LATEST NEWS FROM MEXICO.

From the N. O. Delta, 13th inst.

Late and Important from Mexico.

General Scott's Army pushing on to the Capital—Leaves Jalapa with 8,000 men—Puebla surrenders—Necessity of reinforcing Scott—Santa Anna in the Mountains—Desires to retire from the country—A wise Mexican.

Gen. Scott has determined to push on to the city of Mexico without waiting for reinforcements or supplies. He has adopted the policy of Cortez, who two hundred years ago, on the very shore occupied by our troops, collected together his ships, and in the presence of his little army, burnt the whole fleet by which alone they could ever hope to return across the raging sea they had just traversed. So Gen. Scott, with his small, brave army, drops his base of operations at Jalapa, and, without a reserve, or line of communication, pushes on towards the city of which he has ere this, become the second conqueror. He left Jalapa with but eight thousand men. Of these three thousand are volunteers, whose term will expire about the time he reaches the Capital.—Puebla has already sent in a deputation to surrender that noble city. If a warlike population of eighty thousand, such as that of the ancient city of the Tlascalans, so promptly yield to our arms, there is no reason to apprehend that any further resistence will be offered to the progress of our army. When last heard from Gen. Worth's outposts were thrown forward on the road to Puebla, eighteen miles from Perote. On last Friday week, his whole division, constituting the vanguard of the army, took up the line of march to Puebla; with a strong seige train. On the Monday following Patterson would follow, with the volunteer force. Twiggs brings up the rear, with his force of regulars General Scott's force is too small to spare any details for garrisoning towns in his rear, and keeping open his communications. His hope is, that the new force to be sent to him, will be able to clear his rear, and forward his supplies. For the present, he will have to depend on the enemy for subsistence. Supplies can easily be obtained in the country, for an adequate compensation, but the people will drive of the cattle, and destroy the crops, rather than yield them up to our troops without compensation. No serious apprehension, on account of the safety of Gen. Scott's army, need, we think, be entertained, if the government takes steps to supply the places of the volunteer regiments whose term of service will expire about the time Gen. Scott reaches the Capital. There are now about two thousand men of the new regiments, at and near the Brazos, under Gen. Cadwallader. These should be sent immediately to Gen. Scott, as he is in much greater need of them than Gen. Taylor, who, it is said will maintain a defensive position for some time to come. Gen. Pillow brought over despatches to the government the object of which, we understand, is to urge upon the government the necessity of taking steps to reinforce Gen. Scott with the troops that have been already raised.

Gen. Scott's movement, though seemingly rash and precipitate, is, we believe, dictated by very just views of the character of the Mexicans, and of the circumstances of his position. The enemy are now panic stricken, they are postrate and defenceless; their last army has been destroyed; their President driven into the mountains; all their artillery and ammunition captured; all their capable officers taken prisoners. Thus situated, with no military demagogues to keep a live the slanders, and passions which have sustained this most absurb war, the people will no doubt see the utter folly of any farther resistance, and will quietly acquiesce in the peaceable occupation of their Capital. We think Scott's move is as wise and judicious, as it certainly is prompt and gallant. The only ground of apprehension we have is the disbandment of the seven regiments of old volunteers he has with him. Their departure, so soon after the arrival of our army at the Capital, may create among the Mexicans some hope of a successful uprising and resistence. It will therefore, be incumbent on the government to take immediate steps to reinforce Gen. Scott. He should have at least twelve or fifteen thousand men to carry out his designs, and to conquer a peace. An exposed rear must be defended, and his communications with Vera Cruz kept open.

In the mean time, Santa Anna shelters himself in the mountains, near Orizaba, with a few badly armed lancers and rancheros. Fortune has again turned against him. His extraordinary career of ups and downs, has not terminated. Within the year past, he has passed through more various and trying scenes than have ever fallen to the lot of any other man. He now desires, we understand, to leave the country again, and to seek repose from his recent severe trials in the delightful recreations of Havana. If he succeeds in escaping our cruisers, we trust, he will never again be able to humbug our government into granting him a passport into a country, where he ever was the mere tool of a senseless rabble.

After the battle of Cerro Gordo, Santa Anna fled to the hacienda of the wealthy Don Garcia, who lives a few miles from Jalapa. Don Garcia has ever been one of Santa Anna's firmest and most influential friends. He was, during the war of Independence, a simple muleteer, and made his fortune by buying a large tract of land, in some part of which an immense amount of money had been buried by the retreating Spaniards, a fact which he learned whilst engaged in the business of muleteer. With this money, Don Garcia, by prudent investments and great industry, has succeeded in accumulating a large fortune. He owns nearly the whole property from Jalapa to Vera Cruz, and besides immense herds of cattle, has also a large cotton factory, in successful operation near Jalapa. Santa Anna had a long interview with Don Garcia, before and after the battle of Cerro Gordo, and, it is said, deposited with him about $100,000. Don Garcia advised him to leave the country, as it was impossible to resist the Americans. This astute old Mexican exhibits no hostility towards our army, nor any discontent at its success, but very philosophically pockets our twenty dollars apiece for his beef cattle, and ergales our officers with delicious wines and segars. The Mexican conquest gives him a fine capital to commence business on, and the American conquest, he hopes, will complete the mammoth fortune which he is ambitious of transmitting to his heirs.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM EEXICO.

Latest from General Scott's Division.

The steam boat James L. Day, Capt. Wood, arrived yesterday from Vera Cruz, whence she left on the 6th inst. We have Vera Cruz advices to that date; from Jalapa to the 29th ult., and from the city of Mexico to the 21st. This we proceed to give, commencing the first with our correspondence.

Rumor of Santa Anna being made Prisoner—Mexicans bringing in Supplies—Communications with Vera Cruz not to be kept open.

JALAPA, April 29th, 1847.

Eds. Delta:—You will find all the news that is to be packed up here in a paper, a copy of which I send you. Some idle rumor prevails this morning that Santa Anna has been made a prisoner, but so little attention did I pay to it at the moment that I forgot to ask ask whether to Americans or Mexicans.

Gen. Scott will probably leave this place in 12 or 14 days, when he will make no halt short of Puebla. As you will see from the news I send you in the Star, the enemy talk of nothing but resistance.

The Mexicans are bringing in their corn pretty freely.

I believe, from what I can hear about head quarters, that when we march from this place, there will be little or no communication with Vera Cruz. Our means of transportation will not enable us to look for supplies from home, and the enemy will be looked to to furnish us to a great extent. Our trains are beginning already to be annoyed in the short space between this and Vera Cruz, and to keep the road open all the way to Mexico would require more men than would be necessary to take that city.

CHAPARRAL.

—

The Volunteers of Cerro Gordo—News from the City of Mexico—Seat of Government to be removed to Celaya—A Visit to Santa Anna at Orizaba—His deplorable situation—Activity in Vera Cruz—A Naval Expedition Southward.

VERA CRUZ, May 2d.

Eds. Delta.—I send you the first number of the "American Star," published in Jalapa. In it you will find a detailed account of the battle of Cerro Gordo, and a list of the killed and wounded. You will see that the volunteers played a conspicuous part in that action; they led the attack, bore the blunt of the battle, and behaved most nobly, proving themselves worthy of the regard of their kind champions of the Delta.

In the "Eagle" of the 1st, which I send you, you will learn that Don Pedro Anaya has been declared Dictator. The Swedish Consul, who arrived yesterday from Mexico, tells me that it is true that Anaya has been elected Dictator; Canalizo spoken of as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and that preparations are being made for the removal of our own Government from place to place, the war with England is cited by the leading men in favor of this act. Nothing is more common in Mexico than to hear them citing incidents in the Revolutionary history of our country, to sustain the wavering energies of their own people. One of their prints holds this language: "What enabled the infant colonies of America to make head against, and finally to overcome the most powerful nation on the globe; a nation whose treasury is inexhaustible, whose fleets covered every sea, whose armies darkened the land? Mexicans! they were united; there was but one party, and their party cry 'their country.' They allowed no reverses to dampen their energies; no calamities, however great, to turn them from the great end for which they were fighting. Often without food and raiment, in the depth of winter or the heat of summer, yet ever battling on, rising superior to every obstacle, and finally, unequal as was the conflict, compelling the powerful nation of England to acknowledge their independence.—Mexicans! be united, banish civil discord from your councils, swear that you will be free, and soon, very soon, not a hostile foot will taint the soil of Mexico!" I give you but the substance of the piece: A strictly literal translation I am unequal to. I wish that I could send you the paper, but there is but one in Vera Cruz, and it belongs to a gentleman who would not part with it.

The Swedish Consul tells me that he visited Santa Anna, at Orizaba, and obtained from him a passport to come down. He had but a thousand men with him, badly equipped, and *he* looked haggard and very much dejected.—His day had passed. Both soldiers and officers had lost all confidence in him—and I have no doubt, that were he to come to Vera Cruz, during the present state of feeling of the Mexican population, he would be murdered.

When the Swedish Consul left, they were busily fortifying Mexico. No stand will be made at Puebla unless we delay marching on it for some time. Gen. Worth is still at Perote—Scott at Jalapa. A report has reached here that Old Zack has taken possession of San Luis Potosi, but I doubt this very much—he could hardly have reached there in this time. The diligence runs regularly now to Mexico.

In Vera Cruz everything is going on smoothly. The business of the city is increasing in a wonderful degree. The waters are covered with merchant vessels. Yankee hotels, Yankee auction houses, Yankee circus companies, and Yankee ice houses, are starting up here at every turn of the corner.

I learn from an officer of the Potomac, that the Navy are getting up an expedition to the South, embracing Campeachy, Tacasco and Huasaculco. I sincerely hope that they may meet something worthy of their arms, as there was great disappointment and mortification among the officers at not being permitted to attack the Castle by sea, while the army was bombarding by land. Their curses were loud and deep, when they found that the ships were to be kept idle at Sacrificios. They all seemed to look forward to the Castle as the bright star of their hopes, where the character of the Navy was to be redeemed and placed on its ancient footing.

In my last letter to you I made some reflections on the Navy for not having attempted to carry the Castle by landing from the ships. I beg leave to recall those remarks, as I have since learned that a young Lieutenant in the Navy presented a proposition to the Government to that effect, asking authority to purchase a merchant vessel and 500 Colt's pistols, run in *as a merchant vessel* and moor to the walls of the Castle, and at night board from the yard arms and jib-booms; and that a merchant vessel with 500 men, armed with Colt's pistols, and otherwise equipped, was actually held in readiness to make the attempt, waiting but the permission of the Commodore, who had discretionary power from the Secretary of the Navy to authorize it if expedient, and had there been any unnecessary delay in the Castle's giving up, the attempt would have been made. It was a glorious conception, and the project does credit to our Navy; and though it would have been a feather out of our cap, yet I wish most heartily they had been permitted to carry it out—it would have been something unique in its kind, and would have shed undying lustre on the Navy. It is most creditable to the Secretary of the Navy that he gave it his countenance and support. There is stuff enough in these young Navy boys for any enterprise—all they want is rope, and not bed-ridden old men to cripple their energies I have not been able to learn the name of the Lieutenant who projected this expedition.

Gen. Shields has been pronounced out of danger. Yours, &c., D. J. D.

—

Latest news from the City of Mexico—Santa Anna within forty miles of Vera Cruz, threatening the city—War approaching to a close.

VERA CRUZ, May 5th, 1847.

Eds. Delta:—As the steamer has been detained until to-day by bad weather, I give you the latest news that has reached us since I closed my letter of the 3d; there is not much of it, but what there is is of some interest and importance, The British Consul at this place has just received a communication from the British minister, Mr. Bankhead, saying that the Mexican Government has solicited the friendly meditation of his government to settle the difficulties between Mexico and the United States. I learned this morning that such a letter had been received from Mr. Bankhead, and at once called on the English Consul, who tells me that such is a fact. You may, therefore, rely on the accuracy of this statement.

Santa Anna is about 40 miles from here with 2000 men, threatening to march in and sack Vera Cruz. This information comes from a Spanish merchant of this place, who came in yesterday from Mexico—he states that he saw Santa Anna, who advised him to take his things out of the city, as he should destroy every thing in it. This, of course, we consider as mere Mexican bravado, as it is not likely he would make his plans public, did he intend executing them. We are, nevertheless, practising our men (infantry) at the artillery, so as not to be taken by surprise.

We learn by a letter from the city of Mexico, that they have stopped throwing up entrenchments around the city, and do not intend standing a siege or bombardment. For the first time since I have been in Mexico, I begin to think that the war is about drawing to a close. Yours, &c., D. J. D.

—

SURRENDER OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.—Immediately before the James L. Day started from Vera Cruz, Maj. Leonard, who is stationed there, sent an officer on board to inform Gen. Pillow that an express had just arrived from Gen. Scott with a despatch, in which it was stated that a deputation of Mexican citizens from the Capital had arrived at the General's headquarters, inviting him to advance, assuring him that it would surrender to him without opposition, and asking his protection of their persons and property. To such favorable terms Gen. Scott assented. He is, therefore, on his way to, if not already in, the "halls of the Montezumas."

Editorial Correspondence of the Picayune.

JALAPA, Mexico, April 29.

At 12 o'clock to-day—it is now evening—I sent off a large package of letters and papers to Vera Cruz by the diligencia. It is thought there is great danger of its being attacked and robbed on the road; but as, if it gets through at all, it will arrive two or three days before the regular train, I conceived the better plan to be to run the risk. The news, although interesting, can be condensed into a few words; Santa Anna is no doubt at Orizaba, with a small but ill-appointed force, and it is reported that Gen. Leon, with a body of fresh troops, is on his way to join him from Oajaca. "Old Santy," as the volunteers call him, has written to Mexico for money and reinforcements, but has been refused. He is now held in worse esteem than ever, many believing that the "three millions" are going into his pockets, and that he sold the battle of Cerro Gordo for a portion of this sum. No resistance, every one says, will be made at Puebla, and at the city of Mexico they have only thrown up slight breastworks, and at last accounts were doing nothing. Their recent disastrous defeats, although they talk as vauntingly as ever, have completely paralyzed and stupified all classes. Gen. Worth is at Perote, although he has thrown forward Col. Garland's brigade as far as Tepe Agualco. He is rapidly accumulating supplies at the former place. Such is the substance of the news I sent you this morning.

This evening another express has come in from Gen. Worth. He has received information, which comes from sources that may be looked upon as authentic, to the effect that Canalizo, with 3000 cavalry, has gone towards Orizaba with the intention of joining his old friend Santa Anna. An attempt upon one of Gen. Scott's depots or wagon trains every one believes is intended, and every movement of the enemy in this quarter certainly gives color to this belief. In the meantime Gen. Worth is still further strengthening his supplies at Perote, and has made contracts for a large quantity of corn. An onward movement of the army will doubtless soon be made.

The greater portion of our wounded have been brought here, and are doing well: there are also a large number of wounded Mexicans scattered about the city. The reported loss of the latter at Cerro Gordo is 1500—it was certainly immense. Gen. P. F. Smith is still confined to his bed, but is improving; the wound of Major Sumner is also getting better, although slowly. Gen. Shields continues in a favorable situation, notwithstanding it will be a miracle if he survives. I saw him but a few minutes after he was wounded, and at the time did not conceive it possible for him to live twenty-four hours

The weather in this beautiful place continues delightful—nothing can exceed the delicious temperature of the climate. This afternoon we had a thunder shower, serving to render the air more pure and balmy, if such a thing were possible. Col. Childs is governor of this city, and a New England village is hardly more orderly and quiet than is this same Jalapa.

Since this letter was commenced, a report has come in that Santa Anna has been made prisoner by his own men. The rumor is very vague and indefinite. He has enemies enough, to judge by their talking, to tear him in pieces if they could lay hold of him.

I have little doubt that an English influence is at work at the city of Mexico to bring about a peace, and it is equally probable that there is a party in the country disposed to listen to overtures. How peace is to be brought about is more than any one can say—what terms we could offer that would be acceptable will be found a difficult matter by any commissioners that may undertake the job. To defeat the Mexicans in every encounter is easy enough—to settle all differences and disputes with them will be found an entirely different matter. Yours, &c., G. W. K.

—

JALAPA, Mexico, May 1, 1847.

I wrote a long letter this morning, which I shall send off by a regular train which leaves to-morrow under an escort; but learning that one of Col. Kinney's men is to run the gauntlet between this and Vera Cruz to-night, or at least that he is to attempt it, I scratch off a few more lines to send by him. Enclosed you will also find the last orders issued by Gen. Scott. I might give you the exact time he is to move, the garrison he is to leave behind, and other intelligence; yet as it might all fall into the hands of the Mexicans, I shall wait for some safe and certain opportunity.

A rumor was rife last evening which would be startling were any credit to be attached to it. A nephew of Santa Anna, residing here in Jalapa, has circulated a story to the effect that Urrea and Canales, by a forced march, have surprised and re-taken Tampico from the Americans. The news, he says, came express to Gen. De Soto, residing near here. It may be that the whole story has grown out of the capture of Tuspan by Com. Perry. The Mexicans make strange blunders sometimes.

We have no later intelligence from the city of Mexico. Until the diligencias were ordered to cease running between Puebla and this place, the papers came through regularly, but now, if any intelligence reaches Jalapa, it falls almost exclusively into the hands of the Mexicans, and there it lodges. Rumor has it that they are running their bells into cannon, both at Puebla and the city of Mexico, and farther, that they will make a grand stand somewhere between the two cities, with a rabble of at least 100,000 men, collected by any and every way. The more of this species of force Gen. Scott has to contend with the better.

I have been round this morning among some of the wounded officers. Lieut. Derby is improving, as is also Lieut. Maury. It was at first thought that the latter gallant young officer would lose one of his arms, but all fears have now subsided. Lieut. Ward is mending rapidly, and will soon be up again. Visitors are not allowed to call upon Gen. Shields, yet strong hopes are still entertained that he will entirely recover.

The guerillas are fairly at work, as you will doubtless have learned ere this direct from Vera Cruz. A party of French ladies who have arrived here, and who were along with the train attacked two days since, give a very animated account of the action. One man only was killed on our side, a volunteer, and he lost his life while charging the hill where the guerillas had posted themselves. The French party is on its way to the city of Mexico, but it is in no particular hurry about starting just now. Never was there a time when the services of a regiment of well mounted Texans was as much needed as at present—were they here, on the road, the Mexicans would soon become even more sick of the guerilla system than they now are of regular fighting.

Yours, &c., G. W. K.

P. S.—Since writing the above, the celebrated courier for the English merchants, Rafael Beraza, has arrived from Mexico with letters for the British packet at Vera Cruz. He says but little, yet it has leaked out that they are organizing guerillas rapidly in both Mexico and Puebla. All the robbers in the latter city, and their name is legion, have received regular licenses to rob and murder on the road. The beauty of the system has already manifested itself, for it is said they have already commenced plundering their own people on the roads. In haste, G. W. K.

—

JALAPA, May 2, 1847.

By the diligencia, which leaves at 12 o'cl'k, noon, I send you a copy of the American Eagle of this morning. You will see that news has been received from the city of Mexico, brought by extraordinary courier. The slight fortifications should have been placed this side the capital instead of Puebla, as at the latter it has been determined upon not to make any resistance

Gen. Bravo, with the whole or a part of the garrison of Puebla, was met going up to the city of Mexico—Canalizo was met this side of Puebla by the courier. He had a cavalry force with him. Some say that Santa Anna has fallen back upon Oajaca, but nothing certain of him is know.

Gen. Patterson's brigade, which is to march in a day or two, has been reduced to two brigades instead of three, the 1st under Colonel Campbell, of Tennessee, and the 2d under Gen. Quitman. Col. Haskell's regiment of Tennesseeans is to remain here as a part of the garrison. The 3d and 4th Illinois Regiments, under Cols. Forman and Baker, have been joined to Gen. Quitman's brigade.

A surgeon dentist, named Kingsbury, was found this morning, most horribly cut to pieces, on the road to Cerro Gordo. His groans first attracted the attention of some volunteers who were passing, and they found him with little life and completely fly blown, although it is thought he may recover with proper attention. This is the commencement of the guerilla system. He had been attacked by three Mexicans, and robbed of $500. The appearance of the volunteers who brought him in did not indicate any great indulgence to such Mexicans as might fall in their power.

Col. Bolden will leave for the United States to-morrow and by him I will send a large package of letters.

Yours in haste, G. W. K.

—

JALAPA, May 4, 1847.

Orders and counter orders. This morning Gen. Quitman's brigade of volunteers was to take up the line of march towards Puebla, and to-morrow Col. Campell was to move; but as the time for which many of the volunteers enlisted has nearly expired, and as Gen. Scott has ascertained positively that but few of them will re-enlist, he has determined upon disbanding them here, and will send them all home. This will of course not only delay, but alter his whole plan; he will go no further than Puebla with his present force. You in the United States may think that he has an overwhelming power with him, and that he is fully able to run at will all over the country; but the truth is, that in the first ptace he did not have half men enough to advanee upon the capital of Mexico, nor half transportation enough even for what he had.

The volunteers going home are the Georgia, Alabama, and 1st and 2d Tennessee Regiments. No one can blame them for this movement. Not only is their time out, but they are out of clothing and out of many of the comforts which make even a camp life bearable. They have seen service, too, enough to satisfy any body of men not intending to make military life a business, and now are returning to their homes to see their wives, children, families and friends, and tell long tales of what they have seen and what they have suffered.

Had Gen. Scott a force sufficient to leave garrisons and keep up a regular communication with his rear, and then march directly upon Mexico with a fighting force of even 6 or 8000 men, the war would be ended in one month's time, at least so far as this country would be able to make farther resistance of any moment; but such a force he has not at his command just now. He may still go on to the capital, even witn what he has, for there is not Mexicans enough in arms to arrest him; yet whether such a course would be prudent, or whether such are his intentions or not, is more than any one can say who is not thorough into his secrets.

There is a rumor that Santa Anna with a large force intends attacking the next upward train, which will have a heavy amount in specie. It will be a costly experiment to him, for the wagons will be guarded by a force sufficient to keep off every firelock in Mexico

This letter goes by the diligencia, and I must tell you that it is considered anything but a safe conveyance.

Yours, &c, G. W. K.

We find the following proclamation in the American (Jalapa) Star. That paper says, with some feeling, that if this mode of war is adopted, it will be the most sorrowful time Mexico has ever known. *War without pity* will be met with *war without pity*.

PROCLAMATION.

The citizen Mariano Salas, General of Brigade and Col. of the Regiment Hidalgo, to my fellow-citizens.

MY FRIENDS.—The present moment is the most proper to excite the public spirit and form a nation of men truly free. When an enemy triumphs by his union to rob us of our dearest interests, there is nothing more sure and more certain than to vanquish him by valor and constancy.

For this end I have obtained permission to raise a guerilla corps, with which to attack and destroy the invaders in every manner imaginable. The conduct of the enemy, contrary both to humanity and natural rights, authorizes us to pursue him without pity [*misericordias.*] "War without pity and death!" will be the motto of the guerilla warfare of vengeance; therefore, I invite all my fellow-citizens, especially my brave subordinates, to unite at general head quarters, to enroll themselves, from 9 until 3 in the afternoon, so that it may be organized in the present week.

JOSE MARIANA SALAS.

FROM GENERAL TAYLOR'S DIVISION.

By the steam boat James L. Day, Capt. Wood, from Vera Cruz, which touched at the Brazos, we have news from the whole line of military posts, from the Brazos to Saltillo.

—

The Weather—Lightning—Phosphoric Phenomenon—Our Pickets—The Agua Nueva—Beautiful View—Encouragement of the Volunteers—Attacks in the papers on the Volunteers noticed—Cerralvo—American Prisoners with Urrea.

BUENA VISTA, near Saltillo, Mexico, April 12.

Eds. Delta.—We are doubtful as to whether the rainy season has commenced or not, but for a week or two back it has rained every night. Heavy mists settle down at sun set, and flashes of lightning, with no thunder; make a perpetual gloom through the mountains, and the rain, with a steady drizzle, begins. A few nights since, though the darkness was extreme—the position of every sentinel might be distinguished from the camp, by the phosphoric matter, which shone like balls of fire from the points of their bayonets. It gave forth a continued hissing sound, and terrified the honest sentinels considerably.

Yesterday, one of our foraging parties reported that they came in sight of a small body of lancers. The Mexicans in the city assure us that we will have another fight here with their troops, but little expectation is entertained of again seeing their lines of swarthy faces darken this fateful field. Our lines of pickets only extends to Agua Nueva, some five miles from here. Agua Nueva is a beautiful camping place, being a valley between the hills of the Cerro Gordo, cut across by streams of pure cold water, and extending many a mile in the direction of Parras. From where we now write, we can see the large hill which rises blue and misty in the heaven, just behind it. Nothing has been reported by the pickets stationed there, and it may be fairly presumed that no hostile body is near us.

Washington's battery and two companies of U. S. dragoons are far up in the direction of Agua Nueva, the two Indiana regiments and the Kentucky infantry regiment lower down; the two Illinois and the two Ohio regiments—these are two miles from the battle ground; while two companies of the Mississippians occupy the pass, the six companies of the Arkansas cavalry being stationed above them, on the San Luis road. Three companies are in the city, two immediately in the town, and one in the fort at the edge.

We are certainly sorry to notice efforts made to depreciate the volunteer arm of the service, and have foreborne answering, in any manner, the harshest censure that discontented men may have poured on it. We refer to a letter speaking of various supposed enormities committed at Cerralvo, by volunteer forces stationed at that post. We speak advisedly when we say, that so far from any enormity being committed by the Americans, thay were invariably appealed to for relief on any occasion that demanded it; and none were more universally esteemed than these same troops. Their departure from the town was apparently regretted as a misfortune by the inhabitants.—Enough of this at present.

A Sutler, who was taken prisoner by Gen'l Urrea, escaped from the guard by bribing the Alcalde. He reports that he was one of 66 prisoners taken by the Mexicans, at different times, on the road between Monterey and Camargo. The prisoners are kindly treated, and allowed mules to ride on. They were sent forward to San Luis Potosi, escorted by a detachment of lancers. ****

—

From the Saltillo Picket Guard of the 19th April.

A SPY.—We understand that the vice Gobernador of this place, Don Eduardo Gonzales, who was arrested by order of Gen. Wool, during the last week, will be tried before a military commission as a spy. The grounds of this charge, papers found by Capt. Charles W. Davis, A. Q. M., U. S. A., among the correspondence of the Custom House, which this officer was ordered to seize and examine. Rumor says that his Excellency has kept Santa Anna well "booked up" in relation to all our movements, &c.

Rumor has been rife during the past week that a heavy Mexican force, say 15 to 20,000, is advancing upon this place, under General Bustamente, to give us another fight. We are prepared to take a thrashing from even Bustamente, if he catches General Wool asleep.

TROOPS AT SALTILLO.—The troops stationed here are Captain Webster's artillery company in the Fort; Captain Prentiss' artillery at the Convent; and the old battalion, composed of Captain Morgan's and Captain Prentiss' companies of the 1st Illinois regiment, in Barracks near the Plaza.

A DUEL AT CAMP.—A few evenings ago, a member of the Texan company attached to the 2d Illinois regiment, was returning to camp from Saltillo, slightly intoxicated. As he got to the guard lines, seeing the plight he was in, the man on post—a member of Col. Curtis's (3d) Ohio regiment—commenced tantalizing him, at which some of the bystanders suggested to the Texan that he should fight the man a duel. As the guns of the guard are not loaded, the matter was soon arranged. A musket was handed the Texan, and the parties stepped off at some ten paces distant, and at the word both turned and snapped. They made a second attempt, but now, what was the horror of the bystanders, who thought they were enjoying a rich joke, to see the Texan's gun go off, and the Ohioan fell dead, pierced with a ball through the breast. There can be no excuse for the carelessness exemplified in bringing a loaded gun on guard.

FROM MATAMOROS.

From the Flag of the 5th instant.

THE RIVER.—The Rio Grande is again navigable to Camargo.

SMALL POX.—The small pox, it is said, prevails to considerable extent in the 2d Mississippi regiment—80 cases having occurred, and several deaths.

ORDERS OF SANTA ANNA.—Lt. Bee, of Capt. Mirabeau B Lamar's squadron of Texans, stationed at Monclova, arrived in Camargo a few days ago, [we quote from the Flag of the 25th,] for the purpose of escorting back a train with stores and money to pay off the troops. On the way down from Monclova, Lieut. Bee was informed that emissaries from Santa Anna were traversing the country, making public everywhere a recent proclamation of the wooden-legged chieftain, which commanded the entire male population of the country, from the ages of 12 to 50, to form themselves into guerrilla bands immediately, choose a chief, who would receive a commission when reporting twenty or more men, and proceed at once to the massacre of Americans whenever and wherever they could find them—refusal to assist in the extermination was to be considered traitorous, and their property to be made the common spoil of all who lent a willing hand in carrying out the instructions of the pronounciamento. The Mexicans obeyed the order with reluctance, and when Lieut. Bee was passing through Guerrero, he learned that one of these emissaries was sojourning in the town, and had just ceased reading the order when the Americans were seen to approach. Twenty men comprised his command, but he determined to attempt a capture of the emissary and all his abettors—which was effected without bloodshed—the leader and 20 Mexicans, besides the alcalde of the town, were made prisoners, brought down to Camargo and handed over to the commandant. A copy of the proclamation was also handed him. They have since been released—emissary and all—on what grounds we have not been informed.

A GALLANT TEXAN SHOT.—Thomas Simons, of Texas, who was coming down with the last train from Monterey to Camargo, having fallen behind the train, was murdered by the Mexicans. Mr. Simons was some distance in the rear of the train, in company with three others—all unarmed but himself—when they were fired upon from the chaparral and seven Mexicans charged upon them. The fight had to be maintained alone by young Simmons, his companions deserting him as soon as the firing commenced. A scopet ball broke his thigh, and he fell from his horse. The Mexicans closed round and fired at him whilst on the ground, but with a revolving pistol he killed one, disabled a second, and kept the rest at bay until his companions, in advance, came to his rescue, drawn thither by the firing. He was taken to Ceralvo; his leg was nearly shot off, and it is supposed impossible that he can recover.

ARREST OF A BATCH OF ALCALDES.—Extract of a letter from an officer at Monterey, dated 20th April, 1847:

We hear to-day, from San Luis, that nearly all the troops have left there, taking the direction of Mexico and Vera Cruz. The line of Gen. Santa Anna's retreat is marked by dead bodies for sixty leagues. All is quiet in this quarter. Col. Doniphan is expected in Saltillo in a few days with his column from Chihuahua. Urrea has probably re-crossed the mountains. Maj. Chevallie went in search of him as far as Monte Morales, but he had left there. The Major, however, came near fastening upon Carrabajal; he fell in with his party, dispersed them and captured some of his horses. We are informed verbally, that at Cadaryea he pounced upon sixty alcaldes, who had collected there from various towns thro'-out the State of Tamaulipas, to discuss the propriety of acceding to the requisition of Gen Taylor, made upon the State for indemnity for losses sustained in the capture of his supplies and trains. The whole batch of alcaldes were made prisoners, and a deputation from them sent under guard to General Taylor to assure him of the conclusions they had arrived at from their deliberations, and what prospect there was of a speedy payment. The rest were held in custody until an answer was received from General Taylor. From the same source we also hear that Chevallie fell in with a chief, whose name is given to us as Col. Torrejon—killed thirty of his men and took him prisoner. We think there must be a mistake in the name of the officer, as Torrejon is understood to be on the other side of the mountains.

THE CAPTURE OF TLA-CO-TALPAM AND ALVARADO.

The Trial, Defence, and Reprimand of Lieutenant Charles G. Hunter, before a Naval Court Martial.

CHARGE AND SPECIFICATIONS.

Charge and specifications preferred by Commodore M. C. Perry, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Naval Forces in the Gulf of Mexico, against Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, United States Navy, late commanding the United States steamer Scourge.

Charge First—Treating with contempt his superior, being in the execution of his office.

Specification First—In that he, the said Lieutenant Charles G. Hunter, U. S. Navy, did, on the 31st day of March, 1847, being then in command of the U. S. steamer Scourge, enter the port of Alvarado, and did there arrogate to himself, (the said Lieut. Charles G. Hunter,) the authority and power, that are vested only in the Commander-in-Chief, by entering into stipulations for, and receiving the surrender of Alvarado and its dependencies.

Specification Second—In that the said Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, U. S. Navy, did, on the 31st day of March, 1847, with the U. S. steamer Scourge under his command, proceed from Alvarado to the town of Tla-co-Talpam, without any orders or authority, and there demand the surrender of the said town of Tla-co-Talpam, and enter into and sign articles of capitulation, although aware of the immediate approach of the Commander-in-Chief, to whom alone such powers are confided—thus treating with contempt the authority of his superiors, being in the execution of his office.

Specification Third—In that the said Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, U. S. Navy, did, on the 31st day of March, 1847, in proceeding from Alvarado to Tla-co-Talpam, capture four schooners, one of which he set on fire and burnt, and another he abandoned, thus substituting his own will for the discretion of the Commander-in-Chief, who was within a few hours reach of communication, and treating with contempt the authority of his superior; all of which is in violation of the laws of the United States, as contained in "an act for the better government of the navy of the United States, approved April 23d, 1800."

Charge Second.—Disobedience of orders.

Specification First—In that he, the said Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, United States Navy, having been ordered to report to Capt. Samuel L. Breese, and to assist in blockading the port of Alvarado, did, in obedience or disregard of said orders, enter the harbor and take possession of the town of Alvarado.

Specification Second—In that he, the said Lieut. Charles G. Hunter, United States Navy, having been ordered on the evening of the 1st April, 1847, to report himself in person to the Commander-in-Chief at his quarters in the town of Alvarado, at 10 o'clock, A. M., of the following morning, did disobey said order; all of which is in violation of the laws of the United States, as contained in "an act for the better government of the Navy of the United States, approved April 23d, 1800."

(Signed,) M. C. PERRY,
Commanding Home Squadron.

DEFENCE OF LIEUT. HUNTER.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Court—I will not trouble you with unnecessary verbiage, but proceed at once to the point. My orders were (as stated in the 1st spec. 2d charge) to report to Capt. Breese, and to assist in blockading Alvarado. I did not consider them (can they be fairly considered?) as forbidding me to annoy the enemy in every way in my power, as modifying in the slightest degree the general duty of every officer having a military command in time of war, to molest and cripple the enemy in every possible way. On the evening of the 30th of March, being sufficiently near, I opened upon the fort at Alvarado with shot and shells Apprehensive of a norther, I stood off and on during the night, with a strong breeze and rough sea. Towards morning, it having moderated, I stood close in to the bar, and again opened upon the forts. Shortly afterwards I discovered two horsemen upon the beach, holding a white flag, and a boat crossing the bar at the same time. This boat brought me an offer on the part of the authorities to surrender the city. Permit me here to observe, Mr. President, that as there are two sides to every question, so there may be two results to every affair of this kind. Alvarado is now in our possession; but let us suppose that it was not to be, that we had been foiled a third time in our efforts to take it. What would have been my position, I say, if I, having refused the offer of the town when the authorities were ready to yield it—the American forces had been a third time baffled in their efforts to capture it? Mr. President, the worst that can now befall me, is a trifle to the infamy and disgrace which would have remained attached to my name, perhaps, long after I was in the grave. If you, Mr. President, (or any member of this honorable Court,) will fancy yourself in my place when the offer of capitulation reached me, I think you must perceive that it placed me in a difficult, a most embarrassing position—one that might have got a much more experienced officer than myself into trouble. I had to decide upon the disobeying of my orders on the one hand, and the possible consequences which my refusal to take such a responsibility might lead to on the other I had to decide between two courses—the one leading to present personal safety, and the possibility of future infamy; the other to some personal risk, perhaps, but by which the honor of the navy, and my honor, at least, were safe. I have stated thus the view which I took of my position, and the motives on which my actions were founded. I will not say, Mr. President, that, under similar circumstances, you would have taken a similar view of your position; but I think I may say, without the danger of dissent here or elsewhere, that, taking the same view I did, that you, or any other member of this honorable court, would have done just what I did. My summons for the surrender of the city of "Alvarado" was not made until—the authorities hesitating to sign the articles of capitulation—I thought myself entrapped; when it became necessary to use strong measures and strong language. Upon the reception of that summons, they signed the articles, and, in the name of the United States of America, I took possession of "Alvarado" and its dependencies. Shortly afterwards, I learned that, after our attack the evening previous, the garrison had fired the public vessels, spiked and buried their guns, placed a large quantity of government property, chiefly munitions of war, on board of several small vessels, and were proceeding up the river in the direction of the city of "Tla-co-Talpam." I followed, as I conceived it to be my duty, and captured one of them loaded with arms, &c., that got ashore, and burned her to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. Another, worthless to ourselves or the enemy, and abandoned, and two others, I brought to "Alvarado." The pursuit of these vessels led me to the city of "Tla-co-Talpam," where I arrived about two o'clock in the morning; trusting to the suddenness of an attack, I ordered the junta to assemble, and demanded within thirty minutes an entire and unconditional surrender, and my demands were complied with. I contend, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Court, that all that happened after the capitulation of Alvarado, followed as a natural and necessary consequence (not, however, foreseen by me,) when I first accepted of their offer to surrender. I contend, that my error consisted in the original disobedience of my orders, (which, from what I have since learned, I regret.) and that what I did afterwards, I was in a great measure obliged to do. Knowing that several small vessels of the enemy, laden with military stores, were within my reach, could I doubt that it was my duty to destroy or capture them? Seeing, from the conduct of the enemy at Alvarado, that a panic prevailed among them, and that there was a prospect of success, I demanded the immediate and unconditional surrender of Tla-co-Talpam I contend that these two acts followed as a necessary consequence to my first disobedience of orders. Of the motives that led to that step, I have made an honest exposition to the court, and I hope that you will consider them, together with the difficulties of my position, and my want of experience in such matters, as some palliation of my fault. I regret my error, apart from the trouble it has brought upon me. I regret it, because it has given offence to the commander-in-chief, (I speak from rumor only—I have no certain knowledge of the fact,) as I have heard that there was an understanding between the commander-in-chief, and the commanding general ashore, that there was to be a combined attack made by the squadron and army, on these places; it might thus seem that I had sought to rob of its just participation in this affair, that arm of the service which, in the progress of this war, has acquired for itself and for our country, so much honor and glory. Nothing could be farther from my intentions—I knew nothing of any such understanding. One or two matters remain to be touched upon. I am charged in the two 1st spec. of the 1st charge, with arrogating to myself the power of commander-in-chief, in signing articles of capitulation, &c., although aware of the immediate approach of the commander-in-chief. In regard to the first, my error was one of simple ignorance. I knew that I had obtained possession of these places, and meant of course to hand them over to the first senior officer that might approach; but I had not the remotest intention of exercising any of the powers of commander-in-chief. I knew, or perhaps I should rather say had reason to believe, that the commander-in-chief would arrive in a short time; but I did not know precisely when, still less did I know that he was nearer than Vera Cruz.

In the 2nd specification of the 2nd charge, I am charged with having disobeyed an order to call at a specified time at the commander-in-chief's quarters.

Gentlemen, I was so absorbed by the difficulties that surrounded me, that his order to me to report myself, entirely escaped my recollection,—this may seem a lame excuse, but it has at least the merit of truth. But, Mr. President, none of us are entirely free from occasional acts of forgetfulness; the honorable member yesterday who gave in his testimony, made a mistake, and I must say that the confidence with which I leave my case in his hands has been increased by the handsome manner in which he corrected his error when reminded of it.

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Court, I have been much mortified and excited, by the many and numerous difficulties that surround me. I have aimed at nothing but the glory of my country—the honor and dignity of the service to which I belong. I leave my case with perfect confidence in your hands.

C. G. HUNTER, Lieut. Com'dg.

FINDINGS AND SENTENCE OF THE COURT.

The first specification of the first charge proven. The second specification of the first charge proven. The third specification of the first charge proven.

And the accused guilty of the first charge.

The first specification of the second charge not proven, of the accused not having reported himself in person to Capt. Sam'l L. Breese, according to his orders; but proven that the accused entered the harbor of Alvarado, instead of assisting in blockading that port.

The second specification of the second charge proven, and the accused guilty of the second charge. The Court then, upon due deliberation upon the above findings, pronounced the following sentence:

That the accused, Lieut. Chas. G. Hunter, United States Navy, be dismissed from the United States Home Squadron, and reprimanded by the commander-in-chief, which reprimand is to be read on the quarter deck of every vessel of the squadron, in the presence of the officers and crew.

The above is a true copy from the records of the Court.

(Signed,) J. BRYAN, Judge Advocate.

THE REPRIMAND OF COMMODORE PERRY.

United States Flag Ship Mississippi,
Anton Lizardo, April 9, 1847.

Sir—I enclose herewith the findings and sentence of the Court Martial, convened on the 7th inst., for your trial, which imposes upon me the task of expressing, in the form of reprimand, my opinion of your conduct as proven before the Court Martial.

However lenient the sentence in your case may seem to be, I have approved it, as I can conceive of no punishment more severe than a dismissal in time of war from a squadron actively engaged before the enemy. The sentence, while it condemns in a most signal manner, your conduct, cuts you off from further association in this squadron, with men whose patient endurance of the most trying duties, and whose character for courage, obedience, and subordination, have won my highest approbation.

How different has been your course?—Scarcely a day on the station, and you disobey order, arrogate to yourself the duties belonging to a Commander-in-Chief, talk of opening upon the town, and of ordering the troops to advance when you had but one gun, and not a solitary soldier, and "all for the purpose," (as you say,) "of securing an unmolested entrance of the squadron into the river."

It would be difficult, if not impossible, to point to another instance of similar folly: and the most charitable construction that can be given to it is—that in the elation of a first command, you had truly imagined yourself actually in command of the naval and military detachments then approaching, and within a short distance of the scene of your exploits.

With due respect,

(Signed,) M. C. PERRY,
Commander-in-Chief of Home Squadron.

To Lieut. CHARLES G. HUNTER,
United States Navy.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL TAYLOR.

The whigs say that Mr Polk has not mentioned Gen. Taylor's name in his messages to Congress. We undertake to say that the assertion is false. We undertake to say that two of the President's messages read something like this:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the President of the Senate:

SIR: I nominate Brigadier General Zachary Taylor to be a Brevet Major General, for gallant services at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. JAMES K. POLK.

—

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the President of the Senate:

SIR: I nominate Brevet Major General Taylor to be a Major General, in pursuance of the act authorizing the appointment of additional Generals in the army. JAMES K. POLK.

What do the whigs say to these messages? Do they find in them evidences of a war upon Gen. Taylor?, Or is such evidence found in the fact that on the expedition to Texas, he was selected for the command over the heads of all his equals, and even his superiors in the army? Is it in the fact that he was confidentially entrusted with all the plans and motives of the administration, and given almost unlimited discretion as to his proceedings? Is it in the fact that he has been raised by Mr. Polk from the lineal rank of Colonel, in which this administration found him, to be Major General, and Commander-in-chief of the army in Mexico?—*Nashville Union.*

Valuable Real Estate
FOR SALE.

THE SUBSCRIBER offers for sale several valuable Lots with the improvements thereon, situate in the southern part of Wilmington, near the Dry Pond, bounded by Castle and Fourth streets. Amongst the number is one occupied by Hiram Spooner, as a Grocery store, and the one adjoining, occupied by the subscriber, on which is a comfortable dwelling and necessary out-houses. Persons desirous of purchasing will do well to call on the subscriber, as bargains may be had.

He also offers for sale five likely NEGROES.
JOS. SKIPPER.

May 21, 1847. 36-4t

NOTICE.

OWING to the high prices of Corn & Hay, we the subscribers are compeld to raise the prices of keeping horses to $1 per day, and $18 per month. To commence on the 24th inst.

D. THALLY,
W. T. J. VANN.

May 24th, 1847 36-1t