

their left on a wood, their line perpendicular to the San Angel road. As my brigade was forming, after getting to the village, these reinforcements filed round by their right flank, and formed in two lines parallel to the road. At this moment, General Cadwalader came up and reported to me. I inquired first if Colonel Riley's brigade was over there, but could get no information about it. I then, in order to make force against the new line of the enemy, ordered General Cadwalader to form his brigade, or four regiments, by a movement by his flank, in a line parallel to the enemy. I put Major Dimick's regiment of artillery in the orchard, on the main road leading from Contreras to San Angel, and formed the 3d infantry and rifles on the right flank of the village, in column. I directed a company from Lieutenant Colonel Graham's regiment, and Lieutenant Smith's engineer company, to take possession of the church in the centre of the village. Shortly after, an officer reported that he had met Lieutenant Porter, of the 4th artillery, who had informed him that Riley's brigade was then at the farther end of the village or beyond it, and Colonel Riley soon after reported to me that his brigade was there. The enemy in front were commanded by Santa Anna, those in camp by General Valencia, though then we did not know who commanded them. After examining Santa Anna's position, I ordered an attack upon it; Riley to attack towards his left, Cadwalader about one hundred and fifty yards to the right of Riley, and retired in eschelon, both in column, by division, left in front. Riley was to pierce the right of the enemy's line about two battalions from the right, and then retreat to the right and take the enemy in flank; Cadwalader to form to the front. This was just about sunset when the order was given. General Cadwalader had examined the ravine in his front, and reported that, though difficult, it could be passed. Riley soon returned and reported his brigade ready to march out. In a few minutes afterwards, General Cadwalader came up for some explanation of the order, and reported that the ground occupied by his brigade was so difficult, from ditches, walls, and bushes, that it would be sometime before he could get his regiments out, as the staff officers had to make great circuits on account of the obstructions, in order to convey orders for the movement to the different regiments.

By this time it had got so dark that you could scarcely perceive the enemy's lines as he stood under the brow of the hill; and, as it would be, evidently, quite dark before we crossed the ravine, the order to attack was countermanded.

Colonel Riley then mentioned that, while he had been to the upper end of the village, and outside of it, towards the enemy, Captain Canby and Lieutenant Tower, engineers, had reconnoitred the ground towards Valencia's position, and found that the ravine in front of the village led up entirely in rear of Valencia's camp, and that infantry could move up it. I then determined to attack before day in that direction, and, upon my saying that I should be very glad to communicate my position and intentions to General Scott, Captain Lee volunteered to go to him. I desired him to go

over and report that we would march out at three o'clock, attack Valencia's position in the rear, and requested that such diversion as could be made, might be made on the front of said position. I then sent Lieutenants Brooks and Tower to examine again this ravine after dark, in order that we might be sure to find it before daylight in the morning. I then disposed of the troops to defend the place, if attacked in the night, and to march out with most facility before day. After the return of Lieutenants Brooks and Tower, I sent for General Cadwalader, Colonel Riley, and Major Dimick, the commanders of the three brigades, and gave to each detailed instructions what he was to do in the attack in the morning, providing particularly for the case of an attack on us by Santa Anna, while we were marching out to attack Valencia. About 10 o'clock, General Shields's aid, Lieutenant Hammond, came and reported that the general, with two regiments, had got through the pedrigal, and was lying between, I think, one of the ravines, at the edge of the pedrigal, and the road. Being under the impression that I ranked General Shields, I directed that his two regiments should occupy the position that Major Dimick had occupied when we first got over—that was the orchard in the road—directing that the whole of my own brigade should then join the column that was moving out to the attack. About twelve o'clock, General Shields came himself. I repeated the instructions to him, still under the impression that I ranked him; and he, with great delicacy, as well as with great magnanimity, did not even hint at his actual position, which was that of my senior. He went and joined his brigade, which was then in the orchard. He was to occupy the village after we marched out. A few minutes before 3 o'clock, Riley's brigade marched out; two of Cadwalader's regiments followed; the other two, which were at the farther extremity of the village, and in very difficult grounds, not being ready, General Cadwalader undertook to remain, and bring them up in time. Major Dimick followed the two leading regiments of Cadwalader with my brigade; and then the two other regiments of Cadwalader followed. Owing to the extreme difficulty of the path, it took us three hours until Riley's brigade got into position in rear of the enemy's works. It had been broad daylight for sometime before he arrived there. As the enemy had a great deal of cavalry about their position, Riley was ordered to attack in two columns, and to deploy when the nature of the ground would permit him. Cadwalader's brigade had been intended to make face against Santa Anna, if he moved to the assistance of Valencia; and Dimick to have assisted in either one or the other attack, as circumstances might require. But Santa Anna, during the night, had withdrawn his infantry to some houses at the upper end of San Angel, so that, when it got to be broad day, we could only see Santa Anna's cavalry in its position, and the head of his infantry a great distance off, returning to its position. He was so far off that it was evident we had nothing to fear from any movement he could make. Just as Riley's column was formed for attack, cavalry were seen moving out from Valencia's position up towards the