I was in tuct by Gen. Taylor to send out from Victoria expresses in such directions as I might deem most advisable, so as to have all the men possible on their march to his relief without awaiting the orders of the Governor.

* * * * * * *

The place of rendezvous for the foot companies is suggested by the General at Galveston; that of the mounted men at Corpus Christie, at which place there will be provisions and forage. No party less than 400 should think of going through on the direct road to Matamoros, as there is a large force of Mexicans on the Aroro Colorado, for the purpose of cutting off reinforcements in that direction. Small parties can cross from Corpus Christie on to Padre's Island.

If 200 men could be raised even temporarily at Galveston, I am decidedly of opinion it would be better to send them forthwith by the Monmouth—the security of Point Isabel is of the last importance.

From the best information we could obtain, the force of the Mexicans is set down at 7,000 certain, and reports go as high as 12,000.

All communication is now cut off between the camp and Point Isabel, except by running the guantlet. I came out in the night of the 26th with a guide, and was prowling all night thro' chaparral, swamps and lakes.

The old General is as cool as a cucumber, and has so strengthened his position that I am of opinion nothing can move him but starvation. In haste, &c.

W. G. CATLETT.

From the New Orleans Picayune, May 3

We learn from conversations last evening that Benj. Story, Esq. President of the Bank of Louisiana, made an offer yesterday to the Governor of the State to advance $500,000 for the use of the State in the present crisis. The Governor of the State has promptly complied with the request of Gen. Taylor, and appointed Gen. Persifer F. Smith to the command of the troops to be raised for reinforcing the Army of Occupation.

From the New Orleans Pacayune, May 3.

THE SURPRISE AND DEFEAT OF CAPT. THORNTON.

The city was thrown into a state of profound excitement yesterday morning by the arrival of the steamship Galveston from Brazos Santiogo, with later news from the Army, justifying the worst apprehensions which had been previously entertained of the critical position of Gen. TAYLOR's forces. We issued immediately upon the receipt of the news a second edition of the Picayune, laying a full statement of affairs on the Rio Grande before the reader. It will be found in this day's paper, commencing on the first page. But not to omit any thing that may relieve the anxiety felt by all to obtain the smallest item of information in regard to the disaster which has overtaken Capt THORNTON and his command, we give place to the following letter received from the Camp. In some particulars it differs from the statements that have been laid before the public by the press of this city, and particularly as it sets down the loss occasioned by the surprise of Capt. T.'s command less than any other report.—We have seen other letters from the Army, which breathes the same calm spirit of determination as Lieut. HENRY's, from which we will no longer detain the reader; and here follows the letter:

CAMP OPPOSITE MATAMORAS,
April 26, 1846.

Gentlemen—Knowing that in the present excited state of the public mind, as regards our Mexican affairs, and the welfare of our little Army, as most exaggerated reports creep into the public prints, thereby carrying with them sorrow and anxiety into the bosoms of the friends and relatives of many officers, I feel it my duty to give you a hasty but correct account of the capture of Capt. Thornton and a squadron of the Second Dragoons by a force of two thousand Mexicans under the command of Gen. Torrejon. Gen. Taylor, on the 24th had received a report that the enemy were crossing the River above the camp. Capt. Thornton, with h s command, was sent out on the evening of the 24th to examine the country above and see whether there was any truth in the report. His command was composed of Capt. Hardee, Lieuts. Kane, Mason, five sergeants, four corporals, one bugler, and 49 privates. His Mexican guide returned this morning stating that he had been attacked at eight o'clock on the morning of the 25th by a number of the enemy, & that the whole command was captured or destroyed. The guide warned him that he was in the vicinity of the enemy, and refused to proceed. He waited until night, and none of the party coming in, he returned. About eleven o'clock this morning a private was brought in a cart, wounded in two places. The man who brought him was the bearer of a note from Gen. Torrejon to Gen. Taylor, the amount of which was that on the score of humanity he claimed the privilege of sending into him two Dragoons who were wounded in an engagement brought on by a charge from an American cavalry officer against his command of 200 men, as he had no flying hospital. He then spoke of the rest being prisoners, and said they would be treated with consideration due prisoners of war, agreeably to the custom of civilized nations.

From the wounded Dragoon we obtained the following facts: That the charge was made in open ground; that when the command "charge" was given but a few of the enemy were seen; but, as they dashed over the hill the whole command presented themselves. They were fired upon and immediately surrounded and taken prisoners. He does not know what became of Capt. Thornton. Capt. Hardee and Lieut. Mason are prisoners, and are all well. He reports Lieut. Kane as shot, and it is feared he is dead. Ten men were killed. Before the cart left one of the two men mentioned in the note died. From the note of Gen. Torrejon it seems that he accuses Capt. Thornton of having charged upon him. One can hardly conceive of such madness as charging 200 men with 63, and it is fair to presume that he was surrounded and charged to cut his way through. Time will clear it all up. The capture of Captain Thornton's party, and the sad death of Lieut. Porter, and the murder of Col. Cross are rather melancholy commencements of the war. I say war, war; for there is no doubt of its existence, and that unless an armistice is signed in ten days we must have some hard fighting. The enemy are collecting in some considerable numbers, and I think their force may be estimated with safety at five thousand. Gen. Taylor is rapidly pushing forward his field works, and I understand has sent for four thousand volunteers—two thousand from Louisiana and two thousand from Texas.—

If they will give us a fair fight we do not doubt our ability to whip them; but if they are going to give us a second edition of the *Florida* War it will be a very annoying affair. Yours, very truly,

W. S. HENRY, Lieut. U. S. A.

WAR MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT.

MONDAY, 4 o'clock, P. M.

To the Senate and
House of Representatives.

The exciting state of the relations between the United States and Mexico, renders it proper that I should bring the subject to the consideration of Congress. In my message at the commencement of your present session, the state of these relations, the causes which led to the suspension of diplomatic intercourse between the two countries in March 1845, and the long continued and unredressed wrongs and injuries committed by the Mexican government on citizens of the United States in their persons and property, were briefly set forth.

As the facts and opinions which were then laid before you were carefully considered, I cannot better express my present conviction of the condition of affairs up to that time, than by referring you to that communication.

The strong desire to establish peace with Mexico, on liberal and honorable terms, & the readiness of this government to regulate and adjust our boundary and other causes of difference with that power, on such fair and equitable principles as would lead to permanent relations of the most friendly nature, induced me in September to seek the reopening of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Every measure on our part had for its object the furtherance of these desired results. In communicating to Congress a succinct statement of the injuries which we had suffered from Mexico, and which have been accumulating during a period of more than twenty years, every expression that could tend to inflame the people of Mexico, or defeat or delay a pacific result, was carefully avoided. An envoy of the United States repaired to Mexico with full powers to adjust every existing difference. But though present on the Mexican soil, by agreement between the two governments, invested with full powers, and bearing evidence of the most friendly disposition, his mission has been unavailing. The Mexican government not only refused to receive him, or listen to his propositions, but after a long continued series of menaces have at last invaded our territory and shed the blood of our fellow-citizens on our own soil.

It now becomes my duty to state more in detail the origin, progress, and failure of that mission. In pursuance of the instructions given in September last, an inquiry was made, on the 13th of October, in 1845, in the most friendly terms, through our consul in Mexico, of the minister of foreign affairs, whether the Mexican government "would receive an envoy from the United States intrusted with full powers to adjust all the questions in dispute between the two governments;" with the assurance that "should the answer be in the affirmative, such an envoy would be immediately despatched to Mexico." The Mexican Minister, on the fifteenth of October, gave an affirmative answer to this inquiry, requesting, at the same time, that our naval force at Vera Cruz might be withdrawn lest its continued presence might assume the appearance of menace and coercion pending the negotiations. This force was immediately withdrawn. On the 10th of November, 1845, Mr. John Slidell, of Louisiana, was commissioned by me as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico, and was intrusted with full powers to adjust both the questions of the Texas boundary and of indemnification to our citizens. The redress of the wrongs of our citizens naturally and inseparably blended itself with the question of boundary. The settlement of the one question in any correct view of the subject involves that of the other. I could not, for a moment entertain the idea that the claims of our much injured and long suffering citizens, many of which had existed for more than twenty years, should be postponed, or separated from the settlement of the boundary question.

Mr. Slidell arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th of November, and was courteously received by the authorities of that city.—But the government of Gen. Herrera was then tottering to its fall. The revolutionary party had seized upon the Texas question to effect or hasten its overthrow. Its determination to restore friendly relations with the United States, and to receive our minister, to negotiate for the settlement of this question, was violently assailed, and was made the great theme of denunciation against it. The government of Gen. Herrera, there is a good reason to believe, was sincerely desirous to receive our minister; but it yielded to the storm raised by its enemies, and on the 21st of December refused to accredit Mr. Slidell upon the most frivolous pretexts. These are so fully and ably exposed in the note of Mr. Slidell of the 24th of December last to the Mexican minister of foreign relations, herewith transmitted, that I deem it unnecessory to enter into further detail on this portion of the subject.

Five days after the date of Mr. Slidell's note, Gen. Herrera yielded the government to Gen. Paredes without a struggle and on the 30th of December resigned the presidency. This resolution was accomplished solely by the army, the people having taken little part in the contest; and thus the supreme power in Mexico passed into the hands of a military leader.

Determined to leave no effort untried to effect an amicable adjustment with Mexico, I directed Mr. Slidell to present his credentials to the government of Gen. Paredes, and ask to be officially received by him. There would have been less ground for taking this step had Gen. Paredes come into power by a regular constitutional succession. In that event his administration would have been considered but a mere constitutional continuance of this government of Gen. Herrera, & the refusal of the latter to receive our minister would have been conclusive, unless an intimation had been given by Gen. Paredes of his desire to reverse the decision of his predecessor.

But the government of General Paredes owes its existence to a military revolution, by which the subsisting constitutional authorities had been subverted. The form of government was entirely changed, as well as all the high functionaries by whom it was administered.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Slidell, in obedience to my direction, addressed a note to the Mexican minister of foreign relations, under date of the 1st of March last, asking to be received by that government in the diplomatic character to which he had been appointed. This minister, in his reply, under date of the 12th of March, reiterated the arguments of his predecessor, and in terms that may be considered as giving just grounds of offence to the government and people of the United States, denied the application of Mr. Slidell. Nothing, therefore, remained for our envoy but to demand his passports, and return to his own country.

Thus the government of Mexico, though solemnly pledged by official acts in October last to receive and accredit an American envoy, violated their plighted faith, and refused the offer of a peaceful adjustment of our difficulties. Not only was the offer rejected, but the indignity of its rejection was enhanced by the manifest breach of faith in refusing to admit the envoy, who came because they had bound themselves to receive him.

Nor can it be said that the offer was fruitless from the want of opportunity of discussing it: our envoy was present on their own soil. Nor can it be ascribed to a want of sufficient powers: our envoy had full powers to adjust every question of difference. Nor was there room for complaint that our propositions for settlement were unreasonable: permission was not even given our envoy to make any proposition whatever. Nor can it be objected that we, on our part, would not listen to any reasonable terms of their suggestion: the Mexican government refused all negotiation, and have made no proposition of any kind.

In my message at the commencement of the present session I informed you that upon the earnest appeal both of the Congress and convention of Texas, I had ordered an efficient military force to take a position "between the Neuces and the Del Norte." This had become necessary to meet a threatened invasion of Texas by the Mexican forces, for which extensive military preparations had been made. The invasion was threatened solely because Texas had determined, in accordance with a solemn resolution of the Congress of the U. S. to annex herself to our union; and under these circumstances, it was plainly our duty to extend our protection over her citizens and soil.

This force was concentrated at Corpus Christi, and remained there until after I had received such information from Mexico as rendered it probable, if not certain that the Mexican government would refuse to receive our envoy.

Meantime, Texas, by the final action of our Congress, had become an integral part of our Union. The Congress of Texas by its act of December 19, 1836, had declared the Rio del Norte to be the boundary of that republic. Its jurisdiction had been extended and exercised beyond the Nueces. The country between that river and the Del Norte had been represented in the Congress & in the convention of Texas had thus taken part in the act of annexation itself, and is now included within one of our Congressional districts. Our own Congress had, moreover, with great unanimity, by the act approved December 31st, 1845, recognised the country beyond the Nueces as a part of our territory by including it within our own revenue system; and a revenue officer, to reside within that district, has been appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. It became therefore, of urgent necessity to provide for the defence of that portion of our country. Accordingly, on the 13th of January last instructions were issued to the general in command of these troops to occupy the left bank of the Del Norte. This river—which is the southwestern boundary of the State of Texas—is an exposed frontier. From this quarter invasion was threatened; upon it and in its immediate vicinity, in the judgment of high military experience, and the proper stations for the protecting forces of the government. In addition to this important consideration several others occurred to induce this movement. Among these are the facilities afforded by the ports of Brazos Santiago and the mouth of the Del Norte for the reception of supplies by sea, the stronger and more healthful military positions, the convenience for obtaining a ready and more abundant supply of provisions, water, fuel, and forage, and the advantages which are afforded by the Del Norte in forwarding supplies to such posts as may be established in the interior and upon the Indian frontier.

The movement of the troops to the Del Norte was made by the commanding general, under positive instructions to abstain from all aggressive acts towards Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard the relation between that republic and the United States as peaceful; unless she should declare war, or commit acts of hostilities indicative of a state of war. He was specially directed to protect private property and resect personal rights.

The army moved from Corpus Christi on the 11th of March, and on the 28th of that month arrived on the left bank of the Del Norte, opposite to Matamoras, where it encamped on a commanding position, which has since been strengthened by the erection of field works. A depot has also been established at Point Isabel near the Brazos Santiago, thirty miles in rear of the encampment. The selection of his position was necessarily confided to the judgment of the general in command.

The Mexican forces at Matamoras assumed a billigerent attitude, and on the 12th of April, General Ampudia, then in command, notified General Taylor to break up his camp within twenty-four hours, and to retire beyond the Nueces river, and in the event of his failure to comply with these demands, announced that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question. But no open act of hostility was committed until the 24th of April. On that day, General Arista, who had succeeded to the command of the Mexican forces, communicated to General Taylor that "he considered hostilities commenced and should prosecute them." A party of dragoons of sixty-three men and officers were on the same day despatched from the American camp up the Rio del Norte, on its left bank, to ascertain whether the Mexican troops had crossed, or were preparing to cross the river, "became engaged with a large body of these troops, & after a short affair, in which some sixteen were killed and wounded, appear to have been surrounded and compelled to surrender."

The grievous wrongs perpetrated by Mexico upon our citizens throughout a long period of years, remain unredressed; and solemn treaties, pledging her public faith for this redress, have been disregarded. A government either unable or unwilling to enforce the execution of such treaties, fails to perform one of its plainest duties."

Our commerce with Mexico has been almost annihilated. It was formerly highly beneficial to both nations; but our merchants have been deterred from prosecuting it by the system of outrage which the Mexican authorities have pursued against them, whilst their appeals through their own government for indemnity have been made in vain. Our forbearance has gone to such an extreme as to be mistaken in its character. Had we acted with vigor in repelling the insults and redressing the injuries inflicted by Mexico at the commencement, we should doubtless have escaped all the difficulties in which we are now involved.

Instead of this, however, we have been exerting our best efforts to propitiate her good will. Upon the pretext that Texas, a nation as independent as herself, thought proper to unite its destinies with our own, she has affected to believe that we have severed her rightful territory, &, in official proclamations and manifestoes, has repeatedly threatened to make war upon us for the purpose of reconquering Texas. In the mean time, we have tried every effort at reconciliation. The cup of forbearance had been exhausted, even before the recent information from the frontier of the Del Norte. But now, after reiterated menaces Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.

As war exists, and, notwithstanding all our efforts to avoid it, exists by the act of Mexico herself, we are called upon, by every consideration of duty and patriotism, to vindicate, with decision, the honor, the rights, and the interests of our country.

Anticipating the possibility of a crisis like that which has arrived, instructions were given in August last, "as a precautionary measure," against invasion, or threatened invasion, authorizing Gen. Taylor, if the emergency required, to accept volunteers, not from Texas only, but from the States of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississipi, Tennessee and Kentucky; and corresponding letters were addressed to the respective governors of those States. These instructions were repeated; and in January last, soon after the incorporation of "Texas into our union of States," Gen. Taylor was further "authorized by the President to make a requisition upon the executive of that State for such of its militia force as may be needed to repel invasion or to secure the country against apprehended invasion." On the 2d day of March, he again reminded, "in the event of the approach of any considerable Mexican force, promptly and efficiently to use the authority with which he has clothed to call to him such auxiliary force as he might need."—War actually existing, and our territory having been invaded, Gen. Taylor, pursuant to authority vested in him by my direction, has called on the Governor of Texas for four regiments of State troops—two to be mounted, and two to serve on foot; and on the Governor of Louisiana for four regiments of infantry, to be sent to him as soon as practicable.

In further vindication of our rights and defence of our territory, I invoke the prompt action of Congress to recognize the existance of the war, and to place at the disposition of the Executive the means of prosecuting the war with vigor, and thus hastening the restoration of peace. To this end I recommend that authority should be given to call into the public service a large body of volunteers to serve for not less than six or twelve months unless sooner discharged. A volunteer force is, beyond question, more efficent than any other description of citizen soldiers; and it is not to be doubted that a number far beyond that required would readily rush to the field upon the call of their country—I further recommend that a liberal provision be made for sustaining our entire military force, and furnishing with supplies munitions of war.

The most energetic and prompt measures, and the immediate appearance in arms of a large and overpowering force, are recommended to Congress as the most certain and efficient means of bringing the existing collision with Mexico to a speedy and successful termination.

In making these recommendations, I deem it proper to declare that it is my anxious desire not only to terminate hostilities speedily, but to bring all matters in dispute between this government and Mexico to an early and amicable adjustment; and, in this view, I shall be prepared to renew negotiations, whenever Mexico shall be ready to receive propositions, or to make propositions of her own.

I transmit herewith a copy of the correspondence between our envoy to Mexico and the Mexican minister for foreign affairs; and so much of the correspondence between that envoy and the Secretary of State, and between the Secretary of War and the general in command on the Del Norte, as are necessary to a full understanding of the subject.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, May 11th, 1846.

Correspondence of the American.
WASHINGTON, May 11, 6, P. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Since the Cars left, the War Bill has been read a third time and passed, by a vote of 174 to 14.

The bill recognizes the existence of war, appropriates $10,000,000, and authorises the President to accept the services of 50,000 volunteers.

In addition to the present military and naval force, the President is authorized to complete all the public armed vessels, and to purchase such merchnat vessels and steamboats as can easily be converted into armed vessels.

The title of bill was amended so as to read "An Act to provide for the prosecution of the existence of War between the United States and the Republic of Mexico."

The amendments of the Senate to the bill providing for the increase of the rank and file of the Army, were taken up and concurred in. They increase the number of men in each company from 40 to 100,—and extend the term of service from three to five years. The House then adjourned.

WASHINGTON, May 12, 8 o'clock, P. M.

SENATE.—The War Bill, passed by the House, has also passed the Senate by a vote of 40 yeas to 2 nays. The amendments are unimportant. They strike out that provision which requires the officers commanding the volunteers to be chosen by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Also reducing the pay of the private soldiers to eight dollars per month.—A motion to strike out the preamble was rejected by a vote 18 yeas to 28 nays.

The amendments of the Senate will be agreed to, and the bill will be finally passed to night.

9 o'clock, P. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House have concurred in the amendments of the Senate to the War Bill. So it requires only the signature of the President to become a law.

Mr. PETITT, the Chairman of the Webster Investigating Committee, was, at his request, excused from further service on the Committee.

The House then adjourned.

The Bill for the increase of the rank and file of the army of the U. States, and for prosecuting the war with Mexico, was signed on Wednesday.

From the Balt. Sun of yesterday.

LATER FROM GALVESTON AND POINT ISABEL.

We learn from the New Orleans Tropic that the steamer Telegraph arrived at that city on the evening of the 6th inst., bringing dates from Galveston to the 2d May, though they contain no news from the seat of war. But from our Washington Correspondent we have received the following Telegraphic Despatch, giving the substance of a conversation with Mr. Ogden, a passenger in the Telegraph, who arrived in Washinton City last evening direct from Point Isabel:

LATER FROM POINT ISABEL.

Messrs. Editors:—I have conversed with Mr. R. L. Ogden, a sutler attached to the U. S. army, who has this moment arrived in a Southern boat. He left Point Isabel on the 28th ult. There were then about 350 men at that post who could be depended on. The armament consisted of two 18 pounders and 9 six pounders. Every man had a musket.

The point was surrounded by a ditch 4 feet deep and six wide. They were digging to make it 12 feet wide and 6 deep. Point Isabel was completely cut off from the army, having had no communication for two days.

The guides started from the Point for the camp but were compelled to return.—

The very latest advices left no doubt that General Taylor was completely surrounded. No danger is apprehended, however, to our gallant band; except from starving, they being strongly entrenched. It is said a more gallant officer than Gen. Taylor never lived.

The supposition was that the Texas volunteers from Galveston, by the steamer Monmouth, would be the first to reach Point Isabel. Companies from Fort Pike and Fort Wood, under command of Col. B. K. Pierce of first Artillery, and companies of Infantry from Jefferson Barracks were to leave New Orleans on the 8th, and would probably reach Point Isabel in 70 hours.

Capt. Thornton and Lieut. Mason were still missed, without any information as to their safety, up to the evening the last express left the camp. There were no tidings of them then, and none since.

The propellor Florida was expected to be the next to reach New Orleans. It is said that Gov. Edwards, of Missouri, arrived here this evening direct from Mobile and states that it was currently reported and believed there that point Isabel was, captured. We have advices to the 2d May and then Point Isabel was safe, but the letter gives no further particulars.

Marriage of the American Minister at Turin.—The Hon. Robert Wickliffe, jr., *Charge d' Affairs* of the United States at Turin, was married on the 7th April to Miss Josephine Van Houton, of Rotterdam —a lady of rank and fortune.

EASTON GAZETTE.

EASTON, MD.

Saturday Morning, May 16.

☞Mr. V. B. PALMER is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the "Easton Gazette," in the cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia & N. York

Spring term of Talbot county Court commences on Monday next.

The accounts that have just been received from our Army in Texas are of the most thrilling character; they present to us nothing less than the actual commencement of hostilities with the Mexican forces assembled at Matamoras on the Rio Grande, the engagement and capture of a small detachment from our army by an overwhelming body of Mexicans, who had crossed the river with the view of surprising the American camp. All communication with Point Isabel, the depot of provisions and munition of war for our army, had been cut off, and General Taylor, with about fifteen days supplies of food & twenty three hundred men under his command, was calmly watching the movement of the enemy while waiting for reinforcements from Texas and the surrounding States on which he had made large requisitions for aid. In the mean time the alacrity of our citizens adjacent to the scene of action was unrivelled—volunteer corps were forming in New Orleans, in Mobile and elsewhere, with wonderful despatch—supplies of money and provisions were being contributed by individuals to a great amount, while the Governors of the States on whom requisitions had been made for troops were deligently responding to the call, and the Legislatures where in session, were as diligently seconding the executive officers in forwarding the means of assistance demanded.

The attacking force of the Mexican army is estimated at 2500 men and is said to be led by able and efficient commanders; the situation of our men must therefore be a very precarious one in the absence of the expected reinforcements, cut off, as they are, from the point at which their supplies are stored, with but a few days rations in the camp, and surrounded by the enemy, five or six times their number. But Genl. Taylor is represented as a brave and prudent man; and although he may have been a little too confiding when listening to a declaration of the enemy's good intentions, and perhaps a little too independent in not summoning aid at an earlier day yet we may hope from the determined spirit of the General, as well as that of the command under him, that he will be able successfully to resist aggression until sufficiently reinforced to drive the invaders before him.

If time could be given to reflection upon the State of things now presented to us, the question might well be asked how it happens that, with so formidable an enemy opposed to us, our country is in a state of such entire unpreparedness for war! It cannot be said that the present emergency was unlooked for, for Genl. Taylors' position on the Rio Grande is alleged by the President in his recent message to Congress, to have taken place in consequence of the conduct of the Mexican Government. The Mexicans have always been considered a spiritless and an impotent race, and if they now show a bold front there is reason to believe that they rely upon other nations more valiant than themselves for assistance and support. Great Britain was opposed to the dismemberment of her territory and its annexation to the U. States. France has avowed her determination to resist the President's doctrine of non-interference on the part of Europe with the American nation and proclaims that the balance of power must be preserved on this continent. Can it be unwise then or indiscreet to suspect both these nations of the exercise of a secret influence now upon Mexican affairs, and of a more open and active part hereafter in carrying out the ends they have in view? With this understanding and with the prospect of difficulties to be encountered at either extremity of our Union, for months past; we still find ourselves in an utterly defenceless condition, and we moreover find not only that our Executive Magistrate has proposed no measures of defence, but that those measures which he has proposed, the reduction of the Tariff and of the Navy, are likely to impair the nations' strength.

It is an unfit time however now to indulge reflections as to how or wherefore the condition of the nation is so feeble. We are involved in trouble and we must meet it in the best way we can. The cry of war has by this time gone through our land and our citizens are responding to its impervious call. The cry of battle has been heard ascending to us from the banks of the Del Norte while tones of blood and carnage have mournfully accompanied its strain. The bodies of our own citizens

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