



Correspondence Between Gen. Scott & the War Department.

The great length of this correspondence precludes our giving it in extenso, but we give what we consider the pith of the whole. The President's desire to place myself in the most perilous of all positions—a fire upon my rear from the Mexicans.

Mexico should be selected. No matter what he may be, at least, in his judgment and supported by me, in his defense and every where else, as I would desire, if personally in that command to be myself judged and supported.

My explicit meaning is, that I do not desire to place myself in the most perilous of all positions—a fire upon my rear from the Mexicans. It was distinctly admitted, and laid down as a basis, in the interview I had the honor to hold with the President and myself on the subject, that a special army of some thirty thousand troops, regulars, and twelve months' volunteers, would be necessary for the march against, and the conquest of a peace in Mexico.

But that I did fear, and meant to express the fear in my hasty letter of the 21st, that those persons here enumerated would, sooner or later, impart their premeditation of me to the President, I will not deny.

My letter was written, in part, to guard both the President and myself against such a result, which would have been fatal, not only to me, but perhaps, for a campaign to the service of the country. Hence the President and the Secretary of War—neither supposed to be professionally experienced in the technical preliminaries of a campaign—what had been, and what would continue for some days—my incessant occupations. There is no special pleading in this explanation. It is written and offered in good faith; in proof of which I beg leave to refer to my letter to you of this date, sent in three hours from the reception of that to which I am now replying.

reinforcements to penetrate the interior of Mexico, and to conquer a peace—I shall be ready for any instructions or orders with which the President may honor me.

And again on that day (the night of the 25th) after receiving the censure of the President, through your letter, I concluded my prompt explanatory reply, thus: "Whether it shall be the pleasure of the President to send me to the Rio Grande, (which I would prefer), or to retain me here, I can only say I am equally ready to do my duty in either position with all my zeal and all my ability."

VIRGINIA FREE PRESS. CHARLESTOWN: THURSDAY MORNING. June 18, 1846.

Gen. Scott and the War Department.

A portion of the correspondence between Gen. Winfield Scott and the War Department will be found in another column, from which it will be seen that his gallant and veteran officer is deprived of the command of the army of invasion in Mexico—had been made the object of petty partisan animosity, and sacrificed to unworthy purposes, because his name has been spoken in connection with the President; lest by the command in Mexico he might add more to his already strong claims on the country, after victory had again decked his brow with new laurels.

While there may be portions of the General's letters which might have been considered limited and out of place, if considered in the light of the Secretary of War viewed them and showed them up to the President, yet we cannot conceive they contained anything treasonable to the Administration, much less to the country. And we think that subsequent explanations fully showed that his reference to jealousy and ill-will in high quarters did not refer to the President, but to the Secretary of War.

We are more than ever convinced by the correspondence from the Baltimore Patriot, that when Mr. Polk sent for Gen. Scott, about the 13th ultimo, and made known the wish that he should take command of the army to be sent against Mexico he was sincere, Gov. Marcy was sincere; and Gen. Scott was both proud and grateful. Out came the official announcement that General Scott would probably take command of the Army.

THE OREGON QUESTION.

We are gratified to learn that this question is likely to be settled at last, and that the fifty-fourth parallel will be the boundary line. The British Minister has submitted an offer for the settlement of the boundary, and that the President sent the same to the Senate, who, it is generally understood, have advised the President to accept the proposition. The line of boundary, as understood, is the 49th parallel of North latitude, from the Rocky Mountains to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and from the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Strait of the Columbia River to the ocean; that the Columbia River be free to the Hudson's Bay Company for the term of thirty years, when the charter given them by Parliament will expire, and that they be permitted to hunt and trade in the end of this time.

It is stated that one of the equivalents of the States of any ports on the Southern part of Vancouver's island, as long as the navigation of the Columbia is enjoyed by the Hudson's Bay Company. Of course the precise boundaries cannot be limited, but the Secretary of War, and we are confident, every American citizen, is right in his feelings, and we are confident that the vote of the Senate upon this question.

Mr. Hanzegau refused to vote—and the absentees were Messrs. Barrow, Crittenden, Corwin, Bright, Westcott, Upham; Chalmers—7. P. S. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, under date of June 15, 11 P. M., says: "The treaty relative to our Oregon difficulties, I just learn, was sent to the Senate Chamber today, about five minutes after the Senate had adjourned."

WEBSTER AND INGERSOLL.

Expenditure of the Secret Service Fund. The Committee of the House to whom was referred the subject of inquiry into the expenditure of the Secret Service Fund, have made their report, completely exonerating Mr. Webster from any unfair dealing—setting at rest forever the vile imputations and slanderous charges set afloat by Charles J. Ingersoll. Their report will cover Mr. E. with profound infamy, and a disgrace as lasting as time itself. That full justice was done to Mr. Ingersoll, is apparent from the fact that he had full freedom to appear before the Committee appointed to investigate the truth of the charges, and the further fact that it was composed of three Leases and two Whigs. The report was an unanimous one, with the exception of Mr. Brinkerhoff, of Ohio, who agreed in the main with the majority, but submitted in his minority report a letter from F. O. J. Smith, which the majority thought ought not to be printed.

The Committee state in their report that it is not true that Mr. Webster used the public money (secret service fund) without the knowledge of the President, or that he applied it to his own use. The Committee say that the law and practice have always been that the President had the power to use it according to his pleasure. Mr. Tyler says in his testimony that Mr. Webster acted under his direction, and made no use of the public money but such as was warranted by him.

It would appear from the report that a part of the secret service money was expended in Maine, and for facilitating negotiations upon the North Eastern Boundary Question, then pending.

The Committee state that there is no doubt of Mr. Webster's personal and official integrity in the discharge of his official duties, and they add that this view is enhanced from the fact that Mr. Webster was not present during the examination, and had no knowledge of any of the testimony taken, and therefore was not in a condition to make explanation of any of the statements submitted.

The Committee report two Resolutions, one in favor of sealing up the important evidence submitted to the Committee and filing it among the archives of the House, to be under the control of the House, and to be opened only upon the direction of the House.

NEW HAMPSHIRE REGENERATED.

We failed to notice last week, that a Whig Governor had been elected in this old Ephraim to her idol's State. Yes, verily of a truth, New Hampshire has a Whig Governor. The people of the State having made a choice at their election, the Legislature assembled on the 3d instant. In the House of Representatives, by the united Whigs and Independents, John P. Hale, (a Representative in the last Congress) was chosen speaker, the vote being as follows: John P. Hale, 123; Samuel Swamy, 113.

The Senate of the State, having appointed a President pro tem, on the same day met the House of Representatives in convention, and filled the six vacancies in the Senate (non-elections) for want of a clear majority in each case, by electing six Whigs; so that the Senate is now composed of eight Whigs and four Locofoco Democrats.

On the Friday succeeding an election was held. The vote stood for Anthony Colby, 146; for J. W. Williams, 125. There is no doubt that John P. Hale, Independent, will be elected to the U. S. Senate, in the room of Mr. Jenness, now holding that office by Executive appointment.

We since learn that John P. Hale has been elected U. S. Senator from New Hampshire by the Legislature of that State on Tuesday week, six years from the 4th of March next. He had, in the House, 139 votes, Harry Hubbard, 119; scattering, 3.

Gov. Wright, of New York, has yielded to Mike Walsh's appeal "to extend the area of freedom," by remitting the penalty of the law for six months imprisonment and a fine of \$250—a for a libel on John Horropol.

A very destructive hail storm took place at Pineville, Va., on Friday week, breaking from one to three thousand paces of glass, and destroying all the vegetation in the neighborhood.

At the Fair there was a shirt exhibited, in which there were sixty-three thousand stitches.

The Sub-Treasury Bill has been at length reported to the Senate, with numerous amendments, one of which postpones the operation of the "Specific clause" until the first of January next.

THE ORPHANS.

We were present at several of the Concerts given by these distinguished Vocalists during their sojourn in this place, and freely add our tribute to the abundance of their sweet strains of melody—and in number—two ladies and two gentlemen—white engaged in singing, their voices blended so harmoniously in the impression on the mind, contrasted to the sense of vision, that some sweet harmonic instrument is at hand, instead of human voices.

We think their talent as vocalists nearly equal to that of Orpheus, on his lyre, who, we are told in mythology, played with such a masterly hand, that after he had lost his fair Eurydice, he entered the "abode of Isis stopped, the stone of Sisyphus rolled, and he himself stood still, and even the stout still, Tantalus forgot his thirst, and even the Furies relented.

What we do not pretend to say is that the music of the Orphans would seem to us that much, yet we do believe, that the combination they present, stands unrivalled in the United States.

We advise our Harpers-Ferry friends to go en masse to the entertainment at Capt. Abel's this evening, and drink in the sweet strains of music these vocalists discourse, and whilst partaking, you may form an idea of the music of Orpheus, which was an idea even the most rapid forgot his thirst, the savage beasts of the forest forgot their wildness, and even the mountains came to listen to his song.

Shepherdstown Rifle Corps. We understand that a new Rifle Corps has been organized among the valiant soldiers in the "Old United," and it is expected that they will be uniformed in time to parade on the 4th of July. The former Rifle Company, the "Potomac Rifle," was one of the best drilled companies in the State—exhibiting the fact that the knowledge of their officer in command, Maj. Hamtramck, in military tactics, was of a high order, and that he had imparted his knowledge clearly and with ability.

THE WHEAT CROP. The accounts from different parts of our county vary very much as to the damage the Wheat crop has sustained by the almost constant rains we have had for several weeks. Many of our Farmers are under the impression that the heavy rains, the scab, and the rust, will not leave more than half a crop, whilst others think there will be a full two-third crop. That damage has been sustained, and that materially too, there cannot be the shadow of a doubt—yet we are satisfied the injury is magnified in many cases.

We have understood that Mr. GAROCH EICHELBARGER, of this county, cut some Wheat on Tuesday, in a ripe state.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS. The Committee of Arrangements for the Dedication of the Old Fellows Hall at Harpers-Ferry, have secured the services of the Hon. WILLIE P. MANUQUIN, of the U. S. Senate, and SAMUEL YORK ATLEE, to deliver Addresses on the occasion. The reputation of these gentlemen will doubtless draw a large concourse of the Order as well as of strangers together, and we doubt not that a most brilliant pageant will be presented. As the services of Dedication will be public, and all can hear and see, an interesting day may be expected.

MASSONIC DEDICATION. The Dedication of the Masonic Hall at Harpers-Ferry will take place on Wednesday next, the 24th instant. We have not heard the name of the Orator of the day, but we have no doubt he will be fully able to do justice to his subject.

Recruiting Service. A Recruiting Officer of the U. S. Army has been in town for several days, "beating up" for able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45, to serve for five years. The officer advertises that none but those of "good character" will be received.

We learn that the installation of the Rev. Mr. Tuston, in the church built for him in Washington, was to take place on Sunday, according to the appointment of the Presbytery at its late session in Georgetown—the Rev. Mr. Berry, of Georgetown, was to deliver the charge to the Pastor.

Henson's Watering Ram. The attention of the reader is directed to the advertisement of Mr. Hollingsworth, in another column. We have seen a ram in operation in Winchester, and can attest to the value of the apparatus; considering it as we do one of the most important inventions of the age. No farmer or other person who has a stream of water running near his house should be without one, as the cost is small.

Moxley County Clerk. The Martinsburg Republican furnishes the result of the different ballots for Clerk of Berkeley County, on last Monday week. There were seven candidates in the field, viz: Jacob Van Doren, E. P. Hunter, Thos. Brown, Sman Garard, J. S. Brown, Chas. D. Stewart, and Barton Campbell.

Ballot 1st 2d 3d 4th 5th 6th 7th Van Doren 7 9 10 11 10 14 Hunter 8 8 8 8 8 11 T. Brown 4 6 5 5 6 5 J. S. Brown 3 2 2 2 1 0 0 Gerard 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 Stewart 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 Campbell 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Light Infantry of Berkeley. We observe by the Martinsburg Republican that a Light Infantry Company was formed in that town last Saturday week, and the following officers regularly elected: Captain—E. G. Alburts; Lieut., Wm. T. R. Spall; 2d do., P. S. Cunningham; 3d do., Everett Ball; 4th do., J. Q. A. Naceboush.

We believe that Jefferson is now without an Infantry Company. Cannot the young men organize an Infantry Corp?—We hope they have sufficient military ardor about them, and that we shall see some of it developed in volunteer companies, well organized.

Since the astonishing discovery has been made that Gen. Zachary Taylor is a genuine Clay Whig, we have heard but very little said by the coons against the operation of our Army on the South western frontier of the United States. [Winchester Virginian.]

And since the discovery that nearly all in command in the Army, are Whig officers, it has been discovered that we must have another Major General, besides two newly created Brigadier Generals.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, Sec'y of War. With great respect, I have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient servant, WINFIELD SCOTT.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Entertaining, as it is most evident you do, the opinion that such are the motives and designs of the Executive towards you, and declaring it to your explicit intention that you do not desire to place yourself in the most perilous of all positions—a fire upon your rear from the Mexicans, and so entertaining them entirely without cause, or even the shadow of justification, the President would be wanting in his duty to the country, if he were to persist in his determination of imposing upon you the command of the army in the war against Mexico. He would probably misunderstand the object you had in view in writing your letter, and disappointing your expectations, if he did not believe that it was intended to affect a change of his purpose in this respect. I am, therefore, directed by him to say that you will be continued in your present position here, and will devote your efforts to making it agreeable to you.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Major General Winfield Scott, Commanding General, &c. Sir:—Your letter of this date, received at about 6 P. M., as I sat down to take a hasty plate of soup, demands a prompt reply. You have taken four days to reflect, and to convince me, upon my letter to you of the 21st inst., of official, perhaps, personal disrespect to the constitutional commander-in-chief, of the army and navy of the United States.

If you have succeeded in imparting that impression to the President, then, by the conclusion of your letter, written in his behalf, I am placed under very high obligations to his kindness—in not placing me instantly in arrest, and before a general court martial. I may then hope that the President saw no such intended disrespect; and I can assure you both that I feel too great a deference to the constitution and the laws of my country to offer to design an indignity to our chief magistrate.

The strongest passages in my commendatory letter are, I think, hypothetical. In it I spoke of "impunities"—"perhaps high quarters," "perhaps utter condemnation, in the quarters alluded to," of the "infinite importance of securing myself against danger (ill will or premeditation) in my rear," and of that "most perilous of all positions"—a fire upon [his] rear from Washington, and the fire in front from the Mexicans." And I also spoke of the necessity of "such candid, and steady support of (such commending) government in the hope of conciliating it."

Now, if there be any offence to the President in these passages—the substance of which I utterly disclaim—it must, in candor, be found in the meaning of the passages "high quarters" and the "quarters alluded to," which qualify all the others quoted by you.

It will be perceived that I spoke not of the highest quarter, but, in the plural, "high quarters"; and I beg as an act of justice, no less to myself than the President, to say I meant "impunities," or "premeditation," on your part, and the known, open, and violent condemnation of me on the part of several leading and supposed confidential advisers of the President in the two houses of Congress, (high quarters;) because on an intimation not an order—I did not fly to the Rio Grande, without waiting for the invading army, yet to be raised—any abandoning it to get to that river as I could, and without the least regard to the honorable pride and distinction of the gallant general already in command on that river; who, we knew, had done well, was doing well, and who, I was quite sure, and his little army, would if the occasion offered, cover themselves with glory. My prediction in this respect, has been fully accomplished.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department. On an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised for the conquest of a peace with Mexico, I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat, may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st inst., "I have received no orders as yet assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised." &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of movements against Mexico.

On the 15th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg that, also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and, at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

It is to be noted in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."

I quote this paragraph to show that I did not expect to be sent to the Rio Grande, and did not even suspect it was the intention of the President, or myself, to send me thither, much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to—viz: some twenty odd thousand volunteers, besides the additional regulars.

Though I had occasion to see you twice or thrice in the meantime, I heard no complaint from you, and received no correction of that misapprehension—if, in fact, I had fallen into any—before the 20th inst. when you spoke of the impatience manifested at my occupation (of the Presidency) here—which complaint caused my letter to you of the next morning—May 21st.

It seemed, therefore, evident to me at the time, that your complaint had been caused by the out of door clamors to which I have since alluded.

Three hours before I received your letter of the 25th inst. conveying the displeasure of the Executive, and without the least expectation of receiving such a letter, I had sent into your report or note of the same day, (the 25th,) which concluded with this declaration: "I think my preliminary and necessary occupation may be ended here in (say) three days more, when—promising that after the great and brilliant victories of the gallant Taylor, (of which we have recently heard,) I should be ashamed to supersede him before the arrival of compe-

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, Sec'y of War. With great respect, I have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient servant, WINFIELD SCOTT.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department. On an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised for the conquest of a peace with Mexico, I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat, may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st inst., "I have received no orders as yet assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised." &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of movements against Mexico.

On the 15th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg that, also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and, at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

It is to be noted in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."

I quote this paragraph to show that I did not expect to be sent to the Rio Grande, and did not even suspect it was the intention of the President, or myself, to send me thither, much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to—viz: some twenty odd thousand volunteers, besides the additional regulars.

Though I had occasion to see you twice or thrice in the meantime, I heard no complaint from you, and received no correction of that misapprehension—if, in fact, I had fallen into any—before the 20th inst. when you spoke of the impatience manifested at my occupation (of the Presidency) here—which complaint caused my letter to you of the next morning—May 21st.

It seemed, therefore, evident to me at the time, that your complaint had been caused by the out of door clamors to which I have since alluded.

Three hours before I received your letter of the 25th inst. conveying the displeasure of the Executive, and without the least expectation of receiving such a letter, I had sent into your report or note of the same day, (the 25th,) which concluded with this declaration: "I think my preliminary and necessary occupation may be ended here in (say) three days more, when—promising that after the great and brilliant victories of the gallant Taylor, (of which we have recently heard,) I should be ashamed to supersede him before the arrival of compe-

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department. On an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised for the conquest of a peace with Mexico, I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat, may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st inst., "I have received no orders as yet assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised." &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of movements against Mexico.

On the 15th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg that, also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and, at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

It is to be noted in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."

I quote this paragraph to show that I did not expect to be sent to the Rio Grande, and did not even suspect it was the intention of the President, or myself, to send me thither, much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to—viz: some twenty odd thousand volunteers, besides the additional regulars.

Though I had occasion to see you twice or thrice in the meantime, I heard no complaint from you, and received no correction of that misapprehension—if, in fact, I had fallen into any—before the 20th inst. when you spoke of the impatience manifested at my occupation (of the Presidency) here—which complaint caused my letter to you of the next morning—May 21st.

It seemed, therefore, evident to me at the time, that your complaint had been caused by the out of door clamors to which I have since alluded.

Three hours before I received your letter of the 25th inst. conveying the displeasure of the Executive, and without the least expectation of receiving such a letter, I had sent into your report or note of the same day, (the 25th,) which concluded with this declaration: "I think my preliminary and necessary occupation may be ended here in (say) three days more, when—promising that after the great and brilliant victories of the gallant Taylor, (of which we have recently heard,) I should be ashamed to supersede him before the arrival of compe-

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department. On an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised for the conquest of a peace with Mexico, I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat, may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st inst., "I have received no orders as yet assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised." &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of movements against Mexico.

On the 15th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg that, also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and, at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

It is to be noted in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."

I quote this paragraph to show that I did not expect to be sent to the Rio Grande, and did not even suspect it was the intention of the President, or myself, to send me thither, much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to—viz: some twenty odd thousand volunteers, besides the additional regulars.

Though I had occasion to see you twice or thrice in the meantime, I heard no complaint from you, and received no correction of that misapprehension—if, in fact, I had fallen into any—before the 20th inst. when you spoke of the impatience manifested at my occupation (of the Presidency) here—which complaint caused my letter to you of the next morning—May 21st.

It seemed, therefore, evident to me at the time, that your complaint had been caused by the out of door clamors to which I have since alluded.

Three hours before I received your letter of the 25th inst. conveying the displeasure of the Executive, and without the least expectation of receiving such a letter, I had sent into your report or note of the same day, (the 25th,) which concluded with this declaration: "I think my preliminary and necessary occupation may be ended here in (say) three days more, when—promising that after the great and brilliant victories of the gallant Taylor, (of which we have recently heard,) I should be ashamed to supersede him before the arrival of compe-

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, May 25, 1846. Sir: I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night. As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word—friends—accidentally omitted in the hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department. On an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised for the conquest of a peace with Mexico, I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat, may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st inst., "I have received no orders as yet assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised." &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formation of movements against Mexico.

On the 15th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg that, also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and, at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

It is to be noted in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."



