WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1847.

THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

In casually looking over the roll of the Senate, and noting the names of those Members whose term of service expired with the close of the late Congress, and who have not been elected to the next, a feeling of sadness comes over the mind with the thought of how large a portion of talent and character that body has been shorn. At no period within our memory has the Senate lost, at one time, so many able, distinguished, and estimable members—several of them after long periods of faithful and valuable service. The public councils have thus suffered an eclipse of many that shone their chief lights. The very Congress which had witnessed a series of measures so strange and pernicious as those of the last year, has seen its own better branch deprived, by a singular concurrence of expiring terms, of the further services, among the Whigs—of whom only we propose now to speak—of the following:

WILLIAM S. ARCHER, of Virginia.
JOHN M. BERRIEN, of Georgia.
JOSEPH CILLEY, of New Hampshire.
THOMAS CLAYTON, of Delaware.
GEORGE EVANS, of Maine.
SPENCER JARNAGIN, of Tennessee.
JAMES T. MOREHEAD, of Kentucky,
JAMES F. SIMMONS, of Rhode Island.
WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE, of Michigan.

It is not fit that men of a public career so useful and honorable should return to private life with no token of the national regret and esteem which accompany them, and will grace their retirement, if that is to be lasting. The due tribute, we might, under other circumstances, hesitate to render; for we love not that suspicious praise which celebrates men high in place, any more than we admire that independence which is always ready to lash the greatest or the most deserving, as soon as they disoblige party or power. Enough will always be found to magnify those whose fortune rides high: the sincerer task better suits us of bestowing upon those for the instant depressed the meed of discriminating applause. We shall endeavor, then, to speak of these retiring Senators each in the sort of encomium which he has, during his term, merited—taking them up in alphabetical order, and beginning, of course, with

WILLIAM S. ARCHER.

Than Mr. ARCHER, the Senate had come to know, on both sides, that it contained no honester nor braver man—none of purposes more elevated and right—in a word, no truer gentleman or patriot more real. The hereditary instincts of an excellent race had in him been so cultivated into all that became one acting in the eye of public attention, that, while austere in his ideas of intercourse with such as he could not respect, his own invariable integrity and propriety had long commanded, from all his compeers of the Senate, that high—if at times unwilling—esteem which all men are forced to yield to manners unaffectedly lofty, and opinions sincere, firm, and mature. As a statesman and legislator, his views—though sometimes developed at disadvantage, from the want of compass of his voice and too great a love for sententiousness of style—were such as befitted a man largely informed by study and ripened by abundant experience. They were liberal, without being in the smallest degree loose, and republican with not the slightest taint of that which is, even in good men, the infirmity, and in bad the pest, of our times and country—demagogue compliance with the humor, or the notion, or the popularity, or the pretended patriotism, of the hour. All this was eminently his scorn; for not the highest spirit of our age, whoever he may be, was more indifferent to success and favor, to be won by the sacrifice of duty and truth and lasting honor. Through almost his entire Senatorial term, he stood the representative of a State where the shiftings of doctrine exposed him to instruction—that pernicious Virginia machinery for overturning the constitutional independence of legislators, in order that they who have gotten up a counterfeit public will may mount to power: and yet Mr. ARCHER never for a moment either cowered before that popular artillery, or (as was more difficult to such a man) voluntarily provoked it. For that, he loved his State too much, and respected too much her very errors to desire to call forth a pernicious practice, which would have been vainly employed against him, and could only have diminished her. With an equal intrepidity he withstood many other opinions of his State—her Jacksonism, her hard-money fancies, her 'annexation,' her anti-tariffism, and the entire body of her darling abstractions—that cheap and that unerring political wisdom which can, with a few vague sentences and a syllogism or so, resolve every difficulty of practical affairs, and dispense with all ability or experience or honesty, except those of word-catchers and quibblers. With all these high public qualities, and with every personal one that can beget the confidence and affection of the good, it was the misfortune of Mr. ARCHER to love his State rather than Texas, the Constitution more than Annexation, a limited government more than an unlimited empire, and infinitely to prefer deserving to succeeding, serving his country to flattering the crowd. These are mistakes now producing the downfall of many otherwise clever and respectable gentlemen.

JOHM MACPHERSON BERRIEN.

Of Mr. BERRIEN we had occasion warmly to speak about a year since, when he for a time threw up his commission as a Senator. We then mentioned, in particular, the brilliant jurisprudential abilities which he has constantly displayed, in all matters where the Senate had to deal with questions of systematic legislation. Learned and yet luminous, philosophical and yet practical, a master of nearly every part of Law as a science, we have long held him, for general usefulness, to be an ornament to the Senate. His political abilities are not much less distinguished. No man can well be found of public opinions more just, large, and enlightened; and none, certainly, who more firmly and conscientiously by his actions or more ably by his eloquence sustains them. Like Mr. ARCHER, he too has, with a constancy and rectitude which do him the highest honor, stood out against popular variations at home. In what was supposed an Anti-tariff State, he has upheld Protection as the true national policy; and he has, on the Texas question and all its consequences, breasted the whole current of popular passion in one of those quarters where it has seemed wildest. This is the conduct—and not the sycophant swiftness to run before every public humor, as soon as it can be guessed—which will, where the people are wise, command their confidence and love. No man, as to all his public purposes, better deserves it than Mr. BERRIEN. There is none whom men can less approach with any unworthy expectation, any proposition that does not belong to his duty. His bearing and manners, like his oratory, are highly elevated, pure and finished, but seem the result of reason rather than of passion; so that he commands esteem and attention more than he excites feeling: yet, in private, no man merits it more, by every personal virtue, and a heart as kindly as it is just.

JOSEPH CILLEY.

Mr. CILLEY is too recent as a Senator, too quiet, modest, and silent, to have permitted us to learn from personal observation much more of him than we knew in advance, through the concurring voice of all repute. His demeanor has been most unexceptionable, his political conduct irreproachable. To speaking without need, he appears to have all a soldier's antipathy. We doubt not he is, for that, none the less a working man in all those things where silent people tell, as to the quiet preparation of business in the committees. On his fellow-Senators he has made, we know, the most favorable impression as to soundness of sense, purity and firmness of principles, and amenity of manners. His patriotism stands but too plainly written upon his disabled limbs, and face disfigured with scars, for any man to doubt it.

THOMAS CLAYTON.

Mr. CLAYTON is another of those fitter to do things than fond to talk of them. For this reason, all that we need say of him can be put into words as concise as his speeches and as strong as his actions. A man he is, apparently, of a sort marvellously still; taciturn on the floor, gentle and urbane in his manners; seldom heard but in an "aye" or "no," always at the right place; but ever true as steel to public duty, especially when others might falter. He is, in short, that kind of person who might be relied upon to mount a breach alone, or to defend a bridge by himself against an army. Neither Executive nor multitude, coaxing nor threats, blandishments nor terrors, the strength of the adversary nor the wavering of friends, ever shook Mr. CLAYTON; no ambition affected and no interest could tempt him. A patriot sterner, but yet less seeking to decorate himself with the honors of patriotism, we have not known; and, indeed, though generally passing unapplauded, *we* had learned to look upon him as the Aristides of the Senate. He proved himself to be superior to all temptation, where his sense of duty intervened, by his vote last May against the bill adopting the President's war against Mexico.

GEORGE EVANS.

The brilliant and powerful abilities of Mr. EVANS have made themselves so conspicuous in those branches of public counsel to which he addicted himself as really to shed a lustre—we might almost say a charm—upon the ungrateful and dry subjects of Finance and Imposts. Great as was the light which his talent threw around them, yet we are far from believing that he would not have shone quite as much (except that this talent of Finance is a very rare one) in almost any other part of politics. Be this as it may, we do not believe that, since the days of Alexander Hamilton, the country has possessed a man so able as the *real*, the *practical* Political Economist—not the thing of books and theories—as is the late Senator from Maine. He is a man, in such things, of the sort that Themistocles once called himself: one that could not fiddle nor philosophize, but who knew how a great city was to be made out of a small one. His usefulness stands written in all that Congress has, for six years, wisely done or combatted, as to currency and tariffs. Even of late, and especially in the last session, when, through the common injustice of party, only a subordinate in his committee, we have thought it obvious that the Administration could never have got through its own indispensable appropriation bills, had not Hercules been there to lift them out of the mire. As an orator, Mr. EVANS is remarkable for the little use he makes of oratory; but, as a parliamentary speaker, a debater and expounder of practical measures—a *business* speaker—he is probably the best we have; wonderfully clear, concise, and forcible, but singularly agreeable and interesting. In devotion and fidelity to public duties devolving upon him, and in the tenacity with which he maintained whatever he believed to be right, no man within our knowledge has ever excelled him. One of the oldest of our active public men, the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, (Mr. CALHOUN,) having listened to Mr. EVANS's discussion, toward the end of the last session, of the origin of the present war, in a Speech which has never been fully reported, spoke of it, in rising himself to address the Senate, as an effort of "consummate ability."

SPENCER JARNAGIN.

Mr. JARNAGIN has been an industrious and vigilant member of the Senate. In the resistance of that "annexation" which has brought lamentable war and disastrous public debt in its train—opposition to which measure was highly perilous to him at home—Mr. J. bore an effective and honorable part. His position, last year, as to the New Tariff (the present adroit companion of a war) made him again conspicuous. In his conduct in the Senate, Mr. Jarnagin has undoubtedly felt himself restrained by *Legislative Instructions*—an authority which, in forty years' experience, we have hardly known to be once used for any real good purpose or object. We embrace the occasion to remark how differently such proceedings as instructions, pledges by representatives to their constituents, and all sorts of out-door commitments, strike different minds. Last year, a member of the French Chamber of Deputies was actually expelled the Chamber because he had promised his constituents to vote in a particular way, on a question interesting equally to the whole Kingdom. The general sense of the Chamber was, that one who had already made up his mind, and engaged his vote, in a particular way, was not in a condition to sit in a Council assembled for deliberation and mutual consultation on high matters of state; being like a Judge who had prejudged the case, or a Juror who had already made up his mind. Mr. GUIZOT's speech on that occasion does not read much like one of the homilies which we so often see upon the right of constituents to instruct, and the duty of representatives to obey. Of all bodies, it has always appeared to us that the Senate of the United States should be most perfectly free from all influences; simply because the vote of every Senator affects the interests of other States just as much as it affects those of his own. Why should he, who is to act for the whole, take his rule of action from a part, and, it may be, much the smallest part, of those concerned in the consequences? If Mr. JARNAGIN had felt himself free from the restraint of instructions, he would no doubt have voted against the Tariff act of the last session; and, in so doing, we fully believe, would have conformed not only to his own convictions, but to what is, *at this time*, the sentiment of the People of Tennessee.

JAMES T. MOREHEAD.

Mr. MOREHEAD leaves behind him not only great respect for his well-employed abilities, the recollection of his usefulness and his worth, but feelings which it is much more rarely the fortune of distinguished men—who usually pass before us here like decorated figures in a pageant—to excite: he leaves not mere admirers, but friends who will ever continue to watch with solicitude and pleasure, no matter at what distance, his course of honorable effort, whether public or private. For either walk of life, few men have better or truer qualities: he unites talents with diligence, fervor with enough of prudence, strong opinions with all right moderation, frankness with sufficient address, the manly spirit of his brave and leal State with a kindliness of nature the most genial. It is much to say of any man that, the colleague by turns of a CLAY and a CRITTENDEN, he never stood unnoted by their side. It is, however, much more to say what may be added of Mr. MOREHEAD—that, even in this country, where he might so well aspire, and where in so many men's thoughts the eminent stand hated as their own personal rivals, so that (not to speak of one's lieutenants) his very foot-soldiers, down to the last recruit, in secret love him not and meditate one day to supplant him, an idea of any thing but pride in the successes of CLAY, delight in those of CRITTENDEN, never entered the noble and loving heart of their associated Senator. In most of the great questions agitated during his term, Mr. MOREHEAD has taken (as his speeches show) an active part. His efforts in defence of a National Bank, of a Protective Tariff, of the Oregon Compromise, in favor of the French Spoliations bill; those against the Veto power, the Annexation of Texas; his able Report on the Presidential power of Removal from Office—these are all public documents attesting his abilities, and which will be fit to be consulted by future days, for soundness of views, extent of research, and that love and instinct of the right which adorn the man.

JAMES F. SIMMONS.

The simplicity of Mr. SIMMONS's manners, his modesty, the air of almost rustic shame with which he always begins to speak, cover, we need scarcely say, an intellect signally piercing, just, and practical, as to all those things to which it has applied itself. Known as he has made himself by the logic, not of words but of things, with which, in 1842 and 1846, he overthrew all opposite argument, we need scarcely say that he is probably without a rival in all that regards the industrial condition and resources of our country. His services as to these have been eminently valuable; and his speeches will long remain a mine of information for men to explore, whenever the overthrow of the philosophers of Low Taxes and War, of Hard Money and Treasury Notes, shall permit men to recur to sober principles and ascertained results. As to all such, Mr. S. is an admirable repository. Well does he merit, for the exact and close details, as well as the lucid comprehensiveness with which he constructs them into system, the title of the Philosopher of Facts and Practice.

WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE.

From the excellent, the amiable Mr. WOODBRIDGE—a model of probity, equity, calm and solid judgment, and many other high public virtues—none, of either side, can well have parted without strong regret and a lasting and deep respect. *Heu prisca pietas! heu incorrupta fides!* must even his adversaries in politics exclaim, at the loss of such a man. Gov. W.'s gentleness, candor, perfect and simple consciousness; his abundant experience, his solid knowledge of public affairs, his unwearied care of justice, of good and safe principles, commended him to all by whom it is a praise to have been loved, while his kindly demeanor had won upon even the opposite sort; so that, speaking of his removal from the Senate, one might almost ask in English what Æneas asks in the olden language, "Who of the Myrmidons or Dolopians, or what 'spoil-loving follower of the heartless Ulysses, 'could, in telling of such a thing, not drop a tear?"

Another name—but for a dispensation of Providence as afflicting as it was sudden—would have been high inscribed in the above roll of public and private worth. The name of the lamented BARROW would have there stood conspicuous in the ranks of kindred patriotism and honor; for *his* Senatorial term, too, would have closed with theirs. But the grave had marked him for its own, and cut off even the short remainder of his term of service. We recall his name only to remind our readers how much the death of this beloved Senator adds to the sum of the loss which the Senate has sustained.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION.

We have seen but few returns from the New Hampshire election, which took place last Tuesday. The following summary from the Boston Traveller contains as much information on the subject as any thing that has met our observation:

"Whig Representatives are chosen as follows: 2 in Franklin; 4 in Nashua; 1 in Merrimac; 1 in New Ipswich; 1 in Hampton; 1 in Newmarket; 2 or 3 in Exeter; 1 in Hampton Falls; 1 in Nashville; 1 in Durham. Democrats: 1 in Plaistow. Abolitionists: 1 in Nashville.

"By the noon trains returns from a number of other towns were received, which indicate that the Whigs and Independents still retain the State. So far, twenty-six Whigs, five Democrats, and seven Independents have been chosen to the Legislature. There is probably no choice of Governor by the people."

A great number of heads of families and young people at Elderfield, Prussia, most of them in comfortable circumstances, have united to concert measures to arrange a company to emigrate to America, in order to buy land, and clear it themselves, instead of seeking employment in Europe, where the chances of success become every day more unfavorable.

[*Mirror.*

The "Union" states that Mr. HAMPTON C. WILLIAMS, of this city, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Navy naval storekeeper in place of JAMES M. SELDEN, Esq. deceased.

THE NEW MAJOR-GENERALSHIPS.

Our readers and the public are already informed that Mr. BENTON declines the appointment of Major-General. The whole project and proceeding of the Administration on the subject with which this declining of a Major-General's commission by the Senator from Missouri is connected, strike us as strongly illustrating the shifting policy, infirmity of purpose, or else the want of any regular plan with which the Administration is conducting the most important affairs. No President was ever half so full of projects, and no President has seen such a cold reception given to them, in succession, by his own friends in Congress.

Two months ago we were to have a Lieutenant General, taken from civil life, placed at the head of the army in Mexico, with a diplomatic commission in the pockets of his regimental small-clothes, to fight or treat, as he should deem best; and, lest neither fighting nor treating for peace in the common way should promise success, three millions of dollars were to be placed at his disposal, that he might try what virtue there might be in coin. Mr. BENTON, it was understood, was to fill these high offices and to undertake these most responsible duties. He has been a soldier, now long a Senator, and his standing with the President's party undoubtedly pointed him out as the man, if there was to be any man, who should go to the seat of war, supersede General SCOTT and General TAYLOR, and appear in Mexico as Mr. POLK's *alter Ego*, not only as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, but also as the source and fountain of the treaty-making power. In short, so far as the Mexican war was concerned, the country was to be deprived of the eminent talents and great experience of the President altogether; his functions, in this respect, were all to cease, and, beyond the Nueces or the Rio Grande, his image and superscription were about to be seen, clearly stamped and brilliantly shining, in the person of the distinguished Senator from Missouri. Alas! the great, as well as the little, of this world are doomed to disappointment!

"The best laid schemes of mice and men gang aft aglee."

Congress had the hardness of heart to refuse to create such an office as that of Lieutenant General. Here was a balk. But the policy and tactics, the *strategy* upon which the Administration so much values itself, are to shift and turn, to carry on a small *higgling* play, even with great subjects. Against the express sense of Congress, in regard to this project of creating a Roman Consul and sending him to the armies, the President should have proceeded no further. He had made the proposition; it had been decisively rejected; and, in all dignity, and, we will say, in all propriety, the thing should there have stopped. But so it did not stop. Another shift was resorted to. A proviso was stuck on to one of the bills, in the last moments of the session, declaring that, from officers of the same general rank—that is, among the Major Generals—the President might "*designate*" one to have chief command; in other words, might place a junior officer over the heads of his seniors.

How could Congress be expected to sanction such an authority as this? It had refused to create the office of Lieutenant General, to be filled by the nomination of the President and the confirmation of the Senate, in the common way. How preposterous, then, to suppose that it would trust the President himself, and by his own authority, to create the office of Lieutenant General, in effect, breaking down, at the same time, every just idea of military rank and subordination? This scheme failed, of course, as its predecessor had done. Nevertheless, there is yet not an end.

Just before the close of the session, Mr. BENTON was nominated and appointed a Major General, simply a Major General. To what end was this done? We had already four Major Generals. Mr. BENTON would be the fifth. Was it expected that he would go to the wars, for the sake of promotion, and in the hope of rising in his profession till he should get to the head of the army? Was the Senate to hear his voice no more? Was he to put on regimentals that he might learn the art of war and receive instructions, not only from Gen. SCOTT and Gen. TAYLOR, but also from officers more recently appointed, Gen. PATTERSON and Gen. BUTLER? Certainly not. The old idea of a Lieutenant General must have been at the bottom of this nomination and appointment of Mr. BENTON as Major General. Somehow, it was expected he might be placed at the head, and have the chief direction of things, both military and civil, on the part of the United States, in Mexico.

It has been suggested that by the articles of war the President may place a junior General at the head of the army, giving his superiors an election to serve under him or to retire. If this is practicable, and were to be done, Generals SCOTT and TAYLOR would of course withdraw, as might also the two other Major Generals. That Mr. BENTON looked in some way to be at the head of the army is undoubted; but, whatever was intended, or hoped, or projected, by making Mr. BENTON simply a Major General, it is all blown into thin air by the honorable Senator's conclusion not to take the commission.

We know nothing of his reasons; and it does not become us to conjecture them. We doubt not he has acted on good grounds.

Did he find that, under such a commission, he could not exercise the functions which he was desirous of discharging? Or did he find that, after all, his powers were to be so limited, his discretion so trammelled, that he could not hope either to do good or gain renown?

How, failing to obtain authority to put Mr. BENTON at the head of the army regularly, by creating for him the office of Lieutenant General, the President could hope to avail himself of his services in any useful manner, by making him Major General number five, we know not. There is a depth of policy in this which we do not fathom.

After the preceding remarks were written, a printed copy of the following correspondence reached our hands, and is given to our readers:

Letter from Mr. Benton to the President.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 6, 1847.

SIR: Without waiting for the formality of being presented with the commission of Major General in the army of the United States, I think it right to inform you at once that my acceptance or refusal of that high appointment will depend entirely upon public and national considerations, of which you, yourself, will be the judge. Personally I can have no wish for this office; but if you believe that I can be of service to the country, I am willing to forego all private considerations—separate myself from my family, under painful circumstances; resign my place in the Senate, which is so dear to me—and proceed immediately to the theatre of war. My only stipulation would be for the powers which I deem necessary to success; and these would be both military and diplomatic—the command of the army and authority to sign preliminaries of peace, based upon terms previously approved by you.

I beg you to believe, sir, that nothing selfish or personal dictates this proposed stipulation. There is no such thing in it. It proceeds from a thorough conviction that, with a subordinate command, I could do no good in the army: on the contrary, that my presence there would be improper and mischievous; for I am known, from my public speeches, to disapprove the plans, both of the late and of the present commander—the defensive policy of one and the San Juan of Ulua attack of the other; and this being known my presence would operate as an implied censure on the two generals, and might make me, in spite of myself, the nucleus of discontent and insubordination. The command of the army, therefore, is the only military position which I could hold in it.

Authority to conclude a peace, or at least to sign the preliminaries of peace, I deem highly essential to success, as it would enable the commander-in-chief to take instant advantage of all passing events, military or political, to close the war.

Furnished with these powers, I am willing to make the sacrifices, and to incur the responsibilities of this high command: but I leave it to you, sir, for your free and final decision; considering it as a national question, and a new one, on which there is no commitment, on either side, in any thing that has passed.

Whatever may be the decision, my thanks and gratitude will not be the less to you for your unsolicited nomination of me to this high appointment, nor to the Senate for its instant and unanimous confirmation of it, nor to the House of Representatives for its three times virtual election of me to be the commander-in-chief of the army in Mexico.

Respectfully, sir, your friend and fellow-citizen,

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the PRESIDENT.

The President to Mr. Benton.

WASHINGTON, March 9, 1847.

SIR: I have given to your letter of the 6th instant the consideration which its importance demands. In tendering to you the appointment of Major General in the army, I earnestly desired that the country should have the advantage of your conceded ability and military knowledge, your intimate acquaintance with the Mexican character, and your familiarity with their language and political condition.

Immediately after your nomination as Major General had been unanimously confirmed by the Senate, I carefully examined the question whether I possessed the power to designate you—a junior Major General—to the chief command of the army in the field. The result of this examination is, I am constrained to say, a settled conviction on my mind that such power has not been conferred upon me by the existing laws.

I am fully sensible of the exalted patriotism which could alone have induced you to make the personal sacrifices to which you would be subjected in assuming even the chief command of the army in Mexico; and I duly appreciate the reasons you have assigned, and which may, I fear, prevent you from accepting your appointment as Major General. If, on further reflection, such should be your decision, I shall learn it with deep regret.

I am, sir, with high consideration, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES K. POLK.

To Major General THOMAS H. BENTON, Washington.

Mr. Benton to the President.

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 9, 1847.

SIR: Your letter of this day's date is just received; and seeing no reason for further reflection, and wishing to avoid all delay in officering the army, I have written a note to the Adjutant General, to be delivered at his office in the morning, declining to accept the appointment of Major General in the army, so kindly offered to me by you, and so honorably confirmed by the Senate.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your friend and fellow-citizen.

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the PRESIDENT.

Note of Mr. Benton to the Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY EVENING, MARCH 9, 1847.

SIR: I had the honor to receive your note of the 6th instant, with the commission of Major General in the army, and delayed the answer of acceptance or non-acceptance until I should receive an answer from the President to a note which I addressed to him in the morning of that day. That answer is now received, and enables me to answer your note, and to say that the commission is not accepted.

Please to accept, sir, my thanks for the kind terms of your note, and for the thousand courtesies which you have extended to me in the course of our long and friendly acquaintance.

Most truly and respectfully yours,

THOMAS H. BENTON.

To Adjutant General JONES.

FROM BALTIMORE AND THE NORTH.

BALTIMORE, MARCH 12—5 P. M.

There is very little news of general interest here to-day.

The biennial session bill, which by recent enactment of the Legislature of Maryland has become a law, cannot but meet with approbation. There will be an election held next fall for members of the Legislature, who will assemble in session in December following. No election will afterwards take place for members until 1849, and so on every two years afterwards. This will save to the State biennially from $35,000 to $40,000—"a consummation devoutly to be wished."

Our market continues quiet. Holders of Howard street flour are willing to take $6, without finding purchasers. Offers of $5.87½ refused. The price of City Mills is about $6. Corn meal $4.37½; rye flour nominal at $5. The inspections of flour for the week are 20,320 bbls. and 352 half do., besides 167 bbls. and 19 half do. rye flour and 4,446 barrels corn meal.

The receipts of wheat are light. Small sales good to prime at 120 to 126 cents; white do. 135 to 145. Considerable sales of white corn at 74 a 75 cents, and yellow do. 79 a 80 cents—a decline; oats 47 a 48; rye 86; cloverseed $4.25 a $4.37½.

I have no change to notice in provisions or groceries; market for both rather dull. Beef cattle $3.50 per 100 pounds, gross average. Hogs $6.50; mess pork $15.50 a $16, and beef do. $12 a $13; hams 8 a 10 cents; sides bacon 8½; shoulders 7 a 7½, and hog round 6¾ a 7¼; lard 8 to 10.

Sales of about 300 bales Mobile cotton at 12½ a 13 per lb.; fair demand.

The transactions at the Stock Board to-day were, $2,350 Baltimore 6's, 1890, at 99½ a 99⅝; 206 Baltimore and Susquehana Railroad shares 3¾. Maryland State 6's closed rather dull at 86½ asked, and 85¾ bid; Baltimore and Ohio Railroad shares 42¼ bid, 43¾ asked.

Money is in brisk demand at 6 per cent., and the banks generally have as much good paper offering as can conveniently be accommodated. The demand, however, in the street for money is quite limited, and first class paper out of bank quite scarce. Coupons are retailing at 88 a 90, demand steady.

The Telegraph reports up to the present writing thus:

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

The stock market to-day was rather buoyant, with a better feeling. Sales of Pennsylvania 5's at 71¼, an advance of ⅜ of one per cent. No change of United States 6's since yesterday. Nothing special in other securities.

The flour market to-day is less active. Sales of about 1,000 barrels Pennsylvania brands at $5.75 to $5.87, the latter figures being generally contended for. Corn meal has declined, with sales at $4.37½ and dull.

Very little doing in wheat; the supply is small. Prime red is worth 128 cents. The supply of corn is pretty large. Sales of yellow corn at 81 cents for fair and 84 to 86 for prime; white is worth 78 to 80; oats 46 to 48; rye 83 a 85; cloverseed $5.25 to $5.37.

A sale to-day of 400 hhds. Cuba sugar at an average of 8½ cents per pound. Whiskey is dull at 27 cents per gallon in barrels.

FROM NEW YORK.

The Telegraph between Philadelphia and New York is still broken or out of repair. I am, therefore, again without a report. The latest intelligence by mail is—

Sales of cotton 800 bales; prices are tending upwards.

Flour is dull. Michigan and Genesee are offered at $7. Sales of mixed brands have been made at $6.94. Common Southern kinds are inactive at former rates. Corn meal is in demand at $5. 5,500 bushels yellow Northern corn sold at 93 cents; 10,000 do., to arrive in two weeks, at 91; 10,000 bushels white do. at 87 a 89.

WAR NEWS.

The report of a severe conflict having recently taken place between the forces of Gen. TAYLOR and SANTA ANNA, which reached this city by the mail of Wednesday night, did not escape our notice; but, on examining the previous accounts from the same quarter, we thought ourselves justified in discrediting, and therefore did not publish it. Since our refusal of credit to it we have received the following letter from our very attentive and obliging correspondent at New Orleans, which clearly demonstrates that there can be no truth whatever in the report:

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 2, 1847.

MESSRS. GALES & SEATON:

DEAR SIRS: You will see letters from Tampico in one of our morning papers which give reports of a great fight between SANTA ANNA and Gen. TAYLOR. It is sufficient to say that these letters are dated 17th February, and Gen. BUTLER, now in this city, left Gen. Taylor's army on the 13 h. The whole story, however, is improbable, and the mere location of the battle, at Monterey, destroys all credence in it, as Gen. T. had not the least intention of falling back from Saltillo, but, on the contrary, is making his arrangements to advance from thence by the 1st of April, and will be reinforced by five or six regiments of volunteers for that purpose. Nothing could induce Taylor to have made a retrograde movement without at least first having measured swords with the enemy.

The letter-writers in camp think themselves in duty bound to send forward all the reports; and I have no doubt the present one was generally credited at Tampico, where they had not so late previous accounts from the army as we have here; and, as you see, our dates completely upset this report.

FROM THE ARMY.—[OFFICIAL.]

Letters have just been received in this city from the camps of Generals TAYLOR and WOOL. The headquarters of the latter were at Bueno Vista on the 29th January, and of the former at Agua Nueva, eighteen miles south of Saltillo, on the 7th February.

The letters from General Wool's camp state that since the 27th of January they had had the usual nightly alarms of the approach of the enemy, and that these reports had all come from Saltillo. The enemy was said to be undoubtedly at Incarnacion, and perhaps small parties had been within twelve leagues of Saltillo. It was also reported that a considerable number of rancheros had embodied themselves and were not far off, lying in wait for any small reconnoitring parties that may come in their way. The report had reached the camp (on the night of the 28th) that a party, consisting of Captain Heady and seventeen men, Kentucky volunteers, were captured on the 27th by a party of rancheros, under the following circumstances: Capt. H. was sent out on a reconnoitring party by Lieut. Col. Field. When about ten or fifteen miles from their station they stopped at a rancho, and asked for liquor to drink. It was immediately furnished, and in abundance. The men became intoxicated, and in that condition left the rancho. They were afterwards captured, and, as reported, without resistance or a gun being fired.

There was no idea entertained at the date of writing this letter that the town of Saltillo, or the troops at Bueno Vista were to be attacked. It was supposed that some decisive measures would be taken to check the reconnoitring parties of the enemy.

These letters give further accounts of the capture of Major Borland. It appears, upon an alarm being given of the approach of the Mexicans upon Saltillo, Gen. Wool sent Major B. with fifty men to make a reconnoissance on the San Luis Potosi road, and, if practicable, to go as far as the Incarnacion, about fifty-five miles from Saltillo, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the enemy had advanced to that place, and to report the result of his observations. He left on the 18th instant, and arrived at the Incarnacion the next morning, but found no troops there, they having left the morning before. Instead of returning as ordered, the major took the liberty of halting and sent an express to Col. Yell for a reinforcement. Col. Y. on receiving the major's application sent a request to Gen. Wool for permission to go with his whole regiment to join the major and to go as far as Solado. The application was sent by General Wool to Major General Butler, who refused it, but sent General Wool word by the bearer that he would see the general in a few moments. Shortly after Gen. Wool sent the refusal to Col. Yell. An interview then took place between the two generals, when Gen. W. proposed an immediate recall of Major Borland. Gen. Butler said it was unnecessary to send the order, as he was immediately going to see Col. Yell, and, if necessary, he would give the order.

It appears that Major Borland was joined by Major Gaines and Captain Clay's companies, about thirty or thirty-five strong, who were ordered by General Butler to make a reconnoissance in the same direction. They decided at once to continue their reconnoissance as far as Solado—the result of which was the surprise and capture of the whole party by about five hundred Mexican cavalry, commanded by General Miñon. It is reported that they were surprised early in the morning, whilst asleep, with no pickets or sentinels to guard against surprise. Colonel Yell was afterwards sent with a part of his regiment on the Potosi road, to ascertain the truth of the report, with instructions to be cautious; but, on proceeding to the Incarnacion, he found no troops; yet he received information of the approach of General Miñon, with 3,000 cavalry, on which he retired to camp. Every precaution was subsequently taken to have an active reconnoissance on all the roads by which the enemy could approach. As these unfortunate occurrences had been the result of a want of vigilance and disobedience of orders, it is hoped that they may prove a lesson to our troops.

General Taylor had changed his headquarters from Monterey to Agua Nueva, eighteen miles south of Saltillo, where he arrived on the 5th instant, bringing forward in the first instance, Lieut. Col. May's squadron of dragoons, two batteries, (Sherman's and Bragg's,) and the regiment of Mississippi riflemen. He was subsequently joined by the Kentucky and Indiana regiments, and other troops were expected from Saltillo. It seemed to be understood that General Taylor was determined to hold both Saltillo and Agua Nueva in its front. It was supposed that the scarcity of water and supplies for a long distance in front would compel the enemy either to risk an engagement in the field or to hold himself aloof from our troops. No intelligence had been received from the interior more recent or authentic than has been hitherto communicated. But the impression is that there was no considerable force in front, nor was it supposed to be likely that any serious demonstration would be made in that direction. The population of Saltillo was fast returning to the city, and it was hoped that, under the judicious management of Major Warren, a discreet officer of the Illinois volunteers, who commands in the town, the people may remain quietly in their houses.

Lists have been received in Washington of the men belonging to the Kentucky mounted volunteers who had been captured at Incarnacion, amounting to thirty-five, and also those of the Arkansas regiment captured at the same place, amounting also to thirty-five.

SPECULATIONS CONCERNING THE WAR.

The Tampico correspondence of *La Patria*, (a Spanish paper published at New Orleans,) in noticing the report of the battle between Santa Anna and Taylor near Saltillo, says that it is altogether improbable, as Santa Anna at the last accounts, which are very recent, was at San Luis, engaged in arranging his forces. When the American forces leave for Vera Cruz, it is said that Gen. Urrea will march from Tula with a column of 8,000 or 9,000 men against Tampico. Urrea's force is composed one-third part of cavalry, with two battalions of artillery. It is his intention to attack Tampico simultaneously with the American attack on Vera Cruz. This officer is also prepared with a force of 4,000 men to march on Matamoros. Gen. Arista is still in the city of Mexico, awaiting his trial on charges relating to his conduct at the battles of the 8th and 9th May.

SAILING OF AN IRISH RELIEF SHIP.—The barque *Victor*, Capt. R. W. CLARKE, left New York on Wednesday for Cork, laden with part of the donations of the people of that city, for the relief of the famishing poor of Ireland. Heaven speed her on her holy mission! She takes out 5,605 barrels and 230 half-barrels corn meal, 72 sacks and 12 barrels corn, three barrels flour, 19 barrels and two boxes bread, one barrel beans, four barrels hops, and 16 boxes and bags clothing.—*New York Sun.*

The Norwegian corvette Nordstierman, which made a visit to New York last year, arrived at Christiana, the capital of Norway, on Christmas day—she having made the passage from New York in the short space of thirty-eight days.