

This being Christmas week, we have determined to issue only half a sheet, in order that the hands in the office may enjoy it.

IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT.

An article appears in a late number of the Mecklenburg Jeffersonian, signed "Delta," and to have been written by a distinguished Democrat of our Town, protesting strongly against Mr. Buchanan, as the Democratic candidate for President. Several cogent reasons are stated, such as the Tariff and Slavery question; and he adds that Mr. Buchanan "would rather be weakened by the fact" of having belonged to the Polk Administration; and further, "that the Administration is dreadfully unpopular with a large portion of the Democratic party." And again: "upon the subject of the war, we might look in vain for his increased popularity." This writer then goes on to criticize the conduct of the Administration on the war in no very complimentary terms, he says it has been "inconsistent and actuated by no fixed system of operations." He refers to the three millions voted to buy a peace—to the introduction of Santa Anna by the President's assent; and to the childish orders in relation to the conquered Mexicans. He says the war is popular and destined to be more so, (a wide mistake!) but that no thanks are due to the Polk ministry for that. Upon the whole, he thinks that if General Taylor, upon a further scrutiny shall be found sufficiently democratic, he goes for him; but for any one before Mr. Buchanan. He opposes a National or State Convention at this time, because there is not unanimity enough in the party to effect any thing.

The article is strongly characterized, and forbids important demonstrations. We are apt to think, however, that a very weighty consideration, operating upon the mind of this writer, has not been stated, to wit: that Mr. Buchanan is an old Federalist; why is this? Is Delta afraid that such a blow would be too hard, and hurt further than he intends? Or, why is it?

In consequence of the death of Mr. Turner, Sheriff, J. I. BREWER, Coroner of the County, gave the required bond and assumed the duties of the Office on the 25th instant.

Several interesting articles omitted this week for want of room, but which shall appear in our next.

It is stated, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Allen and Mr. Bagby positively declined to serve on any of the committees of the Senate, and the reason suggested for their refusal is that neither is willing to connect himself with the falling fortunes of the Administration.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American. WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1847.

I hear of a letter in town this morning from one of Gen. Taylor's friends in Louisiana, to a warm friend of the General here, declaring that he will accept the nomination of a Whig National Convention for the office of the Presidency. This would seem to look to an entire commitment to the measures of the whig party. There is a great deal of speculation in the city upon the question of a National Convention, and the nominee of that Convention. There is much said also as to the proper time to hold the convention. The opposite party are disposed to follow the lead of the Whigs, and probably will be guided by an opposite action, whatever it may be.

Should the Whigs make choice of a civilian, then the Democrats will probably fall upon a military man; and if the Whigs should make choice of Gen. Taylor, or any other military man, the Democratic choice would doubtless fall elsewhere. Whether the Whig Convention shall meet in July or in May is a question for the Whig members of Congress to consider. I have seen the letter above referred to. It hardly warrants the inference drawn from it, but is important in this particular, that Gen. Taylor regards himself as already nominated by a portion of the people in their primary assemblies, and that he regards himself as already committed by such nominations. The people are at liberty, he says, to vote for him or not, as they think best, but he shall not decline not even in favor of Mr. Clay, as has been suggested, though believing most sincerely that many whom he could name, Mr. Clay among the number, are far better fitted than himself to perform the duties of the high office of President of the United States.

From the N. O. Commercial Times, Dec. 11. GEN. TAYLOR AT HOME.

We learn from the Baton Rouge Advocate, of the 8th inst., that Gen. Taylor arrived there on Sunday night last, at eleven o'clock. At noon, on the day following, says the Advocate, hundreds of our fellow citizens, both from the town and country—many of them old friends and acquaintances of the general—in procession, headed by the soul-stirring life and drum, and marched to the residence of the old General, who made his appearance, and received any amount of cheering from the enthusiastic crowd. D. D. Avery, Esq., in behalf of the citizens, addressed the General in a neat pertinent and impressive speech, extending to him the hospitalities and cordial welcome of the town and parish, and conveying in fit terms the high appreciation and admiration

entertained by the inhabitants for his distinguished services in the battles of his country.

The General responded with a warmth of feeling and expression, which showed a deep acknowledgment for the attention and honors tendered him.

We learn that the General will depart in a few days for his farm, up the river, but will shortly return, and spend the most of his spare time with his family.

THE MEETING IN NEW YORK ON THE WAR.

The Philadelphia North American has a report of the proceedings of the meeting in New York on Monday night, on the war, from which we extract the following:

New York, 11 1/2 P. M.

The call made for a meeting of all those in favor of the sentiments of Mr. Clay's Lexington speech, was responded to with the utmost enthusiasm, and the Tabernacle was crowded to an extent seldom, if ever, witnessed before. At least 5,000 persons were present, and all were imbued with a cordiality of feeling of the most pleasing character.

The meeting was called to order at 7 o'clock, by J. H. Hobart, Esq., and organized by the appointment of Dudley Selden, Esq., as President, thirty-six Vice Presidents and eighteen Secretaries.

Upon assuming the chair, Mr. Selden made an impressive address, which was received with great applause and listened to with the most marked attention. He reviewed the war, its inception, and the causes which led to it—the imbecile mode of its prosecution in its early stages, and the want of foresight displayed by the administration throughout; and adverted with great effect to the objects which the administration hoped to attain by involving our country with a neighboring Republic. He showed that the conduct of the war had been as foolish as the efforts to procure a peace, after the just indignation of the country had been aroused. He referred to the appointment of Mr. Trist as commissioner to treat for peace, as a bungling absurdity. It was disreputable to the nation to send a mere clerk of a department with plenary powers, where there were so many able statesmen, whose services might have been enlisted and brought experience and respect to their aid. Had the Administration appointed any recognized statesman of any party, for his delicate task, with power to negotiate a peace, it might have been obtained long ago. Either Mr. Van Buren, Webster, Calhoun, Benton, or Clay, would have brought it to a speedy close.

At the mention of Mr. Clay's name by Mr. Selden, the house shook with applause—cheers upon cheers burst forth amid the heartiest expressions of affection and veneration for the great name so fondly cherished in every Whig heart. So that, out of the whole evening, even an outburst that name touched every nerve of which vibrated through every bosom.

The conclusion of Mr. Selden's remarks, three hearty cheers were given for a speedy peace.

Resolutions were then submitted and adopted unanimously and by acclamation.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Upton, (of N. C.) then addressed the meeting.

N. Boditch Blunt next addressed the meeting in an able argument on the demoralizing policy of the administration.

An address was then presented and adopted.

The meeting broke up about half past 10 o'clock, with three cheers again for a speedy peace and prolonged applause for Henry Clay, of Kentucky. The demonstration will long be remembered with pride in New York, as alike honorable to the character of our city and those who participated in it.

THE THIRD WEEK OF THE SESSION.

Two weeks of the Session of Congress have passed away without any thing of National interest having been determined in either House. Not that any thing could be expected to be matured thus early in bodies constituted as the House of Representatives is, one-half of its whole number being for the first time Members of Congress. The Senate also has many new members; but, if it had not, could not act on any legislative matter without the co-operation of the other House.

Important demonstrations have been made in both Houses by the introduction of propositions having reference to the Mexican war. But nothing has occurred, or probably will occur, before the new year sets in, to indicate decisively the opinion of either House as to the policy of continuing the war to the extent and in the manner proposed in the President's Annual Message.

The matter which has thus far produced the greatest excitement in the popular branch of Congress is the Veto Message of the President, which, besides being supererogatory as an official act, is looked upon rather in the light of a lecture to the refractory members of the President's own party, and is therefore not likely to make friends to the Administration in either body. A debate has begun upon the merits of that question in the House, wherein the Harbor bill of the last Session originated, which will probably not terminate without some decisive expression of that opinion of the House upon the subject.

Mr. Botts deserves the thanks not of the Southern States merely, but of all parts of the country for having made a movement to re-establish the mail connexion, which is now sadly out of joint, between the whole South down to New Orleans (and of course to the seat of war further South) and the Middle and Eastern States. Four Mails were due yesterday from that quarter, (or would have been due under the old arrangement), of which only one was received. Upon the merits of the controversy between the Postmaster General and the old contractors, it appears unnecessary to decide, in order to determine the necessity of putting an end to the entire derangement of the Mails, which, as we understand it, can only now be effected by the interposition of Congress.—National Intelligencer.

The Message.—What think you, candid reader, of the following passage, in the early part of the President's Message?

"If ever has been our cherished policy to cultivate peace and good will with all nations; and this policy has been steadily pursued by me." This declaration is placed by the author in a paragraph to itself, in order to give it the more prominence! The reader will be struck with the frequent and solicitous repetition of the old story, that Mexico began the war. It is told half a dozen times in half a column, and we know not how many times besides through the remainder of the document. Would simple truth require so much repetition in such stultid variety of phrase? Perhaps his Excellency's conscience troubles him and he is endeavoring to tell the "stereotyped falsehood" so often that he may at last believe it himself.

The President also repeats that the war has not been waged for conquest. Yet he shows with great particularity how his early plans were laid for permanent occupation of Mexican territory; expresses his determination not to give up New Mexico and the Californias; intimates, in fact, that he will not now be satisfied without more than these; and recommends the organization at once of civil governments there. But he never had any view to conquest!

He shows very satisfactorily (to himself) that his line of policy is the best for Mexico, and talks very benevolently about protecting her government from internal and external enemies.—Santa Anna himself could scarcely talk more lovingly and there seems, in fact, a strife between the two worthies, who shall be the protector of this unfortunate people!

He will never sanction a treaty without indemnity to our citizens, and says there is no way to get indemnity but in territory. He urges a still more vigorous prosecution of the war, "in the vital parts" of Mexico. His argument against withdrawing the troops to a defensive line, we consider the most ingenious and plausible part of the Message.

His Excellency's felicitations about the operations of the tariff of '46 will do for the present. When the balance of trade turns fall against us, he must sing another tune—if he sing at all.

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We believe every Governor of Virginia has recommended this for several years past. We doubt not it will be adopted at no distant day.

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GENERAL SHIELDS.—This distinguished Officer has been received, at the various Towns through which he has passed, with every manifestation of respect and gratitude. At Columbia, S. C. his Reception was but little short in splendor of Gen. Taylor's at New Orleans. He was presented in due form, to both branches of the Legislature, to each of which, in reply to complimentary addresses by their Presiding Officers, he made most eloquent and appropriate replies. He was also presented to the Students of the College, and a grand Military Ball was given to him. The Ladies too, all called on him, which was particularly gratifying to him, as he is a Bachelor, under forty years of age, fine looking and of captivating address. And to crown the whole, the Legislature voted him a splendid Sword.—Raleigh Register.

Democratic Rivalries.—The respective friends of Messrs. Buchanan and Dallas, in Philadelphia, have had an amusing contest, to obtain the organization of the several late war meetings. At the first, the Dallas men mustered very formidably, but the Buchanannites obtained the mastery. The Dallas men then had a meeting of their own, and the Buchanannites responded by a still larger assemblage on Saturday night. The victory of the latter seems to be complete.—Rich. Times.

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LATER FROM SANTA FE.

Horrid Massacre of Indians by American Soldiers.—Tragedy at St. Louis.

We learn from the Philadelphia Sun, that the St. Louis papers have received intelligence from Fort Main to the 25th ult. That place has been the scene of the most frightful massacre of Indians, and we regret to add, that the cowardly deed was committed by American soldiers. The circumstances attending this disgraceful affair are substantially as follows:

On the 25th a body of Indians were observed at some distance from the fort, supposed to number upwards of 70 to 100.—The chief of the band visited the Fort, and was cordially received by Captain Paltzer, the officer in command. The Indians were also invited to enter, and while in the Fort suspicions of harm and foul play were aroused among them by certain movements of the troops. The Indians then attempted to escape out of the Fort, and in so doing four of their number were killed and two wounded. Three others, who had, at the request of Capt. Paltzer, taken refuge in quarters, were killed. The Indians on the outside of the Fort were then fired upon, and 15 to 20 wounded—five of whom were considered mortally.

Col. Gilpin, the officer in command of that station, was absent at Fort Bent. This is regarded as a most infamous and horrid affair. The Indians were Pawnees.

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FACTIAL.—We copy the following from the November number of the Knickerbocker

Some time after Judge Smith, of New Hampshire, had retired from the Bench, and given up his profession, he wrote as follows to a distinguished lawyer of Boston: "I want two pair of castors or rollers to make my bed move easily forward and back, and cannot find such as I want nearer than Mr. Quincy's great City of Boston, and cannot think of a less personage than H. H. F., Esq., Counsellor-at-law, etc. etc. They are not to be swivelled so as to go zig-zag. I am done with all zig-zagging, twisting, turning, etc., having left the profession, and am in the straight line of things, and want my bed to move back and forward in such a line. I am, " for the reason aforesaid, done with all brass composition."

Punch says: "It may be proper to state that the distinguished personage known among the ancients by the name of Cupid, has recently changed his name to Cupidity; and will hereafter devote his attention to matters of money as well as love affairs."

Novel Employment for a Wife.—Fanny Forester, the third wife of Dr. Judson, has been engaged, since her marriage, in writing the memoir of her immediate predecessor. She says: "It has been an exceedingly pleasant employment, for I think her character in the most symmetrical and lovely that I have ever known."

Snow.—On Thursday morning last, 16th, there was a heavy fall of snow for several hours here. The ground was covered to the depth of three inches.—North Carolinian.

It fell here, on the same day to the depth of 2 or 3 inches; and on Tuesday morning last we had another pretty little snow storm which lasted some four or five hours.

Family Meeting.—A meeting of the descendants of the late Holland Weeks, of Salisbury, Vermont, was held on the 22d of September. Eighty of the family attended, who are all the descendants of John Alden, the first Pilgrim whose foot touched Pilgrim Rock. These meetings have been held occasionally for more than a century; and one of its objects is to keep the genealogy perfect, from the landing of the Pilgrims in New England to the latest posterity. The list, by the way, is soon to be published, and already amounts to more than four thousand names.

Numerous Progeny.—There came recently to Troy, a little town in Indiana, a German family composed of a man, his wife and thirty-two children. The children are all girls, and were produced at sixteen births. A gentleman of our city who has some land in that vicinity, has promised to give them one hundred acres of land, provided their daughters will promise as they severally come to maturity, to intermarry with the inhabitants of Indiana.

SHORT ALMANAC FOR 1848.

MONTHS. Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

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FEBRUARY. 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

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NOVEMBER. 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

DECEMBER. 3 4 5 6 7 8 9