

*Important from the Army—Santa Anna advancing on Saltillo.*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—6 o'clock, P. M.—The Steamer Fashion, from Brazos 24th, arrived at New Orleans with eighty discharged volunteers, and the remains of the gallant Allison, of Nashville, who received a death wound at Monterey. Captain Yeatman, aid to General Wool, bearer of despatches to the Government at Washington, came passenger; also Colonel J. G. Langdon. General Wool's column was within two miles of Paras, numbering 2,900 men. They were ordered there to establish a depot and levy on supplies belonging to the Mexican Government.—They had already taken a large quantity of flour, wheat and corn. The First and Second Regiments of Indiana Volunteers, on their march from Camargo, had joined General Wool. General Wool left Saltillo with 1500 men. General Butler left Monterey with 2000 men. Colonel Quitman's brigade left Monterey for Victoria the 14th. General Taylor's squadron left Monterey for Victoria on the 15th. General Patterson was to leave on the 22d with the Tennessee regiment of cavalry for Tampico, via Victoria. The Alabama Volunteers, had arrived at Monterey. Lieutenant Colonel Henry Clay, with six companies Kentucky Volunteers had reached Saltillo.—Captain Willis, with two companies, at Mier. General Lamar was at Larado. The Mexicans were making successful exertions to raise troops in all the small towns near the Rio Grande. Captain Stone, with a detachment of 70 men, found 200 Mexicans at Rancho, on the Rio San Juan, commanded by Captain Cantion—their particular object being search. Cantion was captured, and also muster roll of company, with letters of instruction from Ampudia and Paredes; also a quantity of blankets and ammunition was secured. Cantion was taken to Camargo and imprisoned on the 16th. A Mexican was caught entering the magazine at Camargo, with the supposed intent of blowing it up.\* An express had arrived at Brazos from General Patterson, stating that Santa Anna was advancing on Saltillo, with the intention to cut off General Worth. Four hundred and fifty regulars were to leave Camargo for Monterey on the 20th. A passenger in the schooner H. T. Johnson, at New Orleans from Tampico, states that an attack was made on the American force at that place, numbering about 300, by an advance of the Mexican cavalry—nearly seven thousand strong. The American forces opened their park artillery on them, when they speedily fled.—Tel. Desp. N. Y. Jour. Com.

THE LATE U. S. BRIG SOMERS.—Captain Semmes, in his official letter to Commodore Perry, detailing the particulars of the loss of the Somers, returns thanks, as follows, to the Captains of the British and other vessels of War at Sacrificios, for their exertions in rescuing a large number of the crew, and for the hospitalities subsequently received:

"With heart-felt acknowledgments, it remains for me to inform you of the gallant and feeling manner in which all the foreign men-of-war lying at Sacrificios came to our rescue. They hoisted out and manned boats immediately, and, at the hazard of their lives, put out towards the wreck.—They were at first driven back by the violence of the wind and sea, but renewed their efforts upon the first lull; and had the unhopd for satisfaction of saving fourteen more of our unfortunate companions.

"To Captain Lambert, of the English frigate Endymion, to Captain Frankland, of the English corvette Alarm, Commander Matson, of the English brig Daring, Captain Dubut, of the French brig Mercure, Captain Labredoyaire, of the French brig Pylade, and Captain Puente, of the Spanish corvette Louisa Fernandez, who all sent boats, and supplied us with clothing, and hospitably entertained us on board their ships, we owe a lasting debt of gratitude."

FROM WASHINGTON.—The recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury to levy a war duty on tea and coffee, seems to have brought the House of Representatives to a categorical declaration of their determination on the question. Mr. Wentworth, on Saturday, submitted a resolution declaring that "it is inexpedient to levy any duty on tea and coffee," which was adopted by yeas and nays, without debate, yeas 115, nays 48.

A resolution was adopted calling on the Secretary of War for a report of the number of volunteers received into service—the number killed in battle, or who have died of wounds or of disease, and the number discharged from disability.

The bill to raise, for a limited time, additional military forces, was made the special order of the day for Monday.

There was still an expectation that the President would, on Monday, submit to Congress the rumoured recommendation of authority to appoint an officer with the rank and title of Lieutenant General. We do not, however, hear of any specific authority for the rumor.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

CONGRESS.—A message was received from the President, recommending earnestly the adoption of the Secretary of War's suggestions for increasing the efficiency and better organization of the Army; for an increase of the officers in the regular army, and particularly in the highest grades, and for the appointment of a General officer to take command of all the forces in the field during the war. The President says that it is desirable that efficient measures be taken to terminate the war before the warm season commences.—He calls the attention of Congress to the importance of immediate action in this matter. On motion of Mr. Marston, the message was referred to the Military committee.

DEPARTURE OF GENERAL SCOTT.—General Scott and suite left last evening in the steamship Alabama for the seat of war.

General Scott will proceed to Camargo and organize the forces there, and about the 15th January he will depart for Tampico, with such forces as can be drawn from the Rio Grande, and with such of the new levies as can reach him by that time. From Tampico he will take up the line of march to San Luis, and effecting a junction with Taylor's force, he will commence the siege of San Luis with a force of fifteen or twenty thousand men.

If Santa Anna is disposed to peace, the terms will there be agreed upon; if he is determined to fight, there will be a considerable explosion of "villanous saltpetre," in and about the walls of San Luis.—*N. O. Delta, Dec. 24.*

General Santa Anna in one of his letters to General Taylor says:

"I will conclude this note by assuring you that I entertain the hope that the sovereign National Congress, which is immediately to be installed, will act as shall be most conducive to the interests of the Republic; but I believe that I do not deceive myself in assuring you that neither the Congress, nor any Mexican, will ever be able to listen to overtures of peace unless the national territory be first evacuated by the forces of the United States, and the hostile attitude of their vessels of war be withdrawn.

"This must be without doubt the preliminary of whatever negotiations may be opened; and it may be permitted to me to declare to you, that the nation, moved by a sentiment of patriotism, and determined to defend at every hazard and inch by inch its territory, will never cease to qualify as it deserves, and as the world has already qualified it, the conduct of the United States; and it will do whatever it can and ought honorably to deserve the title which it bears of independent and free."

We saw at the Levee two flat bottomed iron barges belonging to the United States, and intended for service in Mexico. They are each in three distinct divisions, joined by moveable iron connections on the outside, and being thus put together, form one boat, but being separated and placed on wheels, each form a separate wagon—they can thus be used either for land or water service, and after conveying troops or stores across the river, can be placed upon the wheels with which they are provided, and then move forward with the army. They are also well calculated for landing troops on the coast, and by being separated, each part can readily be hoisted on board a ship and carried on deck to the disembarking point, each division is perfectly water tight of itself, and the plan seems most admirably calculated for good and efficient service.—*N. O. Com. Bulletin, Dec. 21.*

LOSS OF A WHALING CAPTAIN AND THREE SEAMEN.—The whaling bark American, of Sagharbor, under command of her first officer, E. Page, arrived at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, July 14th, and reports that while cruising, lat. 52, 30 N., lon. 155 W., Wm, Pierson of Bridgehampton, L. I., Franklin R. Bennett, seamen, of Sagharbor, and Solomen Carman, seaman, of New York City, were lost on the 4th of June, by a whale running over the boat, about three quarters of a mile from the ship. Two other seamen were in the boat, but they were picked up by another boat. After the above occurrence, the crew forward refused to lower any more for whales, and the captain was compelled to visit the Sandwich Islands. The American arrived at Lahaina, on the 7th, and there eight of the men were put in irons by the American Consul, because they would not do duty, and by advice of the consul at Lahaina, Capt. Page took the American to Honolulu.—*N. Y. True Sun.*

Five hundred and eighty two wagons were ferried over the Mississippi river at Burlington, Iowa. Two years ago the population of this state only numbered about eighty thousand inhabitants, now it is estimated at one hundred and fifty thousand.—*N. Y. Evening Express.*

A SAD MISTAKE.—A melancholy result of a false accusation of crime is related by the Dayton, Ohio, Transcript of the 23d ultimo. V. B. Howard, a Clerk in the Post Office there, was accused of purloining a draft for \$200. He protested his innocence, but as public opinion fastened it on him, he volunteered for the war, and died on the march from Matamoras to Camargo, far from home and friends. On the 22d ult. the letter and the draft were received from the dead letter office at Washington, having been misdirected by the persons who were instrumental in the disgrace of young Howard.

We transcribe the following from our United States papers:—

NOTICE TO BRITISH SUBJECTS.—The undersigned has received instructions to publish for the information of all British subjects, that Her Majesty's Government have come to the determination of prohibiting all British functionaries, residing in slaveholding countries, from administering to the estate of deceased persons, in cases where slaves form part of the property of the deceased.

CHARLES DUNKIN WAKE,

H. B. M. Consul for S. and N. Carolina.

December 10, 1846.

This is said to be one of Lord Palmerston's new projects to avoid the recognition of slaves as property when held by British subjects. He has also renewed his instructions to the British Ambassador at the Sublime Porte, to persuade the Sultan to abolish slavery in his dominions. The Grand Turk replies that he would be happy to oblige Her Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain, but he is in an untoward fix about his wife and mother, both of whom are slaves.