

THE RALEIGH STAR AND NORTH CAROLINA GAZETTE.

J. LEMAY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

"NORTH CAROLINA—POWERFUL IN MORAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL RESOURCES—THE LAND OF OUR SIBS AND THE HOME OF OUR AFFECTIONS."

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HORRIBLE EMBRACE.

The following terrific narrative is given by a slave:—I had taken a hasty leap over a small rut, and, alighting on something soft and slippery, fell prostrate. Ere I could recover myself I felt something twist round my body and roll me over and over. In a moment it occurred to me that I was within the folds of a serpent. I was squeezed so tightly that I had only time to give one loud scream for assistance and intuitively raised my arms upwards in the endeavour to defend my head and face; being aware, from what I had heard from others, that the serpent would endeavour to make a twist round my neck. I could hear the monster hissing and playing his head round my face, but could not see, either through pain or horror at my situation. I gradually felt my ribs bending beneath its cruel grip and imagined that all was over with me, when, to my unexpressed relief, I heard the voice of my friends; one of whom, with his cutlass, at one blow severed the monster's head from its body. It still, however, held me firm in his grip, but speedily two or three of my faithful attendants threw themselves on the tail part of the animal, whilst another cut about two feet off from its extremity. Instantly I felt relieved, but was quite unable to stand or speak. Fortunately water was at hand, and I soon came to myself, though now quite unconcerned about pursuing antelope or any other game, for that day at least. The stench which proceeded either from the breath of the serpent, or from its fluids when exhaled, was suffocating; and when relieved from its folds I was covered with blood and slime. As near as we could make out its dimensions the serpent was about sixteen feet in length, and at the thickest part it was about the size of a leg of a stout man. It was a box constrictor, and its bite was not poisonous; although it left a mark or two on one of my arms which did not wear off for some years. For many days afterwards I shuddered at the sight, or even at the mention, of a snake of any description; and for a long while after I occasionally screamed out in my dreams. Nor have I altogether got quit of my horror even at this day.

DONIPHAN AND HIS COMMAND.

Col. Doniphan, with seven companies of his command, arrived at New Orleans on the 14th ult., there to be paid off and mustered out of the service—their term of enlistment having expired. It is no disparagement to even the most heroic battalion the army has contained since the opening of the war, to say, that the command of Col. Doniphan, in its distant and dangerous campaign, has done itself and its government as great a degree of honor, and as valuable, faithful and really astonishing service, as has ever been rendered by a like body of men in any country the sun ever shone upon. They have conquered the states of New Mexico and Chihuahua, and traversed Durango and New Leon, travelling six thousand miles, in which time not one word was received from the government, nor any supplies of any kind, or orders to pay. The army lived on the country exclusively, and supplied itself with ammunition taken from the enemy. Eleven pieces of brass cannon, trophies of Sacramento, are now at Brazos Santiago, on their way to Missouri.—Gen. Taylor, having, in consideration of the gallantry and noble bearing of the Missouri troops, issued an order permitting them to bring home the cannon and other trophies taken by them in the battles of Bracito and Sacramento. The army at Chihuahua has within the year, fought three consecutive battles, viz: Bracito, Sacramento, and El Paso. That of Bracito was on Christmas day, and opened an entrance into El Paso del Norte. The Mexicans had twelve hundred and fifty men and one piece of artillery; the Americans four hundred, and twenty five infantry; the piece of cannon was captured, and the Mexican army entirely destroyed. This battle—one of the most remarkable in the war—is familiar through the reports of Col. Doniphan and other field officers. The battle of El Paso was fought about the 13th of May, by the advanced guard under Col. Reid—the Americans had twenty-five men and the Camanches sixty-five. The Indians were routed and left seventeen bodies on the field, three hundred and fifty head of cattle, twenty-five Mexican prisoners, and a great deal of Mexican plunder. The column made forced marches from Chihuahua to Matamoros, and performed the distance of nine hundred miles in forty-five days, bringing with it seventeen pieces of heavy artillery. A day was spent at Gen. Wool's camp at Buena Vista, another at Gen. Taylor's camp at San Domingo Grove. Both generals reviewed the column and passed the highest encomiums upon its discipline and deeds of valor. The United States forces at the battle of Sacramento, consisted of 224 Missouri volunteers, with four 6-pounders and two 12-

pound howitzers. We lost but one killed and eleven wounded. The Mexican forces, on the contrary, mustered 4,220 rank and file, and had with them ten pieces of artillery, varying from 4 to 10-pounders, and 7 1 pound culverines. The Mexicans lost about three hundred killed, five hundred wounded, all their artillery, baggage, stores and ammunition; and the rest of the troops were "scattered to the four winds of Heaven."

A NEW KIND OF WHEAT.—The Baltimore Sun of Friday says:—"We have now before us some heads of what is called 'Polish wheat,' taken from the Bloomfield farm, belonging to Capt. Henry R. Smeltzer, of Middletown Valley, Frederick county, Md. These heads are of a peculiar form, each containing 90 to 120 grains; and it is estimated that the field from which they were cut will yield from 40 to 45 bushels per acre. It branches and grows very much like rye, ripening eight or ten days earlier than other descriptions, yielding a smooth white grain, and is said to be never affected by either mildew, smut or fly."

GEN. TAYLOR AND THE PRESIDENCY.

A gentleman in this city received a few days ago, a letter from Gen. Taylor in which referring to the attempts of certain papers to make him a party candidate for the Presidency the General says that he is very reluctant to be a candidate at all, but if he is, it will only be as the candidate of all parties—as the spontaneous choice of the people of all parties—that he would not have the office unless it was untrammelled by party politics or obligations. The letter is written to a prominent democrat of this city. What have our worthy contemporaries of the Bulletin to say to this?—[Delta.]

We are perfectly willing to support him on these terms—willing that he should be voted for by both Whigs and Democrats—willing to take him just as he is, "and no questions asked." We hope our friends of the Delta are in an equally accommodating humor. What say you, ay or nay?—[N. O. Bulletin.]

GEORGIA.

The State Whig Convention of Georgia which assembled at Milledgeville on the 1st July, was very harmonious in its action although in the beginning there was much difference of opinion as to the most suitable candidate for Governor. Hon. Charles J. Jenkins of Richmond, presided. On the third ballot General Duncan L. Clinch of Camden county was chosen the Whig candidate for Governor of Georgia; and his nomination was made unanimously by vote of the Convention. Resolutions were adopted complimentary to Governor Crawford for his able and satisfactory discharge of the duties of the gubernatorial office, and for the appointment of an executive committee to promote the Whig cause. The following resolutions were also adopted. The first of them recommends Gen. Taylor for the Presidency:

- Resolved, That yielding to our admiration and gratitude for the distinguished services of the Great Captain of the age—General Zachary Taylor—with whose character are inseparably associated the modesty of merit, the coolness of bravery and the devotedness of patriotism, and being assured of his identity with us in principle, we cheerfully respond to the general and spontaneous acclamation of the American people in now recommending him as the next president of these United States.
- Resolved, That the thanks of the people of this State are eminently due to the officers and soldiers of our army in Mexico, both regular and volunteers, for their gallant conduct and lofty bearing during the existing war.
- Resolved, That the Hon. John C. Calhoun is entitled to the thanks of the people of Georgia for his independent and patriotic course in reference to our recently disturbed foreign relations.
- Resolved, That we are opposed to the Wilmet proviso, so called—and that all legislation by Congress restricting the right to hold slave property in the territories of the United States is unequal, unjust and unconstitutional.

The residence and grounds of the late Joseph Bonaparte, at Bordentown, (N. J.) were sold a few days ago, to F. Richards of Philadelphia, for \$30,500 Mr. Richards will turn the house into a glass factory.

PARTY SPIRIT CAUCUS.

The Whigs of Halifax, Va., at their meeting nominating General Taylor for the Presidency, thus speak of party spirit and the dirty agent which it usually operates—the caucus. "An unhallowed party spirit has for years been brooding over the land. Its fruits are bitterness, contentions and strife. Virtue, religion, and the social and domestic ties are all forgotten, or trampled under foot, in its ruthless march to its wicked and despicable ends. No great instrument is the Caucus." By mock Conventions, it gives vent and perilous efficacy to its resentments and its frauds. Merit is crushed by its decrees; and vice is blown up to elevation by its breath. When it fails, by its jealousies,

and its divisions, to unite on some man who is eminently bad, it descends to an unknown & unexplored depth of obscurity, & fishes up some specimen of imbecility, in bitter mockery of those who believe that a little wisdom is necessary to conduct the complicated affairs of Government. If it cannot elevate vice, it does the thing next best in its estimation, and it lays hold on ignorance.

"Resolved, That the Caucus is a bad system—that it commences in intrigue, and ends in corruption—that it takes all power from the people, and concentrates in the hands of needy office holders, and ambitious managers—and that we, the friends of Gen. Taylor, deprecate its aid, as hurtful to his character, and dangerous to his prospects."

WASHINGTON AND TAYLOR.

The resemblance between these two personages, which has been frequently remarked, is no fanciful thing, but a reality, which becomes more apparent in proportion as the characteristics of the two are regarded. There is a similarity in their styles of writing and in their styles of fighting—in the open, manly simplicity and massiveness of character common to both, and in that nobler disinterestedness of nature, which marks in both a patriotism as elevated as it is pure.

The use of GEN. TAYLOR'S name in connection with the Presidency has developed a new point of analogy between him and WASHINGTON. We invite the reader's attention to a comparison of the subjoined extracts. The first is from General TAYLOR'S recent letter:

"From many sources I have been addressed on the subject of the Presidency, and I do violence neither to myself nor to my position as an officer of the army, by acknowledging to you, as I have done to all who have alluded to the use of my name in this exalted connection, that my services are ever at the will and call of my country, and I am not prepared to say I shall refuse if the country calls me to the Presidential office, but I can and shall yield to the spontaneous action and free will of the nation at large, and void of the slightest agency of my own.

"For the high honor and responsibilities of such an office, I take this occasion to say, that I have not the slightest aspiration; a much more tranquil and satisfactory life, after the termination of my present duties, awaits me, I trust, in the society of my family and particular friends, and in the occupations most congenial to my wishes. In no case can I permit myself to be the candidate of any party or yield myself to party schemes."

The next extract is from one of WASHINGTON'S letters in answer to an application in behalf of some one for an office:

"Should it become absolutely necessary for me to occupy the station in which your letter pre-supposes me, I have determined to go into it perfectly free from all engagements, of every nature whatsoever. A conduct in conformity to this resolution, would enable me, in balancing the various pretensions of different candidates for appointments, to act with a sole reference to justice and the public good.

In the answer of the Senate to Gen. Washington's first address to Congress, they say:

"We are sensible, sir, that nothing but the voice of your fellow citizens could have called you from a retreat, chosen with the fondest predilections, endeared by habit, and consecrated to the repose of declining years. We rejoice, and with us all America, that in obedience to the call of our common country, you have returned once more to public life. In you, all parties confide; in you, all interests unite."

The resemblance here is so striking that no one can mistake it. "What a scorching satire is it," says the Richmond Republican, in which we find these quotations, "upon the degeneracy of the times, and the decline of the primitive spirit of patriotism, that the sentiments of the late letter attributed to General Taylor should strike panic to a single soul, or waken opposition to him for the Presidency, when the position taken in that letter is precisely identical with that always taken by George Washington in reference to the chief magistracy!"

The New York Journal of Commerce devotes an article of some length and full of judicious remarks, to the subject of Gen. Taylor and the Presidency. It concludes as follows:

"Gen. Taylor comes before the people uncommitted to any party. As a military man, he has attended to his official duties, and not troubled himself with politics. To be an American is enough for him, without adding Whig or Loco, by way of adornment. No one can doubt that if called to the

Presidency, he will administer the government with impartiality, moderation and wisdom,—yet with firmness; qualities which have been developed at every step of his progress through Mexico. Knowing the horrors of war, he will be a man of peace. Circumspect in his language and deportment, he will not give needless offence to foreign powers. Greatly respected as he is, both abroad and at home, he will not have a character to gain, but only to support. Free from strong party predilections, he will aim to do justice to all. In short, he will be President of his country, and not of a section or party.—Success to him.

MORE ABOUT GENERAL TAYLOR'S OPINIONS.

A letter from an officer of the Virginia Regiment, published in the Charleston Free Press and, says the Alexandria Gazette, supposed to be written by Lieut. Lawrence B. Washington, after giving a personal description of Gen. Taylor, communicates the following, touching his political opinions:—"As his name has been and will continue before the nation in connection with the Presidency, I suppose you would like to know positively his position as regards the two political parties of the country—for although it has often been asserted that he is a firm Whig, the assertion has been as often denied. He is nevertheless, a firm and true Whig; and, although he is too independent in his nature and habits to be called a party man, yet he is none the less a Whig. He is a true Protectionist, an opponent of the Sub-Treasury, and is in favor of the Distribution policy of the Whigs. Of all this there is no doubt here; and yet the whole army, Whigs, Democrats and all, will return home and advocate with enthusiasm his claims for the Presidency. Among his soldiers, who have seen his kindnes exhibited whenever an opportunity may have presented itself—his unaffected simplicity of manners—his politeness to all the humblest in the ranks, as well as to him of the gaudy and glittering uniform—among such there will be no difference of opinion, and their enthusiasm will be imparted to others at home, until he will be carried to the Presidential chair by acclamation. You may think differently, but time will verify my predictions—and when I look at old Rough & Ready, I always say to myself, 'there is the President of the United States, that is to be.'"

TAYLOR MASS MEETING.

A meeting of those in favor of the nomination of Gen. Taylor, was held held on the night of the first inst. in the Public Square, Mobile. It is reported as an immense gathering of all parties, and strong resolutions were passed in favor of the old Rough and Ready.—The meeting was addressed most eloquently by Mr. Childers, whig, and also by Mr. John A. Campbell, a sort of anti-Polk Benton democrat, who spoke in high terms of the old hero of the Rio Grande, but said he was not ready to pledge him his unqualified support.—Says the Mobile Herald:

"The caucuses and conventions now in vogue for making presidents and other parts of the machinery of the government, Mr. Campbell took by the horns, and rated very soundly. He declared, if we are not misinformed, that Gen. Taylor, in the present aspect of parties and political necessities, is the best man that can be selected, but was not willing to give an unconditional pledge to support him. He wanted more information respecting his principles."

Mr. Campbell also stated that if there was any act of Gen. Taylor's which he especially approved more than any other, it was his conduct at the siege and capitulation at Monterey.

In this, it will be observed that Mr. Campbell differs very essentially from his friend Chapman and the locos of Congress, and also the Advertiser of this city, which believes that to General Taylor's conduct on that occasion all the disasters on the frontiers are owing.—[Alabama Journal.]

MR. CLAY AND THE WAR.

Mr. Clay, in reply to a letter from some gentleman in Maine, who had sent him a present of some scythes, and referred in their letter to the Mexican war, says: "Yes! gentlemen, I certainly concur with you in deprecating this Mexican war, the causes which brought it about, and the manner of its commencement. I sincerely wish that every bayonet and sword employed in its prosecution, by both belligerents, were converted into scythes, plowshares and axes, and they dedicated to their respective uses in the innocent and peaceful arts of life."

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.

Just as our paper was going to press, we were informed by a gentleman in whom we have every confidence, that a report from a respectable source, reaching this city from the city of Mexico, last night, that a dysentery of a malignant character had broken out among our troops at Puebla, and that it is believed the Mexican vendors of milk, pulque, liquors, etc., poisoned those articles with a certain poisonous vegetable, which grows in the neighborhood. We believe the rumor entitled to credit, and hope Gen. Scott will hear of it in time to prevent an extension of the discolored plot.—[N. O. National, July 5.]

Gen. Taylor Onward.

The New Orleans Delta of the 4th, referring to reports of Gen. Taylor's resignation or return home on leave of absence, says:—"We have now, however, ourselves to make a counter statement to both that of our own and the National.—Gen. Taylor told a gentleman who conversed with him four days subsequently to the departure of Capt. Pike from Monterey, that he had just received advices from Washington, by which he was satisfied that the government was doing all it could to furnish him with the necessary men and means to enable him to advance on San Luis Potosi; that he felt assured enough of both would shortly arrive, and that as soon as they did arrive, he was determined to march forward. This may appear a rather abrupt change of purpose; but with that we have nothing to do—the facts in both instances are as we have stated them."

AN ALCALDE BROUGHT TO HIS SENSES.

As Captain _____ was going up the Rio Grande with his steamer overladed, and the water low, he ran plump upon a sand bar just above Ceralvo, in a neighborhood notoriously dangerous from marauders. The Captain had to unload his vessel and leave part of his cargo on shore until some future time. The Alcalde of the place, a little ranch of a dozen huts, exceedingly imperious, refusing to provide any guard for the property, while he insinuated in a very unequivocal manner, that he had no doubt the property would be stolen or injured. The Captain of the steamer, of course, in no good humor, persuaded, threatened, and offered bribes, to induce the Alcalde to take possession of it, until becoming perfectly infuriated, he seized the Alcalde back of the neck, thrust him violently against a tree near by, and called for his rifle. In an instant he had the weapon placed in his hands, and stepping off about forty paces, he took deliberate aim, barked the Mexican's skull and frightened him nearly to death. The poor Alcalde threw himself across the merchandise, and extending his arms and legs, as if he would fain turn into a small building with a lock and key on it, cried lustily for mercy. On being presented with a sheet of paper and pen, he wrote a receipt for the goods, mounted guard himself, and never abandoned his charge until properly released. Since that time Captain _____ has told a variety of stories about his rifle, none of which are more remarkable than the manner it knocked 'decency and brains' into the head of a lying Alcalde.

GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Free Masons, for the State of North Carolina, is at length revived. This has been an object long desired, and several abortive attempts have been made to accomplish it. A Convention of Delegates from several of the Chapters in this State, assembled at Masonic Hall, last week, and adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, and elected the following officers of the Grand Chapter.— Alfred Martin, of Wilmington, G. H. P.; Isaac Northrop, of do. D. G. H. P.; Charles N. Webb, of Halifax, G. C. A. P.; Kepton, of Wilmington, G. T.; L. C. Pender, of Tarboro, G. S.; Rev. Thos. G. Lowe, of do. G. C.; and Jas. F. Miller, of Wilmington, G. M.

THANKS.

Among the other sparkling productions of fancy with which the administration press abounds, (says the Richmond Republican) is a report that the Mexican Congress has passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Corwin of Ohio. The next thing they ought to do, is to thank Polk for admitting Santa Anna to Mexico. The rascals ought to have done that first. Corwin said that if he were a Mexican, instead of an American, he would welcome the invader "with bloody hands and a hospitable grave." Polk as an American, gave the Mexicans a miscreant whose "bloody hands" have welcomed THIRTEEN HUNDRED Americans to "hospitable graves."

A NEW PLAN FOR ELECTING A PRESIDENT.

To get rid of the intervention of Nominating Conventions and to avoid the necessity of a resort to the House of

Representatives, in the business of choosing a President, a plan has been suggested by Mr. Senator Benton, which he considers admirably adapted to the object in view of as well as easy and excellent in itself. In his recent speech at Jefferson he thus sets it forth:

"He had long since made known his opinion—a direct vote of the people, and no intervention of intermediate bodies to nominate before hand, or to decide alternately after wards, [was] his plan. A vote by districts, and a second election between the two highest, if the first one failed, was the plain and obvious remedy. A second election between the two highest, would dispense both with a nominating convention, and a contingent resort to the House of Representatives—no matter how many were candidates in the first election—if any one obtain a majority of the whole, then the elective principle was satisfied—the majority to govern—and the election was finished: if no one obtained such a majority then the first election to be held as a nomination of the highest by the people, and the election to be immediately held over again between those two. This would bring the election to a speedy conclusion, and without a resort to intermediate bodies—a national convention, or a House of Representatives—each daily becoming less acceptable to the people. He wished the necessary reforms to be made in time; the Constitution to be constitutionally amended, upon foresight and reason, before some violent shock should do mischief to the instrument itself, to the House of Representatives, or to the nominating Convention. But he is no architect of ruin; he did not pull down until he was ready to build up; he did not quit one shelter, though defective, until ready to enter another. The two intermediate bodies which stand between the people and the object of their choice—the nominating Convention and the House of Representatives—must stand as they are, though at the great risk of frustrating the popular choice, and bringing on a crisis—until the hard lesson of experience shall induce the people to supersede them by safe and better institutions."

The following evidence of the success of our friend of the Communicator, gives us heart-felt satisfaction.

"Our prospects are brightening every day.—When we issued our first number, we were penny-less—we felt 'ashamed to look up'—but we persevered; and what was the result? We have supported our family on the 'cash system'—kept even with the expenses of publication—and are now ready to pay nearly one half the cost of our printing materials.

If we continue, for a short time, to meet with the like success, it will not be long before the Communicator will be greatly improved, both in appearance and size.

With this unconditional pledge, on our part, may we not reasonably anticipate a large increase of patronage from the numerous temperance advocates in our State?

Communicator.

The New York Express has received an unofficial statement of Uncle Sam's Cash Account, by which it is made to appear, and pretty clearly too, that the deficiency, to be obtained by loans in 1848, will amount to about \$49,000,000 only.

MR. POLK IN BOSTON.

The President made his entree into Boston, on Tuesday in a shower of rain. He was received with the usual ceremonies and escorted through the principal streets to his lodgings at the Revere House. The Atlas says when the carriage in which the President was placed passed the lower end of the Old State House, a stout old gentleman, evidently uneasy at the "plaintful lack" of enthusiasm which prevailed, took off his hat and cried with a loud voice, "Three cheers for Gen. Jackson and all his friends." This unexpected draft upon the patriotism of the crowd was duly honored by a loud laugh. Even the President could not resist smiling at the singularity of the appeal.

If a peace is made now, says the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer, you may expect to see it include N. Mexico, Upper and Lower California, and a strip, with the right of sovereignty for a canal or railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It is said that the Mexicans themselves are extremely anxious to have this canal or railroad made by us; and in any event you may therefore consider this as a fact accomplished.

Why should old maids be ridiculed for their pet dogs and birds and flowers? These substitutes are the companions of the lonely; the husbands of the unmarried, the children of the childless.