

General Jackson, in 1832, appointed him Colonel, and sent him into the "Black Hawk war." In July General Atkinson arrived at the scene of action with 2500 men, including 400 under Colonel Taylor. When the Indians retreated into the wilderness, 1300 men under Taylor were ordered in pursuit. They overtook them near the junction of the Mississippi and Iowa rivers, where a desperate conflict ensued, in which the savages were totally routed. Taylor soon captured Black Hawk and ended the war.

Taylor was afterwards ordered to Fort Crawford, at Prairie du Chien, and remained there until 1836, when he was called to assist in the Seminole war in Florida, which commenced in 1835. All efforts failed to bring the savages to subjection until December, 1837, when Colonel Taylor, with 1100 men, left Fort Gardner in pursuit. December 25th, he was attacked by a large body of Indians with rifles in ambuscade. The battle was fierce and bloody. The volunteers, at first, began to give way as their leaders fell, but the regulars pressed on. This battle of "Okee-cho-bee" continued an hour, when the Indians retired, but were hotly pursued. The savages exhibited the greatest bravery. Our loss was 14 officers and 120 privates killed or wounded.

This broke the power of the war. Many Indians surrendered to our men, and the scene of bloodshed gradually terminated. Taylor soon received the rank of Brevet-Brigadier-General, and in April, 1838, was appointed to the command of our troops in Florida. He remained two years longer, and then, at his request, was recalled.

Afterwards he was appointed to the command of the First Department of the U. S. Army in the South-west. His headquarters were at Fort Jesup until 1841, when he was ordered to Fort Gibson. He remained there about five years, when, in 1845, he was ordered to Texas, in anticipation of her annexation to the United States.

The remainder of General Taylor's triumphant career is described in the following pages. He has proved himself to be one of the bravest and most skilful generals of modern times.

BATTLES OF MEXICO.

Various circumstances contributed to produce this war. In the first place the government of the U. S. had certain claims against Mexico, acknowledged by the latter, but not cancelled. Next, the people of Texas, having formed themselves into an independent government maintained that independence eight years, were desirous of being annexed to the United States. In order to accomplish this object, as Mexico was opposed to it, it was agreed between our government and that of Texas, that the former should send upon the borders of Texas, an armed force sufficient to put down any opposition from Mexico. Accordingly Zachary Taylor, Col. of the 6th Regiment of Infantry, was appointed to take command of these forces. He repaired to Fort Jessup, Louisiana, and found that post garrisoned by seven companies of the 2d regiment of Dragoons, under the command of Col. D. E. Twiggs. May 10th, 1844, eight companies of the 3d Regiment of Infantry, stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, repaired to the same place, commanded by Lieutenant Col. E. A. Hitchcock. Their encampment was called Camp Wilkins. Eight companies of the 4th Regiment from Jefferson Barracks, went, May 13, to Grand Ecore on the Red River, under the command of Colonel Vose. Z. Taylor, with the title of Brevet Brigadier General,

arrived at Fort Jessup about the middle of June. April, 1845 two companies arrived from Fort Leavenworth, making 25 companies in all of what was called the "army of observation." It having been voted by Congress (Feb. 1845), to annex Texas to the United States, and as the people of that State in convention, would meet, and probably accept the proposition of annexation in July, it was thought best for the army of observation to be prepared to move to the western frontier of Texas if necessary. Accordingly it proceeded to New Orleans in July 1845, ready to embark to any requisite point.

While at that city Col. J. H. Vose of the 4th Infantry died in a fit, which cast a gloom over his associates in arms. July 23d a part of the force set sail for Corpus Christi, (generally called Kinney's Ranch," situated on the western shore of Corpus Christi Bay) and arrived July 31. Many interesting incidents and some spirited battles have occurred at this military post, between the Mexicans and Texans, in which Santa Anna acted a prominent part; but we must not tarry to describe them here. The army now was no longer called "army of observation;" but the "army of occupation." In August the aspect of affairs began to be menacing, and it was expected that Mexico would soon declare war. General Arista, was at Monterey with a considerable Mexican force, and there was another at Matamoras. In the mean time new companies from the United States occasionally arrived.

Sept. 12th, the steamer Dayton, having on board several officers and soldiers, burst her boilers, on her way to St. Joseph's Island, and eight lost their lives in a most distressing manner. In September General Worth with six companies, and Major Ringgold with his company of horse-

and others, arrived at the camp. By the middle of October 1845 the army of occupation consisted of 251 officers 3671 privates, total 3922. These were on the coast, and there were about 150 in the interior.

Texas claimed the land to the River Rio Grande. and General Taylor was ordered, in Feb. 1846, to move the army to some point on that river. In March it accordingly started, having been at Corpus Christi seven months and eleven days. March 16th Col. Twiggs met the advance guard of the enemy and was ordered to advance no further. He returned to the army and reported. Nothing however, was seen of the enemy again until our forces reached the banks of the Colorado, the passage of which was strongly disputed. The Mexican forces were drawn up on the opposite bank, and declared that they would fire upon our forces if they attempted to cross. General Taylor told them, that as soon as the bank was cut down for the train to pass, the first Mexican that he saw after our men entered the river would be shot. At this they fled. The Adjutant general, Gen. Mejia, the commanding officer at Matamoras, handed a paper to General Taylor informing him, that if he crossed they would have a fight; but no opposition appeared. The order of march as our army drew nearer Point Isabel was in four columns, the Dragoons on the right and the 3d Brigade on the left. Before arriving, however, it was ascertained that the place was deserted by the enemy and that all the buildings but one were burned. Our army were then ordered to direct their march towards Matamoras and General Worth encamped 12 miles from that place. General Taylor proceeded to point Isabel and the steamers and provisions arrived at the same time. While a deputation of fifty armed citizens of Matamoras, protesting

there against our occupying the country. The general told them that he would answer them at Matamoras. Defences were ordered to be constructed at the Point and Major Monroe appointed Commander of the port. March 25th, General Worth proceeded three miles farther, to Palo Alto and waited for General Taylor. March 28th, the army moved towards Matamoras, which is on the Rio Grande, arriving opposite the city about 11 A. M. Two of our advanced guard were taken prisoners by the Mexicans, and the horse of a boy who was a bugler; which excited our men considerably. About two hundred Mexicans were to be seen and their colours flying in various places. General Worth was ordered to answer the deputation which visited Gen. Taylor at Point Isabel. The Mexicans for some time would not send a boat across the river: but at last one came with an officer. General Worth sent him back saying that he wished to see the commanding officer. Gen. Mejia said that he would neither receive General Worth or General Taylor's communication. Mejia sent General La Vega and Worth crossed the river and the interview took place on the Mexican side. La Vega said that the Mexicans considered us as invaders. Nothing of importance was accomplished by the interview. A flag was soon raised by our army on the banks of the Rio Grande. It was thought that the Mexican force, at this post was fifteen hundred. March 26th it was feared that our forces would be attacked at night and they were ordered to sleep upon their arms. Capt. May with a squadron of the 2nd Dragoons marched to Point Isabel (27 miles) in four hours to reinforce the garrison. On the first of April Gen. Taylor demanded the release of the captured Dragoons and they were returned with their equipments. It is surprising that several of our men deserted and went over to the enemy. Some or

them were shot, who attempted to swim the river. News arrived, April 9th that Mr. Slidell, United States minister to Mexico having given up all hope of opening negotiations had left the city and returned to the U. S.

BATTLE OF MATAMORAS.

General Ampudia, who had superseded Arista, arrived from the South the 11th of April and ordered General Taylor to leave in 24 hours or he should consider us as having declared war against Mexico. Taylor answered that he did not wish for 24 hours but would return an answer at 10 o'clock the next day. He told Ampudia that he was sent there by his government in a peaceful attitude and he *intended to remain*, and warned Ampudia against firing the first gun. Lieutenant Porter, while out in pursuit of Col. Cross, who was supposed to be killed was attacked by some Mexicans and slain. Col. Cross was afterwards found murdered. April 26th an ambush was laid for a company of our men and 2 sergeants and 8 privates were killed in an engagement with the enemy.

There was every appearance of a general and speedy attack. General Taylor sent a requisition on the governors of Louisiana and Texas for 5000 men. April 25th General Arista arrived at the scene of action. April 28th Capt. Walker's camp was attacked by Generals Torrejon and Canales, being stationed midway between Point Isabel and Matamoras. 5 of his men were killed and 4 missing, he having gone out with some of his force on a scout. April 29th it was thought that the Point was attacked as cannon was heard in that direction, and a portion of the

army marched immediately in that direction. The report was false as there had been no attack.

May 3rd the batteries from Matamoras opened upon our camp at day-break with great energy. The battle was fierce for a while and in 30 minutes all the heavy gun batteries of the enemy were silenced by our artillery. The enemy threw many shells; but without effect.

BATTLE OF MATAMORAS.

BATTLE OF PALO ALTO.

Most of our forces were at Point Isabel and in that vicinity though some were opposite Matamoras. General Taylor, May 7th directed the army to march in the direction of Matamoras. It started at 3, P. M. having a valuable train of provisions and munitions of war. Six twelve-pounders were in the wagons and a battery of two eighteen pounders was drawn by oxen. The forces were under the command of Lieut. Churchill. On the morning of the 8th the enemy were observed less than a mile distant, occupying a front of about a mile and a half. The general formed his men in column of attack and permitted them to go half at a time and get water to fill their canteens, as they had marched twelve miles that day and suffered from heat and thirst. Our army moved on with firmness to meet the enemy, and when within 700 yards the enemy opened their fire from a battery on the right. The right wing of our army

was composed of the fifth Infantry on the right, Ringgold's Artillery, the 3rd Infantry, Churchill's eighteen pound battery and 4th Infantry and commanded by Col. Twiggs. The left wing composed of Duncan's Artillery and the 8th Infantry was commanded Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Belknap. Ringgold's and Duncan's batteries advanced and commenced firing. The enemy fired continually but not with much precision. Their cavalry move on the left and then three batteries placed in a line at a considerable distance from each other and bodies of infantry between, making a long line of battle. Ringgold's battery made dreadful havoc, cutting down almost whole platoons at once. The two eighteen pounders roared tremendously and the cavalry of the enemy soon began to retire, at first in a trot and then in a gallop. A movement of the enemy's flank, composed of Cavalry one thousand strong, endangered our train and was promptly met by a section of Ringgold's battery under Lieut. Ridgeway and the fifth and third Infantry. They were received by 5th in a square and twenty of them were killed from the fire of an angle. When the enemy saw the 3rd Infantry advancing in column by division, they fled with rapidity. On the left Duncan cut them down in great numbers and the shout of our men could be heard above the cannon's roar. Our left wing, particularly the 8th Infantry, suffered from the fire of the enemy, being in a column instead of being deployed in a line. In the midst of the battle the prairie took fire and enveloped the armies in smoke. The firing commenced at 3 P. M. and ceased for a time at 4 P. M. Then Ringgold's battery and the eighteen pounders were pushed round to the left flank of the enemy and the 4th Infantry and 1st Brigade moved up to their aid. the firing soon commenced

again and the enemy were obliged to change their line of battle. At this moment Duncan poured a tremendous fire into their right flank and threw it into the greatest confusion. As night approached the firing gradually ceased on both sides. The enemy had been driven from his position and forced to retire, and our army were left victors upon the battle ground. We had only nine killed, forty-four wounded and two missing. Major Ringgold, Captain Page, Lieutenants Luther, 2nd Artillery and Wallen, 4th Infantry were wounded. Major Ringgold received a shot while sitting on his horse, which carried away the flesh on his legs from his knees up and passed through the withers of his horse. The lower jaw of Capt. Page was shot off. Lieut. Wallen received a slight wound in the arm and Lieut. Luther in the calf of the leg. The Assistant Adjutant General, Capt. Bliss and Lieut. Daniels had their horses shot under them. Our wounded suffered much during the night. General Arista commanded the enemy having 6000 men and our force consisted of 2211. Thus ended the famous battle of Palo Alto.

May 9th the enemy, at day break, moved along the borders of the chaparral and it was supposed that they intended to occupy the road and prevent our farther progress. It was decided that we should attack them, and after the train was suitably guarded, our army moved forward soon after sunrise. It was found that the enemy were rapidly retreating. In going over the battle field the scene was awful. There were at least five hundred of the enemy killed and wounded. It would seem that enough had already been done to settle the difficulty between the two nations but a nation's pride is not easily satisfied. This was but the commencement of bloody scenes. Gen. Taylor ordered our men to take care of the wounded among the enemy

wherever found, as carefully as our own wounded. At 1 P.M. our army moved on.

BATTLE OF RESACA DE LA PALMA.

Capt. G. A. McCall was sent forward with one hundred picked men to reconnoitre. He found that the enemy had selected a favorable position and were waiting for our advance. McCall had a slight brush with them and returned. Our forces were deployed to the right and left of the road as skirmishers. Capt. McCall's command were ordered to advance and draw the fire of the enemy. The latter were on the opposite bank of a ravine concave towards us and their batteries were so arranged as to sweep the road and every approach through the chaparral. McCall received the fire of the enemy and Lieut. Ridgely, successor to Ringgold, was ordered forward with his battery. The battle commenced with fury. Frequently were bayonets crossed, they were in such close proximity. The enemy gave way slowly, but fought like tigers, for every inch of ground. The chaparral was so thick that our regiments were mixed; but fought not the less bravely. Ridgely at one time, had a body of lancers come done upon him, with tremendous force, when he had but one piece unlimbered. Sergeant Kearnes put a load of canister on the top of a shell and fired which scattered all but four. Then Ridgely charged them in person and drove them back, exhibiting the greatest bravery.

Capt. May rode back and asked the general if he should charge the enemy on the opposite side of the ravine.

The answer was "*Charge, Captain, nolens, volens!*" As May dashed on by Ridgely, the latter cried "*hold on Charley till I draw their fire!*" Down the ravine they went. Lieut. Inge soon fell and many others; but the rest drove furiously on, crossed the ravine and captured the battery. Capt. Graham's company was with May's in this charge. General La Vega stood by his battery to the last and was taken prisoner by Capt. May. The 3rd were deployed on the right of the road; but met no enemy and not being able to get through the thick, dense chaparral, were obliged to return to get into the action and arrived after the enemy were completely routed. Duncan then took the advance with his battery, the Dragoons, 3rd Infantry and Smith's command being ordered to support the artillery. We dashed on after the enemy who were in full retreat, pouring upon them a very destructive fire. Our men soon came up with the enemy's camp and found it deserted and captured by the brave Barbour, who with his company of the third Infantry had resisted a formidable charge of cavalry. Mules, packs, provisions, and other trophies were left by the enemy. Our men pursued the enemy, shouting as they went, to the river. Many of the enemy were drowned endeavoring to swim across, and were scattered in every direction. The rout was general and complete, though our force consisted of 1700 men, the others being required to guard the train. 2000 of the best of Mexico's troops came over to join in this battle of the 9th, called "*Resaca de la Palma.*" Our loss was three officers and thirty-six men killed, twelve officers and fifty-nine men wounded. The officers killed were Lieut. Z. Inge, 2nd Dragoons; Lieut. R. E. Cochrane, 4th Infantry; and Lieut. T. L. Chadbourne, 8th Infantry. The wounded

officers were Colonel M. M. Payne, 4th Artillery, acting Inspector-General; Col. J. S. Mc'Intosh, 5th Infantry; Capt. A. Hooe, 5th Infantry; Lieut. S. H. Fowler, 5th Infantry; Capt. W. R. Montgomery, Lieut. J. Selden, R. P. Maclay, C. F. Morris, C. R. Gates, J. G. Burbank and C. D. Jordan, 8th Infantry; and Lieut. S. D. Dobbins, 3rd Infantry. We captured eight pieces of artillery, 2000 stand of arms, 200 mules, one hundred and fifty thousand rounds of musket cartridges, and all the baggage and camp equipage of the army. Arista's private papers and baggage fell into our hands. One General, one Colonel, one Lieut, Colonel, four Captains and five Lieutenants, were taken prisoners. Three Captains and four Lieutenants of the enemy were buried on the field, and forty-eight officers besides were acknowledged by the Mexicans to be missing. The killed, wounded, and missing of the enemy could not have been less than 2000.

Gen Taylor was sitting upon his horse in the hottest of the battle, and the balls were rattling all around him. An officer remarked to him that he was exposing himself too much, and proposed that he should retire. The General said, "*Let us ride a little nearer, the balls will fall behind us.*"

During the bombardment of Fort Brown (opposite Matamoras), Major Brown the commanding officer was wounded by a shell May 6th and died on the 9th much lamented. The enemy fired 2700 shells at this fort killing one officer, one sergeant, and wounding thirteen privates. They were repeatedly ordered by the enemy to surrender; but would not. Major Ringgold died at Point Isabel May 11th and was buried with funeral honors on the 12th. May 17th our army were ordered to cross the Rio Grande and take possession of Matamoras. General Arista sent over

and wished for an armistice until he could hear from the Capital, but Old Rough and Ready said, "No!" Taylor was asked if he intended to take the city, "Yes," was the reply, "if he had to batter it down. Tell General Arista, said he, "that the city must capitulate, all public property, ammunition, provisions &c. must be given up, and then the army may march out and retire. Arista was ordered to give an answer by 3 P. M. In the mean time our army marched three miles up the river, where there was a suitable place for crossing. No deputation came from Arista and we crossed May 18th. By a sad accident Lieut. Stephens was drowned. It was found that the Mexican army precipitately left the city and the authorities invited General Taylor to take possession. The battlefield of Resaca de la Palma presented a sad spectacle—such vast numbers of the slain and now the hospitals were filled with the wounded! Near one poor wounded man, sat a beautiful girl of seventeen keeping off the flies. She was his wife. There the mother and her children were seated by the wounded father. Colonel Twiggs was appointed to the chief command of the city.

Colonel Garland was sent out with two companies on the 19th to follow the enemy. After he had gone 27 miles he came up with them, had a skirmish, and returned the 22d. Two of his men were wounded. He killed two, wounded two of the enemy and captured twenty men with their baggage. Barita, a small town near by, was taken May 17, by Colonel Wilson. When the Congress of the U. S. heard of the capture of Capt. Thornton and his command, that body made declaration of war May 13th, and voted to raise fifty thousand volunteers and to appropriate ten millions of dollars for the expense of the war. War was declared by Mexico, April 23rd. Our Congress ap-

pointed General Taylor Brevet Major General, after the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma.

Numerous reinforcements soon came in and the army moved forward. Monterey, Reynosa, Camargo, Mier and other towns were soon taken without resistance. When our army left Matamoras, Lieutenant Colonel Clark was appointed to the command of the city. Poor Page after suffering intensely, died July 12th.

The U. S. army proceeded up the Rio Grande as far as Mier and then left that noble river and turned to the south towards Monterey.

Sept. 14th, Capt. McCullough, with thirty-five men, had a brush with two hundred Mexicans, near Ramos. Two of the enemy were wounded, and the Capt. lost one horse. Reports seemed to be confirmed that the enemy were preparing for a hard battle at Monterey. It was expected that we should have a fight at Marin, where the enemy under General Torrejon were seen, just before our army entered the town. When we arrived the enemy had left. At this place the mountains at the foot of which Monterey stands, were distinctly visible, about twenty-five miles distant.

Sept. 17th General Taylor was addressed by the Spanish Consul at Monterey inquiring whether the property of foreigners would be respected. Taylor replied that he could not be responsible for anything if the city was taken by assault.

Sept. 19th at 9 P. M. the advance of our forces arrived within three miles of Monterey. Some heavy cannon were heard and our men pushed forward; but before they came within reach of the guns General Taylor ordered them to halt. It seems that some lancers came out of the city and endeavored to draw our men within reach of the shot. When our advance halted the enemy opened upon us it

earnest. The third shot went directly over General Taylor's staff, coming very near him. Our troops encamped three miles from the city. The city seemed to be well fortified and it was feared that our small guns would not be effectual against the large ones of the enemy. It was concluded that our men must take the big guns of the enemy and turn them against themselves. The town was thoroughly reconnoitered on all sides and our men were frequently fired upon. General Taylor decided to send General Worth to take possession of the road to Saltillo, and storm the heights at the west part of the city. This division, including Colonel Hay's regiment, and Captains McCullough's and Gillevie's rangers, moved off according to order.

BATTLE OF MONTEREY.

Sept. 20th, (1846), about noon. The works commanding the approaches to the city, are the Bishop's Palace and a fort on a height commanding it on the west; the citadel on the north and several detached redoubts on the east. The streets were barricaded. In the afternoon a battery was commenced for the mortar, and during the night the mortar and two twenty-four pound howitzers were established. An express from General Worth arrived the same

night, stating that he had arrived at his position, and would storm two heights southwest of the castle before storming the heights directly west of it.

Sept. 21st at 7 A. M., the first and volunteer divisions were ordered to advance towards the city. Our mortar and howitzer batteries opened; but did not have much effect. Taylor directed the first division to move to the east of the city to support Major Mansfield in reconnoitering the enemies' works. The division was under the command of Colonel Garland, 4th Infantry, and went into action with the 3rd Infantry under Major Lear, 4th Brigade under Colonel Wilson consisting of the 1st Infantry under Major Abercrombie and the Baltimore division under Colonel Watson, and Bragg's and Ridgely's batteries. Major Mansfield was the first to commence the action. Company C., 3rd Infantry, under Lieutenant Hazlitt, was reinforced by company H., 3d Infantry, under Capt. Field. The division was formed in line of battle out of reach of the guns of the enemy, and was then ordered to advance by Lieutenant Pope and Colonel Kinney, and go into the city and storm battery No. 1, at the eastern end. The battery opened upon the division and the first shot struck in front of our line and ricoched over us. We were fired upon from the citadel. Our men in the midst of these shots, pushed rapidly onward five hundred yards and rushed into the streets. Not turning soon enough to the left an unperceived battery opened upon us a deadly fire and balls flew from house-tops, yards, and from every direction upon us. Many of our men were cut down. Major Barbour was the first officer who fell. An escopet ball passed through his heart. Our men retired into another street, under cover of some walls and houses. Lieutenant Bragg's battery now arrived and came into the street but could not effect much. Finally we