

THE BANNER.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."
CHARLES H. ALLEN, Editor.



Abbeville C. H., S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23, 1846.

The Cotton Crop.—The papers are almost filled with accounts of the ravages of the Caterpillar and hole worm throughout the country, and if those accounts be true, the cotton crop must necessarily be short this season. The accounts particularly from the West are disheartening. From a letter dated Richland, Holmes County, Mississippi, Sept. 2d, which a friend has been kind enough to allow us the perusal of, we learn that in that county the brightest prospects are blasted. The writer states that one of his neighbors, who has 165 acres in cotton, will not make 30 bales; another is offering his crop of 140 acres, for 30 bales; and a third who has 100 acres planted, will take 20 bales for the whole. In Louisiana, Alabama and some parts of Georgia, the prospects are equally gloomy, nor have the crops in our own State escaped the ravages of the destroyers, but in nearly all the cotton growing regions they have made their appearance in greater or less numbers.

Mexico.—It appears by the latest advices from Mexico, that a new Ministry has been formed; ALMONTE Secretary of War, and REJON of Foreign Affairs. Santa Anna is still at his country seat near Jalapa indisposed, but will start for the capital as soon as his health will permit. There seems to be little or no preparation going on to prosecute the war. It is said that a brigade was formed and equipped complete to march against Gen. TAYLOR, but the commander cannot be prevailed upon to leave the capital. The squadrons are blockading Vera Cruz and Alvarado, literally doing nothing. "If you go ten miles," says a letter writer, "to the North of Vera Cruz, they send you bullocks, and the country women desire to come on board to look at the ship. Eight miles South, they actually come in their boats and send invitations off for a fandango.

From these demonstrations we should conclude that but little will be left for our army now to do in Mexico, and that Mexican valor had expired upon the battle fields of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.

The Mormons.—These misguided and deluded people still continue to excite the hatred and anger of their neighbors. The latest accounts from them informs us, great excitement prevailed in Hancock County, and a body of men consisting of some twelve hundred in number, an armed posse with five six-pound cannon, and one twenty-four pounder, and on their march to Nauvoo. The officers, it is said, have one hundred writs on so many Mormons, and they were determined to serve them, if it was necessary to enter the town forcibly to do it. Some five or six hundred Mormons it is said are also under arms. They have fortified the Temple; have several pieces of cannon and are resolved upon resistance.

The New York Herald says:—"The amount of money in Wall-street seeking employment is daily increasing, and at this rate the money market must, in a few weeks, be much easier than it has been at any time during the past two years. The banks are discounting every piece of first rate paper offered, and loans on stock collateral are freely made at 5 and 6 per cent. In the midst of this abundance, there is no upward movement in the stock market, and there appears to be no particular demand for

money from the commercial classes. Unless something soon turns up to give employment to the idle capital, it must go about the street begging for customers."

Deerfield, an insulated village between Portsmouth and Concord has experienced during the last twelve years occasional reports or explosions in the ground, apparently of a volcanic or gaseous nature. Within a week there have been 30, so severe as to throw down stone walls, jar the buildings, and alarm the people.

The Cotton Crop.—The St. Laundry Whig, of the 15th inst., says it continues to receive the most disheartening accounts from the country in relation to the cotton crop. We copy the following from the Whig:

"The backwardness of the season has made the crops a month later than usual, and the appearance of the caterpillar before the bolls had fairly begun to open, has destroyed every hope of being able to make seed. Many large plantations will not realize enough from the nett proceeds of their crops to pay their overseers. We met a few days since a gentleman who has twelve hundred acres in cotton on Bayou Laouff, who assures us that he will not make off the twelve hundred acres more than ten bales.

The following is from the Red River Republican, published at Alexandria, of the 5th instant:

"As we expected, the caterpillars have done the business for the crop in this parish. Some of our oldest and most experienced planters, after a personal examination, have expressed their opinion that a fourth of a crop will not be made in this parish. There were, according to their calculation upwards of 40,000 bales raised in the parish last season, and this year, according to their estimate, there will not be 10,000 bales made.

The Western Democrat, of the 9th instant, confirms the above, and gives as bad a picture of the crops on the Ouachita.

The Natchitoches Chronicle of the 5th inst., says the crop of that parish has been almost wholly destroyed.

The Caddo Gazette of the 28th ult. says the destruction had not then been general in that parish, but in some cases entire destruction had taken place.

N. O. Picayune, 13th inst.

From the Sumter Pilot. THE COTTON WORM.

These destructive little vermin are making sad havoc throughout the length, and breadth, and depth of all cotton fields in this section of the country. They come in myriads, as though by magic, so sudden and universal is their simultaneous appearance. A cloudy, damp state of atmosphere, accompanied by a rapid and sappy growth of the cotton plant, seems to favor the procreation of these all-mouthed little gluttons. They are deposited by a butter-fly, in the twilight of evening, on the tender bud at the end of a branch of the cotton plant. By morning the eggs are hatched, and immediately the work of destruction commences. They are then not larger than a common sewing needle. They start down the branch of the plant, perforate the first square or form, which, in a few hours, spread wide open. Their growth is very rapid and according to their age and size, so they attack the bolls of different ages and sizes. One worm will destroy about twenty squares and bolls if they are convenient to the worm's access. If the weather turns off very hot and dry, they leave the cotton and go into the ground, like the cole-worm, and come out and eat in the night and return again when the sun shines hotly. They cannot survive hot and dry weather. In the space of two weeks they can destroy one third or more of the most promising crops of cotton. And the richer the land and the more luxuriant the crop, the more complete is the destruction they produce.

And I have never heard of any remedy for the prevention of this Egyptian plague. The destruction of the vermin, after they are engendered, seems to be the only feasible manner of getting rid of it. To do this, I have given to each of my field hands a bottle, which they suspend around the neck with a string. The bottle is filled one third full of water. Each hand then takes his row, as at other work, and examines each stalk—finds the worm at his destructive meal—gathers it and drops it in the bottle, and the worm soon drowns. For the first few hours, it seems to be a slow business, but they soon become as expert as turkeys, and will gather from five to fifteen hundred worms a day. At night each one brings up his bottle—we strike a wring, all the worms are coun-

ted out, so that the day's work of each one may be judged of. This day with 25 hands, we have caught, counted, killed, and offered up on the shrine of wondering poultry, over twelve thousand cotton worms, and to-morrow we expect to double this amount. We can catch at least 20,000 worms in a day. Each worm in the course of his life will destroy twenty squares and bolls—This, then, is a net saving of 400,000 bolls of cotton per day; and field hands have but little now to do, as cotton is not opened sufficiently to commence picking.

A great many people, in the plentitude of southern dignity and chimney corner wisdom, effect to laugh at this simple and primeval method of routing these ruinous vermin; because they say it looks so ridiculous, to see a grown up man picking up worms like a turkey cock! But it must look equally ridiculous to the proprietor and the overseer too, to see a large field of cotton stalks, big enough to make a bale of cotton to the acre, and that garnished without three hundred pounds of blue, half opened, worm eaten cotton.

Try it, and if you do not like the *modus operandi*, you can quit it in a half minute.

It is now too late to theorize or book farm the worm out of your cotton fields.

GEORGE AMASON.

Sumter Co., Al., Aug. 13, 1846.

From the New Orleans Bee.

LATER FROM THE ARMY.

The steamer *Sea*, arrived last evening from Brazos Santiago, by way of Port Lavaca and Galveston.

CAMARGO, August 31st, 1846.

Gentlemen.—"Thus far into the bowels of the land we have marched without impediment." The First Brigade, under General Worth, is now well on to Monterey, and the Second, under Colonel P. F. Smith, and Third, under Colonel Garland, are expected soon to follow. Captain May, with the Second Dragoons, and Major Monroe, with the Light Artillery, are to move forward in the same direction. These, with the Texans, Ohio, and Kentucky volunteers, all under the command of Old Rough and Ready, will constitute an effective force of 7500. But a portion of these, however, will proceed to Monterey, the remainder will be stationed at different posts in the rear, to guard them and preserve a communication with the supplies. This is not a pleasant service for those who are "carger for the fray," but it cannot be helped.

The want of proper means of land transportation is severely felt, although general Taylor has an effective force of nearly 15,000 men, not a single addition of wagon has arrived, and the conveyance of baggage and accoutrements is effected exclusively by mules, of which, 1,500 or 2,000 have been hired or purchased from the Mexicans.

You have learned ere this that on the 24th general Worth arrived at the town of Salado, some 70 miles distant, and there awaits the arrival of the main body of the Army. Lieut. Kane, is here with 150 men to guard the public stores. Gen. Taylor is confident of reaching Monterey by the 15th September, and by the 1st of October, will probably be at Saltillo, sixty miles from Monterey. He anticipates no resistance to his progress to the former place. We hear that there are some three or four thousand Mexican soldiers at Monterey, the command of Mejia, but they are wholly inefficient, and scarcely kept together by force. They will disperse at the first rumor of our approach, or I am seriously mistaken. Yours, F. F. C.

From the N. O. Delta.

THREE AMERICANS KILLED.

SAN ANTONIO, DE BEXAR, Sept. 5. Lieut. Rogers, of the 2d Dragoons, (who was left by Colonel Harney with three companies of Texan troops, under command of Capt. Cady, at Presidio de Rio Grande,) and Mr. Callahan, arrived this morning, and reported the remainder of the command near at hand: the provisions being damaged and condemned, it became necessary to procure more—and the inhabitants at Presidio professed to be very friendly, they sent a small boat with nine men, over the river, to bring the articles purchased. After the men had pushed off their boat they were attacked by a body of Mexicans, secreted in the chapparal on the bank of the river. Three of our party were killed; the remainder jumped overboard, and reached the bank on this side. During the afternoon, the Mexicans kept up a fire from their musketry, and succeeded in killing one mule and slightly wounding another. The troops having no means of crossing over the river, took up their line of march for this place, being already under orders to that effect. Undoubtedly by this time, this signal victory is herald through Mexico, as giving additional lustre to the arms of

the *magnanimous and exalted people*. Before leaving, the provisions and other stores, together with a stock of goods belonging to Mr. Callahan, were burned, being unable to transport them to this place.

A REVIVAL.—The Nashville Whig of the 31st ult. says:—

"The Methodist Camp-meeting which was held near this city not long since, resulted (we are informed on good authority) in the conversion of ninety-five persons. The revival spirit spread into the city, and at all the Methodist churches large congregations have been in constant attendance. Of the whole number of conversions, including those at the camp-ground 213 have joined the Methodist Episcopal Church South. The work is still going on, and deepening and spreading—no signs of an inclination to stop, we are told, have yet been manifested."

RANDOLPH'S "JOHN."—We are told by the Lynchburg Virginian, that John, the well known and faithful servant of the late John Randolph, who, with the emancipated slaves of his master, went to Ohio, and were there treated by the citizens in a manner of which our readers have been apprized, has returned to Charlotte with the intention of petitioning the legislature to allow him to remain in the commonwealth. He says, they have no feeling for colored people in Ohio, and if the legislature refuse to grant his petition, he will submit to the penalty of remaining and be sold as a slave—preferring this to enjoying freedom in a free State.

A ROYAL LOVE LETTER.—It is said, that during Prince Albert's visit to Liverpool, last month, his affectionate wife, Victoria, wrote him every day. On the first day after he reached Liverpool, while present at some interesting public ceremony, surrounded by the public dignitaries of the city, a messenger arrived by the express train, and made his way to the Prince, with a letter from her Majesty. A Liverpool paper says:

"It was enclosed in an envelope, and sealed with the royal arms. His Royal Highness opened and read it with marked attention; it was written on note paper, and comprised eight pages; on each sheet, at the top, was an embossed impression of the royal arms. After perusing it, the Prince placed it in the breast pocket of his coat, and immediately afterwards rose from his seat and retired, the whole company standing as the Prince left the room."

Boston Times.

MR. CALHOUN.—Mr. Calhoun, on his route home, passed through Wythe county, in Virginia, where his ancestors once resided. Upon arriving at Wytheville, he was formally welcomed by the citizens—as their address says—"without distinction of party"—and requested to prolong his stay among them. He complied with the request so far as to remain in Wytheville for four days. On the 31st ult. an impromptu public dinner was got up, and to which there were more subscribers than could be accommodated at the table. This was obviated by an arrangement, so that as fast as those who first sat down got through eating, they gave place to those who waited, until all were feasted.

After eating was over, Col. B. R. Floyd, after a brief speech, gave the following toast:

JOHN C. CALHOUN—the distinguished senator from South Carolina: the patriot statesman—the able advocate of free and unrestricted commerce among the nations of the earth, whose pure and unsullied name will ever be prominent in the history of his country, as the friend of peace and civilization throughout the world.

Mr. Calhoun said he did not rise to make a speech: a hoarseness under which he was laboring from a cold, as well as other considerations, forbade it, and he must therefore be excused.

He merely rose to express his high and unfeigned gratification at the hearty welcome with which he had been received, and the kind terms expressed by the sentiment just offered, and to propose one in return. He then offered:

VIRGINIA—Next to my native State, the highest in my esteem and admiration.

The company then dispersed. Tuesday, 1st inst., Mr. Calhoun departed on his homeward journey.

SANTA ANNA AND THE WAR.—The subjoined extract of a letter from an intelligent correspondent on board a United States vessel-of-war, dated off Vera Cruz, the 28th August, cannot fail to attract much attention. It fully confirms the suspicions for some time entertained in regard to the existence of an understanding or bargain between Mr. Polk and the "exiled chief."

"The ex President (Santa Anna) arrived off here on the 16th ult., and entered Vera Cruz on the same day; he was accompanied by his lady and daughter, and Gen. Almonte; the steamer that brought him was boarded by an officer from the *St. Mary's*, and his Excellency, a little disturbed by the visit, apprehending he might possibly be detained, but the commander of the *St. Mary's*, previously instructed by the Commodore, permitted him to pass! Judging from the reports that have reached us, and the royal salute given him, his arrival was hailed with great joy."

This settles the question in regard to the existence of a bargain between the high contracting parties, which is further confirmed by the news contained in the letter from the Gulf Squadron, of a probable armistice of three months!

We have been much pleased to learn that the health of Chancellor Harper has been greatly improved of late by his sojourn at Glenn's Springs, and that his friends now confidently entertain the hope that an extended career of usefulness is again open to him. We sincerely trust that their hopes may not prove fallacious, for there are but few of the public servants of the State who could not be better spared than Judge Harper, in whom are combined the highest qualities both of head and heart. Long may he occupy the seat he so ably and honorably fills, for it would be difficult indeed to supply his place with another in all respects his equal.

Columbia Chronicle, 16th inst.

PUMPING THE WATER OUT OF LAKE MICHIGAN.—It is well known to our readers that by an arrangement with the English Bond holder, the State of Illinois has given over to them the unfinished canal, from the waters of Lake Michigan, at Chicago to the Illinois River. They are about completing it, but the principal difficulty now is to supply it with water, owing to the level of the Lake being eight feet below the bottom of the canal. To overcome this the present company, after various propositions, finally bethought themselves of raising the water of the Lake so as to supply the canal.

The wrote to Messrs. Knapp & Totton of this city and furnished them with data to calculate whether it could be done, and what force and what machinery would accomplish it. These gentlemen soon furnished an answer, and the other day received in return an order to build some powerful machinery for that purpose, a steam engine and eight pumps of four and a half bore and six feet stroke. We are glad to hear that this eminently scientific firm have been selected to execute this order. Their shop and Mechanical force are not excelled by any establishment in the United States.

Pittsburg Gazette.

LYNCH LAW IN INDIANA.—We learn by a letter from Evansville, Ia., that the most aggravated case of Lynching occurred within ten miles of that place, a few weeks since. The letter says:

"A merchant finding five hundred dollars less in his safe than he left there, suspected the money was stolen by a man who deposited that amount with him some months before. He then proposed to his clerk to take him to an island in the Ohio, and give him as many lashes as it required to produce a confession. The old man was tied by the neck to a tree, and then received, as some thought, five hundred (probable three or