

AFFAIRS IN FLORIDA.

The *Spartan Georgia* contains an article by Gen. Gaines, giving a history of his campaign in Florida, from which we make the following extract:

"These troops, in the short space of thirty-six days, have marched by land and water nearly eight hundred miles—one hundred and forty through the country occupied by the enemy, whose principal force they have met, beaten, and forced to sue for peace.

"All did their duty cheerfully and gallantly, and when it became necessary to meet the question, whether to eat their own horses or to abandon an important position, all cheerfully preferred the unpleasant subsistence to any movement that would endanger the frontier. The horse meat was accordingly eaten by officers and men until the enemy was beaten and sued for peace.

He further says, "the object for which I sat out from Louisiana being accomplished, I resign the command of the Louisiana troops to General Clinch, until the arrival of the forces under the officer charged with the diplomatic arrangements by the War Department. Whenever and as soon as that officer shall mature his plan of operations, and accomplish the duties assigned to him, the forces from Louisiana will return to New Orleans."

The manner in which the war with the Seminole Indians has been conducted, and the injury which the country has sustained in consequence of the jealousy which Gen. Gaines has exhibited towards Gen. Scott, are subjects of general conversation; and although we have ever entertained a high respect for General Gaines and justly appreciated his services, we should be wanting in our duty as public journalists if we did not pointedly condemn his conduct while at the head of the troops which have been so disgracefully kept at bay on the banks of the Oothlacochee by an enemy inferior in numbers and without any pretension to discipline.

We will not stop to inquire into the motives which induced Gen. Gaines to proceed into the Indian country, after he had received official information at Pensacola that Gen. Scott had been selected to conduct the war against the Seminoles, and that his services were required on the Mexican frontier. Any person who will read the extract from his general's orders, must at once perceive, that while patriotism may have been one of the causes for such conduct, yet the moving principle of action with him was a desire to deprive Gen. Scott of any laurels which a successful issue to the campaign might secure to him. We do not say, nor do we believe that he intended to render the campaign unsuccessful; but we have not a doubt that he was determined to make an effort to put an end to the struggle by a forced march of his own, even at the hazard of thereby frustrating for a time the plans of his superior officer. In this it is now certain he might have now succeeded if he had acted with vigor; and if so, he probably would have been held excused by the public, who always look more to the results of military movements than to the objects with which they are undertaken and the foresight and talent displayed in their execution.

That Gen. Gaines proceeded into the heart of the Indian country with nearly five hundred volunteers, and upwards of six hundred regular troops, well disciplined and commanded by brave and intelligent officers as can be found in any army, is already matter of history; and it is equally matter of history, that although the Indian enemy did not in fact muster so large a body of warriors, yet at no time did the General himself estimate them at more than fifteen hundred! Admitting for a moment that they were fifteen hundred strong; has it ever happened in the history of our Indian wars—has it ever entered the mind of the most ignorant to believe it possible that with this force, eleven hundred regulars and volunteers should have been held in check, beaten day after day, and finally compelled to act upon the defensive and *starve* within a breastwork which they had reared for *defensive* instead of *offensive* warfare?—The very conception of such a contingency being within the scope of *possibility*, would, but a few weeks since, have been considered evidence of gross ignorance if not partial derangement; and yet such an event has occurred, and the people in astonishment look at each other and ask in vain for an explanation! They look too, in vain for an explanation in the letters from the seat of war or in the orders of the commanding General—unless indeed they are to find such explanation in his *boast* that his command had "met, beaten, and forced the enemy to sue for peace!"

We would respectfully ask—are such the facts of the case? Do not the official reports of Generals Scott and Clinch, corroborated by all the letters written from the theatre of events, distinctly proclaim that the enemy has not been beaten or forced to sue for peace, but that he is now in force on the Oothlacochee flushed with victory, and ready to make another desperate effort in consequence of the encouragement he has received in his contests with Gen. Gaines' command? It is notorious that day after day Gen. Gaines was met and held in check by an inferior force of Indians; and that instead of sweeping them from the face of the earth and putting an end to the war at once, as he could have done by a gallant attack upon them, he entrenched himself in a hastily constructed breastwork, and there resolved to *starve* in presence of his enemy unless relieved by General Clinch. If his men were too short of provisions to *fight*, how happens it that they succeeded in sustaining themselves for several days in *starving* with their breast work? It is not contended that

when day entered their breast work they were in a starving state, and too much enfeebled by hunger to meet the enemy; and we cannot but believe that the labor and energies expended in fortifying themselves against the very sought for the purpose of chastising, would have been far better applied in a brisk pursuit of that enemy and his annihilation.—Why, we venture to assert, that there was not a solitary officer of the army with the General at the time, who did not condemn his proceeding as most extraordinary and calculated to cover their detachment with dishonor; and we are very sure that there cannot be found in the service an officer of any rank or standing, who will have the hardihood to defend his proceeding. We do not doubt the courage of General Gaines,—that is as unquestionable as are his former services to the country; but never has it fallen to our lot since the days of *Hill*, to record such indisputable *prudence* at the very moment when an opportunity offered to accomplish the great object of the expedition—the total destruction of the foe. There is not—there cannot be a doubt, that if Gaines had continued to operate on the *offensive* instead of ingloriously retreating into a breastwork, *Oseola* and his warriors would now have been effectually put down, if not exterminated; and that too, without his troops suffering as much from hunger as they did in their entrenchments.—Had he beaten the enemy, as he says he did, and as he most assuredly could and should have done, he would have been able to supply his command from their stores—for they had an abundance of stolen *Berets* with them, two of which *Oseola* offered him when he treated with and dictated terms to this conqueror! But enough of this disgraceful affair! General Gaines was fortunately rescued from this perilous situation by the timely arrival of Gen. Clinch; and even then, instead of forcing his enemy to yield, he fled from him with precipitation and published the account of his *glorious campaign* which has caused his brother officers to blush for the conduct of the third in rank in the army, and at the same time greatly perplexed the people at large; who cannot exactly understand why an enemy which has been "beaten and compelled to sue for peace," should still bid defiance to the army under Gen. Scott.

But extraordinary as has been the conduct of Gen. Gaines in the field, the detail of that conduct was given by himself, is equally open to censure. At Pensacola, Gen. Gaines was officially apprised that Gen. Scott had been selected to conduct this war; he subsequently met that officer and saw his arrangements to accomplish what he had failed in; and yet he published to the world not only that the enemy had been "beaten and forced to sue for peace," but speaks of his commanding General as "the officer charged with the diplomatic arrangements of the War Department." Now if this means any thing, it means that General Scott was only sent to Florida in a civil capacity—as a negotiator, a minister Extraordinary or Plenipotentiary, for the purpose of treating with King *Oseola*, while he (General Gaines) was selected to do the fighting, had accomplished the object of his visit, paved the way for a gracious reception of Mr. Scott the Diplomatist, and bravely born away the honors of a gallant and chivalrous achievement! Alas! how are the mighty fallen!—how unfortunate is it that poor human nature cannot resist the ravages of time, and that the noblest of our species, if permitted to remain too long on earth, necessarily relapse into a second childhood.—*N. Y. Cons. & Eq.*

LAW OF INDIANA.

AN ACT to incorporate the Vevay and Napoleon and other, turnpike companies.

Sec. 1. Being enacted by the general assembly of the State of Indiana, that Francis G. Streets, &c. of the county of Switzerland, James Cravens, &c. of the county of Ripley and their successors in office, duly elected as hereinafter directed, are hereby constituted and appointed a body politic and corporate, and by the name and style of "The president and directors of the Vevay and Napoleon turnpike company," shall be able and capable in law and equity, to sue and be sued, defend and be defended against, implead and be impleaded in any court of justice of this state, to make and use a common seal, and the same to alter, break and change at pleasure, and shall be able to make and enforce contracts under their corporate name, and to make such by laws, rules, regulations, to enable them to carry into effect the provisions of this act and the objects contemplated by the same, not inconsistent with the laws of this state.

Sec. 12. These corporations by their agents shall respectively have power from time to time to examine, survey, mark and locate their respective roads; the first from Napoleon in Ripley county in this state, by the way of Versailles, to Vevay in Switzerland county; the second from Bethlehem in Clark county, via New Washington to Rockford in Jackson county; third from Madison in Jefferson county, to Brownstown in Jackson county, and the like power to the commissioners of the various routes named in this act; on the same eligible and suitable ground with full power to diverge from straight lines, between the points named, where more favorable ground can be had for the construction of said roads, the same not to be more than sixty feet wide; said corporation respectively divide said road into sections and sell the stock for the whole road or for a particular section.

Sec. 15. That the *Rising Sun*, Versailles and Napoleon turnpike company, and the Vevay and Napoleon turnpike company are here-

to constituted with equal and co-ordinate power in making and constructing the road lying between Versailles and Napoleon, with full power to construct and receive the profits thereof, separately or conjointly, the exclusive right being vested in the company which shall in good faith first commence the same; the other road in such contingency terminating at Versailles.

Sec. 19. The individuals named in this act or a majority of them, shall meet respectively at such times and places on their respective routes, as they may agree upon and organize said corporations by electing one of each of their bodies, president, and after such organization, any three of said board shall be a quorum to do business, but after an election for directors, it shall require five to form a quorum.

Sec. 20. These corporations shall have full power to employ all necessary agents to carry into effect the provisions of this act, they shall keep a journal of their proceedings, in which shall be entered all by laws, and regulations, and all orders for the payment of their officers and all others in their employment; which journal shall from time to time, be read, corrected and signed by the president. They may sit on their own adjournments, and on the call of the president. When the president is absent they may appoint a president pro tempore. They shall fill all vacancies which may happen in their own body.

Sec. 21. These corporations shall cause books to be opened for the capital at such times and places as they may think fit; one notice having been given by publication, in some public newspaper in this state; in each of which books the following entry shall be made, "We the undersigned promise to pay the sum of fifty dollars for each share of stock set opposite our names, in such manner and proportions, and at such times as the directors of the company may direct. Witness our hands, this day of

Sec. 22. It shall be lawful for all persons of lawful age, or for the agent of any corporate body, to subscribe for any amount of the capital stock; and the said corporation shall have power to offer in any other state such an amount of capital stock, as they may deem fitting, and they shall have power on their own credit to borrow money upon such terms as may be agreed upon. This corporation may require such sum of money to be paid at the time of subscribing, not exceeding ten dollars on each share; and the amount required to be paid shall be made known, in the notice for opening the books, and any future payment shall be under the control of the corporation.

Sec. 23. As soon as five hundred shares are subscribed for in each or either of said corporations, and five dollars paid on each share, it shall be the duty of the corporation having received such subscription, to give three weeks notice thereof in some newspaper in this state, and in such notice appoint a time and place for the stockholders to meet and elect eleven directors, who shall be stockholders and citizens of this state; which election shall be by ballot, and conducted under the superintendence of one inspector and two judges appointed by the stockholders present, and the person having the highest number of votes, declared duly elected. No share shall confer a right to vote at any election, unless the same shall have been held one month previous to the election. In all elections each share shall entitle the holder to one vote only, to be given by the person owning the same, or by one of any partners, or by the husband, father, mother, administrator or executor, or trustee or guardian or by the agent of any corporation; or any person having a right to vote may vote by proxy.

Sec. 25. All elections after the first shall be held on the first Monday in January annually; of which election notice shall be given, and should no election be held on the day appointed in this act, it shall be lawful to hold an election on any subsequent day under another section.

Sec. 32. If it shall be found necessary to the construction and location of said roads, the corporations shall respectively have the right to lay the same along or upon any county or state road, provided however, before such location shall be made, the corporation shall apply to the board of county commissioners of the proper county, for such right, and said board is hereby required, if they deem it to be for the public good, to grant such right, and shall enter into the same on the records of the proper county.

Sec. 33. That where said corporation shall have obtained the right of way as herein provided for, they shall have the sole use and occupancy of the land over which the same is located.

Sec. 34. These corporations shall respectively commence the construction of their respective roads, within five years, and complete the same within twenty years from its commencement, provided, that if any part of the road shall be completed, the charter shall not be forfeited as to that part of the road which is completed, although the residue of the road, may not have been completed within the said time.

Sec. 35. The corporations shall cause said road to be opened not exceeding sixty feet wide, at least twenty feet of which, shall be thrown up into a curve, in such a manner as to secure a firm, substantial, and even road, and shall constantly be kept in repair; and in no case shall the ascent of the road be greater than five degrees.

Sec. 37. That if said road after its comple-

tion or any section thereof shall be suffered to go to decay, so as to be impossible for one

year, unless when the same is repairing, this charter shall be considered as forfeited.

Sec. 45. It shall be lawful for the county commissioners of each and every county through which said road may run or pass for and on behalf of such county, to authorize by an order, as much of the stock to be taken as they may think proper.

The case of *Newland vs. Graham*, in which the former contested the seat of the latter, has at length been brought to a termination, by the house of representatives. They have both been referred back to the people, for their decision. This has been the most exciting question which has been decided by the present congress, and one which has elicited more ill feeling than any other upon which they have been called on to act. The resolution reported by a majority of the committee to whom this matter was referred, is in the following words,

"Resolved, That James Graham is not entitled to a seat in this house, and that David Newland is entitled to a seat in this house."

A division of the question being called for, the vote on the first branch of it, was ayes 114, nays 87. So it was decided that James Graham is not entitled to the seat he occupies.—All of the Indiana delegation, excepting McCarty, voting in the affirmative. The vote on the second branch of the resolution, was ayes 99, nays 100. So it was determined that David Newland is not entitled to the seat he claims. All the Indiana delegation voting in the affirmative, excepting messrs. McCarty and Hannegan. Had mr. Hannegan voted with his party on the latter proposition, mr. Newland would have secured his seat, which would have secured the vote of North Carolina to mr. Van Buren in the house of representatives, should the elector not be carried there—and on the contrary had mr. Graham retained his seat, the vote of that state would have been lost to him. Hence it was a highly exciting question to the adherents of mr. Van Buren, and perhaps no less so to his opponents. We know very little of the merits of the question, but have no doubt that it was acted upon by both parties more with an eye to this contingency, than to the intrinsic rights of the parties contesting. Of one thing we feel pretty certain, that the rights of one or the other of the parties, have been outraged by this decision; and the circumstances under which it was made, strongly incline us to believe that mr. Graham has been unrighteously ejected from his seat in congress.

MURDER AND ARSON.

The *New York Gazette* of Monday contains the following awful details.

It becomes our painful duty to record a case of murder and arson, the particulars of which are well calculated to harrow the feelings of every one, but more especially those of the friends of the party implicated in the transaction. As the city was filled with rumors yesterday in regard to this affair, we have taken some pains to ascertain the true facts of the case, and now submit them to our readers, with a single remark, that a more full investigation may after the completion of things, when we sincerely hope may be done, for the sake of the accused and his friends.

About 3 o'clock yesterday morning, mrs. Rosina Townsend, heard a knock at the front door, when she arose and going into the entry observed that the back parlor door was open, and a light burning there. As this was a very unusual occurrence she went into the room and saw a candlestick on the centre table, which she recognized as belonging to the room of Ellen Jewett, one of her boarders, and also found the door open which led into the yard. She then called out several times to Ellen, presuming she was in the yard, and getting no answer secured the door, and went up stairs to her room; finding the door fastened, she went into the adjoining room, when she discovered the smell of smoke, immediately gave the alarm to a female sleeping there. They then went into another room which connected with Ellen's chamber, and in endeavoring to enter the latter, were prevented by the thickness of the smoke. They accordingly ran down stairs, opened the street door and called the watch, two of whom came to their assistance. They all went up stairs opened the door of Ellen's room, and discovered her bed enveloped in flames, which were extinguished after considerable exertion. The dead body of the unfortunate girl was found lying on the bed, with the left side and back very much burned, and a deep wound, about three inches in length, on the right side of her head.

On the development of these facts, Mr. Brink, one of the police officers, and Mr. Schurman, the coroner, were sent for. The former immediately commenced an investigation and soon ascertained facts sufficient to justify the arrest of a young man, named Joseph P. Robinson. He accordingly proceeded to his lodgings in Dey street, accompanied by George P. Noble, assistant captain of the watch, arrested him in bed, and carried him to the above mentioned house, when he was examined into by the coroner, and Robinson was committed to prison for further examination by the police, prior to his final commitment.

The facts which led to the arrest of this unfortunate young man are these:—It appears that he came to mrs. Townsend's in the evening, called for a bottle of champagne, with which he proceeded to the apartment of the deceased, and, according to testimony of the coroner's jury, he still re-

mained in her room when the other inmates of the house had retired for the night.

After the murder was discovered, and mr. Brink sent for, he commenced a search of the deceased's room, at the same time directing the watchman to examine the yard of the house, as well as those of the adjoining houses. They accordingly commenced a search about day light, and on looking over the fence into the yard of a house in Hudson street, saw a cloak lying there, which they picked up together with a hatchet covered with blood, lying near it. On bringing them into the house the cloak was immediately recognized by the inmates as belonging to the prisoner. A piece of twine was attached to the handle of the hatchet, and another piece corresponding with it, was tied to the tassel of the cloak. Among Ellen's effects was found a large package of letters addressed in her handwriting, to the prisoner, which it is supposed, had been returned to her within the last few days.

The young man whose fate is involved in this dreadful transaction, is only nineteen years of age. He is a clerk in a highly respectable house in Maiden lane, is respectably connected, and has hitherto sustained an irreproachable character. He will be examined before the police at 12 o'clock to-day.

PHILADELPHIA, April 4.

DISTURBING THE DEAD, AWFUL DISCLOSURES! We visited the burying ground fronting on Arch street, so lately made the theatre of a brutal violation of the sanctity of the grave, and the consequent angry and indignant chiding of feeling on the part of our citizens on Saturday morning.—There were about one hundred persons present, who were quiet and orderly in their demeanor. We trust it will continue so. We are advocates for the preservation of order, deprecate mobs and riots, fomented under any causes; but we do say, that the circumstances connected with the nefarious sale of this burial place, were calculated to produce a high degree of exasperated feeling on the public mind, and we consider it disgraceful to the legislature who permitted, and the trustees and their congregation who effected a sale of this property, while those who had a direct interest in it were not consulted.—A direct interest did we say? Nay, a paramount one—for there rested the relics of their departed friends—loved in life, and forgotten even in the grave.

We understand that this property was purchased by mr. George Lloyd, of this city, for a company of English speculators, of whom he is the agent, and who it would appear, cared not if the ashes of the dead had been scattered to the four winds of heaven. We do not assert this as a positive fact—we are so informed, and if it be true, if the remains of our dead are to be thrust from their last resting place, to give room to the foreign speculator to erect his mansion, or his bank, or what not, then do we say that the moral sense of the community in which such an outrage is permitted must be unhealthy.

It seems, too, that a number of coffins were found empty, the bodies having been abstracted therefrom, and we consider it as highly probable, have been sold for the purpose of dissection—adverting to the fact that there was an immense number of medical students in this city during the past winter, who derived additional reason for so being given as the demand for bodies must have been great. The sexton of the church is named William Matthew, and we are informed that in consequence of the tremendous excitement induced by the above recited fact, he has sought safety in flight—the wretched, if really connected in this foul trifling, should be buried alive. We hope that this painful matter is ended. The trustees, it seems, have been compelled by the indignant voice of the people to adopt measures for the removal and interment of the bodies; and we trust that it is the last time we shall have to record a profanation of the dead in this country, induced alone by motives of sordid cupidity.—*Public Ledger*.

Potomac Fisheries.—The *Alexandria Gazette* says:—We understand that good business has commenced at the Fisheries. A more than usual quantity (for the season) of fine Shad and Herring has reached this place. If the weather continues favourable, supplies will continue large.

A petition is before the *New York Legislature* for a charter for a company to encourage the growth and manufacture of silk to be called the Herkimer County Silk Manufacturing Company with a capital of \$100,000, and the privilege of increasing it to \$200,000.

The snow, it is said, in some places on the London Bath road, has been this winter 150 feet. That rather goes ahead, we should think, of some of your Yankee snow-drifts.

Branch of Promises.—A trial for a branch of marriage, was brought to issue, a few weeks since, before the Circuit Court of Livingston in New York. Mrs. Nancy Griffith being plaintiff and Mr. James Perkins, defendant. It was given in evidence, that the defendant had paid particular attention to Miss Nancy for 12 years past, until a short time since, when he discontinued his visits and married another. There was no express promise of marriage existing, and Judge Gifford charged that such a promise was unnecessary, "particular attention" being all sufficient. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff, damages \$450, being less than \$38 dollars a year, for 12 years of courtship. This is keeping people nicely with their money.