

# MILITARY

**Arrival of Government Courier from the Gila.**—The Government Courier from the Gila reached here on the 14th inst., four days from Camp Yuma, bringing dispatches for the Commanding General of the Division and the mail for the Atlantic States. By this arrival, we have advices as late as the morning of the 10th. The route over the Desert is daily becoming worse, owing to the scarcity of water and grass, and as a consequence, much suffering will be endured by the train of animals now employed on the road. The transport schooner, *Sierra Nevada*, is moored in the Colorado, at a point distant seventy miles from Camp Yuma. The contractors are indefatigable in their exertions to supply the post from the vessel, but owing to a loss (previously reported in this paper) of one of their flatboats, they fail to meet, to any great extent, the want of the troops. A thorough examination of the river has been made, and all parties are satisfied that it can be safely navigated by small steamers, such as are used on the Ohio—a fact of no small importance, inasmuch as it demonstrates a problem hitherto wanting solution, that a line of posts can now be established upon the Gila, with a certainty of being supplied with facility, and that prompt and satisfactory to the success of all military operations, and will secure to us an easy transit of travel, over a route but for Indian depredations, would be considered by every body as the most feasible of the numerous land routes leading from the old States to our favored country. We congratulate our citizens on the prospect before us, and if no other result had attended the recent campaign on the Gila, the money necessary for its outfit would have been well and satisfactorily expended. Major Heintzelman, with that energy and promptness that has ever attended his command, has been active in the pursuit of the Indians, and they have received a lesson that will long be remembered on the Gila. Their fields have been destroyed and they themselves been driven to the mountains. We

have been meeting with and overcoming a large party of the enemy, who had retreated to the mountains. Thus ends the first campaign on the Gila, and had we time and room before going to press, we would dwell at length upon particulars, which, for the want of both, we must defer until next week.

la. Their fields have been destroyed and they themselves been driven to the mountains. We alluded, in our last, to an action that was fought by a small portion of the troops under the command of Major Fitzgerald, 1st Dragoons. We have been favored with some of the particulars, and hasten to announce them, inasmuch as they reflect great credit upon the few men engaged, who were new to the field, and for the most part unaccustomed to the use of fire-arms before an enemy.

The Indians, in overwhelming numbers, armed with rifles, escopettes, pistols and arrows, twice charged the little band, who, without shelter, received their fire at close quarters, and returned it with well delivered volleys that forced back their enemies in confusion. Pasqual, the celebrated chief of the Yumas, was killed, within 25 or 30 yards of our line of skirmishers, evincing the utmost bravery, as indeed did all his men, who made every effort to close in on Fitzgerald's small force, in order to end the fight with their clubs. Assistant Surgeon Griffin and Mr. Thomas Tuglimer, armed with double barreled shot guns loaded with buck, are said to have been of great assistance. Their coolness and bravery was only excelled by the accuracy of their aim, which was unerring. We may congratulate themselves upon having rendered important service. Capt. Steele, Adjutant 2d infantry, a volunteer for the campaign, it is useless to say, evinced his usual courage, good judgment and professional knowledge, all of which renders him an ornament to any regiment.

The following order explains the object of the movements up the Gila:

HEAD QUARTERS SOUTHERN DISTRICT,  
Camp Yuma, Colorado River,  
March 27th, 1852.

ORDER No. — An expedition against the Yumas will be fitted out at this Post to-day, and will march as soon as practicable, by detachments, as follows:

1st Detachment—2 officers and 40 men, commanded by Capt. and Brev. Maj. Fitzgerald, 1st Dragoons.

2nd Detachment—2 officers and 40 men, commanded by Capt. D. Davidson, 2d infantry.

3d Detachment—2 officers and 40 men, commanded by 1st Lieut. and Brev. Capt. F. Steele, 2d infantry.

II — The first and second detachments will cross at the junction, and proceed to scour

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II.—The first and second detachments will cross at the junction, and proceed to scour the country up between the rivers. They will act separately or in concert, as may be deemed expedient by Major Fitzgerald. The 3d detachment will march up the right bank of the Colorado, and will so time its movements as to intercept any parties of Indians that may be driven across the river by the other detachments.

III.—The officers commanding detachments will return for six or seven days provisions, regulating the limit by the amount of transportation that can be furnished by the Q. M. D. By order of Major Hamnreiman.

FRED STERLE, 1st Lt. and Bvt.  
Capt. 2d Infantry, Adj't Gen'l.

Capt. Steele, on this expedition, was fetu-

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