

THE BANNER.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Editor.



Abbeville C. H., S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1846.

Public Meeting!

VOLUNTEERS FOR TEXAS!!

Our country is positively in a state of war with Mexico. Our soil actually invaded by a foreign foe! Point Isabel surrounded by 10,000 Mexicans!! Gen. TAYLOR's camp on the Rio Grande is attacked! Citizens of Carolina, To Arms! and To the Rescue!

A meeting of the citizens of Abbeville Village and its vicinity will be held at the Court House, on Saturday the 23rd instant, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of taking measures for raising Volunteers for the Mexican war.

The citizens of the District generally are requested to attend.

The Abbeville Light Infantry have been ordered out, at 10 o'clock, A. M., the same day.

Advertisements omitted in this paper, shall appear in our next.

Several communications have been unavoidably crowded out this week, but will be attended to as soon as possible.

The Hon. A. BURT, will accept our thanks for copies of the London Times, of 16th and 18th ultimo: also, for important public documents.

We are indebted to the enterprising publishers of the Hamburg Journal, Messrs. KEY and RAY, for extras of the Journal, containing late and important news, extracts from which will be found in another column.

Hurrah for the Typos!—Forty-five printers have volunteered in New Orleans.

O. H. WELLS has, on account of ill health, retired from the editorial chair of the Greenville Mountaineer, and his place has been filled by G. F. TOWNES, Esq., who makes his editorial bow in the last number of the Mountaineer.

The greatest excitement seems to be extending itself over the country. In Charleston meetings were held on the 15th and 16th instant, to raise volunteers for Mexico, at which there was a great deal of enthusiasm manifested, and we learn the work of volunteering is going bravely on there. Edgefield is also moving, and volunteers are subscribing their names, and are ready to start for the scene of action. Augusta, also, is marshalling her gallant sons, eager to win laurels in Mexico; and even in old Abbeville our young men are volunteering. In less time than a month, judging from the present movements throughout many of the States, an army of more than 50,000 men will be raised and ready for service.

Congressional.—The bill appropriating ten millions of dollars and authorizing the President to receive fifty thousand volunteers for the Mexican war has passed both Houses by large majorities. Mr. Calhoun refused to vote for or against the bill, upon the grounds that Mexico had not formally declared war against us, and perhaps this was only an outbreak of some of her more turbulent citizens which she had not authorized and would not sanction.

Mexico.—The latest news from the seat of war, extracts of which will be seen in another column, is important and exciting. Gen. TAYLOR's camp was attacked on Sunday, the 3d instant, and resulted in the repulse of the Mexicans with a loss of from 2 to 700 men, and the entire destruction of Ma-

tamoras; the loss upon the American side was only one, a surgeon, who was killed by a shell, so completely were they fortified. The gallant Captain WALKER succeeded in delivering his message to Gen. TAYLOR, informing him of the perilous situation of Point Isabel, upon the receipt of which, he determined to cut his way through to that place, but he met with no opposition. The Mexicans, during his absence, attacked the camp, supposing the forces he had marched off would render the taking of the camp entirely practicable. The Mexican forces are estimated variously at from 10 to 20,000. Capt. THORNTON's romantic escape has proved untrue, and he is still a prisoner in Mexico, with Capt. HARDEE and the remainder of the officers and privates who survived the fight. Capt. T's horse was wounded which caused him to runaway with his rider, and in leaping a precipice fell on him, where he lay for several hours in a state of insensibility, and was thus taken. Capt. HARDEE, after finding retreat impracticable, and upon the assurance of the Mexican General that he and his men would be treated as prisoners of war among christian people, surrendered.

The next news from Mexico will be looked for with great interest, as it was Gen. TAYLOR's intention to fight his way back to his camp; the Mexicans of course would endeavor to prevent this, and consequently a general engagement and perhaps a bloody one would follow.

From the Hamburg Journal—Extra.

Important from Washington.

Declaration of War against Mexico!

\$10,000,000 APPROPRIATED!!!

We lay before our readers important intelligence from Washington City, on the reception at that place of the news of the outbreak on the Mexican frontier.

TEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS were immediately appropriated by Congress, and placed at the disposal of the Executive; and he is also authorized to accept the services of FIFTY THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS to carry on the War!

We also lay before our readers so much of the President's Message, on transmitting the intelligence to Congress, as we deem important.

Our readers are also referred to an account of a battle between a large body of Mexicans and a company of Texian volunteers, under Capt. Walker, who were on their way to the relief of Point Isabel.

Gen. Worth passed through this place on yesterday evening, 14th inst., on his way to rejoin Gen. Taylor's Camp—having withdrawn his resignation. We understand he has received a letter from the army, informing him of the safety of Capt. Thornton and Lieut. Mason, who our readers will recollect were supposed to have been killed by the Mexicans.

Extracts from the Message

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the Senate and

House of Representatives:—

The existing state of the relations between the United States and Mexico, renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my message at the commencement of your present session, the state of these relations, the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries in March, 1842, and the long continued and unredressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican government on citizens of the United States in their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present convictions of the condition of affairs up to that time than by referring you to that communication.

The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico, on liberal and honorable terms, and the readiness of this government to regulate and adjust our boundary, and other causes of difference with that power on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me in September last to seek the re-opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every mea-

sure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, or defeat or delay a pacific result, was carefully avoided. An Envoy of the United States repaired to Mexico with full powers to adjust every existing difference. But though present on the Mexican soil; by agreement between the two governments, invested with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly dispositions, his mission has been unavailing. The Mexican government not only refused to receive him, or listen to his propositions, but, after a long continued series of menaces, have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow citizens on our own soil.

The grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexico upon our citizens throughout a long period of years, remain unredressed; and solemn treaties, pledging her public faith for this redress, have been disregarded. A government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties, fails to perform one of its plainest duties.

Our commerce with Mexico has been almost annihilated. It was formally highly beneficial to both nations; but our merchants have been deterred from prosecuting it by the system of outrage and extortion which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, whilst their appeals through their own government have been made in vain. Our forbearance has gone to such an extreme as to be mistaken in its character. Had we acted with vigor in repelling the injuries inflicted by Mexico at the commencement, we should doubtless have escaped all the difficulties in which we are now involved.

Instead of this, however, we have been exerting our best efforts to propitiate her good will. Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own, she has affected to believe that we have severed her rightful territory, and, in official proclamations and manifestoes, has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas. In the mean time, we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, even before the information from the Del Norte. But now, after reiterating menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.

As war exists, and notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon, by every consideration of duty and patriotism, to vindicate with decision, the honor, the rights, and the interests of our country.

Anticipating the possibility of a crisis like that which has arrived, instructions were given in August last, "as a precautionary measure," against invasion, or threatened invasion, authorizing Gen. Taylor, if the emergency required it, to accept volunteers, not from Texas only, but from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky; and corresponding letters were addressed to the respective governors of those States. These instructions were repeated; and in January last, soon after the incorporation of "Texas into the union of States," Gen. Taylor was further "authorized by the President to make a requisition upon the Executive of that State for such of its militia force as may be needed to repel the invasion or to secure the country against apprehended invasion." On the 2d day of March, he was again reminded, "in the event of the approach of any considerable Mexican force, promptly and efficiently to use the authority with which he was clothed to call to him such auxiliary force as he might need." War actually existing, and our territory having been invaded, Gen. Taylor, pursuant to authority vested in him by direction, has called on the Governor of Texas for four regiments of State troops—two to be mounted, and two to serve on foot; and on the Governor of Louisiana for four regiments infantry, to be sent to him as soon as practicable.

In further vindication of our rights and defence of our territory, I invoke the prompt action of Congress to recognize the existence of the war, and to place at the disposition of the Executive the means of prosecuting the war with vigor, and thus hasten the restoration of peace. To this end I recommend that authority should be given to call into the service a large body of volunteers to serve for not less than six or twelve

months unless sooner discharged. A volunteer force is, beyond question, more efficient than any other description of citizen soldiers; and it is not to be doubted that a number far beyond that required would readily rush to the field upon the call of their country. I further recommend that a liberal provision be made for sustaining our entire military force, and furnishing it with supplies and munitions of war.

The most energetic and prompt measures, and the immediate appearance in arms of a large and overpowering force, are recommended to Congress as the most certain and efficient means of bringing the existing collision with Mexico to a speedy and successful termination.

In making these recommendations, I deem it proper to declare that it is my anxious desire not only to terminate hostilities speedily, but to bring all matters in dispute between this government and Mexico to an early and amicable adjustment; and, in this view, I shall be prepared to renew negotiations, whenever Mexico shall be ready to receive propositions, or to make propositions of her own.

I transmit herewith a copy of the correspondence between our envoy to Mexico and the Mexican Minister for foreign affairs; and so much of the correspondence between that envoy and the Secretary of State, and between the Secretary of War and the general in command on the Del Norte, as are necessary to a full understanding of the subject.

JAMES K. POLK.

Washington, May 11th, 1846.

By the President of the U. S. of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by virtue of the constitutional authority vested in them, have declared by their act, bearing date this day, that, "by the act of the Republic of Mexico, a state of war exists between that government and the United States.

Now, therefore, I, JAMES K. POLK, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the same to all whom it may concern; and I do specially enjoin on all persons holding offices, civil or military, under the authority of the United States, that they be vigilant and zealous in discharging the duties respectively incident thereto; and I do moreover exhort all the good people of the United States, as they love their country, as they feel the wrongs which have forced on them the last resort of injured nations, and as they consult the means, under the blessing of Divine Providence, of abridging its calamities, that they exert themselves in preserving order, in promoting concord, in maintaining the authority and efficacy of the laws, and in supporting and invigorating all the measures which may be adopted by the constituted authorities for obtaining a speedy, a just, and an honorable peace.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents. Done at [L. S.] the city of Washington the thirteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and of the independence of the United States the seventieth.

JAMES K. POLK.

By the President:
James Buchanan,
Secretary of State.

From the Army!

From the N. O. Picayune, May 10.

LATER FROM BRAZOS SANTIAGO.

Fight between Captain Walker, of the Texas Rangers, and a large body of Mexicans! Loss of Six Texans?—Thirty Mexicans killed:

The brig Ellen and Clara arrived this morning from Brazos Santiago, having sailed on the 29th ult.—one day later than the schooner Augusta. There had been no fight between Gen. Taylor and the Mexicans.

Capt. Walker, a gallant Texian volunteer and now a captain in the service, had been driven into the post at Point Isabel by the Mexicans. With his small command he had sallied forth and encountered the main body of Mexicans—not less than 1500 strong. Most of his being raw recruits, refused to stand by him, and made their escape. Twelve men, however, remained firm, and with this little handful, Walker kept the Mexicans in check for half an hour. By this time, six of his men had fallen by his side, when his horse was shot under him, and he with the surviving men effected their escape and reached the post at Point Isabel in safety. Above thirty Mexicans were killed in this engagement.

This engagement occurred on the 28th Capt. Walker got into the post about 5

o'clock in the afternoon of that day. His original force, known as 'Texan Rangers, amounted to about 75 men.

The Mexicans pursued Capt. Walker in his retreat till they came within range of the guns of the post, when they in turn immediately retreated.

The post is very strongly defended—thanks to the exertions of Majors Monroe and Saunders. With 500 men to defend the post, it is believed it can be made good against 3000 Mexicans.

The next day Capt. Walker volunteered with four men to carry an express through to Gen. Taylor. The attempt was thought almost foolhardy, but he persisted. The result was not known when the Ellen and Clara left.

There are now about 3000 Mexicans on the American side of the Rio Grande—one half above and one half below Gen. Taylor's camp.

The greatest apprehension now felt for the American position is, that the Mexicans may erect fortifications which will command Brazos Santiago. The natural formation of the ground is most favorable for such a purpose. The men would be effectually protected from any naval force by a natural embankment of sand, and the position could only be carried by actual storm of the works. These works would perfectly command all vessels entering the Brazos Santiago, as they have to follow the channel within a few feet only of the position which would be occupied by the enemy's guns.

The schooner Aurora left Brazos Santiago the evening of the 28th ult., with despatches for this port, but it is feared she has been lost, in a violent gale, with all hands on board.

We are indebted for the above particulars, so hurriedly thrown together, to Dr. N. T. Briggs, a surgeon in the army, who came passenger on the Ellen and Clara.

The report of the above action, as brought by the Captain of the Ellen and Clara, is, that there were seventy-five men under Captain Walker, who were fully all killed or taken prisoners. Mr. Briggs stated to us that but six men were fighting bravely by their commander. We have another version of this affair, furnished by a passenger, which agrees essentially with that of Captain Griffin. Both appear to have derived their reports from the pilot who took the Ellen and Clara over the bar. The action is said by them to have taken place 15 or 18 miles from Point Isabel.

Capt. Walker distinguished himself in the famous Mier expedition by his extreme gallantry. Col. Fisher, who commanded in the expedition and is now in town, informs us that Walker is as brave a man as ever breathed—that if any man on earth can carry through a message, from Point Isabel to Gen. Taylor, Walker is the man who can do it. We hope yet to hear that he has succeeded in his design, though it was regarded at Point Isabel as utterly desperate.

When the Ellen and Clara sailed Maj. Monroe had under his command at Point Isabel 500 men, composed of soldiers, teamsters, laborers, &c. The works were then very strong and every day he was adding to them. He had two 18 pounders and several field pieces. He is an officer of great energy and skill, and was confident of his ability to maintain a post against two or three thousand of the enemy.

For several days an attack on the post had been apprehended, and the men slept every night on their arms. The weather at the Point had been very agreeable and the men were healthy, although the water was very bad. The distance from Brazos Santiago is about five miles. On the bar there are about nine feet of water in the South Channel.

LATER.

From the N. O. Picayune, 12th inst. Important from the Rio Grande—Gen. Taylor at Point Isabel—Attack on his Camp—repulse of the Mexicans, and destruction of Matamoros!

The steamship New York Captain Windle, arrived in port on Sunday evening, having left Brazos Santiago the afternoon of Wednesday, the 6th inst. Her news is important, and of the most gratifying description.

Our last previous accounts came down to Wednesday the 28th ult. Capt. Walker, of the Rangers, having come into Point Isabel on the evening of the 38th ult., from his desperate encounter with the Mexicans, had volunteered to carry despatches, to General Taylor. We now learn by the New York that desperate attempt—so desperate as to be thought fool-hardy—he fully succeeded. Gen. Taylor learned from him the critical situation in which Point Isabel was placed, and the eminent danger of its being carried by an overpowering force of the Mexicans: He promptly determined upon a movement which should protect Point Isabel, and re-establish his communication with his sup-