



Several days proceedings of Congress will be found in another part of our paper, from which it will be seen that Gen. Gaines' course in making requisitions for troops on some of the Governors of the Western States, is commented upon with harshness and severity. We observe that the Washington Union terms the General's course as "unauthorized and extraordinary."

In the Senate on Saturday the French Spoliation Bill was ordered to be engrossed by a vote of 27 to 21. In the House, there appears to be a manifest desire among some of its members to fix a day for adjournment, notwithstanding the imperative mandate issued by the Union, that Congress should not adjourn before September.

Mr. Andrew Johnson, a Loco, moved for a suspension of the rules on Saturday, so as to enable him to offer a resolution providing for a termination of the present session of Congress on the 20th of July. The vote was 84, yeas 73, Nays two-thirds. So the rules were not suspended.

In the Senate on Monday, Mr. Lewis, from the finance committee, to whom had been referred the sub-treasury bill from the House, reported it. The same with sundry amendments. They were ordered to be printed.

The Senate then took up the resolution of Mr. Hanegan providing for the termination of the present session of Congress on the 20th of July.

Mr. Lewis hoped the resolution would be laid over until Monday next, in order that due attention might be paid to the finances of the country.

Mr. Huntington thought the resolution might as well be adopted at once.

Mr. Dayton was of the same opinion. Finally, by a vote of 27 to 21, the further consideration of the resolution was postponed until Monday next.

A message was received from the President, transmitting, in answer to the resolution of Friday last, all the correspondence between the War Department and Gen. Scott, together with the correspondence between Gen. Gaines and the Department.

The Magnetic Telegraph. The line of Magnetic telegraph between New York and Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York, is now completed, and in full operation, conveying communications with the rapidity of thought.

In a short time the Telegraph will be completed between New York and Boston, when there will be a regular channel between Washington and Boston, which will be of the utmost importance to Bank officers and merchants, and the business community generally.

On the same day a race was run for a purse of \$500 by Sunbeam, Antionette and Vase. Sunbeam being withdrawn and Antionette distanced on the second heat.

The Powhatan House. The reader to the advertisement of establishment, the Powhatan House, which has been received with a round of applause, which we have appeared, in a Friday evening session. We copy the following from among the numerous notices of the Press.

The Orphean Family. The party consists of four, including first and second tenor and bass voices, all of which are of extraordinary power and sweetness—the first tenor and bass, particularly, we have rarely heard excelled—the tenor sounding up to G in all, with perfect correctness—and the bass for richness and volume rivaling the notes of a well trained trombone. As a whole, we have never heard a band whose voices in singing were in such perfect harmony, indeed in some of their pieces it is difficult for the listener to believe that the music is the production of four separate voices, so perfect is the intonation—so excellent the time, as to give the effect of a single instrument played upon by a master-hand.—Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.

"We would call attention to the Orphean Family's Concert this evening, and would advise our friends who love to drink in sweet sounds not to miss the opportunity of listening to harmony the most perfect we ever heard. The astonishing compass of the Soprano voice seemed by turns to amaze and delight the audience, while the Bass in some of the pieces rivalled the notes of a well played trombone. The tenor and second are also excellent."—N. Y. Evening Post.

"We had the pleasure of hearing these talented Vocalists last evening, and do not hesitate pronouncing them unequalled."—National Intelligencer.

That Splendid Furniture. It appears from the following that Mr. Pakenham has purchased that splendid chamber furniture, exhibited at the National Fair. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot says: "I learn that Mr. Pakenham, the British Minister, has purchased the magnificent set of chamber furniture exhibited at the Fair, and valued at \$3,000. Some say they would like to see the Sovereign Queen Victoria, as a sample of what the Yankee mechanics can do. Others say the Minister, who is a single man, intends being single no longer. At all events, the ladies at the Fair insist upon it that Mr. Pakenham must now marry."

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE.—One of the Penitentiary convicts, employed in some outdoor work, under the guard of two soldiers, attempted to make his escape on Monday last. He set off at a brisk rate but was soon brought to, after receiving a shot through his hat. The man who determines to "extend his area of freedom" in this way, must make up his mind to risk life and limb against at least two rounds of ball cartridge.—Rich. Rep.

SHANNONDALE.—A pretty name for a most delightful spot and very salubrious waters. These springs are in Jefferson county, often termed the "garden spot of Virginia," and we may add, that a more agreeable place of sojourn never fell to the lot of either invalid or man of pleasure. It is but a day and a half's journey from here, by Rail Road and Steamboat, and is worth visiting by every one who delights in both beautiful scenery and health-giving waters.—Richmond Republican.

### Arrival of the Hibernia.

The Hibernia brought Liverpool dates to the 18th of May, being 12 days later than the Great Britain.

### Later from the Army.

Arrived at N. Orleans of the Steamers Galveston and James L. Day—Confirmation of the Capture of Matamoros—U. S. Squadron ordered to Vera Cruz, to prepare for an Attack upon Vera Cruz.

### Congressional Proceedings.

THURSDAY, June 4. U. S. SENATE.

Mr. Sturgeon presented a petition respecting the barque *Pons*, condemned as a slave and sold in Philadelphia praying that her name may be changed to that of *Cordelia*.

Mr. Cass offered a resolution calling on the President to report whether any officer of the Army, has during the past year, called on the States for militia or volunteers, without sufficient authority; and if so, what number were so called for, and whether said call has been countermanded.

Mr. Cass said he referred to the calls made to have been made by Gen. Gaines. Mr. C. read a statement showing that Gen. G. had made a call for upwards of 12,000 troops, and had made appointments of 12,000 officers of the same. Whether Gen. G. had authority or not for what he had done, Mr. C. said he intended no reflection on his motives—for he (Mr. C.) believed him to be a gallant and meritorious officer—but he (Gen. G.) had acted unconstitutionally. Gen. Taylor had authority, Gen. Gaines had not. The latter had been ordered to Washington.

The resolution was then laid over for the day.

It is true, as has been said, that a democratic caucus was held on Friday last, which determined not to take up the tariff until next Monday. It is believed that the members of the caucus might not have been present at all. We are decidedly of opinion that the tariff is a very important subject, and that it should be taken up at once.

The House of Representatives. From 11 until 1 o'clock the House was engaged on the bill for increasing the number of General Officers in the Army. (The supplemental bill of the Committee of the Whole was adopted.)

All the amendments of the Committee of the Whole were passed by a vote of 119 yeas to 83 nays.

Mr. C. G. Davis offered a resolution that the volunteers called into the service are militia, over whom the President has no power to appoint officers.

A motion to suspend the rules were made, to allow the resolution to be received, was rejected—yeas 53, nays 108.

The House then went into committee of the whole, and took up the territorial business.

FRIDAY, June 5. U. S. SENATE.

Mr. Haywood, in reply to a question from Mr. Pennybacker, said the House bill for the retrocession of Alexandria to Virginia, will be taken up next week.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the resolution of Mr. Cass yesterday calling on the President for information as to whether any officer of the Army had called into service mounted volunteers without authority of law.

Mr. Cass made some additional remarks in support of the resolution, and repeated that he did not impugn the motives of General Gaines, the officer alluded to, but that as acts like these went to establish precedents, they ought not to be looked upon with indifference.

Mr. Webster was in a brave and gallant of casture upon the subject, and he believed that he had acted for the best in the pressing emergency.

Mr. Webster vigorously defended General Taylor, and he believed that the country would sustain General Gaines in what he had done.

Mr. Webster concluded by moving to amend the resolution so as to call for copies of all correspondence between the Secretary of War and General Scott on the subject of the latter taking command of the Army.

After further debate, Mr. Webster rose and ridiculed the idea that in such an emergency it could be expected that General Gaines would have waited until he could send 2,000 miles to get authority of law for raising the volunteers to go to the relief of Gen. Taylor. It is true the General might have transcended the strict letter of the law; but what was that compared with the perilous situation of our army at the time the call was made.

Mr. Webster elicited the information that although General Gaines had in the first place called out these troops without authority of law, yet that in three instances of such calls the President had given his sanction to them. Then was it not to be inferred that the same sanction would be given to the fourth and fifth call, etc. This fact, he argued, gave the call no moral force, for no other service than that of printing countless tracts of useless documents, which are next day in the shops of the grocer and tallow-chandler.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce says: "The new Tariff bill will pass the House, beyond a doubt, one fortnight from next Monday. This is Mr. McKay's belief, and it is the opinion of the most strenuous of the Pennsylvania Democrats (protectionists). As to the fate of the bill in the Senate, it is in doubt. It will depend upon the votes of two or three Southern Whigs, who are wavering."

Our Whig friends, it is every Democratic Senator who from Pennsylvania, will vote for this bill, but it is safe beyond a doubt. Whig Enquirer.

Whig Prophecies Fulfilled. The Whigs foretold with unerring prophecy, the situation our country would be placed in if Mr. Polk should rule over the destinies of the nation. They said that should Polk be elected, he would endeavor to have the Sub-Treasury, with all its odious features, re-created; and the Tariff repealed; the Nation brought into debt; and in short, the country brought to that miserable condition which now the Van Buren administration are not all these coming to pass to the letter? Does it not prove the wisdom and foresight of the Whigs, and the danger of the ascendency of the opposing party?

Mr. Clay told, with the knowledge of a profound statesman, that by our annexing Texas we were "assuming a war," in his letter on the subject of Annexation, from which we make the following extract: "Under these circumstances, if the Government of the United States were to acquire Texas, it would acquire along with it all the incumbrances which Texas is under, and among them the actual or suspended War between Mexico and Texas. Of that consequence there cannot be a doubt. Annexation and War with Mexico are identical."

Violent Storms. We do not recollect of ever seeing as many accounts of hail storms, &c., as have been registered this summer. From almost every section of country we hear of heavy rains being destructive in their character.

### Virginia Free Press.

CHARLES TOWN: THURSDAY MORNING, June 31, 1846.

TEA AND COFFEE TO BE TAKEN.

Treasury Notes and Loans Proposed. A Long Session called for by the Union.

The organ of the Administration, the Washington Union, has the following article, indicative of the "beatings" which we call on the people to read and consider upon. Look at the dictatorial airs this paper assumes—threatening it throws out in seemingly fine invectives—and the loans it calls upon Congress to make, rather than suffer the revenue of the tariff, supported by an argument in its favor, which would be an argument in its favor.

—and then decide whether or not this Republic is not coming to a dangerous pass—the subversion of the independence of a Representative body—in allowing a Federal Executive thus to exercise its powers in the person of a government organ, and declare what shall be done and done.

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### FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

numbers—Additional Particulars of the Action of the 8th and 9th of May.

From the Galveston News, Extra, May 21. The steamship Telegraph has just arrived from Point Isabel. Through the politeness of the obliging clerk we have been furnished with the following information:

He reports that on the 17th inst., a detachment of 300 regulars and 350 volunteers proceeded to Barita and took possession of it and established a military depot. On the night of the 19th an express arrived from Gen. Taylor, stating that he had crossed the Rio Grande and taken the city of Matamoros without opposition—the Mexicans having fled from the city.

The Mexicans, from the last accounts, were deserting their ranks in battalions. Two American regiments, with the exception of about 350 men, having marched a few days previous, were stationed at the Brazos Point, awaiting the orders of Gen. Taylor, as it was thought they would leave on the 20th for Matamoros, via the old Barita road.

Col. McIntosh, Capt. Page and all the others that were wounded in the actions of the 8th and 9th are at Point Isabel and were recovering.

Capt. Auld thinks the whole number of our killed and wounded must amount to more than 300, besides the wounded taken to St. Joseph.

There are now 40 at Point Isabel, too badly wounded to be removed. All but three it is thought will recover. There are three Mexican prisoners having but one leg between them all.

All our accounts represent the Mexicans as having fought on the 9th with a courage and desperation that would have reflected credit upon the troops of any nation.

They were nearly in a state of starvation, and had been promised the ample supplies of the American camp in case they would secure the victory.

They met the charges of our troops manfully, and stood the destructive fire that was poured in upon them, without giving way until their wicks were encumbered with the dead and wounded.

From the Galveston News, May 22. The sloop Orange Branch, Capt. Underhill, arrived yesterday, 24 hours from Indian Point—near Port Lavaca.

Capt. U. says that a report reached Victoria last Friday, that one hundred Germans, escorted one hundred women from New Braunfels to the new settlement on the San Saba, seventy miles above, were suddenly attacked by a large body of Comanches, supposed to number several thousand, whereupon the emigrants abandoned their wagons, to seek security, leaving their property in the hands of the savages. There appears to be some uncertainty as to numbers, etc., but the main facts are substantially correct.

Col. Sympton found a Mexican a few days since in a thicket. As soon as he was discovered he threw away his arms, saying he had been fighting a month with nothing but bread and water for provisions, that he now wished to surrender to the American forces, as he would fight no longer under the Mexican government, and that two-thirds of the whole Mexican force wished to do the same.

### Latest from Mexico.

The port of Vera Cruz Blocked.—The Powers of American Consuls Annulled.—Americans ordered to leave interior of the Country.—Efforts of the Government to Sustain the War, &c.

NEW ORLEANS, May 31, 1846. Messrs Editors:—I send you the news from Mexico, which will be found important. The Regiments from St. Louis and Louisville are at the Barracks, which together with other volunteers, are nearly 3,000.

The barque *Theatus*, Capt. Merrill, arrived at New Orleans on Saturday night, 29th ult., from Vera Cruz, which place she left on the 20th ult. By her the Picayune has advices from Mexico dated Vera Cruz, containing thirteen days' intelligence, and verbal views of great interest.

We learn that the U. S. steamship *Mississippi* arrived at Vera Cruz on the 18th, bringing intelligence of the glorious battles of the 8th and 9th inst., but very wisely the news was only communicated to a few Americans in the city. The port was immediately blockaded by the *Mississippi* and the *Falmouth*.

The T. was boarded by the U. S. ship *Falmouth* and took a letter bag from the brig *St. Petersburg* sailed on the 19th for New York.

Orders were received by the American citizens, from the city of Mexico, directing them to leave Vera Cruz by the 24th inst., or retire into the interior. It was expected that our Consul would go on board one of our vessels. On the 19th an American vessel approached the port, and was immediately boarded by our officers, and forbidden to enter the port. In the night, however, she succeeded in slipping into port. There were two American vessels in port when the T. left—barque *Louisiana* and the *H. Helen*. Mr. Leod—who had partially discharged their cargoes, but under the order from the Minister General of War and Marine, a translation of which we give below—They would probably be seized. From all we can gather, the government is making the greatest exertions, straining every nerve to carry on the war with the utmost vigor, and by the most arbitrary measures had replenished the treasury.

The Castle of San Juan de Uluja, as our last accounts state, was in a perfect state of defence, and the officers in command were confident of being able to repel an attack. They will shortly have gannetry, and for some time an acquaintance with our arms and force. The contractor of supplies for the Mexican squadron had been placed under arrest by the authorities.

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