

Our Special Monterey Correspondence.

MONTEREY, Jan. 5, 1860.

The Reactionists in Possession of San Luis and Zacatecas—Retirement of the Liberal Forces—Forced Loans by General Garza—The Governmentship of the State—Minister McLane's Treaty—How the News of Its Negotiation was Received at Vera Cruz—Vidaurre Probably Elected Governor of San Luis, &c.

As I advised you in my last, the reactionists took possession of San Luis and Zacatecas after the retiring of the liberal forces. The last named forces made a stand at Matehuala, some sixty leagues this side of San Luis, numbering about three thousand, under the command of Governor Garza and General Uruga, but upon the approach of the reactionary forces from San Luis, Governor Garza, with the principal part of the army, took the road for Tala, in his own State, deeming it undoubtedly a more secure point for himself, forces and friends. This redoubtable General and all the Tamaulipans have thus far acted upon the maxim that he who "runs away will live to fight another day." Although he has not thus displayed any great military capacity or fighting propensity, he has proved himself second to none in the matter of imposing forced loans upon foreigners and robbing conduct. You will recollect the money he extorted from the English, French, American and Spanish merchants of Tampico, about a year since, which money the liberal government were obliged to refund, and to administer to the Governor a strong reproof for his conduct. He has since exacted no more forced loans, but the other day he happened to encounter a train of wagons on their way to this city with remittances from the interior for our merchants, and he modestly helped himself therefrom to the pretty little sum of \$50,000. Reclamations will, of course, be made for the same, and ultimately the general government will be obliged to repay it. But that will not help the poor merchants at present, who have their notes to pay and will be greatly embarrassed in their business by this lawless act of robbery.

The reactionaries occupied Matehuala as soon as Garza left, and it is supposed that they will endeavor to come to this city. If they see fit to come, there is nothing to prevent them. Efforts are now being made to get together an army of 2,000 men to oppose their coming, and some progress has already been made in the matter.

Colonel Quiroga will leave in a few days with a part of the forces, and General Zuazua will follow with the remainder shortly after. I have my doubts if they attempt coming, as they would be too far removed from their field of operations and liable to be cut off by an army in their rear.

Vidaurre and Arranberri are the two prominent candidates for Governor of this State, under the election lately ordered by the Legislature. It is doubtful whether either will have a majority of the votes, in which case it will fall upon the Legislature to appoint one or the other. The election took place ten days ago, but in this slow country it will be some weeks before we shall know the result. The returns come in upon the backs of mules and jackasses, and not upon railroads or telegraphic wires, as in more civilized countries, so that lightning speed cannot be expected here.

Vidaurre has returned to his native town after a brief sojourn of two months in the neighboring State of Texas. He visited San Antonio and Austin, the seat of government, and was very well received at each of these places. He brings back with him a strong admiration for the progress, the rapid growth and genuine prosperity of that State since it came under American rule. If every public man in Mexico could spend, not only a few months, but two years, not in the State of Texas, but in the older sections of the Union, we might expect something like an approach to a free and enlightened government in Mexico. As it is, with their antiquated notions, their old Spanish forms of proceedings and rules of law, their arbitrary ideas of government, true free freedom has but little chance. A little stronger infusion of the Anglo-Saxon race will soon remedy the difficulty, and this we shall have soon, if the treaty negotiated by Mr. McLane shall be promptly ratified by the United States Senate, as should be done. With this body now rests the responsibility, and it is to be hoped that this body will, for once, laying aside all party and sectional feelings, respond heartily to the call of duty and patriotism. The news that a treaty had been negotiated at Vera Cruz was received here with the greatest joy and satisfaction by all American citizens, and the only long and gloomy faces to be seen were those of the Gachupins, or bigotted Spaniards. The more intelligent portion of the Mexicans seem to be entirely satisfied with the provisions of the treaty, being convinced that without assistance from the United States peace cannot be restored to their distracted country.

JAN. 6, 1860.

It appears from the accounts received last night and this morning that Vidaurre will be elected by a large majority. This is at this moment the opinion. Arranberri has given himself up entirely to dissipation, and his best friends have deserted him, as he is siding now with the reactionary party, and of course, to make political adherents, proclaims loudly against the Ocampo-McLane treaty. This of course is of no consequence, as he is now done up completely. It appears that Mr. Galendo's trip to the United States, for the purchase of arms, has cost the government a round sum, as, besides his expenses, he has managed to lay aside some \$25,000. So things go now in Mexico, and he has been discarded by Vidaurre and all parties.

RIO GRANDE CITY RETAKEN—BATTLE WITH CORTINAS AND HIS BANDITTI, AND THEIR TERRIBLE DEFEAT—FROM SIXTY TO NINETY KILLED—CORTINAS ESCAPES—SIXTEEN AMERICANS WOUNDED—A LIST OF THEIR NAMES—FULL PARTICULARS OF THE BATTLE, ETC.

We append the following description of the battle between Cortinas, the Mexican bandit, whose outrages on the American territory on the Rio Grande have frequently been noticed in this journal, and Major Heintzelman, of the United States army, with a force of one hundred and fifty regular troops and a body of Texan Rangers under Col. Ford. The telegraphic news of this event was published in the HERALD of the 13th inst.:-

RIO GRANDE CITY, Dec. 28, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR—On the 26th Captain Ford obtained permission of Major Heintzelman to make a forced march for this place, to cut off the enemy if they attempted to retreat. He started with his old company and Captain Herron's, numbering about eighty men. Soon after leaving camp, eighteen miles below this, he met six men, Cortinas' scouts, and fired upon them, killing one, it is believed. Soon after this he caught a spy, and from him obtained information that Cortinas had possession of this place, and having from five to six hundred men, intended giving us battle. This changed the original intention of Captain Ford, that of occupying the road leading from here to Roma, in order to force the enemy to give him battle. He accordingly ordered a halt, to await the coming up of Major Heintzelman, who had also made a forced night's march. By daylight we were in sight of Ringgold barracks, ready and anxious to attack the enemy.

Captain Ford, in command of the Ranger force, was directed to get a position on the opposite side of the city, so as to cut off the possibility of a retreat, whilst Major Heintzelman, with one hundred and fifty regulars and two twenty-four pound howitzers, would advance and bring on the engagement. Captain Ford, with the advance guard, came directly upon the enemy's outposts and drove them in, and at once commenced surrounding the town, in the following order:—Lieut. Walker's company in the advance, followed by Captain Hampton, next Captain Tomlinson, then Tobin, and lastly Hampton.

So soon as the town was thoroughly invested, Captain Ford learned that Cortinas was a mile from the place, well posted and over confident of a speedy victory. So soon as Major Heintzelman could be informed of this fact, Captain Ford gave the order to advance in double quick time. Captain Tobin, meantime, having been directed to take a position to the right and attack the left wing of the enemy, whilst Captain Ford advanced by the main road to attack his centre.

Brisk firing immediately commenced and was kept up for half a mile, when Ford gave the order to charge, which was enthusiastically obeyed by every member of his command, numbering about eighty men. The charge was continued until within forty or fifty yards of two pieces of artillery. Seeing four or five hundred men defending the position, Captain Ford ordered his men to halt, fire to the right and form in the dense chaparral. The movement was quickly executed, though performed under a perfect volley of musketry and cannon, and a heavier fire I have never witnessed, ineffective as it was. This position Captain Ford held against the entire force of the enemy, notwithstanding he was nearly surrounded, and at one time a volley of rifle shots were poured in upon him from the rear, at which juncture Tomlinson, Tobin and others, not finding a pass through the chaparral, and laying fallen back, came upon the party, and in conjunction with Captain Ford's command, succeeded in dispersing them. Meantime, Lieutenant Walker and Captain Herron's companies were advancing upon the enemy's centre and left, commanded in person by Captain Ford. Here Captain Tomlinson, who had taken so active and effective a part in driving in the enemy's flanking parties, came up and gallantly joined in the fight upon the enemies centre. Soon after, Captain Tobin and Lieutenant Littleton, who had been assisting the attack upon the left wing, joined in with portions of their companies; when Captain Ford, believing his force sufficiently strong to warrant it, ordered a charge. Under it the enemy soon gave way and commenced a retreat, covering his cannon and rear with his whole force.

Most of the Rangers, finding such a course most effective, had become dismounted and were acting as skirmishers, which prevented a second charge, to take the cannon, and, by the time they were remounted and in order, the enemy had taken a retreat of about a mile.

A detachment of the enemy that had been cut off from the main body by Captain Ford's forces, made for the Rio Grande. Major Heintzelman, finding it impossible to get up with the infantry and artillery, (his men being worn down by the forty miles march in the preceding twenty-four hours,) had ordered Captain Stoneman forward with his company of dragoons, who arrived just in time to charge that portion of the enemy as they were attempting to cross the river; wherein ten of their number were killed. Their retreat being cut off by a party of Rangers higher up the river, where a portion of them made a second attempt to reach the other side, ten more were killed.

The enemy's loss at this one point could not have been less than forty-five or fifty, whilst our forces lost none, and only eight or ten wounded.

Major Heintzelman arrived upon the battle ground with the main force just in time to find the enemy in full retreat; there not being so much an opportunity for this noble specimen of a soldier to take a part in the engagement. He continued his march, however, as rapidly as possible, in the direction whence came the report of battle. Meantime, Capt. Ford was keeping up a fire on the fleeing enemy, and wishing to punish them as severely as possible, did not care to take their cannon, but by so doing they would disperse, seeking the almost impenetrable chaparral for a cover.

For ten miles they were hotly pursued, many of their number having fallen by the hand of the sharpshooters, when Capt. Ford ordered a charge, which though made on horses that had travelled a distance of sixty miles without rest, was prompt and very effective. No sooner had

one gun been taken than was the charge enthusiastically renewed; resulting in the taking of the other and only remaining piece of artillery. Whereupon the root of the enemy became general and complete. Capt. Ford's men continued to follow them in old ranger style. Every man then became his own commander, and pursued in the direction which promised the most certain results. For more than an hour guns could be heard on all sides, and as each man returned he had some token of his skill to show his commander that he had not been idle while absent from his company.

The Rangers soon concentrated, and Capt. Ford seeing the victory was complete, sent a portion of the men into a bend of the river on the track of some lancers; they returned and reported that Cortinas had crossed with only twenty-four mounted men into Mexico.

Capt. Tobin and all the Rangers except some of Lieut. Walker's, Capt. Herron's, and a portion of the different companies, and some few officers, returned to Ringgold barracks. Capt. Ford and the remaining forces, passed on to Roma to save it from being sacked, and its inhabitants from sharing the same fate as did those of this place, and many others upon the river but a few days since. He was successful and reached Roma before any of Cortinas' band had time to concentrate upon it—he remained but a short time and returned to Major Heintzelman's command, five miles this side of Roma, and after reporting to him, left for this place, where he will remain, I presume, for several days. What will be the next movement depends upon the future.

It was a glorious victory, and "Old Rip Ford," and the entire Ranger force, have won laurels enough for one day, and have redeemed the honor of Texas from the stain that had been cast upon her, at Brownsville, by the defeat of the Rangers.

Cortinas left everything—horses, baggage and all his munitions of war behind, promiscuously scattered over an area of country ten miles in extent, so complete was the rout.

It is now left to the future to determine whether our government will demand Cortinas of Mexico, and if she refuse to give him up, will it not be sufficient cause for immediate occupation of Northern Mexico by our forces, until they give us indemnity for the past and permanent security for the future?

This is the feeling of every American in the entire command; you can rest assured of this. It cannot be denied but that Cortinas has received aid and reinforcements from Mexico, and even has crossed over and received public entertainments at Matamoros, Reynosa and at all other points upon the Rio Grande. Besides this, the facts before us are, that he has destroyed only American property, and has murdered only Americans on his route, except when some previous personal difficulty led him to kill one of his own countrymen. We have just learned that Cortinas is now collecting forces to recross the Rio Grande, to commence the war again; if so, will not Texas send forces to the frontier in sufficient numbers to follow him into his haunts, and chastise him whenever found, even though it should take us to the very gates of the Montezumas? I shall be mistaken in the ebulgence of her citizens, if they will longer allow an enemy upon their borders, who has steeped his hands in the blood of so many of their fellow citizens, and who has dared to hoist a Mexican flag upon Texas soil.

I would like to mention in detail many of the officers and men who have won golden opinions of all who saw them perform acts of daring and bravery which have given to the Texas Ranger the prestige of old lang syne; but when so many have done so well their whole duty, it would be invidious to mention any for fear of doing others injustice.

Major Heintzelman has proven himself to be an efficient officer, and is justly entitled to the highest encomiums from the State of Texas, and should receive a vote of thanks from her Legislature for his prompt and energetic action. And the officers of his command have acquitted themselves with honor in rendering him every assistance in their power to consummate the objects so desirable to be attained.

The loss of the enemy is not, and cannot be accurately known, it is very great, however, in both killed and wounded. No prisoners were taken.

The following is the list of our wounded:—

- Capt. John S. Ford, two contusions from grape shot;
- Adj. Col. D. McKee, slightly; Capt. Wm. E. Henry, not severe; Mr. Davis, severely; Jesse Kay, slightly; James Richards, slightly; John Griffin, slightly; Stephen Ferrill, severely; Frank L. Ettrage, slightly; James T. Gallaway, slightly; Richard Butler, slightly; Joseph Amoroso, slightly; Dr. J. Hough, severely; Marcellus Harris, slightly; John M. Ingraham, slightly; C. Reich, slightly.

S. A. LOCKRIDGE.

Cortinas, as has been learned upon good authority, lost in killed and missing 200 men.

Colonel Ford is a most brave man, and unquestionably the best ranger captain living. He rode up to within a few yards of the mouth of Cortinas' cannon, and four times the cannon was fired at him, each time wounding him, but not severely; a piece of one finger was taken off, and a piece of iron from the cannon struck him in the groin, but a book and belt that he had in the pocket of his blouse, no doubt, saved him from an ugly wound.

Cortinas' canister shot was made of buckshot, round iron balls, and of iron and nails, no doubt made in Matamoros. Colonel Ford deserves well of his country; he is a noble specimen of a man and a soldier.