

Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & THOMPSON.

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TERMS

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BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger.

Glorious News!—Capitulation of Monterey after three days' fighting!—Col. Watson, of the Baltimore Battalion, killed—about 500 Americans killed & wounded—300 killed—Hasty memoranda of the operations of the American army before Monterey from the 19th to the 28th Sept.

On the 19th Gen. Taylor arrived before Monterey with a force of about 6000 men, and after reconnoitering the city at about 1500 or 1600 yards from the Cathedral fort, during which he was fired upon from the battery, his force was encamped at the Walnut Springs, three miles short of the city. This was the nearest position from which the army could obtain a supply of water and bread, and he without the reach of the enemy's batteries. The remainder of the 19th was occupied by the engineers in making reconnoissances of the city, for the purpose of erecting batteries to cannonade from the heights.

On the 20th Gen. Worth was ordered with his division to move by a circuitous route to the right to gain the Saltillo road, beyond the west of the town, and to storm the heights above the Bishop's Palace, which vital point the enemy appeared to have strangely neglected. Circumstances caused him to halt on the night of the 20th, short of the intended position.

On the morning of the 21st he continued his route, and after an encounter with a large body of the enemy's cavalry and infantry, supported by artillery from the heights, he repulsed them with loss and finally encamped, covering the passage to the Saltillo road. It was here discovered that besides the fort at the Bishop's Palace and the occupation of the heights above, there were two forts on commanding eminences on the opposite side of the Siogepu which had been fortified and occupied. These two latter heights were then stormed and carried by the force under Gen. Worth, and the guns being immediately turned upon the city, a plunging fire was commenced upon the Bishop's Palace.

On the same morning, the 21st, the first division of regular troops, under General Twiggs, and the volunteer division, under Gen. Butler, were ordered under arms to make a diversion to the left of the town in favor of the important operations of Gen. Worth. The 20 inch mortars and two 24 pound howitzers had been put in a battery on the night of the 20th in a ravine 1400 yards distant from the cathedral fort and citadel, and were supported by the fourth regiment of infantry.

At 8 1/2 o'clock, A. M., on the 21st, the order was given for the battery to open the citadel and town, and immediately after the first discharge the division, under the 3d and 4th infantry in advance under Col. Gartland, who were ordered to reconnoiter and skirmish with the enemy on the extreme left of the city, and should a prospect of success offer, to carry the most advanced battery. This attack was directed by Major Mansfield, engineer; Capt. Williams, of the Topographical engineers, and Major Kenny, quarter-master to the Texas Rangers.

A heavy fire from the first battery was immediately opened upon the advance, but the troops soon turned, and entering the city, engaged with the enemy hand to hand in the streets. Passing through an incessant cross-fire from the citadel, and the first and second batteries, as well as from the infantry who lined the parapets, streets and house-tops of the city, the rear of the first battery was captured, and the fire soon turned upon the enemy; this and the reverse fire of the troops through the gorge of the works, killed or dislodged the artillery and infantry from it, and the buildings occupied by infantry immediately in its rear.

The first division was followed and supported by the Mississippi and Tennessee, and first Ohio regiments—the two former regiments being the first to scale and occupy the fort. The success of the day here stopped. The Mississippi, Tennessee and Ohio regiments, though warmly engaged in the streets for some time after the capture of the first battery and its adjoining defences, were unable from exhaustion and the loss they had sustained, to gain more advantages. A heavy shower of rain here came up to cause a suspension of hostilities before the close of the day.

The 3d, 4th and 1st infantry and Baltimore battalion remained as the garrison of the captured position under Col. Gartland, assisted by Capt. Ridgely's battery; two 2 pounders, one 4 pounder, and one howitzer were captured in this fort. Three officers and some twenty or thirty men were taken prisoners. One of the 12 pounders was served against the second fort and defences, with captured ammunition,

by Capt. Ridgely. The storming part of Gen. Worth's division also captured two nine pounders, which were also turned against their former owners.

On the morning of the 22d, Gen. Worth continued his operations, and with a portion of his division stormed and carried successively the heights above the Bishop's Palace; both were carried by a command under Capt. Vinton, of the 3d artillery. In this operation, the company of Louisiana volunteers, under Capt. Blanchard performed efficient and gallant service as part of Capt. Vinton's command. Four pieces of artillery, with a good supply of ammunition, were captured in the Bishop's Palace this day, some of which were immediately turned upon the enemies' defences in the city. On the evening of the 2d, Col. Gartland and his command were relieved as the garrison of the captured forts by Gen. Quitman, with the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments, and five companies of the Kentucky regiments.

Early on the morning of the 23d, Gen. Quitman, from his position, discovered that the 2d and 3d posts and the defences east of the city, had been abandoned by the enemy, who, apprehending another assault, on the night of the 22d, had retired from all his defences to the main palace and its immediate vicinity. A command, consisting of two companies of Mississippi and two of Tennessee troops, were then thrown into the streets to reconnoiter, and soon became wholly engaged with the enemy. They were immediately supported by Col. Wood's regiment of Texas Rangers, dismounted, by Brigg's light battery, and the 3d infantry. The enemy's fire was constant and uninterrupted, from streets and house tops, barricades, &c.

In the vicinity of the Plaza, the pieces of Bragg's battery were also used with much efficiency far into the interior of the city. This engagement lasted the best part of the day—our troops having driven the scattered parties of the enemy, and penetrated quite to the defences of the main Plaza. The advantages thus gained it was not considered necessary to hold, as the enemy had permanently abandoned the city and its defences, except the main Plaza, its immediate vicinity, and the Cathedral fort, or citadel, early in the afternoon of the same day. Gen. Worth assailed from the Bishop's Palace the west side of the city, and succeeded in driving the enemy and maintaining his position within a short distance of the Plaza, on that side of the city; towards evening the mortar had also been planted in the Cemetery inclosed, and during the night did great execution in the circumscribed camp of the enemy on the Plaza. Thus ended the operations on the 23d.

Early on the morning of the 24th, a communication was sent to Gen. Taylor from Gen. Ampudia, under a flag of truce, making an offer of capitulation, to which the former refused to accede, as it asked more than the American commander would, under any circumstances, grant.

At the same time, a demand to surrender was in reply made to Gen. Ampudia; 12 o'clock, M., was the hour at which the acceptance or non-acceptance was to be communicated to the American General. At 11 o'clock, A. M., the Mexican General sent, requesting a personal conference with Gen. Taylor, which was granted—the principal officers of rank on either side accompanying their Generals. After several offers in relation to the capitulation of the city, made on either side, and refused, at 4 1/2 P. M., Gen. Taylor arose, and saying he would give Gen. Ampudia one hour to consider and accept or refuse, left the conference with his officers. At the expiration of the hour, the discharge of the mortars to be the signal for the recommencement of hostilities.

Before the expiration of the hour, however, an officer was sent, on the part of Gen. Ampudia, to inform the American General to avoid the further effusion of blood, and the national honor being satisfied by the exertions of the Mexican troops, he had, after consultation with the general officers, decided to capitulate, accepting the offer of the American General.—The terms of capitulation you will have by mail.

The only Baltimorean or Philadelphian in the party, or in the list of killed and wounded, is Col. Wm. Watson, of Baltimore.

Special Correspondence.

In introducing the following series of letters from Mr. Haile, it can hardly be necessary to remind the reader that they were written amid the bustle of the camp and din of arms. He asks us to say so much for him, but we feel it is unnecessary. In the last letter we have from him—a private, one dated the 25th ult.—he says: "I omitted to state in my letters that the Mexicans had seven thousand regulars and between three and four thousand rancheros in the city. Their killed and wounded was small compared with ours—their legs and walls protecting them."

Again he says: "Capt. Bragg's battery was terribly cut up—he lost twenty horses. I am told he behaved nobly. His orderly sergeant, Waitman was killed.—Ridgely had three fine horses killed—no man was served against the second fort and defences, with captured ammunition,

Mr. Haile's private letter assures us of his fine health and spirits. Our troops he represents to be almost worn out with the fatigue of their several days labours, but otherwise in high spirits.

San Francisco, Mexico, Sept. 18.

Gentlemen: We are at length within five hours' march of Monterey—say twelve miles distant. The army left the camp near Marin, this morning, the first division starting at 6 o'clock, and the second division at 7 o'clock. The advance consisted of McCulloch and Gillespie's companies of rangers, and a squadron of dragoons under Col. May. The pioneer corps was broken up, and returned to their respective regiments. The baggage of the first division, and one-half the ordnance train followed that command, and the second division was followed in like manner by its baggage and the other part of the ordnance train. The volunteer division marched at eight o'clock, followed by its baggage and the supply train. The rear guard was composed of two companies of regulars, one from each division, and closed the march, following the supply train. In case General Henderson should arrive with his Texas rangers, they were to form the advance, with the exception of four companies, which were to take the place of the two companies of infantry, which formed the rear guard. Gen. Henderson overtook the army about four miles from here, and his command was disposed of according to the above-named arrangement. The habitual order of battle was directed to be as follows: "first division on the right, the second on the left, and the volunteer division on the centre," the chiefs of divisions to organize such reserves as they might judge proper. This order of battle not to be considered invaluable, but to be controlled by the nature of the ground. Four men from Gillespie's company were attached to each of the two (second and volunteer) divisions.

Every thing connected with this day's march has been intensely interesting to all, and novel to many. The troops marched in closed columns, and were always held in readiness to act promptly. The column embracing the trains, reached nearly or quite three miles. It was a grand sight, and so much did the men feel interested in coming events, that every one went at it in a business manner, and, although it has been hot and dusty, not half a dozen out of nearly six thousand five hundred have given in to-day on the march. We have forded a number of streams to-day, commencing near Marin, with the San Juan, which was nearly waist deep. Of course we are now in the midst of the mountains, but so imperceptibly have we ascended what appeared like mountains, this morning, that we now seem to be on a great plain, with mountains rising into peaks, in every direction around us. Our road has been through a richer region since leaving Marin, than any I have seen since leaving the Rio Grande. We passed two or three large haciendas, where sugarcane is cultivated to a considerable extent, and the second crops are in a flourishing state. All these plantations are irrigated from the mountain streams.

Soon after we arrived here this evening, a Mexican war has been following the army from Seralvo, was seen writing in one of the houses at the hacienda near camp. On being pointed out by one of the drummer boys of the 7th infantry, he bolted out of the door, and was pursued and caught. A little while after he broke from the guard and ran towards the chaparral, but unfortunately for the poor devil, he was running directly into the camp of the 2d division, which lies hid in the bushes. A hue and cry was raised, the guard not wishing to shoot him, and, after a smart footrace through the thorn bushes, and various extraordinary feats of dodging, he was captured by some of the soldiers of the 7th after receiving a bayonet wound. He is a spy.

Well, to-morrow evening or the next day morning, we shall have seen the question decided with regard to the strength of Monterey. Information came into camp from Monterey last evening, which Mr. Kendall forwarded to you.—This evening the report is that there are 8,000 (one report says 15,000) troops there, and that the city is surrounded by a ditch and breastworks, and the streets all fortified.

How do the troops act on the eve of an expected battle? Only that they are a little more precise in the performance of their duties—a little more careful in arranging their arms and knapsacks to be in readiness for an instant's notice—and a little more careful to procure rest, while they may—I see no change in their demeanor. The only conversation is, how they will go to work to take the city should resistance be offered. It is the settled belief that the Mexicans will fight, and it is also believed that many lives will be sacrificed on both sides. I predict that on their retreat the army will be awfully cut up. About twelve hundred Texan horsemen are now with us, and they are desirous of paying off old scores. In taking the town they cannot engage very actively, but in overtaking the retreating troops they will be active and destructive.

Nine o'clock, P. M.—The impression of those who ought best to know is still that the troops at Monterey will resist.

Our troops will be greatly disappointed if no resistance is offered them. They have come a long distance to seek a fight. I was amused at a remark made by Colonel Persifer F. Smith, some days ago, when asked what he thought of the probabilities of a battle: "I never knew a man to seek perseveringly for a thing a long time, but what he found it," replied he, "and General Taylor will not, I think, seek in vain for another set-to with the Mexicans. One thing is certain, the enemy has been at heavy expense to fortify Monterey, and if we do not find out, before to-morrow night at this time, that they do not intend to expend their money and labor for nothing, I shall then be satisfied that there is no spirit left among them. Two hundred Mexican troops left this place this morning, after ill treating and pillaging the inhabitants as usual. But these people are singular beings, and very ungrateful. In Marin, where Torrejon's troops had, a day or two before, robbed, whipped, and insulted the citizens shamefully, I saw a family selling muscat to Americans for two dollars per bottle, and at the same time selling it to Mexicans for four bits per bottle. We march to-morrow at six o'clock to encamp three miles from Monterey.

Camp before Monterey, Sept. 18th, 12 o'clock, M.—Well, 'the ball has opened.' When within about four miles of the city, we heard a brisk cannonading in that direction. On arriving here, we learn that Gen. Taylor with a detachment of dragoons and the Texas Rangers, advanced within a few hundred yards of the city, when the enemy opened upon them with twelve pounders. The first ball came within about ten yards of the general.—Some twenty-five or thirty shot were fired at the Dragoons and Rangers, passing through their lines, but hurting neither man nor horse. A picket of 200 Mexican cavalry appeared on the plain when our advance first approached, and, after firing a volley or two with their scoppets, retired into the city. Bishop's hill is strongly fortified, and they are hard at work on a height commanding that place. So to night, or early in the morning, we will probably have hot work. They will fight now, beyond a doubt.

Camp before Monterey.

Sept. 19, 1846

Gentlemen:—This has been a day of excitement and interest to our isolated little army. The general left the camp at San Francisco this morning at sunrise, and by 8 o'clock the whole column was in motion, the Texas Rangers and Col. May, with a squadron of dragoons, in advance. The men started off briskly, and the road was fine. After two hours' march, a bridge was found broken up by the Mexicans. A corn field near at hand afforded materials for filling up the place, and the army proceeded over the first corn-stalk bridge I ever heard of. When within about four or five miles of the city, we heard a brisk cannonading. Some of the men had just previous to this began to lag, some suffering from blistered feet, and others from the intensity of the heat, but no sooner did the sound of cannon reach their ears, than they straightened themselves up and pressed forward with an eagerness which showed that their sufferings were all forgotten.—Capt. Scott, (the veritable,) or rather now Major Scott, who commands the 5th infantry, marched immediately before us, and the moment the brave old soldier heard the enemy's cannon, he drove his spurs into his horse and pranced about his regiment as if he would give a liberal portion of his life to be at Monterey. Capt. Miles, commander of the 7th infantry, by whose side I was riding at the moment, likewise rose in his stirrups, with his keen black eyes sparkling, and his nostrils slightly dilated, and gave orders to his regiment to close up, but his orders were useless, for the noble fellows were already pressing upon the staff, to the very rumps of the horses.—Again, again, and again, noise of the cannon reverberated through the lofty mountains which rose before us and upon each side, [I will describe this grand scenery at another time.] and a buzz, a suppressed hurra ran through the line. The officers ran their eyes over their commands with looks of pride and confidence, and the men returned the glance, as if to say, "we are ready," and pressed on still more eagerly. I rode out of the column and fell back to look at the Louisiana boys. Every eye among them was bright with eager excitement. Capt. Blanchard and Lieut. Tarnbrink and the two brothers Nicholls, wore a peculiar smile upon their countenances, an expression I never shall forget. They regretted the absence of their fellow-citizens who had returned to their quiet homes, for they well knew how many a brave heart would burn with bitter disappointment and laudable envy, could their returned friends but see them and know their feelings at this moment.

On reaching the place of encampment we came up with Gen. Worth, sitting on his horse in beautiful style. A handsomer officer than he appeared then, I never saw. Every one remarked the change that had suddenly come over him. From the somewhat dejected air, and saddened countenance that he is said to have worn of late, Richard was now himself again—and the gallant soldier, forgetting all his cares, now

appeared before us, the personification of an accomplished military chieftain. His handsome face was lighted up with a proud, but affable smile, as he motioned gracefully to his officers, pointing out to them the direction they were to take with their respective commands, and not a man who saw him, but what would at that moment have followed him to the cannon's mouth.

Such was the feeling manifested by the whole army—which rendered this body of men invincible.

This evening the enemy's batteries have been opened again upon a reconnoitering party of ours. General's Taylor, Twiggs, Worth, and others, have been out, looking at their works.

9 o'clock, p. m.—An attack is expected, and every man in the army will rest to-night on his arms. A night attack is what a soldier dislikes very much, because it is then difficult to distinguish friend from foe.

September 20.—Every thing remained quiet last night. To-morrow an attempt will be made to take Monterey. A stout resistance is expected, for the town is strongly fortified, as well as the heights that command it, and the enemy has troops and ammunition enough there to defend it. A movement will no doubt be made to-night. No one expects an easy victory; on the other hand, all have made up their minds to see much bloodshed. It is believed that a large number of the enemy is in our rear—in fact there's little doubt on the subject.

An express rider is off this morning for Camargo. I finish hastily, having already taken notes that will enable me to rewrite what I have already penned in my two last communications. H.

Bishop's Palace, Monterey, Mexico.

Sept. 24, 1846.

Gentlemen: This is the fourth day since the battle of Monterey commenced. On the 20th, at noon, Gen. Worth marched from the camp east of the town, in the direction of the heights west of the town—McCulloch and Gillespie's companies of rangers forming the reconnoitering party. At night the division bivouacked almost within range of the guns stationed upon the highest point of the hill, on which the Bishop's Palace is situated. At daylight on the 21st, the column was again in motion, and in a few moments was turning the point of a ridge which protruded out towards the enemy's guns, bringing us as near to them as their gunners could desire. They immediately opened upon the column with a howitzer and 12-pounder, firing shell and round-shot as fast as they could discharge their pieces. The road now wound in towards a gorge, but now far enough to be out of range of their guns, which still played upon us. Another ridge lay about three-fourths of a mile beyond the first, around the termination of which the road wound, bringing it under the lofty summit of a height which rises between Palace Hill and the mountains, which arise over us on the west. When the head of the column approached this ridge a body of Mexican cavalry came dashing round the point to charge upon our advance. Captain Gillespie immediately ordered his men to dismount and place themselves in ambush.—The enemy evidently did not perceive this manoeuvre, but the moment they came up, the Texans opened on them a most effective fire, unsaddling a number of them. McCulloch's company now dashed into the camp—Capt. C. F. Smith's company and Capt. Scott's company of artillery, [acting as infantry,] and Lieut. Longstreet's company of the 8th infantry, with another company of the same regiment likewise charged upon the enemy. The Texan horsemen were soon engaged with them, in a sort of hand to hand skirmish, in which a number of the enemy fell, and one Texan was killed and two wounded.—Col. Duncan now opened upon them with his battery of light artillery, pouring a few discharges of grape among them, and scattering them like chaff. Several men and horses fell under this destructive fire. I saw one horse and rider bound some feet into the air and both fell dead and tumbled down the steep. The foot companies above named then rushed up the steep and fired over the ridge at the retreating enemy, a considerable body of whom were concealed from our view, around the point of the hill. About thirty of the enemy were killed in this skirmish, and among them a captain, who, with two or three others, fell in the road. The captain was wounded in three places, the last shot hitting him in the forehead. He fought gallantly to the last, and I am sorry that I cannot learn his name. The light batteries, one of which is commanded by Lieut. Mackall, were now drawn up on the slope of the ridge, and the howitzer opened upon the height of Palace Hill. A few shells only were thrown, before the enemy commenced firing with a nine-pounder from the height immediately over the right of the column, aiming at Duncan's battery. The several regiments took positions, and a few more shells were thrown towards Palace Hill, but did no execution. The nine pounder continued to throw its shot, with great precision, at our batteries, one ball falling directly in the midst of the pieces; but fortunately hitting neither men nor mules. Finding his batteries thus exposed, and unable to affect anything, Col. Duncan retired his command to a ranche about half a mile