

ABBEVILLE C. H., S. C.

Wednesday, Nov. 17, 1847.

Lieutenant Collett.

We are gratified to learn, that this gallant young officer who has the honor of planting the Palmetto Banner upon the walls of Mexico, the first flag that waved from the battlement, is recovering from the wound he received in executing that act.

Foreign News.

By the arrival of the Steamer Washington we have still later news from Europe which is gloomy in the extreme, the pressure in the money market remained unabated, and failures were taking place daily.—A deputation from the merchants and bankers waited upon Lord Jno. Russell with a memorial asking Government to adopt some speedy measures for the relief of the mercantile community, but no encouragement was given them to hope for assistance from that source.

Cotton has experienced another decline of 3-8 to 1-24 since the sailing of the California.

Thousands of mechanics and persons employed in the manufactories have been discharged and are in a state of great destitution.

In Ireland affairs are more gloomy than ever, and her cup of suffering not yet full; famine has again commenced its work of desolation, and by mid winter what scenes of woe and distress will be witnessed in that doomed land? Riots, assassinations and robberies, are common throughout the country.

The Presidency.

There is but little doubt we think from the movements of the Whigs that M. Clay will be their candidate for the Presidency. We should not be surprised at least, at his nomination in the National Whig Convention from the present movements of that party. Gen Taylor from his independence has somewhat lost his popularity with the party; his opinions are not sufficiently orthodox, hence the demonstration in favor of Mr. Clay. It is not a little surprising that Mr. Clay should allow his name to be used in connection with the Presidency again, after the signal defeat he has met with in a succession of campaigns; nothing but an undying desire to fill the Presidential chair could induce a man to allow his name and character to pass so often through the fiery ordeal of party strife.

AN INCIDENT OF THE WAR.—A letter from Mexico in the St. Louis Republican, relate at least one incident connected with the capture of that city which has not before come to our knowledge. It appears that, on the 13th of September, after the fortifications at Chapultepec had been carried, and Generals Worth and Quitman had fought their way into the city, and when our Spartan band anticipated a fiercer struggle during the ensuing day than that which they had just encountered, Commissioners were despatched from the city of Mexico, on the part of the municipal authorities, to Tacubaya, to agree upon terms of capitulation with the General-in-chief. They arrived about midnight, and continued their interview until near daylight, without accomplishing any thing. General Scott informed them that he would sign any paper in the city that he would out of it; and that, as they caused him all the loss and trouble they could, he intended his army should now march into the city in triumph, unrestricted by any terms of capitulation whatever.

GENERAL TAYLOR.—The Washington Union of Saturday night says:—"It is understood that General Taylor, who has been absent from his family and private business for more than two years and a half, and during the whole of that time has been engaged in the most important and arduous duties—has asked for leave of absence to return to the United States for six months.

His letter to that effect was received by the Adjutant-General yesterday evening; in the course of which, General Taylor states that he thinks, in consequence of the present character of the war, his services may not be wanted at this time. He proposes to remove to Matamoros early this month, where he awaits the answer of the Government, and expresses a desire to be in New Orleans by the 1st of December.

We understand the leave of absence has been granted to him; and we have no doubt that if events should arise to call for his services on that frontier, he will fly to place himself at the head of his gallant army.

From our Volunteers.

Through the kindness of a friend we have been furnished with the following letters and extracts from one of our brave Palmetto boys who has passed unscathed thro' all the late bloody battles around the walls of Mexico. Although not intended for publication, the interest, and anxiety is so great over the district to learn the particulars of our friends we have been allowed to lay them before our readers. We have another very interesting letter from the same source which we will give in our next, not being able to do so in the present number for want of space.

PUEBLA, JULY 10, 1847.

Capt. Marshall, be it said to his credit, is noted for his kindness and attention to his sick soldiers. He is popular with his company, and deservedly so; kindness to the sick is so rare in the army that it is appreciated when seen. Those men left in the hospitals at Vera Cruz, Jalapa and Perote, have dragged out a miserable existence—unattended, uncared for. All those who have survived, speak of Dr. McLaren in the warmest terms of gratitude. Some say, unhesitatingly, that they owe their life to his care. He furnished them, when destitute, with clothing; and from all I can learn, has been unusually attentive and kind. The report which the sick men give of some of the other Surgeons, shows that they are destitute alike of sympathy or the feelings of men.

PUEBLA, JULY 13, 1847.

You will be shocked to learn the extent of our losses by disease since we landed in Mexico. The bones of 500 of our soldiers lie around the wall at the Castle of Perote. Hundreds more have found their last resting place here and at Vera Cruz; and there is hardly a camp between this and Jalapa that is not marked by a soldier's grave. Our own Regiment has been sadly afflicted. There have been deaths every day since our arrival here. Some companies have lost almost half of their men, and one (the Lancaster company) is entirely broken up. From the Chester company 25 men have died. We have lost 18, and the Edgefield company nearly that number. Enclosed I send you a list of those who have died in our company. It is melancholy to see so many of our comrades thus dying around us. We can do nothing for them but pay to their remains the honors due to the departed soldier, and when we fire the funeral volley over their graves, we know not how soon the same solemn salute may be fired over our own.

Died, from Company E.—Hall, Starkey, Gilbert, Prince, L. Watson, Huffman, S. Alexander, Gillespie, John Hill, Drinkard, Harris, Sterling, Graham, Barksdale, Lackey, Wm. Botts, Thomas.

Discharged.—Lieut. Roberts, Martin, Middleton, Norrel, Agnew, Wm. Watson, Griffin.

Left behind Sick.—At Vera Cruz; J. S. Anderson, Norrel. At Perote; A. G. Morrow, J. N. Norwood.

Prisoner in Mexico.—D. Riley.

August 5.—Deaths since 13th July.—Davis, Houston, Lamb.

Discharged.—Sergeant H. M. Wilson, (health much improved,) Simmons, (entirely blind from measles.)

5 MILES FROM THE CITY, }
August 24, 1847. }

Again we are victorious—The American Army ("the degenerate sons of Washington") have again taught this People that they are inferior to the Anglo Saxon Race—but I go ahead of my story.—On the 19th General Twiggs Division arrived at St. Augustine and immediately took position before the enemy's fortifications near a Convent called Contreras. General Valencia held the position with about 7,000 men and more than 20 pieces of heavy artillery, the position had been selected with great judgement and was as strong as one could well imagine. Our Engineers after a thorough reconnoissance gave it as their opinion that the place must be carried by storm, and without the assistance of our artillery as the roughness of the country prevented the transportation of large guns. About 12 o'clock General Pillow was in advance of General Twiggs came within range of the enemy's guns, and a steady fire was kept up all evening. About 3 o'clock in the evening the New York and South Carolina Regiments were ordered into the field under the command of the gallant Brigadier-General Shields. They were all anxious and as soon as ordered were on the march. I could not stand by and see my companions in arms—my comrades, my

friends, file by me en route for the battle field. I shouldered my double barrel gun (I did not have a musket) and joined the ranks. We marched till 12 or 1 o'clock at night through mud, and rain, and then halted within a few hundred yards of the enemy's line to await the approach of day.—About 7 in the morning Colonel Riley's Brigade charged the breast works, and I question if the world has ever seen a more gallant charge. For a few moments the discharge of musketry intermingled with the roar of the deep mouthed cannon was terrible. In a short time however the route was complete, for who could withstand the impetuous advance of our veterans. Gen'l. Shields's Brigade commanded the city and was ordered to cut of the retreat. True to the command we rushed on the retreating foe. The New York Regiment was on one side of a ravine and we on the other, our Regiment being near the battle field. The enemy not wishing to pass our galling fire, rallied behind a wall and gave us fight. But the well directed fire of our men soon convinced them that it was not safe to stand a fire in front and rear both at the same time so they threw down their arms and surrendered as prisoners. Our Regiment alone (it is reported) killed in this engagement 136 and took over 200 prisoners. This was the first regular engagement I ever was in. We were shot at whilst round the wall at Vera Cruz, but we could not return the fire. There we had a foe within musket range drawn up against us—you would have been pleased to see how gallantly our Abbeville boys conducted themselves. More than once during the engagement I saw a horse at full speed shot from under his rider by one man and the escaping foe killed by another. A party of 3,000 lancers were on the heights near us looking on. Doubtless the dastards congratulated themselves that they were out of so hot a place, sure I am that they made no effort to get into it. We had in this engagement only one man wounded Ser'gt. Walters of Captain Moss's company, not dangerously. It is strange that out of so many rounds so little damage was done; but the Mexicans alway at close quarters shoot too high. In the engagement of the morning Colonel Riley hardly lost a man. Near 1,000 Mexicans were killed and wounded. The Rifles did, perhaps the greatest execution—their fire is deadly beyond conception.

Well, this was our morning's work, and we were well satisfied with what we had done. After resting a while, we commenced the march on one of the main roads leading to the city. For several miles a scattering fire was kept up without any damage to our side. On reaching a little village (St. Angel, where we now are) we noticed a very large body of Infantry marching out from the city, as we thought with the intention of attacking us. True to our purpose, we advanced to meet them half way, but we soon found that we were mistaken in their intentions. St. Antonio is a strong position, commanding one of the main roads to the city. Gen. Worth with his command was sent against this position. After it was ascertained, however, that Gen. Valencia had lost the day at Contreras, and that a large force (Twiggs's and Pillow's Divisions and Shields's Brigade) were marching to their rear, the enemy abandoned his position at San Antonio and commenced, as we thought, a retreat to the city. Gen. Twiggs's Division advanced to intercept the retreat, but before he had gone far, he came in contact with one of the strongest positions of the enemy. There were two fortifications, one around an old church called Churubusco, and the other commanding the road from San Antonio to the city, both as strong as they could be, and well defended by many pieces of the best artillery. The troops we saw marching out of the city were to reinforce these positions. Both of these positions were carried by storm after a hard struggle, one by Gen. Twiggs, the other by Gen. Worth. After the action had lasted for one hour or more, a body of troops, and with them Gen. Shields's Brigade, were ordered to the rear of the fortifications to cut off a retreat on the one hand and to prevent a reinforcement from the city on the other. By the time we arrived within 200 yards of the road, the enemy opened a heavy fire of musketry upon us. The number against us was overwhelming; I cannot say how many—perhaps five to one. The enemy had not only the advantage in number, but position. We were exposed all the time to a fire on either flank, a fire in front and a fire in the rear. For more than one hour the contest was terrible. It is not becoming in me to praise my own Regiment, but

how can I help it when I saw with what bravery and gallantry they acted. If in this engagement South Carolina could have seen her sons, she would have pointed to them as her jewels. A charge put the enemy to a complete rout, and we had the field as victors. This was before the fortification at Churubusco was carried. The saddest scene of all was yet to be passed. We returned from the pursuit, flushed with our conquest and proud of what we had done; but alas! of the number which had gone into the combat, only half were in ranks! The other half were scattered over the field either wounded or dead; but of our number 11 were killed, and 126 wounded. Amongst the slain was our gallant Colonel. His horse was shot from from under him in the first of the fight; he was then wounded in the leg, and afterwards shot through the head and died instantaneously. I knew Col. Butler was prominent in his Regiment, but I did not know to what great extent until after his death. On the battle-field I saw those whom he had led in the fight collected around his remains—and eyes which but a moment before had flashed defiance, were dimmed with tears—and breasts which had braved the dangers of the battle without an emotion, were agitated with deep feeling. It was a strange—it was a touching sight. He had been identified so long with his command that they looked to him as a family of children to a father. He fell at the head of his command.

Our company unfortunately was not in the last fight. It was left at Contreras in charge of the prisoners. I however followed the Regiment and was in both fights. I did not get a scratch. How I escaped is a mystery to me. I suppose I must attribute it to good dodging.

On the same evening of the fight a white flag was sent from the city, and negotiations are now going on.

WATERLOO, S. C., Nov. 13.

Mr. Editor.—Sir, I deem it my duty to inform you that the Banners designed for Lodi and Cambridge should reach their place of destination much sooner than they do. You mail them on Wednesday evenings, they reach this office on the next morning, and remain here until the next Tuesday evening 6 o'clock, P. M., and do not reach Lodi until the next day, making seven days. Why cannot the Banners for the above named offices stop at Dead Fall and pass to their place of destination via Woodville. According to the present schedule, which I have in my possession, the mail from Cokesbury to Edgefield leaves Cokesbury on Tuesday morning at 1 A. M. and passes Dead Fall about 2 A. M.; the mail from Abbeville to Laurens passes Dead Fall about 12 M., and it would seem that if the Banners were left at the latter place, that they might be taken from there at 2 and sent to Woodville by 6 A. M., at which time the Newberry mail leaves Woodville for Lodi.

If none of the schedules above alluded to have not been altered, I see no reason why your papers should not pass by Woodville instead of passing here. In haste.

Respectfully,
GEO. ANDERSON, P. M.

NAZARENE WOMEN.—Miss Plumley, in her journals of travels in Palestine, gives the following description of the women of the city of Nazareth. There had been a wedding on the afternoon of her arrival; and in the evening the bride, with a bundle of clothes on her head, was escorted by a troop of girls, with music, round the town to the house of her husband, where they remain clapping their hands, and with the aid of a few drums, making a great noise until a late hour.

"The Syrian Greek women are, beyond comparison, the loveliest in the world; we saw many of those of Nazareth, who came down with their pitchers to the fountain of Nabor, for water, in whom were united all that painters may in vain endeavor to picture—all that poets dream. Their features combine the perfect proportion of the Greek model, with the character and expression of the daughters of Israel; their figures, the united delicacy and voluptuousness of form which the finest Grecian statues possess. The costume of those we saw this evening was well suited to its wearers.—Their long hair, which was plaited, fell over their shoulders, and was in many instances ornamented with great numbers of gold sequins, and some pearls; in others flowers of brilliant hues replaced the "pearls and gold," but all wore the full loose trowsers, drawn tight at the ankle, (which not unfrequently, was encircled with silver bracelets,) the petticoat reaching only to the knees, and the upper vest open at the breast. It is neither bodice, tunic, or jacket, but something between each.

"I am a broken man," exclaimed a poet. "So I should think," was the answer, "for I have seen your pieces."

LATEST FROM MEXICO.

From the N. O. Delta 5, inst.

By the New Orleans, which has just arrived, we have received the latest dates from Mexico. We have papers and letters from our correspondents in Vera Cruz as late as the first November. General Patterson was to leave Vera Cruz on the 1st inst.—The whole number of the train and escort is 5000 strong, and 220 wagons. Capt. Biscoe's Rangers accompany the train.—The brave Capt. S. H. Walker, of Texas, was killed in an action with the Mexicans at Huamantla.

The English courier arrived at Vera Cruz on the 31st ult., bringing news from the city of Mexico to the 29th ult. Nothing very important has transpired in the capital since the previous advices, (see correspondence.) We extract the items from the Vera Cruz Genius of Liberty, of the 1st inst.

Atlixco has been taken possession of by 2000 of our forces. This large city has yielded without the least resistance. Orizaba is, doubtless, by this time, also in possession of the American forces.

The Mexican Government has superceded Santa Anna in the command of the army. Gen. Rincon has been appointed to that office. Santa Anna loudly protests against the violation of his rights as the First Magistrate of the Nation, as he styles himself, and refusing obedience to the government, retires to Tehuacan.

Gen. Scott and staff have lately visited the city of Guadalupe.

Gen. Almonte reached Queretaro on the 7th ult.

El Mexican, an independent paper, has appeared in the city of Mexico. The editors of the American Star have commenced issuing its numbers daily.

A large American train was to have left the city of Mexico yesterday, (the 31st ult.) on its way down to Vera Cruz. The escort for its protection is composed of four or five companies of infantry, a battery and some cavalry, under command of Col. Harney. It may be expected here by the 14th. A number of sick and wounded officers will accompany it down. We look forward to the period of its arrival with great pleasure inasmuch as we regard it as the herald of free communication between the coast and the capital.

The capital is already teeming with hotels, taverns, billiard rooms, cafes and theatres—all advertised in the 'American style.' Shades of the Montezuma and Guatimozin! your prophecies are being fulfilled—the avengers of your wrongs are coming from the rising sun. Some very severe shocks of earthquake were experienced in the capital.

From the Vera Cruz Genius of Liberty we gather the following interesting Mexican items.

Gen. Persifer F. Smith succeeds General Quitman as governor of the city. Captain Naylor (of Penn. Vols.) is governor of the palace and keeper of the archives.

The weather in the city is so cold that fires are quite acceptable, and cloaks in demand. Old Popocatepetl has his white hat on.

Gen. Shields and Quitman will come down with the train, on their way the U. S. Capt. Davis and Lt. Kygen will accompany them as aids.

The city of Mexico was filled with rumors of peace. It was said that a quorum had met at Queretaro, and that the majority decided in favor of an amicable adjustment of difficulties.

The following further particulars of the death of Capt Walker, are furnished by a friend:

The engagement took place at Huamantla, a short distance South of Puebla. The force of the Mexicans was reported at 9000—the number of Americans engaged is not known. Capt. W. received a lance wound in the back, coming out at the upper part of the stomach, and one leg shot off; he, however, killed his antagonist, a celebrated guerrilla chief, putting two balls in him from his revolver.

Affairs in the city of Mexico were in a quiet state. The following from the Genius of Liberty, of the 25th ult., contains the most important items we can gather from the Vera Cruz papers:

From four French gentlemen who left the city of Mexico on the 13th, and Puebla on the 17th of the present month, we have received intelligence of a very important nature, concerning the state of affairs in those quarters.

Gen. Lane having arrived at Perote, was there joined by Capt. Walder and his command, both advanced together on the Puebla road, till they reached the town of Vreyes. At this place Capt. Walker, by order of the commanding General, took up his line of march to Huamantla, by way of the towns of San Francisco and Guapastla. On his arrival at Huamantla, a sanguinary engagement ensued in the streets, between the force of Capt. Walker, consisting of two hundred and fifty men, and that of the Mexicans numbering sixteen hundred. The results of which was the total expulsion of the enemy from the town, and its army of occupation by our valiant little army, which lost in the battle only six men. But the gallant Walker after performing prodigies of valor, and feats of the most daring character, fell in single combat, pierced by a father, who goaded to actual frenzy, by the death of his son, whose fall beneath the arm of Capt Walker he had just witnessed, rushed forward, heedless of his danger, to revenge his death, and attacking the Captain with almost irresistible violence, plunged his spear into his body, and slew him almost instantly.