

THE
MEXICAN
WAR

E. D. MANSFIELD

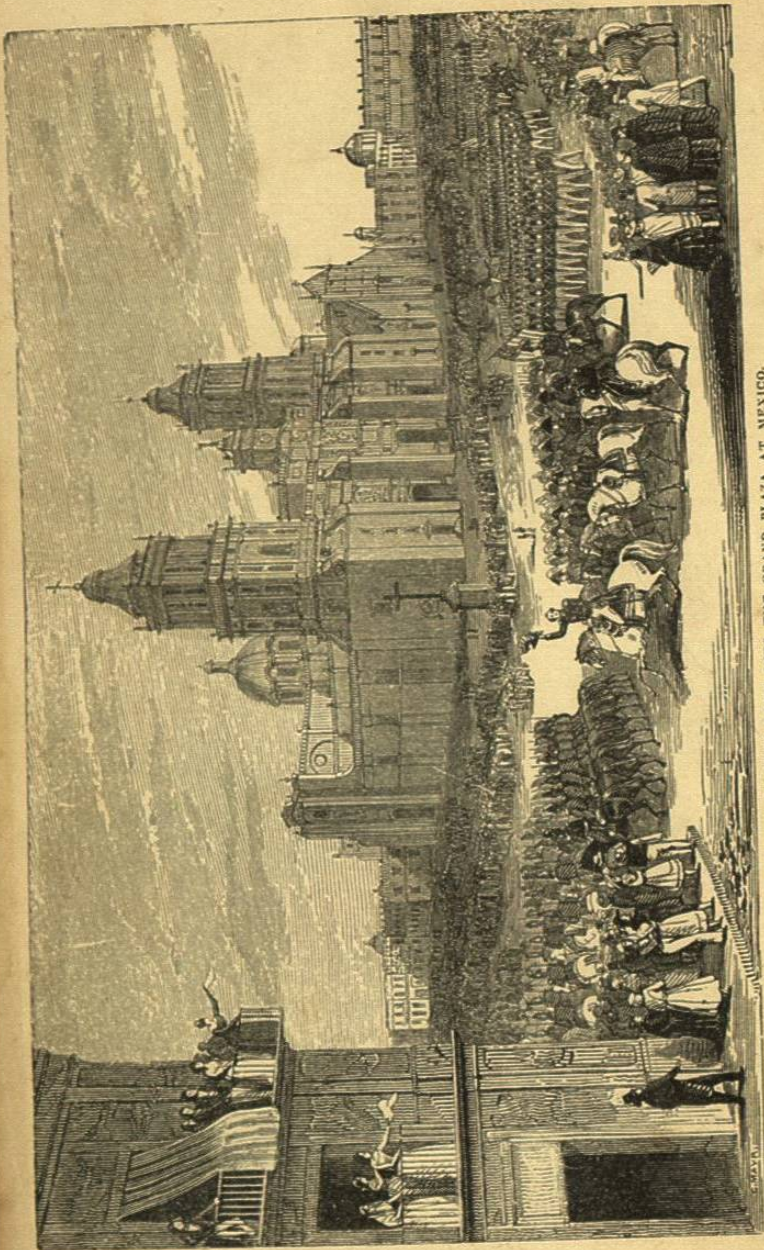


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ENTRANCE OF THE ARMY INTO THE GRAND PLAZA AT MEXICO.

THE MEXICAN WAR;

HISTORY OF ITS ORIGIN.

DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE
MILITARY OPERATIONS, AND
THE TREATY OF PEACE,
AND THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COUNTRY.

BY EDWARD W. MOSELEY,

NEW YORK
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AND

A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE VICTORIES WHICH TERMINATED IN
THE SURRENDER OF THE CAPITAL; WITH THE OFFICIAL
DESPATCHES OF THE GENERALS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE TREATY OF PEACE,
AND VALUABLE TABLES OF THE STRENGTH AND LOSSES OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY.

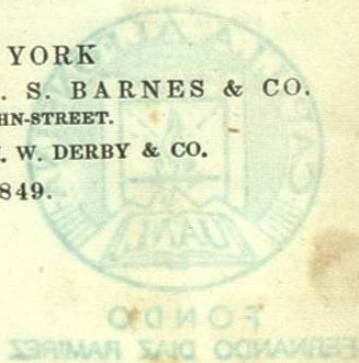
BY EDWARD D. MANSFIELD,
GRADUATE OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

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FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

PREFACE.

It has been wisely remarked by a distinguished American statesman, that "the commencement of the Mexican War was the opening of a new volume of American history."

Nations, like individuals, are often borne along in their progress, without pausing to consider the particular acts which are to shape and control their future destiny; and perhaps there is no subject on which the public mind is less likely to act with caution and deliberation than on the momentous question of peace or war.

The present Mexican war is a striking illustration of this principle. It would appear, from the public documents, that neither the President nor Congress anticipated it until hostilities had actually commenced, and it may well be doubted if either can see the consequences which yet may flow from it.

To pause, therefore, and review the past, to examine into all the causes which have led to the unhappy estrangement of two sister Republics,

has seemed a fitting introduction to the narration of those military achievements which now form a part of the history of the country.

We have felt no pleasure in tracing the causes which led to this war, and certainly none in contemplating its progress and looking forward to its final consequences. But when we pass to the army, and behold the brilliant results obtained with such small means, against such immense superiority of force, and see the high military skill of the commanding officers sustained by the courage and heroism of the troops, we feel a just pride in describing their actions and recording their deeds.

In the preparation of this work great care has been taken to select the most reliable sources of information.

Those who have taken part in the stirring scenes which are described must have viewed them from different positions, and an honest difference of opinion in regard even to facts will sometimes be found to exist. But the description of the great movements and battles is based on public documents, despatches, and orders, which must ever be the material of a reliable history of a war.

Cincinnati, January, 1848.



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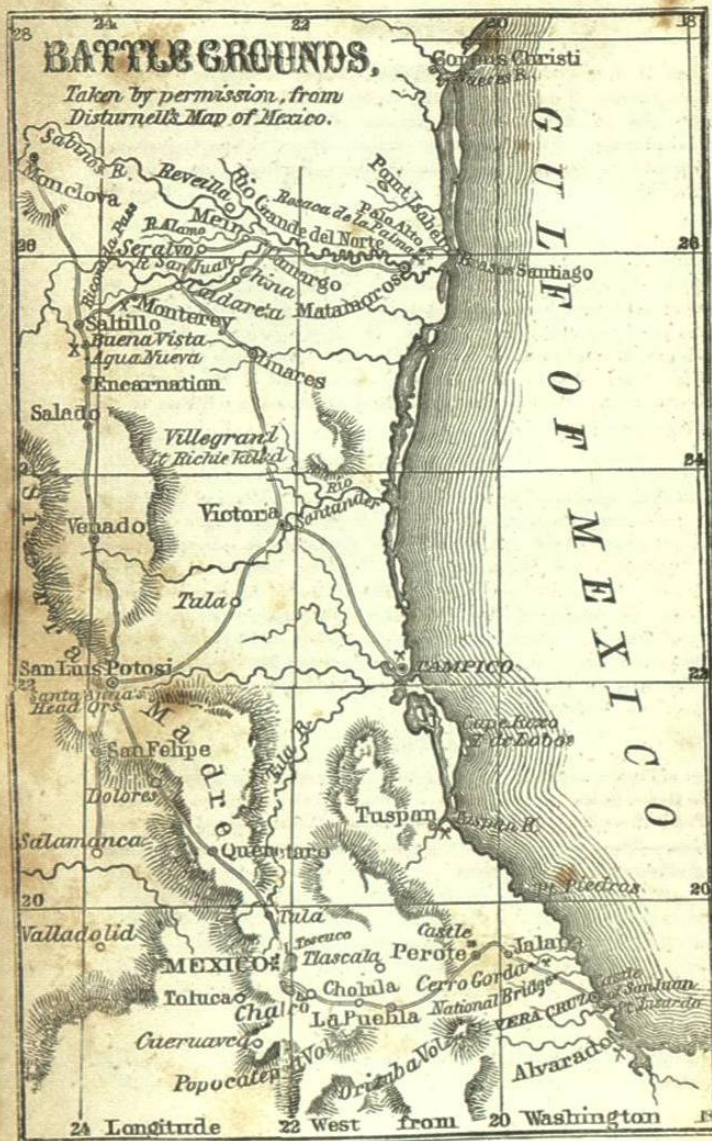
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MEXICAN WAR.

CHAPTER I.

Origin of the War with Mexico.—Settlement of Texas.—Declaration of Independence.—Santa Anna's Treaty.—Movement towards Annexation.—Correspondence of Bocanegra.—Declaration of Almonte.—Mr. Calhoun's reasons.—Lord Aberdeen's Declaration.—The Tyler Treaty.—The Joint Resolution.—Departure of Almonte.—General Taylor ordered to Texas.—Strength of the Army at Corpus Christi.

TILL quite recently, the immense territory extending from the Sabine to the Rio Grande was comparatively uninhabited. Comprehending a space large enough for an empire, and within the mildest part of the temperate zone, it was yet too remote from the inhabitants of ancient Mexico on one hand, or from those of the northern Atlantic States on the other, to be reached and cultivated at an earlier period by the adventurous and advancing settlers of America. The country belonged to Mexico, but was hardly possessed by her people. A few towns immediately east of the Rio Grande, and an occasional village or settlement in the interior—such as Antonio de Bexar, Goliad, and Nacogdoches—were the only marks of improvement which indicated the civilization of the white man, or the dominion of Mexico. Nor did the aboriginal inhabitants appear much more numerous. The Camanches of the northern districts, and a few scattered and fleeting tribes,