

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12, 1847.

In a few days, I hope you will see the correspondence which took place between Mr. Winthrop, as the nominee of the whig caucus for the Speaker, and the three members of the abolition party.

The abolitionists did not attend the caucus. But, on Sunday, the day following the nomination, they addressed a note to Mr. Winthrop, requiring from him, as the condition on which they would vote for him, that he should give them the control either of the Committee of the District of Columbia, or the Committee on Territories. Mr. Winthrop refused to give the pledge, and the whole party voted against him.

There is still another remarkable fact in connection with this matter. Every Southern whig vote given in the caucus, was given in favor of Mr. Winthrop. Mr. Winthrop received but 59 votes out of the 97 cast, and it follows that he was the choice of the Southern whigs. The Southern whigs are anti-proviso men, and it is evident that they preferred Mr. Winthrop to any other whig, being willing to trust to his high character as a gentleman, for a proper administration of the duties of the chair, in reference to all the very delicate questions which may divide the whig party.

The Committee on Territories is to be a very important Committee. The proposition of the President to establish a permanent territorial government over a large part of Mexico, will go to that Committee. The anti-slavery proviso will come from that Committee, if from any Committee.

The Committee on Territories, at the last Session, though it was democratic, reported the Oregon bill, with a proviso excluding slavery. That bill was, on account of the proviso, lost in the Senate. After being handed about for a while by different Committees, it finally fell into the hands of the Judiciary Committee, which was anti-proviso, and there it slumbers still. Besides the new States to be carved out of Mexico, the Committee will, doubtless, propose four new territorial governments in our present limits, viz: Nebraska, West of Missouri; Iowa, North of Wisconsin; Minnesota, West of the same, and another Territory running up to the extreme North-Western boundary. There are four States with eight Senators ready, in a few years, to come into the Union, as non-slaveholding States.

There are even more coming than Mr. Calhoun dreamed of last winter. It is highly probable that the Northern part of Texas may also be ultimately formed into a non-slaveholding State.

The case of the Committee on Territories in both Houses will be regarded with interest. The Fremont trial draws now to its close. It is yet impossible to say what is likely to be the decision of the Court. It is a question of some nicety, whether in the quarrel between land and naval commanders, Lt. Col. Fremont had not a right to obey one, or the other, at his discretion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13, 1847. The announcement of the Committees of the House is the important event of the day.

There is a complete change from the cast of last year. I give a few of the more important of the Committees:

Foreign Affairs—Messrs. Smith, of Conn.; Hilliard, Alabama; C. J. Ingersoll, Pa.; Marsh, Vt.; Rhetts, S. C.; Pendleton, Va.; Duer, N. Y.; McClellan, Michigan; Duncan, O.

Those in italics are whigs, but are not all in favor of withdrawing the troops, and putting a stop to the war.

Ways and Means—Messrs. Vinton, Ohio; Tombs, Ga.; M. Kay, N. C.; Hudson, Mass.; Houston, Ala.; Albrecht, Ky.; Pollock, Pa.; Hubbard, Conn.; Nicoll, N. Y.—six whigs. The dominant party usually take six members of this Committee.

Naval Affairs—Messrs. Thayer, Butler King, Ga.; I. F. Holmes, S. C.; Schenck, Ohio; White, N. Y.; Bigby, Va.; Levin, Pa.; Stanton, Tenn.; Cabell, Florida; Tuck, N. H.

Territories—Messrs. Caleb B. Smith, Indiana; Cranston, R. I.; Cobb, Ga.; Rockwell, Mass.; Thompson, Penn.; Galt, N. Y.; Moore, La.; Evans, Ohio; Pillsbury, Texas.

Commerce—Washington Hunt, N. Y.; Griensell, Mass.; Simpson, S. C.; Hampton, Pa.; Thibodeau, La.; Wentworth, Ill.; Gregory, N. Y.; Atkinson, Va.; Bingham, Michigan.

Military Affairs—John M. Boutwell, Va.; Bart, of S. C.; Wilson, of N. H.; Harrison, of Ga.; Dickey, Pa.; Byrd, of Ky.; Norton, N. Y.; Haskell, Tenn.; Fisher, Ohio.

Public Lands—Messrs. Colver, Vt.; Stephens, Ga.; McClelland, Ill.; Duncan, Ky.; Broadhead, Pa.; Putnam, N. Y.; Jameson, Md.; Cobb, Alabama.

The Chairmen of the Senate Committees were selected in caucus by the democratic members, and they were, to save trouble, elected on motion of Mr. Mangum, as follows:

Messrs. Sumner, Foreign Affairs; Alberton, Finance; Dix, Commerce; Dickinson, Manufactures; Sturgeon, Agriculture; Cass, Military Affairs; Rusk, Militia; Fairfield, Naval Affairs; Bease, Public Lands; Yates, Private Land Claims; Atchison, Indian Affairs; Mason, Claims; Bright, Revolutionary Claims; Ashley, Judiciary; Miles, Post Office and Post Roads; Hannegan, Roads and Canals; Johnson, La. Pensions; Cameron, District Columbia; Westcott, Patents and Patent Office; Torrey, Retrenchment; Douglas, Territories; Hunter, Public Buildings; Phelps, Expenditure Senate; Bradbury, Printing; Downes, Engrossed Bills; Pease, Joint Committee on the Library; Rusk, Enrolled Bills.

The Senate will appoint the other members of the Committees to-morrow. The Senate elected all their old Officers—Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Door-keeper and Chaplain.

One of the Western Judges of the Supreme Court, stated to-day that Mr. Clay will not visit this city during the present winter.

The cases in which he is concerned are not ready for trial.

The weather here continues to be miserably wet and gloomy, and the Telegraph is not working.

Some movements are to be made immediately in the House, in opposition to the Post-Master-General's late derangement of the Southern Mail.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1847. The most prominent event of the day is the demonstration made in the Senate by Mr. Dickinson, of New York, on the subject of new territory and of the toleration in the same of slavery.

Mr. Dickinson is of the old hunker party, which, at their Syracuse Convention, rejected the Wilmot proviso. The old hunker, one of whom is Gov. Marcy, support the administration in their war and annexation policy.

The resolutions of Mr. Dickinson take three distinct positions.

First. That true policy requires that the United States should annex contiguous territory.

Second. That in organizing a territorial government over territory that may be acquired, all questions relative to domestic policy (meaning slavery,) be left to the legislature chosen by the people thereof; and

Third. That no condition can be constitutionally imposed on a territory which will be binding upon it when it shall become a free and sovereign State.

The passage of these resolutions will settle nearly all the questions that now vex the public mind. But floods of words must flow before they will even pass the Senate.

Mr. Dickinson, it will be seen, takes the ground assumed by Mr. Dallas in regard to the slavery question—viz: that the federal government has nothing to do with it, either as concerns a territory or a State. That was the ground taken by Mr. Jefferson in regard to the Missouri question.

That our true interests require the annexation of contiguous territory, if it can be justly obtained, is a postulate that will be much disputed, but which the people of this country will, I think, maintain.

I hope that, in a few days, other Senators will show their hands on this subject as freely as Mr. Dickinson has done.

The Senate Committees were appointed to-day. The following two are very important questions in reference to the forming of bills for the establishment of territorial governments, viz:—

Territories—Messrs. Douglas, Bright, Clayton, Butler, Davis, of Mass.

Judiciary—Messrs. Ashley, Butler, Berrien, Westcott, Dayton.

Should the bills for establishing territorial governments in Oregon for in Mexico go to the Committee on Territories, they may be reported with a proviso in favor of the application of the principle of the Missouri Compromise, but not with the Wilmot proviso. The majority is opposed to that proviso. Mr. Douglas, long ago, declared himself in favor of annexing new territory acquired from Mexico, and of applying the Compromise thereto.

The bill establishing a territorial government over Oregon, passed the House last year with a proviso excluding slavery; and it was, therefore, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary in the Senate, where it slumbered till Congress expired. The new Committee will never revive it in its original form, for it consists of four anti-proviso to one proviso man.

Mr. Calhoun, as usual, declines service on any of the Standing Committees.

WASHINGTON, December 15. Much session was produced in the Capital and in the city to-day, by the movement of Mr. Calhoun, on the subject of the conquest of Mexico. Mr. Calhoun's resolutions are as follows:

Resolved, That to conquer Mexico, and to hold it either as a province, or to incorporate it in our Union, would be inconsistent with the avowed object of the war has been prosecuted—a departure from the settled policy of the Government, in conflict with its character and genius; and, in the end, subversive of our free and popular institutions.

Resolved, That no line of policy in the further prosecution of the war should be adopted, which may lead to consequences so disastrous.

Mr. Calhoun will have an opportunity, ere long, to explain and support his resolutions. It is supposed that Mr. Webster and Mr. Benton, when they take their seats will offer their views in the form of resolutions. The whole subject will come up for debate at an early day.

It is not as yet known whether Mr. Calhoun intends to condemn the policy of conquering, holding, or incorporating into the Union any part of Mexico—the provinces of New Mexico and the California; for instance—or whether he aims his resolutions against any line of policy that contemplates the conquest of all Mexico—his own plan is—and he never uses phrases without meaning,—"to conquer Mexico."

The line of policy laid down by the President, in his Message, for the further prosecution of the war, will inevitably lead to all the consequences which Mr. Calhoun refers to. It must lead, if persisted in, to the conquest of all Mexico, and to the holding of it as a province, or its incorporation into the Union. It is presumed, therefore, that Mr. Calhoun will oppose the line of policy proposed by the President, and suggest some proper substitute for it.

The insufficiency of existing laws for the prosecution of the war, and property for what are called "accidents," resulting from the carelessness of steam, has attracted

much attention, and is much to be deplored.

The question of expediency of further legislation on the subject was brought before the Senate to-day, and referred to the Committee on Commerce.

The House of Representatives has, on all day engaged upon an interesting question, the expediency of establishing a Standing Committee to have the direction of all matters relative to foreign commerce. The object is to obtain a Committee that will direct their favorable regard entirely on the subject of trade between the States, coastwise and by internal channels, and "land seas," to the fishing bounty questions, &c.; while the Committee on foreign commerce will have charge solely of those questions that relate to the protection and promotion of commerce between the United States and foreign nations.

The interests of internal trade have now become deeply important to the whole country; so much so as to affect materially the prospects of political parties. Mr. Polk has, it is said by some, alienated many democrats by his veto of the river and harbor bill, as by his course in regard to Mexico. The Chicago Convention was intended to exert such an influence on this subject over Congress and the country, as to put down all opposition to the projects for the promotion of internal trade.

While the debate was going on, a message was received from the President giving his reasons for withholding his approbation from the bill of last Session, making appropriations for the improvement of certain rivers and harbors. The message is long, and occupied an hour in reading.—A debate of much interest followed, and continued till a late hour, on a motion of reference to a Select Committee, in which the whole question of the constitutionality of internal improvements by the aid of the General Government was discussed. Mr. Rhetts made an able argument against the establishment of a Committee on internal trade.

Mr. Holmes, of S. C., at the close of the Session to-day, submitted resolutions with a preamble, against the prosecution of the war with Mexico so far as to destroy her nationality, and in favor of receding to her all territory beyond the Rio Grande; on condition that it give us free ingress and egress to and from the California; and the right of way for a Rail Road to San Diego, or other point on the Pacific; and also certain commercial privileges in her ports, &c.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16, 1847. The debate on internal improvements by aid of the General Government still continues, and is very interesting. Rhetts, in his speech on the subject of the proposed division of the committee on Commerce into a home and foreign department, suggested that the States have the power to levy tonnage duties, with the assent of Congress, and that by resorting to this expedient, they could raise funds for the improvement of their harbors. The same suggestion is made in the President's message, which came in subsequently to this speech.

The States have, heretofore, availed themselves of this mode of raising money for harbor improvements, and I see no reason to doubt, that for the purposes of improving the Lake Harbors, the Northern and Western States could avail themselves successfully of the means thus offered.

But the Whigs and Democrats, are much enraged against the President, on account of his resistance to their favorite policy, and they are not disposed to yield to his opinions. They say they will soon have, if not at this Session, the two thirds, wherewith to encounter the veto. At all events, another caucus will give them, as they say, all that they want in influence and power.

Rhetts justly remarked that the excitement in the House in favor of an Internal Improvement Committee, is an effluence of the Chicago Convention. The influence of that Convention is to be deeply felt at this Session, and indeed, hereafter.

Holmes' resolutions relative to the Mexican war were indistinctly heard, as read from the Clerk's table, last evening, at the moment of adjournment. But, since they have appeared in the papers, and have been deliberately read, they have become the subject of much remark.

They were offered by him, it is said, without concert or consultation with any one on the subject.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17. The day has passed over without any new propositions in relation to the mode of putting an end to the Mexican difficulty, though several were expected.

The Senate did not sit, and the House was not an hour in Session. Meade, the successor of Dromgoole, announced the death of that brilliant and worthy man.

I am happy to state that Boutwell's resolution, directing the Post-master General to renew the engagement with the Washington, Richmond and Petersburg Steam Boat and Rail Road Company; on the terms offered by the Company, was referred to the committee on the Post Office and Post Roads. Goggin, of Va., is at the head of this committee, and I am very sure that the committee will, without delay, report the resolution with a recommendation that it do pass.

It will, as members generally say, pass the House very readily, and I cannot believe that it will be delayed in the Senate. The Cabinet were opposed to Cave Johnson's decision in this case, and so is every one, so far as I can learn.

An article appeared in the Union of last night, denouncing in very bitter terms, those members who have, in the late debate on Internal Improvements, advocated appropriations for those objects.

The editor in his enthusiastic devotion to the prosecution of the war, denounces all who advocate appropriations for other objects

at this time, as enemies of their country, as factious families, as traitors, and so on, to disgrace the present administration.

These were strong and hard words, but Pettit, of Indiana, in his reply to the administration organ this morning, used higher and stronger words.

Pettit is a thorough-going democrat, and in his speech, the other day declared that, more than any other man, he could claim the honor of having named Polk to the Presidential Chair, and of having brought about all the great measures of reform which the Government had recently adopted.

A new line of separation in the democratic party will take place on this subject. It is very true, as the Union says, that if appropriations should be made, at the present Session, for improving the Lake Harbors, &c., the money must be borrowed. All expectation of a treaty of peace has ceased to be cherished here. Though there may be but little more fighting, occupation by an increased force is necessary.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. The Senate did not sit to-day. The House took up the special order, which was the report of the Committee of Rules. The committee reported in favor of abolishing the hour rule and substituting an hour and a half as the limit of the time to be allowed for each speech.

Follock moved to amend the report so as to restore the hour rule. Upon this, a debate sprung up, which lasted for some time, and in which the question was warmly contested on both sides.

The hour rule has produced a beneficial reform in the business and oratory of the House. It is no new nor absurd rule. It was adopted by the Greeks in popular assemblies. The orators spoke *ad clypeum* by the water glass.

The effect of the rule in the House has been to enable young members to be heard, instead of confining the debate to the old and experienced members. It has forced members to condense their arguments and views, whether prolatinated by not. It induces them to study their topics and rise well prepared for the debate. It does not prevent them from enlarging their field of argument or illustration, in the written or speech, which is to be addressed to Bancroft. If a man has any thing to say with a view to convince the House, he can say it in an hour, or never.

The House agreed to stand by the hour rule, but adopted an additional rule, providing that the member who reported, the bill under consideration from any Committee, may open and close the debate; and, further, any member is allowed five minutes in Committee to explain the object, nature and effect of any amendment he may offer.

A proposition so to change the rules as to settle the right of each member to speak in succession, by lot, from among those members who register their names as intending to speak on the subject before the House, was rejected.

Another amendment was agreed to allowing members to address the House on Committee from the Clerk's desk, or a place near the Speaker's chair.

This is a very important improvement, for it will enable the orator to be heard distinctly in every part of the Hall.

This is the custom in the French Chamber. The members speak from the Tribune. We shall have hereafter such familiar phrases as are well known in French parliamentary history, to wit: "Mr. Smith rushed to the Tribune."

A rule was adopted to prevent the consumption of time in fruitless attempts to suspend the rules. The names of members who obstruct business by leaving the Committee of the Whole without argument, are to be reported and entered on the journals.

The list of the new rules reported by the Committee on Rules, provides for the establishment of a new Standing Committee, to be called the Smithsonian Committee, whose duty it shall be to superintend the affairs of the Smithsonian Institute.

Mr. Hilliard, of Ala., the only member of the House who now holds the situation of Regent of the Institution, made a speech in opposition to the measure, showing that it is inconsistent with the act establishing and organizing the Institution. Mr. H. took occasion to deny the truth of the story that the Institution had bought a certain old Bible at an extravagant price. They have bought no Bible at all.

The subject of this last rule was postponed.

Mr. Secretary Walker has addressed a letter to the Committee on Ways and Means, urging an immediate report from the Committee of a bill authorizing a loan of seventeen millions. The Committee will probably report the bill next week.

From the N. O. Delta, December 11. Late and Important from Vera Cruz.

By the arrival of the U. S. sloop Whig, Capt. James, at a late hour last night, we have been put in possession of dates from Vera Cruz to the 30th ult. The Whig landed at the barracks, and to Col. Brewer and Lt. J. Waller, of the 3d Kentucky Infantry, passengers, who came up to the city last night, we are indebted for the following important items of intelligence:

Dates from the capital, to the 24th November, had been received at Vera Cruz. Santa Anna, it was said, had issued another pronouncement against the provisional government, and called on the country to organize a force of 50,000 men to renew the war. He was at the head of a strong force—by some reports 16,000 men, of all arms, and was threatening the Congress, in session at Queretaro, the majority of which was, it was said, strongly inclined to peace. So great were the fears entertained at the capital, of Santa Anna's breaking up the Congress, a la Cromwell, that Gen. Scott had ordered Gen. Worth, with a strong

division, to Queretaro, to protect its deliberations.

The Louisiana battalion of mounted men have had something of a showing with the guerrillas. On the 23d, four of the men of company D left camp to procure some beefs. Their long absence alarmed some in camp, and Lieut. Hunter, of the same company, taking a squad of 20 men, proceeded on the morning of the 24th in search of the missing men. As he approached the rancho of Col. Zenoibia, some 18 miles from Vera Cruz, he was attacked by a strong guerrilla force, and was compelled to retreat to camp. Capt. Geo. Kerr, commanding company C, with 90 men and 8 subalterns, was ordered out to pursue the guerrillas, taking Lieut. Hunter as a guide. On the night of the 24th, Capt. Kerr reached the rancho of Col. Zenoibia, where a strong guerrilla force was posted, and after a short but decisive conflict, succeeded in killing five of the enemy and taking five prisoners. As it was evident that the four men who left camp on the 23d were murdered by a portion of Zenoibia's men, (one of the prisoners taken at the rancho having on the clothing of one of the missing men,) Capt. Kerr proceeded to take ample vengeance on the enemy. The rancho was burned to the ground, and the five guerrillas shot.

This successful expedition of the intrepid Capt. Kerr, and his summary mode of treating the guerrillas, has had a salutary effect upon them—their audacity for some time previously knew no bounds.

The 1st Brigade of Gen. Butler's Division, consisting of the 1st Tennessee and 5th Indiana Regts., under the command of Col. Chesham, moved from Vera Cruz on the 26th ult. On the 28th Gen. Butler, with the 2d Kentucky Regt., and an escort of Dragoons under the command of Capt. Wheat, took up his line of march for the interior. On the 29th the large train, of 700 wagons, and 27 pieces of artillery, started for the capital.

There were various rumors affloat at Vera Cruz when the Whig left, in relation to a contemplated attack by the Mexicans on some of the posts on the line of the Rio Grande, the most tangible of which was, that Gen. Minon was secretly organizing a force to attack the post of Saltillo, now that Gen. Taylor has left. We place but little credit in these rumors, particularly in regard to the alleged Minon's contemplated attack on Gen. Wool's position at Saltillo. Minon was there once before, and will not be likely to try it a second time.

From the N. O. Picayune, Extra, 13th inst. Late and Important from Mexico.

The schr. Portia, Captain Wakeman, arrived here on Sunday afternoon, having sailed from Vera Cruz on the 1st inst. We are indebted to the courtesy of a gentleman who came passenger for letters and papers. The steamer Maria Bart was to have left Vera Cruz the same day, and the bulk of the mail was placed on board of her; but our faithful correspondent of Vera Cruz took the precaution of duplicating some of our letters by the Portia.

The news by this arrival is very important, and first of all the story about Santa Anna's being at the head of 18,000 men, and threatening and overawing Congress, and the despatch of Gen. Worth to Queretaro to protect Congress—all turns out to be mere moonshine; no more authentic than Gen. Scott's famous entry into Mexico in the middle of July last. A gentleman, thoroughly conversant with Mexican affairs, who came passenger on the Portia, assures us that from the best information he could obtain he is satisfied that in place of being in command of eighteen thousand men, Santa Anna has not eighteen hundred, nor even a hundred and eighty followers. With this rumor falls a good deal of very injudicious composition upon the renewal of the glories of Napoleon, the return from Elba, &c.

Gen. Anaya was elected President of Mexico on the 11th inst. He has once before been Provisional President. His present term of office extends only to the 31st of January next. He is known to be in favor of peace. In forming his cabinet he continued Moray y Villalón in the War Department, and made Peña y Peña, late the President's Secretary of State. The whole administration is in favor of an honorable peace, and one of its first acts was to dispatch a commission to the city of Mexico to re-open negotiations with Mr. Trist. The commissioners were Senors Canto, Aristain and Cuevas and General Rincon, the first two having been on the former commission. Mr. Trist's powers had been revoked prior to the arrival of the commission, and as Gen. Scott possessed no powers to treat with them, it is presumed they were referred to our Government at Washington.

The next most important intelligence by this arrival is the reported arrest of Gen. Worth, General Pillow and Lieut. Col. Duncan by Gen. Scott. The verbal report is that letters written by these gentlemen reflecting upon the commander-in-chief had fallen into his possession, upon which he at once arrested them. We have not yet received any letters from the city of Mexico later than the 24th of November. They made no mention of these arrests, but we have letters on the Maria Bart from the city of Mexico, which we presume will elucidate the whole matter.

The following letter contains political news of interest and importance, though one sentence is confused, and we fear something is omitted. It appears altogether probable that the Mexican Congress has been dissolved by the withdrawal of the Puros, so that no quorum can be obtained.

Mexico, Nov. 24, 1847. A Senator Zalata, who some time since brought forward a resolution to erect the city of Mexico into an independent State during the occupation by the American army, which proposition was rejected by the Congress with scorn, has again made himself the laughing stock of the nation by another proposition, no less than that

the federal compact should be broken, the union destroyed and the cry be given to the State, "sans qui parit." The proposition was received with indignation and rejected at once.

The Governors of the States are still in session at Queretaro, and have proposed two questions to the Government, to which they demand clear and peremptory replies.

1st. In what character they have been called together and will the Government submit to their decision.

2d. Will the Government make known, with clearness and frankness, the programme of its policy with regard to peace or war.

A correspondent of El Monitor says that it was understood the Government had answered these questions by stating that they had been called together solely for the purpose of throwing light upon the subject; that the General Government would be able in some manner to surrender its powers, and that it was more inclined to open or continue negotiations of peace than to prosecute the war.

The British Charge d'Affaires had arrived at Queretaro and taken up his temporary residence in that city.

There is no how as yet as to the dissolution of Congress in consequence of the purus, but it appears to be universally believed here that there is not a quorum left, and it is said that President Anaya has written to Gen. Rincon and several other influential persons, requesting them to repair to Queretaro and confer with them as to what steps he should take in the present crisis.

Here is an extract from another letter which gives us an account of a sharp affair with guerrillas, which is very creditable to our arms:

MEXICO, Nov. 10, 1847. On the 8th inst. thirty-six wagons belonging to merchants in this city and Puebla, left the latter place with a lot of tobacco, dry goods and bran, bound for this city. One reaching San Martin, Gen. Rea and Terceiro, in command of the guerrilla forces there, made a descent upon the wagons, captured them and started off for Queretaro via Tlaxcala.

Information was conveyed to Gen. Don Pablo, who started after them with a force of infantry and the cavalry command of Capt. Roberts. When they reached Tlaxcala they found the enemy there and Capt. R. who had been sent to the rear of the town, seeing a movement to run off the train, charged upon the guerrillas, completely routing them, killing seven and taking thirteen officers prisoners. In the mean time a portion of the wagons which had been taken a mile from the town by a party of the enemy, were set on fire and six destroyed, before the infantry came up, who rescued the remainder. I think this will be a lesson to the guerrillas, and teach them that the Americans are determined to protect the mercantile interests of this country, no matter to what nation the merchants may belong.

Santa Anna has assumed the command of the army in Oajaca. He says that he was deprived of the command by Peña y Peña, in order that the latter might find no obstacle in making peace with the Americans. He avows his determination to oppose any negotiation for peace with the American forces occupying any portion of the Mexican territory.

Moray Villalón has been nominated Secretary of War. Torrel left Queretaro on the 14th for Morelia to take up his quarters there as general.

Yesterday a new paper called the Yankee Doodle, made its appearance.

Percy M. Doyle Esq., the new British Minister or Charge d'Affaires at Vera Cruz in the steamer Vision on the 30th ult.

The Arco Iris says that Gen. Patterson's division left Jalisco on the 25th ult. Before his departure he hung on the 231, two American teamsters, for having killed a Mexican boy twelve years old. He says of also to be executed, the next day, the two Mexican officers, Garcia and Acosta, (belonging to the 8th and 11th regiments) who were taken prisoners contemplating guerrillas, without having been exchanged. The people buried them in great pomp and ceremony, upon which General Patterson sent for the clerics, who said that the funeral had been spontaneous with the people, and that he had no power to prevent it; besides he remarked that notwithstanding the great number who had attended the ceremony, order had not been disturbed in the slightest manner.

We have been informed that Padre Martin (the second Jarauta) has been made prisoner while sleeping in one of the garrets of the city of Mexico.

Senor Otero brought forward his proposition in the Mexican Congress for depriving the Executive of the power to allocate any part of the territory of the Republic by a treaty of peace. The proposition was rejected by a large majority which is deemed a favorable omen.

It will be seen by the following general orders which we find in the Free American that a train was to leave the city of Mexico on the 25th ult. for Vera Cruz. Mr. Trist will come down with that train.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 357. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Nov. 24, 1847.

Notice is hereby given, that a small train will leave for Vera Cruz about the 25th inst. Officers and soldiers desirous of forwarding letters by the conveyance, will leave them at the Army Post Office, up stairs, in the same building with the city Post Office, on the street leading from the Palace to the Alameda.

The general principles which will govern the general-in-chief in permitting officers and enlisted men to leave this country, are laid down in General Orders No. 249 and 322, as follows:

"No officer can be permitted to leave any part of the Army, except on application to general headquarters, thro' the usual channels, beginning with a medical officer's certificate—setting forth dis-