

Spanish consul at Monterey, asking whether the property of foreigners would be respected. The general replied, he could not be responsible for any thing if the city was taken by assault. General Ampudia has distributed along the road a printed proclamation, calling upon the men and officers of our army to desert, and stigmatizing the war as anti-Christian. He offers them protection, good pay, and equal rank in the Mexican service. How ignorant he must be of the character of the American soldier to think, for a moment, his offer could provoke other than a feeling of disgust. The volunteer division, under General Butler, arrived today. Captain Craig was relieved from the pioneers, the road being good ahead. The order for the march is out; we move to-morrow morning. In case line of battle is formed, Twigg's Division will be on the right, the Volunteers in the center, and Worth's on the left.

Rode to the city to enjoy one more sunset; it certainly was perfectly lovely. The sun setting behind a mountain, threw its body in a deep, dark blue shade, while it illuminated the jutting peaks with golden light. Some of them looked transparent. It was a rich, rich scene—soft and melancholy; one calculated to inspire none but the purest emotions of the heart; one that made you feel like drawing around you your family and friends to drink in its beauties, and never wish to leave them. My God! what a spot on which to build a palace, in whose western windows one could sit every evening and enjoy the gorgeous scenery!

CHAPTER XIV.

SEPTEMBER 18th. The first division of the army marched at 8 o'clock; the others followed, with an hour's intermission. The scenery was similar to that already described, save the ground was more rolling than it appeared from Marin. The valley is made up of gentle undulations, broad, level plains; the whole backed by huge mountains, whose cliffs are of a pink color in the morning's sun. The water of the San Juan was very cold, and wading it at early dawn was not very agreeable.

Eight miles from Marin passed a small stream called Agua Frio. Its banks were high, bottom rocky, some slate formations visible, and I have no doubt coal could be found. Quite a number of houses, I suppose the cabins of the peones attached to the hacienda, lined the banks. The "lord of the manor" had, for this country, quite a showy and extensive establishment. In his court-yard was seen one of those old Spanish coaches, heavy enough for six mules, and capable of containing a whole family. Its *tout ensemble* proved the owner a man of some pretensions. An Irishman, upon seeing it, exclaimed, "Och, but we're gettin' into civilization! Be Jabers! there's an omnibus!" A good many of the inhabitants came out to see us.

About three miles beyond the Agua Frio we reached the hacienda San Francisco, where we encamped. Just as our advance entered, the cavalry of the enemy left, and were in sight when we turned off to take our campground. Many thought the enemy were in front in

force, and a battle would ensue immediately; but it turned out to be the same force which has preceded us since we left Ceralvo. The Padre of the place told General Taylor that Ampudia would defend the place until death, and that it was well fortified. If we do fight, the Infantry will have to do the work, as our deficiency in heavy guns will render our field batteries almost useless. Some of the arrieros attempted to *stampede* today, but Colonel Kinney, with his usual energy and promptness, prevented them. They were alarmed, having heard that the bugbear, Canales, was in their rear. The alarm arose from General Henderson's Brigade, consisting of two mounted regiments of Texans, under the command of Colonel Hays and Woods, who joined us this evening. They are a fine body of men, and add some eleven hundred to our force.

September 19th. Marched at sunrise. General Henderson, with his brigade, and two companies of Rangers, in advance. General Taylor and staff accompanied them, to reconnoiter the place. Passed several plantations, and luxuriant fields of corn and sugarcane. Marching slowly along, within three miles of the city, about 9 A.M., the report of a large cannon, re-echoing from mountain to mountain, told us most plainly the work had commenced, and that the enemy intended to make, at least, a show of fight. Two more reports, in quick succession, followed, and our men, from lagging behind, were inspired with a new energy, and pushed forward with increased vigor. They were ready for the fierce combat at the moment. Two more guns were fired, and the command was halted. The general and staff were seen slowly returning. It appears, when the advance presented themselves, some Lancers came out from the city, hoping, no doubt, our

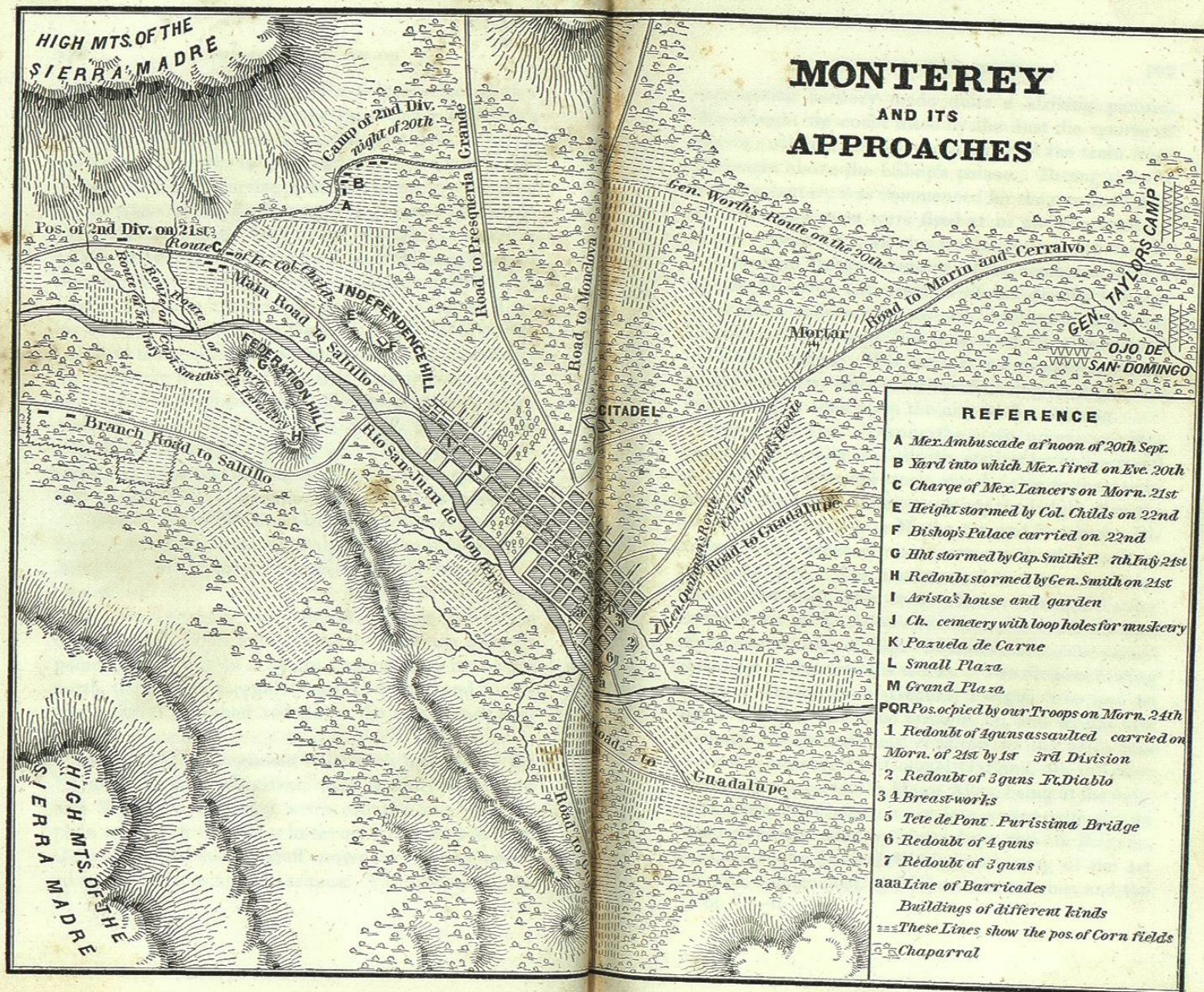
cavalry would charge upon them, when, as they came within range of their guns, many would be sacrificed. General Taylor saw through their design, and ordered a halt; and then it was the enemy opened upon them. The firing was from the citadel, some distance in advance of the city, and from guns of twelve pounds caliber. The third shot ricochéd and passed directly over the general's staff, coming very near him. The troops were immediately encamped about three miles from the city, in a magnificent grove of peccan and live oak. From the sides of the slope issue *springs* of water, which are said to be *streams* at their fountain-head.

After the general retired, the mounted troops remained some time in the vicinity of the spot where they were first fired upon. Several shots were fired at them with no effect. Of course, all is anxiety and excitement—storming parties—taking batteries—crossing ditches—all the subjects of conversation. A reconnoissance was immediately ordered, under charge of our engineer officers, and they are firing away at them with their big guns. As soon as it is finished the general will form his plans, and then we will know what work is cut out for us. The city appears well fortified; and their heavy guns give them a great advantage over us, our small pieces being of no use in battering down their walls. All we have to do is to *take theirs*, and use them against themselves! The greatest enthusiasm prevails among men and officers, and a perfect confidence of success is expressed. In our ignorance of its fortifications, no idea can be formed of the time that will be consumed in taking it; but the general impression is, that the struggle will be fierce, but soon over.

September 20th. Major Mansfield, in charge of a reconnoitering party, escorted by Captain Gillespie's company of Rangers, left yesterday at 4 P.M. to reconnoiter the works to the west of the town. He returned at 10 P.M., having reached within five hundred yards, when he was fired upon with grape. The whole party was repeatedly fired upon. He thinks the works on the heights above the palace quite strong, but that they can be carried by assault without much difficulty. Reconnoissances are actively going on. General Taylor decided upon sending General Worth with his division to take possession of the Saltillo road, and storm the heights to the west of the city. The division marched at noon in capital spirits. To this division was attached Colonel Hay's regiment, and Captains McCullough's and Gillespie's Rangers. The remaining divisions are left for the work in the plain and on the east of the city. The spot upon which we are encamped is called Walnut Grove, and is said to be a fashionable rendezvous for the exclusives of Monterey. A more charming spot for a pic-nic could not possibly be desired.

The works which command the approaches to the city appear to be as follows: on the west, the bishop's palace, and a fort on a height commanding it; to the north, the citadel, a regular bastion-work; and to the east, several detached redoubts: the streets are said to be barricaded.

At 4 P. M. one regiment from each brigade of the 1st and Volunteer Division, with Ridgely's, Bragg's, and Webster's batteries, were ordered out into the plain to make a diversion in favor of General Worth. General Taylor and his staff were out, and we presented quite an imposing appearance. The troops and the



surrounding scenery made quite a striking picture. We thought we could trace by the dust the course of Worth's column. A fire was kept up at the train from the height above the bishop's palace. During the afternoon a battery was commenced for the mortar. After dusk some shots were fired at us and the working party. After dark all the troops retired but the 3d Infantry and Bragg's battery; they remained until 9 o'clock to cover the erection of the mortar battery. They were relieved by the 4th Infantry and the 1st Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers, who remained upon the field all night. The mortar and two twenty-four-pound howitzers were established during the night, and will probably open upon the city in the morning.

September 21st. During the night an express was received from General Worth, stating he had arrived in position, and would storm two heights to the southwest of the castle before storming the height directly west of it. About 7 A.M. the 1st and Volunteer Divisions were ordered under arms, and advanced toward the city. The mortar and howitzer batteries opened, but with little or no effect. General Taylor directed the 1st Division to be moved toward the east of the city to support Major Mansfield in a close reconnaissance of the enemy's works. The division (owing to the indisposition of General Twiggs, who had no idea the action was to be brought on, and was at first in camp, but immediately repaired to the field) was under the command of Colonel Garland, 4th Infantry. The 4th Infantry, under Major Allen, being at the mortar battery, the division went into action with the 3d Infantry, commanded by Major Lear, the 4th Brigade, commanded by Colonel Wilson, consisting of the 1st Infantry, commanded by Major Abercrombie, and the

Baltimore Battalion under Colonel Watson, and Bragg's and Ridgely's batteries. Major Mansfield was directed by General Taylor to bring on the action, if he thought the works could be carried. The reconnoitering party was first supported by Company C., 3d Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Hazlitt, and re-enforced, upon application, by Company H., 3d Infantry, under the command of Captain Field.

The division was formed in line of battle out of reach of the guns of the enemy, when orders were brought for us to advance (by Lieutenant Pope, topographical engineer, and Colonel Kinney, who was acting as volunteer aid-de-camp), make our way into the city, and storm battery No. 1, at the extreme eastern end. As we advanced, battery No. 1 opened upon us. The first shot fired struck immediately in front of our line and ricochéd over it. An enfilading fire was opened upon us from the citadel. The line steadily but rapidly advanced, regardless of all fire; important work was to be performed, and we had made up our minds to carry all before us at the point of the bayonet. For five hundred yards we advanced across a plain under fire of the two batteries. We rushed into the streets. Unfortunately, we did not turn soon enough to the left, and had advanced but a short distance when we came suddenly upon an unknown battery, which opened its deadly fire upon us. From all its embrasures, from every house, from every yard, showers of balls were hurled upon us. Being in utter ignorance of our locality, we had to stand and take it; our men, covering themselves as well as they could, dealt death and destruction on every side; there was no resisting the deadly, concealed fire, which appeared to come from every direction. On every side we were cut

down. Major Barbour was the first officer who was shot down; he fell, cheering his men. He was killed by an escopet ball passing through his heart. He never spoke; his most intimate friend, standing by his side, never received one kind look—one "God bless you!" but his spirit, in the twinkling of lightning, winged its way to his Maker.

We retired into the next street, under cover of some walls and houses. Into this street the body of Major Barbour was carried. Here were lying the dead, wounded, and dying. Captain Williams, of the topographical corps, lay on one side of the street, wounded; the gallant Major Mansfield, wounded in the leg, still pressed on with unabated ardor, cheering the men, and pointing out places of attack. It was in this street I saw the gallant Colonel Watson, followed by a few of his men (some of them were persuading him to retire). Never shall I forget the animated expression of his countenance when, in taking a drink from the canteen of one of his men, he exclaimed, "Never, boys! never will I yield an inch! I have too much Irish blood in me to give up!" A short time after this exclamation he was a corpse. Lieutenant Bragg's battery arrived about this time. He reached the street into which we had retired, but it was impossible for him to do any thing. Finding the struggle at this point hopeless, our force originally having been deemed only sufficient to carry battery No. 1, without any expectation of finding some two or three others raking us, we were ordered to retire in order, with the view of attacking the battery at a more salient point. In the mean time, Captain Backus, of the 1st Infantry, succeeded in stationing himself, with some fifty men, in a tan-yard, which was about one hundred and thirty yards in the rear of bat-

tery No. 1, and nearer the town; in this yard was a shed, facing battery No. 1: its roof was flat, encompassed by a wall about two feet high, which was an excellent breast-work for his men. About twenty yards to the southwest of the battery was a large building, with very thick walls, used as a distillery. On the top of this building sand-bag embrasures had been constructed, and it was occupied by the enemy. The gorge of battery No. 1 was open toward the shed. Captain Backus, with his men, drove the enemy from the distillery with considerable loss. About this time he received information that we had been ordered to retire. Our firing having ceased, he was about withdrawing, when he again heard firing in front of the battery, and at the same time all the guns of the battery opened in the direction of the fire. This was the advance of *two* companies of 4th Infantry, about ninety strong, upon whom the fire of the enemy's batteries were concentrated, and actually mowed them down. It was actually *ninety* men advancing to storm a work defended by *five hundred*! It was here the gallant Hoskins and Woods fell, bravely cheering their men, and the generous Graham was wounded. Backus determined to retain his position; reposted his men on the roof of the shed, and shot down the enemy at their guns, firing through the open gorge of the work.

At this time the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments, under the command of General Quitman, advanced under a very heavy fire, and gained possession of the battery, after a very severe loss. The galling fire of Backus saved many of their gallant men. The greater part of the enemy had been driven from the work before it was taken possession of by the command of General Quitman. Major-general Butler was

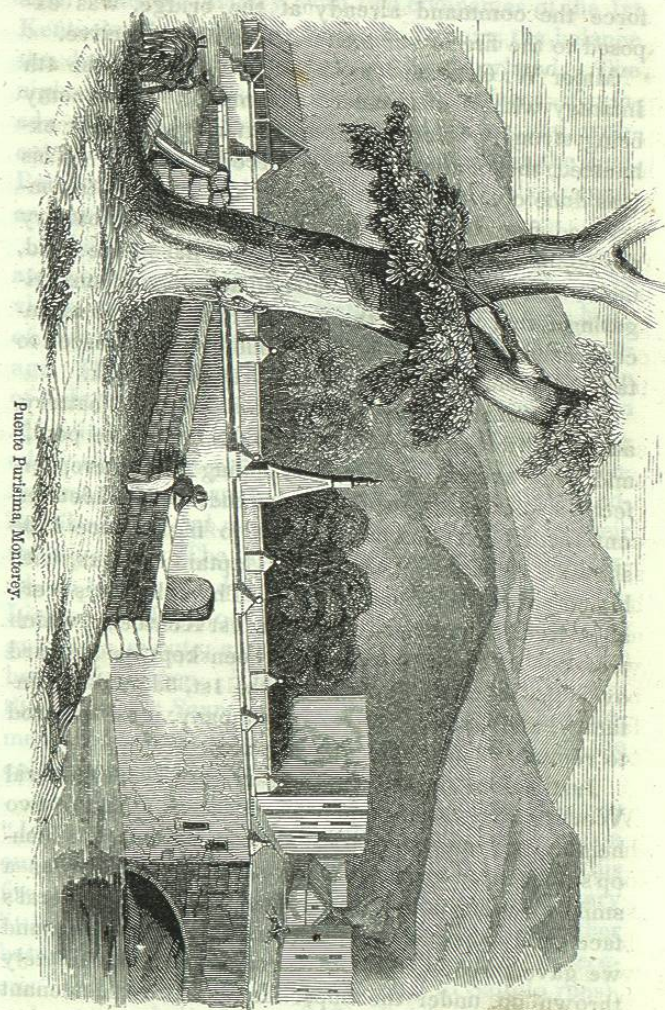
wounded in the leg while leading, in company with General Hamer, the 1st Ohio Regiment. In retiring from the city, we were exposed to a galling fire from the citadel. A ball took a man's head off, and threw it and part of his gun high in the air.

When the division re-formed our terrible loss became apparent. In the 3d Infantry, its gallant commander, Major Lear, was severely wounded by a ball entering at his nostril and coming out at the back of his ear. Lieutenant D. S. Irwin, adjutant of the 3d Infantry, was killed by a shot in the neck. Captain G. P. Field was killed by Lancers while retiring. Lieutenant Hoskins, of the 4th Infantry, Lieutenant Woods, of the 2d (serving with the 4th), were killed, and Lieutenant Graham mortally wounded. Major Abercrombie, of the 1st Infantry, was slightly wounded; Captain La Motte was shot in the arm; Lieutenant Dillworth had a leg shot off; Lieutenant Terret was wounded and taken prisoner. The division was then ordered to the captured work to support Ridgely's battery, about being ordered into the city.

During this time the mortar and three twenty-four-pound howitzers were playing upon the city; one of them, having been taken to the captured work, was now firing into Fort Diablo. While under cover of the battery, we were ordered to enter the city immediately, and carry, if possible, a work of the enemy apparently but a few streets off. The command which went on that fearful expedition was chiefly made up from the 3d and 4th Infantry. The moment we left the cover of the work we were exposed to a galling fire of musketry, escopets, and artillery. We pushed steadily along, taking advantage of every shelter to approach the work. Captain L. N. Morris, 3d Infan-

try, led the column. Crossing one street, we were exposed in full to the guns (mounted in barbette) of a tête de pont, which commanded the passage of El Puente Purissima. The fire from it was perfectly awful. We advanced through several gardens and streets, and at last worked our way to a spot where we were slightly sheltered from the shower of lead. The enemy had occupied these houses, and were driven from them by the determined advance of our men. We could not proceed any further, having arrived at an impassable stream, on the opposite side of which the enemy were in force with three pieces of artillery, from which an incessant fire was kept up on us. In fact, every street was blockaded, and every house a fortification; and on all sides our gallant officers and men were shot down. Our command did not number over one hundred and fifty, and the enemy were at least a thousand strong at the bridge. It would have been madness to storm it with a force so inadequate.

It was at this point that Captain L. N. Morris, while bravely leading his regiment, received a mortal wound; the shot passed through his body, killing him immediately. Going into action with five seniors, at this critical moment the command of the 3d Infantry devolved upon myself. Captain Bainbridge had been wounded in the hand just after leaving the captured battery. A few moments after Captain Morris fell, Lieutenant Hazlitt, of the 3d, received his death-wound. Here it was that the undaunted courage and bravery of the American soldier showed itself. Although exposed to a deadly fire, they would advance by file, assure themselves of their aim, fire, retire and load, and *again return* to the spot where the balls were flying thick and fast. At one time a whole regiment, coming to re-en-



Puente Purissima, Monterey.

force the command already at the bridge, was exposed to the fire of our men: it was very effective.

Major W. Graham was the senior officer of the 4th Infantry with this advanced command. The enemy being strongly re-enforced, our cartridges nearly exhausted, the command was ordered to retire. This was done coolly and calmly, under (if possible) an increased fire. On arriving near the captured battery the command was forced to lie down flat in the road, under cover of a very small embankment of an irrigating ditch, for more than an hour, exposed to an incessant fire of bullets, ball, and shells, until ordered to take position under cover of the captured work.

Lieutenant Ridgely, with a section of his battery, advanced to the street leading to the "tête de pont," and fired several rounds, but, finding they were perfectly useless, his pieces were withdrawn. Lieutenant Bragg, with his battery, put to flight some little show of a charge of Lancers. Captain Shivers, with his company, did good service. The volunteers were all ordered to camp, excepting the 1st Kentucky, which was not in the action, having been kept as a guard over the mortar. They, with the 1st, 3d, and 4th Infantry, and Captain Shivers's company, were ordered to remain, to hold the captured work.

Just before dark an express arrived from General Worth stating that he had been successful in taking two heights, and would storm the one commanding the Bishop's Palace to-morrow at day-dawn. There was a smile of satisfaction passed over our good general's face, and when it was announced to the command we gave three cheers. A traverse was immediately thrown up, under the superintendence of Lieutenant Scarritt, Engineers, as a cover from the fire of the cit-

adel. The 3d Infantry, with two companies of the 1st Kentucky Regiment, occupied the battery, the balance the distillery and houses in the neighborhood. The night set in cold, and, to complete our misery, it rained; the men had neither dinner nor supper, and, without even a blanket, were forced to lie down in the mud. Battery No. 1 mounted five pieces: one twelve-pounder, one nine, two sixes, and one howitzer.

While such were the operations under the immediate eye of General Taylor, General Worth, with his division, was moving for the Saltillo road. A large body of cavalry and some infantry disputed his further passage. The charge of the cavalry was met by the battalion of light troops under Captain C. F. Smith, and Captain McCullough's company of Rangers. The enemy charged by squadrons, and had to turn the foot of a hill before reaching our men. On they came, our men standing like rocks, and many a saddle was emptied by their unerring aim. The first squadron was completely mixed up with our advance, when on came the second. Lieutenant Hays, of Duncan's battery, unlimbered the guns in a minute, and poured in round shot over the heads of our men. This dispersed the whole body, and the cry was, "*Sauve qui peut!*" In this sharp engagement, the enemy, it is presumed, lost one hundred, the colonel among the number.

As soon as the cavalry had retired, the enemy (from "Independence Hill," west of the Palace) opened upon our column a fire from a twelve-pounder. Under this fire the division marched two miles, incurring very little, if any loss. Out of range of this height, another battery of one gun opened from a hill, called "*Federacion*" (between these heights the road to Saltillo runs), and continued the fire until the division marching on