

THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

J. J. BRUNER,
Editor & Proprietor.



DO THIS, AND LIBERTY IS SAFE.
Gen'l Harrison.

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TERMS OF THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN.
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From the Asheville Messenger.
TO THE PUBLIC.

Mr. Erwin's manifesto, published in the Asheville News of the 7th inst., in relation to the difficulty between him and myself, proposes upon me the necessity of a short reply. Injustice to myself, I am constrained to correct his statement in some particulars, give the facts bearing on other more fully, and publish the correspondence between us.

His allegation that I had "proclaimed to the world, through the Messenger, a liar," as well as his statement previously made, that I had in the same communication spoken of him as the "deputy Klingman," are both untrue. He has constructed a construction upon my language, doubt purposely, as an apology for his course towards me. Whatever I may have thought, and privately said to my friends about him, I have never published in the Messenger, or any other paper, that he has charged. Any one who feels interest in this matter, can ascertain himself the truth of what I say, by reference to the article complained of; and an act of justice I might well call on you to publish the communication referred to by him, so that his readers might judge for themselves, whether or not his construction of my language is true; but I have long since despaired of receiving justice through the paper under your management. But enough upon this point.

On the evening of the 15th of July, I received by the hands of Dr. Jones, the following note:

ASHEVILLE, July 15, 1851.

Col. John Baxter:—I have seen your article in the Messenger this afternoon, containing a charge which a gentleman cannot submit to. I therefore request you name your friend, who will arrange with the bearer of this, the preliminaries of our meeting.

Very respectfully,
MARCUS ERWIN.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would have declined this challenge, as well for the reason that I believe duelling both immoral and irrational, as from the consideration that he was influenced from an unworthy desire for notoriety. But I was advised that he was an instrument in the hands of others, put forward to challenge me, in the hope that my known contempt for the man would induce me to decline it; in which event, the press under his control would have been prostituted to the low and base purpose of misrepresenting my motives, and detaching my character, with the view of bringing me into ridicule and contempt. Such a course, indeed, in my opinion, have led to greater breaches of the criminal law, than the perpetration of his challenge, and of the wrongs I made. The following reply:

ASHEVILLE, N. C. July 15, 1851.

MARCUS ERWIN, Esq.—Sir—Your note to-day, was handed to me by Dr. Jones, understanding it to be a challenge to meet me in mortal combat. I am not conscious of having done you any injury, but on the contrary, I have refrained from saying anything which might with propriety have led to various reasons I am opposed to settling difficulties in the way indicated by you. A sound public opinion is all competent to do justice to all persons situated as we are, and I at all times willing to abide its judgment; not only so, but if at any time I could be made sensible of doing injustice to any one, I would feel it a duty to make reparation. But from every thing that has occurred between us, I am impressed with the belief, that you speak, in this correspondence, notoriety to which you are not entitled, and out of which to make political capital, and it is therefore, that I am prepared to do an act against my conscience, and one that will diminish my self respect. It is my purpose to accept your invitation, but my present engagements and the laws of the State forbid me from accepting it at this time and place. If you will meet me on the line between this State and South Carolina, near Col. Jno. Davis, in Henderson county, on Thursday, the 24th inst., at half past 10 o'clock, with two friends only, I will answer you as you define. In conclusion, I will endeavor upon your profound secrecy, as it will promote the quiet of my family and facilitate our meeting.

JOHN BAXTER.

When we met I accepted his challenge on the following terms:

Saluda, S. C., July 24, 1851.

Sir—I accept your challenge to mortal combat, and propose to fight you with my weapons, and upon the terms to be proposed by my friend, J. W. Woodlin, Esq., as soon as the preliminaries can be agreed on.

JOHN BAXTER.

MARCUS ERWIN, Esq.—The terms proposed are those published by Mr. Erwin. We took our positions, and on his firing I was hit on the right hand, which caused my pistol to go off, having previously declared to my friends my purpose not to fire, and to avoid every appearance of duplicity. I remarked to the company that my fire was accidental, and requested Dr. Jones to say so to my antagonist; for as contemptible as I believed his action, I was unwilling for you to believe that I had sought his life. In receiving this message, he approached me, and proposed a reconciliation, when I remarked that "the object of my message had been misunderstood—that

while I had no malice towards him, I could not recognize him as an equal."—Here he says, he stopped me, and turned away. This may be so; I intended to have said more and thought I had.

For this conduct he arraigns me before public opinion. All that I have to say in reply is, that I could not, with my opinions of the man, consistently with sincerity, recognize him as a gentleman. Such pretended reconciliation would have been in conflict with my deliberate opinions, entertained for more than 12 months before, and the vilest hypocrisy on both sides. I determined that no false notions of politeness or honor should place me in that position.

Notwithstanding my assurance that I did not intend to fire upon him, he has closed his manifesto by saying that "no body in this community believes it, except a few contemptible slaves, who will say anything they are paid for, and perhaps a few old crazy women." Now I have the satisfaction of believing that my word would be taken as true, by this whole community—even by the gentleman himself, upon this or any other question, without other proof. It is only because he wishes it otherwise, that he pretends to disbelieve it. But for the purpose of forestalling the influence of his slanderous paper, I propose to give the facts to the public.

I had not shot any sort of gun, ten times in ten years next before we met, and had never before, on any occasion, shot a duelling pistol. My pistols reached here by the Monday before, directed to Dr. Whitted, in whose possession they remained until we went upon the field. On being urged by him to practice, I refused, on the ground that I did not intend to fire; and when we got upon the ground, the pistols were so rusted that one was loaded with difficulty, and the other could not be loaded at all; but the bullet partially pushed in it, was extracted by Mr. Fuller, of this place, after my return. Looking to the possibility of a fatal result, I prepared a paper containing my opinions of the man, the motives that influenced him, the reason of my acceptance of his challenge, and also a declaration of my purpose not to return his fire. This paper, sealed up, I handed to my friend, Dr. Whitted, before taking my position, with instructions not to open it till after the fight. It contains these words: "I regard the practice as barbarous, sinful, and irrational. I never desired the blood of any man, nor can I be induced to shed it; and should we engage in actual combat, I will not return his fire." Indeed, my views and feelings upon this subject were so well understood by my friends, that it was confidently asserted by them, at Rutherfordton, 40 miles off, that I would not fire, long before the result was known. After a knowledge of all these facts, Mr. Erwin's pretended incredulity is as mean as it is hypocritical, malicious, and ungrateful. Any thing which I did or said upon the ground or elsewhere, that might appear to contradict this intention, was only done to hurry his fire, and in that way and to that extent, protect myself.

JOHN BAXTER.
Hendersonville, N. C.,
Aug. 23d, 1851.

GENERAL LOPEZ AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

The New Orleans Delta of Friday evening publishes the following letter from Adjutant Stanford, which partially explains the manner in which our unfortunate countrymen met their untimely fate, and is the first publication which throws any light upon the circumstances which led to Crittenden's command having been made prisoners:

HAVANA, August 16.

"Dear Huling:—We arrived on the Island of Cuba, after the most horrible passage you can conceive of, cooped on board with 400 or 500 men.

"We arrived on Sunday last, I believe—dates I have almost forgotten. The next morning, Lopez, with General Paragay and all the commanding officers, left us—(I mean Crittenden and his battalion).—We heard nothing of him for two days, when Crittenden dispatched a note. He then requested we should join him at a little town some six or eight miles off, leaving us in the meantime, to take care of all baggage, &c.

"We started for him on Wednesday morning, at 2 o'clock, A. M., and had proceeded only three miles, when we were attacked by 500 Spanish soldiers. In the first charge, I received a severe wound in the knee. We repulsed them, however. They made another charge, and completely routed us. We spent two days and nights the most miserable you can imagine, in the chapparal, without any thing to eat or drink.

"We made the best of our way to the sea shore, and found some boats, with which we put to sea. Spent a night upon the ocean, and the next day, about twelve o'clock, were taken prisoners by the Habanero, were brought to Havana last night, and condemned to die this morning. We shall be all shot in an hour.

Good by and God bless you. I send the masonic medal enclosed in this, belonging to my father. Convey it to my sister, Mrs.

P—n, and tell her of my fate. Once more, God bless you. STANFORD."

From this and from a comparison with the official reports of the Spanish officers, the Picayune constructs the following narrative, which it considers to be a more correct and probable one than has yet been given.

"Gen. Lopez on landing near Bahia Honda, with the main body of his forces, consisting of about 300 men, advanced towards Las Pozas, a small town a few miles in the interior, leaving Col. Crittenden and his command, 114 strong, in charge of the baggage. That night or the next day, the steamer Pizarro landed 700 Spanish troops at Bahia Honda, and these advancing towards the place of Lopez's landing, cut off Crittenden's men from their companions. On the second night afterwards this party determined to attempt to form a junction with Lopez, but on the road were attacked by an overwhelming body of troops, and after a short struggle were on the second charge routed and dispersed. After wandering about in the thickets, fifty of them got together and made their way to the sea shore, where they seized four small boats and endeavored to make their escape, when they were captured as has been related in the official report of Admiral Bastillos. There are still sixty four of this command to be accounted for. Of these, forty were surprised and shot at a small farm house. A Spanish lieutenant reports that on the 14th he came upon twenty "pirated" comrades, all of whom were immediately put to death. The remaining twenty-four, or such of them as had not been killed in battle, probably continued to wander in the vicinity until, we are forced to believe, they were also taken and slaughtered.—The other party, under Lopez, it seems, received the attack of the Spaniards, in a farm house at Las Pozas, and beat them off with severe loss, at least so it is supposed, since the Spanish official reports state that they desisted from the assault in order to receive reinforcements. Whether any subsequent fighting took place at this point we do not know; at all events, Lopez held his own for two days—till on the 15th, he left for the interior, and was not molested on his march by Gen. Enna; all of which we learn from the Spanish official accounts. This was the state of affairs on the 15th, the date of our last advices from the scene of action, through Gen. Enna's despatch, dated at 3.30 on that day. If General Lopez reached the mountains in safety, he will discover soon whether he has relied with too much confidence on the assistance of the native inhabitants.

The True Delta publishes the letters furnished it by Messrs. Stanton & Co., and the relatives of Mr. Vienne. The italics are those of the writers:

"ON BOARD THE MAN OF WAR ESPERANZA, Aug. 16, 1851."

"My Dear and Affectionate Sisters & Brothers:—Before I die, I am permitted to address my last words in this world.

"Deceived by false visions, I embarked in the expedition for Cuba. We arrived, about four hundred in number, last week, and in about an hour from now, we, I mean fifty of us, will be lost. I was taken prisoner after an engagement, and with fifty others, am to be shot in an hour.

"I die, my dear brothers and sisters, a repentant sinner, having been blessed with the last rites of our holy religion.—Forgive me for all my follies of my life, and you my dear and affectionate sisters, pray for my poor soul.

"A—go to my dear mother and console her. Oh! my dear child, kiss her a thousand times for me. Love her for my sake. Kiss my brothers and all your dear children. To father Blackney, my last profound respect; to Father Lacroix and Father D'Hau, a mass for the repose of my soul.

"My dear mother-in-law, farewell! Poor Tacite is shot and dead by this time! I give and bequeath my dear child to you and you only. Good-bye H—; good-bye G— and T—. I did my duty. Good-bye all.

Your dear Son and Brother,
HONORE TACITE VIENNE.

"Mr. Antonia Costa has promised to do all he can to obtain my body. If so, please have me buried with my wife."

HAVANA, on board a man-of-war, 8 o'clock, A. M., Aug. 16, 1851.

STANTON & CO.

"My dear friends:—About 50 of us, Col. Crittenden's command, were taken prisoners yesterday, have not received our sentence yet, but no doubt we will all be shot before sun set. Lopez, the Scoundrel, has deceived us; there is no doubt but all those reports about the Cubans rising were all trumpeted up in New Orleans. Lopez took nearly his command and deserted us—we were attacked by some 500 or 700 of the Queen's troops the 2d day after we landed. Our own gallant Col. Crittenden done all that any man could do—but we saw we had been deceived and retreated to the sea shore with the intention of getting off to our country if possible—got three boats and got off with the intention of coasting until we fell in with an American vessel, and were taken

prisoners by the steam boat Habanero. Explain to my family that I have done nothing but what was instigated by the highest motives, that I die with a clear conscience and like a man with a stout heart. I send my watch to you, it is for little Benny, my nephew. Good-bye, God bless you all.

Truly yours,
GILMAN A. COOK."

In reference to the foregoing, the Crescent remarks as follows:

"We scarcely know how to construe these letters. We do not think that they charge wilful desertion or treachery upon Lopez; but we do think they charge upon him a want of plan and foresight, and announce, further, that reliance upon the assistance of the Cuban Creoles, is at best a feeble hope. We confess we suspect there is some point and force in these implied statements.

"Had there been any actual treachery, any wilful desertion on the part of Lopez, the fiery Kerr, and chivalic Crittenden, would not have failed to have written to that effect in terms of manly and indignant denunciation. It is nonsense to suppose that Lopez behaved treacherously or in bad faith. A man has only to look at his position to see this. The fate of Lopez is in the contest, and now the soil of Cuba must bear him a conqueror, or cover him a corpse. He has no alternate between death and victory. He is cut off from escape from Cuba. He is, with a price upon his head, surrounded by all that Spain has of power in Cuba. In such a position he needs men, and every soldier is invaluable to him. Bad faith or treachery would be the worst of folly or insanity.

"But the letter of Adjutant Sanford gives a key to the whole matter. Crittenden and his party were assigned the duty of bringing up a portion of the baggage, a necessary, perilous and honorable duty. Discharging this duty, encumbered with the baggage, a Spanish force intervened between them and the main body of Lopez, and communication was temporarily broken off. Before it could be resumed, as will be seen from Havana letters we publish to-day, Lopez had some hard fighting, and could not communicate with Crittenden. When he did communicate, and Crittenden started to join him, a large Spanish force again intervened, and the unfortunate result was as Adjutant Sanford has sketched it.

"That Lopez should peril a whole force to go to a detachment was impossible, and contrary to all rules of reason and of war. And yet on this it appears to us, must any complaint solely rest. Kerr makes none; Crittenden, so far as many of his friends in this city know, (and they have a letter from him,) makes none. Treachery or bad faith cannot, therefore, from our present lights, reasonably be imputed to Lopez.

In reference to another matter, aid from the Cuban Creoles. It has been long known that they have no arms, and certainly till they have these and a respectable American force in the field to encourage them, a general outbreak on their part is not to be expected. If Americans go to Cuba, they must, for the present, rely upon their own arms to sustain them. We think it proper to say this, in all fairness. A truly brave man looks all contingencies in the face, and fairly considered and wisely provided for, he meets them without terror and without surprise. As journalists we aim to state facts with clearness and candor. We wish to see Cuba free, and we deem it a matter of plain common sense that this result will be sooner reached by calm provision than headlong daring—by wise preparation and sober calculation, than by heedless forays and ill ordered expeditions. This view, we have every reason to believe, now prevails among the emigrants who will soon land in Cuba, and in calmer and more thoroughly digested views we dare prophecy more solid and successful results."

From the Savannah Republican, Sept. 2.

LATER FROM HAVANA!

Gen. Enna killed by the Patriots!!—Gen. Lopez marching on the City of Havana!!!

By the arrival yesterday at this port of the schr. Merchant, Capt. Westendorff, from Havana, whence she sailed on the 22d ult., we are in receipt of further advices from Cuba, which confirm the reports previously received of the battles between the Spanish Troops and the Patriots under General Lopez, in which the latter were victorious. We cannot rely upon the ordinary channels for news from Havana, but the information we have received, though very scanty, we believe to be from a source which may be fully relied upon. We are informed that General Enna, the 1st in command of the Spanish troops, and 2nd in command of the Island, was killed by the Patriots in the battle of the 17th, together with four or five other Spanish officers and five hundred Spanish troops. Gen. Enna's body was exposed in state two days at Havana and was afterwards buried with great pomp.

We learn also that Gen. Lopez was every where successful and was marching towards Havana with a force of 1,500 or 2,000 men, and was in position east of

Marie. The Creoles at Havana were highly elated at Lopez's success, and they are daily making accessions to his army. American vessels are closely searched, and a strict watch is constantly kept upon all American citizens on the Island. They are reported to be about 700 Spanish troops at Havana. The accounts of the death of Gen. Enna explain the report received here of a despatch having been put on board the Cherokee, just before sailing from Havana to the Spanish Minister at Washington, informing him of the capture of Gen. Lopez. We presume the despatch to the Spanish minister related to the death of Gen. Enna and not to Gen. Lopez as has been reported. Gen. Enna was not instantly killed, but was wounded in one of his legs, from which he died the day after the battle.

The reports of the inhuman massacre of Col. Crittenden's command and the cruelties and outrages perpetrated upon their bodies are fully confirmed.

By the Merchant we have received our regular files of the Faro Industrial, to the 20th ult.

We learn from this paper that on the 17th, the Captain General distributed brevets, &c. to 35 officers and soldiers who were wounded in the battle of Las Pozas.

It also contains an official communication of the Captain General, dated the 19th, which states that General Enna was dangerously wounded in a battle with Lopez, at a place called Carambola.

From the New York Evening Post.

THE EXECUTION AT HAVANA.

The Cronica, a paper in this city in the Spanish language, and in the interest of the Spanish Government, publishes letters from Havana of the 15th instant, in which an attempt is made to apologise for the execution of the fifty-two prisoners belonging to the expedition of Lopez. We translate a few passages. One of these letters say:

"I believed that I saw, in the first days after the landing of the pirates, a general discontent, not that they had arrived, for of that every body was glad, but on account of the impression which prevailed, that an inclination to lenity and a spirit of temporizing had been manifested by the Government. When the fifty prisoners were brought in this morning, every body asked, if these pirates had been successful in exciting a civil war, what would have become of the lives and the property of the whole white race of this island? Have not the methods of lenity, patience, and resignation been tried without preventing these attempts from being repeated with more vigor and audacity than before? In what manner are these bandits to be restrained and inspired with respect for our rights and our territory?"

After relating that the fifty prisoners were executed in what the writer calls obedience to the "torrent of public opinion," and in presence of an immense crowd of spectators, the writer says:

"All this will show you in what sort of liking these people are held here. Another circumstance not unworthy of remark is, that among the twenty thousand spectators who distinguished themselves by their hisses, invectives, taunts, and cries against the pirates were the negroes, who swarmed on the ground."

This is probably said in allusion to the reliance placed by the Government, in the last resort, upon the blacks, both free and otherwise. The following paragraph is from the same letter:

"The American war steamer Vixen has entered this port four or five times. On the morning of the 12th she was announced in sight of the port, with another steamer near her. The other made movements which appeared suspicious, until at last she disappeared." The people on the wharves and the officers of the marine deemed her appearance suspicious. The Vixen came to the mouth of the port, and her commander went on board the vessel of the captain of the marines, when, being asked concerning the steamer seen in company with his own, he replied that "he did not know what she was; she had no appearance of being Spanish, and certainly was not North American." And yet the suspicious steamer was the Pampero. What do you think of the pursuit of the pirates ordered by that Government?"

Another letter of the same date, speaking of the execution of the fifty prisoners, says:

"This measure, though just, does not fail to affect personal sensibility, executed as it was at a distance from the place of action. I have been assured that the humane feelings of the Captain General were greatly moved, as was clearly seen in his countenance. It would have been better if the captor, in conformity with the instructions given, had put them to death in the act, sparing pain to his Excellency, and avoiding a spectacle truly sad and disagreeable. Among those unfortunate men was a Colonel, who appears to have been a nephew of the Secretary of War to that republic, and the letter which a few minutes before his death he wrote to his uncle is full of imprecations against Lopez and the press of his coun-

try, by whose deceptions he was sacrificed; and he begs his uncle, in conclusion, to endeavor to set public opinion right, that no more blood may be shed. Such are the contents of the letter, as I have been assured."

This refers, we suppose, to Col. CRITTENDEN, a nephew of the Attorney General.

Cuba.—To an article on the subject of Cuba, and its affairs, the Fayetteville Observer appends the following as a Postscript:

P. S. I have just seen Mr. Lawrence, of California, formerly of Fayetteville, who was in Havana at the time of the execution. He and others had come from California by the Nicaragua route, and had to wait in Havana for the Cherokee. He says they had to keep close in their Hotel, as they were insulted when they appeared in the streets, had stones thrown at them, &c. Of course they did not attempt to go out to witness the execution. This does not look like a desire for a revolution, and for assistance of Americans to accomplish it.

Letter from Hayti.—The schooner Louisiana, which arrived at Boston on the 23d inst, from Aux Cayes, which port she left on the 1st inst., states that the English and French Consuls had given public notice that they would block every port in the Island, in case the Haytiens commenced hostilities against the Dominicans.

The first parcel of the new Coffee crop had been delivred, and there is now no doubt of the immensity of the yield. Coffee has in consequence fallen from \$100 to \$85, Haytien currency.

Improvements.—The offices, premises, walks, gardens, and parterres about the President's House and grounds are undergoing considerable repair, alteration, and improvement. Several things have been done of late that tend to the comfort and convenience of the establishment and its occupants, as well as to the visitors and others that traverse those grounds.—Curves have been straightened, side gates put in, old and decrepid fences exchanged for new and substantial ones, parterres protected from undue intrusion by light and tasteful fences, and the whole made to wear a tidiness that formerly, in the less conspicuous parts of the establishment, was not sufficiently apparent. Another month, and we doubt not that the White House, its appurtenances, gardens, and grounds will be in a better condition than at any previous time. The paving of 17th street, west of the War and Navy Departments, will not be without its share of advantage, if we except the single objection to which this otherwise excellent kind of road is open, viz. its noise.

Nat. Intelligencer.

The Reaction in South Carolina.—The Greenville (S. C.) Patriot of the 8th draws the following contrast between the present state of public sentiment in the State of South Carolina and the prevailing feeling within its borders several months ago:

"It is, indeed, amazing to see what changes take place in public opinion in the short space of a few months. Last fall the whole State seemed to be for secession. Now, it is left to a vote of the people, a majority would be found opposed to it. Six months since there was not a newspaper in South Carolina that did not advocate disunion and secession. Now we have the Southern Patriot, Hamburg Republican, Charleston News, Southern Standard, Columbia Transcript and Erskine Miscellany, all opposed to secession.

"Not a whisper was heard, when the Legislature met, of any popular expression against secession. Recently Hamburg has, with great unanimity, declared herself in the opposition. Four thousand persons at Greenville Court-house, on the 4th July expressed themselves, by the preamble and resolutions adopted, hostile to secession. Horry district did the same at a public meeting on the same day.

"Last fall there was not heard a single voice from the leading men of the State in opposition to secession, except from Col. Grayson, Mr. Pinnett, Gen. Hamilton, and Gen. Thompson. Since that time we have seen letters opposing, with great ability, the separate action of the State, from Judge Cheves, Judge Butler, Judge O'Neal, Col. Preston, Dr. Lieber, Judge Withers, Dr. Dickson, Col. Burr, Col. Chesnut, Col. Orr, Mr. Barlow, Col. Brooks, Col. Boyd Col. Owens, and many others.

At a meeting of the Whigs of Boston, held on Wednesday night, for the purpose of choosing delegates to attend the Springfield Convention, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, As the sense of this meeting, that should the question of the nomination of a candidate for the Presidency be brought before the Convention proposed to be held at Springfield, that our delegates be instructed to advocate and insist upon the superior merits and claims of the Hon. DANIEL WEBSTER to that distinguished station, above all others; and to assert, fearlessly and boldly, that he is pre-eminently the first choice of the Whigs of Boston, and, as we believe, of a large majority of the people of our State; and further, that, until it may be ruled by a National Convention, hereafter to be held, that another man is the preferable candidate of the great Whig party of the nation, we, the Whigs of this district, will go for DANIEL WEBSTER in preference to all others.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.—We understand that on Sunday morning last, while the Rev. Charles P. Elliott was on his way to Manchester, where he was to perform Divine service, a large limb, detached from a tree which had just been blown down in front of his buggy, fell upon him, killing him instantly.

We share in the regrets which Mr. Elliott's death will occasion to the many who knew and admired his amiable character, his zeal and usefulness, yet we trust that, struck from life, as he was, while engaged in Christian service, death was to him but a triumphant entrance into those joys which he labored so earnestly to induce others to seek after.—Sunier Banner.

The idle man is the devil's hireling; whose livery is rags, whose diet and wages are lamina and disgrace.