

HEAD-QUARTERS 3D DIVISION, U. S. ARMY,
Mexico, September 18, 1847.

CAPTAIN: On the morning of the 12th instant, at 3 o'clock, a. m., I moved with my command, consisting of the field battery of Captain Magruder, the voltigeur regiment, the 9th, 11th, 14th and 15th regiments of infantry, (the 12th regiment constituting part of the garrison at Mixcoac,) and the mountain howitzer and rocket battery, from Tacubaya to the battle-field of the 8th instant, where my dispositions were made to take possession of "Molino del Rey." Having organized a force for this purpose, under command of Lieut. Colonel Hebert, at daylight his command moved steadily and in beautiful order, under a hot fire of shot and shell from Chapultepec, and seized the mills. I ordered Brigadier General Cadwalader, with his brigade, to hold possession of this position, and to defend the approaches (which unite at that place) from the city of Mexico and from Santa Fé. In a short time afterwards an immense body of lancers, with a considerable force of infantry, made their appearance in the valley above me, and moved steadily forward in the direction of my position, until almost within reach of my field-pieces. With Brigadier General Pierce's brigade, Magruder's battery, and Major Sumner's fine command of dragoons, (that officer having now reported to me for duty,) I made every arrangement for their reception. Having thus executed the orders of the general-in-chief, "to take possession of the mills, to hold them, and from this position defend the batteries intended to be opened, preparatory to the assault upon Chapultepec, and not to provoke a general engagement with the enemy," I did not, under my orders, feel myself at liberty to become the assailant, and the enemy regarding "prudence as the better part of valor," did not think proper to assail me.

At night I drew my whole force down to the mills, immediately under the fire, and almost under the walls of Chapultepec; while the enemy advanced from the valley and occupied the position I had held during the day, close in my rear.

Being now almost completely enveloped by the enemy, with Chapultepec and its strong garrison immediately in my front, and the enemy's large force of lancers and infantry in close approximation to my rear and on my left flank, my command was compelled to lay on its arms during the night.

Early on the morning of the 13th, Captain McKenzie, 2d artillery, reported to me for duty with a command of 260 rank and file from the 1st division.

At daylight the cannonade, which had ceased at dark on the previous day, was resumed, and kept up on both sides until about 8 o'clock. In the meantime, I was actively engaged in making the necessary preparations for storming Chapultepec. With this view, I had placed two pieces of Magruder's field-battery inside the extensive row of buildings (of which the mills were a part) to clear a sand-bag breastwork, which the enemy had constructed outside the main wall surrounding Chapultepec, and so as to command a

breach in the wall. I had also passed the howitzer battery through the houses and walls of the mills, and placed it in battery, so as to aid me in driving the enemy from a strong entrenchment extending nearly across the front of the forest, and commanding my only approach to Chapultepec. While these batteries were admirably served under Captain Magruder and Lieutenant Reno, I placed four companies of the voltigeur regiment, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone, in position, with instructions, that upon the cessation of the artillery fire, they should advance by a rapid movement on the outside, and under cover of the main wall, and to enter the enclosure at the breach. At the same time, I placed four other companies of voltigeurs, under command of Colonel Andrews, at a narrow gateway opening from the rear of the mills, with orders to advance in front, to unite with Colonel Johnstone's command, to deploy as skirmishers, and by a simultaneous movement upon the enemy's flank and front, to drive him from his entrenchments and the large trees, behind which he had taken shelter. I had placed the 9th and 15th regiments of infantry in position, to advance as close supports to the storming force, and, if necessary, to form a part of it.

I had ordered Colonel Andrews, as soon as the regiment of voltigeurs had cleared the entrenchments and woods, to form in rear of McKenzie's command as a supporting or assaulting force, according to the exigencies of the moment. I placed Captain McKenzie's command immediately in rear of Colonel Johnstone's command of skirmishers, and directed it to move under the cover of the same wall, to enter the breach close after Johnstone's command, and, as Johnstone would brush away the enemy, it would advance steadily, assault, and carry the main work of Chapultepec. I had placed my scaling ladders in charge of this command, and furnished a strong detail of men to carry them forward to the parapet.

I directed Lieutenant Reno to carry with the advancing column the mountain-howitzer battery, and to use it whenever he could do so with effect.

I had placed Colonel Trousdale, with the 11th and 14th regiments, and one section of Magruder's battery, under command of Lieutenant Jackson, on the road leading on the left of Chapultepec to the city, with instructions to advance on that road, to hold the enemy stationed at the battery on the road in *observation*, and to give him battle if he attempted to advance or succor the forces within the walls of Chapultepec.

Having completed these dispositions for the assault, while a heavy cannonade was going on, Brigadier General Cadwalader was directed to see to the proper execution of my orders.

All being now ready and eager for the conflict, I ordered the batteries of my division silenced, and the command to advance—the general-in-chief having silenced the heavy batteries.

The voltigeurs having driven the enemy from the wood, rapidly pursued him until he retreated into the interior fortifications. Close in their rear followed the 9th and 15th regiments, with equal

impetuosity, until these three regiments occupied the exterior works around the summit of Chapultepec.

Captain McKenzie's command had not yet come up. The 5th, 6th, and 8th regiments of infantry of General Worth's division, ordered forward as a reserve, advanced to their positions and formed. As soon as Captain McKenzie's command was in position with the ladders, the work was almost instantly carried, and the Mexican flag torn from the castle by the gallant Major Seymour, of the 9th regiment, and the American run up in its place.

To the voltigeur regiment belongs the honor of having first planted its colors upon the parapet. The color-bearer of the regiment having been shot down, the color was immediately seized by the gallant and fearless Captain Barnard, who scaled the parapet and unfurled the flag, under a terrible fire, from which he received two wounds.

The chief honor of this brilliant victory is due to those gallant corps, the voltigeurs, the 9th and 15th regiments of infantry, who drove the enemy from his exterior entrenchments and positions, took possession of and enveloped the crest of the counterscarp, and held this position under a heavy fire of grape, canister, and round shot from the enemy's artillery, (11 pieces in number,) and a very superior force of small arms, until the arrival of the ladders; and to Captain McKenzie's command, who brought up the ladders, and with the corps already mentioned, so gallantly stormed and carried the main works.

The reserve, of General Worth's division, which moved to its position in gallant style, by their presence inspired the whole command with increased confidence; and portions of it participated in the immediate assault, resulting in the fall of the fortress.

The advance of General Quitman's division, which was to have assaulted upon the left of the position, having fallen under the fire of a battery on the outside of the outer wall, and being unable to scale it in consequence of the want of ladders, were obliged to march several hundred yards to the south, and to enter the very breach through which portions of my command had passed at the commencement of the action. The consequence was, that command did not get into position in time to render me material assistance in the assault; though, owing to the delay at the summit of the hill, occasioned by the want of ladders, portions of General Quitman's command, who passed through the breach in the outer wall under my own observation, had time to come up and enter the inner works about the same time with parts of my own command, which had for some time previous completely enveloped the work and called out for the ladders.

Lieutenant Reid, in command of one company of the New York regiment and one of marines, came forward in advance of the other troops of this command, participated in the assault, and was severely wounded.

While, therefore, I would not detract a particle from the well-earned reputation of the gallant corps of the volunteer division, who have proved their gallantry upon other hard-fought fields, and

while I have pleasure in testifying to the alacrity with which they advanced on this occasion to and around the wall, and to the heights of Chapultepec, upon the only practicable route for their advance, justice to the corps above referred to of my own command, as well as to my supporting column, demands that I should assert absolutely, and claim for those who had so nobly met the brunt of the conflict, and drove the enemy from his strongholds and possession of his fortifications, the chief honor of storming the strong and formidable work.

While this work was being done in a manner so truly heroic, and under my immediate and personal superintendence and direction, Colonel Trousdale's command, consisting of the 11th and 14th regiments of infantry, and Magruder's field battery, engaged a battery and large force of the enemy in the road immediately on the west of Chapultepec. The advanced section of the battery, under command of the brave Lieutenant Jackson, was dreadfully cut up and almost disabled. Though the command of Colonel Trousdale sustained a severe loss, and the gallant and intrepid colonel was badly wounded by two balls which shattered his right arm, still he maintained his position with great firmness, drove the enemy from his battery, and turned his guns upon his retreating forces.

Captain Scantland was shot through the head, and was supposed to have been mortally wounded, but is yet alive, with increasing hopes of his recovery. Lieutenant Colonel Hebert, who was placed in command of the 11th infantry, in position to engage an immense body of the enemy's lancers who threatened the rear and flank of this column, distinguished himself by the coolness, judgment, and intrepidity with which he made his dispositions to receive the charge, and actually held in check a force of ten times his number. After Colonel Trousdale was wounded, the command of the 14th regiment devolved upon him, and was led by him with ability, during the remainder of the day, into other fields of duty.

In the achievement of this most brilliant victory, justice demands of me an acknowledgement of the claims of the gallant officers, who so nobly executed my orders, to high distinction. Being with the main body of my advancing forces until I was cut down by a grape shot at the base of the hill, I had an opportunity of witnessing in person, the distinguished gallantry of my command—a gallantry unsurpassed by that of any troops during this war. After being wounded, I caused some of my soldiers to carry me forward to the top of the hill, where I had the proud satisfaction of witnessing the consummation of this glorious victory, and saw the stars and stripes raised aloft upon this formidable work, erected upon the very site of the ancient palace of the renowned Montezuma.

First, I cannot withhold my high sense of the very valuable services rendered by Captain Huger, chief of ordnance, and his assistants, Lieutenants Hagner and Stone, ordnance, and Captain Brooks and Lieutenant Anderson, 2d artillery, who, together, directed and served the heavy guns of batteries Nos. 2 and 3, under a constant and direct fire from the enemy's batteries at Chapultepec during the 12th, and up to the final assault on the 13th instant. The distinction

won by these gentlemen on former occasions needs not my testimony to add to their well earned reputation; but as they were serving with me, and under my personal observations and were engaged in the reduction of the same great work, I cannot withhold my sense of their great gallantry and high claims to the distinguished consideration of the general-in-chief, and of the government of our country.

Equally daring and meritorious, and not less distinguished, were the services of Captain Lee and Lieutenants Beauregard, Stevens, and Tower, of the engineer corps, on duty at different times within my line of operations. To the great activity, skill, judgment, and daring of this valuable corps of officers, is the service and the nation indebted for the success of our army on other, as well as on the present occasion; and the fact that, without exception, they were all wounded during the brilliant operations of the day, places them before the army and their country as among the most deserving of the many gallant spirits whose valor has shed a bright halo of glory around the American arms. I invite the attention of the general-in-chief to the report of Lieutenant Beauregard, whose untiring energy and indomitable perseverance, during the night of the 12th, repaired the works of batteries No. 2 and 3, and enabled them to speak in tones of thunder to Chapultepec, the monarch fortification of the valley of Mexico.

Captain Magruder's field battery—one section of which was served with great gallantry by himself, and the other by his brave Lieutenant Jackson, in the face of a galling fire from the enemy's entrenched positions—did invaluable service, preparatory to the general assault. The captain received a slight wound, but did not quit his post.

Lieutenant Reno, commanding the mountain howitzer battery, whose pieces, as I have before stated, I caused to be put in battery so as to reach the enemy's positions through a gateway and a narrow arch in the outer walls of Molino del Rey, greatly distinguished himself by his extraordinary activity and daring, while he, under a concentrated fire at the openings from the whole line of the entrenched enemy, kept up a well-directed fire upon him, which greatly assisted me in dislodging him and driving him from his advanced positions. Nor did his gallant conduct stop here; for his men ran forward with his pieces, kept up with the storming column, and at the very base of the height placed them in battery almost in the mouth of the enemy's cannon, and served them until he was disabled by a wound, when his place was supplied by Lieutenant Beauregard, (whom I have already noticed,) until the pieces were completely masked by our advancing forces. First Sergeant W. Peat, of this company, who acted with extraordinary daring, lost one of his legs.

In noticing the conduct of the officers of the voltigeurs, and the 9th and 15th infantry, in this charge of unsurpassed gallantry, I can scarcely command language to do them justice.

The voltigeur regiment, which was ordered forward in advance as skirmishers to clear the entrenchments and large trees of the

large force of the enemy, who were directing a most galling fire into the command—the right wing under the very gallant and accomplished Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone, and the left under the brave Colonel Andrews himself, assisted by his gallant Major Caldwell—having united, cleared the woods, and pursued the enemy so hotly, that he was not able to *ignite* his mines, drove him inside the parapet itself, and occupied the broken ground around the ditch of the fortification—all in the face of a most heavy fire from the enemy's small arms and heavy guns. The ladders arrived, and several efforts were made by both officers and men to scale the walls. But many of the gallant spirits who first attempted it fell, killed or wounded. Colonel Andrews, whose regiment so distinguished itself and commander by this brilliant charge, as also Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone and Major Caldwell, whose activity enabled them to lead this assault, have greatly distinguished themselves by their gallantry and daring. Lieutenant Colonel Johnstone received three wounds; but they were all slight, and did not at all arrest his daring and onward movements. Captain Barnard, with distinguished gallantry, having seized the colors of his regiment, upon the fall of the color-bearer, scaled the wall with them unfurled, and has the honor of planting the first American standard in the work. Captain Biddle, always prompt, vigilant, and daring, though so much enfeebled by disease as to be scarce able to walk, left his sick bed on this great occasion, and was among the foremost to enter the works.

The gallant Colonel Ransom, of the 9th infantry, fell dead from a shot in the forehead while at the head of his command, waving his sword, and leading his splendid regiment up the heights to the summit of Chapultepec. I had myself been a witness to his heroic conduct until a moment before, when I was cut down by his side. My heart bleeds with anguish at the loss of so gallant an officer. The command of his regiment devolved upon Major Seymour, who faltered not, but with his command scaled the parapet, entered the citadel sword in hand, and himself struck the Mexican flag from the walls.

Not less distinguished and no less glorious was the conduct of the 15th regiment of infantry, now under command of Lieutenant Colonel Howard. This regiment, which had greatly distinguished itself in the actions near Churubusco, on the 20th ultimo, where the brave Colonel Morgan was wounded, now covered itself with new honors and fresh laurels, under command of its present veteran leader, assisted by the gallant Major Woods. Captain Chase, of this regiment, at a most critical moment in the charge, when the voltigeur regiment had advanced partly up the hill, and the enemy in strong force had occupied the redan, half way up the acclivity, and held us in check, under orders from my adjutant general, Captain Hooker, about the time I was wounded, with a firmness few but himself possessed, dashed rapidly forward to the right flank of the work, calling upon his company to follow. Lieutenant Beach quickly supported him with his company, and the enemy fled from the redan, pursued by the troops of my command. Great credit is

due to the officers and men for their rapid movements at this time, for the whole hill side was mined, and, had the enemy been allowed to fire their trains, great destruction must have inevitably ensued.

Lieutenant Selden, of the 8th infantry, of Captain McKenzie's command, one of the first to mount the scaling ladder, fell from its summit severely wounded. Lieutenant Rogers, 4th infantry, and Lieutenant Smith, 5th infantry, of the same party, were both distinguished by their heroic courage and daring, and were both killed while nobly leading on their men. Captain McKenzie, selected to lead the storming corps from the first division, acted well his part after reaching the heights, and sustained the character of the veteran division of which his command was a part.

I have feebly endeavored to sketch the action, and to notice the conduct of those who were conspicuous in deeds of daring. I have no doubt omitted many cases equally worthy of consideration; but, in a general report, I cannot go further into details, and must refer to the reports of commanders of corps for more extended information. Suffering as I am from my wound, which forces me to write while lying on my back, I trust I shall be pardoned for any omission which may have occurred in this report.

I regret that I was deprived during the action of the services of my brave, talented, and accomplished Brigadier General Pierce, who was confined to a sick bed. Captain Winship, his adjutant general, who was distinguished in my staff by his talents and great daring at the siege of Vera Cruz and at the battle of Cerro Gordo, while I commanded a brigade, though laboring under severe indisposition, and though his chief was absent, was nevertheless upon the field. Lieutenant Fitzgerald, aid-de-camp to General Pierce, in consequence of his illness, volunteered his services to command one of the companies of the gallant New England regiment, which distinguished itself, as did this accomplished officer.

I was ably sustained and assisted during the day by Brigadier General Cadwalader, whose activity, courage, and high military talents have already distinguished him on other fields, but upon none more than this. I take pleasure in testifying my high sense of obligation to him, and to his chivalric adjutant general, Captain George Deas.

My entire medical staff was most prompt and attentive to their duties. Surgeon Slade, of the 15th regiment, was upon the field and in the charge, and partook deeply of the patriotic enthusiasm which animated both officers and men of the command; and, while he did not forget the duties of his profession, rendered efficient service in cheering on the men. He was afterwards particularly active, and rendered important service in the command.

In concluding my report, I cannot adequately express to the general-in-chief the sense of obligation I feel to my personal staff for its distinguished gallantry and patient endurance of the dangers and fatigues incident to the brilliant results just sketched. While more labor or greater exposure has fallen to the lot of few officers in this valley than myself, surely none have been more ably supported by their personal staff. In talents, in science, in personal courage and

chivalrous daring in all, and with all, they have aided and sustained me, and have contributed, in no small degree, to bring about the brilliant results which reflect so much honor and glory on our arms. In storming Chapultepec, having been myself cut down in the deadly conflict, at the very walls of the castle, I felt doubly the value of their distinguished services.

Captain Hooker, my adjutant general, and chief of my staff, was greatly distinguished throughout this action by his extraordinary activity, energy, and gallantry.

Lieutenant Rainz, 4th artillery, and Lieutenant Ripley, 2d artillery, my aids-de-camp, never behaved with more gallantry, and never rendered me services more vitally important than in this memorable assault.

My volunteer aid-de-camp, Passed Midshipman R. C. Rodgers, who has always served me with great fearlessness, zeal, and activity, on this occasion was separated from me early in the action, but was, I learn, among the foremost in the conflict.

Having carried Chapultepec, and being unable to proceed with my command, the general-in-chief ordered it forward under Generals Quitman and Worth; and my entire division, except the 15th infantry, (which was left to garrison Chapultepec and to guard the prisoners, by order of the general-in-chief,) actively participated in the subsequent achievements of our army, resulting in the capture and possession of the city of Mexico.

In carrying the strong work, the enemy sustained very heavy loss. The grounds around and the works upon Chapultepec, and every avenue of retreat from it, were literally strewn with his dead. At one place fifty dead bodies were counted in one heap; but no means are left me of ascertaining his loss with accuracy. Several hundred were gathered up by my men and buried while policing the yard of Chapultepec. After clearing the ground, his wounded nearly filled the large apartments set apart for hospitals in the castle. Among the killed were General Perez and Colonel Cano, of the engineers, and General Saldana was wounded on the 12th.

We took about 800 prisoners, among whom were Major General Bravo, Brigadier Generals Monterde, Nonega, Dorantes, and Saldana; also, 3 colonels, 7 lieutenant colonels, 40 captains, 24 first and 27 second lieutenants.

That the enemy was in large force I know certainly from personal observation. I know it also from the fact that there were killed and taken prisoners one major general and six brigadiers. As there were six brigadier generals, there could not have been less than six brigades. One thousand men to each brigade (which is a low estimate, for we had previously taken so many general officers prisoners, that the commands of others must have been considerably increased) would make 6,000 troops. But independent of these evidences of the enemy's strength, I have General Bravo's own account of the strength of his command, given me only a few minutes after he was taken prisoner. He communicated to me, through Passed Midshipman Rodgers, that there were upwards of 6,000 men in the works and surrounding grounds. The killed, wounded, and

prisoners, agreeably to the best estimate I can form, were about 1,800, and immense numbers of the enemy were seen to escape over the wall on the north and west side of Chapultepec.

My own force *actually* engaged in storming the work did not exceed 1,000 men.

The loss from my command was 28 killed upon the hill; but the returns from my different corps, not discriminating between those wounded in this assault and those wounded in the after part of the day, (when they had passed from my command in consequence of my being unable to go forward,) I cannot tell my loss in wounded in the assault upon Chapultepec.

My total loss in killed, wounded, and missing from my proper division, during the days of operation, is 143—a return of which is appended hereto.

I have also appended (marked A) a list of officers of inferior grades, non-commissioned officers, and privates, whose gallantry in the assault is deemed worthy of special notice, as appears from the report of commanders of corps.

I transmit herewith Brigadier General Pierce's report of the operations of his brigade on the 8th instant.

I also forward a field return of my division for the morning of the 13th, and the Mexican flag captured upon the citadel of Chapultepec when that work was stormed upon the 13th by my command.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
GIDEON J. PILLOW,
Major General, U. S. A.

Capt. H. L. SCOTT,
A. A. A. Gen., head-quarters of the army.

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A.

List of officers and non-commissioned officers not mentioned in my report, who have been recommended to my favorable notice, by their respective commanders, for meritorious conduct in the operations against Chapultepec and the city of Mexico, September 13th and 14th, 1847.

9th regiment of infantry.—Captain Pitman, Captain Webb, Captain Kimball, First Lieutenant and Adjutant Sprague; Lieutenant Bowers, Lieutenant Tracy, Lieutenant Jackson, Lieutenant Slocum, Lieutenant Woodhouse, Lieutenant Drum, Lieutenant Stoddard, Lieutenant Glackin, Lieutenant Pierce, Lieutenant Crosby; Sergeant-major Fairbanks, Sergeant White, Sergeant Billings, Sergeant Atkinson, Private McGrugen, Sergeant Pike, Sergeant Miller, Sergeant Clarke, Sergeant Barton, Sergeant Stone, Sergeant Willard.

14th regiment of infantry.—Captain Glenn, Lieutenant Blackburn, Lieutenant Isaacs, Lieutenant Davis.

15th regiment of infantry.—Major S. Woods, Captain Hoagland, Lieutenants Bowie and Upman, Lieutenant Freelon, Lieutenant Miller, Lieutenant Marshall, Lieutenant Sutton, Lieutenant Beckett, Lieutenant Beach, Lieutenant Bennett, Lieutenant Titus, Lieutenant French, Lieutenant Petemell, Lieutenant and Adjutant Broadhead, Sergeant-major McKean, Sergeant Ross, Sergeant Jones, Sergeant Lilléy.

Voltigeur regiment.—Captain Howard, Captain Edwards, Captain Archer, Captain Blair, Lieutenant Fry, Lieutenant Kintzing, Lieutenant Walker, Lieutenant Terrett, Lieutenant Martin, Lieutenant Forsyth, Lieutenant Larned, Lieutenant Cross, Lieutenant Swan, Lieutenant Kizer, Lieutenant Cochrane, Sergeant Taylor, Sergeant Herbert, and Sergeants Peat, Depew and McGuire, of the howitzer battery.

GIDEON J. PILLOW,
Major General, U. S. A.

HEAD-QUARTERS, 3D DIVISION,
City of Mexico, September 28, 1847.

J. HOOKER, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Mexico, October 2, 1847.

Major General Scott, with his compliments, invites Major General Pillow's attention to several passages in the official reports of the latter, dated, respectively, August 24th and September 18th, which seem to require correction.

In the former paper, pp. 2 and 3, General P. makes General S. come on the field with Brigadier General Shields, after General Pillow had ordered Colonel Morgan and the 15th infantry to support Brigadier General Cadwalader, at the village of Contreras, or San Geronimo.

Ought not General P. to interline, or to add, that that order was given at the instance of General S.?

General S. also hopes that General P. will, on reflection, be kind enough to strike out of the same paper, the commendation, at once handsome and grateful, which General P., at page 17, was pleased to bestow on General S.; 1st, because it appears in an official paper from a junior to a senior, which makes it impossible for the senior to forward it; and 2d, because, if the right of a junior to praise be admitted, it would carry with it the correlative right of the junior to censure the senior, under the same connexion, which would be against all discipline.

Those corrections it has been the intention of General S., from the first, to invite General P. to make; but the hurry of events has heretofore prevented.

General S. forwarded, early in September, his reports of the operations of August 19th and 20th; but not the reports to him of the commanders of corps, because the messenger could only take