

# THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES,  
Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR  
RULERS."



"DO THIS AND LIBERTY IS SAFE."  
Gen'l. Harrison.

NEW SERIES,  
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## LATER FROM MEXICO.

Gen. Scott has left Mexico for New York—Court of Inquiry adjourned and now sitting in New Orleans—Probable ratification of the Treaty.

From the N. O. Picayune, May 8.  
The United States steamer New Orleans arrived on Sunday from Vera Cruz, having sailed thence on the 3d inst.

General Scott and suite left the city of Vera Cruz on the 22d ult., and arrived at New York on the 30th. He immediately embarked on the brig St. Petersburg for New York, under a salute from Fort Constitution. He was waited upon by the commander of the fleet and received a salute from the flag ship Cumberland.—On Monday, the 1st inst., the St. Petersburg was towed to sea by the propeller Thompson. In passing the store ship Relief and frigate Cumberland their rigging was manned and three cheers given the old hero. On the 3d inst., the General exchanged visits with Com. Perry and was saluted by the flag ship Cumberland.

Among the passengers on the New Orleans, were Gen. Pillow and staff, Gen. Townson, Gen. Cushing and staff, Colonel Belknap, Col. Childs, Col. Duncan, Col. Withers, and a number of officers.

So desperate at one time was thought the chance of bringing together a quorum of Congress, that the President had determined to exclude the States of New Mexico, Chihuahua and Yucatan, in estimating the representation, so that a smaller number may constitute a quorum.—Subsequent events led him to believe that a quorum could be obtained, and the President re-considered his determination.

Special Correspondence of the Picayune.

CITY OF MEXICO, April 26, 1848.

Gen. Pillow left here on Sunday, the 22d instant, with an escort of Louisiana Mounted Men. The night before he left he was serenaded by the splendid band of the 2d Infantry, and the next morning a large number of officers accompanied him some distance upon the road. The Court of Inquiry left on the 24th.

In my last letter I stated that General Butler was to review the volunteers in the city on the 22d inst. The review was far more extensive than I was informed it would be, and came off on the plain fronting Molina del Rey. The divisions of Gen. Worth and Pillow, the former consisting of five regiments of Infantry of the old line, a squadron of horse, and Col. Duncan's battery, now commanded by Lieut. Hunt, and the latter of the six regiments of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana volunteers, were reviewed, and the bid when extended was over a mile in length. This is the largest review that has been during the war, and all present confessed, it was the most magnificent military display they had ever beheld. A melancholy interest was added to the spectacle, by the display of the torn and tattered colors of the 4th, 5th, and 6th regiments of Infantry, as they marched by the General-in-chief. On the 24th, the fine division of Gen. Smith was reviewed by the General in chief and its maneuvering elicited the admiration of every military man present. These reviews were in anticipation of the possibility of a forward movement being soon required.

The letter of your Queretaro correspondent, of the 23d inst., which I send you, is full of interest, and some of his information is important. The extracts from the message of Rosa to the members of Congress now at Queretaro, show that Pena y Pena fully realizes the dangerous position of the nationality of the country, should the treaty not be ratified in season—and also shows an energetic determination to spare no effort to bring about peace. The passage in the conclusion of the message, I presume refers to the intention of the President to decree that, in consequence of the condition of Yucatan, and other States, arising from the war, a certain number (less than the constitutional quorum) it is probable he will have to resort to this measure, as it is understood here that several Congressmen, who are not willing to oppose the treaty by a direct vote, intend to defeat it by breaking the quorum, whenever the question is put.

The paragraph in the letter relative to the sermon of the Padre Sanchez is at this moment very important. It was supposed, that in consequence of the amendments made by the Senate of the United States to the clauses of the treaty relating to the recognition of the Mexican church, in the territory proposed to be ceded to us, that the clergy would oppose the ratification of the treaty, or at least require that the clause be inserted. Not so, however. Your correspondent is right in representing that during the armistice and the pendency of the treaty we could not take possession of any part of the territory of Mexico unless we obtained her consent. On the first communication of the fact that the white population of Yucatan was threatened with extermination, the humane instincts of the people of the United States were for extending assistance in the mode suggested by the President or in any other mode, but a more calm consideration of the circumstances has modified those feelings. To employ the Naval forces of the United States in removing such portions of the distressed people as are fleeing from massacre, fulfills every dictate of humanity, without committing us to unknown hazards of intervention. The simple proposition of humane interposition was mixed up in the President's message with the inapplicable abstractions of Mr. Mouroe, against European colonization

Lieut. O'Sullivan I have already spoken of as having resigned his commission in the 3d Infantry and gone to Queretaro to join the enemy. He is not a legal deserter, but all the dishonor of moral guilt will ever attach itself to his name.

The Commissioners will not leave for Queretaro, until the 29th or 30th instant. In the meantime, the troops which are to form the escort are being prepared to present a fine appearance, in point of clothing and equipments.

The trial of Lieut. Hare, of the Pennsylvania Regiment, for burglary and murder, was concluded, but the result was not known. A *nolle prosequi* had been entered in the case of Lieut. Mathison, of the same regiment, and he was remanded to prison. Lieut. Dutton's trial was next to come on. Lieut. Tilden, 2d Infantry, has also been implicated by the State's evidence, and arrested.

The letter from Queretaro, referred to, gives an extract from a Government order, calling for a forced loan of \$150,000 to \$200,000, to pay the expenses of Members of Congress, and urging it on the ground of the shortness of time for ratifying the treaty, which should be ratified by the 15th May, at the latest, to reach Washington by the 2d June. It concludes as follows:—

"His Excellency the President thinks that the salvation of the Republic imperatively demands the prompt meeting of Congress, and in order not to incur the terrible responsibility of losing the nationality of the country, the Executive will dictate extraordinary measures, which he never would have adopted if circumstances were not so very difficult and dangerous."

The priest Sanchez, the clergy's organ, in one of his sermons, at which the greater part of the members of the Administration and of Congress were present, said: "Gentlemen: The only way to save the Republic, and—in pardoning the injuries you have received—to prove yourselves Christians, is to make peace."

QUERETARO, April 25, 1848.

Few of the Deputies are wanting for a quorum. Queretaro presents a most animated aspect, and nothing is talked of but peace. The most vehement party for war, is without doubt, the army, but it has fallen so low in public estimation, and is so numerically weak that it is doubtful if they can get up a *pronunciamento*, as it was publicly rumored here within the last few days they would.

**The Court of Inquiry.**—The court of inquiry met at the St. Charles Hotel in this city this morning with closed doors and adjourned until to-morrow morning, when various witnesses in this city will be examined. We understand that the members of the court will leave the city on the 10th or 11th by the way of the river to hold a session in Frederick, Md., where they will adjourn about 29th inst., unless something unexpected should turn up in the meantime.—N. O. Picayune.

## FROM CALIFORNIA.

Intelligence from California as late as 20th March has been received. It confirms what has been before stated, that Lieut. Haywood, who was hemmed in by guerrillas at San Jose, has been relieved by the crew of the Cyane, after an engagement in which the Mexicans suffered some loss. Lieut. Col. Burton, at San Jose, had received a reinforcement of one hundred and fifty men from Upper California from the New York regiment, and had marched upon San Antonio, taken the place, killing a number of the enemy, and taking many prisoners; also retaking the American officers and men that had been in confinement for months. Those released were Passed Midshipman Duncan, of Ohio, and Midshipman Warley, of South Carolina, with the men under them. Report says that Commodore Jones intends taking Tepec, by orders from our Government. Commander Selfridge has sailed for the United States.

**YUCATAN.**—In the Senate debate on the bill to occupy Yucatan, Messrs. Clayton and Crittenden said the bill, was in violation of the treaty of peace with Mexico. This position was taken by us at the first blush of the affair, and we are glad to see that our views are sustained by such good authority. Mr. Clayton observed that during the armistice and the pendency of the treaty we could not take possession of any part of the territory of Mexico unless we obtained her consent. On the first communication of the fact that the white population of Yucatan was threatened with extermination, the humane instincts of the people of the United States were for extending assistance in the mode suggested by the President or in any other mode, but a more calm consideration of the circumstances has modified those feelings. To employ the Naval forces of the United States in removing such portions of the distressed people as are fleeing from massacre, fulfills every dictate of humanity, without committing us to unknown hazards of intervention. The simple proposition of humane interposition was mixed up in the President's message with the inapplicable abstractions of Mr. Mouroe, against European colonization

es, and owner's patience. On a good plank road the load of the same team would be 6000 lbs. the distance travelled (with more ease) probably 30 miles. A trip to and from Salisbury on such a road would occupy eight days. Now it takes twelve. Here would be a saving of four days to drivers and horses. The freight received for hauling a load of 3000 lbs. is now, at 75, \$22 50. A load of 6000 lbs. at the same rate, would produce \$45.—But probably the price of hauling would be reduced one-half. In either event the difference would be saved. A load of Corn is now about 40 or 50 bushels. On such a road 80 or 100 bushels might be brought. Now, Corn is not worth hauling from any great distance. With plank roads, it would be well worth hauling from even beyond Salisbury; and we might hope to see the produce of that rich section of our State meet the produce of Ohio in the Wilmington market, and drive it back, freeing our agricultural State from the reproach of buying its food from Ohio.—Fay Observer.

## PLANK ROADS.

The rapid increase of number, and great popularity, of this kind of Roads, at the North, will justify a frequent reference to them, especially in a part of the country, like this, where the population is not sufficiently dense, nor the produce and wealth sufficiently abundant, to justify the construction of a great number of Rail Roads.

We are indebted to the Hon. D. M. Barringer for a copy of a Report made to the Legislature of Wisconsin by Philo White, Esq. (formerly of this State), who, as Chairman of a Committee, has embodied a great deal of information derived from Reports to the N. Y. Legislature by Engineers and others. From this, mainly, we collect the following facts and views.

Plank Roads have been in use in Russia for many years. They were first introduced in America by Lord Sydenham, who had seen and appreciated them in Russia; and who, when appointed Governor of Canada, determined to improve the highways there by introducing these Roads. Accordingly, less than ten years ago he commenced the first plank road in America. As soon as its advantages were seen, others were projected, until about fifteen of them, of about the aggregate length of 4 or 500 miles, are either finished or in progress of construction, in Canada.

In New York the first plank road charter was obtained in 1814. Since that time, 20 such roads have been or are being constructed; and a number of others are projected. The length of the whole being about 600 miles.

On a single track road the plank is best 8 feet long. On a double track two separate planks 8 feet wide each. All over 8 feet is found to be, for all practical purposes useless. Ordinarily one track, with a good side road for a turn out, is found to be sufficient. The plank should be 3 or 4 inches thick, and 8 to 15 inches wide. Two sleepers, 4 inches square, are had lengthwise of the road, for an 8 feet track. In some roads, however, sleepers are not used, but the plank laid directly on the earth. When used, they should be placed so as to be under the wheels, and should be sunk in the ground so as to leave the upper surface visible merely. They will last as long as two or three plankings, if properly bedded.

Side ditches and cross culverts are indispensably necessary to the durability of the road, by carrying off the water. The plank should be laid close, tight, and firm on the surface of the earth. The grading required is not often great; an ascent of one foot in ten being perfectly admissible on a plank road.

It is ascertained that a plank road will last from seven to twelve years. The wear of the first year is equal to that of the next seven; and the repairs of the first year double those of any succeeding year until it is required to replank.

Mr. Geddes, the engineer, made the following estimate of the average cost per mile of the Salina Road:

Sills, 4 by 4 inch scantling,	14,080 ft
Plank, 8 ft long, 4 inches thick	168,920 ft
At \$5 per M,	183,000ft
Laying and grading, \$1 pr rod,	320
Engineering, superintending, &c. at 10 per cent.,	102
Gates and gate houses,	100
Sluices, bridges and contingencies,	63

Aggregate cost per mile, \$1,500  
This was the estimate; the actual cost of the road, as we learn from the Superintendent, was only \$1,487 per mile.

Persons who have travelled in England, say that there is not as good a road in that country as this Salina road.

Two horse light wagons, with five or six passengers, travel from 8 to 10 miles an hour with ease on plank roads. Two horses usually haul 4000 lbs., or 16 bbls. of Flour, at a load. And these roads are not affected by good or bad weather.—The travel in winter is about as good as in summer. The distance travelled may be nearly double, with double the load, usual on our common roads.

The tolls charged on the plank road at the North are from 1 to 2 cents per mile for each two horse vehicle. With such tolls the Salina road has paid dividends of 12 1/2 per cent. per annum, and accumulated a surplus fund.

It will be seen at a glance what a change such roads would work in North Carolina. A four horse wagon, loaded with perhaps 3000 lbs., now struggles along at the rate of 20 miles a day, with great wear and tear of wagon, and horse,

ing large discretionary powers, he preferred to take a position on undeniably American soil, rather than infringe upon disputed territory.—He therefore made his headquarters at Corpus Christi, a place that, beyond its being within the acknowledged boundary of Texas, was convenient, and in no way favorable for an encampment—still General Taylor prepared to suffer every evil incident to his situation, rather than in any way compromise his government.—After General Taylor had been some time at Corpus Christi, Maj. Donaldson, the representative of the United States government in Texas, came to Taylor's camp for the especial purpose of advising General Taylor not to cross the Nueces, lest he should involve the government in a war with Mexico; Gen. Taylor in the mean time having been informed by "the government" that it wished him to confer with Maj. Donaldson. In the course of events, Maj. Donaldson left Gen. Taylor's camp, and there came on from Washington letters to Gen. Taylor, informing him that he should move part of his force west of the Nueces. Gen. Taylor not wishing to divide his small command and the government having relieved him of the responsibility of crossing the Nueces, he took his whole force over, as he could by so doing, readily obtain a good camping ground, and a depot convenient for his military stores. The events that followed this movement on the part of Gen. Taylor are familiar to the world. The above is a true statement of the preliminaries that led to the advance of our army on Matamoros. The main facts can be gathered, as I have stated, from the "public documents" already published, containing the correspondence of Gen. Taylor with the war department, previous to the battles of the 8th and 9th of May. Other facts stated can be proved if denied.—The most superficial observer must perceive, that Gen. Taylor has never been inconsistent, and that charges made against him, whether frivolous or of weight, when examined into, only cause his prudence and strict "obeying of orders" to be more and more admired. The statement made in Congress that some individual from Mississippi had called on General Taylor at Baton Rouge, and that in a long conversation he had with General Taylor, the General admitted he took the responsibility of moving across the Nueces, caused me to write you this letter. The publication of an admitted private conversation that NEVER TOOK PLACE, it amounts to the committal of the most offensive falsehood.

## HOW GEN. TAYLOR CAME TO CROSS THE NUECES.

Notwithstanding the pertinacity with which the supporters of the Polk administration have defended the order given to Gen. Taylor to march to the Rio Grande, on the false and flimsy pretext, as admitted by themselves in various official acts, that that river, from its source to its mouth, constituted the true boundary between Texas and Mexico—an assumption, which, if it had been well founded, would not only have justified the order in question, but rendered it imperative—they have nevertheless implicitly confessed that it was a great blunder, by endeavoring to divide the responsibility of that act between the Administration and Gen. Taylor—which they would never have done had the act itself been a defensible one. For this purpose they seized, in the first place, upon an expression in one of Gen. Taylor's letters to the War Department, to the effect that the army ought promptly to take its position at some eligible point on the Rio Grande, if the President had determined to insist, as a *sine qua non*, upon that river as the boundary. But this perversion of a suggestion founded upon a contingency over which the President alone had control, into a positive recommendation, is manifestly so preposterous and absurd that it has been abandoned except by a few of the more unscrupulous party hacks, who, like the witness that had testified that a certain horse in dispute was fourteen feet, instead of fourteen hands high, refused, as he had once sworn to it, to retract his declaration. More recently, however, a convenient witness against General Taylor upon this point was found in one Dr. Rimmell, of Hinds county, Mississippi, who transmitted to one of the representatives of that State in Congress a fabulous narrative of a conversation between Gen. Taylor and himself, in which the General was made to assume the entire responsibility of bringing on the war with Mexico, by the movement of his army from the Nueces to the Rio Grande, and entirely to exculpate Mr. Polk from all censure in respect to it!—Even if the fact were so, we are at a loss to conceive why the friends of the Administration should in one breath contend that all the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande belonged to Texas, and therefore that the President was bound to take possession of it, while they assert in the next that he would not have discharged this high and solemn obligation had he not been prompted so to do by Gen. Taylor's advice! They betray, by this mode of argument, their own conviction, that the order to Gen. Taylor to advance from Corpus Christi was unjustifiable in itself. Otherwise they would place the President's vindication upon the impregnable ground of right and duty, instead of endeavoring to show that it was necessary that he should be instigated to its performance by Gen. Taylor's recommendation.

The New Orleans National throws additional light on the subject, by the publication of the following letter from Baton Rouge. (Gen. Taylor's place of residence,) written, it informs us, "by a gentleman acquainted with the facts," (not improbably by Major Bliss.) It not only exonerates Gen. Taylor from all agency in advising that act of war, but shows that he would not even cross the Nueces until he had received positive instructions from the War Department:

BATON ROUGE, April 27, 1848.

Editor of the Evening National: The National Intelligencer of the 8th instant contains the proceedings of the lower House of Congress of the previous day, the spirit of which is, to force the impression on the people of the country, that Gen. Taylor originated the order, and marched on to Matamoros by his own will and judgment. That any member of Congress should be so unscrupulous or so ignorant of the true history of General Taylor's movements, is a matter of surprise, as documents already published by the "War Department" give the outlines, if not the particulars, relative to the subject, so clearly, that there need be no justifiable cause of misrepresentation.

When Gen. Taylor was ordered to Mexico, he was instructed to take up a position near the Rio Grande, POINT ISABEL BEING NAMED AS A PROPER PLACE, but in consequence of hav-

ing large discretionary powers, he preferred to take a position on undeniably American soil, rather than infringe upon disputed territory.—He therefore made his headquarters at Corpus Christi, a place that, beyond its being within the acknowledged boundary of Texas, was convenient, and in no way favorable for an encampment—still General Taylor prepared to suffer every evil incident to his situation, rather than in any way compromise his government.—After General Taylor had been some time at Corpus Christi, Maj. Donaldson, the representative of the United States government in Texas, came to Taylor's camp for the especial purpose of advising General Taylor not to cross the Nueces, lest he should involve the government in a war with Mexico; Gen. Taylor in the mean time having been informed by "the government" that it wished him to confer with Maj. Donaldson. In the course of events, Maj. Donaldson left Gen. Taylor's camp, and there came on from Washington letters to Gen. Taylor, informing him that he should move part of his force west of the Nueces. Gen. Taylor not wishing to divide his small command and the government having relieved him of the responsibility of crossing the Nueces, he took his whole force over, as he could by so doing, readily obtain a good camping ground, and a depot convenient for his military stores. The events that followed this movement on the part of Gen. Taylor are familiar to the world. The above is a true statement of the preliminaries that led to the advance of our army on Matamoros. The main facts can be gathered, as I have stated, from the "public documents" already published, containing the correspondence of Gen. Taylor with the war department, previous to the battles of the 8th and 9th of May. Other facts stated can be proved if denied.—The most superficial observer must perceive, that Gen. Taylor has never been inconsistent, and that charges made against him, whether frivolous or of weight, when examined into, only cause his prudence and strict "obeying of orders" to be more and more admired. The statement made in Congress that some individual from Mississippi had called on General Taylor at Baton Rouge, and that in a long conversation he had with General Taylor, the General admitted he took the responsibility of moving across the Nueces, caused me to write you this letter. The publication of an admitted private conversation that NEVER TOOK PLACE, it amounts to the committal of the most offensive falsehood.

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