

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

Arrival of the Steamer Maria Burt.

From the New Orleans Picayune of the 18th inst., we condense the following summary of the U. S. news by this arrival:

The U. S. steamer Maria Burt arrived last evening from Vera Cruz, whence she sailed on the 5th inst. The news communicated by Capt. Tucker, of the Virginia, and by our own correspondent in regard to this vessel, would appear to be authentic.

By the Maria Burt we have received letters and papers from the city of Mexico to the 27th of November. The most interesting matter referred to in them is, by far, the arrest of Worth, Pillow and Duncan. We have, therefore, thrown together as speedily as we could at the late hour our letters came to hand, all the published documents relating to these arrests. They will be found in another column. There are many unimportant notices upon them, for which we have no room today.

It appears that Gen. Twiggs was to have come down with the train from Mexico, leaving on the 2d or 3d, inst., but in consequence of the arrest of Gen. Worth, he was detained.

The occupation of Mazatlan and Guaymas by our naval forces is mentioned elsewhere. From Lower California the dates are to the 2d of October. The Mexicans claim an advantage over a party of Americans which landed at Mulege, fought all day, and finally embarked again. The Mexicans claim a victory.—We do not well understand the affair, but have no idea of their winning victories from our sailors.

Our correspondent alludes to a protest by the English Government against loans from English residents in Mexico. The North American of the 26th ult., has the following article on the subject:

By the arrival from Queretaro yesterday, a communication was received from the English Secretary of Legation, Mr. Thornton, covering a protest from Lord Palmerston, British Minister of Foreign Affairs, against the forcible levying of taxes upon English residents in Mexico to support the war with the United States. These levies were made some six months since and the English residents petitioned against it. The English Minister of Foreign Affairs responds in language that will not be mistaken by the Mexican Government.

The officers of his division have given Gen. Twiggs a splendid dinner. More of it anon.

Correspondence of the Picayune.

Mexico, Nov. 20.

A correspondent of El Monitor, writing from Queretaro, says that the greater part of the Governors of the different States were present at the seat of government, and that with one exception (the Governor of San Luis) they were unanimous in favor of peace. The sessions were soon to commence, and President Anaya proposes that no line of policy on the subject should be followed, except such as the States suggest, in order to get at once at the national will.

Gen. Bustamante has been nominated by the supreme Government general-in-chief of the army in reserve, and commandant General of the State. His predecessor Gutierrez, is second in command, and Cortiz second.

El Monitor of to-day, commenting upon the announcement from Santa Anna, that he had placed himself at the head of an armed force for the purpose of preventing any negotiations for peace while the Americans occupied Mexican territory, discredits the statement, and says that he (Santa Anna) opened the door for negotiation himself, and that if he opposes Congress in the consummation of peace, he will be pulling down upon his own head what he constructed with the other. The paragraph appeared in El Progreso, published in Guanajuato, and I should think that by this time the editor of El Monitor had become sufficiently acquainted with Santa Anna's thirst for power not to be surprised at any measures that he might take to secure it.

Speculation has been rife here for two or three days back, as to the purpose of the despatches brought to headquarters by Colonel Smith. The following significant order from Gen. Smith addressed to the alcalde throws some light upon them:

OFFICER OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

National Palace, Mexico, Nov. 13, 1847.

Sir:—I am directed by the civil and military governor of this capital, to make you, for the information and guidance of the Mexican civil authorities, the following communication:

When the American army entered the city of Mexico, the principles upon which the occupation would be conducted temporarily were announced by the general-in-chief in his order, No. 287.

Circumstances have determined the Government of the United States to throw on Mexico the burden of the further continuance of the war. In consequence of which it is now necessary to advise the authorities of the city as follows:

1st. That all the revenue collected, or to be collected from whatever source, or for whatever purpose, must be considered as collected for the United States, and only to be expended under their authority and with their consent; all payments not made in conformity with the rule will accordingly be disapproved, and the amount thereof required to be refunded by those who have made them.

2d. All the property of the United States are to be quartered without expense to them, and if it is necessary to occupy private property, in order to insure this, it will be done.

Nevertheless, not to cause more inconvenience than is necessary to obtain the end, viz: the comfort and health of the troops, public buildings pointed out by the city authorities will be preferred, where they are suitable, but no rent will be paid in any case.

It is therefore desired that such buildings as can, with the least inconvenience be occupied with troops, be designated by the first alcalde to Capt. Irwin, the chief quartermaster, that they may be examined.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

R. P. HAMMOND, Secy.

To SENOR M. R. VERAMENDY, Alcalde.

MEXICO, NOV. 25, 1847.

The mail from the interior last evening brought papers from Guadalajara, Morelia and Guanajuato of late date, but they contain nothing of interest. Most of the papers are laid down upon Santa Anna in severe terms for his conduct in declaring himself determined to oppose negotiations for peace. El Progreso, of Guanajuato, is absolutely savage in its denunciations, and declares that he should be made to answer with his head for his treason. A few short letters are these editors were fawning upon the "hero of San Jacinto" with sickening sycophancy. How true it is that success is the test of merit.

A communication was received from Queretaro yesterday from the English Secretary of Legation, Mr. Thornton, conveying a protest from Lord Palmerston against the forcible levying of taxes upon English residents in Mexico to support the war with the U. S. These levies were made some six months since, and the English residents petitioned against it. The protest is said to be couched in very severe terms.

MEXICO, NOV. 26, 1847.

Advices were received to-day from Queretaro to the 23d inst. The Puros were making a great deal of trouble, and charging the government with making a secret armistice with Gen. Scott. The Minister of Relations stated that he had received a note from Mr. Trist, the Minister of Santa Anna, in the same manner that of the American Commissioner before the late armistice. The Puros were looking to Santa Anna for aid in another revolution. They were also expecting the arrival of American troops at Queretaro, and the English residents were in a state of confusion in consequence of the Ministers. Some excite-

ment was occasioned by one of the Governors, whose name is not given, making public the private deliberations and secrets of the Council. He is said to be a partisan of Santa Anna, whose finger is plainly to be seen in this. The sacrament of the Holy Ghost has been administered to Gen. Herrera, from which I would infer that there is no hope of his recovery.

THE DIFFICULTY IN THE ARMY.—The difficulty among prominent officers of our army appears to have been quite as serious as was represented. We publish here the orders of Gen. Scott reflecting upon the officers who were said to be under arrest. They betray no little temper—perhaps we should say, ascription of temper.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 3. WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJ. GEN.'S OFFICE, Washington, Jan. 28, 1847.

The following regulation has been received from the War Department: WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, Jan. 28, 1847.

The President of the United States directs that paragraph 650 of the General Regulations for the Army, established on the 1st of March, 1825, and included among those published in 1825, 1841, be now published, and that its observance as a part of the General Regulations be strictly enjoined upon the army.

By order of the President. (Signed) W. L. MARCY, Secretary of War.

The following is the paragraph of the General Regulations for the Army, established on the 1st of March, 1825, referred to above: "650. Private letters, or reports, relative to military marches and operations, are frequently mischievous in design, and always disgraceful to the army. They are, therefore, strictly forbidden; and any officer found guilty of making such reports for publication, without special permission, or of placing the writing beyond his control, so that it falls into the hands of the press, within one month after the termination of the campaign to which it relates, shall be dismissed from the service."

By command of Major General Scott. (Signed) WILLIAM G. FREEMAN, Asst. Adj. Genl.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 349. HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Nov. 12, 1847.

The attention of certain officers of this army is re-called to the foregoing regulations, which the General-in-Chief is resolved to enforce so far as it may be in his power.

As yet but two echoes from home of the brilliant operations of our arms in this basin have reached us: the first in a New Orleans and the second through a Tampico newspaper.

It requires not a little clarity to believe that the principal heroes of the scandalous letters alluded to did not write them, or specially procure them to be written, and the intelligent can be at no loss in conjecturing the authors—chiefs, partisans, and pet favorites. To the honor of the service, the disgrace—propriety of fame and reward—cannot be seized upon by a dozen officers, (present) all of whom it is believed, belong to the same two categories.

False credit may, no doubt, be obtained at home, by such despicable self-puffings and malignant exclusion of others; but at the expense of the just esteem and consideration of all honorable officers who love their country, their profession, and the truth of history. The weight of the great number of the latter class cannot fail in the end to bring down the concealed and evasive to their proper level.

By command of Maj. Gen. Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. G.

The letters alluded to by Gen. Scott as "the echoes from home," are evidently the "Leonidas" letter, and the other a letter which, appearing in the Pittsburg Post, was then transferred to the Union, whence we copied it on the 8th October, with some introductory remarks, and the whole then appeared in a Tampico paper, in which Gen. Scott first saw the letter. Upon the publication of General Scott's orders, given above, Lieut. Col. Duncan came out promptly in the North American with the following from an avowed connection with the "Tampico letter," so called. Accordingly to the North American the "Tampico letter" was "compiled from two letters written by officers of the army in Mexico to a brother officer in Pittsburg, for his eye alone."

But read what Col. Duncan has to say to it: Mexico, Nov. 13, 1847.

To the Editor of the North American: Sir:—I herewith present a copy of the "Tampico letter," characterized as "scandalous," "despicable," "malicious," &c., in general orders No. 349, published in the American Star this morning.

To the end that the true character of this letter may be known, I desire that you publish it in your issue of to-day, and that no other officers may innocently suffer for a publication so obnoxious. I herewith publicly acknowledge myself to be its author. The substance of it communicated from Taubaya soon after the battles, in a private letter to a friend in Pittsburg.

The statements in this letter are known by very many officers of this army to be true, and I can but think that the publication of truth is less likely to do violence to individuals or the service than the suppression or perversion of it.

Justice to Gen. Worth, (who is evidently one of the "heroes" pointed at in order No. 349) requires me to state that he knew nothing whatever of my purpose to write the letter in question, nor that it had been written, till well on its way to its destination; he neither saw, nor did he know, directly or indirectly, even the purport of one line, word or syllable of it till he saw it in print, and he is equally ignorant of my design to make this declaration, which I do, as I wrote the letter, unprompted and on my own responsibility. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES DUNCAN, Brevet Lieut. Col. U. S. A.

After the publication of this letter, Colonel Duncan was placed under arrest, and subsequently Gen. Pillow was arrested, and next Gen. Worth. The North American is of opinion that Gen. Worth was not arrested on account of the "Leonidas" letter, but on the following grounds:

There has been another arrest, that of Gen. Pillow, one of the chiefs aforementioned, but not, as appears, on account of the letters of which he is the hero. We hear, generally, that the cause was this: Gen. Pillow, having taken exception to the finding of a court of inquiry, which finding has been approved by General Scott, addressed a paper relating to the matter to the Secretary of War, through the commander-in-chief, presenting a copy, which he avowed in the letter accompanying, he had sent (or would send) directly to the Secretary of War. This transaction is judged to be a contempt, and for the so judged contempt Gen. Pillow is arrested. Not understanding the technicalities of the case we are not advised whether part or the whole transaction is regarded as the contempt—but that is immaterial.

Gen. Worth's arrest is thus noticed in the North American: "The last arrest occurred yesterday—that of Gen. Worth, and the charge is, we believe, contempt towards the commander-in-chief. Without a full knowledge of all the facts we do not propose to lengthen this article by any remarks upon this proceeding."

On the subject of this unfortunate difficulty between the high officers of our army, we clip the following extract from the Vera Cruz correspondent of the N. O. Delta, who writes under date of 4th December, 1847:—

A lamentable feeling pervades the army at Mexico, owing to jealousies and heart-burnings, and malice, and political prejudices. Gen. Scott has arrested Pillow and Worth. The circumstances which led to this step are believed to be these:—That emanating from the American camp, published in the United States, have been read by Gen. Scott. In an order published to the army, he prematurely decides who wrote them, and most

bunglingly impeached the honor, patriotism, and services of the two Generals, who are eulogized in those letters. One of the Generals (Pillow) denies, in a card published in Mexico, the authorship of the letter attributed to his pen by Gen. Scott. The other General (Worth) prefers charges against Scott, and is arrested because he appealed from an opinion of Scott, regarding the latter to transmit the appeal to the Secretary of War. Scott refused to a hasty manner; whereupon the former remarked, "I will do it, sir." "Then I arrest you, sir," was Scott's reply. No matters stand at last dates.

The army is excited, and if we may judge from what we hear at this distance, more than a moiety of it sympathizes with the Generals sought to be disgraced. It is said that on a visit to the theatre by Gen. Pillow, an audience of over 3000 being present, he received three hearty cheers; immediately after which the army gave three more for Gen. Worth.—This looks as though these Generals were not disgraced in the eyes of the army—that some glorious army that has earned for itself the name of "invincible." D.

STILL LATER FROM MEXICO. Dates from the City of Mexico up to the 14th Inst. From the N. O. Picayune, Dec. 22.

LATE AND INTERESTING FROM MEXICO. NEWS EIGHT DAYS FROM THE CAPITAL. ARRIVAL OF THE BR. STEAMER TEVIOT.

The British West India mail steamer Teviot, Lieut. P. Hart, R. N., commandant, arrived at Vera Cruz on the 20th inst., in four days from the City of Mexico on the 14th of this month. The details of the news will be found not without interest.

Gen. Patterson had reached the City of Mexico, having left a garrison at Rio Frio, where a permanent depot is to be made. A train left the City of Mexico on the 9th inst. for Vera Cruz, under command of Gen. Twiggs; Lieut. Pierce is coming down with it. Gen. Scott is said to have issued an order making a new assignment of brigades to Gen. Smith and Caldwell, and Col. Riley.

The Mexican Congress had a quorum on Monday, the 6th of December, with the latest date we have yet come across from Queretaro. The Star says many deputies were still absent, and six or eight others were expected to leave during the week, notwithstanding the critical state of affairs in which the republic is placed. The correspondent of the Monitor thinks the new Congress will do no better than the present. Nothing of the least interest was done on Monday.

Government was occupied with the regulation of the army. A decree was about to be issued on the subject, contemplating the number of the standing army at twenty thousand men. It will be seen by our correspondent's letter that there was some design entertained of sending a Mexican commissioner to Washington to solicit the appointment of commissioners to meet Havana and arrange the terms of a treaty of peace. We are not yet prepared to say how authentic is this report.

The steamer Portland, Capt. Spinyer, arrived at Vera Cruz on the 15th inst., after a terrible passage, during which a hundred horses were thrown overboard.

(Special Correspondence of the Picayune.) MEXICO, Dec. 10, 1847.

Yesterday the train and the command of Gen. Twiggs, left for Vera Cruz. This is the second train that has left here for the U. S. since the occupation of the city by the American army; but this, unlike the first, goes down with almost the certainty of reaching the coast in safety; before all was doubt.—The road was known to be beset by guerrillas, and it might be thought that some of the point the convoy would be attacked by the whole Mexican Army, supposed to be fifteen thousand strong; now it is known that there are bodies of our troops every few miles on the road, and that Gen. Butler with seven thousand men, will meet the train somewhere in the neighborhood of Puebla.

I was yesterday met by an intelligent Mexican, and one who from his position is doubtless correctly informed, that the Mexican Government had determined to send propositions to Washington for Commissioners to meet at Havana and arrange the terms of a treaty of peace, and that these propositions had actually gone down by a special courier, who accompanied the train which left yesterday.

Another paragraph in the Monitor of yesterday states that Gen. Paredes had had an interview with Father Jaruta, the notorious guerrilla chief at Talancingo, and that they resolved upon calling in the aid and intervention of European Powers in the affairs of Mexico. From this it will appear that Paredes has not abandoned his favorite project of placing a foreign prince on the throne of Mexico; in fact, it is the prevailing opinion here that it was for this purpose he returned, notwithstanding his many protestations of patriotism and devotion to the cause of his country. He is viewed with distrust by all parties and cannot command, among the native Mexicans, even a decent respect. He is despised, however, by many foreigners, among whom is one Juan de La Granja, formerly Spanish Consul at New York.

MEXICO, Dec. 13.

About 6 o'clock on Saturday night, Mr. Doyle, the English Charge d'Affaires, arrived from Mexico in the diligence, escorted by Capt. Irwin, of the Louisiana Rangers, and about thirty-six men. They brought neither letters or papers, however, but last night the English courier arrived, with a full budget.—Capt. F. informs me that there cannot be less than twelve thousand men on the road up here, and that Gen. Butler would be in Puebla yesterday with seven thousand men. The Ohio Regiment are encamped at Rio Frio, under Col. Irwin, together with one company of Illinois dragoons, under Capt. Little, numbering in all about six hundred men. There are seven companies of the Ohio Regiment there, the other four being at Puebla. This encampment is doubtless intended to be permanent, as the men were building themselves houses. The weather is said to be excessively cold here.

I inclose you an order from Gen. Scott, issued to-day, of the most severe character, about the guerrilla parties, who are said to be gathering in considerable numbers through the country. The concluding paragraph appears to favor the idea that the post of Rio Frio will be permanent. There is absolutely no news from Queretaro. Congress does not meet, and there is a rumor in town that Santa Anna has been proclaimed Dictator there, but I cannot trace it to any reliable source. Every thing here appears to favor the belief that a movement will be shortly made for the interior.—

What division of the army will take the lead, and who is to command it, I cannot say, but Malanca Romo is believed to be the gallant Smith, the hero of Contreras, as the commander.—Without doubt he would be an excellent man, but I do not see how he can be spared from his post here. His moderation, firmness, and strict attention to business, have endeared him to all the citizens, native and foreign, and they would feel his loss most keenly. Nos verborum.

Dec. 14.—Nothing new this morning. The courier goes off at 8 o'clock, and I send the morning papers by him. Gen. Scott has issued another order, dividing the army into brigades, under the command of Gen. Smith, Caldwell and Col. Riley.

The following is Gen. Scott's order touching the guerrillas:—

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Dec. 12, 1847.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 372. 1. The highways of Mexico, used or about to be used by the American troops, being still infested in many parts by those atrocious bands called guerrillas, and by Mexicans, who, under instructions from the late Mexican authorities,

continue to violate every rule of warfare observed by civilized nations, it has become necessary, in order to insure vigor and uniformity in the pursuit of the evil, to announce to all the views and instructions of general headquarters on the subject.

2. Every American post established in Mexico, shall be daily visited by detachments or patrols of a few men, fit for service, to disinfect the neighborhood, its roads and places of concealment.

3. No quarters will be given to known murderers or robbers, whether called guerrilleros or rancheros, and whether serving under Mexican commissions or not. They are equally pests to unguarded Mexicans, foreigners, and small parties of Americans, and ought to be exterminated.

4. Offenders of the above character, accidentally falling into the hands of American troops, will be momentarily held as prisoners, that is, not put to death without due solemnity. Accordingly they will be reported to commanding officers, who will, without delay, order a Council of War for the summary trial of the offenders under the known laws of war applicable to such cases.

5. A council of war may consist of any number of officers, not less than three, nor more than thirteen, and may for any flagrant violation of the laws of war, condemn to death, or to lashes, not exceeding fifty, on satisfactory proof that such prisoner at the time of capture, actually belonged to any party or gang of known robbers or murderers, or had actually committed murder or robbery upon an American officer or soldier, or follower of the American army.

6. Punishments awarded by councils of war will be reviewed, approved or disapproved by the commanders who respectively order the councils; and in case of approval, be immediately put into execution by their orders; but in extreme cases, will be ordered only by commanders of detached divisions or brigades, or by commanders of military departments.

7. All punishments, under this order, will be duly reported to general headquarters.

8. The new post, Rio Frio, will be considered under the direct command of the general-in-chief, and in correspondence with his unqualified orders.

By command of Maj. Gen. Scott.

WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

Friday, December 31, 1847.

AGENCY. JAMES M. REDMOND, Post-master at Tarboro', is Agent for this paper, for Edgecombe and the adjoining counties. Mr. R. will take pleasure in receiving new subscribers and receiving for any moneys due us on that section.

JOSEPH MASSON, Post's Buildings, corner of Hanover and Beaufort streets, N. Y., is our agent, for receiving advertisements in that city, for publication in the Journal. He will also receive subscribers for the same.

Mr. JAMES BURCH is our authorized agent to make collections due the "Journal" office in this town and county.

WASHINGTON COLLINS, Esq., is authorized to collect and give receipts for our paper in his neighborhood.

MASONIC.—On Monday last, the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist, the Masonic fraternity of our town had their usual celebration. The procession was formed in front of their Hall, in Market Street, at 11 o'clock, A. M., from which place it proceeded to the residence of the Orator of the day, Mr. Haughton. It then proceeded to the Hall, where a most eloquent and appropriate address was delivered by the gentleman just named.

General SHIELDS and QUITMAN passed through this place on Saturday morning last, on their way to Washington City.

THE MAILS AGAIN.—There is no one who regrets more than ourself the unfortunate derangement in the transportation of the Northern Mail, but still we know that this derangement, however vexatious to all classes of the community, is not the fault of Mr. Johnson, the Postmaster General. The editor of the Fayetteville Observer thinks that the manner in which the department is managed, is disgraceful; but we think if he will read the communication made by Mr. Johnson to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, he himself will be willing to admit that the Postmaster General is not to blame. We think the Observer ought, in justice to all concerned, to make itself acquainted with the facts before it undertakes to make such unmeasured strictures as it has indulged in. Besides, the weather has been such during the past few days, as almost to prohibit the regular transportation of the mails upon any route now in existence between Washington and Petersburg.

Mr. Johnson, it seems to us, has done all in his power to insure the accommodation of the public, and if he has failed, it is not his fault. The community, however, cannot, we think, fail to view with reprehension, the course pursued by the Fredericksburg and Richmond Rail Road Company. Upon the head of that Company, we think the whole of the blame must rest. The Postmaster General not only offered to pay the Company the highest rate he was authorized by law to give any Company, but he was willing that the mail should be transported over the road without any contract, till the meeting of Congress, so that the Company might have an opportunity of applying to that body for authority to the Postmaster General to allow it more compensation. But no; the President of that Company peremptorily refused to carry the mail one day longer, unless Mr. Johnson would pay him more than the act of Congress would authorize. The Postmaster General had no alternative. He could not violate law, and therefore he was compelled from sheer necessity, to place the mails upon another less favorable route. Who is to blame, we ask the Observer?

HON. BENFORD BROWN.—We find in the Standard of the 22d, a correspondence between this gentleman and a Committee of the citizens of Caswell County, who, in behalf of their fellow-citizens, tendered Mr. Brown a public dinner. The latter, in his reply, states that his stay in the County will be so short that it will not be in his power to accept the invitation.

"THE SURPLUS REVENUE."—We notice that Mr. Holmes, of South Carolina, on the 20th inst., introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives calling upon the States to refund the surplus revenue deposited with them some years since, before Congress was called upon to authorize any more loans. This is a singular move, but we opine that there will be but few members of Congress who will vote for it. It's true the resolution has been referred to the Finance Committee of the House, where, we presume, it will slumber. If Congress were at this day to call in that deposit, it would create a little revolution.—What has become of all that money? Which of the States has got the funds to plank up?

"DELTA."—In the Charlotte Mecklenburg Jeffersonian of the 16th, the last number of that paper which has reached our office, we find a long communication under the above signature, addressed "To the people of North Carolina." This long article is based, it would seem, upon three articles, two of which recently appeared in the Raleigh Standard, and one of them in this paper.

The writer in the Jeffersonian labors to show that Mr. Buchanan, the present head of the Bureau of State, would not suit as the next Democratic candidate for the Presidency.—Well, this may or it may not be. We have never expressed any preference for Mr. Buchanan over other distinguished men of the party. We may have said that if a National Convention would present his name to the Democracy of the Union we would cordially support him; we say so now. We believe that Mr. Buchanan is perfectly sound on all the great questions which the Democratic party regard as essential in political faith. We are aware that the Whig party has frequently endeavored to fix upon Mr. B. the charge of being, at one portion of his life, a Federalist; but we are also aware that they have always signally failed. We have no disposition at present to enter into a discussion of the course which Mr. Buchanan pursued in '42, with regard to the protective policy. We have only to say to "Delta" that, so far as that (the Tariff) question is concerned, we look upon it as settled. We scarcely regard it now as an open question. The previous question has been applied by the American people, and free trade has been carried. We do not fear a re-consideration.

With regard to a National and State Convention, we have only to reiterate what we have heretofore said. We go for both. We think, by all means, that the Democratic State Convention should be held before the session of the National Convention. We, as well as "Delta," are anxiously awaiting the developments of the present session of Congress, particularly as regards the slavery question.

There is, however, one way in which the Democracy of the South can prevent the "Wilmot Proviso" from doing any harm in the National Convention. If the Democracy of every Southern State will, as early as may be, hold a State Convention, and unanimously resolve that no man who is not perfectly sound on this vital question, can receive the support of the people of the South, no matter in what manner he may be brought before the country; and if the Southern Democratic press, in one solid phalanx, will pledge itself to the same course, rely upon it the people of the North will not seriously attempt to urge the claims of a "Wilmot Proviso" man at the National Convention. Let the Southern Democracy stand up as one man, through her State Conventions and through her press, and say firmly and emphatically to the North.—"We are perfectly willing that you should give to us the next President; we think that it is due to you to present us with the next candidate; but we also tell you that no man who is not unequivocally sound on the slavery question, can come from what section of the Union he may, can, by any means—even by a Conventional nomination—get our support. If the South will pursue this course, we feel assured that the people of the North will be compelled to recede from their position of no more slavery territory, if, indeed, they have planted themselves upon that position. If the Democracy of the slaveholding States will let itself be heard through these two channels, we feel assured that a candidate for the Presidency, who is perfectly sound on the Wilmot Proviso, can and will be unanimously nominated by the National Convention, let that Convention be held when and where it may.

But "Delta" thinks that the people of the State have not yet made up their mind as to who will be the next candidate for Governor, and therefore the holding of a Convention, for months to come, would be premature. Why, according to our ideas, the very best mode of bringing the people of the State to think and act upon this matter, is to hold the Convention, and that at an early day. The people will first meet in each County, in their primary assemblies, and there they will canvass this very question, and send their delegates to the Convention prepared to act understandingly. By this means, the people will be enabled to settle down upon some individual. How can the people be brought to act in the premises, if not by this plan?

The article of "Delta" is written by a man who has seen a good deal of political life, if we are not mistaken, and he knows that party organization, to ensure success, is almost essential. The article—we are free to confess, at the same time, that we differ with most of the positions taken—is written with ability, and evidently by a man who wields his pen not for the first time.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.—A writer in the Union suggests that the Democratic members of Congress should hold a consultation on the 8th of next month, and fix upon the time and place of holding the next National Democratic Convention, for the nomination of President and Vice President. We like the idea, and hope it may be adopted. If the Democratic members of Congress were to unanimously recommend the time and place of holding the Convention, we feel assured that it would be responded to by the press from one end of the Union to another. At present the press is divided about the matter, and for one, we see no better plan of settling the question than that suggested by the Union's correspondent.

ABOLITION PETITIONS IN CONGRESS.—Already we notice that the fanatics are beginning to stir up the Abolition question in Congress. On the 22d, John P. Hale, the mongrel Senator from New Hampshire, introduced two petitions, praying Congress to take steps to abolish slavery. The Senate very promptly laid them to sleep upon the table. In the House, Mr. Giddings also introduced similar documents, when, upon the vote being taken for laying them on the table, there was a tie, and the Speaker, Mr. Winthrop, gave the casting vote for the reception of the petitions; on the next day, however, Mr. Ligon, of Va., observed that his vote had been incorrectly recorded, and therefore the petitions, or rather the motion to receive them, would have been laid upon the table without calling upon the casting vote of a Whig Speaker. We do trust that Congress will have firmness and patriotism enough to deal always thus summarily with these fanatics that are sought to be thrown into the halls of the National Legislature by the Northern fanatics.

"Whereas, it is no less desirable that the interests and honor of our country should be cordially sustained and defended so long as the present war with Mexico continues to exist, that the conflict should not be unnecessarily prolonged, but should be terminated as soon as an honorable peace can be obtained; and whereas it is believed that a diversity of opinion prevails to a considerable extent as to the ultimate aims and objects for which the war should be prosecuted; and it being proper that this matter should be settled by the clear expression of the legislative will, solemnly proclaimed to the world:

"Be it therefore Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the present war with Mexico should not be waged or prosecuted 'with a view to conquest,' either by the subjugation or dismemberment of that Republic.

"Be it further Resolved by the authority aforesaid, That it is the desire of the United States that hostilities should be terminated upon terms honorable to both parties, embracing a mutual settlement of the questions growing out of the 'proper and rightful' boundary of Texas, and full recognition and proper provision on her part to be made for all the just claims of our citizens against that country—adjusted by negotiation, to be instituted, and effected according to the constitutional forms of each Government respectively."

The above are the preamble and resolutions introduced by Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, in the House of Representatives, on the 21st inst. As they embody, from what we can gather, the views of the Whig party in Congress upon the war question, it may not be amiss to examine them a little and see what they really mean.

Well, then, to the preamble, there is no Democrat, so far as we know, who can object. Nor is there any Democrat who has ever yet said that the war ought to be waged for conquest. Indeed, the administration on every occasion, when it has had an opportunity so to do, has expressly and unequivocally declared that this war was not waged upon the part of the United States for the purpose of acquiring territory by the conquest of Mexico, but for the sole and simple purpose of vindicating our national rights and honor before the civilized world. How, would we like to ask Mr. Stephens, is Mexico to make "proper provision," even if she had the will, for the claims of our citizens against her, without parting with some of her territory? And does Mr. Stephens think that the people of this country would for a moment entertain the idea of concluding a treaty of peace with Mexico without any sort of indemnity for the amount of blood and treasure which we have been compelled to expend in the prosecution of this war, of which she is the sole cause? And how are we to obtain this indemnity, if it be not by the cession of a portion of the territory of Mexico? What do our Whig friends understand by an honorable peace? Our backing out from the war, and admitting that we were wrong in the whole affair, ab initio? Why, surely, if we make a treaty of peace on the principle of leaving things as they were before the war, we would virtually acknowledge before the world that we have been the aggressors, and that now, at the eleventh hour, shame had overtaken us, and we were desirous of getting out of the scrape in any way, even to the sacrifice of our honor, not to speak of our interests.

TEA AND COFFEE.—The Secretary of the Treasury, whose able report we have published in our paper, recommends a war tax of 25 per cent. upon Tea and Coffee, and estimates that the revenue derived from this source would be about three millions of dollars per annum. In glancing over the Whig papers we find that this recommendation of