The Norfolk Post.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1865.

All communications relating to business matters connected with this paper should be addressed to E. M. Brown, Norfolk *Post*. All communications pertaining to Editorial matters, and all correspondence intended for the paper should be addressed to John Clark, Editor.

Advertisers are requested to hand in their advertisements before six o'clock in the evening, previous to publication.

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Adams & Co., and Harnden & Co., have our thanks for late Virginia papers.

We devote much space this morning to Mexican affairs. The events now transpiring cannot fail to interest the people of the United States.

A correspondent of the Boston *Post*, writing from Concord, November 20, says that ex-President Pierce is now slowly convalescing. At one time his recovery seemed quite doubtful, but his physician and friends now entertain the hope that the crisis is past.

Governor Dillingham, of Vermont, has appointed the Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court, Luke P. Poland, of St. Johnsbury, to fill the vacancy in the United States Senate occasioned by the death of Mr. Collamer. John Pierpont, of Vincennes, is appointed Chief-Justice in place of Judge Poland.

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to institute measures for supplying the urgent wants of the destitute people of the South. Speeches were made by General Fiske, Messrs. A. A. Low, McKim, Beecher, Sorrs, and Bellows, and a committee was appointed to receive donations of money and goods. A letter from Atlanta was read, in which it was stated that some of the most intelligent and refined ladies in the South are absolutely reduced to beggary. Many families are compelled to live on corn or dried fruit, and some have not even this resource. A letter was read from Chief Justice Chase, expressing his sympathy with the object of the meeting and discussing the condition of the Southern people, will be found on the first page.

The Paris correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette* states that "Mrs. Lincoln has ordered, in Zwickau, Germany, a monument for the grave of her husband, the lamented President. It is cut out of serpentine stone, of an obscure green color, in the form of a large die, and bears the simple inscription, 'Abraham Lincoln.' In the middle of October it was to be forwarded by rail to Bremen, where it will be shipped to your country. The quarries of Zwickau are celebrated for their stones." Was it necessary to send to "Zwickau" for a monument to perpetuate the memory of the late President? We suppose it was: at least, we suppose Mrs. Lincoln thought it was; and in view of that lady's amiable temper that settled the thing. There is a historian in New York, who stands ready to write the life of one of the editors of that city, but he does not want to enter upon his work until his subject's wife,—who is a sort of drab,—is dead. The friends of Mr. Lincoln are in the situation of the historian.

BAKER.

We published, yesterday, an article on General L. C. Baker, which we copied from the New York *Citizen*, a weekly journal, edited by Colonel Halpine. Since doing this, we have read a defence of General L. C. Baker in the Washington *Chronicle*, a journal said to be edited by Colonel Forney. The defender of the defendant begins with the announcement that "General Baker has one eminent distinction"—and what is it?—"he is, beyond all doubt, the best-abused man in the nation." He is—is he? And this is what you call eminence in Washington! Who contributes to this "abuse?" Is it Colonel Halpine—a gentleman of the most unblemished character in the United States—is it he? From what we know of that gallant officer, he could not have been moved by the guilty motives which the *Chronicle* ascribes to those honest hosts who, in the name of God and Decency, protest against the insolence of such officers. The editor of the *Citizen* gave reasons why he was moved to say that General Baker was a disgrace to the service; and the editor of the *Chronicle* meets those reasons with the assertion that there "is not a plunderer, in or out of office—there is not a dishonest bounty-broker, or any other criminal, whose deeds have been detected and unveiled by the agency of this efficient and invaluable officer, who is not ready to swell the chorus of abuse against him." Let us hold on to this, and see how much it has to do with the charges against the detective. Read the quotation over again. Don't you see it meets nothing. It asserts simply that rogues are afraid of the spy. The point made against him is that he is unworthy of the office he holds, that he abuses his great powers, and that honest men—as in the case with Fish in Baltimore—have as much reason to be afraid of him as the rogues and bounty-brokers have. Let us see how Colonel Halpine puts it. "That Baker was a bad, bold, tool, and may have been useful in certain cases, we admit; *but the fixed impression in regard to him is that he first created and organized himself most of the crimes he discovered;* and that he has misused the powers entrusted to him and the protection afforded by Mr. Stanton's favor, with a recklessness which only his long and desperate training as an adventurer in California could have rendered possible to any man's nature." The *Chronicle* replies that these are testy libels, and asks the public to bear in mind that the officer attacked "is an agent of the Government, responsible for his acts both to the civil and military authorities, and that, notwithstanding the terrible outcry against him, he still has the confidence of the War Department." We have reason to suppose that the *Chronicle* knows all this; but how is it with Col. Halpine? He, too, we take it, enjoys the confidence of Mr. Stanton. Certainly no man in the nation deserves to enjoy that confidence better. At a time when the conduct of men about him had well nigh injured the nation, and the great Secretary of War too, Colonel Halpine stepped in, and rendered no mean service. He has done more to rescue Mr. Stanton from "his friends," than the substance of the whole tribe of the informers, spies and pimps. That is conceded—is it? Very well. Why, then, should not such a man protest, if he believes that the charges which he prefers against the detective are true, without being subjected to the wordy reproof of the *Chronicle*, and without the liability of being told that "there is not a plunderer, in or out of office," who does not say of General Baker just what Colonel Halpine says of him. This is no way to defend an honest man. Nor do we like it in a journal, which is supposed to be near the throne or behind it, to be told that such exposures as Colonel Halpine makes, are "attacks" upon Secretary Stanton. From the little we know of him, we imagine him to be a man not easily disturbed by "attacks" in the papers. We know nothing ourselves, for or against General Baker, beyond what the papers and the people say of him; and they are very bitter upon him. Lest our cotemporary should turn upon us, for this, and say, that our informants are "dishonest bounty-brokers" and "criminals whose deeds have been detected," we will state here and now, that we are not acquainted with any such parties, and therefore, of course, the *Chronicle* will not, as it probably would—if we had not closed the door against it in this way—indulge in such a fling. We part from this part of the discussion, with the assertion again, that we know nothing of the merits of the heavy assaults on Detective Baker. From the nature of his office, he is liable to be abused and misrepresented, and that very generally. But we concur with what Colonel Halpine says about the bestowal of the military badge upon spies, informers, pimps and detectives, and we only give voice to the feeling which we know to exist among officers of the army when we characterize that mistake of the department a very sore offence to the army. The eagles and stars were, we presume, bestowed upon the detectives in order that those persons might enjoy the emoluments which those badges carry with them, and not, as the editor of the *Chronicle*—who is only a militia and speech-making "Colonel"—supposes, as a mark to distinguish a high policeman. The *Citizen* puts the matter right. The *Chronicle*, having no sensibilities in regard to the abuse of the shoulder-straps, puts it all wrong. That little badge on the shoulder of a gentleman signifies a good deal, and it should not be suffered to decorate persons whose business it is to hunt up bounty-brokers, deserters, murderers and thieves. Give them money for their services: not gold-lace or glory. Let us—and still in the best possible temper—correct another mistake of the *Chronicle*. In the hasty and characteristic style of that impulsive defender of *its* friends, it tells us that "no officer in the army has done more than General Baker to maintain the honor and purity of the service." That is not true, B. G.

THE CONDITION OF MEXICO.

A most interesting and admirably clear and connected statement of the condition of affairs in and around Matamoras, and of the positions and movements of the opposing republican and imperial forces during the siege of that town by the former in the latter part of last month and the beginning of the present, is furnished by the Brownsville correspondent of the New York *Herald*. The attack and repulse of the republicans on the 25th ult., frequently alluded to, and represented by the imperial organs as such a magnificent success for their cause, is now plainly shown to have been a very small affair. Gen. Escobedo, commanding the republican army, consisting of three to four thousand men, had given directions for a complete reconnoissance of the enemy's position on that day, but no order for an attack. One of his officers, however, commanding a small body of Americans, not fully understanding the orders, directed his men to make an assault at a particular point, which they did with the greatest success, capturing the imperial works and guns; but, not being supported, they had to withdraw. This was the sum and substance of the affair which the imperialists paraded as a great victory. The besiegers maintained their position around the city for several days afterwards. During the progress of the seige, Brownsville, which is on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, directly opposite Matamoros, was filled with people from the latter place, who fled to escape the expected attack. American soldiers stood on the river bank and cheered the republicans opposite, and for this an imperial gunboat fired on the American side. General Weitzel has ordered an investigation of this affair. General Weitzel, at the request of General Escobedo, and in the interest of humanity, sent over the river tents for the latter's wounded, and many of them were transported to Brownsville, and received the attention of the United States army surgeons there. The imperialists professed to have discovered a heinous plot to surrender the city and assasinate Gen. Mejia among the officers of a party of about four hundred Americans at Matamoros in the imperial service, known as Contra Guerillas. Two of these officers, formerly of the Confederate army in this country, were court martialed and sentenced to be shot. One of them was executed, but the other escaped. The Matamoros papers charge that this plot was purely American, that fifty-five thousand dollars was to have been paid to the conspirators for its execution, and that a portion of the money had been paid and that the remainder was in Brownsville. As heretofore reported, the republicans disappeared from before Matamoros some days ago. A New Orleans despatch gives as the reason their reception of information that the imperialists were moving from Monterey to attack them in the rear. There are also New Orleans rumors that Bagdad, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, is beseiged by the republicans, and that a French naval officer has made an unsuccessful demand on Gen. Weitzel for the surrender of the imperial vessel captured by the republicans and taken to Brownsville. Gen. Frederick Steele, lately commanding the United States forces in the western district of Texas, which includes our Rio Grande frontier, has been superceded by General Weitzel, commander of the Twenty-fifth army corps. It was understood in Texas that the cause of Gen. Steele's removal was the allegation that he was on too intimate terms and in sympathy with the imperial officers of the Mexican border; but the Brownsvill correspondent defends him against this charge. He has been assigned to the command of the department of Columbia, comprising the state of Oregon and Washington and Idaho territories. It was understood in Texas that all the colored troops of our army on the frontier were shortly to be withdrawn and mainly mustered out of service. They would be replaced by regiments of the regular army.

[Correspondence of the New York Herald.]

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Oct. 22, 1865. As stated in a previous and hurriedly written despatch, the liberal forces on this frontier having been concentrated at Camargo, under General Escobedo, took up the line of march on the 14th for Matamoros, intending to reach and attack that city on the 19th or 20th.

Information has been received here that a heavy rain had retarded the march for two days, and it is now expected that the attack will take place either to-day or to-morrow.

News of the advance seems to have reached General Mejia at an early hour. This officer is regarded among the Mexicans as one among the bravest and most vigilant, and on the present occasion he seems to have displayed these qualities in a high degree.

The city was immediately scoured for laborers upon the fortifications. The lines were closed that none might escape, and soon a large force was at work with picks and shovels upon the works, which had already reached formidable strength and proportions.

The ferry way has since been opened through under careful restrictions; the object being to prevent a stampede to this side of the river, usual in such cases, and which is calculated to have a most demoralizing tendency upon the troops defending the city.

The foreign residents, have, however, come over in large numbers, and every room in town is filled to repletion. Many families intend proceeding to Galveston and to other places in the interior, or to New Orleans, until the troubles shall be finally settled.

Meanwhile the authorities are manifesting the utmost energy in their preparations for defence. The city is situated at the mouth of a promontory formed by a bend in the river, and is protected by a cordon of forts extending from one side to the other. For two or three miles beyond the city the jacals—Mexican houses—have been burned, the chaparral and undergrowth cut down, and everything removed which can afford cover or concealment to an advancing force. A large plain extends beyond the city which is called the *laguna*, having once been covered by water. This is for the most part an impassable marsh at present, and the city is only approachable in the present state of the ground by a few narrow roads. These have been strongly fortified and artillery placed in position to cover them.

By order from General Mejia, dated on the 18th, the towns of Matamoros and Bagdad are declared in a state of siege. The streets of the former place are strongly barricaded, and the natives, together with a goodly number of the foreign citizens, have been organized and armed for the protection of property and the preservation of good order.

A small British steamer, owned by Milmo & Co., has been taken, it is said, by consent of the owners and converted into a gunboat, and will operate up the river. Quiet efforts were being made yesterday to organize a force on this side to capture her.

There is in Matamoros a recently organized body of troops, known as the contra-guerillas, composed mostly of Texans and deserters from our white regiments on the border—wild, reckless adventurers, of the character ready at all times to adopt any mode of life which promises excitement or gain. They number from three to five hundred. This morning a plot was discovered among some of the officers to turn this command over to the liberals. Two of them—one named Burch and the other Gholson—have been summarily tried, and will be shot this evening at seven o'clock. The former was an officer in the rebel service, and served for some time on the staff of John Morgan. The necessary steps have been taken to crush the conspiracy. The affair has created the intensest excitement throughout the city, and the prophecies are not few that none of the troops will fight when the hour of battle comes. It is well understood that one of the native regiments in the city cannot be trusted, and it has not up to this time been placed in any responsible position. As the garrison there is very small, not exceeding fifteen hundred fighting men, of course none of the troops can be spared, as the liberals have at least three thousand men, in addition to the volunteers which have joined them in considerable numbers.

The troops from Bagdad, numbering about two hundred and fifty men, have been marched up to Matamoros, reaching that city during last night.

It has been confidently stated that reinforcements were rapidly approaching from Monterey, but I am well satisfied that this is incorrect. A gentleman reached here this morning from that city, bearing a letter to General Steele. He states that he met "crowds of liberals" on his way, and that no imperialists were moving in this direction. Again, I was this evening permitted to read a despatch from Colonel Trevino, commanding the finest body of troops in the liberal army, and the best fighters. At the time of writing he was on the road between Cerralvo and Monterey, and he assures Gen. Escobedo that he can and will attend to any force which General Jeaunengros, in command at Monterey, can send towards Matamoros. The despatch was dated on the 16th. The Colonel had a fight, a few days previous, with a small party of imperials, under Quiroja, and routed them with great slaughter.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Oct. 24—11 A. M. I passed the day in Matamoros yesterday, and from the housetops saw the encampment of the liberal forces, some three miles from the city. The streets present the appearance of a besieged town, being almost deserted, save in a few of the public places, where groups of men are collected discussing the condition of affairs. There is no business done, although the stores for the most part remain open and all are awaiting the anticipated attack.

At about ten o'clock yesterday morning a flag of truce, in charge of Colonel Roche, an old and honored officer of the Mexican army, now serving under Escobedo, appeared before the city, and was conducted with the usual formalities and precautions to the headquarters of General Mejia. Its object was to demand the surrender of the place. The liberal General, after the usual high flown compliments peculiar to his race, calls upon Mejia to surrender and thereby spare the effusion of the blood of Mexicans by Mexicans. The tenor of Mejia's answer is not known, though he refused to surrender and is patiently awaiting the attack. While considering the message of Escobedo, Mejia sent the bearers under charge of an officer of high rank to a restaurant, where an excellent breakfast was prepared for them. The utmost courtesy was manifested on both sides.

From all I can gather I am satisfied that the liberal army is larger than was at first supposed, and that additions are constantly being made to it from among the adventurers so numerous in a border country, who are anxious to share in the rich prize before them. It is not impossible that the liberal forces now number nearly four thousand men.

General Gaudalupe Garcia and Governor De Leon left this city this morning, to join Escobedo, with whom they will remain until after the attack.

The latest advices received by his friends here state that President Juarez is at La Soledad, in the state of Chihuahua, and it is stoutly denied that he has any intention of abandoning the country or of giving up the contest.

GEN. ESCOBEDO'S PROCLAMATION.

I send you herewith a translation of Escobedo's proclamations to the citizens of Tamaulipas and to his army:

Mariano Escobedo, General of the Mexican Republic, and Commanding the Division of the North, to the Inhabitants of the State of Tamaulipas:

CITIZENS OF TAMAULIPAS—As a soldier of the republic and of the national independence I have had to traverse the territory of this ever-patriotic state, with the forces I have the honor to command, in order to combat our common enemy, intrenched in Matamoros. The line of conduct pursued by the braves who have accompanied me through all these populations is the best guarantee of that which they will pursue in the future.

I know your patriotism, generous Tamaulipans. I have not passed through a single city or rancho where I have not received signal proofs of adhesion to the national cause, and therefore doubt not that you will listen to the voice of your country, calling upon you through me in these supreme moments.

Sons of Tamaulipas! Grasp your ever feared and victorious rifles and join the hundreds of your fellow citizens who already form our ranks, thus showing to the world that you are worthy of the freedom which you have always enjoyed. A small effort and the heroic city will be free.

Sons of Matamoros! No one in the world will believe that there is among you a single one capable of betraying the republic. You are oppressed—that is all. I come as a friend to help you shake off the yoke of the so-called empire, because we are all interested in the liberation of this port. I offer you all the guarantees which you can desire. The subordination and strict discipline of my command inspires me with the necessary confidence to assure you that all property and persons will be religiously respected.

Those only need fear who shall obstinately try to oppose the passage of my forces, for on them will be the avenging sword of an indignant republic.

Mexicans, who are sacrilegiously armed against your country, open your eyes! What are you going to do? Against whom do you intend to fire off the guns you have shouldered? Against us? Reflect well. For nearly four years the sons of Mexico have fought against a foreign foe who desires to impose upon us the yoke of a foreign monarch—a foe which outrages, humiliates and despises us, and tramples under foot the sovereignty, dignity and the independence of our country. We are fighting and always will fight against this army of usurpators. Medidate well, you citizens who are arming against us. Think of your particular situation. You are Mexicans; we also are such. Why are we about to fight against each other? You have placed yourselves by some strange fatality by the side of these foreign enemies, and yet in your bosom beats a Mexican heart. Your conscience, then, must tell you, when firing your shots upon us, that you are firing upon your country, because we contend for its honor, its liberty, and its independence. Unite with us, Mexicans, follow the natural impulses of your heart, and together we will save the republic from the domination of foreigners, fighting without rest the forces of the French monarch.

Mexicans all! the standard of independence and the republic calls you! Come, cluster under its folds, and, fighting as ought to fight free and generous men, demonstrate to the world that if we Mexicans have always been unfortunate, we are not degraded enough to accept slavery at the hands of a foreign monarch, great and powerful though he may be. MARIANO ESCOBEDO.

HDQRS., AT SANTA ROSALIA, October 19, 1865.

Mariano Escobedo, General of the Mexican Republic, Commanding Division of the North, to his Subordinates:

COMPANIONS—In marching against the city of Matamoros I must tell you that I have faith in our triumph, because I reckon with your bravery and discipline.

Soldiers of the republic! You know that your mission is to fight for the independence of our country, to give its inhabitants all classes of guarantees, and such as are compatible with the circumstances of the war which we are obliged to sustain. A throne has been raised by foreign bayonets in our capital; and this throne, self degraded, weak and impotent, and a truly humiliating representation of sovereign nationality, must fall, to enable our county to recover its proper dignity and existence.

It appears incredible, but there exist Mexicans who lend it their support, and such are those whom you will have to encounter in Matamoros. They are misled. But they cannot possibly feel the firm conviction of being in the right, because the country speaks to their heart as the sentiments of maternity speak to that of a child. Their cause is bad, while yours has the sympathy of the world; and the greater the privations, sufferings and difficulties you have to confront in its defence, so much more glorious is it to uphold it. Continue as you have commenced. In this state, wherever you have passed, you have by your good conduct conquered friends, strong and brave on the field of battle in defence of liberty, who have united, and continue to unite with you, and reflect splendor on the arms of the republic.

Fear nothing! Soon will the national flag wave majestically over this entire frontier, because you sustain it with an arm that knows not how to give way before foreign oppression; but knows how to fall terribly upon those who try to defile it, and also punish those who undertake to cover their transgressions under its folds, who outrage peaceful inhaitants, or deprive them of the free use of their property.

Forward, companions! There are yet thousands of Mexican hearts in heroic Matamoros whose wishes are propitious to you. It is there you will receive the congratulations of him who with pride calls himself your General and friend, MARIANO ESCOBEDO.

Headquarters in Santa Rosalia, Oct. 19

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Oct. 25, 1865. The forces of Escobedo are now in front of Matamoros. Canales was at St. Rosalia last evening, but he has doubtless come up ere this. During last night there was an occasional shot along the lines, and at an early hour this morning brisk firing of musketry was heard, intermingled with the roar of the artillery. Although it was scarcely daylight, the banks of the river were lined with people in an incredibly short time, and it was confidently anticipated that the attack had commenced. The firing continued for over three hours, with more or less intensity. Its desultory and uncertain character, however, rendered it evident to the practiced ears of the old soldiers of the West and of the Army of the Potomac that little more than a reconnoissance was taking place. The only thing inconsistent with this idea was the prolonged and heavy firing at a point below the city, and not far from the river banks.

From the best authority I have received the following explanation of the affair:—General Escobedo had formed his command and issued the requisite orders preparatory to making a reconnoissance along the entire line surrounding the city. Feints were to be made at different points, but no attack, the only object being to feel the enemy and learn his strength and position.

General Hinojosa, who was in command south of the city, misapprehended his instructions and charged upon the fort in his front. The charge was led by a number of Americans, who went over the embankment in a twinkling, driving the imperialists from their guns and capturing them. The gunboat Paisano, mentioned in my last despatch, was stationed in the river within easy range, and immediately opened on the fort; and, as no arrangements had been made for his support, Hinojosa was compelled to fall back. He was wounded through the leg. Escobedo soon after drew in his lines, and the relative position of the contending forces is as before the affair commenced. The liberals are represented as in good spirits and confident.

During the progress of the affair a number of solid shot from the gunboat passed over the heads of our soldiers, who were standing in large numbers on the banks of the river watching the fight and at times cheering the liberals. These shots were supposed to fall upon the American side on account of a bend in the river near that point; but it is confidently stated by both officers and men that the gunboat deliberately fired several shots at them. Gen. Weitzel has ordered a commission to examine into the affair, and should the statement prove true he will demand the captain of the gunboat.

The loss of the liberals in killed and wounded will reach fifty men. I have this from the official report of Escobedo.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Oct. 26, 5 P. M. I have just returned from a visit to Matamoros. Most of the streets are barricaded with cotton bales, pressed hay and other materials, particular reference being had to the holding of the Plaza, which, in the numerous contests in Mexican cities, has always been the principai point of attack. This work has been performed by a body of citizens organized for the defence of the city. They number about seven hundred and fifty, and are for the most part Frenchmen. No Americans have joined them. The streets are almost entirely deserted, and though some few of the stores have their main door open no business is done. Not a soldier is seen, save now and then a cavalryman. They are all within and outside of the forts. The peace and good order of the place are attended to by the citizens.

Considerable skirmishing has been going on outside during the day. The skirmishers could be plainly seen from the housetops, to which I ascended at some risk of a bullet, as the strictest orders have been issued against any such indulgence in curiosity, and the patriots fire upon those seen there.

General Escobedo this morning sent an application to General Weitzel for tents for the use of his wounded. The request was granted in the interest of humanity.

The liberal wounded are for the most part on this side of the river, having been crossed over above and below the city. Our surgeons are rendering every assistance in properly providing for them.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Oct. 27, 1865. General Escobedo called upon General Weitzel last evening to thank him for his kindness toward the wounded men of his command. The interview was short, and but little was said. The liberal general intimated that it was his intention to make a desperate effort for the possession of the city. Cortina is in command of his left wing, and is doing well. He positively stated that Espinosa, reported killed, was unhurt. The only general officer wounded was Hinojosa, as hereinbefore stated.

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Oct. 28, 1865. The liberal forces moved forward last night and are now within two hundred yards of the enemy's outer works, or rifle pits. They are intrenched, and this morning successfully resisted an effort of the imperialists to dislodge them. But little firing is heard.

I met Senor Simon de la Garza Melo, liberal governor of Nuevo Leon, this morning. He informs me that the liberals are well supplied and in good spirits.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The following is a translation of the correspondence which passed between Generals Escobedo and Mejia, under the flag of truce demanding the surrender of Matamoros:

Mexican Republic, Division of the North, General-in-Chief:

GENERAL—Nearly four years of a bloody contest to repel the form of government which the French invasion is trying to establish are sufficient to convince you that it is not possible to give our country peace under the imperial government which has been established in some of our principal cities. We Mexicans who are fighting it, are using our rights, because we want for our country true independence and sovereignty, and not the simulated one represented by the Austrian Archduke Maximilian. Using this sacred right, I am about militarily to occupy this place (Matamoros). But, considering that those who form its garrison are also Mexicans, I think it my duty to invite you to listen to the voice of your country calling upon you to cease your co-operation in its abasement and prostration by the rule of a foreign monarch. I know that this proceeding is foreign to the usages established in this war, during which time no invitation of this nature has been extended on the part of the Imperialists; but I fulfil my duty in order that the responsibility may fall upon others. God and history will judge the Mexicans who in this war have defended causes so opposite.

Do me the favor, General, to answer this communication within two hours, and accept the assurance of my consideration. ESCOBEDO.

INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY CAMP, IN SIGHT OF MATAMOROS, Oct. 23, 1865.

To General Thomas Mejia, commanding garrison in Matamoros.

IMPERIAL MEXICAN ARMY, DIVISION, MEJIA, General in-Chief.

GENERAL—I have received by your two *parlamentarois* (bearers of flag of truce) your letter dated to-day, which in summary contains an invitation for me to surrender this place to the forces under your command.

Although I could not reckon upon the elements which now are more than sufficient to defend it, yet as a soldier it would be my duty to die after having exhausted all my means of resistance, and my obligations as a Mexican to sacrifice myself and soldiers for a cause upon which depends, according to my sincere convictions, the salvation of my country. But I hold in my hands resources sufficient to defend it, and hope to defend myself with complete success. You can commence your operations as soon as you think convenient. The responsibility will fall upon him who shall have provoked the occurrences. Accept, General, the assurance of my consideration. THOS. MEJAI, Commander-in-Chief of the line of the Rio Grande.

To Gen. Mariano Escobedo, before Matamoros.

The following communication was addressed to General Steele by General Escobedo on the day of its date, and before the former had turned over his command to Gen. Weitzel:

MEXICAN REPUBLIC, DIVISION OF THE NORTH, GENERAL-IN-CHIEF, SANTA ROSALIA, Oct. 20, 1865.

GENERAL—As it is difficult for me to direct an official communication to the Consul of the United States accredited to my government in the port of Matamoros, I have the honor, General, to write to inform you that, within a few days, I shall commence military operations against that place, occupied to-day by forces hostile to the legitimate government of my country. All the pacific inhabitants, without distinction of nationality, will be protected in their persons and property as far as the exigencies of the war will permit; and I can assure you, General, that if, unfortunately, any disorders should be committed, they will be severely punished. I beg, General, that you will transmit a copy of this official note to the Consul of your nation, recommending to him (if I may so far tax your kindness) that he will give the greatest publicity to its contents, among strangers and natives.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, MARIANO ESCOBEDO.

To Major General F. Steele, commanding American forces on the Rio Grande.

THE PLOT TO BETRAY THE CITY.

[From the Matamoros Ranchero, Oct. 28.]

On Sunday night, the 22d inst., the city was to have been surrendered to the out laws and General Mejia assassinated. The plot for the accomplishment of this purpose had been deeply laid, and could not have been maturing less than a month.

Nearly two weeks since the authorities became apprehensive that a conspiracy was on foot, and immediately gave directions to the secret police to ferret out the plot, and finally the whole infamous conspiracy was discovered.

Captain W. W. Gholson and Lieut. Burch were to turn over Fort Matanzas at ten o'clock last Sunday night to a hundred of the outlaws, dressed in "contra guerilla" costume, which costume Gholson and Burch had purchased and smuggled out to them while performing scouting service.

Following the surrender of Fort Matanzas a large portion of the outlaw force was to march into and near it; but while this was going on the outlaws in "contra guerilla" costume were to take the fort next adjoining, from the rear, under a friendly guise; and this fort, as soon as taken, would likewise be taken possession of by a large force of outlaws. In this way the cordon of forts surrounding the city, or so many of them as possible, were to be captured.

The outlaws, however, had not laid their plans with a view to capturing all the forts under disguise, and accordingly were to have made an attack with the outlaw force in reserve outside on the forts at the southeast point of the city immediately after the forts at the northeast point had surrendered. The object of this attack was to draw the imperial forces to the assaulted point whilst the material outlaw force at the captured forts would advance, take possession of the Plaza and attack General Mejia in rear. Having possession of the city, and having General Mejia between two fires, it was not doubted that success would crown the conspiracy.

But more than this, and to render assistance doubly sure, Gen. Mejia was to be assassinated at an early stage of the proceedings, by Gholson and Burch, who were to be relieved from the surrendered fort in time to accomplish their hellish work. By thus throwing the imperial troops into disorder, by the loss of their distinguished head, the outlaws hoped to achieve an easy victory.

The sum of money stipulated to be paid for the sale of Fort Matanzas was thirty-five thousand dollars, and for the assassination of General Mejia twenty thousand more; a portion of which sums had been paid over, and the residue was on deposit in Brownsville.

Several parties in Brownsville are implicated deeply in the conspiracy, including a federal officer, whose name we do not now mention.

On Sunday morning, twelve hours before Fort Matanzas was to be surrendered, Gholson was arrested, and the same day was tried, found guilty and executed. His accomplice, Lieutenant Burch (by which name he is known here,) made his escape, and has not yet been arrested.

The evidence against the conspirators is conclusive; in fact, record testimony covers the whole case. But, aside from this, Gholson's answers to the interrogations propounded him on trial doubly convicted him of all that was charged.

None but Americans were implicated in the plot. None of the contra-guerilla force was party to the conspiracy, save and except the captain and lieutenant; and it is in evidence that the whole company at Fort Matanzas were to have been surrendered to, and put to death by, the outlaws.

Arrivals at the Atlantic Hotel Nov. 22

A. H. Batt, Chas. E. Ramsond and lady, New York; W. E. Brand, R. M. Smith, J. W. Wheatwright, T. T. Phillips, P. H. McGill, Baltimore; John Thomas, Charleston, N. C; James Garrison, Kempsville, Va; Daniel Parker, U. S. N; A. C. Freemand, Va; C. E. Worrell, N. C; Dr. Little, Mrs. Creiginin, Richmond; John Williams, Baltimore; A. H. Ashburn, J. W. Whitley, W. B. Moore, Robt. H. Whitfield, Isle of Wight Va; E. S. Mull, Richmond, Va; W. M. Cowell, Baltimore; R. F. Worthington, P. C. Johnson, N. C; J. W. Downy, Va; J. H. Bailey, G. H. Watkins, City Point; W. J. Lee, Special Agent; C. B. Amorez, Ashland.

CONSIGNEES per steamship Albemarle, Bourne, master, from New York, Nov. 24, viz:

G W Dey, E M Dunn & Co., Geo L Crow, E Camp, C Billups, Adams Express Company, Ashton & Emmerson, Capt Adams, S C Elliott, George Sangster, Sam'l Katski, Lublin & Stiner, Nash & Cobb, J M Smith & Bro., Maltby & Co., Ryland Capps, Russell & McConrt, Robert Rhea, Seldner & Co., M A & C A Santos, Seth March, Seaboard & Roanoke Railroad, C A Smith, J B Todd, Taylor & Martin, E P Tabb & Co., W G Webber, W S Pepper, W S Spratley, C W Grandy & Sons, J O Percy, S B Skinner, Steamer Pioneer, Preston, Bell & Co., Jas E Jones, Sam'l R Borum, Burgess & Core, Orders, F S Deshield, Capt T S Tunis, J D Wright, T P Crowell, W T Harrison, J J Fisher, Morris, Gwathmey & Co.

Telegraphic News.

NORFOLK POST DESPATCHES.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24. The late Confederate ram Stonewall arrived here this morning.

The President has revoked the rewards offered for the arrest of Jacob Thompson, Beverly Tucker, George N. Sanders, Cleary and Surratt.

The claims for the reward for the apprehension of Booth, and others arrested with him, are to be determined by a special commission.

It is stated that Judge Magrath and Mrs. Seddon have been released on parole.

The President directed that no patent be granted to any person residing in recent insurrectionary districts without satisfactory proof of loyalty furnished.

FROM MISSISSIPPI.

JACKSON, MISS., Nov. 24.—Governor Humphrey's message to the Legislature recommends negro testimony to be admitted in the courts, and also encourages the Freedmen to support their families and educate their children. He thinks the passage of these measures will secure the withdrawal of troops.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 24.—The State Legislature met and was organized yesterday.

MEXICO.

The Liberals were reported in force about eight miles from Matamoros.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24. Flour advanced 5c., with sales of 8,000 barrels; beef, wheat and corn dull; pork heavy; cotton steady at 52@53c.; whiskey dull at \$2.35@\$2.38; rosin steady. Gold 147.

PRIVATE SALES

DESIRABLE FAMILY RESIDENCE FOR SALE.

That very desirable Family Residence, situated on Granby street, three doors above the Methodist Church, and now occupied by Mrs. Foster, is offered for sale.

It has a wide entry, with two parlors and a dining-room on the first floor, four chambers on the second floor, two comfortable rooms in the garret, and a dry cellar, a paved yard with kitchen and smoke house conveniently located, and a large garden.

For further particulars apply to
sep28—tf J. M. SMITH & BROTHER.

VALUABLE TIMBER LANDS AND FARMS FOR SALE.

We offer for sale the following valuable farms:
1st. A Farm of 125 acres, 5 miles from Norfolk.
2d. A Farm of 430 acres, 16 miles from Norfolk.
3d. A Farm of 83 acres, in Nansemond county.
5th. A Farm of 2000 acres, 25 miles from Norfolk.
6th. Tract of Wood Land, 2300 acres, 20 miles from Norfolk.
8th. One Farm of 96 acres, 14 miles from Norfolk.
9th. One Farm of 97 acres, 3½ miles from Norfolk.
10th. One Farm of 520 acres, 6½ miles from Norfolk.
11th. One Tract of Land (half cleared), of 70 acres, 3 miles from Norfolk
13th. A Farm of 1,200 Acres, 14 miles from city.
19th. A Farm of 300 Acres, 18 miles from city.
20th. A Farm of 472 Acres, 17 miles from city.
21st. A Tract of Wood Land, 160 Acres, 6 miles from city.
24th. A Farm of 3,900 Acres, 10 miles from city.
25th. A Farm of 600 Acres, 14 miles from Norfolk.
26th. A Farm of 82 Acres, 10 miles from "
29th. A Farm of 80 Acres, 12 miles from "
30th. A Farm of 474 Acres, 30 miles from "
31st. A Farm of 411 Acres, 19 miles from "
32d. A Farm of 300 Acres, 60 miles from "
33d. A Farm of 1,120 Acres, 50 miles from "
34th. A Farm of 700 Acres, 55 miles from "
35th. A Farm of 750 Acres, 65 miles from "
36th. A four-story Brick House, on Main street.
37th. Two Frame Houses, on Church street.
38th. Two vacant Lots, on Church street.
39th. Four Lots, on Newton street.
40th. Three valuable Lots, on Main street.
41st. A Farm of 520 Acres, 10 miles from Norfolk.
42d. A farm of 113 Acres, 30 " "
43d. Piece of Wood land, 124 Acres, 30 miles from Norfolk.
44th. Farm of 100 Acres, on Chesapeake Bay.
45th. Farm of 265 Acres, 20 miles from Norfolk.
46th. A Farm of 300 Acres, in Nansemond county.
47th. A Farm of 270 Acres, near Princess Anne C. H.
48th. A Tract of 300 Acres wood land, in P. A. Co.
50th. A farm of 390 Acres, on James River.
51st. A Farm of 474 Acres, on Pagan Creek.
52d. Tract of 350 Acres Timbered Land, in N. C.
53d. A Farm of 80 Acres, 4 miles from Norfolk.
54th. A Farm of 193 Acres, 6 miles from "
55th. A Farm of 130 Acres, 7 " "
56th. A Farm of 65 Acres, near Pungo Bridge.
58th. Valuable Brick House and Lot, on Church street.
59th. Valuable Farm in P. A. Co., near Atlantic Ocean.
60th. Farm of 42 Acres, 30 miles from Norfolk, \$500.
61st. Nine hundred and sixty-three and a half Acres, eight miles from the city
62d. Thirty Acre Farm, eight miles from the city.

We have just perfected arrangements by which we have facilities for placing lands before purchasers abroad, not possessed by any other house in the city. Lands placed in our hands for sale, will be advertised, free of cost, in Northern papers and in Europe.

Nearly all of the above Land is on or near water, and the large tracts are heavily Timbered. A description of each will be furnished on application to the undersigned

We give special attention to the purchase and sale of Real Estate on Commission.

FOLGER, CARTWRIGHT & Co., Auction and Commission Merchants,
aug7—tf 22 Wide Water street, Norfolk, Va.

FOR SALE.

I offer for sale THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ACRES OF LAND, a portion of my farm, adjoining the village of Kempsville, in Princess Anne county, Va., nine miles from the city of Norfolk, situate on the east bank of the Elizabeth River.

The situation is healthy, society good, adjacent to schools and churches. The land is thoroughly adapted to TRUCKING, being high, rich and quick. There is wood enough on the land to pay for it.

Should it not be desirable for any one in want of land to have so large a tract, it will be divided into lots to suit.

For terms, &c., apply to SHAW & ROBERTS, Auction and Commission merchants, corner Roanoke Square and Wide Water st., Norfolk, Va., in whose hands the property has been placed for sale.

J. M. BRICKHOUSE,
je7—tf Kempsville, Princess Anne co., Va.

A FINE HORSE FOR SALE.

He is a bright Bay, fifteen and a half hands high; for style and action not surpassed in this city: a lively Trotter, either double or single, and a beautiful Saddle Horse for a Lady or Gentleman. Also, two sets Single Harness, Silver Mounted, one nearly new, and but little used. To see the above, address "A. B. C.," Box 136, Norfolk Postoffice. nov23—3t

FOR SALE OR CHARTER.

A LIGHT DRAFT SIDE-WHEL STEAMER, of eighty tons burthen, suitable for Freight or Passengers—well fitted and in perfect order. Also, FOUR LIGHTERS, decked over, drawing thirty inches water, with FIFTY CORDS OF WOOD—built in the most substantial manner—expressly for lightering wood.

Apply to, or address,
Messrs. DUDLEY BEAN & CO.,
aug19—tf No. 14 Roanoke Square.

FOR SALE.

One STEAM ENGINE and BOILER, about 10-horse capacity, complete, with Governor, Heater, Valves, Lead Pipe, &c., and will be sold less than its value. Apply to
S. R. BORUM,
"Tiptop" Wine and Liquor Store,
oct21—tf No. 12 under the Atlantic Hotel.

FOR SALE.

The fine Sloop WM. BLAIR, about ninety tons capacity, nearly new and in good order. Will be sold very low if applied for soon.
oct14—tf CYRUS E. STAPLES.

H. P. WORCESTER & CO.
GENERAL COMMISSION AND Forwarding Merchants,
NO. 12 CAMPBELL WHARF.
HENRY P. WORCESTER, C. LITTLETON UPSHUR

WANTS

WANTED IMMEDIATELY—A FURNISHED ROOM, in a private family, suitable for two gentlemen. Address, by letter, stating terms, "G & R," Norfolk P. O. oct3—tf

WANTED TO PURCHASE.

From One Thousand to Five Thousand Cords of Good Merchantable PINE CORD WOOD, at some convenient place to lighter to vessels. There must be fully four feet of water at the shore. Apply to, or address,
Messrs. DUDLEY BEAN & CO.,
aug19—tf No. 14 Roanoke Square.

WANTED.—A FURNISHED HOUSE. Apply to PORTER SHERMAN,
nov17—tf Nos. 16 & 18 Roanoke Square.