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THE LIFE AND MILITARY CHARACTER OF
MAJ. GEN. SCOTT,
Illustrated with Numerous Anecdotes and
SPIRITED ENGRAVINGS.



Together with his Views upon the Principal Moral, Social
and Political Topics of the Age.

*With full Particulars of the Surrender of
the Castle and City of Vera Cruz.*

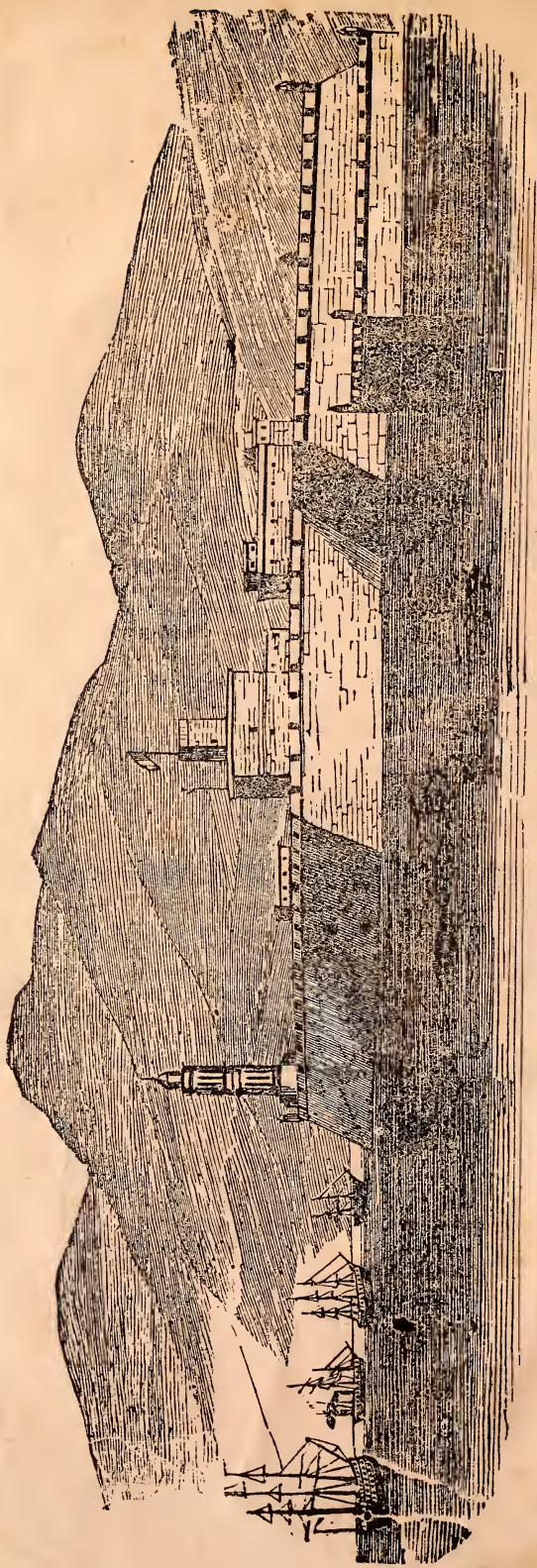
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VIEW OF THE CELEBRATED CASTLE OF SAN JUAN D'ULLOA, OPPOSITE VERA CRUZ.

THE LIFE AND MILITARY CHARACTER OF MAJOR-GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT.



"The enemy say we are good at long shot, but cannot stand the cold iron. ON, MEN! give the slanderers the lie. CHARGE!"—*Command of Scott. See p. 9.*

CHAPTER I.

Birth and Education—Appointed a Captain of Light Artillery—Ordered to Louisiana—Court Martial—Spends a year in the study of Military Works—Appointed Lieut. Colonel—Battle of Queenstown—Scott a Prisoner—His opposition to British Officers—Loves the Irish Soldiers—Scott as Adjutant-General of the Army—Pulls down the British Colors at Fort George—Routs a British force under Col. Dennis—Scott promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General.

THE position which this gallant soldier now occupies before the American public lends additional interest to the narrative of his past life and services, contained in the following pages.

GENERAL SCOTT was born in Petersburg, Virginia, in June, 1786, and as coeval, therefore, so to speak, with the Constitution of the United States, which has ever been with him an object

of such reverence, that no exigencies of war, or other extremities, have tempted, or could, we firmly believe, tempt him to any act in violation of its letter or spirit. Educated with a mother's vigilant and affectionate care—for his father died when he was only four years old—his mind and disposition were early trained to gentleness and truth, in the fear and the love of God *his* heavenly Father, who had no longer a father upon earth. Scott was designed for the profession of the law, and in 1806, having completed his course of study, he was admitted to the bar of Virginia, and rode the circuit during two terms. He then determined to pursue his profession in Charleston, S. C.—for now he was wholly an orphan, his mother, too, being dead—but finding that a year's previous residence in the State was required, Scott returned to Virginia, but not to the pursuits of the law. The aggressions of the European powers upon our rich and defenceless commerce, and especially the attack upon the United States frigate *Chesapeake*, had roused the ardent spirits of the land and turned their hopes and aspirations to the career of arms. A bill to increase the army was passed by Congress in the winter of 1807–8, and Scott was appointed a captain of light artillery. But the rumor of war passed off—albeit, Scott, who was warmly in feeling with that party headed by Jefferson and Madison, believed and openly maintained that the dignity and honor, not less than the true interests, of the nation, required resistance by arms to the aggressions of England. Such, however, was not the decision of the country or the government, and Scott was, in 1809, ordered to Louisiana, where General Wilkinson then held command. For this commander—of whose connection with Burr in what was deemed a traitorous enterprise, Scott had the opportunity, during Burr's trial in Richmond, to form a distinct opinion—the young captain of artillery entertained little respect. Wilkinson, who needed support, at first tried to conciliate the young officer, who could write, speak and fight well, but failing therein, he resolved to ruin him. Scott's indiscretion soon furnished a pretext, and he was arrested and tried by a court martial, mainly for words spoken disrespectfully of his superior officer, in violation of the rules and articles of war. On this charge he was found guilty, and sentenced to one year's suspension: then came another charge, imputing a fraudulent withholding of a small sum of money paid to him on account of clothing, &c., for his company; but of the allegation of fraud the court, without hesitation, acquitted him. This year of suspension was to him a year of benefit, for he passed it in Richmond with his early friend *Benjamin*

Watkins Leigh, in close and assiduous study of military works and all others connected with his new career. Not a stain, nor shadow of stain, was left upon his name by the result of this trial; for his offence was one of patriotism, however indiscreet, when he denounced his commander as unworthy of public confidence, as he believed him to be—and the opinion of the nation, it may, we think, now be added, ratified the distrust expressed by Captain Scott.

After rejoining his command, Scott went through the ordinary routine of a soldier's duty in time of peace, till 1812, when war was declared against Great Britain. In a few weeks after the declaration, Scott was appointed Lieut. Colonel of the 2d regiment of artillery, and marched immediately to the Niagara frontier, so soon to become the theatre of his fame, though not without first tasting of adversity. At the battle of Queenstown, at which he was a volunteer, and which but for the backwardness of the militia to stand by and succor their companions, his skill and gallantry would have converted into glorious victory; Scott after displaying great resources as a soldier, was finally compelled to surrender to greatly superior numbers, and, with the whole of his small force, become prisoners of war. He, with his fellow-captives, was sent to Quebec, whence upon being exchanged, he soon after embarked for Boston. But before this occurred, one of those scenes in which the decision of character of Scott, and his impartial love for the soldiers who, with him, were serving their country, was strikingly displayed. When the prisoners were embarked on board the transport to be conveyed to Boston, they were mustered on the deck by British officers, acting under the express commands of Sir George Provost, and every man whose tongue, in answering to his name, betrayed his British birth, was set apart to be sent to England as a traitor, there to be tried and executed. As soon as Scott, who was in the cabin, became aware of what was going on, he sprang to the deck; and, finding his men ranged in ranks, and answering to the roll called by the British officers, he forbade his soldiers to make further answer. Already twenty-three had been selected and set apart for a shameful death. Silence followed Colonel Scott's command, and no threats of the British officer could induce the men again to speak. Scott, amidst constant interruptions from the British officer, then addressed the twenty-three selected men—encouraged them to be of good cheer, and solemnly pledged himself to them, that if a hair of the head of one of them was touched because of their having served in the American army, retaliation should be made upon British

prisoners in the hands of the Americans. These twenty-three men, all Irish, were, nevertheless, put in irons, and sent to England; but they bore with them the pledge of a gallant soldier, which, they knew, would not fail them; and accordingly, his first care on landing at Boston, was to repeat all the circumstances to the Secretary of War, and the effect of this report, immediately communicated to Congress, was, that a law was passed vesting the President of the United States with the power of retaliation, (March 3d, 1813,) and two months after, at the capture of Fort George, Scott having made many prisoners—true to his pledge to the Irish soldiers sent in irons to Great Britain—selected twenty-three of his prisoners, and confined them to abide the fate of the twenty-three naturalized Americans. In making this selection, Scott was careful not to include a single Irishman. This step led to the confinement on both sides, as hostages, of many men and officers, the lives of all of whom were of course dependent upon the fate of the original twenty-three.

The British authorities saw the peril, and, it may be presumed, the injustice of the step they had taken, and not one of these prisoners was tried or harmed. There is a poetical justice, rare in real life, in the sequel of this story, which is thus told by his biographer:

“In July, 1815, when peace had been some months concluded, and Scott (then a Major General) was passing along on the East River side of the city of New York, he was attracted by loud cheers and bustle on one of the piers. He approached, and great was his delight to find that it was the cheers of his Irish soldiers, in whose behalf he had interfered at Quebec, and who had that moment landed in triumph, after a confinement of two years in British prisons! He was quickly recognized by them, hailed as their deliverer, and nearly crushed by their warm-hearted embraces! Twenty-one were present, two having died natural deaths.”

Scott, although then on the point of embarking for Europe, and suffering still from the effects of the wound received at the bloody battle of the Niagara, immediately wrote to the War Department, recalled the case of these men to notice, and claimed for them their arrears of pay and the bounty of land to which they were entitled. The claims in both respects were admitted and satisfied.

As soon as exchanged, Scott again sought active service, and appeared as adjutant-general of the army under General Dearborn, on the Niagara frontier, in the spring of 1813. His first act was in leading the advanced column of the attack, which

so completely succeeded, on the 27th May, on Fort George, at the mouth of the Niagara river. The enemy was driven from the work and the field: and but for repeated and peremptory orders of recall from his superior, Scott would probably have captured the whole British force. The fort, the colors of which had been taken down by Col. Scott himself, became the headquarters of the American troops, and in command of it Colonel Scott was left when the main body of the army went down the St. Lawrence, in the summer of that year, to attack Montreal. The whole summer passed without any attack from the British, and, burning for active operation, Scott was permitted by General Wilkinson to turn Fort George over to General McLure of the New York militia, and to join the main army at Sacket's Harbor; marching to the mouth of the Genesee river, where the commander-in-chief promised that transports should meet him. In this, however, Scott was disappointed, and he was compelled to march over roads almost impassable along the whole distance from Niagara to the St. Lawrence. Leaving his column near Utica, under the command of Major Hindman, Scott hastened forward himself, reached the St. Lawrence at Ogdensburg on the 6th November, in time to take part in the descent, and was appointed to command the advance guard; and owing to his being in advance, had no part in the indecisive battle of Chryster's field, or the events which took place in the rear. He did, however, encounter and overcome severe resistance at the Hoopholecreek, near Cornwall, where he routed a nearly equal British force under Colonel Dennis—making many prisoners and pursuing the fugitives till night; and also at Fort Matilda, erected to guard the narrowest part of the river. He took the fort, its commander and many of his men. But with victory within his grasp—for there was no force between Scott and Montreal which could have arrested his march six hours, and no garrison in Montreal that could have obstructed his entry—he was doomed, and the nation was doomed, to disappointment by the incompetency and the quarrels of two of its Generals—Wilkinson and Wade Hampton: Wilkinson ordering a retreat because Hampton would not join him with his detachment, and Hampton refusing to join, because, as he alleged, provisions were insufficient; the campaign closed in disaster. But it was brilliantly redeemed by that of the following year. On the 9th March, 1814, Col. Scott was promoted to the rank of brigadier, and immediately joined General Brown, then in full march from French Mills to the Niagara frontier. Brown, who was an able but self-taught commander, perceiving the need of

instruction and discipline, left the camp expressly for the purpose of giving the command to Gen. Scott, and enabling him to carry out a system of instruction and discipline with the troops as they assembled at Buffalo. For more than three months this duty was assiduously and most successfully discharged by General Scott.

CHAPTER II.

Scott repulses a British regiment—Battle and Victory at Chippewa—General Brown's praise of Scott—Settle and triumph at Lundy's Lane—Description of the Battle—News of Peace—Degree of A. M. conferred upon Scott by the Faculty of Princeton College—Governor Snyder, at the head of a division of Militia, marches out to welcome Scott to Philadelphia—Reduces the Army to a peace establishment—Scott sent to Europe by Government—Congress presents Scott a Gold Medal—Elected an honorary Member of the Cincinnati.



OW it was that the knowledge of the art of war, which he had so sedulously acquired during his year of suspension, came into play. He personally drilled and instructed all the officers, and then in turn superintended them as they instructed the soldiers. By assiduous labor, he succeeded, at the end of three months, in presenting in the field an army skilful in manœuvres, and confident alike in their officers and in themselves. When all was ready for action, General Brown resumed the command. The army was crossed over to Canada in two brigades, Scott's and Ridley's, the former below, the latter above Fort Erie, which almost immediately surrendered, and then marched to attack the main British army, lying behind the Chippewa river, under the command of Riall. On the morning of the 4th of July—auspicious day!—Scott's brigade, several hours in advance, fell in with the 10th regiment, British, commanded by the Marquis of Tweeddale, and kept up a running fight with it, till it was driven across the Chippewa. Scott encamped for the night behind Street's creek, about two miles from the British camp, behind the Chippewa; with a level plain extending between,—skirted on the east by the Niagara river, on the west by woods. On the 5th—a bright, hot day—the morning began with skirmishing in the woods, between the New York Volunteers, under General Porter, and the British irregulars; and it was not till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and just as Scott, despairing of bringing on an action that day, was drawing out his brigade on the plain for drill,

that General Brown, who had been reconnoitering on the left flank, and perceived that the main body of the British army was moving forward, rode up to Gen. Scott, and said, "The enemy is advancing; you will have a fight;" and without giving any order, such was his reliance upon Scott, proceeded to the rear to bring up Ripley's brigade. Scott immediately prepared for action; and there, on the plain of Chippewa, with his own brigade only, consisting of the 9th, 11th, and 25th regiments of infantry, with a detachment of the 22d, Towson's company of artillery, and Porter's volunteers,—in all 1900 men,—encountered, routed, and pursued a superior force of some of the best regiments of the British service—the Royal Scots, the 8th and 10th regiments, a detachment of the 19th dragoons, another of the Royal Artillery, and some Canadian Militia,—in all 2100 men. Here it was that the discipline so laboriously taught by Scott, in the camp of instruction, told; and this it was that enabled him, as at a turning point of the battle he did, in a voice rising above the roar of artillery, to say to McNeil's battalion of the 11th infantry: "The enemy say we are good at long shot, but cannot stand the cold iron. I call upon the Eleventh instantly to give the lie to the slander. Charge!" And they did charge; and, aided by Leavenworth's battalion, they quickly put the enemy to rout, before the 21st of Ripley's brigade, which was hastening to take part in the battle, or any portion of that brigade, could get up.

Justly, indeed, did General Brown, in his official report of the battle, say: "Brigadier-General Scott is entitled to the highest praise our country can bestow: to him, more than to any other man, am I indebted for the victory of the 5th July." The fight was fierce and bloody in an unwonted degree, the killed on both sides amounted to 830, out of about 4000 engaged—more than one in five. This action—which was chiefly valuable for the good effect it produced upon the feelings of the nation, by proving that in the open field, and hand to hand, our troops were equal at least, and in this instance had proved themselves superior, to the best troops of England—was followed in just three weeks by another, yet more decisive of the courage and discipline of the American army—that at Lundy's Lane. General Riall, unknown to General Brown, had been largely reinforced by Gen. Drummond from below; and when, on the morning of the 26th July, Gen. Scott, in advance, as usual, was on a march to attack Gen. Riall's forces, he suddenly came upon the British troops, which, reinforced that very day by Drummond, were themselves bent on attack. Scott had with him but four small battalions, commanded,

respectively, by Braly, Jessap, Leavenworth, and McNeil; and Townson's artillery, with Captain Harris's detachment of regular and irregular cavalry,—the whole column not exceeding 1300 men. With this small force, Scott found himself in presence of a superior body. His position was critical, but it was precisely one of those where promptness and decision of action must supply the want of battalions. Dispatching officers to the rear, to apprise Gen. Brown that the whole British army were before him, Gen. Scott at once engaged the enemy, who all the while believed they had to do with the whole of General Brown's army, not at all expecting that a mere detachment of it would venture upon the apparently desperate course of encountering such greatly superior numbers as the British knew they had in the field. The battle began about half an hour before sunset, within the spray, almost, of the everlasting Falls of Niagara, and beneath the halo of its irradiated bow of promise and of hope. It is recorded as a fact, that the head of our advancing column was actually encircled by this beautiful bow, and all took courage from the omen. The battle raged with unequal fortune and desperate valor, till far into the night. When Miller made his famous and decisive charge upon the battery of the British, which was the key of their position, darkness covered the earth; and Scott, who knew the localities, piloted Miller on his way, till the fire from the battery revealed its position completely. Scott then resumed the attack in front, while Miller gallantly stormed and carried the battery, and held it against repeated charges from the oft-rallied, but as oft-dispersed, British troops. Twice, meantime, had Scott charged through the British lines—two horses had been killed under him—he was wounded in the side—and about 11 o'clock at night, on foot and yet fighting, he was finally disabled by a shot which shattered the left shoulder, and he was borne away about midnight from the battle,—his commander, Gen. Brown, having been previously, in like manner, carried away wounded from the field.

The honors of the field belonged to the American arms, although, from the want of horses, they could not carry off the British cannon, captured with so much gallantry by Miller. But the American troops retired to Chippewa, and thence to Fort Erie, where they were soon besieged by Gen. Drummond. Scott was absent, suffering under his wounds; but the spirit and the discipline with which his efforts and his example had inspired the army, failed not, though he was no longer with them, and after being beleagured near fifty days, Gen. Brown, who had sufficiently recovered to resume the command, made



GEN. SCOTT AT THE BATTLE OF CHIPPEWA.

“More to the left, Captain Towson: the enemy is there.”

a sortie, on the 17th September, in which he defeated the troops in the trenches, captured and destroyed their works, and so effectually overthrew all that it had cost long weeks to accomplish, that the British commander, General Drummond, withdrew his troops, and soon after the American army went into winter-quarters at Buffalo. This was virtually, in this region, the end of the war; for peace was negotiated at Ghent at the close of 1814, and was ratified early the ensuing Spring.

Scott, who had been carried to Buffalo, where he was most kindly and cordially received and watched over, as soon as he could bear the motion, was borne in a litter from place to place by the citizens themselves, who would not commit to mercenary hands the care and comfort of a gallant soldier, still disabled by his wounds, until he reached the house of his old friend Nicholas, at Geneva. But his great desire was to reach Philadelphia, in order to avail himself of the eminent skill of Docts. Physick and Chapman; for the possibility of being so crippled, for life, as to be incapable of farther service to his country, was to Scott an intolerable thought, and hence he sought the best surgical aid. He therefore, by slow progress, reached Philadelphia,—every where welcomed and honored on his route as the suffering representative of the army on the Niagara, which had won imperishable laurels for the country and itself. At Princeton, where he happened to arrive on the day of the annual Commencement, the Faculty, students and citizens, all insisted on his taking part in the ceremonial; and, pale, emaciated, and weak as he was, that he should be present during a part, at least, of the public performances. He was fain to comply; and when, in the close of an oration “on the public duties of a good citizen, in peace and in war,” the youthful and graceful orator turned to Scott, and made him the personification of the civic and heroic virtues which had just been inculcated, the edifice rang with applause, woman’s gentle voice mingling in with the harsher tones of the other sex. The Faculty conferred on him the degree of A. M., which his early training and literary pursuits, not less than his public services, rendered wholly appropriate. On approaching Philadelphia, he found the Governor of the State, Snyder, at the head of a division of militia, with which he had marched out to receive him.

Baltimore being still menaced by the British, Gen. Scott, at the earnest request of the citizens, consented, all wounded as he was, and incapable of exertion, to assume the command of the district, and in such command the tidings of peace found

him. After declining the post of Secretary of War, proffered to him by President Madison, and aiding in the painful and delicate task of reducing the army to a peace establishment, he was sent by the government to Europe, both for the restoration of his health and professional improvement. He was moreover commissioned to ascertain the views and designs of different courts and prominent public men respecting the revolutionary struggle then commenced in the Spanish American colonies, and especially those of England respecting the island of Cuba,—all at that time subjects of solicitude at Washington. How he acquitted himself of these commissions, may be inferred from the fact, that, by order of President Madison, a special letter of thanks was written to him by the Secretary of State. After two years spent in Europe, where he associated with the most distinguished men in all the walks of life, attended courses of public lectures, and visited and inspected the great fortresses and naval establishments, Scott returned to the United States, and was assigned to the command of the seaboard, making New York his head quarters; and there, for twenty years, except with occasional absence on duty in the West, he remained. The gratitude of the country for his war services was testified in various shapes. Congress voted him a gold medal, and passed resolutions of thanks, in which he was not only complimented for his skill and gallantry at Chippewa and Niagara, but *for his uniform good conduct throughout the war*—a compliment paid by Congress to no other officer. The gold medal was presented by President Monroe. Virginia and New York each voted a sword to him; which, for Virginia, was presented by Governor Pleasants—for New York, by Governor Thompkins. He was also elected an honorary member of the Cincinnati, and numberless States named new counties after him.



CHAPTER. III.

Controversy with General Jackson—Reconciliation, &c.—Controversy between Scott and Gaines—Scott re-visits Europe—Takes command of the Black Hawk War in 1832—General Scott in the midst of the Cholera—Scott concludes a Treaty with the Sacs and Foxes—Makes a Treaty with the Winnebagoes—General Scott detailed to maintain the supremacy of Law against South Carolina Nullification—Scott in the midst of the Florida War—Public dinners tendered to Scott—Canada troubles in 1837.



Y the closing of the war, a long interval of comparative inaction ensued, during which time Scott's services were availed of by the general government, in that most painful task of reducing the army to a peace establishment, which necessarily imposed upon the General the responsibility of deciding between the merits and fitness of many gallant men, who had stood with him unflinching on the red fields of battle. But in the discharge of this, as of every other duty to his country, Scott acted with a single eye to its honor and welfare. Neither the relations of general friendship, nor the influences of various sorts, brought to bear from without, were suffered to warp his firm mind. He was there for his country, and in consonance with what he thought its clear interests, was his course throughout. The next important benefit rendered, and which, perhaps, was not the least of all the many he was capable of rendering, was to translate from the French, prepare, digest, and adapt to our service, a complete system of military tactics. In the execution of this trust, his previous military studies gave him great facilities and advantages; and the system thus introduced, carried into effect, by those jewels of the nation, the West-Point Cadets, has recently proved itself at Palo Alto and Fort Brown, Resaca de la Palma, and Monterey.

The frankness of his nature, and his high sense of subordination, and ever-present and active respect for the spirit as well as letter of the Constitution of his country, involved him, about the year 1817, in an unpleasant controversy, first with General Jackson, and second, as a consequence of the first, with De Witt Clinton. The particulars of the controversy have passed from memory, and it is not our purpose to revive them. In the lifetime before the presidency of General Jack-

son, a very complete and soldierly reconciliation took place between General Scott and himself. But we may add, in the way of caution and reprobation, that the whole difficulty arose from the unjustifiable and ungentlemanly repetition of some observations, made at a private dinner table by Gen. Scott.

Another controversy arose between Gen. Scott and Gen. Gaines, on the subject of *brevet* rank, on occasion of the appointment of General Macomb to the command of the army, after the death of General Brown. The government did not sustain the views taken by Gen. Scott of the rights of *brevet* rank, and this officer, in consequence, tendered the resignation of his commission, not from any mere personal feelings, but because he thought that in his person a great military principle was violated. Happily, General Jackson (then become President) would not act upon the proffered resignation; and in order to allow time for reflection, and at the same time to prevent any damage to the service from an open collision on points of duty between General Scott and his official superior, a furlough of one year was sent to him. Scott took advantage of the furlough to revisit Europe, and on his return, under the earnest advice of his friends, and, as is believed, with the unanimous approval of his brother officers, Scott withdrew his resignation, and reported himself for duty. The Secretary of War, Major Eaton, in acknowledging General Scott's letter, frankly and honorably says: "It affords the department much satisfaction to perceive the conclusion at which you have arrived as to your *brevet* rights. None will do you the injustice to suppose that the opinions declared by you on the subject are not the result of reflection and conviction; but since the constituted authorities of the government have, with the best feelings entertained, come to conclusions adverse to your own, no other opinions were cherished, or were hoped for, but that on your return to the United States you would adopt the course your letter indicates, and with good feelings resume those duties of which your country has so long had the benefit."

The General was ordered in conclusion to report himself at once for duty to Gen. Macomb. He was assigned anew to the Eastern Department, and there remained till called by the Black Hawk war in 1832, to take command of that.

It was in this command that Scott had the opportunity of showing himself a "hero of humanity," as he had before shown himself a "hero in the battle field." The Asiatic cholera in this year first reached this continent, and, sweeping with rapid but irregular strides from point to point, it manifested itself

most fatally on board the fleet of steamboats on Lake Erie, in which Gen. Scott, with a corps of about 1000 regulars, embarked for Chicago. They left Buffalo in the beginning of July. On the 8th, the cholera declared itself on board the steamboat *Sheldon Thompson*, in which Gen. Scott and staff, and 220 men were embarked, and in less than six days one officer and fifty men died, and eighty were put on shore sick at Chicago. It was amid the gloom and the terror of this attack from an unknown disease, or only known by its fatal approaches, that Gen. Scott displayed those attributes of moral courage, of genuine philanthropy, which should weigh so much more in the scale of national gratitude, than the exercise of physical courage—that quality common to our race in the battle-field. From cot to cot of the sick soldiers, their General daily went, soothing the last moments of the dying, sustaining and cheering those who hoped to survive, and for all, disarming the pestilence of that formidable character of contagion which seemed to render its attack inevitable, and almost synonymous with death, by showing in his own person that he feared it not. Of the numbers whom his heroic self-confidence and generous example, in such circumstances, saved from death, by dissipating their apprehensions, no human estimate can be made; but such deeds and such devotion are not unmarked by the eye of Providence, and cannot be without their reward. Of the 950 men that left Buffalo, not more than 400 survived for active service. On leaving Chicago, with this diminished command, Scott proceeded as rapidly as possible to the Mississippi, and there joined General Atkinson at *Prairie du Chien*, who, in the battle of the Badaxe, had already scattered the forces of Black Hawk. In spite of all the precaution adopted by Scott and Atkinson, the cholera was communicated anew to the army assembled at Rock Island, and great were its ravages. Here again, as on board the steamboats, when the malady first appeared, Scott's self-sacrificing care and solicitude for his men were unceasing. A brother officer, an eye-witness of what he relates, thus describes the General's course of conduct:—

“It exhibited him not only as a warrior, but as a man; not only as the hero of battles, but as the hero of humanity. . . . The General's duty, under the circumstances, clearly was to give the best direction he could for proper attendance on the sick, and for preventing the spread of the disease. When he had done this, his duty was performed, and he might have left the rest to his medical officers. But such was not his course. He thought he had other duties to perform; that his personal safety must be disregarded to visit the sick, to cheer the well,

to encourage the attendants, to set an example to all, to prevent a panic—in a word, to save the lives of others, at the risk of his own. All this he did faithfully, and when he could have no other motive than that of doing good. Here was no glory to be acquired; here were none of the excitements of the battle field; here was no shame to be avoided, or disgrace to be feared, because his arrangements and directions to those whose part it was to battle with disease, had satisfied duty.”

It was far into September before the dread disease was extirpated from the camp, and then commenced the negotiations with the Sacs and Foxes; this was concluded by Scott with consummate skill, and resulted in the cession, for a valuable consideration, of the fine region which now constitutes the State of Iowa. Another treaty was made on the same terms by him with the Winnebagoes, by which they ceded some five million acres of land east of the Mississippi and between the Illinois and Wisconsin, now constituting a valuable portion of the Territory of Wisconsin. In reference as well to his successful negotiations as to his humane conduct under the calamity of pestilence, the then Secretary of War, Gen. Cass, wrote thus to General Scott:—

“Allow me to congratulate you upon the fortunate consummation of your arduous duties, and to express my entire approbation of the whole course of your proceedings, during a series of difficulties requiring higher moral courage than the operations of an active campaign under ordinary circumstances.”

Scarcely had Scott reached home and his family in New York, when he was detailed by President Jackson to a new, important and most delicate duty, that of maintaining at home the supremacy of the United States against South Carolina nullification. He immediately proceeded to Washington, and there, in personal interview with the President and the cabinet, becoming fully possessed of their views, and having fully expressed to them his own, he was invested with very ample discretionary power to meet the perilous crisis. In no scene of his life, perhaps, has General Scott exhibited more thorough patriotism—more entire devotion to the laws and Constitution of his country—more anxious, and skilfully-conducted efforts to arrest that direst of calamities, civil war—more self-command—more tact and talent—than while stationed at Fort Moultrie, in Charleston Harbor, and face to face, as it were, with nullification in arms. A single drop of blood shed at that moment might have deluged the nation in blood—and yet the laws of the United States, made in conformity with the Constitution, Scott was sworn and commissioned to uphold, defend

and enforce: the point of difficulty was to avert the bloodshed, and yet maintain the laws; and he came off entirely successful in both—under circumstances, that history will do justice to, as those who remember the fearful apprehensions of that day, did at the time, and still do.

His next field of public service was in Florida, where the Seminoles—in possession of the everglades, and having taken our troops at unawares—owing to the want of adequate preparation by the administration, although timely warned of the danger by the gallant Clinch—seemed for a time to set the whole efforts of our country at defiance. On the 20th January, 1836, General Scott was ordered to the command of the troops in Florida, and he displayed his habitual promptitude in obeying the order. He was apprised of the will of the President at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and asked when he could set forth; "this night," was the reply. But a day's delay was required to draw up the requisite instructions, and he left Washington the 21st. We enter not here into an examination of the steps taken and plans devised by General Scott, to bring to a rapid and sure termination those disastrous and discreditable hostilities, nor into the manner or the motives of his unmilitary recall, and of the subsequent investigation of his conduct by a Court of Inquiry; these are among the historic archives of the nation. Our only concern here with them is to say, that this court unanimately approved his conduct—pronounced the plan of his Seminole campaign "well devised," and added that it "was prosecuted" with energy, steadiness, and ability; and so in regard to the Creek war, which at the same time fell upon his hands, the court found "that the plan of campaign adopted by Major-General Scott, was well calculated to lead to successful results; and that it was prosecuted by him, as far as practicable, with zeal and ability, until he was recalled from the command."

Mr. Van Buren, who had now become President, approved the finding of the court, and the nation at large ratified the verdict. Public dinners were tendered to General Scott by the citizens of New York, of Richmond, and of other places, all of which however he declined; and was in the discharge of the ordinary duties of his station, when the patriot troubles broke out in 1837 on the Canada frontier.



CHAPTER IV.

In 1838 Scott removes the Cherokees—Scott adjusts the Eastern Boundary Question—His Friendship for Sir John Harvey—Scott designated as a Candidate for the Presidency—1847, Scott once more in the field of War.



FOR two years the Canadian troubles agitated this country and seriously menaced its peace. To no man in so great a degree as to General Scott is it indebted for the preservation of that peace. His honor and patriotism, his approved military service, his reputation and his bearing as a soldier, gave great effect to his frank and friendly expostulations with the deluded American citizens, who supposed they were acting patriotically in taking part with the Canadian revolvers; and by kindness and reason, combined with much skill and assiduity, in discovering and tracing the ramifications of the patriot lodges, he was enabled to prevent any outbreak that might compromise our country with Great Britain. His return from the Niagara frontier was greeted with compliments at Albany and elsewhere, and all felt that a great national good had been accomplished by this gallant soldier. In 1838, another difficult and painful service was confided to General Scott, that of removing the Cherokees from the homes of their fathers, beyond the Mississippi. Here, he was as successful as in all previous public service; tempering humanity with power, and operating more by moral influence than force, he effected this most trying object in a manner that secured the gratitude of those whom he was, acting for his country, obliged to wrong. It was this service, connected with his subsequent pacific arrangement of the north-eastern boundary difficulties, that drew from the lamented Channing—that apostle of human rights—this fine tribute:—

“To this distinguished man belongs the rare honor of uniting with military energy and daring the spirit of the philanthropist. His exploits in the field, which placed him in the first rank of our soldiers, have been obscured by the purer and more lasting glory of a pacificator, and of a friend of mankind. In the whole history of the intercourse of civilized with barbarous or half-civilized communities, we doubt whether a brighter page can be found than that which records his agency in the removal of the Cherokees. As far as the wrongs done to this race can be atoned for, General Scott has made the expiation.

“In his recent mission to the disturbed borders of our country, he has succeeded, not so much by policy as by the nobleness and generosity of his character, by moral influences, by the earnest conviction with which he has enforced upon all with whom he has had to do, the obligations of patriotism, justice, humanity and religion. It would not be easy to find among us a man who has won a purer fame; and I am happy to offer this tribute, because I would do something—no matter how little—to hasten the time when the spirit of Christian humanity shall be accounted an essential attribute and the brightest ornament to a public man.”

This is justly said and most justly applied.

In 1839, Scott was again deputed by the government to keep the peace, and, soldier as he is, to use all his great influence to prevent the occurrence of war. The dispute respecting the contested boundary on the north-eastern frontier had become exasperated—Massachusetts and Maine on one side, and New Brunswick on the other, had in some degree taken the matter into their own hands, and hostile bands stood facing each other; a single indiscretion among them might have precipitated war beyond the possibility of its being averted. Happily a friendship formed on the field of battle, in years long past, between General Scott and Gen. Sir John Harvey, the Governor of New Brunswick, contributed to smooth the difficulties between the two nations. Gen. Scott having overcome the first great obstacles in soothing the irritated feeling of the American borderers, made overtures to Sir John Harvey for the mutual withdrawal of troops from the disputed territory; and Sir John frankly acceded to them, saying in his letter of the 23d March, 1833, to General Scott, “My reliance upon *you*, my dear General, has led me to give my willing assent to the proposition which you have made yourself the very acceptable means of conveying to me.” The menacing position of affairs was now effectually changed into feelings of reciprocal forbearance, and *Daniel Webster* finally accomplished, by the treaty at Washington, the good work so satisfactorily commenced by the Pacificator, Scott.

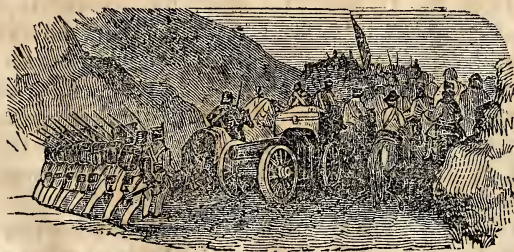
Subsequently, the gratitude and admiration of large portions of the country designated General Scott as a candidate for the Presidency, and many States, in the preliminary conventions of nominations, voted for him, but another obtained the vote. In all this matter General Scott was passive—not seeking and not declining the high office—but holding himself, as he always does, liable to the call of his countrymen, to serve them in whatever capacity they may think his services needed.

He is now once again on the field of war—mature in mind,

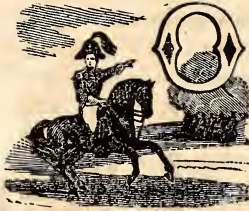
rich in knowledge and experience, robust in health, and patriotic, considerate, and law-abiding as in the past. The circumstances under which this command was conferred upon him, honorable alike to him and to the Executive, of themselves dissipate the poor jests in which, in the thoughtlessness of security, some inconsiderate people have indulged, because of an over-frank, literal and common place expression. The glorious fact of Scott's heroic life, his brilliant deeds of arms, his more ennobling acts as a statesman and pacificator in peace, cry aloud against such wanton injustice to a great name; and the future will yet vindicate that name which, it may be affirmed with entire confidence, will never be allied with dishonor, oppression, or defeat. Mortal, indeed, he is, and he may die by the fortune of war; but, living or dying, his life will be consistent to the last; and as it has been in the past, so will it continue to the end—self-sacrificing, devoted first and always for his country; and striving every where, and at all times, for the supremacy and preservation of its laws and its Constitutions.

Such is WINFIELD SCOTT, to whom all eyes are now turned, as the head of our armies in Mexico; and whose career, thus far, has been *honest*; IMPARTIAL and UNTARNISHED.

Occupying the position he now does as chief in command of the American army, we may expect movements from the scene of conflict, worthy of this great *Statesman*, *Patriot* and *Warrior*,—that he will do better than the illustrious Taylor, is hardly to be expected; yet with the well known *military skill*, *decision of character* and *uncompromising perseverance* of these *distinguished officers*, we may confidently rely upon a *successful prosecution*, and *favorable issue* of the campaign of our army on the *Rio Grande*.



CHAPTER V.

General Scott's views on the Subjects of Slavery, Peace, &c.

IN various important subjects, GENERAL SCOTT has freely and frankly expressed his views, in answer to inquiries of individuals in different parts of the country. His name having been mentioned in various quarters in connection with those who might be brought forward as candidates for the Presidency, a letter was forwarded to him by a gentleman of Virginia, requesting an expression of his opinions on the subject of Slavery. General Scott owned no slaves, but was educated in a community where slavery existed. The following is his reply:—

“ Washington, February 9, 1843.

“ Dear Sir—

“ I HAVE been waiting for an evening's leisure to answer your letter before me, and, after an unreasonable delay, am at last obliged to reply in the midst of official occupations.

“ That I ever have been named in connection with the Presidency of the United States, has not, I can assure *you*, the son of an ancient neighbor and friend, been by any contrivance or desire of mine; and certainly I shall never be in the field for that high office unless placed there *by a regular nomination*. Not, then, being a candidate, and seeing no near prospect of being *made* one, I ought, perhaps, to decline troubling you or others with my humble opinions on great principles of state rights and federal administration; but as I cannot plead ignorance of the partiality of a few friends, in several parts of the Union, who may, by possibility, in a certain event, succeed in bringing me within the field from which a Whig candidate is to be selected, I prefer to err on the side of frankness and candor, rather than, by silence, to allow any stranger unwittingly to commit himself to my support.

“ Your inquiries open the whole question of domestic slavery, which has, in different forms, for a number of years, agitated Congress and the country.

“ Premising that you are the first person who has interrogated me on the subject, I give you the basis of what *would* be my reply in greater detail, if time allowed and the contingency alluded to above were less remote.

“In boyhood, at William and Mary College, and in common with most, if not all, my companions, I became deeply impressed with the views given by Mr. Jefferson, in his ‘Notes on Virginia,’ and by Judge Tucker, in the Appendix to his edition of Blackstone’s Commentaries, in favor of a gradual emancipation of slaves. That Appendix I have not seen in thirty odd years, and, in the same period, have read scarcely any thing on the subject; but my early impressions are fresh and unchanged. Hence, if I had had the honor of a seat in the Virginia Legislature in the winter of 1831–2, when a bill was brought forward to carry out those views, I should certainly have given it my hearty support.

“I suppose I scarcely need say that, in my opinion, Congress has no color of authority, under the Constitution, for touching the relation of master and slave within a State.

“I hold the opposite opinion in respect to the District of Columbia. Here, with the consent of the owners, or on the payment of ‘just compensation,’ Congress may legislate at its discretion. But my conviction is equally strong that, unless it be step by step with the Legislatures of Virginia and Maryland, it would be dangerous to both races in those States to touch the relation between master and slave in this District.

“I have from the first been of opinion that Congress was bound by the Constitution to receive, to refer, and to report upon petitions relating to domestic slavery, as in the case of all other petitions; but I have not failed to see and to regret the unavoidable irritation which the former have produced in the Southern States, with the consequent peril to the two colors, whereby the adoption of any plan of emancipation has every where among us been greatly retarded.

“I own, myself, no slave; but never have attached blame to masters for not liberating their slaves—well knowing that liberation, without the means of sending them in comfort to some position favorable to ‘the pursuit of happiness,’ would, in most cases, be highly injurious to all around, as well as to the manumitted families themselves—unless the operation were general and under the auspices of prudent legislation. But I am persuaded that it is a high moral obligation of masters and slaveholding States to employ all means, not incompatible with the safety of both colors, to meliorate slavery even to extermination.

“It is gratifying to know that general melioration has been great, and is still progressive, notwithstanding the disturbing causes alluded to above. The more direct process of emancipation may, no doubt, be earlier commenced and quickened in

some communities than in others. Each, I do not question, has the right to judge for itself, both as to time and means, and I consider interference or aid from without, except on invitation from authority within, to be as hurtful to the sure progress of melioration, as it may be fatal to the lives of vast multitudes of all ages, sexes and colors. The work of liberation cannot be *forced* without such horrid results. Christian philanthropy is ever mild and considerate. Hence all violence ought to be deprecated by the friends of religion and humanity. Their persuasions cannot fail at the right time to free the master from the slave, and the slave from the master; perhaps before the latter shall have found out and acknowledged that the relation between the parties had long been mutually prejudicial to their worldly interests.

“There is no evil without, in the order of Providence, some compensating benefit. The bleeding African was torn from his savage home by his ferocious neighbors, sold into slavery, and cast upon this continent. Here, in the mild South, the race has wonderfully multiplied, compared with any thing ever known in barbarous life. The descendants of a few thousands have become many millions; and all, from the first, made acquainted with the arts of civilization, and, above all, brought under the light of the Gospel.

“From the promise made to Abraham, some two thousand years had elapsed before the advent of our Saviour, and the Israelites, the chosen people of God, were, for wise purposes, suffered to remain in bondage longer than Africans have been on our shore. This race has already experienced the resulting compensations alluded to; and, as the white missionary has never been able to penetrate the dark regions of Africa, or to establish himself in its interior, it may be within the scheme of Providence that the great work of spreading the Gospel over that vast continent, with all the arts and comforts of civilization, is to be finally accomplished by the black man restored from American bondage. A foothold there has already been gained for him, and in such a scheme centuries are but as seconds to Him who moves worlds as man moves a finger.

“I do but *suggest* the remedies and consolations of slavery, to inspire patience, hope, and charity on all sides. The mighty subject calls for the exercise of all man’s wisdom and virtue, and these may not suffice without aid from a higher source.

“It is in the foregoing manner, my dear sir, that I have long been in the habit, in conversation, of expressing myself, all over our common country, on the question of negro slavery, and I must say that I have found but very few

persons to differ with me, however opposite their geographical positions.

“Such are the views or opinions which you seek. I cannot suppress or mutilate them, although now liable to be more generally known. Do with them what you please. I neither court nor shun publicity.

“I remain, very truly, yours,

“WINFIELD SCOTT.

“T. P. Atkinson, Esq., Danville, Virginia.”

General Scott's views on the subject of Peace and War.

GEN. SCOTT, though by profession a soldier, has proved himself on various occasions a friend of peace. His conduct has always shown a preference for peace, rather than for a conflict of arms. On page 20th will be found a just tribute to this veteran soldier, from that distinguished philanthropist, Dr. Channing. The following letter on the subject of general Peace, is in answer to a letter addressed to him by the Secretary of the Peace Society:—

“Washington, March 24th, 1845.

“I have received your letter of the 21st instant, accompanied by certain Proceedings of the General Peace Convention.

“My participation in war, as well as endeavors on several occasions to preserve peace, without sacrificing the honor and the interests of my country, are matters of public history. These antecedents, together with my sentiments on the abstract question of *Peace and War*, inserted a year ago in a Peace Album, and since published, I learn, in several journals, might be offered as a sufficient reply to your communication.

“I have always maintained the moral right to wage a just and necessary war, and, consequently, the wisdom and humanity, as applicable to the United States, in the present state of the world, of *defensive* preparations. If the principal nations of the earth liable to come in conflict with us in our natural growth and just pursuits, can be induced to disarm, I should be happy to see the United States follow the example. But without a general agreement to that effect, and a strong probability that it would be carried out in good faith by others, I am wholly opposed to giving up *home preparation*, and the natural and Christian right of *self-defence*.

"The published sentiments alluded to may not have fallen under your observation. I enclose a copy.

"I remain respectfully,

"Your most obedient servant,

"WINFIELD SCOTT.

"J. C. Beckwith, Esq., Corresponding Secretary."

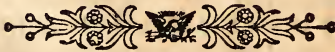
[Written in a Peace Album.]

Peace and War.

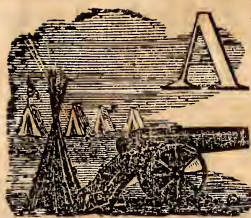
"If war be the natural state of savage tribes, peace is the first want of every civilized community. War no doubt is, under any circumstances, a great calamity; yet submission to outrage would often be a greater calamity. Of the two parties to any war, one, at least, must be in the wrong—not unfrequently both. An error in such an issue is, on the part of chief magistrates, ministers of state, and legislators having a voice in the question, a crime of the greatest magnitude. The slaying of an individual by an individual is, in comparative guilt, but a drop of blood. Hence the highest moral obligation to treat national differences with temper, justice, and fairness; always to see that the cause of war is not only *just* but *sufficient*; to be sure that we do not *covet* our neighbor's lands, 'nor any thing that is his;' that we are as ready to give as to demand explanation, apology, indemnity; in short, we should especially remember, 'all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' This divine precept is of universal obligation: it is as applicable to rulers, in their transactions with other nations, as to private individuals in their daily intercourse with each other. Power is intrusted by 'the Author of peace and lover of concord,' to do good and to avoid evil. Such, clearly, is the revealed will of God.

"WINFIELD SCOTT.

"Washington, April 26, 1844."



CHAPTER VI.

Anecdotes and Incidents.

NECDOTE OF GEN. WADSWORTH AND COL. SCOTT.—An instance of the confidence felt in Scott, in his early career, by older officers, is shown by the following incident. Just previous to the battle at Queenstown Heights, 1812, lieutenant-colonel Scott arrived on the Canadian side, with the intention of taking the

command of the whole body engaged; but finding, quite unexpectedly, that brigadier-general Wadsworth, of the New York militia, was there before him, he proposed to take only the regulars under his command, leaving the other forces to Gen. Wadsworth. "No, sir," promptly replied the generous and patriotic Wadsworth, "you know best professionally what ought to be done. I am here for the honor of my country, and that of the New York militia, I yield entirely to you." Although they had now met for the first time, Gen. Wadsworth had become much attached to the brave young colonel, and repeatedly interposed his own person to shield Scott from the Indian rifles.

SCOTT'S BRAVERY.—On the last day of the attack at Queenstown Heights, the advanced guards of the American line were suddenly driven in by a greatly superior number of the British, and a general massacre appeared unavoidable. Scott immediately sent to the American side for reinforcements, and in the meantime kept the enemy at bay as well as possible. Great accessions were making to the enemy's ranks by large numbers arriving; and at the moment when destruction seemed inevitable, news came that a panic had seized our forces on the other side, and they refused to cross! The British force, including Indians, amounted to thirteen hundred, opposed to which were less than three hundred Americans. At this state of affairs, Scott mounted a log in front of his diminished band. "The balls of the enemy are thinning our ranks," said he; "their numbers are great. In a moment the shock must come, and retreat is impossible. We are in the beginning of a na-

tional war. Hull's surrender must be redeemed. Let us die, then, with our arms in our hands. Our country demands our sacrifice. The example will not be lost. Those who follow will avenge our fall. *Who dare to stand?*" "ALL!" was the answering cry.—The Americans fought bravely, but of course unsuccessfully; and after their small but brave band was very much reduced, Scott surrendered his whole force with the honors of war. Several messengers were sent to the enemy with a flag of truce, but none of them being heard from again, Scott went himself, and narrowly escaped being murdered by two Indians who sprang upon him, and would have succeeded, but for the timely assistance of a British officer. Scott was frequently advised to change his dress, being in full uniform, and his tall stature, (six feet five inches in height,) making him a conspicuous mark for the Indians,—“No,” replied he, “I will die in my robes.”

SCOTT ATTACKED IN PRISON BY TWO INDIANS.—After the surrender of the Americans at Queenstown Heights, the prisoners were escorted to the village now called Niagara, where the officers were lodged in an inn, under strong guard, whose orders were that no prisoner should be permitted to pass out, but that otherwise they should not be restrained. A message soon came that a person wished to speak to the “tall American,” meaning Scott. The colonel came through the entry, and to his surprise, found the same two Indians, hideously painted, who made the attempt on his life while he was bearing the flag of truce. The Indians inquired how many wounds he had received, giving him to understand they had fired at him a great many times; and one of them seized him by the arm to turn him round, to look at his back. Indignant, Scott threw the savage from him, exclaiming, “Off, villain! You fired like a squaw!”—“Well,” said the Indian, “we kill you now!”—Scott quickly seized a weapon which was near at hand, and prepared to defend himself, and was in a dangerous situation, just as aid was rendered by the timely arrival of a British officer, to whose assistance the preservation of his life was owing. One of these Indians was the son of the celebrated Brant. The reason of this attempt to murder Scott, was that the Indians were greatly exasperated against him, on account of so many of their people having been killed by the Americans in the battles; and so narrowly was he watched by them, that during his stay at Niagara he was not safe, while out of the inn, without a British escort.



Scott defending himself from the attack by two Indians. Page 27.

SCOTT ALLOWED TO VIEW THE FALLS FROM THE CANADIAN SIDE!—After Scott's capture at Queenstown, and while supping with the British General and officers, one of them, a colonel, inquired if he had ever seen the Niagara Falls. "Yes," replied Scott, "from the American side." The colonel replied, in a sarcastic manner, "Before you can view the cataract in all its grandeur, from the Canadian shore, you must have the glory of a *successful* fight." Among the prisoners taken by the Americans at the battle at Fort George, the following year, was the same colonel, badly wounded. Scott gave orders that he should be treated with all possible kindness and attention, and afterwards obtained permission for him to return to England on his parole, at a time when similar favors were refused by the enemy. The prisoner improved the earliest opportunity to return his thanks. "I have long owed you an apology," said he. "You have overwhelmed me with kindness. *You can now, at your leisure, view the Falls in all their glory.*"

GEN. SCOTT is represented as strict in enforcing vigorous discipline, and various anecdotes are told illustrative of his punctilious regard to military usage. The results at the hard-fought battles of Chippewa and Niagara show the advantage of this training. The following anecdote is given as a specimen. He saw a captain pass a sentinel posted, the sentinel saluting him by carrying arms. The officer passed, and took no notice of the soldier. The General sent an aid to him to say, that he (the officer,) "would take care to repress the sentinel within half an hour, and repair the fault, or take a trial before a court-martial."

CONGRESS PRESENTS GEN. SCOTT WITH A GOLD MEDAL.

Resolution of Congress, approved Nov. 3d, 1814.

"*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to cause a gold medal to be struck, with suitable emblems and devices, and presented to Major-General Scott, in testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his distinguished services, in the successive conflicts of Chippewa and Niagara, and of his uniform gallantry and good conduct in sustaining the reputation of the arms of the United States."

The medal thus ordered by Congress, was presented by President Monroe, near the close of his administration. The



FAC SIMILE OF THE MEDAL PRESENTED BY CONGRESS.



medal was presented at the Executive Mansion, Feb. 26th, 1825, in the presence of the Cabinet and many other distinguished persons. The following are the remarks made by Mr. Monroe on the occasion.

President Monroe's Address.

"GEN. SCOTT—Your conduct in the late war merited and obtained, in a high degree, the approbation of Congress and your country. In the battles of Chippewa and Niagara, in Upper Canada, in the campaign of 1814, your daring enterprise and gallantry in action were eminently conspicuous.

"In rendering justice to you, I recur with pleasure to the report made of those actions by the military commander, the most competent judge of your merit. In the battle of Chippewa, he says, you are entitled to the highest praise your country can bestow; and that we are indebted to you, more than to any other person, for the victory obtained in it.

"In the battle of Niagara you commenced the action, and your gallantry in several severe encounters, until disabled by severe wounds, was equally distinguished. As a testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of your merit in those actions, I have the pleasure to present you this medal."

Major-General Scott's Reply.

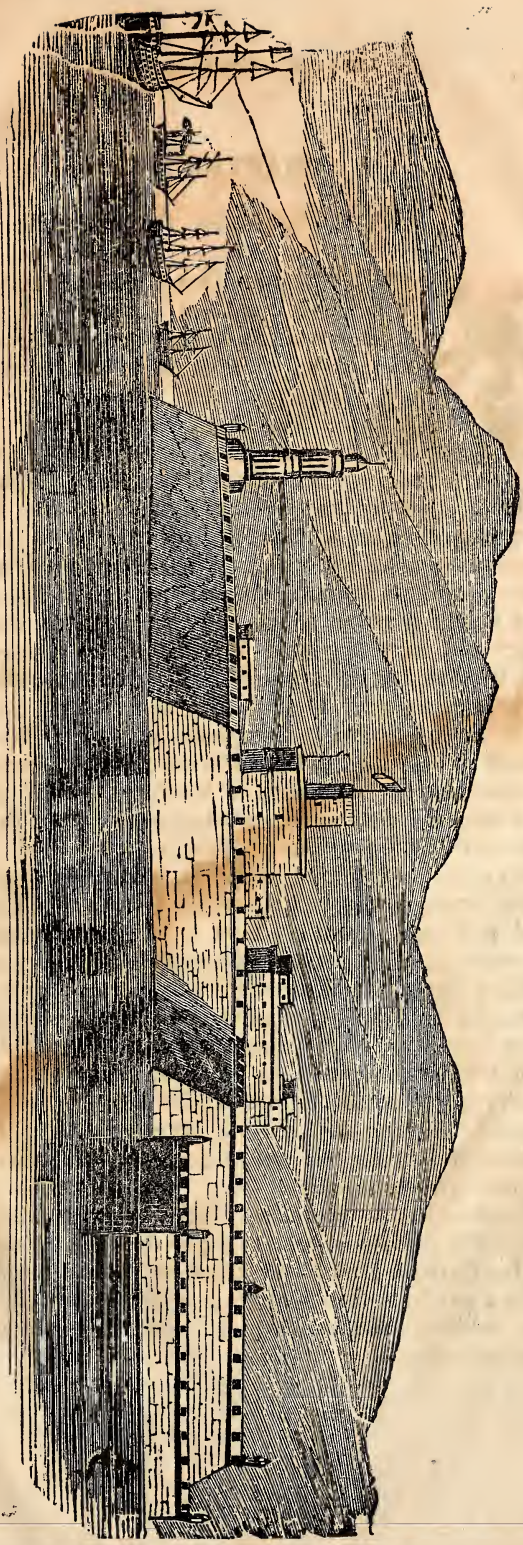
"With a deep sense of the additional obligation now contracted, I accept, at the hands of the venerable chief magistrate of the Union, this classic token of the highest reward that a freeman can receive—THE RECORDED APPROBATION OF HIS COUNTRY."

Gen. Scott made other appropriate remarks, for which we have not room.

Description of the Medal.

The medal presented to General Scott is large and of massive gold, and is a beautiful specimen of the numismatic art,—the drawing on the previous page presents both sides of the medal, and its dimensions. The portrait of the General is accurately drawn. The inscription of the reverse face is surrounded with a palm and laurel wreath, entwined about a serpent formed into a circle—emblematic of youth crowned with victory.

VIEW OF THE CELEBRATED CASTLE OF SAN JUAN D'ULLOA, OPPOSITE VERA CRUZ.



CHAPTER VII.

The Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa.

THE part taken by Gen. Scott in the Mexican war, and especially in reducing the Castle at Vera Cruz, render any information in relation to this noted fortress of great interest.

The Castle of San Juan d'Ulloa is unquestionably the most celebrated of all American fortresses. Its construction was commenced in the year 1582, upon a bar or bank in front of the town of Vera Cruz, at the distance of 1092 Castilian varas, or yards, and it is entirely surrounded by water. The centre of the area occupied by this fortress is a small island, upon which Juan de Grijalva landed a year previous to the arrival of Cortez upon our continent; and at that period it accidentally received the name which it retains to this present day. It seems that there was a shrine or temple erected upon it, in which human victims were sacrificed to the Indian gods; and as the Spaniards were informed that these offerings were made in accordance with the commands of the kings of Acolhue, (one of the provinces of the empire,) they confounded or abbreviated this name into the word Ulloa, which they affixed to the Island.

Sixty-one years after the conquest, the building of the Castle was commenced; and although it seems to have been designed not only to defend Vera Cruz, but to attack it, in case of necessity, yet that city was sacked by the pirates, under the renowned freebooter, Lorencillo, in the year 1683.

The cost of the Castle has been estimated by various writers to have amounted to the sum of forty millions of dollars, and it may not be regarded as an exaggeration, if we consider the difficulty of obtaining some of the materials of which it is composed, and the fact that a large portion of it is built on foundations laid in the sea, whose waves it has resisted for more than two centuries.

According to a report made in January, 1775, it was the opinion of a council of war, composed of distinguished officers, that this fortress, after all its defences were completed, would require a garrison, for effective service, composed of 1700 infantry soldiers, 300 artillery soldiers, 228 soldiers, and 100 supernumeraries.

Vera Cruz and the Castle taken, March 26.

Full Particulars of the landing of the Troops, under General Scott—Storming of outposts—Surrender of City and Castle.

We give below a condensed account of our Naval and Military Operations at VERA CRUZ, up to the present time. We have taken great pains to separate from the midst of the mass of floating rumors *the truth*, and believe the following to be the most authentic account which has yet been published.

March 5th. The scene from the deck this morning is a beautiful one. More than fifty vessels are in sight, twenty of which are under sail, and standing in for Anton Lizardo. Amongst them I observe four large steamers, two of which are propellers, one ship rigged, and the other a bark. The Royal Mail Steamer passed through the midst of the fleet on her way to the city.

The Castle has opened a slow and irregular fire of shot and shells upon one of our steamers, but none appear to have touched her, some passing over and some falling short. The shells all burst too soon by several seconds, and they have stopped firing them. Several ships are in sight standing in.

2 o'clock, P. M.—The Petrita has just passed us, her hurricane deck presenting a most imposing array of military *personel*. We passed each other very rapidly; but, with a glass, I observed General Scott, Commodore Connor and Lieutenant Raines, of the 4th Artillery, in the crowd. Smaller or less interesting objects were not easily distinguishable.

9th. At about eleven the fleet began to move, and before 2 P. M., came to anchor at Sacrificios in the following order:

The Raritan frigate, containing 2800 troops, just inside Sacrificios; the Spitfire followed, towing 20 surf boats; the Princeton, with near 2000 men, came next; the Massachusetts, bearing the broad flag of General Scott, and over 1000 troops; the propeller bark Edith, the head quarters of Gen. Worth, also crowded, the propeller Endora, filled with troops, and the Albany corvette, with 900 soldiers, and towing eleven boats, next passed, in the order I have here given them, and came to anchor in beautiful style.

Then came the Potomac frigate, crowded with soldiers "alow and aloft." I should say, full 3000 men; then the old Petrita "drew her slow length along," followed by the bark "Floyd," stowed fore and aft with "rough allies,"—*teamsters*, I suppose. The "Vixen" steamer came next, filled with troops, and towing fourteen boats. To her succeeded the Oregon, (ship), full of "red coats," or red backs of some kind; the steamer "New Orleans," with Gen. Quitman and his brigade, or part of it, and Generals Jesup and Shields; next the steamer Virginia, I believe, (with four masts,) crowded; next the Alabama steamer, crowded also; then the ship Alabama, ditto; then the U. S. brig Porpoise, full as a tick—a bed tick; and the brigantine Empire, ditto. Next followed the transports Montezuma and Catharine, also crowded with troops, and the Huron, Maine, Columbia and others, with Magazines, Ordnance, Stores, &c., between thirty and forty sail in all.

Not a single collision occurred. A number of gun boats had preceded the fleet, and taken up their position in a line above the Adams, in front of Sacrificios, at the same time with that ship. The Spitfire and Vixen subsequently fell into the same line.

Description of the landing of the Troops.—Before the shipping had all fairly anchored, the process of debarkation commenced with the first division; General Worth in command. The Spitfire and 4 gunboats then shifted their berths, and took a position as close in to the mainland as they could anchor in with safety. In this movement the Spitfire got ashore, but suffered no injury of moment, and Captain Tatnall, her commander, at once passed with his boat to a point out of the way.

It would take any quantity of paper to give a full effect to description of the first landing of our troops on the afternoon of the 9th—a more stirring spectacle has probably never been witnessed in America. In the first line

there were no less than seventy surf boats, containing nearly 4,000 regulars, and all of them expected to meet an enemy before they struck the shore.

Notwithstanding this, every man was anxious to be first—they plunged into the water waist deep as they reached the shore—the “stars and stripes” were instantly floating—a rush was made for the sand hills, and amid loud shouts they pressed onward.

Another account says, at 20 minutes past 5, P. M., at a signal from the Massachusetts, the column, or rather, the field of boats, began to move, and at 50 minutes past 5 the whole line grounded, and the scene became one of indescribable interest. In an incredibly short time, the American standard was seen waving on the summit of an elevation a few rods from the beach, and a regiment was standing by it, complete and rock-like. A neighboring hill at the same instant presented the same magical feature, and another and another the same. The work was done. The sovereign and independent State of Vera Cruz was a chattel of Yankeeland.

Three long and loud cheers arose from their comrades that were yet on board, awaiting embarkation, and meanwhile the tops and every portion of the foreign vessels were crowded with spectators of the scene. Not one who witnessed it will ever forget the landing.

We are indebted to one of the officers of the Princeton for the following summary of the proceedings in this most brilliant achievement, an achievement that will redound more to the glory of our Army and Marine among the nations abroad, than any that has yet had place in our annals:—

March 9th.—Disembarkation of troops commenced.

11th.—Investment of the city completed.

18th.—Trenches opened at night.

22d.—City summoned to surrender; on refusal, seven mortars opened a fire of bomb-shells.

24th.—Navy battery of three long 32 pounders and three 68 pounders, Paixhan guns, opened a fire in the morning—distance 700 yards.

25th.—Another battery of four 24 pounders and three mortars opened this day; the naval battery opened a breach in the walls of the city. The fire was very destructive to the town.

26th.—Early in the morning the city proposed for a surrender.

Commissioners on the American side, Generals Worth and Pillow, and Colonel Totten.

26th.—Negotiations completed; city and castle surrendered—Mexican troops marched out and laid down their arms—American troops occupied the city and batteries of the town and castle. At noon on that day the American ensign was hoisted over both, and saluted by our vessels; the garrison, of about 4000 men, laying down their arms, as prisoners of war, and being sent to their homes on parole—5 generals, 60 superior officers, and 270 company officers being among the prisoners.

The total loss of the American army, from the day of landing, March 9th, is 65 persons killed and wounded. Officers killed: Capt. John R. Vinton, 2d Artillery; Capt. Alburton, 2d Infantry; Midshipman T. B. Shubrick. Wounded: Col. Dickenson, of South Carolina Volunteers, severely; Lieut. A. S. Baldwin, Navy, slightly; Lieut. DeLozin, 2d Infantry, slightly; Lieut. Lewis Neill, 2d Dragoons, severely. All the wounded are doing well.

Of the Mexicans the slaughter is said to be immense. The commanding general was stationed in the city, while his second in command held the castle.

Their regular force was about 3,000, and they had about the same number of irregulars. Outside the city was Gen. Le Vega, with a force of from 6 to 10,000 cavalry. Col. Harney, with between 2 and 300 United States dragoons, charged on and repulsed this immense force, with terrible carnage, scattering them in all directions.

They had barricaded a bridge to protect themselves, but our artillery soon knocked away this obstacle, and gave Harney's command a chance at them. In the attack on the town and castle, only our smaller vessels, drawing not over nine feet, were available; but few shot and shells were thrown into the castle, the attack being mainly upon the town. None of the enemy's missiles struck our vessels, and Midshipman Shubrick, who was killed, was serving a battery on shore. With the loss of the city the hopes of the enemy fell, as they had not provisions enough in the castle to sustain a protracted siege.