

who fell on that day, should never be forgotten. The ambition of distinction should never prompt us to deface any portion of the tablet of fame, which our country will erect to the honor of the actors in that battle; and the regular and volunteer army should be proud of it, as one of the greatest epochs in our country's history.

It is due to the commanders of the different batteries of *light* artillery to state, that their efforts were most powerful and efficient towards gaining the almost unparalleled victory of Buena Vista. Ready at all times to meet the enemy at fearful odds, their guns wasted them away with their fire in a handsome manner, compelling them to retreat whenever coming within their range.

Generals Taylor and Wool were present as commanders (the former as commander-in-chief). They were exposed to dangers almost every instant of the day, watching the movements of the enemy, and ordering and disposing of our forces in the best manner to meet and repel them. By their coolness and courage in gaining this victory, they have won laurels and a fame, that shall endure as long as traces of American history shall exist.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH LANE, Brig. Gen.

## AFFECTING INCIDENT.

Pico, brother to the Governor of California, had been dismissed by the Americans on parole, and was re-captured in the very act of breaking it. He was leading an insurrection cruel to the army, and devastating to the country, and the soldiers now clamored for his death. The haughty chieftain was brought before Colonel Fremont, identified, and subsequently condemned by court martial to death. Through all the examination and delivery of the sentence he remained cool and composed, and learned that he must die, with the solemn dignity of a Spaniard.

The hour of twelve was fixed for the execution, and the intervening time was solemn, even to the American commander. He had faced death amid the hurry of the battle-field with impunity; but something so repulsive seemed to lie in the idea of coolly executing a prisoner of war, that the brave heart shrunk from it with apprehension. As the time approached, the colonel retired to his room, and remained almost alone. Suddenly, about eleven o'clock, a noise was heard without, and before any one had time to ascertain its cause, a company of ladies and children rushed into the room, threw themselves on their knees, and with all the eloquence of passion begged that the *husband* and *father* might be spared. Young lips, which had often pressed those of the prisoner in pride and happiness, now quivered as they pleaded in agony for his life. The stern officer turned from the scene, while thoughts of other beings, far away, crowded

upon him. His noble heart was unprepared for such an event, and humanity obtained the victory over discipline. Raising the mother, he exclaimed solemnly, "He is pardoned!" Then, what a change! Blessings, loud and many, were showered upon the commander, and his gratified attendants; and tears of despair were changed to those of joy and ecstasy.

The thought now occurred to Colonel Fremont to send for the prisoner, and permit him to hear of his reprieve in the presence of those most dear to him. It was done. There was no room for explanations. The countenances of all present told him of his good fortune; and when it was confirmed by the word of the colonel, the effect was overpowering. He had borne misfortune and disgrace, but he could not bear the news of pardon. With impetuous emotion he flung himself before Colonel Fremont, clasped his knees, swore eternal fidelity, and begged the privilege of fighting and dying for him.

The country is now restored to peace and order; and there is no firmer friend to Colonel Fremont in it, than his former inveterate antagonist, Pico.

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