

INDIAN WAR.

Western Department,
Fort King, Fla., Feb. 22, 1835.

General: Agreeably to your directions, I observed the battle ground six or seven miles north of the Withlacoochee river, where Maj. Dade and his command were destroyed by the Seminole Indians on the 23d of December last, and have the honor to submit the following report:

The force under your command which arrived at this post to-day from Tampa Bay, encamped on the night of 19th inst. on ground occupied by Major Dade on the night of the 23d of December. He and his party were destroyed on the morning of the 23d of December, about four miles in advance of this position. He was advancing towards his post and was attacked from the north, so that on the 23d inst. we came upon the rear of his battle-ground about 9 o'clock in the morning. Our advanced guard had passed the ground without halting, when the General and his staff came upon one of the most appalling scenes that can be imagined. We first saw some broken and scattered boxes; then a cart, the two oxen of which were lying dead. As if they had fallen asleep, their yokes still on them; a little to the right, one or two horses were seen. We then came to a small enclosure, made by felling trees in such a manner as to form a triangular breastwork for defence. Within the triangle, along the north and west sides of it were about thirty bodies, mostly men, skeletons, although much of the clothing was left upon them. These were lying, almost every one of them, in precisely the position they must have occupied during the fight; their heads next to the logs over which they had delivered their fire, and their bodies stretched with striking regularity parallel to each other. They had evidently been shot dead at their posts, and the Indians had not disturbed them, except by taking the scalps of most of them. Passing this little breastwork we found other bodies along the road, and by the side of the road, generally behind trees which had been resorted to for covers from the enemy's fire. Advancing about two hundred yards further, we found a cluster of bodies in the middle of the road. There were evidently the advanced guard, in the rear of which was the body of Major Dade, and to the right, that of Captain Fraser.

These were all doubtless shot down on the first fire of the Indians, except, perhaps, Captain Fraser, who must, however, have fallen very early in the fight. Those in the road and by the trees, fell during the first attack. It was during a cessation of the fire that the little band still remaining, about thirty in number, threw up the triangular breast work, which, in the haste with which it was constructed, was necessarily defective, and could not protect the men in the second attack.

We had with us many of the personal friends of the officers of Major Dade's command, and it is gratifying to be able to state that every officer was identified by undoubted evidence. They were buried, and the cannon, a six pounder that the Indians had thrown into a swamp, was recovered & placed vertically at the head of the grave, where it is to be hoped it will long remain. The bodies of the non-commissioned officers and privates were buried in two graves, and it was found that every man was accounted for. The command was composed of eight officers and one hundred and two non-commissioned officers and privates. The bodies of eight officers and ninety-eight men were interred, four men having escaped; three of whom reached Tampa Bay; the fourth was killed the day after the battle.

It may be proper to observe, that the attack was not made from a hammock, but in a thinly wooded country; the Indians being concealed by palmetto and grass, which has since been burned.

The two companies were Captain Fraser's, of the 3d artillery, and Captain Gardner's, of 2d artillery. The officers were Major Dade, of the 4th infantry, Captains Fraser and Gardner, second Lieutenant Basinger, brevet second Lieutenant R. Henderson, Mudge and Keais, of the artillery, and Doctor J. S. Gatlin.

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your obedient servant.

(Signed) E. A. HERRICK,
Capt. 1st infantry, act. insp'r general.
Major gen. Edmund P. Gaines,
Commanding Western Department,
Fort King Florida.

JACKSONVILLE, Feb. 25.

Further hostilities of the Indians.—By accounts received from Micanopy, we learn that two men were fired upon by Indians, within a mile of that place. One was killed and most shockingly mangled. The particulars are contained in the following extract of a letter received by Mr. C. Waddell, dated Feb 27th, 1835.

"Yesterday, Isaac Lanin, and Willis Nettles went after hogs a little below Mr. Savry's, when they were attacked by 15 or 20 Indians. Mr. Nettles ran about two hundred yards and was killed. Lanin made safe home with a ball shot through the calf of his leg. This day a company went out and found Nettles's body; his head taken off; his body split open and his entrails taken out. I never witnessed such a sight as he was. There have been Indians all around us several days. Many saw two yesterday morning in the prairie."

This new instance of depredation and the appearance of Indians in that quarter, may be regarded as a manifesto of their readiness

to engage the whites again. It is the last manifesto of theirs. Their triumph is short. By order of Gen. Scott, an express started from this place to Milledgeville yesterday morning.

GEN. GAINES' COMMAND.

The following is the only additional information received since our publication of yesterday. The Washington Globe of yesterday says:

By the official reports received at the Adjutant General's office yesterday, from Major Gen. Scott, we learn that the force which marched from Tampa Bay, under Maj. Gen. Gaines, while reconnoitering on the Withlacoochee, near Gen. Clinch's battle ground, was met by a considerable number of hostile Indians, on the 23d of February, and a slight skirmish took place, which resulted in the loss of two Louisiana volunteers killed, and ten regulars and volunteers wounded. Lieutenant Izard of the United States Dragoons, was among the wounded.

Whilst making preparations to cross the Withlacoochee, on the 23d of February, a spirited attack was made on Gen. Gaines' camp by the Indians, who were repulsed with very considerable loss. The General states that the officers concur with him in opinion that the enemy's force amounted to not less than 1500. Of Gen. Gaines' command (supposed to consist of ten or eleven hundred men) there was, on the 23d, one sergeant of the regular army killed, and one officer (Lieutenant Duncan, 2d artillery,) and ten privates wounded. Of the volunteers, there were one officer and twenty privates wounded.

Extract of a letter received in Charleston, from an officer in the U. S. army, dated

"FORT DRANE, March 1.

"Circumstances which I could not control prevented my arriving here until the evening of the 25th ult. when I learned that General Clinch had the morning before left Fort King to see Genl. Gaines. The next day Genl. Clinch returned here, informing us that Genl. Gaines with 1000 men, about half regulars, the rest volunteers from Louisiana, had moved from Fort King about 8 that morning (26th) with the design of returning to Tampa Bay, via Withlacoochee. Upon reaching that river, near an old crossing, while Gen. Gaines and Genl. Smith were reconnoitering the river in person, they were fired upon by the Indians, who were strung along the banks for two miles. A fight ensued across the waters. Genl. G. had two killed and several wounded, Lt. Izard badly, Capt. Sanders, late sutler and Capt. Armstrong of U. S. Sher. Motto; we heard the cannon here for two days. Yesterday morning an express arrived from Gen. G. to Genl. C. requesting more men, provisions, ammunition, &c. we still continue to hear firing, and this morning another express arrived, stating that Gen. G. had entrenched himself while he was preparing boats, bridges, &c. Genl. Gaines writes himself, that yesterday morning (29th) at about 10 o'clock, the Indian force, believed to be 1500 strong, attacked two sides of his encampment and approached so near by his lines, as to wound men upon the opposite line, a distance of 200 yards. The attack lasted two hours, when the enemy were repulsed. Lt. Duncan was among the wounded, 10 in number and one or two killed in the last attack.

Gen. Clinch has only about 450 men around him, 200 of these volunteers. Col. Bankhead we learn is on the march here from Picolata with some 400 volunteers. Genl. East is East of the St. Johns, and Gen. Scott at the last accounts was at Picolata, I think however he will be here before many hours. No supplies of any kind have reached this post yet, but we are in hopes they will soon, as there is much anxiety, as well as much necessity, to move down to the aid of Gen. Gaines. The wagons were all sent down to Picolata on the 28th for provisions, some one or two small carts. They were despatched before day this morning with ammunition and a few stores and 25 head of beef cattle to Gen. Gaines, but upon receiving the express this day at 12, a message was sent after to order them back as the Indians would assuredly get them. Gen. Gaines when he left Fort King had but ten days rations, and those Gen. Clinch took up from this place, leaving but little here.—The weather is becoming very warm.

From the Savannah Georgian, 9th inst.

LATEST AND MOST AUTHENTIC FROM GEN. GAINES' ARMY.

We are indebted to a friend for the following copy of a letter from an officer of the army at Fort Drane, to a brother officer at Picolata, received here by the Santee on Monday.

"Fort Drane, Florida, March 1.

"Gen. Gaines left Fort King on the morning of the 26th ult. On the 27th, he reached Withlacoochee, near Gen. Clinch's battle ground. Whilst reconnoitering the river he was fired on from the opposite bank. One man was killed and some five wounded. On the 28th the battle continued across the river—one killed and several (seven or eight) wounded; among them Lt. Izard of the Dragoons. On yesterday the Indians attacked them in their encampment about 10 o'clock, A. M.—The battle lasted two hours. One Sergeant killed—wounded one officer, (Lieut. Duncan) and 10 men, regulars. Of the volunteers, 1 officer and 20 men wounded. He wants reinforcements, provisions and ammunition. "It is indeed harrowing to the feelings to think that we are within thirty-five miles by the road and cannot join for want of supplies and means of transporting them."

In addition to the above, we learn that eight

guns were discharged at the Santee, while coming down the St. Johns, and about 25 miles above Picolata, by a party of Indians, four of whom were distinctly seen. One of the balls perforated one side of the cabin and lodged in the opposite side, without injury to any one.

GEN. GAINES' COMMAND.

The following extract of a letter from an officer of the U. S. army, written on the 12th ult. from Tampa Bay, exhibits the force under Gen. Gaines.

"Our command amounts to, say about 1100 and 120 friendly Indians, consisting of 4 companies of U. S. artillery, 7 companies of the 4th regiment U. S. infantry, a detachment of U. S. marines, and the regiment of Louisiana volunteers, Major Gen. Gaines, commanding, Col. Twigg's commanding Brigade, Col. Foster, 4th regiment infantry, Col. S. F. Smith, Louisiana volunteers, Major Belton, the artillery, Lieutenant Waldron, the marines, and Holate Emartlia, chief of the friendly Indians.

The National Intelligencer of yesterday says:

There is said to be a want of good understanding, which was too justly apprehended, between the two general officers, Maj. Gen. Scott, who was ordered to take command of that military ground, and Maj. Gen. Gaines, who repaired thither by way of Tampa Bay, from New Orleans, on learning the state of things in Florida. The old question concerning the relative rank of these distinguished officers seems to have unfortunately led to practical results, already unfortunate, and which may in the end be disastrous. We know nothing of the merits of this question, nor do we mean to censure any one for what has taken place. The collision of the authority of these officers has been accidental. We trust that there may be in the end no reason to deplore it. Our business at present is only with facts, as we understand them.

In connexion with the above information, it is proper to state that Major General Macomb, commander-in-chief of the army, left this city on Sunday for the seat of war in Florida, with authority, as is understood, to take command himself, should he think it necessary, but not to supersede Gen. Scott in the special command assigned to him by his orders unless he (Gen. Macomb) be of opinion that circumstances require him to do so.

St. Augustine, March 5.

Dear Sir—I have purposely refrained from transmitting you any account of the Seminole Campaign, as the various contradictory statements in regard to the movements of the enemy until within a few days since, did not deserve notice, and were too brainless to be credited. The simple fact however, that St. Augustine, Jacksonville, Picolata, Camp King, Tampa and Key West, have been for such a length of time kept in a constant state of alarm, and each moment dreading an attack, is evidence of talent never before displayed by Indians—conduct they always did exhibit—but that a body of fifteen hundred or two thousand men, should make such demonstrations and such dispositions of their forces, is like the massacre of Major Dade—unparalleled. We knew that they must be concentrating on some point, and so the result has proved.—You are aware that Gen. Gaines approached within four or five miles of Fort Drane—took eight days provisions, and returned to the Outhlaoochee, for the purpose of discovering whether any Indians were on the prowl. On arriving at that stream his passage was disputed by a body of savages, amounting it is surmised to fifteen hundred—a fight commenced across the river, which although narrow, is deep and rapid—neither party gaining any material advantage. The third day Gen. Gaines, retired, and threw up a breastwork—after which he advanced to the river with two hundred men, recommenced the skirmish, and then retreated with a hope of deceiving his enemy, and decoying them into ambush. After dark on the same day, the entire body of Indians, now largely reinforced by the arrival of scattering squads, crossed the river, and had the bravery to attack him in his trenches. The stratagem was then successful; the cannon opened upon them, and played with such effect that it is presumed three hundred Indians and Negroes were killed. I say, presumed, as it is not known whether that number was destroyed in the single engagement or in the entire rencontre. I was in Camp—between this and Hanson's—when Prince, the express, came in; the Indians having attacked him in true military style, within eleven miles of this, and ordered him to the "right about," with a shower of fifteen or twenty bullets. The top of his cap was literally shot away, and several balls passed through his coat. A detachment from Lieutenant Colonel Hewitt's battalion was on this morning ordered out to skin the country, and cut up the varlets "like a gourd."

St. Augustine, March 6.

An express arrived here from Picolata this afternoon, from whom we learn that it was correctly reported there that Gen. Gaines had a battle at or near the Withlacoochee, on his return; that the first day, the troops and the Indians were on opposite sides of the river, and that on the night of the third day, the Indians attacked the camp of General Gaines, and that there had been 40 of our troops killed and wounded. We believe the report to be true, though we have no knowledge from official sources.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we learn officially, that General Gaines had been at-

tacked on the night of the 20th of February, by about 1500 Indians as he supposes, and after two hours hard fighting he succeeded in beating them off. The loss on our side is 4 killed and 20 wounded, among the latter two officers. General Gaines is in a dangerous situation; to use his own expressions, "his wounded are increasing and his horses decreasing." He is short of provisions, and entrenched and surrounded by the enemy.

Twenty-fourth Congress.

IN SENATE.

Wednesday, March 9.

On motion of Mr. HUBBARD it was Resolved, That the committee on pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of restoring all those now living to the pension list, under the act of March 18, 1818, who were stricken from said list in pursuance of the act of May, 1820. And in case any persons have obtained annuities under the act of June 7, 1832, that said committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the payment to such persons of the pensions to which they would have been entitled, if they had not been stricken from said pension list, after deducting the amount which they have received by virtue of the act of June 7, 1832.

Resolved, That said committee be instructed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law that, in any case, any person who were stricken from the pension list in pursuance of the act of May 1, 1820, have since that period died, for the payment to their heirs of the arrearages to which they would have been entitled had said persons not been stricken from said list.

Thursday, March 10.

A message was received from the President of the United States transmitting a copy of the proceedings which took place at Little Rock, in Arkansas, and a constitution which was there adopted.

Mr. BUCHANAN moved to refer the message to a select committee.

Mr. CLAYTON suggested the propriety of referring it to a select committee which had the Michigan proceedings under consideration.

The yeas and nays being taken on the motion of Mr. BUCHANAN, it was decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Benton, Brown, Buchanan, Culbert, Ewing, (Ill.) Grundy, Hendricks, Hill, Hubbard, King, of Geo. Linn, McKean, Morris, Nicholas, Niles, Robinson, Ruggles, Shepley, Tallmadge, Tipton, Wall, White, 22.

NAYS—Messrs. Black, Calhoun, Clay, Clayton, Davis, Ewing, (Ohio,) Goldsborough, Knight, Leigh, Naudain, Porter, Prentiss, Preston, Robbins, Sutherland, Swift, Tomlinson, 17.

The ballot for the committee, (to consist of five Senators) was postponed till to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, March 10.

SEMINOLE WAR.

On motion of Mr. CARRELENG, the rules were suspended, to enable him to report from the Committee on ways and means, a bill making further appropriations for the suppression of the hostilities of the Seminole Indians in Florida.

Mr. C. stated that it was necessary immediately to make the appropriation proposed, amounting to \$500,000, in addition to the sum heretofore appropriated for the purpose. The fund heretofore provided was exhausted, and drafts were coming in every day.

The bill was read twice and committed to the committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

The above bills are now under consideration in the committee of the whole.

From the Harrisburgh (Pa.) Intelligencer.

GREAT DISCOVERY—MANUFACTURE OF IRON.—In our last we noticed the important discovery of Peter Ritner, Esq. of smelting iron ore with mineral coal. It will be a new era in the iron manufacture in this country. The moment we pass the Allegheny mountains, running from north east to south west, nearly through the middle of the state, we come into the bituminous region. The rocks in this region, reaching to the Rocky Mountains, are horizontal, and frequently alternate with iron ore and bituminous coal. This is the case at Karthaus, on the west branch of the Susquehanna, a few miles above the termination of the canal extending to Philadelphia. The process of smelting from iron ore with mineral coal has for some time been known in Europe, and it has been on this account that one kind of iron could be made in Great Britain, and sold in this country under a duty of \$30 per ton. Thousands of dollars have been expended in this state, and hundreds of enterprising men have been ruined, in the experiments to discover this method of making iron. A year or two ago the Legislature incorporated a company, with an immense capital, to make the experiment as it was thought to be beyond individual enterprise.

At length, however, Peter Ritner and Joseph Loy, with limited pecuniary means, have erected a furnace on the plan of the coke and iron furnaces of Wales, and succeeded in making the finest iron for laundry and many other purposes.

Mr. Ritner is a brother of the Governor of the commonwealth.

The long Insurance Trial.—We mentioned per d.

a day or two since that Chief Justice Jones, of the Superior Court was holding an extra session in the room of the U. S. District court for the purpose of trying a marine insurance case of immense importance, in which the Jackson Insurance Company are the defendants at the suit of Mr. Anderson, the owner of the ship Sir James Anderson, which was wrecked some time since, and totally lost. The trial has already lasted seven days, and it is expected that the counsel for the plaintiff will commence summing up to-day, on which occasion there will no doubt be a splendid display of forensic eloquence and legal tact and ingenuity. Mr. Anderson's expenses up to the present time exceed ten thousand dollars, and inasmuch as it is probable that the suit will yet be carried to the Court of Errors, whatever may be its termination in this city, it is not unlikely that he will have to make an additional outlay of five or six thousand dollars. So much for going to law; and so much for a litigious insurance company, that, for some mere technical and unimportant deviation from their ordinary rules will capiously object to the payment of a claim made under no unfair or inequitable circumstances.

Rail Roads in the winter.—It has been often urged as an objection against rail roads, that they cannot be kept open in consequence of the obstructions occasioned by great falls of snow. As if to finish a satisfactory experiment upon this point, it has so happened that the present winter has been of unusual severity, and the quantity of snow that has fallen has probably been greater than has been known for many years. It is, therefore, with great pleasure, that we understand, scarcely any interruption to the travel upon the rail roads leading from this city has taken place and that the practicability of keeping them open, during the severest winter, has been satisfactorily established. We have not heard indeed, that the travel upon the Washington or Ohio rail road has been suspended for a single day, although undoubtedly the time of arrival and departure may have been occasionally varied. We perceive from the Boston papers, that, even in that climate, where the snow storms are so much more frequent than with us and where the snow lies so much longer, no serious interruption to the use of the rail roads has occurred. There have been only six days, since the commencement of the winter, in which the train of passenger cars have not run through the whole distance from Boston to Worcester and only eighteen days in which the whole four trips per day have not been regularly performed. In the meantime, the harbors, rivers and canals, far and near, have been frozen up and entirely useless.

The Neapolitan Indemnity.—In relation to this subject, we find the following in the Boston Courier.

Screen.—The New York Daily Advertiser says: The large amount of specie insured by the different companies on Saturday is for the Neapolitan Indemnity, being seven instalments, amounting to 1,200,000 dollars. The arrangement has been made between the Government and the claimants, for the whole sum at once, through Messrs. Rothschilds, who have probably shipped the amount in gold by the Havre packet now on the way.

Upon making inquiry at the proper quarter, we find that orders have been given to effect insurance upon the above mentioned sum in gold; that it is the Messrs. Wells and not the Messrs. Rothschilds who are the agents for receiving and shipping this money. But that the final instructions have not gone forward nor can they, until all the certificates are surrendered to the treasury department, in doing which, an extraordinary tardiness is exhibited by the holders.

This notice is deemed necessary, that those who have forwarded their certificates to the treasury department, may not be led into error by the above article, and thereby disappointed as to the time when they will receive their money.

Mad Dogs.—The unusual severity of the winter has apparently given rise to, or at least been accompanied by several remarkable instances of the prevalence of canine madness. We have noticed it in this city, and it now appears the hydrophobia is extending almost as an epidemic through Rockland county.—Twenty-five dogs were killed at Nyack alone on Friday week; at Haverstraw great alarm prevails; a great number of cattle have been bitten. Rockland is composed entirely of mountains, deep ravines, sequestered lakes and precipitous streams. Now the question is, whether the abundance of snow and wet here has any influence in the production of this disease? N. Y. Star.

British Methodists. 1835.—We have just received a copy of the minutes, from which it appears that the whole number of travelling preachers, including in Ireland and on foreign stations, is 1,373; 208 of which are on foreign missions, and 158 in Ireland.

Among the foreign missions there is an increase of 5,922, while in their work at home owing to the negotiations and secessions occasioned by Dr. Warren and his party, there is a decrease of 251.

American Invention.—Mr. Gay's power loom for weaving silk has been found eminently successful at Providence, R. I. The loom performs 114 strokes per minute. The fabric is equal to the imported article. The little girl who attends to it says she can take care of four at a time turning of 100 yards