

From the N. O. Commercial Times, March 8. LATER FROM TAMPICO.

By the arrival here last evening of the schr. Abby Morton, Capt. Cornish, from Tampico, the 24th ult. we hear intelligence thence up to that date.

General Scott, the Commander-in-Chief, arrived at Tampico on Thursday evening the 18th ult. but did not come ashore until Friday morning, previous to which he received a "thundering welcome." He seemed to be in fine health and spirits. After receiving the congratulations of a great number of the citizens, he proceeded to Gen. Patterson's headquarters. On the 21st he embarked with his suite on board the steamship Massachusetts, to proceed, no doubt, to the Island of Lobos. The four brigades under Generals Twiggs, Pillow, Shields and Quitman, are embarking, probably, for the same destination, although nothing positive in relation thereto, was promulgated to the inhabitants of Tampico. The Sentinel says, the destination of these troops is very properly left to the fruitful imagination of the public, for what is the value of a secret if it is in the possession of every one.

About 20,000 troops had left Tampico for Lobos, and all the vessels were hauling in to take on board the remainder of the troops. The steamship Eudora was to leave on the 24th ult. for Lobos, and thence for this port.

General Worth.—The brigade of General Worth had not reached Tampico on the 23d ult. but was hourly expected.

The scene in and about Tampico is stated to be stirring in the extreme. Reviews of troops; in regiments and brigades were daily taking place, vessels were continually arriving with goods, merchandise, military stores, &c. &c.; the American population were all in intense excitement, regarding coming events. Every thing announced action in its utmost intensity. All quiet with regard to the enemy in the interior.

Destitution in the Mexican Army.—Poverty in the Government.—The Tampico Sentinel, of the 20th ultimo, publishes a proclamation from Santa Anna to his countrymen which will be found below. The distress pervading his army, which it points, is really unexampled in modern history. Since the publication of that document, he has issued an address to the soldiers in which he reiterates the helplessness and destitution of those under him, states his determination of immediately proceeding forth in search of the enemy—advising the soldiers, as they are deserted by the Government, that they must endeavor to "kill what they eat." It is dated the 6th ultimo, at San Luis Potosi, and is intended to inspire the soldiers with courage and patriotism.

Extract from the Proclamation of Santa Anna.

Why then this detention in San Luis? says the hostile party of the press. Why, when the General of the enemy freely and with a small body of troops, explores the States of Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas, do they not go out and meet him? Why does not the Commander-in-Chief advance into the country? Why does he not fight him and drive him out of the country? Fellow citizens, hear me, and believe that no one wishes more than myself, that the day of glory for the country, the day of confusion and horror to the unjust enemy, should shine; but unfortunately, holy as my wishes are, the difficulties are great with which I am beset.

On my arrival at the capital, the army was not what it is to-day, as you will easily see by my narration. Since that time it has been increased three-fourths of its original force. I did not find here, nor was there any, in other places, a deposit of men, horses, or equipments. I was compelled first to send for the men to all the States to fill up the regiments. A soldier cannot be made at once, and the whole world knows that the ordinance requires four months at least of instruction for the purpose of being able to do duty in time of peace. Would it have been prudent, then, wishing to escape from the note of inaction, to take the initiative, and to present myself to the field with an army of novices, composed of men taken up in the moment from their domestic occupations? Would the people not accuse me then, and with more reason, of having exposed to an evident danger the honor of our arms and the liberty of our country having committed the imprudence of operating with men not with soldiers? Was it not my duty to prepare ammunition—to collect and improve the arms—to bring from all points the artillery, and at last to gather all the war materials? Think about this with impartiality, and afterwards judge if I deserve reprimanding. But it is not sufficient, if we desire to secure a victory to our arms, that the army which I have the honor to command—should be numerous and disciplined; it is not sufficient if this army is possessed of the most eminent enthusiasm to avenge the outrages that have been done to the nation; this is a great deal, certainly, but it is by no means all that is required. Full of fire, and desirous of glory, the gallant Republicans of the army of the Alps, would not have been able to do what they did if instead of finding the beautiful and fertile fields of Italy, they had met with barren deserts, obliged to cross in the horrid nudity in which they were. No help could be given to them for the moment, but their young general, from the snowy top of the Alps, pointed out to them the relic cities which would become a prize to their army. They saw with wonder, the magnificent Palaces to which victory led them. Has the Mexican soldier the same perspective? He has to march right through his own country, and he is obliged to respect the houses and property of his countrymen, who expect from him protection. All nearly deserted, it does not offer a shelter against the elements nor a sufficient quantity of water for the men and horses; if we advance, it is necessary to put from distance to distance depots or provisions where the soldier will be able to find, after being worn down by fatigue and hunger, the necessary resources to live on. Without this it seems impossible for the army to make any movement. Has anything been done concerning this important matter, although I have made thousands of representations? It is very painful to tell it, Mexicans, but I

cannot keep it secret any longer; nothing has been done, what is worse, I don't see that there is any prospect of doing it. The army is kept in a state of great nakedness and in the most dreadful misery, so much so, that for twenty-five days I have not been able to pay their rations which have been there taken on credit.

The heroic defenders of Monterey, wounded by the balls of the enemies, are lying here quite abandoned, without any other assistance than that which the charity and the patriotism of a few inhabitants gives them.

There is not in this, fellow citizens, any exaggeration, I appeal to the testimony of the authorities of San Luis; since the 25th of December it has been scarcely possible to assist the troops with two days' pay, which has served more to pay of old debts than to attend to present necessities. Of the 400,000 appropriated for the expenses of the army, only \$175,000 have come to hand, which was received in December last and nothing this present month; and in order to help the great wants I was compelled to engage my personal credit for the amount of \$20,000, which were lent me on pledge of my private property, and which were sent to the division in observation at Tula. Could the army under such miserable circumstances, make a movement? Far, very far, I from insinuating that the Mexican soldier depends upon the promptness with which his country pays him, but there are difficulties which it is impossible for us to overcome, it is impossible to give rations, or to pay them when there is no money. This, as described, the situation of the army, as courageous, and as full of patriotism, as any other in the world, which will sacrifice itself with its chief for the national honor; it is his wish, and if it asks for assistance, only to satisfy its wants, it does it so as to be able to approach the enemy, to sustain its good name, and the glory and liberty of the nation to which it belongs.

Unless have been, till to-day, all the endeavors I have used, all the steps I have taken, having in view the receipts of the necessary funds. Notes after notes were almost daily repeated, showing the horrid state in which the troops were placed. The answers to all these were promises and remote hopes, which I fear will never be realized, or if so, they will come too late.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA. Head Quarters, San Luis Potosi, January 26th, 1847.

From the N. O. Delta, March 12. THE LATEST FROM BRAZOS.

Eds. Delta.—Great interest is at the present felt in reference to the situation of affairs in Gen. Taylor's column. An express arrived last evening from Colonel Morgan, at Corralvo, together with one from Col. Curtis, at Camargo, to Colonel Taylor (brother of Gen. Taylor) who immediately set out post haste for the country above, intending to go to Maramoros last night. I give you the information just as it has been received, stating what is positive and what is based on rumor.

By the express of Col. Morgan, we learn that a large Mexican force has made its appearance in the vicinity of Cerralvo, between that town and Monterey, and that a large number of marauding Mexicans are ranging the country between Camargo and the latter place. Gen. Taylor had ordered all the trains of wagons from Camargo going forryard, to be stopped—thus you will see there can be but little doubt of there being a considerable body of the enemy in the rear of Gen. Taylor's main body, and I have no doubt that his emissaries are in Matamoros, and every post on the river, every night.

There is also a rumor from Cerralvo, from three sources, all corroborating, that Gen. Taylor had fallen back upon Monterey with his main body, and that Santa Anna was within about 30 leagues of him, and advancing. The rumor is also referred to in a letter from Camargo to a gentleman on the Island, the writer of which is a person who has resided in the country for some time, and is intimately acquainted with the Mexican character. In the course of his remarks upon the news received there, he attaches much importance to it, and says, "there is no mistake this time—we shall be certain to have a brush with the enemy."

It was reported at Camargo, and generally believed, that one of the trains had been cut off and captured by the Mexicans, between that place and Monterey. The opinion was sustained by the fact that it had not arrived at its destination after the proper time had elapsed.

The only portion of this news which is questioned here is that in reference to Gen. Taylor falling back on Monterey. The times are certainly getting exciting, and in case of an engagement with either column of our army, you may depend upon receiving, with the first despatches, a correct and detailed account of it.

Cols. Mitchell and Wellar and Dr. Chamberlain, of the Ohio Volunteers, arrived in the steamer New Orleans, and will leave for the purpose of joining their comrades this morning. MUSTANG.

From the Hamburg Republican Extra, March 18. FROM THE ARMY.

The New Orleans mail this morning brought us the following important information, which we copy from an extra from Delta Office, of the 13th inst.

At an early hour this morning we received our correspondence from the seat of war, by the schr. Candelera G. Scull, which arrived here last night, our letters, which are up to the last hour of the express starting from Monterey, confirm the probability of a battle having been fought between Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna. Our correspondence from the Brazos represents the valley of the Rio Grande as swarming with Mexican soldiers and rancheros. A hard battle was commenced near Saltillo, between Gen. Taylor with 3000 men, and Santa Anna, with a force of upwards of 20,000 men. The Mexicans had no artillery. Gen. Taylor lost, it is said, about 2000 men and the Mexicans 4000. Taylor had taken position at a mill pond, about three miles from Saltillo. Gen. Marshall had left Monterey with provisions and two 13-pounders, guarded by a strong escort, to join Gen. Taylor. The Mexicans about Camargo

think Santa Anna has been badly whipped. Col. Morgan of the Ohio Volunteers, stationed at Cerralvo, with a strong force, has been attacked and his force cut up all along the line of observation as far as Mier. Another report is, that Morgan was slightly wounded and has retreated. Several of our trains and many mules with sutler's goods, have been captured by the Mexicans. Urrera is on his way to Matamoros with 4000 cavalry.

From the Matamoros Flag, of March 8.

Our town has been thrown into the most intense excitement by the reports constantly reaching here relative to the perilous situation of Gen. Taylor's division of the army. They are so vague and confused that we hardly know how to commence an abstract even. That a battle has been fought, no one can doubt, for a moment, but now it has resulted, or what dangers impend on the line of the Rio-Grande, is enveloped in the most perplexing uncertainty. We give, however, what seems to be the best authenticated statement received from the seat of hostilities.

Gen. Taylor, while at Agua Nueva, 22 miles from Saltillo, with 5000 men was attacked, on the 22d ult., by a Mexican force of 15,000. Finding that he could not maintain his position by made good his retreat to Saltillo, covering a wagon train. Here a severe engagement took place in the streets, in which the Mexicans suffered a heavy loss. After destroying what of the public store he could not transport, he continued his retrograde movement on Monterey until he reached the Rinconada Pass, where he was again attacked, but successfully defended himself.

Here all the rumors, reports and letters leave him. Once in Monterey and he would be safe, but his ability to accomplish this was altogether problematical, as the Mexicans was swarming in every direction.

A merchant in Camargo, under date of 25th ult., writes to his friend in this place—"Three expresses to-day from Monterey—fighting in Saltillo—Marina Mexican possession—large train of wagons, 126, and 180 private mules taken—McCulloch's company taken—800 cavalry this side the mountains, and things in general turned upside down." From another source we learn that Col. Morgan had abandoned Cerralvo, destroyed all property he could not take with him; that a courier from Monterey reported at Camargo, 15,000 Mexicans between the two places, and that 3000 more were in the neighborhood of Victoria.

The destination of several boats has been changed within the last few days, on reaching this place, and held in reserve at Camargo to convey despatches.

Six companies of the Virginia Regiment have passed through Matamoros on their route to Camargo.

The following letter to the editor of the Delta was enclosed in one from the mouth of the Rio Grande, corroborating the report of General Taylor being hard pressed by the enemy under Santa Anna.

Camargo, Feb. 26. Eds. Delta.—A letter from Capt. Morgan, has just been received, giving the following information—

That Gen. Taylor had been attacked in his position at Agua Nueva by a force of 25,000 men, and the engagement was not going on. When the courier left, Santa Anna's ultimatum was "surrender," Gen. Taylor's reply was "come and take us."

On the 24th orders were received here to stop and turn back all the teams leaving Camargo, which was accordingly done to the number of one hundred teams. The teams have been armed to day. A train of 130 wagons left here on the 17th, and fears are entertained that they have been cut off before reaching Monterey, from which place all communication has been cut off. Marina is occupied by a large force of the enemy, who are said to be rapidly approaching upon Camargo, supposed to be Urrera's force of cavalry and artillery—comprising 5000 men, which we can only possibly with 1000 men.

A letter writer to the Delta, dated at Monterey, Feb. 22, says that Gen. Taylor had fallen back from Agua Nueva. 9000 troops have been seen within 7 miles of Taylor's camp, and on the 21st 800 Mexican cavalry entered Carderera. It also states that a desperate battle is expected between Gen. Taylor and Santa Anna.

The fact of Gen. Taylor being in close proximity to a large Mexican force under Santa Anna is confirmed by news through many other authentic sources, which would be entirely superfluous to publish, as they all speak of the same facts which are detailed above. Later intelligence will be anxiously, and daily expected, which shall be furnished to our readers in an Extra as soon as received.

On the 23d ult. between 50 and 60 sail left Tampico and Lobos Island with troops and munitions of war of every description for the bombardment of Vera Cruz. Gen. Scott himself is said to have stated that the demonstration would be commenced on the 10th inst.

From the Washington Union. IMPORTANT CORRESPONDENCE. Letter from Mr. Benton to the President.

WASHINGTON, March 6. Sir: Without waiting for the formality of being presented, with the commission of Major General in the army of the United States, I think it right to inform you at once that my acceptance or refusal of that high appointment will depend entirely upon public and national considerations; of which you yourself, will be the judge. Personally I can have no wish for this office; but if you believe that I can be of service to the country, I am willing to forego all private considerations—separate myself from my family, under painful circumstances; resign my place in the Senate, which is so dear to me—and proceed immediately to the theatre of war. My only stipulation would be for the power which I deem necessary to success; and these would be both military and diplomatic—the command of the army and authority to sign preliminaries of peace, based upon terms previously approved by you.

I beg you to believe, sir that nothing selfish or personal dictates this proposed stipulation. There is no such thing in it. It proceeds from a thorough conviction that with a subordinate command, I could do no good in the army; on the contrary from my presence there would be improper and mischievous; for I am known, from my public speeches to disapprove the

plans, both of the late and of the present commander—the defensive policy of one and the "San Juan" of Ulua attack of the other; and this being known my presence would operate as an implied censure on the two generals, and might make me, in spite of myself, the nucleus of discontent and insubordination. The command of the army, therefore, is the only military position which I could hold in it.

Authority to conclude a peace, or at least to sign the preliminaries of peace, is deemed highly essential to success, as it would enable the commander-in-chief to take instant advantage of all passing events, military or political, to close the war.

Furnished with these powers, I am willing to make the sacrifices, and to incur the responsibilities of this high command; but I leave it to you, sir, for your free and final decision, considering it as a national question, and a new one, on which there is no commitment on either side, in any thing that has passed.

Whatever may be the decisions, my thanks and gratitude will not be the less to you for your unsolicited nomination of me to this high appointment, nor to the Senate for its instant and unanimous confirmation of it, nor to the House of Representatives for its three times virtual election of me, to be the commander-in-chief of the army in Mexico.

Respectfully, your friend and fellow-citizen, THOMAS H. BENTON. To the President.

The President to Mr. Benton. WASHINGTON, March 9, 1847.

Sir: I have given to your letter of the 6th instant the consideration which its importance demands. In tendering to you the appointment of Major General in the army, I earnestly desired that the country should have the advantage of your conceded ability and military knowledge, your intimate acquaintance with the Mexican character, and your familiarity with their language and political condition.

Immediately after your nomination as Major General had been unanimously conferred by the Senate, I carefully examined the question whether I possessed the power to designate you—a junior Major General—to the chief command of the army in the field. The result of this examination is, I am constrained to say, a settled conviction on my mind that such power has not been conferred upon me by the existing laws.

I am fully sensible of the exalted patriotism which could alone have induced you to make the personal sacrifices to which you would be subjected in assuming even the chief command of the army in Mexico; and I duly appreciate the reasons you have assigned, and which may, I fear, prevent you from accepting your appointment as Major General. If, on further reflection, such should be your decision, I shall learn it with deep regret.

I am, sir, with high consideration, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JAMES K. POLK. To Major General Thomas H. Benton, Washington, D. C.

Mr. Benton to the President. WASHINGTON, Tuesday Eve. March 9.

Sir: Your letter of this day's date, is just received, and seeing no reason for further reflection, and wishing to avoid all delay in officering the army, I have written a note to the Adjutant General, to be delivered at his office in the morning, declining to accept the appointment of Major General in the army, so kindly offered to me by you, and so honorably confirmed by the Senate.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your friend and fellow-citizen, THOMAS H. BENTON. To the President.

Note of Mr. Benton to the Adj. General. WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, March 9, 1847.

Sir: I had the honor to receive your note of the 6th instant, with a commission of Major General in the army, and delayed the answer of acceptance or non-acceptance until I should receive an answer from the President to a note which I addressed to him in the morning of that day. That answer is now received, and enables me to answer to your note, and to say that the commission is not accepted.

Please to accept, sir, my thanks for the kind terms of your note, and for the thousand courtesies which you have extended to me in the course of our long and friendly acquaintance. Most truly and respectfully yours, THOMAS H. BENTON. To Adjutant General Jones.

Vera Cruz Squadron.—The following is said to be a correct list of the United States naval forces, which are concentrating in the Gulf for an attack on Vera Cruz. The 20th of this month is said to be the day fixed on by the Department for the attack to take place—

Line Ship	Ohio, Capt. Stringham,	74
Frigate	Potomac, Capt. Adick, <td>44</td>	44
	Raritan, Capt. Forest, <td>44</td>	44
Sloop of War	Jean Adams, " McCluney, <td>20</td>	20
	" St. Mary's, " Saunders, <td>20</td>	20
	" Albany, " Breese, <td>20</td>	20
	" Decatur, Com. Pinkney, <td>16</td>	16
Brig of War	Porpoise, " " <td>16</td>	16
	" Perry, " " <td>10</td>	10
Schr. of War	Bonita, " " <td>1</td>	1
	" Reeler, " " <td>1</td>	1
	" Petrel, Lieut. Shaw, <td>1</td>	1
	" Tampico, Mids. Perry, <td>1</td>	1
	" Nonata, " Smith, <td>1</td>	1
Steamer	Mississippi, Com. Perry (p.) <td>10</td>	10
	" Princeton, Capt. Engle, <td>9</td>	9
	" Spitfire, " Tatnall, <td>3</td>	3
	" Vixen, " Sands, <td>3</td>	3
	" McLean, " Howard, <td>3</td>	3
	" Union, " Radd, <td>4</td>	4
	" Alleghany, " Hunter, <td>4</td>	4
	" Hunter, Lt. McLaughlin, <td>6</td>	6
	" Petria, " " <td>1</td>	1
	" Scorpion, Comr. Bigelow, <td>64 pounder,</td>	64 pounder,
	" Scourge, Lieut. Hunter, <td>11</td>	11
Store Ship	Relief, " " <td>6</td>	6
	" Supply, " " <td>2</td>	2
	" Fredonia, " " <td>2</td>	2
Bomb Ketch	Stromboli, Com. Walker, <td>1</td>	1
	" Etna, Comr. Van Braut, <td>1</td>	1
	" Vesuvius, " " <td>1</td>	1
	" Hecla, " " <td>1</td>	1
	" Electra, " " <td>1</td>	1
Sloop	" Mariner, " " <td>1</td>	1
Cutter	" Forward, Capt. Nones, <td>6</td>	6
	Total number of guns, <td>324</td>	324



The Advertiser. EDGEFIELD C. H. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1847

The News from Mexico.—We publish to day an account of a desperate battle, reported to have been fought between General Taylor and Santa Anna, about the 22d ult., near Saltillo. From all accounts, the position of General Taylor is very critical, we await further intelligence with great anxiety.

We have received from the Hon. Mr. Brockenborough, a member of Congress, from Florida, a copy of his Speech on the "three million bill," delivered in the House of Representatives on February 13th.

The Weather.—The heavy rain which fell several days since, was succeeded by very cold and unpleasant weather for the season. We do not remember, ever to have experienced a colder spell in March. For several mornings at about sunrise, the thermometer in our room, stood at 32 degrees. The early fruit will be injured. Oats and wheat, so far as we learn, have sustained no serious damage. After the cold spell had passed, we had some fine sunshine.

Mr. Stodden Cotton.—We call the attention of our reader to an article upon the subject of this celebrated Cotton, upon our first page. Not having had a chance to try an experiment as yet, we cannot vouch for the correctness of the statement made by the writer, but have no reason to doubt its superiority over our common Cotton. J. D. TIBBETS, of this village, can supply those who wish to try the cultivation of it with Seed, upon moderate terms as they can be procured elsewhere.

Speech of the Hon. Thos. H. Bailey.—The Speech of the Hon. Thomas H. Bailey, of which we acknowledged having received a copy, is an excellent defence of Southern rights, and vindicates in a manly manner, the perfect equality of the South with the North or West, or any portion of the free States. This Speech was delivered in the House of Representatives, and doubtless produced a salutary effect in that body. The "Wilmot Proviso," in the three million bill, which the speaker more particularly attacks, was not adopted in the passage of that act. We sincerely hope, that a proviso of this character will never again be brought forward. It will be like the apple of discord, but a fruitful source of strife, and will endanger the perpetuity of our union. Let the whole South, as one man resist it, and it can never be adopted, we confidently believe. We highly appreciate the services of our own statesman and others, who stood up in their places in opposition to this most unrighteous provision in the late bill.

Scottish Bagpipes.—We have been handed by the Postmaster, a handbill, received from W. FERGUSON RAMSEY, the unrivalled performer on the Bagpipes, in which he proposes to give an Entertainment to the citizens of this village, and its vicinity, on To-morrow (Thursday) evening, the 25th inst. Mr. Ramsey has travelled over a large portion of the Union, and is highly spoken of by the press, in every section. The National Intelligencer, in speaking of his performance in Washington City, says—

"Amongst other novelties here at present, we have the celebrated piper, Mr. W. Ferguson Ramsey, and he certainly performs wonderfully on his four different Bagpipes. The Irish pipes, in our estimation, is a 'leete ahead' of any thing we have heard in these 'diggins,' he being distinguished for his really splendid execution on that instrument, which he makes 'discourse most excellent music,' and almost excites the very chairs, tables, and benches to dance round the room. The Irish pipes, which can also perform a wide variety of tunes, sweet, soft, low as the first whisper of mutual love. You have never felt the eloquent expression of Irish music, unless you have heard it from the Irish pipes."

The New Major Generals.—The Hon. Thos. H. Benton, of the United States Senate, in a correspondence with the President, has declined accepting the appointment of Major General under the new army regulation, which was conferred upon him. We have no doubt, that Col. B. has acted wisely, for serious difficulties might have arisen in the service, if he had assumed command. Col. William Cumming, of Augusta, Geo., who had also been appointed Major General, has likewise declined the acceptance of the office. He took this step, it is said, for certain high and honorable reasons. We cannot say with certainty, who will be appointed in the place of the above gentlemen.

Appointments in the Army.—The following are among the appointments, in the new regiments of the army, from South Carolina—

- 1. E. Manigault, Captain of Infantry.
- 2. O. P. Hamilton, " "
- 3. J. J. Martin, 1st Lieutenant of Infantry.
- 4. A. C. Jones, " "
- 5. A. M. Perrin, 2d Lieutenant of Infantry.
- 6. J. D. Oterson, " "
- 7. C. R. P. Butler, " "
- 8. Ormsby Blanding, " "
- 9. L. C. Johnston, 2d Lieut. of Dragoons.

To be Hung.—Benj. Morgan, indicted at the late session of the Court at Charleston for the murder of Andrew Jackson was found guilty of murder on the 4th inst., sentenced by Judge Frost to be executed on the first Friday in June next.

Murderer of B. B. Hussey.—The Grand Jury of Laurens, (Geo.) Superior Court, in the case of Gibbs, indicted for the murder of Mr. B. B. Hussey, have refused to find a bill, on the ground that the defendant was of unsound mind.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

ISLAND OF LOBOS. CAMP WINFIELD. 19th February, 1847. Mr. Editor.—If I had any of the poetic humor I could write you a poetic letter in this time, for since I wrote my last, I have seen nothing but the most terrible sort of poetry. But we have now fairly got to our work again, and a soldier's life is entirely too busy for flights of imagination. He has so much of the stern reality to encounter, that I rather doubt if his soldiery life has too much fancy.

Your voyage at sea was stormy and disagreeable—sometimes it was sublime and horrible. We were necessarily so crowded together that man had the ability properly to take care of himself, and the storms were so incessant that every thing was thrown into the wildest disorder. At times, when a severe squall would pass over, you might have seen men and horses piled together indiscriminately on the deck like so many lifeless creatures. Three of our horses were killed by being dashed against the vessel, and I can assure you that many of the men were badly bruised, for I had the unpleasantness of being of the latter class myself. A large wave was making its approach, the side of the ship would be lined in an instant by men catching at every peg or rope, or any thing in the world to support their tottering steps. In a moment, amid the crashing of creakery, the creaking of the vessel timbers, the bursting of barrel staves, and the roaring of the waters, you would see men and waves bowing, and deluges of brandy, rolling over and over, as if the same spirit of life animated the whole, and the same demon of confusion pervaded the mass. But after having been on the water for about seventeen days, we arrived safe at this place on the 13th inst. We had the misfortune to lose one man on the 7th inst. We buried him with as much ceremony as the nature of the case would admit of, and pursued our course.

The two other detachments of our regiments suffered but little, comparatively, and were on sea much more than half as long as we were. I believe, though, they lost one or two men on their passage. The health of the regiment now, I consider to be very good; and I believe it is the custom with all the regiments stationed here. We have been here two or three days, and I have not heard of a single death since we have been on the island.

The island where we are encamped for a few days, is as beautiful a spot as I ever beheld. It is a little more than a mile in circumference, and is one single garden of evergreens. All it lacks to render it complete, is the presence of some living inhabitants to decorate the scene.

We have now a pretty considerable army in and near the island—I suppose near four thousand men. We have the Louisiana volunteers, the Mississippi volunteers, the two regiments from Pennsylvania, a part of the New York volunteers, a part of Worth's brigade, a sloop of war with something over two hundred seamen, and our own regiment. We are looking every hour for Col. Worth, and Col. Butler sends a vessel to day with an escort to Santa Ana for Gen. Scott. In a few days we will have an army here of several thousand men.

I can tell you very little with certainty of our future operations. We will, certainly, touch land again very near Vera Cruz, and will certainly get into it, which will probably be fought in the city of Vera Cruz. Our men are in fine spirits, and in pretty good humor, and will fight well. Our own regiment is exceedingly proud of its officers, and compares with high rank among the others.

We are very near the Mexican shore at this time, but we have as yet, seen no disposition of fight from our enemy. A portion of the Louisiana troops, with their colors, were wrecked, as they came down, and distressed by the Mexicans, but refused to surrender, and made their way in safety to Tampico. One sloop of war, the day before yesterday, captured a small schooner ashore, a short distance from this place, and burnt her. The schooner came here a day or two ago, and was full of oranges, and it was thought she would have been them as prisoners.

Yours, &c. SALUDA.

ISLAND OF LOBOS. CAMP WINFIELD. 19th February, 1847.

I have little to add to-day, in which, while in my list, except that our regiment continues to be in very good health, and is making progress in learning. There is scarcely a regiment on the island, and I say it without boasting, in addition to our own, that we are the best of our time is occupied in the most constant preparation for the field. An evening or two ago the long roll was beat, in order to test the readiness of the men to meet the enemy, and I was glad to see that they turned out as promptly as could have been expected.

Troops continue to come in daily, and in a few days more, we will probably have several thousand men at this place. I suppose we have now five thousand here now. A large body of regulars are expected in a day or two. It would be a splendid spectacle for a man who had never witnessed such a scene, to arrive at Lobos at this time, and look at the warlike preparations that are ringing through the whole island. We have twenty-two ships lying at anchor, besides one war vessel, and a vessel containing a part of the 8th regiment of regular infantry.

Our friends need not fear, but that in a few weeks the Palmetto regiment will have an opportunity of proving its mettle to the whole country. I think we are sure to attack either Vera Cruz or the city of Mexico.

Neither General Scott nor Worth has yet arrived.

If the water does not prove too much for us, I think the health of our troops will continue to be good. You all would be astonished, if you could form a correct idea of the water we drink. But I have nothing to complain of—I have become accustomed to every thing, and am very hearty.

I write in a great hurry, for the drum is beating for dress parade, and the captain of the vessel is waiting for my letter.

Yours, &c. SALUDA.

CAMP WINFIELD, ISLAND OF LOBOS, 23d February, 1847.

The Palmetto Regiment had the pleasantest last night, of being informed that it was one of the Regiments designated for the attack on Vera Cruz. It is rather unwilling to be attempting to develop the plans of a campaign before they are executed, or even fairly determined on, but I can tell you now, from the most accurate information, that in a few days, unless the President direct otherwise, our Regiment, the Pennsylvania, New York Volunteers, and several thousand regulars are to sail for a point about nine miles from Vera Cruz; and as soon as they can be put in proper order, to attack the city. General Scott is here on board of the Steamer Massachusetts, and Col. Butler at this hour, pays him a visit. Gen. Worth has not yet arrived. We are looking for him every moment. Ship loads of men are arriving every hour. There are between forty and fifty ships in the harbor at this time, and in a day or two, their number will be almost doubled.

I am sorry to say, that the Mississippi and