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From the Knickerbocker for October. The Maniac Maid.

BY J. CLEMENT.

Her face is fair, her form erect, Her motions full of grace,

The bright blue sky above her spreads, The gay green earth around;

And myriad voices, sweetly toned, Wake every pleasant sound.

And yet to her there's nothing fair In all that God has made;

And not a harp could thrill her soul, Though by an angel played.

The banishment world of thought, to us So full of heavenly light,

To her is but a dark morose, Where reigns primeval night.

The smile on friendship's face is dim, The glow of love concealed,

And all the woman in her heart Is like a fount congealed.

It here seems strange that God should bid, A ray of His own light;

But heaven will yet illumine the page, And all will then be bright.

BUFFALO, N. Y.

Details of the late Battle.

Bishops Palace, Monterey, Mexico, Sept. 24.

GENTLEMEN:—This is the fourth day since the battle of Monterey commenced.

On the 20th at noon, Gen. Worth marched from the camp east of the town in the direction of the heights west of the town.

McCulloch's and Gillespie's company of rangers forming the reconnoitering party.

At night the division bivouacked almost within range of the guns stationed upon the highest point of the hill, on which the Bishop's Palace is situated.

At daylight on the 21st, the column was again in motion, and in a few minutes was turning the point of a ridge which protruded out towards the point of the enemy's guns, bringing us as near to them as their gunners could desire.

They immediately opened upon the column with a howitzer and 12 pounder, firing shell and round shot as fast as they could discharge their pieces.

The road now wound in towards a gorge, but not far enough to be out of range of their guns, which still played upon us.

Another ridge lay about three-fourths of a mile beyond the first, around the termination of which the road wound, bringing it under the lofty summit of a height which rises between Palace hill and the mountains which rise over us on the west.

When the head of the column approached this side a body of Mexican cavalry came dashing around the point to charge upon our advance.

Capt. Gillespie immediately ordered his men to dismount and place themselves in ambush.

The enemy evidently did not see this manoeuvre, but the moment they came up, the Texans opened upon them a most effective fire, unsaddling a number of them.

McCulloch's company now dashed in to them—Capt. C. F. Scott's camp of artillery (acting as infantry) and Lieut. Longstreet's company of the 8th Infantry with another company of the same regiment likewise charged upon the enemy.

The Texan horsemen were soon engaged with them, in a sort of hand to hand skirmish, in which a number of the enemy fell, and one Texan was killed and two wounded.

Colonel Duncan now opened upon them with his battery of Light Artillery, pouring a few discharges of grape among them, and scattering them like chaff.

Several men and horses fell under this destructive fire.

I saw one horse and rider bound some feet in the air and both fell dead and tumbled down the steep.

The foot companies above named then rushed up the steep and fired over the ridge at the retreating enemy, a considerable body of whom were concealed from our view, around the point of the hill.

About thirty of the enemy were killed in this skirmish, and among them a Captain, who with two or three others, fell in the road.

The Captain was wounded in three places the last shot hitting him in the forehead.

He fought gallantly to the last, and I am sorry that I cannot learn his name.

The light batteries, one of which is commanded by Lieut. Mackall, were now drawn upon the slope of the ridge, and the howitzers opened upon the height of Palace Hill.

A few shells only were thrown, before the enemy commenced firing with a nine pounder from the height immediately over the right of the column, aiming at Duncan's batteries.

The several regiments took positions, and a few more shells were thrown towards Palace Hill, but did no execution.

The nine pounder continued to throw its shot, with great precision at our batteries, one ball falling directly in the midst of the pieces, but fortunately hitting neither men or guns.

Finding its batteries thus exposed, and unable to effect anything, Col. Duncan removed his command to a ranch about half a mile further up the Saltillo road, where Gen. Worth took up his position, after ordering the foot regiments to form along the fence, near the point of the ridge.

The artillery battalion, 5th, 7th and 8th infantry, and the Louisiana Volunteers remained in this position, about two hours, directly under the fire of the enemy's guns, (now two.)

The balls fell directly in their midst all this time, without wounding a man!

To begin with, the Mexicans manage their artillery in battery as well as the Americans do—this I believe is now conceded by every officer.

At half past 10 the column moved towards the General's position.

At this time Capt. McKavett, of the 8th Infantry was shot through the heart by a nine pound ball, and a private of the 5th infantry was so severely wounded in the

thigh, that he died the next morning.

About fifty Mexicans now appeared upon the hill side, over the moving column, and fired at our troops some hundred musket shot, without doing any harm.

The division deployed into the position pointed out, and remained an hour or two when Capt. C. F. Smith, of the artillery battalion, with two companies (his own and Capt. Scott's) and four companies Texan Rangers on foot, were ordered to storm the second height.

This the gallant officer cheerfully undertook, and was followed with enthusiasm by the officers and men of his command.

It was considered on all sides to be a most dangerous undertaking, and this party was considered most emphatically a forlorn hope.

That the height would be taken no one doubted, but that many brave fellows would fall in the attempt, seemed inevitable.

The distance to be climbed after reaching the foot of the hill was about a quarter of a mile; a part of the way was almost perpendicular, and through thorn bushes, and over sharp pointed rocks and loose sliding stones.

The 7th Infantry, commanded by Capt. Miles, was ordered to support Captain Smith's party, and, by marching directly to the foot of the height, arrived before Capt. Smith, who had been ordered to take a circuitous route.

Capt. Miles sent out Lieut. Gantt with a detachment of men, upon the hill side, to divert the attention of the enemy from Captain Smith's command, which could not yet be seen.

The 7th had already sustained a heavy fire of grape and round shot, as they forded the San Juan, which winds around the foot of the height, which fell like a shower of hail, without killing a man.

Lt. Gantt's party were greeted with round and grape shot, which cut the shrubs and tore up the loose stones in the road without killing any one; but the gallant young officer came within an inch of being killed by a cannon ball, which raked down the steep and filled his face with fragments of rock, dust and gravel.

This fire was accompanied by constant discharge of musketry, the enemy covering the upper part of the hillside, but the detachment continued to move up, driving the Mexicans back until they were recalled.

Capt. Smith's party now arrived and moved up the hill, the rangers in advance, and did not halt for an instant until the Mexicans were driven from the summit.

Who's this was going on, Col. P. F. Smith, who commanded the 5th and 7th infantry—the 5th, with Blanchard's Louisiana boys under Maj. M. Scott had been ordered to support the whole—gave orders for these commands to pass around on each side, and storm the fort, which was situated about half a mile back of the summit on the same ridge, and commanded the bishop's palace.

Such a foot race as ensued, has seldom if ever been seen, the Louisiana boys making the tallest kind of strides to be in foremost.

Capt. Smith had the gun which he took upon the height, ran down to the breastworks and fired into it.

Then came Col. P. F. Smith's men, firing and cheering—the 5th and 7th and Louisiana reaching the ridge above nearly at the same time.

The Mexicans fired at them with grape but it did not save them, or cause an instant hesitation in our ranks.

Our men ran and fired, and cheered, until they reached the work, the foremost entering at one end, whilst the Mexicans, about a thousand in number, left the other in retreat.

The colors of the 5th were instantly raised, and scarcely were they up before those of the 7th were alongside.

The three commands entered the fort together, so close was the race—the 5th however, getting in advance at first.

J. W. Miller, of Blanchard's company was among the first four or five who entered.

The three companies may be said to have come out even in the race, for the 7th was not five seconds behind.

In less than five minutes the gun found in the fort was thundering away at the Bishop's Palace!

More ammunition was found than our troops will use with the three guns that were captured.

One of the guns was found concealed. They are 9 pound brass pieces.

Several mules and a half dozen beautiful tents were likewise captured.

Killed, none. Wounded, in 7th Infantry, Lieut. Porter, bullet through the calf of the leg; Orderly Sergeant Hurdle of K company; Corporal S. P. Oakley, severely in the thigh.

Oakley is from N. York city, and a very intelligent, well educated man, as well as a good soldier.

Private White—the same who captured a Mexican officer's trunk at Marin, and who received it and its contents from Gen. Taylor—wounded in the head.

Fifth infantry killed none wounded—Lieut. Russell, in the arm; Sergeant Major Brand, badly, in the mouth with musket ball.

Private McNanus and Grubb slightly wounded, Sergeant Uptograph, color bearer, distinguished himself by his gallantry.

Taus was this brilliant coup de main made almost without bloodshed. I have not time now to give the particulars of this glorious affair.

Capt. C. F. Smith was in the advance, with McCull, at the battle of Resaca de la Palma, and is one of the most gallant and accomplished officers in the Army—so say all his officers whom I have heard speak of him.

Col. P. F. Smith—Gen. Smith of Louisiana—distinguished himself on that occasion as did Maj. Scott and Capt. Miles, and, in truth, every officer and man did his duty nobly.

The gallant conduct of Capt. Blanchard and Lieut. Tenbrink, and the two brothers Nicholls, is praised by all the officers who were there.

In truth the Louisiana boys have fought every day for four days and last night, as Gen. Worth's report will bear me out in saying, and as every officer in the 2d Division will testify that this corps has distinguished itself on every occasion where they have been called on.

The sons of Judge Nichols, of Donaldville have stood fire, four or five hours at a time, driving the enemy—under their battery—from bush to bush, and rock to rock, and at last were among the foremost to rush into the Bishop's Palace and take it by storm.

Capt. Blanchard and his company have already made a reputation that will not soon be forgotten.

S. G. Allen, private of this company was mortally wounded in this fight, and died the next morning.

Capt. Smith had one killed or wounded in his party of regulars—two Texans were wounded, viz: Wm. Carley and B. F. Keese.

Bishop's Palace, Monterey, Sept. 24, 1845.

On the morning of the 21st, Col. Childs of the Artillery Battalion, with three of his companies—one commanded by Capt. Vinton, another by Capt. J. B. Scott, and the third by Lieut. Ayers—and three companies of the 8th Infantry—company A, commanded by Lieut. Longstreet, and Lieut. Wainright; B company, Lieut. Holloway, commanding, and Lieut. Merchant; D company, Capt. Scrivner and Lieut. Montgomery—was ordered to take the summit of Palace Hill.

The Colonel left the camp at 2 o'clock, A. M. and climbed the mountain through the chaparral and up the steep rocks, with such secrecy that at day-break he was within 100 yards of the breast work of sand-bags, before he was discovered.

The Mexicans poured their musketry into them, but they rushed up the precipice, and soon had the place.

Three of the artillery, having rushed ahead too fast found themselves in the hands of the Mexicans. They surrendered; the Mexicans took their muskets and shot them down with the very pieces they had given up.

I saw the poor fellows lying there.

I have but a few moments left to write in, and must therefore defer the particulars of the storming of the palace until I have more time.

Colonel Stanford went up at daylight with the balance of the 8th, and Maj. Scott led up the 5th.

The Louisiana boys were on the hill with the 5th, at 8 o'clock A. M.

One of Duncan's howitzers, in charge of Lt. Rowland, was dragged up, or rather lifted up, and opened on the palace, which was filled with troops.

The Mexicans charged on the howitzer, but were driven back. A constant firing was kept up for several hours, particularly by Blanchard's men, who left a dozen Mexicans dead upon the hill side.

At length a charge was ordered, and our men rushed down upon the palace, entered a hole in a door that had been blocked up but opened by the howitzer, and soon cleared the work of the few Mexicans that remained.

Lt. Ayers was the lucky one who first reached the hall-ways and lowered the flag.

One 15 pound brass piece, a beautiful article, manufactured in Liverpool in 1842, and a short 12 pound brass howitzer, were captured, with a large quantity of ammunition, and some muskets and lances.

The fort, adjoining the palace walls, is not completed, but it is very neatly constructed, as far as it is built.

The killed on our side, in taking the place, was seven—wounded, twelve.

Lt. Wainright was wounded in the arm and side by a musket ball, but will soon recover it is hoped.

Mr. Jno. Francis, of New Orleans, belonging to Blanchard's company, was killed. I will give a full account of this affair at another time.

Col. Childs, Capt. Vinton, Capt. Blanchard, Lieut. Longstreet, Lieut. Clark, (Adjutant of the 5th), Lieut. Ayers, Lieut. McCown, and the two Nicholls seemed to have been the heroes of the day.

The two latter 'did the thing up brown' and not only Judge Nicholls, but old Louisiana may well be proud of such sons.

The Mexicans lost, at least, 30 killed—21 had been buried this morning, and I have seen a number lying on the hill side, that were not discovered by our men when they brought in the dead.

Yesterday morning, the whole division under Gen. Worth, entered the town on this side, and have been fighting there ever since.

The heart of the City is nothing but one fortification, the thick walls being pierced for muskets, and cannon being placed so as to take the principal streets.

The roofs being flat, and the front walls rising three or four feet above the roof, of course every street has a line of breast-works on each side.

A ten inch mortar came round from Gen Taylor last evening, and it is now placed in the last plaza, to which our troops have fought, step by step, and from house to house.

Duncan's batteries are in town, and the present impression is that the place will soon be taken.

Gen. Worth has gained all the strongholds that command the City, and has pushed the enemy as far as they can go without falling into Gen. Taylor's hands, on the other side of the City.

All this has been done with the loss of only about 70 killed and wounded!

At first it seemed totally impossible to storm these heights—it looked like charging upon the clouds—but it has been done.

The Bishop's palace, which is as strong as it has been represented to be, has been stormed and taken by our brave soldiers, likewise proved ineffectual.

The troops were then ordered by General Taylor to return in good order and get under cover from the enemy's fire, which order was handsomely executed.

During the engagement in town, of Farland's Brigade, the forts that were

passed on the left entering the town, were gallantly carried by the Tennessee and Mississippi regiments, the first commanded by Col. Campbell, and the second by Col. Davis, Lieut. Col. McClung of the Mississippi regiment was dangerously wounded.

These regiments sustained a great loss of killed and wounded, but I cannot in the short time left me, ascertain the names or number of those who fell.

Captain Bragg's battery was brought into action, but it was impossible to use it effectively, it was withdrawn.

Several pieces of artillery were captured.

The forts that were taken were occupied by Rrdgely's Artillery company, who turned the captured pieces against the Mexican works, and the cannonade was kept up the rest of the day.

There were many skirmishes, and gallant deeds etc. which I will mention at a future time.

On the night of the 22d the enemy abandoned the two works which had proved so destructive to the 3d and 4th Infantry, and they were occupied early next morning by the Mississippi and Tennessee regiments, under Gen. Quitman.

About 5 o'clock same morning, these two regiments advanced on the town, and a sharp engagement commenced.

These regiments were supported by a body of Texas Rangers, dismounted for the occasion, under Gen. Henderson, and by the 3d regiment of Infantry.

The fight was kept up until 4 o'clock P. M. during which time our troops drove the enemy from house to house, almost to the main plaza.

The loss of life on our side was not severe during this day.

On the morning of the 24th, a flag of truce was sent in, which resulted in the capitulation of the town.

A "Popping the Question" Story.

Thousand devices and contrivances have been resorted to by despairing maidens and their crafty mammas to bring bashful lovers to the grand climax of "popping the awful question"; but the following expedient, hit upon by a prudent mother in a neighboring town, deserves the praise of "cuteness" and originality better than most others that have come under our knowledge.

The subject of it was a youngish bachelor, a professional man of fair talents and quite good looking withal, who for some fourteen summers since his minority had withstood all the shafts of the little god, but was at length all at once "pricked in the heart" by the sight of a sweet blue eyed, rosy-cheeked maiden of eighteen.

He soon made her acquaintance, and having frequent opportunities of intercourse, was, of course, ere