# MEXICAN NEWS!

## Important News from the Army.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS PICAYUNE OF FEBRUARY 18.

### LATER FROM TAMPICO.

*Critical situation of the Volunteers from the Ondiaka—Reported conflict with the Mexicans.*

The schooner St. Paul arrived yesterday afternoon from Tampico, having sailed on the 8th instant. We grieve to say that the news in regard to the volunteers on the Ondiaka is less favorable than we had reason to expect. The main body of them had *not* arrived at Tampico. On the contrary, at our latest accounts from them, they were engaged in conflict with a body of Mexicans far superior to them in numbers and equipment. From two letters of Mr. Lumsden, which we have before us, we extract those portions which relate to the wreck and present position of the volunteers:

"TAMPICO, FEBRUARY. 6, 1847.

"I am sorry to inform you of the loss of the fine ship Ondiaka, of which you have no doubt already heard, having on board some of the Louisiana volunteers, under Col. DeRussy. She went ashore about a week ago forty miles to the southward of this place, and it is a total wreck. Lieut. Miller, of the 4th Artillery, with about forty men, started from here a few days ago to the assistance of the wrecked party, and a schooner was also despatched to the ship, but on account of head wind returned without communicating with her. The schooner is to sail again when the wind is fair.

"TAMPICO, FEBRUARY 8, 1847.

"The plot thickens. Rumor is followed by rumor in quick succession. I begin to think there is something in the report about the Mexicans having attacked Col. DeRussy; but I claim that I may be excused for my want of faith in this story as it first reached us. Mexican rumors, in the main, are worth just what importance people may be whimsical enough to attach to them. "Wolf, wolf!" is the common cry; but it may be that the wolf *has* come. At all events those in authority here have seen proper, owing to reports that have reached the city in the last twenty-four hours, to order a whole brigade (in addition to Lieut. Miller's and Capt. Magruder's forces, mentioned in my letter of the 6th) to go at once to the relief of Col. DeRussy. This is what ought to have been done at first, if it were deemed necessary to do any thing at all. If Col. DeRussy needed aid, it was aid beyond the power of a mere handful of men to render, and a sufficient force should at once have been despatched to his assistance:

"But to the last bulletin,' which may or may not be true. A Mexican, said to be worthy of belief, has arrived here and reports that Gen. Cos had arrived on Thursthe wreck of the ship Ondiaka, with 480 troops, consisting of 280 of the battalion of Tuspan, the rest National Guards and cavalry; that on his way Gen. Cos was joined by 120 men from Tamiagua, 180 from Papantla, and 230 from Omelma, his whole force amounting to 980 men, with four pieces of artillery; that after summoning Col. DeRussy to surrender his force as prisoners of war, which summons was promptly rejected, an engagement took place which lasted till 10 o'clock P. M., after the Mexican left, and the result was not known. Gen. Cos had stationed an advance of 80 cavalry and 50 infantry at a pass to prevent reinforcements arriving from this place.

"The brigade which has been ordered to the relief of Col. DeRussy is under the command of Brig. Gen. Pillow, consisting of three regiments of Tennessee volunteers, two of foot and mounted, and four companies of artillery. This force started last night. Success to them!"

In addition to the foregoing, we learn from Mr. John Howard, who came passenger on the St. Paul, that, as the vessel was coming over the bar on the morning of the 9th inst., the propeller James Cage was seen returning from the wreck of the Ondiaka. The Cage had no other persons on board than her regular crew, and, as she took down Capt. Magruder and his command, it is certain that he had effected a landing. We must remain in suspense in regard to the fate of the volunteers until another arrival. If they have two hundred guns and a tolerable supply of ammunition, we have great faith that they will bear off the Mexicans, or at least hold them in check till General Pillow arrives.

The ships Statesman, Prentice, and Catharine were off the bar of Tampico on the 9th instant, all filled with troops. The second regiment of Mississippi volunteers, on board the Statesman, were suffering terribly by sickness; they were dying in great numbers daily. On board the other ships the health of the troops was excellent.—The New Yorkers, on board the Catharine, are particularly spoken of as a fine-looking set of fellows.

### LATER FROM THE BRAZOS.

*Capture of a detachment of troops under Majors Borland and Gaines, and Captain Cassius M. Clay, near Saltillo.*

By the arrival yesterday afternoon of the schooner Sea, we have dates from Brazos Santiago up to the 6th, from Matamoras to the 5th, and from Camargo up to the 1st instant. It will be seen, by the letter of our correspondents, that a party of our troops have been captured near Saltillo, and that Major Borland, and Major Gaines, and Captain Cassius M Clay have been taken prisoners. It will also be seen that murders and outrages are constantly being committed on the roads by the Mexicans. As our letters contain all the more important part of the intelligence, we hasten to lay them before our readers:

*Camp on the Rio Grande (near Palo Alto.)*
January 30, 1847.

Every thing here betokens sudden movement of the troops. Seventy days' rations have been issued, and orders given to be in readiness at a moment's warning.—Within a few days, if I am not greatly mistaken, Gen. Worth's division will be on ship-board, moving towards Vera Cruz.—Gen. Worth is up again, and, although lame is begining to look quite well. Some changes have been made among the commanding officers of the different corps.—Col. Whistler of the 4th infantry, has been ordered to take command of the New Orleans barracks, and Col. Garland assumes the command of the regiment. Lieut. Mackall has been promoted, and will act as assistant adjutant general, with Gen. Worth with the rank of brevet captain. Lieut. George Deas, adjutant of the 5th infantry has received a similar commission, and is ordered to report to Gen. Wool. Capt Arnold, (formerly of the dragoons,) of the Quartermaster's department, has just arrived here and joined the command. Among many officers who have recently arrived, no one has received a warmer welcome than Col. Hitchcock, of the 3d infantry.—He is as truly esteemed and respected, by both officers and men, as any man in the service.

It seems the Mexican army at San Luis have been making some movement, as reports have several times reached Saltillo, since Worth's division left, that the enemy was marching against that place, and two regiments of volunteers were sent up from Monterey to strengthen Gen. Butler's command. No news from Gen. Taylor since he left Victoria.

*Mouth of the Rio Grande, Feb. 3. 1847.*

I have plenty of bad news to give you, gentlemen, and very little that is pleasant.

The fate of Col. May's rearguard and baggage you have already heard of but intelligence has just reached this place too painfully true and well authenticated, which proves that the enemy have opened on us in earnest, and that their hatred is mortal.

On the 11th January I met Lieut. Ritchie of the 4th Infantry, but then acting with the 2d Dragoons, on his way from Saltillo with ten dragoons, to Victoria, bearing important despatches to Gen. Taylor, from Gen. Scott and others. It is said these despatches *contained the whole plan of the operations in which we are about to engage.* While on the road between Monterey and Victoria, but at what place I cannot learn, the party was attacked, young Ritchie was lassoed and dragged across a cornfield, and the despatches carried off The ten dragoons were either killed or taken prisoners. Lieut. Ritchie was one of the most distinguished and excellent young officers in the army. His conduct at Palo Alto and Resaca won the admiration of the army, and he was much esteemed for his talents and the excellencies of his heart. There is little or no doubt of his death—still, while there is a shadow of doubt, there is hope.

A few days ago, an officer of the second [illegible] be his name, was murdered, at Chichiromi and awfully mutilated.

But here is news that will create a deep sensation in the States. The following letter reached Gen. Worth last evening.—Of course there is no doubt about its correctness. It is from Capt. Chapman, of the army:

*Saltillo, January 25, 1846.*

"I have only time to write a word. Major Borland, of the Arkansas cavalry, with fifty men, and Major Gaines and Cassius M. Clay, with thirty men, were surprised and captured at Encarnacion [about forty-five miles beyond Saltillo] on the morning of the 23d, by Gen. Minon. He heard that Borland was there, and marched from Matehuala with five hundred cavalry, and took them without firing a gun. This is no *stampede*. Yours truly,

"W. W. CHAPMAN."

The above is all that has reached us on the subject; in fact, it is clear enough. Between eighty and ninety of our men have been taken prisoners, and are undoubtedly at San Luis Potosi ere this. The hatred of the Mexicans is so inveterate, however, against our volunteers, that fears are entertained for the safety of the prisoners.

The troops are beginning to move down from Camp Palo Alto. Gen. Scott would have embarked to-day on the Massachusetts, for Tampico, if a heavy norther had not sprung up yesterday. He will be accompanied by two or three companies of the artillery battalion.

The destination of the troops is Lobos, about seventy-five miles from Vera Cruz. As Santa Anna knows all about it, I presume there is no impropriety in my telling you. It is an Island; very near the main land, and behind it is a safe harbor for vessels of considerable size. The shore is rocky and the pass very crooked, but not extremely dangerous. In the course of the week we shall be on the Gulf, and, if the northers and southestern do not send us to another world, you will soon receive a description of the battle and the capture of Vera Cruz.

*Mouth of the Rio Grande, Feb. 4, 1847.*

Last evening the ship Talbot arrived.—She is a transport of 625 tons burden, and with accommodations for 400 men. She had three months' supplies for this number of men. To-day about 1,000 troops will come down from Camp Palo Alto, and if the weather continues as moderate as it is this morning, the embarkation will commence to night. Gen. Scott has not gone on board but is expected over here to-day.

We have received further intelligence respecting the fate of Lieut. Ritchie. It seems that the ten dragoons reached Victoria in safety; but there is no longer any doubt about the death of the valuable young officer. The party halted at a town on the road, and Lieut. Ritchie left the men for a few moments to go with a guide and procure forage for the horses. They had proceeded but a short distance when a Mexican came dashing up on horseback, threw a lasso suddenly over Ritchie's neck, and dragged him, full speed across a field, and then murdered and stripped him.

It is said now that the transports will assemble at Labos Harbor, with all the troops, and then move together to a landing much nearer Vera Cruz.

The court Martial recently held at the Brazos for the trial of Col. Harney has ordered him to be released from arrest and reprimanded. We learn that Gen. Scott has remitted the latter part of this sentence, but has reiterated his former order to Col. H. It was thought, however, that he would recall this order and permit the Colonel to lead his regiment.

## CONGRESS.

(Reported for the Balt. Clipper.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 1847.

SENATE.

The special order—the Three Million bill—was taken up, and

Mr. Benton addressed the Senate, making a long, labored, and evident long premeditated attack upon Mr. Calhoun as having been the author of the war, because he was one of Mr. Monroe's Cabinet when Texas was, by the treaty of 1819, ceded away by the United States, which treaty he alleged was the foundation of the causes of the war.

Mr. Calhoun replied to Mr Benton in a very forcible and pointed speech, rebutting his positions, and asserting that every charge he had made was either founded upon a partial state of facts, inconclusive argument, or forced conclusions.

Mr. Benton rejoined in reference to one remark that Mr. Calhoun had made, shewing that Mr. B. had voted for recognition of the independence of Texas.

Mr. Davis next took the floor, and

The Senate went into Executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A bill to establish Post Routes was considered in committee of the Whole on the State of the Union; and finally passed.

The bill from the Senate, authorising the appointment of General Officers of the forces to be raised under the Ten regiment bill, was referred to the committee on Military Affairs.

A bill to regulate the pay of deputy postmasters was amended, to extend still further the franking privileges to members; and was passed.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. 1847.

SENATE.

Mr. Crittenden introduced a bill to grant relief to the suffering people of Ireland and Scotland. It provides:

1st. That the President be authorized to cause food to be purchased and transmitted to Great Britain, to be tendered by the Government of the United States to the Government of Great Britain for the relief of the suffering people of Ireland and Scotland.

2d. Appropriates $500,000 for this purpose.

3d. Authorizes the President to employ [illegible] of this food.

The Civil Diplomatic Appropriation bill again was taken up and the amendments proceeded with.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Navy Pension Bill and the bill to regulate intercourse with Indian tribes, were passed.

Mr. Boyd, from the committee on Military Affairs, reported back the Senate bill to organize the ten regiments recently authorized. He proposed two amendments 1st. That the number of Maj. Generals shall not exceed two; and Brig. Generals three; and, 2d giving the President power to select a Maj. Gen. from the line or the volunteers, without regard to the date of commission—to act as General in chief; his duties as such to cease at the conclusion of the war.

Mr. Simms demanded the previous question, which was seconded—44 to 76—and thus the motion made by Mr. Davis of Kentucky, to commit to the committee of the Whole, was cut off.

Mr. Ashman moved to lay the bill and amendment on the table; but the motion did not prevail—yeas 71, nays 106:

The main question was ordered to be put—yeas 102, nays 70.

By general assent, however, the House went into a committee of the Whole on the state of the Union—Mr. Biggs in the chair.

The committee rose; and the amendment of the committee on Military affairs giving the President the authority to appoint a commander in chief, without regard to the date of commission, was concurred in—yeas 112, nays 87.

The bill was passed by a vote of, yeas 121, nays 75.

And the House adjourned.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27, 1847.

SENATE.

The House bill to increase the marine force 1000 men was adopted.

The Post Office Appropriation bill was amended, and the section giving the Post Master's the power to give the advertising to any paper they choose stricken out—ayes 24, noes 21.

The appropriation for Texan Spoliations was reduced from $70,000 to 40,000 and the payment left to the discretion of the President

The naval Pension Bill was then taken up and passed.

The Military Academy bill was passed.

The bill for the relief of Ireland and Scotland was taken up.

Mr. Webster would go for it with all his heart but he objected to making it a gift from the Government of the United States, to that of Great Britain.

Mr. Crittenden amended it to make it a gift from the people.

After further remarks by Messrs. Mason Dayton, Calhoun, Crittenden, Fairfield and Cameron, an amendment offered by Mr. Mason was rejected and the bill ordered to be engrossed, ayes 27, noes, 13; and then passed without division.

The fortification bill was then taken up and passed, and

The Senate went into executive session at 6. P. M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. McKay again moved that the tariff bill be taken up, and the motion prevailed—ayes 96, nayes 67.

Upwards of fifty amendments were offered to the several sections. Finally,

Mr. Hamlin offered a substitute for the bill. The part taxing tea and coffee twenty per cent. was stricken out. The remainder of it was a part only of the original bill imposing an additional duty of ten per cent. on loaf and other refined sugar; coal; bar iron made by rolling; pig iron; round iron, as brazier's rods, 3-16ths to 10-16th of an inch diameter, inclusive; nail and spike rods, slit, rolled or hammered; sheet iron, (except taggers;) hoop iron; hand or scroll iron; casement rods, slit, rolled or hammered; wood screws, (of iron;) spikes, cut or wrought; and white or red lead. Also, silks, linens, cordials liquors, woollens. and cigars.

An additional duty of five per cent, on all manufactures of cotton, if dyed, colored printed or stained, exceeding in value thirty cents the square yard; and on manufactures of cotton not, dyed, colored, printed or stained, exceeding in value twenty cent the square yard.

The above duties to cease two years after the ratification of a treaty with Mexico, but to be collected on all goods imported prior to the expiration of said two years.

The committee rose, when a motion was made and negatived to lay the bill on the table—yeas 76, nays 126.

The substitute agreed to—yeas 165, nays 103.

[Reported for the Baltimore Clipper.]

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1847.

SENATE.

Prayer by the Rev. M. Slicer. Journal of yesterday not read.

It was resolved that a recess should be taken from 4 to 6 o'clock P. M.

Mr. Badger from the Military committee reported back the resolutions of thanks to General Taylor, &c. with further amendments to the House amendment to the Senate amendment, which were agreed to.

Mr. Dix from the Military Committee, reported a joint resolution to refund money to those States and individuals, which had advanced it for the equipment &c. of volunteers' which was passed.

Mr. Johnson, of Md. Reported the bill to extend the charter of the Union Bank of Georgetown, D. C, which was passed

The joint resolution for the relief of Purser Barry, was passed.

The special order—the Three Million Bill—was then taken up and

Mr. John M. Clayton addressed the Senate in opposition to the passage of the bill and spoke until the time of recess.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill from the Senate, for the relief of Ireland, was taken up; and having been read twice, and the question occurring on its engrossment for a third reading,

Mr. Levin moved to refer the bill to the committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to report a bill to provide for the suffering poor of our own country.

The Speaker decided the instructions to be out of order.

Mr. Levin took an appeal; and the decision of the Chair was sustained.

A good deal of excitement prevailed; and after various questions of order, and motions, the bill was referred to the committee of Ways and Means, with instructions to report forthwith.

The bill for the relief of the heirs of John Paul Jones was laid on the table; and subsequently taken up and referred to the committee on claims.

WASHINGTON, March 1, 1847.

The Senate met again at six o'clock.—House bill to punish piracy in certain cases passed. The discussion of the three million bill was resumed.

Mr. Pierce spoke briefly, pointing out errors in Soule's history of Texas, as set forth in his speech.

HOUSE—*Quarter to 7.*—Mr. Winthrop from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill to exempt philosophical apparatus from duty.

It was laid on the table by a vote of 95 to 90—if it had not been so disposed of Mr. McKay would have moved to strike out all after the enacting clause, and offered the tea and coffee bill. At 20 minutes past 7, the House adjourned.

## Maryland Legislature.

[Reported for the Balt. Clipper.]

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 22, 1847.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Bills were passed relating to school districts in Talbot county; supplementary to an act for the killing of wolves in Allegany county; in favor of the indigent poor of Somerset county; supplementary to an act relating to primary schools in Charles county; divorcing Anna Maria D. Shields, of Talbot county, and restoring her maiden name; supplementary to an act for the relief of Samuel P. Smith and Reuben Worthington. Adjourned.

Feb. 24.

SENATE. Mr. Sellman, from the committee to whom had been referred the resolutions authorizing the transfer of certain documents to the safe keeping of the Maryland Historical Society, reported unfavorably thereon—not acted upon.

Mr. Hopper offered a resolution providing for a joint hearing of the case of Judge Legrand, by both branches of the legislature—not acted upon.

Feb. 26.

Bills from the House, supplementary to the act for collecting the public revenue, and taxing commissions allowed trustees, &c.; in favor of Wm. Rose, of Talbot county, were passed

The following Directors, on the part of the State, were nominated to the House for election:

Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore—Thos. H. Hall and Alex. Penn.

Hagerstown Bank—And. Kercher and Isaac Newcomer.

And it was moved to appoint Robert M. Magraw, Coleman Yellott, Sam. H. Tagart, James Semmes and Joshua Cockey, directors in the Baltimore and Susquehanna Rail Road Company.

HOUSE. The question was raised, during the reading of the journal, whether it was correct in stating that the motion to reconsider the vote rejecting the resumption bill was not seconded before the motion upon which the House adjourned was made. This gave rise to a debate consuming near three hours; but it was finally declared, by a vote of 42 to 36, that the motion to reconsider had been seconded.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, stating the health of his wife, summoned in the case of Messrs. Thomas and LeGrand, would not permit her to attend; also, a letter from Judge Marshall, asking to be excused, owing to judicial duties.—Not acted upon,

A resolution requesting the State's agents a vote for reducing the salary of the President of the Ches. and Ohio Canal company, from $3000 to $1000, to continue during the incompletion of said work. Also, a resolution in favor of Capt. Walker, as amended by the Senate were adopted.

Mr. Murray offered a resolution for purchasing files of the Maryland Gazette.

ANNAPOLIS, March 1, 1847.

SENATE. Mr. Carey reported a bill incorporating the Holliday street Theatre, and it was passed.

A bill incorporating the Borden Mining Company, was passed. Also. a bill relating to the swamps in Worcester county.

HOUSE. Messrs. Steck, Cox, Grabill, Davis, Root, Martin, Hopper, Done, Payne, and the chair, presented petitions.

The Speaker also presented letters from Dr. Buckler and H. G. S. Key, asking to be excused from attending as witnesses in the case of Judge LeGrand, from ill health.

### THE LICENSE REFORM BILL.

Here is the Bill reported, a few days ago, to the House of Delegates of Maryland, by the Select Committee of which Dr. J. C. Orrick is chairman, and which is expected to pass at the present session:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That at the next general election held in the State for members of the legislature, at any future general election thereafter, the voters shall have liberty, and they are fully authorised and requested, to vote on the subject of the license law granting the privilege to traffic in intoxicating liquors, and the judges of the several elections throughout the State, are to make special returns of the number of votes so received at their respective polls, to the county clerks, in the same manner and form that election returns are made.

Section 2. And be it enacted, That the several judges shall propound the following question to every individual, who shall vote at said election, namely: "Are you in favor of the present license law, or are you against it?" and it shall (the answer) be entered in a seperate book, opposite to the name of the voter, and returned as above indicated in first section.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That any county, election district, city or ward, in which a majority of the voters are opposed to the issuing of licenses to trade in any kind of intoxicating liquor, it shall not be lawful thereafter, for the clerk of the county court, or city court, as the case may be, to issue any licenses to any person or persons, in said county, or city, election district or ward.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That any person or persons, who shall sell or trade, directly or indirectly, or in any manner evade the law, or through this agency of another, in any manner traffic in intoxicating liquors, in any county, election district, city or ward, contrary to the provisions of this act, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, for each and every violation of this act, upon conviction, be fined not less than twenty dollars, and not to exceed one hundred dollars, to be paid over to the county commissioners, or levy court, or clerk of the city court, as the case may be, for use and benefit of the State, to be recovered before any magistrate, in any county or city, as fines are now recovered, the informer in all cases to be a competent witness.

Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, it shall not be lawful for any keeper or keepers, person or persons in the employment of such keeper or keepers, of an eating house, oyster house, or dinaries, confectionaries, hotels, taverns, or other places in this State, licensed to sell ardent spirits or intoxicating liquors, to sell or give away, or otherwise dispose of, on the Sabbath or Lord's Day, to any person or persons, unless in cases of necessity, as a medical remedy, and any person or persons violating this act, shall be fined for each and every offence, not less than ten dollars, and not to exceed twenty dollars, one fourth to go to the informer, and the balance to be paid over to the clerk of the city court, county commissioners, or levy court, as the case may be, for the benefit of the State, to be recovered before any magistrate in any county, or city as the case may be, the informer to be a competent witness.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That the Governor shall cause this act to be published at least twice in every week, for three weeks preceeding the election, in not less than three public papers printed in the city of Baltimore and the same number of times in the counties of the Western Shore; and the same shall be paid for upon an order from the Governor, out of any unappropriated moneys in the treasury.

Sec. 7. And be it enacted, That nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the right of appeal, under the same restrictions that now exist in relation to appeals, and all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, be and the same are hereby repealed.


# EASTON GAZETTE.

EASTON, Md.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 6.


### RESUMPTION.

A bright page was added to our Legislative proceedings on Saturday last by the passage of the Resumption bill. During a discussion of two weeks the result has been looked to with much anxiety by the friends of the measnre throughout the State. Strong were its opponents, various and ingenious their efforts to defeat the original report by clogging its provisions, but without avail. The champions of right after battling the war most bravely, have at length gloriously triumphed. We congratulate those who have so nobly struggled in this magnanimous contest—we congratulate the enemies of repudiation and the friends of fair dealing throughout the State, throughout the country, upon the example which old Maryland is placing before the world; upon the brilliant path to honor and sovreignty which she has thus marked out for herself with a bold and unshrinking hand. The clouds which curtained her political prospects are lifting up and rolling away, and will leave her fully revealed before the world, holding her position proudly upon the high broad platform of State solvency and honor!

Six years have elapsed since the Treasury ceased to pay its obligations. A show of effort was made, in the period immediately succeeding the suspension, to save the credit of the State, but what with the Demon Spirit of repudiation on the one side and a vaccillating, inefficient administration on the other, the debt increased in magnitude until bankruptcy and disgrace seemed inevitable. At this crisis the present Governor came into office, and surely it will be admitted that in asserting the State faith, and adopting the most unceasing, vigorous and successful measures to meet its multiplied engagements, he has commended himself to all parties interested in the fidelity and advancement of the commonwealth; and established for himself a fame to which few in high places of public trust ever attain.

The arrears of interest were on the 1st of December 1845, $1,432,154.50. Although the direct tax had been operating since 1840, so inefficient were its provisions, that the payment of the interest accruing, fell short by the sum of $260,361. In the fiscal year of 1845, the payments amounted to $55,351.25 *more* than the year's interest on the debt; and in the fiscal year just closed the amount paid was $75,863.83, over the interest, being an increase also of $21,505 over the sum raised during the preceeding year. Predicated upon these facts, leading irresistably to the conviction that the State is competent with suitable energy and promptness to meet all her liabilities has this bill we are discussing been brought forward, in accordance with the suggestion of the Executive in his last annual mes-sage.

The means by which its purpose is proposed to be accomplished are—

1. By authorising the Commissioner of Loans to fund, on the first of October next, all the interest on the public debt then due unpaid.

2. By repealing, after that day, the law authorising coupons to be received in payment of taxes.

3. By naming the first day of January, 1848, as the day when the interest on the State bonds would be paid in full in money, at the Treasury.

4. In order to provide cautiously against every possible contingency, to authorise the Bank stocks held by the State, to be pledged to raise money to meet any temporary deficiency, that might occur on some quarter day.

We believe that, upon calm reflection, this measure will, with few exceptions, command universal favor and approbation; and that all good citizens will promptly unite in maintaining the dignity and honor of the State. All that is dear to a State is involved in this issue. The law once passed, therefore, cannot be repealed. There is no return—no halting. We must progress in the path we have thus marked out for ourselves, or be followed by the cry of hypocrisy and covered with tenfold embarrassment and disgrace. We have proven our ability to meet existing and accruing demands upon the Treasury, shall we at this stage, reveal to a scrutinizing world a pusilanimous distrust of our own honor, and a base dishonest suspicion of future integrity? This bill enforces no

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