The New-Orleans Bee.

NEW SERIES. No. 5207.

LEGAL ADVERTISING PAPER.—NEW-ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1846.

MAGNE & WHITE, PROPRIETORS, No. 81 Chartres street.

The New-Orleans Daily Bee

Thursday Morning, Dec. 31, 1846.

Interesting Chapters in California.—Some days ago the Washington papers announced that a Mexican journal had been received, containing a letter from Mazatlan, on the Pacific, reporting that one hundred and fifty American soldiers, from the banks of the equator, had been massacred. The *Intelligencer* gives the following apparently authentic documents on the subject. The first is an official Mexican document, from the Secretary of State to the Secretary of War, in the following terms, startling enough, if true:

"Under date of the 28th of October, the Commissary General of the State of Sinaloa writes to us as follows:

"Excellent Sir—Intelligence has reached me that the North American enemies, who had invaded Upper California, have been almost entirely destroyed by Capt. *Flores*, with the small body of troops under his command, aided by the patriotic inhabitants of that peninsula. They captured several of the American launches, killed a number of their men, and made some prisoners. The total extermination of the rest is confidently expected, not only from their great inferiority of numbers, but from the zeal with which our people defend their soil and their cause.

"As to this place I have nothing new to report to your Excellency. The American sloop of war has been blockading the port a while, and attempt nothing beyond the blockade. *J. S.*

"On the 24th, the French sloop of war *La Brilliante*, of 24 guns, commanded by the Count de Bussel, came to anchor in this bay, from Valparaiso and Upper California, bringing the information above conveyed. Please to communicate it to his excellency the Supreme Executive."

"I do myself accordingly that pleasure. God and Liberty. [illegible]"

The same paper, the Mexican *Monitor*, of the 18th, from which the above taken, gives the following version, more detailed, of the news from Sinaloa, given just above:

"*Massacre of the North Americans at Ciudad de Los Angeles.*—*Mazatlan, Oct. 23.*—By the arrival of the French corvette of war La Brilliante, from San Francisco and Monterey of Upper California, we have the following important news:

"The necessity of covering that vast territory of which portion, nearly all threatened by the Indians, has compelled the Americans to leave in each of them a most insignificant number of men; so that at Monterey—which, as the capital, is the most important station to defend—there were only thirty soldiers; at San Francisco, where a block-house has been erected, only ten or twelve men.

"At Los Angeles, formerly the seat of the political authorities of the territory, the Indians, uniting with the other inhabitants fell upon and put to death one hundred and fifty soldiers of the American squadron; and this news, which is to a certain point confirmed by what we have previously published of the rising in that town, and seems a natural consequence of that movement, is authenticated from various quarters with sufficient information.

"One hundred and fifty Mormons have arrived in California from the Sandwich Islands.

"At Monterey is published a journal entitling itself, "The Californian," and all its articles, (which are in favor of the invaders,) are written in Spanish.

"The commander of the French vessel above mentioned, Count de Bussel, asserts that the North Americans are in the greatest dread lest the Mexican government should send against them any force whatever; for they now see that they have made a very hazardous step in occupying California with such small means. He adds that in his conception, they can dispose of no force with which to attempt Mazatlan."

The Baltimore *Sun* considers the intelligence too authentic to admit of further doubt; nevertheless, we question its truth. It is not the first one we have seen similar statements in the Mexican presses, which have turned out merely exaggerations, but the most shameless fabrications. We read in a Mexican paper, not long since, that a thousand American troops had deserted our army and repaired to San Luis Potosi, with arms, ammunition and baggage, to join the Mexicans. At another time, that in the assault on Monterey, 1500 Americans were put *hors de combat* the next day, and so on. In fact, every Mexican statement in reference to the Americans should be received with great distrust, and if not absolutely disbelieved, may be considered as exceedingly problematical until confirmed by advices from sources more worthy of confidence. With these opinions, we prefer awaiting reliable intelligence. Before we place implicit credit in a story concocted purely by Mexicans and for Mexican use and profit. If it be true, the enemy will be made to pay dearly for so flagrant a violation of the usages of civilized nations.

Congress.

In the SENATE on the 21st, Messrs Bright, Houston, and Rusk, appeared in their seats. The Hon A. P. Butler, of South Carolina, took the oath of office, and was qualified.

Mr. Johnson, of La., gave notice of a bill to authorize a change in the location of the senatorial lands. Mr Brown submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the Senate, if any officer or agent was sent, by him or by his direction to Havanna, to advise, procure, or in any manner promote the return of Santa Anna to Mexico; and if so, who was the officer or agent, what were his instructions, and when was he sent on such a mission; also that he inform the Senate by what means, and through what channel, Santa Anna was informed that an order was issued to the commander of our naval forces in the Gulf directing and commander not to obstruct his (Santa Anna's) return to Mexico; and also that he inform the Senate copies of any correspondence in possession of the government relative to the terms or conditions on which Santa Anna was permitted to pass through our blockading squadron, or in any manner relating to the subject of Santa Anna's return to Mexico.

Mr. Semple, on leave, introduced a bill to redefine the Consular establishment of the United States. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Barrow, introduced a bill to provide for a Survey at the shoals of the Red River, in Louisiana, which was referred to the same committee.

Mr. Johnson of La., presented a bill to amend the act providing for the adjustment of land claims in Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, &c.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Gentry rose for a personal explanation, and complained of having been made to represent the Secretary of State as saying that he would cut his right arm off before signing a treaty for the settlement of the Oregon question on the 49th parallel; when in reality he (Mr. Gentry) had remarked that common rumor had assigned such a sentiment to Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. Brodhead of Pa., asked leave to introduce a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the House, on what articles enhanced in the tariff act of 1846, the duties can be augmented beyond the existing rates, so as to increase the revenue. The House, by a vote of 93 to 70, refused to suspend the rules.

Mr. Sawyer, introduced a bill to reduce and graduate the price of the public lands to actual settlers. Mr. Stanton introduced a bill to provide indemnity to American citizens for French spoliations prior to the year 1801.

A large number of bills of minor importance were introduced, and then Mr. Thompson of Ky., offered to submit the following Resolution, preceded by a long preamble:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when Mexico shall make ample remuneration for acknowledged indebtedness, and establish the Rio Grande as the boundary for the two nations, the peace between the sister republics, so unhappily disturbed, ought to be restored.

The House refused to receive the resolution, the vote standing, Yeas 33, Nays 140.

The bill for the admission of the State of Iowa into the Union, was next taken, debated and passed.

Mr. Rathbun submitted two resolutions, which were agreed to. The first calling on the Secretary of the Treasury to inform the House whether any money had been paid or authorized to be paid, to any person or persons for assisting the Secretary to adjust the details of the tariff bill of 1846. The second, that he be requested to inform the House whether the incumbents, messengers, and weighers heretofore employed at the various custom-houses, have been retained in office since the act of August, 1846, came into operation, and if so, for what purpose and under what authority they are so retained.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Private Calendar, Mr. Jones, of Ga., being entitled to the floor, as chairman of the committee of the war, and in behalf of the bill authorizing the President to call out volunteers, and to provide for their subsistence, equipment, and transportation, and for other purposes. The bill was read at length, and the question being on the amendment of Mr. Davis, of Ky., to strike out the 1st section, providing for the raising of a military force, Mr. Davis rose and addressed the House in support of his amendment, and against the bill, in behalf of the war, and in favor of the prosecution of the war, and in favor of the amendment, and against the bill, in behalf of the war, and in favor of the amendment, and against the bill, in behalf of the war, and in favor of the amendment, and against the bill, in behalf