



CHARLESTOWN: THURSDAY MORNING. August 26, 1847.

The People's Candidate for President. GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

TRUTH PLAINLY STATED.

The following extract from the Democratic Review is worthy of the serious and calm reflection of every man in the country. Though we may be divided in great principles, affecting the policy of government, yet on a matter which branches of government that have to do with the "making power" we do not see how there can be shades of difference in opinion. The article from the Review contains the correct cord, and is refreshing in these days of error, and is refreshing in these days of error, and is refreshing in these days of error.

"It has often seemed wonderful to us, well aware as we are of the strength of party, and the imperfect vision of partisans in general, that any man who has ever read the evidence can justify who it was that originated this war."

Coming as this article does from a man of ability, and a leader in the Party, and published in the columns of the Democratic Review, the great organ of progressive Democracy of the country, it cannot fail to work a powerful effect. It entirely sustains the Whig view of the subject, and leaves the President in a position which in the prior days of the Republic, would have subjected him to universal censure."

From Brownson's Quarterly Review. The course the President should have pursued in plain and obvious. On learning the state of things on the frontier, the critical position of our army of occupation, he should have demanded of Congress the reinforcements and equipment necessary to meet the emergency.

THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS TOWEDLY SENT TO THE RIO GRANDE, and if he believed it proper or necessary, to have in addition laid before Congress, a full and truthful statement of our relations with Mexico, including all the unadmitted complaints, past and present, we had against her, ACCOMPANIED BY THE RECOMMENDATION OF A DECLARATION OF WAR. He would then have kept within the limits of his duty, proved himself a plain constitutional President, AND LEFT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WAR OR NO WAR TO CONGRESS. THE ONLY WAR MAKING POWER KNOWN TO OUR LAWS. Congress, after mature deliberation, might or might not have declared war—MOST LIKELY WOULD NOT, but whether so or not, the responsibility would have rested with Congress, and no blame would have attached to the President."

Unhappily, this course did not occur to the President, or was too plain and simple to meet his approval. By declaring the war already existing, and by the act of Mexico, he, the President, relieved Congress of the responsibility of the war, by throwing it all on Mexico. FOR WAR DID NOT ARISE BY EXIST, OR BY SO, BY YOUR ACT, AND NOT HERES, it necessarily recoils upon himself, and he must bear the responsibility of doing WHAT THE CONSTITUTION FORBIDS HIM TO DO—OF MAKING WAR WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF CONGRESS. IN EFFECT THEREFORE, HE HAS TRAMPLED THE CONSTITUTION UNDER HIS FEET, SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT, AND, BY THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF A FALSE, FALSHOOD, SULLIED THE NATIONAL HONOR. It is with no pleasure that we speak of the chief Magistrate of the Union, FOR WHOSE ELEVATION TO HIS HIGH AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICE, WE OUSELVES VOTED. But whatever may be our attachment to party, or the respect we hold to be due from all good citizens to the civil magistrate, we cannot see how the CONSTITUTION VIOLATED, AND THE NATIONAL HONOR SACRIFICED, whether by fraud or force, from good motives or bad, without regret, feeling that though it be, our stern and indignant protest.

Rolling Back the Atlantic. The Savannah Republican is reminded by the industrious efforts of the Union, to resist the side of Gen. Taylor's popularity, of a similar effort of "Mrs. Partington," so wittily described by Sydney Smith, to roll back the Atlantic ocean.

Speaking of the Reform Bill, that witty writer remarks: "I do not mean to be disrespectful, but the attempts of the Lords to stop the progress of Reform, reminds me very forcibly of the great Storm of Sidmouth, and the conduct of the excellent Mrs. Partington on that occasion. In the winter of 1824, there set in a great flood upon the town—the tide rose to an incredible height—the waves rose and rushed in upon the houses and every thing was threatened with destruction. In the midst of this sublime and terrible storm, Dame Partington, (Father R.) who lived upon the beach, was seen at the door of her house (White House) with mops and pailons, trailing her mop, (the Union,) squeezing out the sea water, and vigorously pushing back the Atlantic Ocean! (opposing Reform and Ready.) The Atlantic was roused, Mrs. Partington's spirit was up, but I need not tell you that the contest was unequal. The Atlantic Ocean beat Mrs. Partington. She was successful at a stop or a puddle, (President's progress, or public printing,) but she should not have meddled with the Atlantic Ocean! Gentlemen! be at your ease—be quiet and steady. You will beat Mrs. Partington."—Rick Rep.

The Next Congress.—There have been elected 115 Whig and 91 Democratic members of the House of Representatives, leaving 27 to be elected, which if they stand as last year, the Whig majority will be six members.

GEN. TAYLOR.—We perceive that Gen. Taylor was nominated for the Presidency by the Democratic Convention of Hartford county, N.J., which was held at Bel Air, on the 17th inst.

GEN. TAYLOR'S LETTER.

The Richmond Whig speaking of the letter from Gen. Taylor, which will be found in another column, says: "The modesty of Gen. Taylor's letter, his disclaimer of knowledge with regard to certain great political questions, and his reiterated assertion that he will be the President of the people and not of a party, seem to have operated very favorably on the spirits of our neighbors of the Enquirer. No doubt it would be very grateful to them to believe that he is out of the question; but we under estimate their powers of self-delusion very much, if they can persuade themselves of the truth of such an improbable possibility. We believe they speak from the bottom of their hearts, when they express the fervent hope that 'no one will hereafter call him a Whig,' and we are sorry to disappoint such a heartfelt aspiration. But we are compelled to do so notwithstanding. As while we see nothing in that letter to shake our faith, more than there is in any of the others already published, we know, from private sources, which it is impossible to doubt, that he is a Whig, and a very thorough one. He has certainly said nothing to the contrary, but far in any correspondence which we have seen."

THE WAR EXPENSES.

In reply to an inquiry on the subject, we are able to give the following authentic statement from the National Intelligencer. The facts, in regard to Military and Naval Appropriations, made since the commencement of the Mexican War, is shown by the Appropriation Laws, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Description of appropriations and Amount. Includes items like 'For support of the Army and volunteers', 'For support of the Navy', 'For concluding peace with Mexico', etc.

LIBERAL LEGISLATION.

There has been a disposition in some portions of Western Virginia, to indulge in complaints against the East, for liberality on the subject of Internal Improvements. We have more than once felt it our duty to correct this impression. It is totally unfounded, as a reference to a few prominent facts will show. For instance, there has been appropriated, for improvements connected with the Valley of Virginia:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Amount. Includes 'To the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal', 'To the Valley Turnpike', 'To Winchester and Parkersburg Road', etc.

These sums have been actually granted—in addition to which the following were offered: Winchester and Berkeley Springs Turnpike \$8,000; Charles River do 9,000; Charlottesville and Berryville do 9,000; Shenandoah River do 200,000.

AN INTERESTING FACT.

The Hon. Henry Clay, during his brief sojourn in Philadelphia, was the guest of Henry White, Esq., an eminent merchant. The Philadelphia Times says:

"Mr. White, who is now one of our wealthiest and most eminent West-end merchants, was, like his gifted and distinguished guest, once a poor, friendless slave, and like him, though in a different sphere, was the victim of his own fortune. An admiration of his part for Mr. Clay, amounting almost to infatuation, and a warm mutual friendship has been the result. In expectation that Mr. Clay would at no very distant day, visit Philadelphia he had prepared, and kept for eighteen months, a magnificent furnished suite of rooms, suffering no one on any account to occupy the bed which he had specially reserved as the couch of one of the greatest 'men of the age'—his friend."

MR. CLAY AT CAPE MAY.

Account and News from Cape May.—A letter in the Philadelphia Enquirer, from Cape May, under date of the 19th inst., says:

Mr. Clay continues to enjoy capital health, bathing regularly every day. You will be surprised to hear that he had a very narrow escape yesterday afternoon. After dinner, he rode out on the beach, in Mr. Brolskey's coach, drawn by four splendid horses, accompanied by a lady from Kentucky and two of his friends. On their return, as they approached the Hotel, the driver, in carrying one of the leaders, rather suddenly, caused him to commence kicking. Both leaders then jumped and reared, until they took the shaft, and ran the carriage into a fence. Just before the carriage hit the fence, the young lady in his arms opened the door, and leaped out of the carriage unharmed, before driver or any bystanders were able to render assistance. The carriage rolled over, struck the fence, and was considerably injured. Mr. Clay attended morning prayers yesterday, at the Episcopal Church.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

The National Intelligencer says: "It is now certain that, from a majority of over sixty votes in a body composed of something more than two hundred members, the party by which the administration was brought into power will find itself, in the next House of Representatives, in a minority of at least ten votes. The party opposed to this decisive manifestation of the Popular Will having such a majority in the Senate that the change of the balance of power in the House of Representatives will not enable that body to carry out any important measures which it may propose—unless such as a majority of the Senators may approve—the event of these elections is more important, as a sure indication of public opinion, than in view of its direct action upon the Public Councils."

Mr. Clay, in addressing a few words to the people in Philadelphia, said that he knew they would unite with him in the expression, that to our country, whether it is directed in its public measures by a good government or a bad one—whether it is in prosperity or adversity—in peace or at war, we should always give our hearts, our hands and our hopes.

The Union examines the Election News—explains—regrets—and explains again, and winds up with—"the people have not changed—so, at least, is the best information we have received." To which we can only reply, that in such a case, literally, "bad is the best."

The amount of duties collected at Vera Cruz since the opening of Mr. Walker's Custom House, is \$650,000, including the duties on the amount of goods yet in bond.

We hear constantly, and from quarters of high authority, that the Taylor movement in the Whig ranks has about finished its allotted work.—Union, last Evening.

And you hear rightly. It has finished its allotted work in the Whig ranks. It has carried them on a waltz over to the old Hero, but it is not yet done its work upon the Democratic ranks. Its dissolving effect upon those ranks we shall see in the fall of 1848.—Nat. Whig.

The Union asks, what are we to infer from Gen. Taylor's Clinton letter? Why—that he is no Democrat of the Polk & Ritchie school. That much is positive.—Nat. Whig.

They (the Whigs) have stoutly claimed, as Gen. Taylor's crowning political merit, that he is a Henry Clay Whig.—Union, last evening. And they continue to do so, and they claim further, that he is no Polk Democrat—a still higher crowning political merit.—Nat. Whig.

We lay before our readers another letter from Gen. Taylor—the last in the series. We leave it to speak for itself. It presents some of the Whigs rather in a new dilemma. And really, but for them, we should pass it over without comment.—Union, last evening.

Really, old gentleman, you are very kind; but, as the dilemma which you think this letter has thrown the Whigs into is one which is very much to their liking, suppose you turn your optics to your own party, and let us know what effect it has had and is having upon them?—National Whig.

THUNDER STORM.—Our town was visited on Monday evening last, by a storm which had like to have been attended with most disastrous consequences. The House of our friend and neighbor, Col. EDMUND P. HURTER, was struck by lightning, which demolished the upper part of one of the Chimneys, and tore off a large portion of the ceiling from one of the upper chambers, covering the floor, beds and furniture with fragments of the building.

This chamber was the one usually occupied by the children of the family, but by a merciful interposition of Providence no one was in the room at the time. The sleeping infant had just been removed from its cradle, and the nurse had scarcely left the room, when the cradle was literally filled with bricks and fragments of plastering. This office was the scene of some little confusion—our foreman, Mr. STOFER, being momentarily stunned, but not seriously injured. The German Reformed Church was also struck, but received no great damage.

Extraordinary Dispatch.—Our advices from Mexico, which we published in an Extra Sun on Saturday at noon, and which we also forwarded to England and France by the steedfasts, came through in sixteen days from the city of Mexico fifteen days from Puebla, and twelve days from Vera Cruz! Supposing the steamer Hibernia to arrive at Liverpool on the 20th instant, this news will reach London in one month from the capital of Mexico. Time, distances, &c.

Conveyance. Miles. Time. From Mexico to Puebla, horses, 85 1 day. From Puebla to Vera Cruz, horses, 157 2 1/2. From Vera Cruz to N. Y. steamship, 1295 5 1/2. From N. Y. to Richmond, steamship, 1081 5 1/2. From Richmond to N. Y. telegraph, 800 1 night. From N. Y. to Boston, steam, 507 18 hours. From Boston to London, steam, 3500 14 days. Total, 6,655 27 days.

The above is the actual running time. The detention of the news at various points, waiting for regular conveyances, wasted about three days, and a half before leaving Boston.

A Man of all Work.—Mr. Mason is the most obliging member of the Cabinet. When Mr. Bancroft left the Navy Department, Mr. Mason acted for a time, as Attorney General and Secretary of the Navy; subsequently, as Secretary of the Navy and Secretary of State; and now as Secretary of War, during the absence of Mr. Marcy. If there had been no assistant, Commodore General, he would have taken Commodore Johnson's place during the absence of that functionary. Mr. Mason is a Secretary General.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE.—The N. York Sun is out for Gen. Worth as the next President.

A Distinguished Speaker.

We learn that the Committee of Arrangements of Equality Lodge, Martinsburg, have succeeded in procuring the services of JOSEPH R. CHANDLER, Esq., late editor of the Philadelphia U. S. Gazette, to deliver an Address at the Dedication of their Hall. The name of Mr. C. will draw a large crowd to Martinsburg, as his reputation as a speaker is well known to the Virginia public.

MON. HENRY CLAY.

Interesting Incidents. A large delegation of the friends of Henry Clay, proceeded to Cape May on Friday, to invite him to visit New York, and on their arrival there they were joined by similar committees from Philadelphia, New Haven and Trenton, forming quite an imposing procession, with a band of music at their head. They proceeded to the Mansion House, where Mr. Clay was stopping, when N. Dean, Esq., on behalf of the delegation, tendered him the invitation to the simplicity, Mr. Clay has eloquently responded.

The eloquent address which has just been delivered, had the effect almost to induce me to adopt the language which was used on a more solemn occasion. "Thou almost persuaded me to go." (Great applause.) But in that uprightness of nature, which I have ever endeavored to practice, I must tell you the objects and motives which have brought me to the shores of the Atlantic. I returned to my residence, after passing the winter at New Orleans, on the 23d or 24th of March last, and in a day or two afterwards melancholy intelligence reached me. Here Mr. C. evinced great emotion. I have been never since, and was induced to take this journey, for I could not look upon the partner of my sorrows without experiencing greater anguish.

We are drilling regularly every evening in Battalion drill, and Col. Hamtramck is considered by all to be one of the best officers in Mexico—as good as any regular or volunteer. He has the regiment under discipline, and he intends making a soldier of every man under his command. He is extremely popular with his men, and they seem to place great confidence in his skill and judgment. When I speak of Col. Hamtramck I do not mean to say that he don't have similar feelings toward the Lieut. Colonel— they all love old Colonel Randolph, and the old man rides any horse that comes to hand and don't care for trifles, and does not notice the small faults of the men, yet he is a soldier, every inch, as he has proven himself, not only with us, but long before the Mexican war was thought of.

Major Early is considered one of the B'boys, and the B'boys remember the night that we marched from our encampment on the San Juan River, to Passa La Carita.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.

A destructive fire occurred in Philadelphia, on the night of the 21st, which consumed the extensive Sugar Refinery of Mr. Brown, and Newland's Brewery, on Broad st. The loss is estimated at \$200,000!

The fire was attended by the loss of several lives, besides several who were wounded. The Eolian Serenaders performed at the Court-house on Friday and Monday evening with great eclat. Their selections are good and the music they furnish of a rare order. The company is composed of Mr. W. OFFUTT, who performs on the Banjo; Mr. J. HANCOCK, Violin; Mr. J. SHERMAN, Bass Cello; and Mr. HUCON, on the Tambourine. The Company is under the management of Mr. E. C. ALLEN, whose qualifications as Manager and Comic Singer have been demonstrated to the perfect satisfaction of crowded houses in Charleston. The Ducing of Messrs Sherman and Hucron is certainly of a character very rarely to be met with. Indeed, the manager offers a challenge of \$500 to any person that can excel Mr. Sherman in Ethiopic Jigs.

From the New Orleans Bulletin, Aug. 14.

NATAL AFFAY. Another of those scenes which disgrace our city, took place yesterday, and resulted in the death of Mr. O. BIRD. We have heard various versions of the affair, but believe the following is a correct outline of the unfortunate occurrence.

A difference of some standing existed between the deceased and Mr. Edwards, a member of the New Orleans bar. The parties met yesterday afternoon in Common near Camp street, when Mr. Bird commenced an assault with a stick upon Mr. Edwards, who retreated before his assailant, but after receiving some severe blows, drew a revolving pistol and shot Bird in the body, causing his death in a few minutes. What was the immediate cause of the assault on Mr. Edwards, we are unable to say, and we are equally ignorant as to the merits of the case as regards the original cause of difference.

Mr. Bird, we understood, drew a knife after Mr. Edwards produced the pistol, but had no opportunity to use it. He received two balls in his body. Mr. Edwards is severely cut on the head by the blows from the stick, which have cut in to the bone, and bled profusely. His friends, we understand, offered and required bail for his appearance.

Correspondence of the American.

PHILADELPHIA, August 17, P. M. DREADFUL SHIPWRECK.—One Hundred and Seventy-Two Lives Lost.—Our city has been thrown into a gloom to day, in consequence of intelligence having been received from New York by the Magnetic Telegraph, of a dreadful shipwreck and loss of life. The ship Idona, Captain Mobery, from Hamburg for New York, having on board two hundred and six passengers, foundered at sea, and one hundred and seventy-two of the passengers were drowned. The Captain of the ship was also lost. Those who escaped a watery grave were taken off the wreck by a vessel which fortunately came to their rescue. When taken off they were in a most pitiable condition, clinging to pieces of the wreck.

SPECIES LOST.—It is estimated that something like \$50,000, or even \$100,000 in specie, belonging to the immigrants, went down in the ship Idona, or on the bodies of the lost. One individual lost \$14,000. The passengers were nearly all Swedes, and were coming to this country to buy furs.

The Richmond Enquirer heads its last leader with—"What will the Whigs do?" "Bide a bit, mon, and you'll see."—Alex. Gaz.

ANOTHER LETTER FROM GEN. TAYLOR.

The following letter from Gen. Taylor, addressed to Dr. Delany, of Clinton, Louisiana, in answer to certain interrogatories propounded by the Doctor concerning the Louisiana Florida. Dr. Delany is said to be one of the firmest members of the Democratic party in the whole South.

Camp near Monterey, Mexico. June 28, 1847.

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 15th ult., from Clinton, La., has just reached me, in which you are pleased to say, "The signs of the times in relation to the next Presidency, and the prominent position of your name in connection with it, is a sufficient excuse for this letter." That "it is a happy feature in our Government that official functionaries under it, from the lowest to the highest station, are not beyond the reach and partial supervision of the humblest citizen, and that it is the right inherent in every free man to possess himself of the political principles and opinions of those into whose hands the administration of the government may be placed." &c. to all of which I fully coincide with you in opinion. Asking my views on several subjects, "First, As to the necessity of a national bank, and the power of Congress for creating such an institution. Third, As to the effect of a high protective tariff and the right of Congress under the constitution to create such a system of revenue." &c. As regards the first interrogatory my duties and the position I occupy, I do not consider it would be proper in me to give my opinion in regard to the same, as a citizen, and particularly as a soldier, it is sufficient for me to know that our country is at war with a foreign nation, to do all in my power to bring it to a speedy and honorable termination, by the most vigorous and energetic operations, without inquiring about its justice, or any thing else connected with it, believing, as I do, it is our wisest policy to be at peace with all the world, as long as it can be done without endangering the honor and interests of the country. As regards the second and third inquiries, I am not prepared to answer them; I could only do so after fully investigating those subjects, which I cannot now do; my whole time being fully occupied in attending to my proper official duties, which must not be neglected under any circumstances; and I must say to you in substance what I have said to all others in regard to similar matters, that I am no politician. Near forty years of my life have been passed in the public service, in the army, most of which in the field, the camp, on our western frontier, or in the Indian country; and for nearly the last ten, in this or Texas, during which time I have not passed one night under the roof of a house. As regards being a candidate for the Presidency at the coming election, I have no aspiration in that way, and regret that the subject has been agitated at this early day, and that it had not been deferred until the close of this war, or until the end of the next session of Congress, especially if I am to be mixed up with it, as it is possible it may lead to the injury of the public service in this quarter, by my operations being embarrassed, as well as to produce much excitement in the country growing out of the discussion of the merits, &c. of the different aspirants for that high office, which might have been very much allayed, if not prevented, had the subject been deferred, as suggested; besides very many changes may take place between now and 1851, so much so, as to make it desirable for the interest of the country, that some other individual than myself, better qualified for the situation, should be selected; and could he be elected I would not only acquiesce in such an arrangement, but would rejoice that the republic had one citizen, and no doubt there are thousands more deserving than I am, and better qualified to discharge the duties of said office. If I have been named by others and considered a candidate for the Presidency, it has been by no agency of mine in the matter; and if the good people think my services important in this station, and elect me, I will feel bound to serve them, and all the pledges and expectations I can enter into and make, as regards this or that policy, is that I will do so honestly and faithfully to the best of my abilities, strictly in compliance with the constitution.

Should I ever occupy the White House, it must be by the spontaneous move of the people, and by no act of mine, so that I could go into the office untrammelled, and be the chief magistrate of the nation, and not of a party.

But should they, the people, change their views and opinions between the time of holding the election, and cast their votes for the Presidency for some one else, I will not complain. With considerations of respect.

I remain your Obedt servant, Z. TAYLOR.

Dr. EDWARD DELANY.

P. S. I write in great haste and under constant interruption.

"CORN OYSTERS."

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette.

Let me induce you to try the following receipt, as an editorial recommendation might insure its success. Among our country friends, where Corn Butter, Eggs and Cream abound, I know of no greater service you can render them, in the ordinary line, than by placing this before them, for a fair trial. Take six ears of young corn in its raw state, score it, (that is, cut through the rows of grains) with a sharp knife, scrape the grains off the cob, so as to get the whole pulp and milk, mix with three eggs beaten light, add one desert spoonful of butter, three table spoonfuls of sifted flour, and half a pint of milk; season with salt, and fry quickly in butter (butter and lard, half and half will do) in cakes of the size of a large oyster. Though a connoisseur may not be deceived with this for the genuine article, he will readily confess it is an excellent substitute in hot weather for this first of winter delicacies.

At the commencement of Yale College last week, the degree of A. B. was conferred on one hundred and twenty four young gentlemen—the largest class ever graduated at this or any other College in the Union.

It is now positively announced that Gov. Brown of Mississippi, has appointed the gallant Col. Jefferson Davis, a Senator of the U. States.

The Cambria's News.

The Cambria arrived at Boston, at 7 o'clock, on Wednesday morning, with Liverpool news to the 5th instant. The following compilation of the Foreign News, is made up by the National Whig.

Parliament is dissolved. The election so far shows a triumph for the Free Traders.

Lord John Russell has been elected from the City of London.

The prospects for the harvest are all that can be wished. The Cutting has commenced in the South of England.—The Potatoe will come out with flying colors.

Famine and disease were rapidly vanishing from Ireland. This indeed is glorious news!

A large proportion of Repealers will be sent to Parliament from Ireland.

Mr. O'Connell's remains arrived at Dublin on the 1st instant, Sunday.

Many heavy failures have occurred among the corn dealers.

Dickens, Douglass Jerrold and other literateurs, have been playing in Liverpool for the benefit of Leigh Hunt!

A terrible conspiracy has been nipped in the bud at Rome. It had for its object the massacre of the Pope and the removal of the Pope to Naples. Five Cardinals have been arrested as abettors.

The people were quiet in France.

The King was well received by the Parisians on the three days of July.

The Chamber of Deputies is to be dissolved.

The Russians and Caraccians have been fighting several bloody battles—the former being defeated each time with great loss.

From Gen. Taylor's Army.

The U. S. transport schooner Belle arrived at New Orleans on the 13th inst., from Brazz Santiago, having sailed thence on the 5th inst. She brought over the remains of Lieutenant Hoskins, of the 4th Infantry, who fell at Monterey.

The Matamoros Flag estimates the force under Gen. Taylor, to amount to 9,010 men, distributed as follows:—Buena Vista 2,900; Monterey 750; Cerro Gordo 263; Upper Rio Grande 3,500; Lower Rio Grande 1,600—total 9,110.

The N. O. Picayune contains a letter dated Buena Vista July 25, from which we take the following:

The dragons who went on a reconnaissance under Capt. Arnold from Monterey on the 11th inst., returned a few days since to that place, and without meeting any of Urrea's band or hearing of them—everything was perfectly quiet. A rumor was in circulation here and in Saltillo on Wednesday, that a party of Americans going from Monterey to Camargo were attacked near Ramos and murdered. Among them was a Mr. Train, a Government agent and a very brave, daring man. We have had no confirmation of the rumor.

It pains me to say that the health of the troops here, the infantry brigade, continues to be very bad and the sick list very large. The deaths are principally confined to the North Carolina regiment, which has lost four hundred in a week. The Virginia regiment has lost three or four, old cases, and the Massachusetts about the same number.

From the New Orleans National, Aug. 16.

Interesting if True.

The following letter appears in the La Estrella of yesterday:

TAMPA, August 6, 1847.

My Friends—Our communication with the interior continues interrupted by General Garcia, who loses an opportunity of annoying the Yankees. By letters received here, we are assured that Gen. Scott had begun to march upon the capital on the 6th, without doubt. One of the letters contains extremely interesting information, and which ought to fill with indignation the breasts of all honorable Americans. Here it is:

"Two days ago an advanced Mexican guard intercepted a private correspondence between Gen. Santa Anna and Gen. Scott, in which it is written, that he had then made a movement of withdrawing the troops which were held in Penon. This, as it was to be expected, had produced a general alarm in the capital, and to calm it, it had been necessary that Santa Anna should make a public manifesto that his policy was only a ruse de guerre, by which he hoped to surround the army of Gen. Scott."

It is true, I do not know why the Mexicans do not cut off their connexion with a man who has done so much evil to this country. I have seen, also, another letter, dated the 22d, in which it is said that General Santa Anna appears very much inclined to peace, on account of the absolute want of resources. The army at Puebla had not yet moved; nor is it known positively when it will move.

This is what we know with certainty. The army from San Luis had moved for Queretaro; if it had conquered its march, it is in the capital by this time. [This was Valencia's army, which arrived in the capital on the 26th.] If new battles are attempted and lost, I do not know what Santa Anna will make, for with all the provisions he has at least 30,000, and as to provisions and water, there is no want this time.

On the 4th there left here for the interior, an expedition in pursuit of one thousand mules demanded at Vera Cruz. It had returned to Altamira, because it was warned that, by advancing, it would be cut off.

Gen. Urrea, last week, was at Toluca, where he was perfecting the organization of his division, in order to operate as before. It is a long time since this chief has indicated his operations, but it appears that he is all the while engaged in preparing. Sickness is making great ravages among the American troops which guard this place.

Tampico, August 9.

My Friends—Since I wrote you on the 6th, there have arrived here from Vera Cruz, reinforcements, which, with the grizzards, will amount to six hundred men. The vomito has appeared in its worst form among the Americans, and already there is great mortality. The strangers are perfectly horror stricken.

We wait with impatience news from the interior. In two or three days we shall know positively if Gen. Scott has moved from Puebla. A person arrived yesterday from Mexico, has assured me that the preparations of Scott do not indicate an advance on the last, as reported—nor is it believed that he will advance with the force that he has.

MON. HENRY CLAY.

Interesting Incidents. A large delegation of the friends of Henry Clay, proceeded to Cape May on Friday, to invite him to visit New York, and on their arrival there they were joined by similar committees from Philadelphia, New Haven and Trenton, forming quite an imposing procession, with a band of music at their head. They proceeded to the Mansion House, where Mr. Clay was stopping, when N. Dean, Esq., on behalf of the delegation, tendered him the invitation to the simplicity, Mr. Clay has eloquently responded.

The eloquent address which has just been delivered, had the effect almost to induce me to adopt the language which was used on a more solemn occasion. "Thou almost persuaded me to go." (Great applause.) But in that uprightness of nature, which I have ever endeavored to practice, I must tell you the objects and motives which have brought me to the shores of the Atlantic. I returned to my residence, after passing the winter at New Orleans, on the 23d or 24th of March last, and in a day or two afterwards melancholy intelligence reached me. Here Mr. C. evinced great emotion. I have been never since, and was induced to take this journey, for I could not look upon the partner of my sorrows without experiencing greater anguish.

We are drilling regularly every evening in Battalion drill, and Col. Hamtramck is considered by all to be one of the best officers in Mexico—as good as any regular or volunteer. He has the regiment under discipline, and he intends making a soldier of every man under his command. He is extremely popular with his men, and they seem to place great confidence in his skill and judgment. When I speak of Col. Hamtramck I do not mean to say that he don't have similar feelings toward the Lieut. Colonel— they all love old Colonel Randolph, and the old man rides any horse that comes to hand and don't care for trifles, and does not notice the small faults of the men, yet he is a soldier, every inch, as he has proven himself, not only with us, but long before the Mexican war was thought of.

Major Early is considered one of the B'boys, and the B'boys remember the night that we marched from our encampment on the San Juan River, to Passa La Carita.

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.

A destructive fire occurred in Philadelphia, on the night of the 21st, which consumed the extensive Sugar Refinery of Mr. Brown, and Newland's Brewery, on Broad st. The loss is estimated at \$200,000!

The fire was attended by the loss of several lives, besides several who were wounded. The Eolian Serenaders performed at the Court-house on Friday and Monday evening with great eclat. Their selections are good and the music they furnish of a rare order. The company is composed of Mr. W. OFFUTT, who performs on the Banjo; Mr. J. HANCOCK, Violin; Mr. J. SHERMAN, Bass Cello; and Mr. HUCON, on the Tambourine. The Company is under the management of Mr. E. C. ALLEN, whose qualifications as Manager and Comic Singer have been demonstrated to the perfect satisfaction of crowded houses in Charleston. The Ducing of Messrs Sherman and Hucron is certainly of a character very rarely to be met with. Indeed, the manager offers a challenge of \$500 to any person that can excel Mr. Sherman in Ethiopic Jigs.

From the New Orleans Bulletin, Aug. 14.

NATAL AFFAY. Another of those scenes which disgrace our city, took place yesterday



