

FROM THE ARMY.

Col. Charles Doane arrived in this city at an early hour yesterday morning, from Brazos Santiago, which place he left on the 25th ult. in the steam schooner Augusta. Sixty miles west of the S. W. Pass he was transferred to the steamer Galveston. He is the bearer of despatches from General Taylor, and of a requisition upon the Governor of Louisiana for four regiments. The previous news received that the Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande is fully confirmed, and a detachment of American troops has been cut off. But for the details we refer to the following account of operations kindly furnished us by Col. Doane.

On Thursday evening, the 23d inst., Gen. Taylor received information that a body of the Mexican army had crossed to the east side of the Rio Grande, at a point some 20 miles above his encampment. Early on the following morning he dispatched Capts. Thornton and Hardee, of the 2d Regt. Dragoons, with a detachment of 70 men to examine the country above and Capt. Kerr of the same regiment, with a company to examine the country below the encampment. The latter returned to camp without having made any discovery of Mexicans.

The former, however, fell in with what was considered to be a scouting party of the enemy, but which proved to be the advance guard of a very strong body of the enemy, who were posted in the chaparral, immediately in the rear of Gen. Taylor's camp. Capt. Thornton, contrary to the advice of his Mexican Guide, charged upon the guard, who retreated towards the main body, followed by Capt. Thornton, when in an instant he found himself and command surrounded by the enemy, who fired upon him, killing, as it is supposed, Captain Thornton, Lieut. Kane and Mason, and some twenty-six of the men, and taking Capt. Hardee and the remainder of the command prisoners. The Mexican commander sent into Gen. Taylor's camp, a cart, with a soldier badly wounded, with a message that he had no traveling hospital with him and could not, therefore, render the soldier the assistance which his situation required.

It is supposed that the detachment of the enemy on the east side of the Rio Grande consists of at least 2500 men under the command of Colo. Carasco and Carratal, both old and experienced officers, and that their object is to cut off all communication between Gen. Taylor and Point Isabel, the depot of provisions. In the execution of this object, they have fully succeeded, and have thereby placed the American army in a most dangerous position, as it will be utterly impossible for Gen. Taylor with the limited number of men now under his command, say 2,000, to force his way through the dense chaparral, in which the enemy are already strongly posted.

On the 25d, Gen. Taylor received from Gen. Anpudia, by means of a flag of truce, a communication in very offensive terms, complaining of his having blockaded the Rio Grande; to which he replied, that Gen. Anpudia had himself been the cause of the blockade, in having expressly declared that unless Gen. Taylor commenced his retreat behind the Nueces within twenty-four hours after his displaying his flag upon the left bank of the Rio Grande, he would consider war as being declared, and would act accordingly. Gen. Taylor furthermore stated that he would receive no further communications from the Mexican commander, unless couched in language more respectful towards the Government and people of the U. States.

Gen. Taylor's position in the rear of Matamoros, is sufficiently strong to withstand successfully an attack of the whole Mexican force, and commands the town, which with the batteries already mounted, could be razed to the ground in an hour's time. Gen. Taylor has in camp full rations for 15 days, which he thinks can be made to last thirty days, by which time he is in hopes to receive large reinforcements from Texas and Louisiana, upon each of which States he has made a requisition for the immediate equipment and transmission to Point Isabel of four full regiments of militia. It is thought by the superior officers of Gen. Taylor's Army that 20,000 men will be required within a very short period, as it is well known that the Mexican army is daily receiving large reinforcements from the interior. It was supposed by the American officers that Gen. Arista reached Matamoros on the evening of the 22d ult., with a brigade; but up to the period of the writer's leaving camp, no communication had been received by General Taylor from Gen. Arista.

[Subsequently to his leaving the Camp on the 26th ult. Col. Doane learned that General Arista addressed a polite note to Gen. Taylor informing him that he, Arista, had assumed the command of the Mexican forces.]

At Point Isabel great fears were entertained of a night attack, which from the present exposed situation of that post could not be otherwise than successful if conducted with energy. The post is defended by Major Munroe, with a detachment of 200 artillerymen. There are also at the post about 200 armed wagons and 50 laborers under the orders of the Quartermaster, and some 1000 citizens furnished with arms by the U. S. Ordnance officer, organized under the command of Capt. Perkins, and denominated the Front Guards. A company of 50 Mexican cavalry were seen on the night of the 26th within five miles of Point Isabel. They were supposed to be a corps of observation. The body of Col. Cross was found on the 21st ult. about three miles from Camp, frightfully mutilated and entirely destitute of clothing. The body of Lieut. Porter, who was killed some days previous by a party of bandits, under the command of Kaumon Telcon, had not been found.

The principal officers known to be in command of Mexican forces, and General Arista, Ampudia, Mezia and Cavales. Colo. Carasco and Carratal; all men of talent.

The extra of the Galveston News says that requisitions have been made upon the Governors of Alabama and Mississippi for troops, though our own informant says nothing of this. The News supposes that Gen. Taylor would open his fire upon Matamoros the morning of the 28th ultimo.

We have received an extra from the office of the Galveston News, where the intelligence was received by the steamboat Monmouth, with Capt. Cullen on board, a bearer of despatches from Gen. Taylor to Gov. Henderson of Texas, calling upon him for aid. We give the letter to the Galveston Committee in full, as it best shows the urgency of the call upon us all.

Letter of Capt. Catlett to the People of Galveston.

On board Steamer Monmouth,  
Off St. Joseph, April 28, 1846.

Gentlemen—I am the bearer of a communication from Gen. Taylor to Gov. Henderson, requesting to be immediately reinforced by companies of foot Regiment. My destination is Victoria and thence to Austin. I was instructed by the General to send an express from the former place by land to your city with communications to Lieut. Kingsbury, and at the same time to spread the information through the country. But it having been left discretionary with me, and the Monmouth be-

ing available, I have determined to send the communications by her, and also to you, in order to facilitate as much as possible the sending on of troops. Gen. Taylor is in a very precarious situation at his camp near Matamoros, and an attack is feared on the post at Point Isabel. I believe a reinforcement of two hundred men would save that place. This is vastly important, as a large amount of commissariat and ordnance stores are deposited there, and if that place should fall, Gen. Taylor will be left without resources of any kind.

I was instructed by Gen. Taylor to send out from Victoria expresses in such directions as I might deem most advisable, so as to have all the men possible on their march to his relief without waiting the orders of the Governor. You will have it in your power to send to the Lower Brazos, Houston and Montgomery sooner than an express can go from Victoria. I therefore leave that to you, knowing that it will be promptly attended to. I shall send to Matamoros, Mexana, Richmond and San Felipe. If you have an opportunity, please send to Washington. I shall send there from Lagrange.

The place of rendezvous for the foot companies is suggested by the General at Galveston; at which place there will be provisions and forage. No party less than 400 should think of going through on the direct road to Matamoros, as there is a large force of Mexicans on the Aroyo Colorado, for the purpose of cutting off reinforcements in that direction. Small parties can cross from Corpus Christi on to Padre's Island. Arrangements are made for crossing from the lower point of the Island to Point Isabel.

If two hundred men could be raised even temporarily at Galveston, I am decidedly of opinion it would be better to send them by the Monmouth—the security of Point Isabel, is of the last importance.

From the best information we can obtain, the force of the Mexicans is set down at eight thousand certain, and reports go as high as twelve thousand.

All communication is now cut off between the camp and Point Isabel, except by running the gauntlet. I came out in the night of the 26th with a guide, and was prowling all night through chaparral, swamps and lakes.

Capt. Baker will be able to give you all the particulars of what has happened, the situation of Point Isabel, &c.

The old General is as cool as a cucumber, and has so strengthened his position, that I am of opinion nothing can move him but starvation.

In haste, your obedient servant,  
W. H. CATLETT.

Messrs. Williams and others.

N. B.—A propeller has left for N. Orleans with a requisition upon the Governor of Louisiana for troops also, I have thought a steamer might be leaving Galveston immediately for New Orleans, and for fear the propeller should be detained, would it not be well to state the facts to the Governor, that the troops might be in readiness by the arrival of the propeller, there is no mistake as to the order, the captain will explain. Yours, &c., M. G. C.

From the Picayune 3d inst.  
THE SURPRISE AND DEFEAT OF  
CAPT. THORNTON.

The city was thrown into a state of profound excitement yesterday morning by the arrival of the steamship Galveston, from Brazos Santiago, with later news from the army, justifying the worst apprehensions which had previously been entertained of the critical position of Gen. Taylor's forces. We issued immediately upon the receipt of the news, a second edition of the Picayune, laying a full statement of affairs on the Rio Grande before the reader. But not to omit anything that may relieve the anxiety felt by all to obtain the smallest item of information in regard to the disaster which has overtaken Capt. Thornton and his command, we give place to the following letter from the camp. In some particulars, it differs from the statements that have been laid before the public by the press of the city—and particularly, it sets down the loss occasioned by the surprise of Capt. Thornton's command as less than it is made by any other report that we have seen. Our letters which we have from the army breathe the same calm spirit of determination as Lieut. Henry's, from which we will no longer detain the reader.

CAMP OPPOSITE MATAMOROS.  
April 26, 1846.

Gentlemen—Knowing that in the present excited state of the public mind as regards our Mexican affairs and the welfare of our little army, that most exaggerated reports creep into the public prints, thereby carrying with them sorrow and anxiety into the bosom of the friends and relations of many officers, I deem it my duty to give you a hasty but correct account of the capture of Capt. Thornton and a squadron of the 2d Dragoons, by a force of 2000 Mexicans under the command of Gen. Torrejon. Gen. Taylor, on the 24th, had received a report that the enemy were crossing the river above the camp. Capt. Thornton, with his command, was sent out on the evening of the 24th to examine the country above, and see whether there was any truth in the report. His command was composed of Capt. Hardee, Lieut. Kane, Lieut. Mason, 5 sergeants, 4 corporals, 1 bugler, and 49 privates. His Mexican guide returned this morning, stating that he had been attacked at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 25th by a large number of the enemy, and that the whole command was captured and destroyed. The guide warned him that he was in the vicinity of the enemy and refused to proceed. He waited until night, and none of the party coming in, he returned home. About 11 this morning a private of the party was brought in in a cart. He was wounded in two places. The man who brought him was the bearer of a note from Gen. Torrejon to Gen. Taylor, the amount of which was that "on the score of humanity he claimed the privilege of sending into him two dragoons, who were wounded in an engagement brought on by a charge from an American cavalry officer against his command of 200 men, as he had no flying hospital." He then spoke of the rest being prisoners, and said "they would be treated with the consideration due prisoners of war, agreeably to

the custom of civilized nations." From the wounded dragoon we obtain the following facts: That the charge was made in open ground; that when the charge was made, but a few of the enemy were seen, but as they dashed over a hill the whole command presented themselves; they were fired upon, and immediately surrounded and taken prisoners. He does not know what became of Capt. Thornton, Capt. Hardee and Lieut. Mason are prisoners, and are all well. He reports Lt. Kane as shot, and it is feared he is killed. Before the cart left, one of the two mentioned died. From the note of Gen. T., it seems that he accuses Capt. Thornton of having charged upon him. One can hardly conceive of such madness as charging 200 men with 63, and it is fair to presume that he was surrounded and charged to cut his way through. Time will clear it all up. The capture of Capt. Thornton's party, and sad death of Lieut. Porter and murder of Col. Cross, are rather melancholy commencements of the war. I say war, for there is no doubt of its existence, and that unless an armistice is signed in ten days we may have some hard fighting. The enemy are collecting in some considerable numbers, and I think their forces may be estimated with safety at 6000. Gen. Taylor is rapidly moving forward his field work; and I understand has sent for 4000 volunteers—two thousand from Louisiana and two from Texas. If they will give us a fair fight, we do not doubt our ability to whip them; but if they are going to give us a second edition of the Florida war, it will be a very annoying affair.

Yours, very truly,  
W. S. HENRY, Lt. U. S. A.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE WAR.

For a full understanding of the preparations on foot for sending a strong force of volunteers from this city to the Army on the Rio Grande, we insert the following official requisition upon the Governor of the State, the letter of General Gaines, and the General Orders issued from Head Quarters of Louisiana Militia in response thereto. The Legislature of the State with commendable promptitude has discharged its duty in the premises, by placing funds in the hands of the Governor for the pay of the Volunteers; we would particularly refer to the report of its proceedings in another column. The Legislature has set the example of speedy and judicious action and it now remains for the patriotic among our citizens to discharge their duty.

Head Quarters, Army of Occupation,  
Camp near Matamoros, April 26.

Sir: I have the honor to apprise you that hostilities have actually commenced between my forces and those of the Mexicans and that I have need of the services of a considerable number of volunteers. Four regiments have been called from Texas, but as there will be considerable delay in assembling them here and as my further operations will require still stronger force, I have the honor, under the authority of the War Department, to call upon the State of Louisiana for our regiments of infantry to be ordered into service with the utmost despatch, and for the longest period authorized by law.

I shall communicate immediately to Gen. Gaines, and request him to give you every facility in the organization equipment of these troops and forwarding them to Point Isabel. I subjoin the organization of a regiment of volunteers, and respectfully desire that it may be observed, and that the number of proscribed officers be not exceeded. The battalions may be mustered into service at New Orleans, or at Point Isabel, as most convenient. I beg that they may be sent forward as rapidly as they can be raised.

I would suggest that a Brigadier General be commissioned to command the force called from Louisiana—and, from my experience of his excellent qualities as an officer, I would be particularly gratified if Gen. Persifer F. Smith could be selected for such appointment.

I cannot doubt that the gallant State of Louisiana will respond with alacrity to this call on the patriotism of her sons, and I feel assured that no effort will be wanting on the part of the State authorities, to organize the force and have it in readiness to embark at the earliest practicable moment.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. TAYLOR,  
Br. Brig. General U. S. A. Comd'g.  
Hon. ISAAC JOHNSON.

Governor Louisiana, N. Orleans, La.  
Organization of a Regiment of Volunteers.—1 Colonel, 1 Lieut. Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Surgeon, 1 Assistant Surgeon, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, with rank of Lieut., and 10 companies, each having 1 Captain, 1 First Lieutenant, 1 Second Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Musicians, and at least 50 privates.

Head Quarters, Western Division,  
New Orleans, May 2, 1846.

Sir—By a letter which I have this morning from Brigadier General Taylor, announcing the hostilities on the part of the Mexican forces near Matamoros, I learn that in addition to the several corps of mounted and other riflemen which he expects soon to join him from Texas, he has requested of your Excellency four Regiments of Infantry, to embark as soon as practicable for Point Isabel.

I avail myself of the earliest occasion, to say that Col. Hunt, Deputy Quarter Master General, and other officers of the Staff, on duty at this city, are instructed to furnish promptly every supply that may be required for the health and comfort of the four Regiments desired from the State of Louisiana. They shall receive their arms and fixed ammunition within the next twenty-four hours, when the requisite steam transportation will be ready.

Gen. Taylor and his army will be much gratified to find amongst the corps now requested, officers and men such as they had the satisfaction to find in the excellent battalion lately commanded by Major Gally.

I am, with respect, your ob't. serv't.,  
EDMUND P. GAINES,  
Major General U. S. Army,  
Comd'g the Western Division.

To his Excellency Gov. Johnson.

P. S.—I look for a battalion of regular troops from Jefferson Barracks, in a day or two; I wish to send to Point Isabel the Regulars with the volunteers.  
E. P. G.

BY THE GOVERNOR.

Head Quarters, Louisiana Militia,  
General Orders, No. 1.

Gen. Taylor commanding the U. S. Army of Occupation on the frontier of Mexico, has announced to the Commander-in-Chief that hostilities have commenced between his forces and those of the Mexicans; and under the authority of the General Government has called upon the State of Louisiana to furnish four Regiments of Infantry, to join his army.

The General, in concluding his requisition, says: "I cannot doubt that the gallant State of Louisiana will respond with alacrity to this call upon the patriotism of her sons." The State of Louisiana has never hesitated at any call on her patriotism or spirit, and is now as she ever has been, ready to devote her energies and her blood for our common country, and the honor of its arms.

Assured that the call now made will be responded to by the citizen soldiers of the State without resorting to a draft, for Regiments of Volunteers will be received and mustered to the service of the United States for the term of six months, unless sooner discharged, and as fast as any regiment or company is organized for the purpose, its commanding officer will report to the Adjutant General at the State House in Canal street.

Each Regiment will consist of—1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Assistant Surgeon. And ten composed, each, as follows—1 Captain, 1 First Lieutenant, 1 Second Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 Musicians, and at least 50 privates—it is desirable that the companies should each be 100 strong.

The Legislature, animated by the universal feeling of patriotism and zeal, have already passed a bill, which has been signed by the Governor and become a law, making appropriation to aid in equipping the force, and the Staff Department of the U. S. Army are prepared to furnish the corps with arms, and equipment necessary. The Major Generals and Generals of Brigade, are charged with the execution of this order.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of the State,  
CHARLES N. ROWLEY,  
Adjutant and Inspector General.

Head Quarters, First Division, L. M. }  
New Orleans, May 2, 1846. }

GENERAL ORDERS, No 5.

1st.—In obedience to Order No. 1, emanating from the Head Quarters of the Commander-in-Chief, dated this day making a requisition upon the State of Louisiana for four Regiments of Infantry, to reinforce the Army of Occupation under General Taylor, on the frontiers of Texas. The Major General commanding the 1st Division, L. M., relies with confidence upon the zeal and patriotism of the citizen soldiers of this Division in promptly filling the requisition without the resort to draft and he hopes the required number of volunteers will be immediately enrolled, and that the officers belonging to the 1st Division will forthwith take the necessary measures to call into the service of the United States such volunteers as may offer their services, in order that they may be organized into companies, battalions and Regiments.

2nd.—As soon as organized, the commanding officers will report to Division Head Quarters, in order that they may be mustered into the service of the U. States.

3d.—The term of enlistment will be for six months, unless sooner discharged.

4th.—All necessary arms, equipments and camp equipment will be furnished the Troops by the Paymaster of the Department of the U. S. Army.

By order of Major John L. Lewis, commanding 1st Division, L. M.  
CHARLES A. LABUZAN,  
Acting Inspector of Division.

Congressional.

Correspondence of the Charleston Courier.

WASHINGTON, April 30.

The country may be congratulated on the passage of the Bill, by the House, to establish the Smithsonian Institution. It was important to the honor of the country that this trust, so many years ago accepted by the Government should be executed; and that if protracted difficulties, as to the mode of carrying it out, should prevent action, the money should be returned to the British Court of Chancery, in order that the Court might undertake the duty of complying with the will of the benevolent testator.

The effort made to resist the assumption of the payment of the principal and interest of the fund, had few supporters in the House.

The interest which has accrued, amounting to two hundred and forty thousand dollars, is appropriated for the grounds and buildings. Of the annual interest of the fund, twenty thousand dollars is appropriated for the establishment of a National Library. There is also to be a Botanic Garden, and the grounds are given by the Government. A National Museum is to be connected with the Institution, and the collections of the Exploring Expedition and of the National Institution will form a part of it. The plan may be at any time, altered or amended by Congress.

May 1.

Neither House of Congress will be in session to-day. The House met yesterday at nine o'clock, merely to adjourn. Only fifteen members were in attendance. Many members of the House have left the city, on visits to their homes. The House will be prepared, during their absence, for the summer session.

The Senate was yesterday chiefly engaged upon the bill to grant six hundred thousand acres of land to Mississippi, in alternate sections, for the purpose of aiding the construction of certain Rail Roads. A bill granting nearly double that amount of more valuable land, for a similar purpose, in Michigan, had already passed.—The State of Indiana has had eighteen hundred thousand acres for the same purpose, and the other States which have lands in their limits, claims a like quantity.

The bill was opposed on constitutional grounds, but Mr. Calhoun showed the grants of lands for the purpose of impro-

ving the value of the remaining lands, had always been considered constitutional.

May 2.

There was a violent gust last night, which did some damage in the city and neighborhood. The circus, of Georgetown, under a spacious pavilion of canvass, had attracted some thousands of people, and the performance was going on with spirit, when, suddenly down came the whole pavilion upon the heads of the spectators—men, women, children, horses, &c., were crowded together—some shrieking and some cursing—some cutting their way through the canvass—forming altogether a more extraordinary exhibition than the spectators had bargained for, though many wonders had been promised in the bills.

It was surprising to find that no essential damage was done, extending to the life, or limbs of any of the throng.

The season is remarkably pleasant, and the public grounds in the city present a beautiful appearance. It was a part of the original design of General Washington, that all the public grounds should be highly embellished. After some years, as the general taste of the country increases, the plan will be carried out.

Neither House of Congress was in session to-day. Many of the Senators and members have left the city on visits or excursions.

Great preparations are making for the National Fair, to be held here by the manufacturers, commencing the 20th May. The building erected for the purpose is spacious and commodious.

May 5.

The business of the Senate was devoid of interest. Nearly the whole day was occupied in the discussion of the bill, to provide for the adjustment of suspended pre-emption claims, and it was at a late hour recommitted.

Mr. Calhoun was anxious that it should have been laid on the table, he pointed out several objections to the bill.

The bill to supply deficiencies in the Appropriation for 1846, was referred to the Committee on Finance, having come from the House with amendments.

In the House of Representatives, at the earnest solicitation of Mr. McKay, the bill making appropriations to supply deficiencies, was taken up. He said that General Jesup had told him that very morning, that the appropriations for his office, were quite exhausted, and that he had to meet the necessary expenditures for the Army in Texas, upon his personal responsibility.

The Bill was then after some considerable discussion passed, and sent to the Senate, and I have already shown you, that it was there referred to the Committee of Finance.

The remainder of the day was taken up in discussing the Bill, making appropriations for the Post Office Department. The amendment of Mr. McKay, to strike out 50,000, and insert 15,000 for the Mail to Bremen, prevailed.

It seems to be pretty generally understood, that the bill will be reported from the Post Office Committee, to increase the rates of Postage, but it is rather late to make the attempt I should think.

May 6.

In the Senate the business was of little interest to the general reader. The bill to supply deficiencies was finally disposed of; the Senate in this instance having been obliged to recede from it some of the amendments which the matter had been improperly clogged with.

The bill to establish courts of the United States in Florida and provide for a due execution of the laws of the U. States was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading—the salaries of the judges were fixed at \$1600 per annum.

In the House the bill to repeal the act of 30th August, 1842, imposing a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, on Java Coffee, was after considerable debate passed.

A question of privileges arose in relation to the attendance of a member of Congress on the Circuit Court of this district—as a witness in the delicate matter now pending, wherein Gov. Thomas of Md., is indicted for a libel.

A resolution was submitted to the effect, that any member who had, or who might be summoned as a witness by the Circuit, now sitting in the District, has the leave of the House, during the present session, if he saw fit, to do so.

This led to animated discussion, Mr. Linn opposing its adoption.

Mr. Holmes also expressed the hope, that the resolution would not be adopted.

Mr. Burd, at last offered a substitute for the original Resolution, which was adopted, simply stating that the House having received information, that one of its members had been served with a process, to attend as a witness, in a criminal proceeding then pending.

"Resolved, That Mr. Hopkins, have leave of this House, to attend said Court."

The President has returned answers to the Resolutions of the House, calling for the correspondence of Gen. Gordon, with the Department of State, in relation to the Slave trade by vessels, and citizens of the United States, and that asking whether any soldiers had been shot for desertion, and if so, under whose order, and by what authority.

Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 1.

Circuit Court.—U. S. v. Francis Thomas.—At eleven o'clock this exciting case was taken up. Within the bar were a number of ladies, members of Col. Benton's and Gov. McDowell's families; several Senators and Representatives, several witnesses from Maryland, among whom I noticed Judge J. C. Legrand of your city. The witnesses for the U. S. and for the defence—forty-seven in number—were called. All were present, or will be in a few days, save Mrs. Linn of Missouri. The motion that was made some four weeks since by the counsel for the accused, that a commission be issued to take her deposition, which then was partially argued, was renewed by Gen. Jones. The General admitted that evidence taken by such commission could never be read save by consent, and he stated his object was to compel the prosecution to consent to such a course by having the case continued,

and he now moved the court to continue the case till they should consent.

The General argued in favor of the continuance in an able speech of more than three hours in length.

He was followed by General Waddy Thompson, of S. Carolina, in reply. This gentleman commented with severity upon the conduct of the accused in thus evading a trial of these charges, which he has boldly challenged and demanded through the papers. He reviewed the authorities cited by Gen. J. and contended that the court could not continue the case with this view; that the courts of England never went so far save when the witnesses were beyond the jurisdiction of the court. He also denied that the defendant had any legal right to use the evidence of Mrs. Linn as to the point intended by him, (i. e. the rendering her husband infamous;) yet stated that the prosecution would waive all objections, feeling satisfied of the total innocence of the parties, and the want of foundation for the charges. The gentleman spoke for more than two hours.

In the alleged libel it is charged that Col. Benton and his family permitted Miss McDowell to be seduced by a certain individual, and that they, knowing this, procured her marriage with him—Gov. Thomas. It is therefore proposed by the defendant to prove this fact by Mrs. Linn, whose husband, it is alleged, committed the seduction of the lady previous to her marriage with Thomas.

The counsel in the case are, P. Barron Key, District Attorney; Hon. J. J. Crittenden of Ky., Hon. Waddy Thompson of S. C., and B. R. Fendall, Esq., for the prosecution; Gen. Walter Jones and A. P. Maulsby, Esq., of Md., for the defence.

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Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, May 1.

Circuit Court.—U. S. v. Francis Thomas.—At eleven o'clock this exciting case was taken up. Within the bar were a number of ladies, members of Col. Benton's and Gov. McDowell's families; several Senators and Representatives, several witnesses from Maryland, among whom I noticed Judge J. C. Legrand of your city. The witnesses for the U. S. and for the defence—forty-seven in number—were called. All were present, or will be in a few days, save Mrs. Linn of Missouri. The motion that was made some four weeks since by the counsel for the accused, that a commission be issued to take her deposition, which then was partially argued, was renewed by Gen. Jones. The General admitted that evidence taken by such commission could never be read save by consent, and he stated his object was to compel the prosecution to consent to such a course by having the case continued,

and he now moved the court to continue the case till they should consent.

The General argued in favor of the continuance in an able speech of more than three hours in length.

He was followed by General Waddy Thompson, of S. Carolina, in reply. This gentleman commented with severity upon the conduct of the accused in thus evading a trial of these charges, which he has boldly challenged and demanded through the papers. He reviewed the authorities cited by Gen. J. and contended that the court could not continue the case with this view; that the courts of England never went so far save when the witnesses were beyond the jurisdiction of the court. He also denied that the defendant had any legal right to use the evidence of