

large force. By an arrival at daybreak I left St. Augustine, a person (a trader) came in, who stated he was going to the vicinity of Matamoros. The force there was no more than a thousand men. No news—all quiet, with the exception of a quarrel between the Cuzanches and a neighboring tribe."

The impression was gaining ground, that the Mexican force was considerably exaggerated. Some suppose that it will scarcely dare to approach the Rio Bravo, much less attempt to cross it. If Arista be employed in entrenching himself at Matamoros, it would appear as if he expected an attack from our troops, rather than meditated an attack on them.

SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE.—A rumor was circulated in Philadelphia on Tuesday or Wednesday, that Mexico had declared war against the United States. It produced considerable excitement—which began to manifest itself in a manner that was worthy of the American spirit. Take one remarkable example. Gen. Patterson, of Philadelphia, well known throughout the country for the manly and elevated character which he bears, came on to Washington on Wednesday last, says the Union, and offered his services to the government in case of a declaration of war. We understand that 6,000 volunteers might be calculated on from Philadelphia and its vicinity; and that the Keystone State alone might furnish 30,000. Such is the patriotic spirit of the Americans at this time, without regard to party distinctions. It is the spirit which should animate the entire people of the United States. It would rouse the valley of the Mississippi to action; and the difficulty would really be, not how many soldiers should march under the eagle of the republic, but how many should remain at home.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A LADY.—On the 13th inst, (now two weeks since), Mrs. Lemira M. Harris, wife of Mr. Sylvester Harris, of Coeyman, and daughter of Mr. Martin Slocum, of Manchester, Vt., took passage for Coeymans on board the American Eagle, with the intention of passing the night with relatives or friends in Albany or Troy, and of proceeding the following morning in the stage to Bennington. She is supposed to have arrived safe in Albany, but every place has been searched in vain. The Argus of Wednesday says:—"There are now the worst apprehensions for her fate. There is scarcely a doubt that she has been murdered, or has been abducted and is held in concealment. Mrs. B. was a highly respectable resident of Coeymans; about twenty-three years of age; of good appearance; and had with her about \$50 in money, a gold watch, and a large trunk of clothing.

The Albany Evening Journal hints at the cause of this lady's mysterious disappearance in the following paragraph:

"We have reason to believe that these apprehensions, so far as the life of the lady referred to is concerned, are quite groundless. If, as is

with whom the lady was acquainted, has also disappeared, it is probable that they will ultimately be heard of together."

OFFICIAL INFORMATION.—The Washington Union of Thursday says:—"We understand the War Department has been officially informed of the modification which Major General Gaines has given to his original requisition for militia volunteers from the governor of Louisiana. He has called for two companies of artillery, to be immediately mustered into the service of the U. States, and to be despatched to the army of Gen. Taylor. He has also requested the governor of Louisiana to have four regiments of infantry and riflemen to be organized, and to hold themselves ready for immediate service."

THE MEXICAN LOAN.—The New Orleans Commercial Bulletin says:—"We were in error in stating the propositions of the Mexican Secretary of the Treasury, Senor Luis de la Rosa, to the Chambers, to be for fifteen millions of dollars. It should have been for an *effective* loan of fifteen millions—to accomplish which, on the stringent terms that Government will be obliged to submit to, will cost it at least from 45 to 5 millions of dollars, on the hypothesis of the

FIRE.—A fire broke out in the carpenter shop of Messrs. Ferguson & Hones, Wilmington, N. C., on the 25th inst., and widely destroyed it, together with the house of Mr. V. W. Hewlett, the lower story of which was occupied by Mr. J. M. Cavaza, as a grocery. A tinement and bakery, occupied by Mr. J. A. Saints, were also materially damaged. The total loss was estimated at \$8 000. Mr. Daniel Wood fell from a ladder during the fire and was very badly injured, though not dangerously.

STEAMSHIP GREAT BRITAIN.—This monster steamer, we learn from the New York papers, continues to be thronged with visitors. Since her opening to the public, nearly twenty thousand persons have visited her, or over twelve hundred daily. The receipts have been over six thousand dollars. She sails to-day. Thirty-five passengers have already entered their names, and the list will probably be considerably increased.

THE CROPS.—We learn from the Richmond Whig that the recent moist and warm weather

all kinds. It stays the tobacco is, in very many cases, the largest ever known or seen, and by its unusual size will bring up the crop to an approach to average far beyond anticipation. There will be plenty of corn not plenty in every neighborhood, but magnificent plenty in the collective State.

THE TREE SPIRIT.—Six hundred Irishmen in New Orleans, assembled in public meeting on the demand for troops, and with the greatest enthusiasm declared their readiness to earn themselves for the defence of their adopted country. The German Yagers also volunteered to a man. Indeed, the enthusiasm of the citizens of foreign birth was not a whit less than the true native feeling manifested on this occasion.

A LITRARY LUFFER.—A burglar who entered a house in Albany, a few nights since, left behind him a bunch of matches and the following note, written in a very good hand:—
"I had had a chisel, your eviler would have got me first, or in other words, in the cruelest way to break. I have taken a lesson. This was my last crack. Don't offer a reward!"

DOCTOR P. R.—By the arrival at Philadelphia of "The Liberator," containing the following notice:—

Have dates from the above port to the 13th of August, inclusive. The Caroline has brought away from Ponce the last cargo of Muscovado Sugar that had been left there, at 10c as ruling from 3 7/8 a 4 cents. Mola-s-s-lute left, and but little doing