



CLINTON, LOUISIANA:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1855.

We claim the indulgence of our readers for the non-appearance of the usual amount of original and other matter in this number of the PATRIOT.

Our thanks are due Col. Roberts and Maj. Munday, for late favors from the Capitol.

The officers of the Belle Gates and Gem have our thanks for late favors.

Our Episcopal brethren are fitting up the lower room below the Patriot office, for a Church, temporarily, until better arrangements can be made.

It is said that virtue and vice are continually at war. The struggle in Clinton has been long and fierce.

The enterprise of building a railroad to intersect the New Orleans and Jackson road, seems to have been forgotten by the people.

We have received the first number of the "American Exponent," a weekly journal published in New Orleans.

The latest reports from Cuba bring news of more political excitement in that island.

The signs of the times clearly indicate that a change in the condition of the oppressed Cubans is near at hand.

The progressive spirit and enterprising character of the Anglo-American people plainly talk of a period to come when the stars and stripes will float over those strongholds of despotism metamorphosed into castles of civil liberty.

The character of the Spanish Government, the natural desire of people oppressed to better their condition, and that ruling characteristic of our own people to sympathize with and assist the down-trodden, and in fact every circumstance connected with the political condition of Cuba, foretell that a change is soon to come over the condition of that country and people.

On Thursday last the sense of the qualified voters of Bayou Sara was taken in regard to licensing coffee-houses or drinking shops.

No license..... 37 For license..... 32 Majority for no license..... 5

The Pointe Coupee Echo recommends the nomination of Col. Stephen Van Winkle, as a candidate for Governor.

The St. Francisville Chronicle of Saturday last, says: The two slaves now confined in jail, on the charge of having murdered Peter Mays, will be tried at the Court-house on Tuesday.

Affairs in Cuba.

NEWS BY THE BLACK WARRIOR.

The Black Warrior left Havana on the evening of the 15th, and arrived at New Orleans on the morning of the 18th inst.

Different parts of the Island are declared in a state of blockade, but the civil courts are still in force.

The English frigate Vessel was in port; all well on board.

PROCLAMATION OF THE CAPTAIN GENERAL. On the 19th instant the greatest excitement was caused in Cuba by the following proclamation issued by the Captain-General, which we translate from the official Gaceta of the 13th:

"In order to adopt proper and timely preventive measures against the piratical expeditions that are now being fitted out in various parts of the United States against this Island, by virtue of the authority in me vested as Captain General and General-in-Chief of this army, I order and command:

ARTICLE 1. That the Island of Cuba, together with all its dependencies, is hereby declared in a state of siege, and subject to all the legal consequences of such declaration, while the causes which necessitate these measures shall continue to exist.

ARTICLE 2. That all the coasts of the Island, and its littoral waters are declared in a state of blockade by the naval forces of her Majesty.

On the same day a second Proclamation was issued, ordering the enlistment of all persons between the ages of 18 and 50, capable of bearing arms, who might voluntarily offer themselves to defend the island against the ruthless and piratical invaders from the United States.

"Whereas, it is notorious that in various points of the United States, a piratical expedition composed of adventurers of all nations, who aspire to gain fortunes which they now find themselves in want of, is being set on foot against the Island of Cuba, &c., &c.

The Sub-Inspector received orders to immediately, without loss of a moment's time, mobilize the three rural squadrons, and the two of disciplined militia—and place them in fighting trim.

A battalion of Spaniards, composed chiefly of natives of Navarre and Viscayo, had been formed and they had tendered their services to the Captain-General for the defense of the Island.

All private communication by telegraph is prohibited. The telegraphs during the continuance of the siege are to be surrendered to the exclusive control of the Government.

Four battalions of volunteer infantry and one of cavalry presented themselves on the 13th, shortly after the proclamation was issued, were mustered in and officered by the Captain-General.

A decree prohibiting the sale of fire-arms and ammunition had been published and enforced.

On the 27th instant, Concha reviewed the troops in Havana, and it is spoken of by the papers in most enthusiastic language. To judge by the tone of the press, we should say the soul of every man, woman, and child in the island was in arms, and eager for the fray.

When Concha came on the field, it was understood that he would address the army. Accordingly the lines were drawn closely around him in order to give all an opportunity to hear the words of their beloved chief.

"We have reason to know, from a source of unquestionable authority that the British Government are fully convinced of the Czar's desire for peace, and it is more than probable that the forthcoming Congress at Vienna may really settle the question. The fact is undeniable that he desires peace, and will even go beyond the four points in order to secure it.

The Prensas confessed its inability to describe the scene that followed the promulgation of the proclamations declaring martial law and asking the inhabitants to volunteer for the defense of the island.

The Prensas of the 14th, says that on the previous morning an English war steamer had left

the port of Havana, with several companies of troops from the island on board—perhaps, it says, to garrison some place in the interior.

"The steamer," says the same paper, "bore at her masthead, unfurled to the wind, and proudly and affectionately entwining each other, the banners of Spain and England—a union highly significant of the actual circumstances.

The Gaceta denies a rumor that had got abroad in Havana, to the effect that the filibusters had effected a landing at some point on the Island; however, detachments of troops were being constantly sent out.

JAPAN AND THE JAPANESE.—Silas E. Burtows, Esq., writing of his last visit to Japan, in the ship Lady Pierce, says:

It is a most interesting country, and the Japanese a superior race of people to any Asiatic I have seen. Their coasting commerce far exceeds ours on the Atlantic coast of the United States.

I have never been among any people who were so soon Americanized as the Japanese; and if the Emperor had not interfered, and arrested the growing friendship, Jeddo bay would have been a home to all Americans.

The Japanese whom I returned to his country, named De-ye-no-skee, perfectly armed, his countrymen relating the kindness he received in the United States, and from me on the passage to Japan; he is the first Japanese who has returned to Japan from foreign lands, and he will do more towards opening an intercourse than all the ships of war and ministers we can send.

THE TRADE WITH AFRICA.—Important Facts.—Every year is placing the profitable trade with Western Africa further from our reach. England is rapidly weaning it from us.

Four English steam propellers now keep up a regular and profitable monthly communication between Plymouth and the civilized settlements of Western Africa. The result is an increased and valuable commerce.

"It is to be regretted that there is not stated and active intercourse between the U. States and the West coast of Africa long ere this. There should be a line of steamers on that route at once, equal to that from England.

"In a commercial point of view, such an enterprise holds out great advantages. The British traffic with that coast has increased most rapidly. The staple article supplied is palm oil, of which the quantity entered at the English customhouse has risen from 4,700 tons in 1827, to about 50,000 tons in 1854.

"Ground nuts for the manufacture of oil are an exceedingly important article of export for the French, and the English people are getting more into the use of the oil. The French employ it as a salad oil also for burning and for lubricating machinery.

THE CZAR'S DESIRE FOR PEACE.—Speaking of the sincerity of the Czar's proposals for peace, the Liverpool Times uses the following positive language:

"We have reason to know, from a source of unquestionable authority that the British Government are fully convinced of the Czar's desire for peace, and it is more than probable that the forthcoming Congress at Vienna may really settle the question. The fact is undeniable that he desires peace, and will even go beyond the four points in order to secure it.

DECLINE IN THE UNITED STATES REVENUE.—The decline in the amount of revenue from customs, &c., collected during the month of January, is said to be less by two millions three hundred thousand dollars than was received during January, 1854.

The Montgomery papers of the 15th, report a rise of eighteen inches in the Alabama river during the previous day.

European Affairs.

The Atlantic News—Horror of the War.

DISPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

BEFORE SEVASTOPOL, Jan. 6.—My Lord Duke: The weather has been so bad since I wrote to your Grace on the 23 instant that I have not been able to disembark the 38th, with a view of encamping the regiment, and it still remains on board the Golden Fleece in the harbor.

I have, &c. RAGLAN. His Grace, the Duke of Newcastle.

LETTER FROM A CORPORAL OF THE RIFLE BRIGADE.

I hardly know how to begin to give you an idea of our present sufferings; for suffer we do daily from the effect of the cold. Even now, while I am writing, I am perished with cold, sitting in the cold tent.

LETTER FROM AN OFFICER.

The men and officers have the pluck of the devil, but this sickness floors the strongest, and saps all his energies. Death on the battle-field is nothing. You know your enemy, and no man says a word; but this unseen, unsatisfied enemy, disease, makes the stoutest heart stop when one sees its fearful ravages.

RUSSIAN LOSS IN THE CRIMEA.

The following is said to be the total number of Russians lost hors de combat, from the 28th of September (exclusive consequently of the defeat of the Alma) to the 27th of December, including prisoners taken, and deaths from disease or other causes not resulting from wounds:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Killed or died of wounds: 7,301; Wounded: 13,826; Prisoners: 1,617; Died of disease, accident, &c.: 4,019; Total: 26,763.

RUSSIAN MOVEMENTS.

A letter, purporting to proceed from St. Petersburg, dated the 10th, says: That for some time past numerous delays are posted at intervals of four leagues from Odessa to Sevastopol for the purpose of conveying, as soon as the snow is frozen over, reinforcements to the amount of 40,000 men for the Russian army.

At St. Petersburg complaints are heard against Prince Menschikoff, who, strange to say, is accused by the Imperial entourage and even the people, of excessive prudence, and a total want of that perilous quality which sometimes impels a General to leave a good deal to chance.

THE PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO GET CLAMOROUS against the prince, and discontented even with the Czar, who, they think, has already made far too many concessions.

REINFORCEMENTS ARE CONTINUALLY MARCHING into the Russian camp, and there is now less prospect for peace than ever.

STATE OF THE ENGLISH ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

The London Times of the 25th ult., has a most powerful article on the incapacity of the War Department, and the incompetency of British officers in the Crimea, from which we make some extracts:

The remainder of the British army might be about fifteen or seventeen thousand bayonets at the last date. About a hundred a day were sent to the hospital, never to return fit for service, and nearly as many saved their country further trouble by dying on the spot.

The weather had been worse than ever, and was expected to be worse still; heavy snow, rapid thaw, severe frost, bitter north wind, frozen trenches, impassable roads, hardened to the consistency of rock, ruts treacherously filled with driving snow, officers found suffocated by their

charcoal fires, sixty horses frozen to death in one night, and all that Englishmen have read of before, when they could afford to amuse themselves with the horrible in the narrative of Napoleon's Russian campaign.

Only a small fraction of the army had received warm upper clothing, or were likely to receive it, for the same reason. Every officer repudiated the duty of supplying, or even taking charge of anything beyond the eternal salt pork and green coffee.

The only chance was that the railway, which left Malta on the 10th, and ought to have arrived at Balaklava by this time, might extricate the army from its dead lock. But who can expect this in the face of such a uniformity of mismanagement?

It is this, then, a time to set about planning a second expedition to the East and leaving down the programme of a campaign for 1855? That it would seem, is what we are waiting for. At headquarters before Sevastopol they are waiting for the spring, when, with the Turks at Eupatoria, the Imperial Guard and other reinforcements from France, and a sufficient excess of British arrivals over British deaths and departures, they may attempt, with somewhat less hope of success, what they might have done on the 28th of September.

HORRIBLE AND DISTRESSING TRAGEDY.—A most thrilling and awful tragedy occurred in the vicinity of Cascade, on Friday night. Robert McGinty, residing some two miles this side of Cascade, went to the house of his father-in-law Mr. Clark, residing a short distance beyond Cascade, and commenced an assault upon his wife, who had gone there to escape his ill-treatment, when the father Mr. Clark, interferred by drawing a pistol from his pocket, and informing McGinty that he would shoot him if he did not desist.

McGinty followed to the house where the wife had retreated, and not finding her there, swore he would shoot the woman of the house if she did not inform him of the place of concealment of his wife. The woman alarmed for her own safety, informed McGinty the direction his wife had taken. Bent on blood, he pursued and found her concealed in the bushes, and horrible to relate, cut her heart nearly off.

Two years since a few individuals commenced boring salt wells at Pomeroy, in Meigs county, and their efforts were crowned with success in obtaining a greater supply from one well alone than had ever been known.

The London Watchman of January 24th, mentions the sudden death, in the pulpit, of the Rev. Joseph Beaumont, D. D., one of the most popular ministers of the English Wesleyan Church.