

CALIFORNIAN.

VOL. I.

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No. 1.

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PROSPECTUS.

This is the first paper ever published in California, and though issued upon a small sheet, is intended it shall contain matter that will be read with interest. The principles which will govern us in conducting it, can be set forth in a few words.

We shall maintain an entire and utter severance of all political connexion with Mexico. we renounce at once and forever all fealty to her laws, all obedience to her mandates.

We shall advocate an oblivion of all past political offences and allow every man the privilege of entering this new era of events unobscured by any part he may have taken in previous revolutions.

We shall maintain free-lom of speech and the press, and those great principles of religious toleration, which allow every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience.

We shall advocate such a system of public instruction as will bring the means of a good practical education to every child in California.

We shall urge the immediate establishment of a well-organized government and a universal obedience to its laws.

We shall encourage immigration, and take special pains to point out to agricultural immigrants those sections of uncultivated lands, where the fertility of the soil will most amply repay the labors of the husbandman.

We shall encourage domestic manufactures and the mechanic arts as sources of private wealth, individual comfort and indispensable to the public prosperity.

We shall urge the organization of interior defences sufficient to protect the property of citizens from the depredations of the wild Indians.

We shall advocate a territorial relation of California to the United States, till the number of her inhabitants is such that she can be admitted a member of that glorious confederacy.

We shall support the present measures of the commander in chief of the American squadron on our coast, so far as they conduce to the public tranquility, the organization of a free representative government and our alliance with the United States.

We shall advocate the lowest rate of duties on foreign imports, and favor an exemption of the necessaries of life, even from these duties.

We shall go for California—for all her interests, social, civil and religious—encouraging every thing that promotes these, resisting every thing that can do them harm.

This press shall be free and independent; unswayed by power and untrammelled by party. The press of its columns shall be denied to none, who have suggestions to make, promotive of the public weal.

We shall lay before our readers the freshest domestic intelligence and the earliest foreign news.

We commence our publication upon a very small sheet but its dimensions shall be enlarged as soon as the requisite materials can be obtained.

FROM THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. A U. S. ship of war, Warren, Capt. Hull, arrived on the 14th, brings us the act of Congress and the proclamation of the President, declaring Mexico and U. S. at war.

Act of Congress, approved May 15th 1846.

Resolved, that by an act of the Republic of Mexico, there exists a state of war, between that govern-

ment and that of the U. States. It is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Congress assembled; that with a view to provide the government of the U. States with the means of prosecuting the said war to a speedy and favorable termination. The President be authorized, as he is by these presents to employ the military and naval forces of the U. States, and to require and accept the services of any number of volunteers not exceeding 50,000 men who may offer, both Cavalry, Artillery and Riflemen, to serve 12 months from the time they shall have arrived at the place designated, or until the termination of the war, unless sooner discharged, according to the time for which they may have enlisted; and the sum of 10,000,000 of dollars of money at present in the Treasury or such as may be hereafter received, not already appropriated for other objects, be appropriated as, it is by these presents to carry into effect the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 2. And it is further enacted, that the Militia, when called into the service of the United States, in virtue of the present Act, or any other, may, if in the opinion of the President (the exigencies of the public service require it,) be compelled to serve for a period not exceeding six months in any one year from the date of their arrival at the appointed place, unless sooner discharged.

Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, Treat of the organization of the volunteers into Companies, Battalions and Regiments, and of chosen officers, and other circumstances relative to their equipment and subjection to the military code of laws.

Sec. 8. And it is further enacted, that the President of the United States, be, as he is by these presents, authorized to complete immediately, all the National ships already authorized by law; to purchase or hire, arm, equip and man such merchant ships and steamers, as may be found upon examination, fit for being converted into armed ships proper for the National service, and in sufficient numbers for the protection of the coast, and for the general defence of the Country.

Section 9. Arranges that the militia and volunteers shall receive the same pay as the regular army when in actual service.

In pursuance of the above Bill, the President, under date of the 15th May has issued the following

PROCLAMATION:

In consideration that The Congress of the U. States, by virtue of the authority with which it is clothed, has declared by the law of to-day, that through an act of the Republic of Mexico, there exists a state of war between that government and the U. States, therefore I, James K. Polk, President of the U. States by these presents do proclaim the same, and I especially recommend to all persons who hold civil or military employment under the government, of the U. S. that they be vigilant and zealous in the discharge of their respective duties. Moreover, I exhort the entire people of the U. S. by their love of country and a sense of the injuries which have obliged them to appeal to the last resort of nations, (and in as much as it consults the means most opportune to abbreviate the calamities) that they would exert themselves to maintain order, to promote re-union, to sustain the authority and efficiency of the laws and to give aid and force to all the measures which may be adopted by the constitutional authorities to obtain an early, just and honorable peace.

IN TESTIMONY of which, I have placed my hand, and have caused the seal of the United States to be affixed to these presents.

JAMES K. POLK, President U. S.

Washington, May 15, 1846.

Latin American Village
422 E. Ranchito St.
El Monte, Calif.

MUSEO DE SONORA
HERMOSILLO, SONORA

Her B. M. Brigantine "Spy," Lieut. Com'dt. Woodbridge arrived here on Tuesday afternoon, 35 days from San Blas. By her we have the important news of General Taylor, having crossed the Rio Grande, and with a large army was advancing towards the Mexican Capitol, he had had another engagement with the Mexicans in which they were totally routed, and the belief was, that he would soon hoist the stars and stripes on the walls of Mexico. Vera Cruz was strictly blockaded by a large naval force. Santa Anna had returned, and the supposition was, that he would soon have the direction of affairs, his wishes are that there may be a cessation of hostilities preliminary to a treaty of peace, but we do not trust him. Let us finish in California the work we have so gloriously commenced, and let not him or any other subtle Mexican, by his grandiloquent proclamations and evasive promises, throw us back into the anarchy of Californian laws, and Mexican misrule.

We regret to hear of the death of the King of France, Louis Philippe, whom, after Napoleon was probably the greatest monarch that France, and even Europe has seen in the last century, his was a peaceful reign, and the country which he so wisely governed, has reached in the arts and in the sciences a high state of perfection, his death may break the harmony of Europe. We hope not, but if it does, we trust, that we in the western world may be exempt from the calamities of a bloody European war.

The mail from Vera Cruz through Mexico, owing probably to the blockade had been stopped, so we have no information from the United States of a later date than the middle of May.

The U. States Sloop of War Warren arrived on the 12th, 37 days from Mazatlan, all was quiet when she left. The importance of the news brought by the Warren makes it necessary for her to return immediately with despatches for Commodore Stockton who was at San Pedro, for the purpose of acting with Capt. Fremont.

The first battle in California, in which blood was spilled, was fought on the 24th day of June, on the plains between Pismo and St. Raphael, between a party of Californians under command of Capt. Del la Torre eighty six strong, and a small detachment of the Patriot Army, under Lieut. Ford, (now Capt. Ford,) 22 strong. Some days previous to the battle Del la Torre crossed the Bay with 70 men, and was joined by a small party which had been collected by Correo and Padea on the North side.

The garrison at Sonoma being informed that 3 Americans were prisoners in La Torre's Camp, a party of 22 under Lieut. Ford, left Sonoma on the 23rd, on their arrival at the Santa Rosa Plains they ascertained from some prisoners which they had taken, that La Torre had gone by the Laggoones towards San Raphael, they followed all night, and on the morning of the 24th came up with the enemy, encamped for breakfast in the edge of a plain, bordering on a brushwood of several acres. Lieut. Ford, with several of his men charged on them in such a manner as to draw them to the edge of the wood where the remainder of his force were stationed, the enemy charged so closely that the fire of our riflemen was very effective, having several prisoners, to guard there was only 18 men engaged, they fired only about 18 or 20 shots, and from the best information we can get, the enemy lost 8 killed and 2 wounded, while our men were not touched under a discharge of near 200 muskets. The enemy retired to a hill about a mile off, our party then stopped at a coral, in full view and changed their tired horses for fresh ones from the enemy's cavalcade with the prisoners whom they had rescued, and those of the enemy whom they had previously taken, retired to the garrison at Sonoma. Lieut. Ford displayed the most perfect coolness, judgement, and daring bravery, the whole party, with two or three exceptions, distinguished themselves for bravery and discretion.

The U. S. Sloop of War Warren, Capt. Hull, sailed on the 13th with despatches for Commodore Stockton. Mr. Price left in the American ship Vandalia, on the 12th, also with despatches for the Commodore.

DEBATE IN THE U. S. SENATE.

In the discussions respecting the bill, which authorized the President to enlist 50,000 volunteers and appropriate \$10,000,000 for the prosecution of the existing war between the United States and Mexico, the Senators showed themselves unanimous respecting the necessity of the said measures, but many of them opposed violently the declaration of the existence of war. Mr. Mangum declared that he was disposed to advocate all the means necessary for the defence of the nation's rights, and that in his opinion it would have been better to decree the enlistment of 100,000 men in room of 50,000; but he added, that it could not be declared that the hostilities committed on the banks of the Rio Grande constitutes a state of war.

Mr. Calhoun said that he could not approve of the solemn declaration of war, when in reality none exists between the United States and Mexico. How do we know, said he, that war exists? How do we know that the Mexican Government will not disavow the hostilities? The idea is monstrous, that hostilities authorized between the people, or a part of the people of the two republics, constitutes a war. Mr. Calhoun approved the portion of the bill which afforded to the President the means of repelling an invasion: or, in other words, he did not vote favorably, or otherwise, not being able to approve the declaration "THAT WAR DID EXIST," contained in the preamble, nor to disapprove of the other sections: thus did other senators: the bill was approved by 40 to 2, and not by 50 as the New York Herald stated.

Mr. Benton read the manifesto of General Parades to demonstrate that there might be hostilities without war, and vice versa: and concluded by affirming that said manifesto proved that negotiations might still be re-established, and that every thing might be amicably managed.

Mr. Calhoun again took the floor, to insist that war did not exist, since neither the President of Mexico, nor that of the United States could declare it, and that the competent authorities had not made it.

Messrs. Cass, Archer, Allen and others sustained the existence of a *de facto* war, and consequently opposed the amendment which consists in omitting the words "PROSECUTE THE WAR, and substituting those of REPEL THE INVASION."

Mr. Crittenden disapproved (or doubted,) the fact of the American troops having placed themselves in actual position on the Rio Grande, because he saw no motive to impel them to do it, but he added, if it was to be waged, it was his opinion that means should be taken to finish it briefly, because a prolonged war might enlist France and England in the ranks of Mexico, since the paralyzation of its commerce might excite the anger of those nations. He then proposed an amendment by which authority was given to repel invasion, and to prosecute hostilities, until peace should be effected.

Mr. Calhoun seconded the amendment, saying, that the risks of a continual blockade might thus be shunned, as well as the granting of letters of marque by Mexico, and that on the other hand it would be more easy to re-establish peace through these hostilities without declaring war, than by such a declaration. However ultimately the amendment directing the declaration of the existence of war to be omitted were disapproved of by votes 26 to 20, all the latter being those of Whigs except those of Calhoun and McDuffie.

The bill was approved finally by 40 votes to 2 the Whigs protesting against the Act (Hick-) announced on the preamble, viz. the existence of war. Messrs. Calhoun, Dayton and Berrien, (Whigs,) did not vote: ten Senators were absent 5 Whigs and 5 Democrats.

In our next number we shall probably commence the publication of a series of numbers in relation to those sections of our country which are unoccupied, and where settlements may be profitably made agricultural purposes, in connexion with convenient water power for milling purposes, and their respective contiguity to navigable waters, as a guide to strangers arriving in the country with the view of settling.