

he was living in comparative luxury, upon stores he had hoarded in his house. Some trifling supplies, as we before observed, had been brought into the fort: he monopolized such part of them as he thought proper, and the residue only he permitted the importers to vend. He would not even allow the swine that he had about his house to be killed, for the use of the men who were defending his country, himself, and his family. During their severe privations, he retailed, at an exorbitant price, pork, lard, sugar, cigars, and even some water which he had collected in the shower. It was, therefore, a general opinion, that the aversion of this man to the sally, at the time it was proposed, was merely feigned, to gain time to steal away with his money. With such chiefs as this man, and Padre Torres, were Mina and his brave officers and men compelled to act, at this critical juncture!

Colonel Young having determined to defend the fort to the last, declared that he would be the last man to leave it; and to this resolution he fell a sacrifice.

On the 18th, the sound of the enemy's bugles echoed through the barranca, and announced some movement of the besiegers. Their infantry at the watering place, and on

the south of the fort, were observed to be forming, and it was supposed an assault was impending. Preparations for defence were made by the besieged, who, although greatly diminished in numbers, and emaciated by severe privations, yet resolved to prevent the entrance of the enemy, or die in the breach. Colonel Young, ever on the alert, made the most of his handful of troops. Sixty men were placed for the defence of the front wall; and the remaining few were so arranged as to be prepared to meet the assailants at the several points at which an entrance might be gained. Some of the few females who still remained, aware of the horrors to which they would be exposed, should the enemy succeed, cheerfully flew to reinforce the several positions, armed with missile weapons.

At one o'clock the enemy sounded the advance from his head-quarters, which was repeated by his respective divisions. Soon after, a strong column appeared on the hill, marching down; at the same time, the division at the watering place ascended the hill, threatening the east side; while the other division, on the southern ridge, marched up the hill, carrying scaling-ladders. The enemy boldly advanced along the causeway to the breach, under cover

of a heavy fire from their battery on the hill, and in face of the galling fire of the garrison from the two flanking works. When within a few paces, the heavy fire they encountered compelled them to halt: unavailing were the endeavours of their officers to get them up to the breach; they retreated in the utmost disorder. At the other points of attack they were equally unsuccessful. At the south end, the hill being very steep, they ascended with difficulty, and soon became exhausted; and, as they approached, a destructive fire was opened upon them, while the women rolled down huge masses of stone. No longer able to withstand so vigorous and unexpected an opposition, they withdrew their forces, having sustained a severe loss.

At that moment a copious shower of rain fell: it was the first which had refreshed the garrison for many days. The enemy conceived that this was a propitious moment to renew the assault, presuming that as the fire-arms would be rendered unserviceable from the rain, their superior numbers would enable them to force their way into the fort. Again their martial instruments sounded the advance. The column again moved forward, and approached the breach with a scaling ladder, displaying a

black flag, as a symbol of the fate which awaited the besieged. Fire-arms could not now be used on either side. The enemy continued to press on, and were opposed only by missile weapons. Fortunately, at this moment, the rain ceased. The defenders of the works were invigorated by the shower, and, when the fire-arms could be used, again commenced a well-directed fire. The bearers of the scaling ladder were killed. The soldiers of the enemy, urged on by their officers, still continued to advance; but, within a few yards of the breach, they received such a galling discharge, that they again broke, flying for shelter among the rocks and bushes, where they remained until night enabled them to retire.

In this affair the garrison suffered a severe loss, but particularly in the death of the gallant Colonel Young, who gloriously fell in the moment of victory. On the enemy's last retreat, the colonel, anxious to observe all their movements, fearlessly exposed his person, by stepping on a large stone on the ramparts; and, while conversing with Dr. Hennessey, on the successes of the day, and on the dastardly conduct of the enemy, the last shot that was fired from their battery, carried off his head. Colonel Young was an officer whom, next to Mina, the

American part of the division had been accustomed to respect and admire. In every action he had been conspicuous for his daring courage and skill. Mina reposed unbounded confidence in him. In the hour of danger he was collected, gave his orders with precision, and, sword in hand, was always in the hottest of the combat; honour and firmness marked all his actions. He was generous in the extreme, and endured privations with a cheerfulness superior to that of any other officer in the division. He had been in the United States' service, as lieutenant-colonel of the twenty-ninth regiment of infantry. His body was interred, by the few Americans who could be spared from duty, with every possible mark of honour and respect; and the general gloom which pervaded the division on this occasion, was the sincerest tribute that could be offered by them to the memory of their brave chief.

The command of the division devolved on Lieutenant-Colonel Bradburn. Hopes were now indulged that the enemy, finding they could not carry the place by storm, would raise the siege; but they were too well aware of the miserable state of the garrison, to allow such a prize as Mina's officers to escape them. They had likewise found, by the extraordinary

defence of the fort, that it contained a body of men highly dangerous to the royal cause; and it was supposed that if Mina could be deprived of his foreign troops, he would then be incapable of giving the royalists further serious annoyance.

The enemy, on the following day, evinced not the least indication of raising the siege; and the provisions and ammunition being entirely exhausted, it became impossible to hold possession of the fort any longer. It was, therefore, decided to abandon it; and, every preparation having been made, it was determined that it should take place on the night of the 19th.

On examining the military chest, it was found that there remained in it only about eighteen thousand dollars. The funds had been reduced to this comparatively small amount, by advances made to Torres for provisions, disbursements for clothing, payments to Don Pedro Moreno; a quantity of doubloons having been taken out by the general for the purpose of procuring provisions, and a sum intrusted to Don Pedro, on the night of the 17th, when arrangements had been made for an evacuation, and which was carried out by the peasantry. What thus remained of the specie,

together with some spare arms and artillery, was buried. The limbers of the latter were burned, and shot rammed tightly into the guns.

Every thing being in readiness, the garrison prepared to evacuate the fort. A distressing scene then took place. The necessity of abandoning the unfortunate wounded, whom, from the nature of the barranca over which it was necessary to pass, it was impossible to carry out, was imperious. The hospital was filled with these victims, the majority of whom were the officers and men who had accompanied Mina from Soto la Marina: they were incapable of bodily exertion, the limbs of most of them being broken. Parting with such men, who had fought so bravely, and who were so devoted to the cause they had espoused, filled every breast with unutterable agony. Some anticipated the fate that awaited them, and entreated their friends to terminate their existence; some indulged hopes of mercy from the Spaniards; while others, overwhelmed with grief and despair, covered their faces, and were unable to bid what they considered a final adieu.

At eleven o'clock at night, Colonel Bradburn proceeded with the division to the appointed

spot, whence the sally was to be made. The route chosen was through the barranca before described, the only direction by which there was any chance of escape. On arriving at the rendezvous, Colonel Bradburn was surprised to find that Don Pedro, who had reached there first, had imprudently permitted the women and children to precede the march. They soon got into confusion, and by their screams alarmed the enemy, and thus apprised them of what was in agitation. From the difficulties which the barranca presented, it was impracticable for the troops to remain formed in their march; and hence, in the darkness of the night, they soon dispersed, every one exploring his path, and endeavouring to take care of himself.

In the bottom of the barranca, the picquets and sentries of the enemy were encountered; with whom a continual skirmishing prevailed. Many of the fugitives dropped down from weakness; others were shot by the random fire of the enemy. The screams of the women, the reports of the enemy's musquets, the cries of those who fell, the groans of the wounded, and the intense darkness which reigned around, gave to the scene indescribable horror. Some few, particularly of the females, were so dismayed, that they returned to the fort; preferring

the chance of a pardon to the risk of that destruction which then seemed inevitable. The greater part, however, by the dawn, had gained the opposite summit of the barranca. Here, many of them flattered themselves, the danger was over; but the foreigners, being ignorant of the topography of the place, were uncertain which way to direct their course, fearing that every step might place them in the power of the enemy. They marched on as chance directed them, in parties of two, three, or six. Soon after day-light, they were beset by parties of the enemy's cavalry, who had been ordered along the summit of the barranca, as soon as it was known that the garrison had evacuated the fort. Another scene of horror began:—the enemy's cavalry rushed in among the flying and kneeling individuals. No quarter was given. Cut to pieces by the sword, or transfixed with lances, the greater part of the fugitives were destroyed. The few who escaped, among whom was Don Fedro Moreno, owed their preservation to the dense and foggy state of the atmosphere. The clothes and money found on the victims, were looked upon as prizes by the cavalry soldiers, who for that reason preferred killing to making prisoners of them; for if they had spared their lives, and conducted them as

prisoners to head-quarters, the booty would not have been so great, as in that case they might have lost the clothes.

The next morning, the enemy entered the deserted fort in triumph. Then ensued a tragedy, by order of the infuriated Liñan, which it is in vain to attempt to depict in colours sufficiently strong.

The hospital, as we have before observed, was filled with wounded, a large majority of whom were foreigners, principally Americans. Those who could hobble to the square, a few paces distant, were made to do so, while others, whose fractured limbs would not permit them to move, were inhumanly *dragged along the ground* to the fatal spot. There stood the ferocious Liñan, feasting on the spectacle; regardless of their miserable situation, of their former gallant conduct, of the clemency and respect which they had shewn to royalist prisoners—unmindful of all these considerations, he ordered them to be stripped of all their clothes, and shot down, one by one.

Liñan occupied three days in compelling the other prisoners that were found in the fort, to demolish the works; which being effected, he ordered them to be brought to the square, and there shot. One of the prisoners, immediately

before being shot, discovered the place where the treasure and other articles were buried, but even this information did not save his life.

Thus terminated the siege of Sombrero: out of the two hundred and sixty-nine men who had entered the fort with Mina, only fifty escaped.

Liñan, after having completed the destruction of the fort, returned to Villa de Leon, exulting in the exploits which he had performed. It may not be amiss to give a short sketch of his origin and career, founded on information derived from respectable sources—from some Spanish European officers. Pasqual Liñan, at the time that Ferdinand entered France, was a soldier in the ranks. He followed the king in the capacity of a servant, and remained with him till his return to Spain. Ferdinand became much attached to him; and, desirous of displaying his generosity to Liñan, for the services he had rendered, requested him to name the manner in which he could best requite his fidelity. "Make me a mariscal de campo," said Liñan. The king, although perhaps surprised at such a request, was at the same time so much pleased with the manner in which Liñan had made it, that he said, "*Muy bien.*" Accordingly, to the astonishment of the Spanish

officers, Pasqual Liñan was created a mariscal de campo, and sent to Mexico as inspector-general. He is deficient in education, and although his personal appearance is imposing, his manners are so coarse, and his conversation so illiterate, that he disgusts those of both sexes who have any intercourse with him. He is hated and despised by his subaltern officers, and although they allow he has personal courage, yet they can discover in him no other than this, almost the least, requisite for a commander-in-chief. During the siege of Sombrero, he never moved from his head-quarters: he trusted to other officers, entirely, for the planning and execution of all the operations.

It would be neither just nor generous to infer from the conduct of Liñan, that his officers approved of his sanguinary measures; nor do we wish that conclusions should be drawn against the Spanish character generally, because many of the agents of its barbarous and vindictive government have acted like the monster Liñan. We have seen many Spanish officers, whose humane, generous, and noble feelings, would have done honour to any country.

Some of those attached to the European regiments under Liñan's orders, particularly interfered to stop his cruel proceedings. They

begged him to defer the execution of the prisoners, until he consulted the viceroy. Although they found him inexorable, they continued urging the point to the last moment, openly expressing their abhorrence of his savage acts. We afterwards understood, that a pardon for the prisoners did actually arrive from Mexico; but it was too late, for their blood had already satiated the vengeance of the brutal Liñan. Upon his head therefore rests the wanton slaughter of the gallant foreigners and others, who fell into his hands; and to him do we impute the horrors which marked the conquest of Sombrero.

The Spanish officers speak in terms of the strongest indignation and disgust of the dreadful enormities perpetrated by this man, and even those of his own politics, who have had any public transactions with him, hold him in fear and abhorrence. He is at present, we believe, in the city of Vera Cruz, of which province he is governor. His conduct there has been so base, and so scandalous, as to cover him with the odium, not only of the inhabitants generally, but even of his own countrymen.

CHAPTER IX.

General Mina proceeds to the fort of Los Remedios—Arrival of some of the fugitives there from Sombrero—Description of the fort of Los Remedios, or San Gregorio—Advance of Liñan against the fort—Mina marches out, with nine hundred men—Description of these troops—Meeting of the general with the remnant of his division, near the Tlachiquera—Siege laid to Los Remedios—Mina advances against, and takes Biscocho—Execution of the garrison—Advance against, and capture of San Luis de la Paz—Clemency of Mina towards the garrison—Attack on San Miguel—Retreat therefrom, and arrival at the Valle de Santiago—A description of it—Continuation of events connected with Mina's movements—Disgraceful conduct of Padre Torres—Continuation of events at the fort—Repulse of the enemy—Sortie on one of his batteries—Mina's operations continued—Flight of the patriots from the field at La Caxa—Mina visits Xauxilla, and thence proceeds to the Valle de Santiago—Skirmish with Orrantia, and Mina's arrival at La Caxa.

BAFFLED in every effort to succour Sombrero, Mina remained for several days in the mountains in its neighbourhood, with a small body of cavalry. Having sent several messages to Padre