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Zachary Taylor, Genl
U.S. Army

1847



THE LIFE OF
See Catalogue Record
GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR.

AND A HISTORY OF
1847-1848
THE WAR IN MEXICO,
1847-1848
GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF THE
BATTLES OF PALO ALTO, RESACA DE LA PALMA,
MONTEREY, AND BUENA VISTA.

WITH SKETCHES OF THE
LIVES OF RINGGOLD, MAY, YELL, M'KEE, HARDY,
HENRY CLAY, JR., AND OTHERS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A
Portrait of General Taylor,
AND
VIEWS OF THE BATTLES.

NEW YORK:
WM. H. GRAHAM, TRIBUNE BUILDINGS.
PAR
1847.



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THE LIFE OF  
GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR,  
AND A HISTORY OF  
THE WAR IN MEXICO.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE WAR—  
EARLY LIFE OF GENERAL TAYLOR—HIS  
APPOINTMENT TO THE ARMY—PROMOTED  
TO THE RANK OF CAPTAIN—DEFENCE OF  
FORT HARRISON—PROMOTED TO THE  
RANK OF MAJOR.

THE war of the United States with Mexico is an event which will mark an epoch in the history of America. Stealing upon us with a silent tread—appearing, at first, as but a sudden outbreak of border-arms, that after a few transient skirmishes might subside into order—it has called into action the chief military resources of the two most powerful nations of the New World—has developed the skill and vigor of American character in a series of the most successful military achievements of modern times—has shed a halo of undying glory on American arms, and has given to the world new assurances of the advancing greatness of the American Anglo-Saxon race. This war forms an era which will become memorable as the first great movement of this people towards the fulfilment of that destiny which has assigned to them the future possession and occupation of the entire North American continent. Resulting, as it must, in the acquisition of new territory, and the infusion of an American population into Mexican society, it will be marked as the starting point of that territorial development which is destined to

overgrow the whole continent, and form the basis of a future American nation—its blood improved by the inter-commingling of the various races of earth—and itself the most populous, powerful, learned, active, free, and happy, the sun shall ever have beheld in its course.

This war, which has cast such a brilliant lustre on our arms, and rendered more conspicuous to the eyes of nations the growing power of our country, has also been distinguished in a peculiar manner by its instrumentality in bringing before the world one of the remarkable men and successful military heroes of the age. Revolutions, wars, and all eventful periods, have ever been fruitful in the production of great and eminent men. Such, in a prominent degree, has been the result of our war with Mexico. The successful prowess of our armies, contending against forces so immeasurably superior in point of numbers, has excited gratified surprise at home, and general alarm among the nations of Europe; while the gallant conduct, the cool bravery, the wisdom, the clemency, modesty, and moderation of him who has led our hosts to victory on the fields of PALO ALTO, RESACA DE LA PALMA, MONTEREY, and BUENA VISTA, have commanded the admiration of the whole world, and have rendered illustrious the name of

GENERAL ZACHARY TAYLOR.

GENERAL TAYLOR was born in Orange county, Virginia, in the year 1790, and is

consequently now fifty-seven years of age. The American branch of the family from which he sprang originated with JAMES TAYLOR, who emigrated to this country from England in the year 1692, and settled in the eastern part of Virginia. It is a singular fact that the eldest sons in a lineal descent have uniformly borne the name of James from this ancestor to the present day. General James Taylor, of Newport, Kentucky, who was Quartermaster General in the army at the time of Hull's surrender, and now eighty years of age, is the oldest living of this direct line of eldest sons, not one of whom has died before the father; and his oldest son being named James, who has also a son of the same name, all in good health, the prospect is still fair for the perpetuation of this peculiarity in the descent of the family name.

The collateral branches, springing of course from the younger sons and daughters, have extended to many parts of Virginia, North Carolina, and Kentucky, and in fact all over the Southern States, even into Texas. Many of our most distinguished men have sprung from this family; among others, James Madison, John Taylor of Carolina, author of several well known political works, Judge Pendleton of Virginia, and Gen. Memucan Hunt.

Gen. James Taylor of Newport, who as before stated is now living, and Hubbard and Richard Taylor, younger brothers, emigrated to Kentucky soon after its admission to the Union in 1792.

Col. Richard Taylor, the youngest of these brothers, and the father of Zachary, settled near Louisville, and was distinguished for his bravery and military talents. Many instances are preserved in the traditions of that State of his desperate encounters with the savages, and Governor Scott, who was sometimes a little profane, is reported to have said that "if he had to storm the gates of Hell, he should want Dick Taylor to lead the column!" He was not only noted for his courage, but was a man of some eminence in the political world, having been a presidential elector in Kentucky for many years, voting for Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Clay. He died near Lexington, on the 19th Feb., 1826. The mother of Gen. Taylor was a woman of lofty spirits and educated mind, and distinguished for her many virtues.

At the age of six years Zachary was placed under a private tutor, Mr. Elisha Ayres, who is still living at Preston, Connecticut, and says that he remembers his distinguished pupil as being a very active and sensible boy.

But little is known of the General's youth, but all accounts agree in describing it as one of rare promise for a military man. He showed a predilection for the exercises and accomplishments of the soldier, and as an instance of his bravery and hardihood it is related that when about seventeen years of age he swam from the Kentucky shore across the Ohio river to the Indiana side and back again without resting, in company with an elder brother, long since dead. The feat was performed in the month of March, when the river was swollen and chill, and far surpasses the famous one of swimming the Hellespont, which is about a mile across, and of delightful temperature.

Soon after the affair of the Chesapeake and the Leopard, the excitement against Great Britain had risen to the highest pitch, and everything portending a war with the most powerful kingdom of Europe, in 1808, young Taylor applied for a commission in the Army, and through the influence of his father obtained a Lieutenancy in the seventh Regiment of Infantry of the United States Army.

Before the war broke out in 1812 he had risen to the rank of Captain, and being ordered for service in the western country, he was engaged in repelling the border warfare of the Indians, which immediately succeeded the fall of Detroit and the surrender of Gen. Hull's Army.

Captain Taylor was intrusted with the command of

#### FORT HARRISON,

on the Wabash, having a garrison of about fifty men, and his defence of that post against the Indians was a brilliant affair. Having received information of the approach of the hostile Indians a short time before they made their appearance Captain Taylor used every precaution that the smallness of his garrison would admit of. The first hostile symptoms appeared on the evening of the 3d of September, when two young men, who had been employed a short distance from the fort, were shot and scalped, and

were found in that condition the next morning by a small party that had been sent out to seek them. This circumstance caused them to redouble their vigilance; and the officers of the guard were directed to walk the round all night, in order if possible to prevent any surprize.

About 11 o'clock on the evening of the 4th, the garrison being alarmed by the firing of one of the sentinels, every man instantly flew to his post. In a few minutes the cry of fire added to the alarm; when it was discovered that the lower block-house, in which had been deposited the property of the contractor, had been fired by the Indians. Such was the darkness of the night, that although the upper part of the building was occupied by a corporal's guard as an alarm post, yet the Indians succeeded in firing it undiscovered, and unfortunately, a few minutes after the discovery of the fire, it communicated to a quantity of whiskey that had been deposited there, and immediately ascended to the roof, baffling every effort that was made to extinguish it. As the block-house adjoined the barracks, which constituted part of the fortifications, most of the men gave themselves up for lost; and indeed the raging of the fire, the yells of the Indians, and the cries of the women and children (who had taken refuge in the fort), were sufficient to appal the stoutest heart. Happily the presence of mind of the commander never forsook him. He instantly stationed a part of his men on the roof of the barracks, with orders to tear off that part adjoining the block-house, while the remainder kept up a constant fire on the Indians from another block-house and two bastions. The roof was torn off under a shower of bullets from without, by which, however, only one man was killed and two wounded.

By this success the soldiers were inspired with firmness, and now used such exertions, that before day they had not only extinguished the fire, but raised a breast-work five or six feet high in the gap occasioned by the burning of the block-house, although the Indians continued to pour in a heavy fire of ball and showers of arrows during the whole time the attack lasted (which was seven hours), in every part of the parade.

On the first appearance of the fire, two of the soldiers had, in despair, jumped the pickets. One of them returned about an

hour before day, and running up towards the gate, begged for God's sake that it might be opened. On suspicion that it was an Indian stratagem, he was fired at. He then ran to the other bastion, where, his voice being known, he was directed to lie down till daylight behind an empty barrel that happened to be outside of the pickets. This poor fellow was shockingly wounded, and his companion cut to pieces by the Indians.

After keeping up a constant fire till six in the morning, which after daylight was returned with considerable effect by the garrison, the Indians retreated out of reach of the guns. They then drove together all the horses and hogs in the neighborhood, and shot them in sight of their owners. The whole of the horned cattle they succeeded in carrying off.

In this attack the Americans had but three killed and three wounded, including the two that jumped the pickets. The Indian loss was supposed to be considerable, but as they always carry off both their dead and wounded, the amount could not be ascertained. At the moment of the attack there were only fifteen effective men in the garrison, the others being either sick or convalescent.

The Indians, disheartened by this failure, made no further attempt on the fort, but the garrison still remained in a perilous situation, as the greater part of their provisions had been destroyed by the fire, and the loss of their stock prevented further supplies, until it was soon after relieved by General Hopkins with a force of nearly 4000 men.

The gallant defence of Fort Harrison by Captain Taylor was duly appreciated by President Madison, who immediately promoted the intrepid commander to the rank of Major. During the remainder of the war of 1812 he was actively employed in the western country, but as he had no opportunity of again distinguishing himself in a separate command, we are not able to trace his movements.

After the close of the war of 1812, Major Taylor was employed in the western country at the various posts where the demands of the service required his presence.

## CHAPTER II.

TAYLOR'S STUDIES—PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF COLONEL—ORDERED TO THE FLORIDA WAR—BATTLE OF OKEE CHOBEE—PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF BREVET-BRIGADIER GENERAL, AND TO THE CHIEF COMMAND IN FLORIDA—APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMAND OF THE SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.

A PERIOD of nearly twenty years of peace succeeded the war of 1812, during which the life of Taylor was passed without any events of a military character to attract the attention of the public, or give interest to the biography of a soldier; but afforded the best opportunity to complete many important parts of his military education. Taylor's great eminence in every branch of the military art affords sufficient proof that this period was employed in the most diligent study, as far as the requisitions of the service would permit. And it is equally certain that his reading could not have been confined exclusively to works on the art of war. He read the finest models of English composition; and we see the result in his published despatches, which are all models of style, attracting the unbounded admiration of the first scholars of the age both in Europe and America.

The next event of interest in the career of Taylor occurred during the Black Hawk war of 1832, on which occasion he again distinguished himself, particularly at the battle of the Bad-Axe, when he led the First Infantry. For his important services in this war he was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1832, and was afterwards attached to the Sixth Infantry, which regiment he commanded when he was ordered to the scene of the Florida war in 1836. In this harassing contest no one shone more conspicuously than the gallant Taylor. The science and military skill of superior officers had been foiled by the unseen but deadly shafts of disease, and many a valuable life had fallen a victim to the fatal tomahawk and the death-dealing rifle of the savage. The management of this war required qualities which no science and training can impart. It demanded great sagacity, activity and fertility of resources, as well as the highest

military skill and experience. Taylor was deemed admirably qualified for an important command, and for his well known skill in Indian warfare, acquired during his brilliant career in the North-West territory during the war of 1812, was appointed to the command of the First Brigade of the Army of the South, and it was at the head of this corps that he won the

## BLOODY BATTLE OF OKEE-CHOBEE.

The difficulty experienced by other officers in being unable to bring on a general engagement with the Indians, was overcome by Colonel Taylor, who succeeded in bringing on a general action in December, 1837, at Okee Chobee, which resulted in one of the most brilliant victories of that prolonged contest. This action has nowhere been so well described as in Taylor's own dispatch, which, with the exception of the concluding portion relative to the conduct of the troops under his command, is as follows:—

HEAD-QUARTERS, FIRST BRIGADE,  
ARMY SOUTH OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE. }  
*Fort Gardner, Jan. 4, 1838.*

SIR:—On the 19th ultimo I received at this place a communication from Major-General Jessup, informing me that all hopes of bringing the war to a close by negotiation, through the interference or mediation of the Cherokee delegation, were at an end, Sam Jones, with the Mickasukies, having determined to fight it out to the last; and directing me to proceed with the least possible delay against any portion of the enemy I might hear of within striking distance, and to destroy or capture them.

After leaving two officers and an adequate force for the protection of my depôt, I marched the next morning with twelve days' rations (my means of transportation not enabling me to carry more), with the balance of my command, consisting of Captain Munroe's company of the 4th artillery—total, thirty-five men; the 1st infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Davenport, one hundred and ninety-seven strong; the 4th infantry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, two hundred and seventy-four; the 6th infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, two hundred and twenty-one; the Missouri volunteers, one hundred and

eighty ; Morgan's spies, forty-seven ; pioneers, thirty ; pontoneers, thirteen ; and seventy Delaware Indians ; making a force, exclusive of officers, of 1032 men ; the greater part of the Shawnees having been detached, and the balance refusing to accompany me, under the pretext that a number of them were sick, and the remainder were without moccasins.

I moved down the west side of the Kissimmee, in a south-easterly course, towards Lake Istopoga, for the following reasons : First, because I knew that a portion of the hostiles were to be found in that direction ; second, if General Jessup should fall in with the Mickasukies and drive them, they might attempt to elude him by crossing the Kissimmee from the east to the west side of the peninsula, between this and its entrance into Okee Chobee, in which case I might be near at hand to intercept them : third, to overawe and induce such of the enemy who had been making propositions to give themselves up, and who appeared very slow, if not to hesitate, in complying with their promises on that head, to surrender at once ; and lastly, I deemed it advisable to erect block-houses, and a small picket-work on the Kissimmee, for a third depôt, some forty or fifty miles below this, and obtain a knowledge of the intervening country, as I had no guide who could be relied on, and by this means open a communication with Colonel Smith, who was operating up the Caloosatchee, or Sanybel River, under my orders.

Late in the evening of the first day's march, I met the Indian chief, Jumper, with his family, and a part of his band, consisting of fifteen men, a part of them with families, and a few negroes—in all, sixty-three souls—on his way to give himself up, in conformity to a previous arrangement I had entered into with him. They were conducted by Captain Parks and a few Shawnees. He (Parks) is an active and intelligent half-breed, who is at the head of the friendly Indians, both Shawnees and Delawares, and whom I had employed to arrange and bring in Jumper, and as many of his people as he could prevail on to come in. We encamped that night near the same spot ; and the next morning, having ordered Captain Parks to join me, and take command of the Delawares, and having despatched Jumper in

charge of some Shawnees to this place, and so on to Fort Frazer, I continued my march, after having sent forward three friendly Seminoles to gain intelligence as to the position of the enemy.

About noon on the same day, I sent forward one battalion of Gentry's regiment under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Price, to pick up any stragglers that might fall in his way ; to encamp two or three miles in advance of the main force ; to act with great circumspection, and to communicate promptly any occurrence that might take place in his vicinity important for me to know. About 10 P. M., I received a note from Lieutenant-Colonel Price, stating that the three Seminoles sent forward in the morning had returned ; that they had been at or where Alligator had encamped, twelve or fifteen miles in his advance ; that he (Alligator) had left there with a part of his family four days before, under the pretext of separating his relations, &c., from the Mickasukies, preparatory to his surrendering with them ; that there were several families remaining at the camp referred to, who wished to give themselves up, and would remain there until we took possession of them, unless they were forcibly carried off that night by the Mickasukies, who were encamped at no great distance from them.

In consequence of this intelligence, after directing Lieutenant-Colonel Davenport to follow me early in the morning with the infantry, a little after midnight I put myself at the head of the residue of the mounted men, joined Lieutenant-Colonel Price, proceeded on, crossing Istopoga outlet, and soon after daylight took possession of the encampment referred to, where I found the inmates, who had not been disturbed. They consisted of an old man and two young ones, and several women and children, amounting in all to twenty-two individuals. The old man informed me that Alligator was very anxious to separate his people from the Mickasukies, who were encamped on the opposite side of the Kissimmee, distant about twenty miles, where they would fight us. I sent him to Alligator, to say to him, if he was sincere in his professions, to meet me the next day at the Kissimmee, where the trail I was marching on crossed, and where I should halt.

As soon as the infantry came up, I

moved on to the place designated, which I reached late that evening, and where I encamped. About 11 P. M. the old Indian returned, bringing a very equivocal message from Alligator, whom, he stated, he had met accidentally. Also, that the Mickasukies were still encamped where they had been for some days, and where they were determined to fight us.

I determined at once on indulging them as soon as practicable. Accordingly, the next morning, after laying out a small stockade work for the protection of a future depôt, in order to enable me to move with the greatest celerity, I deposited the whole of my heavy baggage, including artillery, &c., and having provisioned the command, to include the 26th, after leaving Captain Munroe with his company, the pioneers, pontooners, with eighty-five sick and disabled infantry, and a portion of the friendly Indians, who alleged that they were unable to march further, crossed the Kissimmee, taking the old Indian as a guide who had been captured the day before, and who accompanied us with great apparent reluctance in pursuit of the enemy, and early the next day reached Alligator's encampment, situated on the edge of Cabbage-tree hammock, in the midst of a large prairie; from the appearance of which, and other encampments in the vicinity, and the many evidences of slaughtered cattle, there must have been several hundred individuals.

At another small hammock at no great distance from Alligator's encampment and surrounded by a swamp, impassable for mounted men, the spies surprised an encampment containing one old man, four young men, and some women and children. One of the party immediately raised a white flag, when the men were taken possession of and brought across the swamp to the main body. I proceeded with an interpreter to meet them. They proved to be Seminoles, and professed to be friends. They stated that they were preparing to come in; they had just slaughtered a number of cattle, and were employed in drying and jerking the same. They also informed me that the Mickasukies, headed by A-vi-a-ka (Sam Jones), were some ten or twelve miles distant, encamped in a swamp, and were prepared to fight.

Although I placed but little confidence in their professions of friendship, or their intention of coming in, yet I had no time to look up their women and children, who

had fled and concealed themselves in the swamp, or to have encumbered myself with them in the situation I then was.

Accordingly, I released the old man, who promised that he would collect all the women and children, and take them in to Captain Munroe, at the Kissimmee, the next day. I also dismissed the old man who had acted as guide thus far, supplying his place with the four able warriors who had been captured that morning.

These arrangements being made, I moved under their guidance for the camp of the Mickasukies. Between two and three P. M., we reached a very dense cypress swamp, through which we were compelled to pass, and in which our guides informed us we might be attacked. After making the necessary dispositions for battle, it was ascertained that there was no enemy to oppose us. The army crossed over and encamped for the night, it being late. During the passage of the rear, Captain Parks, who was in advance with a few friendly Indians, fell in with two of the enemy's spies, within two or three miles of our camp—one on horseback, the other on foot—and succeeded in capturing the latter. He was an active young warrior, armed with an excellent rifle, fifty balls in his pouch, and an adequate proportion of powder. This Indian confirmed the information which had previously been received from the other Indians, and in addition, stated that a large body of the Seminoles, headed by John Cahua, Co-a coo-chee, and, no doubt, Alligator, with other chiefs, were encamped five or six miles from us, near the Mickasukies, with a cypress swamp and dense hammock between them and the latter.

The army moved forward at daylight the next morning, and, after marching five or six miles, reached the camp of the Seminoles on the borders of another cypress swamp, which must have contained several hundred, and bore evident traces of having been abandoned in a great hurry, as the fires were still burning, and quantities of beef lying on the ground unconsumed.

Here the troops were again disposed of in order of battle, but we found no enemy to oppose us, and the command was crossed over about 11, A. M., when we entered a large prairie in our front, on which two or three hundred head of cattle were grazing, and a number of Indian ponies.

Here another young Indian warrior was captured, armed and equipped as the former. He pointed out a dense hammock on our right, about a mile distant, in which he said the hostiles were situated and waiting to give us battle.

At this place the final disposition was made to attack them, which was in two lines; the volunteers under Gentry, and Morgan's spies, to form the first line in extended order, who were instructed to enter the hammock, and, in the event of being attacked and hard pressed, were to fall back in rear of the regular troops, out of reach of the enemy's fire; the second line was composed of the 4th and 6th infantry, who were instructed to sustain the volunteers, the 1st infantry being held in reserve.

Moving on in the direction of the hammock, after proceeding about a quarter of a mile, we reached the swamp which separated us from the enemy, three quarters of a mile in breadth, being totally impassable for horse, and nearly so for foot, covered with a thick growth of saw-grass five feet high, about knee-deep in mud and water, which extended to the left as far as the eye could reach, and to the right to a part of the swamp and hammock we had just crossed, through which ran a deep creek. At the edge of the swamp all the men were dismounted, and the horses and baggage left under a suitable guard. Captain Allen was detached with the two companies of mounted infantry to examine the swamp and hammock to the right; and, in case he should not find the enemy in that direction, was to return to the baggage, and, in the event of his hearing a heavy fire, was immediately to join me.

After making these arrangements, I crossed the swamp in the order stated. On reaching the borders of the hammock, the volunteers and spies received a heavy fire from the enemy, which was returned by them for a short time, when their gallant commander, Colonel Gentry, fell, mortally wounded. They mostly broke, and instead of forming in the rear of the regulars, as had been directed, they retired across the swamp to their baggage and horses, nor could they be again brought into action as a body, although efforts were made repeatedly by my staff to induce them to do so.

The enemy, however, were promptly

checked and driven back by the 4th and 6th infantry, which in truth might be said to be a moving battery. The weight of the enemy's fire was principally concentrated on five companies of the 6th infantry, which not only stood firm, but continued to advance until their gallant commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson, and his adjutant, Lieutenant Center, were killed; and every officer, with one exception, as well as most of the non-commissioned officers, including the sergeant-major and four of the orderly sergeants, killed and wounded of those companies, when that portion of the regiment retired to a short distance and were again formed, one of these companies having but four members left untouched.

Lieutenant-Colonel Foster, with six companies, amounting in all to one hundred and sixty men, gained the hammock in good order, where he was joined by Captain Noel, with the two remaining companies of the 6th infantry, and Captain Gillam, of Gentry's volunteers, with a few additional men, and continued to drive the enemy for a considerable time, and by a change of front separated his line, and continued to drive him until he reached the great lake Okee Chobee, which was in the rear of the enemy's position, and on which their encampment extended for more than a mile. As soon as I was informed that Captain Allen was advancing, I ordered the first infantry to move to the left, gain the enemy's right flank and turn it, which order was executed in the promptest manner possible; and as soon as that regiment got in position, the enemy gave one fire and retreated, being pursued by the 1st, 4th, and 6th, and some of the volunteers who had joined them, until near night, and until these troops were nearly exhausted and the enemy driven in all directions.

The action was a severe one, and continued from half-past twelve until after three, P. M., a part of the time very close and severe. We suffered much, having twenty-six killed and one hundred and twelve wounded, among whom are some of our most valuable officers. The hostiles probably suffered, all things considered, equally with ourselves, they having left ten dead on the ground, besides, doubtless, carrying off many more, as is customary with them when practicable.

As soon as the enemy were completely

broken, I turned my attention to taking care of the wounded, to facilitate their removal to my baggage, where I ordered an encampment to be formed; I directed Captain Taylor to cross over to the spot, and employ every individual whom he might find there in constructing a small footway across the swamp; this, with great exertions, was completed in a short time after dark, when all the dead and wounded were carried over in litters made for that purpose, with one exception, a private of the 4th infantry, who was killed and could not be found.

And here, I trust, I may be permitted to say that I experienced one of the most trying scenes of my life, and he who could have looked on it with indifference, his nerves must have been very differently organized from my own; besides the killed, there lay one hundred and twelve wounded officers and soldiers, who had accompanied me one hundred and forty-five miles, most of the way through an unexplored wilderness, without guides, who had so gallantly beaten the enemy, under my orders, in his strongest position, and who had to be conveyed back through swamps and hammocks, from whence we set out, without any apparent means of doing so. This service, however, was encountered and overcome, and they have been conveyed thus far, and proceeded on to Tampa Bay, on rude litters, constructed with the axe and knife alone, with poles and dry hides—the latter being found in great abundance at the encampment of the hostiles. The litters were conveyed on the backs of our weak and tottering horses, aided by the residue of the command, with more ease and comfort to the sufferers than I could have supposed, and with as much as they could have been in ambulances of the most improved and modern construction.

The day after the battle we remained at our encampment, occupied in taking care of the wounded, and in the sad office of interring the dead; also, in preparing litters for the removal of the wounded, and collecting with a portion of the mounted men the horses and cattle in the vicinity belonging to the enemy, of which we found about one hundred of the former, many of them saddled, and nearly three hundred of the latter.

We left our encampment on the morning of the 27th for the Kissimmee, where

I had left my heavy baggage, which place we reached about noon on the 28th, after leaving two companies and a few Indians to garrison the stockade, which I found nearly completed on my return, by that active and vigilant officer, Captain Munroe, 4th artillery. I left there the next morning for this place, where I arrived on the 31st, and sent forward the wounded next day to Tampa Bay, with the 4th and 6th infantry, the former to halt at Fort Frazer, remaining here myself with the 1st, in order to make preparations to take the field again as soon as my horses can be recruited, most of which have been sent to Tampa, and my supplies in a sufficient state of forwardness to justify the measure.

\* \* \* \* \*

With great respect,

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR, Col. Com'g.

To Brig. Gen. R. JONES, Adj. Gen., U.S.A., }  
Washington, D. C. }

Col. Taylor evinced the same determined bravery and resolution to conquer in this battle, that has since distinguished him in the more important contests with Mexico, and he won the day at an expense of 120 killed and wounded; almost one-fourth of his whole force. Colonel Thompson of the Sixth Infantry, and Colonel Gentry of Missouri volunteers, fell fighting bravely at the head of their troops. Captain Van Sweasingen, and Lieutenants Broke and Carter, also fell.

During the whole engagement General Taylor remained on horseback, passing from point to point, cheering his men, and exposed to the Indian rifle every moment.

Colonel Taylor's conduct in this battle was highly appreciated by the government, and was warmly commended by Mr. Poinsett, the Secretary of War, in his Report to Congress, and he was immediately promoted to the brevet rank of Brigadier General, which he held at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. At the same time he was given the chief command in Florida, the duties of which arduous post he performed with honor until 1840, when he resigned, and was ordered to the command of the First Department of the Southern Division of the army, including the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, with his head quarters at Fort Jessup, in Louisiana. His appointment to this com-



mand led to his being subsequently placed at the head of the "Army of Occupation," in which position he has achieved the highest military glory, and has displayed those high qualities of wisdom and virtue, which have commanded the admiration of the world, and have taken so strong a hold on the affections of his countrymen that they are already, without distinction of party, hailing him as the future President of the United States.

### CHAPTER III.

ANTECEDENTS OF THE MEXICAN WAR—GEN. TAYLOR ORDERED TO TEXAS—THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION—HIS ARRIVAL ON THE RIO GRANDE—CORRESPONDENCE WITH AMPUDIA—WARLIKE PREPARATIONS.

A DISCUSSION of the causes that led to the war with Mexico would be foreign to the purposes of this work, yet a brief relation of the more important events that were antecedents to the commencement of hostilities is demanded in a record of the history of this war.

Congress passed a joint resolution in March, 1845, for the admission of Texas as a State of this Republic, and Texas, through her State Convention, accepted the terms of annexation, proffered in the resolution of Congress, on the 4th of July, in the same year. Texas was, at this time, regarded by our Government as an independent nation, being no more subject to the authority of Mexico than to that of England or of Russia. Each party deemed itself competent to negotiate with the other, and to fulfil terms of annexation; and held itself under no obligations either of national law or of diplomatic etiquette to consult the wishes of Mexico or any other foreign power. Texas had for ten years maintained an independent government, which had been acknowledged by the United States and the principal European Powers, and since the battle of San Jacinto in April, 1836, had been, as far as she herself was concerned, in a state of actual peace with Mexico.

On the other hand, Mexico claimed Texas as a department of her Government and as much subject to her authority as the departments of Tamaulipas or Vera

Cruz. What Texas, with the claim of right, had for ten years maintained, and other Powers had acknowledged as Independence, Mexico regarded as unauthorized rebellion. Accordingly the Mexican government had, since the disastrous battle of San Jacinto, continually been on the eve of fitting out a military expedition to reduce her rebellious province to obedience. The project of annexation, which had been much talked of previous to its consummation, had naturally aroused the pride of the Mexican people, and enkindled anew the zeal for the Texan crusade. Santa Anna, who did not second this zeal to the satisfaction of his countrymen, and who was accused of supineness or treachery in the matter of Texas, was deposed from the office of President by the army, and apparently by the people of Mexico, and General Herrera who was installed in his place immediately set about preparations for the re-conquest of Texas. This was in December 1844. The Mexican Minister at Washington, General Almonte, on the 6th of March, 1845, immediately after the resolution of Congress proposing terms for the annexation of Texas had been signed by the President, protested against this measure as "an act of aggression, the most unjust that can be found recorded in the annals of modern history; namely, that of despoiling a friendly nation, like Mexico, of a considerable portion of her territory;" and protesting against the resolution of annexation, as being an act "whereby the province of Texas, an integral portion of the Mexican territory, is agreed and admitted into the American Union;" and he announced that, as a consequence, his mission to the United States had terminated, and demanded his passports, which were granted.

Previously to this, our Minister at Mexico, Mr. Shannon, having failed in the attempt to settle our difficulties with Mexico in regard to our claims for indemnity for commercial losses, and to obtain a treaty which should secure the continuance of peace and the settlement of boundaries in the event of the annexation of Texas, had returned home.

The preparations for a warlike demonstration on Texas continuing in Mexico, the President deemed the threatened nation as virtually placed under the protection of the United States while the terms of annexation were under consideration.

In consequence of these views, and this state of things, General Taylor, who had been stationed at Fort Jessup, Louisiana—since his departure from Florida, was, on the 27th of May, 1845, ordered to place the forces, under his command, in such place and position as might enable him to act most promptly and efficiently in defence of Texas, but not to enter the territory of that republic. On the 15th of June following, he received another order, informing him that on the 4th of July the Convention of Texas would probably accept the proposition of annexation, and in anticipation of that event instructing him to move to the mouth of the Sabine, or such other point on the Gulf of Mexico as he might deem most convenient for the future embarkation for the western frontier of Texas. In this dispatch Mr. Bancroft, then acting Secretary of War, uses the following language: "The point of your ultimate destination is the western frontier of Texas, where you will select and occupy, on or near the Rio Grande del Norte, such a site as will consist with the health of the troops, and will be best adapted to repel invasion, and to protect what, in the event of annexation, will be our western border. You will limit yourself to the defence of the territory of Texas, unless Mexico shall declare war against the United States."

The threats of the Mexican Government becoming more imposing as the project of annexation advanced, the Convention of Texas on the 4th of July accepted the terms of annexation, and the Congress requested that a military force should be sent by the United States into her territory for the purpose of protecting and defending her against the threatened invasion. General Taylor was accordingly ordered immediately into Texas, by our Texan Minister, Mr. Donaldson, who had previously received instructions to this effect. He immediately left New Orleans, where he then was, with a portion of his troops, arrived at St. Joseph's Island (Aransas Inlet) July 25th, and in August established his quarters at Corpus Christi, on the west side of the river Nueces, near its mouth, where he organized that force, which has since rendered itself illustrious under the name of

#### THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

General Taylor and his army remained

in this unpleasant position for about six months awaiting the movements of the Mexicans, and the result of an attempt to renew negotiations between the two countries. Herrera not having been so active as was anticipated, in the fulfilment of his avowed purpose to regain Texas, the President of the United States, in the hope that an opportunity for negotiation had arrived, on the 15th of September, caused a dispatch to be sent to our Consul, instructing him to make the inquiry of the Mexican Government, and an answer was received on the 15th of October favorable to the reception of a Minister from the United States if the naval forces off Vera Cruz should be withdrawn. The forces were withdrawn, and Mr. Slidell dispatched to Mexico, who arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th of November. But at this time the government of Herrera having become unpopular on account of its inactivity in prosecuting the invasion of Texas, and Paredes breathing the fiercest spirit of war against both Texas and the United States, being in open revolt at the head of a large portion of the army, the reception of Mr. Slidell was declined in any other capacity than of that as a commissioner to treat of the Texas question alone, to which terms Mr. Slidell would not accede; having been commissioned to plenipotentiary powers to adjust all existing difficulties.

On the 30th of December Herrera resigned the presidency, and yielded up the government without a struggle to General Paredes. Mr. Slidell opened communications with the new government, but his request to be accredited in the diplomatic character in which he had been commissioned, was flatly refused on the 12th of March, 1846, and he returned immediately to the United States. The President of the United States receiving intelligence on the 17th and 18th of December from Mr. Slidell and our consul, that the government of Herrera had refused to receive the former as minister plenipotentiary, and deeming it probable that the negotiation would not be renewed, issued an order to General Taylor on the 13th of January, 1846, instructing him to move forward to the east bank of the Rio Grande, opposite Matamoros. General Taylor prepared to put this order into execution, and on the 11th of March took up his march westward; on the 20th he reached the Colorado, where

he was met by a small party of Mexican troops, to whom General Taylor gave notice that he should cross the river and fire upon any one who appeared in arms to oppose his march. General Mejia, aide to the Mexican commander, now arrived with a letter to General Taylor, apprising him that if the American army should cross the Colorado, it would be considered a declaration of war, and would immediately be followed by actual hostilities.

The crossing took place nevertheless; and that too at a point where an excellent opportunity was presented of successfully resisting the advance of the Americans. On the 22d the army advanced across the prairie in the direction of Matamoras; but General Taylor, hearing that the Mexicans held Point Isabel, halted on the 24th, and leaving the army under command of General Worth, advanced to that place with the dragoons. He was here met by a deputation of fifty armed citizens, with the Prefect of the state of Tamaulipas at their head, who presented him a paper, protesting against his occupying the country. The General told them very concisely, "He would give them an answer when he reached Matamoras." He had the Point surveyed, and a work was thrown up under the superintendence of Captain Saunders of the Engineers, and left in command of Major Munroe.

General Taylor reached the Rio Grande off Matamoras, at noon, on the 28th of March, where, on the opposite side, hundreds were gathered together to witness the movements of the approaching army. Two of the advanced guard of dragoons were pounced upon and carried off as prisoners, but subsequently released.

General Worth and his staff were now ordered to cross the river to Matamoras, bearing despatches from General Taylor to the commanding officer of the Mexicans and the civil authorities. They were met by a Mexican party, who landed on the eastern bank; and an interview with the authorities was requested by General Worth. After some delay he was invited to cross the river. On reaching the right bank, he was met by General Vega and some other officers. General Worth could not effect an interview with General Mejia, then commanding the Mexican forces, and returned without an answer to his despatches. An interview with the American consul, at Matamoras, was demanded and

refused. Subsequently, on the demand of General Taylor, the captured dragoons were returned.

The American General now commenced fortifying his position, and by the 8th of April a small field work, mounting four eighteen-pounders, had been completed; and, at the same time, a field-work of six bastion fronts, sufficient to hold five regiments, was in a rapid state of progress, under the direction of Captain Mansfield of the Engineers.

Soon after the arrival of the American troops several deserters escaped to the Mexican camp, which seems to have induced General Ampudia, while on his way to Matamoras to assume the command of the Mexican army, to issue a proclamation on the 2d of April, addressed to "the English and Irish under the orders of General Taylor," calling on them and the "Germans, French, Poles, and individuals of other nations, to separate from the Yankees," and to "come with all confidence to the Mexican ranks;" promising the payment of their expenses until their "arrival in the beautiful city of Mexico." This attempt to seduce that part of our army composed of naturalized citizens did not succeed, and subsequently desertions were less frequent.

On the 10th of April, Colonel Cross, the deputy quarter-master-general, was murdered by the Mexicans while taking a ride near the American camp. His body was discovered on the 21st stripped of his watch and clothing, and it is still somewhat doubtful by what particular party of the enemy he met his fate.

On the 11th of April General Ampudia arrived at Matamoras; and on the 12th he sent a flag with the following communication to General Taylor:

FOURTH MILITARY DIVISION, }  
*General-in-Chief.* }

To explain to you the many grounds for the just grievances felt by the Mexican nation, caused by the United States government, would be a loss of time and an insult to your good sense; I therefore pass at once to such explanations as I consider of absolute necessity.

Your government, in an incredible manner—you will even permit me to say an extravagant one, if the usage and general rules established and received among all

civilized nations are regarded—has not only insulted, but has exasperated the Mexican nation, bearing its conquering banner to the left bank of the Rio Bravo del Norte; and in this case, by explicit and definite orders of my government, which neither can, will, nor should receive new outrages, I require you in all form, and at latest in the peremptory term of twenty-four hours, to break up your camp and retire to the other bank of the Nueces river, while our governments are regulating the pending question in relation to Texas. If you insist in remaining upon the soil of the department of Tamaulipas, it will clearly result that arms, and arms alone, must decide the question; and in that case I advise you that we accept the war to which, with so much injustice on your part, you provoke us, and that, on our part, this war shall be conducted conformably to the principles established by the most civilized nations; that is to say, that the law of nations and of war shall be the guide of my operations; trusting that on your part the same will be observed.

With this view, I tender you the considerations due to your person and respectable office.

God and Liberty!

HEAD-QUARTERS AT MAMAMORAS, 2  
o'clock, P. M. April, 12, 1846.

PEDRO DE AMPUDIA.

Sr. General-in-Chief of the U. S. Army, }  
DON Z. TAYLOR. }

General Taylor immediately replied to this communication as follows:

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }  
Camp near Matamoras, Texas, April }  
12, 1846. }

SEÑOR: I have had the honor to receive your note of this date, in which you summon me to withdraw the forces under my command from their present position, and beyond the river Nueces, until the pending question between our governments, relative to the limits of Texas, shall be settled.

I need hardly advise you that, charged as I am, in only a military capacity, with the performance of specific duties, I cannot enter into a discussion of the international question involved in the advance of the American army. You will, however, permit me to say that the government of the United States has constantly sought a

settlement, by negotiation, of the question of boundary; that an envoy was despatched to Mexico for that purpose, and that up to the most recent dates said envoy had not been received by the actual Mexican government, if indeed he has not received his passports and left the republic. In the meantime, I have been ordered to occupy the country up to the left bank of the Rio Grande, until the boundary shall be definitely settled. In carrying out these instructions I have carefully abstained from all acts of hostility, obeying, in this regard, not only the letter of my instructions, but the plain dictates of justice and humanity.

The instructions under which I am acting will not permit me to retrograde from the position I now occupy. In view of the relations between our respective governments, and the individual suffering which may result, I regret the alternative which you offer; but at the same time, wish it understood that I shall by no means avoid such alternative, leaving the responsibility with those who rashly commence hostilities. In conclusion, you will permit me to give you the assurance that on my part the laws and customs of war among civilized nations shall be carefully observed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Z. TAYLOR.

Brevet. Brig. Gen.

U. S. A. Commanding.

Sr. Gen. D. PEDRO DE AMPUDIA.

Lieutenants Porter and Dobbins, with a party of ten men, were despatched on the 17th, in pursuit of the murderers of Col. Cross. On the afternoon of the 18th they fell in with a party of 150 Mexicans, fired upon them, put them to flight, and took possession of their camp and horses. On their return to camp they were attacked by a party of Mexicans in the night, and Lieutenant Porter was killed.

Gen. Taylor, on the 17th, intercepted two vessels bound into Matamoras with supplies for the Mexican army, by sending the U. S. brig Lawrence and the revenue cutter Santa Anna in pursuit of them. Ampudia remonstrated against these acts of General Taylor, whose reply, not only for its masterly style of composition, but for the able and lucid manner in which it sets forth the relative disposition of the

belligerents, is copied entire with the exception of two passages relative to a couple of Mexicans taken prisoners by us and immediately released.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }  
Camp near Matamoras, Texas, }  
April 22, 1846. }

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your communication of this date, in which you complain of certain measures adopted by my orders to close the mouth of the Rio Bravo against vessels bound to Matamoras.

After all that has passed since the American army first approached the Rio Bravo, I am certainly surprised that you should complain of a measure which is no other than a natural result of the state of war so much insisted upon by the Mexican authorities as actually existing at this time. You will excuse me for recalling a few circumstances to show that this state of war has not been sought by the American army, but has been forced upon it, and that the exercise of the rights incident to such a state cannot be made a subject of complaint.

On breaking up my camp at Corpus Christi, and moving forward with the army under my orders to occupy the left bank of the Rio Bravo, it was my earnest desire to execute my instructions in a pacific manner; to observe the utmost regard for the personal rights of all citizens residing on the left bank of the river, and to take care that the religion and customs of the people should suffer no violation. With this view, and to quiet the minds of the inhabitants, I issued orders to the army, enjoining a strict observance of the rights and interests of all Mexicans residing on the river, and caused said orders to be translated into Spanish, and circulated in the several towns on the Bravo. These orders announced the spirit in which we proposed to occupy the country, and I am proud to say that up to this moment the same spirit has controlled the operations of the army. On reaching the Arroyo Colorado I was informed by a Mexican officer that the order in question had been received in Matamoras; but was told at the same time that if I attempted to cross the river it would be regarded as a declaration of war. Again, on my march to Frontone I was met by a deputation of the civil authorities of Matamoras, protesting against my occupation of a portion of the

department of Tamaulipas, and declaring that if the army was not at once withdrawn, war would result. While this communication was in my hands, it was discovered that the village of Frontone had been set on fire and abandoned. I viewed this as a direct act of war, and informed the deputation that their communication would be answered by me when opposite Matamoras, which was done in respectful terms. On reaching the river I despatched an officer, high in rank, to convey to the commanding general in Matamoras the expression of my desire for amicable relations, and my willingness to leave open to the use of the citizens of Matamoras the port of Brazos Santiago until the question of boundary should be definitively settled. This officer received for reply, from the officer selected to confer with him, that my advance to the Rio Bravo was considered as a veritable act of war, and he was absolutely refused an interview with the American consul, in itself an act incompatible with a state of peace.

Notwithstanding these repeated assurances on the part of the Mexican authorities, and notwithstanding the most obviously hostile preparations on the right bank of the river, accompanied by a rigid non-intercourse, I carefully abstained from any act of hostility—determined that the onus of producing an actual state of hostilities should not rest with me. Our relations remained in this state until I had the honor to receive your note of the 12th instant, in which you denounce war as the alternative of my remaining in this position. As I could not, under my instructions, recede from my position, I accepted the alternative you offered me, and made all my dispositions to meet it suitably. But, still willing to adopt milder measures before proceeding to others, I contented myself in the first instance with ordering a blockade of the mouth of the Rio Bravo by the naval forces under my orders—a proceeding perfectly consonant with the state of war so often declared to exist, and which you acknowledge in your note of the 16th instant, relative to the late Col. Cross. If this measure seem oppressive, I wish it borne in mind that it has been forced upon me by the course you have seen fit to adopt. I have reported this blockade to my government, and shall not remove it until I receive instructions to that effect, unless indeed you desire an ar-

mistice pending the final settlement of the question between the governments, or until war shall be formally declared by either, in which case I shall cheerfully open the river. In regard to the consequences you mention as resulting from a refusal to remove the blockade, I beg you to understand that I am prepared for them, be they what they may.

In regard to the particular vessels referred to in your communication, I have the honor to advise you that, in pursuance of my orders, two American schooners, bound for Matamoras, were warned off on the 17th instant, when near the mouth of the river, and put to sea, returning probably to New Orleans. They were not seized, or their cargoes disturbed in any way, nor have they been in the harbor of Brazos Santiago to my knowledge. A Mexican schooner, understood to be the "Juniata," was in or off that harbor when my instructions to block the river were issued, but was driven to sea in a gale, since which time I have had no report concerning her. . . .

In conclusion, I take leave to state that I consider the tone of your communication highly exceptionable, where you stigmatize the movement of the army under my orders as "marked with the seal of universal reprobation." You must be aware that such language is not respectful in itself, either to me or my government; and while I observe in my own correspondence the courtesy due to your high position, and to the magnitude of the interests with which we are respectively charged, I shall expect the same in return.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

*Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding.*  
 Sr. Gen. D. PEDRO DE AMPUDIA, }  
*Commanding in Matamoras.* }

On the 20th of April, General Arista having arrived at Matamoras, assumed the command of the Mexican forces, when his first public act was to issue a proclamation after the manner of Ampudia, addressed to the soldiers of our army, and particularly to those of them who were of foreign birth, to induce them to leave the "ambitious and overbearing North-Americans," and promising lands to officers, sergeants and corporals, according to rank, privates to receive three hundred acres;

and preferment, if any should render important service to Mexico. This manifesto, however, met with no better success than that of its predecessor.

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## CHAPTER IV.

SURRENDER OF CAPTAIN HUNTER'S COMMAND—DEPARTURE OF GENERAL TAYLOR FOR POINT ISABEL—BOMBARDMENT OF FORT BROWN—CRITICAL POSITION OF GENERAL TAYLOR—THE WAR ACT OF CONGRESS.

POINT ISABEL on the gulf of Mexico, and about twenty-seven miles North and East of Matamoras, had been made the depot of military stores for the Army of Occupation. On the evening of the 23d, intelligence was brought into General Taylor's camp, that about 2500 Mexicans had crossed the Rio Grande above, and about 1500 below the American fort. Two squadrons of dragoons were immediately dispatched, one in each direction, for the purpose of reconnoitering the Mexican advance. The one ordered below reported that no Mexicans had crossed in that direction. The squadron ordered above was in command of Captain Thornton, and composed of Captain Hardee, Lieutenants Kane and Mason, with sixty-one privates and non-commissioned officers, who found that the Mexicans had crossed over the river in large numbers. The following are the circumstances connected with the first overt act of hostility in this war.

THE SURPRISE AND SURRENDER OF CAPTAIN THORNTON'S COMMAND.

AFTER Capt. Thornton had proceeded up the Rio Grande about twenty-four miles, and as was supposed, to within about three miles of the Mexican camp, the guide refused to go any further, and stated for his reason that the whole country was infested with Mexicans.

Capt. Thornton however, proceeded on with his command about two miles when he came to a farm-house, which was enclosed entirely by a chapparal fence, with the exception of that portion of it which bordered on the river, and this was so

boggy as to be impassable. He entered this enclosure through a pair of bars, and approached the house for the purpose of making some inquiry, his command following him. When they had all entered the enclosure, the enemy having been concealed in the chapparal, about two thousand five hundred in number, completely surrounded him and commenced firing upon his command. He then wheeled his command, thinking that he could charge through the enemy and pass out where he had entered, not however without a considerable loss. This he attempted, but did not succeed, the enemy being too strong.

At this instant, Capt. Hardee approached him for the purpose of advising him how to extricate themselves. The fire of the enemy still continuing, Capt. Thornton's horse, having received a shot, ran away with him and leaped the *chapparal* fence and plunged into a precipice, where he fell, with Capt. Thornton under him, where the latter remained insensible for five or six hours.

This casualty placed Capt. Hardee in command, who attempted with the residue to make his escape by the river, intending on arriving at its margin to swim it. In this he failed, finding it so boggy that he could not get to it. He then returned, taking the precaution to get out of distance of musketry, dismounted and examined the arms of his men, determining to sell their lives as dearly as possible.

Before he had succeeded, however, in the inspection of his arms, a Mexican officer rode up and asked him to surrender. Capt. Hardee replied that he would surrender on one condition, which was, that if the Mexican General would receive them as prisoners of war, and treat them as the most civilized nations do, he would surrender, but on no other conditions.

The Mexican officer bore this message to the General commanding, and returned with the assurance that he would. Capt. Hardee then surrendered.

In this engagement Lieutenant Mason and nine men were killed and two wounded, who were sent by the Mexicans into the American camp. Captain Thornton was subsequently taken prisoner.

General Taylor was apprehensive that his communication with Point Isabel would be cut off by the advanced party of the Mexicans. Though his field-works were so strongly and skillfully constructed

that there was not any apprehension that they could be carried by storm, still he deemed affairs in a very critical position. The army was surrounded by numerous bodies of troops; the enemy was being reinforced by daily acquisitions; several companies of Americans, sent out upon scouting service, had been cut to pieces or captured; in every encounter the United States had suffered; it was feared that Point Isabel had been carried by overwhelming numbers, and serious apprehensions were fast gaining upon the public mind for the safety of the entire army. While engaged in making preparations for re-opening communications between the two posts, Captain Walker of the Texan Rangers, having left Point Isabel on the 29th, arrived with intelligence that teams dispatched to the command of Gen. Taylor had been driven back to Point Isabel, and that he himself, on a reconnoitering expedition, had on the 28th encountered a force which he estimated at 1500 men, and was driven back with a loss of several men.

On receiving this intelligence, General Taylor (May 1st, 1846) took up his line of march for Point Isabel, with the main body of the army, leaving a regiment of infantry and two companies of artillery, consisting of 300 men, under the command of Major Brown, of the Seventh Infantry, from whom the post has been called Fort Brown. He expected to be obliged to cut his way through the Mexican troops, but he reached Point Isabel without having met one of the enemy on his whole march.

The departure of General Taylor was the signal for the Mexicans to commence

#### THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT BROWN.

When Gen. Taylor left Fort Brown, his orders were to defend it to the death; and if the enemy should surround it, to fire signal guns at certain intervals to let him know it. As was anticipated, the Mexicans took advantage of the departure of the great bulk of the army, and at daylight on Sunday morning, May 3d, opened their batteries upon the fort. "The holy quiet of that day," says a writer, in describing the attack, "was broken by the thunder of cannon, and before the sun had risen on the scene, that little fort was in a blaze, as gun answered gun; and in twenty minutes' time, one of the Mexican

twelve-pounders was seen leaping twenty feet into the air, accompanied by arms, legs and mangled bodies." This cannonading on the part of the enemy was kept up with slight intermission until near midnight, and returned with effect. Major Brown lost one sergeant, and one artillery soldier wounded. The next morning the Mexicans opened their batteries again, sending both shot and shells, but without much effect. The cannonading had not lasted more than half an hour, when Major Brown's artillery silenced the enemy's guns, having greatly damaged three of the embrasures, dismounted several guns, and killed a number of men. The Mexican batteries opened a fire early the next morning, which lasted an hour, and was promptly answered from an eighteen-pounder battery, and a six-pounder howitzer. Both batteries ceased at the same time. The Mexicans now surrounded the fort, and established a battery in its rear. At 5 o'clock the next morning the enemy opened from their several batteries and continued, with slight intervals, to pour a perfect shower of shot and shells among our brave and devoted little band in the fort until 2 o'clock p. m. In the mean time the signal guns had been fired as directed by Gen. Taylor, and the gallant Brown had received a mortal wound from a falling shell. At half past 4 o'clock a parley was sounded, and the Mexican General sent a summons to the commander of the fort to surrender "for the sake of humanity," offering him one hour to return an answer, and threatening to put the whole garrison to the sword in case his demand should not be complied with. This was a most trying emergency. The garrison numbered scarcely 250 men; their enemy several thousands. Capt. Hawkins, who succeeded Maj. Brown after his wound of the 6th, called a council of war, composed of the several company commanders, in the fort, and laid the subject before them. They had neither time nor disposition to deliberate. "*Defend the Fort to the Death!*" broke forth almost simultaneously from the lips of that devoted band. The firing was then renewed and continued for the rest of the day, and at daylight on the 7th was again renewed, but soon after suddenly ceased. It was again renewed and continued for six hours. The firing at Palo Alto, where General Taylor was engaged with the Mexicans,

was then heard at Fort Brown, with what mixed emotions the reader may conceive. The Americans welcomed the sound with a tremendous shout. They knew that for Taylor to fight was to conquer. The enemy recommenced their bombardment with redoubled energy; but the continuous and exulting shouts of the Americans finally silenced the bombardment. At sunset a Mexican deserter brought the news of the victory of Palo Alto; and the wearied garrison felt that their labors and dangers were nearly closed. The engagement continued for seven days, during most of which time a number of men under the direction of Capt. Mansfield were engaged night and day in completing the works; the fire of the enemy not for a moment arresting the progress of their operations, and notwithstanding the large number of shot and shells thrown by the enemy, the American loss was but two killed (Major Brown, and Sergeant Weigart), and thirteen wounded.

Intelligence of the capture of Captain Thornton's command, together with a report that the Mexicans, seven or eight thousand strong, had cut off the communication with Point Isabel, and shut up General Taylor with only about 2000 men and ten days' provisions within his entrenchments of Fort Brown; that Point Isabel had been attacked, and must, with all our stores, soon fall into the hands of the enemy, and that there was every probability Fort Brown and Gen. Taylor's army must inevitably experience the same fate, reaching our country produced the utmost excitement and alarm in every bosom. The administration was denounced for thus exposing our little army to the overwhelming force of the Mexicans, and the public generally unacquainted with the American commander, began to inquire, was this Taylor that had thus imprudently allowed himself to be outmanœuvred and overwhelmed by the enemy?

The excitement at New Orleans knew no bounds. General Gaines then in command of the Southern Division, having his head quarters in that city, immediately called on the Governor of Louisiana, and those of some of the neighbouring states, for 10,000 troops to go to the rescue of Taylor, notwithstanding he had no authority from the government to make any



such requisition; this authority had been confided with General Taylor, who had previously called on Texas and Louisiana, for four regiments, but not in season for any of them to reach him, and aid him at this critical moment. When this intelligence arrived at Washington, the President immediately dispatched a message to Congress, recommending a recognition of the war; and Congress, after an anxious deliberation of two days, passed the War Act of the 13th of May, 1846, with a preamble, asserting that "war exists by the act of Mexico," and appropriating \$10,000,000 to carry on the war, and authorizing the President to accept the services of 50,000 volunteers. Public meetings were held throughout the country to sustain the administration, and within a few weeks the services of not less than 200,000 volunteers were offered to the President of the United States. We must now return to General Taylor.

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## CHAPTER V.

### THE BATTLE OF PALO-ALTO—RESACA DE LA PALMA—CAPTAIN MAY'S CHARGE—ROUTE OF THE MEXICANS.

GENERAL TAYLOR having reached Point Isabel without interruption prepared to return with a train of provisions, ammunition, and cannon for Fort Brown. On the afternoon of the 7th of May he took his departure, and encamped for the night about seven miles from Point Isabel. The next morning he again commenced his march, and on the afternoon of this day fought

#### THE BATTLE OF PALO ALTO.

About noon when our army had reached the water-hole of Palo Alto, the Mexican troops were reported in front, and were soon discovered drawn up in order of battle, stretching a mile and a half across the plain, along the edge of a chapparal; and a little in advance of it, on the left, were their splendid Lancers, a thousand strong, while throughout the rest of the line were masses of Infantry and a battery alternately; the whole greatly outnumbering our force.

Our line of battle was now formed in the following order, commencing on the the extreme right:—5th infantry, commanded by Lieut. Col. McIntosh; Major Ringgold's artillery; 3d infantry, commanded by Capt. L. N. Morris, two 18-pounders, commanded by Lieut. Churchill, 3d artillery; 4th infantry, commanded by Major G. W. Allen; the 3d and 4th regiments composed the third brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Garland; and all the above corps, together with two squadrons of dragoons under Captains Ker and May, composed the right wing, under the orders of Col. Twiggs. The left was formed by the battalion of artillery commanded by Lieut. Col. Childs, Capt. Duncan's light artillery, and the 8th infantry, under Capt. Montgomery—all forming the first brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Belknap. The Train was packed near the water, under direction of Captains Crossman and Myers, and protected by Capt. Ker's squadron.

At 2 o'clock we took up the march by heads of columns, in the direction of the enemy—the 18-pounder battery following the road. While the columns were advancing, Lieut. Blake, topographical engineer, volunteered a reconnoissance of the enemy's line, which was daringly performed and resulted in the discovery of the enemy's line to be of nearly twice the strength of ours, with heavy reserves in the chapparal.

Our columns moved steadily forward, and before they had arrived scarcely within cannon range, one of the enemy's batteries opened upon us, and commenced the battle of Palo Alto. General Taylor then ordered the columns to halt and deploy into line, when the fire was returned from all our batteries, which at once told on the enemy with deadly effect. The first fires of the enemy did little execution, while our eighteen-pounders, and the battery of the gallant Ringgold on the right, poured forth a terrible discharge, which soon dispersed the cavalry on his left that were waiting to bear down on our infantry. In the words of an eloquent writer who graphically describes this battle, "Platoons went down at every discharge, and wherever his practised eye directed a cannon, a line opened amid the riders. At length, unable to stand the rapid fire, they wheeled off, and moved away in a trot, when a ball from one of

the eighteen-pounders in the centre falling into their midst, hurried them into a gallop. But making a circular sweep, they suddenly threatened our flank and the train in the rear. Down came the thundering squadrons, making the plain tremble under their horses' feet, when the 5th infantry was thrown into square, and with fixed bayonets waited the shock. A sudden fire from one of the angles of the formation sent twenty horses, emptied of their riders, galloping over the plain; but those behind pressed steadily on, when they, seeing the 3d advancing in column to the attack, wheeled and fled.

While Ringgold was thus making fearful havoc with his light artillery on the right, Duncan, on the left, poured in his destructive volleys in such fierce and rapid succession on the enemy, that their ranks melted away before them like frost-work, and a shout of triumph rolled along our lines that was heard over the roar of battle. Duncan and Ringgold, occupying the two extremes of the lines, sent hope and confidence through the army, as it saw with what superiority and address our artillery was managed. To the fierce music that thus rolled over the field from either wing, the two eighteen-pounders in the centre kept up a steady accompaniment, shaking the field with their steady fire as, slowly advancing, they sent death through the Mexican ranks. But the enemy's batteries were worked with great vigor, and their shot told on our left severely; yet still the regiments destined to support the artillery stood firm, while the balls tore through their ranks. At one time, they lay for three-quarters of an hour in the tall grass, while the shot of the enemy kept tearing up the ground amid them, bounding and leaping by, carrying away, here a head and there an arm, and yet not a soldier quailed, but cool and resolute as old veterans, kept their position without a murmur or a look of complaint. In the mean time, Lieut. Duncan set the prairie on fire with some smoke-balls, and the thick smoke rolling along the lines, shut out the two armies from each other, and stayed for a while the work of carnage. It was now four o'clock, and the bloodshot sun was stooping to the western horizon, and silence rested on the field of death, save when the groans of the dying and wounded arose from the plain. Duncan, taking

advantage of the smoke, carried his artillery through the lane of fire, with the flames rolling ten feet around him. Suddenly the enemy saw his horses' heads moving in a trot on their flank, and the next moment the pieces were unlimbered, and pouring in a scouring, galling fire on their ranks, rolling them back on each other in inextricable confusion. The Mexicans had changed their line of battle, to escape the murderous effect of the close and well-directed volleys of Ringgold's battery and the eighteen-pounders that had been pushed forward during the cessation of the cannonading. The gallant Ringgold, while seated on his horse, directing the movement of the guns, received a shot which passed through his horse, cutting in two the pistols in his holsters, tore away the flesh from both his legs, from his knees upward. As he fell on the field some officers gathered around him, but he waved them away, saying, "Leave me alone; you are needed forward." The sun went down on the field of blood, and as his departing rays struggled for a moment to pierce the war-cloud that curtained in the two armies, the firing, by mutual consent, ceased, and the battle of Palo Alto was over. Our little army encamped on the field where they fought amid their dead and dying companions."

When night closed over the scene the Mexican Commanders saw that they could do nothing in the open field, and so retreated to a still more formidable position.

The action lasted about five hours, and there were engaged in it on the side of the Americans 2288, of whom 177 were officers. The strength of the enemy, according to the report of their own officers, taken prisoners next day, was at least 6000 regulars, and an unknown number of irregular troops, with 10 pieces of artillery. Their loss was nearly 400 killed and wounded, while only 9 Americans were killed, 44 wounded, and 2 missing. The death of Major Ringgold caused great mourning throughout the Union, as he was one of our bravest and most valuable officers, and one of the most distinguished light artillery commanders in the world. The wound received by Captain Page was dreadful. His whole lower jaw was shot away, together with part of his tongue and palate, yet he survived until the 12th of July.

It was during this battle that the Mexi-

ican artillery, perceiving Gen. Taylor and staff, poured in upon them a shower of canister and grape. "Upon my word," says Gen. Taylor, "I do believe the rascals want to hit me." Very soon one of the officers rode up and suggested to the General that it would be better for him to retire to a position less exposed. "Well," said the General, who had been sitting at his ease, with his leg over the pommel of his saddle, watching the movements of the contending armies, "let us ride up nearer, and their balls will go over us." And he rode to a still more exposed point, but where he could have a better view of the battle.

The weary night passed away, our men resting on the field of battle, ready to renew the conflict with the dawn of day. The next morning it was discovered that the enemy had fallen back, leaving his dead unburied. The number of bodies lying around the spots where the artillery was posted, showed how terrible the fire of our guns had been, and with what steadiness and bravery the Mexicans had stood to their pieces. In one place, fifty-seven bodies were found in a heap, or about the entire number of killed and wounded together on our side.

Gen. Taylor called a council of war, and asked them what he should do. Four only out of the whole number were in favor of advancing—the remainder advised either to intrench, or retreat to Point Isabel, and wait for reinforcements. When all had spoken, the brave old veteran exclaimed—"I will be at Fort Brown before night if I live!" This noble resolution was nobly executed on that very day at

#### THE BATTLE OF RESACA DE LA PALMA.

The army re-commenced its march on the 9th, at about two o'clock, and after about two hours came up with the enemy, within about three miles of Fort Brown, occupying a strong position on the further side of a ravine, and resting his left on a pond so as to prevent the possibility of being outflanked on that side. Eight pieces of artillery defended this position, divided into three portions—one on the left side of the road, one on the right, and one in the centre. It was evident from the outset, that the great struggle was to be along the road where the batteries were placed, pro-

ected by a ditch and breastwork in front. Reinforcements of 2,000 men had arrived during the night, at the camp of the Mexicans. In an account of this battle we quote again from the same eloquent and graphic pen: "Scarcely were our troops in order of battle, before the artillery of the enemy opened and rained a perfect shower of balls on our ranks. The road was swept at every discharge with grape-shot and ball, that threatened to carry entirely away the daring squadron which should presume to advance along it. To the left of the road, the conflict at once became fierce and bloody. The 4th, 5th, and 8th Infantry, and a part of the 3d, were there, mowing down the enemy with their steady volleys, strewing the road-side with the dead, and sternly forcing back the serried ranks, while the artillery kept thundering on with such rapid and ceaseless explosions, that, as the Mexican prisoners afterwards said, they thought we had fifty instead of eight cannon. Shells and shot drove so like a storm of sleet in their faces, that the officers vainly endeavored to throw the entire army forward in a desperate charge on our guns, but so certain and biting was the fire that they could not be induced to move a step, and fell in their tracks. On the right, our men, advancing through the chapparal, outflanked the enemy, and were pouring in their well-directed volleys, while on the left, the incessant flash of musketry, drowned now and then by the roar of cannon and the shouts of the men, told how fierce was the conflict. Our troops were steadily gaining ground, but the murderous battery in the centre of the road continued to vomit forth death, and was worked with coolness and held with a tenacity that perfectly maddened our men. Gen. Taylor was within its range, and when expostulated with for exposing himself so openly, refused to move out of danger except by moving forward. The regiments got confused in the chapparal somewhat, but fought just as well; and though the Infantry held their firm array, they seemed to fight in groups, each one directing its energies on a single point. The battery of the gallant Ridgely kept steadily advancing like a moving volcano, and hurled such a storm of iron on the guns that swept the road, that the Infantry which protected them fell at every discharge like grass before the scythe. At length a body

of lancers came charging furiously along the road, and rode up to the very muzzle of his guns. Scattering them like a whirlwind with a discharge from one of his pieces, he dashed in person among four that still kept hurrying on, and drove them before him.

"The Infantry fought with unparalleled bravery, led on by as brave officers as ever trod a battle-field. Indeed, every officer seemed to think it necessary he should show an example of daring to his men, while every soldier fought as if he would outdo his leader in heroic acts. Sometimes a few men, headed by an officer, would charge a gun and fight like desperadoes around it. In one instance, a soldier leaped astride of a piece he had captured, and boldly defended himself while his companions dragged him away with the prize. From the outset our army steadily advanced on every side, except along the road where the central battery kept playing. At length, goaded to madness by the galling fire kept up from these few pieces, and seeing that the whole battle rested there, General Taylor ordered Captain May to charge the battery with his dragoons. His words were, '*You must take it.*' The gallant May wheeled on his steed and said to his followers—'*Men, we must take that battery!*' In a moment those eighty-two stern riders were moving in a dark mass along the road, headed by their fearless commander. Two rods in advance was seen the commanding form of May, as, mounted on his powerful charger, he rode fiercely on, with his long hair streaming in the wind, while behind shook the glittering sabres of his followers. One discharge tore through them, stretching nearly a third of his company and half of his horses on the ground, but when the smoke lifted, there was still seen the war-horse of May leaping the ditch, breastwork and all, pressed closely after by his remaining followers, riding down the artillery-men at their pieces, and passing straight through the Mexican lines. A wild hurrah went up from our entire army as they saw those fierce dragoons clear the breast-work. The 5th and 8th Infantry followed close after, charging at a run along the road, and swept over the breast-work just after the dragoons were compelled to leave it, and took possession of the guns. Lieut. Duncan then took command of the advance, and soon cleared the

road with his deadly artillery, while the Infantry, packed now in the narrow road, with chapparal on each side, went pouring onward with furious shouts, driving the enemy before them. The battle then became a rout, and rolled furiously towards the river, whither the affrighted Mexicans were flying to escape to Matamoras. The cavalry first went galloping like a crowd of fugitives to the ferry, while the Infantry, forced from the chapparal at the point of the bayonet, followed after."

One of the most distinguished incidents of this battle was the Charge of Capt. May, which is thus described by Sergeant Milton one of his corps: "All at once Captain May rode to the front of his troop—every rein and sabre was tightly grasped. Raising himself and pointing at the battery, he shouted, '*Men, follow!*' There was now a clattering of hoofs and a rattling of sabre sheaths—the fire of the enemy's guns was partly drawn by Lieutenant Ridgely, and the next moment we were sweeping like the wind up the ravine. I was in a squad of about nine men, who were separated by a shower of grape from the battery, and we were in advance, May leading. He turned his horse opposite the breast-work, in front of the guns, and with another shout '*to follow,*' leaped over them. Several of the horses did follow, but mine, being new and not well trained, refused; two others balked, and their riders started down the ravine to turn the breast-work where the rest of the troop had entered. I made another attempt to clear the guns with my horse, turning him around—feeling all the time secure at thinking the guns discharged—I put his head towards them and gave him spur, but he again balked; so, turning his head down the ravine, I too started to ride round the breast-work."

In this gallant charge Captain May took General Vega prisoner, who remained at his post in the act of firing a cannon.

All the morning of the 9th the Mexicans had been playing in the entrenchments of Fort Brown. It was there, with inexpressible joy, that they heard the cannonading in the afternoon—and soon after beheld the retreat of the enemy, followed by our troops shouting loud hurrahs of victory.

The number of Mexicans in this engagement was not less than 7000, of whom upwards of 1000 had been in twenty battles and never before defeated.



CHARGE OF CAPTAIN MAY.

The enemy's loss was very great. Nearly 200 of his dead were buried by us on the day succeeding the battle. His loss in killed, wounded, and missing, in the two affairs of the 8th and 9th, is moderately estimated at 1200 men. One hundred prisoners were taken—among whom were several officers besides General Vega—eight pieces of artillery—three standards, and 600 mules together with General Arista's private papers and tent-equipage which he had left in the hurry of his rout.

The actual number of the American forces engaged with the enemy did not exceed 1700 men. Our loss was three officers killed and twelve wounded; thirty-six men killed and seventy-one wounded. The officers killed, were Lieutenant Inge, 2d dragoons, who fell at the head of his

platoon, while gallantly charging the enemy's battery; Lieutenant Cochrane, of the 5th, and Lieutenant Chadbourne, of the 8th infantry, who likewise met their death in the thickest of the fight. General Taylor's victory was complete.

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## CHAPTER VI.

MAJOR RINGGOLD—MAJOR BROWN—COLONEL PAYNE—CAPTAIN PAGE—CAPTAIN HAWKINS—CAPT. MAY—CAPT. WALKER.

THE news of the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma caused the greatest rejoicings throughout the Union, mingled

with lamentations for the loss of those gallant spirits who fell on the field of fame. These victories awakened a degree of enthusiasm seldom witnessed, and called forth universal admiration of the gallant conduct of Gen. Taylor and the officers and men under his command. The public mind seems to have been taken with utter astonishment to find at the head of our army, a general whose military qualifications have received the highest encomiums both at home and abroad—a leader capable of inspiring his troops with a spirit of the highest confidence and enthusiasm—a scholar whose dispatches are written in a style of rare elegance, clearness, and force, and a man endowed with the highest traits of nobleness, wisdom, and humanity. Previous to these battles it had been customary in Congress and elsewhere, to speak sneeringly of the Military Academy at West Point, and of the efficiency of the officers educated in that institution. But the high attainments and military skill of Ringgold, as well as of the other officers of the army, most of whom were educated at West Point, were thoroughly tested at these battles, and their activity, efficiency, and bravery on the field, which were the theme of universal commendation, vindicated the claims of their education to the highest respect.

Congress, on the 13th of July, tendered their thanks to General Taylor and the officers and men under his command, and authorized the President to procure a gold medal, with appropriate devices, to be presented to him. General Worth having had a dispute with Col. Twiggs, relative to their comparative rank, had offered a resignation of his commission and returned to Washington, thus losing the opportunity of distinguishing himself at the fields of Palo Alto, and Resaca de la Palma. With the exception of Colonel (now General) Twiggs, it will be the purpose of this chapter to present brief, biographical sketches of some of the officers who were eminent for their gallant conduct on this occasion.

#### MAJOR RINGGOLD.

This distinguished officer was the son of the late Samuel Ringgold, of Washington County, Md., and his mother was a daughter of a man distinguished in the days of the revolution—General John Cadwallader, of Philadelphia. Major Ring-

gold entered the army as Lieutenant of Artillery, in July, 1818, having graduated at West Point with much honor—being one of the five whose names were recorded as the most distinguished of a class. He was at once elevated by General Scott as one of his aids, and served in that capacity for several years, and ever enjoyed in a very eminent degree, the confidence and friendship of that distinguished soldier. During the disturbances in South Carolina, the deceased was there on duty, and he has frequently expressed his heartfelt gratification at the peaceful termination of the unhappy difficulties between a portion of the gallant people of that State and the General Government. When the Indian war occurred in Florida, the deceased, then a Captain of Artillery, was there on duty, actively employed in various services, until the wasting effects of the climate had so impaired his health that he was prostrated by disease. For “meritorious services” in that campaign, he was rewarded by the rank of Brevet Major. He was afterwards selected by the Major General Commanding in Chief, to organize a corps of flying artillery, and he paid every possible attention to the instruction and discipline of this arm of the service. How faithfully he executed his duty in this respect, the performances of his admirable corps at Fort McHenry and other places—and on the *field of Palo Alto*—fully attest.

He never recovered from the effects of his exposures during the Florida campaign; and when ordered from Fort McHenry to join the army in Texas, the experienced surgeon at this post strongly insisted upon his physical inability to go through with the campaign. But he strengthened himself for duty; and as far as known here, he was never, for an hour, unfit for service, since he left the Fort. He fell in the fierce battle of the 8th of May; the same ball killing his horse under him and wounding him mortally.

The deceased was an accomplished gentleman, beloved by his friends, and greatly respected by all who knew him.

The deceased in a letter to his immediate friends, written just as the army was about to march from Camp Isabel, spoke of the extreme probability of a serious rencontre with the enemy, and expressed sure confidence in the triumph of our gallant little army. But with characteristic coolness, he also adverted to the great

probability of his own fall in battle, and in anticipation of that event, he made a brief will, which was enclosed in that letter. His patriotic words to the friendly officer who came to his assistance ought not to be forgotten—"Don't stay with me, you have work to do—go ahead."

Lieutenant Cadwallader Ringgold of the Navy, who was in the exploring expedition, is a brother of Major Ringgold.

#### MAJOR BROWN.

MAJOR JACOB BROWN is a native of Clarksburg, Berkshire Co., Mass., and was fifty-eight years of age at the time he received his fatal wound in the defence of the fort which bears his name. At the beginning of the war in 1812, he enlisted in the army as a common soldier. He was an orderly sergeant at the battle of Christler's field, on the bank of the St. Lawrence, during the last war with Great Britain, and for his gallant conduct in that action he received a commission. On account of his merit, he was promoted from the ranks to the office of ensign, and served with great bravery and good conduct during the whole of the war. He was in nearly all the hard fought battles on the Niagara in the years 1813 and '14. Before the close of the war, he was promoted to the office of 1st lieutenant, and afterwards rose by regular gradations to the rank of major, in which capacity he has served for many years. He has been thirty-four years in the army, and has been much in active service in various parts of the frontier. He at an early day acted as commissary of subsistence at Council Bluffs, and was afterwards stationed at St. Louis as quarter-master commissary. He was at one time engaged in conducting the tribes of emigrating Indians to the West, and was in active service during nearly the whole period of the Florida war. A number of years ago, he was stationed at Little Rock, and, although still in the army, was elected first president of the Bank of Arkansas, which post he held for a year and resigned. He at various times disbursed very large sums of public money, and was remarkable for accuracy, fidelity, system and punctuality. At the time of his death, he was attached to the 7th infantry. He has left two daughters; one of them married to a surgeon in the army.

#### COLONEL PAYNE

Is a native of Goochland county, Virginia. He was inspector general of the army of occupation, and held a conspicuous position on the battle of the 8th of May. During that critical struggle he rendered important assistance at the battery of the two eighteen-pounders.

On the morning of the 9th he gave the general orders to the different regiments, as they came up, with coolness and precision. He was most conspicuous during the heaviest fire, and by his gallantry and enthusiasm contributed greatly to the glorious result of the battle of Resaca de la Palma. He was severely wounded in the hip about the middle of the action, and although he suffered great pain, refused to leave the saddle until the victory was won.

Colonel Payne was honored as the bearer to the President of the trophies of victory won at the battles of May.

#### CAPTAIN PAGE.

CAPTAIN JOHN PAGE was born at Fryeburg, in the state of Maine. He was appointed to the army from Massachusetts on the 13th of February, 1818, as a second lieutenant in the 8th Infantry. Upon the reduction of the army in 1821, he was among those retained in service, and was then transferred to the 4th Infantry, in which he served until his death from wounds received at Palo Alto. At the time he was wounded he was in the actual performance of duty, commanding a division of the 4th Infantry. Cool, collected and brave, he on that memorable day performed every duty assigned to him. The regiment being very much exposed to a heavy fire from the Mexican batteries, General Taylor ordered it to move off and take up another position, as it could render no service against the enemy, the action being principally confined to the artillery on both sides. Captain Page at the moment he was wounded had faced towards his division, and was in the act of giving the word of command.

Strong hopes were entertained of his recovery for many weeks, but he finally expired on the 7th July, while on his passage to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. His wife and family were with him in his last hours.

Captain Page was married to Miss Bla-

ney of Newcastle, Delaware, and had by her three children.

### CAPTAIN HAWKINS.

CAPT. E. S. HAWKINS is a native of the State of New York, and is the eldest son of the late Col. Samuel Hawkins, formerly of the city of New York, who raised a volunteer regiment, and had command at the Narrows at the close of the last war. He was subsequently agent of the government under the Ghent Treaty, in settling the Canada boundary.

The family of Col. Hawkins is a brave one; Charles, his second son, was Commodore of the Texan Navy, and died at New Orleans. Captain H., the defender of Fort Brown, graduated at West Point, and has been in the service since 1820. His reply to the pompous demand of Arista to surrender, that he "respectfully declined," was peculiarly characteristic.

### CAPTAIN MAY.

A Baltimore correspondent of the Boston Atlas, in describing some incidents connected with the officers of Gen. Taylor's Army, and the great battles on the Rio Grande, thus spoke of the personal appearance and intrepid character of Capt. May, the bold Dragoon:

"You have seen the personal description of Capt. May, given in a New Orleans paper. It scarcely comes up to the man. He is over six feet high, wears his hair long, so that it nearly reaches his hips; his beard falls below his sword belt, and his moustache is unshorn. He is a splendid rider. It was this that first attracted the attention of Gen. Jackson, who seeing him galloping along the streets in Washington, standing in his stirrups, presenting the personification of a Knight of the ancient days of chivalry, sent for him, and gave him a commission of cornet. He was in the Florida war, and many are the deeds of daring done there told of him. He rose rapidly to distinction, and he owes to his service in that war his present commission of Captain. It will interest some of your fair readers to hear that he was crossed in love some years ago. Since that time he has never allowed his hair or beard to be touched by the barber. Such is the story told of him.

Captain May is a native of Washington,

D. C., and is one of six brothers, all of whom it is said are over six feet two inches high."

For his gallant services in these battles he has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

### CAPTAIN SAMUEL H. WALKER.

THIS officer is one of those rare spirits which a state of war will bring out from our citizen soldiers. His late unequal conflict with the Mexicans, in which he lost nearly every man under his command, and his daring heroism in cutting his way to General Taylor's camp, have excited in the public mind a strong desire to know more of him. He is the same gentleman so frequently and honorably spoken of in General Green's journal of the Mier expedition. He is a native of Washington City, from whence he went into the Florida war, where in several campaigns he distinguished himself by his intrepid bravery. In 1842 he went to Texas, and during the invasion of that republic by General Wool, he was marked for his bold and daring conduct. After the Mexican General had retreated from San Antonio, and when he lay upon the Rio Hondo, Walker and Captain McCullough crawled through his camp one night, and spied out his position, and the next day, with his gallant companion, Hays, led the attack upon his rear guard. He then joined the celebrated expedition against Mier; and on the morning of that sanguinary battle, he with three others—being the advance scout of the Texans—was taken prisoner, and carried, with his hands tied behind, to the head quarters of General Ampudia. The Mexican General questioned him as to the Texan forces, and when Walker informed him that the Texans had only 300 men, Ampudia pompously replied, "Does that audacious handful of men presume to follow me into this strong place and attack me?" "Yes," says Walker, "make yourself content on that subject, General, they will follow you into Hades and attack you there." He was, with his comrades, then marched to the city of Mexico.

At Salado, with the lamented Captain Cameron, and Dr. Brenen, he led the attack upon the guard, overpowered them, and marched for Texas, when, after eating up their horses and mules, he surrendered to the Mexican Generals Mercier and Or-



## CHAPTER VII.

tago. He was again marched to Salado, where, with his comrades, he was made to draw in the celebrated black bean lottery, and every tenth man was shot. Those that remained of the Texans were marched to the Castle of Perote and the city of Mexico. Here, while working on the streets in that city, he was struck by a Mexican corporal for not working faster, when, with his spade, he knocked down the corporal, which caused the guards to beat him nearly to death. His life was a long time despaired of, and upon his recovery, he, with two companions, scaled the walls of his prison after nightfall, and made his way to Texas, over a distance of more than a thousand miles. Before, however, they got out of the country, they were twice more imprisoned, and each time effected their escape. When he reached Texas again, he joined Captain Hays, who, with fifteen others, armed with Colt's revolving pistols, fought against ninety-six Cumanches, and defeated them, leaving thirty-six killed upon the ground. Here Walker was run through the body with a Cumanche spear, and his life again despaired of. Captain Walker has received a commission as Captain in the new regiment of mounted riflemen.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS—HUMANITY OF GENERAL TAYLOR—INTERVIEW WITH COMMODORE CONNER—CAPTURE OF MONTEREY—ADVANCE TO MONTEREY.

AFTER the battle of Resaca de la Palma, the right wing of our army remained on the ground two days, occupied in burying the dead and securing the trophies of the engagement. Among Gen. Arista's papers were found his official correspondence with his Government, full plans of the campaign, and instructions authorizing him to send Gen. Taylor and his Army, *when taken prisoners*, to the city of Mexico; to treat the American Commander and his officers with such attention as became the magnanimity of the great Mexican nation.

On the morning of the first day, Gen. Taylor, with his usual humanity, not only visited the wounded, and offered ever assistance in his power to the wounded of our own troops, but sent to Matamoras for Mexican surgeons to attend their own wounded, and for men to bury their own dead.



GEN. TAYLOR VISITING THE WOUNDED.

On the 11th of May an exchange of prisoners took place; and General Taylor started for Point Isabel for the purpose of communicating with Commodore Conner, commanding the American squadron in the Gulf of Mexico, who had sailed to Brazos Santiago, in order to render aid to the general. The interview is thus humorously described by Mr. Thorpe, in his book entitled "Our Army on the Rio Grande."

"The singular simplicity that marks General Taylor's personal appearance and habits, has become a subject of universal fame. It is curious that a soldier, so eminent in all the qualities of discipline, should be so citizen-looking in his own appearance. Commodore Conner, on the contrary, is an officer that is not only strict in his dress, but has an extra nicety about it. He appears in full and splendid uniform on all public occasions, being the exact contrast, in this particular, of General Taylor.

"At the proper time, Commodore Conner sent word to General Taylor, that he would come on shore to pay him a visit of ceremony. This put old 'Rough and Ready' into a tremendous excitement. If Commodore Conner had quietly come up to his tent, and given him a sailor's grip, and sat down on a camp-chest, and talked over matters in an old-fashioned way, General Taylor would have been prepared; but, to have the most carefully-dressed officer in our navy, commanding the finest fleet, come in full uniform, surrounded by all the glittering pomp of splendid equipments—to pay a visit of ceremony, was more than General Taylor had, without some effort, nerve enough to go through with; but, ever equal to emergencies, he determined to compliment Commodore Conner, and through him the navy, *by appearing in full uniform*, a thing his officers, associated with him for years, had never witnessed.

"In the meanwhile, Commodore Conner was cogitating over the most proper way to compliment General Taylor. Having heard of his peculiar disregard of military dress, he concluded he would make the visit in a manner comporting to General Taylor's habits, and consequently equipped himself in plain white drilling, and, unattended, came ashore.

"The moment General Taylor heard that Commodore Conner had landed, he

abandoned some heavy work he was personally attending to about the camp, and precipitately rushed into his tent, delved at the bottom of an old chest, and pulled out a uniform coat, that had peacefully slumbered for years in undisturbed quietude, slipped himself into it, in his haste fastening it so that one side of the standing collar was three button-holes above the other, and sat himself down as uncomfortable as can well be imagined. With quiet step, and unattended, Commodore Conner presented himself at General Taylor's tent. The noble representatives of the army and navy shook hands, both in exceeding astonishment at each other's personal appearance.

"The wags of the army say, that the above contains the only *authentic* account of General Taylor's ever being 'headed,' and since that time, he has taken to linen roundabouts, of the largest dimensions, with more pertinacity than ever."

The following despatch contains General Taylor's own account of his movements on the 12th.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }  
Point Isabel, Texas, May 12, 1846. }

SIR:—I am making a hasty visit to this place, for the purpose having an interview with Commodore Conner, whose squadron is now at anchor off the harbor, and arranging with him a combined movement up the river. I avail myself of the brief time at my command to report that the main body of the army is now occupying its former position opposite Matamoras. The Mexican forces are almost disorganized, and I shall lose no time in investing Matamoras, and opening the navigation of the river.

In my report of the second engagement, I accidentally omitted the name of Lieut. Dobbins, 3d infantry, among the officers slightly wounded, and desire that the omission may be supplied in the despatch itself. I am under the painful necessity of reporting that Lieutenant Blake, Topographical Engineer, after rendering distinguished service in my staff during the affair of the 8th instant, accidentally shot himself with a pistol on the following day, and expired before night.

I have exchanged a sufficient number of prisoners to recover the command of Captain Thornton. The wounded prisoners

have been sent to Matamoras—the wounded officers on their parole. General Vega and a few other officers have been sent to New Orleans, having declined a parole, and will be reported to Major-General Gaines. I am not conversant with the usages of war in such cases, and beg that such provision may be made for these prisoners as may be authorized by law. Our own prisoners have been treated with great kindness by the Mexican officers.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen.

U. S. A., Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL of the Army, }  
Washington, D. C. }

Gen. Taylor was now occupied in moving forward the volunteers who had now begun to arrive at Brasos Santiago and at Fort Brown, and in organizing a force for the capture of Barita, a town on the southern bank, near the mouth of the Rio Grande, where it was apprehended the enemy was about to collect the remains of his vanquished army. Barita was taken on the 15th of May by a party of marines and sailors from Com. Conner's squadron. It was subsequently occupied by Col. Wilson with a force of regulars and volunteers. Taylor having been reinforced with about 4000 volunteers had everything in readiness for an attack on Matamoras on the evening of the 16th.

The next morning about sunrise, Gen. Arista gave the signal that he wished a parley with Gen. Taylor. He sent over to the camp a person, and requested of Gen. Taylor the granting of an armistice, expressing the opinion that the boundary could be settled. To this Gen. Taylor replied, "Sir, the time for asking an armistice is past; you should have thought of this before; it is now too late to think of such a thing." Gen. Arista then desired a suspension of hostilities. This, also, Gen. Taylor positively refused. He had brought out all his cannon to the front, and was determined they should render some service, at the same time pointing to the cannon and its position, said he should dictate his own terms. The Mexicans then proposed to surrender all the public property, ammunition, &c., provided Gen. Taylor would not cross the river; he replied, he should cross the next morning

at 8 o'clock, that "the city must capitulate, all public property, ammunition, provisions, &c., must be given up, and then the Army might march out and retire." The Mexican Commander returned no reply to Gen. Taylor's last proposition; but during the night evacuated the city with his Army, and retired toward Monterey, taking whatever of munitions and public property he could find means of transporting.

At daylight on the next day, being the 18th, General Taylor commenced crossing the river. No resistance was offered by the Mexicans on the bank of the river, and it is said many of them assisted in landing the boats. One officer, lieutenant Stevens, was drowned in crossing the river. After reaching the opposite bank, they were met by a number of Mexican officers, who desired to know of General Taylor if they could retain the government property. General Taylor replied "that he wanted all the town." The American forces then marched into the place, and Adjutant Bliss rode up to the fort, and sounding the parley, demanded the surrender of the town. He was asked if the government property would be excepted. He replied "that nothing could be retained, all must be surrendered." The Mexican flag was immediately hauled down, and the American flag run up in its stead.

The citizens joined loudly in the cheering of the army. A sufficient force was then placed in the fort, and the army, after moving through the town, drew off and encamped in the vicinity. Not a gun was fired.

On arriving at the city, it was discovered that Arista had departed with his forces, leaving only the mounted battery; all the mortars, and such of the military apparatus as could not be removed in their haste to escape, were thrown into the wells. A party from our army went out to reconnoitre immediately after the entrance into Matamoras, and overtook a portion of the Mexicans, who were retreating, twenty-two of whom were made prisoners.

Arista retreated to Reynosa, where he encamped, waiting a reinforcement from Paredes.

General Taylor gave orders to his army not to take the slightest article without paying its actual value. The citizens of Matamoras were permitted to go on

with their business as usual, with the exception of selling liquors.

The events of the war, immediately subsequent to the capture of Matamoras, are of little interest. Colonel Twiggs was made governor of Matamoras. The local government of the neighboring towns and villages sent to General Taylor offers of submission. The condition of affairs is graphically described in the following letter:—

“I arrived here yesterday morning, on the steamer Florida, after a passage of eight days, and find that the news of the taking of Matamoras was carried from here a week ago. There is nothing occurring here now of stirring interest, the fighting having ceased, for some weeks to come at least, and I am inclined to think that there will be no more of it on the Rio Grande. Our army must seek the enemy in their own country if they desire to meet them in any considerable bodies. Arista's defeat on the 8th and 9th, has ruined the Mexican army now in the north. They have lost everything, mules, pack-saddles, ammunition, arms, and men enough to strike terror to their hearts. Port Polk, as this point is now called, is a complete museum at the present moment, with its Mexican booty—Mexican prisoners, mules, lances, saddles curiously wrought, leather pack-saddles, huge saddle-bags, muskets, drums, ordnance, copper cannon-balls, grape shot, letters and all kinds of documents picked up on the ground where Arista was encamped. One of the officers, who was in the two engagements, says that the supper which the Mexicans had in their confidence prepared for themselves, and which they were obliged so suddenly to abandon, afforded a rich repast to our tired and hungry officers and men. He pronounces their liquors, chocolate, soups, roast beef, &c., to have been first rate. Arista's plate, which was valuable, was promptly returned to him. Most of the wounded have been sent to Corpus Christi, but there are still enough here to represent most painfully the sad results of war. Captain Page, whose under jaw was completely shot away, is in a fair way of recovering. Captain Hooe is walking about with the stump of his right arm dangling by his side, and appears to be in excellent humor. Colonel McIntosh, who was badly wounded, was stretched out yesterday in

a Mexican wagon, trying to read. He was stabbed in the throat, or rather down the throat, in the neck, and in other parts of the body, and was repeatedly knocked down in the fight. Lieutenant Maclay, who was wounded in the action of the 9th, is here, with an awfully sore shin, across which a Mexican grape-shot passed, shaving a *lectle* closer than was safe, as it carried with it a slice of bone and sinew. Instances of individual heroism occurred at those two engagements which would have immortalized a Spartan.

“Volunteers are gathering here in crowds. Yesterday the Ondiaka, Mary Kingsland, Florida, and Orleans, arrived with troops from New Orleans. A company of Texan rangers came down to Padre Island, and were crossing over last evening. Some are encamped near the fort, on the prairie, and six companies of Louisiana volunteers are encamped on the Point,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant, at the bar. I had the pleasure, yesterday, of meeting General Memucan Hunt, of the Texan volunteers. The general looks well, and is anxious to be on the field. His men are hardy-looking fellows. All they pray for is to be permitted to go out through the interior, as our army marches on towards Mexico, and to take such towns as they can reach. Their knowledge of the country, their hardihood, and experience in fighting Mexicans, fit them peculiarly for such service.

“There are more than twenty vessels lying here, inside and outside of the bar—one frigate of war, and the balance transports and trading-vessels. The Florida drew less than seven feet, and bumped heavily on the bar, as she came over yesterday morning. The sutlers put the screws to the poor soldiers here at a cruel rate, in the way of charges. It is really outrageous, and should be looked to by those in power.”

General Taylor, although now in possession of Matamoras, found himself in no condition to advance further into the enemy's country. He was deficient not only in troops, but in supplies and the means of transportation. It became necessary, therefore, for him to remain at this post through the greater part of the summer, waiting for the necessary means of prosecuting the invasion.

In the beginning of June General Taylor's force did not exceed 9000 men, in-

cluding 750 stationed at Barita, and 500 at Point Isabel. Reinforcements were coming in slowly from the different States of the Union, and, although he was anticipating the arrival of a sufficient force to warrant his advance towards Monterey, where the enemy was concentrating his forces, neither men nor steamboats had yet arrived sufficient to enable him even to fix the time of his departure.

In the meantime the Mexicans were not only discouraged by defeat, but distracted by internal dissensions. Paredes, the president of the republic, was reported to have superseded his defeated generals and assumed the command; but his authority was defied by Arista, who was organizing one of those insurrections which are so frequent in the political history of Mexico. The election of the 16th of June, however, resulted in choice of Paredes as President, and General Bravo, the governor of Vera Cruz, as Vice President.

By the military arrangements which followed this re-organization of the government, General Arevalo was sent to Monterey, and Bravo to Mexico, while Mejia was placed in command of the northern army, and Ampudia was ordered to San Luis Potosi. Monterey, being considered the most probable scene of General Taylor's next operations, was strongly fortified and furnished with provisions and munitions of war.

The Secretary of War, in his annual report, apologizes for the apparent neglect of the government to follow up the brilliant successes of General Taylor by prompt and adequate support:

“Owing to the great difficulty in providing the means of transporting supplies for so large a force as that concentrated on the Rio Grande; to the necessity of drawing all those supplies from the United States—the enemy's country being destitute of them; to the unusual freshets which retarded the progress of boats on the river, and to the impracticability of the land route for wagons at that time, arrangements for the movement upon Monterey from Matamoras, by the way of Camargo, the route selected by the commanding general, were not completed until the latter part of August, when a column, consisting of about 6000 regular and volunteer troops, commenced a forward movement by brigade upon Seralvo, and thence upon

Monterey, before which place it arrived on the 19th of September.”

In the meantime a considerable number of volunteers had arrived under Major Generals Butler and Patterson, and Brigadier Generals Quitman and Hammer, General Worth had also rejoined General Taylor's command.

It was not until the 5th of August, nearly three months after the battle of Resaca de la Palma, that General Taylor was able to take up his line of march from Matamoras for Camargo. On arriving at that place, General Worth was detached to San Juan, while Captain Wall occupied Reynosa, and General Twiggs had been left in command of Matamoras. Towards the end of August, General Worth was ordered to advance to Seralvo and there to await further orders. From this post, on the 5th of September, he sent back advices to General Taylor that Monterey had been fortified and reinforced by 3000 men under Ampudia; thus increasing the garrison to 5000 men. This information determined General Taylor to advance at once on Monterey, without waiting for further reinforcements.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

### APPROACH TO MONTEREY—BATTLE OF MONTEREY.

THE information received on the route from Seralvo, and particularly the continual appearance in our front of the Mexican cavalry, which had a slight skirmish with our advance at the village of Ramas, induced the belief, as we approached Monterey, that the enemy would defend that place. Upon reaching the neighborhood of the city on the morning of the 19th of September, this belief was fully confirmed. It was ascertained that he occupied the town in force. The city was fortified with thick stone walls in the old Spanish fashion of another century, with all the apparatus of ditches and bastions. The flat-roofed stone houses had been converted into fortifications—every street was barricaded, and every housetop was bristling with musketry. On one side was the

Bishop's Palace, a strong fort, well fortified—on the other, redoubts well manned and in the rear of all, a river. Such was the scene that presented itself to our army on the eve of

#### THE BATTLE OF MONTEREY.

The configuration of the heights and gorges in the direction of the Saltillo road, as visible from the point attained by our advance on the morning of the 19th, led General Taylor to suspect that it was practicable to turn all the works in that direction, and thus cut off the enemy's line of communication. Deeming this to be an operation of essential importance, orders were given to Brevet Brigadier General Worth, commanding the second division, to march with his command on the 20th, to turn the hill of the Bishop's palace, to occupy a position on the Saltillo road, and to carry the enemy's detached works in that quarter, where practicable. The first regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, under command of Colonel Hays, was associated with the second division on this service. Captain Sanders, engineers, and Lieutenant Meade, topographical engineers, were also ordered to report to General Worth for duty with his command. At 2 o'clock P. M. on the 20th, the second division took up its march. It was soon discovered by officers who were reconnoitering the town, and communicated to Gen. Worth, that its movement had been perceived, and that the enemy was throwing reinforcements towards the Bishop's palace and the heights which command it. To divert his attention as far as practicable, the first division under Brigadier General Twiggs, and field division of volunteers under Major General Butler, were displayed in front of the town until dark. Arrangements were made at the same time, to place in battery during the night, at a suitable distance from the enemy's main work, the citadel, two twenty-four pounder howitzers and a 10 inch mortar, with a view to open a fire on the following day, when it was proposed to make a diversion in favor of General Worth's movement. General Worth had in the meantime reached, and occupied for the night, a defensive position just without range of a battery above the Bishop's palace, having made a reconnoissance as far as the Saltillo road.

Early on the morning of the 21st, Ge-

neral Taylor received a note from General Worth, written at half-past 9 o'clock the night before, suggesting what he had already intended, a strong diversion against the centre and left of the town, to favor his enterprise against the heights in rear. The infantry and artillery of the first division, and the field division of volunteers, were ordered under arms and took the direction of the city, leaving a company of each regiment as a camp guard. The second dragoons, under Lieutenant Colonel May, and Colonel Wood's regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, under the immediate direction of General Henderson, were directed to the right to support General Worth, if necessary, and to make an impression, upon the upper part of the city. Upon approaching the mortar battery; the first and third regiments of infantry and battalion of Baltimore and Washington volunteers, with Captain Bragg's field battery, the whole under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Garland, were directed towards the lower part of the town, with orders to make a strong demonstration, and carry one of the enemy's advanced works, if it could be done without too heavy loss. In the meantime the mortar served by Captain Ramsey, of the ordnance, and the howitzer under Captain Webster, first artillery, had opened their fire upon the citadel, which was deliberately sustained, and answered from the work.

Lieutenant Colonel Garland's command had approached the town in a direction to the right of the advanced work at the northeastern angle of the city, and the engineer officer, covered by skirmishers, had succeeded in entering the suburbs and gaining cover. The remainder of this command now advanced, and entered the town under a heavy fire of artillery from the citadel and the works on the left, and of musketry from the houses and small works in front.

A movement to the right was attempted with a view to gain the rear of the Northeast fort and carry that work, but the troops were so much exposed to a fire which they could not effectually return, and had already sustained such severe loss, particularly in officers, that it was deemed best to withdraw them to a more secure position. Captain Backus, first infantry, however, with a portion of his own and other companies, had gained the

roof of a tannery, which looked directly into the gorge of the fort, and from which he poured a most destructive fire into that work and the strong building in its rear. This fire happily coincided in point of time with the advance of a portion of the volunteer division upon that strong and important work, and contributed largely to its fall.

The three regiments of the volunteer division under the immediate command of Major General Butler had, in the mean time, advanced in the direction of the north-eastern defence. The leading brigade, under Brigadier General Quitman, continued its advance upon that work, preceded by three companies of the 4th infantry, while General Butler, with the 1st Ohio regiment, entered the town to the right. The companies of the 4th infantry had advanced within short range of the work, when they were received by a fire that almost in one moment struck down one-third of the officers and men, and rendered it necessary to retire, and effect a junction with the two other companies then advancing. General Quitman's brigade, though suffering most severely, particularly in the Tennessee regiment, continued its advance, and finally carried the work in handsome style, as well as the strong building in its rear. Five pieces of artillery, a considerable supply of ammunition, and thirty prisoners, including three officers, were taken. Major General Butler, with the 1st Ohio regiment, after entering the edge of the town, discovered that nothing was to be accomplished in his front; and at this point, yielding to the suggestions of several officers, General Taylor ordered a retrograde movement; but learning almost immediately from one of his staff that the 1st battery at the north-eastern angle of the city, was in possession of our troops, the order was countermanded, and he determined to hold the battery and defences already gained. General Butler, with the 1st Ohio regiment, then entered the town at a point further to the left, and marched in the direction of the 2d battery. While making an examination with a view to ascertain the possibility of carrying this second work by storm, the general was wounded, and soon after compelled to quit the field. As its strength, and the heavy musketry fire flanking the approach, rendered it impossible to carry it without great loss,

the 1st Ohio regiment was withdrawn from the town.

Fragments of the various regiments engaged were now under cover of the captured battery and some buildings in its front and on the right. The field batteries of Captains Bragg and Ridgely were also partially covered by the battery. An incessant fire was kept up on this position from the second fort and other works on its right, and from the citadel, on all our approaches, General Twiggs, though quite unwell, joined General Taylor at this point, and was instrumental in causing the artillery captured from the enemy to be placed in battery, and served by Captain Ridgely against this work, until the arrival of Captain Webster's howitzer battery, which took its place. In the meantime such men as could be collected of the 1st, 3d, and 4th regiments, and Baltimore battalion, were directed to enter the town, penetrating to the right, and carry the 2d battery, if possible. This command, under Lieutenant Colonel Garland, advanced beyond the bridge Purisima, when, finding it impracticable to gain the rear of the 2d battery, a portion of it sustained themselves for some time in that advanced position; but as no permanent impression could be made at that point, and the main object of the general operation had been effected, the command, including a section of Captain Ridgely's battery, which had joined it, was withdrawn to the 1st fort at the north-eastern angle of the city, which it will be remembered had already fallen into the hands of the American forces. During the absence of this column, a demonstration of cavalry was reported in the direction of the citadel. Captain Bragg, who was at hand, immediately galloped with his battery to a suitable position, from which a few discharges effectually dispersed the enemy. Captain Miller, 1st infantry, was despatched with a mixed command to support the battery on this service. The enemy's lancers had previously charged upon the Ohio and a part of the Mississippi regiment, near some fields at a distance from the edge of the town, and had been repulsed with considerable loss. A demonstration of cavalry on the opposite side of the river was also dispersed in the course of the afternoon by Captain Ridgely's battery, and the squadrons returned to the city. At the ap-

proach of evening all the troops that had been engaged were ordered back to camp, except Captain Ridgely's battery and the regular infantry of the 1st division, who were detailed as a guard for the works during the night under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Garland: one battalion of the 1st Kentucky regiment was ordered to reinforce this command. Intrenching tools were procured, and additional strength was given to the works and protection to the men, by working parties during the night, under the direction of Lieutenant Skarrett, engineer.

The main object proposed in the morning had been effected. A powerful diversion had been made to favor the operations of the second division, one of the enemy's advanced works had been carried, and our troops now had a strong foothold in the town. But this had not been accomplished without a very heavy loss, embracing some of our most gallant and promising officers.

Early in the morning of the 21st, the advance of the second division had encountered the enemy in force, and, after a brief but sharp conflict, repulsed him with heavy loss. General Worth then succeeded in gaining a position on the Saltillo road, thus cutting the enemy's line of communication. From this position the two heights south of the Saltillo road were carried in succession, and the gun taken on one of them turned upon the Bishop's palace.

The 22d day of September passed without any active operations in the lower part of the city. The citadel and other works continued to fire at parties exposed to their range, and at the work now occupied by our troops. The guard left in it the preceding night, except Captain Ridgely's company, was relieved at midday by General Quitman's brigade. Capt. Bragg's battery was thrown under cover in front of the town, to repel any demonstration of cavalry in that quarter. At dawn of day the height above the Bishop's Palace was carried, and soon after meridian the palace itself was taken, and its guns turned upon the fugitive garrison. The object for which the second division was detached had thus been completely accomplished; and General Taylor felt confident that, with a strong force occupying the road and heights in his rear, and a good position below the city in our possession, the enemy could not possibly maintain the town.

During the night of the 22d the enemy evacuated nearly all his defences in the lower part of the city. This was reported to Gen. Taylor early on the morning of the 23d by Gen. Quitman, who had already meditated an assault upon those works. He immediately sent instructions to that officer, leaving it to his discretion to enter the city, covering his men by the houses and walls, and advance carefully as far as he might deem prudent. After ordering out the remainder of the troops as a reserve, under the orders of Brigadier Gen. Twiggs, the commanding General repaired to the abandoned works and discovered that a portion of Gen. Quitman's brigade had entered the town, and were successfully forcing their way towards the principal Plaza. He then ordered up the second regiment of Texas mounted volunteers, who entered the city dismounted, and, under the immediate orders of Gen. Henderson, co-operated with Gen. Quitman's brigade. Capt. Bragg's battery was also ordered up, supported by the 3d Infantry, and, after firing for some time at the Cathedral, a portion of it was likewise thrown into the city. Our troops advanced from house to house, and from square to square, until they reached a street but one square in rear of the principal Plaza, in and near which the enemy's force was mainly concentrated. This advance was conducted vigorously but with due caution, and, although destructive to the enemy, was attended with but small loss on our part. Capt. Ridgely in the meantime had served a captured piece in the 1st battery against the city; until the advance of our men rendered it imprudent to fire in the direction of the Cathedral. Gen. Taylor was now satisfied that he could operate successfully in the city, and that the enemy had retired from the lower portion of it, to make a stand behind his barricades. As Gen. Quitman's brigade had been on duty the previous night, he determined to withdraw the troops to the evacuated works, and concert with Gen. Worth a combined attack upon the town. The troops accordingly fell back deliberately, in good order, and resumed their original positions, Gen. Quitman's brigade being relieved after nightfall by that of Gen. Hamer. On his return to camp, he met an officer with the intelligence that Gen. Worth, induced by the firing in the lower part of the city was



about making an attack at the upper extremity, which had also been evacuated by the enemy to a considerable distance. But Gen. Taylor deemed it inexpedient to change his orders, and accordingly returned to camp.

A note from General Worth written at 11 o'clock, P. M., on the 23d, informed General Taylor that General Worth had advanced to within a short distance of the principal plaza, and that the mortar (which had been sent to his division in the morning) was doing good execution within the enemy's position. General Taylor, desiring to make no further attempt upon the city without complete concert as to the lines and modes of approach, instructed that officer to suspend his advance until he could have an interview with him, on the following morning at his head quarters.

Brigadier General Worth was intrusted with an important detachment, which rendered his operations entirely independent of those under the more immediate direction of General Taylor. Those operations were conducted with ability and gallantry characteristic of General Worth, and were crowned with complete success. That officer in obedience to the verbal orders of the General-in-chief with the 2d division, under his command—composed of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battery of horse artillery, artillery battalion (Lieutenant Colonel Childs), and 8th regiment (Captain Screvin), constituting the 1st brigade, under Lieutenant Colonel Staniford; Lieutenant Mackall's battery horse artillery, 5th infantry (Major Scott), 7th, Captain Niles, and one company Louisiana volunteers (Captain Blanchard), 2d brigade, under Brigadier General Persifer F. Smith (Colonel of rifles), and Colonel Hays's regiment of Texas mounted riflemen—moved from the main camp, at *El Bosque de Sta. Domingo*, at 2 P. M. on the 20th.

His instructions were, by a *detour* to the right, to endeavor to find and reach the Saltillo road, effect a thorough reconnoissance of the approaches to the city from that direction, to cut off supplies and reinforcements; and, if practicable, carry the heights, as before stated.

Owing to the difficulties of the ground, after leaving the *Marin*, and before striking the Presquina Grande road, the division had reached only six miles (in consequence of the delay in making the route practica-

ble for artillery, which service was executed by Captain Sanders) at 6 P. M., and was halted just without the range of a gun battery upon the summit of an isolated hill called *Loma de Independencia*, midway on the ascent of which was the Bishop's Palace; thence a reconnoissance was made under cover of detachments of Hay's Texans, to the intersection of the Presquina Grande route, then in possession of the division, with the Saltillo road. This examination resulted in the conviction that the grounds in front and on the left, in advance, constituted at the same time the weak and the strong points of the enemy's position, and entered mainly into the defenses of the city—the weak point, because commanding the only lines of retreat and of supply in the direction of *Saltillo*, and controlling that in direction of *Presquina Grande*; the strong point, because of the peculiarly defensive character of the hills and gorges, and of the very careful and skilful manner with which they had been fortified and guarded. On the morning of the 21st the division was put in motion, and with such formation as to present the readiest order of battle on any point of assault. At six, the advance, consisting of Hays's Texans, supported by the light companies 1st brigade, under Captain C. F. Smith (both extended as the valley widened or contracted), closely followed by Duncan's light artillery, and battalion heads of columns, on turning an angle of the mountain, at a hacienda called *San Jeromino*, came upon a strong force of cavalry and infantry, mostly the former. A conflict immediately ensued.

The Texans received the heavy charge of cavalry with their unerring rifles and usual gallantry; the light companies opened a rapid and well directed fire;—Duncan's battery was in action in one minute, promptly supported by a section of Mackall's, delivering its fire over the heads of our men. Ere the close of the combat, which lasted but fifteen minutes, the first brigade had formed to the front on the right and left, and delivered its fire. The second brigade was held in reserve, the ground not admitting of its deployment. The enemy retired in disorder, leaving on the ground one hundred killed and wounded (among the former *Don Juan N. Najera*, colonel of the permanent regiment of lancers), upon the Saltillo road, and was closely pursued until our troops



REPUSE OF MEXICAN CAVALRY AT MONTEREY.

got possession of the gorge, where all *debouches* from Monterey unite; the force just defeated, also reinforcements and supplies, were cut off. At this important point the division was halted, and attention directed towards the mountain forts which envelope the city on its western and southern faces. Soon discovering, however, that their position brought them within effective range of the batteries, the troops were advanced some hundred yards further on the Saltillo road.

The examination thus far had manifested, besides the importance of the positions, the impracticability of any effective operations against the city, unless possessed of the exterior forts and batteries. Independent, however, of ulterior objects, the occupation of these heights became indispensable to the restoration of the line of communication with headquarters, necessarily abandoned for the moment in order to secure the gorges of the Saltillo road; At 12, M., a force was detached under Capt. C. F. Smith, with orders to storm the batteries on the crest of the nearest hill, called *Federacion*; and, after taking that, to carry the fort called *Soldada*, on the ridge of the same height, retired about 600 yards. The two effectually guarded the slopes and roads in either valley, and consequently the approaches to the city. This command consisted of four companies of the Artillery battalion, and Green's, McGowan's, R. A. Gillespie's, Chandlis's, Ballowes's and McCullough's companies of Texan Riflemen, under Major Chevalier, acting in co-operation—in all about three hundred effectives. It was impossible to mark the movement of the storming party. On approaching the base of the mountain, the guns of both batteries opened a plunging fire, and numerous light troops were seen descending and arranging themselves at favorable points on the slopes. Perceiving these indications of determined resistance, Captain Miles was detached with the 7th to support and co-operate with the first party. In a short time the fire became general, the enemy yielding and retiring up the rugged declivity, and our men as steadily pursuing. The appearance of heavy reinforcements on the summit, and the cardinal importance of the operation demanding further support, the 5th under Major Scott, and Blanchard's company of volunteers, were immediately detached, accom-

panied by Brigadier General Smith, who was instructed to take command in that quarter. On reaching the advance parties, General Smith discovered that, under favor of the ground, he could, by directing a portion of the force to the right, and moving it obliquely up the hill, carry the *Soldada* simultaneously with the *Federacion*. He accordingly very judiciously pointed and accompanied the 5th, 7th, and Blanchard's company in that direction. Captain Smith's command having most gallantly carried the first object of attack, promptly turned the captured gun—a 9-pounder, upon the second, and moved on, with his main body, to participate in the assault upon *Soldada*, which was carried in gallant style by the forces under Scott, Miles, Blanchard, and Hays (who had been detached on special service, but who returned in time to share with fifty of his men in the first assault, and to take a prominent part in the second),—the whole directed by General Smith.

At this point our men secured another nine-pounder, and immediately both pieces were brought to bear upon the Bishop's palace, situated upon and midway the slope of the Hill Independencia, a valley of only six hundred yards intervening. They had now secured an important advantage, and yet but half the work was done. The possession of these heights only made the more apparent the controlling importance of those opposite, and the necessity of occupying the palace. A violent storm ensued; and night closing in, operations for the day ceased. The troops had now been thirty-six hours without food, and constantly taxed to the utmost physical exertions. Such as could be permitted slept with arms in hand, subjected to a pelting storm, and without covering, till 3, A. M., when they were aroused to carry the Hill Independencia.

Lieutenant Colonel Childs was assigned to lead this storming party, consisting of three companies (artillery battalion), three companies 8th infantry, under Captain Screvin, with two hundred Texan riflemen under Colonel Hayes and Lieutenant Colonel Walker, captain of rifles, acting in co-operation. The command moved at 3, conducted to its point of ascent by Captain Sanders, military, and Lieutenant Meade, topographical engineers. Favored by the weather, it reached by dawn of day within about one hundred yards of the

crest, in which position, among the clefts of rocks, a body of the enemy had been stationed the previous evening, in apparent anticipation of attack. The enemy's retreating fire was ineffectual, and not returned until Colonels Childs and Hays' commands had reached within a few yards of the summit, when a well directed and destructive fire, followed by the bayonet of the regulars and rush of the Texans, placed them in possession of the work. The cannon having been previously withdrawn, no impression could be made upon the massive walls of the palace or its outworks without artillery, except at enormous sacrifice.

Lieutenant Roland, of Duncan's battery, was ordered from the main camp with a twelve-pounder howitzer, and in two hours (aided by fifty men from the line under Captain Saunders, military engineers, for the purpose of selecting the route least difficult) that enterprising and gallant officer had his gun in position, having ascended an acclivity as rugged as steep, between seven and eight hundred feet, in two hours. A fire was immediately opened from the howitzer, covered by the epaulement of the captured battery, upon the palace and its outworks, four hundred yards distant, and soon produced a visible sensation.

Meanwhile, to reinforce the position, the 5th, Major Scott, and Blanchard's volunteers, had been passed from the first heights, and reached the second in time to participate in the operations against the palace.

After many affairs of light troops and several feints, a heavy sortie was made, sustained by a strong corps of cavalry, with desperate resolution to repossess the heights: such a move had been anticipated and prepared for. Lieutenant Colonel Childs had advanced under cover two companies of light troops, under command of Captain Vinton, acting major, and judiciously drawn up, the main body of his command, flanked on the right by Hays's, and left by Walker's Texans. The enemy advanced boldly; was repulsed by one general discharge from all arms; fled in confusion, closely pressed by Childs and Hays, preceded by the light troops under Vinton; and, while they fled past, our troops entered the palace and fort. In a few moments the unpretending flag of the Union had replaced the gaudy standard of

Mexico. The captured guns, one 6 inch howitzer, one 12 and two 9 pounder brass guns, together with Duncan's and Mackall's field batteries, which came up at a gallop, were in full and effective play upon the retreating and confused masses that filled the street leading to the nearest Plaza la Capilla, also crowded with troops. At this moment the enemy's loss was heavy. The investment was now complete. Except the force necessary to hold the position on Independencia, and serve the guns (shifted to points whence the shot could be made to reach the great Plaza), the division was now concentrated around the palace, and preparation made to assault the city on the following day, or sooner, should the general-in-chief either so direct, or, before communication be had, renew the assault from the opposite quarter.

About 10 A. M. on the 23d, a heavy fire was heard in the opposite quarter. Its magnitude and continuance, as well as other circumstances, did not permit a doubt that the General was conducting a main attack, and that his orders for General Worth's co-operation (having to travel a circuit of some six miles), had miscarried or failed to reach him by means of the numerous cavalry of the enemy. Under these convictions, the troops were instantly ordered to commence an operation which, if not otherwise directed, he had designed to execute in part, under favor of the night. Two columns of attack were organized to move along the two principal streets leading from one position in direction of the great Plaza, composed of light troops slightly extended, with orders to mask the men whenever practicable; avoid those points swept by the enemy's artillery; to press on to the first Plaza Capilla; to get hold of the end of streets beyond; then enter the buildings, and, by means of picks and bars, break through the longitudinal sections of the walls; work from house to house, and ascending to the roofs, to place themselves upon the same breast-height with the enemy. Light artillery, by sections, and pieces under Duncan, Rowland, Mackall, Martin, Hays, Irons, Clarke, and Curd, followed at suitable intervals, covered by reserves to guard the pieces, and the whole operation against the probable enterprises of cavalry upon our left. This was effectually done by seizing and commanding the head of every

cross street. The streets were at different and well chosen points, barricaded by heavy masonry walls, with embrasures for one or more guns, and in every instance well supported by cross batteries. These arrangements of defence gave to operations at this moment a complicated character, demanding much care and precaution; but the work went on steadily, simultaneously, and successfully. About the time the assault by the 2d division was commenced the fire ceased from our forces in the opposite quarter. Disengaged on the one side, the enemy was enabled to shift men and guns to that quarter occupied by General Worth's command, as was soon manifested by accumulation of fire. At dark they had worked through the walls and squares, and reached to within one block of the great Plaza, leaving a covered way in their rear; carried a large building which towered over the principal defences, and during the night and ensuing morning crowned the roof with two howitzers and a six pounder. All things were now prepared to renew the assault at dawn of day, when a flag was sent in, asking a momentary suspension of fire, which led to the capitulation, upon terms so honorable to our arms.

As the columns of attack were moving from the palace hill, Major Munroe, chief of artillery, came up to General Worth with a ten inch mortar which was immediately advanced to the Plaza Chapel, put in position, masked by the church wall, its bed adjusted as rapidly as possible, and by sunset opened upon the great square. At this period our troops had worked to within one block of the Plaza. The exact position of their comrades on the opposite side was not known, and the distance of the position to be assailed from the bomb-battery but conjectural: eight hundred yards was assumed, and fuse and charge regulated accordingly. The first shell fell a little short of the point on which it was directed, and beside our own troops. A slight increase of the projecting charge gave exact results. The whole service was managed by Major Munroe most admirably; and, combined with other operations, exercised a decided influence upon the final results. Early on the morning of the 23d, Major Brown, Artillery battalion, was despatched with a select command, and one section of Mackall's battery, under Lieutenant Irons, to occupy the stone mill, and adjacent

grounds, constituting, one league in advance, the narrow gorge, near Sta. Catarina. The Major took possession, repulsed the enemy's picquets, and was preparing his command to resist any attack, when he received orders from General Worth to retrace his steps, enter the city, and form the main reserve to the assaulting columns. He came up in good time, and good order, and was at once under fire.

On the morning of the 24th, General Taylor received a flag from the town, through Colonel Moreno, bearing a communication from General Ampudia, proposing to evacuate the town. He arranged with Colonel Moreno a cessation of hostilities until 12 o'clock, at which hour he agreed to receive the answer of the Mexican General at General Worth's headquarters, to which he soon repaired. Meantime Ampudia had signified to General Worth his desire for a personal interview with General Taylor; to which he acceded, and which finally resulted in a capitulation, placing the town and the material of war, with certain exceptions, in possession of our army. A commission was named to draw up articles of agreement, regulating the withdrawal of the Mexican forces and a temporary cessation of hostilities. The following is a copy of the capitulation:

Terms of capitulation of the City of Monterey, the capital of Nuevo Leon, agreed upon by the undersigned Commissioners, to wit: General Worth, of the United States Army, General Henderson, of the Texan Volunteers, and Colonel Davis, of the Mississippi Riflemen, on the part of Major General Taylor, Commanding-in-Chief the United States forces; and General Roquena and General Ortega, of the Army of Mexico, and Senor Manuel M. Llano, Governor of Nuevo Leon, on the part of Senor Don Pedro Ampudia, Commanding-in-chief of the Army of the North of Mexico.

ART. I. As the legitimate result of the operations before this place, and the present position of the contending armies, it is agreed that the city, the fortifications, cannon, the munitions of war, and all other public property, with the undermentioned exceptions, be surrendered to the commanding general of the United States, forces now at Monterey.

ART. II. That the Mexican forces be allowed to retain the following arms, to wit: the commissioned officers their side arms, the infantry their arms and accoutrements, the cavalry their arms and accoutrements, the artillery one field battery not to exceed six pieces, and twenty-one round of ammunition.

ART. III. That the Mexican armed forces retire, within seven days from this date, beyond the line formed by the pass of the Rinconada, the city of Linares, and San Fernando de Presas.

ART. IV. That the citidal of Monterey be evacuated by the Mexican and occupied by the American forces to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

ART. V. To avoid collisions, and for mutual convenience, that the troops of the United States will not occupy the city until the Mexican forces have withdrawn, except for hospital and storage purposes.

ART. VI. That the forces of the United States will not advance beyond the line specified in the 2d (3d) article before the expiration of eight weeks, or until the orders or instructions of the respective governments can be received.

ART. VII. That the public property to be delivered shall be turned over and received by officers appointed by the commanding generals of the two armies.

ART. VIII. That all doubts as to the meaning of any of the preceding articles shall be solved by an equitable construction, and on principles of liberality to the retiring army.

ART. IX. That the Mexican flag, when struck at the citadel, may be saluted by its own battery.

Done at Monterey, Sept. 24, 1846.

W. J. WORTH, Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

J. PINKNEY HENDERSON,

Maj. General Comd'g the Texan Vol's.

JEEF. DAVIS,

Colonel Mississippi Riflemen.

T. RAQUENA.

ORTEGA.

MANUEL M. LLANO.

PEDRO AMPUDIA.

Approved:

Z. TAYLOR,

Major. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

ing of two companies of each regiment, and one section of each battery, second division. General Smith was directed to take command of this corps, and conduct the ceremony, which duty he executed with delicacy to the unhappy and humiliated foe. Upon occupying the city it was discovered to be of great strength in itself, and to have all its approaches carefully and strongly fortified. The town and works were armed with forty-two pieces of cannon, and manned with a force of at least 7000 troops of the line and about 3000 irregulars, together with the inhabitants of the city.

The force under General Taylor's orders, before Monterey, as exhibited by returns, was 425 officers and 6220 men. Our artillery consisted of one 10-inch mortar, two 24-pounder howitzers, and four light field batteries, of 9 guns each—the mortar being the only piece suited to the operations of the siege. Such was the ever-memorable siege of Monterey. The attack was commenced on the 21st, and continued through the two succeeding days. The enemy was assailed in his fortified positions, his batteries captured, his fortresses, one after another, carried; and at length dispossessed of most of his defensive works and more than half of the city, he solicited terms of capitulation, and liberal terms were granted.

No better justice can be done to the merits of the officers and soldiers, who participated in the achievements of the three glorious days before Monterey, than is presented in the perspicuous despatch of Major General Taylor, and in the reports of the officers in subordinate command on the occasion. From these celebrated despatches and reports severally, we have compiled the above account, and endeavored to weave them into an historical connexion. It is gratifying to learn that in the scenes at Monterey, as afterwards, when the bravery and conduct of our armies were subjected to the severest tests, the volunteers, who were with the advancing column, bore a prominent part, and entitled themselves to an equal share in the honor and glory of the achievement.

On the 24th, in conformity with the articles of capitulation, the citadel was taken possession of by a command consist-

## CHAPTER IX.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ADVANCE ON SAN LUIS POTOSI—ARRIVAL OF GENERAL TAYLOR AT VICTORIA—RETURN TO MONTEREY—BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

GENERAL TAYLOR, who, on the 27th of June, had been raised to the rank of Major General, now made Monterey his headquarters, and remained during the armistice in perfecting the discipline and efficiency of his troops. He was also occupied in regulating his plan of operations on the Rio Grande and his line of communications thence to Monterey, and in moving forward from Camargo reinforcements and the new levies. On the 13th November, 1846, General Taylor accompanied the command under General Worth, which then left Monterey for Saltillo; they marched into the city and took possession without resistance. General Worth with his division (800 men) was left in command of the city, and General Taylor returned to Monterey. Brigadier General Wool and the column under his command, 2400 strong, with six pieces of artillery, having left San Antonio de Bexar on the 29th of September, had arrived at Monclova on the 31st of October without resistance, and had been received by the inhabitants in a friendly manner. He was now ordered by General Taylor to occupy the town of Parras, a small place seventy miles north-east of Saltillo. Saltillo, to which Worth was ordered, is about seventy miles from Monterey, and at an elevation of about 2000 feet above the latter place. General Patterson having been withdrawn on an expedition to act in conjunction with the fleet in the Gulf, General Butler was ordered to take the command of the reserve. Saltillo and Parras were occupied by the Americans without any opposition, the enemy having fallen back as far as San Luis Potosi.

Santa Anna, who was, at the beginning of the war, an exile in Havana, returned to Mexico in August, 1846, and Paredes having been deposed, was placed at the head of affairs. Gomez Farras, the Vice President, administered the affairs of the government at the capital while Santa Anna, as commander-in-chief, conducted the operations of the army, and set about raising a formidable force to resist the further advance of General Taylor. Before

December, he had succeeded in raising 20,000 men, and concentrating them at San Luis Potosi, which he strongly fortified, and filled with military stores.

After awaiting the advance of this formidable force for some time, General Taylor determined to meet them on their own ground. He began to prepare for a movement towards Victoria. General Butler was to command the reserve at Monterey, and Major General Patterson was instructed to advance on Victoria from Matamoras, with three regiments of volunteers. On the 12th of December, General Twigg, with the main division of regulars, was ordered to move from Monterey to form a junction with General Patterson at Victoria, and General Taylor, on the 15th, followed with two regiments of volunteers. On arriving at Montemorelos, he received intelligence from General Worth, commanding at Saltillo, that he was hourly expecting an attack on that place by Santa Anna. Sending forward General Quitman with a field battery to meet General Patterson at Victoria, General Taylor now fell back on Monterey, and on the 20th advanced towards Saltillo with General Twigg's division. But on his way he received fresh advices, informing him of the arrival of General Wool with a reinforcement at Saltillo, and that the enemy were withdrawing towards San Luis Potosi.

In consequence of this change of circumstances General Taylor set out for Victoria, where he arrived on the 30th of December.

General Taylor was now superseded in the command of the Army of Occupation, by Major General Winfield Scott, who was appointed commander-in-chief of all the land forces in Mexico, and at the various posts on the Rio Grande.

The theatre of Scott's operations was different from that of Taylor's. His main object was the reduction of the city of Vera Cruz, and the fort of St. Juan de Ulloa, by a combined land and sea force. Vera Cruz being the key of the main road to the capital, General Scott thought that its reduction would compel the Mexicans to sue for peace. To effect this object, it became necessary for him to draw from General Taylor the main body of his regular forces.

In January, troops were moved forward from Matamoras for Victoria, under Generals Patterson and Pillow. Also, the

brigades of Generals Quitman and Twiggs from Monterey—all destined for Tampico, thence to Vera Cruz.

Not only were nearly all the regular troops now withdrawn from General Taylor; but his noble coadjutor General Worth was detached, and ordered to march at the head of them from his post at Saltillo towards Vera Cruz, while Taylor was ordered to fall back on Monterey, and await the arrival of fresh recruits, volunteers who were destined to take the place of the veteran warriors of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey.

The following is his manly and characteristic address on parting with his troops:

“It is with deep sensibility that the commanding general finds himself separated from the troops he so long commanded. To those corps, regular and volunteer, who have shared with him the active services of the field, he feels the attachment due to such associations, while to those who are making their first campaign, he must express his regret that he cannot participate with them in its eventful scenes. To all, both officers and men, he extends his heartfelt wishes for their continued success and happiness, confident that their achievements on another theatre will redound to the credit of their country and its arms.”

General Taylor arrived at Monterey towards the latter part of January, 1847. His regular force, including May's dragoons, was now only 600, and in February he had received reinforcements, raising his army to nearly 6000 men.

A few days after his arrival, he received information from Saltillo, that the command under Gen. Wool had become alarmed in consequence of about 100 picked men and horses, who were sent out towards San Luis to gain intelligence respecting the enemy, and to watch their movements, having been surrounded in the night, at a place called Encarnacion, about 50 miles in advance of Saltillo, and all made prisoners, by a large force of Mexican cavalry. It afterwards proved that Majors Borland and Gaines, Captain Cassius M. Clay, and about seventy dragoons, had been captured by a party of about 1500 cavalry under General Minon.

This intelligence, as also an apprehension that Santa Anna would make an attempt to possess himself of the line of

posts between Monterey and Matamoras, determined General Taylor to advance and fight a pitched battle with him.

Leaving Monterey on the 31st January, he reached Saltillo on the morning of the 2d February, with a small reinforcement, which increased his force to 5000, when he lost no time in moving forward and establishing a camp at Agua Nueva, about 20 miles in advance of Saltillo, on the San Luis road, for the purpose of carrying on a course of instruction, as well as to watch the movements of the enemy. Here General Taylor remained until the 21st, examining the several passes through the mountains—at which time he ascertained that Gen. Santa Anna was advancing, and near at hand, with an overwhelming force. Not exactly liking his position, and having apprehensions about his supplies in Saltillo, he determined to fall back towards that place about twelve miles, and occupy a strong position which had been closely examined by the topographical engineers, under the eye of General Wool, before his arrival, who defined it admirably adapted to the description of force which composed our army. General Taylor, therefore, fell back, and occupied it on the evening of the 21st, and at once made the necessary preparations for

#### THE BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

General Taylor had fallen in love, at first sight, with the position at which he finally made his stand—at Buena Vista. This position was admirably chosen. It was at the foot of a mountain, or rather two mountains, between which ran the road through a narrow valley. On his right there was a deep ravine, which protected that flank more effectually than half a dozen regiments could have done. The left of General Taylor's line rested on the base of a mountain. The road in the centre was entrenched and defended by a strong battery. In front, the ground was uneven—broken into hills and deep ravines.

On the 21st the enemy were descried, approaching over the distant hills. At their appearance the volunteers raised a great shout, and gave three tremendous cheers. Their engineers and officers were seen flying over the field and dragging their cannon about to get them into



position, but the nature of the ground did not favor the undertaking, and it was late in the day before the big guns began to open.

The enemy had with them thirty-two cannon, mostly of large calibre. Their fire, though kept up very briskly, and apparently well manned, did so little execution in our ranks that it was not considered necessary to return their fire. Our cannon were therefore silent the whole of the 21st. Eight or ten killed and wounded were the extent of the casualties sustained by our army on the 21st. During the day, an officer approached our lines with a flag of truce, and requested to be shown to General Taylor. The brave old man was sitting quietly on his old white charger, with his leg over the pommel of the saddle, watching the movements of the enemy, when a Mexican officer was presented, who inquired what he [General Taylor] "was waiting for." From the silence of General Taylor's batteries, and the quiet manner in which he received Santa Anna's terrific cannonading, the Mexican supposed he was asking a very pertinent question, to which, however, old Rough and Ready gave the very pertinent reply that "he was only waiting for General Santa Anna to surrender." The Mexican returned hastily to his lines. This message proved to be a *ruse* to ascertain where General Taylor's position was, for after the return of the Mexican officer to his own ranks, the whole Mexican battery seemed to open upon General Taylor's position, and the balls flew over and about him like hail. Utterly indifferent to the perils of his situation, there sat the old chief, on his conspicuous white horse, peering through his spyglass at the long line of Mexican troops that could be seen at a great distance on the march. To the suggestion of his staff that old whitey was rather too conspicuous a charger for the commander, he replied "that the old fellow had missed the fun at Monterey, on account of a sore foot, and he was determined he should have his share this time."

At sunrise on the 22d February, the battle began in earnest, the Mexicans were drawn out in immense numbers. The dark columns of infantry extended as far as the eye could reach, and the cavalry seemed to cover the whole view with their interminable lines. At inter-

vals between the infantry and cavalry, their big guns, strongly protected by a large artillery force, kept up an incessant cannonade against our lines. Their forces were soon in motion. Our artillery was thrown forward to meet them, protected by the volunteers. General Wool led the main body in person, and was seen everywhere, rallying and encouraging the volunteers. The two armies were soon engaged in hot conflict. The broken nature of the ground divided the forces, so that instead of one general engagement, the regiments were compelled in a great measure to fight as they could.

As an instance of this it may be mentioned that at a very critical point of the battle in the early part of the day, when it became necessary to sustain one of our columns which was staggering under a charge made by the Mexicans in overwhelming numbers, General Taylor despatched Mr. Crittenden to order Col. McKee, of the 2d Kentucky regiment, to bring his men into immediate action. Mr. Crittenden found the regiment, men and officers, eager for the fray, delivered the order and rode back to the general, by whose side it was his duty to keep. The Kentuckians moved forward in gallant style, led by McKee and Clay, both of whom, alas! fell in a subsequent part of the day. It so happened that before reaching a position from which they could deliver an effective fire, the regiment had to cross a valley which was broken up by ravines and masses of stone. Whilst crossing this valley the heads only of the men could be seen from the point which General Taylor and Mr. Crittenden occupied—and these were bobbing up and down and crosswise in such confusion as to impress both with the idea that the regiment had fallen into disorder. The Mexicans were annoying them at the same moment by a fire, which helped to confirm the opinion of the general that the Kentuckians were thrown into dismay.

It was one of those decisive crises which occur in every contested field, when the issue of the day depended, for the time being, upon the gallantry of a particular corps.

General Taylor, who, as before said, could only see the heads of the troops, and misled by their motions in getting across gullies and going around rocks and other obstructions into the belief that they were

about to falter, turned to Mr. Crittenden, who is a Kentuckian, and with a countenance indicating deep mortification—for the general is a Kentuckian too—and an eye fierce with emotion, exclaimed, “Mr. Crittenden, this will not do—this is not the way for Kentuckians to behave themselves when called upon to make a good battle—it will not answer, sir:” and with this he clenched his hands, and knit his brow, and set his teeth hard together. Mr. Crittenden, who was mistaken by the same indications that deceived the general, could scarcely make a reply from very chagrin and shame. In a few moments, however, the Kentuckians had crossed the uneven places, and were seen ascending the slope of the valley, shoulder to shoulder, and with the firm and regular step of veterans of a hundred fields. On they moved until they reached the crest of the hill, where they met the enemy before the flush of a temporary advantage had subsided. Here they delivered their fires with such regularity and deadly aim that the decimated phalanx of Mexico gave way and retreated precipitously. As the Kentuckians emerged from the valley the countenance of the old general, who was regarding them with the intensest interest, gradually relaxed the bitterness of its expression. A glow of pride supplanted the deep mortification which fixed its muscles, and enthusiasm qualified the fierce glance of his eye. Forward they moved under his riveted gaze, whose feelings became more and more wrought up as they approached the scene of carnage. When they opened their fire the old general could no longer restrain his admiration, but broke forth with a loud huzza—“Hurrah for old Kentucky,” he exclaimed, talking as it were to himself and rising in his saddle—“that’s the way to do it; give it to them,” and the tears of exultation rolled down his cheeks as he said it.

Our officers were always in the advance, leading their troops—hence the great mortality among them. In this general *melee*, one of our small regiments, of 400 men, would be attacked by a whole Mexican brigade of several thousands. Thus the Kentucky Infantry was attacked at the foot of a hill, in a deep ravine, by an immense force of the enemy. A large number of the officers were killed here—among them was Colonel McKee, who fell badly wounded, and was immediately despatched

by the enemy, who pierced him with their bayonets as he lay on the ground. Lieut. Colonel Clay was shot through the thigh, and being unable to walk, was taken up and carried some distance by some of his men, but owing to the steepness of the hill, the men finding it very difficult to carry him, and the enemy in great numbers pressing upon them, the gallant Lieutenant Colonel begged them to leave him and take care of themselves. Forced to leave him on the field, the last that was seen of this noble young officer he was lying on his back, fighting with his sword the enemy who were stabbing him with their bayonets. The veteran Captain William S. Willis, of the same regiment, at the head of his company, with three stalwart sons who fought at his side, was badly wounded, but still continued the fight, until he was overcome by the loss of blood.

In the meantime, the Indiana brigade, who were drawn out and ordered to charge the enemy, were seized with a panic, and displaying some hesitation, Assistant Adjutant General Lincoln rushed to their front, and whilst upbraiding them for their cowardice, was shot, several balls passing through his body. In justice to this brigade it should be stated, that they subsequently rallied, and fully redeemed their reputation by the most gallant and effective fighting.

Colonel Hardin led the Illinoisians in very handsome style, and the sturdy backwoodsman fought like lions. Their intrepid Colonel fell wounded, and experienced the fate of Colonel McKee and Clay, and was killed by the enemy—not, however, before he had killed one of the cowardly miscreants with a pistol, which he fired whilst lying on the ground.

Colonel Yell led, the foremost man, a charge of his mounted volunteers against a large body of lancers, and was killed by a lance, which entered his mouth and tore off one side of his face.

The myriads of Mexican cavalry still pressed forward on our left, and threatened a charge upon the Mississippi rifles, under Colonel Davis, who had been ordered to support the Indiana regiment. Colonel Davis immediately threw his command into the form of a V, the opening towards the enemy, and awaited his advance. Their squadrons came dashing down with all the speed of Mexican horses. But when they arrived at that point from which could be



ATTACK ON THE KENTUCKY REGIMENT.

seen the whites of their eyes, the Mississippian lines poured forth a sheet of lead that scattered them like chaff, felling many a gallant steed to the earth, and sending scores of riders to the sleep that knows no waking. The enemy were completely routed. The distinguished commander of this gallant regiment, Colonel Jefferson Davis, was badly wounded, an escopette ball having entered his foot and passed out of his leg.

Colonel Humphrey Marshall's splendid regiment of Kentucky Cavalry were impatient for an opportunity of showing their mettle, and avenging the capture of their brethren, then in the hands of the enemy. They were soon favored with the desired opportunity, by the approach of a force of more than 2,000 Lancers and Hussars, who gallantly charged them. The Kentuckians stood their ground with immovable steadiness, and receiving the enemy with a fire from their carbines, charged in the most gallant style through the column on the right, and wheeling, fell on their left, dispersing and killing a great many of them. A like charge was made by Colonel May, at the head of a squadron of Dragoons, and one of Arkansas Cavalry, against a large body of the enemy's Cavalry, with like results.

During the engagement on the right, Santa Anna seeing that General Taylor's force was not well protected on the left flank, sent a large force of Cavalry around that point, and outflanking Taylor, succeeded in throwing 2,000 men into his rear. But General Taylor immediately sent Captain Bragg, with his artillery, against this force, who succeeded in cutting them off from the main body. Lieut. Crittenden was despatched, with a flag of truce, to demand the immediate surrender of this force. The Mexican officer, pretending not to understand the character of his mission, insisted that he should be blindfolded, according to the rules of war, and thus had the Lieutenant carried into the camp of Santa Anna himself. This was a ruse to get time to extricate the Mexican Cavalry from their dangerous position, and pending this truce they were all drawn off by a different road from that by which they had gained this position.

Lieutenant Crittenden was conducted blindfolded to the tent of the Mexican General-in-chief, which he found a long distance from the scene of action, and

which he thought the safest place he had been in during the whole day. As he approached Santa Anna's tent he was greeted with a most tremendous flourish of trumpets, which might have been heard a mile off, but produced no very great terror in the mind of the Kentuckian. His blind was taken off, and he found himself in the presence of the famous Mexican Chief, surrounded by a brilliant staff of bedizened, gilded, and moustached officers. Santa Anna apologized to the Lieutenant for the act of his officers, in having him blindfolded, saying, that so far from having any desire to conceal his situation, he was desirous of exhibiting to General Taylor the utter folly of resisting so powerful an army as he had under his command. To which the Lieutenant replied, that his simple message was to demand his (Santa Anna's) immediate surrender to General Taylor. When this extraordinary demand was translated to the Mexican, he raised his hands and eyebrows in utter astonishment at the temerity and presumption of such a message, and replied, that he would expect General Taylor to surrender in an hour, or he would destroy all his forces. Lieutenant Crittenden's reply, which we have already given—"General Taylor never surrenders!"—terminated the interview, and the battle recommenced, and was continued until night.

Santa Anna took three small pieces of our artillery, which, under Lieut. O'Brien, had been posted too far in advance to be covered by our infantry.

The details of the battle were confided to General Wool, who nobly justified the confidence of his commander and brother veteran. Throughout the whole action he was constantly engaged in the disposition of our forces, and in rallying them to the onset. Brigadier General Lane, also, showed himself to be a brave and capable officer. Although wounded early in the action, he kept his horse until it closed, and never for a moment left his post.

The old General-in-chief remained at his original and much exposed position, superintending the battle and narrowly watching its events. An escopette ball passed through his overcoat.

On the night of the 22d, both armies drew off from the field of battle. Our men were engaged all night in bringing in the wounded and taking care of them—the Mexicans as well as their own men.

There were, however, but few of our men found on the field wounded. They were, to use Santa Anna's significant words, in his despatch, "all dead," the cowardly miscreants having killed every man whom they overtook, wounded and helpless on the field.

A number of officers were taken prisoners, and an exchange was effected, by which all our men then in their hands are now released.

Among the killed and wounded of the Mexicans were three general officers and twenty colonels and commanders of battalions. General Minon was ordered by Santa Anna to attack and carry Saltillo during the engagement at Buena Vista. With this object, he made a demonstration against the town with 2,000 cavalry. Lieutenant Shover, with sixty men and two small pieces of artillery, went out to meet the valiant general, and at one discharge of his cannon sent him and his force to the right about in double quick time.

Santa Anna abandoned his position during the night, and fell back upon Agua Nueva. On the 27th our troops resumed their position at Agua Nueva, the enemy retreating as they approached. The Mexican army fled through Encarnacion in the direction of Matehuala, strewing their dead and dying along the road. The American force engaged at Buena Vista amounted to 4,759, exclusive of the small command at Saltillo, and with only 453 regular troops; that of the Mexicans to 20,000. Our loss was 746 killed, wounded and missing; the Mexican loss near 2,000.

An account of this battle will be concluded with the following extract from Santa Anna's despatch, which bears testimony to the valor and skill with which our little band of 5000 men withstood and repulsed the great army of Mexico, four times their superior in numbers, and led by their ablest general.

"The army moved from San Luis by brigades, so as to render available the scanty resources afforded by the country we were to cross. The force consisted of 13,432 infantry, divided into twenty-eight battalions; 4338 cavalry, in thirty-nine squadrons; and a train of artillery of three twenty-four pounders, three sixteen-pounders, five twelve-pounders, five eight-pounders, and a seven-inch howitzer, all served by 413 artillerymen—the total being 18,133 men. Of this force there re-

mained behind, the garrison of the works at San Luis, and others which I allotted to the towns on the route; as also two squadrons to escort our small and only reserve of ammunition; a brigade of infantry, of two battalions, under General Don Ciriaco Vasquez, which remained as a corps of reserve in Matehuala, and of observation upon Tula; as also a brigade of cavalry, under General Don Jose Urra. The latter was intended to pass Tula, and move through Tamaulipas to the neighborhood of Monterey, so as to call the enemy's attention to that quarter. The point of concentration for the brigades ought necessarily to be near this place, so that in the region through which they had to move, many troops might not be at once thrown together. I therefore fixed on the hacienda of Encarnacion for that point, it being, as I calculated, the last stage but one of my march. I there held a review of the army, which had already lost a thousand men by sickness and desertion. The former was caused by the scantiness and bad quality of food, and still more of water, which was brackish as well as scarce, as also by snow-storms and the exposure of the troops, who had always to be in bivouac and without fuel. These snow-storms obliged me to suspend the march two days, till the weather became more settled: for the cold had already caused the death of several men and horses, and I felt bound by every means to diminish the losses we were incurring. These hardships will account for the number of desertions which occurred up to our arrival at Encarnacion, and which afterwards even increased. It must also be remembered, that almost the whole army had been recently formed, and, as is well known, of men taken by violence from their homes.

"We had advices that the enemy were fortified in the hacienda of Agua Nueva, with 6000 men and thirty pieces, resolved to defend the defiles known by the names of the passes of Carnero and Agua Nueva. The Americans did not know the precise point on which our march was directed; for, though they exchanged some shots with our advance in Encarnacion, and had frequent small skirmishes with us in the above passes, they supposed our troops to be scouting parties of the first brigade of cavalry, under Don Jose V. Minon, whom I had advanced as far as the hacienda of

Potosi. These were the impressions when I made my dispositions.

“It was my intention to place my forces between the enemy and Saltillo, so as to oblige him to fight under the disadvantage of having his communication cut off, or, if he would not leave his works, to enable me to besiege him in Agua Nueva. This plan might be carried out in three different ways. One was by marching twenty leagues by the direct road, another by moving to the right by La Hedionda, so as to occupy Buena Vista; and the third, by moving to the left by La Punta de Santa Elena, so as to occupy the hacienda of La Banqueria, and thereafter the road to Saltillo. The two last movements were at this time impracticable, for they would either of them require three or four days’ march, while we were without provisions, forage, or water. I therefore resolved to operate by the direct road, force the positions, and, after passing the last defile, make a diversion by the left, and occupy the rancho of Encantada, with the view of obtaining water, none of which was to be had for more than eighteen leagues. All this was favored by the enemy’s ignorance of our march; but misfortune still followed us. A deserter from the regiment of Coraceros, a native of Saltillo, named Francisco Valdes, passed over from Encarnacion to the enemy, and gave him information of the movement. The execrable treason of this infamous wretch frustrated the best combinations.

“On the 21st at noon, I ordered the march to commence, the four light battalions, under General Don Pedro Ampudia, forming the vanguard. I had not hesitated to allow that general, and other officers who had been court-martialled for the affair of Monterey, to participate in these operations, not only because I did not consider them culpable, but also on account of the zeal they manifested. This brigade was followed by one of artillery, of sixteen-pounders, with the regiments of engineers and their train, and those by the park of the regiment of Hussars. Then came the first division, commanded by general Don Manuel Lombardini, with four twelve-pounders and the park. The second division, under General Don Francisco Pacheco, followed next, with four eight-pounders and their park; after these the whole of the cavalry, under Don Julian Juvera; and then the remainder of the general

park and baggage, the rear being covered by a brigade of cavalry, under General Don Manuel Andrade.

“In this order of march the troops were ordered to make the first fourteen leagues, between Encenada and a plain called De la Guerra, which is in front of the first defile, called the Pass of the Pinones; and to pass the night on that plain in the same order of column. The troops having eaten their rations, order was given for carrying water as none could be met with till the day following, after having overcome the enemy at Agua Nueva, three leagues beyond the aforesaid pass. I, with my staff and the regiment of engineers, occupied the front, a little behind the light troops. On arriving at the plain, De la Guerra, I continued the march in order to pass the defile of Pinones, which was accomplished; and I ordered the light brigade to take a position in the pass of Carnero, where it had a skirmish with an advance of the enemy. Under these dispositions we passed the night.

“At dawn on the 22d, the army continued its march, with the idea of carrying by force of arms the pass of Agua Nueva, which I supposed would be defended by the enemy; but I found to my surprise that it was abandoned. I then concluded that the American forces had retired to their fortifications in the hacienda, to concentrate their defence under cover of the intrenchments, which I had heard they had there thrown up. Under this idea I continued the march, in order to turn by the right to the rancho of Encantada, which, as I have before mentioned, is on the Saltillo road, being between that city and Agua Nueva, and four or five leagues from each. Till that time no one had appeared to give me information, nor did any one after, except a servant from Agua Nueva, who told me that the enemy had been evacuating his position since the day previous, and falling back towards Saltillo; and that on that same morning, the hacienda had been wholly abandoned, by the retreat of a small detachment which escorted a large quantity of munitions. By this movement my first plans and dispositions, founded on an expected resistance, were rendered abortive; but I still did not despair of a successful result, for I had in anticipation directed General Minon, with his cavalry brigade, 1200 strong, to occupy, on the morning of the

22d, the hacienda of Buena Vista, distant three short leagues from Saltillo. This force might arrest the enemy's march, or at least make a diversion that would give time for the army to come up. I therefore continued my march, without losing more time than would allow the soldiers to drink water on the road. The light brigade came within sight of the enemy's rear-guard, and I ordered them to charge in conjunction with the hussar regiment. I had reason to believe the enemy were making a precipitate retreat, as they left several articles on the road, such as carts, forge implements, extra wheels, and other things, which we gathered while marching. In consequence of the different reports I received, I ordered the cavalry to advance; I thought we would be able to reach their rear-guard, and placed myself at the head of those troops.

"On arriving at a place called Angostura, I found the main body of the enemy awaiting me in position. The road from the pass of Pinones to Saltillo runs between two chains of mountains, which form that pass and those of Carnero and Agua Nueva. The ridges open beyond that hacienda and approach each other again at Angostura, where the road turns to the right. At this place there is a succession of ridges, which run out towards the line of our route, and at right angles with it, and between them are ravines which form the drains of the mountains on the right. They are more or less passable, but all very difficult. The enemy's position was in front and in rear of the road, his right and front being covered by ravines that were impassable, even for infantry, and a battery of four pieces being planted on the highest point. His battalions were formed on the heights with two other batteries, one of which was in a low part of the road, between two hills: and, to my view, their forces appeared to be about 8000 men, with twenty pieces; but the prisoners taken from them report twenty-six pieces, and upwards of 8000 combatants.

"I reconnoitered the position and situation of the enemy, and ordered the director of engineers, General Don Ignacio de Mora y Villamil, to do the same. After ascertaining the force of the invader, it was necessary either to await the infantry, to take position, or to fight, as might seem most advisable. At this interval, I observed that the enemy had neglected to

occupy a height on his left flank; and, without losing a moment, I ordered General Ampudia's light brigade to take possession of, and hold it at every cost. As the brigade came up, I formed them in two lines on a rising ground that fronted the enemy, there being another eminence between our two positions; the first division of infantry was under the command of General Lombardini, and the second under the command of General Pacheco. I directed that General Mora y Villamil, in conjunction with the commanding general of artillery, Don Antonio Corona, should find a position for a battery of sixteen-pounders, to be sustained by the regiment of engineers. Two other batteries, of twelve and eight-pounders, were located by me. The cavalry, commanded by General Juvera, were placed on the right of our rear, and on our left flank. The regiment of hussars was also posted in the rear, and on the flank aforesaid was a height which I ordered the battalion of Leon to occupy. The general park was in the rear, covered by the brigade of General Andrade, and between this park and the lines of battle I took my own position.

"The making of these dispositions, as may be supposed, occupied some time, for the troops arrived at their positions after a march of more than twenty leagues. It was, therefore, not an hour for combat, and the army lay on its arms. The enemy, however, so soon as he perceived that we had occupied the height that flanked his left and our right, despatched two battalions to dislodge us, which led to a warm engagement, that lasted all the afternoon and till after dark, when he was repulsed with a loss of 400 men, according to the report of the prisoners. Ours was much less, as we had the advantage of the ground.

"At dawn on the 23d, I mounted my horse; the enemy had not changed his previous dispositions, and was ready to receive us. I observed but one difference, which was, that on his right, and at some distance from his position, he had formed two bodies of infantry, with a battery of four pieces, as if with the intent of threatening our left flank, but I at once believed this to be a mere demonstration, for he would never have left in his rear the difficult ground which gave strength to that position, being the web of im-

passable ravines before referred to. I, therefore, gave no attention to this disposition of his forces, and resolved to move mine by the right. With this intention, I advanced the divisions of General Lombardini and General Pacheco in that direction. I ordered General Don Manuel Micheltoarena to plant the battery of eight-pounders on our right flank, so as to rake obliquely the enemy's line, and to remain with the staff, of which he was chief, and await my orders. I directed that General Ampudia, with the light brigade, should charge by our left flank on the enemy's right, and that General Mora y Villamil should form a column of attack composed of the regiment of engineers, the 12th battalion, the *fijo de Mexico*, and the companies of Puebla and Tampico, commanded by Colonel Don Santiago Blanco. At the same time, I directed General Corona, commanding the artillery, to place the battery of twelve-pounders in a more commanding position, while the 3d division remained in reserve, under Brevet-General Don Jose Maria Ortega.

"So soon as the enemy perceived our movements, he commenced the action at all points, attacked our troops with intrepidity, and maintained the conflict with great vigor. Our men received them with proper energy, driving back and following up the assailants. At this time my horse was disabled by a grape-shot, and it was some time before I could mount another. As the enemy had yielded ground, I ordered the cavalry to advance and charge, which was done with vigor. Suitable orders had been sent to the generals of division and brigade, among the rest to General Don Angel Guzman; but, though the officers and troops acted with great resolution, it was impossible to overcome the difficulties of the ground; and, after a struggle which did them honor, they were obliged to fall back to their positions. After various alternations, the same occurred with the infantry.

"The battle, which commenced at seven in the morning, was prolonged for many hours, our loss every moment accumulating. Many officers and soldiers had already been killed, and a number of commanders and distinguished officers wounded, among whom were General Lombardini, Lieutenant-Colonels Brito, Galloso, and others. Among the slain

were Lieutenant-Colonels Asonos, Berra, and other meritorious officers, whose loss the country will ever lament. The enemy maintained his ground with the utmost obstinacy, inasmuch that some of our troops faltered in their attacks, and many of the raw recruits dispersed. This, however, ought to exalt the merit of those whose intrepidity was never paralysed, and may also be cited to show how hotly contested was the action.

"Things were in this situation when I concluded to make the final effort. With this view I ordered that a battery of twenty-four pounders should be mounted; that the column of attack then posted on our left flank, where it had no object of operation, should be transferred to our right, and there be joined by the remains of the 11th regiment, the battalion of Leon, and the reserves, all under the command of Brevet-General Don Francisco Perez. I executed this in person, and afterwards sent for General Mora y Villamil, and made him acquainted with my final dispositions. I had already directed Generals Perez and Pacheco, each with his command, to be prepared for an extreme struggle, and had ordered the battery of eight-pounders to advance and take the enemy's line in flank. The charge was made with daring valor, and was resisted with animated vigor, with a fire so heavy and rapid as to cause admiration; but the Americans could not sustain themselves—they were driven back and overcome, with the loss of three pieces of cannon and as many stands of colors. I sent two of the latter to the government with my last despatch; the other, which I then omitted to notice, will be presented to the honorable congress of the state of San Luis Potosi, as a testimonial of the army's gratitude for the patriotic services they had rendered, and the generous sacrifices they had made for its benefit. We moreover captured a travelling forge, and some smaller articles, which I will not enumerate. Our cavalry, which so bravely executed the order to charge, reached the enemy's rearmost positions; but, owing to the nature of the ground and the fatigue of the men and horses, I did not think it prudent to attempt to dislodge them from those. The battle closed at six in the evening, our troops being then formed on the ground which the Americans had occupied. Our last effort



would have been decisive, if General Minon had done his part by attacking the enemy in the rear : but he omitted to do it, and I am under the painful necessity of subjecting his conduct to a court martial, that he may explain it. An action thus contested necessarily involved considerable loss. Ours in killed and wounded amounted to more than 1500 men, and that of the enemy was much greater, for we had time to take a view of the great number of their dead.”

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## CHAPTER X.

GENERAL TAYLOR—GENERAL WOOL—GENERAL TWIGGS—GENERAL WORTH—COL. YELL—COLONEL HARDIN—COLONEL MC'KEE—COLONEL CLAY—MAJOR BLISS.

THE battle of Buena Vista resulted in the complete disorganization of the army of Santa Anna. With the remnant of his troops in total disorder he returned to San Luis Potosi, there took leave of his soldiers, returned to the capital, assumed the reins of government, in place of Gomes Parias who retired, and, raising another army, marched forward on the road to Vera Cruz to meet General Scott.

Gen. Taylor after the battle of Buena Vista re-occupied his former place of encampment at Agua Nueva, which he soon quitted taking with him two companies of Bragg's artillery, and Colonel May's squadron of dragoons in pursuit of Urrea who, with some 4000 cavalry and rancheros, had been for some time hanging on our line of communications between Monterey and Camargo, cutting off our trains of provisions, and who was then said to be in retreat towards the mountains. Gen. Urrea getting information of this movement escaped to Linores, and Gen. Taylor returned to Monterey. Gen. Taylor has since taken up his march to San Luis Potosi, on his way to join Gen. Scott at the city of Mexico.

The record of the events of this war gives the highest eulogium of the military character of Gen. Taylor, and places him in the highest rank of military heroes. But to his eminent qualities as a commander he adds the noblest virtues of the man. As a conqueror he has ever been magnan-

imous and humane to the wounded and the captive. His troops have always received his kindest care and attention, and his warmest sympathies have been extended to those of his friends who have fallen by his side. This excellent trait of his character appears in his letter to the Hon. Henry Clay on the occasion of the fall of his gallant son at the battle of Buena Vista.

Of the family of Gen. Taylor it may be said, he has now one son and two daughters living. The son has recently graduated at Yale College, and was made the bearer of his father's commission of brevet major-general. Colonel Jefferson Davis, who was distinguished in the battle of Buena Vista, married one of Gen. Taylor's daughters, who is now dead.

Lieut. Col. Joseph Taylor, Commissary of Subsistence to the army of occupation, is a brother of Gen. Taylor, and has been attached to the army since 1812.

General Taylor possesses a large property, having received a considerable estate from his father in Kentucky. He has also a large plantation in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, on which he has made his residence.

## GENERAL WOOL.

JOHN E. WOOL, Brigadier-General, is a native of Troy, in this State, where he holds his residence. He entered the army a Captain of the 13th infantry, on the 14th of April, 1812, and was soon after promoted to the rank of Major. He was actively engaged in the campaigns during the war of that period. In the battle of Plattsburg, Major Wool had an opportunity of signaling himself in a separate command of high importance, and was highly complimented for his gallantry in the dispatch of General Macomb giving an account of that battle.

Major Wool's services on this important occasion were rewarded by promotion to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by brevet, the department of war taking care to specify that it was for his gallant conduct at the battle of Plattsburg.

During the long peace which followed, Colonel Wool was employed at the different posts of the regular army, where his presence was required by the exigencies of the service. On the 27th of April, 1816, he was created inspector-general,

with the full rank of colonel; and ten years after, April 29th, 1826, he received the appointment of brigadier-general, his brevet. His commission as brigadier-general, dates June 29th, 1841.

An account of his advance with the central column of 4,000 from Texas till forming a junction with General Taylor, and of his services at the battle of Buena Vista, has been given in a former chapter. An anecdote of the meeting of Generals Taylor and Wool, after the battle, is worth recording.

"Blucher and Wellington-like," says an eye-witness, "Generals Taylor and Wool met after the retreat commenced. General Wool rushed between the arms of his brother veteran, and congratulated himself upon the favorable result of the day's trial. General Taylor playfully retorted: 'Oh! it's impossible to whip us when we all pull together.'"

In his official despatch General Taylor did not omit to notice the excellent conduct of his tried and gallant friend. He says, "I may be permitted here, however, to acknowledge my great obligations to General Wool, the second in command, to whom I feel particularly indebted for his valuable services on this occasion."

In his detailed report we find the following warm commendation:

"To Brigadier-General Wool my obligations are especially due. The high state of discipline and instructions of several of the volunteer regiments was attained under his command, and to his vigilance and arduous service before the action, and his gallantry and activity on the field, a large share of our success may justly be attributed. During most of the engagement he was in immediate command of the troops thrown back on our left flank. I beg leave to recommend him to the favorable notice of the government."

### GENERAL TWIGGS.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL DAVID E. TWIGGS is a native of Georgia. He entered the army as captain of the 8th infantry, on the 12th of March, 1812, served with distinction in the war of 1812, was promoted to the office of major on the 14th of May, 1825, and was made colonel of the 2d dragoons on the 8th of June, 1836.

At the commencement of the present war with Mexico, Col. Twigg's regiment formed a part of the Army of Occupation;

and through the whole course of operations he has figured among the most active and useful officers in the field.

On the 25th of March, 1846, Colonel Twigg was detached by General Taylor for the service of capturing Point Isabel, which was held by General Garcia with a force of 250 men, composed of infantry and artillery. The public buildings were set on fire by the Mexican authorities at the approach of the Americans, and the soldiers and inhabitants, with Gen. Garcia at their head, took to flight, escaping Col. Twigg's dragoons, who arrived in the town in season to save a few of the burning houses.

At the battle of Palo Alto, Col. Twigg commanded the whole of the right wing, comprising McIntosh's infantry, Ringgold's artillery, Morris and Allen's infantry, Churchill's artillery, part of the fourth brigade under Garland, and the dragoons of Kerr and May.

At the battle of Resaca de la Palma, Col. Twigg's services were also recognised as of great importance; and to him were intrusted the arrangements respecting the exchange of prisoners after the battle. He also led the van at the capture of Matamoras, and on its falling into the hands of the Americans, he was appointed governor of the town.

Colonel Twigg's services on the 8th and 9th of May were very properly noticed by the government; who, on the 30th of June, 1846, promoted him to the rank of Brigadier-General.

His important services at Monterey have been noticed in the account of that battle; after which he was detached from the command of General Taylor and united to that of General Scott, in the grand movement on Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico. His services in this quarter will be noticed in a subsequent chapter. It will be here only mentioned, that he performed an important part at the siege of Vera Cruz, and subsequently led the division against the grand army of Santa Anna, composed of 15,000 men, at Cerro Gordo, and achieved one of the most distinguished victories of this war; routing and dispersing the entire forces of the enemy.

### GENERAL WORTH.

BREVET MAJOR GENERAL J. WORTH, who so conspicuously signalized himself at Monterey and Vera Cruz, is a descendant



TAYLOR AND HIS GENERALS

of one of the oldest families of New England. When quite young he was engaged as clerk in a mercantile house in Albany, but at the opening of the war of 1812 enlisted as a private in the regular army. A friend of his being placed in arrest, he addressed a memorial to General (then colonel) Scott, praying to be excused. This was written with such ability that Scott inquired who wrote it, and on being informed that it was private Worth, sent for the author and made him his secretary.

Promotion from the government, obtained through the influence of Scott, soon followed, and on the 19th of March, 1812, he was commissioned as first lieutenant of the 23d regiment of infantry.

His first opportunity for signalizing himself, was at the battle of Chippewa, on the 5th of July, 1814, where he acted as one of the aids of Colonel Scott, and was highly complimented by General Brown. He was also distinguished in the same capacity at Lundey's Lane on the 25th of the same month, where he received a severe wound. For his services on these occasions he was promoted to the rank of Captain on the 19th of August, 1814. After peace Captain Worth was for a considerable time superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, an office that would only be confided to one in whose discretion, judgment, ability, and high gentlemanly deportment the government reposed unlimited confidence.

Worth was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel by brevet, on the 25th of July, 1824, and was appointed major of ordnance in 1832. On the 7th of July, 1838, he was appointed colonel in the 8th regiment of infantry.

The war in Florida, which furnished occasion for a display of General Taylor's military skill and intrepidity, also presented a theatre on which Colonel Worth was destined to figure. The service was one of the most tedious and unpleasant which could possibly be imposed upon an ardent soldier, desirous of winning distinction; for it consisted in hunting up the lurking places of an insidious and savage enemy, and driving him into action. The Seminoles had eluded pursuit for a long time previous to May, 1841, when the conduct of the war was entrusted to Colonel Worth. Sickness among the men impeded his operations, but he was soon able to compel

the surrender of several considerable detachments of hostile Indians; and on the 19th of April, 1842, he succeeded in compelling a large body of Indians to fight at a place called Palaklakhaha. The result, as might have been anticipated, was a complete defeat of the enemy, which was soon after followed by the surrender of one of the leading chiefs of the Indians with his band.

Colonel Worth had already received (March 1st, 1842) the appointment of brigadier-general by brevet.

After the battle of Palaklakhaha, the Florida war was speedily brought to a close, for the time; and General Worth was ordered to another post; but hostilities again breaking out, he was again ordered to Florida; but his subsequent service there afforded him no opportunity for distinction.

For his services at Monterey which have been recorded in another chapter, Worth has received the appointment of brevet Major-General. He was detached from the command of General Taylor to join that of Scott at Vera Cruz, where he was made governor of the city and castle after their capture, and is now on his march to the city of Mexico.

#### COLONEL YELL.

COLONEL ARCHIBALD YELL resigned his seat as a representative in Congress from Arkansas, and was elected colonel of the Arkansas regiment of mounted volunteers. At the battle of Buena Vista it is said his regiment refused to advance against the enemy as ordered by General Wool, when Colonel Yell prevailing on one hundred of his honest men to follow him, plunged into the thickest of the fight, and there fell, in a charge against the Mexican lancers. He was pierced in the mouth by a lance; cutting open the side of his face. Colonel Yell was a lawyer, formerly of Tennessee, where he contracted an intimacy and friendship with the President, who was much grieved at his loss. Colonel Yell has left a family who were dependent on his exertions for support, and the last letter he wrote was to the President, requesting his pay that might be due, to be paid to his family in case he should fall on the field. Colonel Yell has a son in the College at Georgetown, and the President

with a generosity which does honor to his character, has adopted this son, and provided for his education.

### COLONEL HARDIN.

COLONEL JOHN J. HARDIN, of the 1st regiment of Illinois volunteers, fell nobly at the head of his command on the field of Buena Vista. Of the particulars of his biography we have been able to gain but few particulars. He was born in Kentucky, and was a nephew of the Hon. Henry Clay. His honorable death attests the nobleness and bravery of his character.

### COLONEL Mc'KEE.

OF COLONEL R. U. Mc'KEE, of the 2d Kentucky regiment of foot, we are unable to record as much as we should desire. He graduated at West Point in 1829, and was a brave and skilful officer. An account of the gallant charge of his regiment, and of his fall, is recorded in the chapter containing a description of the battle of Buena Vista.

### COLONEL CLAY.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HENRY CLAY, son of the distinguished statesman, Henry Clay, was born in Kentucky, and graduated in 1831 at West Point, with distinguished honor—being the second in his class. The “piping times of peace,” afforded not sufficient opportunity of action to one of his ardent temperament, while attached to the army. He therefore resigned his commission, and adopted the profession of the law, in which he was rapidly rising to eminence at the time of the breaking out of the Mexican war, when he obeyed the call of his country, and rushed to the standard of General Taylor. His residence was at Lexington, in his native State, and he was lieutenant-colonel of Colonel McKee's 2d regiment of Kentucky volunteer infantry. No fitter eulogium on his character can be pronounced than is to be found in the following tender, yet manly letter of General Taylor, addressed to the Hon. Henry Clay, on the occasion of the fall of his gallant son at Buena Vista, of which an account has been given in the relation of that battle.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, }  
*Agua Nueva, Mexico, March 1, 1847.* }

MY DEAR SIR: You will no doubt have received, before this can reach you, the deeply distressing intelligence of the death of your son in the battle of Buena Vista. It is with no wish of intruding upon the sanctuary of parental sorrow, and with no hope of administering any consolation to your wounded heart, that I have taken the liberty of addressing you these few lines; but I have felt it a duty which I owe to the memory of the distinguished dead, to pay a willing tribute to his many excellent qualities, and while my feelings are still fresh, to express the desolation which his untimely loss and that of other kindred spirits has occasioned.

I had but a casual acquaintance with your son, until he became for a time a member of my military family, and I can truly say that no one ever won more rapidly upon my regard, or established a more lasting claim to my respect and esteem. Manly and honorable in every impulse, with no feeling but for the honor of the service and of the country, he gave every assurance that in the hour of need I could lean with confidence upon his support. Nor was I disappointed. Under the guidance of himself and the lamented McKee, gallantly did the sons of Kentucky, in the thickest of the strife, uphold the honor of the State and the country.

A grateful people will do justice to the memory of those who fell on that eventful day. But I may be permitted to express the bereavement which I feel in the loss of valued friends. To your son I felt bound by the strongest ties of private regard; and when I miss his familiar face, and those of McKee and Hardin, I can say with truth, that I feel no exultation in our success.

With the expression of my deepest and most heartfelt sympathies for your irreparable loss, I remain,

Your friend,

Z. TAYLOR.

HON. HENRY CLAY, New Orleans, La.

### MAJOR BLISS.

MAJOR WILLIAM WALLACE SMITH BLISS, Assistant Adjutant-General of the Army of Occupation, who has gained important distinction in all the battles of that army, and to whom has also been attributed a share

of the literary merit that has distinguished the dispatches of General Taylor, was born at Whitehall, in the state of New York, in 1815. His father was a captain in the late war with Great Britain. Major Bliss received a great part of his early education at Salem, New Hampshire, where his mother resided, and graduated with honor at West Point, in 1833. Having served about a year in the field in Georgia and Alabama, he was, in 1834, made assistant Professor of Mathematics at West Point.

While occupying this position, he embraced the opportunity which the facilities around him afforded, to gratify his taste for the modern languages, and the study of military history. Besides perfecting his knowledge of the French language, so as to enable him to speak it fluently, he made himself thoroughly acquainted with the German language, and German literature. At the same time he obtained a fair knowledge of the Spanish and Italian languages, and studied most critically the campaigns of Napoleon and Wellington. His acquaintance with Spanish has been highly useful in the present war, as he has been able to translate all the despatches received from the enemy. His appointment to the office of Assistant Adjutant General, with the brevet rank of Captain, in 1839, caused him to be relieved from duty at the Academy early in the year 1840, and ordered to Washington. He remained but a short time on duty there, and was thence ordered to report to General Armistead, then commanding in Florida, as the Assistant Adjutant-General of the forces prosecuting the Seminole war. The efficient and valuable services which he rendered in this war, as chief of General Armistead's staff, caused him to be noticed and mentioned by the head of the War Department, as a man possessing military genius, and high professional attainments.

In the beginning of 1841, he joined General Taylor, on the frontier of Arkansas, and has remained with him ever since as the chief of his staff. He has been in every battle fought by General Taylor in the Mexican war; and for his good conduct at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, he was promoted to his present rank of Major. At Palo Alto his horse was killed under him; and in each of the succeeding battles his horse was either killed or wounded.

## CHAPTER XI.

FREMONT'S EXPEDITION—THE SQUADRON IN THE PACIFIC—CAPTURE OF MONTEREY AND CUIDAD DE LAS ANGELOS—GENERAL KEARNEY'S DIVISION—CAPTURE OF SANTA FE—CONQUEST OF CALIFORNIA—THE INSURRECTION IN NEW MEXICO—THE BATTLE OF SACRAMENTO—HOME SQUADRON—CAPTURE OF VERA CRUZ—BATTLE OF CERRO GORDO—CONCLUSION.

MEASURES for wresting California and New Mexico from the sway of the Mexican government may be said to have been instituted or at least encouraged by the United States government antecedent to the commencement of open war with Mexico.

In May, 1845, John C. Fremont, then a brevet Captain in the corps of Topographical Engineers, but since appointed a Lieutenant Colonel, left Washington under orders from the Department of War, to pursue his explorations in the regions beyond the Rocky Mountains. The objects of this service were, as those of his previous explorations had been, ostensibly of a scientific character, and one of the objects he had in view was to discover a new and shorter route from the western base of the Rocky Mountains to the mouth of the Columbia River.

Early in the Spring of 1846, after he had reached Monterey, and explained to Gen. Castro, the commandant-general, the object of his mission, he was threatened with an attack by Castro near that city. Captain Fremont raised the flag of the United States and with his force of sixty-two men prepared for resistance. He subsequently retired toward Oregon, pursued by Castro and hostile Indians, losing four men; but soon changed his determination, turned upon his pursuers and resolved, not merely in the defeat of Castro, but in the total overthrow of the Mexican authority in California, and the establishment of an independent government in that department. On the 6th of June, and before the war between the United States and Mexico could have been known, this resolution was taken.

Captain Fremont armed the American settlers and collected about him a band of nearly 200 riflemen, with whom he cleared the country north of the Bay of San Francisco, by a succession of attacks on the Mex-

icans, taking a convoy of 200 horses from Castro, a military post, a considerable quantity of arms and several prisoners. On the 5th of July he called the people together, explained to them the condition of things in the province, and recommended an immediate declaration of independence. The declaration was made, and himself put at the head of affairs. On the 6th, with 160 riflemen, he set out in pursuit of Castro, who had retreated to *Ciudad de los Angeles* (the city of the Angels), and after several days spent in this pursuit, he heard of the war between the United States and Mexico, and that Monterey had, on the 7th of July, been taken by the naval force under Commodore Sloat. The flag of independence was hauled down, and that of the U. S. hoisted, amid the hearty greetings and to the great joy of the American settlers and the forces under Col. Fremont, who then hastened to co-operate in the pursuit of Castro.

#### THE SQUADRON IN THE PACIFIC.

IN the Pacific Ocean, the naval forces under the command of Commodore John D. Sloat, consisted, on the 1st of July last, of the frigate *Savannah*; sloops *Portsmouth*, *Levant*, *Warren*, and *Cyane*; schooner *Shark*, and store-ship *Erie*. They were reinforced by the frigate *Congress*, the sloops *Saratoga*, *Dale*, and *Preble*, and the razee *Independence*. The sloop *Levant* returned home, as also the *Savannah* and *Warren*, the time for which their crews enlisted having expired. Commodore W. Branford Shubrick went out in the *Independence* to relieve Commodore Sloat, under orders issued in August.

In confidential instructions dated June 24th, 1845, the Secretary of the Navy called Commodore Sloat's attention to the aspect of relations between this country and Mexico. He was told should Mexico make any demonstration of hostilities, to be mindful to protect the persons and interests of citizens of the United States near his station; and, in case he should learn of a declaration of war, to employ the forces under his command to the best advantage. The great distance of his squadron and the difficulty of communicating with him, was the cause of issuing this order. On the 7th June, 1846, Commo-

dore Sloat received information through Mexico, that the Mexican troops, six or seven thousand strong, had, by the order of the Mexican government, invaded the territory of the United States, north of the Rio Grande, and had attacked the forces of General Taylor, and that the squadron of the United States was blockading the ports of Mexico on the Gulf. "He considered these hostilities as justifying his commencing offensive operations on the west coast," and on the 8th June sailed in the frigate *Savannah*, "for the coast of California, to carry out the orders of the department of the 24th June, 1845." He arrived at Monterey on the 2d July, and on the 7th demanded a surrender of the place. This was evaded; an adequate force landed from the squadron, took possession of the town, and raised the flag of the United States, without opposition or bloodshed. On the 8th, Commandant Montgomery, of the sloop *Portsmouth*, under the Commodore's orders, with like success, took possession of San Francisco, and that part of the country, in the name of the United States. On the 17th, he sent Purser Fauntleroy as far as the mission of St. John's, to hoist the flag of the United States, and to recover cannon and munitions which had been buried by the enemy. On his arrival, he found that the place had been captured an hour or two previously, by Colonel Fremont, of the United States army, with whom he returned on the 19th, to Monterey. On the 15th July, the frigate *Congress* arrived at Monterey, and Commodore Stockton reported to Commodore Sloat for duty as a part of his squadron. On the 23d, he was ordered to the command on shore; and on the 29th, Commodore Sloat found his infirm health so enfeebled, that he determined to assign the command to Commodore Stockton, and sailed for home.

On the 25th July, the *Cyane*, Captain Mervine, sailed from Monterey, with Col. Fremont, and a small volunteer force on board, for San Diego, to intercept the retreat of the Mexican general, Castro. A few days after, Commodore Stockton sailed in the Congress frigate for San Pedro, and with a detachment from his squadron of 360 men, marched to the enemy's camp. It was found that the camp was broken up, and the Mexicans under Governor Pico and General Castro, had retreated so precipitately, that Colonel Fre-

mont was disappointed in intercepting them. On the 13th of August, Commodore Stockton was joined by this gallant officer, and marched a distance of thirty miles from the sea, and entered without opposition, Ciudad de los Angeles, capital of the Californias.

Commodore Stockton issued his proclamation declaring California a territory of the United States government, announcing the fundamental laws for the future government of the country, and appointing Col. Fremont, Governor of California.

On the 22d of August, our flag was flying from every commanding position, and California was in the undisputed possession of the United States.

#### GENERAL KEARNEY'S DIVISION.

COL. KEARNEY (since promoted to the rank of brigadier general), on the 30th of June, with the force under his command, amounting in all to about 1000 men, regulars and volunteers, moved from Fort Leavenworth upon Santa Fe, where he arrived after a march of 873 miles, on the 18th of August, and took military possession of New Mexico, without resistance. The Mexican forces, about 4000 in number, which had been collected near that city under the late Governor Armijo, to oppose his progress, dispersed on the appearance of our troops, and the Governor himself fled, with a small command of dragoons, in the direction of Chihuahua.

Under the apprehension that the force which left Fort Leavenworth in June might not be sufficient fully to effect the purpose of the expedition, which was, if found practicable to pass on to California, after conquering and securing New Mexico, Gen. Kearney was authorised to organize and muster into service a battalion out of the Mormon emigrants who were on their way to California or Oregon. This was done. One thousand additional volunteers under Col. Price from Missouri were sent on as reinforcements and to augment his disposable force for California. These, however, did not join Gen. Kearney at the time he departed for that country. After making the necessary arrangements at Santa Fe, consequent upon the military occupation of New Mexico, Gen. Kearney moved with a part of his force to the village of Tome, about one hundred miles down the Rio Grande, on his route to California.

With a regular force of about 300 dragoons, leaving orders for a part of the volunteers to follow, he commenced his march from Santa Fe for California, intending to proceed down the Rio Grande about 200 miles, thence to strike across the Gila, and to move down that river to near its mouth, then across the Colorado to the Pacific. After proceeding about 180 miles on his route, he was met by an express from California sent by Lieut. Col. Fremont. On learning the condition of things in that quarter, and deeming that an additional force would not be required in California, he directed most of that with him to return to Santa Fe. Selecting about 100 men to accompany him, he continued on his route. Upon arriving at the river Gila, he intercepted a party of Californians, and learned that a counter revolution had taken place in California; that General Flores, with 700 men, had driven out the Americans from the Pueblo de los Angeles, and were in possession of that place; and that San Diego had been taken by Commodore Stockton; though the roads leading from it were strongly guarded by the enemy, so that it would be impossible to get in without collision. When within eight leagues of St. Diego, to the surprise of all, they were surrounded by the enemy from 300 to 400 strong. A battle took place, in which the Americans lost in killed, Captains Johnson and Moore, and Lieutenant Hamilton of Dragoons, and fourteen men. The General entrenched himself, and sent an express to Commodore Stockton for assistance, who was at St. Diego with about 500 sailors and marines. Another messenger was despatched by the General, on the third day, who informed the Commodore that the General was surrounded by the enemy, that his little army was in great distress, and subsisting on their mules, and if he did not receive immediate relief, the General would cut his way through the enemy if it cost the lives of his whole party. The Commodore then sent out a force of 250 to 300 men, and so soon as they made their appearance, the cowardly Californians fled. General Kearney was wounded in the first attack, the command then devolved on Capt. Turner. He then marched to St. Diego, and united his forces with those under Commodore Stockton. The latter proceeded from St. Diego on the 29th December, at the head of 600 men, determined to reconquer the capital. They



marched 140 miles through a mountainous country, and on the 8th of January, 1847, arrived in sight of the enemy's fortifications, on the river San Gabriel, which were promptly stormed and captured. The Mexicans numbered 500 men, with four pieces of artillery. General Flores commanded them. On the 9th of January, they opposed Commodore Stockton's march, on the plains of Mesa, near the city, where they were again defeated, and on the morning of the 10th, our troops entered the city of Angels. Our loss was twenty killed and wounded. On the 15th of January, a treaty was entered into between Col. Fremont and Don Andres, which put an end to the war. The Mexicans dispersed. The Americans in the city numbered about one thousand men on the 17th of January. The conquest of the country was made complete. Gen. Kearney soon after took passage in the Cyane for Monterey, where he met with Commodore Shubrick, who supersedes Commodore Stockton as Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces. Commodore Shubrick arrived at Monterey on the 22d of January, in the United States ship Independence, from Boston. He assumed the command of the naval and land forces, and would establish a civil government immediately.

#### THE INSURRECTION OF NEW MEXICO.

SOME time after the departure of General Kearney for California, about the 15th of December last, Col. Price, upon whom had devolved the command of the army in New Mexico, received information of an attempt to excite the people of that territory to insurrection against the American government. An officer and many others were arrested. All endeavours to arrest Ortiz and Archeluta, the chief conspirators, were unsuccessful. After the flight of Ortiz and Archeluta, and the arrests above mentioned, the insurrection appeared suppressed. But this appearance was deceptive. On the 14th January, Gov. Bent left Santa Fe for Taos. On the 19th, he, with five other persons, were murdered. On the same day, seven Americans were murdered at the Arroya Honda and two others on the Rio Colorado. It appeared to be the object of the insurrectionists to put to death every American and every Mexican who had accepted office under the American government. News reach-

ed Col. Price at Santa Fe, that the the enemy was approaching that city, and that their force was being increased by the inhabitants of the towns along their line of march. In order to prevent the enemy from receiving further reinforcements in that manner, Col. Price determined to meet them as soon as possible. Leaving a command at Santa Fe, Col. Price with about 350 men marched up the Rio Grande to meet the enemy; and on the 24th of January came up with him at a place called Canada, where he put to rout 1500 men, killing 36 of them; with but a loss of two of his men. A few days afterward he dislodged sixty or seventy men from the steep mountain pass of Embudo, losing but one man and slaying about 20 of the enemy. Col. Price having received a small reinforcement again attacked some seven hundred of the enemy at Puebla de Paos driving them completely from the town and pursuing them to the mountains. The enemy lost about 150 in killed, while the loss of our troops was but 7 killed and 45 wounded.

On the departure of General Kearney from New Mexico for California, Colonel Doniphan was detached from his command, and proceeded south for Chihuahua. On this march he met the whole Mexican army at Sacramento, supposed to be four thousand strong, the enemy having had a year to collect forces and arm the peasantry in that neighborhood. Col. Doniphan having with him in regulars and volunteers but 924 effective men, and a train of 315 wagons. The pass of the Sacramento had been fortified, and the advance guard of the Mexicans, 1000 cavalry, and four pieces of cannon commenced the attack fiercely, but were repulsed by the Americans. The whole Mexican force was soon engaged, 1200 cavalry from Durango and Chihuahua, with the Vera Cruz Dragoons, 1200 Infantry from Chihuahua, 300 artillery and 1400 Rancheros, armed with lances, lassos and knives, and commanded by Major General Hendea, Brig. General Jastemani, Brig. General Garcia Conde, General Uquate and Gov. Tria. Surely as far as officers and men were concerned this was a formidable force, and yet Col. Doniphan routed the whole army, killing 300 and wounding the same number, capturing all the artillery, baggage train and provisions, and taking formal possession of Chihuahua in the name of the United

States. This great battle, together with General Kearney's fight at San Gabriel, settles the conquest of Santa Fe and California. Such a march, under the same disadvantages, over 2000 miles of Prairie country, encountering heavy snows and with no shelter but their wagons, poorly clothed and fed, and meeting and defeating a well appointed army at Sacramento, may well be considered the brightest page in the history of our war with Mexico.

A company of U. S. artillery in Aug., 1846, and a regiment of New York volunteer infantry in September, under Col. Stephenson, were embarked to California; but before these forces had reached their destination, and even before their departure from the United States, the Mexican authorities in the whole province of the Californias had been subverted.

#### THE HOME SQUADRON.

THE HOME SQUADRON in the Gulf of Mexico, under the command of Commodore Conner, was, at the breaking out of the war, ordered to blockade the Mexican ports in the gulf, and in the performance of this inactive and irksome duty few events of historical interest could transpire. Commodore Conner, however, made two unsuccessful attempts to capture the port of Alvarado and the vessels of the enemy lying in that harbor; the former on the 7th of August and the latter on the 15th of October, 1846. The failure on both occasions was owing to the want of vessels of light draught, and to the stormy weather.

On the 14th, Commodore Conner appeared off Tampico, and the town capitulated unconditionally without resistance. Three fine gun-boats, and other public property, fell into the hands of the captors. The enemy anticipating an attack, had withdrawn the garrison, removed the guns, and destroyed his munitions of war. The success of the enterprise has proved to be of great importance, and Mexico lost one of her most considerable ports on the Gulf. During the season of these operations the brig Truxton was wrecked on the Tuspan Bar, between Tampico and Vera Cruz. Her officers and crew became prisoners to the Mexicans. No general cartel had at that time been established between the two governments to regulate the exchange of prisoners during the existing war. A

proposition of the Mexican government to exchange Gen. Vega and the officers who accompanied him prisoners of war in the United States, was acceded to, and the exchange carried into effect.

On the 16th October, Commodore M. C. Perry, with the steamer Mississippi and the small vessels, left the squadron at Lizardo, and sailed for Tobasco. On the 23d he arrived off the bar. The Commodore placing himself on the "Vixen," leaving the "Mississippi" in command of Commodore Adams, at anchor outside, and taking in tow the "Berita" and "Forward," with the barges containing a detachment under command of Capt. Forrest, he crossed the bar, the "Nonata" following under sail. The Vixen with this heavy drag, steadily ascended the stream against a four knot current, and, arriving near to Frontiera, the Commodore discovered two steamers firing up, doubtless in hopes of escape; but our vessels were too close upon them. Casting off her tow, the Vixen proceeded ahead, followed by the other vessels and barges, and at once the town, the steamers, and all the vessels in port, were in possession of our fleet, excepting the schooner "Amada," which vessel, attempting to escape up the river, was pursued by Lieut. Commandant Benham, in the "Berita," and captured.

In order to reach Tobasco, a city 74 miles up the river in the interior of a settled country, before they would have time for increasing their defences, the detachment under Captain Forest was placed on board the largest of the captured steamers, the "Petrita," and she, with the "Nonata," the "Forward," and the barges in tow, and the "Vixen," with "Berita," left Frontera at half past nine the next morning, Lieutenant Walsh being left in command of the place.

They arrived at nine the next morning in sight of Fort Accachappa, intended to command a most difficult pass of the river. On approach, the men employed in preparing the guns for service fled, and the fleet passed it unmolested: but Com. Perry was careful to cause the guns to be spiked.

Anticipating serious resistance at this place, arrangements had been made for landing Captain Forrest with a detachment a mile below the fort, to march up and carry it by storm.

At noon all the vessels anchored in line

of battle in front of the city at half musket range, when the Commodore immediately summoned it to surrender; the boats meanwhile being employed securing five merchant vessels found at anchor in the port.

To his summons, sent by a flag with Captain Forrest, a refusal to capitulate was returned, with an invitation to fire as soon as he pleased. Suspecting that this answer was given more in bravado than in earnest, and being extremely reluctant to destroy the place, he entertained the hope that a few shots fired over the buildings would cause a surrender. Accordingly he directed the guns of the "Vixen" alone to be fired, and at the flag-staff, sending an order to all the vessels to avoid, so far as possible, in case of a general fire, injury to the houses, distinguished by consular flags.

At the third discharge from the "Vixen" the flag disappeared from the staff. On seeing it down, Commodore Perry ordered the firing to cease, and sent Captain Forrest again ashore, to learn whether it had been cut down by his shot or purposely struck. The reply was that it had been shot away, and the city would not be surrendered.

He now directed Captain Forrest, with the force under his command, to land and take a position in the city, commanded by our guns. This movement brought on a scattering fire of musketry from various parts of the city, which was returned by the flotilla.

Perceiving towards evening that the enemy did his fleet but little injury, though openly exposed on the decks of the small vessels, and their balls passing through our slight bulwarks, and apprehending, from the proverbial heedlessness of sailors, that should they and the marines be attacked in the narrow streets after dark, they would be cut off by sharp shooters from the houses, Commodore Perry ordered the detachment to be re-embarked.

In this position the vessels remained all night, the crew lying at their quarters ready to return the fire of the artillery of the enemy, which it was supposed they would have had the courage to have brought down, under cover of the night, to the openings of the streets opposite to our vessels; but they left them undisturbed.

Learning that the merchants and other citizens of the city were desirous that a capitulation should be made, but were overruled by the governor (who, regardless of consequences, and secure himself against attack, was content that the city should be destroyed rather than surrender), he determined, from motives of humanity, not to fire again, but to pass down to Frontera with his prizes.

In the morning the fire was recommenced from the shore, and was necessarily returned, but with renewed orders to regard the consular houses, so far as they could be distinguished. In the midst of the fire a flag of truce was displayed on shore; on perceiving which, the commodore caused the firing again to cease, and Captain Forrest was sent to meet its bearer, who submitted a written communication, bearing the earnest request of the foreign merchants not to involve them in ruin by destroying the town.<sup>1</sup> He humanely determined to hoist a white flag, and directed the prizes to drop down the stream, intending to follow with the flotilla; but, in violation of the understanding implied in the before mentioned correspondence, the enemy, discovering that one of the prizes had drifted ashore in front of the city, collected a large force within and behind the houses in the vicinity, and commenced a furious fire upon her. Lieutenant Parker, in command of the prize, defended her in the most gallant manner, and ultimately succeeded in getting her again afloat, having one of her men killed and two wounded.

On perceiving the attack upon the prizes, Commodore Perry re-opened upon the city, which again silenced their fire. He then proceeded with the flotilla and prizes down the river.

The flat arrived safely at Frontera on the evening of the 26th, the "Vixen" having towed down the river five vessels and several barges.

From Frontera he despatched his prizes to Vera Cruz, and after destroying all the vessels and craft found in the river, of too little value to be manned, he proceeded on the 31st to rejoin Commodore Conner, leaving the "McLane" and "Forward" at anchor opposite Frontera, to continue the blockade of the river, and to afford protection and shelter to the neutral merchants, residents of the place, who professed themselves in apprehension of vio-

lence from the Mexican soldiery should they be left unprotected.

The objects of the expedition were fully accomplished, and by the capture or destruction of every vessel and steamer of the enemy in that important river (Tobasco), a check was given to commerce, by which munitions of war were introduced into Mexico from Yucatan.

In November, General Scott received orders to repair to Vera Cruz to capture that city and march for the Halls of the Montezumas. In obedience to this order General Scott arrived at the Rio Grande on the 1st of January, on the 9th of March landed off the island of Sacrificios about four miles south of Vera Cruz with 11,000 men, and on the 13th completed an investment of the City of Vera Cruz. On the 22d the city refusing to surrender—his batteries opened a destructive fire, causing a breach in the walls. On the 26th the city proposed a surrender, and on the following day the city and castle surrendered, and on the 29th the American flag floated triumphantly over from their walls. Thus within twenty days the American army of about 11,000, commanded by Major General Scott, in cooperation with the squadron commanded by Commodore Conner and Perry, completed the subjugation of one of the strongest fortifications in America, with the trifling loss of 15 killed and 50 wounded. The loss of the Mexicans in killed and wounded supposed to be 1,000 and 4,000 prisoners, including several generals and other officers of rank.

After the surrender, General Worth was appointed governor of Vera Cruz, and occupied it with a part of his brigade. He forthwith entered upon the duties of his office, and commenced establishing a strict police, and repressing every tendency to disorder. The port was soon opened to the commerce of the whole world, and a tariff of duties published.

Simultaneous expeditions by sea and by land set out on the 30th for the capture of Alvarado; the latter under General Quitman: the former under Commodore Perry—who dispatched Lieutenant Hunter in advance with the Scourge a small steamer to blockade the port. He arrived off the bar on the afternoon of that day, and immediately opened a fire on the forts with round shot and shell, but stood off for the

night. The next morning, he again opened a fire, when the fort surrendered: after having fired the government vessels, spiked a portion of the guns and buried others in the sand.

Lieutenant Hunter garrisoned the fort, which had just been evacuated by nearly 400 troops, with five midshipmen, and proceeded up the river and succeeded in capturing four schooners. At 2 o'clock the next morning he anchored off Fla-co-Palpan a city of 7000 inhabitants, and obtained an immediate surrender of the town. The next day, April 2d, Commodore Perry with thirteen vessels stood off Alvarado for the purpose of capturing Alvarado, when to his surprise he was met by the dispatch of Lieutenant Hunter announcing the surrender of the place. Lieutenant Hunter for his disobedience of orders, was placed under arrest, tried by a Court Martial, and sentenced to be reprimanded and dismissed from the squadron.

Scott lost no time in moving forward toward the City of Mexico, and the advance of General Twiggs, fifteen miles this side of Jalapa, met the enemy composed of 12,000 men under Santa Anna, and on the 17th and 18th of April fought the battle of Cerro Gordo, in which the entire Mexican army was routed; 3000 of them having been taken prisoners, with 4000 stand of arms and 43 pieces of artillery. The American force engaged in this battle was 8,500: loss commissioned officers killed 3, wounded 30; rank and file killed 60, wounded 337.

#### CONCLUSION.

It has been the design of this work to illustrate the Life of General Taylor, and give a history of that portion of the Mexican war more immediately connected with the operations of his command. We have thus embraced a faithful record of the important events of the war in Northern Mexico, with but a bare mention of subsequent events, which have been reserved for a separate work, illustrating the Life of General Scott, the operations of the army under his command, the taking of the city and castle of Vera Cruz, the battle of Cerro Gordo, the future capture of "the Halls of the Montezumas," and probably the conclusion of the Mexican war.







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