GENERAL SCOTT.

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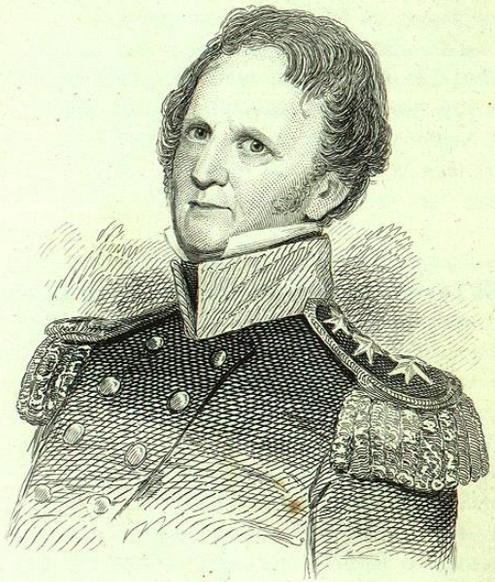

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side, took the command; the main body of the British reinforcements, 850 strong, under General Sheaffe, arrived, and the American militia could not be got across the river; so that a force of only 300 Americans was left at the mercy of some 1300 British and Indians. They fought, however, furiously, and it was only after several hours' hard exertion that the enemy obliged them to surrender. The prisoners, including Scott, were taken to Quebec, but subsequently exchanged, and sent to Boston.

Early in the following May, Scott was appointed as adjutant-general, and joined the army of General Dearborn near Niagara. These troops had lately been reinforced by those who had captured York, and were now busily engaged in preparations for an attack on Fort George. Batteries were stationed in every effective position, strong fortifications established between them, and boats constructed for the transportation of troops. The British were equally busy on the opposite shore; but although numerous opportunities were afforded each party to harass the other, a noble and unusual magnanimity pervaded both; and the two nations seemed to vie with each other in this forbearance. A slight incident interrupted this voluntary truce. A few boats had been constructed above the forts, and in sailing down the river boldly ran within blank range of the British guns, where they remained for some time, as if in defiance. The enemy soon opened upon these with a scattering and ineffectual fire, which did no execution; but their first report was the signal for the renewal of hostilities. One shot, another and another, burst from the American lines, until,

notwithstanding the efforts of the commander, the whole fort was in an incessant roar of artillery. All night, shells and red-hot shot poured into the devoted works of the enemy, until, catching fire, the flames swept along all their intrenchments, devouring the labors of weeks, and driving the troops from their posts. At daybreak the British fort was a mass of smouldering ruins.

The prematurity of this attack diminished the gratification of the Americans, as their troops could not then take advantage of the panic and confusion into which the enemy had been thrown. Accordingly, the latter had time to recover from the loss, and reconstruct his fortifications.

The Americans continued to labor upon their works with such assiduity that on the 26th of May they were able to embark for the opposite shore. The embarkation took place at sunrise, all the troops crossing in small boats, many of which passed within reach of the enemy's batteries. The advance, consisting of five full companies, and fragments of others, in all about 600 men, was led by Colonel Scott, whose movements were hidden from the enemy by a dense fog, that hung over the river until late in the morning. The river or strait of Niagara, forms a semicircle of a mile in extent, with the opening toward Canada. The British station of Fort George, is on the Canada side, about three-quarters of a mile from the lake, surrounded by a large level plain. The shores of the lake are steep and rocky, and surmounted by a large dense forest. In this forest the British had concealed themselves, mostly stretched upon the ground, and ready at the first signal to oppose the landing of the Americans.

Early in the morning all the guns commenced playing upon the British works, and some artillery and dragoons under Colonel Burn, marched up the shore, and made a feint against the Queenston road, in order to divert the attention of the enemy from the main attack. The British, however, remained perfectly quiet, until Col. Scott's command were within reach of their small-arms. Suddenly they then rose from their ambuscade, and poured toward the advancing boats thick volleys of musketry, which, however, were so ill directed as to produce little effect. As soon as the boats touched the shore the advance formed, and rushed up the steep in the very face of a heavy fire from a vastly superior enemy. They were unable to gain the height, although such was their ardor, that in ten minutes they made three separate attempts to do so. At the end of that time, they were reinforced, and succeeded in mounting the shore, on the ledge of which they formed and commenced the battle in good earnest. The skirmish which ensued was obstinate, but the enemy were finally driven from their position, and retired toward Newark village, near Fort George. At the same moment the boats of the second brigade reached the shore. The Americans then concentrated their whole force on the plain, and formed in line to await the arrival of General Lewis. That officer was soon with them, and the army commenced a pursuit of the retreating enemy. The latter, however, had gone so far that their capture was found to be impracticable. Scott lowered the standard of the fort with his own hands, and afterward continued the pursuit of the enemy. The column was afterward joined by Colonel Burn with his

dragoons; but the pursuit was soon discontinued by order of the commander, and the troops countermarched to Fort George, where they passed the night.

In July, Scott resigned his situation as adjutant-general, and was promoted to the command of a regiment. He assisted in the capture of York, and in the unsuccessful expedition against Montreal.

But it was in the stirring events of 1814, that Scott won that reputation which has ever placed him among the highest of American officers. The hardest fought battles in the whole war took place in that year, on the Canada border; and in all of them he acted a valuable part.

The battle of Chippewa Plains was fought on the afternoon of the 5th of July. The British had maintained a petty fire all the morning, which was not returned by their antagonists. About four in the afternoon this firing had become serious, and General Porter being sent forward to ascertain the force and position of the enemy, was soon in front of their main force. General Brown immediately ordered General Scott to advance with his brigade and Towson's artillery, and meet them upon a plain in front of the camp. This order was promptly obeyed, and soon Scott was unexpectedly in close action with a superior force of British regulars. The detachment of General Porter was now entirely routed, and their flight left the brigade of General Scott exposed to a most raking fire. But instead of retreating, he poured forward on the British with such impetuosity, that they first fell back toward a neighboring height, and afterward commenced a disorderly flight to their works. This

terminated the operations of the day, although it had been the intention of General Brown to storm the enemy's fort.

In speaking of General Scott in connection with this battle, the commander says: "He is entitled to the highest praise our country can bestow; to him more than any other man I am indebted for the victory of the 5th of July."

At Niagara it was again General Scott's fortune to commence the action. With the first brigade, Towson's artillery, and a number of dragoons, he was ordered toward the Queenston road, and came up with the enemy, posted on the opposite side of a narrow wood. He paused long enough to inform General Brown of his position, and then advanced upon the enemy. He passed the wood, and for a whole hour sustained a warm conflict, unsupported, with the whole opposing force. A great deal of manœuvring then took place, a new line was interposed between the British and General Scott in order to relieve that officer, and an important height of the enemy stormed and taken by Colonel Miller. The British were finally broken, and their defeat was complete. The Americans, however, were too exhausted to pursue, and sunk down on their arms, upon the field of conflict.

In this battle General Scott was severely wounded. For his conduct at Niagara and Chippewa, he was rewarded by congress with a gold medal, and the rank of major-general; and in 1816 the legislatures of New-York and his native state each voted him a sword, in token of their appreciation of his military services.

Scott was concerned in the Florida and Northwest wars, and in the Canada disturbances; but they afforded him no opportunities of distinguishing himself. On the death of General Macomb, he became commander-in-chief of the American army.

Upon the opening of the present war with Mexico, Scott presented a plan of operations to government, which, had it been actively followed out, would have no doubt quickly terminated hostilities. It was, however, rejected, together with the demand that he might repair immediately to the scene of action. As the war progressed, it became evident to government, that in a country like Mexico, it was necessary to act in more than one position; and accordingly, late in November President Polk communicated his plan to General Scott, to the effect that he should immediately proceed to the seat of war, and take charge of the operations on the Gulf coast. Scott sailed from New-York on the 30th, and reached the Rio Grande on the 1st of January.

The first object that engaged the attention of General Scott, was an attack upon the city of Vera Cruz. This city, with its castle, is perhaps the strongest military station in America; and commands the entrance into central Mexico. Its massive works were lined with artillery and manned by an excellent army, under the command of General Morales. Scott's army was found totally inadequate to the reduction of this place, and he was obliged to order a detachment from General Taylor. This swelled his forces to 12,000 men, and with these he landed at Anton Lizardo on the 7th of March. The landing of the troops, in full view of the enemy, was

effected by Commodore Conner; and after some days of preparation, the bombardment commenced on the afternoon of the 22d. The defence was vigorous, but so destructive was the fire of the assailants, that early on the morning of the 26th, propositions of surrender reached the American camp. Commissioners were appointed from both armies; and on the 29th, the Mexican army abandoned the city and castle to their antagonists.

During the whole of this terrible siege, when shells and shots were flying like hail from the ramparts of the castle, General Scott was riding from rank to rank of his army, ordering, directing, and controlling every effort of the artillery. His person seemed impervious to the shot; and the same heroism that had crowned him with glory at Queenston and Lundy's Lane, distinguished him before the blazing lines of Vera Cruz. Very many doubted whether or not the castle of San Juan could be taken at all; all thought the siege would be tedious and destructive: Scott captured it in four days.

On hearing of the fall of Vera Cruz, Santa Anna raised a large army, by great exertions, and marched toward the city. On the 8th, General Scott left it, and advanced into the interior. As he approached, the Mexican general retired, passing through Puebla and other places, until he reached the mountain pass of the Sierra Gordo. In this strong position he entrenched his forces, and awaited the arrival of the Americans. On the 18th, a battle was fought, in which Santa Anna was completely routed, most of his army captured, and a free passage made to Jalapa and Mexico. The American army num-

bered about six thousand, and that of the enemy twelve thousand. The latter were posted in one of the strongest positions ever occupied by an army, and their defeat will ever be regarded as a proud monument of American valor.

A striking instance of the beautiful arrangement which pervades all the operations of General Scott, is afforded by the fact, that prior to this battle he had laid down all its vicissitudes and emergencies with as much correctness as he subsequently did in his official report.

After this battle Puebla was taken by General Worth, and subsequently Jalapa fell into the hands of the Americans. Scott has continued his march to the capital, but on account of the smallness of his forces, he has not been able to operate with the promptness that characterized his former Mexican movements. Numerous reports, however, favor the opinion that he is on the eve of another battle with Santa Anna.

Such is a skeleton of the life of General Scott. So much is said and written concerning the officers of the Mexican War, that panegyric seems to be exhausted, and it were perhaps wise in us to offer no comment upon the subject of our sketch. Among all the military men of America, few have ever ranked higher than Scott in every qualification that constitutes a great general; and the future historian will dwell with pride and profit on his personal bravery, his indomitable perseverance, his scientific combinations, and his enviable success.

REMEMBER THE ALAMO.

BY T. A. DURRIAGE.

Tune—"Bruce's Address."

When on the wide spread battle-plain
The horseman's hand can scarce restrain
His pampered steed that spurns the rein,
Remember the Alamo.

When sounds the thrilling bugle blast,
And "charge" from rank to rank is past,
Then, as your sabre-strokes fall fast,
Remember the Alamo.

Heed not the Spanish battle-yell,
Let every stroke ye give them *tell*,
And let them fall as Crockett fell:
Remember the Alamo.

For every wound and every thrust
On pris'ners dealt by hands accurst,
A Mexican shall bite the dust:
Remember the Alamo.

The cannon's peal shall ring their knell,
Each volley sound a passing-bell,
Each cheer Columbia's vengeance tell:
Remember the Alamo.

For it, disdaining flight, they stand,
And try the issue hand to hand:
Wo to each Mexican brigand!
Remember the Alamo.

Then boot and saddle! draw the sword,
Unfurl your banner bright and broad,
And as ye smite the murderous horde,
Remember the Alamo.

SLAVERY IN MEXICO.

Mexico presents the singular spectacle of a people governed by a republican constitution, and claiming republican honors, and yet in fact having its lower classes degraded to the condition of slaves. The people talk loudly of liberty and their rights as freemen; and yet they permit their priests and political rulers to goad and trample them at pleasure. They pass from one usurper to another without seeming to have any interest in their government, or at least in the different changes which take place in it; and an able military ruler could seize upon the government, and, like Bonaparte, make the whole subservient to his nod.

The Indians of Mexico have never been considered as entitled to equal rights with the white inhabitants. They were made slaves by Cortez, and as such they remain at the present day. They work the mines, execute the public works, and are engaged in the meanest drudgeries. Their children will be slaves after them: servitude is the hereditary legacy of the father; and his sons know not to aspire farther. Tell the Indian that his ancestors once reigned in power and grandeur over the

whole country, and he will reply quietly that he knows it; but the inference which you wish him to draw, the great practical motive for his own conduct, he is incapable of grasping. His native atmosphere is slavery, and he cannot thrive in any other.

Besides this transmitted slavery, there are other kinds in Mexico. The manufacturing system is one. Not only are the operatives forced to toil a great part of the day, but in some cases they are regularly sold to the proprietor, and remain in the building during life, under a system of discipline more rigorous than that of our prisons. Often the wretched laborer is separated from her friends and home, and obliged to toil in hopeless misery, every day of which is hurrying her to the tomb.

But the most common form under which slavery exists, is what may be termed in some measure *voluntary*. An individual will permit himself to get into debt, either by borrowing, or receiving goods and other articles at a store. At the moment of doing so, perhaps, he does not intend to pay; at least not in a formal manner. He therefore engages himself to the creditor as his servant, or *peon*, to work until he can liquidate the debt. As these peons generally require all their wages for their own subsistence, the original amount still remains unpaid, and the servant continues in servitude for life. This is nothing more than perpetual slavery, although it is not so considered by the parties concerned.

Every store or business establishment has more or less of these servants connected with it, who are considered as part of the property of the concern. In the country establishments, their number often swells to such

an extent that the dwellings form a village, of which the crystallizing point is the building of the proprietors. The whole is denominated a rancho, the inhabitants being rancheros; and is not unlike the plantations of our southern states.

This system is one of degradation, fostering indolence and roguery in all concerned. The latter quality is so characteristic, that no ranchero will permit an opportunity of theft to escape him, even though it be upon the person of a fellow; hence in the civil wars which have distracted Mexico, they have ever been a source of terror to both armies, by lingering over the battle-field, and murdering all the wounded, preparatory to stripping their persons.

There are other classes and conditions of slaves in Mexico, but the above are the most important. The general features in all are the same—degradation, indolence, poverty, and consequently crime. The system is one of complete Feudalism; the few revel in luxury, the many starve; and from this condition there seems to be little prospect of amelioration.

The following song, published in several of the newspapers before the recent events on the Rio Grande, will be read or sung with a melancholy interest—a just tribute to the gallant artillerists, and to their lamented leader.

(From the Boston Daily Times.)

"FIRE AWAY."

THE SONG OF RINGGOLD'S ARTILLERISTS.

THE Mexican bandits
Have crossed to our shore,
Our soil has been dyed
With our countrymen's gore;
The murderers' triumph
Was theirs for a day:—
Our triumph is coming—
So fire—fire away!
Fire away!

Be steady—be ready—
And firm every hand—
Pour your shot like a storm
On the murderous band.
On their flanks, on their centre,
Our batteries play—
And we sweep them like chaff,
As we fire—fire away!
Fire away!

Lo! the smoke-wreaths uprising!
The belching flames tear
Wide gaps through the curtain,
Revealing despair.
Torn flutters their banner—
No oriflamme gay:

They are wavering—sinking—
So fire—fire away!
Fire away!

'Tis over—the thunders
Have died on the gale—
Of the wounded and vanquished
Hark! hark to the wail!
Long the foreign invader
Shall mourn for the day,
When Ringgold was summoned
To fire—fire away!
Fire away!

THE BATTLE OF CERRO GORDO.

The fight was fairly commenced on the 18th April, by General Twiggs and Colonel Harney, and it was concluded on the next day, about noon, by General Worth's and General Patterson's divisions. The enemy could not have had less than 15,000 fighting men, while our force was not over 12,000. The position of the Mexicans was one of the strongest imaginable, and our brave troops had a hard task to perform in routing them. They were entrenched upon several large heights, upon which no less than seven batteries were planted, mounting 24 guns in all. One by one they fell into our hands.

At about 10 o'clock, a charge was made at several points by the regulars, the two Tennessee, and two Pennsylvania regiments, which, for a time, was strongly op-