

Letters from the Army

The following extracts from the regular correspondence of the New Orleans Picayune...

PUNTIAGUDA, Mexico, Sept. 7, 1846.

Gentlemen—We arrived here with Col. Wilson's command, yesterday at 10 o'clock...

By order of Maj. Gen. Taylor, W. W. S. BLISS, Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

On the Road to Monterey, Mexico, 14 miles from Marin, in camp, September 15, 1846.

We are encamped for we know not how many hours—for an express has just arrived from Gen. Taylor...

Sept. 14.—The 2d division, under Gen'l Worth, which was ordered to march to-day...

The tents were at once struck and packed—wagons were brought up to receive the tent poles, camp kettles, &c.—private mules and pack-horses were harnessed—camp women...

We are bivouacked in a thicket of trees, or large shrubs, all of which have thorns...

CERRALVO, Mexico, Sept. 11, 1846.

Gentlemen—The following order has just been read at parade. It is important, and I hasten to furnish you with it in time for the express or mail carrier who goes down to-morrow...

Headquarters Army of Occupation, Cerralvo, Sept. 11, 1846.

[Orders No. 115.]—1. As the Army advance to meet resistance in the further advance towards Monterey...

From this point the following will be the order of march until otherwise directed:

2. All the pioneers of the Army, consolidated into one party; will march early to-morrow on the route to Marin...

3. The 1st division will march on the 18th inst., to be followed on successive days by the 2d division and field division of volunteers...

4. The subsistence supplies will be divided between the three columns, the senior commissary of each division receiving for the stores and being charged with their care and management...

of divisions will report to Capt. Waggoner for this duty.

5. Each division will be followed immediately by its baggage train and supply train, with a strong rear-guard. The ordnance train under Capt. Ramsay will march with the 2d division...

6. The troops will take eight days' rations and forty rounds of ammunition. All surplus arms and accoutrements, resulting from casualties on the road, will be deposited with Lieut. Stewart...

7. The wagons appropriated for transportation of water will not be required, and will be turned over to the quartermaster's department for general purposes.

8. Two companies of the Mississippi regiment will be designated for the garrison of this place. All sick and disabled men, unfit for the march, will be left behind, under charge of a medical officer to be selected for this duty by the medical director.

By order of Maj. Gen. Taylor, W. W. S. BLISS, Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

On the Road to Monterey, Mexico, 14 miles from Marin, in camp, September 15, 1846.

We are encamped for we know not how many hours—for an express has just arrived from Gen. Taylor, bringing orders for us to overtake him in the morning—and I will foot up our progress to this place by copying from my note book:

Second division of the select six thousand—march from Cerralvo to Monterey.

Sept. 14.—The 2d division, under Gen'l Worth, which was ordered to march to-day...

The tents were at once struck and packed—wagons were brought up to receive the tent poles, camp kettles, &c.—private mules and pack-horses were harnessed—camp women, with children at the breast, and of all sizes, packed themselves and little ones upon Mexican mules and ponies...

We are bivouacked in a thicket of trees, or large shrubs, all of which have thorns...

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than rose bushes from the town, yet the tents are almost completely hidden from view, and nothing marks the presence of an army...

MARIN, Mexico, Sept. 15, 1846.

This place was entered by the first division of our troops this forenoon, and, contrary to the expectations of many, without a gun being fired. Early in the morning, at Ramos, Gen. Taylor despatched McCulloch's Rangers to reconnoitre...

With a force entirely too small to approach nearer, having only 25 men with him, McCulloch ordered a halt. The plaza was concealed from sight by the church and the adjoining buildings...

For an hour we sat watching the hurried movements of the cavalry in the town, unable to make out their intentions.

In about an hour the cavalry began to move off in order, taking the route towards Monterey, now distinctly seen lying at the foot of a large mountain ten or eleven leagues off.

The first ball from the batteries fell short, striking the ground before reaching the point where we had been halted, tearing up the ground, and then ricocheting along through the chaparral...

The firing from the fort continued until the Mexicans had wasted six or eight or 12-pound shots: the Texan regiment being now ordered to retire out of reach of the batteries...

Half-past 2 o'clock, afternoon.—Capt. Pike Graham, with a squadron of dragoons, and Capt. Gillespie's company of Texan rangers...

Three o'clock.—A heavy firing of artillery, now distinctly heard in camp, would denote that Major Mansfield has been disturbed in the reconnoissance.

Half-past 5 o'clock.—I have just returned from a visit to the works of the enemy, a party of us going almost within point blank range of their guns...

After all this "large and elegant assortment" had been opened, our orderly sergeant—the son of a member of Congress from Tennessee—rigged himself out in the showy uniform of the Mexican officer...

From the western limit of Marin you look down upon a plain nearly two hundred feet below. This plain or wide valley extends to the foot of the mountains, five or six miles distant...

bystanders and to the great danger of stampeding all our horses. Altogether the scene was extremely diverting, and I put it down as a little episode in the life we have led of late.

Camp near Marin, Sept. 17, 1846.

Just as the mail was closing the following proclamation of Ampudia was handed to me. It is the "weakest invention of the enemy" I have ever seen, and it is unnecessary to say will have no more effect than the falling of a leaf among our soldiers:

Army of the North. Gen'l in Chief. Headquarters, Monterey, Sept. 15th, 1846.

It is well known that the war carried on to the Republic of Mexico by the Government of the United States of America is unjust, illegal and anti-Christian, for which reason no one ought to contribute to it.

The Federal Government having been happily re-established, a large number of Battalions of the National Guard in the States of Coahuila, St. Louis Potosi, Guanajuato, Queretaro and others, are ready to be on the field and fight for our independence.

Acting according with the dictates of honor and in compliance with what my country requires from me, in the name of my Government I offer to all individuals that will lay down their arms and separate themselves from the American Army, seeking protection, they will be well received and treated in all the plantations, farms or towns, where they will first arrive...

To all those that wish to serve in the Mexican army their offices will be conserved and guaranteed.

I have no time for comment, as the express rider's bag is closing, but you ought to hear the laughing his proclamation has excited in camp.

CAMP NEAR MONTEREY, Sept. 19, 12 o'clock, M.

A fire has been opened this morning from the batteries of the enemy. About 8 o'clock, Gen. Taylor being in advance with the two Texas regiments, the Bishop's Palace appeared in sight. It is on a commanding eminence, about a mile and a quarter or a mile and a half from the city, and is strongly fortified with a new-made ditch around it...

A heavy fog hung like a mantle over the city as we neared it, concealing every thing from sight; but when within a mile and a half the fog slowly lifted, and now could plainly be seen the forts and batteries of the Mexicans. The tri-colored flag was waving over the main fort, but no other banner could be seen.

Gen. Taylor kept steadily on, in the advance, until within some fifteen hundred yards of the city, when suddenly a dense smoke from one of the batteries, followed by the loud boom of a twelve pounder, caused a sudden halt. I should have previously said that before the city appeared in sight a sharp rattling of musketry announced that our pickets had come in collision with the outposts of the Mexicans. The latter fired a heavy volley at our men, but fortunately no one was killed or wounded.

The first ball from the batteries fell short, striking the ground before reaching the point where we had been halted, tearing up the ground, and then ricocheting along through the chaparral...

The firing from the fort continued until the Mexicans had wasted six or eight or 12-pound shots: the Texan regiment being now ordered to retire out of reach of the batteries...

In an hour's time we were again within sight of their batteries, which they opened once more with their heaviest guns; yet not a man or horse was struck. A 9-pound shot, as it came bouncing along through the bush close by us, stampeded a pack animal to the great danger and disarrangement of the baggage—this was all the loss so far. In ten minutes more, and while their batteries were still at work upon us, we were ordered to retire upon Gen. Taylor, who had encamped the entire Army at some cool delicious springs of water in a pecan grove about three miles from the city.

Half-past 2 o'clock, afternoon.—Capt. Pike Graham, with a squadron of dragoons, and Capt. Gillespie's company of Texan rangers, is now out with Major Mansfield and Capt. Saunders and Scarritt, of the Engineer Department, on a reconnoissance—the dragoons and rangers being sent to support and cover them. It is thought the Mexicans have at least fifty caissons in position.

Three o'clock.—A heavy firing of artillery, now distinctly heard in camp, would denote that Major Mansfield has been disturbed in the reconnoissance. He will go to the Bishop's Palace, however, and into the very city, if the service demands. Gen. Taylor, with all his staff and other officers, are going out in an hour to survey the ground between this and the city.

Half-past 5 o'clock.—I have just returned from a visit to the works of the enemy, a party of us going almost within point blank range of their guns, but scattering about so that they never could get more than a single man to fire at. They have given Graham's and Gillespie's companies at least a dozen rounds, but without injuring a man. A heavy ball passed within a foot of one of the latter's men, and so close to the horse that he shrunk almost to the earth. We thought at first that both man and horse were stricken to the ground, but it was only the widgeon of the ball that frightened the latter. My old friend, Tom Hancock, of Santa Fe memory, remarked, that "the Greasers shot uncommon well for them," and he has had as much experiment

in this way as any man living. Capt. Ridgeley and Co. Peyton, while approaching to examine a battery at the edge of the town on the Calidorete road, were fired upon by a party of lancers stationed close by—neither injured, although the "scopet balls," as the boys call them, flew all about them.

At 10 o'clock, night.—The engineers, with Graham and Gillespie, have just come in safe, after proceeding even as far as the Saltillo road on the other side of the Bishop's Palace. Major Mansfield reports that there are several commanding positions that can be stormed and taken—one a battery of five guns. The intentions of Gen. Taylor will be known to-morrow, but I do not think that anything will be done before Monday.

AMPUDIA'S ADDRESS TO HIS TROOPS.—The following is a translation of Gen. Ampudia's address to his troops upon learning of the advance of Gen. Taylor upon this city, forwarded to us by our correspondent. The address is conceived in good taste, and it is useful in showing the mounted force of the enemy hovering upon the skirts of our army, and the estimation in which Ampudia held Gen. Taylor's troops.

The General-in-Chief of the Army of the North to his companions in arms. Soldiers—The enemy numbering only 2500 regular troops, the remainder being only a band of adventurers without valor or discipline, are, according to reliable information, about advancing upon Cerralvo, to commit the barbarity of attacking this most important place. We count near 3000 regulars and auxiliary, cavalry, and these will defeat them again and again, before they can reach this city. Soldiers, we are constructing fortifications, to make our base of operations secure, and hence we will sally forth at a convenient time and drive back this enemy at the point of the bayonet.

Soldiers! three great virtues make the soldier worthy of his profession: discipline, constancy under fatigue, and valor. He who at this moment would desert his colors, is a coward and a traitor to his country. Our whole Nation, and even foreign countries are the witnesses of your conduct. The question now is, whether our independence shall be preserved or forever lost; and its solution is in your hands.

I have assured the Supreme Government of the triumph of our arms, confiding in your loyalty and enthusiasm and we will prove to the immortal Hidalgo, Morelo, Alencar, Iribide and so many other heroes who knew how to die combating for the independence of our cherished country.

Soldiers! victory or death must be our only device. Pedro de Ampudia, Headquarters, Monterey, Sept. 14, 1846.

VERY IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The U. S. ship-of-war John Adams, Commander McCloney, from Vera Cruz, the 25th ult., touched off the S. W. Pass on the 7th inst., on her way to Pensacola. Lieut. Kennedy, late of the U. S. schr. Forward, came passenger in her, and left her at the Balize, arriving in the city yesterday afternoon. From this gentleman we have learned the following particulars regarding the Blockading Squadron: The whole of the officers and crew of the Troxton, who surrendered to the Mexicans, after the loss of that vessel off Tuspan, have been released; the officers on parole, the men under a pledge for a due exchange. Capt. Carpenter, the late commander of that ill-fated vessel, Purser Cutter, Mr. Wilkinson, Captain clerk, and many of her crew came passengers on the John Adams. The rest of the officers and crew were taken on board the store ship Relief, at Antonio Lizardo, and were to sail for Pensacola in a few days after the departure of the John Adams; she was only awaiting the arrival of the schr. Forward, Capt. Nones, which had been despatched to Tuspan, on the 25th ult., to take on board ten or twelve men, who had been left there sick by Capt. Carpenter, when he left for Tampico after surrendering himself and crew. The U. S. frigate Raritan, Capt. Gregory, from Pensacola, and the steamer Vixen from N. York, arrived off Vera Cruz on the 22d ult; the latter having on board Com. M. C. Perry. The marine who was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to die, for striking Lieut. Taylor, of the loop of war St. Mary's, was hung, at the yard-arm on board that vessel on the 29th ult. The schr. Flit, Lieut. Sinclair, had sailed for Norfolk, Va., for repairs. The brig Porpoise was on a cruise to the Southward; the Somers and St. Mary's were blockading Vera Cruz. The remainder of the squadron were at Sacrificios, where there were lying at anchor several foreign men-of-war.

CITY OF MEXICO.—In addition to the intelligence which we have given in the preceding paragraphs, we have learned from another source some incidents of considerable interest to the public, which have lately transpired in the interior of Mexico.

Santa Anna, as it appears, has suddenly become the chief head, and hope of the war party to Mexico, which indeed, to say the truth, embraces nearly the whole of the population. He is now, or was at latest dates, in the city of Mexico, arranging the plan of an extensive campaign against the several American corps d'armes, organizing, recruiting, encouraging, exhorted the inhabitants not only of the capital, but the whole country, with a view to meet the danger that threatens Mexico with the whole of her defensive resources.

We find that Santa Anna had at length quitted his retreat—his Hacienda—where he had been no doubt lying by for the opportune moment to arrive when he could best exhibit himself to the inhabitants of the capital, and profit by their enthusiasm, pushed to an extreme by their alternate hopes and fears. On the 14th ultimo, he reached Azotla, a small town distant ten or twelve leagues from the city of Mexico. Here he received a communication from Almonte, the ad interim Secretary of War, proposing to him the supreme Execu-

tive power, or Dictatorship. This offer was made on the part of the provisional Government, organized by General Silas, after the fall of Paredes.

Santa Anna replied immediately to the mission of his partisan, Almonte, who is said to be body and soul devoted to the interests of his patron. He evinces considerable reluctance to profit by the generous confidence exhibited toward him by his countrymen; he declares that he cannot accept the offer made him of becoming Chief of the Republic. His only desire, he protests, is to occupy the post to which he has been nominated, and which he has assumed, that of Commander-in-Chief of the Army, for the purpose of leading it in person against the "perfidious" foe who is now ravishing her very heart. He says that in his exile, he had thought of his country calling on him to defend her, and he hastened home, to be employed in that mission.

This correspondence is shrewdly supposed to be part of a drama, the end of which is to raise this seemingly patriotic, but really ambitious and unscrupulous man, to the supreme Dictatorship.

On the 13th ultimo, then, Santa Anna arrived at the capital, amid rejoicings more enthusiastic than had ever been witnessed before. The people seem to behold in him their savior, and were almost frantic with joy. The testimonials of attachment to his person were unbounded. The next day the most vigorous measures, so far as declarations go, were taken by the Provisional Government. A levy of 80,000 men to recruit the army was ordered. Requisitions were forthwith transmitted to all the principal places in the Republic, for an immediate furnishing of their respective quotas of men.—Puebla, and the whole of the town within a circuit of fifty or sixty leagues of the metropolis, are stated to have complied with the requisition for men, with the greatest alacrity. To facilitate the arming and equipping of this large body of troops, the Government have ordered that duties on all munitions of war shall cease to be levied, until further notice.

In view of this extensive armament of the Mexican people, and putting implicit faith in the oath of the preceding news, (of their authenticity we can have no reasonable doubt, from the main source through which they reach us) it would be madness to temporize any longer with this infuriated people. He has counselled his countrymen to a war a outrance—to draw the sword and fling away the scabbard—to combat for existence—which means to exterminate or expel us from the soil.—A little war now would be little indeed; we should put forth our strength as becomes the greatness of the Republic, and reserve our magnanimity for the hour of victory, for in no way can the Mexicans be treated with, but as prostrate and suppliants.

A rumor was current in town yesterday, that Gen. La Vega, new in this city, had received a letter from General Ampudia, stating that Santa Anna, with fifteen thousand men, was on his march to attack Gen. Taylor—breaking the armistice.

RAIL ROAD MEETING IN ANSON.

Pursuant to a short notice, a number of the citizens of Anson, and from other counties, met in the Court House at Wadesboro.

Wm. B. McCorkle, Esq. was called to the Chair, and A. B. Smith appointed Secretary.

The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting, S. W. Cole, Esq., offered the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, it is believed that the interests of the State of North Carolina are intimately connected with the continuation of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, so as to form a connection with the road in progress of construction to Camden in South Carolina; and that the project is one which ought to call for a hearty response from all portions of our State lying on or near the proposed line.

Resolved, That this meeting feel a deep interest in the success of the undertaking, but only on account of its beneficial influence on the interests of the State at large, but upon us as private citizens.

Resolved, That we approve of the convention proposed to be held in the town of Fayetteville, on the 4th November, proximo, for the purpose of furthering this object.

Resolved, In pursuance of the above resolutions, that the chairman appoint 30 delegates to represent this county in said Convention.

In pursuance of the last resolution, the chairman appointed the following gentlemen delegates: A. Myers, D. D. Daniel, Col. W. P. Johnson, H. B. Hammond, J. R. Hargrave, W. S. Ashe, Col. G. D. Buggan, S. W. Cole, W. E. Troy, J. B. Ingram, J. Paul, David A. Covington, Geo. Dungan, Dr. W. P. Jennings, Col. J. White, A. J. Dargun, Jos. Wall, B. J. Dunlap, J. P. Smith, D. C. Lilly, N. Beverly, M. J. Pickett, E. Nelson, Clement Marshall, Walter R. Leak, P. Richardson, Wm. Allen, Esq.

The Chairman was then, on motion, added to the delegation.

The meeting was addressed by J. R. Hargrave, Col. W. L. Steele, John W. Cameron, Esq. and C. L. Waddill. The last speaker closing his remarks by a very pressing invitation to the delegates to attend the convention, and pledging them, in behalf of the citizens of Fayetteville, a cordial and hospitable reception.

The meeting then adjourned.

W. B. McCORKLE, Ch'n.

A. B. SMITH, Sec'y.

THE REMAINS OF COL. WATSON.—The Independent Blues have appointed Sergeant Samuel S. Mills to proceed forthwith to Monterey, to bring on the remains of their late commander, Col. Wm. H. Watson.—Ball-Sun.

FEMALE INGENUITY.

Harper, the murderer of Meredith, broke jail in Missouri and escaped. This was done by the assistance of his wife. She being in the habit of visiting him, furnished him with an auger, a rope and one of her dresses. Hanging some of her clothes against the wall, knowing they would not be touched, she contrived to work out the mortar and bricks therefrom, carrying them out daily concealed about her person. None ever thought of examining her. The result was the escape of her husband. He was arrested subsequently.