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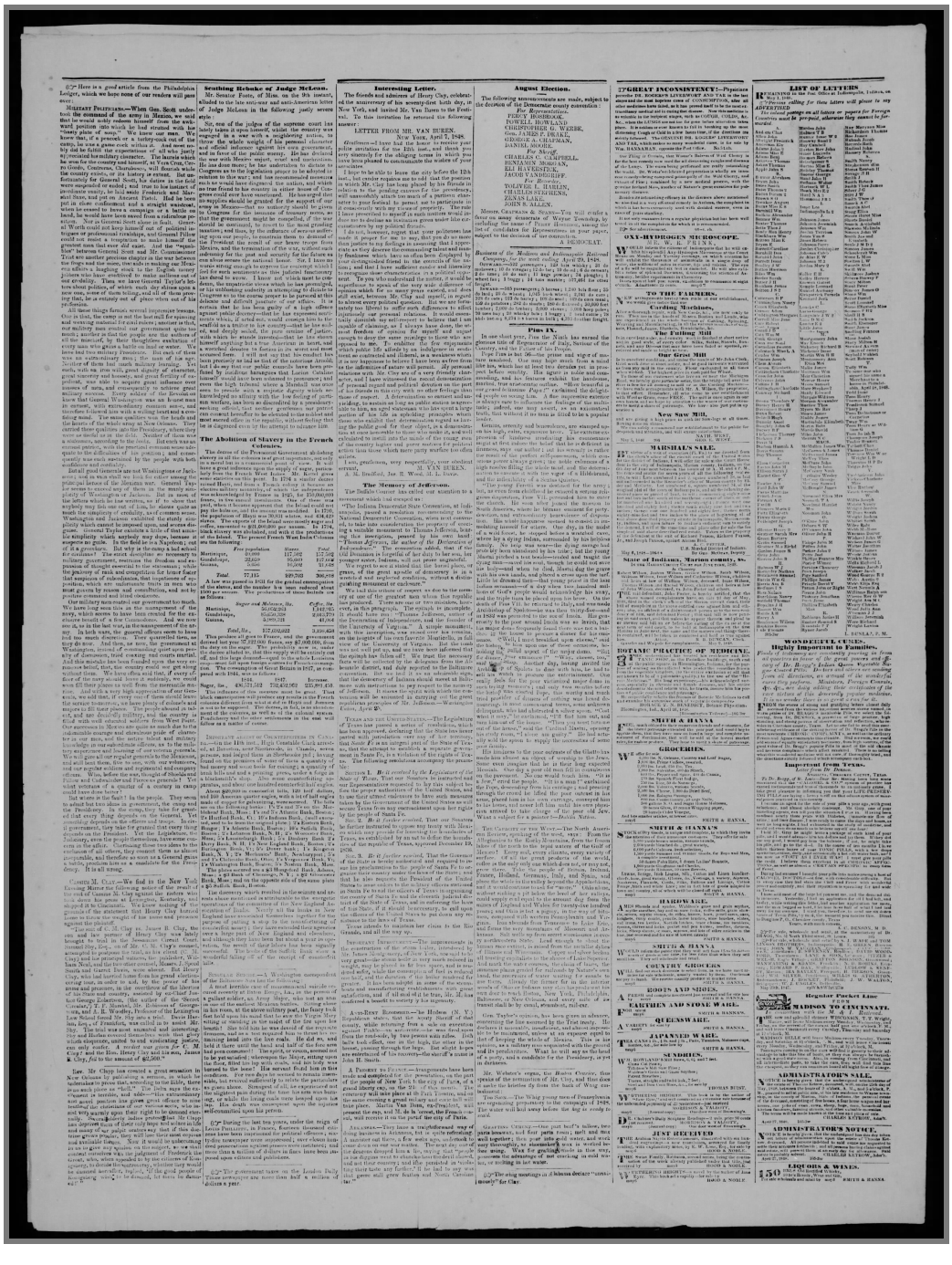

☞ Here is a good article from the Philadelphia Ledger, which we have room of our readers will pass over:

MILITARY PRETENSIONS.—When Gen. Scott undertook the command of the army in Mexico, we said that he would richly redeem himself from the ridicule with which he had strained with his "ninety pints of soup." We knew our man. We knew that, if a peacock or a turkey-cock out of the camp, he was a game cock within it. And most nobly did he fulfill the expectations of all who justly appreciated his military character. The laurels which he won for the country and himself, at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Chabuseo, will flourish while the country exists, or its history is extant. But unfortunately for the South, his claims to the field were suggested by no sectional feeling, and true to his instinct of impulsive nature, he hailed as a countryman, not a rival State, and put on Ancient Pistol. Had he been put in close confinement and a straight waistcoat, when he ceased to have a campaign or a battle on hand, he would have been saved from a ridiculous position. Nor is General Scott alone in fault. General Worth could not keep himself out of political intrigues or professional rivalships, and General Pillow could not resist a temptation to make himself the greatest man that ever did exist. And the "squabbles" between General Scott and Mr. Commissioner Trist are another precious chapter in the war between the flags and the sexes, the sexes in making our Mexican wars having been left to the fairer sex, the ladies, who have long tried to make their mark for general notability. Then we have had the generals of letters about politics, of which each day affords a specimen new, some of them telling, and all of them proving that, as a calamity out of place when out of his profession.

All these things furnish several impressive lessons. One is that, the camp is not the best mill for spinning and weaving material for civil services; another is that, our military men control our government quite too much; another is that the people are the authors of all the mischief, by their thoughtless exaltation of every man who gains a battle on land or water. We have had too military Presidents. But each of them was a man of civil education, and each of them in the course of them had such military training. Yet such, with no iron will, great dignity of character, great sincerity and honesty, and great fertility of expedient, was safer to acquire great influence over masses of men, and consequently to achieve great military success. Every soldier of the Revolution knew that General Washington was an honest man in earnest, with extraordinary common sense, and therefore followed him with a ruling instead a controlling hand. The same qualities won the hands and the hearts of the whole army at New Orleans. They carried these qualities into the Presidency, where they were exercised in the same way. Each of them was a statesman, according to the times. Indeed it was an utmost paradox, with the exception of Washington, equal to the difficulties of his position; and consequently was each sustained by the people with both confidence and confidence.

Install good generals are not Washingtons or Jacksons; and as we shall see less for either among the principal factors of the Mexican war. General Taylor seems to exceed any of them in the steady simplicity of Washington or Jackson. But in most of the letters which he has written, as if to show that anybody may fish out of him, he shows quite as much the simplicity of credulity, and common sense Washington and Jackson exhibited the stately simplicity of dignity, and common sense. Taylor's despatches, General Taylor exhibits a little of that same lie simplicity which anybody may draw, because it suspects no guile. In the field or in a Napoleon; out of it a greenhorn. But why is the camp a bad school for civilians? The exact discipline so necessary to military government, restrains the freedom and expression of thought essential to the statesman; while the jealousy of rank and competition for honor favor that suppress all subordination, that impatience of supposition, which are unfortunate traits in men who must govern by reason and constitution, and not by positive command and blind obedience.

Our military men control our government too much. We have long seen this in the management of the Army. We have seen it in the management of the Navy. We have seen it in the management of the army. In both wars, the general officers seem to have had too much discretion. Torn quarrelled them, as they do now. And then, as now, the government at Washington, instead of commanding quiet upon propriety of movement, tried coaxing and courts martial. And this mistake has been founded upon the very experience behind, that this country could not get along without them. We have often said that, if every officer of the navy could leave it suddenly, we could soon fill their places as well from the mercantile marine, and with a very high degree of efficiency, and with a very high degree of efficiency, and with a very high degree of efficiency