

For the Advertiser.

Reminiscences of the Palmetto Regiment.—Col. P. M. Butler.—Partial analysis of his character—his military talents—his genius for commanding—his social virtues—and his high, chivalric bearing.

No. VII.

Absulit clarum cito inquit Achillem.—Horace. Per enjus virtutes nomen Carolinæ Creverit vires, fanaque ad imperi Portæ majestas ad ortum Solis ab Hesperio cubili.—Horace.

The civic history of Col. Butler is too well known to require any delineation from our pen. We propose, therefore, to view him only in his connection with the Palmetto Regiment. As a military man his character deserves to be well studied, and his honored name, and his bold deeds of valor should be enshrined in every patriot's heart.

As a mere drill officer, Col. Butler possessed no superior excellence. He had forgotten, in a measure, the routine of tactical exercises, and found no necessity during the campaign, of directing his mind to the study of these especially and in minutæ. With a Major, noted for his skill and accuracy in drilling, this drudgery was, in a great degree, taken off his hands. And this gave him more time to devote himself to the higher interests of the Regiment; which he always guarded with peculiar care and industry. But though no adept in the merely mechanical portion of the soldier's duties, he possessed, in an eminent degree, the qualities of a superior commander. We are not fully prepared to say, he would have greatly excelled as a strategist, or that his faculty for analysing military operations was extraordinary. These powers fall to the lot only of a very few, who, by nature, are gifted with great military genius. To plan and arrange properly all the general operations of a campaign, and to direct masses at a distance from the enemy on important points, so as to favor rapid and advantageous movements of an army, and to keep open lines of communication &c., require a comprehensiveness of mind, a readiness of conception, and a depth of foresight rarely united in one man. Such ability belongs only to a Cæsar, or a Bonaparte. But in Logistics, or a knowledge of moving and supplying armies; in grand tactics, or the art of combining and directing battles; in a word, in all the practical rules for conducting campaigns, battles &c., we think Col. Butler had few superiors in the American Army. His strong common sense which rendered his judgment excellent in all matters of a practical nature—his quickness of mind—his readiness in reading character—and his extraordinary faculty for controlling and governing men, made him highly competent to these ends. With a proper field for the exercise of his peculiar talent, he would certainly have acquired eminent distinction. Endued by

mind, it was his delight to pursue in investigation the plans of battles and the management of campaigns. We have often listened with pleasure to his judicious and discriminating remarks on leading characters in the army, and upon the military operations carried on in Mexico. Touching the latter, his views and advice were often sought at Headquarters, and among the superior officers of the army; and his excellent good sense gave a pointness to his opinions that seldom failed to carry conviction to the mind of his hearer, while his mild tone of conversation and his great weight of character, always secured for their respect, even when they were not adopted. In giving his opinions, he engaged little in abstract speculations; but looked almost exclusively to the practical bearing of the proposed project, or plan of action. Indeed, Col. Butler did not enjoy high powers of generalization, and attached but little importance to mere theories; but he was gifted with a discernment of mind, and a quickness and accuracy of judgment, that qualified him admirably for practical life. He chose rather to collect the facts and objects around him for reflection, than to pry into the secret processes of thought and fancy; and drew his conclusions more by the force of intuition than by long deductions of reasoning. He looked upon things as they are, and judged men by a knowledge of the real feelings and motives by which they are actuated. If he failed in his powers of analysis, and sometimes reasoned badly from premises, his conclusions nevertheless were almost sure to be correct and practical. And if in the establishing of his general principles he frequently erred, in the practical application of known rules, he seldom went amiss. In a word, he was a man of action rather than of reflection; but of action directed by almost instinctive foresight.

In his talent for commanding and governing men Col. B. had few equals. To rule firmly, and yet to be fully obeyed and warmly beloved, were the happy coincidences of his mode of government. Every one knows the difficulty of uniting firmness of discipline with suavity of manners. Rigid severity on the one hand, and disorderly laxity on the other, are the scylla and charybdis of every exercise of power. A happy medium between the two, is most difficult to be observed. In most minds, the love of power is aggressive; and it often encroaches upon proper rule, till the latter degenerates into actual tyranny. This is frequently seen in military life. Harshness of discipline, and rudeness of deportment characterize many, whose minds want a proper balance, or whose dispositions unfit them for practical government. How different was the character of Col. Butler! He united the greatest kindness with the strictest rule. He was in the proper sense of the terms the ruler, and the friend of those under his command. He bestowed freely, and exacted freely, and he was always obeyed. But if he demanded much, and was resolute in his requirements, he repaid with many kindnesses the full measure of his exactness. Every one felt, also, that his demands were made with the best intentions, and looked to the dearest interests of the Regiment. It was seldom, therefore, that blame

Some liberty has been taken with the Latin, to suit the application.

attached to him, in the administration of his rules and regulations. If a real or supposed matter of grievance arose, each one felt a disposition to cast the burden of reproof elsewhere than upon the shoulders of his esteemed Colonel. A charitable construction could always be put upon every hard word he uttered, and upon every action or demand that appeared unusual or extraordinary. His general conduct towards the men was mild and kind; but he was sometimes forced to measures of harshness and severity. In the government of a body of men, it is necessary to have recourse to punishment of some kind, as well as to excite the hope of reward. Many, perhaps, most persons may be led on to a proper course of conduct by the mild influences of moral suasion; but there are some, who require the sharp impulses of ignominious rebuke; and a few, who can be induced only by the actual infliction of physical punishment. To resort to the latter, which he seldom did, was always a source of pain to Col. Butler, because it was incompatible with the characteristic benevolence of his nature; but in the application of the former, he bestowed with a liberal hand and an open heart. It was his peculiar province and delight to incite to good acts and valorous deeds by appeals to the finer impulses of our nature; by depicting the honorable charms of glorious achievements; and by pointing to the high demands of State reputation, and to the proud expectations of friends and relatives. But he sometimes found it necessary, also, to let fall upon the ears of wanton offenders all the full force of his generous indignation. The exhibition of low conduct, of mutual obstinacy, or of stubborn insubordination, excited in his bosom feelings of the deepest disgust. These he gave vent to, often, in the severest reprimands. Many, we dare say, will long recollect the severe tongue-lashings they received from his lips. In these he was candid, bold, and utterly fearless of consequences. The guilty trembled under the withering influence of his words, and grew ashamed of their offending conduct. But he seldom failed to impress upon their minds the justice of his remarks; and hence, though galling in their effects, they rarely excited feelings of enmity against the author of their infliction.

In reconciling disturbances and personal difficulties among officers and men, Col. Butler exhibited a rare talent in the government of men, and exercised a most peculiar and important influence in the Regiment.

Sceptra tenens, mollitque animas, et temperat iras.—Virgil. Ille regit dictis animos, et pectora mulcet.

Ibid.

Harmony of action seemed, truly, to be one of the most active desires of his nature, and he spared no efforts to keep it up in his command. Quick in discerning the smallest discord of feeling among those around him, he set to work with his wonted energy of character, and seldom failed to effect a happy reconciliation. By inculcating generous concessions on both sides between the parties at difference, and exciting a mutual pride, he paved the way for liberal compromises, which generally proved lasting, and left both parties entirely satisfied. This course of conduct was pursued both in relation to officers and men; and its happy effects were seen in the great unanimity of feeling and sentiment that prevailed in the Regiment, and in the total absence of all personal difficulties of a serious nature among the officers. If any, indeed, occurred, they arose after the Regiment was deprived of the kind and protecting spirit that directed it.

To have introduced this almost exclusively moral discipline—this feeling of subordination and harmony—this elevated regimental pride—and that courageous spirit which showed itself afterwards in deeds of daring and chivalry; and at the same time, to have excited feelings of love and esteem in every generous bosom, required a happy union of the most rare qualities. To have wrought such effects demanded, indeed, a force of character not often to be found. Energy, firmness, decision of character, good nature, soundness of judgment, and quickness of mental action were all required. But Col. Butler possessed all these in an eminent degree.

In his social virtues he was not less conspicuous. These shone, in truth, with peculiar lustre. They were the brilliant ornaments, that decked the tout-ensemble of his character. They gave tone to his whole being. They made him the kind and generous officer; the agreeable and cheerful companion; and the noble and high-souled patriot. Engendering in his bosom kindness to others, they brought to himself a rich harvest of friendly feeling from all those who came within their influence. It was his gentle and suasive manners—his gay humor—his pointed observations—and his uniform cheerfulness of disposition, that made his company so eagerly sought by all who knew him, and that rendered him a most acceptable guest in every circle that he entered. Nor was he sparing of the fund of social feeling with which nature had thus endued him. He had a kind word, and a friendly chit-chat for every one. With little reserve, yet with much dignity, he inspired all that came in his presence with feelings of confidence and delight. There is an old saying, "familiarity breeds contempt." It was not true in the case of Col. Butler. By his conduct, he showed he was no believer in the adage. Easy of access to every one, even to the commonest private in the Regiment, and allowing a familiarity that rendered all about him free and easy, he yet had every form of respect paid him, and always retained the full dignity of his superior station.

Constant in his own feelings of friendship, he excited in others the strongest and most permanent attachments to him. He was a decided favorite in the army among young and old, high and low. The highest officers sought his company and selected him as their companion. From the General-in-Chief to the lowest Subaltern, he was regarded with feelings of respect, esteem, and admiration. No one, indeed, frequented his friendly board, but was captivated by the charms of his social talent, and seized with admiration for the man. This feeling of deep interest in him showed itself strongly in the sentiments, expressed by his friends on hearing of his death, and by the deep sympathy of those who visited

his corpse on the battle field of Churubusco. Of the many, that came to look upon his noble person for the last time, few went away without deep emotions of grief and sorrow. Their watery eyes, and their moistened cheeks were unmistakable proofs of the sincerity of their feelings. To the officers and men of the Regiment, he was a friend, a protector, and a companion. He visited daily the sick—ministered to their comforts often by draughts upon his own purse; cheered the desponding; encouraged the weak-hearted; and gave a new life and spirit even to the brave and the energetic. And what Palmetto Officer does not recollect the delightful moments he has passed around his convivial board? Who does not call to mind his jovial pleasantries—his happy banquets—his friendly jests—and his fatherly admonitions! Who can forget the freedom and ease he enjoyed in his presence, and the delight he received in listening to his sensible conversation!

But it was in the lofty tone of character, for which he was so distinguished, that the Palmetto soldier especially delights to contemplate Col. Butler. In this, he proved himself an indigennous plant of this noble State, and a genuine scion of the noble family-branch from which he is descended. Exalted in his sentiments and aspiring in his ambition, he viewed with disgust all lowness of conduct, and erected a standard of excellence difficult of attainment to the many. If he did not appreciate fully the merits of mere scholarship, and viewed learning simply as a means of practical usefulness, he strictly maintained the great influence of moral excellence, and the necessity of high toned character to desirable and permanent success in life. In his own example, he gave proof of the correctness of his sentiments. Amid the striking exhibition of moral defection around him, he presented a course of conduct strictly honorable, and free from the vices so usually attendant on military life. He looked constantly to the moral bearing of the young men under his command. He speculated little, it is true, on abstract doctrines of moral perfection; but he strongly inculcated the principles of honorable life, and his practical judgment. And these principles always had an upward tendency. They pointed to a high degree of excellence. They denounced all degrading and unseemly conduct. If they were better calculated to make warlike heroes, than moral Divines, it was, perhaps, because the circumstances under which they were promulgated, more imperiously demanded the former, than the latter. It was not for the lack of moral sentiment. The object of the instructor was before him. He wanted honorable men and fighting men; and his teachings, both by precept and example, were directed to this end. He struggled with all the energies of his nature to make the men of his Regiment, gentlemen, soldiers, and heroes. With what success he met, the history of the Regiment will fully show. A man himself of high instinctive notions of honor, his nature a hero, he could not fail, in his efforts to imbue the minds of the young men around him, the impress of his own feelings. The Regiment, and the fire, as it fell from the flint, and animated itself into almost enthusiastic warmth. An esprit du Corps was excited and a love of glory kindled, that set in motion all the active impulses of the ambitious heart, and led on to deeds of daring and chivalry.

Col. Butler was proud of the Regiment he commanded, and proud of the State from which he came. His great ambition was to sustain and elevate, if possible, the character of the one and of the other. Sooner than fall short of these objects, his bold nature would have led him to the most generous self-sacrifice, and to prodigies of valor. To enable his command to perform well its part, and to establish a character for superiority and excellence, he would have expended the energies of his nature. What did he not actually do in this particular? We have seen him broken down by disease—almost bed-ridden—obliged to be hauled in a wagon; and yet when the war bugle sounded, pile and emaciated, he tore himself loose from the fetters of confinement, and, urged by the powerful spirit that fired his bosom, he sustained himself under severe toil and fatigue, till he had performed deeds of almost unexampled daring and bravery. See him on the bloody field of Churubusco! What heroic valor! What generous sacrifice of personal regard! A powerful enemy, ten times greater in number, it before him, and threatens to overwhelm his small command. The terrible encounter begins. The atmosphere is filled with bullets. Cool and determined, Colonel Butler exhorts his men to behave with becoming bravery. His horse is shot from under him. He dismounts, and plants his manly form in the midst of his gallant troops, who fall thick around him. A musket ball strikes him in the knee, and wounds him severely; unconcerned, he hobbles along, still directing and encouraging. But overcome by the pains of his wound, he disappears for a while in search of a Surgeon. Failing in his object, he returns to the post of danger with renewed determinations of valor. Like some fabled hero, whose very form and looks speak courage to the hearts of men, he walks out in front of his Regiment, as if by the majestic proportions of his manly person, to protect his men from the leaden storm, raging with such tremendous fury. For a while, he stands silent and erect. He tells the gallant General, who rides up to him, "every man in his Regiment will follow you to death." The last dreadful advance begins. The fire of the enemy redoubles. Officers and men fall in multitudes. Calm and cool, Col. Butler presses on with renewed energy. He gallantly points out to his command the direction it is to take. The havoc is dreadful. He sees his brave men around him, slaughtered like bees. It is too much for his generous heart. He pushes onward, but the tears of affection flow freely from his eyes. At length the fatal ball, directed from the rear of the enemy's Cavalry, reaches its doomed aim. His brain is penetrated, and his noble form sinks to the ground. But his soul still beats with heroic courage, and noble sentiments of patriotism. He still urges on to victory. With his hand upon his wound, in the very convulsions of death, with scarce breath enough to give utterance, he exclaims—"Go on my brave Boys." These

were his last words; and they indicate what sentiments were uppermost in his mind. His Regiment and his State occupied his last thoughts. Should not that Regiment be proud of his glory? And should not that State strive to honor and perpetuate his name? Quis cura patrum, quæve populorum, Plenis honorum numeribus luas, Augustæ, virtutes in avum Per titulos, memoræque fustos, Eternæ? MARLBOROUGH.

For Augustus, substitute the honored name of BUTLER.



The Advertiser. EDGEFIELD C. H. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1848.

We have received a very interesting communication from Lieut. Jos. ASKEW, respecting the "96 Boys," giving a correct list of all the killed, discharged and those who have died from disease. But owing to the press of new Advertisements, we are compelled to defer its publication until our next.

We acknowledge the receipt of the Address of W. W. Adams Esq., upon the occasion of the death of Sergeant W. B. Blocker. We will endeavor to publish it in our next, or the first part of it at least.

We regret to learn that the Dwelling house of Mr. Carson Warren, living about 7 miles from the Court House, was entirely consumed by fire on the 3rd inst. The greater part of his household furniture was hurt. We understand that Mrs. W. narrowly escaped, as a portion of the building fell in a few seconds after she came out of it. The fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from the chimney.

The difficulties among our Officers in Mexico. It is known to our readers, that serious difficulties had broken out among some of our chief Officers in Mexico. Charges had been preferred by Gen. Scott against Generals Worth, Pillow and Col. Duncan. Gen. Worth had preferred charges against Gen. Scott. A Court Martial had been summoned to try the Officers. The President of the United States had dismissed the charges against Worth, who had appealed to the Government at Washington. Worth and Pillow had been released from arrest to which they had been subjected, and we now learn that they have been restored to their command, and that Gen. Worth has withdrawn his charges against Gen. Scott. We sincerely hope, that the difficulties between these gallant men will soon be speedily settled, and that they will deserve high praise for their conduct in Mexico.

France.—Every thing in relation to France, is now of the deepest interest and importance. Upon the success of the present mighty and comparatively peaceable revolution, depends not only her own destiny, but that of Europe and probably of other portions of the world.—The American Minister, Mr. Rush, was the first of the Foreign public functionaries to tender his congratulations to the Provisional government. He did it in a manner well becoming the Representative of a great and free nation, and doubtless spoke the sentiments of all of our people. In the American Senate, a resolution tendering the congratulations of this country to France, on the establishment there of a Republican Government, has been introduced by Mr. Allen. It elicited some debate but has not yet been decisively acted upon. Whatever may be the fate of this resolution, it will finally pass unless something should occur to change the relations of this government towards France. There can be no doubt, that our people feel the warmest sympathy for France on account of her past friendship, and most rejoice to see her in the enjoyment of a free and Republican government. The ex-King of the French has safely arrived in England. A portion of his family are with him.

From the South Carolinian. DEATH OF THE HON. JAMES A. BLACK.—We regret to learn that this gentleman died at Washington City on the night of the 3d inst. Mr. Black was the Representative of the Pinckney District in Congress, and well and nobly had he discharged the duties which had been confided to him. He was an energetic and industrious politician, whose every wish was entered on strictly, carrying out what he believed to be the wishes, and securing every thing connected with the interest of his constituents and State. He was a Democratic—unflinching in his advocacy of Republican principles—and by his consistency and quiet deportment, had linked to him many friends in all parts of the Union. In early life, Mr. Black was an officer in the United States Army. He was also at one time, an officer in the Branch Bank of the State at Columbia. After he retired from the Bank, he devoted his energies to the development of the mineral resources of the upper country, and has been largely interested in mining—both in gold and iron—and in the manufacture of iron. He has served the Pinckney District three terms in the Congress of the United States, and had refused a re-election—having intended to devote his after life to his family and domestic affairs; but he has been cut down in the prime of life, and those who would have received the mature advice of his well stored mind, are deprived of a father and counsellor. We understand that Mrs. Black, his son, and his brother, the Hon. Joseph A. Black, of this town, proceeded to Washington immediately on the receipt of the news of his illness, and suppose they reacted that place the day before he died.

From the Iamberg Republican. THE AUGUSTA BRIDGE CASE. We notice that the Journal & Messenger, of Macon, Ga., has taken up the case now pending before the Supreme Court, in re-

lation to this very valuable piece of property. It will be perceived by the annexed article from that paper, that some feeling exist on this important matter, even in the interior of Georgia. This however, is what might be expected, from the fact that the stockholders of the Bank of the State of Georgia are very numerous, and that she has many branches located in different parts of the State. With regard to the views or feelings of Mr. Shultz in relation to a compromise of this vexed question we know nothing. But reason and those influences that usually govern mankind would seem to induce the belief, that he could not refuse a reasonable and amicable compromise of the matter, however strong may be his impression as to his equitable rights as well as his legal. He has already sustained himself, single handed, against a powerful monied corporation, seeking his rights for twenty-seven years. He has grown gray in the unequal combat, and would no doubt accept a reasonable compromise, in order to get a portion of his rights and close this litigated question himself, instead of leaving it for others to do after him.

Messrs. Editors.—I notice your remarks in regard to the celebrated Augusta Bridge Case, and agree with you that Mr. Shultz has the gift of continuance in a most remarkable degree. He has certainly proved one thing, viz: That he is fully convinced of the justice of his cause, and that he firmly believes the Courts of his country may yet do him justice. Some of the recent decisions in the U. S. Supreme Court are calculated to urge him forward with increased vigor. How low has it been since Mrs. Gaines was ridiculed by persons all over the country for pursuing a cause which had, according to their story, less merit, even than the Bridge case.—The amount involved it is true was greater, but not of less importance on that account to the parties concerned. It is just as easy to get a verdict for half a million as it is fifteen millions, though perhaps the celebrated "Founder of Hamburg" may not find it quite as easy to get his money as will the scarce less celebrated "Lecturer" upon the "Horror of War."—Like Mrs. Gaines, Mr. Shultz has engaged able counsel. Messrs. Berrien and Webster are already retained in his behalf, and they very seldom embark in so important a case, without good prospect of success. Messrs. Editors allow me, with all due respect, to differ from you, in regard to the ability of the Bank to respond. Its stock is already depreciated and selling far below par. The amount claimed is very rapidly increasing, because the damages will be assessed according to the income of the Bridge, and that income I see by the recent Augusta papers, has swelled to about \$3,000 a month.

If Mr. Shultz therefore should recover, the amount must be between 700,000 or \$800,000. Can the Bank meet this amount? That they are under some apprehension may be inferred from the fact that they have employed the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Baltimore, to defend the case. My own opinion is that the public interest would be promoted by an amicable compromise of this whole matter. By a compromise all interests would be observed. Mr. S. would get enough to render him comfortable in his old days, while the Bank and the people would be relieved from all further anxiety. Yours, &c. COUNTRYMAN.

THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE.—The following message of the President was sent to Congress on the 5th inst. To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States: I communicate to Congress for their information, a copy of a despatch, with the accompanying documents received at the Department of State, from the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Paris, giving official information of the overthrow of the French monarchy, and the establishment in its stead of a "provisional government," based on republican principles. This great event occurred suddenly, and was accomplished almost without bloodshed. The world has seldom witnessed a more interesting or sublime spectacle than the peaceful rising of the French people, resolved to secure for themselves enlarged liberty, and to assert, in the majesty of their strength, the great truth, that in this enlightened age man is capable of governing himself. The prompt recognition of the new government by the representative of the United States at the French court, meets my full and unqualified approbation, and he had been authorized, in a suitable manner, to make known this fact to the ensanguined authorities of the French Republic. Called upon to act upon a sudden emergency, which could not have been anticipated by his instructions, he judged rightly of his feelings and sentiments of his government and of his countrymen, when in advance of the diplomatic representatives of other countries, he was the first to recognize, so far as was in his power, the free government established by the French people. The policy of the United States has ever been that of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, leaving to each to establish the form of government of its own choice. While this wise policy will be maintained toward France, now suddenly transformed from a monarchy into a republic, all our sympathies are naturally enlisted on the side of a great people who, imitating our example, have resolved to be free. That such sympathy should exist on the part of the people of the United States with the friends of free government in every part of the world, and especially in France, is not remarkable. We can never forget that France was our early friend in our inchoate revolution and generously aided us in shaking off a foreign yoke, and becoming a free and independent people. We have enjoyed the blessings of our system of well regulated government for near three-fourths of a century and can properly appreciate its value. Our ardent and sincere congratulations are extended to the patriotic people of France, upon their noble, and thus far successful, effort to found for their future government liberal institutions similar to our own. It is not doubted that, under the benign influence of free institutions, the enlightened

statesmen of republican France will find it to be her true interest and permanent glory to cultivate with the United States the most liberal principles of international intercourse and commercial reciprocity, whereby the happiness and prosperity of both nations will be promoted. JAMES K. POLK. WASHINGTON, April 3d, 1848.

Mr. Rush closes his despatch to the Secretary of State, as follows: This succinct narrative will accurately apprise the President of what I have done. I shall anxiously await his judgment upon it all. The events were as new as moments. They had transcended all expectations. In recognizing the new state of things as far as I could without your instructions, and in doing it promptly and solemnly I had the deep conviction that I was stepping forth in aid of the great cause of order in France and beyond France—and that I was acting in the spirit of my government and country, interpreter of whose voice it fell upon me suddenly to become. If I erred, I must hope that the motives which swayed me will be my shield. The provisional government needed all the moral support attainable, after a revolutionary hurricane which shook society to its base and left everything at first potent and trembling. In such an emergency, hours, moments were important; and the U. States are felt as a power in the world, under the blow that has been struck. I am not unaware that the course I have pursued departs from diplomatic usage, and separates me, for the time being, from the European diplomatic corps, accredited, like myself, to the late government of France; all the members of which will probably wait instructions before adopting any steps of recognition. Having acted under a sense of independent duty in the emergency, I am however, not the least aware that the diplomatic corps represents countries in friendly relations with the United States; and that it will hence be as much my duty as inclination to go on maintaining that amicable footing with its members, ever dictated by reciprocal good will among the representatives of friendly powers, whatever different forms of government they may represent. I have the honor, &c. RICHARD RUSH.

BY TELEGRAPH. FROM NEW MEXICO. St. Louis, March 31. We have advices from Santa Fe to the 18th of February, which is a week later than brought by Lieut. Thorp on Tuesday last. On the 13 a rumor had reached Santa Fe that Col. Bowles had been attacked at Ceceira by 4000 Mexicans and had lost 90 men. Gen. Price, with 500 men, marched promptly to his relief. The late arrival does not particularly confirm this, but say Gen. Price was at El Paso, advancing upon Chihuahua with 1500 men. It was rumored that Gen. Urrea was marching against Chihuahua, by the way of Sonora, with a large force, but this is doubtful. The route from Santa Fe is much impeded by snow, and the recent returning party lost many horses. Thorp met Fischer's express on the 6th of March, in great distress, having suffered severely from cold. Edward Thorp was shot dead at Fort Spaulding, recently, by James Waier; this is the second of the Thorps killed lately.

The Charleston Courier of the 6th inst says: a telegraphic despatch from Louisville via Cincinnati, which brings the dates from Santa Fe down to the 25th of February, confirming the report that there had been a battle between the Americans and Mexicans at Ceceira. The despatch states that Col. Bowles' regiment of about 800 men, stationed at El Pesse, had been attacked by 4000 Mexicans; and after a severe battle, in which 90 of our men fell, the former were defeated. As soon as the intelligence reached Santa Fe, Gen. Price, with all the men at his disposal went to the assistance of Col. Bowles.

VERA CRUZ, March 25. You will receive by the New-Orleans about all the news that I can gather; but perhaps I can be more particular in regard to a few items which reached me by a Mexican mail on the eve of her departure. At headquarters in Mexico the universal opinion prevailed that peace was decided upon, and from several communications which I have seen, from the best authority, preparations were actually being made for the withdrawal of the army from the country, or at least the city of Mexico, on the 7th of May. How in Heaven's name can it be! I cannot doubt but that all the quartermasters and commissaries have received instructions from headquarters to make their preparations accordingly. Either a step of this kind has been taken or the Congress of Queretaro has assembled (of which we have no information); and pledged itself to ratify a treaty of any kind, or Gen. Butler has determined upon this course with the hope of immortalizing himself. The fact of his stopping supplies, save such as will be necessary for the army on their road down, is strange indeed.

From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 3. Mr. Astor's Will.—We have examined an abstract of this document, in which the community feel at least the interest of curiosity, on account of the vast amount of property which it bequeathes. The principal document was executed July 4th, '36; but, as Mr. A. acquired new estates, or the circumstances of his devices changed, or he changed his opinion of what was best, he made sundry codicils, at the following dates, viz:—July 19, '38; January 9, '39; Aug. 22, '39; Oct. 24, '38; March 3, '41; June 3, '42; and Dec. 22, '43. There are various re-attestations of the principal will, up to Jan. 11, 1855.

The great features of the will and its codicils, make ample provision for all the relations of Mr. Astor and his children—his son, Wm. B. Astor, being the great residuary legatee. There are no trusts created for the benefit of relatives; in quite a number of cases, only income, or a sum per annum, is to be paid to the present generation, with a reversion to their children, or other heirs, who succeed to unrestricted possession.