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Battles of Contreros and Churubusco.

FROM THE N. Y. COURIER AND ENQUIRER. The following clear and admirable description of the march and achievements of the American Army, under Gen. Scott, from the day of its leaving Puebla until it became master of the city of Mexico, will be read with universal interest

SAN ANGELO, MEXICO, Aug. 31, 1847.

We left Puebla on the morning of the 7th, and entered upon a beautiful rolling country of great fertility, supplying with its gardens the inhabitants of Puebla with food, and surrounded by lofty mountains, some of which were covered with snow. Our road was gradually ascending, and so good that on looking back from the head of the column our train could be seen for miles in rear, dotting with its snow-white tops the maguey-covered plain. On our left was Popocatapell and Iscatafell, the snow on their not distant tops rendering the air quite chilly. Gen. Scott did not leave with us, but came on the next day with Capt. Kearney's dragoons:

The second day's march was like the first, gradually ascending, passing through defiles, narrow passes, and over deep chasms, where a more determined enemy might have seriously annoyed us by merely making use of the obstacles Nature every where presented. Thick woods of the finest forest trees were abundant, and the rugged nature of the country would readily carry one back to the northern parts of New England or the passes of the "Notch." Here and there beautiful little lakes were interspersed in the deep valleys, and the clearness and coldness of their waters were almost in-

The third day we were to encounter the much-vaunted pass of "Rio Frio," and also the passage of the mountain which was to lead us to the El Dorado of our hopes, the great plain of Mexico. Our march was to be long and difficult, and three o'clock saw us under way, with heart and hopes full of the prospect before us. The much dreaded pass is reached and passed. The mountains which skirt the road on the left here close upon it for about a mile, overhanging and enfillading it completely, and affording with their crests most excellent coverings for an enemy's marksmen. The newly cut trees and long range of breastworks thrown up on the crest, showed us that preparations had been made, while numerous parapets with embrasures in the logs taught us what might have been done. But no men were there; the muskets and cannon were gone. Valencia, with 6,000 Mexicans, was full a day's march ahead, making for Mexico with a speed which betrayed home sickness. Rio Frio was found to be a little stream pouring down from the Snow mountain, of icy coldness and crystal purity. After a slight pause for refreshment, we commenced our assent of the ridge which separates the plains of Puebla and Mexico, the former of which it had hitherto skirted. For several long miles we toiled up the hill, only recompensed for our labor by what we hoped to attain at last. When all were pretty nearly worn out, a sudden turn in the road brought to our view a sight which none can ever forget. The whole vast plain of Mexico was before us. The coldness of the air, which was most sensibly felt at this great height, our fatigue and danger were forgotten, and our eyes were the only sense that thought of enjoyment. Mexico, with its lofty steeples and its chequered domes, its bright reality, and its former fame, its modern splendo. and its ancient magnificence, was before us; while around on every side its thousand lakes seemed like silver stars on a

velvet mantle. We encamped that night at the base of the mountain, with the enemy's scouts on every side of us. The next day we reached Ayotla, only fifteen miles from Mexico by the National Road, which we had hitherto been following. Here we halted until Generals Quitman, Pillow, and Worth, with their divisions, should come up. We were separated from the eity by the marshes which surround Luke Tezcuco, and by the lake itself .-The road is a causeway running through the marsh, and is commanded by a steep and lofty hill called El Pinnol. This bill completely enfilades and commands the National Road, and had been fortified and repaired with the greatest care by Santa Anna One side was inaccessible by nature; the rest had been made so by art. Batteries, in all mounting fifty guns of different calibers, had been placed on its sides; and a deep ditch, 24 feet wide and 10 deep, filled with water, had been cut, connecting the two parts already surrounded by marshes. On this side Santa Anna had 25,000 men against our force of little over 9,000, all told.

On the 22d we made a reconnoissance of the work which was pronounced impracticable, as the lives of 5,000 men would be lossed before the ditch could be crossed. We continued our search, and found another road, which went round on Mesiculcings. We soon countermarched a hill, whither we had been ourselves tigue. About midnight the rain was so 20,000 men within five miles. Their ar- | wounded-exclusive of the volunteers. | tentiary.

and then saw our danger. With one re- pulling Magruder's battery and the moun- heavy that the streams in the road flooded my was so completely routed that not giment and three companies of cavalry, in tain howitzers, we suddenly espied Va- us, and there we stood crowded together, 1500 men rejoined Santa Anna and parti- killed and wounded at 1150 besides offifixed on the hill with expectation of an city. We laid down close to avoid draw- "full in" was passed down and we com- ed ourselves, not conquired Mexico, and more Generals were taken, among them approaching column which should drive ing their fire, while the battery moved menced our march. The enemy's works men's work was before us yet. General Rincon, and Anaya, the provius back into a Mexican prison, while we past at a full gallop. Just then General were on a hill side, be and Gen. sional President; also, ten pieces of can-

guard. It was composed of the rifles, the superiority of the enemy's pieces ren- Riley's brigade of the 2d and 1st infantry. Meanwhile, Gen. Worth had made a Taylor's battery. As the rear guard, but three pieces in battery, while they gade, as a support, with Shield's brigade enemy was fortified in a strong hacienda; some march over a horrible road, through | chaparral and cactus. ancient kings.

which Worth was breaching the walls of our left we were separated from our own dred of them officers. San Antonia. That night the news of forces by an almost impassable wilderness After disarming the prisoners, as the an hour and a hulf; while Generals Pilthe death of Capt. Thornton, of the second and it was now twilight. Even Smith pursuit had ceased, we went back to the low and Quitman were on the extreme officer and a thorough gentleman, but was sand vivas came across the hill side like possession, and the rout complete.

tacked San Augustine, a village three their couches. miles nearer the capital, where Santa Anbetween Santa Anna and Mexico, and of four to one against us, and one half dewhip him too. Gen. Worth (supported feated already, no succer from Puebla, na in check, while Twiggs (backed by dark. Suddenly the words came whis-Pillow) was to try and astonish Valencia, pered along, "we storm at midnight" ments was to cut the road.

the left, but when within five miles of the particularly desiring a fight so late in the side, with a heavy rain pouring down upwere halted by coming suddenly upday, but still not shunning it in case we on us, the officers without blankets or ocommon five strong batteries on the hill which could have a respectable chance. About vercoats, (they had lest them in coming across,) and the men worn out with fa-

vance, while Smith's brigade acted as rear grape, canister, and round shot. Here and opposite the right of their works, was of the day. 1st artillery, and the 3d infantry, with dered our fire nugatory. We could get In rear of our left was Cadwalader's bri- demonstration on San Antonia, where the

to eat, too wet to sleep, in the middle of led.

der the enemy's column. It was the noniers killed and wounded: The regiment was then recalled. The lancers had pened, when the crack of a hundred rithere were two tiers of men firing at the Since the foregoing was put in type. niforms of the infantry, were most beauti- engaged and successfully repelled the en- Useless fire, for we were so close that ranks were formed on each range and plafully contrasted with the green of the bar- emy's skirmishers without loss of either they overshot us, and before they could ced at such a height that they could not ley field. Our line of battle was soon officers or men. The greatest loss had turn their pieces on us, we were on them. only overlook all the surrounding country, formed, and we deployed through the been at the batteries. Officers looked Then such cheers arose as you never but at the same time they had a plunging grain to turn their left and cut them off gloomy for the first day's fight, but the heard. The men rushed forward like fire upon us. Outside the hacienda, and from the mountains. A few shots, how- brigade was formed, and Gen. Smith in demons, yelling and firing the while. — completely commanding the avenues of the carriage was reguest, and monger approach, was a new former of the work and protect. that they were observed, and counter- and followed him with a yell, as, creeping they fired sharply, it was of no use .- round two sides of the work and protecmarching in haste they left their dead on low to avoid the grape, (which was com- The earthern parapet was cleared in an ted by a deep, wet ditch, and armed with the field. Thus ended our fight of Bue- ing very fast,) we made a circuit in rear instant, and the blows of the stocks could seven large pieces. This hacienda is at nearly the same, except that the road ful, emerging from the chaparrel and cros- In an instant all was one mass of confu- way, at a point where it crosses a river, was, if possible, worse than before, as the sing the road between it and Valencia .- sion, each trying to be foremost in the thus forming a bridge head, or tete de Mexicans had blocked it up with large Here we found Cadwalader and his bri- flight. The road was literally blocked pont. This was also very strong and ar stones, rolled down from the neighboring gade already formed, and discovered Ri- up, and while many perished by their med with three very large pieces of canhills. This night we encamped at a most ley's brigade skirmishing in rear of the own guns, it was almost impossible to non. The works were surrounded on beautiful olive grove, of immense size and enemy's works Valencia was ignorant fire on the mass, from the danger of kil- every side by large corn fields, which accommodating at once both divisions .- of our approach, and we were as yet safe. ling our own men. Some fled up the ra- were filled with the enemy's skirmishers, In the town, as well as in Chalco, there In front of us was Valencia, strongly en- vine on the left, or on the right, and ma- so that it was difficult to make a reconare still standing the churches of the In- trenched on a hill side and surrounded by ny of these were slain by turning their noisance. It was therefore decided to Bow & Dean, Haxall & Williams, Shocdians where the fire-worshippers as- a regular field work, concealed from us by own guns on them. 'Poward the city make the attack immediately, as they kee Warehouse-and the Columbian in sembled before Cortez had introduced a an orchard in our rear. Mendoza, with the Rifles and 2d Infantry led off the pur- were full of men and extended for nearly danger .- Nat. Int. new religion. They are large and sombre a column of 6,000, was in the road, but suit. Seeing that a large crowd of the a mile on the road to the city, completely edifices, and, being near the city, are said thinking us to be friends. On our right fugitives were jammed up in a pass in the covering the causeway. The attack comto have been formerly resorted to by the was a large range of hills whose contin- road, some of our men ran through the menced about I P. M. Gen. Twigg's ued crest was parallel to the road, and in cornfield, and by thus heading them off division attacked on the side towards The next day we arrived in sight of the which were formed in line of battle 5,- and firing down upon them, about 30 men which they approached the fort, i. e. op-

little village where we had heard this sad formed for charging. Smith is himself a- and their artillery much larger and more work in case Gen. Pierce gave way .news, and took the road to San Juan, a- gain! "Face to the rear!" "Wait till you abundant. Our own loss was small, The firing was most tremendous-in fact bout seven miles to the west, and only a- see their red caps, and then give it to which may be accounted for by their per- one continued roll while the combat lastbout ten miles from the city. When we them!" Furiously they came on a few fect surprise at our charge, as to them we led. The enemy from their elevated poarrived here we heard the sound of Gen. yards, then changed their minds, and, appeared as if rising out of the earth, so sition, could readily see our men, who Worth's guns, who was said to have at- disgusted at our cool reception, retired to unperceived was our approach. Our loss were unable to get a clear view from their saved by the driver. On the edge of the road, between us the 7th Infantry, and Lieut. Van Buren | ned by "The Deserters," a body of about | consequence of the high waters .- Cumna was said to be with 20,000 men .- and Valencie, a Mexican hamlet spread of the Rifles shot through the leg-and 100, who had deserted from the ranks of When we arrived at San Juan the men out, with its mud buts, large orchards, about 60 men killed and wounded. Their our army during the war. They were were told to sling their blankets across deep cut roads, and a strong church; and force consisted of 8000 men under Valen- enrolled in two companies, commanded their shoulders, put their knapsacks into through the centre of this hamlet ran a cia, with a reserve, which had not vet ar- by a deserter, and were better uniformed their wagons, and to put two days' bread path parallel to the main road, but con- rived, under Santa Anna. Their loss as and disciplined than the rest of the army. and beef in their haversacks. When this cealed from it; it is nearly a mile long .- since ascertained was as follows:-killed These men tought most desperately, and order came all knew that the time had In this road Smith's and Riley's brigade and buried since the fight, 750-wounded are said not only to have shot down sevecome. The officers arranged their effects, spent the night. Shields, who came up 1000, and 1500 prisoners, exclusive of ofput on their old coats, and filled their hav- in the night, lay in the orchard, while ficers, including 4 Generals, Salas, Men- to have pulled down the white flag of sented her little daughter one year old, ersacks and flasks. Soon we were ready | Cadwalader was nearest the enemy's doza, Garcia and Gaudaloupe, in addition | surrender, no less than three times. for any thing but a thrashing. We here works. As we were within range of the to dozens of Colonels, Majors, Captains, The battle raged most furiously for aheard the position of the enemy, which batteries, which could enfilade the road in &c. We captured in all on the hill 22 bout three hours, when both sides having was nearly as follows; Santa Anna with which we lay, we built a stone breastwork pieces of cannon, including five 8 inch lost a great many, the enemy began to 20,000 men, was at San Augustine; Va- at either end to conceal ourselves from howitzers, two long 18, three long 16, give way. As soon as they commenced lencia, with 10,000, was at a hill called their view and grape. There we were, and several of 12 and 8 inches, and also retreating. Kearney's squadron passed Contreros, which commanded another completely surrounded by the enemy, cut the two identical 6 pounders captured by through the tete de pont, and charging road parallel to the San Augustine road, off from our communications, ignorant of the Mexicans at Buena Vista, taken from through the retreating column, pursued but which led into it between the city and the ground, without artillery, weary, dis- Capt. Washington's battery of the 4th ar- them to the very gate of the city. As Santa Anna. Now, by cutting a road a- pirited, and dejected. We were a dis- tillery. The first officer who saw them they got within about 500 yards of the cross, if we could whip Valencia, we heartened set. With Santa Anna and happened to be the officer of the 4th se- gate, they were opened upon with grape would follow the road up, and thus get in Salas's promise of "no quarter," a force lected by General Scott to command the and canister, and several officers woundnew battery of that regiment, Capt Drum. ed. Amongst the number was Captain In addition were taken immense quanti- Kearney, 1st Dragoons, who lost his left by Gon. Quitman) was to keep Santa An- and no news from Gen. Scott, all seemed ties of ammunition and muskets, in fact arm above the elbow. Lieute Cham. the way was strewed with muskets, es- of New York, received a severe flesh. copets, lances and flags for miles. Large wound in his left arm. Capt. McReywhich you will see he did very effectual- Now we are ourselves again! But what quantities of horses and mules were also nolds, ditto. Our loss in this second hat- combined as to produce cold." ly. Pillow, with some of the ten regi- a horrible night! There we lay, too tired captured, though large numbers were kil- the was large. We lost in killed seven of-

stepped off with the speed and endurance Smith's voice rung out "Forward the other and slightly higher hills, separated Twiggs having taken command, we star- non, and an immense amount of amount of 400 Capt. Barclay's! At about mid- rifles-to support the battery." On they by deep ravines and gullies, and inter- ted on the road to Mexico. We had nition and stores. Santa Annat in his renight we arrived safely at camp, and went till we got about eight hundred yards sected by streams. The whole face of hardly marched a mile bofore we were port, states his loss in killed, wounded Gen. Scott did us the honor of calling it from the work, when the enemy opened the country was of stiff clay, which ren- sharply fired upon from both sides of the and missing, at 12,000. He has only "the boldest reconnoissance of the war." upon them with his long guns, which he gives Gen. Worth was encamped about five were afterwards found to be sixteen and We formed our line about a quarter of a the enemy in. We soon found that we as his force on the 20th, in both actions. miles off-that is, in a straight line-across eight inch howitzers. The ground was mile from the enemy's works, Riley's had caught up with the retreating party. Thus ended the Battle of Churubusco the Lake Chalco, at a place of the same the worst possible for artillery, covered brigade on our right. At about four we from the very brisk firing in front, and one of most furious and deadly for its name, but about ten miles by the road .- with rocks large and small, prickly pear started, winding through a thick orchard we drove them through the little town of length of any of the war. For reasons The Mexicans had a foundry in the and cactus, intersected by ditches filled which effectually concealed us, even had San Angel, where they had been halting which he deemed conclusive. Gen. Scott mountains, at which we were getting some with water and lined with maguey plant, it not been dark, debauching into a deep in force. About half a mile from this did not enter the city that night, but enshells made, and on returning from which itself imperviable to cavalry, and with ravine which ran within about five hun- town we entered the suburbs of another camped on the battle field, about four Lieut. Schuyler Hamilton was badly patches of corn which concealed the en- dred yards of the work, and which carried called San Katherina, when a large party miles from the western gate of the city. emy's skirmishers while it impeded our us directly in rear and out of sight of their in the church yard fired on the head of The next day a flag of truce came out, By means of his scouts, Gen. Worth own passage. The artillery advanced batteries. At dawn of day we reached the column, and the balls came right a- and propositions were made which resulhad found a path round the left of Lake but slowly under a tremendous fire, which our place after incredible exertions, and mong us. Our men kept rushing on their ted in an armistice. Chalco, which led us to the western gate greatly injured it before it got in range, got ready for our, charge. The men rear and cutting them down, until a disof the city, and which, up to that time, and the thickness of the undergrowth threw off their wet blankets and looked charge of grape shot from a large piece the villages around the city, recruiting had not been fortified. On the 14th, the caused the skirmishers thrown forward to to their pieces, while the officers got ready in front drove them back to the column. from their fatigues, and nursing the sick other divisions commenced their march, lose their relative position, as well as the for a rush, and the first smile that lit up In this short space of time five men were and wounded. There are but few sick. while we brought up the train and the rear. column. About 4 the battery got in po- our faces for twelve hours boded but lit- killed, ten taken prisoners, and a small co- and the wounded are getting along com-In the morning, the train was sent in ad- sition under a most murderous fire of the good for the Mexicans. On the right lor captured, which was carried the rest fortably in their hospitals.

marching slowly along, came up with the had twenty-seven, all of them three times in rear as a reserve—the whole division but they retired on his approach to Chutrain, word came to Gen. Twiggs that a the caliber of ours. For two hours our under command of Gen. Smith, in the abforce of about five thousand men were troops stood the storm of iron and lead sence of Gen. Twiggs. They had a impregnable. They consisted of a fortitrying to cross the road between them they hailed upon them unmoved. At smooth place to rush down on the ene- fied hacienda, which was surrounded by and the train in order to cut it off. We every discharge they laid flat down to a- my's work, with the brow of the hill to a high and thick walt on all sides. Inthe bridge head which he took in about dragoons, reached us. He was a brave looke! round for help. Suddenly a thou- fort, where we found our troops in full left, between the causeway and Twigg's division. The Rifles were on the left always unfortunate in his military career. the yells of prairie wolves in the dead of On the morning of the 19th we left the night, and the squadrons on our right was much stronger than we had supposed, Gen. Scott with the task of charging the was one officer killed Capt. Hanson of position. Three of the pieces were man-

ficers, Capts. Capron, Blake, 1st artille-We left San Juan about 1 o'clock, not that muddy road, officers and men side by Thus ended the glorious battle of Con-ry; Lieuts. Irons, Johnson, Hoffman,

all about 400 men, we saw that El Pin- lencia fortified on a hill about two hundred drenched and benumbed, waiting till day- cipated in the second battle. Most peo- cers. The Mexican loss is 500 killed in nol lay directly between us and our camp, yards off, and strongly reinforced by a light. plo would have thought that a pretty good the 2nd battle, 1000 wounded, and 1100 distant full 15 miles. Every eye was column which had just come out of the At half past three the welcome word day's work. Not so. We had only sav- prisoners, exclusive of officers. Three

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT RICH-MOND.

We regret to learn, by a Telegraphic despatch last evening from Richmond. that a destructive fire occurred in that city yesterday morning. Gallego's valuable flour mills were totally destroyed; also, the Shockoe tobacco warehouse, were then passing through a small village woid the storm and then sprung up to keep under until the word was given. side the wall was a stone building, the Haxall and Brothers' office, the stores of which, by a curious coincidence, was serve the guns. At the end of that time At last, just at daylight, Gen. Smith roof of which was flat and higher than John Robinson, Alfred Harris, Buttercalled Buena Vista. On our left were two of the guns were dismounted and we sloyly walked up and asked if all was the walls. Above all this was a stone wood's tinnery, W. Williams's auction large fields of half-grown barley, through badly hurt. thirteen of the horses were ready. A look answered him. "MEN church, still higher than the rest and ha- establishment, Messrs. Ford & Woodwhich was seen advancing in splendid or- killed and disabled, and fifteen of the can- ronward." - ving a large steeple. The wall was pier- son's and Shepherd's commission houses.

Since the foregoing was put in type, a yellow cloaks, red caps and jackets of the been repelled in three successive charges. fles started the Mexicans from their aston- same time. They thus had four different friend has sent us the annexed letter, dalancers, and the bright blue and white u- The 3d infantry and 1st artillery had also ishment, and they opened their fire .- ranges of men firing at once, and four ted at Richmond at 7 o'clock yesterday

"Ere this reaches you half the business part of Richmond will be in ashes. About half past five the Gallego mills were discovered to be on fire, and by the time the engines arrived the whole of those which were next communicated to Morris's Warehouse, now a part of Shockoo Warehouse, and thence to the buildings na Vista. That night we staid at Chalco. of the batteries, and passing off to the be plainly heard mingled with the yells the commencement of the causeway lead- on Cary street, south side, extending The next day we made a long and toil- right we were soon lost to view in the and groans around. Just before the charge ing to the western gate of the city, and down to Williams & Haxall's opposite was made, a large body of lancers came had to be passed before getting on the the Columbian. When I left the scene which, with the utmost difficulty, we Passing over the path that we scram- winding up the road, looking most splen- road. About 300 yards in the rear of all the houses with the exception of Wildragged our wagons by the assistance of bled through, behold us at almost 6 o'clock didly in their brilliant uniforms. They this work, another field work had been liams & Haxall's, at the corner, were on both men and mules. The next was in the evening, tired, hungry, and sorrow- never got to work, but turned and fled .- built where a cross road meets the cause- fire, all being shingled. The fire still continues to rage, and seems to baffle the efforts of our vigilant and active firemen. who have heretofore been able to save where all seemed lost. God only knews where it will be arrested. Yours in

> P. S. The whole square on fire-Shields & Somerville, Beasley & Co.,

THE LATE HIGH WATERS.

The high waters have done much damage in this region. Large quantities of corn and hay have been destroyed on the rest of the army, and heard the guns with | 000 of the best Mexican cavalry. On took over 500 prisoners, nearly a hun- posite the city. Gen. Worth's attacked low grounds of the Potomac. Immense quantities of fencing have been swept away. In Cumberland, the pavements and cellars have suffered much injury .--The water in Wills Creek was not as high as it had been before, but the torrents that poured from the hill sides into the streets have never been equalled,-The Somerset coach was washed away about four miles from Cumberland; and the two horses drowned. The passengers, two females and one man, escaped with difficulty One of the females was

We have heard of no loss of life in berland Civilian.

A SMALL BUSINESS .- A New York paper says that while Gen. Tom Thumb was exhibiting at Hartford, last week, he offered \$500 reward for a child as short as himself who could walk. Mrs. Foand one inch less than the General; vet she could walk alone. The reward was therefore fairly won; but the man of small dimensions creeped out of a small hole. and said he offered the amount for a child of such a description, and refused to pay it unless the mother would give him the nfant. This of course she would not

STRANGE FACTS .- In a Boston paper. we find an account of the doings of the meeting of naturalists there, which says: "It has been long known that two rays of light may be so thrown on each other as to produce darkness. Professor Henry showed that two rays of heat might be so

FORGING A WILL.-Three men, named Snider, Sharp and Devinet were recently treras, in which 2000 men, under Gen. Capt. Anderson, Lient. Easely, 2d infan- tried in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, on the P. F. Smith, completely routed and destry. Capt. Hanson, 7th infantry. Lieut. charge of forging a will. They we troyed an army of 8000 men under Gen. Irons died on the 28th. Col. Butler of lound guilty, and the court sentenced each Valencie, with Santa Anna and a force of South Carolina, and about 30 officers to four years' confirment in the peni-