

KOSCIUSKO CHRONICLE.

BY GEORGE W. HARLOW,

'As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.'

EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

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TERMS.

The CHRONICLE is published every Saturday morning, at Two Dollars per annum, invariably in advance.

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Job work must be paid for on delivery.

Actor and Hoosier.

"Once upon a time"—not a long time ago—a peculiar comedian, of whom nothing further need be said than that he is fast losing his early pretensions to shape and beauty, and that his name is Tom Placide;—once upon a time—and, if there be any curiosity as to the season, we might as well say "during the fall"—this wag of a fellow was descending the Mississippi, in fine spirits and a sporting coat. There were divers queer characters on board the steamer, with whom Tom, while amusing himself with their peculiarities, was with a great favorite, but none of them "cotton'd" to him more kindly than an elderly "Hoosier," from the innermost depths of Indiana, and who was now visiting New Orleans for the first time. This russet looking antique, whether it was from the comedian's sporting buttons, or his habit of concluding controversy with "I'll bet you," &c., fully made up his mind that Tom was a gentleman sportsman, and whenever he saw a small game going on, he was careful in noting the skill and quality of the players, "size of their pile," &c., and bringing Tom the items. The "gentleman sportsman" was very much obliged, of course, though he didn't exactly know what to make of it; when, one day, the confidential hoosier took him aside, told him that there was a "smart chance of a pile" on one of the tables, and that if he liked, he (the hoosier) would "go in with him—in cahoot!" Tom was very much amused at this, but told his proposing partner that he was mistaken—that the fancy coat covered no "sportsman" but a player.

"Swan to gracious!" exclaimed the old contriver—"one of them fellers that tumbles!—seen 'em, once, mor'n half naked cuttin' up down to Madison." Tom didn't trouble himself much in explaining the difference between a theatrical show and a circus show, but told the story of the cards, &c., about the boat, and rendering the old fellow quite an object of interest to the passengers. Next to the card playing, the object of anxiety to the Hoosier was a very large and singularly shaped pine box, which lay in the "Social Hall," containing nothing more or less than a big fiddle, and which was owned by a very reserved and gloomy looking German, on his way south, professionally.

"Plas," said the Hoosier—he was thrice familiar with Tom, after learning that he belonged to a show—"what on airth hev they got in that box; its the onhumanist shape I ever see in all creation!"

"Hush," said Tom, mysteriously; "don't you know?"

"No! I'm nigh'ly dead a guessin'."

"Bodies!" whispered the comedian, with a strong expression or loathing.

"Bodies!" echoed the startled enquirer; "not ra'al human bodies!"

"Bodies!" repeated Tom, at the same time applying his handkerchief to his nose; "taking them down for dissection; belong to a doctor on board." The Hoosier turned away, opening his eyes and shutting his nose. At length he enquired if they were "Niggers?"

"White woman and two children," was the reply; "one on each side of her—accounts for the shape of the box." At this moment the haggard unshaven violinist approached, and the thoroughly "sawed" victim made way for him as if he had been the cholera incarnate!

"Goes about diggin' on 'em up, does

he!" said he, between his teeth, and in a suppressed voice, "why, it'll breed pison!" and out he went to the 'guard' to take a long breath.

Tom told this joke, also, among the passengers, who carried it on, big hly amused; making wide circuits whenever they had to approach the box, using their handkerchiefs, and expressing much indignation at the captain for permitting that description of freight to be brought under the noses of his passengers. Some talked of leaving the boat, and others of lynching the doctor, till at length the captain, who had also been put upon the fun, approached the crowd then gathered about the bar.

"Phew!" sniffled the captain, 'it's very warm in here, gentlemen, phew'—and he pulled out his handkerchief.—"Gentlemen, isn't there something very unpleasant about here?"

"Pretends not to know what it is!" muttered the Hoosier aside.

"Barkeeper," continued the captain, 'what the deuce is it—phew—so queer here?"

"Reckon you don't know!" exclaimed the Hoosier, stepping forward, and almost quivering with indignation.

"Know! certainly not," said the captain.

"Wall, you've got that box TOO NEAR THE STOVE, that's all!"

A sudden scream of laughter rather stumped the old fellow; but a removal of the 'lid of the coffin' was necessary before he could be convinced that the body, indeed, was only that of 'Old Rosin the Bow.' He paid 'the liquors' willingly, 'cussin' his old cat' for not rememberin' that 'Plas' was one of the show-folk varmint!' [St. Louis Reveille.

[From the Nashville Orthopolitan.]

Gen. Zachary Taylor,

THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

Recent events have thrown this gentleman so prominently before the public, that we feel disposed to gratify the strong desire, expressed by many, by giving some of the incidents of his life.

Gen. Taylor entered the army in 1808, immediately after the attack on the Chesapeake, and has been in the service of his country, from that time, to the present; having entered the army as a lieutenant of infantry, at the beginning of the last war.

For his gallant defence of Fort Harrison, on the 5th September, 1812, President Madison conferred upon him the brevet rank of Major, and he is now the oldest brevet in the army.

In 1832, he became the Colonel of the 6th Infantry; with this regiment he went to Florida in 1836, where he was always foremost in danger.

On the 25th December, 1836, Col. Taylor at the head of a detachment of about 500 men, composed of parts of 1st, 4th and 6th regiments of U. S. Infantry, and some Missouri volunteers, met about 700 Indians, under Alligator, Sam Jones and Coacoo-che, on the banks of the O-ke-cho-pee. This battle was sought by the Indians, for the day before the engagement Col. Taylor received a challenge from Alligator, telling him where to find him, and bantering him to come on. Col. Taylor desired nothing better, and immediately pushed on at rapid march to the expected battle ground, fearful that the wily Indian might change his purpose. The Indians had a strong position in a thick swamp, covered in front by a small stream, whose quick-sands rendered it almost impassible, but Col. T. pushed through the quicksands and swamps in the face of a deadly fire from a concealed foe, driving the Indians before him. The action was long and severe. The Indians yielding the ground inch by inch, and then only at the point of the bayonet. After three hours of bloody contest, the Indians were routed and pursued with great slaughter, until night. This was the last stand the Indians ever made in a large body, and the only instance in which they voluntarily gave battle. Though Col. Taylor won the day, it was at an expense of 139 killed and wounded—more than one-fourth of his whole force. Two colonels (Col. Thompson of the 5th Infantry, and Col. Gentry of the Missouri volunteers) fell at the head of the troops. Capt. Van Swearingen and Lieutenants Brooke and Carter, also fell in the engagement.

During the whole of the engagement, Col. Taylor remained on horse back,

passing from point to point, cheering his men to the conflict, and exposed to the Indian rifle at every moment. The spirit with which the commander and all his force entered into the conflict was exhibited in some verses written on the occasion, by a soldier.

"There's battle in yon hammock black,
There's lightning in yon cloud,
Hark! hark! to the music, comrades dear,
For the Indian yell is loud;
For the Indian yell is loud, my boys,
And the rifle's flash is free;
But the field of battle is our home,
And happy, happy men are we;
And happy men are we," &c.

For this battle, Mr. Poinsett, Secretary of War, rendered merited praise to all engaged, in his communication to Congress. The brevet of Brigadier General was conferred on Col. Taylor, and he was given the chief command in Florida; which he resigned in 1840, after four or five years arduous and indefatigable service in the swamps and hammocks of Florida.

After his retirement from Florida, he was assigned to the command of the 1st Department of the Army, including the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, &c., with his head quarters at Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

His position gave him the command of the Army of Occupation. The usage of the service would have justified the Government in assigning to that command either of the six general officers of the Regular Army, whose rank is higher than his.

But it may be fairly presumed that the character, gallant services and great experience of Gen. T., aside from his geographical position, pointed him out, as the appropriate commander of an army, which was to plant our flag upon the banks of the Rio del Norte.

Gen. Taylor is about 56 years of age; is a man of much general information, an excellent and tried soldier; a prudent and skilful commander, whose traits of character are, a wise precaution in providing for the hour of trial, and a fearless, reckless courage in battle.

He is a Kentuckian by birth, and all that that word implies. He is an American in heart, and stamped with all the elements of a hero, by nature.

Under his command the flag of the Union will receive no dishonor on the banks of the Rio Grande.

A Giant Chain of Railroad.

A bill has been ordered to a third reading in the U. S. Senate to aid the State of Mississippi in the construction of a rail road from Jackson, through Brandon, on the western boundary of Alabama. As it has received the support of all parties, without reference to locality or politics, and was passed to the third reading—yeas 28, nays 8—we presume there can be no doubt of its finally becoming a law. The aid is to be given by the grant of alternate sections of the public land along the proposed road. We are pleased to see that there is a prospect, amounting almost to a certainty, of the passage of this bill. The rail road is a link of the great chain between Charleston and Vicksburg, and when completed, the communication from Portland, in Maine, to Vicksburg will be entire, with a few trifling exceptions. It will be one of the noblest thoroughfares in the world, and a means of consolidating our Union, and bringing its opposite extremes into closer fellowship, will have an important political and social influence.—It will be the means, too, of adding to the value of parts of the chain of road now detached and comparatively useless. Thus, with a terminus on the Mississippi river, the Vicksburg rail road will soon become of great importance as the southern link of the giant chain, which, running through Mississippi, Alabama, and the Carolinas, will ascend along the Atlantic seaboard through Portland, and eventually to Canada!

[North American.

A CALIFORNIA FARMER.—A gentleman writing from California, to the editor of the St. Louis Reveille, remarks that his stock consists of about 4,000 head of oxen, 1700 horses and mules, 3,000 sheep, and as many hogs, and all pasture themselves without difficulty, and only require to be attended. This he has done by four hundred Indians. His annual crop of wheat is about twelve thousand bushels.

[From the N. O. Bulletin.]

Congress.

The Senate took up the bill for the prosecution of the war with Mexico, on Thursday, the 12th instant, and, after a long and interesting debate, passed it, with some trifling amendments. On the evening of the same day, the House received the bill from the Senate, and concurred in all its amendments. The amendments, as made by the Senate, are unimportant. They strike out the provision requiring the officers commanding the volunteers to be chosen by the Senate. They also reduce the pay of the private soldier to eight dollars per month.

On the same day, the House took up and passed, with a slight amendment, the bill from the Senate, providing for the organization of corps of sappers, miners, and pontoniers. A part of the day was also spent in discussing the West Point Academy bill.

The bill for prosecuting the war with Mexico passed the Senate by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Archer, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Bagby, Barrow, Benton, Breese, Bright, Cameron, Cass, John M. Clayton, Colquitt, Corwin, Crittenden, Dayton, Dickinson, Houston, Jarnagin, Jenness, Johnson, of Maryland, Johnson, of Louisiana, Lewis, McDuffie, Mangum, Morehead, Niles, Pennybacker, Rusk, Semple, Sevier, Simmons, Speight, Surgeon, Tarney, Upham, Westcott, Woodbridge, and Yulee—40.

NAYS—Messrs. Thomas Clayton, and Davis—2.

[Senators BERRIEN, CALHOUN and EVANS, being in their seats, did not vote. The other members whose names are not recorded above, were absent.]

When Mr. CRITTENDEN'S name was called, he voted "ay, except the preamble." So also did Mr. UPHAM.

The following is the bill as it has been agreed upon in the two Houses.

AN ACT providing for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and the Republic of Mexico.

Whereas, by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, for the purpose of enabling the Government of the United States to prosecute said war to a speedy and successful termination, the President be, and he is hereby authorized, to employ the militia, naval, and military force of the United States, and to call for and accept the service of any number of volunteers, not exceeding fifty thousand, who may offer their services, either as cavalry, artillery, or riflemen, to serve twelve months after they shall have arrived at the place of rendezvous, or to the end of the war, unless sooner discharged, according to the time for which they shall have been mustered into service, and that the sum of ten millions of dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury, or to come into the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying the provisions of this act into effect.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted.—That the militia, when called into service of the United States, by virtue of this act, or any other act, may, if in the opinion of the President of the United States the public interest requires it, be compelled to serve for a term not exceeding six months after their arrival at the place of rendezvous, in any one year, unless sooner discharged.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said volunteers shall furnish their own clothes, and, if cavalry, their own horses and horse equipments; and, when mustered into service, shall be armed at the expense of the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That said volunteers when called into actual service, and while remaining therein, shall be subject to the rules and articles of war, and shall be, in all respects, except as to clothing and pay, placed on the same footing with similar corps of the United States army; and in lieu of clothing, every non-commissioned officer and private in any company who may thus offer himself, shall be entitled, when called into actual service, to receive in money a sum equal to the cost of clothing of a non-commissioned officer or pri-

vate (as the case may be) in the regular troops of the United States.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted That the said volunteers so offering their services shall be accepted by the President in companies, battalions, squadrons, and regiments, whose officers shall be appointed in the manner prescribed by law in the several States and territories to which such companies, battalions, squadrons and regiments shall respectively belong.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized to organize companies, so tendering their services, into battalions or squadrons; battalions or squadrons into regiments; regiments into brigades, and brigades into divisions, as soon as the number of volunteers shall render such organization in his judgment expedient; and the President shall, if necessary, apportion the staff, field and general officers among the respective States and Territories from which the volunteers shall tender their services, as he may deem proper.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the volunteers who may be received into the service of the United States by virtue of the provisions of this act, who shall be wounded or otherwise disabled in service, shall be entitled to all the benefits which may be conferred on persons wounded in the service of the United States.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized forthwith to complete all the public armed vessels, now authorized by law, and to purchase or charter, arm, and equip, and man such merchant vessels and steamboats as upon examination may be found fit or easily converted into armed vessels, fit for the public service, and in such numbers as he may deem necessary for the protection of the seaboard, lake-coast, and the general defence of the country.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That, whenever the militia or volunteers are called and received into the service of the United States, under the provisions of this act, they shall have the organization of the army of the United States, and shall have the same pay and allowances, and all mounted privates, non-commissioned officers, musicians and artificers, shall be allowed 40 cents per day for the use and risk of their horses, except of horses actually killed in action; and if any mounted volunteer non-commissioned officer, musician or private, shall not keep himself provided with a serviceable horse, said volunteers shall serve on foot.

A PROCLAMATION

By the President of the United States of America.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by virtue of the constitutional authority vested in them, have declared by their act, bearing date this day, that, by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that Government and the United States:

Now, therefore, I, JAMES K. POLK, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern; and I do specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, civil or military, under the authority of the United States, that they be vigilant and zealous in discharging the duties respectively incident thereto; and I do, moreover, exhort all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they feel the wrongs which have forced on them the last resort of injured nations, and as they consult the best means, under the blessings of Divine Providence, of abridging its calamities, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and the efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents. Done at the city of Washington, the thirteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and of the independence of the United States the seventieth.

JAMES K. POLK.

By the President:
J. BUCHANAN, Secretary of State.