

## **Texas Navy Association**

## **Historical Article**



## ARMY AND NAVY CHRONICLE.

Edited and Published by B. Homans, at \$5 a year, payable in advance.

Vol. IX .- No. 20.] WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1839. [Whole No. 254.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Commercial Advertiser. GALVESTON, (TEXAS,) Oct. 21.—I arrived here in the (now) government brig Brazos, from Baltimore, having had a passage of 19 days from the Capes.

The brig is one of the most beautiful specimens of naval architecture I ever saw. She is 405 tons burthen, 113 feet on deck, and is pierced for 18 guns; the weight of metal is medium 18s.; her sailing is far above mediocrity, having repeatedly gone 12 and 13 knots. But a farther description of her is unnecessary, as it is more than probable she will visit your city

early in December.

There are now lying in this harbor five vessels of war, viz. brigs Brazos and Potomac, schrs. St. Bernard and St. Antonio, and steamer Zavalla. The station is at present under command of Capt. A. C. Hinton. The San Jacinto departed hence two or three weeks since, under command of Capt. Lothrop. Her destination is not known, having gone to sea with sealed orders. It is generally supposed, however, that she is cruizing on the coast. These, together with the sloop of war Trinity, and the brig of war Colorado, (the latter of the same size as the Brazos,) now building at Baltimore, will constitute a very respectable navy. The navy yard, which, by the bye, they talk of removing to the island of St. Louis, is in command of Lieut. Kennedy, late a midshipman in the United States service, and a son of Commodore Kennedy, with whose name you are undoubtedly familiar. He was one of my fellow passengers, and found his orders awaiting his arrival. Commodore Moore arrived here on the last trip but one of the Columbia, (30th Sept.) and the next day proceeded to the city of Austin, the new seat of government. His return is hourly expected and anxiously looked for by every officer in the navy. It is presumed he will hoist his broad pennant on board the Brazos immediately on his arrival. As to the state of the country, I am at present unable to speak with justice, as my residence has been so short that I have not been able to make myself acquainted with its appearance or prospects. Nevertheless, I do know that it is advancing rapidly, and its wealth is continually on the increase. As an instance I will mention the city of Galveston, which, two years and a half ago, had but one house in it, and now its population is nearly four thousand; and again, the city of Austin, which was nearly, if not quite, a wilderness six months ago, now contains about two thousand inhabitants. This I think is sufficient justification for making the assertion. The steamer New York is expected to arrive here in all this week, and the Neptune the week ensuing.

Of the yellow fever I know but little. It undoubt-

edly prevailed to a very limited extent. Its intro-

duction was owing entirely to the neglect of the public authorities, in not making and carrying into exe-cution quarantine laws. That unfortunate oversight, however, will be remedied in future. It had entirely disappeared (if it ever existed,) within the last week, and general good health is now restored. Dr. Forrest, the most eminent resident physician of this place, most firmly and unequivocally denies that such an epidemic ever existed. Dr. F. is a gentleman in whose word the utmost reliance and confidence may be placed, and he, a moment since, informed me, in person, that "out of a population of between thirty-five hundred and four thousand, there was, comparatively speaking, but very little sickness of any kind."