

# The Abbeville Banner.

"LIBERTY AND MY NATIVE SOIL."

VOL. 4.

ABBEVILLE C. H., S. C., JUNE 30, 1847.

NO. 18.

Published every Wednesday, by  
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## FROM MEXICO.

From the N. O. Picayune, June 17.

### Later from Vera Cruz.

Attack on a Wagon Train by a Mexican Guerrilla Party—Thirty Americans supposed to be killed—Forty Wagons Destroyed—Death of Major Bosworth, Paymaster U. S. Army.

The U. S. ship Massachusetts, Captain Wood, arrived last evening, from Vera Cruz, whence she sailed on the evening of the 11th inst. The Massachusetts brings over 155 sick and wounded soldiers, under charge of Dr. Tudor, besides the following passengers: Mr. Joseph Harrod, Dr. Tudor, U. S. A., Purser Bryan, of the navy, and Mr. Bosworth and two servants.

The following deaths occurred on the Massachusetts:—C. Gaines, of the Mounted Rifles, and John Drew, of company 1, 7th Infantry, died on board before the Massachusetts left Vera Cruz, and were sent on shore for interment on the 11th of June.—On the 12th of June, John Pope, of the Mounted Rifles, and John Smith, of Company C, 7th Infantry, died at sea. On the 13th, J. F. Carson, of the South Carolina Volunteer, died. On the 14th, D. Scurry, of the South Carolina Volunteers, and H. Heck, of the 2d Dragoons. On the 15th, L. Grover, Company E, Mounted Rifles.

The *romito* is represented as on the increase at Vera Cruz. We regret extremely to say that Paymaster Bosworth, who sailed from here only on the 18th ult., sickened and died in Vera Cruz of the *romito*.—His remains were brought back on the Massachusetts in charge of his brother.

Quite the most important intelligence brought by this arrival relates to an attack upon a large train by the Mexican guerrillas, which has been partially successful. By the Fanny we learned that a train was to leave Vera Cruz on the morning of the 5th, instant for Puebla, under command of Lieut. Col. McIntosh. The train had in charge \$225,000 in specie, of which sum one hundred thousand belonged to the Paymaster's Department, the remainder to the Quartermaster's. One hundred and twenty-five wagons and six hundred pack mules were in the train, which was escorted by 800 troops.

The train left Vera Cruz on the night of the 4th inst., and on Sunday the 6th, when it had advanced about 25 miles, it was attacked by a large party of guerrillas. The place was well selected for the purpose by the Mexicans, being represented as a defile broad enough for a single wagon only.—It is said, too, that slight works had been thrown up by the Mexicans to obstruct our advance. The attack was made upon each extremity of the train and upon the centre at the same time, the principal point however being the wagons which were supposed to contain the specie.

Private accounts represent that the attack was so far successful that forty of our wagons were destroyed,—though not those containing the specie—two hundred mules loaded with subsistence were taken, and thirty of our men killed. The American Eagle of the 9th says our loss is variously estimated at from four to twenty, but private accounts, from responsible sources, give the loss as we have done, at thirty men. The check was so severe that Col. McIntosh determined not to hazard an advance without reinforcements. Our troops accordingly entrenched themselves behind their wagons, and despatches were sent off to Gen. Cadwalader at Vera Cruz. The general left on Monday evening, the 7th instant, with a force of about five hundred men and four howitzers.—Private accounts say further that on the 10th a part of the voltigeurs also left, with four howitzers, to join the train.

The Eagle represents that our troops

mail was despatched to this port on the propeller Washington, which may be hourly expected. Her letters may bring us further details.

No later news had been received from the army of Gen. Scott. The reason is obvious; for the present at least the communication is entirely cut off. We do not regard it so alarming, for Gen. Cadwalader will no doubt open a passage to Jalapa at once; but it indicates a necessity for some cavalry force upon the line to clear away the brigands which infest it, and who must have mustered in greater force than was anticipated to attack a train guarded by 800 troops.

But the audacity of these guerrillas does not stop here. They are entering Vera Cruz and stealing our horses. For several nights alarms had been created in the city by these predatory attempts. Private letters say that sixty horses were stolen from one pen in the immediate vicinity of the town. A regiment of Texas rangers, it seems to us, would find ample scope in the vicinity of Vera Cruz.

The steamers Palmetto and Edith arrived at Vera Cruz on the 5th instant. The schr. Gen. Worth had also arrived with one company of voltigeurs. On the Palmetto a lady is said to have arrived from New Orleans in search of a runaway slave.—Her pursuit is represented as successful.—We await anxiously our letters by the Washington.

## Storming of Stony Point.

BY J. T. HEADLEY.

"But the most brilliant action of Wayne's life, and one of the most illustrative of his character was the storming of Stony Point, Washington, at Wayne's request, had organized a corps of light infantry, and put him over it, with directions to take this stronghold. This fortress was apparently impregnable to a storming party; for, situated on a hill, it was washed by the Hudson on two sides, while on the other lay a marsh which every tide overflowed.—Besides these natural defences, a double row of abatis surrounded the entire hill, and on the top were high ramparts bristling with cannon. Six hundred veterans garrisoned this rock; sufficient, one would think, to defend it against five times the number. But it was no common obstacle that could deter Wayne when his mind was once made up, and determined, formidable as it was, to execute the task assigned him or perish in the attempt. It is said that while conversing with Washington on the proposed expedition, he remarked:—'General, if you will only plan it, I will storm it!'

"He carefully reconnoitred the ground, and having ascertained the exact position of things, formed his plan of attack. On the 15th of July, 1779, he started from Sandy Beach, fourteen miles distant, and at eight in the evening arrived within a mile and a half of the fortress. It is now twilight; and the mid summer evening with its cooling breeze stole over the water—the stars came out one by one on the sky, and the tranquil river flowed by in its majestic silence, and all was sweet and peaceful. While nature thus reposed in beauty around him, Wayne, with his strong soul wrought up to the task before him, stood in the gathering shade of the evening, and gazed long and anxiously in the direction of the fort.

"Over hills, across morasses, and along the broken shores of the Hudson, he had led his little army noiseless, in Indian file, and now waited for the deepening night to lock his enemies in slumber. Still undiscovered by the garrison, he began to reconnoitre the works more closely, and at half past eleven put his columns in motion. He divided his army into two portions, one of which was to enter the fortress on the right, and the other on the left. In advance of each went a forlorn hope of twenty men, to remove the piles of rubbish that were stretched in double rows around the rock, and placed just where the batteries could mow down the assailants fastest. Behind these forlorn hopes marched two companies of a hundred and fifty men each. Wayne knew that everything must rest on the bayonet, and so he ordered the load of every musket of those two companies to be drawn, while the first man who should take his from his shoulder or utter a word without orders, or attempt to retreat, was to be put to death by the officer nearest him. Silently these devoted hands submitted to the desperate measures, and fixing a piece of white paper in their caps to designate them from the enemy, gallantly moved forward at the low word of command. At midnight the two columns, headed by their forlorn hopes, came in sight of the fortress, along whose dark ramparts the sentinel was lazily treading his accustomed round, while the deep 'Ah's well!' fell faintly on the listening ear. Grim and still he huge black rock loomed up against the sky, soon to shake with its own thunder, and stand a blazing volcano in the midnight Heavens. Noiseless and swift the fearless patriots kept on their way, when lo! as they came to the marsh, they saw only a smooth sheet of water—the tide was up

flooding the whole ground; the brave fellows paused a moment, as this new and unexpected obstacle crossed their path, but at the stern 'forward' of their leaders, they boldly plunged in, and without a drum or bugle note to cheer their steady courage, moved in dead silence straight on the palisades. The noise had now alarmed the sentinels, and the rapid discharge of their muskets through the gloom, was followed by lights, moving swiftly upon the ramparts, and hurried shouts, of 'To arms! to arms!' and the fierce roll of drums rousing up the garrison from its dream of security. The next moment that dark rock was one mass of flame, as the artillery and musketry opened along its sides shedding a lurid light on the countenances of men below, and 'Advance! advance!' rung in startling accents along the ranks.

"The ramparts were alive with soldiers, and amid shout and hurried words of command, the fiery torrent from the summit kept rolling on those devoted men. The water around them was driven into spray by the grape shot and balls that fell in an incessant shower, while the hissing, bursting shells, traversing the air in every direction, added inconceivable terror to the scene.—Yet those forlorn hopes toiled vigorously on, and heaved away at the abatis to open a gap for the column, that, without returning a shot, stood and crumbled under the fire, waiting with fixed bayonet, to rush to the assault. At the head of one of these was Wayne, chafing like a lion in the toils, at the obstacle that arrested his progress.—The forlorn hope in front of him worked steadily on in the very blaze of the batteries, and the rapid blows of their axes were heard in the intervals of the thunder of artillery that shook the midnight air, while one after another dropped dead in his footsteps, till out of the twenty that started only three stood unharmed. Yet still their axes fell steadily and strong until an opening was made, through which the column could pass, and then the shouts of Wayne were heard above the din and tumult, summoning his followers on. With fixed bayonets they marched sternly through the portals made at such a sacrifice, and pressed furiously forward—through the morass—over every obstacle—to the very mouth of the canon, and up the rocky acclivity, they stormed on, crushing every thing in their passage. Towering at the head of his shattered column, pointing still onward and upward with his glittering blade, and sending his thrilling shouts back over his followers, Wayne strode steadily up the height, till at length struck in the head by a musket ball, he fell backward amid the ranks. Instantly rising on his knee, he cried out: 'March on! Carry me into the fort, for I will die at the end of my column!' And those heroes put their brave arms around him and bore him onward. Not a shot was fired, but taking the rapid volleys on their unshrinking breasts, their bayonets glittering in the flash of the enemy's guns, they kept on over the living and dead, smiting down the veteran ranks that threw themselves in vain valor before them, till they reached the centre of the fort, where they met the other column, which, over the same obstacle, had achieved the same triumph.

"At the sight of each other, one loud shout shook the heights and rolled down the bleeding line—was again sent back till the Heavens rung with the wild huzzas, and then the flag of freedom went up and flouted proudly away on the midnight air. The thick volumes of smoke that lay around that rock, slowly lifted and rolled up the Hudson, the stars appeared once more in the sky, and all was over. The lordly river went sweeping by as it had done during the deadly strife that cast such a baillif light on its bosom, and darkness and death-like silence shrouded the shores. Mournfully and slow those forlorn hopes and their brave companions who had fallen in the assault, were brought up from their gory beds and conveyed to the grave.

"Wayne's wound proved not to be severe,—the ball having only grazed the skull for two inches, and he lived to wear the laurels a grateful nation placed on his brow. The country rung with his name, and Congress present him with a gold medal. The whole plan of the assault was most skillfully laid, and the bearing of Wayne throughout was gallant in the extreme.—He chose the post of danger at the head of his column, and led his men where even the bravest might shrink to follow, and when struck and apparently dying, heroically demanded to be carried forward; he might die in the arms of victory, left where the stand was troops were move gallant office.

"It is said that the late Gen. Dromgoole left his entire estate, with the exception of a few friendly legacies, to the children of the lamented Digger, who ten years ago fell by his hand in a duel.—Alex. Gaz.

## SANTA ANNA.

Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was born at Junan del Rio, in Mexico, about the year A. D., 1804, and is said to be the son of an exiled Spanish nobleman. It is stated that only two years after the adoption of the federal constitution of Mexico, Santa Anna was instrumental in procuring a gross violation of constitutional rights, by raising an excitement against the natives of old Spain, and causing the national Congress to pass a decree of expulsion against them. This was the first usurpation of power exhibited in contempt of the constitution, and which entirely interrupted the career of constitutional liberty upon which the Mexican people had so recently entered. In 1828, the second election for President took place, which resulted in the choice of Pedraza. Santa Anna immediately raised an excitement in favor of Gen. Guercero, who had been the competitor of Pedraza, and being accused before Congress of intending to support the claims of Guercero by force, was suspended from his command.

At first Santa Anna pretended to acquiesce in this decision, but subsequently declared his intentions openly, and retired with his regiment to the Castle of Perote.

In the meantime his emissaries, at the capital and elsewhere, were busily engaged in drawing over troops to his interest; and on the 4th of December, after a severe and bloody contest, which lasted for four days, and in which about 1,000 men were killed, the insurgents succeeded in taking the capital; and Congress was compelled to declare Guercero constitutionally elected President of Mexico. Santa Anna was remunerated, for the stab he had given to constitutional liberty, by receiving the appointment of Secretary of war. In 1829 another attempt was made by Spain to recover the possession of Mexico. An army was immediately raised by order of the Mexican Congress, and Santa Anna was invested with the chief command—and soon succeeded in driving the invaders from the country. Guercero, who had been invested, by Congress, with dictatorial powers for the purpose of carrying on the war, taking advantage of his extraordinary power, issued a decree abolishing slavery throughout the republic of Mexico. This was the last political act of Guercero: for Bustamante, the Vice President, who had already succeeded in forming a conspiracy for his overthrow, now found but little trouble in carrying out his plans.

After the downfall of Guercero, Santa Anna retired to his hacienda.

The reign of Bustamante was that of a despot, who exercised complete control over the lives and property of his subjects; and Santa Anna had been busy, in his retirement, in projecting a plan for his overthrow.

Accordingly in January, 1837, the officers of the garrison of Vera Cruz drew up an address to the Vice President censuring the conduct of his ministers and demanding their dismissal. At the same time Santa Anna was invited to assume the command of the garrison. In the mean time agents were despatched to various parts of the country to persuade the different military forces to declare in his favor. His plans were entirely successful, and Bustamante, finding Santa Anna with a large army within a few leagues of the capital, resigned his power into the hands of the national Congress, and fled from the country. Santa Anna, in order to put on the appearance of following the forms of the constitution, calls Pedraza to the Executive chair, whom he had deposed in favor of Guercero four years before, and whose time was about to expire, and then retired his to hacienda.

At this period Santa Anna was the most popular man in Mexico, and had his earthly career terminated here, his name would have been sacred to his countrymen—and he would have been cherished in their memory as one of the brightest luminaries of the age.

In 1833 the third election for President under the federal constitution was held; and Santa Anna, having no competitor, was unanimously chosen. He entered upon the duties of his station by declaring his love of liberty—the constitution and the Mexican people. But before the expiration of a month, he conceived a plan to make himself dictator. He visited a body of troops in the neighborhood of the capital, to quell a disturbance which was said to exist among them. News soon reached the city that

Among other important measures, passed by this Congress, was one granting equal protection to professors of all religious creeds.

Santa Anna, having resolved to break off all connection with the liberal party, sought to draw over the clerical party to his aid by attempting to influence the general council to repeal the law of Congress granting equal protection to all religious creeds; but finding he could not control the council, he had recourse to pronunciamientos, which he caused to be gotten up in every town where the clergy had sufficient influence. Thus fortified, Santa Anna proceeded to dissolve the general council by his own decree; and through the influence of the clergy, and by posting troops at different places to overawe the suffrages of the people, he procured the election of members to Congress who would reflect his own opinions. Congress assembled in 1835, and proceeded to abolish the constitution of 1824. All the old States submitted, with the exception of Zacatecas, which raised 5000 troops, and determined to defend their liberties against the encroachments of the tyrant. In order to force this State to submit, Santa Anna procured some of his own officers who pretended to desert his cause—join the Zacatecas, and get command of their forces. This treacherous plan succeeded, and Santa Anna being apprized of its success, advanced with a superior force, and cut to pieces about half their number; driving the remainder before him into the city of Zacatecas, where the victors, for several days, indulged themselves in excesses too shocking and barous for recital. Thus fell the constitution of Mexico, and thus was the torch of liberty extinguished and military despotism established throughout Mexico, with the exception of Texas. For the purpose of extinguishing the last spark of liberty, Santa Anna entered Texas in 1836, at the head of an army numbering nearly ten thousand men, composed of the choicest troops in the country, and began the work of indiscriminate butchery. Among the numerous murders and assassinations committed by this unprincipled tyrant, none was more atrocious than the butchery of the garrison at Goliad, in cold blood after they had surrendered themselves prisoners of war. Santa Anna was finally defeated at San Jacinto by the Texan forces under Gen. Houston; and himself and about 700 of his men made prisoners of war.

Subsequently Santa Anna returned to Mexico by way of the United States, and succeeded in regaining his power which he had lost during his imprisonment in Texas. He afterwards lost his power in Mexico, and was exiled from his country for a short time. During his banishment he resided at Havana where he spent the most of his time in cock fighting.

At the commencement of the present war between the United States and Mexico, Santa Anna was recalled and appointed Generalissimo of the Mexican army. On the 22d February, at the head of 20,000 troops, he made an attack on Gen. Taylor who commanded about 5000 troops at Buena Vista, and after a severe and bloody battle, Santa Anna was defeated with great loss. He is again invested with great loss. He is again invested with the Executive power of Mexico; and, as the war between his country and the United States is still going on, there is no telling what disasters may yet befall this tyrant who has trampled under foot the constitutional liberties of the Mexican people; and whose only ambition is self-aggrandizement.

## Speedy Cure for A Foundered Horse.

As soon as you find your horse is foundered, bleed him in the neck in proportion to the greatness of the founder. In extreme cases you may bleed him as long as he can stand up. Then draw his head up as is common in drenching, and, with a spoon, put on his tongue, give strong salt until you get him to swallow one pint. Be careful not to let him drink too much. Then anoint round the edges of his hoofs with spirits of turpentine, and your horse will be well in one hour.

A founder pervades every part of the system of a horse. The steam arrests it from the blood, the salt arrests it from his stomach and bowels; and the spirits of turpentine arrests it from the feet and limbs.

I once rode a horse ninety-nine miles in two days, returning him at night the second day; and his owner would not have believed that he had been

foundered. One day by the misfortune, having in all cases observed and practiced the above prescription. I have known a foundered horse turned in at night on green food; in the morning he would be well, having been purged by the green food. All founders must be attended to immediately. S. W. Farmer.