

CELEBRATION OF THE EIGHTH OF MAY AT WASHINGTON CITY.

It was anticipated that the welcome intelligence received last Friday afternoon of the brilliant victory of General Scott at Cerro Gordo, would give animation to the celebration in this City of Saturday evening, and cause a more general illumination than was at first contemplated.

The fireworks were indeed of unequalled brilliancy and splendor, such perhaps as were never before witnessed in our country.

One of the objects presented at this grand pyrotechnical display, was a structure representing the Navy Yard and its extensive buildings.

The grand exhibition of fireworks was preceded by an unusually fine display of variegated rockets, whose beautiful and sparkling colors, all bursting in air, were seen all over the City and miles distant in every direction.

An illuminated tree in Garrison street was one of the most interesting and admired objects of the Navy Yard. All the branches of this tree were hung with illuminated lanterns, presenting at a short distance a curious and very handsome object.

The number of spectators who witnessed this grand display at the Navy Yard, was unusually great. It is thought by many who were present that such an immense gathering of people was never before seen in Washington.

While these exhibitions were in progress at the Navy Yard, the citizens there, always proverbial for their public spirit and hospitality, opened their houses freely to the entertainment of those friends and strangers who honored them with a call.

It was matter of regret to many persons that were very desirous of witnessing the display of fireworks, that they could not do so without losing the sight of the illuminations, transparencies, and other public demonstrations of joy in the western and central portions of our City.

We shall commence our description at the residence of the Mayor on E street, fronting the General Post Office. The illumination of the Mayor's dwelling was remarkably brilliant, the transparencies excellent, and in good taste.

In the large circular transom above the entrance to the house, in semi-circular illumination, were the inspiring words "Cerro Gordo and Chihuahua," on a purple ground. On the window on the right of the entrance, was seen a full length portrait of General Scott, surmounted with the inscription, "Veracruz and St. Juan de Ulua."

On a panel at the base of this transparency was the following inscription: "5,000 prisoners, 2,000 stand of arms, and 400 cannons captured; 10,000 rations issued to the poor of the city. Campaign adorned with humanity." Covering the left wall was a full length portrait of General Taylor, with his arm resting on his white horse.

On an arch above was inscribed "Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey, Buena Vista." On a panel at the base of the transparency was inscribed the following: "Santa Anna: I have 20,000 men, surrender. Taylor: I have 5,000; one and take me. He conquers the enemy; then gives 'aid and comfort' to their starting 'wounded'."

On the left wall, near the entrance, were these transparencies had been sometimes in preparation by Messrs. O'Bryon and Lee, who deserve much credit for the taste and skill manifested by them in the execution of the work.

Continuing along 7th street, which was in general well illuminated, we arrived at the office of the National Intelligencer, which had lights in every window, and numerous transparencies. Of these, which attracted a crowd of observers during the entire display, we noticed, in front of the main building, a large transparency representing Gen. Taylor on horseback.

On the semi-circular transom of each entrance to the National Intelligencer Office were inscribed, in illuminated characters the words "Scott and Taylor." In the course of the illumination, a display of red-fire was made in front of the Office, adding much to the brilliancy of the scene.

Crossing over the way we came to the residence of Mr. John A. Donohoo, at the corner of D and 7th streets. The house and store were brilliantly illuminated. In the upper windows, fronting the Patriotic Bank, were two handsome transparencies.

Proceeding along 7th street towards Pennsylvania avenue, we first met the house and store beautifully illuminated between D street and Louisiana avenue. General Weightman's house over the Bank of Washington, Morse's billiard saloon, the Monterey House, Congress Hall, Provost's billiard saloon, Delany's store, the Shades, Jenkins's bowling saloon, and many other buildings looked remarkably handsome.

We now arrive at Jackson Hall, which is brilliantly lighted and decorated with transparencies by the Democratic Association. In the large window in front of the building is a transparency of unusual size, representing Taylor, Scott, Conner, and Perry.

A smaller transparency represents the battle of Buena Vista. The front windows of Jackson Hall were illuminated with white and red wax candles. The Democratic Association left off a number of beautiful rockets, and had one hundred guns fired at nine o'clock from the mall, near the site of the Smithsonian Institution.

Continuing our walk to the St. Charles Hotel, we first met a house brilliantly illuminated. Although now unoccupied, the St. Charles was so lighted up and handsomely displayed by Col. Charles Lee Jones.

On Capitol Hill many dwellings were illuminated, and the engine-house of the Columbia Fire Company was decorated with a variety of handsome and appropriate transparencies.

In a restaurant on the St. Charles Hotel and continuing our walk to the Union office, we found many houses and stores on both sides of the avenue beautifully illuminated; also in the streets immediately adjoining them.

The two great attractions on this square were the Union office and the Franklin engine-house. Of these it may be truly said that they were brilliantly illuminated and handsomely set out with numerous transparencies.

On the opposite side of the street the Franklin engine-house stands most conspicuously illuminated and decorated. Every window has a transparency; on the steeple of the building is illuminated, Moses applying to the four great battles in Mexico are seen on the transparencies, and several handsome banners float from the steeple and the windows of the building.

Nearly opposite the City Hotel, (late Fuller's) Col. Stambaugh had a handsome transparency in his upper window, representing the coat of arms of Pennsylvania, (viz. two horses rampant, the plough, sheaf, and ship—agriculture, commerce, and manufactures) and inscribed as follows: "Pennsylvania, the old key-stone State! First to respond to her country's call, her soldiers in Mexico were the last to leave the battle-field."

The Mansion House was handsomely illuminated by Mr. Harris. The President's House, the residence of the members of the Cabinet, and the dwelling of Ex-President Adams were also handsomely illuminated.

Most of the printing offices, those of Messrs. Force, J. & G. S. Gideon, and Mr. John T. Towers especially were handsomely illuminated. So also were Foy's, Baker's, and Moran's hotels on D street; the former had a fine transparency in the window. The residence of Gen. Hunter and J. W. Maury, Esq., on C street, were also beautifully illuminated.

On the other side of the street, near the City Hotel, a handsome transparency representing Santa Anna running away at full speed on a mule. It was inscribed "Santa Anna gives a leg-bail!" Senator Benton had three transparencies in his front windows, with appropriate mottoes, viz. "Santa Fe Chihuahua, and the Missourians" commemorating the glorious victories achieved mainly by the gallant volunteers of the State which Col. B. represents. On either side were transparencies inscribed "Buena Vista" and "Cerro Gordo."

The windows of the Corporation portion of the City Hall were illuminated. Flags were flying during the day at all the public places. On the lofty staff at the City Hall, floated proudly the large and beautiful national flag presented last year in front of Washington by the Worst Manufacturing Company of Massachusetts, being made of American bunting, the fabrication of which has been, for the first time in our country, recently introduced by that Company.

The illumination continued about two hours, and was, so far as we could learn, without accident of any kind.—Reported for the National Intelligencer.

THE BATTLE OF CERRO GORDO. Official Despatch of Gen. Scott. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY. April 19, 1847.

Sir: The plan of attack, sketched in General Orders, No. 111, herewith, was finely executed by this gallant army, before two o'clock, P. M. yesterday. We are quite embarrassed with the results of victory—prisoners of war, heavy ordnance, field batteries, small arms, and accoutrements.—About 3,000 men laid down their arms, with the usual proportion of field and company officers.

Our loss, though comparatively small in numbers, has been serious. Brigadier General Shields, a commander of activity, zeal and talent, is, I fear, if not dead, mortally wounded. He is some five miles from me at this moment. The field of operations covered many miles, broken by mountains and deep chasms, and I have not a report, as yet, from any division or brigade.

Pillow's brigade alone, is near me at this depot of wounded, sick, and prisoners, and I have time only to give from him the names of 1st Lieutenant F. B. Nelson, and 2d C. G. Gill, both of the 2d Tennessee foot, (Haskell's regiment,) among the killed, and in the brigade 106, of all ranks, killed or wounded.

Delegates from eight of the Counties of this Congressional District, assembled in Convention on Wednesday last in Washington. The official proceedings of that body we are not yet in possession of, but such of the particulars as we have we lay before our readers. The Convention was organized by the appointment of Col. S. S. Bidle, of Craven, President, John B. Besley, of Washington, and David Carter, of Hyde, Vice Presidents, and F. B. Satterthwaite, of Pitt, and John Harvey, of Craven, Secretaries.

We learn the representation was unusually large, and the best feeling prevailed. LETTER FROM MR. CLAY.—The following letter from the Sage of Ashland to a citizen of Athens, Ga., we find in the Southern Whig:

Dear Sir:—I thank you for your friendly letter of the 5th inst. It comes to me when I am suffering under one of the heaviest afflictions that has ever befallen me, deep as I have drunk out of the cup of domestic sorrow.

It is some consolation to me to know that my beloved son, if death were to come, preferred meeting it on the field of battle in the service of his country. With friendly recollections of our meeting at Augusta and Charleston, I am truly, your friend and obedient servant,

CONVICTION FOR MURDER.—The Port Gibson (Miss.) Herald gives the result of a recent trial held in Claiborne County, Miss. The case was full of atrocity:

J. F. Silas, who was indicted in Hinds County for the murder of Benjamin G. Sims, and who, on application, had the venue changed to this County, was on the 14th inst., arraigned and convicted of murder.

The case was one of the most revolting character, it being proved by witnesses that on the day previous to the commission of the act, he had, "with malice afore-thought," declared his intention to commit the crime.

The evidence of the principal witness, a young daughter of the deceased, was of the most affecting character. She said she had gone down to the road to meet her father on his return home, that she approached she saw the accused rise from a corner of the fence and deliberately shoot him down.

He approached his victim after his fall, and despite her supplications and tears, and the pleadings of her parent, who, as he lay bleeding upon the ground, begged the wretch to spare his life for the sake of his wife and children, the fiend stabbed the dying man in many places, and stamped with his heavy heel upon the face of his victim.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.—By a Letter, published in the New York French paper, it seems that the last terms offered to Mexico by M. Atocha, the adoption of the Rio Grande as far up as the parallel of California, which intersects the Rio Gila, between the 33d and 34th degree of latitude.

A CURIOUS CALCULATION.—What is a billion? The reply is very simple: a million times a million. It is quickly written, and quicker still pronounced; but no man is able to count it.—You may count 160 or 170 in a minute; but let us even suppose that you may go as far as 200; then an hour will produce 12,000, a day 280,000, and a year or 365 days 105,120,000. Let us suppose now that Adam, at the beginning of his existence, had begun to count, had continued to do so, and was counting still; he would not even now, according to the usually supposed age of our globe, have counted near enough. For to count a billion he would require 9,512 years, 34 days, 5 hours, and 59 minutes.

WILLIAM R. WALKER, ESQ. Mr. Walker has withdrawn from the canvass. This will be matter of regret to his personal friends, who know him well, and cherish an abiding and well-placed confidence in his patriotism, his purity, and his talents.

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Foreign Office, March 31, 1847. Sir—I have received your despatch, No. 8, of the 12th ult., stating that measures have been taken for the purpose of raising a subscription in the United States for the relief of the destitute Irish poor.

THE LOCS ACCUSE GEN. TAYLOR favoring the march to the Rio Grande. Was it for this that Mr. Polk tried to supersede him as commander of the forces in Mexico?

GEN. URREA A TENNESSEAN. We have heard a singular story to the effect that the renowned Mexican Chief who has recently so far out run Gen. Taylor, is a native of this State!

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE. A singular circumstance occurred to the Oregon on her passage from Stonington to New York, on the morning of the 29th ultimo.

THE WEBSTER DINNER. The following beautiful song was composed by JOHN R. THOMSON, Esq. of Richmond, Va., and sung at the Webster Dinner:

THE ELECTIONS IN 1847. The next general elections take place in August and so on, as follows:

EDUCATION IN PRUSSIA.—All the children between the age of seven and fourteen years are directed to be either sent to school or educated at home by their parents.

THE TERMS OF PEACE.—By a Letter, published in the New York French paper, it seems that the last terms offered to Mexico by M. Atocha, the adoption of the Rio Grande as far up as the parallel of California, which intersects the Rio Gila, between the 33d and 34th degree of latitude.

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