

Washington, May 18.

The President's paper continues to spread barefaced falsehoods through its columns in reference to the course of the Whig party. Its masters, in Congress, having failed to produce a division upon the vote of the supplies which was the main object of the president, nothing is left but the contemptible expedient of making partisan issues during a time of war and charging the basest slanders to get up an opposition. This purpose had been discovered from the beginning—and there is every just cause that the whig batteries should be opened at once, against Mr Polk, for having violated the constitution, in wantonly and deliberately making this war, yet their equanimity is not to be disturbed, at a season when the best deliberation is required for the good of the country, whose honor and whose interests have been thus wickedly jeopardized. The time will come however, when this miserable concern may expect an investigation, as rigid and searching as the forms of legislation will admit.

This scheme originated in a war against the whigs, and design to secure Mr Polk's re-election, which has never for a moment, been out of view, in any public act or appointment, since the first day he entered the walls of the White House. Time, alone, will prove how far he has succeeded.

Now that this war has commenced, it will not be considered improper, I trust, to inquire to its probable results; and, as Mr Ritchie and his friends may be backward in their responses, I shall take the general reply upon myself.—It will exhaust the treasury, and entail a public debt of twenty millions or more. It will cost us the lives of some of our most valuable officers and citizens. It prosecuted into the enemy's country, disease will desolate the ranks and after it is all over, or gallant army or its remnants, will return home, bringing no glory but that having conquered a government so feeble and wretched as not to be able to quell internal insurrection, or to support the dignity and decency of its own laws, a prey to faction, and the mere creature of every military despot. Is that the sort of field for American valor, which has no superior in magnanimity? Is that the battle ground for high courage and daring? The sympathies of the civilized world will be in favor of Mexico, just as much as ours would be were she contending with another power. We should fall under the opprobrium of every brave nation, and the soldiers, who deserved renown, will hang down their heads at the mention of the Mexican war. When all is done we shall perhaps have gained the boundary of the Rio Grande, which for all practical purposes was quite as good before, as will be after this war.

For ten millions of dollars this line of division could have been secured, and California made part of the arrangement. Now, we shall have to pay twenty-five perhaps fifty millions of dollars, and get only a doubtful tenure on the Rio Grande. How much more polite and honorable, and valuable, too, to have made the pacific adjustment. But Mr Polk was determined to have war, at some cost, and he has succeeded.

In the House of Representatives, today the locofocoes have been warring with their thunderbolts of war which costs much less when made of words than of iron, and which can be hurled about with more assurance of personal safety. If some of these high blooded champions would only volunteer for the camp, it would give an illustration of their sincerity, which is now very much questioned, and by none more so than by their own friends. But I apprehend these "patriots" of Congress will keep out harm's way, and leave the fighting to be done by others, while they satisfy their gallantry by talking.

Mr Secretary Walker, determined to have a finger in the pie, has ordered nine revenue cutters to the scene of action, without law—but, of course that makes but little difference to these fire eating patriots whenever there is a trick of popularity to be won.

The chairman of the committee of ways and means is exceedingly distressed, at the prospect of his bill in the House, and finds his force weakening instead of strengthening, with each new day. With the hope of gaining over a few refractory votes, he will move it to be recommitted, for the purpose of making such revisions as will be satisfactory to those who now retard its progress. The agent of the British manufactures, Mr Homer, has been sadly embarrassed in his operations for the last week, some of the northern members have retreated from their original pledges, and left him and his co-operators in a minority. The New York delegation has already given way, almost in solid column; and but six remain, who avow a purpose to support the bill. This philanthropic individual, as he professes to be, keeps up constant communication with Mr Secretary Walker; and they both begin to realize, and probably for the first time, that their nostrum is rather nauseous a dose, for even a locofoco majority of more than 70, notwithstanding the Baltimore Convention, to take down. They may as well take up their baggage and seek another market.

The news from the frontier is not interesting and exciting, and as you will receive it more in detail by the

same mail that carries this letter, it is unnecessary for me to go into particulars. Although a great rejoicing has been made over it, looking at all that has been detailed, I must confess, I am unable to discover any cause of congratulation. Taylor and fifteen hundred of his troops are in a worse condition than at any previous time; if they were opposed, as we are led to believe, by a formidable force of eight or ten thousand, nothing short of a miracle can save them. But, we must hope for the best.

Mr Seth Barton, Solicitor for the Treasury, was confirmed to-day with opposition. VERITAS.

Washington, May 19, 1846. SENATE.—Mr Benton, from the committee on Military Affairs, which committee had been directed to inquire into the expediency of making further provisions to promote the efficiency of the volunteer force authorized by law, reported 'An act supplementary to an act entitled an act for the prosecution of the existing war between the Republic of Mexico and the U. S. and for other purposes.'

The bill to provide for the adjustment of suspended pre-emption claims in the several states and territories, was passed.

On motion of Mr Lewis, proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the support of the Post Office Department for the year 1847.

Mr Speight said it was not his intention to oppose the passage of the bill—but he launched out at once into an attack upon the cheap postage system, which he denounced as a scheme to keep up high taxes.

Mr Niles replied that the committee had not thought it their duty to recommend any change. He was surprised at the denunciation of a bill which was one of the most beneficial that had ever been enacted. As to the stage lines, they had hitherto been a burden of a million of dollars a year on the Department, and nothing to do with the conveyance of the mails.—Mr Niles said he had recently learned from the postmaster at New York that the increased number of letters passing through his office, was astonishing.—Mr N. was of the opinion that after the next lettings the Department would cease to be a burden upon the treasury.

Mr Calhoun inquired what had been the falling off in the revenue as compared with last year.

Mr Niles said he believed it was about 45 per cent on the first six months.

The bill was passed over till tomorrow.

The committee on foreign relations made a report on the subject of the claim of the owners of the brig Gen. Armstrong upon the government of Portugal, which was ordered to be printed.

The Senate then took up the special order, the French spoliation bill, and Mr Morehead proceeded to address the Senate, in a very able speech in behalf of the claimants. He had not concluded when the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—In the House it was agreed to take the army bill out of committee at 2 o'clock to-day.

Mr McKay had moved to the amount of appropriations on account of the war, seventeen millions.

Mr Dromgoole made a speech on the Mexican question, justifying the course of the President on Constitutional ground, in taking a position opposite Matamoros. He maintained that, from this point, he had right to pursue any force that threatened him, on the other side of the river. He complimented Gen. Ampudia with the opinion that by his proclamation, he had put himself without the pale of national law and ought to be tried & punished—when we catch him—for man stealing. As to the boundary, he was not surprised that it was disputed and given up every boundary.

Mr Tibbats of Ky., made an argument in support of the title of the United States to the Rio Grande as the boundary line.

Mr Black of South Carolina, spoke in support of his proposition to increase the pay of the troops to ten dollars a month.

Mr Washington Hunt pronounced the act of the Executive, in making war upon Mexico, unconstitutional, and urged that the people would hold the authors of the war, responsible for the stain it had brought upon the country. But as we were in a war he trusted it would be so prosecuted that it would be brought to a speedy conclusion. He was opposed to a lingering protracted war, and was in favor of a magnanimous peace. Considering that Mexico was a feeble power, the war would not be hoped, he prosecuted in a full spirit of revenge, but in a humane and generous manner.

Mr Cooke of Tennessee, though an ardent opponent of the administration, as to all its internal policy, was in favor of continuing the war and prosecuting it with vigor. There was no disputed territory except where a hostile force was found.

Mr McKay's amendment was agreed to. The amendment raising the pay of the soldiers was declared out of order.

An amendment for cutting down the allowance for travel to the officers of the army and navy to six cents a mile was carried—yeas 109, nays 85.

* This is the way of returning thanks to General Taylor and his army. The bill passed—yeas 191, nays none, and the House adjourned. (N. Y. Com. Ad.)

THE HERALD

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 28.

WAR! WAR!!

The war with Mexico continues still to be the engrossing and exciting subject of conversation. It is made the theme upon which brawling politicians waste their breath—and tuckoo patriots belch forth their strains of vindictiveness against all nations, save their own—thus showing to the world such evidence of their devotion to the country as was never seen before.—It is a topic upon which base demagogues delight to dwell;—and it is amusing to witness with what perfect nonchalance this interesting portion of our people consign to 'low depths' such stubborn folk as will not join them in all their songs of praise and glory to the present powers that be!—'The Gods' are called upon to 'destroy' all such as will not surrender their own opinions, and follow, without question, the lead of these reckless and dishonest seekers after fame—not place.

But notwithstanding the general and absorbing interest taken in this matter, we doubt after all, whether those most in interest—the bone and sinew of the country, those who are to pay for the continuation of 'a exhibition of these fire works'—are to the full extent aware of the cost of these pastimes, or of the precise position in which the mad and crazy pranks of the President is likely to place them and the country. We hear much said of the strength and power of our nation. This strength—the power—we are not disposed to underrate—but in no way is the strength and power and glory of a nation so securely preserved as in the cultivation of the arts of peace. Let this not be forgotten;—and let it be forever borne in mind that it has been by the rigid adherence to this doctrine—to the carrying out of this policy—that gives to our country its present force and power, and invests our flag with that dignity which causes it to be honored and respected in every sea and clime. But says a valiant locofoco, 'We are already in war—we are enough for all the world;—and therefore we must fight our way out, regardless of consequences.' When, but a few months since it was urged by the Whigs, as one reason for their opposition to the annexation of Texas, that war would come of it—they were laughed at as croakers and panic makers. Well, war has come of it! and now each and every Whig is to swallow his own predictions, and stultify himself, or he is no patriot, no lover of his country,—at least so says locofocism from one end of the country to the other. Now how stands the Whigs in view of this question? They find the country thrust into a needless war to gratify the ambition of a weak and imbecile man, who by accident (No. 2) is placed in the Presidential chair—and yet, almost to a man, the Whig party from one end of the country to the other, are for the carrying out of this war to an immediate and successful termination. We are in war—which we regret; but being in—there is but one honorable way out. And it is moreover important that we extricate ourselves from our present difficulties at once, lest we run upon more serious evils. The torch of war, when once kindled, is no rush light or flaring candle, that can be extinguished by a breath—but a devouring flame that carries conflagration and woe over the land illuminated by its lurid glare. In view, then, of the situation of our relations with other countries than Mexico, we hope nothing farther may come of the annexation of Texas than a short and triumphant vindication of our honest claims upon that territory.

THE BOUNDARY OF TEXAS.

We often hear the Whigs abused by such locos as know no better—for the expression of an honest opinion than, in the claim of the U. States to all of Texas and part of Mexico, to the Rio Grande, a manifest injustice is done to the latter nation. Before carrying this matter too far it might be well for these patriotic gentlemen, to look a little into the tenets of some of the leaders of their own party as it regards this question.

Col. Benton in his great speech upon the Texian Treaty, 1844, after showing that Mexico was to be robbed of a slice of territory two thousand miles long and some hundred broad, closed as follows:—

'I wash my hands of all attempts to diminish the Mexican Republic by seizing her dominions in New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Tamaulipas. The treaty in all that relates to the boundary of the Rio Grande, is an act of unparalleled outrage on Mexico.—It is the seizure of two thousand miles of her territory, without a word of explanation with her, and by virtue of a treaty of Texas to which she is no party. Our secretary of State, in his letter to the U. States Charge in Mexico, and seven days after the treaty was signed, and after the Mexican minister had withdrawn from our seat of Government shows full well that he was conscious of the enormity of this outrage; knew it was war; and proffered volunteer apologies to avert the consequences which he knew he had provoked.'

'I therefore propose, as an additional resolution, applicable to the Rio del Norte boundary only—the one which I will read and send to the Secretary's table, and on which at the

proper time, I shall ask the vote of the Senate. This is the Resolution:— Resolved, That the incorporation of the left bank of the Rio del Norte, into the American Union, by virtue of a treaty with Texas, comprehending as said corporation would do, a part of the Mexican departments of New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Tamaulipas, would be an act of aggression on Mexico; for all the consequences of which the United States would stand responsible.'

CONVENTION OF THE FRIENDS OF EDUCATION.

It is to be hoped that a goodly number of the friends of Education, and especially the town superintendents, will be in attendance upon the Convention to be held in this village on the 3d of June. It is also desirable that as many teachers of both sexes as can make it convenient will attend this meeting.

Much has been said of the waywardness of the younger male portion of our community—and, as we had ever supposed, with some reason. We were however disposed to favor the 'b-boys' with a hearing, and consequently give place to the following communication from one of them. Whether he makes out a case or whether he throws any light upon the causes which tend to produce the evil complained of, is for every one to judge for himself. We have before, in speaking of the evils of our old common school system, alluded to in this matter and have now nothing to add.

For the Herald.

UNPOPULARITY OF BOYHOOD.

It is an unquestionable and notable fact that in certain *towns* is aristocratic towns there is a period in the lives of young persons, especially of boys, when they are, to a great degree, excluded from respectable society. And the consequences arising from this are, that this excluded part of community engage in mischievous and petty tricks, and (what is most important) degrade themselves, and become a continual pest to the community at large. I said their own degradation was of chief importance, because it is not owing to the boy's own choice, but genteel and respectable people treat them with very little and sometimes no attention, so that they are almost forced from the society which would have no other tendency than to improve their character, and bring them up in the way they should go, and they associate together, indulging in the only recreation left them by those who are solely in fault, and who undoubtedly will be called to an account for these very young men's commencement in the seductive course of crime, when the black catalogue of crime is finally read over, which will decide the fate for an endless eternity.

It is a well known though seemingly not an acknowledged fact, that young people of just and well have amusements, either of an innocent, or of an injurious and vicious kind. If they are shown no respect, treated with no attention, banished from society they will of course, not of choice, form bands of conspiracy for robbing hen-roosts, breaking windows, removing marble door steps from churches, as well as private houses, leaving down fences, taking gates off their hinges and carrying them some distance from their proper places, to the great annoyance of their respective owners; till finally, as their age increases, they look upon these little tricks as beneath them; and pilfering small sums of money (for they have no other means of obtaining it) go on to greater deeds of iniquity, such a gambling, drinking, &c. till at last they become fit subjects for state-prisons and the gallows.

But to confine myself more strictly to my subject. After the boys become noted for their vices, this would be aristocracy wonder how it happened that the boys in their town have become so wicked. They say, 'We would not on any account have our children—that is, those of them who have not already enlisted in these bands of iniquity; for, fortunately, these people receive, in part, their punishment for neglect of duty, in this world, by having the guilt and misery of their own sons to mourn over—remain here for fear they will associate with these mischievous boys' and therefore withhold all their encouragement of education in that town by necessarily sending their sons and daughters abroad for improvement.

Perhaps it may be better to give a brief description of a town which I now have in my mind, where a course directly opposite the one I have been endeavoring to describe is pursued, and in this way set forth a precedent for every town. This town is pleasantly situated near the Green Mountains, upon a rise of ground, about a mile and a half distant from a noble stream which empties its turbulent waters into Lake Champlain. Undoubtedly the settlers selected this spot, thus far from any stream, because they were a quiet people and did not desire to have the noise of the machinery of various factories and mills which its waters seemed beautifully adapted to keep in constant operation. They wished their village to be so large and no larger, unless some of the same cast of mind with them selves should desire to settle among them, for whom they have many fine building spots reserved. In this village—the description of which I have just given—great attention is shown, and great encouragement held forth to the young. The boys are not noted for their mischievous tricks,

nightly revelings and bootings, and open insults. Some may inquire how this can be. It certainly is not the case in other towns. I reply, because the inhabitants invariably show them the greatest attention. They allow—I can almost say compel—their children to associate with one another from their infancy upward, and in this way exert a moral influence over their character, cultivate their manners, and deter them from indulging in pastimes, at least, detrimental to their character and usefulness in after life. Hence the parents never reprove one another for the misdeeds of their children. They do not say to each other.—Your son plays cards, or your son went a bathing on the Sabbath, for my boys were there and saw him, and would not have gone had they not followed your son's example, he being older than they. In fact, one parent does not ask another to take a note out of his eye, while there is a beam in his own. No, they all together help to remove all the beams and notes out of all their eyes.

Another noticeable fact is, that whenever a young man comes among them for the purpose of learning a trade or studying a profession, the inhabitants, yea, the most aristocratic of them (this is, by no means, the extreme of aristocracy, quite the contrary, for it is such a difficult thing to be aristocratic there, that it amounts almost to no aristocracy) immediately upon his arrival invite him to their houses, make parties for him, and in short, treat him with all possible attention, and offer him every encouragement, that he may be successful in his newly undertaken pursuit. But to sum up this whole matter in a word, the inhabitants of this little, peaceful town, show the young special favor. They even seem to sacrifice their own property and pleasure, and to do every thing in their power for their improvement; yea, they consider that soon the young are to occupy their places, and endeavor to have them follow in the footsteps of their forefathers.

My object in writing this article is to show that it is not simply the fault of the boys themselves, or of their parents merely, but of the community in which they live; that they begin by little mischievous tricks, and go on in deeds of daring till they bring ruin upon themselves, and get down in misery to an untimely grave; that it is not the fault of the young men themselves; that if, as soon as their eyes are open to see their position, and the disadvantages which they labor against, they leave their own homes, and go abroad to seek a place where they will have better encouragements for labor and renown; where they will be treated with attention, and as though they themselves were soon to take their proper place in society. A BOY.

We lay before our reader an account of the surprise and the subsequent surrender of Capt. Thornton's command. Though not official, we have it from a gentleman familiar with the circumstances of the case, and upon whom all reliance may be placed. We do not know when we have published any thing which has afforded us such sincere pleasure. It will cheer hearts that have been wrung with all the bitterness of grief, and make the nation glad.

SURPRISE AND SURRENDER OF CAPT. THORNTON'S COMMAND.—On the evening of the 23d ult., General Taylor's spies brought in intelligence to the effect that about two thousand five hundred Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande to the Texas side above the American Fort, and that about fifteen hundred of the same had crossed below. Gen. T. immediately dispatched a squadron of dragoons to each place of crossing, for the purpose of reconnoitering them and ascertaining their position. The squadron ordered below was in command of Capt. Kerr, the one above was commanded by Captain Thornton, and composed of Capt. Hardee, Lieut. Kane and Mason, with 61 privates and non-commissioned officers. The former commander, Capt. Kerr, on arriving at the point where it was supposed they crossed, found that the report was false, that they had not crossed there, but had all crossed above, which was afterwards proved by Capt. T's command being surprised, in which Lieut. Gen. Mason with 9 men were killed and two wounded. The wounded were sent to Gen. T's camp; the army having no hospital in the field. Capt. Thornton, Hardee and Lieut. Kane miraculously escaped, together with the balance of the non-commissioned officers and men, but were captured and are now prisoners of war in Mexico.

The circumstances which led to the surprise are these: After Capt. T's command had proceeded up the Rio Grande about twenty-four miles, and as was supposed, to within about three miles of the Mexican camp, the guide refused to go any further, and stated for his reason that the whole country was infested with Mexicans. Capt. T, however, proceeded on with his command about two miles, when he came to a farm-house, which was enclosed entirely by a chapparal fence, with the exception of that portion of it which bordered on the river, and this was so boggy as to be impassable. Capt. T. entered this enclosure through a pair of bars and approached the house for the purpose of making some inquiry, his command followed him. So soon as his command had all entered the en-

closure, the enemy, having been concealed in the chapparal, about two thousand five hundred in number, completely surrounded them, and commenced firing upon his command.—He then wheeled his command, thinking that he could charge through the enemy and pass out where he had entered, not however without a considerable loss. This he attempted, but did not succeed, the enemy being too strong.

At this instant Capt. Hardee approached him, for the purpose of advising him how to extricate themselves. The firing of the enemy still continued, Capt. Thornton's horse, having doubtless received a shot, ran away with him, and leaped the chapparal fence, and plunged over a precipice, where he fell, with Capt. T. under him, where the latter remained insensible for five or six hours. This rapidly placed Capt. Hardee in command with the residue, to make his escape by the river—intending, on arriving at its margin, to swim it. In this he failed, finding it so boggy that he could not get to it. He then returned, taking the precaution to get out of distance of musketry—dismounted and examined the arms of his men, determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible. Before he had succeeded, however, in the inspection of his arms, a Mexican officer rode up and asked him to surrender. Capt. H. replied that he would surrender on one condition—which was, that if the Mexican General would receive them as prisoners of war, and treat them as the most civilized nations do, he would surrender, but on no other conditions. The Mexican officer bore this message to the General commanding, and returned with the assurance that he would. Capt. H. then surrendered. Capt. Thornton and H., with Lieut. Kane, and the residue of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Capt. T's command, are now prisoners of war, in Mexico. The enemy threats them remarkably well.

Lieut. Gen. Mason was a fine young officer, and his death is much regretted. His sabre belt was recognized among some articles that were subsequently captured from the enemy.

So lively is the curiosity to learn every particular of the actions of the 3d and 4th instant, that we annex hereto a letter from an officer at Point Isabel, written more for our private eye than for the public, but which cannot but interest all our readers:

POINT ISABEL, May, 5th 1846.

Gentlemen—When the express came in, this morning, I hurriedly pencilled down the gratifying intelligence which it brought us, expecting the boat would leave in a few minutes. It now only waits for Gen. Taylor's official despatch, which is being prepared for Washington. Having heard the official report, from Major Brown read, and having a letter before me from there, I will give you further particulars accordingly.

On the morning of the 3d, at reveille, the Mexicans opened their batteries upon the work, throwing balls and shells, without intermission, until sunset, finishing with half a dozen extra ones, at tattoo, for a lullaby.

At reveille, on the 4th, they opened again, sending a few shot and shells—which compliment was repeated at noon. Our artillery silenced the first opposite ours, in half an hour after the firing commenced on the 4th, and knocked three embrasures into one. This caused them to stop firing there for a considerable time, to repair damages. Our artillery also dismounted several of their guns, and, from appearances, must have killed many men. On our part, but one sergeant of the 7th Infantry, was killed, being shot in the head with a 3lb ball. He was carried to the hospital, when, strange to say, a shell fell, and blew the remainder of his head off. Some twenty men were standing around the hospital when the shell burst; several were knocked down but not injured. One artillery soldier was slightly wounded by a piece of a shell, and many have made narrow escapes. We only kept up our fire for about two hours—saving our ammunition whilst theirs was being thrown away. From their having thrown from 1500 to 2000 shot and shells, and killing but one of our men and wounding another, you may judge they are none of the best artillerists, and that we had good defences. Their shot riddled a good many of our tents unserviceable, but all our men are in good spirits, and anxious to come to close quarters.

Our picket guard is now firing at a party of Mexican soldiers, about a mile below the fort. The Chapparal between this and the fort, is like a hedge, so full is it with Mexicans. It is thought they will make an assault on the rear of the fort, and try and repel the march of the troops from this point returning. General Taylor leaves as soon as a reinforcement arrives here—which will enable the work to be defended without the force which he brought down from above.

In haste yours.

GEN. TAYLOR'S DESPATCHES.

Official despatches from Gen. Taylor were received at Washington on Tuesday evening the 19th inst. The Union gives the following account of their contents:

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.—We learn that despatches were received this evening from Gen. Taylor, dated the 3d and 5th inst.—both Point Isabel and the fort on the Rio Grande perfectly safe.

On the 1st, the defences on the river being made strong, (nearly completed,) Gen.