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D. A. BUEHLER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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GETTYSBURG, PA. FRIDAY EVENING, APRIL 30, 1847.

{ WHOLE NO. 891.



WELCH & DELAVAN'S
GRAND NATIONAL

CIRCUS.
From the Amphitheatre Philadelphia, consisting of all star performers, and comprising upwards of 150 men and horses. This splendid equestrian company will exhibit at GETTYSBURG.

Tuesday May 4th, 1847.
Admission to this attractive and extensive exhibition, 25 cents only.

Among this talented company will be found the far famed Madam Macarte, whose daring and graceful scenes place her without a rival in the world.

Mr. Levi North, who has borne away the palm of superiority from all competitors before the Royal families of England and France, returning covered with the medals of honor, will again appear before his native countrymen.

Mr. J. J. Nathans, the great and unrivaled two and four horse rider will, while his horses are at full speed, introduce his daring act of balancing Frank Pastor on his head, and in a variety of elegant and graceful attitudes.

Mrs. Woods, the graceful All-mantle rider and leader of the Cavalry, will in her own peculiar Acts, Scenes and Performances, secure a large share of admiration.

The Great and celebrated Clown, John May, the brightest star in his line and decidedly the best in his profession.

Mr. E. Woods, the grand representative of the Red Man of the Forest.

Moses Lippman, the wonderful Tumbler and Tumbler, the Hero of the South, will lead the Troup on the vaulting board with many successive somersaults.

Mons. Macarte from the Royal Amphitheatre of London, the great Acrobats, tumbler and vaulter, and general gymnastic performer.

Frank Pastor, whose execution on and grace, is beyond compare. The finest proof of excellent teaching will appear in a touching, infantile, and admirable effort on a single horse.

F. Brower, N. Jamieson and J. Strickney, the three representatives of the Ethiopian character, will give a comic concert, in a most amusing and most accurate resemblance in tone, speech and manner to real Ethiopians.

Equestrian director—Mr. J. J. Nathans; Riding Master, Mr. Francis Whitaker.

The Celebrated American Thorough bred Dancing Horse Tammany, taught and performed by Mr. Levi North, will astonish every beholder with his extraordinary performance of Waltzes, Quicksteps, Polkas, and a Grand Promenade.

The two Eccentric Ponies, Black Moggy and Jenny Lind, will appear in their diverting double act, in which they will leap through hoops, clear barrier bars, pick up various objects, and mount pedestals at a signal from their talented trainer, Mr. North.

The highly trained and beautiful Arabian horse, Andalus, will, at a sign from his teacher, bound through balloons, leap over horses and vault over barriers.—The Managers believe that Jas. Barker, Esq., has by great pains and skill, trained and presented a horse without a fall in this or any other country.

The Great water-proof Pavilion is entirely new, appropriately decorated, and furnished with carpet seats, for the accommodation of 3000 spectators. The arrangement of an interior is such as to preclude the possibility of an attempt at disorder or indecorum. C. GILSWOODE, Agent.

WESTERN HOTEL,
(Formerly kept by J. H. Watkins, Esq. BALTIMORE, MD.)

THE undersigned has the pleasure of informing the citizens of Gettysburg and vicinity, that he has taken the hotel long and favorably known as the "WESTERN HOTEL" situated at the corner of Howard and Saratoga streets in the city of Baltimore.

The Hotel has attached to it upwards of forty chambers, with comfortable and appropriate furniture, kept in the most cleanly order and well ventilated.—It has likewise an upper and lower parlour, one for the use of Ladies, the other for Gentlemen. From its location it is a cool and healthful residence in Summer, and in Winter it will be well warmed and beautifully lighted with gas. The House is in the vicinity of the best and most abundant market in Baltimore from which the TABLE is furnished daily with every seasonable variety. The Bar is stocked with the best Liquors, and from the politeness of his attendants the Traveller cannot fail to find an agreeable and cheerful home.

Connected with Hotel are excellent stables and copious carriage sheds, under the direction of experienced hostlers. The undersigned and his family will be found personally to direct their time and services to the comfort of those who may honor them with their favor and patronage. Fare \$1 per day.

Very respectfully,
JAMES P. BAYLIS,
Western Hotel, corner Howard and Saratoga sts. Baltimore.

For the character of the Hotel refer to Messrs. William King, Alexander Cobeen, Gettysburg, Henry S. I., Michael Dondel, York, Jacob Forney, Hanover.

April 16, 1847.

HAND BILLS,
AND JOB PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Neatly & expeditiously executed.
BY THE "STAR" OFFICE.

The Fragrant Air Flower.

BY T. K. HURVY.
May say there is a gentle flower,
That, born beneath an eastern sky,
Without the gift of sun or shower,
Gives out its precious sigh;

That—with affection—sweetly dwells
Beneath the Indian's stately dome,
Or freely throws its fragrant spells
Around his lowly home—
Fed only by that sacred air,
That, as a spirit, hovers there!

And thou art like that fairy thing,
Though gifted with a colder sky,
With scent and bloom, too pure to fling
Before the passer by;
Who, with the star-flowers of thine eyes,
Couldst brighten still the brightest lot,
Or, with thy fond and fragrant sighs,
Make rich the poor man's cot!

An English Ruth—in good or ill—
To follow whereso'er we roam,
And hang thy precious garlands, still,
Amid the breath of home!

My weary heart! my weary heart!
It is a pleasant thing
To wander from the crowd apart,
When faint, and chill'd, and cold thou art,
And fold thy restless wing
Beside the sweet and quiet streams
Where grow life's lily-rings,
And peace—thy feet on happy dreams,
Like some young Naiad, sits and sings!

To leave awhile the barren height,
Where thou too long hast striven,
As if the spirit's upward flight
Had been the path to Heaven;
And musing by fire's haunted hill,
Earth's "river of the best,"
To see how sweetly heaven still
Is mirrored 'on its breast,
And feel, though there, art nearer far
To that bright land of sun and star!

The Creation of the Caterpillar.

FROM THE GERMAN, BY MRS. SIMON.
When our first parents were banished
From Eden for their sins, and already
The heavy hand of his brother, the destroying
angel appeared before Jehovah and said, "The sentence of death is pronounced
over the earth, and man proves himself
worthy of his fate. Give me then the power
to fashion some creatures and to create
others, as instruments of destruction, that
they may assist me in my work."

Jehovah gave consent. The angel of
the Lord then descended upon the earth,
and gave the lion his terrible claws, and
jaws panting for blood; now, for the first
time, his roaring shook the fields, and in-
stead of the curling hair that had adorned
him, a yellow mane fell from his neck.—
The tiger and the leopard, which, until
now, had fed with the lamb, received their
spotted skins, and with them craft, and
malice, and thirst for blood. Vultures and
eagles screamed in the air, and with their
pointed talons brought death and destruc-
tion into the valleys beneath. In the clefts
of the rock lurked the venomous adder.

The guardian spirit of the earth mourned.
Nature seemed at strife with itself.
Even the angel of death shuddered at his
instruments. But he consoled himself and
said, "Has not man fashioned for himself
this world? He has despised repose and
peace, and has preferred strife to undisturbed
dominion. How can I appear otherwise
than terrible upon a earth defiled with sin?"

He spoke, and to the most frightful
monsters he gave the desert as their dwelling
place, and the hours of the night where
to roam in search of prey, for with the
Celestials even stern justice goes hand in
hand with love.

The angel of destruction then descended
to the dwellings of men, and alighted in
a little garden, where Mirza, Abel's beloved
and sorrowing sister, fostered her trees
and flowers. It was a little image of Eden,
full of cool shades and pleasant perfumes
and flowers.

The heavenly messenger stood thought-
fully, moved by Mirza's innocence and love.
"Must I bring yet a new grief to the sweet
sufferer?" he said. "Well, be it so. To
the devout heart joy blossoms even from
sorrow; and does she not belong to the
race of fallen man? The fruit of sin is
everlasting. Here also let death have
its instruments!"

He smote the earth with his rod, and
from the dust which it touched came forth
a voracious caterpillar. It began at once
to feed upon the plants around, and to
gnaw the leaves and blossoms from the
nearest trees.

Soon after, Mirza walked into her garden,
and was affrighted when she perceived
the destruction of the leaves and blossoms.
But when she drew nearer and
beheld the strange animal upon the branch,
she was terrified still more, and ran to
her brother Seth. "Behold," she said, "a
snake sits upon the branches, and devours
my plants and trees."

Then Seth entered the little garden, and
when he had considered the caterpillar, he
said: "Not so, Mirza, thy fears have given
the animal unreal terrors. The serpent
creeps upon his belly, but this creature has
feet, and is a different reptile; it lives upon
leaves like a sheep; it will trample upon
it." With these words the boy shook
the tree, so that the caterpillar fell to the
ground.

"Ah, no," cried Mirza, "do not kill it;
do we not also eat of the fruit of the tree?
The creature does not know that it is my
garden and my delight, therefore do not
kill it. I will give it to eat that it shall
have enough and do no hurt to my plants."
The boy then said: "Are not the
hearts subject unto us, and given into our
power?"

"But still it is better," answered Mirza,

"to exercise mildness and gentleness rather
than violence. Let it live, then."

Upon this Mirza made a hedge about
the caterpillar, and gave it of the leaves and
blossoms of the trees every evening and
morning, more than it could consume.

When the celestial messenger saw this,
he was moved and said, "Man has not en-
tirely lost the image of his Maker. He
can love his enemies, and repay evil with
good." The angel stood thoughtful, and
then said: "It is just that goodness should
meet a fair reward." He touched the de-
vouring reptile with his rod. The cater-
pillar received the singular power of build-
ing for itself its own tomb. All this hap-
pened about the time of the evening twilight.

Early on the following morning, Mirza
entered the garden and looked over the
hedge which enclosed the caterpillar, but
she did not find it. "Oh, it is still sleep-
ing," she said, in childlike simplicity. "I
will not wake it, but I will gather leaves
while the dew lies upon them." So she
gathered blossoms and leaves; for Mirza
had, by her kindness, come to love the rep-
tile, and she bore all nature upon her heart,
since Abel no longer wandered at her side.

Now, as Mirza approached with the
blossoms and leaves, she found a dwelling,
bright and beautiful, like a silver-colored
cloud, and she stood and wondered, and
she called to her father and mother, and to
all who dwelt in the house, and said, "See
what a creature I have cherished. Now it
is dead, and rests in its strange tomb.—
Who knows if it will not come forth a-
new!"

Mirza spoke with the spirit of prophe-
cy. But she knew not that she had the
gift of prophecy.

But Adam, her father, said: "Who can
by searching find out such a matter! The
beginning and the end is hidden from the
eyes of men. Yet it may be that this new
wonder is not without instruction. Well,
let us carry it into the house."

So they bore the reptile in its covering
into their dwelling. But Mirza said: "I
rejoice now that I have cherished the
creature even until its death."

The covering of the unknown animal
lay now in the dwelling of man, an em-
blem of Abel, the first of those who slept.
As they were assembled together one morn-
ing, and with sorrowful hearts discoursed
of death, lo! on a sudden, a gentle rustling
was heard, and the house of death moved
and from. All drew near, and gazed up-
on the covering, full of silent expectation.

Then the round, silver-colored tomb
burst in pieces, and behold! a living
thing came forth from the narrow man-
icule and trembled, and unfolded a double
pair of wings. Now the wings were blue,
like a sapphire, and like the firmament of
heaven when it is clear, and they were edged
with a border of gold, and each wing was
a span in length, and in breadth. And up-
on the broken house there lay a reddish
drop like blood. But the new-born creature
flew with rustling wings out amid the
perfume of the blossoming trees.

Holy wonder and joy filled the hearts
of the first of mankind, and they thought
of Abel, the firstling of those who sleep.
And their eyes were opened, and they be-
held the image of Abel, like unto that of an
angel.

And they heard the voice of the destroy-
ing angel, who said: "Lo! out of death
springs forth life, and days change to eter-
nity. To those who are pure in heart,
and of child-like faith, it is given to read
the truth in this emblem."

Since that day Mirza mourned no longer
for Abel, and henceforth the first of
mankind thought upon death with joy and
with hope.

CHOOSING A MINISTER.—The people in
one of the out parishes in Virginia wrote to
Dr. Rice, who was then at the head of the
Theological Seminary in Prince Edward,
for a minister. They said they wanted a
man of first rate talents, for they had run
down considerably, and needed building
up. They wanted one who could write
well, for some of the young people were
very nice about that matter. They wanted
one who could visit a good deal, for their
former minister had neglected that, and
they wanted to bring it up. They wanted
a man of very gentlemanly deportment,
for some thought a great deal of that.
And so they went on describing a perfect
minister. The last thing they mentioned
was, they gave their minister \$350, but if
the Doctor would send them such a man
as they described, they would raise another
\$50, making it \$400. The Doctor sat
down and wrote a reply, telling them they
had better forthwith make out a call for
old Dr. Dwight in heaven; for he did not
know of any one in this world who an-
swered this description. And, as Doctor
Dwight had been living so long on spiri-
tual food, he might not need so much for the
body, and possibly might live on \$400.

THE RUINS OF BABYLON.—It appears
by letters lately received, that new discover-
ies have been made among the ruins of
Babylon. Mr. Leyard has continued his
search to Nineveh near Mossoul,
where he has already found some beauti-
ful bas-reliefs, and a colossal lion. He
has also found a great number of small li-
ons in bronze—ladies' necklaces—a copper
helmet of great beauty, and a multitude of
small articles in gold and silver. Also, a
quadrangular pillar covered with inscrip-
tions and designs. They are all in a good
state of preservation.

BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.

Gen. Taylor's Detailed Report.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF OCCUPATION,
AGUA NUEVA, MARCH 6, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a de-
tailed report of the operations of the forces
under my command which resulted in the
engagement of Buena Vista, the repulse of
the Mexican army and the re-occupation
of this position.

The information which reached me of
the advance and concentration of a heavy
Mexican force in my front, had assumed
such a probable form, as to induce a special
examination far beyond the reach of our
pickets to ascertain its correctness.

A small party of Texan spies, under Major
McCulloch, despatched to the Hacienda of
Encarnacion, 30 miles from this, on the
route to San Luis-Potosi, had reported a
cavalry force of unknown strength at that
place. On the 20th of February a
strong reconnaissance under Lieut. Col.
May was despatched to the Hacienda Ec-
clionda, while Major McCulloch made another
examination of Encarnacion. The
results of these expeditions left no doubt
that the enemy was in large force at En-
carnacion under the orders of General
Santa Anna, and that he meditated a for-
ward movement and attack upon our position.

As the Camp of Agua Nueva would be
turned on either flank, and as the enemy's
force was greatly superior to our own,
particularly in the arm of cavalry, I deter-
mined, after much consideration, to take
up a position about eleven miles in rear,
and there await the attack. The army
broke up its camp and marched at noon on
the 21st, encamping at a new position a
little in front of the Hacienda of Buena Vis-
ta. With a small force I proceeded to
Saltillo to make some necessary arrange-
ments for the defence of the town, leaving
Brig. Gen. Wool in the immediate com-
mand of the troops.

Before the arrangements were com-
pleted, on the morning of the 22d, I was
advised that the enemy was in sight, advan-
cing. Upon reaching the ground I found
that his cavalry advance was in our front,
having marched from Encarnacion, as we
have since learned, at 11 o'clock on the
day previous, and driving in a mounted
force left at Agua Nueva to cover the re-
moval of public stores. Our troops were
in position, occupying a line of remarkable
strength. The road at this point becomes
a narrow defile, the valley on its right be-
ing rendered quite impracticable for ar-
tillery by a system of deep and impassible
gullies, while on the left a succession of
rugged ridges and precipitous ravines ex-
tended far back towards the mountain which
bounds the valley. The features of the
ground were such as nearly to paralyze
the artillery and cavalry of the enemy,
while his infantry could not derive all
the advantage of its numerical superiority.
In this position we prepared to receive him.

Capt. Washington's battery (14th artillery)
was posted to command the road, while the
1st and 2d Illinois regiments under
Cols. Hardin and Bissell, each eight com-
panies, (to the latter of which was attach-
ed Capt. Conner's company of Texas vol-
unteers) and the 2d Kentucky under Col.
McKee occupied the crests of the ridges
on the left and in the rear. The Arkansas
and Kentucky regiments of cavalry, com-
manded by Cols. Yell and H. Marshall,
occupied the extreme left near the base of
the mountain, while the Indiana brigade,
under Brigadier General Lane, (composed
of the 2d and 3d regiments under Cols.
Bowles and Lane,) the Mississippi ril-
lemen under Col. Davis, the squadrons
of the 1st and 2d dragoons under Capt. Steen
and Lieut. Col. May, and the light bat-
teries of Cpts. Sherman and Bragg, 3d artil-
lery, were held in reserve.

At 11 o'clock I received from Gen. San-
ta Anna a summons to surrender at discre-
tion, which, with a copy of my reply,
I have already transmitted. The enemy
still forbore his attack, evidently waiting
for the arrival of his rear columns, which
could be distinctly seen by our look-out
as they approached the field. A demon-
stration made on his left caused me to de-
tach the 2d Kentucky regiment and a section
of artillery to our right, in which po-
sition they bivouacked for the night. In
the meantime the Mexican light troops had
engaged ours on the extreme left, (com-
posed of parts of the Kentucky and Arkansas
cavalry, dismounted, and a rifle battalion
from the Indiana brigade under Major
Gorman, the whole commanded by Col.
Marshall,) and kept up a sharp fire, climb-
ing the mountain side, and apparently en-
deavoring to gain our flank. Three pic-
ces of Capt. Washington's battery had
been detached to the left, and were sup-
ported by the 2d Indiana regiment. An
occasional shell was thrown by the enemy
into this part of our line, but without effect.
The skirmishing of the light troops was
kept up with trifling loss on our part until
dark, when I became convinced that no
serious attack would be made before the
morning, and returned with the Mississippi
regiment and squadron of 2d dragoons to
Saltillo. The troops bivouacked without
fires, and laid upon their arms. A body
of cavalry, some 1,500 strong, had been
visible all day in the rear of the town,
having entered the valley through a nar-
row pass east of the city. This cavalry,
commanded by Gen. Minon, had evidently
been thrown in our rear to break up and
harrass our retreat, and perhaps make some
attempt against the town if practica-

The city was occupied by four ex-
cellent companies of Illinois volunteers un-
der Major Warron of the 1st regiment.—
A field-work, which commanded most of
the approaches, was garrisoned by Capt.
Webster's company, 1st artillery, and arm-
ed with two 24-pound howitzers, while
the train and headquarters camp was guard-
ed by two companies of Mississippi rife-
men under Capt. Rogers, and a field-piece
commanded by Capt. Shover, 3d artillery.
Having made these dispositions for the
protection of the rear, I proceeded on the
morning of the 23d to Buena Vista, ordering
forward all other available troops. The
action had commenced before my arrival
on the field.

During the evening and night of the 22d
the enemy had thrown a body of light
troops on the mountain side, with the pur-
pose of outflanking our left; and it was
here that the action of the 23d commenced
at an early hour. Our riflemen under
Colonel Marshall, who had been reinforced
by three companies under Major Trail, 2d
Illinois volunteers, maintained their ground
handsomely against a greatly superior
force, holding themselves under cover, and
using their weapons with deadly effect.—
About 8 o'clock a strong demonstration was
made against our centre position, a heavy
column moving along the road. This
force was soon dispersed by a few rapid
and well directed shots from Captain
Washington's battery. In the meantime
the enemy was concentrating a large force
of infantry and cavalry under cover of the
ridges, with the obvious intention of forc-
ing our left, which was posted on an ex-
tensive plateau. The 2d Indiana and 2d
Illinois regiments formed this part of our
line, the former covering three pieces of
light artillery, under the orders of Captain
O'Brien—Brigadier General Lane being in
the immediate command. In order to
bring his men within effective range, Gen.
Lane ordered the artillery and 2d Indiana
regiment forward. The artillery advanced
within musket range of a heavy body of
Mexican infantry, and was served against
it with great effect, but without being able
to check its advance. The infantry order-
ed to its support had fallen back in disor-
der, being exposed, as well as the battery,
not only to a severe fire of small arms
from the front, but also to a murderous
cross fire of grape and canister from a
Mexican battery on the left. Captain
O'Brien found it impossible to retain his
position without support, but was only
able to withdraw two of his pieces, all the
horses and caissons of the third piece
being killed or disabled. The 2d Indiana
regiment, which had fallen back as stated,
could not be rallied, and took no further
part in the action, except a handful of men
who, under its gallant Col. Bowles, joined
the Mississippi regiment, and did good
service, and those fugitives who, at a later
period in the day, assisted in defending the
train and depot at Buena Vista. This
portion of our line having given way, and
the enemy appearing in overwhelming
force against our left flank, the light troops
which had rendered such good service on
the mountain, were compelled to withdraw,
which they did, for the most part in good
order. Many, however, were not rallied
until they reached the depot at Buena Vis-
ta, to the defence of which they afterwards
contributed.

Colonel Bissell's regiment, (2d Illinois),
which had been joined by a section of
Captain Sherman's battery, had become
completely outflanked, and was compelled
to fall back, being entirely unsupported.—
The enemy was now pouring masses of
infantry and cavalry along the base of the
mountain on our left, and gaining our rear
in great force. At this moment I arrived
upon the field. The Mississippi regiment
had been directed to the left before reach-
ing the position, and immediately came in-
to action against the Mexican infantry
which had turned our flank. The 2d
Kentucky regiment and a section of artillery
under Capt. Bragg, had previously been
ordered from the right to reinforce our left,
and arrived at a most opportune moment.

That regiment, and a portion of the 1st
Illinois, under Col. Hardin, gallantly drove
the enemy, and recovered a portion of the
ground we had lost. The batteries of Cap-
tains Sherman and Bragg were in position
on the plateau, and did much execution,
not only in front, but particularly upon the
masses which had gained our rear. Dis-
covering that the enemy was heavily press-
ing upon the Mississippi regiment, the
3d Indiana Regiment, under Col. Lane,
was despatched to strengthen that part
of our line, which formed a crotchet perpen-
dicular to the first line of battle. At the
same time Lieut. Kilburn, with a piece of
Capt. Bragg's battery, was directed to sup-
port the infantry there engaged.—The ac-
tion was for a long time warmly sustained
at that point—the enemy making several
efforts with infantry and cavalry against our
line, and always repulsed with heavy loss.
I had placed all the regular cavalry and
Capt. Pike's squadron of Arkansas horse
under the orders of Brevet Lieut. Colonel
May, with directions to hold in check the
enemy's column, still advancing to the
rear along the base of the mountain, which
was done in conjunction with the Ken-
tucky and Arkansas cavalry under Colonels
Marshall and Yell. In the mean time our
left, which was still strongly threatened
by a superior force, was further strength-
ened by the detachment of Capt. Bragg's,
and a portion of Capt. Sherman's batteries
to that quarter.

The concentration of artillery fire upon

the masses of the enemy along the base of
the mountain, and the determined resis-
tance offered by the two regiments op-
posed to them, had created confusion in their
ranks, and some of the corps attempted to
effect a retreat upon their main line of bat-
tle. The squadron of the 1st dragoons,
under Lieut. Rucker, was now ordered up
the deep ravine which these retreating
corps were endeavoring to cross, in order
to charge and disperse them. The squad-
ron proceeded to the point indicated, but
could not accomplish the object, being ex-
posed to a heavy fire from a battery estab-
lished to cover the retreat of those corps.—
While the squadron was detached on this
service, a large body of the enemy was ob-
served to concentrate on our extreme left,
apparently with the view of making a de-
scent upon the hacienda of Buena Vista,
where our train and baggage were deposited.
Lieut. Col. May was ordered to the
support of that point, with two pieces of
Capt. Sherman's battery under Lieut.
Reynold's. In the mean time the scatter-
ed forces near the hacienda, composed in
part of Trail and Gorman's commands,
had been to some extent organized under
the advice of Major Munroe, chief of artil-
lery, with the assistance of Major Morris-
son, volunteer staff, and were posted to de-
fend the position. Before our cavalry had
reached the hacienda, that of the enemy
had made its attack, having been handsomely
met by the Kentucky and Arkansas
cavalry under Colonels Marshall and Yell.
The Mexican column immediately divided,
one portion sweeping by the depot, where
it received a destructive fire from the forces
which had collected there, and then gain-
ing the mountain opposite, under a fire
from Lieut. Reynold's section, the remain-
ing portion regaining the base of the moun-
tain on our left. In the charge at Buena
Vista Col. Yell fell gallantly at the head of
his regiment; we also lost Adjutant
Vanghan, of the Kentucky cavalry, a young
officer of much promise. Lieut. Col.
May, who had been rejoined by the squad-
ron of the 1st dragoons and by portions of
the Arkansas and Indiana troops under
Lieut. Col. Roane and Major Gorman,
now approached the base of the mountain,
holding in check the right flank of the en-
emy, upon whose masses, crowded in the
narrow gorges and ravines, our artillery
was doing fearful execution.

The position of that portion of the Mex-
ican army which had gained our rear was
now very critical, and it seemed doubtful
whether it could regain the main body.—
At this moment I received from Gen. San-
ta Anna a message by a staff officer desir-
ing to know what I wanted? I immedi-
ately despatched Brig. Gen. Wool to the
Mexican General-in-chief, and sent orders
to cease firing. Upon reaching the Mexi-
can lines Gen. Wool could not cause the
enemy to cease their fire, and accordingly
returned without an interview. The ex-
treme right of the enemy continued its re-
treat along the base of the mountain, and
finally, in spite of all our efforts, effected
a junction with the remainder of the army.

During the day, the cavalry of Gen.
Minon had ascended the elevated plain
above Saltillo, and occupied the road from
the city to the field of battle, where they
intercepted several of our men. Approach-
ing the town he was fired upon by Capt.
Webster from the redoubt occupied by his
company, and then moved towards the
eastern side of the valley, and obliquely
towards Buena Vista. At this time Capt.
Shover moved rapidly forward with his
piece, supported by a miscellaneous com-
mand of mounted volunteers, and fired sev-
eral shots at the cavalry with great effect.
They were driven into the ravine which
lead to the lower valley closely pursued
by Capt. Shover, who was further sup-
ported by a piece of Capt. Webster's bat-
tery, under Lieut. Donaldson, which had
advanced from the redoubt, supported by
Capt. Wheeler's company Illinois volun-
teers. The enemy made one or two efforts
to charge the artillery, but was finally driv-
en back in a confused mass, and did not
again appear upon the plain.

In the meantime, the firing had partially
ceased upon the principal field. The enemy
seemed to confine his efforts to the
protection of his artillery, and I had left
the plateau for a moment, when I was re-
called thither by a very heavy musketry
fire. On regaining that position I discov-
ered that our infantry (Illinois & 2d Ken-
tucky) had engaged a greatly superior
force of the enemy—evidently his reserves
—and that they had been overwhelmed by
numbers. The moment was most critical.
Capt. O'Brien, with two pieces, had sus-
tained this heavy charge to the last, and
was finally forced to leave his guns on the
field—his infantry support being entirely
routed. Capt. Bragg, who had just arriv-
ed from the left, was at once ordered into
battery. Without any infantry to support
him, and at the imminent risk of losing his
guns, this officer came rapidly into action,
the Mexican line being but a few yards
from the muzzle of his pieces. The first
discharge of canister caused the enemy to
hesitate, the second and third drove him
back in disorder, and saved the day. The
2d Kentucky regiment, which had advanc-
ed beyond supporting distance in this af-
fair, was driven back and closely pressed
by the enemy's cavalry. Taking a ravine
which led in the direction of Capt. Wash-
ington's battery, their pumps became ex-
posed to his fire, which soon checked and
drove them back with loss. In the mean
time the rest of our artillery had taken po-
sition on the plateau, covered by the Mis-

tion of our line, and the enemy's position on the plateau, covered by the Mis-