

THE COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1846.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Monclova and Chichihuahua Taken.

Expedition against Victoria—March of the American Force upon Saltillo.

New Orleans, Nov. 28, 1846.

The Steamship McKim, J. B. Peck, master, arrived last evening from the Brazos, which place she left the 9th inst. The McKim brought the mail and a large number of passengers. Amongst the latter are Maj. McLean and Graham, bearers of despatches from Gen. Taylor and Capt. G. T. M. Davis, bearer of despatches from Gen. Wool.

On the 19th inst. it blew a gale off Brazos. The schooner William Bryan and barque Robert Morris were caught in it. The former stove her bulwarks and lost her deck load of mules and small boats. The Robert Morris also threw overboard a part of her deck load of mules. Several schooners dragged their anchors off the bar and put to sea; they had not returned when the McKim left. The schooner John Wainwright, of New York, was lost with all her cargo in the Brazos. The McKim experienced very heavy weather on her return voyage and lost overboard Chas. Muller, of Baltimore of the Texas Rangers, and—Churchill, one of Capt. May's U. S. Dragoons. It blowing a gale at the time, and being dark and rainy, no assistance whatever could be given them—they both perished.

On the 21st inst. seven companies of artillery, in all 674 men, were despatched from the Brazos with a good supply of ordnance and ordnance stores, in the steamers Neptune and Sea, to Tampico. "These troops," says our correspondent, "are intended to relieve the navy which took and still holds possession of that place. This will give those gallant fellows an opportunity, which they much desire to go further and conquer more. They have not yet half told their tale." The entire force sent over to Tampico was under Col. Gates of the artillery, who we presume, will take command of that port.

We have been furnished with the following narrative of the proceedings of Gen. Wool. Our last advice informed us that Gen. Taylor had sent a message to Gen. Wool requesting him to despatch a portion of the forces under him to Monclova, and that before the message had reached the General, he had determined to march upon that point with his whole command.

"Capt. G. T. M. Davis (Aid to Gen. Shields) reports that Gen. Wool took peaceable possession of Monclova on the 30th October. The Governor and a number of the principal citizens formed an escort and met Gen. Wool about four miles from the city and welcomed him as a friend. One of the best quarters in the place was offered to him for his head quarters—which offer he accepted. Gen. Wool's army, numbering 3600 men, was in excellent health and spirits. The country through which it passed is described as abounding in wheat, corn, beef, mutton and every necessary means of subsistence, which could be had at reasonable prices. Capt. Davis reports that corn is raised in quantities and of a quality surpassing any thing he had before seen, and that the climate is delightful and the country generally very beautiful, fertile and watered with numerous streams. Gen. Wool marched from the Presidio del Rio Grande to Monclova, a distance of two hundred and four miles, in eleven marching days. He took along with him forty day's provisions for his columns, and another train with an equal amount, was a few days in his rear. These were the last supplies he expected to receive from Port Lavaca, as he designed opening communications with Gen. Taylor for receiving future supplies."

News was received at Monclova on the 2d inst., that Col. Donigan, of the Missouri volunteers, who had been detached by Gen. Kearney, at Santa Fe, for that duty, had taken the city of Chihuahua, with 700 men. He entered the place without impediment—the town having surrendered without a gun being fired, as we always said would be the case.

Col. Riley of the 2d Infantry, has been ordered to march with the whole of his regiment upon Victoria de Tamaulipas. He had left upon that service when our informant left Camargo.

Upon the arrival of despatches from the United States Government ordering an end to be put to the armistice, Gen. Taylor despatched Major Graham to Saltillo to confer with the Mexican camp and inform them that each party was at liberty to act as it might think fit. Not an officer nor a soldier was to be seen at Saltillo. Maj. Graham had an interview with the Governor and informed him that the armistice was at an end, requested him to despatch the intelligence to the Mexican commander-in-chief at San Luis Potosi. The Governor desired Major Graham to proceed to San Luis and deliver his message; but that officer's instructions being preemptory he returned to Monterey. When Maj. Graham left Monterey on the 16th inst. Gen. Worth was under orders to move against Saltillo. He was to have left the next day. Gen. Taylor intended to accompany him with the 2d Regiment Dragoons, but would return again to Monterey, leaving Gen. Worth there. No resistance was anticipated on the enemy.

Our letters continue to speak of Santa Anna's preparations at San Luis Potosi. It was reported that he collected 30,000 men; but this was considered by many an exaggeration. Gen. Worth's division yet occupied the city of Monterey, but was about leaving for Saltillo. Generals Twiggs and Butler's commands were in camp outside the town. We insert a letter from one of our correspondents, which contains valuable information:

CAMARGO, NOV. 7, 1846. Gentlemen—Military enthusiasm ran high yesterday morning in consequence of a rumor that the President had authorized a movement from the army here towards Tampico, but ere nightfall the fire had dampened down in consequence of our learning that some of our people had "come down in ships" and performed that important operation. I think there is no danger of a collapse, as we can yet work off steam to advantage on the expected march of Gen. Taylor on Saltillo; the President having vetoed the armistice and given Gen. T. authority to go ahead, it is supposed he will without delay march on Saltillo. A rumor (which I do not vouch for, but which is not only possible but probable) says that another revolution has broken out in Mexico. The Santa Anna party, headed by his son, San Antonio, and headed by Valencia, demurred, turned their arms against the Dictator, and drove him and his party from San Luis Potosi; and the Dictator was falling back in the direction of the city of Mexico. This was a very natural route for him to take, were he driven from his lines at San Luis, considering the position of affairs in this section.

The people here are talking strong of a Territorial Government, and I think they are more serious about it since Gen. Kearney's proclamation has been known among them. I cannot see the least objection to the course Gen. K. has pursued, and the good sense of the American people will sustain him. Closest politicians know nothing of these people. Confidence and sympathy are thrown away upon them. Not an Indian chief who roams at large through his boundless plains and hills—without example to guide him, without laws to make him honest—that is not more sincere, in whom more confidence cannot be placed, than in Santa Anna, Ampudia or Mejia. And our Government will see, from the material she has got to work upon, that she must change her conditiory policy for one more rigid, more conciliatory. Things have changed since we came here, or else at that time were but little understood. The people are not ready to fly into the arms of our Government at the fire of the first gun, but the reverse. The military aspirants are prevented by their people from making a peace with the United States. I do not believe there is a single pullover of their hearts, unless from interest or fear, which is with us; nor can any man whose views or opinions are favorable to us rise to power or retain it long without a revolution. Why, then, sprinkle "pearls before swine?"

The steamer Major Brown, which went up the Rio Grande on an exploring expedition, has arrived at Loreto from which Lieut. Tilden, 2d Infantry, in charge of expedition, makes report. He reports favorably generally of the depth of water for boats drawing four or five feet; but the channel in many places, crooked, in others filled with limestone rocks which "stick right straight up," (easily removed), and frequent rapids—all of which the Brown passed over and arrived safely at Loreto. Four U. S. brig Somers and schooner Arispe, loading for Tampico. They would soon leave with one other company of regulars, provisions and munitions of war. Off Brazos Santiago discharging, were the ships John Holland and Atlantic, bark Robert Morris, brig Archibald, Union and Millaudon, and schooners William Bryan and Elizabeth. The iron steamer DeRoss had also arrived. P. Cayman.

A GOOD JOKE. The democrats of our Legislature introduced a Resolution in the Senate, to allow JAMES PAGE, the Democratic Doorkeeper of that body, last session, and not re-elected this session, pay for one day's service at the beginning of the session, and also his mileage in coming from home to wait at the door till the Senate was duly organized. Mr. FRANCIS called for the yeas and nays on the second reading, much to the surprise of the democratic members. They were recorded, and every member voted ye, beginning with a whig member. After the democrats were thus committed, Mr. FRANCIS introduced an amendment awarding the same pay and mileage to S. J. FURCH, one of his constituents, who happened to be a Whig; and he read a Resolution offered in his case, at the last session, similar to the one now offered in favor of PAGE, and which was rejected by the vote of the democratic party!

The Resolution was laid on the table, at the suggestion of a democratic member, that there might be time for reflection, and to ascertain if the appropriation would be lawful. There was not a moment's pause about paying a partisan, in the person of PAGE, but when a Whig fell into the same category, an IR was in the way. We have no doubt but both will be paid; certainly if it is considered legal. But PAGE would have got it, law or no law, if it had not been for the amendment proposed by Mr. FRANCIS—which had the effect of tickling the consciences of the democracy of the North Carolina Senate. "Ma conscience!"

MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH. Mr. WEBSTER lately delivered a speech at the Whig meeting held in Boston, to respond to the Whig Nominations. We are unable to give anything like a satisfactory account of this eloquent and patriotic effort. He alluded to the sub-treasury as one of the measures of the present administration, the benefits of which are not fully developed, and thought that the evils of the tariff of 1846 apparent to the public. At the allusion to the Mexican war, some one in the north gallery cried out—"Who voted for it?" As soon as the excitement caused by this interruption subsided, Mr. Webster exclaimed, with one of his peculiar smiles, and in a very impressive manner—"It was not voted for by any body. The President made it without any vote at all." There was immense cheering for some moments, when he again said—"Are you answered?"

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM GEN. WOOL. Official despatches from Gen. Wool have been received at Washington. They are dated at Coahuila, (near Presidio) Mexico, and communicate the intelligence of his having arrived at the Rio Grande, on the morning of the 8th ult; and having crossed the river on the 9th, 10th and 11th ult. without any serious accident. As the substance of the despatches has been gleaned from other sources, it is unnecessary to give them in detail. He states that he should resume his march, with about 1,800 men on the morning of the 16th, after leaving a company to take charge of the boats, and the ford of the Rio Grande, until the rear of his column under the direction of Col. Churchill, arrived which was expected in the course of ten days. In one portion of his despatches, he says: "Unfortunately the quartermaster's department is without specie. Treasury notes are of no use to us, as the Mexicans will take nothing but gold and silver. With private means and borrowing, we shall be able to pay for half rations of corn during our stay at this place. Whether I shall succeed as well at other towns is doubtful. My route to Chihuahua will be through San Fernando, Santa Rosa, and perhaps Monclova. At this point I will endeavor to open a communication with General Taylor, which, it would seem, will be necessary, on account of supplies. As soon as the wet season commences our communications with San Antonio and the Presidio will be, in a great measure, cut off—the route in many places, independent of the streams, will be impassable. Hence, I will be compelled to establish a depot of supplies at Monclova, or some other point in the interior, and on a route leading to Gen. Taylor's army, or depot of supplies." He adds that the supplies of the country are limited, only a partial amount of Flour and Corn, and full rations and beef could be obtained. He had ordered the quartermaster's department to forward as fast as possible all the subsistence he could obtain by the middle of November. When it was thought that communication might be interrupted by the weather.

THE NEW DISTRICTS.

The following statement exhibits the provision of the bill for re-districting the State, now before the Legislature, and which will, without doubt, become a law. In all the Districts, the estimates of their political character are based on the returns of the contest between GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844, as officially recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

Table for First District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Cherokee, Macon, Haywood, Buncombe, Henderson, Rutherford, Burke & McDowell, Yancey, Cleveland, Caldwell.

Table for Second District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Ashe, Surry, Iredell, Rowan, Davie, Catawba (voted with Lincoln), Wilkes.

Table for Third District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Union, Anson, Stokes, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Richmond, Moore.

Table for Fourth District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Stokes, Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Davidson.

Table for Fifth District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Caswell, Person, Orange, Chatham, Granville.

Table for Sixth District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Wake, Franklin, Warren, Halifax, Edgecombe, Nash, Johnston.

Table for Seventh District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Cumberland, Robeson, Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick, New Hanover, Sampson, Duplin, Onslow.

Table for Eighth District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Wayne, Green, Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Carteret, Beaufort, Pitt, Hyde, Washington, Tyrrell.

Table for Ninth District showing population for GRAHAM and HOKK in 1844 and 1846. Includes Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimmons, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Bertie, Martin, Northampton.

THE NEW DISTRICTS.

We exhibit the state of parties in the elections of 1844 and 1846, in the Congressional Districts as they now stand, by which the intelligent reader can view the whole ground, and at once perceive the equity and the importance of the present change—as it regards justice to the principles of equal rights and a fair expression of the public will.

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NINTH DISTRICT.

1844. 1846. Martin, 316, 523, 385, 489. Bertie, 507, 409, 496, 360. Hertford, 308, 309, 390, 200. Gates, 369, 381, 363, 298. Northampton, 514, 362, 515, 408. Chowan, 286, 188, 276, 182. Perquimmons, 266, 217, 447, 242. Pasquotank, 693, 177, 506, 224. Camden, 518, 94, 514, 54. Currituck, 137, 465, 173, 628.

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AFFAIRS IN CALIFORNIA.

Proclamation of Com. Stockton to the People of California. We copy the following from the Union received yesterday: On my approach to this place with the forces under my command, Jose Castro, the Commandant-general of California, ordered his artillery, and abandoned his fortified camp of the "Mesa," and fled, it is believed, towards Mexico.

With sailors, the marines, and the California battalion of mounted riflemen, we entered the "City of Angels," the capital of California, on the 13th of August, and hoisted the North American flag. The flag of the United States is now flying from every commanding position in the territory, and California is entirely free from Mexican domination. The territory of California now belongs to the United States, and will be governed as soon as circumstances may permit, by officers and laws similar to those by which the other territories of the United States are regulated and protected.

But until the Governor, the Secretary and Council are appointed, and the various civil departments of the Government are arranged, military law will prevail and the Commander-in-chief will be the Governor and protector of the Territory.

In the mean time the people will be permitted, and are now requested to meet in their several towns and departments at such time and place as they may see fit, to elect civil officers to fill the places of those who decline to continue in office, and to administer the laws according to the former usages of the territory.

All persons, of whatever religion or nation, who faithfully adhere to the new Government, will be considered as citizens of the Territory, and will be zealously and thoroughly protected in the liberty of conscience, their persons and property.

No persons will be permitted to remain in the territory who do not agree to support the existing Government, and all military men who desire to remain, are required to take up arms against it, or do any thing to disturb the peace.

Nor will any persons, come from where they may, be permitted to settle in the territory, who do not pledge themselves to be, in all respects, obedient to the laws which may be from time to time enacted by the proper authorities of the Territory.

All persons who, without special permission, are found with arms outside of their own houses, will be considered as enemies, and will be shipped out of the country.

All thieves will be put to hard labor on the public works, and there kept until compensation is made for the property stolen.

The California battalion of mounted riflemen will be kept in the service of the Territory, and constantly on duty, to prevent and punish any aggressions by the Indians or any other persons, upon the property of individuals, or the peace of the Territory; and California shall hereafter be so governed and defended as to give security to the inhabitants, and to defy the power of Mexico.

It is required that all persons shall remain in their houses from ten at night until sunrise, in the morning the time this Territory is under military law. (Signed) R. F. STOCKTON, Commander-in-chief and Governor of the Territory of California.

TO THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA. On the 15th of September, 1846, an election will be held in the several towns and districts of California, at the places and hours at which such elections have usually been held, for the purpose of electing the alcaldes and other municipal officers.

In those places where alcaldes have been appointed by the present Government, they will hold the election. In places where no alcaldes have been appointed by the present Government, the former alcaldes are authorized and required to hold the election.

Given under my hand this 22d day of August, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, at the Government House, "Ciudad de los Angeles." (Signed) R. F. STOCKTON, Commander-in-chief and Governor of the Territory of California.

TREASURY NOTES. Treasury notes were offered freely in the city of New Orleans, on the 19th ult. and negotiations of them made at a per cent discount. In some cases the exchange was made for bank paper, at a greater rate of discount.

LETTERS OF MARQUE. The United States has taken a correspondence has recently been opened between the Spanish Minister at Washington, and the Secretary of State, which receives the pledges of the two governments to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of 1799. Our squadrons have been instructed to respect the rights of Spanish vessels who are destined to any Mexican port which may not be blockaded, and without any contraband of war on board. Spain, on her part, pledges herself to observe the obligations of the Treaty, and to prohibit Mexican privateersmen from using the privileges of Spanish ports.

TAMPIOCO. In a very short time there will have been sent from New Orleans about six hundred effective men to garrison Tampico, and it is probable that additional assistance can be got from the Brazos and the camps along the line of the Rio Grande.

BY THIS EVENING'S MAIL. LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS. We learn from the Register that CHARLES L. HINTON, esq., has been re-elected Treasurer, and WILLIAM F. COLLIER, Comptroller for the ensuing two years. It is credited to the Legislature, that these gentlemen, so favorably known throughout the State, were elected without opposition.

DEAF AND DUMB EXHIBITION. An exhibition of Mr. Coomb's pupils, in Raleigh, took place on Monday night last, before a large concourse of citizens and members of the Legislature. The Star informs us that the exercises were highly interesting, and mentions the case of Lucy B. Moore, of this town, as exhibiting improvements calculated to produce astonishment.

GENERAL SCOTT AND HIS SUIT. We learn through the New York papers, that Maj. Gen. Scott accompanied by his aid de camp Lieut. WILLIAMS, and by Major Smith of the Corps of Engineers, sailed on the morning of the 30th ult. in the packet ship Union to New Orleans, en route for Mexico, there to assume the command of the conveyance and its ulterior operations.