instant advantage of all passing, events, military or political, to close the war.

Furnished with these powers, I am willing to make the sacrifices, and to incur the responsibilities of this high command but I leave it to you, sir, for your free and final decision; considering it as a national question, and a new one, on which there is no commitment, on either side, in any thing that has passed.

Whatever may be the decision, my thanks and gratitude will not be the less to you for your unsolicited nomination of me to this high appointment, nor to the Senate for its instant and unanimous confirmation of it, nor to the House of Representatives for its three times virtual election of me to be the commander-inchief of the army in Mexico.

Respectfully, sir, your friend and follow THOMAS H. BENTON. citizen, To the PRESIDENT.

THE PRESIDENT TO MR. BENTON. WASHINGTON, March 9, 1847.

Sen: I have given to your letter of the 6th instant the consideration which its importance demands. In tendering to you the appointment of Major General, in the army, I earnestly desired that the country should have the advantage of your conceded ability and military knowledge, your intimate acquaintance with the Mexican character, and your familiarity with their language and political condition.

Immediately after your nomination as Major General had been unanimously confirmed by the Senate, I carefully examined the question whether I possessed the power to designate you—a junior Major General-to the chief command of the army in the field. The result of this examination is, I am constrained to say, a settled conviction on my mind that such power has not been conferred upon me by the existing laws.

I am fully sensible of the exalted patriotism which could alone have induced you to make the personal sacrifices to which you would be subjected in assuming even the command of the army in Mexico; and I duly appreciate the reasons you have assigned, and which may, I fear, prevent you from accepting the appointment as Major General. If on further reflection, such should be your decision, I shall learn it with deep regret.

Lam, sir, with high consideration, very respectfully, your obedient servant. JAMES K. POLK.

To Major General THOMAR II. BENTON, Washington.

MR. BENTON TO THE PRESIDENT. WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening.

March 9, 1817. Sin: Your letter of this day's date is just received; and seeing no reason for further reflection, and wishing to avoid all delay in officering the army, I have written a note to the Ajutant General, to be delivered at his office in the morning, declining to accept the appointment of Major General in the army, so kindly offered to me by you, and so honorably confirmed by the Senate.

I have the honor to be, sig, with great respect, your friend and fellow-citizen. THOMAS H. BENTON.

To the PRESIDENT.

NOTE OF MR. BENTON TO THE AD-JUTANT GENERAL.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday Evening, March 9, 1847.

Six: I had the honor to receive your note of the 6th instant, with the commission of Major General in the army, and delayed the answer of acceptance or nonacceptance until I should receive an answer from the President to a note which I addressed to him in the morning of that That answer is now received, and enables me to answer your note, and to

say that the commission is not accepted. Please to accept, sir, my thanks for the kind terms of your note, and for the thousand courtesies which you have extended to me in the course of our long and friendly acquaintance.

Most truly and respectfully yours, THOMAS H. BENTON. To Adjutant General Jones.

The Democratic Party and the Irish .- About election time, and generally in the cities, the Democrats profess the greatest love for the Irish. They are " all Irish, and nothing else." When, to the purchase of food for the suffering and starving people of Ireland and Scotland, we ex. possible. pected it would be carried almost unanimously. But we were mistaken. In the Senate it was opposed principally by the Democrats, only two Whigs voting against it-but it was adopted and sent to the House. The House, having near two Democrats to one Whig, refused to pass Mr. Crittenden's bill. They referred it to the Committee of Ways and Means, also largely Democratic, and that committee refused to report it to the House, the Whig minority, through Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, protesting against such conduct!!

And this is Democratic love for the Irish! Milledgeville Recorder.

SMOKE.

The duel between A. C. Lindsay and Rob't McLean, of Guilford, resulted in smoke without fire. Cause why? The parties were overtaken, surprised, and bound over to keep the peace .- Milton Chronicle.

York Express, \$13,750 34

INTERESTING FROM MEXICO.

The New Orleans papers inform us of the arrival at that place on the 9th instant of the United States revenue cutter Forward, which sailed from Anton Lizardo on the 2d.

By the intelligence brought by this arrival the reader will learn something of the nature of the last proposition made by our Government to that of Mexico, as conveyed thither by Mr. Atocha, who has returned in the Forward, said to be charged with important despatches for this Government, the character of which is not known. The New Orleans Bulletin says of them, speaking from report only, that there is a prospect of a favorable termination of the negatiations, while the Picayune expresses the opinion that nothing whatever has been accomplished by this

So far from Vera Cruz having been abandoned by the Mexican troops, their number had been increased, and was numerous. The squadron off that port consisted of the Potomac, Raritan, John Adams, Albany, Princeton, and a fleet of small craft. Gen. Scott had been expected daily for some time. The ships and troops would rendezvous, it was said, at Anton Lizardo, but the place of debarkation would not be finally settled until the arrival of Gen. Scott. It would either be at Anton Lizardo, nine miles from Vera Cruz, or opposite Sacrificios; either of which places would be protected by the guns of the ships.

Santa Anna left San Luis on the 2d of February. His destination is said to be Monterey, towards which point the main body of his army had already moved. At the latest accounts from him (Feb. 7th) he was at Matehuala, a town nearly north of San Luis, and about one-third of the the utmost distress. The following is given as the number of troops under his command, with the dates of their departure from the city of San Luis:

January 26 .- The Sappers and Artillerists, with nineteen guns of heavy caliber,

January 29.—1st, 3d, 4th, 5th, 10th, and 11th regiments of the Line, and 1st and 3d Light Troops, January 31.—4th Light Troops, mixed of Santa Anna. 1st Active of Celaya, do. of Guadalajara, do. of La-

Total departed from San Luis, Proops which General Parrodi conducts from the town of Tula, with three pieces of heavy caliber, with their munitions, 1.000 Cavalry on the march, 6,000 Artillery do

Division under Gen. Mejia.

gos, do. of Queretaro, do. of Mex-

21,340 The artillery was supplied with 600 rounds of ammunition.]

The Picayune remarks that "the latest advices from Chihuahua are to the 16th of Jan- rev uary, a formight later than our former accounts. The city had not then been taken by our troops, nor do we see any thing said of their advance

Extracts from the Correspondence of the New Orleans Picayune.

UNITED STATES SQUADRON, ANTON LIZARDO, February 17, 1847.

At the date of my last letter Gomez Farias was without a Cabinet. During the early part of this month his hands have been strengthen. ed by entrusting Rejon with the portfolio of Foreign Relations, and Francisco S. Iriarte with the affairs of the Treasury. No change has, however, yet occurred in foreign relations, and the embarrassments of the Treasury are as formidable as ever.

The Committee of Foreign Relation, to whom was referred Mr. Buchanan's peace proposition, are expected to report unfavorably to negotiation in a few days. It is presumed that they will at the same time issue, in the form of by the 19th of March, which, after some discusa solemn manifesto, a reply to Mr. Polk's mes- sion, was referred to the committee on constisage on Mexican affairs.

There is also a report that the old intriguers are at work, and that Spain is about to join France and England in an interference in Mexican affairs. The rumor, it may be proper to state, is purely of Mexican origin. From all I therefore, we saw a proposition made by Mr. can learn the most amicable feeling appears to In stating the troops in town and castle at 6,000, Crittenden, (a Whig.) in the Senate of the Uni. exist towards us on the part of all the represent I exceeded the number by more than a thousted States, to contribute the sum of \$500,000 tatives of foreign Covernments, and the only and. The number of regulars was, however,

The publication of the decree authorizing the which were easily suppressed by the interference of the military. It does not appear that any thing has been done towards realizing a dollar from this source, and there are additional reasons every day for entertaining the belief that little or nothing of the church property

will ever find its way into the general treasury. The news from the army at San Luis is interesting, so far as we are assured that Santa Anna has left that city with the main body of his troops in the direction of Monterey, although his ultimate destination is much speculated upon. His resources appear to have been of the most meagre kind.

At Vera Cruz the state of things is very much as it was when I last wrote. The authorities are busy in issuing proclamations announcing the threatened attack, and issuing some preventive orders, among the most unpalatable of which is one forbidding the masquerade at the carnival. There are many however, who regard the threatened invasion with incredulity. There are five thousand men in the city of Vera Cruz and one thousand in the castle—three thousand The collections in the several Roman of these belong to the National Guard, and are Catholic Churches of New York on the tolerably well disciplined and supplied with cific. It is understood that Mr. Atocha's re-28th ultimo, in aid of the suffering poor arms. The National Guard of the State is, on marks have confirmed this statement so far as and the Mormon battalion were 350 miles be-

The Governor of Vera Cruz has gone to su. States waving all claims on Mexico, and assuperintend in person the fortification of the pass of Puente Nacional, and a company of artillery and two field pieces have already been ordered there. A reserve of six thousand men is to be concentrated at Jalapa under Gen. Canalizo. Gen. Filisola being the second in command .-

Gen. La Vega is to march to Vera Cruz. The Forward arrived on the 9th instant, and landed Senor Atocha under a flag of truce, with despatches from the Government of the United States. He proceeded to Mexico immediately. The mob raised some scruples about allowing him to proceed, but he was finally dismissed on

his way without opposition. I had forgotten to mention that Gen. Valencia has left the army in disgust, and, under pretence of sickness, lingers at his hacienda. He is, however, suspected of designs to subvert the

Government. U. S. SQUADRON, FEB. 20, 1847. Seven days' later news [from San Luis Potosi] has been received - as late as the 7th in-

Gen. Santa Anna had advanced as far as Matehuala, on his way to Saltillo. Nothing new had occurred; but, as the Government had failed to furnish him with resources under circumstances so urgent, he is represented as "surrounded with misery." The following account of his march is from the pen of an officer, and is quoted in the Indicador as reliable

" In the critical position of our army, with regard to its implacable enemies, no honorable resource remains except to advance without supplies, to capture them from the immense our backs upon the enemy. People will not and 400 artillery, which, united to the forces already advanced, will swell the whole body of the army of 12,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry, and masse to clear away the sand embanked against 400 artillery, with 20 pieces of heavy caliber, the walls of the city, on the northern and wesmortars of nine inches; there were also seven children were actively engaged in carrying ahundred mules and twenty-one wagons of mu- way the sand. nitions alone, without counting the equipages, camp-chests, or absolutely more than is set mitted \$75,000 of his own funds to Vera Cruz. down. We go to try our fortune, since any to aid the garrison of that place. way thence to Saltillo. His army was in thing would be a less evil than to die of hunger and complete inaction, besides being called traitors by those who really are such. If we do march without more than twelve days' provisions for the troops and half a month's pay for the officers, will live upon the country and the plunder of the enemy, now that they will not furnish us with any supplies. This resolution is heroic, and will always confer on us

> Dates from Tula of the 31st January state that Gen. Urrea left the night previous for Santa Barbara and Romero, with all the Cavalry from Cuidad Victoria. Urrea is ordered to watch the movements of the enemy as far as Tampico and Monterey, for which service the cavalry will remain under his orders. He takes only five days' supplies (socorros) and five days' rations. An officer writing, says: "Last night an order was received to expedite the march, but how can the order be carried into effect while there are no mules of burden, especially for the park of cannon."

> Santa Anna has negotiated with certain commercial houses of San Luis, for drafts and a loan to the amount of \$180,000, drawing on Mexico and Vera Cruz, and pledging all his property as security. He has paid this sum within a month to the Commissary General, by whom it has been disbursed for the subsistence and clothing of the troops. In this way he has been enabled to make the movement on Monte-

Ventura Mora, who declared for a dictatorship at Mazatlan, having plead the instigation of Santa Anna, the latter addressed a communication to the Secretary of War, formally repelling the charge, and accusing Gen. Ventura Mora of a calumnious falsehood. It is very plain that Santa Anna is suspected and narrowly watched. His delay at San Luis has been impatiently denounced in Mexico, and every one who reads the long and elaborate defences which have from time to time been put forth at San Luis, must come to the conclusion that the breach is widening between the Government and Santa Anna. The movement at Mazatlan was doubtless intended to feel the pulse of the country. It has been supported in no quarter; it has not even been received in silence, but openly denounced by several of the States, and Santa Anna, prodently conforming to the present state of opinion, still manages his defence so as to throw additional opprobium on the Go-

A proposition has been made in Congress to transfer the government from Mexico to Celaya

The military commandant at Vera Cruz has issued a general order to issue provisions, or rations in kind, to all the officers who desire it, as there is an absolute want of money to furnish them even for the supply of their tables. solicitude entertained is to see what must be stated correctly at 2,800, the town having 1,800. the inevitable result consummated as soon as The rest are of the National Guard. Probably more of the National Guard will be called in and located near the city; but I do not believe hypothecation and sale of church property was that many more will be crowded within the walls, every where received with clamor and riots, as they cannot be fed. The defences of this place appear to combine great strength and which the city may be carried will depend upon the points attacked. We are to-day told that there are 2,000 men at Alvarado-half of them regulars. Guns have been drawn from every quarter to strengthen the defences, which now equal eight forts, with a total of sixty guns of various caliber. The entrance to the river is also defended by a chain of shells or torpe. does, which can be exploded from the land.

I was pained to hear from Mr. Rogers that he was ordered to Perote on the 14th instant, and I have authentic information that he started on the 16th.

> UNITED STATES SQUADRON. Feb. 26, 1847.

The subject of Mr. Atocha's despatches is discussed in the recent papers, but I have not seen or heard of any favorable allusion to it .-The Vera Cruz papers state that our Government have proposed to Mexico an indemnity of twenty millions, for the line of the 26th parallel from the mouth of the Rio Del Norte to the Pa- the whole plot. of Ireland, were, according to the New the countrary, not organized, and is destitute of this; that fifteen millions are offered for the yord Santa Fe. They were generally in good sun, on the West by the horizon, and on Mrs. Boots has above mentioned boundary line, the United health and progressing slowly,

ming the indemnities due her citizens.

Personally, Senor Atocha appears to have been the most unacceptable person we could have sent to Mexico. His reception at Vera Cruz was any thing but flattering. He landed at Vera Cruz on the 9th, I believe, and reached Mexico according to the papers, on the 13th .-The next day he was ordered to leave the capital for a hacienda near Jalapa, there to await the response of the Government. It is rumored that his proposals have been despatched to Santa Anna. Judging from the tone of the newspapers I should suppose that they would be rejected with disdain. One print declares that it is the greatest insult which has yet been offered to Mexico; another asks how long Mexico will permit herself to be set at nought. The odium in which Senor Atocha is held has apparently prejudiced the proposals, whatever they

Santa Anna was, by the last accounts, (coming down to the 14th instant from Guadalaxara,) still advancing towards Saltillo, and had reached Cedral. On the 12th an extraordinary snow storm occurred at San Luis. We may expect melancholy accounts from the denuded Mexican

The opposition to the law confiscating the church estates is unabated, and is beginning to assume a more systematic character. The State of Jalisco had suspended the execution of the law until Congress can consider the petitions of the several States for its repeal. Dis trusting capitalists consider the investments as too insecure for speculation, even at enormous discounts. The amount of property held in mortmain is estimated at 50,000,000, and the Government cannot, at the proposed rates, raise 10,000,000 by the sacrifice of the whole of this storehouses of the enemy in Saltillo and Mon. property. Mr. Waddy Thompson says that his terey, and to live upon the country. The way residence in Mexico has thoroughly convinced to glory and honor is to be preferred to turning him that no political movement can succeed to which the priesthood is opposed. The issue of now say that we are traitors. To-day the bri. this favorite financial scheme of young Farias gades have begun their march, and on Satur. is likely to illustrate the truth of the remark, as day there departed 10,000 infantry, 500 horse, there is much reason to suppose that the law will eventually be repealed.

The people of Vera Cruz have turned out en viz. three 24's, three 18's, twelve 12's, and two tern side, and to dig a ditch. The women and

It has been reported that Santa Anna has re-

IMPORTANT FROM NEW MEXICO.

The Philadelphia North American of Wed-Santa Fe. It came from St. Louis in six days by steamcoat to Pittsburgh, and was despatch- birth? If this is to be the manner and ed to Philadelphia by Telegraph:

PITTSBURGH, March 16.

By river we have St. Louis papers four days in advance of the mail, with dates from Santa Fe covering important news. There has been an extensive Mexiban Insurrection at Taos .with the American cause had been compelled

Gov. Bent, Stephen Lee, Acting Sheriff, Gen. Elliott Lee, Henry Seal and twenty Americans were killed and their families despoiled. The Chief Alcalde was also killed. This all occurred on the 17th January. The insurrection had made formidable head and the disaffection was rapidly spreading. The insurrectionists were sending expresses out all over the country to raise assistance. The number engaged in the outbreak at Taos was about 600. They were using every argument to incite the Indians to just aspersions of those who are in the hostilities and were making preparations to take

possession of Santa Fe. The Americans at Santa Fe had only about 500 effective men there; the rest were on the sick list or had left to join Colonel Doniphan. Such being their situation they cannot send succor out, as they are hardly able to defend them. selves. It is thought that Santa Fe must be captured, as neither the Fort nor Block Houses

are completed. It is announced as the intention of the insurrectionists who captured Taos, to take posses. sion of the government wagon trains, which are carrying forward our supplies, and thus cut off all communication.

The representations made to Col. Doniphan, that Chihuahua would be an easy conquest, were evidently intended as a lure to entrap him. beget a spirit of security, and lead him far off into the interior, where he might be easily cut

It is the universal opinion in Santa Fe that if General Wool had gone direct to Chihuahua there would have been no trouble in New Mex-Col Doniphan had possession of El Passo del Norte on the 28th December. Letters nad been received from the Governor of Chihuhua stating that Gen. Wool was within three days march of the capital. This, too, was doubtless another ruse to lure Col. Doniphan on in confidence, and cut him off from all chances of escape, or of falling back upon Santa Fe,

relieve it in its emergency. The Mexicans are bold in their tone and confident of capturing Col. Doniphan and his command, which consists of about 600 men, 500 of them being of his own troops, the first regiment of mounted Missouri volunteers, and a any territory be acquired. Let this be command of Lieut. Colonel Mitchell, of the 2d regiment-consisting of 30 men from Clark's battalion of light artillery, under command of Capt. Hudson and Lieut. Kribben, and 70 from Col. Price's regiment and Col. Willock's battalion. They then assert that they will masgreat weakness; of course the facility with sacre every American in New Mexico and confiscate all their goods.

A letter from Lieut. Abert, U. S. Topographical Engineer, of later date, confirms all the above intelligence. The details of the battle of Bracito are also confirmed. The massacre beyond doubt has been a horrible one, of which we have as yet heard but the beginning; and the insurrection has been so quiet until all was ready for the outbreak, that our handful of troops there must be demolished, before any effort can be made to relieve them from the most advanced of our Western military posts.

Lieut. Aberts' men suffered severely coming to Missouri. The calls upon government for prompt assistance and large reinforcements are strenuous; and the situation of our gallant men, far away from succor, in the heart of an enemy's country, shows the rashness which has characterized the whole advance into New Mexico. Eight of the leading men engaged in the

conspiracy have arrived, (our despatch does not say where) who have made a full confession of Letters received also state that Col. Cook

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.



TER, as a candidate for Major General of the 5th Division, North Carolina Militia, in place of A. F. Gaston.

MR. CALHOUN.

against the administration of Mr. Polk on the Mexican War, in his great speech in the Senate in reply to the attack made by Mr. Benton, he has been assailed and denounced by nearly, if not quite all the Locofoco papers throughout the country .-They seem to forget that he has any right, in common with all freemen, to express his disapproval of such acts of the party which his good sense tells him are wrong, and calculated to do infinite injury to the the readers a country. For this independence of spirit and a desire to restore peace, as well as show what caused the war with Mexico, he has been denounced with the Whigs as a Mexican-not because he did not vote supplies to carry on this unholy and unrighteous war, but because as a man knowing our rights, and valuing the institutions of our country, he dared to express his disapprobation of the manner in which the country has been plunged into this war, by Mr. Polk, against the will, undoubtedly, of a majority of the people. Has it come to this, that men, sent by the people to watch over their welfare in the National Councils of the Country-to sound | merchandize, and the alarm whenever an innovation is made | 5000 men was on upon that instrument (the Constitution) which cost so much of the blood and treasure of our ancestors, shall be, while faithfully discharging the trust committed to nesday has the following late intelligence from them, stigmatised by a pensioned press, as enemies to the country which gave them mode of warfare of the party in power. intoxicated with success, secured by the most disreputable means, we, as humble members of the Whig party, are ready for chaplet. I give the the contest; and will by all fair means, All the Spaniards who evinced any sympathy expose to the scorn and contempt of an injured and insulted people those who make tract from the Tro

As the conductors of a public press, we are no admirers of Mr. Calhoun's political course, but when he or any other man comes to the rescue of his country in the hour of need, as he has done in this instance, we will not be backward in sustaining and defending him from the foul and unpay of the "powers that be." In this case, Mr. Calhoun has shown himself worthy of the place he fills in the Senate of the Country; and as long as our government endures, will he be remembered for the manner in which he has held up Mr Polk to the gaze of an injured and insulted people, as the originator of this war. - A war by which we can add nothing to the honor and glory of the Country, because, those with whom we are at war are not worthy of our steel; and because it was begun for selfish and ambitious designs. This is the reason why all good men ought, and do denounce the authors of it, although they are willing and desirous that it should be prosecuted with the utmost vigor now that we are in for it. This has been the sentiment of the Whigs as a party since the commencement of the war; but let it be distinctly understood, that this determination of the Whigs to vote men and money to bring it to an honorable termination proceeds from no belief on their part, that the war is just, or that we can be advantaged by it in the most remote degree, but on the contrary, will be the cause of incalculable difficulties, requiring years to remedy them, if ever, especially should etachment of 100 men from Santa Fe, under thought of as it should, we are confident the position taken by Mr. Calhoun and the Whigs in regard to this war, will be found in the end, to be correct, and its authors consigned to that retirement which they richly merit.

> The Democracy of the Wilmington District seem to be threatened with an awful splint. It appears that Mr. Jas. J. Bryan, Loco, is determined to be a candidate for Congress, notwithstanding Gen. McKay's claims or pretensions. The editor of the Wilmington Journal, (Loco.) is opposed to Mr. B., and is trying to put him down! Let Mr. B. remember that this editor is fond of the loaves, and resolve never to submit to his dictation! What right has such a man to horn-off natural born Americans!

Something New .- Silsbee, the Comedian in one of his farces, says that the United States are bounded on the North by the aurora borealis, on the East by the rising Boots is rightthe South by as far as we choose to go! how.

from Gener and trainsrey-Matta counts, the r knowing h there is an o lief: " where certainly some Ever since this gentleman took ground uncestain ; a have if they have favorable pr the Rio Grant ed weak by th

We copy the

To the Editor The schr. the Beassos, stant. She had however, could ing. The news mendeus excite at the reception o de la Palma. T hetween Santa Taylor, near the Americans le aggerated, but that have occurred the Every one now c error of Gen. Scott lor in so unprotecti eye to his own gre Santa Anna has sl taking advantage knows how this m even in these ser ces, Gen. Taylor it, but must remar ited, in wafull ent it. I enclose an e of the intelligence perceive by a por discredit upon the v

> The Courier says columns this me regard to the opera Taylor, as we could he supposed that the fullest extent, but I that a severe eng or near to Saltillo.

" The commi Camargo appears off, and nothing s will be able to op

The Demograt duced by the se aspirant, or the m abandon their pri brace of Federal

This is a hit a houn, Hannegar the Locofocos ar pleased. There truly believe, that their principles, together as a pr practice Locofoc as opportunity fall when and w know the Whigs it. It may go into its scisms may tu

EPPS, the I der the above c from the N.O. Co. notorious persor on Monday last. Second Municipa there in the ster Texas.

Weather .- We days of beautiful a fine Spring da them) in bright were triping alor rate as to delight row may find the for the weather I

COTTON.-At N. ing upwards.

At Fayetteville At Wilmington. At Charleston, At Columbia, 91

A Mrs. Boots. her husband a unknown. Th rights and lefts