

Van Buren remarked to a friend, previously writing his message recommending the independent treasury: "We cannot know how the immediate constitution may result, but the people will at all events, eventually come right, and posterity will at least do me justice. Be the present issue for good or evil, it is for posterity that I will write this message."

HARRISON.

General Harrison was tall and slender. Although he never had the appearance of possessing a robust constitution yet, such had been the effect of habitual assiduity and temperance, that few men of his age enjoyed so much bodily vigor. He had a fine dark eye, remarkable for its keenness, fire and intelligence, and his face was strongly expressive of the vivacity of his mind and the benevolence of his character. The most remarkable traits of Gen. Harrison's character, and those by which he was distinguished throughout his whole career, were his disinterestedness, his regard for the rights and comforts of others, his generous disposition, his mild and forbearing temper, and his plain easy and unostentatious manner.

He had a most intimate knowledge of the history and foreign and domestic policy of the United States, and from the moderation of his political views and feelings as a party man, although firm, frank, and consistent, he was well calculated for the high station to which he was elevated, and which it is believed he would have filled with ability, and to the satisfaction of the public, during his presidential term, had his life been spared. His talents, although, perhaps, not of the highest order, were very respectable, and united with an accurate knowledge of mankind, enabled him to acquit himself well in the various public stations to which he was called. He was a bold and eloquent orator; and he has left on record numerous evidences of his literary acquirements, besides his correspondence and public papers.

TYLER.

Mr. Tyler is rather tall and thin, with light complexion, blue eyes and prominent features. His manners are plain and affable, and in private life he is amiable, hospitable and courteous. His errors as a politician are ascribed, by some, to a want of judgment, to an inordinate vanity, and the influence of bad advice; to which may be added, extreme obstinacy in persisting in opinions once formed without regard to consequences.

There can be no doubt that Mr. Tyler mistook his position to act with the whig party; and in accepting their nomination for one of the highest offices in the nation, which, by the dispensation of Providence, placed him in the Presidential chair, clothed with the power and patronage of that high station. That the whigs also acted without due reflection, in his nomination, is alike evident; and from these two causes flowed the consequence which resulted on the one side in the embarrassment, difficulties and total loss of popularity of the President with both the great parties of the country; and on the other side, bitter disappointment on the part of the whigs.

POLK.

President Polk is of middle stature, with a full angular brow, and a remarkable quick and penetrating eye. The expression of his countenance is grave, but its serious cast is often relieved by a peculiar pleasant smile, indicative of the amenity of his disposition. The amiable character of his private life, which has ever been upright and pure, secures to him the esteem and friendship of all who have the advantage of his acquaintance.

Few public men have pursued a firmer or more consistent course than Mr. Polk, in adhering to the democratic party in every vicissitude. In 1837, when all his colleagues of the Tennessee delegation, in the House of Representatives, determined to support Judge White of that State as the successor of Gen. Jackson for the presidency, he incurred the hazard of losing his popularity throughout the State, by avowing his unalterable purpose not to separate from the great body of the democratic party in the presidential election.

He therefore became identified with the friends of Mr. Van Buren in Tennessee, who in 1836, where Judge White received the vote of the State by a popular majority of over nine thousand.

Mr. Polk entered upon the stormy career of politics in 1823, when he was chosen to represent his county in the State legislature. He was for successive years a member of that body, where his ability in debate, and talents for business at once gave him representation. In August, 1825, being in his thirtieth year, Mr. Polk was chosen to represent his district in Congress, and took his seat in the national council in December following. In December 1835, he was chosen Speaker of the House, and again chosen to that station in 1837. After a service of thirteen years in Congress he declined a re-election in 1838. In August of that year he was elected Governor of Tennessee, and served for the constitutional term of two years. He was twice a candidate for re-election, but defeated. On the 26th of May 1841, Mr. Polk received the nomination of the democratic national convention for President of the United States.

To this high office he was elected in the same year.

From the N. O. Delta, March 25.

Important from Vera Cruz!

Reconnoissance—Landing the American Forces—Carrying the Resolutes—Loss of Capt. Alburis and seven men—Investment of Vera Cruz—Rescue of Midshipman Rogers—the Squadron, &c. &c.

By the arrival, at an early hour this morning, of the S. br. Ports, Cap. Powell, which left Sacrificos on the 15th instant, we are in receipt of the following highly interesting intelligence from the force co-operating against Vera Cruz. For the facts detailed we are indebted to our correspondence and conversations with passengers.

Troops were landed, after a reconnoissance on the 7th, by Generals Scott, Patterson, Worth, Plow, Quitman, and Twiggs, with their Aids and the Topographical corps, which approached near the shore, towards the direction of the Castle, the guns from San Juan de Ulises opening fire upon the party, throwing shell and round-shot, but without doing any damage to the reconnoicing party—the rounds either passing over or falling short, and the shell, although thrown with precision, bursting at a considerable elevation, doing no harm. One shell passing over the steamer Petrus, (the vessel employed in the reconnoissance,) and another bursting under her bow, without doing her any injury.

The reconnoissance was made while the transports and convoys were lying off at Anton Lizardo; after their return, and the least possible delay, transports and convoys weighed anchor and stood to the southward of Sacrificos, bearing in towards the mainland, with a fair breeze and in gallea style, when they came to anchor, the convoys taking position in such a manner as to protect the disembarkation of the troops, the first, 6000, being landed at 2 o'clock, P. M., on the 9th, and the remainder during the day. The landing is spoken of by persons who were eyewitnesses, as a scene of magnificence, rarely witnessed more than once in a lifetime. The troops landed amounted to the exact number of 12 100.

After the landing, the different columns took up their line of march for the positions assigned to them in the important action and siege of Vera Cruz.

The steamers Vixen and Spire, lying under Punta de Hornos, opened on the city across the point and in the direction of the Castle, with shell and round shot, which was returned by the Castle, but without effect.

Gen. Worth's division, which, it is said, has been assigned to the operations on the left flank of the city, from the localities of the landing on the South and under Punta de Hornos, had necessarily to move in echelon to the rear, past the right, in order to gain his proper position in the execution of which it became necessary to attack and take possession of two redoubts thrown up by the enemy, one of which was a piece of artillery, and both filled with infantry. The redoubts were attacked, charged, and taken, a spirited resistance being made by the enemy, who lost several in killed, wounded, and prisoners—our loss some seven killed and several wounded. Capt. Alburis, of the 2d Infantry, was killed by a round shot, supposed to be from the Castle; the ball severed his head from his body, the same shot taking off the arm of a drummer (a boy) and wounding a private. Capt. Alburis was a Virginian, and formerly conducted a newspaper in Fredericksburg. Col. Dixon, who was wounded in the breast by a musket shot.

The skirmishing was, however, no check to the advancing column, which passed steadily forward to its position on the left and rear of the city, where it halted and commenced the work of entrenchment.

The pipes used for the purpose of supplying the city with fresh water, have been discovered and broken up, compelling us to cut off the supply from the tanks, which are situated some distance from the city.

During the advance upon the rear of the city, passed midshipman Rogers, who had not yet been sent from Vera Cruz, in 1836, where Judge White received the vote of the State by a popular majority of over nine thousand.

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So closely is Vera Cruz now besieged, and so entirely are every means of communication cut off, that, in a few days, the news must reach us that both the city and castle are occupied by our victorious troops.

The general impression seems to be

that the city will surrender in the course of ten days or two weeks. No doubt is expressed of the successful termination of the enterprise.

Camp near Vera Cruz, March 12, morning.

I wrote you a hasty letter last evening, with a short account of the movements of the day. After it was closed, the Rifles under Col. Smith had a brisk action with the enemy, in which the latter, after a partial success at the outset, were finally driven back with considerable loss. This morning the line of investment—some five or six miles in extent—will probably be complete.

I do not think, from all that I can see and learn, that Gen. Scott will be able to plant his batteries for several days to come; and until he can make a good show he will not open upon the town at all. When the bombardment does commence, it will be in earnest.

Capt. Vinton of the artillery has been ordered to take up a position at a line kin or close into the walls of the city, and he has effected without loss. Anticipating an attack upon this point last night, Gen. Worth went out, after dark, with two companies, to support Capt. V.; but nothing occurred. There was some little skirmishing at the different pickets during the night, but otherwise all was quiet.

Col. Harney's dragoons have not as yet arrived, yet their services are greatly needed. It is said that a large train of pack mules, which went out of the city yesterday, took a heavy amount of specie as well as valuables. All this property might probably have been captured, had Gen. Scott had a cavalry force. It was also reported last evening that something like one thousand Mexicans were seen coming in towards sandown, by the main road from Mexico, with a large drove of cattle for the beleaguered city; but as the investment was not then complete, and as we had no cavalry, they could not be taken. I learn, however, that Gen. Twiggs, who commands on the northern side of the city, succeeded during the day in capturing quite a number of cattle. A norther is now blowing, which it is hoped will bring in the 2d Dragoons.

At the magazine, which was captured day before yesterday, a considerable quantity of ammunition was taken. It was evidently of English or American make, as it was labelled "short range," "long range," &c. &c., in good vernacular. The Mexicans managed to get off safely the larger portion of their ammunition, and it is now carefully stowed away inside the city walls.

Capt. Alburis, who was killed yesterday, was sitting at the foot of a tree at the time he was struck. The ball carried away almost his entire head, took off the arm of drummer boy, and wounded a corporal besides. It had gone entirely over one of the Pennsylvania regiments before it reached the spot where the brave but unfortunate captain was sitting.

It would take a page of our paper to give full effect to a description of the first landing of our troops on the afternoon of the 9th—a more stirring spectacle has probably never been witnessed in America. In the first line there were no less than 70 heavy surf boats, containing nearly 4000 regulars, and all of them expected to meet an enemy before they struck the shore. Notwithstanding this every man was anxious to be first—they plunged into the water waist deep as they reached the shore—the "stars and stripes" were instantly floating—a rush was made for the sand hills, and amid loud shouts they pressed onward. Three long and loud cheers arose from their comrades still on board, awaiting to be embarked, and meanwhile the tops and every portion of the foreign vessels were crowded with spectators of the scene. No one who witnessed it will ever forget the landing. Why the Mexicans did not oppose us is a greater mystery than ever, considering their great advantages at the time and that they have since opposed every step of our advance.

The troops, both regulars and volunteers, have suffered incredibly since landing—marching over the heavy sand hills, without water, under a broiling sun during the day, and sleeping out without tents or bedding during the heavy dews which have fallen at night—exposed too, to a continual fire from the batteries of the enemy; yet not a murmur has been heard. Anything can be effected with such troops.

G. W. K.

FROM VERA CRUZ.

The Picayune gives the following epitome of the latest news from Vera Cruz, brought by the ship Oswego, which sailed thence on the 19th ultimo:

The ship Yazoo, with Captain Ker's squadron on board, has been lost on Anton Lizardo. More than one hundred horses were lost.

The ship Diadem, which sailed from this port with two hundred and thirty horses on board, lost all but twenty-seven before her arrival at Vera Cruz.

The ship Louisville, with over one hundred horses on board, landed barely fifty at Vera Cruz, and other vessels with horses on board, have been more or less unfortunate.

The ship Charles, with forty mortars

on board, had not arrived on the 19th instant, but was very anxiously expected by the army.

Col. Duncan lost several of his horses in a gale. The loss of horses is severely felt.

Capt. Kearny, of the U. S. Dragoons, had not landed, and we do not know how many of his horses may have been lost. One dragoon was drowned from the ship Yazoo, and three men from the store-ship Relief were drowned in endeavoring to recure the dragoons.

Gen. Scott had landed ten mortars, but had not opened his fire at last accounts.

Com. Conner fired a salute on the 17th in honor of Gen. Taylor's victories.

The Bulletin thus reports a yet later arrival:

Captain Gliddon, of the ship Oregon, from Anton Lizardo 20th instant, reports that he was on shore in the American camp on the 19th, when it was rumored that General Scott would certainly attack Vera Cruz at 12 o'clock M. 20th instant, and that about one o'clock, some two or three hours after he had sailed, he heard very heavy firing, which he thinks was from the American fortifications. He also states that Gen. Worth, with his detachment, was within seven hundred yards of the city. It was further rumored that the city of Vera Cruz was willing to surrender, but that the inhabitants had received an intimation from the castle that if they did surrender, the castle would fire upon the town and destroy it. There is said to be 1800 soldiers in the city, and 1200 mules, which went out of the city yesterday, took a heavy amount of specie as well as valuables.

All this property might probably have been captured, had Gen. Scott had a cavalry force. It was also reported last evening that something like one thousand Mexicans were seen coming in towards sandown, by the main road from Mexico, with a large drove of cattle for the beleaguered city; but as the investment was not then complete, and as we had no cavalry, they could not be taken. I learn, however, that Gen. Twiggs, who commands on the northern side of the city, succeeded during the day in capturing quite a number of cattle. A norther is now blowing, which it is hoped will bring in the 2d Dragoons.

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The major part of the National Guard, all with the exception of four companies with the whole of the artillery, remained faithful to the government.



The Constitution and the Law the Guardians of our Liberty.

HILLSBOROUGH.

Thursday, April 13,

FOR CONGRESS,

JOHN KERR, Esq. of Caswell.

JOHN KERR, Esq., the Whig candidate for Congress in this district, will address such of his fellow citizens as will meet him at the following places, at the times designated, on the important political questions which now agitate the country, viz:

At Haywood, Chatham county, on Saturday the 1st of May.

At Moore & Mangum's Store, Orange county, on Thursday the 6th of May.

At Vaughn's Cross Roads, Person county, on Saturday the 8th of May.

By an unexpected delay in receiving our supply of paper, we are again compelled to send out the Recorder on a small sheet. We expect it hourly, and think it cannot fail to arrive in time for our next number.

Surrender of Vera Cruz and the Castle.

In to-day's paper will be found a slip from the office of the Mobile Herald and Tribune, furnished to the Charleston Courier by private express, which contains the gratifying intelligence that the city of Vera Cruz and the castle of San Juan de Ulises have both surrendered to General Scott, and that the American flag now floats in triumph over that impregnable fortress; and this, too, was effected with a loss of but 65 men in killed and wounded. The account of the transaction comes to us in an authentic shape, and no one seems to doubt its truth.

Democratic District Convention.

The Democratic Convention which met in this place on Wednesday the 7th instant, nominated ARNOLD W. VENABLE, Esq., of Granville county, as their candidate for Congress in this district. The proceedings of the Convention, though directed to be published in the Recorder, have not yet been handed to us, and therefore do not appear in this week. It was a highly respectable meeting body, delegates were in attendance from all the counties in the district. George Williams, Esq., of Caswell, presided.

The names of Messrs. Venable, of Granville, Cad. Jones, Jr., of Orange, and John A. Jackson, of Chatham, were presented to the Convention for the nomination. The two-thirds principle was adopted to determine the selection, each county being entitled to as many votes as it has Commissioners in the Legislature. The first and several subsequent ballots resulted as follows:

For Venable—Granville 3, Caswell 2, Person 1—6.

For Jones—Orange 4.

For Jackson—Chatham 3.

After two adjournments, and considerable conference and caucusing in the afternoon, the Chatham delegation, at the night session, cast their votes for Mr. Venable, and thus secured him the nomination.

Notwithstanding the seeming difficulty in making their selection of a candidate, we presume they will harmonize in their efforts now that the selection is made. The Whigs will make no calculation upon this division of their opponents, not is there any want of ability in the advocate they have chosen. Our hope for success is in the energy of truth, and the patriotism of the people.

Various resolutions were adopted, as we understand, justifying the President for his course in regard to the Mexican war; and several speeches were made, in which, as we have been told, some new lights were thrown out upon various subjects, such as the cause of the war, and the principles of Democracy! Alas! that they should not have been preserved for the benefit of after ages!

State Elections.

CONNECTICUT.—At the late election in this state the Whigs have completely swept every thing, having elected all the members of Congress, Governor and other State officers, and a handsome majority of the Senate and House of Representatives. The members of Congress elected are as follows: James Dixon, S. D. Hubbard, J. A. Rockwell, and Truman Smith. Last year the state election was carried by the Democrats.

RHODE ISLAND.—The election which took place in Rhode Island on the 7th instant, for State officers and Representatives in Congress, has resulted in another victory to the Law and Order party. Elisha Harris is elected Governor, and Robert B. Cranston is elected to Congress from the Eastern district; in the Western district there is no choice.

Benjamin F. Atkins, charged with the murder of Archibald McDiarmid, in Cumberland county, in July, 1846, was tried at the late Superior Court of Bladen before Judge Battle, and acquitted.