

THE REPORTED BATTLE BETWEEN THE DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ARMY UNDER GEN. TAYLOR, AND THE MEXICAN FORCES, COMMANDED BY SANTA ANNA.

The reports received by arrivals at New Orleans from the Brazos, from the division of the American Army, under the command of Gen. Taylor, are of the most exciting, thrilling and painful character. The accounts were brought to that port by the schooners, Cimeterella and Arispe, the former having left the mouth of the Rio Grande on the 6th inst.

Previous advices, it will be remembered, stated that on the 7th of February Santa Anna was at Matamoros, and that two or three days after, he advanced to El Cedral, which is about fifty miles from San Luis Potosi, and nearly half way to Saltillo. At that time he had with him, including the force he was said to have sent forward towards Monterey, 21,340 men, including 6,000 cavalry, and 22 guns. Besides this, General Minero and Urrea, who were also near him, had about 5,000 men under their command. Gen. Taylor, at the last accounts, was at Agua Nueva, twenty miles beyond Saltillo, and therefore within fifty miles of Santa Anna, where he intended to remain until April 1st. He had with him 5,000 troops, all volunteers, though of a good class and well drilled. It was also said that Santa Anna was making demonstrations towards Saltillo; but it was variously supposed that this was a feint, a blustering display upon Monterey, Vera Cruz, or the ports on the Rio Grande.

The news brought by the Cimeterella and Arispe is that on the 22d of February Santa Anna advanced and attacked Gen. Taylor at Agua Nueva, and compelled him to fall back to Saltillo, where a bloody conflict ensued, the Mexicans sustaining the heaviest loss, but compelling Taylor again to retreat to the pass of the Rinconada, where he was again attacked, but maintained his position.

The following article, in relation to these alarming rumors is copied from the Matamoros Flag, of the 24 inst.:

Our town has been thrown into the most intense excitement by the reports constantly reaching here relative to the perilous situation of Gen. Taylor's division of the army. They are so vague and confused that we hardly know how to commence an abstract even. That a battle has been fought, no one here can doubt for a moment, but how it has resulted, or what dangers impend on the line of the Rio Grande, is enveloped in the most perplexing uncertainty. We give, however, what seems to be the best authenticated statement received here from the seat of hostilities.

General Taylor, while at Agua Nueva, 22 miles from Saltillo, with 6,000 men, was attacked, on the 22d ult., by a Mexican force of 15,000. Finding that he could not maintain his position, he made good his retreat to Saltillo, covering his wagon train. Here a severe engagement took place in the streets in which the Mexicans suffered a heavy loss. After destroying what of the public stores he could not transport, he continued his retrograde movement on Monterey, until he reached the Rinconada pass, where he was again attacked, but successfully defended himself. Here all the rumors, reports and letters leave him. Once in Monterey, and he would be safe, but his ability to accomplish this much was altogether problematical, as the Mexicans were swarming in every direction. A merchant in Camargo, under date of 25th ult., writes to his friend in this place:

Three expresses to day from Monterey, fighting in Saltillo. Many in Mexican possession; large train of engines, 126, and 150 private mules taken; McCulloch's Company taken; 5,000 cavalry, this side the mountains, and things in general turned upside down. From another source we learn that Col. Morgan had abandoned Cerralvo, destroying all property he could not take with him; that a courier from Monterey reported, at Camargo, 1500 Mexicans between the two places, and that 2000 more were in the neighborhood of Victoria.

This much we cull from the mass of reports before us, without vouching for its correctness. The destination of several boats has been changed within the last few days on reaching this place, and one (the Troy) held in reserve at Camargo to convey dispatches. All the wagon train for other places have been stopped here, and every one is on the qui vive.

We have strong confidence in Old Zach, and believe it almost impossible to whip him; but should harm befall his division of the army, the consequences to those who have left him with such slender resources will be terrible. We will suffer all the tortures of doubtful suspense until we hear something from our little army that can be relied upon.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

WASHINGTON, March 22—10 P. M. The steamer Palmetto has arrived at New Orleans, bringing one day's later news from the Brazos.

Previous accounts of a great battle are confirmed, but nothing authentic has been received, as to loss on either side.

The Brazos was under martial law, and all the American citizens enrolled and armed.

An express from the mouth of the Rio Grande arrived at the Brazos on the 7th inst., announcing that 1700 of the enemy, under Canales, were marching on that place, and that they had no arms, not even a musket.

Arms and ammunition were sent to them.

A large body of the enemy was about Matamoros, and an attack was hourly expected there.

Taylor had made good his retreat to Monterey. An attack was hourly expected there. He lost six pieces of artillery in the Rinconada pass.

He could not doubt hold out at Monterey as long as supplies lasted, but all communication with him was cut off.

He has made a requisition on Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for ten regiments, to be sent forth with to the Rio Grande.

Nothing by the Western mail.

Important from Tampico.—By the Pioneer, Capt. S. Brown, which arrived at this port last evening, in seven days from Lobos Island via Tampico, we have interesting and important news as to the embarkation of our troops for the demonstration that is to be made on the city and castle of Vera Cruz. On the 29th ult., between fifty and sixty sail of vessels left Tampico and Lobos Island, with troops and munitions of war of every description for the bombardment of Vera Cruz. Every vessel in the harbor—ships, barques, brigs, schooners and steamboats—in fact, every vessel that could possibly carry men or arms, was enlisted into the service, and departed as soon as they could possibly be loaded. It was with great difficulty that the Pioneer got away, so anxious were the military authorities to impress her into the same service. Gen. Scott himself is reported to have said, that the demonstration would be commenced on the 10th inst., and this report was so generally believed at Tampico, when the Pioneer left, that it was not regarded as a mere rumor, but as a "fixed fact." We may therefore expect every day to hear news of the bombardment of that far famed Mexican tower of strength, the Castle of San Juan de Ulua. —*New Orleans Delta*, 13th.

Since the above was written, the schooner Arispe brings one day's later dates from the mouth of Rio Grande. The news by her gives a graver aspect to the intelligence received before. There are, in point of fact, no later advices from General Taylor's camp, but the reports have assumed a more consistent form, and the opinion that a battle has been fought has become conviction. We give in another column ample details of the authentic information received from Monterey, and such specifications as severely leave room for doubt as to the fact that a battle has occurred. The reports that far are favorable to American arms; but it must be borne in mind that five thousand men cannot cope with twenty thousand forever. We must confess that much of the confidence we have in the success of the American troops, is based upon the abilities of their commander, and the prestige of a name that has never yet been coupled with defeat.

European Intelligence.

THE POTATO.—The *Dublin Mail* in quoting the subjoined paragraph from the *Belgian Mercantile Register*, says, "that there is no doubt of its truth." "It is our opinion, from what information we have received from the quantity of home produce with that of foreign at present on hand and to arrive, that prices will be lower." We have learned of late that there is a far greater quantity of potatoes in the country than we expected, and after seed time, we shall have the residue in the market at a moderate price; foreign potatoes are not so much inquired for, and are generally effected at 10 to 12s per cwt, in quality. Irish are more plentiful, and may be quoted at 8s. to 10s. per cwt.

The consular reports to Government allege that more than a proportionate breadth of ground throughout Ireland is sowed this year with wheat.

The Marquis of Waterford has directed the purchase of Indian corn, to the amount of £1,000 to be raised in prime cost, and a portion to be distributed gratuitously, where destitution prevails. The Marquis of Waterford, independently of establishing a soup kitchen and a clothing institution, has subscribed £160 to the Portlaw Poor Relief Fund. The Marquis established a soup kitchen at Currighmore, which has been open during the winter, and one at Kilmethomas.

We understand that the ladies of a large school in Castlegate, York, have voluntarily abstained from the use of sugar, in order to contribute the more liberally to the funds for the distressed Irish and Scotch.

Dublin, Feb. 16.—*Condition of the Country.*—The accounts from the provinces to date furnish fresh details of distress. Twomonths since, Skibbereen, in the south, and some parts of Mayo in the west, appeared to be the only districts where numbers were actually perishing for want of food. But now there is scarcely a county in Ireland in which the people are not dying of starvation. Even in the metropolis there are deaths resulting from want of food. Yesterday there was an inquest upon the bodies of a husband and wife, found dead in an obscure street in this city; and the evidence clearly showed that they perished from want of the common necessities of life. Meantime vast numbers are making their way out of the country.

The treasurers for the fund raising by the Wesleyan Methodists for the relief of the Irish have already received £12,500.

The chairmanship of the Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Society of Ireland is vacant by the lamented death of the Rev. Adam Averill, contemporary of the celebrated John Wesley, at the patriarchal age of ninety-three years.

It was stated in a recent number of the *Paris Spectator*, that at the Tuilleries the resolution had been come to that M. Guizot must retire his late indiscreet speech so offensive to English ministers, having rendered his continuance in office impossible. It was hinted that Count Mole would succeed him.

Lord Hardings has resolved, to reduce the postage in India, and introduce a system similar to that of Rowland Hill.

Markets at Ealmonth, (Jan.) 21st February. Pine Boards, 8 29; Codfish, 5 34; Shingles 5s.

The Duke of Northumberland, died on Thursday at his seat Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, in the 62d year of his age.

COMMUNICATION. (FOR THE STANDARD.) RAMBLING REMARKS ON COLONIAL RAILWAYS.

No. 1.
The public welfare demands a strict economy in the expenditure of public money, and as a general rule, the avoiding of a public debt of public liability, unless some great enterprise of Provincial importance is to be accomplished—and then a liberal use of the public credit and funds is the wisest economy. Such an enterprise is the construction of railways.

Where individual wealth is wanting, it becomes all the more necessary that the Legislature should lend its aid. What would New York, and Pennsylvania, and the Western States have been, compared with what they are, but for railways and canals? And what will New Brunswick twenty years hence be without railways, compared with what it will be with them? A mere suppling to the study oak.

Suppose the Province should expend several hundred thousand pounds on judiciously selected lines of railway as a bonus to them, doubtless, in a much less time than 20 years, the whole amount and interest would be returned to the treasury. In the mean time the wealth of the country would be immensely augmented, the public domain doubled, nay, quadrupled in value, and the ability of the country to consume duty-paying articles, and to engage in new enterprises, would be vastly enlarged. Any reasonable aid that may be given to railways by the Province will not, in all probability, ultimately draw a farthing from the treasury, and will give to it a great accession of permanent resources.

As railways extend themselves, the Province will be relieved from the onerous and growing expense of great roads and bridges, which, threaten at no distant day, to swallow up all the disposable revenues of the country, unless superseded by railways.

A railway to Quebec would turn a portion of the immense productions of the valley of the St. Lawrence and the Western States in this direction. All the principal commercial marts on the Atlantic seaboard, West and South of us are contending for a participation in this trade, to which no limit can be assigned. Are we placed without the pale of competition, and exposed to witness the ruin of our own commerce every year by our own fault?

The Bay of Fundy as near Lake Huron through British territory, as Detroit or New York, is through U. S. territory—and we have natural resources for sea-transportation superior to any State in the Union, with perhaps the exception of Maine. If our commercial marine is not a progressive enlarging one, it will be the result of a narrow public policy, and a want of energy in the people. Give the country railways, (and no protection,) and the energy will follow. They are to industry what the passions are to the intellect—the motive power, which drives away sluggishness and imparts activity.

In New Brunswick to gaze upon the great but peaceful conflict, and not enter the arena as a competitor? "We boast our connexion with a great country, on whose domain the sun never sets, and the superior advantages it confers on us. Do we expect to thrive on the reflected lustre of the great luminary to which we belong, without a self-sustaining effort? If we do, our ruin is soon apparent to all at least, but ourselves, and leave them no cause to envy our condition. Before we can advance to material prosperity, we must will it, and suit the means to the design. Our natural resources are great, but without the enterprise and energy required to bring them out, they are as useless, as gold in the mine. Hercules helps none, who will not help themselves. We have reached a point, which indicates a retrograde rather than an onward movement, unless we strike out into new channels of industry (and this we cannot do, in the absence of the most efficient means of internal transit and communication. We must produce as cheap as others, or there will be none to purchase our productions. To do this, we must have railway-speed and cheapness, of travel and transportation. I would have a Starling in every town, village, and hamlet, crying Railways! Railways! Railways!—or we sink into insignificance. If we say there is a job in the streets, we must not venture there, or we shall be devoured—we may perish in our houses from fright and inanition.

It appears to be admitted in all quarters, that real estate in the Province except in a few favored localities, has not increased in value for the last twenty years—There is a disease somewhere at the root of the public prosperity. Money has been gathered from the public domain and from the pockets of the people, and soon broadcast, and no relief. Protection has been tried until the patient has well nigh perished under it. Every regimen but the right one has been essayed, until the country is reduced to the last stages of a lingering consumption. The miracle that is to save its constitution, and give it new life and vigor, is RAILWAYS.

Yours, F. S. A.

FIN.—Between seven and eight o'clock on Thursday evening, the Piano Forte Manufactory of Mr. J. T. Hunt, situated in rear of his Dwelling in Prince William street, was discovered to be on fire, caused it is supposed, by a lighted candle, which was left upon a work bench, having been upset by a dog among shavings, &c. The building, with most of the stock, instruments, tools, &c., was destroyed. The flames having gained considerable headway before a supply of water was obtained, the adjoining buildings were for a time in imminent danger. The military was used early on the spot, with their engines, and afforded valuable assistance to the inhabitants in staying the progress of the fire. Mr. Hunt's loss must be heavy—probably £400 or £500—but we are pleased to learn that he intends to rebuild his Manufactory without loss of time, and continue his business as usual. —*Courier*.

Provincial Parliament. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

March 22.
The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of John Porter and George M. Porter, of Saint Stephen, praying compensation for losses sustained by the sale of an extensive Tract of Land in the western part of the Province in the year 1844, on which they had made extensive improvements in the erection of Dams, Sluices, &c.—
That they have attended to that duty, and after a full investigation of all the information submitted, your Committee are of opinion, that although the case of the Petitioners appears to be a hard one, yet they do not consider it expedient to recommend the prayer of the Petition to the favourable consideration of the House.

(Signed) John C. Vail, James Tibbatts, W. Wilson, Joseph March, 22.

The Select Committee to whom was referred the several Petitions praying to be reimbursed expenses in support of sick and distressed Emigrant Poor during the year 1846, having had before them the following Petitions, beg leave to report—

No. 2. The Petition of John Ore, of the Parish of Saint Patrick, County of Charlotte for expense incurred by him in support of one sick and distressed Emigrant. This Account is certified by one of the Overseers of the Poor: your Committee recommend that £9 6s. be paid.

No. 3. The Petition of the Overseers of the Parish of Saint Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, for expenses incurred by them, amounting to £40 11 11, including a charge for £22 11s. for Medical aid and Medicine to nine sick Emigrants; the balance was expended in Board, Clothing, &c.—Board charged at 6s. per week; other charges not extravagant: The Committee recommend the same to be paid.

The sum of £200 for the road from Oak Bay to Bel River, one half of which sum to be expended towards the Belle Settlement, and the remainder between Bel River and Little Dippenagh.

The sum of £150 for the road from Brockway to Saint Stephen.

The sum of £50 for the road from Chamrock to Pleasant Ridge.

The sum of £50 for the road from Wawing to Rois.

The sum of £100 for the road from the St. Andrews Road to Dipper Harbour.

The sum of £120 to remunerate Thomas Davis for building a Bridge at the second Falls Magaguadavic, carried away by the Ice Freshet.

The sum of £30 to reimburse George Gannon and Joseph Pratt for repairing a Bridge near Fishery's, Magaguadavic, injured by the Ice Freshet.

The sum of £100 towards rebuilding the Milliken Bridge, over the mouth of the Magaguadavic.

THE STANDARD.

ST. ANDREWS, WEDNESDAY, MAR. 31, 1847.

Charlotte County Bank.
Hon. HARRIS HATCH, President.
Director next week.—Hon. T. Wier, T. B. Wilson, Esq., Solicitor.

Discount Day—TUESDAY.
Hours of Business, from 10 to 2.

BILLS AND NOTES FOR DISCOUNT must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Monday otherwise they must remain in our hands until the following discount day.

SALES AND WORK HOUSE.
Commissioners—R. M. Andrews, R. Walton, C. W. Dimock, M. S. Hamah, John Bailey.

St. Andrews Steam Mills and Manufacturing Company.
R. M. Andrews, Esq., President.
Director this week.—Jan. 26, 1847.

Saint Stephens Bank.
G. D. King Esq., President.
Director next week.—S. Hill.

Discount Day—SATURDAY.
Hours of business, from 10 to 1.

BILLS AND NOTES FOR DISCOUNT must be lodged with the Cashier, on or before Friday, otherwise they must remain in our hands until the following discount day.

LATEST DATES.
Liverpool, Mar. 4; Montreal, Mar. 10; London, Mar. 3; Quebec, Mar. 10; Edinburgh, Mar. 1; Halifax, Mar. 18; Paris, Mar. 1; New York, Mar. 19; Toronto, Mar. 9; Boston, Mar. 20.

Provincial Legislature.—The business of the session appears to be progressing in good earnest for the last week or two.

We understand that the debate on Mr. Fisher's resolutions closed on Thursday evening at six o'clock, in the House of Assembly, when, on a division, the first vote was lost by a majority of 23 to 12.

Wolves.—We are informed that these animals are becoming numerous in the upper parts of this Parish and St. Patricks. During the last week Mr. Hopkins of the Grange settlement poisoned no less than seven. First being the only sure method of destroying them, as they frequently carry off the traps, and it is very difficult to shoot them.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND AND SCOTLAND.

A Public Meeting took place on Monday last at the Town Hall, agreeably to a Requisition signed by the Magistrates and principal Inhabitants of this Town, for the purpose of raising a subscription for the suffering Irish and Highlanders of Scotland. Although the meeting was not so numerously attended as might have been expected, and as the occasion warranted, still a very liberal contribution was raised and paid on the spot. A committee of six gentlemen was formed for raising subscriptions out of doors, and we have no doubt but that a considerable sum will be raised through their exertions. As was stated at the meeting, it appears by private letters received by persons residing in this Town, that the accounts we have read of the distress prevailing in those unhappy countries are not exaggerated—that standing the immense efforts made by the British Government, to meet the evil—notwithstanding the munificent donations of corporate bodies and private individuals, and the liberal gifts from the United States and other countries—that still famine is doing her work destruction. We who in this happy country know not what this scourge is, except by name—we who have perhaps never experienced more of hunger than is necessary for the enjoyment of our daily meals, can scarcely realize to ourselves the fate of men, women, and children, and whole families dying from want of food—and being as the public journals represent for want of sufficient boards to bury them, thrown "unshrouded and uncoffined" into the grave. Who then that has one shilling to spare will turn a deaf ear to the application of these gentlemen—But we feel assured it does not require such melancholy recitals nor any arguments to induce every one to advance a little towards mitigating this part of such unparalleled suffering. The names of the gentlemen composing the Committee are—J. W. Street, Esq., Messrs. John Lochary, F. A. Batecock, J. McDunnell, J. Rodger, and Capt. Paul.

We are also happy to announce that £29 have been received at the Parish Church St. Stephen, and also £10 at the Congregational Church Whitton—making together the handsome sum of £39, which has been transmitted to the Mayor of St. John to send home, and for the relief of the distressed poor of Ireland and the Highlands of Scotland.

We have been handed a letter from a person in Ireland to his friend in this Town, dated Tipperary Feb. 27, from which we take the following extracts:

"The present state of things in Ireland is most alarming—the people, many of whom I know, are actually starving. Our whole dependence is on America for supplies of food, and unless we are supplied with provisions from that quarter, I know not what we shall do.—Business is stagnated—and no employment for the industrious."

Collections in Fredericton.—In the Roman Catholic Church at Fredericton, on Sunday the 14th inst., the very liberal sum of £96 6s. 3d. was contributed for the relief of the suffering poor in Ireland and on Sunday last a collection of £10 12s. 4d. was made in the Baptist Chapel in that City for the same philanthropic object.

The House of Assembly has voted £100 to each of the Emigrant societies in the Province, which is to be paid to the President of each society, when it is certified that £50 has been subscribed, and paid by the inhabitants of each County.

Our attentive Correspondent's letter, and article "on the culture of Hemp," is received, for which we tender him our thanks. We will publish the article in our next number. By reference to our files will notice, that nearly three years ago we devoted considerable space in the Standard, to the most approved methods of preparing the soil, sowing, and raising hemp, in Europe and the United States, and recommended the Farmers of this County to give it a trial upon a moderate scale. The inducements however, were not sufficient to warrant them to try it, but now that the Legislature have passed an act offering a Bounty of 10s. per cwt. for hemp raised in the Province, and that there are from two to three hundred tons manufactured annually into rope in New Brunswick, we trust that they will make the attempt.

Sheriffs.—The Royal Gazette of Wednesday contains the re-appointment of the several Sheriffs in the different Counties of this Province, with the exception of Restigouche, where John L. Barthelemy Esq. takes the place of John U. Campbell, Esq. The appointment of Sheriff for the City and County of Saint John, is not announced until the first Tuesday in April.

New-York, March 20.—Sales of 500 Irish Gen Flour at \$6. 94, and 350 at \$6. 58; 1000 of George-town at \$6. 50, and 200 of Richmond at \$7. 25. Large sales of Corn at 50 cents for yellow; and white at 51 to 50 cents. There are buyers of new Mess Pork at \$16. 3000 barrels mixed Michigan Flour, deliverable in June, have been sold at \$5. 50.

Freight to Ireland. 23d. 4th. Corn, and to Liverpool in bags, at 25d. by packets.

Exchange.—Bills on London, 34 to 44.

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