

MISCELLANEOUS.

LATER FROM THE ARMY.

Reported capture of a portion of Col. May's command, by a body of Mexicans.

The brig Georgian, Capt. Criss... arrived yesterday morning, having left Tampico on the 14th inst.

Col. Kinney arrived at Tampico on the 12th inst direct from Victoria. He entered that town with Gen. Quitman on the evening of the 9th inst.

Col. Kinney parted from Gen. Taylor at Santa Ana and pushed on with Gen. Quitman to Victoria. From thence he made his way almost alone, to Tampico, taking Sota la Marina in his route.

We have no reason to suppose the Gens Butler and Worth have moved from Saltillo, as was reported in town yesterday morning.

There is little doubt, as we learn from private letters, that there was a large Mexican force—probably mostly cavalry—at Tula at last dates.

At the present time, there can be no doubt, Gens. Taylor, Twigg, Patterson, and Pillow, are at Victoria, and with a large force.

TAMPICO, Jan. 10 1847.

Gentlemen.—An expedition, consisting of five companies of the regulars and five of the Alabama regiment, is ordered to report for a march of 3 P. M., to-day it has been in preparation for several days.

You know Judd—Lieut. Judd; he has just returned from a scout to Altamira, where he went with fifteen men for the purpose of obtaining a number of mules that were needed for transportation of the stores of the Tuspan expedition.

Yours truly, B. A.

TAMPICO, Jan 12.

Gentlemen—Orders and counterorders, Col. Kinney, of Corpus Christi, arrived this morning with despatches from Gen. Taylor.

The capture of Tampico, according to Col. K. has created the greatest excitement throughout the country. Gen. Butler, with Gens. Worth any Wool and 8000 men—considered the flower of the army were at Saltillo.

I believe I have not growled about the mail for 24 hours, the fact is that we are becoming resigned to our fate.

We have received letters from Tampico to the 12th inst., one day later than the above, but they contain no later intelligence of importance.

Important from Mexico.—The New York Sun of the 23d, has received the latest date from Mexico by the way of Havana.—They confirm the statement that the Mexican Congress had rejected all the many overtures of our government for peace.

Death of Judge Davis.—To the names of Pickering and Story, in the list of the dead and immortal, may now be added that of John Davis, L. D., who departed life very suddenly this morning at his residence in Milton Place.

New.—A reverend gentleman reading to his congregation the passage of scripture, "I am that I am," after pronouncing "I am," in a fit of absence of mind, turned over, and went on, "an ass a coat the foal of an ass"—when discovering his mistake, he rather hastily turned back, and exclaimed, "that I am."

From Correspondence of the Charleston Mercury.

WASHINGTON, Jan 19, 1847. Mr. Sevier, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported a bill (similar to that of last session) appropriating \$2,000,000 to enable the President to bring the war to a conclusion.

Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported the Army Bill, with an amendment providing for a grant of 760 acres of land to all who shall volunteer for 12 months, or during the war, and who shall serve 12 months, unless killed or disabled in service, and also rendering the lands inalienable previous to the issuing of the patent, and postponing the issue of the patent until seven years after the land is located.

Mr. Berrien called attention to the fact, that the instructions directed Officers of Volunteers to be included, while the bill made no provision for them.

Hereupon Mr. Benton and Mr. Berrien had a debate all to themselves; each speaking about half a dozen times—Mr. Benton rough and little respectful in his replies, while Mr. Berrien was civil and caustic.

Mr. Crittenden and Mr. Badger made some remarks in explanation of their views, both being members of the Committee on Military Affairs, the former not being in favor of granting the lands to the Officers, and the latter in favor of it.

After some further remarks from Messrs. Berrien and Benton, Mr. Calhoun asked for the reading of the instructions to the committee.

They were again read. Mr. Calhoun said he was not in favor of the amendment now proposed, and he doubted very much whether he should be able to bring himself to vote for any such provision for granting bounty lands.

They had had a good deal of experience on this subject, and the result of that experience was, that it was the very worst mode, both for the Treasury and for the soldiers and volunteers for whose benefit it was intended.

Mr. Benton said he should vote against it also; but he made the motion, for he felt bound to make it after what had taken place in the Senate. He hoped he should have an opportunity of showing himself both industrious and subordinate.

Mr. Webster coincided with Mr. Butler in these views. He also opposed the provision against the alienation of these lands.

The Vice President voted in the negative, and the amendment was lost. Mr. Benton said that, if the motion of the Senator from Georgia, proposed, giving "land warrants" for 160 acres, instead of the land, so as to get rid of the non-alienation clause.

The amendment was discussed by Messrs. Corwin, Huntington, Rev. Johnson, Woodbridge and Benton.

Mr. Corwin (such a course being suggested by Mr. Hannegan and others) moved the postponement of the subject, and that the amendments be printed.

Mr. Benton is acting out in the Senate a very extraordinary conceit. He has assumed the bearing of a master, whose word is law, and to contradict whom, is a sort of domestic treason.

Mr. Benton is not apt to be excited or to be puerile. There is no puerility about it; there is no accusation of revolt. The majority of the committee themselves sustained him in the view he took.

Mr. Benton denied that there was any revolt on the part of the committee, and maintained that the Senator from South Carolina was not justified in charging the committee with an act of disrespect towards the Senate.

Mr. Calhoun said that, as the Senator had himself agreed to do the thing which he desired should be done, though by a more circuitous mode, he should vote for his proposition.

It is similar in its object and provisions to the bill yesterday reported in the Senate. I presume that the Senate will first act upon the bill. The anti-slavery proviso, if opposed, will not succeed in that body.

The House passed the Indian Appropriation bill to-day and took up the Navy Appropriation bill in Committee of the Whole, which gave Mr. Culver, of N. Y., the abolitionist, an opportunity to make a speech.

The great labor of the Senate, for some days, has been to frame a system of land bounties for the soldiers, both regular and volunteer. After a long debate to-day, Mr. Corwin's project was adopted.

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The greatest agitation and uncertainty exist in regard to the management of the war and the state of the finances. The conference between the Military Committee and the Secretary may lead to some proper conclusions and acts in regard to the war; but there appears to be no cure for the entire depletion and exhaustion of the Treasury which it has created, and is likely to create.

Mr. Benton obtained leave to make an expose upon the subject of the course of the President in regard to the Lieut. Generalship. Mr. Benton's remarks were written, and you will find them in the papers.

Mr. Benton's purpose was to vindicate the President and himself. You will see that the President, last September, offered him the Mission to France, which he declined. In November, Mr. Benton called upon the President, who asked Mr. B's advice as to the conduct of the war. Br. Benton, as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, gave his views in writing. He proposed, it seems, that there should be a head of the army, in order that the movements should be harmonious.

The Treasury note and Loan bill was taken up by the casting vote of the Vice President, against the views of Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Niles, and Mr. Evans, who protested against the consideration of so important a measure, without having time to examine it.

The bill being taken up, very earnest and able speeches were made against it, as a financial bill, by Mr. Evans, Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Niles and others, who declared that it was utterly inadequate to the financial wants of the Treasury for the war.

It is believed that the project of creating the office of Lieut. General will be again brought up. The Treasury note and Loan bill was taken up by the casting vote of the Vice President, against the views of Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Niles, and Mr. Evans, who protested against the consideration of so important a measure, without having time to examine it.

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Great Indian Massacre.—Butchery of Women and Children.—A letter from a gentleman at Council Bluffs, dated on the 17th of December, to his correspondent in St. Louis, states that, on the previous day, a band of the Omahas were met by a band of the Sioux, in the neighborhood of the Bluffs, that a battle ensued between them; and that the Sioux killed sixty of the Omahas before the conflict terminated. The following particulars we find in a letter to the St. Louis Republic.