

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

BRUNER & JAMES, Editors & Proprietors.

"KEEP A CHECK UPON ALL YOUR RULES."

"DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE."

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Vertical text on the far left edge, partially cut off, containing various notices and advertisements.

THE STORMING OF CERRO GORDO.

The following extract from the Raleigh (N. J.) Register contains some particulars of that terrible conflict by one who was a party in it, which will be read with interest:—

Col. W. S. Harney, 2d Dragoons, was our officer in command. As soon as we had taken our places and all laid down. Col. Harney gave his orders thus: "As soon as you hear the word charge, rush right down the hill as fast as you can and up the other—it is rather steep, but that's all the better for us—yell like devils as soon as you reach the ravine, and then up the hill to their breastworks as soon as you can, and for God's sake don't fire unless you shoot a Mexican!" An orderly now came from Gen. Twigg's—"The general says if you don't want him to go, crazy, for Heaven's sake fire!" The guns were soon ready and our side began. They fired for a few minutes, when a force was observed coming down the Jalapa road, and the riflemen were ordered to the bow of the mountain to engage them. In getting out of the hollow they had to pass just in range of the enemy's guns, and the grape shot took awful effect. Such a scene may I never witness again. As each successive shower came, shouts of "Oh God!" and cries of the most painful description came from their ranks, while the blood spattered and dust flew in every direction. Capt. Mason's leg was shot entirely away, but he took it very coolly, simply looking at it and observing, "Well, there's my leg gone!" By the strenuous exertions of their officers the ranks were kept closed. "Keep in the ranks, men! don't fall out—stand firm!" while at every shower death strode among them. The word was now "the third forward," and our bugle sounded the "charge." We rose and pitched for the brow of the hill, and commenced the almost perpendicular descent. And now the scene became a scene indeed, for the whole fire of which the enemy was capable was directed against us. All their infantry was at work, and the constant roll of musketry, with now and then the louder and more startling report of artillery from all the enemy's forts, which were cross-firing us, was awful. Still cheering we rushed on, cheered by our leader the intrepid Harney. A great many were shot, while we could not fire a gun ourselves, and even our artillery had now to be silent, as we were in the range of it.

We reached the bottom of our hill in showers of bullets, almost exhausted, but again we gave three hearty cheers and commenced to climb the enemy's height and storm their breastworks and battery. Thousands upon thousands of bullets whizzed past our ears, now and then laying one of my comrades low. Here I saw many of my brave comrades fall—men who had like myself fought in all the battles in Mexico, and I thought for certain that my time had come. But no, my dear sister, the recorded prayers of those whom I love best on earth were still around me then, as ever, and the thought lightened my heart as I rushed on. Col. Harney was at the head of us all, cheering us on, and in a few minutes we gained the top and were just outside the breastworks. They fought like devils—better than Mexicans have fought before in this war. Col. Harney was almost the first man on their breastworks. Capt. Alexander, in command of our regiment, was the third man, and he shot three or four before he got in, and two afterwards, with a revolver. Lieut. Ewell, of the Rifles, was the first officer on the breastworks, and was cheering with his cap off, when he received an escopette ball through the heart. The 3d Infantry was among the first over, and the enemy commenced running, but too late—they were shot down in their tracks, many of them, as we turned their own artillery upon them, and the 2d Infantry, which had by this time got round, met them near the foot of the mountain.

Our flag was instantly hoisted on the fort, and the route was complete—for the enemy seeing that their main dependence was wrested from them, took the panic and abandoned themselves to flight.

TWENTY-EIGHT MILES OF PORES.—Douglas Jerrold considers no education complete without a certain acquaintance with medical science. All, no doubt, know that the skin is a perspiratory organ, but few probably are aware of the magnitude of the part, which in virtue of its function it performs in the animal economy. With reference, therefore, to this point, he cites the following statement of Surgeon Wilson, F. R. S., the celebrated English anatomist:

"To obtain an estimate of the length tube of the perspiratory system of the whole surface of the body, I think that 2,800 might be taken as a fair average of the number of pores in the square inch, and 700 consequently, of the number of inches in length. Now, the number of square inches of surface in a man of ordinary height and bulk is 2,500; the number of inches of perspiratory tubes, 1,750,000; that is, 145,833 feet or 48,600 yards, or nearly twenty-eight miles.

ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF CAPT. A. R. PORTER.

The Charlotte Journal of the 15th inst. says:—The following letter, to the father of Capt. A. R. Porter, has been furnished for publication at the earnest solicitation of the citizens of Mecklenburg. It is from Capt. Desha, who was 1st Lieutenant of Capt. Porter's company at the bloody battle of Buena Vista. It gives in detail all the circumstances connected with the melancholy fate of the Captain, as Lieutenant Desha was cognizant of the whole scene. The letter will be read by his fellow citizens with a proud satisfaction. Proud at his noble daring under such trying circumstances, yet regretting that he should be cut off in the prime of his usefulness. It will be seen that his friends intend to bring his body back to this Country, so that he may be buried in his native land, when that respect can be paid to his remains which is justly the meed of all those who die in defence of their Country's Honor.

La Encantada, Camp of the Arkansas Regiment, 13 miles S. of Saltillo, Mexico, May 19, 1847.

MR. JAMES PORTER:—Dear Sir—Your letter of the 17th ult., directed to Gen. Wool, enquiring into the particulars of the death of your son, Capt. A. R. Porter, who was killed in the bloody battle of Buena Vista, on the 23d of Feb., and also as to the practicability of having his remains brought to the United States, was received a few days since and handed over to the Colonel of this Regiment for information, who had handed it to me, inasmuch, as I now command Capt. Porter's company, and am knowing of the circumstances of his death, burial, &c. I was the 1st Lieut. of his company, and was close to him when he received his mortal wound. Four companies of the Arkansas Cavalry, among which was Capt. Porter's, (the remainder of the Regiment being engaged with the enemy in another part of the field) were formed in conjunction with the Kentucky Cavalry to resist a charge from the Mexican cavalry numbering from 1500 to 2000 men. A heavy fire was opened upon us from their batteries, and upon their lines, they at last came charging, and dividing so as to surround us. Here a bloody encounter, hand to hand, took place, which in a short time resulted in the dispersion of the enemy; though outnumbering us some 4 or 5 to 1. In this desperate charge your son fell at the head of his company, gallantly leading it on to victory. He and Col. Yell, who commanded the Arkansas Regiment, fell within a few paces of each other. When Captain Porter was found on the field, his breast was pierced with a lance, his left hand cut off with a sabre, and his face split from the left eye to the mouth, with a sabre. I saw the Mexican pierce him through the breast with his lance, and I immediately dashed at him with my sabre, remarking to Capt. Porter that I would kill him (the Mexican) for him. He made me no reply but seemed to be bending over in his saddle as if in the agonies of death. The Mexican who killed him, and who had been dismounted, for he was on foot when he struck him with his lance, ran among our horses, and I did not get an opportunity to slay him. These, sir, are the circumstances of your son's death, and you may rely upon their truth, as I was an eye witness to them. The sabre wounds I think he must have received whilst in the act of falling from his horse, as the wound in the breast was mortal. I was well acquainted with Capt. Porter, and had been for the last three or four years. We lived in the same town, and practiced law in the same courts. I deeply sympathize with you in his loss, and although he has fallen young, and in the midst of his usefulness, yet I know that it will be a source of proud gratification to you, to hear that he fell as a brave soldier in the ever memorable battle of Buena Vista, whilst upholding the honor of his country. Immediately after the battle, and when all things had become quiet, I had his body entered along side of Col. Yell. When your letter was received, the company was making arrangements to have his remains carried to the U. States. Every man of his company is anxious that it should be done, for no man was held in higher estimation by his men or more beloved by them than was Capt. Porter. I am now having a coffin prepared in Saltillo suitable for carrying his body back in, to the United States. Our Regiment will leave here on the 5th of next month, for New Orleans, there to be discharged at the expiration of its term of service which is about the 1st of July. As the Regiment will leave here, and probably the army before this letter can reach you, and any one come here to get his remains, we have thought proper to take his remains as far as New Orleans with us, and there deposit them, from which place you can easily have them taken to North Carolina. It was our intention to take them back to the place of his adopted home, and where he had raised his company, but of course, we will abide by your wishes, and leave him at New Orleans; I will write from there and let you know where they can be found. Capt. Porter had been unwell with the rheumatism in his ankles and knees for two or three weeks before the battle, and was advised by the surgeon, not to go out to the fight, but impelled by a love of glory, and a sense of duty to his country he determined to participate in the glory of the day, even though it cost him his life. Hoping that I have satisfactorily answered your letter, I remain with much respect, your obedient servant,

F. R. DESHA, Capt. Com. D., Arkansas Regt. Cavalry. Mr. JAMES PORTER, Charlotte, N. C.

A man who had lived much in society, said that his acquaintances would fill a cathedral, but that a pulpit would hold all his friends.

Philosophical happiness is to want little and to enjoy much; vulgar happiness is to want much and enjoy little.

FROM THE ARMY OF GEN. TAYLOR.

The U. S. steamer Fashion, Capt. Ivy, arrived yesterday from Brazos Santiago, with about fifty discharged soldiers and teamsters. By this arrival we have our correspondence from Monterey to the 20th ult., and the Matamoros flag of the 30th. The following passengers came over on the Fashion: Mr. J. B. Bigelow, L. W. Webster, Capt. J. Adams, and N. G. Tryon. Captain Adams is in charge of two men who are said to have deserted from the American army just prior to the battle of Buena Vista. Their names are Isaac McField and Christian Reath.

From the Flag we learn that Brig. Gen. Hopping, then at Matamoros, was to proceed immediately to Mier to superintend the formation of a Camp of Instruction for the troops now on the Rio Grande and to arrive. The Flag gives the following account of the troops to go into camp. The 16th (Col. Tibbatt's) regiment, entire, is now at Camargo and will be the first at the camp. Two companies of the 13th (Col. Echols's) regiment passed up the river on Monday; one company is in Fort Paredes, where it will remain for the present, and two more are at the Brazos, expected up. The other five companies of this regiment are yet to arrive. The 10th regiment, (Colonel Temple's) complete, is in camp at this place, and will remove to the Camp of Instruction when relieved by the Illinois troops, understood to be on the way out. The battalion of 3d Dragoons, now here, are under orders to remove to the camp, but their march is delayed in consequence of the non arrival of horses.

In addition to the troops above mentioned the following forces, raised and to be raised, under the recent call for volunteers and assigned to Gen. Taylor, will enter Gen. Hopping's school at Mier as fast as they arrive: One regiment of Infantry from Indiana and one from Ohio; one battalion (five companies) from New Jersey; one battalion (five do.) from Delaware and Maryland; one battalion (five do.) from Alabama; one company of foot from Florida; four companies of horse from Missouri, Kansas, Ohio and Alabama; two companies of foot from Virginia, and one company from North Carolina.

The troops will be exercised in their studies at this school under Col. Belknap, and when they shall have passed through a course of instruction under him, they will be fully prepared to fight under Gen. Taylor's invincible banner. The troops quartered at Matamoros, about 1400 in number, were to have been received on the 1st instant, by Col. Davenport the commandant.

Maj. Ben. McCulloch and his men had been for some days quartered at Matamoros. The men were enlisted for six months, and the Major has gone up to see if they could be received. We regret to hear that the Major is in bad health. The Flag has a report communicated by letter—in which, by-the-way, it puts no faith—that a scouting party of Gen. Wool had been cut off near Encarnacion, and all but one man killed or made prisoners. The letter further said that Gen. Wool was expecting an attack. The letter is dated June 10th. Had there been any truth in its reports, they would have been noticed by our correspondent writing ten days later from Monterey.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PICAYUNE.

MONTEREY, Mexico, June 20, 1847. Nothing of any note has transpired since my last, and we are all in pretty much the same condition now as then, except that the prospect of moving upon San Luis has grown a little brighter; and we look forward to the arrival of the 1st September with considerable impatience—at least the majority of those here do. I understand that Gen. Taylor has been apprised from headquarters that three of the volunteer regiments recently called for are also to be assigned him. They will probably be in the field by the latter part of August and ready to march by September. Accounts of the crops in the interior are very flattering; the wheat crop is said to be unusually fine, and corn also gives token of an abundant harvest. This is very cheering, as by the time a movement is made the corn harvest will be at its very height, and there will be no difficulty in foraging the animals. The army will probably be subsisted upon fresh beef on the route, to avoid the necessity of transporting salt provisions, and levies will be made upon the surrounding country. I am perfectly elated with the prospect of going to San Luis and coming home by the other route. I imagine that Gen. Taylor will visit the States late in the fall, after penetrating into the interior and uniting with Gen. Scott.

A Mexican of considerable intelligence arrived direct from San Luis a few days since, and reports that Gen. Taylor had been expected there for some time. He states that there are some regular troops there, but no very large force, and that but little had been done towards fortifying the place. Mexicans here state that Urrea has levied a tax upon all the inhabitants in this region for the support of his forces, and that he has agents attending to its execution. All those who have arms are directed to keep them in good order and be ready at a moment's warning to stand

forth again to protect their soil. It is thought by the Mexicans here, and they could not be made to believe otherwise, that Gen. Taylor contemplates a speedy movement upon San Luis, in consequence of all the troops being sent on to Saltillo immediately after their arrival here, and Urrea is said to have expressed his intention of retaking Monterey as soon as Gen. T. departs. I am afraid that he will be disappointed in his expectations. That Urrea has issued orders and promulgated an address I cannot and do not doubt. Why should he not as well as Canales?

Eight companies of the North Carolina Regiment, Col. Payne, part of whom arrived with the last train from below, marched up to Saltillo on Thursday, and apparently with perfect ranks. A part of the Massachusetts Regiments are at Cerralvo and the rest at Camargo, and are soon expected up. Gov. Early, in consequence of the exorbitant prices demanded for all sorts of marketable matters, meats and vegetables, has been compelled to fix prices for every thing at reasonable and remunerative rates. The Mexican bucksters are in a great rage about it, but to make use of a vulgar expression, have to "grin and bear it." J. E. D.

FROM THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The Mobile Herald and Tribune has complete files of papers from the City of Mexico down to the 16th of June, several days later than we have seen. The news is not of great importance, but it lets us into the state of affairs in the capital.

In the Herald we learn that the Diario Gobierno of the 13th June, contains the decree of Santa Anna, prohibiting the publication of news as to the state of defence of the City of Mexico, and cutting off all communication "with the point of the Republic occupied by our common enemies, the North Americans." All persons therefore requiring to pass into or to write to such parts must obtain a safe conduct from the Supreme Government, or from properly constituted military authorities.

In the Diario for the 15th June, D. Jose Maria Cobos states in regard to the McIntosh's convey, "that the heights of the bridge (Puente Nacional) were occupied by more than three hundred infantry, besides about two hundred infantry and over a hundred cavalry in the road at the base of the heights; that the bridge was completely obstructed by a thick barricade of brambles and trees;" "that the Americans had suffered a loss of 150 killed, as he had observed that they had buried a hundred and odd corpses, and had beheaded a dozen shot whom the enemy could not carry off;" "that our guerrillas are full of enthusiasm; and that D. Juan C. Rebolledo was preparing to attack the convey in Paso de Ocojas, as he could be spared without prejudice to the defence of the bridge;" "that an hundred and odd American cavalry and infantry had descended from Jalapa to assist the convey, and that four of this reinforcement had been killed and others wounded."

Father Jarauta represented "that the enemy fell back in a most shameful manner; that the terrific fire from the ambuscade caused a loss to the enemy of over a hundred dead and many wounded, and leaving us numberless wagons and animals." "To-morrow, with the force I may have, though only dozen men, I proceed to Calera, where, with the assistance of D. Juan Aburto, I propose to strike another blow." The following paragraph is from the Diario of the 12th June: "Trustworthy letters and the evidence of persons of veracity confirm the report, that the Yankees in Puebla do not number 6000, the artillery does not amount to 25 pieces, most of 8, 6 and 4 pounders. What garrison will they think of leaving in Puebla in case they moved forward? Certainly not less than 2000. And with hardly 4000 will they attempt to come to Mexico? In such cases it is vulgarly said the meat is too little for so much broth."

Fourth of July Accidents.—Just after the evening salute had been commenced at Albany on the 5th a young man by the name of William Shepard, of Branford, was struck by a wad from the cannon on his thigh, the wad passing through his limb between the bone and the femoral artery, tearing the flesh badly, but so that amputation was deemed advisable at the time. This morning he was doing as well as could be expected. At Newton Lowell Falls, a cannon, with which the inhabitants were celebrating the approach of the day, exploded into a hundred fragments the largest that could be found weighed but six pounds, and that was thrown six hundred feet to within a short distance of the Railroad depot. At the time of the explosion the gun was surrounded with people, but no one was in the slightest degree injured. The annual catalogue of accidents commences this year, as in preceding, with deplorable instances of the fatal result of carelessness and imprudence. In Troy a man was killed by the bursting of a cannon. In Schenectady another had his hand blown off by the same cause.

Rather Equivocal.—A complimentary dinner was given to Mr. Bedinger by the "unfringed Democracy" of Page county (Va.) a few days ago, at which the following regular toast was drank: "JAMES K. POLK: Distinguished alike for his valor and skill as Commander in Chief of the American armies, as well as for his wisdom and statesmanship as President of the United States."

We were yesterday shown, by a gentleman from the adjacent county of Prince George's, a sample of common red wheat, raised on the estate of the late Thomas Sasser, Esq. The heads of this wheat are uncommonly large, averaging ten rows and one hundred grains to the head, of fine full grain. The whole field had not a single false head in it. So says our informant.

NORTH CAROLINA MINT.

A letter in the Boston Post, speaking of the operations of the U. S. Mint in North Carolina, says:—"Charlotte is the centre of the gold region of North Carolina, this being the location of one branch of the United States mint. The other mints are at Philadelphia, and there are three branches—at New Orleans, at Dahlonega, Georgia, and at Charlotte. At Philadelphia they coin gold, silver and copper; at New Orleans gold and silver, and at Dahlonega and this place, gold only. But little silver is found here; no more than is wanted in assaying and coining the gold. They make only half and quarter eagles here. The largest amount coined here in any one year has been less than \$400,000. As it may be supposed, I will give a brief description of some of the processes the gold goes through. The miners have to grind the gold rock fine, keeping it wet constantly; and as it becomes finer it washes off. They have a hard kind of stone for grinding. They then mix quicklime with it, and that collects the gold dust. It is washed, and goes through some kind of a heating process. The gold dust is then usually sold to the superintendent of the Mint before offering it at auction. It is then weighed, each parcel being sealed up in a separate tin. The miners take the gold dust, melt it, and cast it into a bar, when it is weighed accurately and a price is cut off the assayer. He takes it, melts it twice its weight in silver, and several times its weight of lead. It is melted in some small crucible of bone-ashes, which absorb all the lead when a large part of the silver is extracted by another process, and the same is then rolled out to a thin shaving, coiled up and put in a sort of glass vial called a mattress, along with some sulfuric acid. The mattresses are put on a furnace, and the acid is boiled some time, poured off, a new supply put in, and boiled again. This is done several times till the acid has extracted all the silver and other mineral substance, leaving the sample pure gold. The sample is then weighed, and, by the difference between the weight before assaying and after its true value is formed. All the silver over and above five pennyweights for each lot, is paid for by the mint at its true value. The miner calls at the mint after his lot of gold has been assayed and gets its full value in gold coin, the government charging nothing for coining. That is what one of the officers of the mint here told me, though I had always understood that the government got five per cent for coining. The gold after it has been assayed, is melted, refined, and being mixed with its due proportion of alloy, (equal parts of silver and copper) is drawn into long strips, it shape not unlike an iron hoop for a cask; the round pieces cut with a sort of punch, each piece weighed, and brought to the right size by a file, if too heavy, when it is milled, or the edge raised and put into a stamping press, whence it comes forth a perfect coin, bearing the endorsement of that respectable old gentleman, "Uncle Sam."

GENERAL TAYLOR'S LETTER. We are amused at the apparent ecstasy into which the remark in General Taylor's letter, that he cannot permit himself to be the recipient of any party, or yield himself to general obligations, has led to the conclusion that the Union is there by its own right. The Union is there by its own right, and it is not to be broken up by the secession of a few States. The Union is there by its own right, and it is not to be broken up by the secession of a few States. The Union is there by its own right, and it is not to be broken up by the secession of a few States.

Running from Office. The N. O. Daily National says that "among the volunteers in Col. Doniphan's command was a young man who enlisted to keep from running for the Missouri Legislature." This gave umbrage to his constituents, and his name was put up and was elected by a unanimous vote. The unfortunate individual, who thus had honors thrust upon him, while marching in slow time with his musket on his shoulder over in Santa Fe, is expressly disturbed by the appearance of an address from the executive of Missouri demanding of Col. Doniphan, on pain and penalties if neglected, the body of the member elect of Missouri legislature, now a volunteer in his regiment. The Colonel, as a military man, is obliged to obey his commander-in-chief; so he ordered the legislator out of the ranks, and told him that he must foot it back, under a guard to Missouri, willingly if he would, or chained as a prisoner. The representative vented imprecations upon his constituents and upon his sovereign state, and took the hack track home perfectly disgusted with his popularity at the polls. Another private in Col. Doniphan's command now in California, has been elected to Congress.

DRUNKENNESS. In Queen Anne's time, drunkenness was rather popular than otherwise. In the manuscripts of the British Museum, there is a letter from the private Secretary of the celebrated Dutchess of Marlborough, addressed to the Pope which began thus: "Sir, my lady, the Dutchess being drunk yesterday, was unable to see you when you called in those days."