



CAMPAIGN
SKETCHES

BY HENRY H. HARRIS

CAPT. HENRY

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CAMPAIGN SKETCHES

OF

THE WAR WITH MEXICO.

BY

CAPT. W. S. HENRY,

U. S. ARMY.

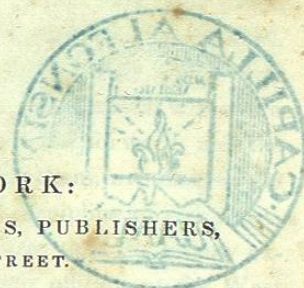
He wishes to enjoin upon the battalions of infantry, that their main dependence must be in the bayonet.—TAYLOR'S Orders.

With Engravings.

NEW YORK:

HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
82 CLIFF STREET.

1847.



FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

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Entered, according to Act of Congress, in the year one thousand
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FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL Z. TAYLOR,

U. S. ARMY.

DEAR SIR,—

It is with feelings of no ordinary pleasure that I
dedicate, by permission, these pages to you.

The honesty of purpose and decision of character
which have marked your career, under all circum-
stances, have obtained for you the love of the officers
and men under your command. Your brilliant suc-
cesses with inadequate forces and *materiel*, the well-
laid and admirably-executed plans of your campaigns,
excite the pride and gratitude of your countrymen,
and place you by the side of those who occupy the
most conspicuous positions in history.

The army can never forget (in that dark hour which
preceded the victories of the 8th and 9th of May, 1846,
when our countrymen thought our "little army" sac-
rificed) that *you*, with perfect fearlessness, without a
doubt of the result, boldly marched forward, met the
enemy's legions, and conquered them, evincing to the
world the courage, force, and discipline of our army,
and proving to the United States that the money ex-
pended in the education of their officers at the West

Point Military Academy has been productive of results which should render its basis immovable.

Hoping that the sunset of your life may be as happy and tranquil as your successes have been alike glorious and honorable, I subscribe myself

Your friend and obedient servant,

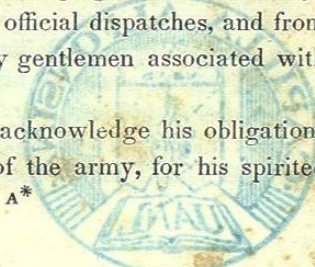
W. S. HENRY, *Capt. U. S. A.*

PREFACE.

IN committing the subjoined pages to the tide of popular favor, the author disavows any claim to literary merit. He issues them as a diary of events now blended with the history of his country. They have been jotted down principally for his own amusement, or to beguile away the otherwise long and weary hours of camp life. They are now brought forth as the means of introducing into the family circle a concise, and perhaps instructive, narrative of events, a description of the country, its scenery, the people, their manners and customs, which have been subjected to his own observation.

The journal commences with the first movement of the "Army of Observation." The author's personal knowledge extends to the time when General Taylor was deprived of his regulars at Victoria, prior to his return to Monterey, and to his own departure from the army, subsequent to the fall of Vera Cruz. The remaining incidents of the campaign of General Taylor are compiled from his official dispatches, and from graphic letters written by gentlemen associated with the army.

He must not forget to acknowledge his obligations to Lieutenant A. Sully, of the army, for his spirited



embellishments; and to Major J. H. Eaton, to whom he is indebted for a few designs. From the nature of the forces employed during the war, it is a natural supposition that there are few persons who have not had some friend or relative engaged in the stirring scenes herein described. They may be assured the writer has endeavored to give a faithful history of the events connected with the war.

To the casual reader, it is hoped the subject will be of sufficient interest to fix his attention for a brief period. And if, to his brother officers, he has succeeded in recalling scenes upon which memory must fondly dwell, though tinged with melancholy hues, he will feel himself amply repaid.

THE AUTHOR.



CAMPAIGN SKETCHES.

CHAPTER I.

IN order to have a clear understanding of the causes which resulted in the formation of the original "Army of Observation," its concentration upon the Red River and at Fort Jesup, &c., and for the purpose of obtaining a starting-point for my journal, I deem it necessary to give the reader a synopsis of the events which immediately preceded these military movements; not presuming, however, that all are not conversant with them, but thinking it will afford an interesting introduction to the work, and bring more forcibly to recollection all the causes for the first military movements, which eventually resulted in the war with Mexico.

The intensely exciting period which preceded the annexation of Texas must be too well remembered to need any reference. It was generally believed this measure would be effected by President Tyler early in the spring of 1844. For this purpose he introduced a treaty, which was rejected by the Senate. From an understanding between our government and that of Texas (both calculating upon the certainty of the passage of the treaty), we were to concentrate upon the borders of Texas a force sufficient to prevent or repulse any attack which might be made by the Mexican government, which might reasonably be expected from their determined and expressed opposition to the annexation of the State of Texas to the United States,