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The following Message from the President of the United States was communicated to both Houses of Congress yesterday:

WASHINGTON, MAY 11, 1846.
To the Senate and House of Representatives:

The existing state of the relations between the United States and Mexico renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my message at the commencement of your present session, the state of these relations the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries in March, 1845, and the long-continued and unredressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican Government on citizens of the United States in their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present convictions of the condition of the affairs up to that time than by referring you to that communication.

The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico on a liberal and honorable basis, and the readiness of this Government to regulate and adjust our boundary and other causes of difference with that power on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me, in September last, to seek the re-opening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure adopted on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, or defeat or delay a pacific result, was carefully avoided. An Envoy of the United States repaired to Mexico, with full powers to adjust every existing difference. But, though present on the Mexican soil by agreement between the two Governments invested with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly dispositions, his mission has been unavailing. The Mexican Government not only refused to receive him or listen to propositions, but, after a long-continued series of menaces, have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our soil.

It now becomes my duty to state more in detail the origin, progress, and failure of that mission. In pursuance of the instructions given in September last, an inquiry was made, on the 13th October, 1845, in the most friendly terms, through our Consul in Mexico, of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whether the Mexican Government would receive an Envoy from the United States, entrusted with full powers to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two Governments; with the assurance that, "should the answer be in the affirmative, such an Envoy would be immediately dispatched to Mexico." The Mexican Minister, on the 15th October, gave an affirmative answer to this inquiry, requesting at the same time that our naval force at Vera Cruz might be withdrawn, lest its continued presence might assume the appearance of menace and coercion pending the negotiations. This force was immediately withdrawn. On the 10th November, 1845, Mr. John Slidell, of Louisiana, was commissioned by me as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico, and was entrusted with full powers to adjust both the questions of the Texas boundary and of indemnification to our citizens. The redress of the wrongs of our citizens naturally and inseparably blended itself with the question of boundary. The settlement of the one question, in any correct view of the subject, involves that of the other. I could not, for a moment, entertain the idea that the claims of our injured and long-suffering citizens, many of which had existed for more than twenty years, should be postponed or separated from the settlement of the boundary question.

Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on the thirtieth of November, and was courteously received by the authorities of that city. But the Government of General Herrera was then tottering to its fall. The Revolution party had seized upon the Texas question to effect or hasten its overthrow. His determination to restore friendly relations with the United States and to receive our Minister to negotiate for the settlement of this question was violently assailed, and was made the great theme of denunciation against it. The Government of General Herrera, there is good reason to believe, was sincerely desirous to receive our Minister; but it yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 21st December refused to accredit Mr. Slidell upon the most frivolous pretexts. These are so fully and ably exposed in the note of Mr. Slidell of the 24th December last to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessary to enter into further detail on this portion of the subject.

Five days after the date of Mr. Slidell's note General Herrera yielded the Government to General Paredes without a struggle, and on the thirtieth of December resigned the Presidency. This revolution was accomplished solely by the army, the people having taken little part in the contest; and thus the supreme power in Mexico passed into the hands of a military leader.

Determined to leave no effort untried to effect an amicable adjustment with Mexico, I directed Mr. Slidell to present his credentials to the Government of Gen.

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES,
Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR
IS SAFE."



RELIES. DO THIS, AND LIBERTY
Genl. Harrison.

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Paredes, and ask to be officially received by him. There would have been less ground for taking this step had General Paredes come into power by a regular constitutional succession. In that event his Administration would have been considered but a mere constitutional continuance of the Government of Gen. Herrera, and the refusal of the latter to receive our Minister would have been deemed conclusive, unless an intimation had been given by General Paredes of his desire to reverse the decision of his predecessor.

But the Government of General Paredes owes its existence to a military revolution, by which the subsisting constitutional authorities had been subverted.—The form of Government was entirely changed, as well as all the high functionaries by whom it was administered. Under these circumstances, Mr. Slidell, in obedience to my direction, addressed a note to the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations, under date of the 1st March last, asking to be received by that Government in the diplomatic character to which he had been appointed. This Minister, in his reply under date of the 12th March, reiterated the arguments of his predecessor, and, in terms that may be considered as giving just grounds of offence to the Government and People of the United States, denied the application of Mr. Slidell. Nothing, therefore, remained for our Envoy but to demand his passports and return to his own country.

Thus the Government of Mexico, though solemnly pledged by official acts in October last to receive and accredit an American Envoy, violated their plighted faith, and refused the offer of a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties. Not only was the offer rejected, but the indignity of its rejection was enhanced by the manifest breach of faith in refusing to admit the Envoy who came because they had bound themselves to receive him. Nor can it be said that the offer was fruitless from the want of opportunity of discussing it; our Envoy was present on their own soil. Nor can it be ascribed to a want of sufficient powers; our Envoy had full powers to adjust every question of difference. Nor was there room for complaint that our propositions for settlement were unreasonable; permission was not even given our Envoy to make any proposition whatever. Nor can it be objected, that we, on our part, would not listen to any reasonable terms of their suggestion; the Mexican Government refused all negotiation, and have made no proposition of any kind.

In my message, at the commencement of the present session, I informed you that upon the earnest appeal both of the Congress and Convention of Texas, I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position "between the Nueces and the Del Norte." This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexican forces for which extensive military preparations had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of the United States, to annex herself to our Union; and, under these circumstances, it was plainly our duty to extend protection over her citizens and soil.

This force was concentrated at Corpus Christi, and remained there until after I had received such information from Mexico as rendered it probable, if not certain that the Mexican Government would refuse to receive our Envoy. Meantime Texas, by the final action of our Congress, had become an integral part of our Union. The Congress of Texas, by its acts of December 19, 1845, had declared the Rio del Norte to be the boundary of that Republic. Its jurisdiction had been extended and exercised beyond the Nueces. The country between that river and the Del Norte had been represented in the Congress and in the Convention of Texas had thus taken part in the act of annexation itself, and is now included within one of our Congressional Districts. Our own Congress had, moreover, with great unanimity, by the act approved December 31, 1845, recognised the country beyond the Nueces as a part of our territory, by including it within our own revenue system, and a revenue officer, to reside within that district, has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became, therefore, of urgent necessity to provide for the defence of that portion of our country. Accordingly on the 13th of January last, instructions were issued to the General in command of these troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte. This river, which is the southwestern boundary of the State of Texas, is an exposed frontier; from this quarter invasion was threatened; upon it, and in its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, are the proper stations for the protecting forces of the Government. In addition to this important consideration, several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these, are the facilities afforded by the ports at Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Del Norte for the reception of supplies by sea; the stronger and more healthful military positions; the convenience for obtaining a ready and a more abundant supply of provision, water, fuel, and forage; and the advantages which

are afforded by the Del Norte in forwarding supplies to such ports as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier.

The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the commanding general, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relations between that Republic and the United States as peaceful, unless she should declare war. He was specially directed to protect private property and respect personal rights.

The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on 28th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoras, where it encamped on a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field works. A depot has been established at Point Isabel, near the Brazos Santiago, thirty miles in rear of the encampment. The selection of his position was necessarily confided to the judgment of the general in command.

The Mexican forces at Matamoras assumed a belligerent attitude, and on the 12th of April, General Ampudia, then in command, notified Gen. Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and to retire beyond the Nueces river, and in the event of his failure to comply with these demands, announced that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question.—But no open act of hostility was committed until the twenty-fourth of April. On that day, General Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to General Taylor that "he considered hostilities commenced and should prosecute them." A party of dragoons of sixty-three men and officers were on the same day despatched from the American camp up the Rio del Norte, on its left bank, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed, or were preparing to cross the river, "became engaged with a large body of these troops, and after a short affair, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender."

The grievous wrong perpetrated by Mexico upon our citizens throughout a long period of years, remain unredressed; and solemn treaties, pledging her public faith for this redress, have been disregarded. A government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties, fails to perform one of its plainest duties.

Our commerce with Mexico has been almost annihilated. It was formerly highly beneficial to both nations; but our merchants have been deterred from prosecuting it by the system of outrage and extortion which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, whilst their appeals through their own government for indemnity have been made in vain. Our forbearance has gone to such an extreme as to be mistaken in its character. Had we acted with vigor in repelling the insults and redressing the injuries inflicted by Mexico at the commencement, we should doubtless have escaped all the difficulties in which we are now involved.

Instead of this, however, we have been exerting our best efforts to propitiate her good will. Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own, she has affected to believe that we have severed her rightful territory, and, in official proclamation and manifestoes, has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas.—In the mean time, we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, even before the recent information from the frontier of the Del Norte. But now, after reiterated menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.

As war exists, and notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon, by every consideration of duty and patriotism, to vindicate, with decision, the honor, the rights, and the interests of our country.

Anticipating the possibility of a crisis like that which has arrived, instructions were given in August last, "as a precautionary measure," against invasion, or threatened invasion, authorising General Taylor, if the emergency required, to accept volunteers, not from Texas only, but from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky; and corresponding letters were addressed to the respective governors of those States.

These instructions were repeated, and in January last, soon after the incorporation of "Texas into our union of States," General Taylor was further "authorized by the President to make a requisition upon the executive of that State for such of its militia force as may be needed to repel invasion or to secure the country against apprehended invasion." On the second day of March he was again reminded, "in the event of the approach of any considerable Mexican force, promptly and efficiently to use the authority with which he was clothed to call to him such auxiliary force as he might need." War actually existing, and our territory having

been invaded, General Taylor, pursuant to authority vested in him by any direction, has called on the governor of Texas for four regiments of State troops—two to be mounted, and two to serve on foot; and on the governor of Louisiana for four regiments of infantry, to be sent to him as soon as practicable.

In further vindication of our rights and defence of our territory, I invoke the prompt action of Congress to recognise the existence of the war, and to place at the disposition of the Executive the means of prosecuting the war with vigor, and thus hastening the restoration of peace. To this end I recommend that authority should be given to call into the public service a large body of volunteers to serve for not less than six or twelve months unless sooner discharged. A volunteer force is, beyond question, more efficient than any other description of citizen soldiers; and it is not to be doubted that a number far beyond that required would readily rush to the field upon the call of their country. I further recommend that a liberal provision be made for sustaining our entire military force, and furnishing it with supplies and munitions of war.

The most energetic and prompt measures, and the immediate appearance in arms of a large and overpowering force, are recommended to Congress as the most certain and efficient means of bringing the existing collision with Mexico to a speedy and successful termination.

In making these recommendations, I deem it proper to declare that it is my anxious desire not only to terminate hostilities speedily, but to bring all matters in dispute between this Government and Mexico to an early and amicable adjustment; and, in this view, I shall be prepared to renew negotiations, whenever Mexico shall be ready to receive propositions, or to make propositions of her own.

I transmit herewith a copy of the correspondence between our Envoy to Mexico and the Mexican Minister for Foreign Affairs; and so much of the correspondence between that Envoy and the Secretary of State, and between the Secretary of War and the general in command on the Del Norte, as are necessary to a full understanding of the subject.

JAMES K. POLK.
WASHINGTON, May 11th, 1846.

WAR WITH MEXICO DECLARED!

Our readers will learn, nine-tenths of them with well-founded alarm and dismay, that Congress of the United States have adopted the War with the Republic of Mexico, in which the President has, without their consent or authority, involved the country; and that all the best interests of this People are staked upon the hazard of the die. We do not mean of course the hazard of a fierce and bloody War with Mexico, though that will in all probability be found to be no child's play; but the imminent hazard of bringing on a general War, by which, even in the heated imaginations of those who look upon War as synonymous with Glory, we cannot expect to be gainers, but inevitably and enormously losers in every sense, the entire destruction of our widely extended commerce being among the smallest of the items to be taken into the estimate.

But the loss, far more to be deplored than the highest aggregate of all such losses, is that to which we find ourselves exposed by this additional evidence of the feebleness of the Constitution of the United States, which has already become a mere dead letter whenever it comes in conflict with Executive power, or a party purpose in Congress.

This is not the time, however, to pursue with the requisite calmness the train of thought into which the events of the two last days are calculated to lead us. THE MISCHIEF IS DONE: it will now and henceforward be the business of all good men who still retain an interest in public affairs to unite their counsels and their efforts to repair it, so far as repair of it be possible, and to mitigate the evils before us by every means yet in their power.

A large proportion of those Members of both House of Congress voted for the Declaration of War, did so under an idea—wholly erroneous, in our opinion—that, though unnecessary to measures of defence, the Declaration only proclaims a fact. They looked only to the provision of men and money to repel invasion, which, separated from the fatal power now given to the President, would not probably have received a single negative vote. Too late they will find their error, and we shall live to see the day when they will deeply regret having suffered themselves to be deluded or influenced in the manner in which they have been.

We are rejoiced to learn, by this evening's mail, that Captain Seth B. Thornton and Lieutenant Mason, with two dragoons, had arrived safe in Genl Taylor's camp.

Captain Thornton, discovering the ambuscade too late to retreat, had plunged gallantly through the enemy's ranks, and cut his way with his own sword, with a boldness and intrepidity that is almost incredible.—Union of Monday night.

The following is the latest of the series of letters from General Taylor which were communicated to Congress on Monday last in connexion with the President's Message on the subject of our relations with Mexico. It contains, we believe, the latest official intelligence from our army on the Rio Grande:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
Camp near Matamoras, (Texas), April 26, 1846.

Sir:—I have respectfully to report that General Arista arrived in Matamoras on the 24th instant, and assumed the chief command of the Mexican troops. On the same day he addressed me a communication, conceived in courteous terms, but saying that he considered hostilities commenced, and should prosecute them. A translation of his note and copy of my reply will be transmitted the moment they can be prepared. I dispatch this by an express which is now waiting.

I regret to report that a party of dragoons sent out by me on the 24th instant, to watch the course of the river above on this bank, became engaged with a very large force of the enemy, and, after a short affair, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender. Not one of the party has returned, except a wounded man sent in this morning by the Mexican commander, so that I cannot report with confidence the particulars of the engagement or the fate of the officers, except that Captain Hardee was known to be a prisoner and unhurt. Capt. Thornton and Lieutenants Mason and Kane were the other officers. The party was sixty-three strong.

Hostilities may now be considered as commenced, and I have this day deemed it necessary to call upon the Governor of Texas for four regiments of volunteers—two to be mounted and two to serve on foot. As some delay must occur in collecting these troops, I have also desired the Governor of Louisiana to send out four regiments of infantry, as soon as practicable. This will constitute an auxiliary of nearly five thousand men, which will be required to prosecute the war with energy, and carry it, as it should be, into the enemy's country.

I trust the Department will approve my course in this matter, and will give the necessary orders to the staff departments for the supply of this large additional force. If a law could be passed authorizing the President to raise volunteers for 12 months, it would be of the greatest importance for a service so remote from support as this.

I am, sir, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
Z. TAYLOR,
Brevet Brigadier General U. S. A. Com'dg.
The Adj. Gen. of the Army, Washington, D. C.

The northern part of TEXAS is settling up with emigrants from Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The southern, middle, and western parts of Texas are filling with emigrants from the Southern States and Europe. A large number of Germans are settling in that country. They, as usual, are huddling together so as to form a foreign embodiment. They will thus retain their foreign prejudices and antipathies. So long as they thus congregate and form foreign settlements they will never become Americanized. Having in our Republic different languages will deprive us of our American nationality and mar the harmony of our Republic.—New Era.

Chapparral.—The word Chapparral occurs in the news from Texas, which we publish this morning. As that is rather a new word with our readers, and as it may occur again, and is important as illustrating the "seat of war," we think it proper to say that chapparral is a term applied to a species of evergreen thicket, composed of the musquit bush matted with vines. It generally grows about six or seven feet high. The whole country between the Nueces river and the Rio Grande is more or less covered by this chapparral, interspersed with salt lakes. There is very little fresh water or grass to be had in any portion of the whole intermediate distance—averaging one hundred and fifty miles wide.—Phil. C. S. Gaz.

The state of public feeling on the receipt of the news from Rio Grande at Philadelphia on Sunday last, was such as we never saw before; a common sensation of deep mortification, and settled anger, mingled with contempt, at the administration of the general Government, which, to carry out a bad purpose, would do wrong, and continue wrong, depending at length upon the feelings of true patriotism in the people, that while it despises the conduct which brought the nation into its disgrace, and those who assisted in it, will nevertheless stand by the country in its disgrace, and defend every inch that is claimed, rather than see reproach and injury come upon a nation that is sufficiently injured and subjected to reproach by the incompetency of its rulers.—U. S. Gazette.

A Scold.—Footie being scolded by a lady mid, I have heard of Tartar and Brimstone. You are the cream of the one and the flower of the other?

Deplorable News

THE ENEMY VICTORIOUS

A company of two hundred volunteers left up!—three days later from Vera Cruz.—Embarkation of one thousand Mexican Volunteers to the seat of war on the Mexican Frontier.

We received through a passenger by the morning's Steamer, who came direct from New Orleans, that startling and heart-rending news had reached that city a few hours before the leaving of a Volunteer Company composed of 200 brave Americans, on their march to Taylor's Camp, having been intercepted by the Mexicans, and in making a gallant attempt to meet with great slaughter, and with the loss of six of their number, who effected some means of escape, were all either killed or taken prisoners by the enemy. Should account prove true, Point Isabel must be the hands of the Mexicans.

Our papers from New Orleans are of the 9th inst. They give no account of the day. They however, were published on last day morning, and it did not say the party reach the city until late in the evening of that day. To-morrow's mail will either confirm or contradict the statement. We give it, to receive it, sincerely hoping that our information who has every appearance of a gentleman, may be relied on, may have been mistaken of the nature of the news received at New Orleans.

The New Orleans Bulletin of the 9th inst. that Louisiana Volunteers, to the number of about one thousand, will embark this afternoon, we understand, from the Barracks below the city, for the seat of war on the Mexican frontier. Sixteen companies (or about 1200) have now been mustered into the service, there are several ready to be received. A considerable addition to the number may be looked for from the country. As far as we learn, we learn from arrivals yesterday, the country is in commotion. A considerable number of volunteers were ready at Baton Rouge, and waiting for transportation. At Alexandria (Rapides) a company was forming among the best citizens of the parish. They will be ready to think to-day or to-morrow.

It also informs us, that a detachment of States Troops, being a portion of the First Infantry, arrived there on the 18th, from Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. They number 200. The officers are as follows: Lieut. Col. Wilson, commanding detachment of First Infantry, Company K. Brevet Major E. J. Ables, Company E. Capt. A. J. Miller, Company I. J. B. Plummet, Brevet 2d Lieut. H. D. Worth. Company G. Capt. E. Bachus, 2d Lieut. G. W. L. Wood, A. A. Quartermaster and Assistant Orderly Sergeant, 2d Lieut. S. D. Carpenter. Company C. Captain J. Lamonte, 1st Lieut. G. Barry, 2d Lieut. J. C. Feriet.

The following is a list of the Kentucky Volunteers, (Riflemen.) Capt. R. H. Stockton, Lieut. Wm. Polke, 2d Lieut. Lewis Amos—about 50 strong, mustered yesterday, and embark to-day.

Persons who left Vera Cruz in the last part of last month represent the people of that city as quite prepared for a war with the United States. The military force of the city was daily increasing. The grand castle of San Juan d'Ulloa was in admirable order of defence, well mounted, well provisioned, and garrisoned with French and English gunners, and the whole force amounting to about 3000 men. The stores of shot and ammunition of all kinds, though large, was still from time added to, everything bodeking preparation for a siege. If all these statements were true, it would seem that the Mexicans are determined to make one place at least worth the trouble of taking it.

We take the following from the Bulletin from Vera Cruz.—By the brig General Capt. Robertson, from Vera Cruz, we have accounts from that place three days later than received by the Orleans.

The long promised revolution in Vera Cruz, Santa Anna had not yet taken place, and there any apparent probability of its occurrence as public attention was entirely engrossed in the anticipated war with the United States (they were not yet aware at Vera Cruz of all hostilities having broken out on the Rio del Norte) and an attack upon Vera Cruz. This expected attack the military authorities were actively preparing to meet. There were at two thousand men in the castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, and they were constantly exercised with guns.

The whole Mexican naval force was at the Alvarado, including the two steamers to have been sold, either to the Spanish government, or to an English house.

The only American vessels of war at sea, were the John Adams, the others had sailed to sea. There were also an English, a French, and a Spanish vessel of war at anchor at Havana the day after Captain Roberts left.

The only American merchant vessel that was the Suria, Gardner, from New Orleans, which had discharged, and would sail for Havana in four days.

The following is an extract of a letter from at Vera Cruz, on the 29th ult., received by Commercial of this City:

"Gen. Alvarez has pronounced in the favor of the Federalists, and in the support calls for a Triumvirate, composed of Gen. Santa Anna, Herrier and Rincora, who are to govern this country until a free election can be placed for a President, but we have no means these pronouncements that they do not amount to anything. On the 20th ult., the editor proprietor of the Monitor, in Mexico was summoned and sent to San Blas.

Cannon Balls.—We understand, says Philadelphia U. S. Gazette, that our towns Messrs. Savery & Co., iron founders, have received an order from government, to supply once one hundred tons of cannon balls.

A considerable decline in the price of wheat took place in New York on Monday, on receipt of the intelligence that Congress had declared a war between this country and Mexico. A still further decline will, no doubt, take place when they receive the President's proclamation to the same effect.

More Repudiation in Pennsylvania.—The Pennsylvania state that sixty divorcees have been granted in the Legislature during the past session.