

THE CAPTURE OF MONTEREY.

The Americans under General Taylor crossed the Rio Grande and entered Matamoros on the 18th of May, Arista having evacuated it, with the remnant of his stricken army, the day previous. From this time up to the latter part of August, and mainly for want of transportation, the army of invasion could make no direct movement into the interior of Mexico. Volunteers came flocking in, not only from Texas and Louisiana, but from Mississippi and Alabama, and in numbers sufficient to overrun the entire country as far west as Monterey and Saltillo; but at this time General Taylor had not the means to move a single regiment, and Garland, after pursuing Arista some fifty or sixty miles in the direction of Linares, was forced to return to Matamoros to feed his soldiers. Small steamers adapted to the navigation of the Rio Grande, with forage, provisions, and military stores of every kind, were sent for by the American commander, and all haste was urged upon those who carried the requisitions to New Orleans. But it was not until the latter part of June that a single steamer arrived at Matamoros, and even August found many of those ordered still on the way.

Meanwhile the towns of Reynoso, Camargo and Mier, places of some little importance on the Rio Grande, were entered and occupied by detachments of Americans, and parties of Texan rangers, under Hays, McCulloch and Gillespie, scoured the country completely as far as San Fernando, Linares and China. Camargo was fixed upon as a depot for military stores and provisions, as it was found to be at the head of navigation. An attempt was made in a small steamer to reach Mier, a town higher up and in a more healthy section; but owing to a shoal or fall in the stream, a few miles above the confluence of the San Juan, it was impossible to navigate the Rio Grande with certainty to a point higher than Camargo.

At the latter place General Taylor himself arrived, with his staff, on the 9th of August, when all was immediately bustle and preparation. The information derived from spies, scouts and secret agents, in relation to the movements and intentions of the enemy, had in the meantime been meagre and unreliable. Rumors were constantly received that the Mexicans were fortifying Monterey, a city naturally of great strength and lying almost in the mouth of the only practicable gap in the mountains through which the army could reach Saltillo and San Luis Potosi, in case it should be deemed advisable to carry the war of invasion towards the latter city. The subjection of Monterey, and at any cost, was absolutely necessary, as well to ensure the safety of the Rio Grande valley, as to carry out the immediate purposes of the war. Had General Taylor been in possession of a pontoon train after the battle of the Resaca, with five hundred well-mounted dragoons, transportation for that small number, and a battery of light artillery, the disorganised force of Arista might have been entirely annihilated and Monterey captured without loss, but three months had now elapsed, the Mexicans had recovered from their panic, time had been given them to bring up cannon and fresh troops from San Luis and the south, and in case they were determined upon defending so important a stronghold as Monterey, and the probabilities were in favor, no other than a regularly appointed army could hope to capture and hold it. Such an army General Taylor, owing to a succession of annoying delays, was not able to organise at Camargo before the middle of August; nor was he then fully prepared to move upon a campaign so critical and important. Perhaps the greatest delay of all was occasioned by the want of draught horses and wagons, which seemed never to be forthcoming. Forage was also scarce, and fresh beef at first difficult to obtain. The policy of the American commander, and perhaps it was the only one he could follow, was to pay the Mexicans liberally for every thing they brought in; and in this way operating upon their cupidity, and at the same time aided by the active exertions of Kinney and other army agents, a considerable quantity of corn and beef was finally obtained that would otherwise have been secreted or driven off; while in the same way, offering the highest prices, a sufficient number of the pack mules of the country were engaged to justify an onward movement.

On the 18th of August an order was issued at Camargo, by the American commander, dividing his regular force into two divisions. The first, under Twiggs, consisted of the 1st, 3d, and 4th regiments of infantry, the batteries of Bragg, Ridgely and Webster, and four companies of the 2d dragoons under May. To this division was also attached Watson's Baltimore battalion and a company of volunteers under Shivers; and in the aggregate Twiggs had nearly two thousand effective men. The second division, under Worth, was composed of the 5th, 7th and 8th regiments of infantry, Childs's artillery battalion, C. F. Smith's light troops, and

Duncan's and Mackall's batteries, while acting under his orders were Blanchard's company of Louisiana volunteers and McCulloch's mounted rangers. In all his strength amounted to one thousand eight hundred good men. This organisation showed a regular force of a little over three thousand six hundred; but the greater part of the men had been under fire at Palo Alto and the Resaca, and were reliable to the last. The third division, composed entirely of volunteers, under W. O. Butler, consisted of the Mississippi rifles and the 1st Kentucky, 1st Tennessee and 1st Ohio regiments of infantry, numbering but little over two thousand men in all. To this should be added Henderson's brigade of Texan mounted rangers, comprising the regiments of Hays and Woods, and hardly one thousand strong when combined. Such was the composition of the entire force, numbering short of seven thousand men, with which General Taylor marched for the reduction of Monterey. And even up to this time, so straitened was he for transportation, that he only had the means of taking along a single 10-inch mortar, with one hundred shells in all—and this to set down before a strong town, which proved to be fortified at every point. An attempt was made to move with two 18-pounders, suitable for battering or breaching purposes, but it utterly failed for the want of proper horses to drag them.

But previous to this, Duncan had pushed a hasty reconnoissance as far as Cerralvo, a large town some seventy-five miles distant from Camargo, and about midway between the latter and Monterey. The result proved that the road thus far was practicable for artillery and baggage-wagons, that water abounded, and, taking this route, Worth led off with his division on the 20th of August. In nine days, and without opposition, he reached Cerralvo, and at once set to work gaining information. Scouting parties of Texans were sent out in the direction of Monterey, while spies and secret agents were despatched even to the city itself and within its walls. All the information thus gained showed that the Mexicans were actively engaged in fortifying their stronghold, and that they were determined upon a vigorous and obstinate defence.

On the 9th of September General Taylor himself arrived at Cerralvo, having left Patterson in command at Camargo with about two thousand volunteers. On the 12th, preceded by a pioneer party under Craig, of the 3d infantry, Twiggs took up the line of march for Monterey, now about eighty miles distant. A strong stone building, which had been intended for a granary, in the edge of Cerralvo, was selected as a depot for surplus munitions and provisions; and here the sick and those who had been crippled by the previous marches were left, the whole in charge of a small volunteer garrison. With but little over six thousand men, ten days' provisions, and each soldier carrying forty rounds of ammunition, the march upon Monterey was resumed, Worth and Butler following Twiggs on successive days.

On the 14th of September McCulloch's rangers had a brush with a party of lancers under Torrejon, between Papagaya and Ramos, the Mexicans falling back after losing three or four men in killed and wounded. On the 15th McCulloch again came up with Torrejon's cavalry, posted in the large town of Marin; but as the Americans advanced the Mexican commander evacuated the place without firing a shot, Twiggs immediately marching in with his division. In a plain outside General Taylor halted until the 16th to allow Worth and Butler to come up, thus concentrating his entire force. It was now ascertained that Ampudia, who was in command at Monterey, had ten thousand men and nearly forty pieces of cannon, and that the city was fortified at every approach. Through his spies and secret agents the Mexican commander was successful in strewing the road near the American camp with proclamations, inviting the soldiers, in the most pressing terms, to desert. Lands and homes were offered, and outstretched arms were ready to receive them, if they would come over to the banner of the magnanimous Mexican nation. These seductive messages had been translated into English; yet were so execrably rendered as to excite only the mirth and ridicule of the American soldiers. They knew Ampudia, too—well knew his character for cowardice and treachery—and not a man accepted his glowing offers.

In compact order, and ready to fall at once into line of battle, the entire force of General Taylor moved from Marin on the morning of the 18th of September, and at night bivouacked at San Francisco, a hacienda of some importance within twelve miles of Monterey. On the following morning, and still in order of battle, the army was in motion. After passing the springs and beautiful grove of San Domingo, and ascending the swelling roll a mile beyond, the strong city, so soon to be attacked,

burst suddenly upon the eager eyes of the invaders. The commander-in-chief was himself in front, and continued steadily to advance until within some fifteen hundred yards of the Ciudadela, or Black Fort, when a cannonade was opened upon him from some of its heaviest guns. After a hasty personal examination of the work and the city before him, during which time the firing was still kept up, General Taylor moved back to the grove of San Domingo, and there encamped. This position, which was but three miles from Monterey, possessed excellent water and wood in abundance, and besides these advantages could be easily defended.

No time was lost. Mansfield, and some of the younger engineer officers, were at once sent out to reconnoitre the city and its approaches, and, although met by frequent discharges of grape and cannister from the Black Fort, continued to push their examinations. Immediately in the rear of Monterey, as it is approached by the road from Marin and the north, runs the small river San Juan, its course nearly east and west. South and back of the river rise a succession of hills, swelling into steep and rugged mountains as they recede. Through these mountains no other than a narrow mule path has been cut leading to the plains beyond Saltillo. West of the city, its course running between ranges of hills and mountains, comes the San Juan, the main road to Saltillo, and the only one through the Sierra Madre, winding along its banks. On the right of this road, immediately on emerging from Monterey, rises the Loma de Independencia, or Hill of Independence, the old Bishop's Palace, now strongly fortified and garnished with artillery, occupying a lower point of the slope, while a sand-bag work had been constructed upon the crest of the hill farther west. On the opposite side of the Saltillo road, and across the San Juan, rose the Loma de Federacion, or Hill of Federation. On this hill, nearly abreast of the Bishop's Palace and within easy 12-pounder range, was a regular stone work called La Soldada, intended for artillery as well as for a strong infantry defence, while the western and higher point of the hill had been selected by the Mexican engineers as a position for a battery. These different works, combined with the strength and difficulties of the ground, Ampudia had deemed sufficient to protect the western approaches to the city, even in case the Americans succeeded in gaining a position on the main Saltillo thoroughfare by a movement to the right.

At the eastern extremity of Monterey, where the San Juan makes a slight bend to the north rendering the approach more difficult, the Mexican engineers had constructed a succession of strong forts and redoubts, the greater part of them so well masked that no reconnoissance could determine their exact position. The citadel immediately in front of the city—the work which first opened on General Taylor—had originally been intended for a cathedral; but its construction having been discontinued after the first Mexican outbreak against the Spanish authorities, the base of heavy stone masonry had been converted into a regular fortification, with a ditch and infantry breastworks, besides embrasures for no less than thirty-two pieces of cannon. From its position, as may be seen by consulting the drawing, it completely swept and commanded the plain by which Monterey is approached and entered from the north. In rear of this, and within the edge of the city, rises a large spring, forming a deep and bold stream almost from the fountain head, and which joins the San Juan near the redoubts on the east. The banks of this stream were fringed with orange and other trees, which, with the houses scattered along, afforded dense cover to conceal batteries, while a massive stone bridge—La Puente de la Purisima—and the only one by which it could be crossed with artillery, was defended by a strong work at the head. Such may be set down as the exterior defences of Monterey; and when it is repeated that the different forts, redoubts and batteries were garnished with nearly forty pieces of artillery, and defended by six thousand regular troops and some four thousand rancheros and armed citizens, its reduction by a much smaller force, unprovided with a battering train, was an undertaking which might deter the boldest. And it will be understood that the difficulties of the Americans materially increased when it is farther stated that the streets of the city were ditched and barricaded, that the roofs of all the houses were flat, with parapets strengthened by sand-bags and loop-holed for musketry, and that every commanding wall, where every thing was built of stone, had been converted into an infantry defence. Nothing had been neglected by the Mexican engineers to increase the natural obstacles to be overcome by the invaders.

The reconnoissances in the immediate front were pushed by Mansfield, Scarritt, and other engineer officers, until dark on the evening of the 19th of September, and after nightfall Sanders and Meade, with a supporting party of Texan rangers under Gillespie, picked their way in the darkness to a point west of the hill on which stands the Bishop's Palace, and near the main road to Saltillo. Early on the morning of the 20th the engineers were again out in front, the sharp rattling of musketry at the very edge of the city showing how close and daring they were in their observations.

The result of all these reconnoissances, laid before a meeting of the principal officers, proved that the best point of approach, in the absence of a battering train, was on the west. Worth's division, reinforced by the greater portion of Hays's Texans, was therefore ordered to make a detour to the right, and passing through a narrow valley west of the Loma de Independencia to gain possession of the main Saltillo road at any loss.

This would cut off the Mexicans from all retreat with their artillery, and would at the same time prevent Ampudia from receiving either reinforcements or supplies, reports being current that Santa Anna was advancing from San Luis with both. The limited supply of provisions in the American camp admonished General Taylor that not a moment could be lost, and Worth's soldiers, taking scanty provisions in their haversacks for four days, were in motion by 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Before sundown they had gained a position just out of range of a couple of pieces on the crest above the Bishop's Palace, and after the advanced guard of Texans had encountered and driven back a force of the enemy's lancers, sent out to watch and molest the invaders, Worth bivouacked with his division for the night. He sent back word, however, to the commander-in-chief, that he had gained a position within a mile of the Saltillo road, and expressing his determination to commence active operations early on the following day, requested that a diversion in his favor might be made in front of the city.

At daylight on the 21st, exposed to a continuous but ineffectual fire from the battery on the hill on his left, Worth was in motion, the Texans in advance. On reaching a point within three hundred yards of the Saltillo road, a sudden turn brought in plain view a large body of the enemy, both cavalry and infantry, occupying the road ahead and their line stretching towards the city. Marching in as compact order of battle as the ground would admit, the Americans continued to advance, but when within a hundred and fifty yards of the enemy the latter loosened a party of lancers from the main body and sent them directly at the head of Worth's columns in a dashing charge. But they were received by such a slaughtering fire of rifles from McCulloch's men, as also from parties of Texans who had taken to the cover of a fence on the left, that the weight of the charge was broken midway. The survivors, however, came gallantly on, and mixing with the rangers were at once engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict. The latter used their Colt's repeaters and other pistols with a murderous effect that soon told, and C. F. Smith with his light troops dashing up, and Hays of the artillery unlimbering one of Duncan's guns, a fire was opened that sent the few who still lived back into the Saltillo road. Here, crowding upon their own infantry, and Worth's light troops rapidly springing across the intervening fields to attack them in flank, the entire mass fell back under shelter of the Bishop's Palace, which could now be seen. This charge of the lancers was one of the most brilliant made by the Mexicans during the war. Of the squadron of one hundred and eighty men commanded by Colonel Nagera, who was himself killed, no less than forty fell, while nearly one hundred were wounded. Barely fifty men escaped unhurt.

Worth was now in possession of the Saltillo road, a most important point and gained with little loss. But a fresh and unforeseen obstacle was now in his way, for the Mexicans had established a battery upon the crest of the Loma de Federacion, on the opposite side of the San Juan, and opened a plunging fire upon him at effective range. At the same time a heavy cannonade heard on the eastern side of Monterey, with the rattling of small arms, showed that the diversion in his favor in that quarter had grown into a regular attack. In this crisis he resolved upon storming the hill on the opposite side of the river at once; wherefore moving the main column out of range of the shot from the obnoxious battery, the party for its capture was immediately detailed. It consisted of two hundred regulars and one hundred and forty dismounted rangers, the whole under C. F. Smith, and striking directly into a dense corn-field they soon reached the San Juan which they were obliged to ford. The movement was discovered from the crest above as soon as the command reached the stream, and while crossing it the men were exposed to a shower of grape and cannister. At the same time the appearance of a body of infantry upon the summit, who had been sent up from the rear, showed that the Mexicans were bent upon defending the steep and scraggy hill, for the front of it was in many places almost precipitous and the surface covered with jagged rocks and thorny bushes.

Seeing the arrival of the enemy's infantry, Worth now despatched Miles, with the 7th regiment, to the support of Smith. Both detachments reached the base of the hill nearly at the same time, Miles a little in advance as he had found a shorter route and better fording-place. Once at the foot of the hill they were safe from the artillery of the enemy, as the guns could not be depressed; but the sharpshooters came swarming in clouds down the sides and poured in a constant fire as the Americans, with as great rapidity as possible, commenced the difficult ascent. The moment now seemed critical. The fire of the Mexican skirmishers was incessant, and could plainly be seen by Worth, while his own men, concealed by the heavier brush at the lower points of the height, were not returning a shot. To render success certain the 5th infantry under Martin Scott, with Blanchard's Louisiana volunteers—the latter as good and trusty soldiers as ever shouldered a musket—were sent up to the work, the whole under Persifer F. Smith. The latter was charged with the entire movement on reaching the ground, and bearing more to the right he found a still better crossing-place of the river, and was soon mounting the steep. But by this time C. F. Smith's advanced parties had clambered up until they had got within killing range, when the sharp crack of the Texan rifles, followed by the heavier reports of the muskets of the regulars, denoted that the strife for possession of the height had commenced. The struggle was short;

the balls of the Mexicans for the most part went over, while not a shot of their adversaries, so close and deadly was their aim, was lost. Before the steady advance of the Americans the enemy recoiled, until a last well-sent volley, followed by a determined rush of the assailants, finally drove them from the crest and sent them in full flight down the opposite descent towards La Soldada. The victors instantly turned one of their own guns upon them, and Persifer F. Smith, seeing the position of the other work and that it could be carried by a vigorous charge, launched the whole command down the slope. The Americans were met in the face by a severe fire of grape and cannister as well as musketry; but the blood of the men was up, and at a run, and firing as they ran, regulars and rangers swept down the gradual descent. The work gained, a mixed crowd of the strongest went over the walls and into the interior pell-mell, the affrighted Mexicans escaping by the opposite side unable to stay the current. And as they fled their own guns were again turned upon them, nor did the victors, while sending up loud shouts of triumph, cease to harass the fugitives until they had crossed the San Juan and gained the strongly fortified walls of the Bishop's Palace on the opposite hill.

Such were Worth's operations on the 21st of September, every way successful and achieved with loss trifling in comparison with the results. One officer only was killed during the day, McKavett, a meritorious captain in the 8th infantry, who was completely cut in two by a 12-pound shot. Until dark the firing between the Bishop's Palace and La Soldada continued, the reports of the guns on either side finding a thousand echoes in the narrow valley and amid the surrounding mountain gorges.

In the meantime the fighting had been absolutely murderous at the eastern extremity of Monterey, although no decisive results had been gained. Partly to distract the enemy and favor Worth's operations, and at the same time with the intention of attacking if occasion offered, early in the morning General Taylor had moved out with the greater part of the commands of Twiggs and Butler. The division of the former was composed of two brigades under Wilson and Garland, and the latter officer, with the 3d infantry alone, led the advance upon the city. His orders were to report to Mansfield, who was at this time closely reconnoitering the enemy's works, and who had been directed to make an attack should circumstances warrant it. Under a fire from the Black Fort Garland briskly moved down, followed by the 1st infantry and Baltimore battalion which Twiggs had meanwhile put in motion. On coming up with Mansfield, the 3d was ordered to advance upon a strong redoubt. When within range a ravaging fire was opened upon the Americans, yet boldly advancing across the intervening space a lodgment within the scattered houses at the edge of the city was effected. But here previously unseen works opened upon the column—a fire from every quarter smote the advance, and officers and men went down by scores. Not only were the invaders exposed to the raking discharges from masked batteries, but every housetop, every wall, and the cover of every grove of orange trees seemed alive with sharpshooters. The 3d infantry, which led, suffered most. Yet still the unequal strife continued. The 1st and Baltimore battalion were soon in the thickest of it, while Bragg's battery, brought down under a sweeping cannonade from the Black Fort and redoubts, took up a position in one of the streets, and opened a brisk yet ineffectual fire; for so well were the enemy covered by walls and houses, and such a succession of strong positions did they occupy, that the assailants were unable to oppose the storm of metal with which the air was filled. Garland's men beat into the narrow streets right and left, endeavouring to gain some position from whence they could see and annoy the hidden enemy, but every movement involved them in a new whirlpool of destruction. The loss of officers had already been frightful, they were still falling at every moment, and the exasperated men were vainly attempting to gain a position from which they could wreak their vengeance. A single company of the 1st infantry, under Backus, was able to get possession of the top of a large building, looking into the rear of the Teneria as the exterior redoubt was called, and from this commanding position, which he gained only after a severe struggle with the Mexicans who had first occupied it, he was enabled to open a destructive fire upon the gorge of the work.

But so severe had been the losses of the Americans, in men as well as officers, and so little could be effected by continuing the attack in this quarter, that Garland, at the suggestion of Mansfield himself, ordered his men to fall back to a less exposed position, there to reorganize for another attempt. Mansfield had been severely wounded, yet kept his feet. Watson of the Baltimoreans had been killed, with Barbour of the 3d infantry, Williams of the topographical engineers, and other officers, and the list of wounded was fearful. In the meantime, General Taylor, knowing that Garland was hotly engaged, and that as the attack had been commenced it must be sustained, ordered the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments under Quitman, with three companies of the 4th infantry to lead, down upon the Teneria. Quitman bore to the left, so as to fall more directly upon the work in front, a movement which brought a heavy storm of grape and cannister upon his men. The detachment of the 4th infantry, in advance, was severely cut by this withering fire, the officers in command, Hoskins, Graham and Woods, being at once struck down dead or mortally wounded; yet the survivors continued to press hotly forward, and Quitman, reaching a point where he could form his command,

organized his plan for storming the Teneria directly under its fire. With the Mississippians on the right and the Tennesseans on the left the final assault was ordered, the fire from the front of the work seeming to redouble as its walls were neared. But Backus, who had not retired from his position, continuing to pour a galling fire into the rear, while Quitman advanced vigorously upon the face of the work, the defenders at length slackened in their efforts and began to give way; and at the same time the Mississippians and Tennesseans leaping over the walls, the work was carried at a dash. Five pieces of cannon, all the ammunition, and a number of prisoners were secured. McClung, the second in command of the Mississippians, was severely wounded while entering sword in hand, and Allen and Putnam, two younger officers of the Tennesseans, were killed in the onslaught.

While this gallant operation was in progress, General Taylor had ordered Butler, with the Ohio troops, to move into the city on the right of the Teneria, and to a point where he could aid in the general attack. This command had hardly got clear of the quarries and fields in front of the town, and entered the streets, before it was met by a smashing tempest of grape, cannister and musket balls. Butler was soon severely wounded, with Mitchell and other officers of the Ohio regiment, leaving the command to Hamer. So badly was it cut, and without the chance of emptying a musket or reaching a point where the bayonet could be brought into play, that an order was sent for the regiment to retire; but at this juncture General Taylor seeing that the Teneria had been carried, countermanded the order, and the men were once more despatched to the fearful work. Garland was meanwhile ordered to gather the fragments of his torn command and to make another attempt to force his way up to the intricate network of redoubts, batteries and breastworks. Beyond the Teneria and nearer the river was a strong work called El Diabolo, mounting three guns, and which had kept up a spiteful fire from the first. Against this redoubt one of the captured pieces in the Teneria was turned, while Webster, who had been up to this time plying the Black Fort from his mortar and howitzer battery, ran down one of his 24-pound howitzers and added its fire upon El Diabolo.

Garland had collected the remnant of the 3d infantry, with detachments of the 1st and 4th; but scarcely had he left his temporary shelter before he was met by the same terrible storm of missiles—the enemy seemed to have gained new accessions of strength during the short respite. The narrow stream in front of the Mexicans was still deep and impossible to ford, the only point at which it could be crossed by artillery being at the bridge of the Purisima. At the head of this bridge, as has already been stated, was a regular work containing three guns, which opened a sweeping fire; while heavy volleys of musketry from the parapet roofs of the adjoining houses, from the cover of the orange trees which lined the stream on either flank, and from loop-holed garden walls, added to the carnage. The assailants were stricken down at every step; yet clearing the houses on the northern bank of the creek those still alive eagerly responded to the fire of the enemy on the opposite side, while Ridgely, who had run down one of his sections, opened briskly upon the tête-de-pont. But so well sheltered were the enemy, and in such clouds did they hang upon this point, that the fire of the Americans proved utterly ineffectual. Maddened by their losses, and thirsting for revenge, attempt after attempt was made by Garland's men to gain a foothold within the enemy's line. Yet every formation was carried away before it could reach holding ground, and the survivors in many instances were too few in number to assist their own wounded. To show how fearfully the gallant 3d had suffered up to this time, it may be stated that the commander, Lear, had been mortally wounded, that the three officers next in rank, Barbour, L. N. Morris, and Field, had been killed, and that another senior, Bainbridge, had been obliged to retire in consequence of an injury received. The command of the regiment was thus thrown upon Henry, who had gone into action sixth in rank, and who had so far miraculously remained unhurt. Nor had the 1st and 4th regiments escaped a heavy loss, both in officers and men; wherefore, seeing that it would be madness to attempt forcing the strong lines of the enemy with a command thus reduced, the order was given to fall back under cover of the Teneria. Here the remnant of the 3d infantry remained for the night, exposed to a cold rain, the jaded soldiers of the other regular regiments bivouacking close at hand. Nearly four hundred men had fallen, which, considering the small number engaged, shows that the conflict was obstinate to the last. At one time towards the close of the contest a large body of the enemy's lancers, coming out from the rear of the Black Fort, advanced with the evident intention of falling upon the Ohio and a detachment of the Mississippi troops, then occupying the fields outside the city; but this command taking cover behind the fences and commencing a fire, and Bragg at the same time opening upon them from an advantageous position with his battery, the cavalry were thrown back in haste under the walls of the citadel.

Such is but an imperfect sketch of the operations at the eastern extremity of Monterey on the 21st of September—operations certainly barren of full results when the heavy outlay of life is considered, yet which could not well have been avoided. The obstinate attack in this quarter, continued so many hours, had the effect of materially relieving Worth's advance on the

west. Had General Taylor's movement of the morning been but a simple feint, the Mexicans must soon have discovered it, and would have hurried off additional men and guns to the defence of the western heights. But attacking as the Americans did with such vigor, Ampudia was compelled to keep a heavy force on the east; and even the loss of the *Teneria*, with five of his best guns, loosened his hold in this strong quarter. Nor with his knowledge of the ground and immense superiority of number did he attempt to retake the work, a circumstance denoting that the stubborn bravery of the invaders had exercised a great moral effect on the Mexicans.

While Worth's successful troops were exposed upon the bleak heights they had captured during the afternoon of the 21st, or else in the muddy road which skirts the banks of the San Juan, their active commander had planned new and even more difficult work for them on the morrow. To storm the crest overlooking the Bishop's Palace was now determined upon, cost what it might; for which purpose a party, the command of which was entrusted to Childs, was organized during the night. It consisted of one company of the 1st and two of the 4th artillery, three companies of the 8th infantry under Screven, and two hundred picked Texans under Hays and Walker. Although the larger portion of them had been without food or blankets, and in the midst of a cold, drizzling rain, at 3 o'clock in the morning they started willingly to the enterprise before them. The command was guided by Sanders and Meade, and without a whisper the men set out on their perilous undertaking. A heavy fog added to the darkness of a cloudy night; yet picking their way in the midst of a gloom so impenetrable that no man could see his fellow, a good portion of the western side of the hill was surmounted without the watchful sentinels within hail above being apprised of the movement. The face of the frowning height was in many places almost perpendicular, rough, and overspread with broken rocks, while a thick coat of scraggy but stunted thorns—the universal chaparral of the country—covered every spot where the hardy brush could find root. The rattling of the tin canteens of the regulars, as they toiled up the steep, first gave the enemy notice of the approach, when a broad sheet of bright flame burst suddenly from the entire front of the sand-bag work on the summit. The cannon of the Mexicans were withdrawn down the opposite slope, in the direction of the Bishop's Palace, for the hill was so steep that the pieces could not be depressed, but the infantry kept up a rolling fire, discharging their pieces into the deep darkness below them. Not a shot was at first returned by the assailants. They could see the grim faces of their adversaries lit up by every flash, yet the distance was still too great for them to open with that close effect which tells. Clinging to the brush and to the jagged rocks, and feeling their way as they clambered up the precipice, regulars and rangers, again mingled together as no order could be preserved, still continued the rugged ascent.

The sharp crack of the Texan rifles, as some of the stronger of that corps reached a point from whence their fire was certain, first announced that the final struggle had commenced. In an instant the face of the precipice was illumined with the bright flashes from the weapons of the assailants, and guided by the fire still kept up from the crest above them scarcely a shot was lost. Some hastily reloaded their pieces; but others, moved by the cries of the officers to press upward, placing their reliance on the bayonet continued the difficult ascent. The Mexicans clung doggedly to their stronghold, but as the foremost of the stormers leaped with shouts over the breastworks they gave way, and the next moment were in full flight down the slope towards the shelter of the Bishop's Palace—the work had been triumphantly carried. In this daring operation the loss of Childs was trifling as regards the number slain, one officer only, the brave and chivalrous Gillespie of the Texans, having been killed.

The distance from the captured work to the Bishop's Palace was about four hundred yards, the descent gradual and the ground comparatively smooth. Worth had ordered Childs, after carrying the crest, to make no positive demonstration on the Bishop's Palace until reinforcements could be despatched. As soon as it was daylight, word was sent to the 5th infantry and the Louisianians, on the opposite hills, to march hastily over to the support of Childs, while at the same time one of Duncan's howitzers under Roland, and accompanied by a strong fatigue party, was despatched in the direction of the crest. After great labor this piece was fairly lifted to the summit of the hill, and sheltered by the epaulment of the captured work was soon throwing a flight of shells directly into the strongly fortified Palace. In the meantime Childs had ordered Vinton, with two companies of light troops, to advance down the slope to some point that would afford partial shelter, there to hold the enemy in check in case a regular sortie, which had been repeatedly threatened, was attempted in earnest. A force of Texans was at the same time sent down, and taking advantage of the natural cover both parties gained a good position with little loss. Meanwhile the cannonade from the Palace had been incessant from the moment when the last of the panic-stricken stragglers, driven from the crest in disorder, had entered it. Nor were the infantry within its walls idle, for from every loop-hole and window a steady fire was sweeping every portion of the hill. But Childs, keeping his men close under such cover as could be found, quietly awaited the signal to storm this last stronghold on the western heights.

The effect of Roland's plunging fire, for the range was close and his shells

thrown with great accuracy, was growing more and more evident as the forenoon wore. The Mexican artillerymen swept the slope by their repeated discharges; but the Americans, hugging the cover while awaiting the assault, suffered but little loss. This ineffectual strife had continued nearly five hours, when the Mexican trumpets announced a sortie. From the rear and northern flank of the Palace a stream of light troops was seen pouring and forming, cavalry and infantry, the artillerymen plying their guns with renewed vigor to draw attention from the charge now to be attempted. In good order the enemy came up, and in numbers apparently sufficient to sweep the slope; but the regulars and rangers in advance, waiting until they had arrived within pistol-shot, met them with such a close and biting volley of musket and rifle balls, that the front was thrown into confusion, and before they could rally the fire became so hot that they were forced back in disorder. The Americans now rising from their cover with shouts, and pressing down upon the enemy with determination, the latter were unable to turn and make head against the current. A portion of the fugitives pressed down the hill towards the city in their fright, others rushed into the Palace for shelter; but close upon their heels came their vigorous assailants, and a short struggle inside the walls showed their inability to oppose when the bayonet was called into play. Those of the Mexicans who attempted resistance were stricken to the earth; others surrendered; while a portion of the defenders jumped over the walls on the eastern side and fled precipitately towards the city. The captured guns were turned immediately upon them in their flight, and Duncan and Mackall, bringing their batteries up the main road at a gallop, added their deadly fire to that of the enemy's pieces. The victory was complete, and as the Mexican flag was torn down by Ayres, a young and daring officer of artillery, loud shouts of triumph went up. The stirring operations had been closely watched by the divisions of Twiggs and Butler, lying on the eastern side of Monterey; and when they saw the American flag run up in place of that of the enemy, and knew that their friends were conquerors, their exultation found vent in shouts which reached every part of the city.

Every spot of vantage ground on the western side of Monterey, the full possession of the road to Saltillo, and the control of every line of retreat in this direction, were now in the hands of Worth's victorious troops. The result of these brilliant operations had also given him seven additional guns, with which he promptly opened upon the city, while the moral effect upon the spirits of the enemy, when they found themselves hemmed in and with little hope of escape, was immense. Meanwhile the operations on the eastern side of the city had been of little moment. Possession of the *Teneria* had been retained by General Taylor, and the troops had been more or less exposed to the missiles sent from the Black Fort, from El Diabolo, and other works. But no attempt was made during the day to attack in any quarter. The regulars belonging to the division of Twiggs were relieved from their duties by Quitman's brigade of Butler's, the batteries of Bragg and Ridgely being meanwhile held in readiness to repel any attempt made by the enemy to regain their captured work. Such were the operations of the 22d of September.

At daylight on the 23d General Taylor ascertained that during the night the enemy had evacuated El Diabolo, the redoubts in its immediate vicinity, and all their strong positions in the eastern corner of the city, carrying off their cannon in the direction of the grand plaza. A cold and dismal rain had been falling, adding much to the discomfort of the jaded soldiers on every quarter of the beleaguered city. Many of them had no food, hundreds were without blankets or protection of any kind, yet with the same unbroken spirit they were now ready to renew the work. Quitman led off the attack, with portions of the Tennessee and Mississippi regiments, the American commander-in-chief having given him discretionary orders to advance and feel his way into the city. Leaving a strong party in the captured works, he proceeded cautiously in the direction of the grand plaza. A brisk fire was soon opened upon him from parapet roofs, as well as from barricades thrown across the principal streets; yet sheltering his men, and returning the enemy's fire from every advantageous cover, he slowly gained ground. General Taylor, seeing that the contest had again been renewed, sent Henderson into the city to the support of Quitman, with the 2d regiment of Texans now dismounted. Ridgely was in the meantime firing upon the cathedral, which was known to be garrisoned and full of ammunition, from a captured gun in one of the eastern redoubts, while Martin Scott was throwing a plunging fire from the opposite side of the town, having run a piece taken in La Soldada along the ridge in the rear until he had gained a point from whence he could reach the grand plaza. Bragg was at the same time ordered to open upon the cathedral, the barricades, or any assailable position occupied by the enemy, and soon after he was despatched into the city with one of his sections, the 3d infantry supporting. The strange combat within the town now became brisk and general. Finding that Bragg's guns could be of little service, and that his men were rapidly falling, they were withdrawn, yet the conflict was continued by the Mississippians, Tennesseans and Texans, the latter engaged in a strife they well understood. The roofs of all the higher and more commanding houses were alive with Mexican sharpshooters, who, concealed behind parapets which had been strengthened by sand-bags,

kept up a constant fire. To dislodge them the assailants picked their way through the walls of the adjoining houses, and coming out upon the roofs in crowds soon drove the enemy by the superior accuracy of their aim. By the middle of the day the Americans had thus worked their way, and with comparatively little loss, until they had reached a point within two squares of the cathedral, where Ampudia had now concentrated his entire force with the exception of the strong garrison in the Black Fort outside the town. The men, however, now being out of ammunition, as well as exhausted by their long efforts, and General Taylor having ascertained that the last stronghold of the enemy could be successfully assailed with a force newly organized and fresh, gave orders for Quitman to fall back. This movement was executed in good order and without loss, and while Hamer was sent out to occupy the redoubts and batteries, the tired Mississippians and Tennesseans marched back to the camp at San Domingo, there to rest and refresh themselves after their incessant fatigues.

But in the meantime Worth, who from the heavy firing had supposed that a regular attack upon the cathedral and grand plaza was in progress, was organizing his forces rapidly to fall upon Ampudia from the western side of the city. The distance from the Bishop's Palace, where Worth had now established his head-quarters, was but little more than a mile in a straight line from the Teneria and El Diabolo; but to avoid the Black Fort, and the lancers ever ready to sally out from its cover, he could only communicate with the commander-in-chief by a circuitous route of some five or six miles, and hence the difficulty of combining their operations. The day previous, seeing that he had gained a position from whence he could easily reach the cathedral with heavy shells, Worth had despatched an aid to General Taylor requesting that the 10-inch mortar might be sent him. This had now arrived; but deeming it possible that some message informing him of the attack from the east had miscarried, or that the bearer had been cut off, the commander of the 2d division determined upon advancing at once into the city.

The attack from this quarter was organized in two columns, to proceed directly towards the grand plaza by the two principal streets leading from the base of the hill below the Palace. A detachment of Texans for the light skirmishing work preceded the regulars, the batteries of Duncan and Mackall bringing up the rear. In order to effect lodgments within the houses, and thus render the advance more safe as well as certain, heavy pieces of plank or timber were carried to burst in gates and doors, scaling ladders were hastily collected, while all the crow-bars, picks and axes which could be found were taken along to cut and dig the way through walls and partitions.*

As the heads of the columns entered the streets the affrighted women and children, their minds distorted by the idle tales Ampudia had industriously circulated of the cruelty of the Americans, came running out with oranges and other fruits, thus endeavouring to propitiate the good-will of the invaders. On reaching a point within three hundred yards of the grand plaza, on one side of which stood the towering cathedral, a warm fire was opened upon the leading companies. The roofs of the houses swarmed with the infantry of the enemy, while from behind regular barricades, constructed with embrasures for cannon, came showers of grape and cannister. Worth's orders had been to mask the movement as much as possible, and for the men to shelter themselves against any sweeping discharges from the heavy guns. To carry out these instructions the commands took cover within the cross streets, or behind the first barricade, which had been carried with little opposition, and using the crow and the pick a lodgment was soon effected within some of the higher and more controlling houses. The Texans, whenever the head of a Mexican appeared above the parapets, paid him for his temerity with his life, while the regulars of the 7th and 8th infantry, who were close upon them on either column of attack, spread themselves over the flat house-tops and added a brisk fire upon every point occupied by the enemy. Duncan and Mackall at almost the same time brought their batteries into play. Although embarrassed for room, they still found space where they could unlimber and add the weight of their rapid discharges to the general attack.

A detachment of Texans, with a party of the 8th infantry, had dashed up one of the streets leading to the left, and towards a small market-place known as the Plazuela. This they crossed under a heavy fire, and being soon joined by a company of the 7th, a species of battering-ram was hastily formed of heavy planks or timber, by means of which the strong door or gate of a commanding building was carried from its hinges. Through the opening the men poured, and gaining the roof of the building a new and closer fire was opened upon the enemy. At the same time another detachment of the 7th, with a party of Texans, taking a range of buildings skirting the San Juan, had worked their way up to an important point on the right, and at every moment were gradually but surely nearing the grand

plaza. The firing was now rapid and continuous on either side, while above the din of the conflict arose the loud shouts of the Americans, the fierce yells of the Mexicans, or the shrill cries of the affrighted women and children, anxious to fly but uncertain on which side to look for safety. And added to all came the heavy stroke of the plank used in staving the doors or gates, or the dull yet distinct strokes of the pick-axes as the assailants burrowed through the houses. In many of the rooms whole families were found upon their knees, vehemently praying that their lives might be spared them; for all had been told that the Americans were barbarians, coming to destroy alike the weak and the strong.

The conflict continued with little intermission till nightfall, the 7th infantry having suffered more severely than any other corps. But with the darkness the work of the assailants did not cease, for the pick and the crow-bar were still vigorously used in digging the way to more advanced and controlling positions. In weighing their means of defence the Mexicans had never bethought themselves that their adversaries would thus burrow their way through the houses. In the streets they were prepared for defence at every point, and with good show of confidence were ready to resist any open advance; but for the secret and hidden underground approach of the Americans they had never calculated; the sudden and mysterious appearance of clouds of hated Texans, upon house-tops where they were least looked for, unnerved them, and their fears increased with every foot of vantage ground thus gained. In the early part of the day, while Quitman was thus progressing towards the cathedral from the north-east, Ampudia had sent in a flag of truce to General Taylor, requesting a cessation of hostilities until the women and children might have time to retire—a request so unreasonable that it was not for a moment listened to.

Under the direction of Munroe the 10-inch mortar, which had been brought round to Worth's division, was placed in a cemetery within the city during the afternoon, and as soon as it was dark a fire of shells was opened upon the cathedral. A part of the force in advance was at the same time withdrawn; a sufficient number was however left in front to continue the work of digging through the houses, and in this manner, before daylight on the following morning, a party of Texans had worked their way as far as the post-office, and almost within rifle-shot of the cathedral itself. With great exertion a 6-pounder and two 12-pound howitzers were also lifted to the roof of a commanding building in the Plazuela, scarcely out of musket range of the grand plaza. While these operations were in progress in front, Munroe continued to ply the cathedral with his mortar. At first he had drawn a flight of shells from the Black Fort outside the town; but uncertain as to his exact position, for the Mexican artillerymen could only direct their pieces from the flash, this fire caused no damage.

It was perhaps unfortunate that General Taylor did not receive notice of Worth's advance until after he had sent the order withdrawing Quitman and Henderson from the attack on the east. The commander of the 2d division had early despatched word that, induced to believe that an attack upon the grand plaza had commenced from the heavy firing, he was marching to support it from the west with a well organized force. But this intelligence did not reach the commander-in-chief until it was too late to renew the conflict on the east, and sending back word to Worth to suspend farther operations until the plan of a combined attack was settled upon, the scattered detachments rested upon their arms until the morning. Frequent signals were interchanged during the night, by means of colored rockets, between the garrison in the Black Fort and the main body of the Mexicans hemmed within the grand plaza, and at this time Ampudia had doubtless resolved in his own mind to surrender, whatever might be the opinions of Requena, Ortega and his other principal officers.

With the first dawn of day on the morning of the 24th of September the report of the Texan rifles was heard as they opened upon the enemy from the roof of the post-office. This fire had continued but a few moments before a white flag was seen coming from the grand plaza—Ampudia was now sending a request that an armistice might be granted. This message was despatched to Worth, and almost at the same time an aid-de-camp of Ampudia, Colonel Moreno, with another flag of truce, was on his way to General Taylor's head-quarters with a note stating that he was ready to evacuate Monterey in case he would be allowed to take with him, in addition to his artillery, ammunition and baggage, all the public property in the city, with the assurance that no harm should fall upon such of the inhabitants as had taken part in the defence. This note was dated late on the previous night. The American commander declined acceding to its terms, insisting upon a complete surrender of the town and garrison; but at the same time, in his answer to Ampudia, he suggested that in consideration of the gallant defence which had been made he would make the conditions as liberal as possible. The Mexican commander was given until 12 o'clock to make up his mind, and in the meantime General Taylor proceeded to Worth's head-quarters. But the latter officer had previous to this received a note from Ampudia requesting a personal interview with the American commander-in-chief. To this the latter acceded; and during the afternoon, at a house midway between the advance posts of either army, the meeting was held. No definitive terms were settled at this interview. A commission, however, was appointed, composed of three officers on either side, to adjust the conditions of a surrender.

* This plan of burrowing through houses was adopted by the Texans in the early part of their revolution against Mexico, and with success, for in 1836 San Antonio de Bexar was captured from General Cos in this way, notwithstanding his force materially outnumbered that of his assailants. Although perhaps out of place, the author would here observe that among the distinguished Texans present at the subjection of Monterey were Generals Mirabeau B. Lamar and Burleson, the former at one time President and the latter Vice-President of Texas. They were now acting as simple volunteers, yet their gallant bearing was the subject of general remark.

The officers on the American side were Generals Worth and Henderson and Colonel Jefferson Davis; on the part of the Mexicans, Generals Requena and Ortega and Don Manuel M. Llano, the governor of the State of Nueva Leon, of which Monterey was the capital. After a lengthy conference, the Mexican commissioners as usual resorting to every species of prevarication to gain more favourable terms, the conditions of the surrender were finally agreed upon and signed by the respective parties. The city, the fortifications, cannon, munitions of war, and all public property were surrendered to the Americans; yet the Mexican commissioned officers were allowed to retain their swords, the cavalry and infantry their arms and accoutrements, and the artillery a field battery of six pieces with twenty-one rounds of ammunition. On striking their flag at the Black Fort the Mexicans were furthermore permitted to salute it with their own battery, and seven days were allowed them to retire beyond the line formed by the pass of the Rinconada, the city of Linares, and San Fernando de Presas. An armistice of eight weeks was also settled upon, during which the soldiers on either side were not to be permitted to cross the above line.

Such were the main features of the capitulation of Monterey. Twenty-six pieces of cannon, an immense amount of ammunition, military stores, provisions, tobacco, and other public property, fell into the hands of the Americans, together with the city and fortifications of Monterey and the strong pass of the Rinconada on the Saltillo road; but the terms granted to Ampudia were much less rigorous than had been at first insisted upon, and more favorable than perhaps he deserved. In the grand plaza, where he was stationed with the greater portion of his army, he was completely hemmed in on all sides save one—the side immediately on the river. By this, throwing away his arms and leaving all his cannon, he might have escaped, and gained Saltillo by means of the mule path through the mountains. The Black Fort might have held out, and under Requena, a resolute officer of artillery, probably would have held out, for a few days; but had the combat been renewed in the vicinity of the cathedral on the morning of the 24th of September, in two hours half of Ampudia's force would have been slaughtered, with many women, children, and non-combatants; for in such a strife as would have ensued, with howitzers mounted in the upper stories and crowds of sharpshooters occupying every commanding housetop, no discrimination could have been made. The Texans certainly could not have been restrained. Their hatred of Ampudia, for his many acts of treachery, broken faith, and savage cruelty during their war of independence, was so deep-rooted, that the innocent must have suffered in their attempts to wreak vengeance upon him.

Ampudia's duplicity induced him, the better to gain favorable conditions for himself and army, to have reports busily circulated at the conference to the effect that Santa Anna was in full power at the city of Mexico, and was moreover using all his energies to bring about a peace. The story was even raised that commissioners to settle the terms of a treaty were already on their way from Mexico to Washington. Of course these reports were utterly destitute of foundation, although told with every apparent evidence of plausibility; but they may have had their weight in softening the terms of the capitulation. At all events, it is certain that at the time General Taylor entertained strong hopes that a peace between the two countries might soon be brought about, and acting upon this hope, and to spare the farther effusion of blood as well as destruction of property, he consented to less rigorous terms than he might otherwise have exacted of his cunning yet cowardly adversary. The same hope of the speedy restoration of amicable relations with Mexico in part induced the American commander to consent to the armistice of two months. General Taylor knew that Santa Anna had been permitted to pass freely through the blockading squadron and enter Vera Cruz in the previous month of August, but he did not know that on the 14th of September, ten days prior to the conference in relation to the surrender of Monterey, this same Santa Anna had issued a proclamation at the city of Mexico, breathing nothing but war to the death against the infamous Americans, as they were styled, and full of high-sounding but meaningless threats that he himself was hurrying to the seat of war, to chastise and humble the invaders or perish in the front ranks of his insulted countrymen.

But there was another reason for granting the temporary suspension of hostilities—General Taylor was unable to move farther into the interior for the want of transportation and supplies. The enemy were in a situation to collect new means of resistance and take the field in force, had not the terms

of the armistice paralysed their efforts, while even when the two months were ended the Americans were not prepared to recommence active offensive operations. Had the combat been renewed on the morning of the 24th of September, the result is easy to predict: the Mexicans would have been defeated and driven across the river, where escape was open through the mountain paths well known to them, destroying all their cannon and munitions previous to their retreat. In case they had held out in the grand plaza with obstinacy, the cathedral, containing an immense amount of powder, must inevitably have been blown up; and as in this quarter were huddled all the non-combatants, the destruction of innocent lives would have been frightful. Nor would it have been confined to the inhabitants; for so close were the assailants on every side that they, too, must have suffered from the explosion. The author would frankly confess that on the day of the surrender, partaking somewhat of the antipathy and deep-seated hostility towards the Mexicans possessed by the Texans with whom he had served, that he deemed the conditions too liberal and the armistice as impolitic; but with equal frankness he would observe, that he was soon compelled to admit the justice of the reasons advanced by the American commander, as well as by the members of the conference, in granting terms which at first seemed to bear the evidence of more generosity than the enemy was entitled to ask for or receive.

The loss of the Mexicans in killed and wounded, during the three days the contest lasted, could never be fully ascertained. The heaviest portion perhaps fell on the west, where Worth was operating, for so well protected were they on the east, by batteries, breastworks and barricades, that the number was comparatively small. In this quarter the enemy immediately buried their dead, with the exception of those left in the Teneria and some of the fortified houses which were carried; but as the hospital was afterwards found crowded with wounded soldiers and officers, and as many of the latter had been taken to private houses, their casualties even here must have been considerable. The loss of the Americans fell but little short of five hundred men in the aggregate, with thirty-eight officers. Colonel Watson, Majors Lear and Barbour, Captains L. N. Morris, Williams, G. P. Field, McKavett, R. A. Gillespie and Allen, Lieutenants R. H. Graham, Terrett, Dilworth, C. Hoskins, J. S. Wood, D. S. Irwin, Hazlitt, Putnam and Hett, were among the slain, or did not long survive their injuries. General Butler, Colonels Mitchell, Mansfield and McClung, Majors Abercrombie and Alexander, Captains Gatlin, Lamotte, George, Bainbridge and Downing, and Lieutenants Wainwright, Rossell, Armstrong, Cook, Arthur, Miles, Scudder, Nixon, Morter, McCarty and Howard were among the wounded. Nearly three-fourths of the loss on the American side occurred in the daring and obstinate attack at the eastern extremity of Monterey, on the first day of the contest.

In giving a drawing of the capture it was found impossible to offer other than a general view of Monterey, taken from the north, and showing its approaches and exterior defences. In the foreground of the picture may be seen General Taylor himself, with the column of attack marching down to the eastern edge of the city; the smoke from the Black Fort, as well as from the town itself, showing that the invaders were under fire from the first. In the middle ground, a little to the right of the Black Fort which looms up prominently in advance of the city, may be seen the Hills of Independence and Federation, the San Juan running between. On the lower points of these hills are the Bishop's Palace and the work of La Soldada, while the smoke upon the crests to the right indicates the position of the batteries which opened upon Worth's division on the morning of the 21st of September, his troops at the time concealed in the valley on the west. The towering mountains of the Sierra Madre form the background of the picture, the opening directly beyond the Bishop's Palace being the gap through which the road runs towards the Rinconada and Saltillo. The artist could not well select any one incident of the contest as the subject of his drawing: no effort of the pencil could give effect to the hard fighting within the streets, and to take up the storming of one of the western heights would shut out the city from view. He therefore preferred giving the reader an outline of Monterey, with its defences and approaches, and in this, although the position of some of the hills may have been slightly changed, he has been successful. The capture of this stronghold, with an inferior force and without a siege or battering train, will ever be considered one of the brightest achievements of the American arms. To convey an idea of some of the difficulties overcome by General Taylor, by other means than simple words, has been the aim and object of the artist.

