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THE BANNER.

(WEEKLY.)

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From the *Houston (Texas) Telegraph.* SUMMER QUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

MAGNIFICENT PROSPECT.—We learn by a private letter, that Gen Taylor has expressed a determination to make his summer quarters at Monterey, and there is no doubt that with the force now under his command, and the volunteers that are hastening to his standard that he can establish his summer quarters in any part of the eastern provinces of Mexico that he desires. The valley of Monterey was visited during the Federal war, and they all describe it as an earthly paradise; groves of oranges, lemons, figs, and pomegranates, surround the city; the whole valley, which is irrigated by countless rivulets of pure and wholesome waters is but one continuous garden, producing various kinds of vegetables, and tropical fruits in abundance. The climate however in summer is rather too warm to be agreeable to persons from the Northern States; but a short distance, in the elevated plains along the mountains, the climate even in mid summer, is as cool and salubrious as that of the Catskill mountains. Even the northern fruits, such as the apple, pear, &c., are produced in abundance, in those elevated regions. When our troops once get pleasantly located in that delightful region, they will be very unwilling to forsake it; and the glowing descriptions they will circulate throughout the Union, will ere long excite a desire among all classes to annex it to the United States. The stupendous chain of the Sierra Madre is a boundary meet for a great nation; but the insignificant Rio Bravo is only suitable to define the limits of States or counties.

From the Union.

CALIFORNIA—CAPTAIN FREMONT.—Letters have been received at the Navy Department from Monterey, bearing as late a date as April 18.

The unwarranted attempt to drive Capt. Fremont from the country has already been alluded to in the newspapers. After having been ordered away by Don Jose Castro, commandant general, Capt. F. expecting an attack, fortified himself about twelve leagues distant from Monterey. Castro assembled about 100 men in front of the entrenchment. After remaining there three days he concluded to treat, when it was discovered that the party had quietly gone off, leaving some old saddles and trash which the Californians magnified into munitions of war.

Three hundred riflemen offered their services to Captain F. but they were declined.

The movement against Capt. Fremont seems to have been directed by the Central Government of Mexico; but it is not believed that the people of California entertained any ill will towards him, or would willingly have done him harm. His own conduct in the whole matter seems to have been marked alike by courage and discretion. We subjoin a copy of a letter written by him to the American consul at Monterey, when in expectation of an attack, and received by the consul in the evening of March 10. The captain remained in excellent health and had gone north.

“MY DEAR SIR: I this moment received your letters, and without waiting to read them, acknowledge the receipt which the courier requires instantly. I am making myself as strong as possible, in the intention that if we are unjustly attacked, we will fight to extremity and refuse quarter, trusting to our country to avenge our death. No one has reached my camp; and from the heights we are able to see troops (with the glass) mustering at St. John’s, and preparing cannon. I thank you for your kindness and good wishes, and would write more at length as to my intentions, did I not fear that my letter will be intercepted. We have in no wise done wrong to the people or the authorities of the country; and if we are hemmed in and assaulted, we will die, every man of us, under the flag of our country.

Very truly yours,

J. C. FREMONT.

P. S.—I am encamped on the top of the Sierra, at the head waters of a stream which strikes the road to Monterey, at the house D. Joaquin Gomez.
J. C. F.”

The Washington Union has the following notice of the preparations for a descent on Santa Fe:—

THE VOLUNTEER EXPEDITION TO SANTA FE.—This expedition, under the command of Col. Kearney, to which this country looks with so much interest, is at present pushed forward with the utmost vigor. All the supplies required—ordnance, stores, subsistence, baggage, trains, &c., were expected to be at Fort Leavenworth early during the present week. When it is remembered that the St. Louis Republican of June 3d, that this expedition will require near a thousand mules for draught, several hundred horses for the ordnance, and for mounting the dragoons, at least two hundred wagons, a large stock on foot, and other stores in proportion, and that the requisition only reached here last Sunday, some idea may be formed of the despatch with which the United States Government officers have performed their duties.

The same Journal adds:—“No delay, we are assured, will occur, if the volunteers are as promptly at the point of rendezvous as the supplies, or are ready for the march as soon as all other things are prepared. Several of the companies raised in counties on the Missouri river, will set out to-day for Fort Leavenworth, and it is believed that nearly the whole number will be mustered into service at the fort, by the last of this, or the first of next week. If any delay is caused by the non-arrival of the volunteers, it will probably occur from the companies raised in this county—they being farthest off, and having greater difficulties to contend with, than those in the interior counties. We presume that as soon as the companies are ready to leave, they will be furnished with the necessary transportation; and it occurs to us that they should be despatched as fast as they can present themselves, properly mounted and equipped. At all events, we hope there will be no delay on account of the troops from this quarter.”

NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 11.

MEXICAN AFFAIRS.—We have been gratified by an interview with Mr. Dimond, our former consul at Vera Cruz, who sailed from that city in the U. S. steamship Mississippi on the 30th ult. Mr. Dimond informs us that Santa Anna’s arrival was daily expected by many persons in Vera Cruz, and that the country was ripe for his reception.

A plan of a new revolution had been published, based upon the Constitution of 1827, upon which it was supposed the Federal and the Santa Anna parties would unite. The Federalists were unable to make head against the Government by themselves, but when joined by Santa Anna’s adherents the success of the two combined could scarcely be doubted.

In this plan the Texas question was slurred over, nothing being said about it. Mr. Dimond thought it quite probable that Santa Anna and Almonte would arrive at Vera Cruz by the next steamer from Havana—this, however, was doubted by some well-informed parties.

The period for the general elections had passed, and it was not thought that a sufficient number of Congressmen were elected to form a quorum. Paredes is waiting for the meeting of Congress, to get permission to leave the seat of Government at the head of 10,000 men—avowedly for the Rio Grande; but the better opinion seemed to be that this force was designed for his own protection.

The death of the Archbishop was a heavy blow to the monarchical party. Upon his death bed the ambitious prelate regretted that his life could not be spared to assist in consummating the schemes of that faction. With him the hopes of the monarchists have died.

The Departments are pronouncing against Paredes in every direction. His heavy demands upon the churches and the States have rendered him more unpopular than before. It is not thought he can maintain his power for any considerable length of time.

Recruiting for the Army was going on at Vera Cruz, but only a few men, and those of the lowest sort, were found willing to enlist. In the city of Mexico, Government expresses arrived frequently from the Army; but as nothing of their contents were allowed to transpire of

late, the impression was that the Mexicans had met with disasters.

In regard to the large English squadron upon the Pacific, Mr. Dimond is of the opinion that those vessels had been sent out with reference to the Oregon question. He does not think it probable that they have any instructions respecting the war with Mexico, or the seizure of California in consequence of the war. Touching this matter however, there is room for doubt. The British fleet off Western Mexico was quite large, and if the other fleets in the Pacific join it, as was expected by some, it would be a very formidable force.

THE RANCHEROS OF MEXICO.—The Rancheros, part of the material of the Mexican army, are half Indian and half Spanish in their extraction; gaunt, shrivelled, though muscular in their frames, and dark and swarthy visaged as they are, these men are the Arabs of the American continent. Living half of the time in the saddle, for they are unrivalled horsemen, with lasso in hand they traverse the vast plains in search of the buffalo and wild horse. The killing of these animals and the preparation and sale of their hides are their sole means of livelihood. Their costume generally consist of a pair of tough high leggins, with sandals of the same material, bound together with leathern thongs over which is a blanket with a hole in the centre large enough to allow the head to be thrust out, and which falls not ungracefully over their shoulders, leaving ample room for the play of their arms. Add to this a broad straw sombrero, and the lasso hanging ready for use in his girdle, and you have the Ranchero as he appears in the time of peace. Join to this a long lance with a sharp spear head, and his belt plentifully supplied with pistols and knives, and you have the Ranchero as a member a troop of banditti, or as a soldier in a body of Cavalry. Their power of enduring fatigue is almost inexhaustible, and a scanty meal per diem of jerked beef and plantain suffices them during months. These are the men who comprise the great body of the Mexican cavalry, and they are to the armies of that nation what the Cossacks are to the Russians—ever on the alert, never to be surprised, and untiring in the pursuit of the foe, when plunder, no matter how trifling is to be obtained.

A GOVERNMENT CURRENCY.—It is undeniable that if the war with Mexico is protracted beyond three months that some species of government paper currency, probably in the form of treasury notes, will become indispensable. The transfer of large sums in specie between remote parts of the Union, not only deranges all existing pecuniary relations, but involves, a heavy public expense for its transportation. A limited issue of Treasury notes as a temporary financial expedient, will save this necessity, and the amount, if it should not exceed ten millions, will, by limitation, prevent their depreciation. A resort to direct Texas, unless the war is protracted, or becomes more general, would be inexpedient, and if even resorted to, the produce of such taxation would not be available to the treasury in less than two years, requiring that time to mature the machinery. The duties from imports will be greatly lessened by war, while the necessity for anticipating their payment into the treasury is no less urgent than in the case of direct taxation. A resort, therefore, to loans or to some species of government paper, would appear to be inevitable. Loans are the proper expedient in a war promising to be protracted, for they cannot be negotiated to advantage unless they run for a long term of years, while Treasury notes, redeemable at any period, and preserved from depreciation by limitation in amount, are the appropriate financial resources during hostilities of a probably limited duration.—*Char. Eve. News.*

The Baltimore Sun gives the following as a plan to fortify Washington in case of war:

An army might be raised sufficient to keep off Satan himself, upon the following plan: let the President announce three vacancies in any of the Departments—in three days a sufficient number of office-seekers would arrive to swallow up all the troops that Victoria could muster, with pepper or salt.

GROWING HONORS.—A few years ago, a friend of ours was out upon a trout fishing excursion, and after the fatigues of the day were nearly ended,—whether with anything more than “fisherman’s luck,” we know not—he entered a public house in a neighboring town, for refreshment. He there encountered a garrulous old man, who had done his country some service in the Revolution, with whom he fell into conversation. The old man was poor, he said, and expiated so feelingly upon the inconveniences of his poverty, that our friend, who is always benevolently inclined, was considerably removed. It was not then regarded a sinful thing to drink a glass of toddy, especially upon a fishing expedition—indeed it was a matter almost universally admitted, that the fish would not bite unless there was a bottle of black strap along—and so he asked the man to drink.

“Thank you, Captain,” said the old man, and the drinks were despatched.

Our friend had ordered dinner, and when it was ready, he invited the old hero to dine with him.

“I declare Major,” said he, “you are very kind—I don’t care if I do.”

After dinner, a cigar was handed him, with the request, that he would join in a social smoke.

“Well now, Colonel, I do declare,” said the old man, “you are very generous.”

Conversation went on, the hero fought his battles over and over again, and was indeed very happy.

“Come my old hearty,” said our friend, “let us take a little something more before we part.”

“General,” said the old man, “you are too generous,—but, as you say, I can’t refuse a glass, at parting.”

Our friend then extended his hand, on taking leave, and in grasping that of the old hero, he deposited a half dollar in it.

“What is this?” said he, “a half dollar? What is that for?”

“Oh,” said our friend, “it will help you along a little, in the rough journey of life, and I am very glad of an opportunity to do a kindness to one of the men who fought for the liberties we enjoy.”

This was too much for the old man. The tears started to his eyes, and he could only utter, almost choked with emotion—“God bless you Governor.”

FARMERS AND THEIR CHILDREN.—The paramount duty of the agriculturist is to elevate his class, and place himself in the position to which he is entitled. No idea more fatal to the supremacy of the farmer ever possessed him than that of educating some one child in particular what is denominated learned professions. Let Agriculturists educate their children thoroughly, regardless of any such partial, unfair and unjust consideration. As agriculturists, let them educate their children for agriculturists. Let them not give bread to one and stones and serpents to the others. Let them bear in mind that education adorns and improves the cultivator of the soil as much, as it does the lawyer, the doctor or the divine. It is a false notion and unworthy the citizens of a free republic, that education was not necessary to the cultivator of the soil. When we reflect that this is a free country, and that freedom can only be preserved by the pure light that is reflected by knowledge, can the cultivator of the soil hesitate a moment to put his shoulder to the wheel? If he loves his children, educate them: if he loves his country, educate them. It is a duty he owes to both children and country.

AN INCIDENT.—“A gallant young officer of Baltimore,” in a letter from Point Isabel to the Baltimore Patriot, relates the following exciting incident of the battle of the 9th:

“I must tell you a piece of bad luck that happened in Camp Taylor. Four bomb-shells fell into my tent, (where the stores are) from the enemy’s battery, and two exploded, knocking everything to pieces—a shot struck a basket of champagne and dashed it to atoms, and then went through a barrel of molasses, and such a scene of molasses and champagne you never did see—fortunately, no one was hurt.

Advertisements
WILL be conspicuously inserted at 75 cents per square for the first insertion, and 37½ cents for each continuance—longer ones charged in proportion. Those not having the desired number of insertions marked upon them, will be continued until ordered out, and charged accordingly.

For advertising Estrays Toted, TWO DOLLARS, to be paid by the Magistrate. For announcing a Candidate, TWO DOLLARS, in advance. All letters or communications must be directed to the Editor, postage paid.

CHEAP BAROMETER OR WEATHER GLASS.—Take a long Cologne bottle and put into it two ounces of common gin; then pulverize and add two drachms of camphor, half an ounce of purified nitre, and the same quantity of ammonia. Then cover the mouth of the bottle with a piece of bladder or parchment, perforated in several places with a needle. When the solid portions settle, and the liquid becomes clear, fine weather is indicated, and the reverse when the storm-king is abroad. Twenty-four hours before a storm, the composition will be in a state of fermentation. In serene and hot weather, the solid portion will sink close to the bottom. The wind will always blow from the quarter opposite to the side to which the substance cleaves.

“I MARK ONLY THE HOURS THAT SHINE.”—This is the inscription upon a sun dial in Italy. It inculcates a beautiful lesson which too many are prone to disregard! It would teach us to remember the bright days of life, and not to forget the blessings God is giving us. Life, it is true, is not all bright and beautiful. But still it has lights as well as shades, and it is neither wise nor grateful to dwell too much upon the darker portions of the picture. He who looks upon the bright sides of life, and makes the best of every thing, will, we think, other things being equal, be a better and happier man than those who, as Franklin says, “are always looking at the ugly leg,” and find occasion for complaint and censure in almost everything they meet with.—*Sav. Georgian.*

THE THREE FRIENDS.—Trust no friend before thou hast tried him, for they abound more at the festal board than at the prison door.

A certain man had three friends, two of them he loved warmly; the other he regarded with indifference, though that one was the truest of his well wishers. The man was summoned before a tribunal, and tho’ innocent, his accusers were bitter against him.

“Who among you,” said he, “will go with me, and bear witness for me? For my accusers are bitter against me and the kind is displeased.”

The first of his friends at once excused himself from accompanying him, on the plea of other business. The second followed him to the door of the tribunal, there he turned back and went his way, through fear of the offended Judge. The third, on whom he relied the least spoke for him, and bore witness of his innocence, so that the Judge dismissed and rewarded him.

Man has three friends in this world; how do they demean themselves towards him in the hour of death when God calls him to judgment? His best beloved friend, gold is the first to leave him, and accompanies him not. His friends and kinsman accompany him to the portal of the grave and then turn back to their own homes. The third, whom he is most neglectful of, is good works. They alone go with him to the Judge’s throne, they stand before him, and speak for him, and obtain mercy and grace.

Homer.

WESTERN WIT.—A hoosier sold a neighbor a dog, which he recommended as first-rate for raccoon hunting. Shortly after, the purchaser met his neighbor: “I say, friend, this ’ere dog don’t know a ’coon from a sheep.” “You’ve tried him, ha?” “Yes, and he ain’t worth a curse.” “Well I didn’t know exactly how that was; but as he was’n good for nothing else, I thought he must be the very devil after coons.”

SOME MONEY.—Mr. Webster etated a few days since in the Senate, that he had ascertained from the best authority that the expense of the Military department of the Government was at present nearly a half million of Dollars per diem. This is at the rate of one hundred and eighty millions per annum, and chiefly brought about by a war with “imbecile insignificant Mexico.” Query—What would it be in a war with England?

“This here feller,” said a witness in court, the other day, “broke our winder with a tater, and hit Isabeller on the Elber, as she was plying on the pianner.”