

## RECAPITULATION.

REGULARS.						
CORPS.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Aggregate.	Strength went into battle.	Loss, one out of
General Staff, A. A. G. } Lincoln,.....	1	..	..	1		
Corps Engineers,.....	..	1	..	1		
3d Artillery, 2 Companies,	1	19	..	20	150	7-5
4th Artillery, 1 Company,	6	22	..	28	117	4-18
1st Dragoons, 2 Companies,	..	9	..	9	133	14-78
2d Dragoons, 2 Companies,	..	2	..	2	76	38
Total of Regulars,.....	8	53	..	61	476	
VOLUNTEERS.						
Brigadier-General, (Lane,) } Arkansas Mounted Regiment, (Col. Yell's,)....	..	1	..	1		
1st Kentucky Mounted Regiment, (Col. Marshall's,).....	18	23	1	42	479	11-4
2d Kentucky Foot Regiment, (Col. McKee's,).....	28	22	..	50	330	6-6
1st Illinois Foot Regiment, (Col. Hardin's,).....	44	43	..	87	571	6-56
2d Illinois Foot Regiment, (Col. Bissell's,).....	29	16	..	45	580	12-89
Texas Company, Foot, (Capt. Conner's,) ....	47	66	2	115	573	4-98
2d Indiana Foot Regiment, (Col. Bowles's,).....	15	1	..	16	61	3-81
3d Indiana Foot Regiment, (Col. Lane's,) ..	34	67	1	102	627	6-13
1st Mississippi Foot Regiment, (Col. Davis's,) ..	9	40	..	49	626	12-77
Total of Volunteers,.....	40	56	2	98	368	3-75
Total of Regulars and Volunteers,.....	264	335	6	605	4,215	
	272	388	6	666	4,691	

S. CHURCHILL, *Ins. Gen.*

## F.

(See page 131.)

Major Mansfield, of the Corps of Engineers, wrote from Agua Nueva, March 1st, a letter, from which the following extracts are made :

“ Nothing could exceed the gallant bearing of our horse and dragoons, nor the bravery and good conduct of the volunteers, as a body. Not a regular infantry soldier was in this fight.

“ If I had had but one single full regiment of regulars in reserve, we could have charged their battery on our extreme left, and taken 4000 or 5000 prisoners. As it was, we could only hold our own against such odds.

“ It was a beautiful battle, — not a mistake made the whole day ; but every man perfectly exhausted at night. Our loss about 264 killed, and 450 wounded ; the enemy's loss about 2500 in killed and wounded, and 4000 missing.”



## G.

(See page 142.)

*Return of Mexican Prisoners captured at the Battle of Buena Vista, February 22d and 23d, 1847, and subsequently brought in by the Troops under the Command of Major-General Z. Taylor.*

Captains.	Lieutenants.	Sub. Lieutenants.	Sergeants.	Corporals.	Musicians.	Privates.	Sappers.	Drivers.	Cooks.	Aggregate.	REMARKS.
1	1	1	4	4	4	85	1	4	1	106	Sent from Buena Vista, Feb. 25, in charge of Captain Faulac, to Gen. Santa Anna, for exchange.
						39	..	..	..	39	Fit for duty; confined at Saltillo.
1	..	..	5	9	..	133	..	1	..	149	Wounded, and in hospital at Saltillo.
2	1	1	9	13	4	257	1	5	1	294	

S. CHURCHILL,  
*Inspector-General.*

INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,  
Camp at Agua Nueva, March 4, 1847.

## H.

(See page 150.)

It will be observed that General Santa Anna claims to have taken "two banners" from us, in one of the following letters, and "three stands of colors," in the other.

"TO GENERAL DON CIRIACO VASQUEZ.

"Agua Nueva, February 25, 1847.

"MY ESTEEMED FRIEND: The haste with which I sent off the last express to the government hindered me from writing to you the news of the deeds of arms. We have fought for two whole days. The enemy awaited us at a point called the Narrows. The battle of the 23d was particularly bloody, on both sides; but it was impossible to take the principal position of the enemy, which is another Thermopylæ, although we drove him from five positions, and took two banners and three guns. The blood ran in torrents, and it is calculated that both armies lost 3000 or 4000 men in killed and wounded. Our bayonet charges resulted in the death of hundreds; but the enemy could not be completely routed, on account of the strong position he occupied. We gave him to understand that the Mexican soldier can fight bravely, breast to breast, and without being deterred, either by strength of position, or by brokenness of ground, or by hunger and thirst, which he suffered with heroic resignation. The strength of the enemy was 9000 men and twenty-six pieces of artillery.

"We have to lament the death of Colonel Berra, Lieutenant-Colonel Anonos, and the commanders of battalions and squadrons, Luyanda, Rios, Peña, besides other officers: General Lombardino, Colonel Brito, Colonel Rocha, General Ángel Guzman, Lieutenant-Colonels Gallozo, Monterdeoca, Andrade, Jicoterca, Oujano, Basave, Onate, and other chiefs and officers, are wounded.



"I lost my horse by a gunshot in one of the first charges. We are destitute of necessaries for the wounded, and I therefore charge you to send on immediately the provisions in your place, so that they may meet the army, which has done its duty, and saved the honor of the national arms.

"God and Liberty!

"SANTA ANNA."

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY, D. RAMON ADAME.

"Agua Nueva, February 26, 1847.

"MY DEAR FRIEND: The hurry in which I wrote my last letter prevented me from sending you a copy of my despatch to the government, and the general order issued to the troops on the field of battle. I now send it, and suppose the triumph of our arms has been celebrated in your town. The want of supplies, together with the dysentery, which broke out in the army, compelled me to listen to the opinions of the generals and chiefs of the army, and regulate my operations accordingly. They unanimously determined that the army ought to fall back on points where supplies might be had. I have, therefore, determined to retire by way of Cedral, Vanegas, and Matahuala, where I can establish a hospital for the wounded, who amount to more than 400, and also for the sick; after which I will return and seek the enemy, provided the government furnishes the necessary resources.

"I have informed the government to this effect, under the present date. I here take occasion to state,

as all the world should know it, that the treason of a native Mexican prevented me from gaining a complete victory over our invaders. A soldier from the regiment of cuirassiers, a native of Saltillo, deserted from Encarnacion, and informed General Wool of my approach. General Wool precipitately struck his camp, abandoning a part of his train, and some provisions, and occupied the impregnable position of La Angostura, which it was impossible to reduce, notwithstanding the great advantage gained by our troops, who took five of their positions, three stands of colors, and as many pieces of artillery.

"God and Liberty!

"SANTA ANNA."

I.

(See page 151.)

General Miñon published a letter in the "Independiente," in which, after defending himself, he attempts to account for the disasters of the battle, and denies that the Mexican army was suffering for want of food.

"TO THE EDITORS OF THE 'INDEPENDIENTE.'

"Santa María del Rio, April 10, 1847.

"DEAR SIRS: . . . The nation will know, one day, what that was which was called, without shame, the victory of La Angostura; it will know that it had brave soldiers, worthy to rival, in ardor and enthu-



siasm, the best of any army whatever; that it had intrepid officers, who led them gallantly to the combat,—but that it had no general who knew how to make use of these excellent materials. The nation will know that if, on those memorable fields, a true and splendid victory was not achieved, no one was to blame but him who was charged with leading the forces, because he did not know how to do it. According to the order of the attack, and with a knowledge of the positions occupied by the enemy, speaking in accordance with the rules of art, we ought to have been defeated. We were not, because the valor of our troops overcame all the disadvantages with which we had to struggle. The battle of La Angostura was nothing but an unconnected succession of sublime individual deeds,—partial attacks of the several corps who entered the action. Their chiefs led them according to the divers positions taken by the enemy, in consequence of the partial defeats which he suffered; but there was no methodical direction, no general regulated attack, no plan in which the efforts of the troops, according to their class, were combined, that did, or could, produce a victory. General Santa Anna believes that war is reduced to the fighting of the troops of one and the other party, wherever they meet, and however they choose; General Santa Anna believes that a battle is no more than the shock of men, with much noise, shouts, and shots, to see who can do the most, each in his own way; General Santa Anna cannot conceive how it happens that a victory may be gained over an enemy by wise and well-calculated manœuvres. Thus it is,

that he has everywhere been routed, and he always will be, unless he should have the fortune to meet with one who has the same ideas with himself in relation to war.

“But, leaving it to others to elucidate all that happened during this campaign of February, the very grave faults committed by the general who conducted it, and the fatal consequences which it immediately had, and which it will continue to have, on the war in which we are engaged, I shall confine myself to that which concerns me. It is false that I was not present at the rear-guard of the enemy during the battle of the 23d of February. I was not only present, but I suffered, with the whole brigade which I commanded, from the fire they kept up on us. The whole city of Saltillo, in sight of which I was all day, and the enemy himself, will testify to it. . . . We were so much present, that General Taylor ordered six pieces of artillery to open upon us at that point, and there were more than a thousand men engaged in observing my brigade, who took no part in the action;—these lessened the force that General Santa Anna had to fight. I did not withdraw from there till nightfall, and when the battle had entirely ceased. I retired within view of the enemy's troops, who sallied from Saltillo, with four pieces of cannon, to engage us. The roughness of the ground,—wholly cut up by an infinity of deep ravines,—rendered useless any attempt whatever on the part of my cavalry.

“*The only reason, the true cause, of this animosity of General Santa Anna towards me, is, that I disap-*



proved of his retiring from the field of Angostura, as is seen by my communications, numbered 4 and 5. I believed then, and I believe now, that the army which had left San Luis might have remained at that point, and completed the great work, which it had undertaken, of destroying the enemy. Many believe the same as I do. It is false that there was not food or water. There was every thing, — I myself supplied General Santa Anna. I advised him repeatedly of what I had at my disposition, — beeves, corn, flour, — where I was. I indicated to him the route by which he could move, without embarrassment, to Saltillo, without scarcity of water, of forage for the horses, or of provisions for the troops. I had not less than 700 beeves confined in an enclosure, all of which I shared with him as opportunity offered. His retirement was unjustifiable, and much more so from the manner in which he undertook it, — in the midst of the darkness of night, — abandoning, without necessity, hundreds of the unhappy wounded, and, in appearance, much more like that of a fugitive, desirous of concealing from the enemy his defeat, that he might not finish his destruction, than that of a general who desired to take breathing-time, but who could have obliged any that attempted to impede him to give way. This is the *only and true cause* of my persecution, — there is no other. General Santa Anna properly supposed that I would not desist from speaking, and telling the nation what had occurred on those days, and he desired to prevent me. He imprisoned me, and cut me off from all communication. He

desired, at the same time, to deprive me of my papers, in order to make my vindication impossible; but I preserved them, thanks to my foresight, and will answer, with dates, whatever charges they may bring against me. If there is any thing painful to me in this affair, it is that I am withdrawn from the front of the enemy, and deprived of the privilege of shedding my blood for my country, to which I owe all, — my rank and my subsistence. This I feel, — nothing else. May I be permitted to give my feeble services, to pay, in some manner, this sacred debt; I will do it to merit my country's esteem; and if I enjoy that, of no consequence to me is the hatred of my enemies, whom I pity and despise.

“J. V. MINON.”

J.

(See page 155.)

The following extract of a letter, dated March 22, 1847, from the Secretary of War to General Scott, indicates the extreme solicitude which was felt at Washington, at General Taylor's critical condition; and, also, the just appreciation which the Department of War entertained of the momentous consequences depending on the battle:

“The information which has just reached us in the shape of rumors, as to the situation of General Taylor, and the forces under his command, has excited the most painful apprehensions for his safety. It is



almost certain that Santa Anna has precipitated the large army he had collected at San Luis de Potosí upon General Taylor; and it may be, that the General has not been able to maintain the advanced position he had seen fit to take at Agua Nueva, but has been obliged to fall back on Monterey. It is equally certain, that a Mexican force has been interposed between Monterey and the Rio Grande, and that it has interrupted the line of communication between the two places, and seized large supplies, which were on their way to General Taylor's army.

"If the hostile force between the Rio Grande and General Taylor's army is as large as report represents it, our troops now on that river may not be able to reestablish the line; nor will it, perhaps, be possible to place a force there, sufficient for the purpose, in time to prevent disastrous consequences to our army, *unless aid can be afforded from the troops under your immediate command.*

"From one to two thousand of the new recruits for the ten regiments, from this quarter, will be on the way to the Brazos, in the course of three or four days. All the other forces will be directed to that point, and every effort made to relieve General Taylor from his critical situation. You will have been fully apprized, before this can reach you, of the condition of things in the Valley of the Rio Grande, and at the headquarters of General Taylor; and have taken, I trust, such measures as the importance of the subject requires. I need not urge upon you the fatal consequences which would result from any serious disaster

which might befall the army under General Taylor, nor do I doubt that you will do what is in your power to avert such a calamity."

## K.

These are the orders issued to the troops after the battle of Buena Vista:

"Head-Quarters, Army of Occupation,  
Buena Vista, February 26, 1847.

"The commanding General has the grateful task of congratulating the troops upon the brilliant success which attended their arms in the conflict of the 22d and 23d. Confident in their superiority of numbers, and stimulated by the presence of a distinguished leader, the Mexican troops were yet repulsed in every effort to force our lines, and finally withdrew, with immense loss, from the field.

"The General would express his obligations to the officers and men engaged, for the cordial support which they rendered throughout the action; it will be his highest pride to bring to the notice of the government the conspicuous gallantry of particular officers and corps, whose unwavering steadiness more than once saved the fortunes of the day. He would also express his high satisfaction with the conduct of a small command left to hold Saltillo; though not so seriously engaged as their comrades, their services were very important and efficiently rendered. While bestowing this just tribute to the good conduct of the



troops, the General deeply regrets to say that there were a few exceptions. He trusts that those who fled ingloriously from Buena Vista, and went to Saltillo, will seek an opportunity to retrieve their reputation, and to emulate the bravery of their comrades, who bore the brunt of the battle, and sustained, against fearful odds, the honor of the flag. The exultation of success is checked by the heavy sacrifice of life which it has cost, embracing many officers of high rank and high merit. While the sympathies of a grateful country will be given to the bereaved families and friends of those who nobly fell, their illustrious example will remain for the benefit and admiration of the army.

“By order of General Taylor.

“W. W. S. BLISS,  
“Assistant Adjutant-General.”

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L.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 54.

Head-Quarters of the Army of the U. S.,  
Vergara, before Vera Cruz, March 15, 1847.

The General-in-Chief of the army has received authentic information of a great and glorious victory, obtained by the arms of our country under the successful Major-General Taylor, at Buena Vista, near Saltillo, on the 22d and 23d ultimo. The general results were 4000 of the enemy killed and wounded, against our loss of 700 gallant men. General Santa

Anna, on sustaining that overwhelming defeat, is known to have retreated upon San Louis de Potosí, and probably will not stop short of the capital.

The General-in-Chief imparts this glorious news to the army, that all with him may participate in the joy that is now spreading itself throughout the breadth of our country.

By command of Major-General Scott.

H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

No official report is yet received.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

March 17, 1847.

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M.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
April 3, 1847.

SIR: Your communications of the 24th and 25th of February and the 1st of March, announcing the brilliant success of the troops under your command at Buena Vista, against the forces of the enemy vastly superior in numbers, have been laid before the President, and I am instructed to convey to you his high appreciation of the distinguished services rendered to the country by yourself and the officers and soldiers of your command on that occasion.

The victory achieved at Buena Vista, while it adds new glory to our arms, and furnishes new proofs of the valor and brave daring of our officers and soldiers, will excite the admiration and call forth the gratitude of the nation.



The single fact that 5000 of our troops, nearly all volunteers, who, yielding to the impulse of patriotism, had rallied to their country's standard for a temporary service, were brought into conflict with an army of 20,000, mostly veteran soldiers, and not only stood and repulsed the assaults of this numerous host, led by their most experienced general, but in a protracted battle of two days won a glorious victory, is the most indubitable evidence of the consummate skill and gallant conduct of our officers and the devoted heroism of the troops under their command. It will ever be a proud distinction to have been in the memorable battle of *Buena Vista*.

The general joy which the intelligence of this success of our arms has spread through the land is mingled with regret that it has been obtained at so great a price,—that so many heroic men have fallen in that sanguinary conflict. They died in the intrepid discharge of a patriotic duty, and will be honored and lamented by a grateful nation.

You will cause this communication to be published to the troops under your command.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,

W. L. MARCY,  
*Secretary of War.*

To Major-General Z. TAYLOR.

## N.

On the 28th of January, Santa Anna issued this proclamation to his army, and directed that it should be read at the head of every regiment, and that a printed copy be furnished to each company.

*“His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Army of Operations of the North, to all under his command.*

“COMPANIONS IN ARMS! The operations of the enemy require of us to move precipitately on their principal line; and we are about to do it. The independence, the honor, and the destinies of the nation depend, in this movement, on your decision.

“Soldiers! The entire world is observing us; and it is obligatory on you that your deeds should be as heroic as they are necessary, from the neglect and abandonment with which you have been treated by those whose duty it is to succor you. Privations of all kinds await you; but when has want or penury weakened your spirit or debilitated your enthusiasm? The Mexican soldier is well known for his frugality and his capability of sufferance. Never does he need magazines of provisions when about to pass the deserts; but he has always had an eye to the resources and supplies of his enemy to administer to his own wants. To-day you commence your march, through a thinly-settled country, without supplies and without provisions; but you may be assured that very quickly you will be in possession of those of your



enemy, and of his riches; and with them all your wants will be superabundantly remedied.

"My friends! We are about to open the campaign; and who can tell us how many days of glory await us! What a perspective, so full of hope for our country! What satisfaction will you feel, when you contemplate that you have saved our independence! that you are the objects of admiration to the whole world, and that our own country will shower down blessings on your head! O, when again in the bosoms of your families you shall relate your dangers and hardships suffered, your combats and triumphs over your daring, presumptuous foe, — when you tell your children that *you* have given them their country a second time, — your jubilee will be complete; and how insignificant will your sacrifices appear!

"Soldiers! Trust confidently in the destinies of your country. The cause we sustain is *holy*, and never have we gone to the conflict with so much justice, for we are defending the home of our forefathers and of our posterity, — our honor, — our holy religion, — our wives, — our children. What sacrifice is too great for objects so dear? Let our motto be, "To conquer or die." Let us swear before the Eternal, that we will not rest one instant until we completely wipe away from our soil the vain-glorious foreigner who has dared to pollute it with his presence. No terms with him, — nothing for us but heroism and grandeur.

"ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

"Head-Quarters, in San Luis Potosí, Jan. 27, 1847.

"By order of his Excellency.

"MICHELTORENA."

## O.

This is the order of march commencing the movement of the "LIBERATING ARMY OF THE NORTH" from San Luis de Potosí.

"GENERAL ORDERS, JAN. 26, 1847.

"*Officer-in-Chief of the Day* — LIEUTENANT-COLONEL DON MANUEL ROMERO.

"*Head-Quarters 1st Brigade. — Order of march of the Army.*

"By general order, the General-in-Chief commands that the baggage shall not be carried with the army, nor shall the soldiers take their knapsacks, but shall wear their dress of Russia duck, and over this their suit of cloth; they shall only take two shirts, four rounds of cartridges, and two flints, including the one in their guns; they shall carry nothing except their cooking utensils. All the officers and other persons shall march in their places, and, when bivouacking, shall keep at the head of their respective commands.

"On the 27th, the following pieces of artillery will march: Three 24's, three 16's, five 12's, and eight 8-pounders, and one howitzer, with ammunition corresponding to each, and also the platforms for the large pieces; 500 boxes of musket-ammunition, 12,000 flints, and the remainder of the canister and grape of the three pieces, which were in Tula, — all of which will be placed in the twenty-one wagons contracted for; and what remains, on 450 mules, which the chief of the staff will order to be delivered to the commanding officer of artillery. The ammunition of the



pieces above expressed will be escorted by themselves, and by the company of sappers and miners who belong to the regiment of engineers, and by the artillerymen of the light brigade, who will take with them all the implements necessary for sapping and mining, in the wagons which the sappers have; the sacks for filling with earth will be carried on mules, which will be furnished by the chief of the staff.

“On Thursday, the 28th, the 5th brigade of infantry, under the command of Don Francisco Pacheco, will commence its march, sending ahead always, the evening previous, an officer to procure lodgings and prepare rations for the troops.

“On Friday, the 29th, the 1st and 2d brigades will march out in the same manner, under the orders of Don Rafael Garcia Conde; these brigades will be considered as united until further orders, and consequently all the infantry is placed under the command of General of Brigade, Don Manuel Maria Lombardini.

“On Saturday, the 30th, the 4th and 6th brigades will march in like manner, under the command of Brigadier-General Don Luis Guzman.

“The medical staff having left in the hospitals of this city four junior surgeons, and only the necessaries for the service, all the rest will march, apportioned among the different brigades, under the orders of the Medical Inspector-General, with all their medicines, and articles necessary for the campaign.

“The General's staff and its chief will depart, after having advanced all the brigades and material of war, taking particular care that, after arriving at Matahuala,

the staff will be distributed to each division, according to the necessities of the service.

“All the military left in the city will know as their Commander-in-Chief the General of Brigade, Don Juan Amador, under whose command are the fortifications, instruction, and discipline of the troops, and likewise the defence of the city and state, — he being the commanding General. There will remain in this city only those soldiers who are incapable of doing service in the campaign. And on the morning of the 29th, they, — all the new recruits, — the sick, the weak, and unarmed, will be marched in and take possession of the different barracks; for it is the desire of the President General-in-Chief, that only those soldiers should march who are capable of performing the duties and bearing the fatigues and privations of war.

“Each brigade will leave in this city persons capable of instructing their recruits; and, for the defence of the place, at least one captain, and subalterns in proportion to their respective numbers.

“The General-in-Chief, Don Manuel Maria Lombardini, will order that, by twelve o'clock, A. M., tomorrow, a list be made and delivered to the chief of the staff, of all the baggage to be transported belonging to each and every corps. The artillery, engineer, quartermaster, and medical staffs will also comply with this order.

“The chief of the staff will remit to each chief of section instructions necessary for the march.

“Every officer belonging to this army, whatever may be his rank or title, will read to the troops under his command the following order:



"1st. Any person who may desert his flag shall suffer *death*, agreeably to article 57th, of the 29th December, 1838.

"2d. Any person who may be found half a league distant from this city, or from the camp, shall be considered guilty of the crime of *desertion*.

"By order of his Excellency,

"SALAZAR, *Colonel*,

"VASQUEZ, *General of Brigade*."

P.

This is the final order of march and general disposition of the Mexican army on leaving La Encarnacion for Agua Nueva. Many important discrepancies exist between it and Santa Anna's Report, made *after* the Battle of Buena Vista.

"GENERAL ORDERS OF THE 20TH AND THE 21ST FEB. 1847.

"*General Officer of the Day* — DON RAFAEL VASQUEZ.

"*Aides* — COL. JOSÉ MA. BERMUDEA, AND LIEUT.-COL. DON FLORENCIO ASPETIA.

"*And for to-morrow* — DON FRANCISCO MEJIA, *General Officer of the Day*.

"*Aides* — COL. DON CARLOS BRITO, AND LIEUT.-COL. DON GREGORIO ELATI.

"In the morning the army will continue its march, which will commence at eleven o'clock precisely, in the following order :

"The 1st, 2d, 3d, and 4th battalions of light infantry will take the lead, under the orders of General Ampudia, so that he may be able to avail himself of all advantages that the circumstances may require; immediately after, the battalion of sappers; and in its rear, and at the head of the division of infantry of the van, under the orders of General Pacheco, will be placed the company of sharpshooters, and three pieces of 16's, with their respective artillerists and reserve; as likewise the ammunition, composed of 100 round shot and 100 grape for each piece, and 80 boxes of musket ammunition, each containing 9600 cartridges.

"Division of infantry of the centre, commanded by General Manuel Ma. Lombardini, will follow. At the head of this column there will be five 12's, as above named and ammunitioned, and also 80 boxes of musket ammunition.

"At the head of the division of the rear, commanded by General Ortega, there will be five pieces of 8's, supplied with men and ammunition as above, and also its 80 boxes of musket ammunition, each containing 9600 cartridges.

"The division of cavalry of the rear will follow closely on the last of infantry, having at their head the husars, and in their rear the general ammunition train, escorted by the brigade of horse artillery; after the ammunition train, all the camp followers of all classes, with the baggage of all kinds, laundresses, cooks, &c., — it being distinctly understood that no woman will be allowed to mix with the column. The chief in