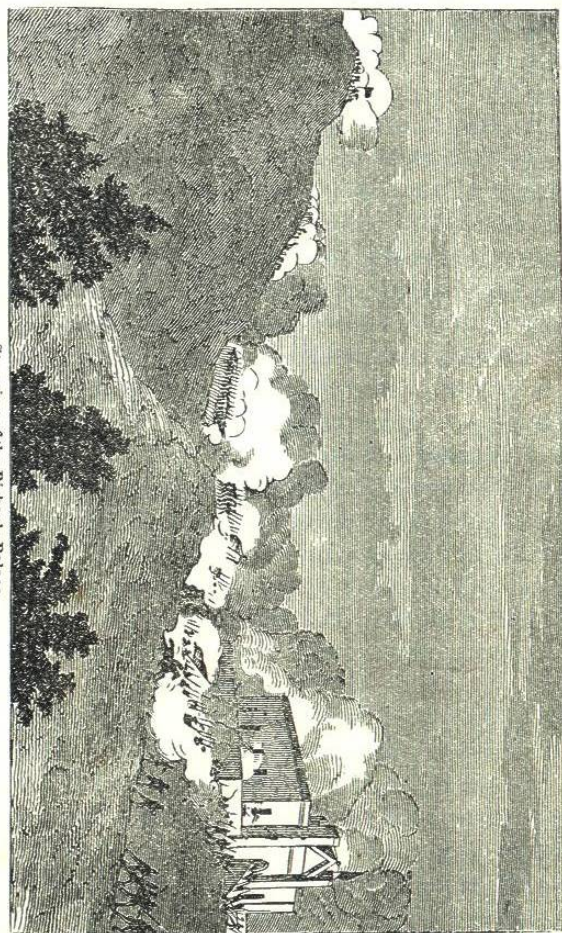


a little in advance. J. W. Miller, of Blanchard's company, was among the first four or five who entered. The three commands may be said to have come out even in the race, for the 7th was not five seconds behind. In less than five minutes the gun found in the fort was thundering away at the Bishop's Palace.

On the morning of the 21st, Colonel Childs of the artillery battalion, with three of his companies—one commanded by Captain Vinton, another by Captain J. B. Scott, and the third by Lieutenant Ayres—and three companies of the 8th infantry—company A, commanded by Lieutenant Longstreet and Wainright; company B, by Lieutenant Halloway and Merchant; company D, by Captain Schrivner and Lieutenant Montgomery—was ordered to take the summit of Palace Hill.

The colonel left the camp at three o'clock A.M., and climbed the mountain through the chaparral, and up the steep rocks, with such secrecy, that at daybreak he was within one hundred yards of the breastwork of sandbags before he was discovered. Three of the artillerymen having rushed ahead too fast, found themselves in the hands of the Mexicans. They surrendered, and were shot down with the very pieces they had given up. I saw the poor fellows lying there.

Colonel Staniford went up at daylight with the balance of the 8th, and Major Scott led up the 5th. The Louisiana troops were on the hill, with the 5th, at 8 A.M. One of Duncan's howitzers, in charge of Lieutenant Rowland, was dragged up, or rather *lifted* up, and opened on the palace, which was filled with troops. The Mexicans charged on the howitzer, but were driven back. A constant firing was kept up for several hours, particu-



Storming of the Bishop's Palace.



larly by Blanchard's men, who left a dozen Mexicans dead upon the hill-side. At length a charge was ordered, and our men rushed down upon the palace, entered a hole in a door that had been blocked up, but opened by the howitzer, and soon cleared the work of the few Mexicans who remained. Lieutenant Ayres was the lucky one who first reached the halyards and lowered the flag. One eighteen-pound brass piece, a beautiful article, manufactured in Liverpool in 1842, and a short brass twelve-pound howitzer, were captured, with a large quantity of ammunition, and some muskets and lances.

The fort adjoining the palace walls is not complete, but is very neatly constructed as far as it is built. The killed on our side, in taking the palace, were seven—wounded, twelve. Lieutenant Wainright was wounded in the side and arm by a musket-ball. Colonel Childs, Captain Vinton, Captain Blanchard, Lieutenant Longstreet, Lieutenant Clark, (adjutant of the 8th,) Lieutenant Ayres, Lieutenant McCown, and the two Nicholls, seem to have been the heroes of the day. The two latter performed prodigies, and not only Judge Nicholls, but old Louisiana may well be proud of such sons. The Mexicans lost at least thirty killed.

Yesterday morning the whole division under General Worth entered the town on this side, and have been fighting there ever since. The heart of the city is nothing but one fortification, the thick walls being pierced for muskets and cannon, and placed so as to rake the principal streets. The roofs being flat, and the front walls rising three or four feet above the roof, of course every street has a line of breastworks on each side. A ten-inch mortar came around from General



Taylor last evening, and it is now placed in the largest plaza, to which our troops have fought step by step and from house to house. Duncan's batteries are in town, and the present impression is that the place will soon be taken. General Worth has gained all the strongholds that command the city, and has pushed the enemy as far as they can go without falling into General Taylor's hands on the other side of the city. All this has been done with the loss of only about seventy killed and wounded."

At noon on the 22d, while the American troops were closely engaged in the lower part of the city, General Taylor received by a flag a communication from the governor of the state of New Leon, asking him to grant a sufficient time for the inhabitants to leave the city; which General Taylor declined. Early on the morning of the 24th, a flag was received from the town, bearing a communication from General Ampudia, proposing an evacuation of the city and fort, with all the personnel and materiel of war. General Taylor, in reply, declined the proposition, and demanded a complete surrender of the town and garrison, offering in consideration of the gallant defense that had been made, to allow the garrison to retire to the interior after laying down its arms, on condition of not serving again during the war. A cessation of hostilities, until twelve o'clock, was arranged.

Before that hour, however, General Ampudia had signified to General Worth his desire for a personal interview with General Taylor, for the purpose of making some definitive arrangement. An interview was accordingly appointed for one o'clock, and resulted in the

naming of a commission to draw up articles of agreement regulating the withdrawal of the Mexican forces, and a temporary cessation of hostilities. The commissioners named by the Mexican general-in-chief were Generals Ortega and Requena, and Don Emanuel M. Llano, governor of New Leon. Those named on the American side were General Worth, General Henderson, governor of Texas, and Colonel Davis, Mississippi volunteers.

This commission finally settled upon the articles of capitulation. The details of the negotiations are reserved as part of the personal history of the commissioners, and will be found in another place.

By the terms of capitulation, it was agreed that the Mexican officers should retain their side arms, and the infantry and cavalry their arms and accoutrements, the artillery one field battery of six pieces; that, surrendering the city, fortifications, cannon, munitions of war, and public stores, to General Taylor, they should evacuate the city and retire, within seven days, beyond the line formed by the pass of Rinconada, the city of Linares, and San Fernando de Presas; and that this line should not be crossed by the Americans before the expiration of eight weeks, unless the respective governments should refuse to ratify the terms of this truce.

Monterey and its fortifications were armed with forty-two pieces of cannon, well supplied with ammunition, and manned with a force of at least seven thousand troops of the line, and from two to three thousand irregulars. The force under General Taylor was four hundred and twenty-five officers, and six thousand two hundred and twenty men. Our artillery consisted of



one ten-inch mortar, two twenty-four-pound howitzers, and four light field batteries of four guns each—the mortar being the only piece suited to the operations of a siege. The American loss was twelve officers and one hundred eight men killed, thirty-one officers and three hundred and thirty-seven men wounded. The loss of the enemy was much greater.

The storming of Monterey requires no comment. A city surrounded by high massive walls which supported strong redoubts, with every street swept by cross fires of artillery, and every house a fortification in itself, was attacked and carried by an army numbering scarcely more than half of the defenders, inferior in artillery and small arms, and obliged to divide its small force to resist the cannonade of another fortification, the Bishop's Palace, nearly as strong as the city itself.

Such an event can only be attributed to the national coolness and intrepidity of the assailants, aided by their good discipline, the example of their officers and the unsurpassed ability of their commanding general. The glory of the victors at Ciudad Rodrigo pales before that of the Americans at Monterey.

The troops of General Taylor proved themselves to be possessed of a still higher attribute of the soldier than the most fearless bravery: the finer feelings of men calm in the moment of victory, and possessed of minds principled of humanity, which the most desperate resistance could not excite to a single deed of cruelty. In their retreat from Monterey, the enemy destroyed every thing in their route that might be of service to the invading army. The water streams were stopped or filled up, the wells destroyed, provisions carefully removed, and



Paredes.

even private property ruthlessly consumed by the torch. Meanwhile, they made every effort to organize a new army in the interior, and declared that the loss of Monterey was owing only to the incapacity of Ampudia, who was ordered to be tried by court-martial. General Herrera had been president of Mexico when the war was first threatened, but his inclination to avoid hostilities had caused him to be deprived of power, and Paredes assumed the reins of government, and the responsibility of the war. Being unsuccessful, however, he lost caste with his countrymen, who now began to look for another ruler. Several leaders presented themselves, each at the head of a small