

natural desire on the part of a citizen of the United States, but would be on that of every liberal mind throughout the civilized world. The New World may soon have to exert all its physical and moral resources against the ambitious and anti-social schemes of the Old World, and rescue the fairest portion of the earth from the odious debasement under which it has so long suffered. It is not extravagant to believe, if geographical position and other circumstances be considered, that, among the inhabitants of the United States and those of Mexico, there may arise a conviction, that it is *their policy and interest to form a political and commercial alliance.*

In the following chapter we shall resume the detail of the operations of the royalists against Los Remedios; and, in its sequel, it will be seen, that notwithstanding all the disasters of the patriots, subsequent to Mina's death, and the flattering statements made by the viceroy of the general pacification of the kingdom, the revolutionists maintained last year formidable parties in the provinces of Guanaxuato, Mexico, and Valladolid; and more especially on the coast of the Pacific Ocean, in the last-named province.

CHAPTER XI.

Assault of Los Remedios, on the 16th of November, and repulse of the enemy—Sortie by the garrison on the enemy's intrenchments—Cause which led to the evacuation of the fort—Los Remedios evacuated, on the night of the 1st of January, 1818—Barbarities of the royalists there—Operations of the contending parties, after the reduction of Los Remedios—Loss of Xauxilla—Detailed account of the subsequent events of the Revolution, and its actual state in the month of July, 1819—Reflections.

THE royalists, encouraged by the death of Mina, redoubled their exertions to obtain possession of the fort of Los Remedios; but they found the spirits of the besieged grew sterner as necessity pressed upon them. The forces of the enemy, relieved from those apprehensions of Mina which had before paralyzed their exertions, now came forth with confidence, denouncing the severest vengeance upon all those places which had rendered him assistance.

The patriot government appointed Colonel Don Miguel de Borja, a Mexican officer, com-

mander of the troops in the field; and Colonel Arago, aid-de-camp to the late general, second in command. But some of the patriot chiefs, jealous of being commanded by one of their own number, carried on an independent partisan warfare against the besiegers, without paying much attention to the orders of the government or its officers.

The enemy, in the interval since the affair at Los Remedios, mentioned in Chapter IX. had kept up a brisk cannonade, which considerably damaged the works of the besieged; the battery of Santa Rosalia having been thereby rendered untenable. As soon as Mina was shot, they made an exulting and menacing communication of the event to the garrison, recommending them to *confess themselves*, as it was intended to carry the fort by storm, when every individual within it should be put to the sword. Immediately afterwards, as if determined to put this threat into execution, they concentrated their fire upon the curtain, between the batteries of Santa Rosalia and La Libertad; and, on the morning of the 16th of November, succeeded in making a practicable breach there. In the afternoon, the enemy were observed to be making preparations for the assault. About two o'clock their bugles sounded the

advance, and the columns moved up, at the same time, to La Cueva, and towards the breach; other detachments also advanced upon Tepeaca and Pansacola; but it was soon ascertained that the latter movements were feints, and that the real attack would be directed against the breach. Accordingly, the necessary preparations to receive them were made: the women, and even grown children, who on these occasions vied with the men in point of daring, soon flocked with the peasants to the threatened point, to bear their share in the danger and glory of the day.

The enemy advanced very steadily to the breach, under cover of a fire from their works, bearing before them the symbol of extermination. They moved up with great resolution, though exposed to a galling fire of musquetry and grape-shot, and showers of missile weapons discharged by the peasants and women, the latter of whom, regardless of danger, mounted the ramparts, with their aprons and baskets filled with stones, and hurled them at the astonished assailants. The enemy, nevertheless, preserved their order of close column, until within about twenty paces of the breach, when they suddenly halted; some few determined men precipitated themselves from the head of

the column, actually entered the breach, and there perished; among these was the officer who bore the black flag: but the rest of the assailing column remained as if petrified,—their dismay had completely mastered them; which being observed by the defenders of the breach, they sallied forth, made a vigorous attack, and compelled the enemy to give way, and fly in the utmost disorder, leaving the side of the barranca covered with their killed and wounded. An irregular fire was maintained, from different points, for some time; when the enemy, relinquishing the attack, retired within their intrenchments, having suffered severely.* The loss of the garrison was considerable, the survivors of Mina's division bearing a large proportion of it.

Liñan after this discomfiture, directed his attention to the re-construction of the mine under the work at Tepeaca; and, having succeeded in his approach by means of a covered way, effected the dislodgement of the besieged

* The official despatch of the royal commander acknowledges his loss, in this affair, to be forty-four killed, including seven officers; one hundred and seventy-seven wounded, including twenty-three officers; and one hundred and thirty-six bruised by missile weapons, including eleven officers:—total, three hundred and fifty-seven.

from a breastwork which had been thrown up in front of the gallery to prevent any further attempts of the enemy by mining. In this operation, and in a vigorous cannonade, the enemy dissipated the remainder of the month of November, and the whole of December; but their repeated efforts failed to blow up Tepeaca.

We have before mentioned, that considerable quantities of charcoal, saltpetre, and sulphur, were in the fort, from which a sufficiency of powder should have been made: but, either through the bad management of the chiefs, or a dependence upon supplies from Xauxilla, only one man had been employed in the composition of this indispensable article. The operation was performed by the patriots in a very tedious manner, by means of *metates*: by this stone the ingredients are ground, and afterwards grained in sieves. This process is so slow, that a man cannot manufacture more in a day than an expert artificer would make in an hour. Being manufactured without art, or a scientific knowledge of the necessary proportions of component materials, its grain is bad, it frequently hangs fire, and can seldom be relied upon. Bad, however, as would have been the quality of the powder, a sufficient quantity might have been made if proper mea-

asures had been timely employed: but, from the defects in this point, and the length of time that the garrison had maintained the cannonade, it was discovered, in November, that the magazine was nearly exhausted.

To remedy the want of ammunition, which the partial succours from Xauxilla were insufficient to supply, it was determined to make a sortie on the enemy's intrenchments, whence it was hoped that a supply might be obtained. Accordingly, the enemy's works, opposite to La Libertad were selected as the point of attack, it being, indeed, the only position fairly open to such an enterprise. Three hundred men were detached for this service, and the command was given to captains Crocker and Ramsay, the two intrepid youths who distinguished themselves, on a former occasion, against the same position.

Preparations were made: at night, the party sallied; and, gaining the rear of the enemy's first battery, stormed the second line, under the expectation that the enemy would abandon the first, and that possession would thus be gained of both. In this they were deceived: the second line was carried; when the enemy retired within their third intrenchment, whence a brisk cannonade and fire of musquetry pre-

ailed, which seriously annoyed the assailants. The gallant party, however, having succeeded in obtaining a small quantity of ammunition, spiked the artillery, dismantled and rolled the guns down the barranca, and then retired; but not without the loss of twenty-seven killed, and several wounded.

Towards the last of December, the ammunition became entirely expended; and, as Xauxilla, whence the fort had been hitherto supplied, had in the mean time been closely invested, it was impossible to obtain further supplies from that place. The garrison was thus reduced to the alternative of either evacuating the fort, or awaiting another assault from the enemy. This last course would have been highly imprudent; for the want of ammunition would have exposed them to the ultimate discretion of the enemy. The evacuation of the fort was therefore resolved upon. The only two points by which this could be effected were La Cueva and Pansacola. If made from La Cueva, it would be necessary to descend into the plain, and encounter the main force of the enemy, which would have been certain destruction. The only remaining expedient was to proceed by Pansacola. The enemy were weakest at that point; but great obstacles to the attempt

also existed there, arising from the ruggedness of the route by which it must be effected; for the way ran through the barrancas, in which it was impossible to move in compact order; besides, they were so much hemmed in by precipices, as to render it extremely difficult to ascend to the elevated ground opposite to Pansacola; and even there the enemy had thrown up a chain of intrenchments. The prospects of the garrison were therefore more discouraging than those of the defenders of Sombrero, when reduced to a like extremity; but a hope was indulged, that the mountains might be gained before the enemy could reenforce their posts, or despatch parties from the grand encampment in pursuit. Pansacola, therefore, was the point determined upon, as affording the best, and indeed the only possible means of retreat; and the night of the 1st of January, 1818, was fixed upon for the evacuation of the fort.

It had been the custom in the fort for the sentinels to pass the watch-word during the night: but as soon as the evacuation was determined upon, Colonel Noboa ordered the discontinuance of this practice. This, in the event, was a fatal measure, because it indicated to the enemy that the garrison was about to

undertake some movement, which they naturally supposed must be the evacuation of the fort. They therefore made every preparation to cut off the retreat, and to intercept as many of the fugitives as possible. Within the fort, the greatest secrecy had been observed; not even Mina's officers were informed of the proposed evacuation, until the moment it was about to be carried into execution; but they, as well as the enemy, had anticipated the event, from the change that had taken place in the practice of the sentries.

At the appointed hour, on the night of the first of January, the whole of the garrison—the troops, peasantry, women and children—assembled at Pansacola. Scenes of distress then took place, which exceeded even those of Sombrero. The abandonment of the wounded, whom it was impossible to remove; the certainty of their falling into the power of a remorseless enemy; the recollection of the fate of those who had remained in a like situation at Sombrero,—were circumstances that imparted to the final separation of companions and relatives unutterable horror.

Every thing being arranged, the advanced guard, with which marched Padre Torres, descended into the barranca. The other divi-

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sions of the troops followed; but, owing to the peculiar difficulties of the pass, their progress was so slow, that before half the garrison was out of the fort, the advanced guard encountered an enemy's post. The sharp skirmishing that took place between the parties, breaking upon the dead stillness of this midnight retreat, roused the enemy, and put them on the alert. From their head-quarters, a column entered the fort by Tepeaca; finding it deserted, they communicated the information to their comrades in front of Pansacola, that the garrison was sallying from that point. Immediately large fires blazed up in every direction, which, throwing a strong glare of light into the barrancas, and over the summits of the contiguous hills, pointed out the direction taken by the fugitives. The enemy's troops, who had entered by Tepeaca, now descended in pursuit of those who were waiting to pass out of the fort. Then, horror and confusion put to flight the death-like silence which had been maintained on the part of the fugitives. The air was rent with the shouts of the men, the screams of the women and children, and the jeers and hallooing of the enemy, united with the discharges of musquetry. Numbers, attempting to fly from the bayonets which threatened mo-

mentary annihilation in the rear, rushed in crowds to the fatal pass, which being too narrow to contain them all, they tumbled over each other down the precipices, where they met instantaneous death, or had their limbs dreadfully fractured and mangled: those who came last were more fortunate than their comrades; for, rolling over the dead, dying, and wounded, who had preceded them, and had reduced the fall by their number, many of them escaped with life. Sounds of woe re-echoed through the barrancas, and were answered by the scoffs of a vindictive enemy. As soon as the alarm had been given, the enemy so posted their infantry as completely to guard every practicable pass to the hill-tops: many, nevertheless, did succeed in forcing a passage to them; while others concealed themselves in the barrancas. At length, the dawn broke upon this dreadful night, and enabled the enemy to adopt new precautions to secure the fugitives. Every cleft and bush was then explored by the enemy's infantry; and numbers of both sexes, found there, met with instant death. Don Cruz Arroyo, dragged from his concealment, met his death beneath the bayonets of the soldiers. Being recognised by them, they inflicted upon his lifeless body the most shocking barbarities, in

revenge for the destruction which the spirit that once animated it had showered upon them. They cut off his head, tore out his entrails and his heart, and delighted their worse than savage eyes with the sight of his yet quivering limbs. The cavalry scoured the plains, and took or killed many, who, having escaped the horrors of the night, had proceeded on their way, rejoicing that they had so far, and, as they hoped, altogether, eluded the enemy.

Among those who escaped were Padre Torres and twelve of Mina's division. The rest of that band were killed during the siege, or fell in the darkness of the night in the barrancas. Among the latter were the brave Captain Crocker and Doctor Hennessey. Among the prisoners were Colonel Noboa, the only one of the division who fell into the enemy's hands, and the two brothers of Padre Torres. Numbers of women were made prisoners, with the details of whose treatment delicacy forbids us to pollute our pages. It is impossible to depict all the barbarous excesses of the brutal soldiery; the acts committed at Sombrero, though savage in the extreme, do not approximate in atrocity to those at Los Remedios. The sick and wounded in the hospital calmly anticipated death, but not in the dreadful shape in which

they were destined to meet it. The building in which these hapless victims were crowded was fired; and when any of the unfortunate wretches, who had strength enough left to attempt to crawl out of the flames, made their appearance, they were thrust back or bayoneted, and in less than an hour their cries were succeeded by the silence of death—their ashes alone remained. This is one of those infernal exploits, of which any notice would of course be excluded from the columns of the Mexican Gazette: but its authenticity does not depend on such authority; it has been related by those who were at that moment prisoners of Liñan, and by Spanish officers, who shuddered while they told the melancholy tale. Denials of these acts of savage barbarity might be listened to, or excuses for their commission might be of some avail, upon the plea of the uncontrolled frenzy of a few individuals, had not similar enormities been continually perpetrated by the royalists during this revolution: a few of them we have already noticed, and the black list will be swelled by a detail of others in the following chapter.

The majority of the combatants, who were taken prisoners, did not long remain in doubt as to their fate. Liñan, ever anxious to render

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