

From the New Orleans Picayune of April 23.

EXCITING NEWS FROM VERA CRUZ.

The United States steamship Massachusetts arrived here last evening from Vera Cruz. Our place she left on the evening of the 14th. Our correspondence is down to the latest hour. The news is of the most stirring interest. The best advices lead to the impression that a battle was fought at Cerro Gordo, nearly midway between the Puente Nacional and Jalapa, on Thursday or Friday last. We have heretofore announced the advance of Gen. Twiggs's division into the interior. When last heard from he was beyond the Puente Nacional, and in close proximity of the Mexican army. Gen. Scott was expected to arrive at Gen. Twiggs's headquarters on the night of the 14th instant. Gen. Worth left Vera Cruz with the last divisions of the army on the 13th, and bivouacked that night at San Juan—about twelve miles in the interior. He probably joined the advance on the 15th. Santa Anna was said to be at Cerro Gordo, where La Vega and Canalizo were posted with a considerable command. The Mexican force at that point, when joined by Santa Anna, was estimated at fifteen thousand strong—consisting of two thousand regular infantry, three thousand cavalry, and the remainder irregulars. The pass of Cerro Gordo is forty-four miles from Vera Cruz, and naturally a very strong one. Some difficulty is anticipated in forcing it. Rumors state that Santa Anna can obtain any amount of irregular force he may desire. Reconnoitering parties from the American army had been fired upon and several wounded—amongst whom was Captain (now Lieut. Col.) Johnston, of the Topographical Engineers, who was shot in the arm and hip whilst examining the Mexican works at Cerro Gordo. Intelligent officers, who arrived in the Massachusetts, entertain very little doubt that a general engagement has taken place.

A number of soldiers have been shot in passing the road to and fro. All accounts represent the Americans as confident of victory, and the Mexicans as burning for vengeance. Our next advices from Vera Cruz will we doubt not, bring the details of an important engagement. We subjoin the news from the Vera Cruz papers and our correspondence. The letter from Mr. Kendall, of the 14th, written at San Juan, is the very latest from the army. The soldiers were suffering at Vera Cruz from sickness, but the vomito had not appeared.

CAMP AT SAN JUAN, April 14, 1847.

I arrived in this camp at 11 o'clock last night the road from Vera Cruz running for the most part through heavy sand. The division of Gen. Worth, from the excessive heat and wearisome road, suffered incredibly. The news in camp is stirring. An express has come down from Gen. Twiggs to the effect that Santa Anna was before him at Cerro Gordo with 15,000 men, as near as could be judged from reconnaissance made by Capt. Hardie and other officers of dragoons. Lieut. Col. J. E. Johnston has been severely but not mortally wounded while examining Santa Anna's works, which appear to be a succession of breastworks on the eminences in the vicinity of Cerro Gordo. Every thing would now go to show that Santa Anna is determined to make a bold stand. A dragoon who had been sent down express by Gen. Twiggs yesterday found shot by the roadside just beyond this. His papers had not been touched. The Mexicans are playing a bloody, and at the same time bold, game than is usual for them, as it is thought they have killed no less than fifty of our men within the last three days on the road. Gen. Scott stopped last night nine miles from this; to night he will reach Gen. Twiggs's position. If Santa Anna is as strong as he is represented, he probably will not be attacked for two or three days.

Correspondence of the New Orleans Delta. VERA CRUZ, April 13, 1847.

As I stated in my letter of this morning, the brigade of Gen. Worth took up the line of march for Jalapa; but, from rather sudden indisposition, the General did not leave with them. About one o'clock an express reached him with the important information that the column of Gen. Twiggs had fallen in with a large force of the enemy at Cerro Gordo, a strong position beyond Puente Nacional, and that a skirmish had taken place between Twiggs's advance guard and the enemy, in which Capt. Johnston, Topographical Engineer, was severely wounded with several others. In half an hour after the receipt of this news Gen. Worth had mounted his horse and was off—so sudden, indeed that I missed him, notwithstanding I repaired to his quarters to gather the particulars as soon as I heard it.

There is no doubt at all but that Santa Anna with from 12,000 to 15,000 men, is between us and Jalapa. It is conceded on all sides. But if Gen. Twiggs does not whip him, he will at least keep him in check until Gen. Scott, who left yesterday, reaches him, which will be to-morrow night. Major Gen. Patterson left here with two brigades of volunteers on Friday, and he has no doubt reached the advance before this hour.

Gen. Twiggs has between 2,500 and 2,700 men—choice ones, too—under his command, and I entertain little fear for his safety. Gen. Patterson marched with Shields's and Pillow's brigades, and all the force, except the garrison of the town and Quitman's brigade are either at the scene of action or on the road to it. Gen. Scott, I think, was pretty well satisfied before his departure that Santa Anna was in the neighborhood of Jalapa, and was making good time towards that point before the express reached him.

A terrible battle will be fought at Cerro Gordo, or there will be little or no fighting. An intelligent Mexican told me to-night that there would be no fight, and that Santa Anna had with him four prominent members of the National Congress, with the aid of whom he hopes to negotiate a peace. I believe truly that it is the wish of his Excellency to end the strife, but whether he will embrace this occasion (which, by the way, is an excellent one) I cannot say.

The horses of the Tennessee cavalry arrived today from Tampico, and as soon as they are landed I expect Quitman will leave here.

VERA CRUZ, APRIL 14, 1847.

There has been a skirmish at Puente Nacional, and we hourly look for the intelligence of the capture of Cerro Gordo, a strong mountain fort, twenty-two miles from Jalapa. A decisive battle is expected at this point, for it is the best vantage ground this side of Perote. Gen. Santa Anna was at or near Jalapa at the last accounts, but by this time there is scarcely a doubt that Cerro Gordo is carried by as-

sault, and the army in snug quarters at the healthy and delightful city of Jalapa. Vera Cruz is a quiet and well governed as any city in the United States. It would improve the health some to throw down the walls and let in the fresh air, as the commander thinks of doing.

VERA CRUZ ANCHORAGE, APRIL 12, 1847.

A large detachment of the squadron leaves to-day for Tusan, commanded by the Commodore in person. Officers anticipate something of a fight there. It is believed that there are upwards of 2,000 troops at that place, under the command of Gen. Cos, with some sixty pieces of cannon.

The squadron captured at Alvarado sixty pieces of heavy cannon, all serviceable and in fine order, with the exception of three.

The greater portion of the army is now on the road to Jalapa; rumor has it that Santa Anna is there with a large force, and intends to dispute the pass near that place. The vomito has not yet made its appearance.

MEXICO, MARCH 29, 1847.

The city of the Montezumas is in a most extraordinary situation at this present writing. The "Farias and the "Constitutionalists" had a civil war of twenty-three days' duration, in which nobody was killed, and neither party lost or gained an inch of ground. That is, no one was killed of the fighters, unless we count some accidental deaths; but a great number of harmless citizens lost their lives by the incessant firing up and down the streets, with which the belligerents amused themselves instead of going within reach of each other.

Santa Anna wrote lovingly to both parties, and did his best to urge them to eat each other up, but, as soon as he could reach the city with some force, he threw them all overboard. He is playing for the Dictatorship, and is, in fact clothed with absolute power at this moment. He has induced the clergy to aid him with money to meet, and, as he says, to exterminate Scott and the "perfidious invaders." But his plan undoubtedly is to make peace, while he is entrenched behind American bayonets, and perhaps, with the help of American gold, he will put his enemies where they cannot interfere with him. As soon as he has a clear field he will use his army to seize the possession of the church, to maintain and increase it as a foundation of a throne. What ever he pretends, he has his eye on the church property and has twice put forward Gomez Farias as a cat-paw to grasp it, but when he found the clergy too strong for him, he made no scruple to sacrifice his tool and come out on the other side.

From the Eagle of the 13th April. SANTA ANNA.

Again must we appear before our readers without having any positive information as to the doings and whereabouts of the enemy. Rumor, in the mean time, is rife with news, and we must, perforce, set down to her account many things, which, however much we may believe them, we dare not give to the public as veritable. One of the most important outgivings up to this time, is, that Santa Anna, supported by La Vega, and a force of near 12,000 strong, has taken a position between this and Jalapa, which is said by those familiar with the country, to be very strong.

This report we find very generally believed by many officers of the army, and by the citizens of the place. A Plot Discovered.—Some day last week a number of Mexicans were discovered in the act of inciting the citizens of Tampico to revolt and drive the Americans from the place. We are not advised of the particulars, but we learn that Col. Gates banished them from the city, forbidding their return under penalty of death.

The Castle.—The castle of San Juan de Ulua has undergone a thorough cleansing throughout, making it approach much nearer a place in which an American soldier ought to reside. We are informed that a more filthy place could scarcely be imagined, at the time our troops took possession.

Troops.—The steamship New Orleans arrived yesterday from Tampico, having on board a company of regular infantry, from Fort Snelling. Moses Y. Beach, of the N. Y. Sun, via Tampico, was a passenger on the New Orleans.

[Mr. Beach came a passenger on board the Massachusetts to this city yesterday.]—Delta. Gen. Patterson.—It gives us much pleasure to be able to announce the recovery of Major Gen. Patterson, or at least, so as to be able to assume the command of his division of the army. He left this city on Friday evening last, and would probably reach his command the same night.

Execution.—The execution of the colored man, Kirk, a citizen of the United States, convicted of committing a rape upon the person of a Mexican woman, and then, took place on Saturday evening last. A large concourse of people were present, to witness the first execution under American authority, which has ever taken place since our occupation of this country. It will, no doubt, prove a salutary lesson to many who would destroy the safeties guaranteed to good citizens, were not such punishments sometimes inflicted.

Breaking up of General Headquarters.—Yesterday evening at 5 o'clock, Gen. Scott and his staff left their quarters in the Plaza, and started for Jalapa. They were escorted by Col. Harney's 21 Dragoons, and will probably be up with Gen. Twiggs of the advance in two or three days.

Alvarado.—The port of Alvarado, which has been closed for several months, is now open to our commerce, and to all neutral vessels not having on board articles contraband of war.

Worth's Brigade.—Maj. Gen. Worth, with the 1st brigade, will probably leave Vera Cruz to-day, following in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor. The governments of the town and dependencies have been turned over to Col. Wilson of the 1st infantry.

The Hospital.—Many of our gallant soldiers are now prostrated by disease, and the hospitals are filled to overflowing with them. The disease most prevalent is diarrhoea, which in many cases has proved fatal.

Expedition to Tusan.—On Friday last, the sloops of war Germantown and Albany, and two bomb vessels departed for Tusan. On Sunday, the Raritan, with one hundred additional marines from Potomac sailed for the same place, and yesterday, Com. Perry, with the flag ship Mississippi, and steamers Spitfire and Vixen, having bomb vessels in tow. The Petrel, Bonita and Elca followed suit. The object of this expedition is to take possession of Tusan, which we understand will be effected by landing the sailors and marines at a convenient point.

From the Eagle of the 10th inst.

Military Commission.—Besides that of rape, two other cases have been adjudged before the Military Commission. They were for theft

committed by two privates of the 1st Pennsylvania Regiment of Volunteers. They were sentenced each to one month's imprisonment in the Castle of San Juan de Ulua, and a fine of one month's pay.

PROCLAMATION.

HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Vera Cruz, April 11, 1847.

Major General Scott, General-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America, to the good people of Mexico.—PROCLAMATION.

Mexicans!—At the head of a powerful army, soon to be doubted—a part of which is advancing upon your Capital—and with another army, under Major General Taylor, in march from Sabillo towards San Luis de Potosi—I think myself called upon to address you.

Mexicans!—Americans are not your enemies; but the enemies, for a time, of the man who, a year ago, misgoverned you, and brought about this unnatural war between two great Republics. We are the friends of the peaceful inhabitants of the country we occupy, and the friends of your Holy Religion, its Hierarchy and its Priesthood. The same Church is found in all parts of our own country, crowded with devout Catholics, and respected by our government, laws and people.

For the Church of Mexico, the unoffending inhabitants of the country, and the property, I have from the first done every thing in my power to place them under the safeguard of martial law against the few bad men in this army.

My orders, to that effect, known to all, are precise and rigorous. Under them, several Americans have already been punished, by fine, for the benefit of Mexicans, besides imprisonment, and one, for a rape, has been hung by the neck.

Is this not a proof of good faith and energetic discipline? Other proofs shall be given as often as injuries to Mexicans may be detected.

On the other hand, injuries committed by individuals, or parties of Mexico, not belonging to the public forces, upon individuals, small parties, trains of wagons and teams, or of pack mules; or on any person or property belonging to this army, contrary to the laws of war—shall be punished with rigor; or if the particular offenders be not delivered up by Mexican authorities, the punishment shall fall upon entire cities, towns, or neighborhoods.

Let then, all good Mexicans remain at home or at their peaceful occupations; but they are invited to bring in, for sale, horses, mules, beef, cattle, corn, barley, wheat, flour for bread, and vegetables. Cash will be paid for everything this army may take or purchase, and protection will be given to all sellers. The Americans are strong enough to offer the assurances which, should Mexicans wisely accept, this war may soon be happily ended, to the honor and advantage of belligerents. Then the Americans, having converted enemies into friends, will be happy to take leave of Mexico and return to their own country.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

From the Mobile Advertiser April 27th.

THE DEMOCRACY AND HENRY CLAY.—The democracy, if we can place any reliance on their professions, are becoming, all of a sudden, to be the great admirers of Henry Clay! After having exhausted the vocabulary of abuse in their efforts to blacken his reputation and blight his fair fame, it is beautifully refreshing to see so just and beautiful a tribute paid him as the Augusta Constitutionalist, the leading administration paper in Georgia. In an article referring to the battle of Buena Vista the Editor thus rhapsodizes:

There was another, whose very name awakens a thrill of emotion and enthusiasm from one end of the Union to the other. The name of Henry Clay is a spell that has charmed into admiration millions of American hearts. It is identified with all the great events in our country's history for the last forty years—it has shone brightly among the brightest in the galaxy of great names; and it has shone on undimmed and unobscured—unsuspected of want of devotion to his country. Men have differed from his opinions, but no generous mind ever doubted that his ardent nature was imbued with the soul of patriotism. His voice has often rung like a clarion through our land, in his country's cause, when foreign aggression called for rebuke. It roused up the chivalry of her sons, and prepared the hearts of the people for war, when insult and outrage were perpetrated upon our flag. That voice, still rich and musical as when it charmed a listening Senate and crowded galleries, has been recently heard to regret that age had so far enfeebled his arm as to prevent its being raised in this war against Mexico, "to avenge the wrongs of his country."

Many have been the offerings that he has laid upon the altar of his country—the last is that of his son. Parental influence might, possibly, had it been lessons taught beneath the rural shades of Ashland. Col. Clay inherited a spirit eager for his country's service, and worthy his illustrious sire. He was among the first of the gallant band that went forth from the great valley, to obey their country's call, and was alas! among the first to seal his patriotism with his life's blood. Green be the turf over the graves of the fallen heroes of that well fought field, and long be their memories cherished by a grateful people.

This tribute to the greatest and noblest man of the age is certainly very handsome, very just, and we hope truly sincere. But it seems strange that a man so noble and patriotic, whose name has charmed into admiration millions of American hearts; who has been "identified with all the great events in our country's history for the last forty years," and in all that period has NEVER been suspected of "want of devotion to his country;" who has passed through that long and trying ordeal with his name undimmed by dishonor—strange, we say, that such a noble spirit, "imbued with the soul of patriotism," should have been the victim of the most violent abuse and vindictive persecution that ever fell to the lot of a public man in this country—should have been charged with dishonesty, corruption, bargain and intrigue for office, and every other crime that disgraces humanity, and that too by the very presses that are now taking the lead in singing hosannas to his name! No paper was more uncerupulous in its abuse of Henry Clay in the last Presidential election than this same Augusta Constitutionalist which now strains itself in extravagant panegyrics. Has the writer just found out the true character of Henry Clay? Was he ignorant of the noble qualities of the man—of his generous nature, of his lofty integrity, of his undying devotion to his country—when, during the last campaign, he

lent himself and his press to the dirty, the disgraceful, the cruel work of attempting to dim the lustre of, and stamp with dishonor, that glorious name, "bright among the brightest of great names?" Has he just awaked to a proper understanding of the character of Henry Clay, and a just appreciation of his long and arduous public services? Really, it would seem so; but we fear it is all hypocrisy—that there is a base party motive at the bottom of all these panegyrics. The Editor concludes, we imagine, that Henry Clay will not be the candidate of the Whig party for the next Presidency, hence the effort to create a diversion in his favor in the hope of creating divisions among the Whigs, and hence the beautiful tribute we have copied. While therefore we point to it, and mark it, as a full and triumphant vindication of the character of the noble but persecuted sage of Ashland, by his persecutors, and as giving the lie to all the slanders of the Locofoco press during the last campaign, we beg to inform the Augusta Editor that the game he is playing is fully understood and properly appreciated by the true friends of Henry Clay, who will endeavor to protect his fair fame alike from filthy abuse and the fulsome panegyrics of the Locofoco press. There is not a sincere friend of the illustrious Clay but will, above all things else in which his fame is concerned, pray that he may be spared the infliction of Locofoco adulation! Its abuse we heed not; but, God forbid that we should endure its praise!

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Special Court, were read and were accordingly

TAXES

The following is the present year, as filed by County Tax.—Fifty cents on the hundred dollars Poor Tax.—Ten cents on the hundred dollars School Tax.—Twenty cents on the hundred dollars An appropriation was made of a deaf mute, whom to educate. This All the business has been completed.

Charles Fisher, Esq. of the following result with a few very appropriate Resolved, Unanimously, that the Board of Trustees of the County School should be debating the election of that and that we consider it a duty to discontinue its power.

Resolved, That for the evil in this County, of the County Solicitor, elected at the expense of the County candidates for office, and guilty of the practice.

These resolutions were B. Lord, Esq., who votes, in their favor. of treating in strong evidence to the benefit of public morals. He was H. C. Jones, Esq., adoption of the resolutions.

The vote being taken, by adopted, and ordered Clerk have said resolutions, printed in this

We would attention to the subject relative to the Rail Road at Charlotte, last year also beg that the State would permit more particularly enterprise, the intention of that State Western North Carolina and shake off her those things which connected with her glory, and her glory. take a system of want of which her have been paralyzed.

We regret that for us to attend the lotte, for many years—the mere pleasure of thimself which interesting subject—the trouble of the State, which would arise from the contemplation of the port of the sayings, truly gratifying to his home in this through this part of desirable, if only lotte, will naturally with the Yaddkin and from Richmond to improvements we several important times get the best of the least cost of iron which would arise from ble. But this is the value of property per cent, and we would become, as her natural advantage desirable country.

Rail Road Convention

This Rail Road Convention of humble promises, been gradually, yet in opinion, and such is the scheme, that on a very small exertions, gates appeared at Charlotte in this State, and the line, immediately followed. Seventeen delegations, ceedings, and great seem to have reached. We learn that the has been by talent from and what was equally by a good many men opinion seems to be a very many men of substance. The Convention appointment of the

JOHN SPRINGS, Esq. President; Hon. D. M. rus, esq., N. C. Vice Esq., of Columbia, S. C. WITHERS, of Laurens, of Charlotte, N. C. S. C., J. W. HAMPTON, Esq.

Col. Wm. F. Davis, N. Bayden, Esq., of Convention in the State able and eloquent terms, these gentlemen are the highest commendation of Salisbury, spoke in the much effect, and with

team with incidents and descriptions of the fight—the country yet rings with praises of the hero and his gallant men. The effects of this battle are in the last degree important. Had Santa Anna defeated Gen. Taylor, he would have instructed the garrison of Vera Cruz and San Juan D'Ulloa to hold out to the last extremity, whilst with his army, flushed with victory and supplied with spoils, he would have captured Camargo and Matamoros, and then fallen on Scott's rear, or affected the former with a portion of his troops whilst with the remainder he attempted the latter. With the city and castle in front, Santa Anna's inspired troops in General rear, and the vomito threatening him, General Scott's position would have been any thing but comfortable and safe. Now, however, the military power of Mexico is destroyed, Santa Anna's influence and power of encouragement annihilated, the garrisons of Vera Cruz and Ulloa dispirited, after a short struggle surrender—the contest is in reality at an end.

Many interesting reflections suggest themselves in a review of the Mexican campaign, connected and embodied as it is with the name and fame of General Taylor. Leading almost a "fortuitous hope"—forced to reconcile and combine political views with his military operations—ordered at once to spur and to soothe, to strike, and to conciliate—here have been required of Gen. Taylor, the highest qualities of both the soldier and the civilian. Camped in his means and continually instructed that we were on the eve of a peace, his sword has been rendered less trenchant by the olive branches twined around it,—his arm has been paralysed in dealing most sturdy blows—he has been prevented from pressing and improving to their full extent the advantages he has gained. Yet, without a quiet, without parade, without a single intrusion of self, by hard fighting and hard working, by indomitable energy and perseverance, nobly seconded by the discipline, the gallantry, the endurance of his troops, he has driven the enemy from the Rio Grande,—occupied the country as far as Sabillo,—gained within twelve months, four of the most splendid victories on record,—effectually broken the military power of Mexico—and effected, as far as is permitted him, the object of the administration. In every instance, from the defence of Fort Harrison to the battle of Buena Vista, he has fought with great odds against him. He has fought with his best officers and without them,—with regulars,—with volunteers and regulars conjoined,—and with volunteers alone! He has attacked the enemy upon the plain,—he has stormed their fortifications,—he has been attacked by them in his position. In every fight he has been victorious,—under every variety of circumstances, great. He has been found equal to every emergency, and has astonished the world by his skill and gallantry,—his power and resource. His announcements of his victories are models of military correspondence,—the plans of campaign contained in his more lengthy communications to the War Department, stamp him (in infinitely more than the mere man of military etiquette and detail) the General, the Great Captain. His views of policy, military and civil, prove that he would adorn any station he might be called upon to fill. His great foresight,—his strong common sense, his skill in conceiving and promptitude in executing, his cool judgment, his calm determination, his gallantry and presence of mind in the heat of battle, his humanity and forbearance in the hour of victory, his stern sense of justice and right, his great simplicity of character, mark him as a man who would have compared with the old Romans, and proved "the noblest Roman of them all," a man who should have taken place among our revolutionary fathers. It almost seems as if one of the giant race of men of one of the preceding ages had been, in Gen. Taylor, providentially endued with new life that he might grapple with this crisis in our affairs. The question, "Who is Gen. Taylor?" has been thus imperfectly answered. This he is, and more. A question arises, "who and what will Gen. Taylor be?"

Correspondence of the New Orleans Picayune.

CAMP AT SAN JUAN, April 14, 1847.

I arrived in this camp at 11 o'clock last night the road from Vera Cruz running for the most part through heavy sand. The division of Gen. Worth, from the excessive heat and wearisome road, suffered incredibly. The news in camp is stirring. An express has come down from Gen. Twiggs to the effect that Santa Anna was before him at Cerro Gordo with 15,000 men, as near as could be judged from reconnaissance made by Capt. Hardie and other officers of dragoons. Lieut. Col. J. E. Johnston has been severely but not mortally wounded while examining Santa Anna's works, which appear to be a succession of breastworks on the eminences in the vicinity of Cerro Gordo. Every thing would now go to show that Santa Anna is determined to make a bold stand. A dragoon who had been sent down express by Gen. Twiggs yesterday found shot by the roadside just beyond this. His papers had not been touched. The Mexicans are playing a bloody, and at the same time bold, game than is usual for them, as it is thought they have killed no less than fifty of our men within the last three days on the road. Gen. Scott stopped last night nine miles from this; to night he will reach Gen. Twiggs's position. If Santa Anna is as strong as he is represented, he probably will not be attacked for two or three days.

Correspondence of the New Orleans Delta. VERA CRUZ, April 13, 1847.

As I stated in my letter of this morning, the brigade of Gen. Worth took up the line of march for Jalapa; but, from rather sudden indisposition, the General did not leave with them. About one o'clock an express reached him with the important information that the column of Gen. Twiggs had fallen in with a large force of the enemy at Cerro Gordo, a strong position beyond Puente Nacional, and that a skirmish had taken place between Twiggs's advance guard and the enemy, in which Capt. Johnston, Topographical Engineer, was severely wounded with several others. In half an hour after the receipt of this news Gen. Worth had mounted his horse and was off—so sudden, indeed that I missed him, notwithstanding I repaired to his quarters to gather the particulars as soon as I heard it.

There is no doubt at all but that Santa Anna with from 12,000 to 15,000 men, is between us and Jalapa. It is conceded on all sides. But if Gen. Twiggs does not whip him, he will at least keep him in check until Gen. Scott, who left yesterday, reaches him, which will be to-morrow night. Major Gen. Patterson left here with two brigades of volunteers on Friday, and he has no doubt reached the advance before this hour.

Gen. Twiggs has between 2,500 and 2,700 men—choice ones, too—under his command, and I entertain little fear for his safety. Gen. Patterson marched with Shields's and Pillow's brigades, and all the force, except the garrison of the town and Quitman's brigade are either at the scene of action or on the road to it. Gen. Scott, I think, was pretty well satisfied before his departure that Santa Anna was in the neighborhood of Jalapa, and was making good time towards that point before the express reached him.

A terrible battle will be fought at Cerro Gordo, or there will be little or no fighting. An intelligent Mexican told me to-night that there would be no fight, and that Santa Anna had with him four prominent members of the National Congress, with the aid of whom he hopes to negotiate a peace. I believe truly that it is the wish of his Excellency to end the strife, but whether he will embrace this occasion (which, by the way, is an excellent one) I cannot say.

The horses of the Tennessee cavalry arrived today from Tampico, and as soon as they are landed I expect Quitman will leave here.

VERA CRUZ, APRIL 14, 1847.

There has been a skirmish at Puente Nacional, and we hourly look for the intelligence of the capture of Cerro Gordo, a strong mountain fort, twenty-two miles from Jalapa. A decisive battle is expected at this point, for it is the best vantage ground this side of Perote. Gen. Santa Anna was at or near Jalapa at the last accounts, but by this time there is scarcely a doubt that Cerro Gordo is carried by as-

Mexican and American Gunnery at Vera Cruz.

The North American publishes a letter written by a correspondent on board the steamer Princeton, whilst on her way from Vera Cruz to New Orleans, from which we take the following extract:

I have heard Col. Totten say that he has never seen such superb gun practice as was displayed by the Mexicans. They were obliged to surrender for the want of provisions, the soldiers not having an ounce of food left, either in the city or castle, and to save their beautiful town from utter destruction, it being completely commanded by the high ground in the rear, occupied by our troops.

I was in the Governor's palace, a very fine building occupying one side of the Plaza in which General Scott has his head quarters, and was looking into a very handsome room, where it was evident a shell had struck when a Mexican gentleman came up and offered to show me over the house. I followed him and directly we came to what had evidently been a superb room, but the almost entirely torn to pieces; he pointed to a place beside the door which was blown out. "There," said he, "sat a lady and her two children; they were all killed by the shell which has wrought the injury you see."

At the Mexican battery which fought so well when the flag staff was shot away, an officer tore the flag from the remnant of the staff, jumped upon the parapet, and held it in his hand, until he himself was shot down. This was done three times. The sight in the Plaza, when General Scott took possession would doubtless have been very handsome, if the soldiers had been dressed as our holiday soldiers in Philadelphia. Such a set of dirty ragged looking devils, it is hard to see. Scott and his staff and Worth in all their glory habiliments; the rear in anything but a slightly costume.

GASTON MEARES.

We learn that a letter from our young townsman, GASTON MEARES, confirms the intelligence of his promotion from an adjutant to a Lt. Colonel, in the Arkansas Regiment. The honor thus conferred upon him is a sufficient commentary upon his conduct in battle—and is highly gratifying to his friends here—of whom he has many.—Wil. Com.

Life of Gen. Taylor.—Grigg, Elliott & Co. Philadelphia, announce as in press, the Life of this distinguished General from the eloquent pen of Judge