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The New Orleans Daily Bee.

Tuesday morning, Dec. 29, 1846.

Mexico.

There is a strong interest attached to the news from the army, received on Monday night by the steamer *Fashion*. What the statements communicated to the press may be deemed entirely worthy of credence, little doubt remains that another and, perhaps an important conflict, between ourselves and the Mexicans, is at hand. An express is confidently asserted, had reached Gen. Patterson, at the close of last week from Gen. Worth, announcing the evacuation of Saltillo by Santa Anna's army advancing from San Louis Potosi to Saltillo, for the purpose of cutting off General Worth. To be this intelligence appears extremely probable, and altogether in character with Santa Anna's policy and practice. The crafty commander of the Mexicans is fully aware, by means of his scouts and spies, that Gen. Worth is stationed at Saltillo with a force not one-twentieth as strong as that which he must represent as composing San Louis Potosi. To attack and overwhelm an inferior, by a vastly superior army, is in keeping with Mexican ideas of chivalry. Santa Anna is doubtless anxious to strike a blow somewhere, and with as little danger of defeat as can well be incurred, when he is certain of outnumbering the foe in the proportion above mentioned. It will, no doubt, tend to the confidence of the people by injection, neither would it be altogether prudent to assail the main body of the American army. A middle course presents itself in which success seems certain, and which may be used with infinite effect in augmenting the popularity of the Mexican chieftain, and increasing the enthusiasm of the people in his behalf. A victory over Worth, how great soever the disproportion between the assailants and the assailed, would be a triumph of which, at first, Santa Anna would not fail to make the most. The necessity of some movement, and the apparent safety of the attempt, justify the belief that it will be made.

We think, however, that if ever the Mexican General gets within gunshot of Worth's detachment, he will be taught that numerical superiority avails but little against discipline, coolness and undaunted courage. The command at Saltillo is confided to the very man of all others best fitted for the responsible trust. Fearless in his intrepidity, yet prudent and discreet; with a heroic courage directed and controlled by a sagacious judgment, he is just the commander for a crisis such as is apprehended. He will fight the Mexicans to the last gasp, and will yet strive hard not to fight them to advantage. It is not probable that Santa Anna will advance upon Saltillo with more than a part of the troops stationed at San Louis, for he would not be so foolhardy as to leave the latter city unprotected. Should the disproportion between the Mexicans and Americans not exceed four or five to one, we shall look for a victory as a natural and necessary sequence to a battle.

Another piece of intelligence that arrests the attention, is the fact that the Mexicans are laboring to recruit their army from the small towns along the Rio Grande, and that they succeed in gathering together considerable numbers. This exhibits at once the energy and excitement of the people, and the intense hatred which they bear the Americans. The latter sentiment must be powerful indeed when it prompts them to organize companies in the face of the enemy, and in the very territory occupied by our troops.

Scottish Discovery.—A meeting of the American Ethnological Society in New-York, was held last week at the house of its venerable President Hon. Albert Gallatin, at which some letters were read containing intelligence of interest in connection with the labors and objects of the society.

Several were read from Mr. E. G. Squier and Dr. Davis of Chillicothe, Ohio, detailing the progress of their explorations among the mound and earthi works of the Scioto Valley in that State. Among other discoveries they note that of a remarkable embankment of nearly 200 feet in length, exhibiting the form of a huge serpent with its mouth open, in the attitude of swallowing an egg-shaped mound, likewise of earth. This unique relic of antiquity occupies the top of a perpendicular just wide enough to admit it, on one side being perpendicular and the other very steep. The egg or oval which seems just entering the serpent's mouth, occupies the extreme point of the hill. The embankment is now about five feet high and tapers toward the tail. This is justly characterized by the writers as the most remarkable relic yet discovered in the United States particularly when it is remembered that the serpent and egg in the same relation as here exhibited, form a prominent feature in the mythology of the Hindoos

Missouri.—The nucleus of a new state, says the Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* has just appeared in the north-west. It is about to be christened the Territory of Minesota, (Mi-ne-so-ta), and, in some five years, it will be cleared, settled, peopled, and covered with a net-work of railroad and canals, and become a powerful state, represented in the Federal Congress, by two senators and a legion of members. Mr. Marvin, of Wisconsin, which territory has just emerged from its chrysalis, brought forward the bill, to day, for establishing the new territory, beyond the limits of Wisconsin.

Fire in Augusta.—The Augusta Sentinel of the 23d says: Ourcitizens were aroused several day morning, about 1 o'clock, by the cry of fire which proceeded from the African Church, on the South Common, which was entirely consumed. The building was fenced from the central part of the city, and the fire had progressed so far before it was discovered, that all attempts to save it were vain. It was doubtless the act of an incendiary.

Cotton.—The Charleston *Mercury* says: "The effect of the *Cambria's* news was immediate and decided in our market yesterday—cotton having advanced about 3-8ths cent a pound. The speculative feeling in Liverpool is likely to excite a still stronger one here. So long as we keep within the range of Liverpool prices it is very well. But our interior merchants ought to be very careful how they speculate upon future advances, which may not come. Moderation and caution are good words for present use."

Patterson Monet-writer to the Philadelphia *Ledger* an explanatory letter concerning his reputed recent modification of the telegraphic alphabet. The new contrivance is simply an application for printing the common letters of the alphabet; but he says it cannot supercede his easily method which communicates faster than expert penmen usually write. He adds:

I wish it distinctly understood, therefore, that my recent invention of an apparatus for printing the common Roman letter, was not induced by any expectation that it will supercede my present plan, but solely to give the choice to any (if there are any) who, after all the evidence which has long been published to them of the importance of such a result, may be desirous of seeing the common Roman letter printed, instead of my simpler character signifying the same thing. I accomplish this result by means of an apparatus very far less complicated than any yet published here or in Europe. I remain, your most obedient servant,

Lading and Valuable Cargo.—The Charleston *Courier* of the 23d has the following:—

The ship *Tariff*, Baker, master, cleared yesterday at this port for Liverpool, by Messrs. Mercurill & Huger, with 956 bales Sea Island, and 3,100 bales Upland Cotton; 180 barrels Rice, and 500 bushels Peas, valued at $108,363. Also, the ship *Hannah*, Parker, master, for Liverpool, by George Y. Davis, Esq., with 2,255 bales Upland Cotton, and 468 barrels Rice, valued at $100,544.

Fire.—The new church built by the Unitarian society in Lexington, for Rev. Mr. Whitman, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night. It cost about $10,000; and we do not learn of any insurance. The cause is said to be a defect in the furnace, which was put in to dry the walls. The congregation expected to occupy it for the first time on Sunday.

The store and grist mill of J. & J. Robinson of Bath, Me., was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 15th, with a large amount of cotton and lumber. Loss $8,000 to $10,000. No insurance.

The dwelling house of Mr. John Anderson, of Kennebunk, Me., was destroyed by fire on Monday night. Insured for $300.—*Boston Courier.*

Fire.—By fire, at Havre, on the 5th ult. the cabinet of Mr. Casimir Gagne, the celebrated painter of Bordeaux, was entirely consumed. The fire broke out in the upper story of the house, and in a few hours nearly 4-5ths of the recruits for the regular army had been made up from the foreigners who hang about the large cities of the country, and to whom have no affinity of feeling with America or any other nation. That immediately after the cessation of hostilities, emissaries from the enemies camp, began tampering with them and they became dear to their duty; some would go off immediately, others get drunk and few, to return to their quarters after an absence of a few days, and to avoid the punishment consequent on such absence, take "French leave" altogether. He still raises on the number of deserters from his regiment, and says that they will not fall short of seven-five since the 24th Sept. and that, too, in a regiment embracing only seven companies. I remarked that I presumed two-thirds of them were Foreigners, when he answered quickly and with much feeling, "yes, sir, three-fourths, for although they are personally desirous of serving at home and in time of peace submit to the country's enemy the most worthless will risk his colors." He does not think that all who desert, go into the enemies ranks, but that no affinity of religious feeling with the enemy operates so strongly upon them, that they leave us to evade a conflict with the enemy. An English physician who is now in town speaks of meeting a couple of the sons of Erin between Saltillo and San Louis Potosi, one with his rifle and knapsack, and the other with nothing but his uniform. The doctor who is a considerable wag, and who had some hand in whipping the Mexicans out of Texas, stopped them in the road and asked their reasons for desertion. The man with the musket told him that he had fought too much against his religion already, and that he would not fight for the U. S. again and the other into a war with England," when he "would go for a volunteer." The other one had thrown away his musket, and would never pick up another one whilst he lived. They had both passports from the Mexican commander, and an order for 25cts per day until they could get to some port, where they could take shipping to the old country, or could get employment in the country. A horse, $25 in money and an order for $25 more on San Luis Potosi is the inducement to be held out here.

The Corsair.

Monterey, Dec 5th.

In my letter of yesterday I forgot to mention to you the death of Lieut. Desmont, of the Huron company, in the Georgia volunteers. He died of a fever, something on the bilious order, first beginning with the chills and fever. Many soldiers are prostrated with that disease now, and from all regiments that expect to remain in a short time, the debilitated are being discharged.

I am enabled to send you in to-day's letter many interesting items from the Mexican Camp. Seven American prisoners who were released in San Luis Potosi at the request of Gen Taylor, have arrived in this place. Two of them were rangers, captured near China, before the battle of Monterey, and the others were traders. It was thought the rangers had been murdered. From San Luis Potosi to Saltillo there is every little water at this time, and those prisoners report a stretch of a little the rise of 50 miles without one drop of water, yet, over this desolate and barren waste the enemy think Gen Taylor is marching to attack them. Such fortifications as the town is susceptible of are being made—ditches are being dug with the earth thrown on the side next the city, Gen. Patterson, you may recollect, in doing a similar work in Camargo, threw the earth on the outside affording the protection to the enemy in an advance.) and every thing given note of preparation. Santa Anna has reliable information from this quarter that Gen. Taylor would leave about the 15th November with 7 or 8,000 men.

The ending of the armistice rather took Santa Anna aback, as the saying is, for he was on the point of marching on Saltillo when he received Gen. Taylor's communication to that effect. He is beyond all the passes through the mountains and cannot get possession of any of them, should it be his desire. Gen. Wool, in marching on Parie, took possession of the pass leading to Durango, which cuts off all supplies from that quarter for this pass near 1000 mule loads of flour have been taken for the use of our army. The Mexican General, it seems, had an eye upon that pass, and deeply occupying it, on Gen. Wool anticipated him.

The Mexican force is reckoned by the prisoners at over 30,000 men, of whom 8,000 are cavalry, and although there is not another such a man living as Santa Anna, to their thinking, they are dissatisfied. Their pay has been reduced three several times, and they now receive but a trifle over a dime a day, a part promised in the balance of the 25 cents some future period.

Some little stir was made in the Mexican Camp on the 8th ult., at night, in consequence of dispatches reaching it from the Capitol, that another pronunciamiento had been made, and that Gen. Herrera, who drove Santa Anna from power before, had declared against the Government and driven the acting President, Alvarez, from the Capitol. Early the next morning Gen. Velencia, with 7 regiments of infantry, was sent off to resist order. It seems to me that 7 regiments out of 30,000 men is a very small force to send on such important business, but the rumored approach of the *formidable* force under Taylor will account for its meagreness.

The addition of consequence made to the enemy's battery taken from this place under the provisions of the armistice is two eight-seven pounders from Perote. They have collected several small pieces, four and six pounders, but they are of little account.

I find something worthy of a man, to record, in the conduct of Santa Anna. The first dissetters from the American ranks arrived in San Luis with letters to Generals Taylor and Worth. They presented their several orders for money to Santa Anna, when he informed them that he had not enough funds to feed his own soldiers. They were worn down by travel, hungry and without the means of getting a living, so they concluded on a last resort, that they would join his army. When they applied to him for permission to join the ranks, he replied that they would leave him should he get into a fight place. They affirmed to the contrary, when Santa Anna plainly told them that any man who would desert, one army would desert another, and he wanted nothing to do with such men. And so they left him—men who had been reduced off under the bright promises of command and plunder, and even the prospect of their changing their bread in the stroke of the enemy.—The hardy of it is, that neither the French nor English residents will give them work or food, and they would no doubt give their right hands to be back in Uncle Sam's ranks. No less than 46 were met on the road from San Louis to Saltillo. Nothing new about Monterey to-day.

The Corsair.

Monterey, Dec. 7th, 1846.

I think I can speak now with some degree of certainty as to the movement hinted at in my last. The first division, with two or three additional regiments, will shortly move towards Tampico. Gen. Taylor and his staff will go along, and the head-quarters of the army will be established either at Victoria or Tampico. Gen. Taylor will be in no hurry to reach Victoria, and the march will be made by easy stages, occupying three or four weeks. The idea of marching against the enemy is certainly abandoned for the present, and we are well satisfied that they will not march against us. We are now in possession of all the lower country, and when the forces get to Victoria, will command all the passes leading to it, and in this way things are likely to rest for some time. The Congress of the nations are now in session, and it may be the wish of the President of the United States to see whether Mexico is willing to end the strife before another resorting to extremities. Our Congress, I fear, is distracted with endeavors to reconcile the difficulties one way or the other, and the Ultra whigs will remain as they now are, (after the present election of the governors) until some signal favor from the people is known. When the presidential election comes further into the influence of some before we have rain, the man will have to be made in the valley of the Panuco, as I know of no other route with a sufficiency of forage.—Indeed, Gen Taylor in that case will be compelled to do so. [illegible] the Mexicans would be [illegible] the Americans [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]