

In respect to my own case, I did not suppose it would delay me beyond a very few days, when I had expected to be told by the court that my attendance on its sittings was no longer required. As to this case, my attitude still is, defiance to my accuser.

If then, Mr. President, I am to be held here, a prisoner in the enemy's country, under all the hardships to which I have alluded, until a messenger can go to and return from Washington, I am ready, so far as I am concerned, to take up, whenever the court shall say so, the case of Major General Pillow, notwithstanding the probability that a ratified treaty of peace may early disband him, and cut off the investigation by the time, perhaps, the second charge shall have been entered upon.

Of the witnesses that I should call if there be time, to support the two charges, or their specifications, some eighteen are still, I believe, in this country. About twelve have returned to the United States. The names of these I shall be ready to hand to the judge advocate to-morrow, in order that they may be summoned, &c., unless the court should foresee an early adjournment to the United States.

In respect to the absent witnesses, I desire to say that several were ordered home by the first train, (November 1,) before I had formed any intention of arresting the general officer in question, and indeed before I had become acquainted, except very partially, with a small number of the matters laid to his charge. By the subsequent trains—the second, December 9, and the third, January 14—other witnesses were allowed to depart, because I thought it would be as easy, under Major General Pillow's refusal to take depositions here, to recall all, as it would be to recall or to take the depositions, by commission, of the few.

Some other witnesses went down by the last train, (March 6,) under the directions of my successor in command.

Respectfully submitted,
WINFIELD SCOTT.

MEXICO, March 20, 1848.

D.

CITY OF MEXICO, March 21, 1848.

Mr President and gentlemen of the court:

The charges and specifications to be investigated by this court are exceedingly voluminous; those already before the court occupying eighteen pages of closely written foolscap, and "the cry is still they come." The hearing of the testimony, on the part of the prosecution, must necessarily require a considerable length of time. The prosecutor thinks it will be two months before he reaches his new matter. In this opinion, I hope, *the facts* of the case will show that he is mistaken. Still, it will require some time, in the ordinary mode of procedure, before the defence of the case can be opened. It is within the knowledge of every member of this court, every officer of this army, and thousands of my

countrymen far from this city, that I have already suffered much (in case I prove myself innocent, as I hope to do, of the charges,) from false imputations that have been strown broadcast against me. I have partially submitted for more than four months to the most virulent attacks of the public press, in the hope and conviction that the whole matter will become the subject of legal investigation. This course I deem a proper regard to military subordination and propriety required of me. I trust the time has at length arrived when these dark clouds which have lowered upon my reputation may be dispelled. In order, as far as possible, to guard against the influences upon the public mind of *ex parte* statements and reports, I respectfully ask of this court that after having heard all the testimony under each specification on the side of the prosecution, I may be permitted to introduce my testimony in defence, bearing upon the same matter. I ask this of the court as an act of simple justice. I am aware that this is not strictly in accordance with ordinary customs, but inasmuch as there is nothing that militates against, I trust that the court will find in the peculiar circumstances a justification for a departure from the usual mode of proceeding. It certainly will simplify the deliberations of the court, the labors of reviewing authorities of the public investigation of the merits of the case, as the evidence on the part of the prosecution and that of the defence will thus be brought in juxtaposition; and as the office of this court is to report the facts of the case, which will be greatly facilitated by the course proposed.

Respectfully submitted:

GIDEON J. PILLOW.

MIXCOAC, MEXICO, August 27, 1847,
Three miles from the capital.

Editors Delta—Gentlemen:

I beg leave to hand you the annexed account of our engagement with the enemy, which commenced on the 19th instant, at a strongly fortified position, about four miles west of San Augustine.

This engagement with the enemy commenced on the 19th instant, by the third division, under the immediate command of Major General Pillow, comprising a force of 3,500 men. The enemy had 16,000, of whom 5,000 were cavalry, and twenty-seven pieces of artillery.

General Pillow's order for the attack was, that General Twiggs should advance with one brigade of his division and assault the enemy's strong work in front, while the other should turn his left wing, and assail the works in *reverse*. He also placed at the disposition of General Twiggs Captain Magruder's battery, and Lieutenant Callender's howitzers, [both of which belong to the proper division of General Pillow.] Having thus opened the battle, he

then advanced General Cadwalader's brigade to the support of Colonel Riley, who had moved to turn the enemy's left and attack in *reverse*, and advanced General Pierce's brigade to support General Smith, who had advanced to assault the work in front. The action had now become, with the advancing forces, very severe; and General Pillow, seeing five or six thousand men advancing from the city to reinforce the enemy, whom he apprehended would fall upon General Cadwalader's rear, detached from General Pierce's brigade Colonel Morgan's regiment, [which was yet within reach,] and ordered it instantly to the support of General Cadwalader, who, seeing so large a force approaching his rear, threatening to overwhelm him, halted his forward movement, confronted the enemy, in a strong position, and held him completely at bay. The forces under General Smith, Colonel Riley and General Pierce, were hotly engaged with the enemy's strong battery, and large force of infantry and cavalry, until it was quite dark. Magruder's battery and Callender's howitzer battery were both much cut to pieces, and disabled. Late in the evening General Scott came upon the field, and brought with him General Shields's brigade of volunteers, whom he advanced to the support of the forces under General Cadwalader; but it was so late that they did not get into position until in the night. The next morning, before daylight, the brigade of General Pierce advanced, in execution of the original order of battle, and renewed the assault in front; while Colonel Riley's brigade, supported by General Cadwalader, turned his left, assailed the enemy's works in reverse, and most gallantly carried it; capturing a large force of the enemy, twenty-two guns, (among them, those lost at the battle of Buena Vista,) and killing and wounding, in the general engagement, between twenty-six and twenty-eight hundred of the enemy.

Having achieved this signal and brilliant victory, General Pillow immediately resolved to pursue the retreating forces of the enemy, and while his troops were flushed with victory, give battle to a large force said still to be in San Angel, which he did, and drove them before him. He then sent an officer of his staff back to General Scott to say to him, if he would cause General Worth to co-operate with him, he would sweep around the valley, and assault the strong works of San Antonio in the reverse, and carry that place, so as to open the direct route to the capital for the advance of his siege train upon the other battery on that road. General Scott replied that Worth should co-operate with him. General Pillow then moved rapidly around the valley at the head of his victorious forces until he reached Cuyca, within one mile of San Antonio, where he halted to allow his troops a short time to recover their breath, and almost exhausted strength, before engaging the enemy at San Antonio. While waiting for this purpose, General Scott overtook the army. At this moment it was discovered in the distance that the enemy, (seeing their main work had been carried and that they were about to be attacked in the rear,) had abandoned the work at San Antonio and fallen back upon a second strong work at Churubusco. General Scott, who now

assumed command for the first time, immediately ordered General Twiggs's division to advance upon the left, and arrest and cut off the retreating forces of the enemy, and assault the strong work at this place on the right, while he ordered General Pillow to lead Cadwalader's brigade and assault the enemy upon the left, and in front of the main work at the bridge or causeway. Twiggs's division soon became desperately engaged with the enemy's right at Churubusco. Pillow's division, in the effort to get to the battle ground, were compelled to wade waist deep in mud and water; the general, dismounting from his horse and plunging through, called upon his column to follow him, which they did with great ardor. He advanced rapidly with it, in front of the enemy's main work, and finding it would be cut down by the terrible fire of grape and cannister which swept down the road, he turned it into the field on the right, to attack the main battery on its left flank. Here his forces and Worth's were joined, and went forward and gallantly carried this work.

During this great battle, which lasted two days, General Pillow was in command of all the forces engaged, except General Worth's division, and this was not engaged, except in taking the last work. (General Scott gave but one order, and that was to reinforce General Cadwalader's brigade.) The position the enemy's battery occupied was a height commanding the only road passing through a wide plain covered over with lava stone, which was rent into deep chasms and fissures, so as to be almost impassable even for infantry. It was entirely so for all other purposes. In this position the enemy had entrenched twenty-nine pieces of heavy artillery, which swept the approach in every direction. The enemy's reinforcements increased their force to 16,000—about 5,000 of which were cavalry. A stronger position could not have been selected, and a more powerful battery was perhaps never so successfully assailed.

The necessity of attacking this work and carrying it had become manifest, as the army had been marching through marshes and almost impassable roads, nearly half around the city, to find some points upon the enemy's works that could be successfully assailed. Three main works, commanding causeways leading to the capital, had been reconnoitred; and were found so strongly fortified, and defended by such a weight of heavy artillery, that to risk an assault would have been to endanger our whole army. The subsistence of the army had now become considerably reduced and nearly exhausted. It could move no further around the city to reach other causeways, as the mountain now intercepted our route by projecting so far into the lake as to connect itself nearly with the right of the great work at San Antonio. Something had to be done—the prospect before us was extremely gloomy. To reach the great work at Contreras, which was carried by the forces under General Smith, a road had to be opened through the gorge of the mountain. It was to open this road, and to drive the enemy and carry this battery, strong as it was known to be, that Gen. Pillow was ordered out by Gen. Scott. The general's plan of battle, and the disposi-

tion of his forces, were most judicious and successful. *He evinced on this, as he has done on other occasions, that masterly military genius and profound knowledge of the science of war, which has astonished so much the mere martinet, of the profession. His plan was very similar to that by which Napoleon effected the reduction of the fortress of Ulm, and Gen. Scott was so perfectly well pleased with it that he could not interfere with any part of it, but left it to the gallant projector to carry it into glorious and successful execution.* In this battle, with about 4,500 men, our army engaged an enemy with a force of 16,000, occupying a position which could only be reached with extreme difficulty by infantry, with entrenched works, commanding the approach to it for a mile round in every direction, with, as I have before observed, twenty-nine pieces of artillery. The victory was most brilliant and complete. Nothing could have been better planned than this battle.

[I must relate an interesting and exciting incident that occurred during the rage of the battle. A Mexican officer being seen by one of General Pillow's aids to leave the enemy's lines, and to advance several yards nearer our position, the general, as soon as he heard of the impudent rashness of the Mexican, put spurs to his charger and galloped at full speed towards him. As soon as he got near to the Mexican, the general called out in Spanish, *Saque su sabel para defenderse*—let the honor and prowess of our respective countries be determined by the issue of this combat. Straightway the Mexican drew his sword with one hand and balanced his lance in the other, and rushed towards our general, who, with a revolver in one hand and his sabre in the other, waited the onset of the Mexican. The combat was a long and a severe one. The Mexican was a large, muscular man, and handled his arms with great vigor and skill, but our general was his superior in dexterity and coolness. At last the Mexican made one terrible charge at our general with his lance, which the latter evaded with great promptitude and avidity, using his sword, tossed the weapon of the Mexican high into the air, and then quietly blew his brains out with his revolver. Both the American and Mexican armies witnessed this splendid effort.]

The above incident was published in italics in the New Orleans Picayune.

In the two battles, the enemy had about thirty thousand men engaged in deadly conflict. Their total loss in killed, wounded and missing, is near seven thousand, according to their own estimate, including [one thousand six hundred] prisoners, eight of whom are general officers, and about eighty-four of an inferior grade, captains, lieutenants, &c. Our loss in killed and wounded is about [one thousand two hundred;] among the dead is the gallant Col. Butler, of South Carolina, who, until the first day's fight (from a severe attack of sickness) was unable to mount his horse—but the thunder of the enemy's guns nerved him for the conflict, and three cheers were given him as he passed into battle. No one laments his death more than the writer of this communication, who ate with him the last meal of which he partook prior to his death.

The foregoing account of this unparalleled victory I was myself

an eye witness to, and will vouch for its correctness, and nothing but an order from the commander-in-chief prevented the occupancy of the city by our troops upon the evening of the second day of attack. I cannot refrain on the present occasion from expressing a wish that Congress may do something for our gallant band, who have, under such adverse circumstances and disparity of forces, carried, at the point of the bayonet, the enemy's outposts, and so nobly upheld and maintained the honor of the American nation. I must not forget to state that we have captured about one hundred and thirty *deserters*, traitors to their country, who, I am informed, are now undergoing a trial, and, in God's name, I ardently wish they may all share that fate they so richly deserve, and be hung by the neck until they are dead, dead, dead.

I am, very truly, yours,

LEONIDAS.

No. 1.

Editors New Orleans Delta: Great battle of Mexico!!! Commenced on the 19th, under command of Major General Pillow, having a force of 3,500. The enemy had 12,000, (of whom 5,000 were cavalry,) and 27 pieces of artillery.

General Pillow's order for the attack was, that General Twiggs should advance with a brigade of his division and assault the enemy's strong work in front, while the other should turn his left wing and assail the work *in reverse*. He also placed at the disposition of General Twiggs, Captain Magruder's battery and Lieutenant Callender's howitzer battery, (both of which belonged to the proper division of General Pillow.)

Having thus opened the battle, he then advanced General Cadwalader's brigade to support the brigade of Colonel Riley, who had moved to turn the enemy's left, and attack in reverse; and advanced General Pierce's brigade to support General Smith, who had advanced to assault the work in front.

The action had now become (with the advancing forces) very severe; but General Pillow, seeing 5 or 6,000 men advancing from the city to reinforce the enemy, whom he apprehended would fall upon General Cadwalader's rear, detached from General Pierce's brigade Colonel Morgan's regiment, (which was yet within reach,) and ordered it instantly to the support of General Cadwalader, who seeing so large a force approaching his rear, threatening to overwhelm him, halted his forward movements, confronted the enemy in a strong position, and held him completely at bay.

The forces under General Smith, Colonel Riley, and General Pierce, were hotly engaged with the enemy's strong battery and large force of infantry and cavalry, until it was quite dark; Magruder's battery and Callender's howitzer battery were both very much cut to pieces and disabled. Late in the evening, General Scott came upon the field and brought with him General Shields's

brigade of volunteers, who he advanced to the support of the forces now under General Cadwalader. But it was so late, they did not get into position until in the night.

The next morning, before daylight, the brigade of Pierce advanced, in execution of the original order of battle—renewed the assault in front, while Riley's brigade, supported by Cadwalader, turned his left—assailed the enemy's work in reverse and gallantly carried it, capturing a large force of the enemy, 22 guns, (among them those lost at Buena Vista,) and killing in the general engagement between 600 and 800 of the enemy.

Having achieved this signal and brilliant victory, General Pillow immediately resolved to pursue the retreating forces of the enemy, and while his troops were flushed with victory, give battle to a large force, still in Santa Angelo, which he did, and drove them before him. He then sent an officer of his staff back to General Scott, to say to him, if he would cause General Worth to co-operate with him, he would sweep around the valley and assault the strong works of San Antonio in reverse, and carry that place so as to open the direct route to the capital for the advance of his siege train, upon the other battery on that road. General Scott replied, that Worth should co-operate with him. General Pillow moved rapidly around the valley at the head of his triumphant forces, until he reached within one mile of San Antonio, where he halted to allow his troops a short time to recover their breath and exhausted strength, before engaging the enemy at San Antonio.

While waiting for this purpose, General Scott overtook the army. At this moment it was discovered, at the distance, that the enemy (seeing their main work had been carried, and that they were about to be attacked in rear,) had abandoned the work at San Antonio, and fallen back upon a second strong work, at Santa Martha. General Scott, who now assumed command, immediately directed Twiggs's division to advance upon the left, and arrest and cut off the retreating forces of the enemy; while he ordered General Pillow to lead Cadwalader's brigade to advance and assault the enemy upon the right and in front.

Twiggs's division soon became desperately engaged with the enemy's left, at Santa Martha. Pillow's division, in the effort to get to the battle-ground, got entangled among some ditches, wide, and waist deep in mud and water. The general dismounted from his horse, and, plunging through, called upon his column to follow him, which they nobly did. He advanced rapidly with it, in front of the enemy's main work; and, finding it would be cut down by the terrible fire of grape and canister which swept down the road, he turned it into the field, on the right, to attack the main battery on its left flank. Here his forces and General Worth's were joined, and went forward, and gallantly carried this work, in conjunction.

During the advance upon this work, the general himself was knocked to his knees by the concussion of a cannon ball, which brushed his head. In the course of the action he shot a Mexican officer, and killed him with his pistol.

The enemy's battery being taken, Pillow's and Worth's division

pursued the enemy until they came under the fire of the enemy's guns from the battery, at the very gate of the city.

During the battle, in which the first work, with twenty-two pieces of artillery, was taken, Santa Anna was present all the time upon the field of battle, commanding his forces in person.

Our total loss was heavy; amounting, in killed and wounded, to about eight hundred—the enemy's, to near two thousand. In the two works, the enemy's forces amounted to at least thirty thousand men. His positions were remarkably strong, and well fortified; and in every case he was driven out of his works at the point of the bayonet.

The general's well devised plans of battle; his judicious disposition of his forces; his coolness and daring during the whole of this terrible battle, is the subject of universal congratulation among his friends, and general remark with all.

Very respectfully.

No. 2.

General Pillow admits that the paper here presented, marked one, he caused to be furnished, by the clerk of his adjutant general, to Mr. Freaner, knowing him to be the correspondent of the New Orleans Delta. The paper was furnished at the request of Mr. Freaner; is in the hand-writing of the said clerk, Dr. Heistand, and is, as far as the facts relative to my orders, the movements of the troops under my command, on the 19th and 20th August; the forces engaged, and the statement of the fact of my having shot a Mexican officer, a substantial copy of my rough report, from which it was taken. The caption and concluding portion was not copied from that report. The following words, interlined in this paper, are in my own hand-writing, viz: "Battery," "It," "Ground," "The General," "Genl.," "in conjunction," "in person," "about," "universal," "general remark with all," "Very respectfully." The facts, as stated in this paper, and referred, I am prepared to prove are substantially true.

GID. J. PILLOW.

Presented March 21, 1848.

No. 3.

MIXCOAC, MEXICO, August 27, 1847.

Three miles from the capital.

GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to hand you the annexed account of our engagement with the enemy which commenced on the 19th instant, at a strongly fortified position, about four miles west of St. Augustin.