two vessels will act in conjunction with two that are fitting out at the New York navy yard, and which will carry each a gun similar to these."

The United States steamer *Hunter* left New Orleans again on the 1st instant for the Gulf of Mexico. The accident which caused her return to port was not so serious as was at first supposed.

The U. S. schooner *On-ka-hy-e*, Lieut. Berryman, arrived at Pensacola on the 2d instant, from Chagres, after a very boisterous passage of fourteen days. She brings no news of moment.

Albany Credit.—$1,000 Albany sixes Western railroad bonds sold at Boston on Saturday at 105⅞.

Chinese Transcendentalism.—The Chinese claim to have invented almost every thing: printing, the compass, gunpowder, and the arts upon which the Western nations most pride themselves, are all found in China, where they claim an antiquity compared to which our oldest records are but of yesterday. But (says the Providence Journal) we thought that *Transcendentalism* was exclusively of modern invention. It seems that we were mistaken, for the following extract from a Chinese work equals any thing ever seen in the dial, orbed or sphered. It is furnished by Mr. Williams, who is lecturing in New York upon China. After this we shall expect to learn that the magnetic telegraph is at work in the interior provinces of the Celestial Empire, and that the letheon is administered in all the hospitals:

"The venerable prince Yara arose prior to the great original standing, at the commencement of the mighty wonderful, and floating in the ocean of deep obscurity. He is spontaneous and self-existing, produced before the beginning of emptiness, commencing prior to uncaused existence, pervading all heavens and earth, whose beginning and end no years can circumscribe, who by searching can find out the Almighty to perfection."