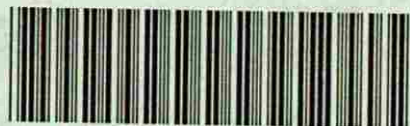


UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE NUEVO LEÓN
BIBLIOTECA GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS

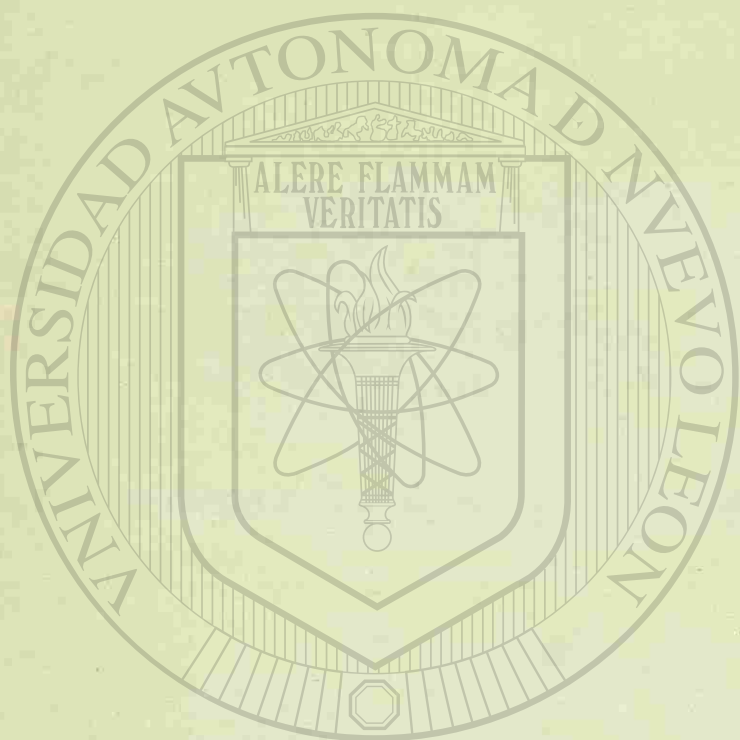
U A N

UTÓNOMA DE NUEVO

GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS



1020000743



UANL

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE NUEVO LEÓN

DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS



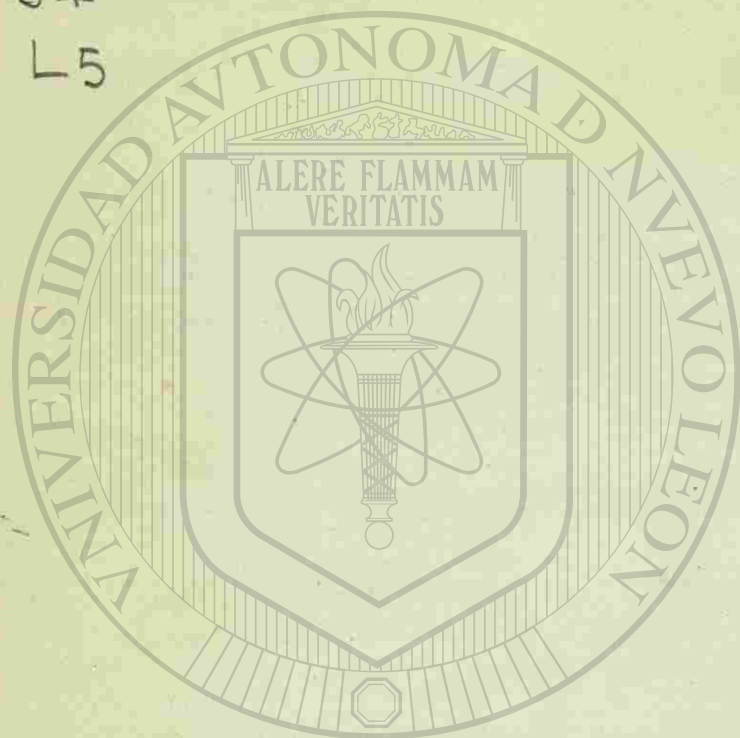
103476

E 403

.1

S4

L5



FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ



"Hail to the Chief who in triumph advances."

LIFE OF GENERAL SCOTT.

Scott's Birth and Education.

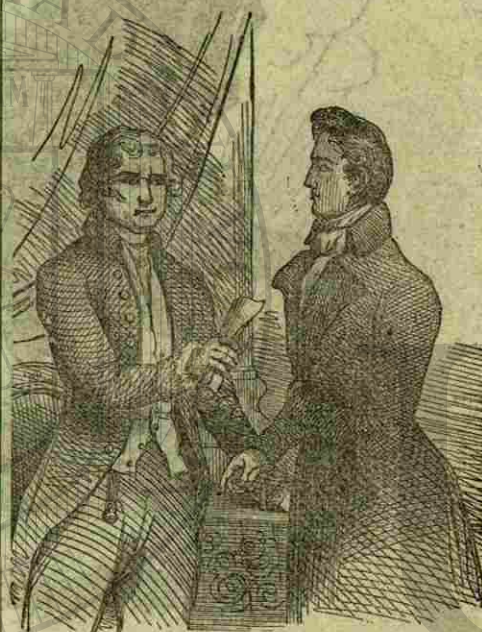
WINFIELD SCOTT, the son of a farmer by the name of William Scott, was born near Petersburg, Virginia, on the 13th of June, 1786. He was the youngest of two sons, and had three sisters. His grandfather was Scotch, and took part in the rebellion of 1745, and fought against the king. Another ancestor fell in the celebrated battle of Culloden. His grandfather, forced to fly his country, took refuge in Virginia, where he became a lawyer. His son, our hero's father, became a farmer, and married Ann Mason, a lady of great virtue and excellent sense. Her husband died young,

leaving his wife the sole guardian of five children with a small property, that only a rigid economy could render adequate for their support and education. Young Scott thus came into the world the hardy child of difficulty and fortitude, and no nursing of ease and indulgence. His own exertions seconding his mother's efforts, a good education was obtained for him. He chose the legal profession, attended a course of law lectures at William and Mary's College, entered a lawyer's office, and was admitted to the Bar in 1806, at the age of 20.

How he becomes a Soldier.

In the summer of 1807 occurred the wanton attack of the British frigate *Leopard* upon the *Chesapeake*, and the seizure and imprisonment of several of her crew, upon the allegation that they were British subjects. This outrage excited a violent resentment throughout the country. Young Scott shared ardently in the indignation of his countrymen, and immediately joined a volunteer corps raised in Petersburg, and marched with them down to Lynnhaven Bay, where they took up their station, in expectation of a British descent upon the coast. But this little cloud of war blew over, the volunteers were called home, and Scott returned to the practice of his profession. He was soon to leave it forever, for Providence had marked for him a wide and glorious career. Our difficulties with England thickened. It became clear that a war was inevitable. Congress passed a bill to raise an army. Scott applied for a commission, and in May, 1808, received from President Jefferson a commission as captain of artillery. During the rest of the year he was employed on the recruiting service, and in the study of his new profession of arms. In 1809 he was ordered to Louisiana, and placed under the command of General Wilkinson. For this officer Scott had no respect. Himself filled with patriotic ardor, and a passionate devotion to his country's honor, he believed Wilkinson to be implicated in Burr's conspiracy. The young soldier, with more boldness than prudence, did not hesitate to express his sentiments. The result was, that Wilkinson preferred charges against him that resulted in his suspension from the service for a year. In this punishment he had the sympathy of his brother officers, and was complimented with a public dinner on the occasion of his sentence. The interval of suspension was passed by

Scott in a systematic and thorough study of military tactics, and the whole science of war. At the expiration of the time, he reappeared in service with increased knowledge, and superior fitness for the arduous and important duties now about to devolve upon him.



Jefferson presenting Scott his first Commission.

War Declared.—Hull's Inglorious Surrender.

At length, on the 18th of June, 1812, war was declared. The military preparations of the country had been inadequate to the necessities of the crisis. An expedition to seize upon Upper Canada was planned, and the execution of it intrusted to General Hull. He crossed into Canada at Detroit, with his whole force, on the 12th of July, 1812, and in one month and two days thereafter ingloriously surrendered to

General Brock, the British commander, without striking a blow. The country was stunned by the shock it received in the accounts of this shameful pusillanimity of conduct. The blood of our young hero boiled to wipe out this stain of dishonor. He longed to avenge our disasters upon the very spot where they had been suffered; a result he soon gloriously accomplished.

Scott is Promoted.—Sees his First Service.

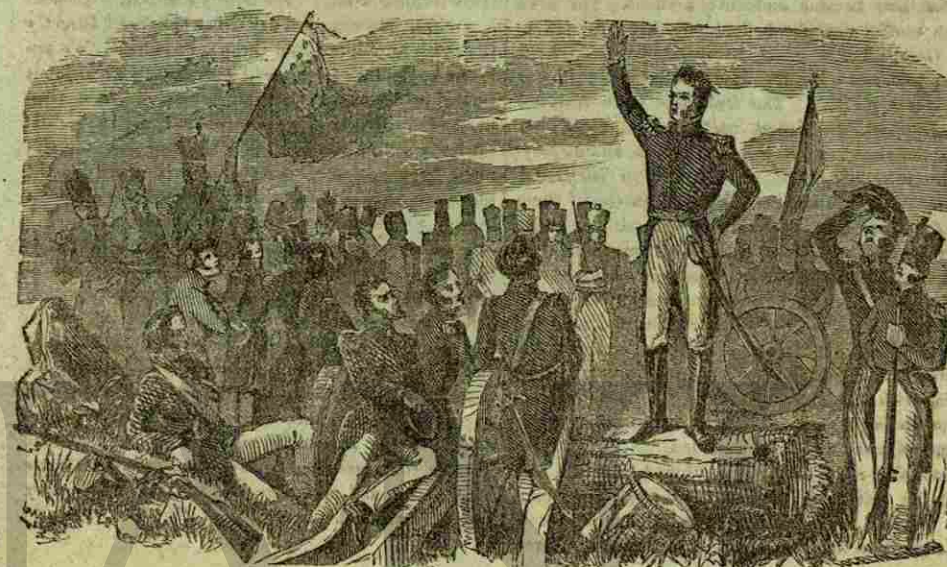
Receiving the commission of lieutenant-colonel from President Madison, Scott repaired to the Niagara frontier, and took up his position at Black Rock. In October he undertook, in conjunction with Lieutenant Elliott of the navy, the capture of two British armed brigs, named the "*Adams*" and "*Caledonia*,"

then lying moored under the guns of the British Fort Erie, nearly opposite. The attempt was gallant and successful: the vessels were captured. But in carrying them off, one of them, the "*Adams*," drifted on shore under the guns of the battery at Fort Erie, and was deserted by the captors.

The enemy at once undertook her recovery. Scott drove back their boats by a well-directed fire. The contest soon became sharp to see who could win the prize. Our young hero's zeal and ardor mounted with the occasion, and he finally prevailed. Our men bore

off the brig in triumph, and the American stars and stripes proudly floated at her masthead, in token of our first success on the frontier, and in promise of that succession of victories that soon after crowned our arms with glory on the Lakes and in Canada.

Battle of Queenstown Heights.



Scott's Speech on the Log.

This successful exploit gave a new impulse to the flagging spirits of our troops, mortified and dashed as they had been by Hull's surrender. A body of these troops, comprising 2,500 militia and about 450 regulars, lay below, at Lewiston, under the command of General Stephen Van Rensselaer. This force was impatient for action, and demanded to be led across into Canada. The demand was so urgent as to induce their leader to yield to their importunities, notwithstanding no sufficient preparations had been made for such a step. Hearing of the intended invasion, Scott became at once eager to join the expedition; and by a forced march, hastened through mud and rain to the scene of action. The arrangements of the embarkation were such, however, as to preclude him from joining the columns of the invading force. He accordingly took up a position, with his artillery, where he could best cover the landing of our troops, and opened an effective fire on the enemy. The two divisions of attack moved off, the first headed by Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, and the second by Colonel Chrystie. The former succeeded in landing a part of his men. The boats of the latter were swept down by the current, and a portion of the men therein fell into the

enemy's hands, while the remainder were driven back to the American shore; Colonel Chrystie himself being among the number. Though wounded in his first effort, Colonel Chrystie obtained fresh reinforcements, and returned and made a successful landing. Meantime, the column under Van Rensselaer formed and advanced under a murderous cannonade from the heights. Beneath it the Colonel and several of his officers fell, killed or wounded. Another portion of the detachment, under fresh officers, came to its succor, and under Captains Wool, Ogilvie, Malcolm, and Armstrong, swept forward upon the heights. They stormed the two batteries which protected them, and drove the enemy under the shelter of a strong stone building near by. Here the flying British were rallied by General Brock, the governor of Upper Canada, who had just arrived upon the ground with fresh reinforcements. He headed a charge against our troops, who gallantly repulsed and dispersed the assailants, mortally wounding both General Brock and his secretary, McDonald.

At this point of time Scott arrived on the ground, and the entire command of the corps, now about 600 strong, was at once committed to him. General

Wadsworth acted second in command, and his attachment to his youthful leader often induced him to interpose his own person to shield Scott from the bullets of the Indian rifles which were aimed against his commanding person. Scott immediately drew up his forces upon a strong and commanding position, and awaited succors from the opposite shore; but, seized by sudden fright, our men refused to move. Scott's position now became eminently perilous. The news of the conflict thus far had already been carried to Fort George below, which immediately poured forth its garrison, and with 500 Indians advanced upon our defenceless position. The assailants were received with firmness, and driven back in total rout; our young hero heading his troops in person, and displaying an intrepidity and gallantry never surpassed. Several successive attacks followed. In one of them the American advanced piquets were driven in by superior numbers, and a general massacre seemed inevitable. At this critical moment Scott appeared, and by dint of vehement exertions and impetuous enthusiasm rallied his line, which had recoiled, and was upon the point of giving way. His brilliant example inspired and electrified his men, and the whole line, ringing with shouts, precipitated itself upon the enemy, scattering them in all directions, and strewing the ground with the dead and wounded.

Successive reinforcements continued to arrive, and swell the British and Indian forces, until their numbers reached not less than thirteen hundred men. The Americans had become reduced to less than three

hundred. No succor was to be expected, for our troops on the American shore had refused to come to the aid of their comrades. Retreat was hopeless. At this trying moment, the gallant and intrepid Scott displayed a bearing and a spirit of the most lofty heroism. In nowise daunted by the imminent peril of his position, he mounted a fallen tree of the forest, and calling around him his now diminished band, spoke these thrilling words: "The enemy's balls have thinned our ranks. His numbers are overwhelming. Directly the shock must come, and there is no retreat. We are in the beginning of a national war. Hull's ignominious surrender must be retrieved. Let us die then, arms in hand! Our country demands the sacrifice. The example will not be lost. The blood of the slain will make heroes of the living! Who is ready for the sacrifice?" An enthusiastic cry answered this eloquent appeal. "We are all ready!" was the reply.

The enemy, now under the command of Major General Sheaffe, seeing the determined resistance of the American leader, manoeuvred with great caution. They finally moved to the attack from all points. Though sorely pressed, the Americans maintained their ground, until finding themselves utterly surrounded and overwhelmed by superior numbers, and exposed to destruction, finally gave way and surrendered to the inevitable necessity of the occasion. Their heroic resistance, however, redeemed the honor of our arms, and proved by defeat itself that victory was close at hand.

Scott in the Hands of the Enemy.

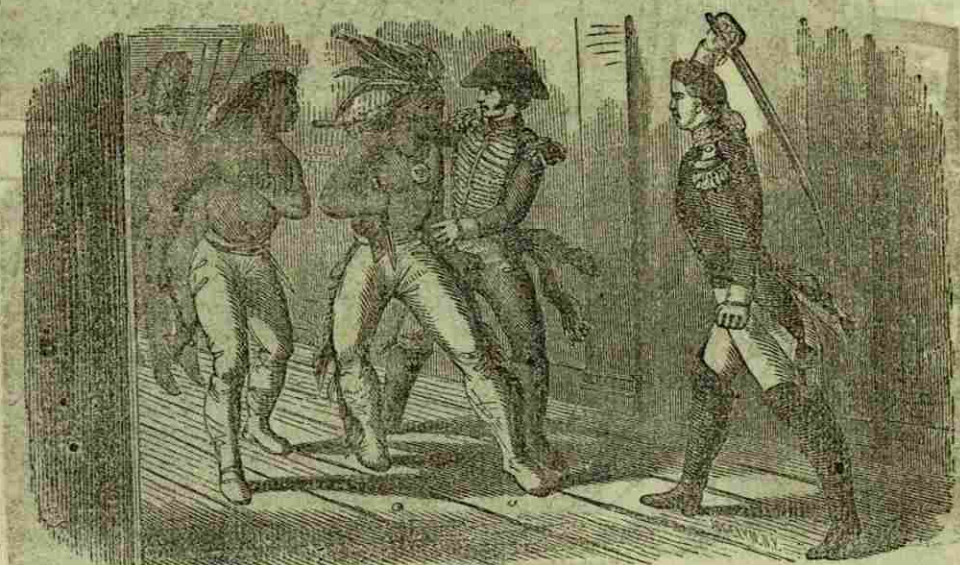
The fortune of war thus threw our hero into the hands of the enemy, after a series of engagements that established his fame and character as a man of great personal daring, highly animating presence, and an accomplished and skilful leader. Throughout these late trying scenes he had manifested the most intrepid spirit, and unquestioned gallantry of behavior. He was always in battle in full dress uniform, and his

tall stature (full six feet five inches) made him a conspicuous mark. He was singled out, especially by the Indians, as a target for their rifles, but remained untouched. He was urged on one occasion of great personal peril to change his dress. "No," said he, "I will die in my robes." At the moment of his exclamation, Captain Lawrence fell at his side by a shot from the enemy.

Scott Attacked by two Indian Chiefs.

After the surrender, Scott, with the rest of the prisoners, was taken to the village of Niagara. Scott himself was lodged at an inn, under guard. Shortly after his arrival, a message came to him that some one wished to speak with the "tall American." Scott advanced into the entry to receive his visitor. What was his surprise to find two armed Indians, hideously painted, as in battle. He recognized them as two warriors who attempted to slay him at the surrender at Queenstown. One was a distinguished chief known as CAPTAIN JACOBS, and the other a son of the celebrated BRANDT. They had come to tomahawk the

heroic leader, who had proved invincible to their bullets. They communicated to him as well as they were able how often they had unsuccessfully discharged their rifles at him. Jacobs, heated by his disappointments, rudely seized Scott by the arm, under pretence of seeing if he could find no ball marks on his person. Scott resented the indignity, and thrust the savage from him. "We kill you now!" was the immediate exclamation of both Indians. Scott tore himself from them, and instantaneously sprang to a pile of arms, and seized upon a heavy sword that lay opportunely with others in the entry, and dashed



Scott attacked by two Indian Chiefs.

upon his assailants. They cowered before his uplifted blade and determined front and feared to strike. He would have cloven them to the earth, but for the prompt interference of a British officer, who, attracted

by the noise, at that critical moment, came upon the parties, and arrested the affray at the instant our hero was about to inflict summary punishment upon his frightful and ferocious antagonists.

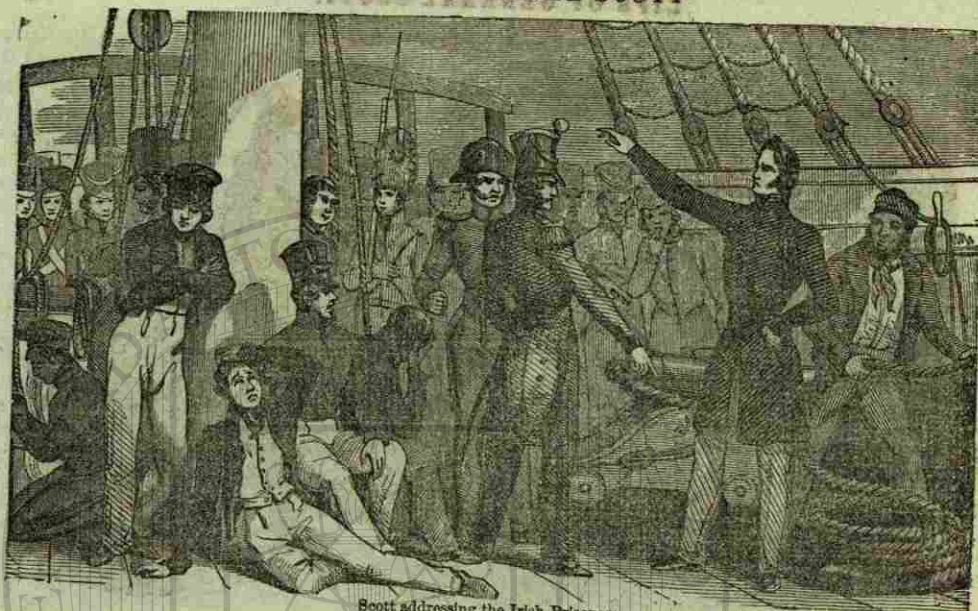
Scott and the Irish Prisoners.

Among the prisoners taken by the British at Queenstown with Scott, were about sixty naturalized citizens, a large portion of whom were Irishmen. The British authorities claimed the right, and expressed the determination, to hang them as traitors. These men were at Quebec on board a vessel with Scott and the rest of the prisoners, all bound to Boston to be exchanged. The British officers came on board and began to select the Irishmen, whom they intended to send home to grace the gallows. The officers had no sure means of detecting the Irish but by their brogue, or their confessions. Scott, who was below, hearing what was going on, immediately rushed on deck, and told his afflicted men to hold their peace. Then, turning to the British officers, he boldly denounced their proceedings, and threatened a like retaliation upon British prisoners if they dared to execute a single man among his comrades.

The officers haughtily reminded him that he was himself a prisoner, and ordered him into the cabin. He was not a man to be intimidated, and refused to go, and again called upon his Irish soldiers to answer no more questions. A high quarrel ensued; but the result was that no more of the prisoners could be identified as Irishmen, for they would not open their lips.

The officers, however, had already selected twenty-three before Scott made his appearance. These were separated from their fellow-prisoners and put on board a frigate, and dispatched to England to be hung. But they did not go until Scott had solemnly warned the British authorities that he would surely avenge the death of every man they dared to lay violent hands upon, by a terrible retribution upon the first English prisoners that should fall into his hands after he should be liberated.

Scott was soon exchanged. How faithfully he kept his promise we shall see. He proceeded at once to Washington and obtained the passage, by Congress, of a law to retaliate upon British prisoners any such outrage as was threatened at Quebec. He again fought and conquered. He had prisoners in plenty. He forthwith selected twenty-three of genuine English descent (for he declared he would not offset Irish by Irish), and held them as hostages for the doomed twenty-three Irishmen taken home to be executed. He then communicated to the British authorities what he had done, and informed them that if they dared to execute their threat on the twenty-three Irishmen, the twenty-three Englishmen should pay the penalty by promptly sharing the same fate. The occu-



Scott addressing the Irish Prisoners.

sequence was, that the lives of the Irishmen were spared, and at the close of the war they were embarked from England, and shortly after arrived in New York.

Singularly enough, it so happened, that on the very day of the landing of these old comrades of General Scott on the wharf, their commander and friend, then still suffering from his wounds, passed along the quay

on foot. He was instantly recognized by the now liberated prisoners, and knowing of all he had accomplished in their behalf, they rushed upon him with cheers, expressing a fervor of affection, gratitude, and delight, that it is impossible to describe.

Their joy was unbounded as the recognition became mutual. He was seized and shaken till the mingled pain of his wounds, and the emotions produced by



Scott meeting the Irish Prisoners.

such a heartfelt exhibition, caused even the tear of stalwart manhood to course unbidden down his cheek. It was with difficulty he escaped from the grasp of these warm-hearted Hibernians, who rightfully re-

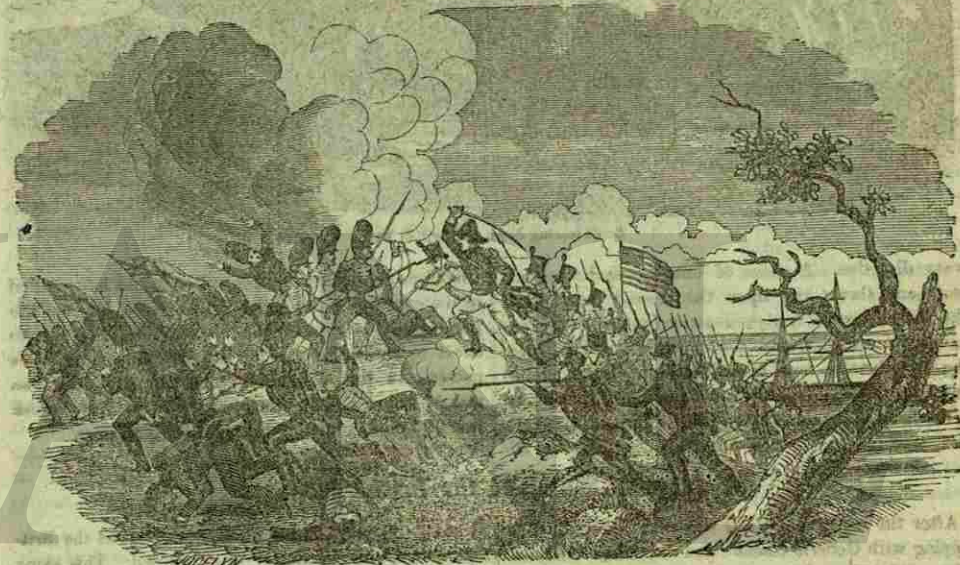
garded him as their fast friend and benefactor, who had saved their lives, and restored them in safety to the land of their adoption. If the Irish have a true friend it is General Scott.

Scott rejoins the Army at Niagara.

Scott rejoined the army at Fort Niagara in the early part of 1813, just after the capture of York, in the capacity of adjutant-general to Dearborn, who was now invested with the chief command. In addition

to the important and laborious duties of his post, Scott insisted upon commanding his own regiment on all occasions of peril and hardship, a request that his commander-in-chief did not fail to grant.

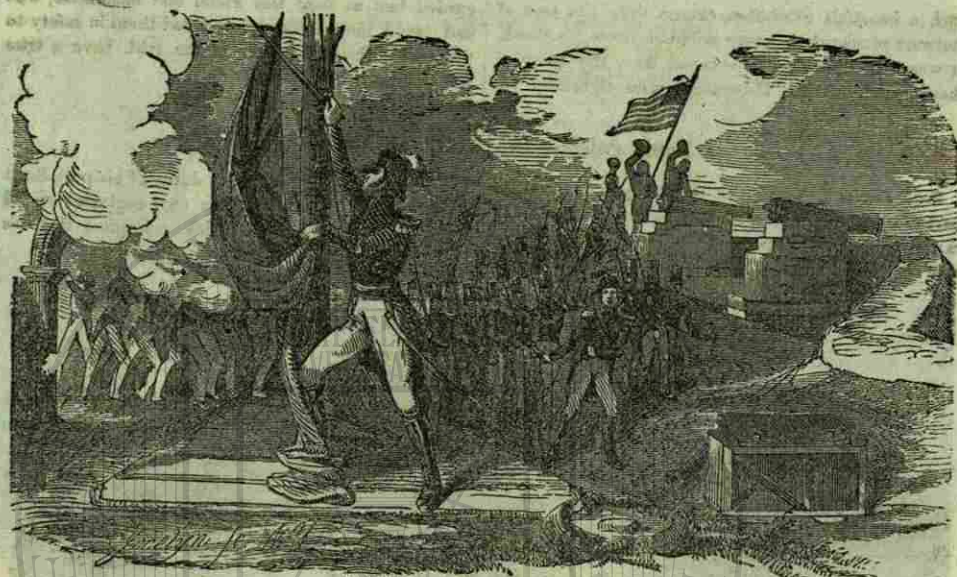
Battle and Capture of Fort George.



Battle of Fort George.

On the British side opposite to the position occupied by the American troops, lay Fort George, the key of the peninsula lying between Lakes Erie and Ontario. This position Dearborn determined to carry. The columns detailed for this purpose embarked in six divisions. Scott led the advance. Captain (afterward Commodore) Perry superintended the debarkation of the troops, which was covered by the little fleet of Commodore Chauncey. Colonel Scott effected his landing on the British shore at 9 o'clock in the morning in good order. The enemy was fifteen hundred strong, and posted on a bank above, that was from seven to twelve feet in height. Scott formed his line on the beach preparatory to scaling the height. In his first attempt to ascend, the severe fire of the enemy repulsed our troops. Scott himself was forced backward on to the beach. Dearborn, who was in the Commodore's vessel, anxiously watching the move-

ments of the troops, seeing with his glass his favorite leader fall, burst into tears, exclaiming "He is lost!—He is killed!" But our hero was neither killed nor vanquished. He recovered himself, and rallying his men, again eagerly pushed forward, sword in hand, upon the enemy. A furious fight ensued, but at the end of twenty minutes the foe gave ground, and fled in dismay before the resistless valor of our young leader. He pursued the flying columns as far as the village, where he was joined by Miller's regiment. In the midst of his pursuit, he assaulted the Fort, forced the gates, and was himself the first to enter. Pressing impetuously forward at the head of his triumphant followers, with his own hand he seized and tore down the British flag that was waving above its walls. The garrison, seeing that resistance was vain, beat a retreat, but not till they had fired their magazines. One of them exploded, scattering its fragments in



Scott tearing down the British flag.

every direction. A piece of burning timber struck Scott and threw him upon the ground much hurt. The matches were snatched away from the two remaining magazines, and the capture was complete. The British were now in full retreat. Scott immediately remounted and made hot pursuit of the enemy at the head of his detachment. The pursuit was con-

tinued for five miles, and the action would have ended in the capture of the entire British force, but for the peremptory orders of the commanding general to Scott to return, just as he had got the enemy in his power. In this brilliant exploit the American loss was 17 killed and 45 wounded; that of the British was 90 killed, 160 wounded, and 100 prisoners.

Anecdote of Scott and the British Colonel.

After the capture of Scott the year before, he was supping with General Sheaffe and a number of British officers, when one of them, a colonel, asked Scott if he had ever seen the neighboring Falls. Scott replied, "Yes, from the American side." To this the other sarcastically replied, "You must have the glory of a successful fight before you can view the cataract in all its grandeur;" meaning from the Canada shore. Scott rejoined, "If it be your intention to insult me, sir, honor should have first prompted you to return me my

sword!" General Sheaffe promptly rebuked the British colonel, and the matter was dropped. This same colonel was taken prisoner by Scott at Fort George, and treated with great kindness and consideration. This treatment extorted the following remark from the prisoner to his captor, "I have long owed you an apology, sir. You have overwhelmed me with kindnesses. You can now view the Falls in all their grandeur at your leisure."

Scott leads an Expedition to Burlington Heights and York.

For some time after the capture of Fort George, our army lay there intrenched and inactive. The command alternately devolved upon Dearborn, Lewis, Boyd, and Wilkinson. The only active duty discharged was that of foraging, and this was invariably intrusted to Colonel Scott. In the prosecution of this duty, he was constantly engaged in skirmishes with the enemy, but his efforts were always crowned with success. His vigilance, activity, and intrepidity, made

him the hero of many a miniature battle in this partisan warfare, whose details did not rise to historic importance, and which live therefore but in the memory of this gallant commander and those of his heroic comrades, who, like him, have survived the vicissitudes of forty years. In July of this year, Colonel Scott was appointed to the command of a double regiment, and withdrew from his post of adjutant-general. In September, an expedition against Burlington Heights was

planned, and its execution intrusted to Scott. It had been reported that here was a large deposit of military stores. But it turned out there was none, and the force employed on this service, after inspecting the now deserted post, moved upon the enemy at York. Here were found large depots of clothing, pro-

visions, and other military stores, together with several pieces of cannon, and eleven armed boats. All these were captured, and the barracks and public storehouses destroyed; after which the expedition returned to Niagara.

Wilkinson's Descent towards Montreal.

A movement of great importance had now been devised, and its execution intrusted to General Wilkinson. This was to cut off the communication between Upper and Lower Canada, and thus pave the way to effect their conquest. The first object was to take Kingston, and the next to reduce Montreal. The invading forces were to proceed down the River St. Lawrence from Sackett's Harbor. The British troops having evacuated the whole peninsula about Fort George, Scott became impatient of his position as commander at that post, and longed for more active service. He accordingly obtained permission to go with Wilkinson's expedition, which he joined on the 6th of November (1813), near Ogdensburg. Here two battalions were placed under his charge, and the command of the advance-guard again given to him. Proceeding on his way down the river he landed and captured the British Fort Matilda, after a sharp encounter, taking a number of prisoners. On the following day, at the head of a column of 700 men, he came upon an equal force of the enemy, under Colonel Dennis, stationed at Hooppole Creek, to resist his passage. He at once pressed forward under a heavy fire, and attacked the enemy. After a spirited engagement, he routed and drove them before him, following their retreat, and taking many prisoners. Night coming on,

his progress was arrested. While Scott was thus triumphantly prosecuting his way towards Montreal, and rapidly overcoming all obstacles, the imbecility of Wilkinson frustrated the entire expedition. On the day following Scott's successes, orders were given for its abandonment. The little army of Scott, already beginning to reap laurels from its achievements under its active and indomitable leader, was suddenly checked in its incipient career of conquest, and made to turn its back on the enemy. But for that pusillanimous step, Scott would doubtless have gone on triumphantly to Montreal, captured that city, and gloriously effected the conquest of all Upper Canada. Checked as he was by this inglorious termination of the enterprise he was so signally leading on, it did not operate to discourage his efforts or dishearten his spirit. His zeal remained unquenched and his fervor unabated.

With the close of the campaign, a new and important sphere of duty opened upon Colonel Scott. He had thus far been fighting battles; he was now to be called upon to awake a new army into being, whose deeds should efface the remembrance of the spiritless close of the campaign of 1813, and whose prowess should extort the plaudits of admiring millions, and reflect back a new and brilliant radiance upon the head of its accomplished disciplinarian and commander.

Scott organizes a New Army.

The government had now had such a foretaste of Scott's quality, that it became inspired with the highest expectations for the future of the young soldier. The President ordered him to repair to Albany to concert certain important arrangements with Governor Tompkins, and to provide the supplies for the approaching campaign. Having discharged this service, he was next ordered to Buffalo, upon a no less important duty than to organize, discipline, and instruct an army of new recruits, there being mustered into service. On the 9th of March, 1814, he was appointed brigadier-general, by President Madison, at the early age of twenty-seven, and immediately entered upon this important duty. We had heretofore used the Prussian system of tactics; Scott introduced at once

the far more perfect modern French system, and the one we still employ. The new recruits were immediately put under efficient drill. The army was converted into a vast military school, and kept incessantly employed until it was thoroughly trained, and completely fitted for all the exigencies of hard service and a rigorous campaign. Scott labored for months with untiring industry, until he felt assured we had at least one army, fitted to cope with the best troops of Great Britain. He had taken in hand a body of raw militia, without drill and without experience, and at the end of three months had converted them into a well disciplined and invincible corps, which soon showed itself able to conquer the renowned veterans of Wellington himself.

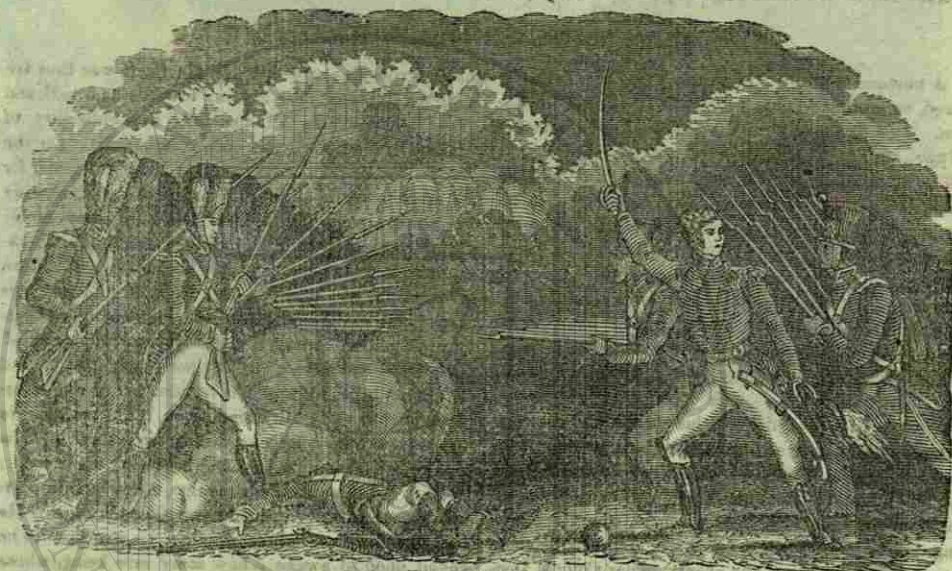
Scott crosses the Niagara Frontier.—Fort Erie Taken.

General Brown, the commander-in-chief of the army, returned to Buffalo the latter part of June. Prepa-

rations were immediately made to invade Canada. Early in the morning of the 3d of July, Scott's brigade,

with the artillery corps of Major Hindman, crossed the river and landed below Fort Erie, while Ripley's brigade crossed over and landed above. Scott led the van. Fort Erie surrendered at discretion, and 170 prisoners fell into our hands.

Battle of Chippewa.



Charge at Chippewa.

The residue of the American force was immediately transported across to the English side. The British army, 2,100 strong, under General Riall, was encamped on the Chippewa below, and preparations were immediately made to attack it without delay. Early on the 4th of July Scott set his columns in motion, and rapidly advanced upon the British position. He came upon the advanced posts of the enemy, under the Marquis of Tweeddale, who attacked, but was unable to retard the progress of our troops. Scott assailed and drove back Tweeddale's detachment upon the main body of the enemy. The whole of the 4th of July was thus passed by Scott in a march of sixteen miles, and in driving in the British outposts. At night Scott took up his quarters at Street's Creek, about two miles from the enemy's encampment. Between the two armies lay the long level plain of Chippewa, the battle-field of the succeeding day. Face to face the two armies encamped for the night. The morning of the 5th broke clear and glorious. The sun mounted high in the heavens, pouring his fierce beams upon the plain below. On one side of it ran the river, and on the other stood a dense forest. The force of the Americans under Scott was 1,900 strong. The enemy, commanded by General Riall, numbered 2,100 men. Of Riall's force, at least 1,600 were the

veteran troops of the Peninsular war, the flower of the British army. The remaining 500 were dragoons and well-trained militia. Scott's men had never seen service. The British were a well-trying and hitherto conquering soldiery, possessing the advantage of a decided superiority of numbers, and the prestige of invincibility. But the daring and zealous young American general courted the unequal strife. Filled with martial ardor, and an uncalculating intrepidity, that only sought the opportunity to wipe out the memory of previous disaster and imbecility, and to exalt the glory of his country, he mailed himself for the conflict. His hopes beat high in the confidence of a spirit that felt determined to wrest reluctant victory from its favorite standard. In this hardy temper of soul he led forth his troops upon the plain. The British commander, in full reliance upon the invincibility of his men, anticipated his antagonist's determination, and came forth to meet him. The day had passed in skirmishes. At five o'clock in the afternoon the combatants drew up in battle array. The Americans coolly and steadily advanced in line, stretching across the plain from the river to the wood. The British force, in similar order, supported by a battery of nine cannon, confronted our ranks. The attack was simultaneous and vehement on both sides, along the whole

line. The hostile armies, under a destructive fire, continued to approach until they were within eighty yards of one another, each manifesting the utmost coolness and the most determined courage. Shoulder to shoulder the American troops advanced, bravely meeting and falling before the iron tempest hurled in their faces by the steady masses of the practiced foe. The young and gallant leader was everywhere along the line encouraging and animating his troops, and displaying an activity, an enthusiasm, and a fearless disregard of danger, that inspired and electrified his little army. While the battle raged in yet uncertain fury, the British line was observed to become in a measure broken, in consequence of its right wing having been retarded in its advance by the wood, where it had come into conflict with Jessup's battalion. Scott seized upon the favorable moment with the eye of a veteran general, and by a skilful military manoeuvre directed the whole force of his attack upon the now weakened centre of the enemy. The swift-

ness and fierceness of this movement, backed by a murderous fire of our artillery, caused the enemy's line to waver. At this critical moment he gave the order to "charge bayonet!" The onset was terrible. The British columns were borne down and crushed by the irresistible vigor of this desperate assault. They broke and fled in confusion, amid terrible slaughter. Scott followed up his advantage with masterly activity, and pursued his routed adversary over the plain into his intrenchments. The numbers who fell in this hard-fought engagement show it to be one of extraordinary severity. The loss of the British in killed and wounded was 503, or almost one-fourth of their entire force. That of the Americans was 327.

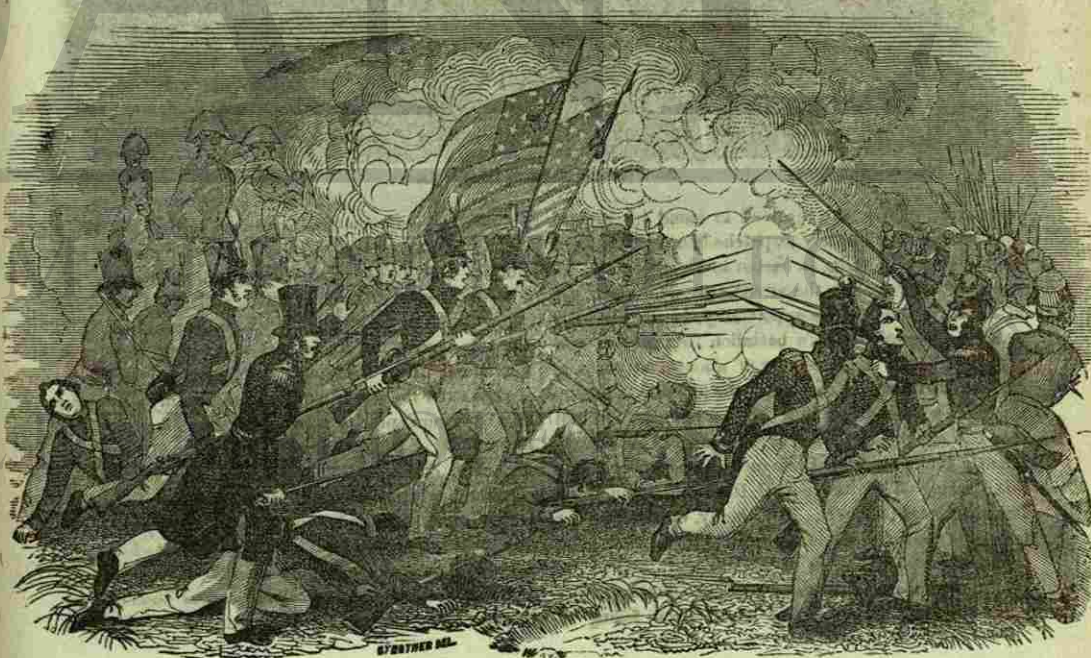
Scott's reputation rose high with this conflict. He had now fought a regular pitched battle on an open field, with inferior numbers, against the best troops of the enemy, and won it by hard fighting and superior strategy.

Pursuit of the Enemy.

On the 7th of July, only two days after the battle of Chippewa, the American army again advanced, in order to get possession of Fort George and Burlington Heights. Scott forced the passage of the Chippewa, compelling Riall to retreat upon the latter position.

But the works were found to be impregnable to our means of attack. But Scott was not to be idle. He was destined to be soon victor in another even more desperate and bloody encounter.

Battle of Lundy's Lane.

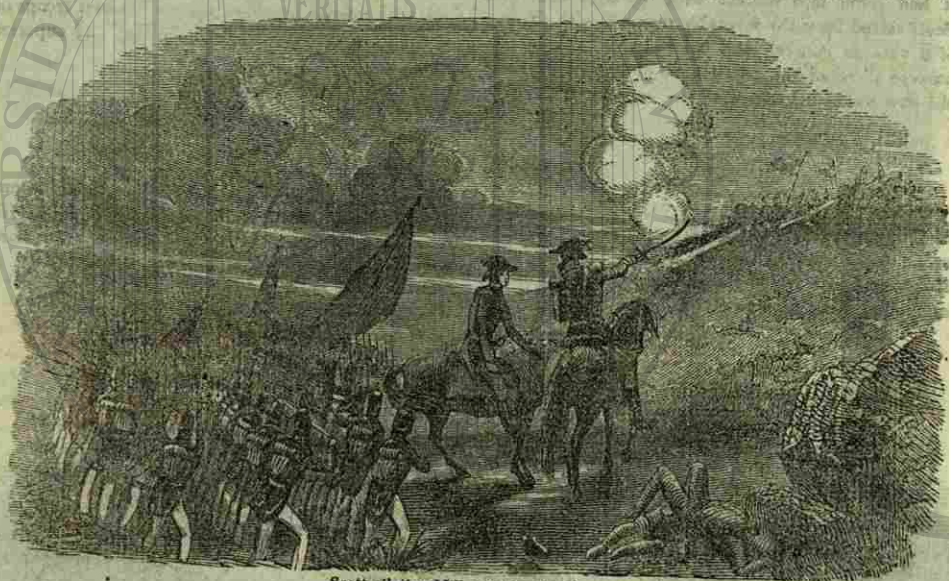


Battle of Lundy's Lane.

On the 25th of July Major-general Brown received the false intelligence that Riall had so far recovered from his late defeat as to throw across to the American shore, from Lewiston (nine miles below Chippewa), a corps of 1,000 men. He immediately determined upon making a demonstration against the fort below, in order to compel Riall to return. Scott, at the head of his brigade, now reduced by his losses to about 1,300 men, immediately set forth on this errand. But he soon found himself with hotter work on hand. He had proceeded but about two miles when he fell upon a reconnoitering party of the enemy, and then for the first time ascertained that a large body of their troops were posted in the immediate neighborhood. Pressing on, he came into the presence of a well-

stationed force under General Riall, about 1,300 strong who at once opened upon Scott a destructive fire of musketry and of nine pieces of artillery. The entire body of the enemy were drawn up on a ridge in order of battle. His right rested on a wood, and his left on a road running parallel with the river. Directly in front, and between the combatants, lay Lundy's Lane. Scott discovered soon after his arrival, that General Riall was being reinforced by three battalions under General Drummond, and that his numbers had been swelled to about 3,000 men.

Finding himself thus surprised into a battle against such immense odds, he might well have determined to retire and await the arrival of reinforcements under General Brown before going into action. But with



Scott piloting Miller to Lundy's Lane.

undaunted purpose he resolved to stand his ground. He however immediately dispatched an aid to General Brown requesting him to hasten to his assistance. It was now six o'clock in the afternoon. The quick eye of Scott discovering the opportunity, he immediately ordered General Jessup's battalion to turn the enemy's left flank. Under cover of about 200 yards of undergrowth, which concealed the operation, Jessup accomplished his object in a brilliant manner, and not only cut off the left wing of the enemy, but triumphantly broke through their ranks and returned into line, bearing off Major-General Riall and some other British officers prisoners. The enemy, outflanking our troops on the right, made a powerful attempt, backed by murderous discharges of cannon, and favored by superior numbers, to turn our position. General Scott perceiving the attempt, and intent upon foiling so

threatening a movement, dispatched McNeil's battalion to repulse the enemy. A most obstinate conflict, conducted upon both sides with great vehemence, followed. The assailants recoiled, and were punished with dreadful severity. Meantime the main battle of the two centres had joined and was fought with great fierceness. The American line sustained with unshaken valor the whole weight of the enemy's superior numbers, now precipitated upon them with a fiery impetuosity. Our gallant band, though suffering prodigiously, displayed unconquerable resolution. The commanding presence and heroic example of their intrepid commander, who, regardless of all peril, with unwearied vigor, was foremost in every post of danger nerved them to unparalleled efforts. The battalions of Scott on this occasion, before he was succored by General Brown, were dreadfully cut up. Night came

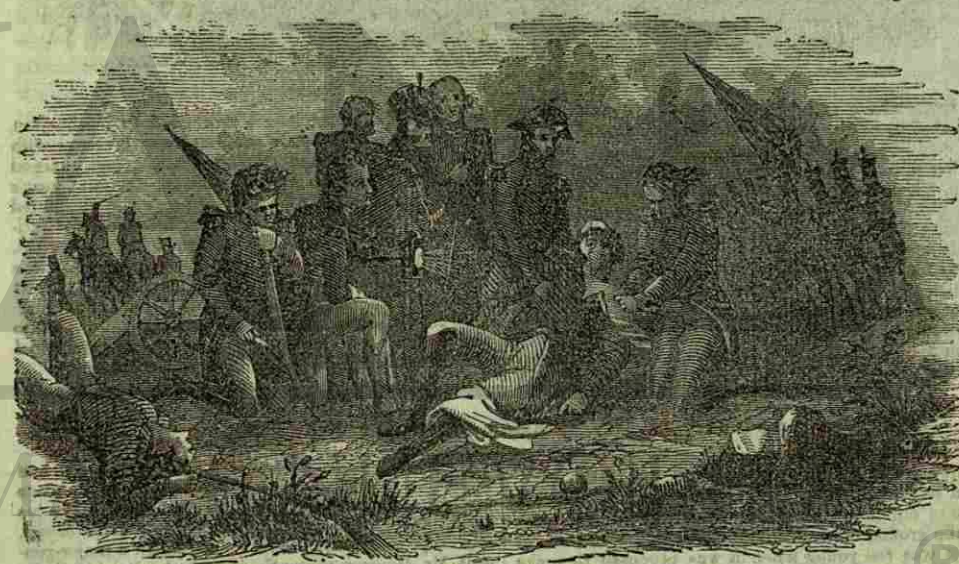
on, and beneath the uncertain light of the moon, wading deep through the broken clouds, the desperate strife was continued. General Scott had had two horses killed under him, and been wounded in the side by a bullet. But in nowise subdued, he rushed into the contest on foot, and continued to the end in the thickest of the fight.

The British infantry continued to pour their deadly fire upon our weakened ranks, and their artillery, posted in a commanding position, on the crest of a neighboring height, which commanded the whole field of battle, at every discharge, thundered death upon our devoted columns. At length, at nine o'clock at night, after three hours of this deadly struggle on the part of General Scott, General Brown arrived upon the ground with his reinforcement. The enemy which, with vastly superior numbers, had barely withstood the determined bravery of General Scott's little army, and only maintained itself in the centre under the guns of the artillery, was now obliged to yield. The regiment of the heroic Miller was deputed to the perilous service of silencing the British battery on the

heights. General Scott volunteered to lead the way, and did so, through the darkness, up to the point of attack. He then returned to favor Miller's movement, and made another onset upon the British line, in which his battalion suffered even more than before. After a series of desperate hand-to-hand encounters, Miller was successful, and the batteries were silenced.

Under the renewed furious charges of our troops the enemy were now forced to retire, and abandon the field to the Americans. In one of the last of these charges, just at the close of the action, amid terrible fighting, Scott was severely wounded, and had to be borne from the field. This engagement incontestably established the bravery of our troops, and the reputation of General Scott as an officer. The battle was fought with desperate energy on both sides, and the losses, considering the numbers engaged, were prodigious. General Scott's brigade, upon which fell the brunt of the battle, lost 463 of its 1,300 men; a far greater proportion of our troops than fell at Buena Vista. The total loss of the Americans in killed and wounded was 743. That of the British, 726.

Scott badly Wounded.



Scott Wounded.

The victory of Lundy's Lane was dearly won. In addition to our other great losses, Scott himself was dangerously wounded. His shoulder was shattered, and a bullet was in his side; and for a month he lay in a most critical state, enduring intense suffering. From the wounds he received in this battle he has never fully recovered. British lead is in his body, which he will carry with him to his grave. Others have won deserved renown in the service of their coun-

try, but no one ever perilled his life, or shed his blood more freely in its cause, than General Scott. In his country's greatest need he has proved himself ready for the greatest sacrifices a patriot can be called to make. After the action, Scott was borne on a litter to Buffalo, thence to Williamstown, and afterwards to Geneva. After recovering sufficiently, he slowly journeyed towards Philadelphia, whither he repaired for further surgical aid.

His Triumphant Receptions and Promotion.



Scott at Princeton.

Everywhere as he passed, the victorious hero was greeted by all the public honors and private attentions he could bear. Princeton, in particular, met the suffering soldier with the honors of an academic reception, which was rendered all the more dear to him by the glorious recollections of the revolution that cluster around that spot. At Philadelphia, Governor Snyder and the citizens welcomed him with military and civic parades. After a short stay at that city, he recovered sufficiently to be able to proceed to Baltimore, whither he went at the request of the government, and the particular solicitations of the members of Congress from Maryland and Pennsylvania, to direct measures for the defence of that city and Philadelphia. Finish-

Anecdote of Mr. Madison on Scott's Promotion.

President Madison, though early persuaded of Scott's great qualities, nevertheless, out of the abundant caution of his nature, always hesitated at every step of our hero's promotion (till it came to the last), on the ground of his extreme youth. Thus he thought Scott was too young when it was proposed to make him lieutenant-colonel, too young when he was again advanced to the post of adjutant-general, too young

when he was made colonel of a double regiment, and finally too young when he was promoted to the place of brigadier-general. But at the last, when, after his recent extraordinary services, and brilliant successes, it was proposed in Cabinet to make him a major-general, Mr. Madison promptly remarked, "Put him down a major-general—I am done with objecting to his youth."

Scott goes to Europe on a Public Mission.

The enfeebled state of his health, and the desire of still further professional improvement, suggesting a trip to Europe, the government now gave General Scott a double commission abroad. First, to examine the improvements of military science; and second, to conduct certain secret negotiations in regard to the independence of South America, and the supposed designs of England upon Cuba. He acquitted himself

of these latter delicate duties much to the satisfaction of his government. He examined the chief military establishments of Western Europe, held intercourse with its most distinguished military men, and attended the scientific lectures of the schools of tactics. Arriving just after the battle of Waterloo, his opportunities to master the views and learn the experience of the most distinguished European professors of military

science, most of whom had now congregated upon the soil of France and England, in their gigantic efforts to overwhelm Napoleon, were unsurpassed. Fresh from the fields of his own triumphs, and with the war spirit still at its full height, we may suppose our young hero acquired a stock of intelligence, bearing upon his profession, that years of ordinary experience could not have given him. He brought over with him whatever could tend to improve our system of tactics, or be

made useful to the military arm of our government. To his efforts then and afterward, we owe, in a great measure, that system of discipline and instruction to which we are mainly indebted, in conjunction with his own unrivalled military knowledge and skill, for our recent Mexican victories. On his return, he was placed in command of the eastern division of the army, with New York for his head-quarters. In 1817 he married Miss Mayo of Richmond.

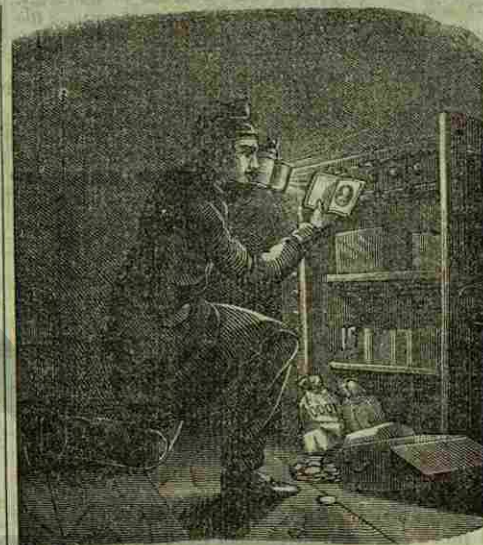
Vote of Thanks by Congress, New York, and Virginia.

Meantime Congress had passed a vote of thanks for the eminent services of this illustrious commander, and voted him a large gold medal, inscribed with the names of "Chippewa" and "Niagara," and bearing his likeness. The States of New York and Virginia likewise bestowed a similar high compliment, by votes of thanks, and by making him valuable gifts. Each of

these states presented him with a sword of the richest workmanship. Governor Tompkins, of New York, made a public presentation of the sword given by New York, and, in his address on the occasion, observed that it was presented to him by the state, in token of its admiration of "a military career replete with splendid events."

Anecdote of the Gold Medal and the Robber.

A singular incident is connected with the gold medal presented to General Scott by Congress. It was at one time deposited for safe-keeping in the vault of the City Bank of New York. A noted robber, breaking into the safe, carried off from thence every thing that was valuable, but spared this token of public honor, in evident respect for the brave soldier's only wealth. The case of the medal was found open, but retaining its precious contents untouched. Not even a whole life of crime had been able to extinguish in that felon's breast, a feeling of patriotic admiration for his country's best soldier. Alas! if ever the general admiration and gratitude of his countrymen shall seek to reward General Scott's great services by the bestowal of the highest office in their gift, will there be found those so lost to all sense of national pride, of justice and honor, as to try to rob him of his well-earned fame, by the calumnious tongue of partisan warfare? We trust not! For the sake of our national reputation, the claims of patriotism, and the demands of justice, we trust not! Let the eager spirit of detraction hesitate, as it reflects upon that pure renown which even the robber respected!



Robber and Medal.

Anecdote of Scott and the Pickpockets.

Long after the foregoing occurrence, General Scott, in travelling by steamboat from Albany to New York, had his pocket picked of a purse containing eight hundred dollars in gold. On arriving at New York, the general advertised his loss. His money was sent back to him by the head thief of the city, with a respectful assurance that none of his people would have touched

the general's purse if they had known his person. Thus does the human heart, though steeled to crime, recognize the claims of a generous, gallant, and chivalric nature. Such occurrences are significant intimations of the strong hold which this truly noble man has upon the hearts of his countrymen.

Establishes our Military System.

We owe to General Scott, in a great degree, our existing military system. It was first introduced by him, in preparing our army at Buffalo for the heroic deeds soon after achieved at Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. Subsequently it was introduced into the whole service. In 1821 he published a work embodying his system and plans of discipline and instruction, under

the title of "*General Regulations for the Army.*" In 1825, following up his design of still further improvements, he published his "*Infantry Tactics.*" And again, in 1826, he drew up for the War Department, "*A Plan for the Organization and Instruction of the whole body of the Militia of the Union;*" and also, "*A System of Infantry and Rifle Tactics.*" In 1835, he

1020000743

published, by order of Congress, a new edition of the latter. How well the military system introduced by Scott, serves the purposes for which it was designed, is shown by the general character of the service, and especially by the triumphant success of our arms in Mexico. We owe much to West Point, but West Point owes more to Scott. It is he, in reality, who has given the army its leading characteristics of high spirit, lofty tone, gentlemanly bearing, extreme effi-

ciency, and love of duty. Possessing himself personally, every noble characteristic of a soldier, he has stamped them all upon the service. And for his genuine zeal in its behalf, his pride in its proficiency, his constant and unwearied labors for its perfection, and though last not least, his deep desire to see it always prompted and guided by a spirit of humanity, he may well be styled the Father of the American Army.

Scott as a Temperance Man.

General Scott may be placed among the very earliest pioneers of the temperance reform. As long ago as 1821 he published a pamphlet (first appearing in the National Gazette of Philadelphia), proposing a plan to discourage the use of intoxicating liquors in the United States. This paper was written with great ability, and furnished the matter for thousands of temperance speeches and addresses since delivered. He was first led to this effort to lessen the great mischiefs of intemperance, in consequence of the difficulties that beset him in improving the discipline of the army. Though never a teetotaler in the strictest sense of the term, General Scott has, nevertheless, always been a

strictly temperate and abstemious man. Indeed, in all his private and social relations he is a man whom the youth of the country would do well to follow as a model. His moral character gives lustre to his historic celebrity. He has never been corrupted by the temptations of office, debauched by contact with laxity of principle in public men, or stimulated by avarice or habits of extravagance into any forays, direct or indirect, upon the public treasury. Personally, he is without reproach and above suspicion. His example has lifted others up. No example has ever dragged him down.

Scott and South American Independence.

General Scott took a lively interest in the struggles of the South American republics to secure their independence. He was not in the public councils, and could therefore take no part in the eloquent discussions of Congress upon the subject. But so far as his position permitted, he encouraged and sympathized with the noble efforts of the South American leaders of the revolution. Among the acts that illustrated his interest in their behalf, was his successful endeavors to give a military education to three sons of

General Paéz, of Colombia. These were by his exertions placed at the Military Academy at West Point, in 1828, under the auspices of the President of the United States, where they were educated, and afterwards sent back to fight for the liberties of their native land.

The military duties of General Scott now engrossed the chief part of his attention for several years. In 1829 he again visited Europe on a professional tour of observation.

The Black Hawk War.

General Scott returned from Europe after an absence of several months. A war with the Indians on the Upper Mississippi, under the celebrated "Black Hawk," having assumed a formidable aspect, Scott was ordered by the War Department in June, 1832, to the scene of conflict, to take command of the forces to subdue the savages.

In the beginning of July he accordingly embarked at Buffalo, with a body of about 1,000 troops, on board four steamers, bound for the theatre of war. He was arrested in his progress by the breaking out of the cholera in its most malignant form among the troops. Meantime the Indians were subdued by the Illinois militia and the troops under General Atkinson, and Black Hawk was captured. Scott subsequently proceeded to his place of destination, negotiated important

treaties with the Sacs and Foxes, and the Winnebagoes, composed the difficulties on that frontier, and discharged all the duties of his mission in a manner that extorted from General Cass, then Secretary of War, the following tribute:

"Allow me to congratulate you, sir, upon this fortunate consummation of your arduous duties, and to express my entire approbation of the whole course of your proceedings, during a series of difficulties requiring higher moral courage than the operations of an active campaign, under ordinary circumstances."

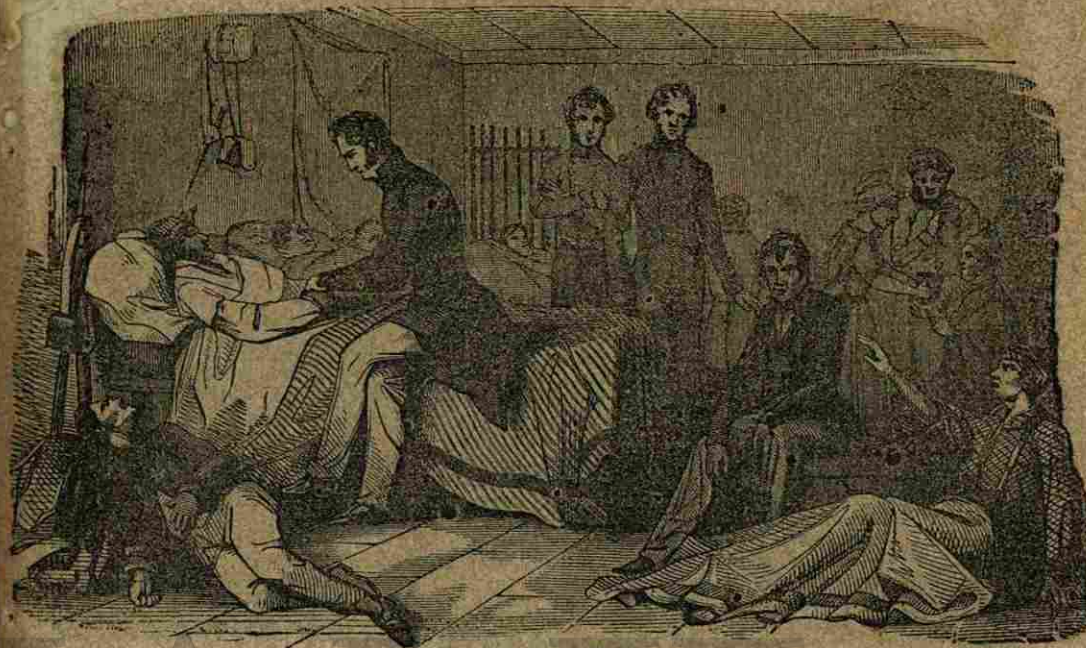
General Cass here referred, in part, to General Scott's brave, humane, and self-denying conduct toward the troops under his command while smitten by the terrible scourge of the cholera, the story of which we will briefly relate.

The Cholera.—Scott's Noble Conduct.

On the passage from Buffalo to Chicago, the Asiatic cholera, which then for the first time visited this country, broke out on board the steamers conveying the troops, in the most frightful form. On board General Scott's own boat, out of 220 persons, no less than 52 died, and 80 others were committed to the hospital within the short term of six days. On board the other boats the mortality was scarcely less alarming. The amazing fatality of the attacks of this disease spread indescribable terror among the troops, and

among the population whither they were carried. Such was the effect produced, that in the course of a very few days, sickness, death, and desertion, had reduced the numbers of our troops from 950 to 400.

On the passage to Chicago, the deck and cabin of General Scott's own boat were covered with the dead and dying. Every hour of the clock struck the knell of some new victim. Gloom was pictured in every countenance. Despair seized upon the bravest. Death in battle they could meet without fear, but here the



Scott at the Cholera Hospital.

viewless destroyer totally palsied their energies. Without warning, the trembling victim was seized, helplessly collapsed, and died in an hour. It was a repetition of the worst horrors of the plague. Amidst this terrible scene, instead of contenting himself with merely ordering the medical men to take all necessary measures for the relief of the sick, Scott set an example of fortitude and courage that shone resplendent through the surrounding desolation. He attended the sick in person, and performed for his humblest comrade every disagreeable and dangerous office with a brother's care. He consoled the sick, comforted the dying, and cheered the flagging and broken spirits of those yet unattacked, but whose apprehensions provoked danger, and insured death when the attack came.

Subsequently, after leaving Chicago, Scott found Atkinson's force at Rock Island, attacked with the same appalling disease. Here he renewed his vigilant and fearless attentions upon the sick and dying. Though himself ill, his devotion to his fellow-soldiers was constant, and became the theme of general admiration. He spared himself no labor, no exposure to danger, to relieve his comrades who were the victims of this fatal pestilence. He visited the hospitals, made it his duty to serve, watch, and encourage all by his cheering presence and his personal services. Never has he at any time shown a more genuine heroism than upon this occasion. Never did any philanthropist exhibit a more pure, noble, and affecting self-devotion.

Scott sent to quiet the Nullifiers.

General Scott had hardly got home from these trying and fatiguing scenes, when a fresh order from the government sent him to another quarter. At the close of November, 1832, nullification was coming to a head in South Carolina. A state convention had passed its ordinance declaring that the United States revenue laws should not be enforced in South Carolina, and its legislature and executive were making preparations for an armed resistance. Such was the condition of things when General Scott was ordered thither. His first aim was to ascertain what measures were needed to secure obedience to the laws, and suppress the rebellion if it should break out. But he was also charged with the higher office of conciliating the Carolinians. To avoid adding to the public excitement by open steps of military precaution, he visited Charleston by the way of the interior, as if on his annual visit of inspection. When he had finished his examination he returned to Washington, made his report to President Jackson, and concerted the arrangements necessary for the crisis. The revenue

cutters and troops that were needed were sent down to Charleston, and General Scott then repaired thither with confidential instructions. A large discretion was left to him in the execution of his orders. Every thing, in fact, depended on his own good judgment. But in the exhibition of this quality, as well as those of a more brilliant character, General Scott has never failed to distinguish himself. The extraordinary excitement of the time, the phrensed condition of the public mind in South Carolina, now wrought up to the pitch of open war, rendered General Scott's task delicate and difficult in the highest degree. His headquarters was at Fort Moultrie, opposite Charleston, which had been strengthened by large supplies of provisions, arms, ammunition, and troops; and its force further augmented by the presence of revenue cutters and ships of war. The attitude of the government was unequivocal, and so was that of the nullifiers. One was determined to resist, the other was determined to quell that resistance. That General Scott should have been able, under such an aspect of

impending hostilities, to associate and even hold friendly relations with the leading nullifiers, seems almost to forbid belief; yet so it was. By a happy union of firm and conciliatory conduct he was able to keep on the narrow line of his duty, deficient in no-wise to the demands of the federal government which had placed him there, and yet so to conduct himself as to win the confidence and regard of those whom it

Scott ordered to Florida.

An Indian war raged in Florida in 1835. The Seminoles, under their skilful and daring leader, Osceola, had taken up arms against the whites, and fought with a valor that awoke the government to the necessity of taking decided measures to subdue them. General Scott was accordingly ordered to the theatre of hostilities, where he arrived in February, 1836. He got his troops in readiness, and soon after the middle of March moved the three divisions, into which he had divided them, upon that portion of the country where it was supposed the Indians had taken shelter. But the wily enemy eluded his grasp. Having failed in his first attempt to discover the hiding-place of the Indians, General Scott next broke up his force into five detachments, placing himself at the head of one of them, and scoured the country. None of the detachments, however, met with any success in discovering the main body of the savages. They had sequestered themselves in the impenetrable fastnesses of that pestilential country, and thus escaped the most vigilant activity of our troops. Sickness ensued, and

became his especial duty to watch, and if necessary to subdue by force of arms. We can hardly conceive of a more difficult undertaking than was General Scott's in this mission, yet he succeeded in it to the entire satisfaction of all parties. At length he withdrew from the scene, with the consoling reflection that his course had been a chief means of saving his country from the horrors of civil strife.

four hundred of our men were in the hospitals. The supplies for the troops proved inadequate, and the campaign ended without any important fruits. General Scott having now experienced the extreme difficulties of the country, apprised the War Department that a larger force and different conduct of the next campaign would be essential to success. Meantime, difficulties broke out among the Creeks in Georgia, and General Scott proceeded thither in May, and at once organized a volunteer corps to subdue them. This was accomplished with great promptness. By the 1st of July the Indians had surrendered or been entirely dispersed. On the 9th of July General Scott was ordered to Washington. Complaints were made because he did not find and capture the hidden Seminoles. But an inquiry that was instituted into the conduct of that campaign, proved the utter groundlessness of the charge, and resulted in the unanimous approval of the conduct of the brave commander by the court.

Congratulations of his Friends.

After Scott's return from his Florida campaigns, an invitation was extended to him from his friends in the city of New York to meet them at a public dinner. He received similar invitations from Richmond, Virginia, and Elizabethtown, New Jersey. But he declined them all, from personal considerations growing

out of the overwhelming commercial calamities that in that year (1837) had fallen upon so many of his friends. We find in this circumstance a new evidence of his genuine sympathy of nature, and generous self-forgetfulness, where the feelings and interests of others are concerned.

Rebellion in Canada.—Scott sent to the Frontier.

In the same year (1837), a rebellion broke out in Canada. The flame of insurrection spread along the frontier, and threatened to involve the country in hostilities with England. Our border population deeply sympathized with the struggling patriots of Canada. An outrage upon our territory had been committed by a British armed force, which had crossed to Schlosser, in the State of New York, fired the steamer *Caroline*, and sent her blazing over the cataract of Niagara. This act took place on the 29th of December. On the 4th of January following (1838), General Scott hastened from Washington to the scene of the outrage. He found the whole population in a state of tumultuous excitement. He addressed himself at once to the task of subduing the impassioned fervors of our patriotic population, a work which he accomplished with the most admirable tact and skill. He moved with the greatest celerity along the line, everywhere repressing the extraordinary zeal of our people, and everywhere bringing down enthusiastic plaudits upon

his skilful conduct and his eloquent harangues. He became at once orator, soldier, and diplomatist. He alternately threatened, exhorted, and appealed to the people. His exertions were unremitting by night and by day, and covering a line of country extending from Detroit to Vermont. The details of his mission here would fill a volume. But we have no room for the recital. Suffice it to say that beneath the spell of his manly eloquence, his energy, his activity, the recollection of his former deeds of glory in that quarter, the people threw down their arms and returned to their homes, and war was averted. His grateful and admiring fellow-citizens thronged about him on his return; and at Albany, where the Legislature was in session, a succession of entertainments were given to this illustrious man; now as deeply endeared to the people for preventing war, as on a former occasion he was admired for his exploits of valor and heroism on the very soil of the enemy he had now saved from invasion.

Scott among the Cherokees.

By a treaty made in 1835, the Cherokees, occupying portions of the States of Georgia, Alabama, North

Carolina, and Tennessee, had stipulated to emigrate to lands allotted to them west of the Mississippi.



Scott addressing the Cherokees.

There were but a small portion of them, however, who had gone to their new home west of the Mississippi. The numbers remaining amounted to 15,000, and they had refused to leave. General Scott received orders on the 10th of April, 1838, to take command of the United States troops ordered to the Cherokee country, to enforce the fulfilment of this treaty obligation. Deeply impressed with the painful circumstances under which this more than half civilized people were now to expatriate themselves from the homes they had so long enjoyed, General Scott desired to accomplish his mission with the utmost forbearance and regard towards this highly interesting race. He accordingly issued an address to the army, invoking their kindness and care for the emigrants, and deprecating in the strongest manner all violence or harshness in the discharge of the duties that might devolve upon them, in case of the refusal of any to join the general emigration. He issued another address to the Indians, setting forth the labors he had come to perform. Kindness and humanity are stamped in uneffaceable characters upon these papers; and, taken in connection with his subsequent conduct in the

discharge of his mission, will forever add lustre to the fame of General Scott.

The tribes were at length put in motion, and the vast, tawny multitude slowly wended its way towards the distant waters of the Mississippi. It was another Exodus of a whole people. The great and manifold difficulties and perils of conducting so large a body of men, women, and children, may be readily conceived. But General Scott mastered them all, and for five months superintended and guided an emigration, almost unparalleled, and requiring more wisdom, patience, and perseverance, than is often called into exercise during the entire life of an ordinary man. The work was accomplished successfully. In what manner it was done, let Dr. Channing, the eloquent Boston divine, answer. He says, "In the whole history of the intercourse of civilized with barbarous or half-civilized communities, we doubt whether a brighter page can be found than that which records General Scott's agency in the removal of the Cherokees. As far as the wrongs done to this race can be atoned for, General Scott has made the expiation. It would not be easy to find among us a man who has won a purer fame."

Scott settles the Northeastern Boundary Difficulties.

Serious difficulties arose in the winter of 1838-9 between the authorities of Maine and New Brunswick, growing out of our then unsettled northeastern boundary. The action of Governor Fairfield of Maine in calling out the militia, and throwing a heavy force forward upon the frontier, with apparently hostile intent, and a corresponding movement of the British forces in the Province of New Brunswick, gave a threatening aspect to affairs in that quarter. General Scott was ordered at once to the spot, with instructions to endeavor to compose the existing difficulties, and to arrest the hostile movement of our troops. He arrived

at Augusta, the capital of the state, on the 6th of March, 1839.

The Legislature was in session, and he was received by a public meeting of legislators, soldiers, and citizens, on the following day, in the Legislative Hall. His reception was of the most flattering description, and marked by every demonstration of respect and admiration. He devoted himself at once to the work of allaying the excitement that existed, and establishing a basis for the accommodation of the existing disputes. The Governor of New Brunswick, Sir John Harvey, was an old acquaintance and friend of Gen



Scott saving the life of Harvey.

eral Scott, they having met and established an intimacy during the war of 1812.*

With him General Scott opened a semi-official correspondence in relation to the pressing exigencies of the occasion, which led to the most happy results. Official negotiations followed. General Scott remained in Maine for several weeks, and occupied himself incessantly in bringing about a good understanding between the authorities on both sides. His labors were arduous and perplexing in the extreme. Con-

flicting judgments were to be reconciled, and exasperated feelings were to be subdued. But his untiring efforts were at length crowned with signal success. The troops on both sides were in a few weeks withdrawn, and a good understanding established between the belligerents. General Scott reaped new laurels for his skillful management of this delicate negotiation, and earned a new claim to the title of the GREAT PACIFICATOR, so properly his due for his previous success in South Carolina, and on the Canada frontier.

Scott becomes Commander-in-chief.

The death of Major-general Macomb took place June 25th, 1841, and Scott was called to the command of the entire army. He remained in the regular discharge of its arduous duties, almost uninterruptedly, for several years. He took part, however, in the discussion of various public topics that arose during this period, and became in 1844, as he had been in 1839, a

prominent candidate for the Presidency. But we are compelled to omit all notice of this part of his history, for we have but narrow limits in which to recount those stirring and eventful scenes belonging to his career in Mexico, which have crowned his life and his fame with a wreath of unfading glory.

War with Mexico.

The peace of the country, after having been long menaced by the state of our relations with Mexico, was at length broken by an unexpected collision, and we found ourselves plunged into open war with that country. In May, 1846, the Mexican forces were suddenly precipitated in large numbers upon the little army of General Taylor, who had command of our forces

on the Rio Grande. That distinguished veteran astonished and electrified the country by the indomitable valor he displayed in repulsing the enemy, and in winning, in swift succession, the two battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma. On the 24th of November following, General Scott left Washington for the theatre of hostilities, charged with the command and direc-

* Colonel Scott and Lieutenant-colonel Harvey were, in the campaign of 1813, the adjutant-generals of the opposing armies in Upper Canada. They were often brought into contact, and both being men of chivalric nature, their acquaintance finally ripened into warm mutual friendship. Once, when reconnoitering and skirmishing, Scott contrived, as he thought, to cut off his daring opponent from the possibility of retreat. In an

instant an American rifle was levelled at him. Scott struck up the deadly weapon with his sword, crying out, "Hold! he is our prisoner." But Harvey, putting spurs to his horse, by a dexterous and intrepid leap, escaped under a shower of balls to reappear in the following campaign a formidable opponent of his magnanimous antagonist on the bloody fields of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane.

tion of our arms in that quarter. He reached the Rio Grande on the 1st of January, 1847. Santa Anna, the commander of the Mexican army, lay at San Luis Potosi, midway between the Rio Grande and the city of Mexico, at the head of 22,000 men. General Taylor had now crossed the river and advanced to Saltillo, about 150 miles towards San Luis Potosi. He had under his command a force of 18,000 troops, that occupied the line connecting his advanced position at Saltillo, with the Rio Grande at Camargo. On his arrival, General Scott divided this force, leaving 10,000 men under General Taylor, and taking the remainder with him to Vera Cruz by sea. Other troops had meantime been concentrated in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, to the number of 4000.

The whole force was combined at the Island of Lobos, and from that point the squadron, having on

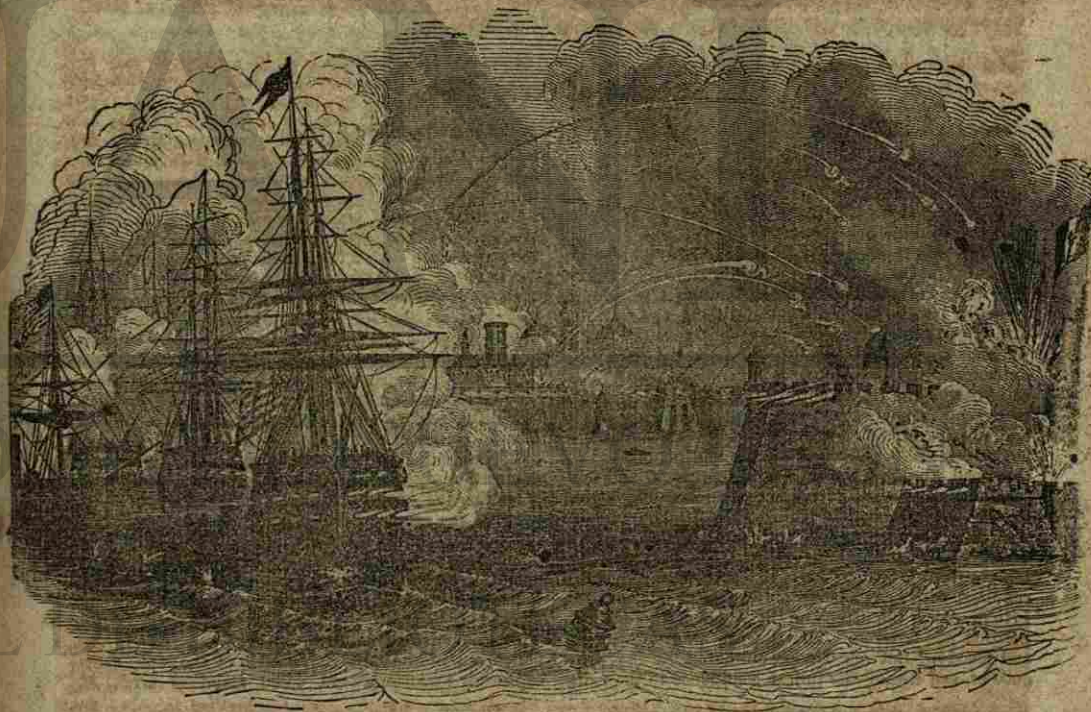
board 12,000 men, set sail; General Scott, in the steamship Massachusetts, leading the van. As his steamer passed through the fleet, his tall form, conspicuous above every other, attracted the eyes of soldiers and sailors. Warmed by feelings of patriotic admiration of the hero in command, and fired by the enthusiasm which the occasion and the scene were so well calculated to inspire, they gave vent to their emotions in one spontaneous cheer, that burst simultaneously from every vessel, and echoed and rang along the whole line. Brilliantly decked with flags, and covered with an animated host whose arms flashed in the sun, the ships seemed to move in exulting consciousness of their burden; and flinging the spray from their prows, gallantly dashed forward to the point of debarkation.

Landing at Vera Cruz.

The fleet having arrived before Vera Cruz, and all preparations being completed, on the 9th of March, a little before sunset, the landing of this armament, destined for the reduction of one of the most formidable defences in the world, commenced. With such admirable judgment had the enterprise been planned, and with such consummate skill was it executed, un-

der the immediate superintendence of the commander-in-chief, that before ten o'clock at night the troops had all been landed in perfect safety, with all their arms and accoutrements, without the slightest accident or the loss of a single life; an achievement almost unparalleled in a military operation of such magnitude.

Siege and Capture of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa.



Bombardment of Vera Cruz.

In three days the army and the fleet had taken up their positions, and invested both the city and the castle, preparatory to their bombardment and siege. Our lines of circumsvallation were five miles in length,

and surrounded the city. On the night of the 18th of March the trenches were opened, and the army gradually closed around the city, in a nearer and more fatal embrace. On the 22d, General Scott, having now completed his preparations for his attack, and having offered a free conduct out of the city of all non-combatants, sent his summons to the governor of Vera Cruz to surrender. The governor refused, and the batteries opened their destructive fire upon the devoted city; while the ships commenced their fearful broadsides upon the castle. The scene was magnificent, and terrible. During three days and nights an incessant discharge from the brazen mouths of mortars and cannon, was kept up with unflagging zeal and irresistible power. Our heavy Paixhan guns sped their crushing masses of metal upon the enemy with overwhelming energy. The mortars and howitzers vomited forth their deadly missiles with desolating fury. An iron tempest covered sea and land. Its ravages were pitiless, its fierce grasp unrelenting. Night heightened the scene. The darkness was illuminated by blazing shells filling the air.

Scott's Departure for the City of Mexico.

Scott now prepared to advance upon the city of Mexico. With only 8,000 men, he at once pressed forward upon the road to the capitol. Passing over sixty miles of level country he came upon the first of the ascending slopes, over which extends the road to

The sea gleamed with the broadsides of the ships. Fired with extraordinary skill, the bombs converged upon the besieged town with a horrid accuracy. The heavy fall of the descending shot and shells was heard along our lines. The domes of the churches reverberated beneath explosions that shook the ground, and lighted up the heavens with a fierce glare. The full power of modern military skill, and the destructive arts of war, were here exhibited in all their potency, without intermission, during three days and nights. On the 25th, an application for a truce was made by the enemy, which was refused, and a surrender demanded. Accordingly, on the following morning overtures for a surrender were made, and the city and fortress fell into our hands. The stars and stripes floated in triumph, for the first time, on the battlements of the castle of San Juan de Ulloa, and waved their victorious folds over the walls of Vera Cruz. Among the fruits of this victory were 5,000 prisoners, and 500 pieces of artillery. Our loss was but six killed, and sixty wounded.

the table-land upon which the city of Mexico stands, at an elevation of 7,600 feet above the level of the waters of the Gulf. The road at this point passes over a stream, and winds among the gorges of precipitous hills.

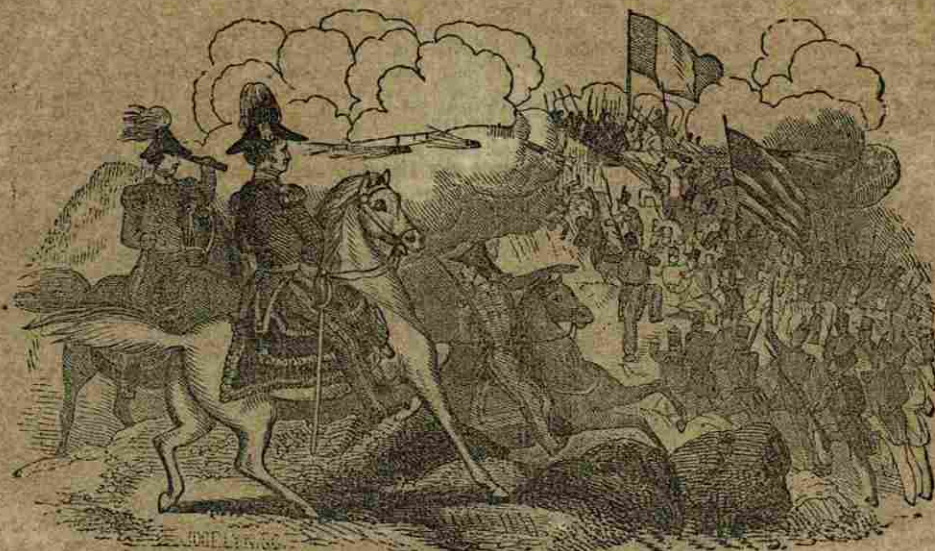
Storming of Cerro Gordo.*

Santa Anna, who had just returned from the field of Buena Vista, had here collected all the forces he could muster, and was posted upon these heights. Cannon were placed in battery on all the commanding eminences on both sides of the road. Highest above them all rose the bristling hill of Cerro Gordo, strongly fortified, and protected at its base by heavy stone defences. On these heights, thus defended by thirty-nine pieces of artillery, the Mexican general had intrenched himself at the head of 15,000 troops. The attack upon this apparently impregnable position was planned by General Scott with masterly skill. He determined upon assaulting it in flank and rear as well as in front; and to accomplish this object he opened a road, over a country almost impassable from rocks and chapparal, for a distance of several miles. A heavy force under General Twiggs had penetrated by this road, the day before the main attack, and captured, after a severe struggle, a commanding height in the neighborhood of Cerro Gordo. The position was, however, maintained by our troops with great difficulty. The Mexicans made three desperate attempts to dislodge our force, but each time they were repulsed with heavy loss. On the next morning, the 17th of April, the attack on the whole of the enemy's position was ordered. The defence was determined and bloody. But our troops, animated by the presence of, and feeling the fullest confidence in their dis-

tinguished leader, advanced under a terrific fire against the enemy. They rapidly flocked up the heights, and intrepidly surmounted every obstacle that the ingenuity of Santa Anna had added to the natural defences of his position, displaying the most sturdy resolution and invincible impetuosity. The Mexicans were forced from their guns at the point of the bayonet, and driven with resistless energy from their securest defences. The hill of Cerro Gordo was assaulted in front by Colonel Harney, who, with his men, performed prodigies of valor. Santa Anna was here in person, and barely escaped by flying on one of the mules attached to his carriage. General Scott, who was close at hand in all the conflicts of the day, and often exposed to imminent danger, met Colonel Harney on the height of Cerro Gordo, just at the time of his gallant achievement, and publicly expressed his admiration of the spirit and courage displayed by him in leading the assault. The officers spoke with enthusiasm of the calm and soldierly bearing of their gallant commander, during all the dangers of the furious and unintermitting discharges of the artillery from the heights while the battle raged. By twelve o'clock the enemy was driven from his position, totally routed, and was in full flight along the road to Jalapa, whither our troops followed in close pursuit. In this action, one of the most remarkable of the war, Scott captured 3,000 prisoners, 4,000 stand of arms, 43

* General Scott's order of battle on this occasion, which we regret we have not room to publish, is a monument of his military skill and prescience. He detailed in advance every movement of the troops during the at-

tack, and even prescribed the exact movements of the various detachments after the battle should have been won; and the whole order was executed to the letter.



Battle of Cerro Gordo.

pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of ammunition. Santa Anna's carriage, containing his wooden leg and a large sum of specie, also fell into the hands

of the victors. The loss of the Americans in killed and wounded was 431. That of the Mexicans was computed at 1,000 to 1,200.

Capture of Jalapa and Surrender of Perote.

General Scott continued his rapid march with his small, but conquering army, and on the 19th the advanced corps, under General Patterson, entered the city of Jalapa, 30 miles from Cerro Gordo. On the 2d of April, Worth's division advanced upon

Perote, 40 miles distant, whose celebrated fortress, with its powerful armament, surrendered at discretion. This surrender covered 66 pieces of cannon, 18,000 cannon-balls, 14,000 bombs and hand-grenades, and 500 muskets.

City of Puebla Taken.

Santa Anna escaped to Puebla with the remnant of his army, now scattered in all directions by the force of the blow struck at Cerro Gordo. Worth's division was again pushed on until it came within 15 miles of Puebla. Here it was menaced by Santa Anna, who reappeared at the head of 3,000 cavalry. This troop was soon dispersed, however, by a few well-directed

rounds from our batteries. The discomfited foe fled to Puebla, but could make no stand, and evacuated it on the following day. On the morning of the 15th of May the American troops entered Puebla, a city of 60,000 inhabitants, without resistance, where they halted, and proceeded to fortify the neighboring heights.

American Army at Puebla.

On the arrival of the advance corps of the army at Puebla, General Scott was overtaken by Mr. N. P. Trist, who had arrived from Washington with power to negotiate with the enemy for peace. Mr. Trist arrived at Jalapa on the 14th of May. The army accordingly lay in their quarters, while the dispatch brought by the envoy was forwarded to the city of Mexico. General Scott's available force had now been reduced to 6,000 men. He was in the heart of an enemy's country, numbering 8,000,000 of souls, and occupying a city of 60,000 inhabitants. In his rear lay the road to the Gulf, whose waters were 200 miles distant, and the way infested by robbers and guerrilla parties in untold numbers. In front lay the Mexican army, under Santa Anna, the great body of the Mexi-

can population, and in the midst of all, the city of Mexico, with its 200,000 inhabitants, and protected by natural and artificial defences of the strongest kind.

There was a sublimity of daring in this position of the American army seldom paralleled. Yet its commander occupied it with unconquerable self-reliance; steadily contemplating, all the while, the still more hazardous experiment of an advance upon the city of Mexico.

General Scott availed himself of the delays of the negotiation to collect information in regard to the routes to the capital, the character of its defences, and otherwise to prepare for the perilous enterprise he had undertaken. Meantime, reinforcements were pushed up from Vera Cruz under great difficulties.

The succors were annoyed by the incessant attacks of the strong guerrilla parties that hovered on the road. In addition to these, the Mexican General Valencia, had come up from San Luis Potosi with 4,000 troops, and 10 pieces of artillery, to assail our rear, and intercept our supplies. The roads were blockaded, the bridges blown up, and parties of the enemy lay in

From Puebla.—Advance on the City of Mexico.

The negotiations of Mr. Trist having failed, General Scott determined to break up his camp at Puebla, and advance at once on the city of Mexico, 90 miles distant. He issued his orders accordingly, and on the 7th of August the columns of General Twiggs, headed by Scott in person, were put in motion. The divisions of Quitman, Worth, and Pillow, followed at intervals of a day each. The whole army of General Scott, thus moving upon the great road to the capital, numbered 10,700 men. With this small force did he attempt, and accomplish, the conquest of Mexico. Colonel Childs was left at Puebla, as governor, with 3,000 men, almost two-thirds of whom were in the hospitals. All military connection with the coast was now broken; all chance of retreat cut off, and Scott advanced on the Mexican capital, relying solely on his

own skill and the invincibility of his troops. In reference to this daring and heroic movement, GENERAL CASS shortly afterward pronounced the following eloquent eulogium in the Senate of the United States: "The movement of our army from Puebla was one of the most romantic and remarkable events which has ever occurred in the military annals of our country. Our troops voluntarily cut off all communication with their own country, advanced with stout hearts, but feeble numbers, into the midst of a hostile people. The eyes of twenty millions of our countrymen were fixed upon this devoted band. They were lost to us for fifty days. But the cloud that hid them from our view at length broke, and disclosed to us our glorious flag waving in the breezes that drifted over the valley of the city of Mexico."

Scott arrives in Sight of the City of Mexico.

Within a week after leaving Puebla, our army lay upon the crest of the hills that surround and overlook the city of Mexico, which lies within this circular barrier as in the bottom of a basin. The picturesque appearance of the city, the novelty and beauty of the circumjacent country, the extraordinary circumstances and hazards of our position, created in every breast an

indescribable conflict of emotions, as the scene burst upon the view. The bracing atmosphere came in aid of the natural excitement of the occasion and the spectacle, and filled all with an exhilaration of spirit that vastly enhanced the interest with which they looked down upon the city they had come to conquer.

Position of Scott's Army before the City of Mexico.

On the 18th of August Scott had, by a difficult and skilful movement, abandoned the road by which he came from Puebla, and on which Santa Anna had planted some of his strongest defences, and had thrown his army around the shores of the lake, upon the great western road leading from the Pacific to the capital. Here, at San Augustine, nine miles from Mexico, General Scott established his head-quarters. The city was surrounded by two exterior lines of fortifications of great strength, and defended by Santa Anna, at the head of a well-appointed army, 30,000 strong.

Immediately in front of our army, lay the fortified village of San Antonio. To the left, was the hill of Contreras, fortified by batteries. Nearer to the city, on the road by which our troops were approaching, lay the village of Churubusco. These points were all strongly garrisoned, and defended by sixty-one pieces of artillery. The 17th, 18th, and 19th of August had been passed in laborious efforts to acquire

a full knowledge of the enemy's position, and lay the foundations for an effective attack. The 19th especially had been passed in severe exertions of the officers and men. Several skirmishes had taken place, and an action of three hours with the force on the hill of Contreras had been terminated without any marked result. The troops had worked and suffered prodigiously. To add to the discouragement of the day, the rain began to fall, and the night closed chill, wet, and dreary. It was passed in suffering and deep anxiety. The troops got no rest, but stood crowded together, drenched and benumbed, waiting for daylight. The officers met at the quarters of General Scott.

There was despondency and apprehension. "But," says an eye-witness, "the confidence of all was restored by the great coolness and steadiness of the commander-in-chief. As the officers came in from the field, wet, fatigued, and weary, he made them all partake of a cheerful repast. His bearing was most noble. It exalted the spirits of all present."

Battle of Contreras.

The attack on Contreras had been admirably planned by the commander-in-chief, and on the morning of the 20th, at three o'clock, it was assailed in front and rear. The position was defended by General Valencia, commanding 7,000 of the veteran troops of Mexico. But so effectively had our forces been disposed, and so sudden and vehement was the attack, that the enemy was driven headlong from his intrenchments in an in-

credibly short space of time. In this engagement, 4,500 of American troops drove 7,000 Mexicans out of their strongholds, and pursued them with immense slaughter. The results of the battle were gigantic. Seven hundred of the enemy were killed, and eight hundred taken prisoners. Twenty-two pieces of artillery were captured, besides seven hundred mules, and an immense quantity of small arms, shot, shells,



Battle of Contreras.

and ammunition. But the chief brilliancy of the achievement consisted in the superior skill and strategy displayed by General Scott in planning and exe-

cuting it. The loss of the Americans was but sixty killed and wounded.

Fall of San Antonio.

The storming of Contreras enabled our troops to turn the enemy's rear at San Antonio, and opened the way to the village of Churubusco, five miles distant. The garrison of San Antonio, instead of awaiting an

attack, immediately evacuated their position, after witnessing the capture of Contreras, and hastened to fall back upon Churubusco.

Great Battle of Churubusco.

The scattered forces of the enemy, driven from Contreras and San Antonio, had concentrated themselves upon Churubusco, in aid of that strong and important position. Other troops had also flocked to it, and Santa Anna's entire disposable force was intrenched in and near that village. At least twenty-five thousand Mexicans, strongly posted, here awaited the onset of our army. As the American troops moved to the attack, a most terrific fire was opened upon them both by infantry and artillery, along the whole extended line of the enemy. Several of the advanced companies of artillery, being precipitated upon a principal point of the defence (San Pablo), were almost entirely swept away by the tremendous cannonade they had to encounter. Torrents of flame rolled down from the enemy's fortifications, ravaging our ranks with a deluge of slaughter. For more than three hours was the great tide of battle successfully resisted by the enemy. Their murderous fire was, however, returned by our troops with unflagging energy and desperate resolution. The attack was at length pressed with such impetuosity that the Mexican left began to waver. Lieutenant-colonel Scott, heading two regiments of infantry, here made a furious assault upon the strongest of the enemy's works (the tête-de-pont), and carried it at the point of the bayonet, after

a most obstinate conflict. The main body of the Mexican infantry soon after gave way before the assailants.

Still one portion of the field was contested with fierce determination. But all resistance finally succumbed before the irresistible valor of our troops. As the last stronghold of the enemy yielded, General Scott, who had been wounded in the action by a grape-shot, made his appearance in that quarter, and was greeted with deafening cheers by his brave troops, now triumphant at all points. This memorable battle began soon after noon, and did not end till sunset. The loss of the Americans in killed, wounded, and missing, was 1,056. That of the Mexicans was 4,000 in killed and wounded, and 2,637 prisoners. It is conceded by the best military authorities, that this decisive victory was chiefly owing to the prompt and masterly arrangements of the commander-in-chief, both before and during the engagement, and that to him, therefore, belongs the principal credit of this most glorious achievement of the American arms. But besides the military skill exhibited on the whole of this bloody day, ending with this terrible battle, General Scott displayed all the fire and heroic temper of his youth. The brilliant genius and courage that impelled his great efforts at Chippewa and Lundy's Lane, here blazed out afresh, with renewed lustre. The conta-



Battle of Churubusco.

gion of his example of lofty courage and impetuous enthusiasm, spread through and fired the whole army. Never did General Scott's noble appearance and conduct produce a greater influence upon his men than on this memorable day. Mounted on a fiery charger, in the midst of his conquering troops, directing in person all the brilliant evolutions of the various divisions of the army, dashing from column to column amid the pitiless peltings of the iron hail, and the ringing

shouts of the victors, and dispatching his orders in all directions with unparalleled celerity; the illustrious commander-in-chief, covered with the smoke and dust of battle, and wounded in the desperate strife, was regarded by all as the guardian genius of the hour, the protecting ægis of the army, the unconquerable hero who was never vanquished, whose banners never trailed in defeat, but the sword of whose mighty arm always led the way to triumphant victory.

Scott grants an Armistice.

General Scott, by his brilliant initial and strategic movements before the city of Mexico, and by his subsequent decisive victories at Contreras and Churubusco, had displayed all the qualities of a gallant officer and a great military commander. He had opened the way to the city, and could have entered it sword in hand on the evening of the victory on the bloody field of Churubusco. But he now exhibited all the noble qualities of a generous and magnanimous mind. He refrained from pursuing the manifest advantages he had gained, and granted an armistice to the enemy.

He desired to save the further effusion of blood, and the city from the horrors of assault.

Santa Anna, however, with characteristic perfidy, only made use of General Scott's forbearance to strengthen the defences of the city, and to arouse the people to arms.

On the 6th of September, General Scott, having failed in his humane efforts to prevent the further waste of life, gave notice that the armistice would terminate on the following day, and made preparations to attack the city.

Battle of Molino del Rey.

Santa Anna had now stationed himself with his remaining forces on the outskirts of the city, at or near the hill of Chapultepec. This hill was very strongly fortified, and commanded the city, as well as several of its principal approaches. Its sides were craggy and precipitous, excepting the ascent from the city. On its summit stood a stone fortress of immense size and strength, called the castle. At its foot were strong defences. Among them was the "King's Mill" (Molino del Rey), a large stone building with thick and high walls, and towers at the ends. About 400 yards distant stood another thick-walled stone building,

called the *Casa de Mata*. Strongly posted at and about these two points, and between them, lay the army of Santa Anna, 14,000 strong. General Scott discerning that the "King's Mill" was employed as a foundry for the purpose of casting cannon, to be used in the defence of the city, determined to attack and destroy it, and break up the enemy's position preparatory to the storming of Chapultepec. The assault was intrusted to General Worth, who accomplished it in the most gallant manner on the 8th of September, but not without frightful loss. The positions at the King's Mill and *Casa de Mata* were defended with obstinate



Battle of Molino del Rey.

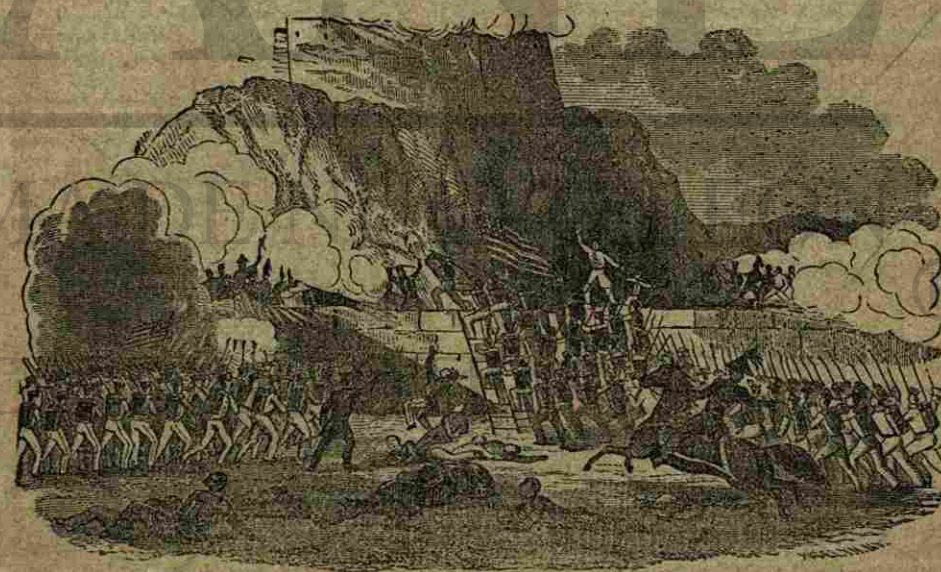
bravery, and only yielded at length to the desperate valor of our troops, who poured in under a hideous tempest of bullets and sulphur, and carried the works.

The victory, glorious as it was, was purchased at a ruinous sacrifice. It was, next to Lundy's Lane, one of the bloodiest battles recorded in American history. Nearly one-fourth of Worth's whole corps were either

killed or wounded. The American force engaged was 3,447, to 14,000 of the enemy. The Americans lost of their devoted band, in killed and wounded, 787.

Having accomplished his purpose, General Scott withdrew his troops to their quarters, and prepared to finish the reduction of the city by the capture of Chapultepec, the site of the ancient palaces of the Mexican monarchs.

Bombardment and Storming of Chapultepec.



Storming of Chapultepec.

On the morning of the 12th of September, General Scott, having placed his heavy batteries, opened them upon the castle that crowned the summit of the hill of Chapultepec, whither the enemy had retreated, and where he was now posted in full force. With the capture of this strong and commanding position, the city was destined to fall. The entire day was occupied in a tremendous cannonade on both sides. The spectacle was fearful. Our heavy ordnance thundered their point-blank shot through the walls of the castle with amazing force and precision. The mortars and howitzers belched their destructive missiles upon all parts of the fortress. Bombs burst in fury within the works. Every shell tore up the ramparts. The fire of the enemy was scarcely less furious. Night closed the scene. Early in the day of the 13th the signal for an assault by two detachments already detailed for the service, was given, and our brave troops moved forward to the attack. The stony and precipitous acclivities were but slowly mounted, yet the advance of the columns was unwavering, though made under

the hottest discharge of cannon and musketry. The first redoubt was carried amid loud acclamations. Pressing steadily on, our troops overcame the most determined resistance, dislodged the enemy at every point, and swept up the hill with prodigious energy, in the face of a desolating fire. Surrounding the castle on its crest, was a deep ditch, and stone walls 12 to 15 feet in height. Scaling-ladders were planted, and over these formidable ramparts, under a sheet of flame, our men poured with fierce intrepidity, filling the castle and overwhelming its defenders, who steadily and fiercely resisted to the last. The stars and stripes were flung out from its huge walls, while long-continued shouts and cheers announced its fall, and the entrance of the American army into the regal Halls of the Montezumas. In the language of General Scott, "No scene could have been more animating and glorious." Yet was the victory dearly purchased, by a further loss from our gallant corps of 800 killed and wounded.

Entrance into the City of Mexico.

The shouts that rent the air carried consternation to the enemy, and announced the impending fall of the city below. General Scott had arrived on the walls of the castle just as it had been carried, and after a glance at the position of things, determined at once to advance by two routes into the city. The columns of Quitman and Worth were ordered to move forward in separate detachments. Worth's division became engaged in a street fight in the suburbs, but forced its way and took up its quarters close upon the city.

Quitman advanced still further on another road, and after some hard fighting, encamped within the gates. On the whole of this eventful and glorious day Scott had displayed wonderful activity, and had been at all points where he could best give directions, animate the troops, or share in the conflicts of his brave comrades. In every place he exhibited the coolest self-command, united with the greatest vigilance and ardor. And now, as heretofore, in all the movements by which Mexico had at length fallen into his grasp,



Entrance into the Grand Plaza of Mexico.

he manifested a prudent care, a sagacious foresight, an unconquerable heroism, as well as the highest military genius.

During the night, Santa Anna, finding all further resistance vain, withdrew the remnant of his army from the city, and on the morning of the 14th our troops entered the Grand Plaza. The American flag was

hoisted from the top of the National Palace, and at the same moment, General Scott, dressed in full uniform, at the head of his staff, rode through the victorious columns, amidst the vociferous acclamations of the conquerors, while the band of the Second Regiment of Dragoons struck up the inspiring air of Yankee Doodle.

Pacification of the City.—Scott's Arduous Duties.

In a few days, such was General Scott's judicious conduct, quiet was restored in the city, and all classes resumed their wonted avocations, reposing the fullest confidence in the security afforded by our troops under their humane and Christian commander. To the institutions of religion, General Scott always paid in Mexico a profound respect. Though himself a Protestant, he nevertheless enjoined upon all under his command, a decent and respectful demeanor towards all the ministers and ceremonies of the Catholic Church, himself setting the example upon all proper occasions. He acted upon the rule of perfect toleration towards all who desire to engage in the worship of their Maker.

The losses sustained by the various engagements of the army after leaving Puebla, had now amounted to 2,700 men, leaving but 8,000 of rank and file under arms. Of these, 2,000 were sick and in garrison at the fortress of Chapultepec, so that 6,000 troops were all that were quartered within and held possession of the city. Yet with only this handful of men did General Scott remain in conscious security in the midst of a

hostile city of 200,000 inhabitants, and in the heart of an enemy's country containing a population of eight millions of souls.

Scott was now virtually the governor of Mexico. The country was conquered, and he became sole director of public affairs. The manner in which he performed the responsible duties that devolved upon him for five months after his entrance into the city, exhibits him as a man amply qualified for the discharge of the highest duties of statesmanship. His position was novel and difficult in the extreme. Yet he rose superior to the demands of his station, and treated the complicated concerns that now engrossed his attention with consummate skill and discretion. Alone he performed the duties of Commander-in-chief, President of the country, and Secretary of the Treasury. In no respect did he fail, and in no respect did he come short of the highest expectations of his government. It would be difficult to award any man higher praise than is due to Gen. Scott for his management of Mexican affairs after the termination of his military campaign.

Peace Restored.—Scott Recalled.

On the 2d of February, 1848, a treaty of peace was signed at Guadalupe-Hidalgo by the Mexican and American commissioners. A few days afterwards, General Scott received notice that he had been suspended in his command of the army, by the authorities at Washington. This piece of gross injustice to General Scott had been done by the administration of Mr. Polk on the most frivolous grounds. A court of inquiry was called and sat in Mexico to investigate the conduct of certain officers of the war, and also to consider the complaints against General Scott, on account of which he had been suspended. This court afterwards adjourned to Washington, and there, after a brief sitting, finished its inglorious labors. General Scott patiently underwent the examination of this body, and illustrated by his whole conduct before it, his strict obedience to, and deference for, the laws and the con-

stitutional authorities of the country. Nothing was developed by the inquiry to sustain in the least the premature and inexcusable action of the cabinet in suspending General Scott, and the court adjourned without doing any thing, except to order the publication of the proceedings. The whole transaction wore such an odious aspect, and exhibited such an ungrateful return towards a true-hearted and gallant officer, who had shed unexampled lustre upon our arms, that the members of the cabinet soon became anxious to let the whole proceeding drop into oblivion. It was an exhibition of petty malice against a brave officer, which offended the spirit of justice and shocked every generous heart. It was a wrong done to General Scott which the public voice universally condemned, and will ere long emphatically redress.

Scott's Triumphant Return.

On the 22d of May, 1848, General Scott arrived at his home in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Here he was met by a committee from the civil authorities of the city of New York, and invited to a public dinner in that metropolis. He accepted the invitation, and, escorted by a vast and imposing cavalcade, amid the roar of cannon and the waving of flags, and surrounded by dense and enthusiastic masses of his fellow-cit-

izens, entered the city and partook of its highest honors. For a while he remained at his headquarters in New York. In 1850 he was transferred to Washington, and took his place at the head of the army bureau, where he has since remained, and where he may now be daily seen in the industrious discharge of its multifarious duties; as constant in his attendance at business hours as any clerk of the department.

Personal Characteristics.

Here, at his place of business, visitors from all parts of the country throng to see the war-worn veteran without ceremony. He receives all in the most frank, engaging, and affable manner, and with an unfeigned and delightful cordiality; while at his own dwelling,

no man dispenses the hospitalities of life with a more genial and refreshing heartiness and liberality. He manifests on all occasions an unfailing flow of animal spirits, unsurpassed urbanity, and a generous and lofty tone of thought. He is opulent of story and anecdote,

affluent in language, singularly accurate of statement, possessing a marvellously retentive memory, and exhibiting an endless fertility of resource and suggestion on all colloquial topics. With one of the finest physical organizations ever given to man, he bids fair to attain great longevity. He has always lived a strictly temperate life, and so far a regular one, as could consist with his arduous and exposed public services. He suffers somewhat from the severe wound in his shoulder received at Lundy's Lane, the lurking British lead in his body being seemingly uneasy at not having yet

General Scott among his Soldiers.

General Scott was always a great favorite with the soldiers of the army in Mexico. They had unbounded confidence in his military knowledge and skill, and fully believed, what was the real truth, that he restrained himself with great difficulty from more often mingling in the dangers of the strife of arms, purely from considerations of duty to the army and his country; a duty which rigorously demanded of him to preserve his person from all unnecessary exposure. Yet did every man feel the firmest and most undoubted assurance, that if ever the time should come when it was necessary for the commanding general to lead his troops in person, in some dreadful emergency, that he would embrace the occasion with joyful alacrity, and cheerfully "lead a forlorn hope through a breach spouting with fire." It was this universal conviction that gave perfect confidence to our troops, and formed

performed its intended work. Yet he is remarkably hale, vigorous, and active, and may be seen any morning at sunrise making his daily pedestrian tour of the city of Washington, and providing at the market for the daily necessities of his household. May he long live; an ornament to his country, an example of the highest and most genial qualities of manhood, embellished by the blandishments of a gentlemanly demeanor, and dignified by a lofty tone of morals and an uprightness of personal character and habits, that not even the tongue of calumny has ever dared to assail.

the corner-stone of our unbroken successes in Mexico, by inspiring the courage and maintaining the spirit of the army up to the highest pitch. United to this feeling of confidence in the commander-in-chief, was that of love and affection for his person. The most touching evidence of the attachment of his comrades in arms was given on numerous occasions. General Scott was always, indeed, a great favorite with his soldiers; and he has those kindly feelings for all, which never fail to touch the chord of the human heart, and deeply endear him to all with whom he comes in contact. Many a tear has fallen at his meetings with his old comrades; and many a firm grasp of the hand given, both on the field of battle and after the perils of war have been followed by the blessings of peace.

Anecdote of the Battle of Chippewa.

The following authentic anecdote is told of the charge at Chippewa. When the British line had approached within about 100 yards of ours, an order was given by the British commander to "charge bayonet," accompanied by the aggravating remark, "the Yankees cannot stand cold iron!" General Scott heard the remark, and rushing at once to the front centre of

his brigade, exclaimed, "Soldiers! do you hear that! Show them that you are *TRU YANKERS*. Shoulder arms—wait for the word!" And when the enemy had approached within thirty paces, he gave the order in a loud and distinct voice, "Ready—fire! Charge bayonet—forward!"

Our Adopted Citizens.—Letters from General Scott.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your kind letter of the 8th instant, I take pleasure in saying that, grateful for the too partial estimate you place on my public services, you do me no more than justice in assuming that I entertain "kind and liberal views toward our naturalized citizens." Certainly, it would be impossible for me to recommend or support any measure intended to exclude them from a just and full participation in all civil and political rights now secured to them by our republican laws and institutions.

It is true, that in a season of unusual excitement, some years ago, when both parties complained of fraudulent practices in the naturalization of foreigners, and when there seemed to be danger that native and adopted citizens would be permanently arrayed against each other in hostile factions, I was inclined to concur in the opinion, then avowed by many leading statesmen, that some modification of the naturalization laws might be necessary in order to prevent abuses, allay strife, and restore harmony between the different classes of our people. But later experience and reflection have entirely removed this impression, and dissipated my apprehensions.

In my recent campaign in Mexico, a very large proportion of the men under my command were your countrymen (Irish, Germans, &c. I witnessed with

admiration their zeal, fidelity, and valor in maintaining our flag in the face of every danger. Vying with each other, and our native-born soldiers in the same ranks, in patriotism, constancy, and heroic daring, I was happy to call them brothers in the field, as I shall always be to salute them as countrymen at home.

I remain, dear sir, with great esteem, yours truly,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Wm. E. Robinson, Esq.

WASHINGTON, March 11, 1852.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your note inviting me to join you, at Philadelphia, in the celebration of the approaching St. Patrick's day—an honor which, I regret, the press of business obliges me to decline.

You do me but justice in supposing me to feel a lively interest in Ireland and her sons. Perhaps no man, certainly no American, owes so much to the valor and blood of Irishmen as myself. Many of them marched and fought under my command in the war of 1812-15, and many more—thousands—in the recent war with Mexico, not one of whom was ever known to turn his back upon the enemy or a friend.

I salute you, gentlemen, with my cordial respects,

(Signed) WINFIELD SCOTT.

R. Tyler, C. McCanlay, W. Dickson, P. W. Conroy, and J. McCann, Esqrs., Committee, &c., &c.

Honorable Testimonials.

That eminent divine and philanthropist Dr. Channing, speaks as follows in the preface to his *Lecture on War*, delivered in 1838:—

"Much, also, is due to the beneficent influence of General Scott. To this distinguished man belongs the rare honor of uniting with military energy and daring, the spirit of a philanthropist. His exploits in the field, which placed him in the first rank of soldiers, have been obscured by the purer and more lasting glory of a pacificator, and a friend of mankind. In the whole history of the intercourse of civilized communities, we doubt whether a brighter page can be found than that which records his agency in the removal of the Cherokees. As far as the wrongs done to this race can be atoned for, General Scott has made the expiation. In his recent mission to the disturbed borders of our country he has succeeded, not so much by policy as by the nobleness and generosity of his character, by moral influence, by the earnest conviction with which he has enforced, on all with whom he had to do, the obligations of patriotism, justice, humanity, and religion. It would not be easy to find among us a man who has won a purer fame."

In 1851 General Scott visited the valley of the Ohio and Mississippi to select the sites of several military asylums, of which he was the originator and founder, and for the endowment of which he applied a portion of the levy made by him upon the city of Mexico at the time of its capture. On this journey he was everywhere received by crowds of his fellow-citizens, who assembled to do him honor, and gratify their own desires to behold the man who had accomplished so much for his country, and was so endeared to its people. His visit throughout was a triumphal tour, made so by the unbought and spontaneous homage of his grateful and admiring countrymen; a tribute more valuable by far than the enforced plaudits of millions given to the occupants of official station.

Since the close of the Mexican campaign General Scott has received complimentary resolutions from the Congress of the United States, and from the States of Virginia, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Louisiana, for his valor and conduct in that memorable campaign. He has likewise received a gold medal of great beauty and value from Congress, silver medals from the State of Virginia and the city of New York, and a sword from the State of Louisiana, all in token of his distinguished services in Mexico.

Henry Clay, in the Senate of the United States, in 1850, spoke thus of General Scott and the Mexican war: "I must take this opportunity to say, that for skill—for science—for strategy—for bold and daring fighting—for chivalry of individuals and masses, that portion of the Mexican war which was conducted by the gallant Scott as chief commander, stands unrivalled either by the deeds of Cortez himself, or by those of any other commander in ancient or modern times."

The Duke of Wellington, in an autograph letter addressed to the Governor of Virginia, under date of December 12, 1851, thus wrote:

LONDON, December 12, 1851.

"Sir:—I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 12th November, and the bronze copy of the beautiful gold medal voted by the State

of Virginia to Major-general Winfield Scott, in testimony of the sense entertained by the State of his great and distinguished services in command of the army in the war in Mexico.

I am very sensible of the distinction conferred upon me by your Excellency's notice of me upon this occasion.

In common with the world at large, I read with admiration the reports of the operations of General Scott, and I sincerely rejoice that the State of Virginia has noticed them by this token of its admiration.

I beg to express my thanks for the honor conferred upon me by sending me this beautiful copy in bronze of the gold medal struck by command of the State in honor of General Winfield Scott, as well as for the kind expressions towards myself personally by which your Excellency has accompanied the gift.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient and humble servant.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

His Excellency John B. Floyd, Gov. of the State of Virginia.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, former Secretary of State, addressed a public meeting at Delaware city, on April 17, when he said, that General Scott possessed a clear judgment and enlightened mind respecting the political affairs of the country; that he was a lawyer by education, having left his profession in early life to serve the nation as a soldier; that he was well instructed in the constitutional law and history of the Union, and acquainted with international jurisprudence; that, while he was the able general, he was also an accomplished scholar and publicist; and that he was competent, in point of intellectual strength and acquirements, to fill, with credit to himself and advantage to the country, the high post of its chief magistrate. In referring to his services, Mr. Clayton said he had fought more battles than any other American general, and achieved more victories; his blood had flowed freely, his life had been perilled over and over again for the people; his military career, from first to last, was a continuous exhibition of devotion to the welfare and glory of that country whose fame he had made illustrious through the world. And yet he has been less rewarded than any other public servant. Nay, he has been cruelly wronged, aspersed, persecuted, by men who were jealous of his high merits and his deserved popularity. Mr. Clayton here spoke of the sudden and unjust recall of General Scott from the scene of his brilliant triumphs in Mexico, by President Polk, to be arraigned before a petty court martial, convened to try him on contemptible charges. Some persons pretended to accuse him of being a haughty, imperious, and violent man. Did he exhibit such a temper, asked Mr. Clayton, under the injustice of the government? What other man, exposed to the same provocation, would have submitted with equal patience and loyalty to Executive wrong and abuse? What other man, situated as he was at the time, at the head of a victorious, devoted army, in the full flush of triumph and conquest, would have resisted so nobly, so firmly, the natural promptings of an outraged, incensed spirit, and laid down without hesitation the high command he held, and returned at once to obey the orders of the government? Did this show haughtiness or rebelliousness? Nay, more than this, said Mr. Clayton—and he desired that all would mark well the statement, for he made it on re-

able authority—at the very moment when General Scott was so cruelly, unjustly summoned to Washington, at the close of that brilliant series of successes which he crowned with the capture of the city of Mexico, he was tendered the Presidency of the republic, he had conquered, and offered the immediate possession of a million and a quarter of dollars, if he would accept the position. But no. Under the keen pangs of the in-

gratitude with which the administration of his own country was visiting him, he refused the glittering prize, clung with undiminished love and fidelity to the land he had served so long and so well, and proceeded to the national capital to meet, with all the loyalty of a patriotic citizen, even the rancor and injustice of those who were envious of his laurels and eager to injure and degrade him.

Conclusion.

We have thus rapidly traced the career of Winfield Scott. Our limits have confined us to a brief narrative of the leading events of his life. Many details of an interesting nature, but of subordinate character, we have been reluctantly constrained to omit. Yet we trust to have succeeded in giving a correct and connected, though succinct, recital of the more important acts in the life of this illustrious patriot, acts which have made the name of Winfield Scott famous throughout the world, and shed a refulgence over forty years of his country's history that will endure forever. Our brief chronicle is indeed lustrous with deeds the American heart will ever cherish with fond admiration, and which the lapse of time will never efface from the pages of history, or obliterate from the recollection of our remotest posterity.

If there be those who are inclined to regard General Scott simply as a great and successful soldier, we think a perusal of these pages will dispel all such unjust impressions. So to consider him, is to take a very limited and imperfect view of his life, actions, and public services. Educated to the law, residing for more than a quarter of a century at the metropolis of the Union, in the habit of daily intercourse with the eminent statesmen of the country, and frequently a partner and counsellor in their deliberations, he has enjoyed peculiar advantages for mastering the art of American statesmanship, and familiarizing himself with all the workings of our admirable system of government. The glare of his military reputation has, to the superficial observer, thrown into the shade many of his most noble and valuable traits of character, and too often turned public attention from the many proofs which his career affords of his masculine intellect and comprehensive understanding. In beholding the great commander, many have omitted to observe the evidences of the great man. But no one who has carefully examined General Scott's history will fail to recognize the most distinguished claims to personal distinction, independently of his military talents, or

deny to him the possession of mental endowments of the very first order. In exactness of mind, in breadth and clearness of intellectual vision, in accuracy and tenacity of memory, in knowledge of men, and in unerring soundness of judgment, General Scott has no superior among our public men. He has, on numerous public occasions of importance given the most signal and convincing proofs of pre-eminent abilities and superior qualifications for the conduct of civil affairs. In his settlement of the North Eastern Boundary difficulties, in his management and control of the border troubles on the Canada frontier, in his judicious treatment of South Carolina affairs when nullification was threatened, and above all, in his masterly conduct in the discharge of his arduous and perplexing duties in the removal of the Cherokees, he displayed administrative abilities of the highest character, and manifested transcendent qualifications for the management of great and delicate national concerns. His entire conduct in all of these embarrassing exigencies was marked by sound sense, an unflinching discretion, and consummate wisdom.

Happy will it be for our country, if its candidates for the Presidency shall always be able to point to so illustrious a record of deeds that attest wise statesmanship, as the civil career of General Scott affords! The lives of but few of our public men are embellished with so many tokens and evidences of their capacity to treat great national questions with skill and judgment, as adorn the civic experience of Winfield Scott. To doubt his capacity, therefore, and eminent fitness for any station in the government, however exalted, is to confess ignorance of the man and his history; or be wilfully blind to the distinguishing characteristics of one whose celebrity is world-wide, who has not only shown himself to be a commander of comprehensive capacity and consummate genius; a soldier, without fear and without reproach; but a civilian, conciliatory, energetic, and wise; a man, pure, noble, generous, and humane.

For a FULL LIFE of this illustrious Statesman and Soldier, see "MANFIELD'S LIFE OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT," an authentic work of 536 pages, by the author of "History of the Mexican War," published by A. S. BARNES & Co., No. 51 John-street, New York.





UAB

UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE BUARAMANGA

SECRETARÍA GENERAL DE BIBLIOTECAS



100