

Mr. Wattle's, at her own request. Mr. Langford sat by the side of his wife on the bed. Before she went to the bed he said he should be hung but not for this act. He said, do tell Mrs. Allen about it, while you can speak. She said you know it was not intentionally done, my dear. I don't recollect of any reply that he made. It was before Mrs. Moody left the house, I think. I don't think of anything of importance, that was said, till Dr. Kinney came.

Miss Amanda Moody sworn.—I was at Allen's when Langford came there. He inquired where Burrows Allen was. Mr. Allen asked what he wanted of his son. He said to go after the doctor. He said he had shot his wife and wanted Dr. Kinney and Rice. The boy went. I went up there with Mrs. Allen. Langford came to the road where we stopped, put his hand on my shoulder and asked me if I would not go in. I went in. She was sitting in the chair near the stove and said she thought she could be helped. Mr. Langford said there was nothing to do for her. She said she would not go in. She said you know my dear you did not do it intentionally. He said it would not be this act that would do it. Langford asked her if she would not lie down on the bed and help her out. She spoke and said she would like to see her folks before she died. He asked if some one would not go down and see if Wattle's folks would come up. I told him that I would go and went. He wanted them to go for her folks. When I returned, Dr. Kinney had come. Albinah Wattle's came up with me from Mr. Wattle's. After he helped her to the bed, he stood held her up because she could not lie down.

Cross-examined.—There was nothing said about the wound or whether the ball went through. We made an examination of the wound before Dr. Kinney came. De Witt Wattle sworn.—I was at Langford's half an hour or so after the affair happened. I went into the room and was there a few minutes. Mr. Langford came to me and wanted I should go to Towanda after Mr. Briggs' folks and Dr. Huston, and if Dr. Huston could not come to have Doctor Weston come. Our horses had been at work and he wanted I should go to Mr. Allen's or Maj. Elliot's for a horse. I got one of Mr. Allen. He said when I come down to call at his house. I done so and asked him what work he wanted to send to Towanda. He told me to tell Briggs' folks that Mrs. Langford was shot, and have them come as quick as they could and Dr. Huston with them. He wanted I should hurry.

Septimus Whitney sworn.—In the latter part of October or the 1st of November I came up from down the river in company with Langford, Esq. Woodburn and Albert Hicks. We went aboard of a line boat at Selin's Grove. The Captain's name was Fentz, and the boatman's name was Walls. Walls, Langford and myself were in the cabin, Walls asked me if I did not want to buy a pistol, and reached up on the shelf and got it. I told him I had no use for a pistol. Langford then came in and said he wanted to buy it himself and asked him what he would take for it. He said 10 dollars. I said he would give but a dollar. He thought a spell and said he would take it, and L. gave him the dollar. Walls said he might have the box of caps and a quantity of powder for 10. He took them but I don't know if he paid for them. The Capt. said Walls would not have sold it if he had not stolen it the last time he was down to Phila. I kept in company with L. up; rode with him from Monroe to Rome. Mr. Whiting was the driver. On the road from Monroe to Rome heard nothing said by L. about shooting his wife with the pistol or any body else—believe he was little under—his talk was considerable, and I could hear them now and then. I rained all the way. There were 3 seats in the wagon and an umbrella to each seat.

Cross-examined.—Whiting and Langford sat on the front seat. I sat on the back seat. I stopped at Sicker's—he took a drink there; I did not pay much attention to what was going on in the wagon, did not care was pretty tired and was in a hurry to get home. J. W. Woodburn, re-called.—I was not present when the pistol was bought. I came up with Langford. Whiting was the driver from Monroe. I don't recollect of hearing much conversation from Langford. They might have talked and I not heard them.

Jonathan Miller sworn.—I was at Rome at one time talking with Langford, talking about buying his pistol. He asked one fifty or two dollars, I forgot which. I think it was two dollars, I think it was in the winter some time. Something was said about trying it. He got some ammunition of some hunters that were there. I don't remember what kind of ammunition. We went out to the stoop to try it, and Kinney said we hadn't better shoot it there as there was horses there. It was not fired. I asked him what he would take for it. Cross-examined.—I told him I would not give him what he asked for it.

Albert Hicks sworn.—I came up from down the river with Langford last fall. I rode in company with him from Monroe to Rome. The pistol was fired between Monroe and Rome. Twice I think it was fired. I don't know who fired it, once near Sicker's next near Piollett's. I rode on the second seat part the way up. I did not hear Langford tell Whiting he would shoot any one with the pistol. I loaded the pistol at Monroe and kept it in my possession until we got to Sicker's. Then some one shot it off. Woodburn and myself then loaded it together as we both had some of the ammunition. It was very rainy. I can't say who fired it at Piollett's. I kept it in my possession until we got to Mr. Langford's house and then gave it up to him. I did not fire it. I think Langford did not fire it.

Cross-examined.—I think I should not have been likely to have heard conversation between the driver and Langford.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18.

George Nichols sworn.—I recollect of Langford's being in my grocery the day this occurrence happened; I think it was in the afternoon; he bought different articles, a small knife for a child, some candy, nuts and powder—an axe he bought the knife the 11th of January; don't know but he bought the other article a little before that day, either on that day, or a short time previous he purchased some raisins, candy, &c.; I think it was about the time of the holidays. He spoke about his children expecting something of him; he believed he said something about Santa Claus. After he purchased the things he handed me some money and I gave him back a small amount of change. He threw back the same change and said he wanted some powder to kill a cat; it was a small quantity—can't recollect whether I weighed it or not.

Louisa Layton sworn.—I lived in Mr. L.'s family one week; I think it was new year's

week. While I was there, there were annoyances, both in the day, time and night from cats about the house—more than on night, while I was there they happened. There were two cats that frequented the house. Mr. L. said he meant to kill the cats so that they would not make so much noise around; said he would shoot them. I saw him bring home some powder one night; he had it in a paper in his hand—said he had got the powder to kill the cats; he brought the candy and nuts home new-year's eve; don't know whether they were in the house or not at the time he came home.

Cross-examined.—Don't know whether he shot the cats or not; they did not belong to the house, do not know how they got in; believe they got in through the hall; think I heard them one night after he got the powder, whether he was at home or not I don't remember; saw him have the pistol one night; he went off with it after he loaded it.

Direct.—Don't know whether these cats frequented the barn.

Mrs. Elizabeth Wattle re-called.—I was at Langford's house the first day of January; heard him say that a cat troubled them; he said he would kill Lib's cat. He referred to Elizabeth Wattle's daughter of mine; it was not our cat but one that frequented our house and the children called it Lib's cat.

Arunah Wattle re-called.—On Wednesday, the 6th of January, I was passing by the house of L.'s and heard the report of a gun—thought from the report that it was in L.'s house. I drove my horses up to the barn, hitched them, and thought I would go in the house and see what was the matter; it was three P. M. The second thought I took I thought I would not go into a man's house in the day time to see what he was shooting at; went on and came back in about fifteen minutes, and saw Mr. L. in the road a few rods from the house; asked him what he had been shooting at; told him I heard the report of a pistol in his house; he said he didn't know, he had been to the burg with his wife to the store; I passed on and left him there. He had apparently just arrived. The next day, Mr. L. came to the saw mill where I was and told me that while he was gone, little Billy had got his pistol off the clock and shot it off and came very near killing Eliza, his little girl.

Silas F. Washburn, re-called.—Upon further reflection I recollect that Mrs. Mercur spoke to me in the room a short time after I arrested him, and said "don't take him away, it will almost kill Rebecca." I remember that she then turned to Langford and says either I or we don't recollect which, "don't think it is done on purpose."

Cross-examined.—I recollect Mrs. Mercur was somewhat excited at the time; think she was crying. Thomas P. Woodruff was present.

Dr. Rice re-called.—I had attended the family of Mr. Langford for some time as a physician. I recollect of one instance of L. being faint from the distress of his wife; my recollection is that it was during her confinement; think she was in very severe suffering. He was faint and pale; don't recollect whether he fell or not, but my impression is that he did lie down.

Cross-examined.—This was when I think I had not heard of any difficulties—think five or six years ago.

Dr. C. C. Worthing sworn.—I attended Mrs. L. in her confinement, I think in June, 1845. Mr. L. was present at the time, said he was faint and lay down on the floor. I did not particularly observe his situation myself, it was night and the room not very light, his wife remarked that he was subject to be faint on such occasions.

John F. Means sworn.—Since the court house has been burnt down L. has been in the upper room of the fire proof—never has made any attempt to escape, to my knowledge—has behaved himself remarkably well—has submitted cheerfully to the discipline of the prison.

Cross-examined.—He has worn shackles since he has been there made fast to the floor by a staple. A man has slept in the room with him—Mr. Batchelder, who was partially put in as a guard.

Dr. Samuel Hasston sworn.—I first saw Mr. Langford the next day after he was brought here; I was sent for. He was very earnest to have me go and see his wife; he said she was under the care of Dr. Rice. I told him I thought Rice was competent and willing to do all that could be done; he would not let me off until I promised to go; did not go, but saw Rice and had a conversation with him, and learned her situation, and deemed it unnecessary to call, and told Rice she could not live till morning.

John E. Geiger sworn.—I am a gun smith. I can say from my experience in the business that by putting a cap on the conduit or nipple, and letting the hammer down on it, then raising the hammer and taking the cap off, then snap it, you will see the smoke and hear a slight report at the same time. The concussion or blow explodes powder. I went home yesterday after court adjourned, took a cap and tried it without loading the gun; took an unloaded gun put the cap on, put the hammer down, raised it up, took the cap off, snapped it and saw the smoke and heard the report. This morning I loaded the pistol with powder put on a cap, let the hammer down on it in the presence of another person; then raised the hammer and took the cap off. A third person was close by and I went to him; told him I was going to try an experiment; drew back the hammer, snapped and the pistol went off.

Cross-examined.—Made only one experiment by loading; knew before that a gun would go off if percussion powder was on the conduit.

Horatio Black sworn.—I have had the charge of L. since his confinement; have never discovered any attempt of his to escape. At his meals he had table knives to eat with. Frequently the children carried the meals to him. I informed Mr. L. of the death of his wife. His appearance was as though he was very much shocked. He was under a high state of excitement. I think he burst out into a paroxysm at that time, and threw himself on the bed; think he shed tears at that time, and had before.

Hiram Mann sworn.—I saw L. on the day on which his wife was shot, he went with me from Charles Rain's blacksmith shop to Nichols' grocery where he took some beer and bought a knife. The knife was a little cheap dog knife. Mr. Nichols said it was eight cents; he took the knife and threw out a sp. whether he paid the other two cents, don't know; he then got into a cutter with Thomas Madison and went down the road towards Miller's shop he did not buy any thing else at that time.

At 20 minutes before 11, the evidence on the part of the defence closed.

The following rebutting evidence was produced on the part of the prosecution:

Silas F. Washburn sworn.—I was at the office of Squire Woodburn at the time he was taken there; recollect that L. drew a note for twenty dollars that he said Cramer owed him and Cramer signed it; it was for borrowed money, C. said.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mercur sworn.—At the time of the arrest, I recollect distinctly what I said; think soon after W. arrested L. I asked L. what his object was in killing Mrs. L. He made no reply.

Charles Raskbourn.—Mr. Langford offered to sell me a pistol. It was the first day of last January; he asked me two bushels of wheat for it; I offered him a bushel and a half; I think he said he would not take anything less than two bushels; in the start I told him I did not care about buying it. We had some conversation about it, and finally I told him I would give him two bushels of wheat. He then said he did not care about selling it; he said he wanted to keep it to kill a cat with.

The testimony here closed, and the several legal gentlemen employed, proceeded to discharge their remaining duties by addressing the jury. The case was conducted with signal tact and ability by Messrs. Hazard, Elwell and Adams Esqrs. on behalf of the Commonwealth, and Messrs. Wilmot, Knox and Baird for the prisoner.

The cause was then fully, ably and ingeniously summed up by Messrs. Knox and Wilmot for the defence, and Messrs. Elwell and Adams on the part of the prosecution. Every thing was done for the prisoner that legal ingenuity and industry could accomplish, and every indulgence granted by the court and counsel for the commonwealth, compatible with justice.

At five o'clock, on Saturday afternoon June 19th, the cause was submitted to the jury under the able and lucid charge from his honor Judge Conyngham; and at half past 8 in the evening of the same day, a verdict was returned "guilty of murder in the first degree." The Court soon after adjourned to 8 o'clock on Monday morning.

At the opening of the Court on Monday morning, the Court room and galleries were filled to overflowing, with anxious spectators crowded to hear the sentence of the Court pronounced upon the wretched criminal at the bar. A deathlike silence pervaded the house, and solemnity marked every countenance.

His honor Judge Conyngham then asked if "the prisoner at the bar, or his counsel had anything to say why the sentence of the law should not be passed"; whereupon Mr. Baird, one of the prisoners' counsel arose and asked the Court to grant a rule to show cause why a new trial should be granted and urged in support of the motion two points—1st, that the verdict of the jury was against the evidence; 2d, that the jurors had, during the progress of the trial, on one or two occasions been separated contrary to the express instructions of the Court. The motion was ably and eloquently argued by Mr. Wilmot and Mr. Baird.

The court granted the rule to show cause, on the 2d position taken, viz:—Separation of the jury: as a possibility existed that, when so separated improper influence might have been used, although no proof was offered to sustain the presumption. Sentence was accordingly suspended.

September 7th 1847.

The prisoner was again placed at the bar. Depositions taken in behalf of the prisoner to sustain the motion for a new trial were read, and the motion fully and ingeniously argued by his counsel, but sufficient ground not being laid, the motion was of course overruled.

Upon being asked, by the court, if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, the prisoner arose, and addressed the Court at some length, in which he undertook to explain this tragical occurrence, into an excuse or palliation of his conduct. He denied all intention of taking the life of his wife, but confessed he had frequently threatened to do so. He charged several of the witnesses with swearing falsely against him, averred to the last, the absence of design to commit murder. He appeared somewhat agitated, and his language was rather incoherent and inaudible through most of his speech. He closed, by giving notice that he would, at a subsequent day, make a full and detailed statement of this melancholy tragedy.

His Honor Judge Conyngham, then proceeded, under feelings of deep emotion, to address the prisoner in a clear, forcible and feeling manner; and concluded by pronouncing sentence of death upon the prisoner. His Honor was evidently much affected, and at the close nearly overcome by the intensity of his feelings.

The conflict between the stern duties of the Judge, and the sympathetic and warm feelings of the man, was great. But the mandate of the law must be obeyed; and the official duty of pronouncing sentence of death upon a fellow being, though painful in the extreme, was performed in this instance in the most appropriate and feeling language.

SENTENCE OF THE COURT.

JAMES P. LANGFORD.—After a full and fair trial, and your defence conducted by talented and zealous counsel, you have been found guilty of Murder in the first degree, and it has become the duty of the Court, to pass upon you the sentence, which the law awards against the convicted murderer. We feel for your awful situation, and gladly would we show this unpleasant and painful duty, if a conscientious regard to our official obligations would permit it; but the jury have returned you guilty, and we see no reason to disapprove of their verdict.

Anxious however that, whatever might be our opinions of your guilt, you should be convicted only in accordance with the strictest forms and provisions of the criminal law of our State, when your counsel, in their exertions in your behalf after the verdict, brought before us circumstances, tending to a suspicion that the jury might have been guilty of some misconduct, or at least irregularity, affecting their verdict, we deferred your sentence to the present time, so that proper enquiry could be made into the alleged matters. This enquiry has not availed you; the suspicious are shown to have been unfounded, and the rule, delaying your sentence, has been necessarily discharged.

That you killed your wife, the mother of your children, her, whom you had solemnly vowed to protect, to cherish, and to guard through the various changes of this mortal life, is not denied by you;—that you had maltreated and abused her on previous occasions is conceded; and at the time of the commission of the act for which you have been tried you were conducting yourself towards her so cruelly, so recklessly, and so wantonly, that your counsel in their candor have been obliged to admit before the jury that the pistol wound occasioned by her death, may be regarded as a felonious killing; though in your name you deny the malice, the wickedness, and the

premeditation necessary to constitute the crime of which you have been found guilty. The jury, however, have believed that you killed her for your anger and your malice, and that you did so wilfully, premeditatedly, and intentionally.

Upon the cool and calm consideration of the evidence in the cause, we cannot but be disposed to think that the act was the result of violent and unguarded anger, leading you, under the excitement of dispute, to the cruel determination to take her life, rather than the deliberate resolve of weeks or even days. Your declaration to Mr. Whiting, we regard more as the rash and foolish observation of an intoxicated man; than the expression of a preformed intention to do violence to the persons, against whose lives you so rashly made your threats. The purchase of the pistol apparently accidental, the procurement of the powder, with the object, we believe, of destroying the animals which infested your house and premises, your conduct throughout the day of the eleventh of January, and almost up to the very time when the new and unhappy dispute with your wife began, and indeed too, we would say, your behavior afterwards, when your feelings were awakened by the apparent consequences of the act—death to your wife, and the doom which awaited yourself—have brought us to the conclusion we have stated; but we can go with your defence no further.

The declarations of your wife, made under the certain expectation of speedy dissolution, as well as under the solemn sanction of an oath, furnish the only distinct evidence of the transaction—the other witnesses of the killing of your mother, your children, are too young to testify before the Court. She told her story but a short time before death sealed her lips and its truth cannot be doubted. No ill-will, no passion, no disposition to do you injury, appear in her conduct; but in the same spirit which induced her to send you the message, "that she would tell you the truth, and freely forgive you, and prayed that God would forgive you," the dying wife, when the Justice asked her if she was willing to narrate the facts, as if she communing with her own soul, in the abiding feelings of a woman's love, could only exclaim, "must I condemn him." She felt herself bound under the power of conscience to tell the truth; and though her weak and feeble situation would not permit her to state the commencement of the difficulty with you, we learn that, after harsh and abusive treatment upon your part, you deliberately loaded the instrument of death, and cocked and pointed it at her with threats against her life. She pleaded with you as a husband not to shoot her—in her language to Dr. Weston, she had still a confidence or hope that you would not take her life; but you still continued to press upon her, and her hope in man's humanity, and even in a husband's mercy failing, she appealed to her God to save her, when the pistol was discharged. The jury have found that this act was but the fulfillment of your accompanying threats and previous conduct, and that the pistol was then shot by you wilfully and intentionally. Her arms burnt by the powder, her fears of you, which after the arrival of Dr. Kinney and during your temporary absence, induced her to say to him, that she wished him to take care of her, to take care of himself, and that she did not want you to come near the bed, the reticence of this desire, shown by her unwillingness to have you approach her, as several witnesses testify, all corroborate the truth of her story.

In your defence before the Jury, you have not denied the general accuracy of her statement, but allege that the firing of the pistol was accidental, and unexpected to you, you, as there was no cap upon it, and that your threats and other conduct, however cruel toward your wife, were only intended to intimidate: the Jury, however, have not believed this explanation. It differs, widely, very widely, from the story of the then alleged accident, as you described it to Dr. Kinney and Mr. Wattle, upon the evening of the unhappy occurrence, when the truth of the facts must have been vivid in your recollection, and when the powder stains upon the wrists of both yourself and wife, as well as the position of the wound, compel all at this time to admit to have been untrue—yet this was then asserted by you to be the truth, and why should the jury, unless the evidence showed them the probability or truth of your later representations, yield to them their confidence and assent. The account given on the 11th Jan., it is to be presumed to be the one to which your unhappy wife referred, when, either in her fears of you, or in the last lingering of her confidence and trust, she assented to the statement made to Dr. Kinney and others, on their first arrival at the house, that the melancholy act was not intentionally done—the truth of this allegation from her terror at the time of your attack upon her, as her evidence fully discloses, she could not have known or believed, but for some unexplained or unknown reason, at first seemed disposed to adopt from your assertion. Whatever may have been her motive for not then contradicting the details of a transaction, now admitted to have been untrue, whatever may have been your motives in thus seeking to mislead, the jury have not given credence to your present defence—they believed and have found by their verdict, that your language and your act, but carried out the wicked purposes of your heart, and that you are the deliberate murderer of your wife.

We have not intended to refer to all the facts and circumstances, either of the charge or the defence; we have alluded merely to their leading features, to show the general grounds of your conviction, and to cause you to reflect, that the jury, the only constitutional triers of your acts and your motives, having negatived the only hope of your escape, the awful penalty of the law certainly awaits you. We would not wound your feelings by the unnecessary repetition of their tale; we would not add one particle to the weight of sorrow and of trouble which now rests upon you.—God knows, unhappy man, that we feel for you, and in referring to the past, would in all sincerity call upon you to repent of these things, which are behind, and to look forward to the future—to lay aside all temporal hopes and earthly considerations, and to turn to the Lord of Mercy, for his forgiveness and pardon.

We understand that you have at periods been a reader of the Holy Bible; look now in your heaviness of spirit to that blessed book—seek for spiritual instruction and guidance, and it may yet be, that the prayer of your dying wife, that God would forgive you, may be in his mercy, answered.—That thro' God's grace it may be so, is the earnest and fervent prayer of his, whose voice the law has now required to pronounce its solemn sentence.

The sentence of the Court is, that you James P. Langford, be taken hence to the place or places provided by law for the safe keeping of persons in your situation, and from thence to the place of execution, within the walls or yard

of the jail of Bradford county, when the Executive warrant shall direct, and he there hanged by the neck until you be dead—and may God have mercy on your soul.

PARTICULARS OF THE TWO BATTLES.

The steamer Mary Kingdall arrived at N. Orleans on the 7th, with later dates from Vera Cruz. She brings accounts of the two victorious battles of Contreras and Churubusco, so called from the field works of the enemy. The proposition for an armistice was made by Gen. Scott, supposed to have been at the instance of the embassy.

A letter from Mr. Kendall, of the *New Orleans Picayune*, dated Tacubaya, August 2nd, says the Archbishop's palace at this place is now occupied by Gen. Scott and a portion of the army. After defeating the enemy in two of the hardest fought battles of the war, on the 14th inst., a reconnaissance made by Col. Duncan, having satisfied Gen. Scott that a road for artillery could be cut from Chalco to San Augustine, Gen. Worth's division moved in that direction on the 14th, followed by Generals Quitman, Pillow and Twiggs. By this move a new line of operations was taken on the southern and western sides of the city of Mexico, and the strong works of Penon and Mexicalingo, on which Santa Anna had bestowed such immense labor, were completely turned.

On the 16th of August, Gen. Worth marched out as far as the hacienda of the San Gregorio, beyond which it was found that the enemy had cut up and ditched the miserable trail along which the artillery and wagons were obliged to pass.—He would have gone to Santa Cruz, another hacienda a league further on, had not an order come up from Gen. Scott for a halt. It seemed that Gen. Twiggs had met a large force of the enemy drawn in front of him near Chalco, as if with the intention of disputing his advance, cutting him off from the main body of the army, and perhaps bringing on a general action. Gen. Twiggs promptly ordered some of the heavier guns to be unlimbered, and after a few discharges the enemy was dispersed, with the loss of five or six killed, but the demonstration made by the Mexicans, as I have before said, caused a half of Gen. Worth's division, before half a day's march was made.

At 6 o'clock on the morning of the 17th, Gen. Worth resumed his march, his route running through corn-fields and narrow and rocky lanes, along which carriages had never passed before. The filling up of the ditches caused some little delay, but by 8 o'clock the advance was in sight of Santa Cruz, and the spires and domes of the noted capital of Mexico could be discerned in the distance. The instructions in the road, of which I have spoken, were obviously of recent construction—evidence that the enemy had but just got wind of our approach; and that Gen. Scott had completely stolen a march upon Santa Anna.

Other than the ditches and rocks which had been rilled down from the precipitous hill-side no opposition was made to the advance of Gen. Worth until he had reached a point in the road not far from Santa Cruz—but now a scattering fire was opened upon the head of his column by a force stationed at advantageous positions above the road to the left. The enemy was quickly dispersed, however, by Col. C. F. Smith's light battalion and the 2nd artillery, under Major Grant. As the division neared the hacienda of La Noqui, the advance was again fired upon, but again the enemy's pickets were driven in, without loss.

A turn of the road beyond La Noqui brought the pleasant village of San Augustine in sight, and after two or three light skirmishes, in which the Mexicans had two or three lancers killed and wounded, our troops had quiet possession of San Augustine. Our only loss during the day was one man, a soldier of Smith's light battalion, who was wounded from a corned beef near Nochimilco.

Before going farther, it may be well to state that the city of Mexico lies about nine miles nearly north of San Augustine, that San Antonio is about three miles in the same direction, while the point occupied by Gen. Valencia, near Contreras, for he had command at that place, is at least three miles in a straight line, and in a direction nearly west. It was ten miles the way many of our troops had to march, for you cannot imagine a rougher, uneven, and jagged surface.

At 7 o'clock on the 18th, Gen. Scott arrived at San Augustine, and at 10 o'clock General Worth was in full march for the city of Mexico by the main road. Majors Smith and Turnbull, Capt. Mason and other Engineer officers were sent in advance, supported by Capt. Blake's Squadron of Dragoons, to reconnoitre when a masked battery was opened upon them, and the first ball from an eighteen-pounder killed Capt. Thornton, of the 2nd Dragoons, besides seriously wounding a guide!

Col. Garland's brigade was ordered to occupy a position in plain sight of the enemy's batteries at San Antonio, whilst Col. Stark's brigade and Duncan's battery took their stations in the rear close by. A party was then sent out to reconnoitre to ascertain the practicability of finding a road by which the village of San Augustine could be reached; and the strong hold of San Antonio, thus turned, this party had a skirmish with the enemy, killing five or six and taking as many prisoners without losing a man.

The result of the reconnoissance was favorable, and it was ascertained that a road could be made. The Mexicans were plainly seen in force near Contreras, and at a council held that night, it was determined to attack them in the morning. While this reconnoissance was going on, Gen. Worth had established himself at the hacienda of Buvera, from the windows of which countless numbers of the enemy could be seen at work on the batteries of San Antonio. About noon they opened on the hacienda with both round shot and shell. Nearly every shot took effect but did no damage, except to the buildings. Late in the evening they were silent and during the night. Had the fire been kept up, the hacienda might have been torn to pieces, and the entire command compelled to retire.

At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 19th, the batteries again opened on Gen. Worth's position. So hot was the fire that the troops were compelled to gain shelter behind their buildings, but did not give up their position. About 6 o'clock the divisions of Twiggs and Pillow were ordered to march in the direction of Contreras, and by one o'clock in the afternoon were in plain sight of the enemy's batteries and within range of the heavier guns.

The brigade of Col. Smith, was ordered to advance directly towards the enemy's works, whilst that of Col. Riley moved towards a small village at the right and thus cut off the reinforcements which might be sent to Valencia

from the city. An incessant fire was opened on Col. Smith's command, and soon the rifles were engaged with the pickets of the enemy, driving them in. The twelve pounder battery of Capt. Magruder and the mountain howitzer batteries now commanded by Lieut. Collier, of the Ordnance department, was pressed forward and opened on the enemy, but were soon exposed to a fire from heavier guns, that they were soon silenced. Lieut. Johnson and Callender were seriously wounded.

At 3 o'clock the Brigade of Gen. Caldwell was ordered out to support Col. Riley, heavy reinforcements being seen on their way out from the city, while Gen. Pierce's brigade was sent to sustain Gen. Smith. The firing from the batteries of the enemy continued incessant, while from a hill just outside of the range of their guns, the spectacle was most grand and imposing.

At about 4 o'clock Gen. Scott arrived, and seeing the immense strength of the Mexicans, at once ordered Gen. Shields' brigade from San Augustine—a part of Gen. Quitman's command—to the right to support Riley; and Caldwell, and prevent if possible, a junction of the forces coming out from the city with those of Valencia. But few of the movements of our own troops could be seen from the hill where we were posted, owing to the dense chapparal, sharp rocks and ravines, but not a motion of the enemy but was plainly visible.

The order of battle of Valencia was certainly most imposing—infantry were seen drawn up to support the batteries, while long lines of the enemy's cavalry were stationed in the rear, as if awaiting the shock of battle. Two separate charges of the latter were distinctly seen repulsed by Col. Riley, who had moved his brigade at one time to a position partially in the rear of the enemy's works. Col. Harney was exceedingly anxious to march his cavalry to the scene of action, but it was deemed utterly impracticable. The nature of the ground was such that the infantry even had great difficulty in finding the way across the *pedregal*, as the Mexicans term it—ground covered with sharp, jagged rocks.

Until night had fairly closed in, the fire from the enemy's batteries did not slacken—it had been a continuous roar for nearly 6 hours.—Gen. Scott retired to San Augustine about 8 o'clock, and in the midst of a hard rain which had just commenced falling. Gen. Twiggs and Pillow came in about 11 o'clock, wet and completely exhausted. It was impossible to use horses on the rough and exceedingly broken ground on which they had been operating for nearly 12 hours.

Not anticipating the immense strength of the works of the enemy, or the almost insurmountable difficulties of reaching them, it had been at first thought that the batteries would be taken at a dash, and that the troops would be all comfortably quartered in San Augustine the night; instead of this a large portion of them were compelled to bivouac without blankets, in the midst of a pitiless rain, and on ground where they could not even stretch themselves out. Add to this the prospects of the morrow were far from flattering—were enough to dismay any but the stoutest hearted—strengthen his works during the night, having every superiority in knowledge of the ground—and again to this that the men were weakened by long exertions, want of food, and chilled by the continuous night rain, and it is not saying too much to assert that the bronos of the 19th of August was gloomy in the extreme.

On the morning of the 20th, General Worth was ordered to move a part of his division (Garland's brigade) to aid in the attack on Valencia, for to force this position was deemed indispensable.

At 7 o'clock, a few discharges of cannon were heard; and the rattling of musketry, and some even said that "in the distance horses of the enemy could be seen flying towards the city, yet few deemed that the batteries had been stormed and carried, yet it was so.—Gen. Scott, accompanied by Gen. Worth, started for the scene of action, when they were met by Capt. Mason, with the joyful intelligence that Valencia had been completely retaken after a terrible struggle.

The attack upon his works was planned by General Smith, and resulted in the capture of 15 pieces of artillery, and some 1500 prisoners, among them Gen. Blanco, Garcia, Mendez, and the notorious Salas. He also captured all the ammunition and camp furniture, and the road over which those who escaped fled, strewn with muskets. No less than 700 of the enemy, among them many officers, were left dead upon the field, whilst the number of wounded was far greater.

The works at Contreras completely in the power of the American army, General Scott at once ordered Gen. Worth to fall back upon San Antonio, to turn and capture that work, and then to push on towards the capital by the main road; while the main body of the army under Gen. Twiggs, Pillow, Smith, Pierce, and Caldwell, moved on towards San Augustine and Coahuacan. Secretly had the advance of Gen. Twiggs got half a mile beyond the latter village, before a rattling fire of musketry announced that it was actively engaged with the out-posts of the enemy, and the heavy booming of cannon now gave token that the noted 24 division had fallen upon another strong work.

A few minutes more and a tremendous firing from the right made it evident that General Worth's division was also actively engaged—he had completely retaken the strong works of San Antonio, but while doing so the enemy had abandoned the place, with a loss of 3 heavy guns, and had fallen back on a second and stronger line of works.

It was now one o'clock, P. M., and about the commencement of the battles, and such a rattling of fire arms has seldom or never been heard on the continent of America, accompanied with such booming of artillery; and this was continued over two hours, when the enemy was completely routed from every point, and until those who were not killed or taken prisoners were on full flight for the city.

Let me endeavor in words to give the reader an idea of the position and works of the enemy. As you came along the road leading from San Augustine to the capital and immediately this side the Puente del Rey, the Mexicans had thrown up a strong and exceedingly well built battery, commanding the road completely. On the right as you faced the city, stretching for a long distance, was a continuous ditch behind the bank of which an immense number of Mexican infantry were posted. On the left of the ditch, a small work at the bridge, three hundred yards distant, was the "chirren" of Churubusco, of San Pablo, strongly fortified with works for infantry, and also having a well constructed battery containing a number of guns of heavy calibre.

This work was a little advanced from the *pedregal*, and nearly in a line between it