

on the twenty-fourth of February, eighteen hundred thirty-two, and he hereby is, authorized, without regard to existing rules and requirements, to receive such evidence as is on file, and any further proofs which may be offered tending to establish the validity of the claims of Massachusetts upon the United States, or any part thereof, for services, disbursements, and expenditures during the late war with Great Britain; and in all cases where such evidence shall in his judgment prove the truth of the items of claim, or any part thereof, to act on the same in like manner, as if the proof consisted of such vouchers and evidence as is required by existing rules and regulations touching the allowance of such claims: And that in the settlement of claims of other States upon the United States for services, disbursements, and expenditures during the late war with Great Britain, the same kind of evidence, vouchers and proof, shall be received as is herein provided for in relation to the claim of Massachusetts, the validity of which shall be, in like manner determined and acted upon by the Secretary of War.

Approved, 14th May, 1836.

Indian Affairs.

OUR INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

Owing to the extreme excitement which prevails at present in our city, from the bold, reckless, and merciless murders and burnings of the hostile Creeks, now going on in our immediate vicinity, we are compelled to exclude much interesting matter for the present. For some time, we could scarce bring ourselves to believe that these deluded creatures would have the boldness and nerve to give their ancient and undying hostility upon our offending inhabitants. Not that we placed any confidence in the promised friendship of this treacherous and revengeful people, but relying upon the supposition that they knew and felt too sensibly, the utter hopelessness of eventual success, and believing that they were conscious that their murders and burnings would in time be visited with ten-fold terror upon their own head, we were led to look upon them as too weak to go to war, and too dispirited to maintain such open and daring hostility. But from what has transpired in a few days back, we find that our calculation was erroneous: It is now obvious, that they feel themselves neither so hopeless of eventual success, nor are they disposed to believe, that retributive justice will fall with vengeance upon their heads. It is also now reduced to a certainty, that their fixed determination is to carry on an indiscriminate butchery, not only throughout the whole lately acquired purchase, but to bring the war into our own State, with a daring and spirit which is indeed startling. Not content with shooting and driving out from around them the unfortunate settlers, and plundering those of nearly every thing they possessed, not content with arresting the settlement by the whites, and preventing the speedy cultivation of these rich and inviting lands, and appropriating to themselves the provisions of the abandoned plantations, together with the forcible detention of a large number of negroes, they have dared to cross the Chattahoochee, in open defiance, and attack and completely put to flames, the town of Roanoke, murdering many of our valuable citizens and intimate friends. At the same time and place, attempting to set fire to the steam boat Georgian, and to butcher in cold blood, her defenceless crew. We are pained at the intelligence of the fate of Roanoke, for aside of the great and heavy loss resulting to the inhabitants from the destruction of their property, we have to regret the death of H. Joyce, Esq. Mr. Kerbow, Mr. Asaf Hill, a young gentleman, the son of Col. Z. Williams of Columbus county, and R. Gaudy, Esq. and the situation of Maj. Jas. D. Horn, who, it is said, has been badly wounded. Such savage and outrageous conduct cannot be riven by Georgians—vengeance should be their war cry, and vengeance the only expiation. The state of public feeling here, the constant expectation of a similar attack, together with the want of concert and organization, the necessary watching and guarding the city, by day and night, while many of our people are worn down and sick, forms a scene any thing but pleasant.

It becomes the duty of the people of the State to turn out and help us, and that, too, in a sufficient force to do something, before the already excited Cherokees in our own borders, catching the taste of blood, shall rise and bring ruin and death to such of our people as live among them. It is highly important, it is highly impetuous on us to march into the enemies country, and strike an effectual blow at once, for nothing else can save us from a general and protracted warfare. It is generally believed that the Creeks have been stimulated to their present posture towards us by the news of the protracted success against the Seminoles, and the partial success against the Creeks, will not the Cherokees be likewise stimulated? We here see and feel the necessity of active and laborious camp duty. We need the experience of discipline. Our officers have, with a promptness that reflects great credit upon them, determined to go into regular camp, to turn out all our effective citizens—without the least exception of persons. Regular guards should be mounted beyond the line of camps. More cannon and ammunition should be sent for—block houses prepar-

ed for the reception of our women and children, in case of an attack, and the Governor should be requested to send out, as early as possible, such volunteer companies as can be had, to the various positions on our extended frontier line for we believe no escape is to be expected from the rifle, the tomahawk and scalping knife of these ruthless savages, but what we may expect to find by bold and vigorous fighting.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARMS AND MUNITIONS OF WAR.

This morning (Wednesday) we had the arrival of the 300 stand of arms, ammunition and one six pounder, sent on to us by our patriotic and independent Governor. The wagons were escorted by a very gallant looking volunteer company of Spies, from Tallbotton, numbering about sixty men. The arms were soon distributed among the men composing the Brigade of Brigadier Gen. Low, who acts in command of this division in the absence of Maj. Gen. D. McDougald. On Tuesday last, Maj. Howard, commanding the Georgia Battalion at Fort Twiggs, received by orders from the Executive, an additional force of mounted men from Upson county.

There has arrived, in the course of a day or so, considerable force from Harris county by the order of Gen. Low, and we are looking for a Battalion of Light Infantry from Tallbot county, in the course of this week. Maj. Howard, (who seems to have the confidence of all as an able and gallant officer,) with a part of his command from Fort Twiggs, the Upson troop, Columbus Guards, Muscogee Blues, and a number of other companies, crossed over the Chattahoochee this morning (Wednesday) to put a stop to the burning of Mr. Hampton Smith's plantation house, and saving his negroes—they returned in the evening of the same day, without being any of the Indians. The Indians are still murdering and burning. This morning (Wednesday) an old negro servant, with his wife, the property of the Rev. Mr. Harris, of our place, while riding a little way beyond Girard, was fired at, and the old man wounded in the arm, by a party of six or eight Indians; the distance from us one and a fourth mile. The stage which left Montgomery last of which we have any account, was attacked with 10 persons with it, and was left by the passengers cutting loose the horses and making their escape. Up to this time, 12 out of the 16, have arrived safely in town. The Stage Agent here, Mr. Saunders, fired a party of friendly Indians to go out after the mail bags—on their return, they reported three persons lying dead near the Stage—the papers, &c. scattered all around, and the Stage burnt, and several of the horses killed. The passengers who fell the victims of these blood hounds, will be buried in the woods—a spectacle of savage barbarity, enough to make the blood mount our cheeks, that we do not avenge their death.

Among the persons killed, was a young gentleman by the name of Haraway, a son of a gentleman of that name in Macon. He was on his return from Texas, and informed the passengers, who were with him in the stage, that the capture of Santa Anna was true.

We have news from Chambers county, where the massacre of the soldiers seem to be worse and more horrid than even those below that county. A great many families, women and children, have been shot, and are left dead, a prey for the wolves and dogs. Gen. Eliza Ball, formerly of Forsyth, Upson county, is now forcing himself, with his whole force, about 500 strong, on the Chattahoochee, in the Lachipoga town (which he has burnt, and had one man killed, a Mr. Bickstaff—the Indian that shot him—as taken, shot, and his head cut off. The two Capt. in their sons of Troop, who went over with their commands mounted, have returned back, dragging to have their horses behind, take on load, and fight them in their own way. We have authentic news of the entire hostility of the Nation, with the exception of a few towns, the Cowota, Chusavias, and some of the towns near Gen. Woodard's, are said to be friendly—but little or no reliance can be put in their friendship. Old Neha Mico, the head man of the nation, has at length declared in favor of the hostiles, and old Choc Martha has sent us word that he knows our force, and would burn the bridge—that if he could not take Columbus, he would devastate the country towards Elm river.

This information we derive from our Indian spies, who came in late last night, (Wednesday) Every confidence was heretofore felt in the friendship of these two Chiefs—but it is now at an end, and our watchful Governor should no longer rest a moment without ordering out all the volunteer companies at hand, that can be spared, and send us in a hurry, more arms, ammunition, and especially more cannon—for they are the sort of fellows to make the Indians bow. We hope and trust he will do so, or give some of our officers here, discretionary power to call out the militia without a draft—such a number at least as could be well spared from the different counties in our Division. The Indians have complete possession of Roanoke—have made a lot of the war-horse and cotton bales, and what is worse, have beaten off two companies of whites in two several engagements. The whole country East of Roanoke has been abandoned, and the houses in many places, have been burnt by the Indians. Surely there never was such a panic; the whites seem to think of nothing but getting away—instead of standing up and whipping these devils, whom they are always bound to whip—and who are doing so much injury to them too—who if any other sort of people were to treat them so, they certainly would not think of giving up to them at all events, not without a show of resist-

ance. We know the Indians are desperate, and probably do fight with much daring, but then we think, our people have a good right to be desperate too, and fight for their families, their homes and their property, with as much daring as these savages; and if we give way on the frontier line, the crops will be lost, and great distress produced. No, there is no occasion for panic—we have no use for panics of any sort—for men who can be panicked. It is enough that our timid women may be somewhat agitated on account of their little children and husbands—but for men, and men who have so much to lose, (if the Indians break through the line and devastate their homes) to shew alarm and consternation at a handful of disorganized and constitutionally cowardly Indians, must not be said. Let every man in arms do his duty as a soldier, who feels he has the lives of his family and his property to defend, or he will lose them, and let strict obedience to our officers be cheerfully given. Let us make good use of the time and means given us, and adopt a good and determined plan of operations—and boldly carry them into effect—no dilly dally—but good earnest work, and as sure as the sun shines, we will give those rascally Indians a lesson how to kill and burn up, in their own houses, our unoffending friends.

We understand that Judge Treason proceeds to Washington any in a day or two, as the representative of the Congress for the removal of the Creeks, in order to arrange with the Government some place for their immediate emigration. The time has arrived when, policy, justice, humanity, all demand the speedy removal of these deluded people, and as previous measures have failed, coercive ones should be resorted to. Let them be carried off at the point of the bayonet.

From the Charleston Courier. Order of Gen. Scott.—We have been put in possession, per the schooner Amelia, Capt. Norton, arrived on Sunday afternoon from St. Augustine, of an Order of Gen. Scott, dated at that place on the 17th inst. We regret to perceive in indications of the strong mutual discontent existing between the General and the people of Florida. The General complains bitterly of the conduct of the Floridians, alleging, that within a few days, the incursion of but five Indians into a neighborhood in the heart of Middle Florida, and the commission of a murder by them, had put the inhabitants to flight; and giving other instances of wild fear, excited by causes equally inadequate, both in Eastern and Middle Florida. "It is evident," says the Order, "that no General, even with the extensive means, can cure a disease in the public mind, so general and so degrading, without some little effort on the part of the people themselves. Thus the planters, in the recent case, at Tallahassee, who had without knowing whether they ran from squaws or warriors, might first have ascertained that fact. If they had turned upon the enemy, they would have found no case within the easy compass of any three or four resolute masters, and half as many overseers. This was the simple and usual course. That adopted was—to fly, to spread the panic and to throw execration upon the general who has the misfortune to command a handful of brave troops in the midst of such a population." The General insists that the regular force in the Territory is adequate to its protection, none having been sent out of the territory, except possibly three companies from Tampa Bay—besides a garrison at which place, 2 companies were directed thence to occupy a post on the Suwannee, 2 appointed at Fort King, 5 at Fort Drane; 1 mounted United States Dragoons at Oakland, 6 miles off; 1 at Micanopy and a twelfth at Gary's Ferry, a force sufficient, in his opinion, to give security to the Alachua and Suwannee frontier, especially if one or two companies of mounted men, the enrolment of which Gov. Call is exerting himself to effect, can be obtained to aid the dragoons in scouring the country between the fixed posts—steam boat is also to be directed to cruise up and down the Suwannee river. Gen. S. also deems the force on this side of the St. John's equally adequate for defence—if aided by a single company of mounted volunteers.

The United States little armed steamer, Essequans, is to be kept cruising daily up and down the St. Johns. The forces on the Suwannee and at other parts in that vicinity, are to be commanded by Major Heileman, stationed at Fort Drane. We learn that the citizens of St. Augustine had been very much excited by the tone of Gen. Scott's order, and that a public meeting was to have been held on Thursday last 4 P. M. to express their sentiments on the occasion, and probably to petition the government for his recall.

FROM ST. AUGUSTINE. The steam packet Dolphin, Capt. Pennoyer, arrived last evening, left St. Augustine on Saturday evening, and Savannah yesterday morning. By her, we have received the St. Augustine Herald of Thursday last, and the Savannah Georgian of yesterday morning. From the latter, we copy some account of further Indian murders, about 20 miles from Jacksonville, E. F.

Gen. Scott was a passenger in the Dolphin as far as Savannah; which place he was to have left yesterday, in the steamer George Washington, for Augusta, on his way, as was understood, to the Creek nation. We learn from Major Lyle who came passenger in the Dolphin, that there was nothing new at St. Augustine at the time of her departure. Gen. Call has sent an order to Brig Gen. Hernandez, to call into service 200 men for

the protection of the country east of the St. John's river.

Savannah, May 23. Melancholy death of a Volunteer.—Mr. Parkins M. Skinner, of Putnam county, attached to one of the companies, (Capt. Menzies) of Major Cooper's battalion, that reached this city a few days since, died at the City Hotel on Saturday night from a wound accidentally inflicted by another volunteer on Thursday evening. They were, it is said on terms of the most friendly intercourse. The verdict of the Coroner's Inquest is—That the deceased came to his death by a wound inflicted on the left breast, which penetrated the heart, and further, that said wound was accidentally inflicted with a knife by one Alfred C. Mason on the night of the 9th inst.

Another inquest was held yesterday afternoon by Mr. Eddes, Coroner of the body of John B. Thomas, a native of Virginia, and recently of Philadelphia, by trade a sailor.—The Verdict of the jury is—That he came to his death by being accidentally drowned while bathing in the canal with several other gentlemen between six and seven o'clock in the morning.

Letters from the St. John's.—The steam packet Florida, Capt. Hebbard, arrived here yesterday from Picolata via Jacksonville. A white person named Mott, very recently from the North, was killed and scalped a few days since at his plantation above Mandarin, and about twenty miles from Jacksonville. A letter of the 5th inst. from Micanopy confirms the intelligence from Col. Bowie at Fort Gililand, that the Indians had just killed near Micanopy, four of our people and wounded two.

Their names are Henry A. More and R. Lanier, (killed), John W. Fadden (missing and supposed to be killed) all three whites, and Ephraim (colored man) also missing—Horace Smith and John Cox (both whites) and Harry (colored) escaped. H. Smith and Harry wounded.

The Nostalgia (St.) Palladium of 11th inst. says "We have just been informed by the stage driver, from below, that the Indians have butchered 60 men, women and children in Chambers county, Alabama, and the whole country from West Point down is desolated by the whites.

The same paper says, that it is reported that the Creeks can muster 10,000 warriors.

Indian Murder.—The Tallahassee Floridian of the 14th inst. states, that a white boy about 15 years of age, while ploughing in the field, was shot and scalped, by a party of savages, who immediately fled to the swamps leaving their victim weltering in his blood. The mother of the boy distinctly heard the cries of her child, when the scalping knife was doing its work of death. Col. Read was in pursuit of the foe. The same paper says that a gentleman left Tallahassee, the morning previous, to solicit aid from this state, until the general government shall organize permanent means of defence.

The Mobile Mercantile Advertiser of the 13th inst. contains another version of the battle, in which Santa Anna was made prisoner, furnished by Mr. Joseph Andrews, of Georgia, who was one of the prisoners taken by the Mexicans, in the detachment commanded by Col. Ward, of that State, and was among those who escaped the general massacre of that detachment, and was afterwards engaged in the decisive battle, fought by Gen. Houston. His account of this action corresponds generally with the statements previously received. Santa Anna is represented by him, as apparently 45 years of age, of rather small stature, dark complexion, black hair, black bright eyes, and altogether a good looking man. Santa Anna is stated to have assigned as reasons for destroying the prisoners composing the detachments of Col. Fannin and Col. Ward, that he had not provisions sufficient for them and his own army, and secondly, that he had not men enough to spare to keep them secure.

The following named persons under the command of Colonels Fannin and Ward, made their escape—Joseph Andrews, David Holt, Lewis Washington, — Dickinson, Horace Bulluck, Samuel Haraway, and Benjamin Murdecai, all Georgians. Dr. Shackleford, of Alabama, had his life spared, and is now in attendance upon the wounded Mexicans. In the battle between Houston and Santa Anna, Col. Mirabeau Lamar, of Georgia, greatly distinguished himself for his valor and intrepidity, and gained the applause of all.

It is said there was not fifty Texians in the battle—that the Texians army was composed almost entirely of volunteers.

Santa Anna is a prisoner in an armed vessel, near Galveston Island, where the Mexican prisoners, who are able to labor, are engaged in building breast works on the Island.

TEXAS—CONFIRMATION.

The following letter from Major General Gaines has been furnished to the editors of the Washington Globe for publication, and is in part confirmatory of the accounts of the victory of the Texians published yesterday. It will be seen that General Gaines considers the statement of the victories sufficiently authentic to found the future military operations of the government of the United States upon its correctness, and has countermanded his requisitions upon the Governors of the several bordering States for volunteers to protect the integrity of our soil.

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DEPARTMENT, Camp Sabine, 26th April, 1836.

SIR:—I have the honor to state that reports have just now reached this place, through various channels, which leave no doubt of their correctness, that on the

21st inst., a battle was fought near twenty miles east of Harrisburg, in Texas, between the Mexicans, under the immediate command of their President, Santa Anna, and the Texians, under General Houston, their commander-in-chief, and that it resulted in the entire overthrow of the advanced corps of the Mexican army, which appears to have been very far out of supporting distance from the larger part of the army, most of which is said to have been upon the Brazos, near St. Philippe, distance sixty miles. It is stated that between five hundred and six hundred of the Mexican troops were killed, and the residue of the advance, about the same number, taken prisoner, including the President himself, with his staff, and most of his principal officers, and that he has declared himself ready and willing instantly to acknowledge the independence of Texas. Upon this point, however, I presume the cognate authorities of Mexico must be consulted.

I have, moreover, learned that the Cherokee and other Indians in Texas, from our side of the national boundary line, are disposed to return to their villages, plant corn, and be peaceable.

This intelligence suggests to me the propriety of desiring the Governor of the States of whom I requested volunteers, as stated in my letter of the 6th of this month, to suspend their movement. To this I have added, that should the above report be confirmed, as I have no doubt they will be in the course of a few days, I will in that event, order an officer direct to the States respectively, meet the volunteers, muster them into service, and then discharge them.

Your obedient servant, EDMUND P. GAINES, Major General commanding, To the SECRETARY OF WAR, Washington City.

Fatal Accident.—We are informed by a friend from Laurens, that a son of the Sheriff of that District, a boy 9 or 10 years old, lost his life a few days since, by eating the poisonous and fatal Hemlock. The deceased, and two or three other boys, repaired to the woods for the purpose, as they said, of procuring a root called Angelica; but through mistake took the Hemlock. The deceased ate a large portion of it, and then gave some to his companions, who partook of only a small quantity. He was immediately taken violently ill and started home; but had not proceeded more than half or three fourths of a mile before he was compelled to stop. Some of the other boys went to a house for assistance, and a physician was called; but soon after he arrived, the unfortunate sufferer expired. The distress of the afflicted parents, who did not arrive until their little son had ceased to exist, can be better imagined than described. The companions of the deceased were very ill from the effects of the poison, but by timely assistance, they recovered. So active and violent was the effects of the deadly herb, that it was the opinion of Physicians, that no Medical skill could have saved the deceased, unless assistance had been immediately at hand.

Let this distressing occurrence be a warning to parents, who suffer their children (as is frequently the case) to eat of wild roots, herbs and fruits.

Greenville Reminiscence.

WASHINGTON, May 9.

Defence of the Western Frontier.—The interesting communication from the War Department, and the debate upon it elicited in the House of Representatives on Saturday, will arrest the public attention. There never was an instance which so strongly exhibited the influence of party schemes upon the minds of partisans, while thoroughly persuaded that in carrying out those schemes they risked the paramount interest, the safety of the country. It will be seen, that at the moment that war was marching towards our frontiers—when the General on our borders, whose charge it is to protect our frontier settlements, had actually called a large and extraordinary force to the lines, to enable him to guard them from dangers he considered impending, the idea of preserving a surplus for Mr. Clay's distribution predominated in the minds of some over that of preserving our frontier settlements from the danger of savage invasion and servile insurrection. The troops had been called into the service to meet this exigency, and the only question was as to providing for their support; and we find Mr. Mason of Ohio opposing it, upon the score that it was only a pretext to bleed the Treasury, instead of preventing the frontier from bleeding—Mr. Underwood of Kentucky (like Mr. Calhoun in the case of the French) opposing it upon the ground that the preparation was likely to provoke war, rather than avoid it—Mr. Graves of Kentucky laboring to postpone action and bring on the delays, which he considers, from his former success, the most effectual mode of embarrassing, if not of defeating, the majority in the House; and yet we find all these western gentlemen at last obliged either to retreat from the House, or give their vote for what they thus endeavored to thwart and prejudice. Messrs. Underwood and Mason, we understand, left the House just before the vote was taken, one having declared peremptorily that nothing could induce him to sanction the appropriation. Mr. Graves although present when his name was called postponed his vote, (though he could not the question), and after finding that only three names were recorded in the negative, rose, asked to be called, and voted in the affirmative!—Globe.