

Dear Sir.—While all eyes were directed with intense anxiety towards the military operations near Gonzales—supposing that to be the only point from whence we might expect important news, we were astonished by receiving intelligence of the capture of the fort and town Goliad, (La Boca) by a party of colonists. These were volunteers from the transcendently fertile banks of the Cuney and from the town of Matagorda, a place destined to become an important city.

Before this party entered the field, most of the volunteers were at Gonzales—and fearing that the harvest of honor would be reaped before they could arrive there, they struck off from La Boca with the daring determination of taking Goliad by surprise.

Goliad is situated on the southwest side of the San Antonio river, thirty leagues below Bexar, and it is fifteen leagues from Copano, the landing place of Arkansas bay, and about the same distance from the La Boca and of Matagorda bay. The fort is built upon the point of a very steep and high hill, formed of rock, with a deep ravine upon one side and a low prairie upon the opposite—with a broad elevated prairie, which extends towards the southwest.

The walls of the fort are of stone and lime, and bear in places the marks of the storms of a hundred winters, but are still proof against any thing less than the batterings of heavy artillery.

A long forced march brought the van guard of the colonists to the San Antonio river, fordable below the town at 11 o'clock on the night of the 9th instant. Here they halted for the main body and to make arrangements for the attack. A very small party were sent into town, and brought out with the utmost secrecy, a worthy citizen friendly to the constitution of 1821. And by his assistance guides were procured, perfectly acquainted with the place.

The main body of the colonists missed their road in the night, and before they found out their mistake, were at the upper ford, immediately opposite town. They then struck across, for a short cut, to the position occupied by the van-guard. The route led through a market thicket. The musket is a tree of the locust family, full of thorns, and at a little distance resembles the common peach tree in size and appearance. While the party were treading their way through this thicket, the horse of some of them started in affright at an object beneath a bush. The rider checked his horse and said, "who's there?" A voice answered in Spanish. One of the party supposed that he recognized in the voice an old acquaintance of Bahia—and asked if it was not such a one, mentioning the name. "No," was the reply, "My name is Milam."

Colonel Milam is a native of Kentucky. At the commencement of the Mexican war of Independence he engaged in the cause, and assisted in establishing the independence of the country. When Iturbide assumed the purple, Milam's republican principles placed him in fetters—dragged him to the city of Mexico, and confined him in prison until the usurper was dethroned. When Santa Anna assumed the Dictatorship, the republican Milam was again thrust into prison at Monte Rey. But his past services and sufferings wrought upon the sympathies of his hard hearted jailors.

They allowed him the luxuries of the bath, profited by the indulgence and made arrangements with an old compatriot to place a fleet horse, suitably equipped at the time appointed. The colonel passed the sentinel as he was wont to go into the water; walked quietly on; mounted the horse and fled.

Four hundred miles would place him in safety. The noble horse did his duty, and bore the colonel clear of all pursuit to the place where our party surprised him. At first he supposed himself in the power of his enemy; but the English language soon convinced him; he was in the midst of his countrymen.

He had never heard that Texas was making an effort to save herself. No whisper of the kind had been allowed to pass to the prison. When he learnt the object of the party his heart was full. He could not speak, for joy.

When the company arrived at the Lower ford they divided themselves into four parties of twelve men each. One party remained as a guard with the horses. The other three, each with a guide, marched by different routes to the assault.

Their axes hewed down the door where the colonel commanding the place slept; and he was taken a prisoner from the bed. A sentinel hailed; and fired. A rifle ball laid him dead on the spot. The discharge of fire-arms and the noise of human voices now became commingled. The Mexican soldiers fired from their quarters and the blaze of their guns served as targets for the colonists' rifles.

The garrison were called to surrender, and the call was translated by a gentleman present who spoke the language. They asked for terms.

The interpreter now became the chief speaker. "No," answered he. They say they will massacre every one of you, unless you come out and surrender. Come out; come out if you wish to save your lives; I can keep them back no longer. "O do for God's sake keep them back," answered the Mexicans in their own language; "We will come out and surrender immediately; and they rushed; They were instantly killed. There were nine

in

with all possible speed and laid down their arms.

And thus was the fort Goliad taken; a fort which, with a garrison of three hundred and fifty patriots in the wars of 1812-13, withstood a siege of an army of more than two thousand Spanish troops and forced them to retire, discomfited.

At the capture of the fort, three Mexican soldiers were killed, seven wounded, and one colonel, one captain, one lieutenant, with twenty-one petty officers and privates were made prisoners; others of the garrison escaped in the dark, and fled.

In the fort were found two pieces of brass cannon, 600 muskets and carbines, 600 spears with ammunition and provisions.

One of the colonists was wounded in the shoulder.

Col. Milam assisted in the capture of the fort, and then he spoke: "I assisted Mexico to gain her independence, I have endured heat and cold, hunger and thirst, I have borne losses and suffered persecutions, I have been a tenant of every prison between this and Mexico—but the events of this night have compensated me for all my losses and all my sufferings."

The colonists were commanded by Geo. M. Collyworth, but it would be difficult to find in the company a man not qualified for the command.

Goliad is of vastly more importance in a military point of view than Bexar, as the latter is in a valley upon the banks of the river and commanded by the hills on each side; and is therefore indefensible.

The main army under Colonel Austin marched from Gonzales on the 13th inst. against Bexar.

When proceeded, there is in Colonel Austin the courage of the lion; and there is in him at all times, the caution of the fox. With him in command, if we do not hope for a speedy victory, we at least do not fear a defeat.

I send this by a soldier\* who fought at the capture of Goliad, and if there be any errors in my statement, you will have the means of correcting them before you.

Your obt servant,

S.

\* Captain John Duncan lately of Mpible.—E. B.

The county court of Fayette county, (Ken.) have unanimously authorized the erection of a monument, in memory of Major Barry on the public square in Lexington. Such is the language of the Lexington Intelligencer, but to "authorise" such a work is but a small part of the undertaking. Almost any body may erect monuments in this country without any previous authorization. If the county court had appropriated a sum of money for the object, it would have been coming much nearer the thing—unless the authority thus granted means merely, as we suppose it does, a license to build the monument, on ground over which the court has control.—*Con. & Eng.*

*Egdes of Williams.*—The Natchez goal was broken on the night of the 27th ult. and the whole precious host of inhabitants, whites, blacks, blacklegs, horse-thieves, and a general assortment of those beautiful specimens of virtuous humanity, called Murel men, took their departure.

A barn was burnt down in the neighborhood of Georgetown, D. C. on Wednesday night last, and four valuable horses burnt with it. The fire is believed to have been the work of an incendiary, and a man named Connolly was arrested on suspicion of having done the deed; but Connolly proved one of the snuggest *alibis* in the world. It was proved both by his landlord and landlady that he was so drunk on that evening that they locked him in his room, and found him there the next morning.

The following statement is copied from the National Intelligencer shows a most unaccountable negligence in our Navy, which we hoped never to see repeated, after the tragic accident at Toulon.

An officer on board the United States Frigate, *Potomac*, now in the Mediterranean, writes to his friend at Charleston, under date of August, 20th, an account of his summer's cruise, in which he says that the Frigate was

on the fourth of July, off Tripoli, where she fired a salute of seventeen guns, in honor of the glorious day, when the following incident occurred: "The second gun fired, came very near doing a great deal of damage—it had been shotted, and the gunner had forgotten to draw the charge—the shot passed through the bows of the flag ship *Delaware*, about fifty yards off." The reader cannot fail to remember that by a similar inadvertence of the gunner on board another of our national vessels, a year or two ago, in the harbor of Toulon, a shot was fired into a French ship of war which did much damage, and produced great excitement, and an ill feeling which, if accountants to be believed, yet exists in the minds of some of the naval men of that country. They will, it is presumed, cease to entertain any further remains of ill will in regard to that unfortunate catastrophe, when they find that the Commodore's ship of our own squadron has been subjected to similar chance medley.

WHEELING, Nov. 18.

*Accident.*—As the People's Line Stage was proceeding up Wheeling hill on Sunday last, the two leading horses broke away from the others and ran off the bank, precipitating themselves headlong to a depth of 200 feet.

passengers in the stage, through the accident was not of a nature to give them any alarm.

*Grittle.*

## WEEKLY MESSENGER

Printer's Retreat, Indiana.

Saturday, December 19.

**CASH.**—We have begged, in vain, for a moiety of what is due us—our debtors have been deaf—we have commenced with the aid of the laws, to obtain what is justly due; those who pay costs must blame themselves only.

N. B. Those who know themselves indebted to me will please meet me at a justice's office in Vevay on Monday next, confess judgments and save costs.

### COLONEL, 14TH REGIMENT.

Captain RALPH B. COTTOX is a candidate for the office of colonel of the 14th regiment, in place of John F. Siebenthal, resigned.

### Justice of the Peace.

An election for a justice of the peace, in Jefferson township, in place of Samuel Beal, whose term of service has expired, will be held at the court house, in Vevay on Tuesday, the 29th inst.

### CANDIDATES.

SAMUEL BEAL.

JOHN DUMONT.—We perceive that our Senator did not take his seat on the first day of the session. We understand he was thrown from his horse on his way out; but were not informed of the extent of the injury he received.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**—We are indebted to the Baltimore Chronicle for the first copy of the president's message; we will lay some paragraphs of the same before our readers hereafter. The president's tone upon the French question is said to be generally approved at Washington. The message contains a candid and comprehensive statement of the past conduct of both governments in regard to the matter in controversy.

**NON INTERCOURSE WITH FRANCE.**—A general impression prevails at Washington, that the worst that can ensue, in our difficulties, will be a non intercourse act.

**Printer to the house of representatives.**—Blair and Rives, were elected printers to the house of Representatives, of the U. States; receiving 132 votes.

**CONGRESS.**—The votes for speaker, were as follows:

James K. Polk, of Tenn.	132	votes,
John Bell,	84	"
Charles F. Mercer, Va.	3	"
John Q. Adams, Massach'st.	1	"
Francis Granger, N. Y.	1	"

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.**—We have run over the governor's message; but find nothing particularly interesting in it. He speaks strongly on the propriety of our entering into splendid and of course, expensive internal improvements. He thinks our state can expend \$10,000,000—he says:

"But, to sustain an enterprise of such magnitude, a suitable provision should be made for the payment of the interest on the capital one million of which would be needed the first year, and about an equal sum annually until the work shall be finished. The additional Revenue required to meet the interest on the loan, would increase the whole amount of tax now paid by our citizens, one half; that is, he who now pays one dollar would have to pay the further sum of 50 cents each year."

### VAN BUREN MEETING.

According to previous notice, a meeting of those friendly to the election of Van Buren to the presidency and R. M. Johnson for vice president of the U. States, at the next presidential election, took place on Saturday last at the court house in Vevay. A great number of citizens disposed to support the above gentlemen, attended; and the resolutions usual on such occasions, being unanimously adopted, delegates were appointed to attend the general meeting at Indianapolis. The choice of the delegates evinced the profound wisdom and deep penetration of the meeting.

Among the happy selection, it is highly pleasing to notice, PHINEAS M. KENT—our worthy townsmen—whose eloquence graced the cause, and whose well established character and well attested moral principles, will add weight, dignity and respectability to the delegation. He is a man as Shakespeare would say of him—that take him *all in all*, we may never look on his like again. Any gentleman who is skeptical concerning Mr. Kent's qualifications, can have his doubts fully removed by application to Mr. Kennedy, post master, Mr. Marshall, teller of the bank, John Robertson, merchant, Mr. Newcomer, &c. & c. of Hagerstown; or to John Dumont, esq. of Vevay. It is worthy of remark, that it gives general satisfaction to the citizens of this county to see such a worthy

gentleman employed in the clerks office, who will be found ready to accommodate his friends at any date. I have no doubt but John F. Dumont and some of the other gentlemen of the delegation, will feel themselves highly honored in being associated with such a constellation of merit.

He that believeth, let him believe still; and he that doubteth, let him doubt and be damned. A. SUBSCRIBER.

Vevay, Dec. 15.

## INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

The new state house, when occupied, presents a beautiful appearance, and the seats are so arranged as to afford every necessary comfort and convenience. The floors of the halls are handsomely carpeted—and the whole we trust, is ominous of good to the country. The interests of Indiana, for centuries, will be connected with this winter's legislation, and we ardently hope that the exertions of our senators and representatives will be crowned with success. We are pleased to witness amongst the representatives, gen. M. G. Clark, one of the early pioneers of Indiana, and for several years a member of the territorial legislature, and Enoch McCarty, one of the members of the convention that adopted our state constitution. To these veteran legislators of our state, the rising greatness of Indiana must be truly gratifying.—*Democrat.*

Monday, Dec. 7, 1835.

This being the day provided for in the constitution, for the meeting of the general assembly, both branches of the legislature assembled at the new state capital and proceeded to organize.

### IN SENATE.

The hon. David Wallace, lieut. governor of the state and president of the senate took the chair at 10 o'clock, and on calling the roll, it appeared that messrs. Casey, Aker, and Dumont had not arrived.

The senate then proceeded to the election of a principal secretary; whereupon the vote stood for James Morrison 22

Henry Hurst 6

Mr. Morrison having been declared duly elected by the president of the senate, was sworn into office and proceeded to the discharge of his duties.

The senate then went into an election for assistant secretary; which resulted as follows:

ballots 1st 2nd, and 3d.

William C. Foster,	10	13	18
Campbell Hays,	8	9	9
David V. Culley,	5	4	1
Isaac Naylor,	5	2	0

Mr. Foster having been declared duly elected was sworn and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

The Senate then proceeded to the election of an enrolling secretary; which resulted as follows:

Hudson Parke 15

John Finley 9

James Ward 4

Mr. Parke having been declared duly elected, was sworn into office.

The senate proceeded to elect a doof keeper, on ballots 1st, 2nd, and 3d.

Oliver Morse received	14	11	16
J. B. E. Reid	12	13	12
Scattering	2	1	0

Oliver Morse was declared elected and was sworn into office.

The senate then proceeded to the election of a sergeant at arms; and Mr. Lamb, having been declared duly elected, was sworn into office.

TUESDAY, December 8.

On motion of Mr. Whitecomb, the resolution requiring the Sergeant at Arms to contract with the Editors of the Journal, Democrat, and Aurora, for five copies of their respective papers as often as published, provided they could be procured at a price not exceeding four and a half cents per number, which resolution, after a few remarks from several members, was adopted.

Mr. Payne gave notice that on to-morrow he would introduce a resolution amending the standing rules, as follows:

That the previous questions shall not be called unless by a majority of the members present, and that no debate should be permitted on the previous question.

Mr. Morgan introduced the following joint resolution which passed to a second reading on to-morrow.

Whereas, a large number of the citizens of the United States have been induced by the government of Mexico, to leave the land of their nativity and settle in the territory of Texas, adjoining Louisiana, one of the states of our confederacy; and whereas, as it is represented through the medium of the public journals of the day, that difficulties of a serious character have arisen between the government of Mexico and the people of Texas, assuming the form of open war. And, whereas, it is feared that the Indian tribes, whose known mode of warfare respects neither age nor sex, will be employed to harass, subdue, and exterminate all who are understood to be favoring liberal principles in that country; and whereas, no such war can exist on our borders but to the great annoyance of our peaceful government and the citizens on the frontier of what will probably soon be a field of blood.

Therefore, be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, that in the opinion of the General Assembly, sound policy, and the dictates of humanity, and the ties of consanguinity, alike require that the government of the United States should use all reasonable means to procure from the Mexican government for a stipulated equivalent, the sovereign jurisdiction of the country of Texas.