

CAPT. RANDOLPH RIDGELY.

THIRD ARTILLERY.

THE arrival of the melancholy news of the death of Captain Ridgely, caused a sensation throughout the United States, that was never before created by the demise of so young an officer. After escaping death in every variety of guise upon the battle-fields, to fall by an accident was a strange providence indeed, for none could ride a spirited steed with more grace, or manage one with more judgment or dexterity. On the evening of the 25th of October, 1846, Captain Ridgely was galloping along the streets of Monterey, when his horse lost his stride, blundered along for several yards, and finally fell, throwing his rider head first on a rock. He was taken up perfectly insensible, and immediately conveyed to Capt. J. B. Scott's quarters. He never regained his consciousness, and quietly breathed his last on the night of the 27th. The news of his death spread a gloom over the whole army; it was felt that one of the brightest of its lights had been extinguished.

His funeral at Monterey was one of the most magnificent and strikingly melancholy pageants that was ever witnessed; all who were "off duty" attended, to pay their last respects to the remains of the deceased soldier. The cortege was headed by his battery, four brass six-pounders. Then followed the corpse, wrapped in our national ensign, borne upon a gun-carriage, dismantled of its piece and caisson; four artillery officers walked on each side, acting as pall-bearers. Then came the dark roan steed, fully caparisoned, lead by two dragoons; in one of the stirrups was placed his military boot and spur; his sword, sash, and glove hung from the pommel.

The Baltimore battalion, fellow-townsmen of Ridgely, next followed, without guns or side-arms, as chief mourners. The infantry officers below the grade of field-officers on foot, in order of rank and seniority, followed by the generals and field-officers, among which were Generals Taylor, Worth, Twiggs, Smith, Quitman, and Hamer. Then came a long line of subalterns in rich uniforms, mounted upon splendid horses.

As the procession moved along, dark clouds hung sullenly over the mountain-tops, and cold mists swept through the valleys. Nature seemed to sympathize with the sorrow exhibited for the departed hero. The procession halted in the rear of General Taylor's marquee, in the beautiful grove of St. Domingo, where the corpse of the unfortunate soldier was to be deposited in its last resting-place. Colonel Childs read the burial service of the Episcopal church, after which a gun was fired three times, and earth was rendered to earth and ashes to ashes, and the grave

closed upon one of the most manly forms, once the abode of the noblest spirit that ever lived.*

In his person, Captain Ridgely was extremely delicate; his features, in spite of exposure to camp life, were soft, and resembled those of the secluded scholar rather than a hero of three battle-fields. His hair was light and abundant. His eye was remarkably fine in appearance, and of great natural strength; from long experience he could trace a ball or shell, which to others was invisible, through the air with great accuracy. Altogether, Randolph Ridgely was favored by nature and fortune, and belonged to a superior class of men.

In the hour of battle, Ridgely was perfectly self-possessed. His generous bravery in the battle of Resaca de la Palma, where he said, "Wait, Charley, until I draw their fire," will ever be an immortal record of the fearlessness of his soul, and of his consideration. In the midst of the severest cannonading, while the shot and shell flew around his pieces like hail, he often sprang upon the carriage, and with a spy-glass minutely watched the effect of his own discharges upon the ranks of the enemy. He expressed pleasure in the liveliest manner if he found he was doing execution, or if the enemy's shot fell short or missed their aim.

Captain Ridgely graduated from West Point, in 1837, and was appointed a second lieutenant in the Third Artillery on the 1st of July of that year. For his gallantry in the action of the 9th of May, he was brevetted captain, and appointed an assistant adjutant-general. The latter appointment he accepted, the brevet he declined, because he thought he was equally entitled to the same honor for his conduct on the 5th. His education in military matters was singularly thorough; he was a favorite pupil of Ringgold, and occupied his place after that officer fell at Palo Alto. His acquirements, aside from his profession, were extensive; his manners were polished, and his address that of a most perfect gentleman.

CAPT. R. A. GILLESPIE.

TEXAN RANGERS.

CAPTAIN GILLESPIE was an extraordinary character, and his life is most worthy of contemplation. General Henderson, who knew him intimately

* The want of clergymen was most severely felt at Monterey, and elsewhere in Mexico; we have been informed that by a curious absurdity in the law, the chaplains of the army are not obliged to leave the barracks where they are stationed, to follow the army, hence our forces in Mexico are without ministers. The impropriety of this will strike the most superficial observer and thinker.

well, in the details of his official despatches, seems to have forgotten for the moment the usual form of such documents, and breaks out in the following eloquent tribute to his memory.

"In doing justice to the living, let us not be forgetful of the dead. Among the fallen in my command, we have been called upon to mourn the fate of a young officer who was the brightest ornament of the service, the soul of honor, and the pride of chivalry. He had long been employed by the government of Texas in defence of the western frontier, as the commander of a corps of mounted rangers, and probably no officer ever performed his duty with more activity and efficiency, or with more satisfaction to the country. He possessed nothing of the rough habits, ignorance, and presuming forwardness which is usually supposed to attach to the frontier soldier. He was an educated man, and a gentleman by nature; quiet in his manners, amiable in temper, just in his dealings, and strictly moral in his habits. During his connection with the present campaign, his deportment was such—so marked by a happy union of modesty with bravery, and dignity with obedience—as to win the hearts of all and constitute him the chief favorite of the army. He followed the fortunes of General Worth, shared in all the dangers of the command, and closed his brilliant career amidst the shouts of victory. Though feeble in frame, the inspiring energies of his mind enabled him to keep in advance of his comrades, so that in the storming of the Bishop's Hill, he was the foremost man and the first victim upon the ramparts of the foe. He was buried where he fell—upon the loftiest summit—and the mountain that encloses his remains will stand an eternal monument of his glory—it will be known in history, and long frequented by his grateful countrymen as the grave of Gillespie."

These high encomiums upon the brave dead are strictly true, and with the bold sketches of a master, let us into the singular and exemplary character of the brave Gillespie.

Captain Gillespie was a native of Blount county, Tennessee. He moved to Morgan county, Alabama, in the year 1831. In the fall of 1837 he moved to Texas, where he commenced mercantile pursuits. He followed his quiet business for nearly two years, when his mind was suddenly diverted from it by a report reaching Texas, that the northern provinces of Mexico had federated together for the purpose of throwing off the yoke of the central government. No opportunity occurred in the excitement of that attempted revolution that justified the incipient hero to engage in it, but his mind seemed to have obtained an impulse that demanded a more stirring life than he had heretofore pursued. The Comanche Indians disturbing the frontiers of his adopted state, he was elected to a first lieutenancy by

the daring spirits who, under Capt. Hays, organized to punish Indian depredations. Here it was that Gillespie first distinguished himself as a leader.

Upon hostilities breaking out between our country and Mexico, Capt. Gillespie visited Gen. Taylor's head-quarters, requesting permission to join the army under his command, then moving towards Monterey, and that he might be engaged in active service. Gen. Taylor at once appreciated the merits of Capt. Gillespie, granted his request, and he received orders to march with his company from San Antonio to Camargo by way of Laredo and Mier. After the main army reached Camargo, Capt. Gillespie's company of Bexar rangers were kept in constant and active service as scouts or spies. On their march from Camargo to Monterey, this company was divided into squads of three or four men each, and furnished scouts and spies for the whole advancing army, till they arrived within about nine miles of Monterey, where the company again formed, and attached to Gen. Worth's division with the first regiment of Texas mounted rangers, under command of John C. Hays.

Capt. Gillespie's conduct at Monterey is an animated record of his life and death, and as long as the lofty summit where he sleeps rears its head in the clouds, so long will Gillespie be remembered by those who appreciate brave deeds, and a sacrifice of life for the honor of their native land.*

LIEUT. CHARLES HOSKINS.

FOURTH INFANTRY.

THERE is something remarkably interesting in the reminiscences of the life of the young officer named above, as given by his brother officers; his

* Beside Gillespie is buried the "brave Thomas," of Maryland; of him we find the following tribute, addressed to a gentleman living in Baltimore:

DRAGOON CAMP, near Monterey, Mexico, Sept. 26th, 1846.

It is a sad and painful duty I have to perform, in announcing to you the death of your father's young friend, Mr. William Thomas, of your state. We have had hard fighting for the last three days, and he was mortally wounded in a charge against the enemy's cavalry. He behaved most gallantly, and fell in the front of the battle.

Yesterday he died, but retained his senses until the last. He was a gallant fellow, and is much regretted. You can say this to his friends, that he had every attention. I was not present when he expired, but was absent on duty. He was buried with military honors. Many gallant spirits have gone out in the last three days. Yours,

CHARLES MAY

memory seems to be cherished with singular affection. We find fortunately prepared by some warm friend, an obituary notice of the hero, which we adopt, grateful that the task has been so well, so eloquently performed.

"Lieut. Hoskins was a native of Edenton, N. C. He graduated at the Military Academy, in 1836, and immediately joined his company in the Cherokee Nation. In various capacities, but particularly as quartermaster, preceding and during the Cherokee difficulties, he won the approbation and entire confidence of his successive commanders, Generals Wool and Scott. And on the departure of the Indians and the troops, he disposed of the public property and closed the affairs of government in that country—a responsible trust executed with judgment and ability. In 1839 he moved with the regiment to Fort Gibson, Arkansas, and discharged his multiplied staff duties in such a manner as to elicit tokens of admiration from his commanding officers—and, harder task, to the satisfaction of all with whom he came in contact. He was commissary, and occasionally quartermaster at this post nearly three years, during the station of his regiment, and by his mildness of disposition, and urbanity of manner, gained the attachment of his inferiors, while his correct and efficient performance of duty secured the respect of his superiors in command. Nearly all his family had died of consumption, and his appearance at that time indicating that he would prove a victim to the same disease, was a constant source of apprehension; and he resolved, with the hope of averting it, to shun sedentary occupation and lead an active life. Joined by several of his comrades—the lamented Porter among them—he employed all his leisure in the manly exercise of the chase, an amusement as becoming to the daring and gallantry of the officer, as the grosser sensual excesses are demoralizing and destructive. He abandoned books and the house, for the free air and high excitement of the prairies, and became a skilful and fearless horseman, with scarce a superior in the army. The *Sporting Magazine* is the record of many of his feats, though not blazoned with his name. His memory will long be cherished in the spot of his hardy sports and miniature victories.

"His regiment made a tour in Florida in the winter of 1841. He met no opportunity for distinction. Few had better fortune in Florida. It was a war and a country to lose rather than gain reputation. In the following summer he marched to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and eagerly sought the same field of recreation to which he had grown accustomed, and whose excitement he keenly relished. Ere long he was transferred to a company stationed at Fort Scott, Mo., where, surrounded by prairies and with ample leisure from duty, his wish was indulged. While at the barracks, he became attached and betrothed to an accomplished and amiable lady.

residing at Potosi, Mo. To consummate this union, he obtained the only leave of absence—excepting for a short buffalo excursion in 1841—that he asked for during an active service of more than ten years. He was indeed all the soldier. The home of his youth made desolate by the fell destroyer which sweeps off families in a season, his regiment was his only home—its officers his kindred. His wife returned with him to Fort Scott, and he was happily enjoying the choicest blessings which life could afford, when the Mexican difficulty carried his regiment to Corpus Christi, in 1845, and separated him from his family for ever. He was here made the adjutant, and held this important post in the memorable actions of the 8th and 9th of May. Major Allen, commanding the regiment, complimented his coolness, efficiency, and gallant bearing. He rendered valuable services, but his position, or adverse fate, prevented his achieving any brilliant distinction. If fortune ever exerts influence in the affairs of mortals, it is on the field of battle. The bravest may not always perform heroic deeds, nor profound skill guard against ever-varying circumstances impossible to foresee, nor the loftiest genius always detect the crisis and improve it. Even the combination of these, which constitutes the great captain, cannot insure success. Chance has her dominion and wields a capricious sceptre, in spite, sometimes, of human reason and superhuman effort. Lieut. Hoskins was still the adjutant at Monterey.

"His regiment was posted on the night of the 20th September, to cover a mortar battery established in a hollow, within range of the fire from the Mexican citadel, and was more or less exposed all night. On the following morning it was directed to storm a fort on the left, and at the outskirts of the town. Three companies, numbering only a hundred men—a forlorn hope—advanced to the charge, directly in front of the work. Three batteries, the fire from the citadel, and the small arms of two thousand men, opened upon this slender column. At its head marched its brave and modest commander Major Allen, (now of the Second Infantry,) who had led the regiment in the battles in May; Lieut. Hoskins and Lieut. Graham, since dead. When within a hundred yards, the fire became terribly destructive; Lieut. Hoskins was shot through the heart from an escopet, and died without uttering a word. His arm stiffened with a finger pointing to his wound. He had a presentiment of his death. Lieuts. Graham and Woods, and thirty-five men, more than one-third the entire number, fell at the same moment. The wonder is, that a single man survived to approach so near, yet Major Allen and the remainder passed to within thirty feet of the wall before withdrawing for reinforcement.

"Lieut. Hoskins was one of those rare men whom to know is to love; not by easy temper and ready disposition to unite with any party and

adopt any opinion to secure favor, but by the possession of the most sterling positive qualities. His courage was as "true as steel," as occasion had amply tested. His generosity had no limit; it was as lavish as the sun of his rays, and proceeded from a heart overflowing with kindness. His frankness scorned the subterfuges of deceit, and prompted to the bold avowal of his convictions of propriety or right. His nature was truly chivalric, comprehending the instinctive sense of honour and punctilious observance of all its precepts, which mark the hero. His intellect was quick, penetrating, grasping; he read character at a glance, and his judgment was almost unerring. As an officer, he was faithful, judicious, energetic, and enlightened; as a friend, affectionate, and true, even to any sacrifice. He had no enemies. In all, no man ever possessed in greater perfection some of the highest traits of human character; and blended as these were, with modest demeanor, unassuming manners, shrinking from notoriety, and utterly devoid of the vanity and selfishness fruitful of ill will and disliked by one's comrades—they were the more conspicuous and the more prized. His associates paid him the spontaneous homage of their admiration and affection. If not the master spirit, he contributed materially in giving tone to the circle in which he moved. Its influence was not confined to his regiment.

"In figure he was tall and slender—a face remarkable for beauty and intelligence—an eye, black, sparkling, and piercing, was expressive of his character, and can never be forgotten by those who have seen it under the various phases of his feelings. He was in his thirty-third year. He has left a widow and an orphan son whom he never saw—not like the relicts of many deceased officers, subject to the fruitless sympathy of the world, or dependent on the pitiful charity of a parsimonious government, but in affluent circumstances.

"Peace to his ashes; the tomb never closed upon a nobler spirit."

LIEUT. R. H. GRAHAM.

FOURTH INFANTRY.

LIEUT. RICHARD HILL GRAHAM, of the Fourth regiment U. S. Infantry, was the third son of the Hon. John Graham, and was born in Washington, District of Columbia, in the year 1818. A few months after his birth, he had the misfortune to lose his father, who fell a victim to the effects of the climate of Brazil, whither he was sent by President Monroe, as minister plenipotentiary and ambassador extraordinary to the Portuguese court, then held in Brazil by the sovereign Don John. Deprived thus, in his in-

fancy, of the superintending care of a parent, (who was the intimate friend of Presidents Madison and Monroe, and had successively filled many high offices of trust,) young Graham received his first education in the primary schools of Washington city, and at a suitable age was placed in the Catholic college at Emmetsburg, Maryland. He subsequently entered the Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in July, 1838. Upon receiving his appointment as second lieutenant of Second Dragoons, he immediately joined Gen. Scott, then in active service in Georgia, where his urbane manner and soldierly deportment won for him the entire approbation and the personal esteem of that distinguished chief. Transferred subsequently, at his own request, in the hope of more rapid promotion, to the infantry arm, he was selected by Brig. Gen. Atkinson, as his aid-de-camp, and continued to serve with credit in his military family, until the death of that gallant and lamented soldier; after which, with the permission and approbation of the War Department, he, with Lieut. Sidney Smith, accompanied Sir William Drummond Stuart, on one of his excursions to the Rocky Mountains. Returning from that expedition, (the report of which will be found on the files of the War Office,) Lieut. Graham joined his regiment, which he ever delighted to speak of as "The old Fourth," and in which he continued to serve assiduously, and to the entire satisfaction of all his superior officers.

By the absence of Capt. Alden on other duties, Lieut. Graham was, and had been a long time, in command of his company. During the night, the dismal, dark and rainy one of the 20th of September, his regiment was stationed on the plain in front of Monterey, to guard the mortar and howitzer batteries, and without returning to camp, marched on the following morning, from that station, to the attack on the town.

The charge upon fort No. 1, made by a portion of the Fourth regiment, in which Lieut. Graham fell, presented the extraordinary spectacle of less than one hundred men coolly assaulting a strong work, a single discharge of which struck down "nearly one-third" of the command.

In this charge, Lieut. Graham was particularly conspicuous. In the language of the regimental report, he was "*in advance of the regiment, waving his sword over his head, and calling on the men to follow him.*" While thus gloriously sustaining himself, he fell, having received three terribly severe wounds at the same instant. Surrounded by the wounded and dead, among the latter of which were the noble Woods, his brave orderly Manegen, and ten men of his company, Lieut. Graham lay from ten o'clock in the morning until late in the afternoon, when it being discovered that he was not dead, as was supposed, he was brought into camp by the sorrowing survivors of his company, and his wounds were dressed by

Surgeon Mills, after night. On the second day after the capitulation of Monterey, he was removed into the city, where, by the direction of Gen. Taylor, quarters had been procured for him, in the house of a kind-hearted Mexican, Don Blas de Castano, from whom and whose family he received the most assiduous care and attention, and where he lingered in great pain, until the 12th of October, when he breathed his last. During the second week of his illness, hopes were entertained of his recovery, for which the most anxious solicitude was manifested by all the army, from the General commanding-in-chief, who repeatedly visited him, to the private in the ranks. On his death being known, the liveliest sorrow was evinced, and his regiment expressed a wish that he might be buried at its expense. To this request, his relatives, Capt. G. D. Ramsay, of the Ordnance Corps, and Capt. G. M. Graham, of the Louisiana Volunteers, then acting as aid-de-camp to Col. Garland, did not think it right to accede.

The body, shrouded in the national and regimental banners, was borne to the grave, on an artillery caisson carriage. Major Brown and Capt. C. F. Smith, of the artillery battalion, Captains Scriven and Bomford, Eighth Infantry, Lieut. Markatt, First Artillery, and Lieut. Holloway, Eighth Infantry, acted as pall-bearers, followed by Major Graham, Captains Ramsay and G. M. Graham, and all the Fourth Infantry as mourners, with a long procession of officers, among whom were the general-in-chief and his staff. The excellent Don Blas and his sons walked, reverentially and uncovered, beside the hearse. The body was placed, amid the solemn ceremonies of the Catholic church, Rev. Mr. Rey officiating as priest, in one of the vaults of the cemetery of Monterey. The military escort, commanded by his friend Lieut. Sidney Smith, paid the last honors to their comrade, and consigned him to a soldier's grave.

From the soil of Mexico, it has been transferred, with the other storied dead, to its natal clime, and in compliance with the religious feelings of his surviving parent, placed under the altar of St. Patrick's church, in Washington city, where it rests beside the mortal remains of many members of his family.

Lieut. Graham was of a fine and commanding personal appearance, being a little over six feet in height, and very well proportioned; his eyes and hair were dark; his countenance was frank and manly, and in it his noble and generous nature was strongly portrayed.

LIEUT. D. S. IRWIN.

THIRD INFANTRY.

APPOINTED to the Military Academy from the District of Columbia. He received the commission of brevet second lieutenant, Sixth Infantry, the 1st of July, 1840. In the month of November following, he received the commission of second lieutenant in the Third Infantry, and was created a first lieutenant by brevet the 7th of September, 1841, and adjutant of his regiment.

Lieut. Irwin was an honor to the service, and his good conduct at the battles of the 7th, 8th, and 9th, caused him to be looked upon as one of the most promising young officers of our army. He fell gallantly at the head of his command before the city of Monterey.

LIEUT. J. S. WOODS.

SECOND INFANTRY.

THE approach, at the moment unsupported, of a fragment of the Fourth Infantry upon the front of fort "Tienera," was one of the most daring things recorded in military history; nearly one-third of the whole command fell when the fire from the fort opened upon it. Among the dead and mortally wounded were Graham, Hoskins, and Woods, a trio as brilliant as could, by selection, be associated together in our whole army.

Lieut. J. S. Woods, as a brevet second lieutenant, attracted universal attention for his singularly brave conduct at Resaca de la Palma; immediately after that battle his conduct was a theme of universal commendation among all ranks of the army. Gen. Twiggs, in his official despatch of that battle, says, "Lieut. Hays and Woods captured a piece of artillery defended by one hundred and fifty or two hundred, with but a few men." In this brilliant achievement, Lieut. Woods sprang to the hand-spikes, and turned the piece in such a direction as to lock one of the wheels against a tree. A large number of the enemy's cavalry then came to the rescue, who were driven off by Major Barbour, of the Third.

At the commencement of the battle of Monterey, no one showed more zeal and intense desire to engage in the conflict than young Woods, and he fell leading a forlorn hope. Speaking of his death, though so young, his commander was justified in calling him "*the distinguished Woods.*"

Lieut. J. S. Woods was a native of Pennsylvania, graduated from the Military Academy at West Point, and was made a brevet second lieutenant on the 1st of July, 1844, and appointed to the Fourth Regiment of infantry

Among our noble dead who have fallen in the Mexican war, perhaps none have died younger. Of his age none were more distinguished in our brilliant national military history.

LIEUT. JOHN C. TERRETT.

FIRST INFANTRY.

APPOINTED to the army, from Virginia, a second lieutenant, First Regiment of Infantry, on the 16th of November, 1839. Lieut. Terrett was the first officer that fell before Monterey.

LIEUT. R. HAZLITT.

THIRD INFANTRY.

APPOINTED from New York to the Military Academy at West Point. Appointed brevet second lieutenant in the Third Infantry, on the 3d of November, 1845.

LIEUT. R. DILWORTH.

FIRST INFANTRY.

APPOINTED to the Military Academy at West Point from the state of Ohio. Commissioned a brevet second lieutenant, in the First Regiment of Infantry, the 20th of August, 1844.

OFFICIAL REPORTS

RELATING TO THE

ASSAULT ON MONTEREY.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

Camp near Monterey, Sept. 27, 1846.

THE Commanding General has the satisfaction to congratulate the army under his command upon another signal triumph over the Mexican forces. Superior to us in number, strongly fortified, and with an immense preponderance of artillery, they have yet been driven from point to point until forced to sue for terms of capitulation. Such terms have been granted as were considered due to the gallant defence of the town and to the liberal policy of our own government.

The General begs to return his thanks to his commanders and to all his officers and men, both of the Regular and Volunteer forces, for the skill, the courage, and the perseverance with which they have overcome manifold difficulties, and finally achieved a victory shedding lustre upon the American arms.

A great result has been obtained, but not without the loss of many gallant and accomplished officers and brave men. The army and the country will deeply sympathize with the families and friends of those who have thus sealed their devotion with their lives.

By order of Major General TAYLOR,

(Signed)

W. W. S. BLISS,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Official:

GEO. A. McCALL,

Assistant Adjutant General.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,

Camp before Monterey, Sept. 22, 1846.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that the troops under my command, including the mounted volunteers from Texas, marched from Marin on the 18th and encamped before Monterey on the 19th inst. It was immediately