

St. Mary's Beacon.

P. H. Morgan

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SELECTED MISCELLANY.

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

Military Schools are peculiarly suitable for the South, since the genius of the people is essentially military. The proof of this is everywhere abundant. The South has military schools in every State, and the North has but one. The South has military companies everywhere through the country, the North has them only in her large cities. The armies of the Revolution were commanded by Washington, a Southern General. The officers who distinguished themselves in an especial manner in the war of 1812 were Southern-born and Southern-bred—Jackson, Coffee, Harrison, Scott and Gaines. The commanding Generals in the Mexican war, Scott and Taylor, were both of Virginia. The Chief of Ordnance under Gen. Scott, and the next important officer, was Huger, of South Carolina. The Chief of Engineers was Lee, of Virginia, the only man the Army acknowledge to be fit to be the successor to Gen. Scott. The chief leaders in skirmishing were Lane, of North Carolina, and Hays, of Tennessee. The light batteries of Artillery which did such a wonderful execution at Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey, Buena Vista, and in the Valley of Mexico, were generally under the command of Southern men, Kinggold, Ridgely, Bragg, Washington, Steptoe, and Magruder. The heavy ordnance was under the control of Huger, of South Carolina, and Laidley of Virginia. The Battery of Mountain Howitzers was directed by Reno, of Virginia. The dashing charge of Cavalry at Resaca de la Palma, which has a world-wide reputation, was made by May, of Washington City. A far more brilliant affair was witnessed by ten thousand American soldiers drawn up in battle array on the beach at Vera Cruz, and by English, French and Spanish vessels of war in the harbor. A little steamer armed with two heavy pieces of ordnance and manned by some 20 sailors, pushed up under the very walls of Vera Cruz with its 400 pieces of artillery and within easy range of the formidable Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa, and from that position bombarded the city for half an hour. Projectiles of enormous weight and size fell thick as hail stones around the little vessel, any one of which must have sunk her. The interest of the spectators was painful in the extreme, but the very insignificance of the steamer proved an efficient protection; she was too small a mark to be hit, and as she came back bearing her gallant crew, all dressed in their red jackets, the very earth shook with the cheers of the ten thousand exulting voices on the beach. The officer in command was Tattall, of Georgia, the same who, at the risk of his commission and his life, interposed last year and rescued the defeated British at the Peiho Forts in China. During the siege of Fort Brown, the pulley of the flag got deranged so that it could not be raised. An officer climbed the staff and in the midst of a terrible tempest of shot and shell, calmly and deliberately arranged the halyards, righted the pulley and hoisted the flag. The exploit of Jasper at Fort Moultrie was as nothing in comparison with this daring deed. That officer was Hanson, of Maryland. Years before the siege of Fort Brown, Gen. Worth had pronounced him the bravest man in the Army. He was gentle and modest as a girl, kind and courteous to all, a devoted and enthusiastic Christian, a gentleman in the highest reputation of the word. Just after the battle of Contreras, a rude lister with a dead officer on it was borne by "Serjeant, what officer is that?" "Capt. Hanson of the 7th Infantry sir." The soldier had fallen on the field of honor. Serjeant Anna made the fatal mistake at Cerro Gordo of leaving Telegraph Hill unfortified. Gen. Scott discovered it and sent up a young officer with some 70 men to seize it. An immense force of Mexicans came to dislodge him. He threw his men behind rocks and trees, and sent for success. The Rifle Regiment came up and found themselves badly pressed, and would have been driven back but for the timely arrival of the 2nd Infantry. During all this time that gallant Lieutenant held his position, and had he lost it, the battle of Cerro Gordo never would have been won.

That intrepid young man was Gardner, of Washington City. The storming column against the main work on Cerro Gordo Hill was led by that tried veteran, Harney, of Georgia.

But the South has not merely evinced its military spirit on the field of battle. This has been shown also in the studio of the scholar. The books on Infantry Tactics we use were prepared by Scott, of Virginia, and Hardee, of Georgia. The manual of Artillery Tactics in use is by Anderson, of Kentucky. The only works in this country on the Science of Artillery, written in the English language are by Kingsbury and Gibbon, of North Carolina. The only books ever produced in America on the subject of Military Engineering are by Mahan, of Virginia. The published experience of Mordocai, of South Carolina, give us almost all the information we have in regard to the strength of gun powder and of cannon, and of the proper tests for their trial. These gentlemen are all graduates of West Point and are officers of the Army, but the South claims them as her own.

But if we leave particular cases and individuals and take a general glance at our history, we find the same predominance of Southern courage. I do not wish to disparage the North. So long as the names of Warren, Greene, Putnam, Ethan Allen, and a thousand others shall live in our grateful recollections, it will be impossible to impugn the heroism of the North. All that is claimed is that the South are a more military people than our friends across Mason and Dixon's line, and it is proved from the records of the past. On the 28th June, 1776, nine vessels of war, carrying 236 cannon, attacked a half-finished Fort of palmetto logs and mounting but 31 cannon. From 11 in the morning till 9 at night the fort structure was assailed by shot and shell, and trembled all over at every broadside from the great ships. Gen. Chas. Lee had advised the abandonment of the Fort and expected to see it shattered to pieces in a few minutes. He even had predicted that Moultrie and his little band of 400 Carolinians would take to the sand hills like frightened rats at the first discharge of the heavy guns of the fleet. But the stern little force fought all day long under that sweltering summer sun, the only protection from its scorching rays being the sulphurous cloud which arose from their guns. The same dark canopy hung over the sea, relieved every few moments by a long flash of light, and then the Fort reeled and staggered as though struck by some invincible giant. The flag was shot down, but it was replaced by the intrepid Jasper. The powder gave out; and for two hours an occasional reply was all that could be made to the awful tempest of balls from the mouths of 266 cannon. A fresh supply of powder was brought, and the Commander's vessel was dismantled and twice set on fire. The British at length withdrew with the loss of 171 killed and 260 wounded, among the former was Lord Campbell, the Colonial Governor, and among the latter Sir Peter Parker, Admiral of the fleet. The American loss was but 10 killed and 22 wounded. On the same day Col. Thompson, with 700 Carolina Rifles, drove off seven Regiments, under Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis, which were attempting to cross over to the eastern part of Sullivan's Island from Long Island. Col. Grant had boasted that with five Regiments he could march from one end of America to the other, but here were seven Regiments beaten by one, and that one never before under fire.

It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the battle of Fort Moultrie. It was the first victory of the war, and its influence was felt throughout the whole Revolutionary struggle. A victory over British veterans by raw troops was very remarkable, but the defeat of a British squadron seemed almost a miracle. Then as now, Great Britain was mistress of the sea and her fleets were considered invincible. Seventy years before, Gibraltar itself had been captured by Admiral Rooke. And now that a contemptible pig-pen should offer a more formidable resistance than the strongest fortress in the world, appeared too incredible for even the wildest credulity. Let it be remembered to the eternal honor of the South that this most brilliant achievement was won by Carolinians, on Carolina soil. In this connection, I would incidentally mention that the only Regiment of Volunteers during the Mexican war thought fit, in point of drill and discipline, to be associated and even brigaded with Regular Troops, was the heroic Regiment of Palmettos. And it cannot be too widely known that by far the most efficient of all the new Regiments of Regulars raised for the war was the Rifle Regiment composed of Southern men.

The next in order of importance, though not in order of time, was the battle of Cowpens, January 17th, 1781. There 1,100 choice troops, under the indomitable partisan, Tarleton, including 350 of his own famous legion and having two pieces of Artillery, were totally defeated by less than a thousand Americans under Morgan, having six Artillery and but 130 horse. The American loss was 12 killed and 60 wounded, the British loss was 100

killed, 200 wounded, 500 prisoners, 2 cannon, 800 muskets, 100 horses and 70 negroes. Prof. Taylor, of Glasgow, calls this the greatest victory of the revolutionary war, and in some respects it is more remarkable than Fort Moultrie. Let it be remembered too, that at Cowpens the troops were all Southern, and their leaders, Morgan, Howard, Pickens and Washington, belonged to the Southern section of country.

At King's Mountain, 900 American militia beat 1,125 British and Tories under the accomplished veteran officer Maj. Ferguson. The American loss was 28 killed and 60 wounded, the British loss was 225 killed, 152 wounded, 726 prisoners and 1,500 stand of arms. All the whigs engaged in this battle were from the South, mostly from North Carolina and Virginia. There were but few from South Carolina present, because a Regiment from the upper districts under Col. Hill had been called off a short time before to Hanging Rock. None but Southern troops were engaged in the long and bloody fight at Eutaw Springs, and though the British, after being beaten, did rally and retake the field of battle, yet they were so badly cut up that they made a precipitate retreat the next day. The American loss was 555 killed and wounded, and 500 prisoners. At Black Stocks, Sumpter, with 400 South Carolinians, routed Tarleton, killing 90 and wounding 190 of his command, while the American loss was but 3 killed and 5 wounded. There were but two other instances in our Revolutionary History in which the disproportion was so great between the losses of the respective belligerents; and these other two belong to old North Carolina—the battle of Moore's Creek, and the skirmish at McIntire's branch. At the former place, the enemy, 1,800 strong, was beaten by 1,000 Whigs with a loss of 70 killed and wounded and many prisoners, while the Americans had but 2 wounded and 9 killed. At McIntire's branch, 7 miles from Charlotte, Geo. Graham, with 12 men, drove back with heavy loss, a foraging party of 400 men, without the loss of a single one of his own command. The foragers returned, reporting that there was a rebel in every bush. At Charlotte, some 200 men, under Col. Davis and Maj. Jos. Graham, three times drove back the whole British Army under Cornwallis, and then made good their retreat. There was no more daring and dashing affair during the war, and none but Carolinians were engaged in it.

The battle of Guilford Court House was one of the bloodiest of the war, and one of the most disastrous to the British arms, though Lord Cornwallis did gain a bootless victory. It is a sufficient apology for the troops, who behaved badly, that they were raw and never before in action, and that they were posted far in front, behind a fence and thus exposed to the splinters and fragments of rails made by the enemy's Artillery. Never was more gallantry displayed in the world than was shown at Guilford by the Virginia and Maryland troops. And let it be remembered by those who undervalue military training, that Greene in his dispatch to Congress attributed the victory of the British to their "superior discipline." Space will fail to speak of the capture of Forts Granby, Motta and Watson by the South Carolinians, of the brilliant victory of Great Bridge in Virginia, and of many other achievements of Southern valor. Passing over these, and coming down to the war of 1812, we find the invasions of Canada by Northern troops disgraceful in the extreme, while the South can boast of the brilliant campaign against the Creek Indians, and the most remarkable victory in the annals of history, that of New Orleans. The Creek war, after a series of wonderful achievements by Southern valor, was ended by the total destruction of a thousand Indian warriors, advantageously posted at Horse Shoe Bend. At New Orleans, 12,000 British veterans, "Wellington's Invincibles," were beaten by six thousand Southern troops, the most of whom were never before under fire.—The American loss was 7 killed and 6 wounded, the British 700 killed, 1,400 wounded—160 times greater than the Americans'. Fort Bowyer, near Mobile, mounting 20 guns and manned by 120 soldiers, was attacked by four ships of war, having 720 British and 600 Indians troops, and carrying 90 pieces of artillery. The so-called Fort was a mere entrenchment not the loss of but 8 men. The enemy had one ship destroyed and 232 men killed and wounded. (Armstrong.) Examine these figures. The enemy had 44 times more cannon and 11 times more men than the Americans; and yet, his loss in killed and wounded was 29 times, and in honor and character infinitely greater, than theirs. The North has no military exploits in her history like this. Our sons are shown pictures of the battle of Bunker Hill before they are out from petticoats and bibs and tuckers, and then grow up entirely ignorant of the far more brilliant affair at Fort Bowyer. The British under Gen. Howe, were 4,000 strong in the attack on Bunker (or rather Breed's) Hill

and the Americans were from 1,500 to 2,000. So the British were less than three times more numerous than the Americans at Bunker Hill while they were eleven times more numerous at Fort Bowyer. Furthermore, the redoubt on Breed's Hill was substantially constructed and was breast high, but it was captured notwithstanding its strength. Fort Bowyer was a mere entrenchment, not two feet high, but it repulsed the enemy notwithstanding its weakness. If the North could rightfully boast of her defeat near Boston, surely the South may glory in her victory near Mobile. Ah, she may legitimately exult in this triumph; for, if we take into consideration the superiority of the British in discipline, ordnance, numbers and equipments, the disparity was not greater at Thermopylae itself. There, the Spartans had the advantage in superior weapons, superior skill in their use, superior discipline, superior physical strength and a superior position of defence. The Spartans acted nobly, they died like heroes on the field of battle. The Southerners did better, they beat the enemy and drove him off Craney Island, near Norfolk, was defended by 750 Virginians, who repulsed the attack from 2,500 British, killing and wounding 300 of them. (Ingersoll.) What a wonderful flourish of trumpets there would have been if this great victory had taken place at the North. But, with the modesty of true courage, the South makes no fanfare over her military exploits. She does not seek to impress the world with the belief of the prowess of her sons by bragging monuments, nursery tales and picture books.

The few instances, taken almost at random from the records of the two wars with Great Britain, prove the heroism of Southern troops. If we come down to the Mexican war we will find abundant evidence of the same thing. The capture of the mud fort at Monterey, by the Mississippi Volunteers was a most wonderful achievement for raw troops never before under fire. It had no parallel in gallantry during the whole war, except the feat of the same Regiment, at Buena Vista. There, when the whole American Army was in retreat, this gallant band met and drove back the conquering masses of the enemy. "Davis' double quick time, until his troops had gained their distance, when they opened fire advancing. The Mexicans halted and replied with heavy rolling volleys of musketry but the ratio of loss was fearfully against them. In a few moments the Regiment, with a shout which rang high and loud above the roar of battle, plunged into the ravine, and in an instant reappeared in front of the enemy on his own side and continued to advance. A closer distance brought greater destruction, but the ratio was yet against the Mexicans. The Mississippians could not yield or halt, and still advancing, poured in their shot with additional rapidity, until the Mexican advance, cut up and disorganized, lost its formation and rolled back a disordered multitude upon the supporting forces." (Ripley.) Once more, on that glorious day, was this Regiment most conspicuous. Every one knows that the final attack of the enemy was met by the Battery of Capt. Bragg, of North Carolina. Every one knows that the Mexicans were repulsed with dreadful destruction, and that (in the language of Gen. Taylor) "the day was saved" by the awful fire of this Battery. But few have realized the grand heroism of Bragg and his handful of men. There stand three pieces of Artillery and forty Artillerists, without support of Infantry or Dragoons; yonder came ten thousand yelling and shouting troops, confident of victory and jeering with derision at the only opposing force on the whole field of battle. "You come! but now there is a wide lane of dead, and the huge mass surges to and fro; another mighty chasm is made and yet another, "more grape Capt. Bragg," but still they come, and the foremost companies are just reaching out their hands to seize the cannon, when they are cut down by the deadly Mississippi rifles. "Gloriously done, Col. Davis, but load fast, the chasm is filling up rapidly," on the Mexicans are coming with vivas and carols. That was a terrible discharge—grape and canister from the Battery, and Rifle balls from the Regiment—down they go, rider and horse, foot and dragoon, in one confused pile of dead and dying. Their columns filter, they turn, they run: Victory, victory. The battle of Buena Vista is won! All honor to Davis and Bragg, Mississippi and North Carolina, the first with 500 men attacked and beat 5,000, the second with three pieces of Artillery defended himself against 10,000. But let us not forget, in our gratitude to these gallant leaders, to give thanks also to the noble school in which they were trained. Both are graduates of West Point. And here a common error stands corrected. The battle of Buena Vista is considered as a triumphant proof that a Military Education is not needed. It proves just the reverse. The militia troops fought well because they were well educated, and generally by West Point men. The three

Regiments which most distinguished themselves, the Mississippi, 2nd Kentucky and Kentucky Cavalry, were commanded by graduates, Davis, McRee and Marshall.—And there were also present other field officers of lower grade from the Military Academy. One Regiment thus had its field officers thus selected. Gen. Taylor had the candor to tell the world, in his official report, that he relied mainly upon such officers. Gen. Wool, with equal candor, said that without the Artillery, which was solely under control of the regular troops, the field would not have been held one hour. It is often thought that the success of our arms during the Mexican war might do us incalculable injury. But if five facts were generally known, the mischief would be corrected. First, that sixteen of the Volunteer Regiments were commanded by graduates of West Point, and that there was a very large number of Lieutenant Colonels, Majors, Captains and Subalterns from the same Institution in the various corps of the militia. Second, that while President Polk had no scruple about placing lawyers and merchants over the heads of old officers of the Army, yet all of those mushroom Generals, even the most conceited, selected graduates of West Point as their Aids and Adjutants to teach them what to do. Third, that the militia troops were always associated with the regulars, except at Cerro Gordo, and there Pillow, at his own earnest solicitation, had an independent command of militia, and was badly beaten. Fourth, that the guerrillas were so discriminating as never to attack the regular troops, and so far as is known they did not even fire a single shot at them, while they annoyed the volunteers on every possible occasion. Fifth, that the brunt of every battle rested upon the old Regulars will appear from the following facts:

There were 15,736 old Regulars engaged in the war, of these 782 died in battle. There were 11,186 new Regulars, or Raw Levies; of these 211 died in battle. There were 73,260 Volunteers, and of these 600 only were killed in battle.—So that less than 16,000 Regulars lost as many, save 29, as the 84,000 raw troops. It is the highest possible encomium on the gallantry of the old establishment to mention the fact that 63 out of the 782 killed were commissioned officers, or about one-twelfth of the whole, though the proportion of officers and men was not greater than 1 to 25 in any Regiment, and in some Regiments was not greater than 1 to 40. It is a curious fact that more Volunteers were accidentally killed in their intercourse with one another than was killed by the enemy, so that a stroll about their camp was more dangerous than a battle.

But to return from this digression.—The gallantry of the Rifle Regiment, composed mostly of Virginians, at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Chapultepec and the Garitas, is familiar to all acquainted with the history of the campaign. Equally well known is the intrepidity of the Palmettos on the same fields of battle. It is, too, a proud fact for South Carolina that her flag was the first to enter the City of Mexico and to be planted on the National Palace. In one word, if any body of troops was pre-eminently distinguished during the war, it was always a Southern corps, and any individual was thus distinguished, you might feel certain that he was Southern born.

But surely it is unnecessary to multiply proof of Southern chivalry, as it was on the sacred soil of the Old North State where the first blood was shed in the Revolution, where first Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, and where the first Colonial Governor was openly resisted. In the town of Wilmington, in the year 1765, the people in the broad light of day marched to the Governor's Palace, boldly seized the Stamp Master, carried him to the market-house and there made him swear that he would not attempt to execute the duties of his office. Compare this open, manly act with the creeping of the Boston Tea party in the darkness of the night, disguised as Indians, to the tea ships, defended only by unarmed sailors. But the sneaking affair at Boston has been trumpeted all over the world, and is taught to our own children along with their nursery hymns, while the fearless resistance to a Royal Governor in his own Palace is not generally known, even where it happened. The truth is, the North has had all the historians, and therefore all the glory, of the Revolution. Hence it is that all the world knows of the battle of Bunker Hill, while the far more glorious battle of Moultrie is scarcely spoken of. Hence it is that school-boys are familiar with the bloodless capture of Ticonderoga, while the fierce conflict at Hanging Rock is unnoticed. Hence it is that we are better acquainted, even at the South, with the real and imaginary exploits of Northern Troops than with the heroic deeds of our own soldiers.

As the North has produced all the historians, we have overlooked the curious fact that her great military achievements, those of which she specially boasts, were surprises. Thus Breed's Hill was seized and fortified at night, and Gen. Gage was therefore taken unawares. Thus Ticon-

deroga was surprised. Thus Col. Baur was unexpectedly attacked by Stark with twice as many troops, and the battle of Bennington was won; and we have been favored ever since with an immense amount of bluster about it, and with vast stories of sentimentality concerning Mrs. Molly Stark. Paulus Hook was taken by surprise, so was Stony Point. The battle of Germantown was a surprise. The victories at Trenton and Princeton were surprises. Washington's army found the staff his Northern troops were made of. They were unwarlike and unsurpassable whenever cunning, ingenuity and contrivance could be brought into play. But where there was nothing but hard fighting and no chance for Yankee tricks, as at Long Island, White Plains, Monmouth &c., they were beaten, generally badly beaten. The South has no genius for the artifices of war. Gates tried a surprise at Camden and lost the battle. Sumpter was surprised at Fishing Creek. Gen. Ashe in like manner near the Savannah. Buford was surprised and his command cut to pieces. Marion, with a few partisans, became "a minion of the moon." But as a people, the Southerners prefer sleeping to prowling about at night. Hence it is that the great victories of the South have been won by downright, honest, fair-play fighting. There was no artifice employed at Fort Moultrie, none at Cowpens, none at Eutaw, none at Guilford, none at Craney Island, none at Fort Bowyer, none at Horse-Shoe Bend. The victory at New Orleans was won in the broad light of day, the only ingenuity there exhibited being the marvelous skill of the riflemen in the use of their terrible weapons.

It is earnestly urged the South to encourage, by patronage, the efforts made to establish Military Academies within her borders. We are constrained to have so high a standard of discipline and scholarship as to make our schools unpopular with a large portion of our youth. Hence it is that the South must do something for the endowment of the Scientific Institutions, if she wishes to place herself in a position of military security—if she wishes to foster the mechanic arts and free herself from her degrading dependence upon the North for every article of convenience, comfort and luxury. Let it be remembered too that all our great military leaders appreciated military education and warmly advocated military schools. The Academy at West Point came into existence on the recommendation of Washington. No President ever made it such a pet and gave so much of his time to it as did Gen. Jackson. Its admirable code of laws was drawn up by Mr. Calhoun.—Gen. Taylor published to the world that his main dependence on the field of battle was on its graduates. Gen. Scott openly avowed the same thing in a hundred conversations.

It is shown that schools of science add to the defence and security of a people, to their material comfort and prosperity, to their intellectual development and to their moral culture.—North Carolina Pamphlet.

LOLA MONTRE.—The N. Y. Post gives the following interesting items concerning this remarkable woman, who has just closed her eventful career.

The exploits of Lola on the railroad cars in this country have been widely circulated by the press. One time she persuaded the engineer to allow her to ride with him on the engine. While he was looking elsewhere, Lola suddenly turned on a full head of steam, and away dashed the engine at a fearful speed, to the great dismay of the engineer.

Another time Lola was in a car, when she pulled out one of her favorite litte cigars and coolly lighted it. The conductor soon made his appearance.

"Madame," said he, blandly, "you cannot smoke here."

Madame went on smoking without paying the least attention.

"Madame," repeated the conductor, a little savagely, "you can't smoke here."

Lola looked up at him, gave a sweet smile, and asked:

"What do you say, sir?"

"I say you can't smoke here."

"But you see I can, though," replied Lola, sending out an extra puff and smiling at the absurdity of the conductor's theories.

A SCIT AGAINST RAREY.—An action for \$100,000 damages has been commenced in the Supreme Court by Denton Offut, of New Orleans, against John S. Rarey, the famous horse tamer, for an alleged violation of a contract. Mr. Offut claims that he is the originator of this system of horse taming, and that in the year 1850 he taught it to Rarey, who bound himself in the penalty of \$50 for each case in which he should impart the secret to any other person; that he gave Rarey a book of the system, which he (Rarey) has since republished, and has further violated the contract by imparting the secret of the system to divers persons in Europe and in the United States.

When are soldiers like good fanned? When they don't shrink.