

people had been told," says Captain Henry, in his Campaign Sketches, "they would be persecuted 'for conscience' sake;" that we would tolerate no religion but the protestant; and their priests have added all the fuel to the flame they could to produce the impression among these poor, ignorant creatures that we were a set of savage barbarians. Our acts, both civil and military, and now religious, will prove the contrary, and will open their eyes to the magnitude of the attempted deception.

The behaviour of our army after the victory is as highly honourable as the victories themselves. In taking possession of Matamoras we have not interfered with either the civil or religious rights of the inhabitants. Their courts of justice are still held, the most perfect respect is paid to law and order, and every infraction of either is severely punished. The army instead of entering the city as conquerors, encamped quietly in the suburbs. Instead of taking possession of their houses for our men, we remain under *miserable* canvass, which affords no protection from the storm, and scarcely shade to protect the soldier from the noonday sun. Many have *no tents*, and yet, under these circumstances no building is occupied: those taken for storehouses and public offices are regularly rented. By such conduct we have restored confidence to the people; the citizens mingle freely among us, walk through our camp, and feel sure of protection. Such conduct should make our countrymen proud of their army."

On the day following the taking of Matamoras, Lieutenant-Colonel Garland, with all the cavalry of the army, about two hundred and fifty dragoons and Rangers,

started in pursuit of the retreating Mexicans, with orders to harass their march, and to capture prisoners and baggage. He succeeded in capturing a small rear party, after a skirmish, in which two Mexicans were killed and twenty-two taken prisoners, and one wagon with ammunition and clothing of an artillery company. The army of Arista was twenty-four hours in advance of this pursuing party, retreating in good order. The Americans having stopped at a *ranch*, the proprietor asked Captain Graham, with some appearance of astonishment, whither they were going. He was told that they were pursuing the retreating Mexican army. His astonishment was now still more increased, as he asserted that General Arista had stopped at his house on the night before, and had informed him that he had conquered the Americans, and was then on his way to Mexico to bear the news. The scarcity of water, with the barrenness of the country, and the jaded condition of the horses, compelled Colonel Garland to return on the 22d, and his pursuit of Arista closes the history of the opening of the war on the banks of the Rio Grande.

Large numbers of volunteers, called out by the government to reinforce the gallant commander, having arrived on the Rio Grande, General Taylor determined to move forward into Mexico, that they might not become dispirited by inaction. He despatched Colonel Wilson to scour the country in advance, and if possible to capture some of the Mexican towns near the river. This party soon got possession of Mier, Reynosa, and Camargo. The last named town, it had been directed, should be entered by a party of Texan Rangers from the rear, while a small party of regulars should approach

it in front. The steamer containing the regulars was groping along at night a little south of the town, the pilot being altogether ignorant of the river, and the commander equally doubtful as to his reception by the townsmen. A light was seen glimmering on shore. The pilot neared it, and demanded to know in Spanish, "De quien es ese rancho?"

"'Tis my rancho," answered a good Yankee voice from out the chaparral. "'Tis my rancho, and who has any claims against it?"

"If you are an American, come on board."

"I will at once, soldier," said a stalwart man, stepping on the deck of the steamer. "I hail you in these parts, for I have been sleeping out some dozen nights, afraid of the treachery of the Mexicans; not that I fear them in a *fair fight*, of a dozen or more at me at once, but I could not stand five hundred."

Here was an enterprising American, full of patriotism, on "the search for town sites on the Rio Grande;" he knew the people well, and ere the day had fairly dawned, he had completed all the preliminaries of the surrender of Camargo, and at the head or the heel of our troops, as suited his humour best, he entered the city.*

Captain Duncan was sent forward on the 14th of August, with a small command, to Seralvo, sixty miles above Mier, for the purpose of making a reconnoissance. On the road, half way to Seralvo, he entered Punta Aguada, a town of four hundred inhabitants, said to be the head-quarters of Canales, and in which Captain Duncan expected to find some of his robber band. His

* Our Army at Monterey.

force was divided, marched into the town from all sides, and met in the centre, without alarming the people, who were now found to be engaged in an absorbing fandango. The consternation caused by the entrance of the Rangers into the ball-room, can be better imagined than described. The gallant captain, however, ordered the music to proceed, led off the dance with the belle of the room, and then, bidding them adieu, gained quiet possession of Seralvo before daybreak.

On the 18th of August, General Taylor having learned the nature of the route from Captain Duncan, organized the regular army, and ordered General Worth to take up the line of march for Seralvo on the next day.

The first division of the army, commanded by General Twiggs, consisted of the second dragoons, first, second, third, and fourth regiments of infantry, and Bragg's and Ridgely's artillery. The second division, under General Worth, consisted of the artillery battalion serving as infantry, the fifth, seventh, and eighth infantry, Duncan's battery, and Captain Blanchard's Louisiana volunteers.

On the 6th of August, General Taylor moved to join the advance under General Worth at Seralvo, leaving General Patterson in command at Camargo. At Seralvo it was first learned definitely that Ampudia had arrived at Monterey with a large force, and that the city was perfectly fortified, and would make a stout defense. The march to Monterey was now arranged in every particular. Major-General Butler arrived, and the volunteer division was concentrated in the vicinity of Seralvo. It was composed of the first Mississippi regiment, under Colonel Jefferson Davis, the first Tennessee, under

Colonel Campbell, the first Ohio, under Colonel A. M. Mitchell, the Baltimore battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Watson. On the 11th September, the following order was issued:

"1. As the army may expect to meet resistance in the further advance towards Monterey, it is necessary that its march should be conducted with all proper precaution to meet attack and secure the baggage and supplies.

From this point, the following will be the order of march, until otherwise directed:

2. All the pioneers of the army consolidated into one party, will march early to-morrow on the route to Marin, for the purpose of repairing the roads, and rendering it practicable for artillery and wagons. The pioneers of each division will be under a subaltern, to be especially detailed for the duty, and the whole be under command of Captain Craig, third infantry, who will report to head-quarters for instructions. This pioneer party will be covered by a squadron of dragoons, and Captain McCulloch's company of Rangers. Two officers of topographical engineers, to be detailed by Captain Williams, will accompany the party for the purpose of examining the route. Two wagons will be provided by the quartermaster's department for the transportation of the tools, provisions, and knapsacks of the pioneer party.

3. The first division will march on the 13th instant, to be followed on successive days by the second division and field division of volunteers. The head-quarters will march with the first division. Captain Gillespie, with half of his company, will report to Major-General Butler; the other half, under the first lieutenant, to Brigadier-General Worth. These detachments will be

employed for outposts and videttes, and as expresses between the columns and head-quarters.

4. The subsistence supplies will be divided between the three columns, the senior commissary of each division receipting for the stores and being charged with their care and management. The senior commissaries of divisions will report to Captain Waggaman for this duty.

5. Each division will be followed immediately by its baggage train and supply train, with a strong rear-guard. The ordnance train under Captain Ramsay will march with the second division, between its baggage and supply train, and will come under the protection of the guard of that division. The medical supplies will, in like manner, march with the first division.

6. The troops will take eight days' rations and forty rounds of ammunition. All surplus arms and accoutrements, resulting from casualties on the road, will be deposited with Lieutenant Stewart, left in charge of the depot at this place, who will give certificates of deposit to the company commanders.

7. The wagons appropriated for transportation of water, will not be required, and will be turned over to the quartermaster's department for general purposes.

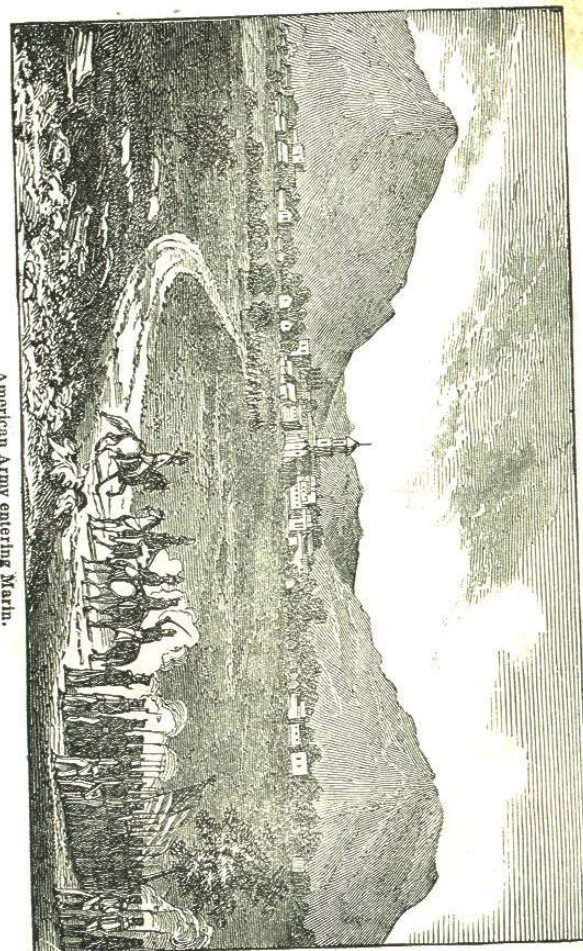
8. Two companies of the Mississippi regiment will be designated for the garrison of this place. All sick and disabled men, unfit for the march, will be left behind, under charge of a medical officer to be selected for this duty by the medical director."

The first division accordingly took up the line of march on the 13th, the army finding the Mexican general, Torrejon, with a large cavalry force constantly in

Arrival of General Henderson with Texas troops.

their vicinity. On the 14th General Ampudia issued from Monterey an address to his soldiers—in which he promised them certain victory, and volunteered for them the assurance to the government that they were worthy sons of the immortal Hidalgo, Morelo, Iturbide, and others who knew how to die combating for the independence of their cherished country.” On the following day he issued another address, holding out inducements to General Taylor’s troops to desert. On the 16th and 17th the army was concentrated at Marin, and rested there from the fatiguing march. The Spanish consul at Monterey sent a messenger to General Taylor to know if the property of foreigners would be respected. General Taylor informed him that he would be responsible for nothing in case the town was taken by an assault. On the 18th the army resumed its march, and reached the town of San Francisco. On this day General Henderson joined General Taylor with Wood’s and Hays’ regiment of mounted Texans, which numbered eleven hundred men. The old padre of the village of San Francisco informed General Taylor that the most determined opposition would be made at Monterey, General Ampudia having determined only to surrender the city with his life.

On the 19th of September the army reached the vicinity of Monterey. The troops marched in order of battle; first General Taylor and staff, with a number of officers; then followed the advanced guard, McCulloch’s and Gillespie’s rangers. The brigade of General Henderson came next; then the first division under General Twiggs, and the second under General Worth, and lastly the volunteer division under General Butler. We



American Army entering Marin.