

**Union—Extra. Saturday May 23, 1846. From the Mobile Daily advertiser extra.  
Monday May 18 10 o'clock a. m. [Regarding Mexican War]**

**UNION—EXTRA.**

**SATURDAY, May 23, 1846.**

From the Mobile Daily Advertiser—extra.

Monday , May 18, 10 o'clock, a. m.

**From the seat of war.—Glorious News!—Triumph of the American Arms!—Gen. Taylor again victorious!—Route of the Mexican army!!**

Per steamer Col. Harney at New Orleans.

[Correspondence of the Tropic.]

*Announcement of the coming of volunteers.—Unexpected arrival of Com. Conner at Brazos Santiago.—General Taylor starts for Matamoras.—Commodore Conner reinforces Point Isabel.—Excitement.—News from the battle field.—Retreat.—Capture of Artillery.—Mexican officer shot by his own men.—Captain Page wounded.—Louisiana Volunteers.—Uncle Sam's sailors on shore .*

Brazos Santiago , May 10.

Since my last (not received) we have had two arrivals, the New York and brig Millaudon. The last brought the news that six steamboats with four thousand volunteers were about starting when she left. This news made us most cheerful, as we could not have then expected the result that has since taken place with our troops.

Despatches had been sent to Vera Cruz by Gen. T., contents to us subs unknown; but rumor would have it that the aforesaid Vera Cruz was to have been bombarded. Judge of our surprise, then, when at daylight on the morning after, the whole squadron (Falmouth excepted) appeared off our harbor. The commodore had not received the despatches from her, but was informed at Vera Cruz that the Mexicans had marched 6,000 or 7,000 troops across by land to assist Gen. Arista in *whipping* Gen. Taylor.

Commodore C., therefore, thought very wisely that his presence here would do some good in the way of reinforcements. Gladly was he welcomed, as General Taylor had marched out the evening previous to meet and conquer the enemy, taking with him twenty-two hundred men, teamsters included, with two hundred and fifty teams loaded with ammunitions, provisions, &c., which the Mexicans were no doubt apprized of, as the teams had been loaded ever since Monday last, awaiting the orders for a march at a moment's warning.

General T. left Point Isabel with little over four hundred men to defend it. Major Munroe, commanding here, sent a requisition to Commodore Connor for as many men as he could spare, as we heard firing about 2 p. m. of the 8th, which continued with but little intermission until dark. Com. C. sent ashore 250 men, and on the 9th 400 or 500 more, which makes this place strong enough to withstand an attack against 20,000 men.

Believe me when I say there was the greatest excitement here all the afternoon of the 8th, as we could plainly hear the cannonading from the field of battle.

On the evening of the 8th, Mr. Murray and Mr. Bacon volunteered to go and find out the result.

On the morning of the 9th, a black boy came into camp, gave a history of the fight, which was about time, but as he had run away and left his team, he was not believed.

At 3 p. m. of the 9th, Messrs. M. and B. returned, and stated as follows:

They got to General Taylor's present camp, sixteen miles from here, at 3 p. m.; there learned that the army marched until about thirteen miles from here, when they saw the Mexicans drawn up in battle array across his road. He immediately gave his orders for the teams to halt until the 2d brigade had passed. The Mexicans were on the prairie near the edge of the chaparral. When Gen. Taylor got within about three-quarters of a mile, they opened upon him with their flying artillery. Gen. Taylor arrived with Capt. Duncan and Major Ringgold's companies, and at it they went until about sunset, when the Mexicans had retreated to the edge of the chaparral, and ceased firing.

After which Gen. Taylor fired ten or fifteen guns at them, and set to work throwing up two breastworks. At daylight the Mexicans were in the edge of the chapparel. A council of war was held by Gen. Taylor, and it was agreed that one brigade should advance up to the chapparel, in hopes to draw the Mexicans into a renewal of the fight, but the more the troops advanced upon them, the more they wern't there—the Mexicans having retreated, leaving three pieces of artillery, any quantity of ammunition, from FOUR to SIX HUNDRED DEAD upon the field, and God only knows how many wounded that they took away. One Mexican who was stationed at one of their batteries, says every

body but himself at the batteries was killed—says the guns beat anything they ever dreamed of, they were so quick. One of the Mexican officers, in trying to rally his men, found he could not, and commenced to cut them with his sword, when his troops shot him dead. We had 11 killed, and about 10 mortally wounded.

Capt. Page of the 3d, had all the lower part of his face shot off with a cannon ball—it is thought he will recover, though horribly mutilated. Major Ringgold had the fleshy part of both his legs shot through, and horse killed—none of his bones broken, which is wonderful. Our informant says the field of battle was strewed with the dead, and they could hear the groans of the Mexican wounded all night at Gen. T.'s camp. The Mexicans were commanded by Gen. Mejia. There is no doubt they have retreated across the river. When the volunteers arrive you may depend you will hear of them "revelling in the halls of the Montezumas," or peace and good will, will be whipped into those bombastic Mexicans. It is a matter of surprise that so few were lost on our side.

The monotony of this place has been relieved the last two days by the drilling of "Uncle Samuel's" "web-feet," or "barnacle-backs" that came here from the squadron. You would be surprised to see with what dexterity and precision they go through their evolutions with muskets, and no one could resist a laugh to hear some of their sayings. One old salt said this morning, "Damn and blast my eyes! here is a ship ashore, and poor Jack on his beam ends." This speech was addressed to himself when looking on the tent that had been pitched, and was of sufficient dimensions to hold about fifty-two.

One-third of the whole number of the men from the squadron are marines, the balance tars. I should picture to myself a soldier riding *horseback*, or a cow, as soon as that I should see four or five hundred sailors going into war with muskets on their shoulders; but you could not restrain them from going against the Mexicans with only a knife and fork, if you would only show them a chance, for they are all "eager for the fray."

Yours, &c.

In the decisive battle General Taylor lost about sixty killed and wounded, among whom there were three officers, viz: Lieut. Inges, of the dragoons; Lieut. Cochran, of the 4th infantry; and Lieut. Chadburn, of the 8th infantry. Among the wounded are Col. MacIntosh, of the 5th infantry; Lieut. Col. Payne, 4th artillery; and Capt. Hooe, 5th infantry—most of them slightly, and none supposed mortally.

Major Ringgold, well known as the commander of the flying artillery, also died on the 11th, from wounds received in the action of the 8th.

Capt. Page, who was wounded in the same engagement, we are happy to state, is rapidly recovering. Lieut. Luther, also slightly wounded, is convalescent.

From the N. O. Tropic—Third Edition, 1 p. m.

STILL LATER FROM THE ARMY.

The Galveston arrived .—The Galveston is just in, having lost Brazos Santiago on the evening of the 13th. We hasten to lay the news by her before our readers.

From the Galveston Civilian of the 15th.

On the morning of the 13th, Gen. Taylor and his staff, with the guard that had brought down the train, &c., started for his camp. He was met by an express a few miles from Point Isabel, informing him that 8,000 fresh troops had arrived in Matamoras, 2,000 of which had crossed over, and 1,100 more had crossed the Rio Grande at Barrita, near the Bocachica, no more than eight miles from Point Isabel. General Taylor returned to Point Isabel at once, and made preparations to leave the next day with such were arriving. The steamship Galveston landed 450 infantry, (regulars and volunteers;) the Augusta landed about 250; Capt. Price arrived via Padre island from Corpus Christi with his company of seventy mounted rangers. They all reached the point on the 13th. The Telegraph and James L. Day will doubtless land their troops, amounting to upwards of 800, at Point Isabel on the 14th. Great credit is due to Capt. Jeremiah Smith, of the steamship Cincinnati, and Capt. R. McBaker, of the Monmouth, for the skill, energy, and promptness, shown in management of their boats in transporting troops and supplies across the bay at Brazos Santiago.

Gen. Paredes is at the head of 15,000 troops, on his way to Matamoras. It may possibly be that the fresh troops arrived at Matamoras, is the advance division of his army. No doubt the enemy were fully advised that General Taylor had left for Point Isabel, and their plan is to try and capture him on his return, whilst a strong force crossing above, is to come down upon his army. General Taylor appeared highly pleased with the intelligence; for since the war has opened, and no mistake, the excitement and activity attending operations, opens a new era to his vigorous achievements, and all have marked how much better he looks than when confined to the "masterly inactivity" of the Corpus Christi campaign.

THE FORT.

The Mexicans have continued their firing into the fort opposite Matamoras, nearly ever since General Taylor left the works.

The brave and gallant Major Brown died on —, from a wound received in his thigh by the explosion of one of the enemy's shells. His wound was not considered dangerous, but as he was placed in one of the bomb-proof burrows, mortification ensued, from the want of fresh air. His death is deeply deplored by the army; his intrepid conduct in foiling every attempt of the enemy to reduce the fort prepared them in a measure to anticipate the result of these conflicts with our brave army. The strength of the fort and skill with which it is defended, is incomprehensible to the Mexicans; and indeed, well it might be, for they have thrown upwards of 1,400 shot and shell into the works and every morning they present the same appearance; our loss has only been two or three in the fort. The constant practice the enemy have had in firing at it, has taught them the proper bearing to give to their guns, and almost every shot falls within the works. The fort is never idle, and the ramparts and dwellings of Matamoras exhibit ruins as plainly as those of a hundred centuries when gaping forth their lamentation of lo! and behold what desolation is here?

The sloop-of-war St. Mary's arrived from Pensacola on the 10th; the steamer Mississippi on the 12th, from Vera Cruz. The Bainbridge is off the Rio Grande, enforcing the blockade. The schooner Flirt sailed for New Orleans on the 7th.

It is stated that an expedition is to be sent by boats of the squadron to take the town of Barita, 16 miles from the mouth of the river, where there is a military force.

Gen. Vega is the Col. Vega that was captured by the Texan forces at the slaughter of San Jacinto. He was also at the fall of the Alamo, and is a brave and accomplished officer.

In a postscript of the Picayune, we find the following:

The Mexican army was so confident of victory that every preparation had been made to celebrate it; but all their preparations fell into the hands of the Americans. In their flight, many of the Mexicans took to the river, and were drowned in their attempts to swim it.

General Taylor reached his camp the afternoon of the action. Leaving there his whole force, he started the next morning for Point Isabel, and arrived there the evening of the 10th without molestation. The morning of the 11th he started back for his camp opposite Matamoras. We need not say that he and his army are in the highest spirits.

(Correspondence New Orleans Tropic.)

Brazos Santiago , May 13.

At the receipt of the news of the first battle, I wrote you a short account; the result of the second is now on hand, and it is most decisive. It now appears that the Mexicans had only five thousand men in the field at the first battle, and four thousand stowed away in the chapparel near the battle ground. It was their intention to have made but a slight attack the first day, but being so closely pressed they were obliged to fight in order to make good their retreat to where the four thousand were in the chapparel. In the first fight a general officer had his head shot off. It is not yet ascertained who he was, as his body was recognised by his dress as he lay upon the field.

Gen. Taylor advanced the morning of the first battle into the chapparel, then sent 800 picked men under the charge of Capt. McCull, to reconnoitre; he advanced unmolested until near 3 p. m., (the army following at a distance,) when Capt. McCull sent word to Gen. Taylor that he had received a charge of grape from the enemy, and lost two men.

The army was then deployed, and Capt. May, 2d dragoons ordered to charge the battery that had thrown the grape, and to take it if he lost every man; he obeyed orders, took the battery of four guns, and lost but one man. The battery was commanded by Gen. De la Vega, who was taken prisoner.

Our little army then rent the air with their huzzas, and rushing shouting upon the enemy, committed the most dreadful havoc among them, taking eight pieces of artillery, 155,000 rounds of cartridge, and 500 packed mules. Gen. Arista's camp bedstead contained all his private and public baggage papers, which latter will be of great value, as we now not only have the key to the whole campaign, which will enable Gen. T. to form his plans so as to entirely defeat their designs.

We took all and every thing they had, four hundred prisoners, and the army baggage. The enemy had between 8,000 and 9,000 troops in the two battles, but we with 1,800 troops completely routed them.

We exchanged prisoners, got Captains Thornton, Hardee, and his little band. Our officers while prisoners were well treated, having lived with Ampudia ever since they were taken. Gen. Taylor would not exchange for Lieut. Deas as a prisoner of war, as it would be sanctioning his crossing the river, which he did not, having reprobated his crossing in the severest manner.

In this second and glorious battle, we lost about the same number of men as in the first, but had more officers wounded. Capt. Walker with his heroic band of rangers, was the last that fired at the Mexicans. The army left him and his comrades on the bank of the river, shooting them as they attempted to cross.

To-morrow General Taylor leaves here to make an attack on Matamoras, in connexion with Com. Conner, who has sent a boat-expedition up the river.

I forgot to mention that General Taylor arrived here yesterday, with all our wounded, between 50 and 60, with General Romulus de la Vega, one Mexican captain, and two lieutenants, who go with this letter in the Colonel Harney.

The Augusta, from New Orleans, arrived last evening. The mules from Matamoras, some 500, were sent in to-day, as well as the Mexican wounded.

I should not forget to mention that all the ball, and grape shot of the Mexicans are brass or copper. This letter I must close, tails of glory enough for one day.

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Union

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