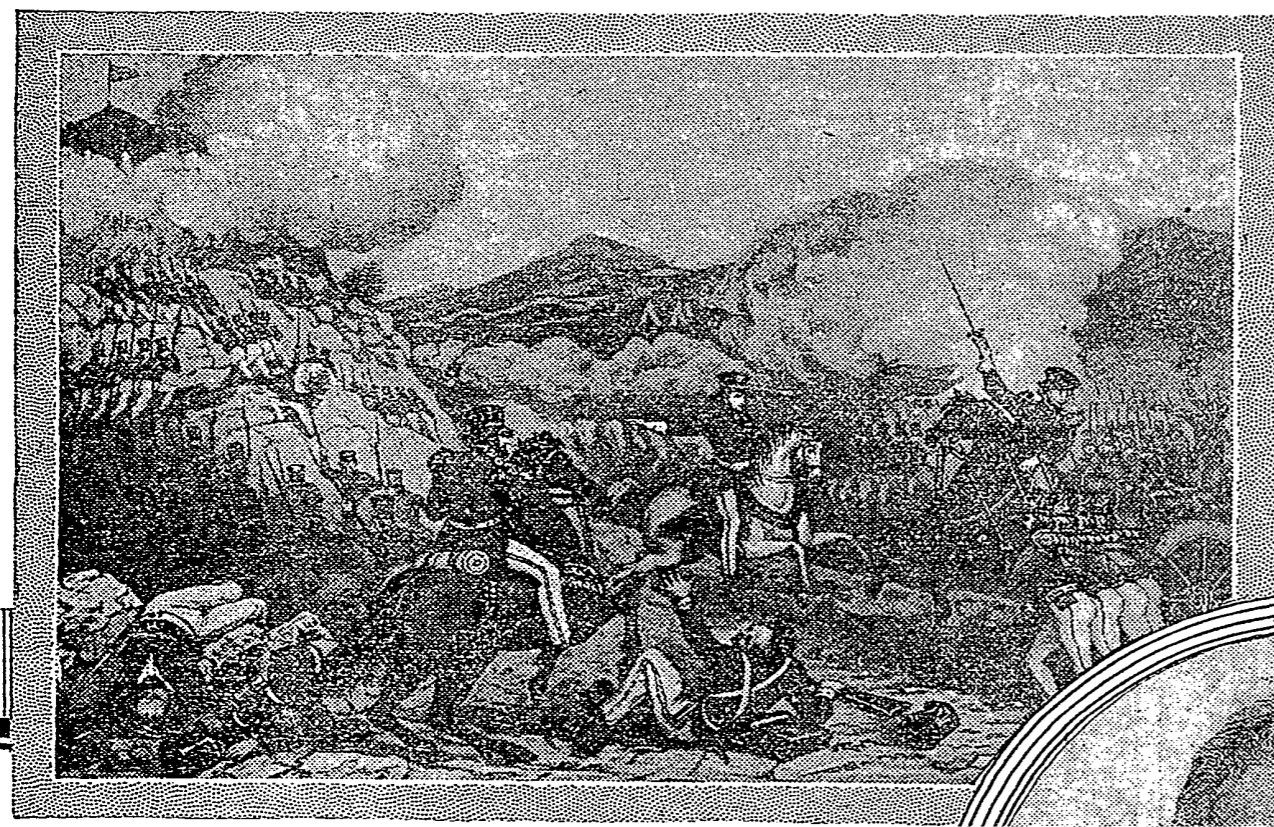


WHEN WE HAD WAR WITH MEXICO SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

How American Armies Marched Conquering Through the Southern Republic, Defeated Forces Many Times Their Size, and Then Dismembered Her.



STORMING OF PALACE HILL AT THE BATTLE OF MONTEREY

BECAUSE old Moses Austin, a typical Down Easter originally from Durham, Conn., back in 1820 sought permission from the Mexican Commandant General at Monterey to colonize some 300 families in the Mexican State of Texas, and packed up and was on his way there without so much as waiting for a reply, the United States a quarter of a century later waged a two-years' war with her sister republic, in the end taking over to herself 651,000 square miles of new territory, not counting that part of Texas which had already been admitted as a State. This vast area was more than half of all Mexico, and nearly one-third of the present area of the United States.

There isn't such a wide difference between the situation confronting the United States and Mexico sixty-five years ago and now. Gen. "Zach" Taylor, as his soldiers called him behind his back and often before his face, too, when he went unrecognized among them without uniform or insignia of rank, had plenty of bluejackets then on the border between the countries. As a result also of Moses Austin's colonization bee, American citizens had hundreds of thousands of dollars invested even then in property in Mexico.

The Yankee merchant had invaded the towns of Matamoras, Chihuahua, Monterey, Saltillo, and dozens of others, including the City of Mexico itself, and when a succession of revolutions came along and destroyed their property they applied to the American Government to be paid for their losses. The Americans living in Mexico had themselves been in great personal danger, and were still. The claims they had against the Mexican Government were pressed by this country, but collections were poor, in fact, there were no collections, because almost as soon as the claims could be drawn up and got in proper shape for presentation, along would come a revolution, with a change in the government, and not one government wanted to inherit the debts of its predecessor.

declared that her territory extended south and west to the Rio Grande. Mexico said it extended only to the river Nueces. Mexico began immediately to mass an army on the banks of the Rio Grande at Matamoras, fearing disturbances in Texas, it was said. The picture has since been reversed, and it has seemingly been reversed a number of times in the light

feated, and when the news came in, along with the hundreds of wounded who were brought into the city in sacks hung over the backs of mules and burros, the women furiously tore down and stamped upon the wreaths with which they had decked their houses in anticipation of victory, and joined their lamentations with the cries of the dying.

The Mexicans retreated into the States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon, while the Americans, soon reinforced by thousands of volunteers, began a comprehensive campaign of invasion.

The United States army immediately spangled off into three branches. Gen. Kearney was sent off in command of the Army of the West to capture the present territory of New Mexico, and then push on to the conquest of California. Gen. Taylor was put in command of the Army of Occupation, and Gen. Wool, for whom the old Rip-Raps Fort in Hampton Roads was named, directed the Army of the Centre.

and the subsequent inrush of Forty-niners. Turning on his heel after having accomplished the subjugation of the New Mexican Territory, Gen. Kearney gave his attention to the second portion of his assignment. This was to invade Chihuahua, and thus form a conjunction with Gen. Wool's forces, which had been ordered south. The carrying of war into the present limits of Mexico was intrusted by Gen. Kearney to Col. Doniphan, and the march south begun Dec. 14, 1846.

Meantime Gen. Taylor had occupied Matamoras, on the south bank of the Rio Grande, which had been evacuated by Gen. Arista a few days after the crushing defeat of Resaca de la Palma. On Aug. 10, Gen. Taylor, with 6,700 men, including raw recruits, started across the State of Tamaulipas, along what is now the route of the Mexican Central Railroad, toward Monterey, the principal city of Nuevo Leon, where Gen. Ampudia was in command of 10,000 troops.

The American Army arrived in a month to a day, and three days later attacked. Another three days, and he was in possession of the city, though he had to fight a much larger force than his own, entrenched behind strong fortifications on home territory.

About this time Gen. Winfield Scott, Commander in Chief, took active direction of the conquest. He withdrew from Gen. Taylor the major portion of his troops, instructing him to establish his headquarters at Monterey, and refrain from further offensive operations. Through captured dispatches Santa Anna, who dislodged President Paredes and made himself the head of the Government, learned of Taylor's depleted forces, and advanced with 20,000 men on Gen. Taylor, who had less than 5,000 men, stationed at Saltillo.

The battle of Buena Vista followed, be-

of this fight, in which the Americans were victorious in spite of the great odds against them, was Col. Jefferson Davis, commanding the Mississippi regiment, afterward President of the Southern Confederacy.

Santa Anna was forced after two days' fighting to withdraw, and then the order came for Gen. Taylor to return home on a leave of absence. Further campaign in this direction was useless; but before Gen. Taylor left he received official information that Col. Doniphan had captured Chihuahua City, over which the Federal troops and the Maderists were disputing so hotly a few days ago when the armistice was declared.

Gen. Scott had determined to take the shortest road to the Mexican capital, as the shortest route to peace and victory. On March 9, 1847, Gen. Scott began to land his 12,000 men at Vera Cruz, for a series of marches across country to Mexico City. Vera Cruz surrendered on March 29, and Scott moved on.

At Cerro Gordo, a mountain pass, sixty miles from Vera Cruz, Santa Anna, at the head of an army of 8,500 men, awaited him. Scott started the fight on April 18, and never let up until he had driven Santa Anna ten miles back toward his capital. Then came a succession of victories at San Antonio and Churubusco, and finally Chapultepec, and Mexico City itself.

The total American losses in the Mexico City campaign were 2,700 men, including 383 officers, while the Mexicans lost 7,000 men, killed and wounded, and nearly 4,000 prisoners of war. The treaty of peace, called the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, was signed on Feb. 2, 1848, and by it the United States acquired an imperial territory, seventeen times as great as that of New York State. The pill was a bitter

and humiliating one for Mexico, but the United States sugar-coated it to the extent of paying \$15,000,000 for the territory added to its boundaries.

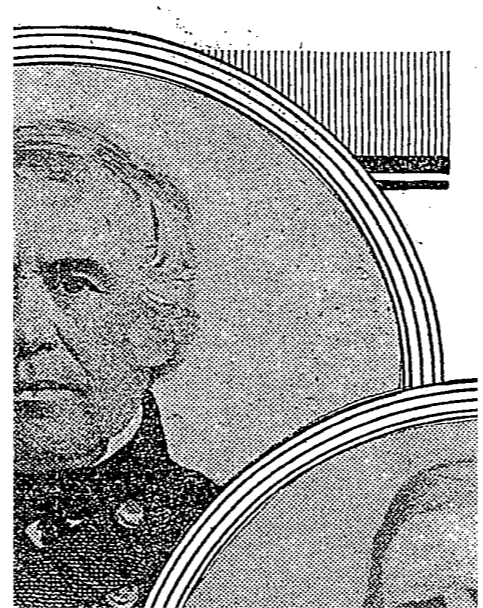
The war proved a great training ground for the leaders in the civil war, which followed thirteen years later. Gen. Grant, Gen. R. E. Lee, Gen. McClellan, Gen. Stonewall Jackson, and dozens of others who later became famous military leaders, got their first experience in actual warfare in this campaign under Gen. Scott.

Gen. Jackson was several times promoted for gallantry and efficiency between Vera Cruz and Chapultepec, and Captains Lee and McClellan, engineers for Scott's army, worked out the road plans by which the heights of Chapultepec might be ascended.

Gen. Taylor rode on a wave of popularity, which he himself started, to the Presidency.



GEN. ZACHARY TAYLOR



GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT

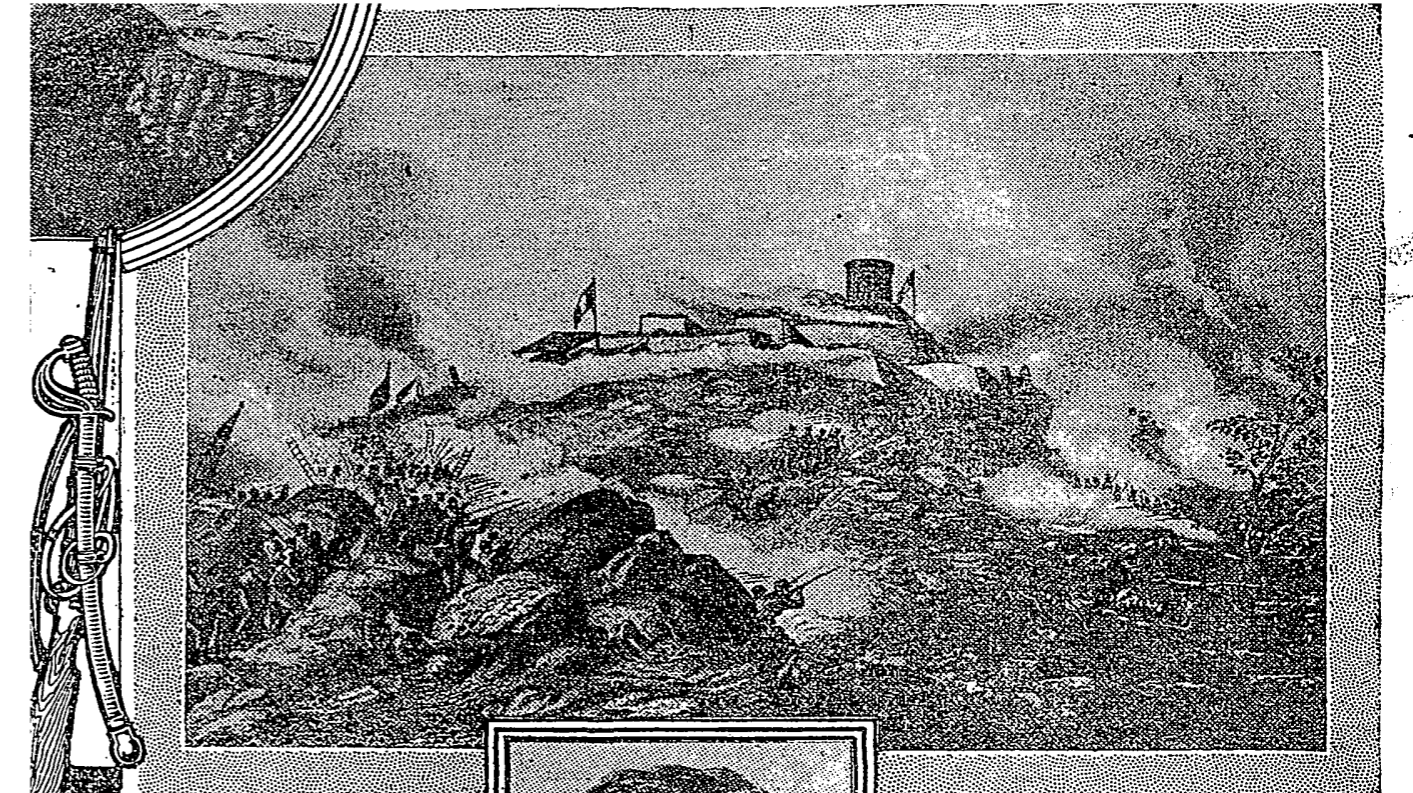
his son, whose name is given to the State capital. They were Americans through and through, and many others like them had flocked across the western tier of States to find homes on the broad prairies. Here was the opening wedge of the war. Mexico at once realized, if not before, that in encouraging American colonization it had signed away its birthright to a big slice of its domain. To a proud people a mistake like this was galling. In addition, the boundary line between the Republics of Texas and Mexico had not been more than roughly drawn, Mexico claiming territory hundreds of miles north of the Rio Grande.

The slavery question entered largely in the discussion in Congress of the application of Texas for admission. Abolitionists of New England and elsewhere feared the annexation of Texas meant, as it did, the opening of a vast area for the spread of slavery, and for the extension of the power of the Democratic Party, which did not oppose slavery. Texas then held 200,000 square miles of undisputed territory. The Benton of Missouri remarked in the Senate that Texas was large enough to be ate that Texas was large enough to be carved into nine slaveholding States, each as large as Kentucky, and the Whigs and as large as Kentucky, and the thought that if Free-soilers, realizing this, thought that if Texas was admitted their hope of control over the Government was forever gone, and slavery a fixed institution. Consequently, the opposition to admitting the new State.

On the other hand, others saw the overwhelming advantage to their side of the acquisition of this imperial Texan territory, and demanded it, closing all ears to objections from whatever source. The soil was therefore ripe for the seed which Mexico, blind to the consequences and boastful of the superiority of its soldiery over that of the United States, was anxious to sow. Texas was admitted in March, 1845. Many of those Americans having claims against Mexico for destroyed property lived in Texas, and the annexation of that territory gave the United States, it was asserted, still better right to press for an early and ample settlement.

Mexico regarded the annexation of Texas as an act of war in itself. The boundary disputes between Texas and Mexico were transferred to the United States, and Mexico was in no humor to conduct negotiations of any sort just then with the Americans. Texas

Gen. Kearney's army, consisting largely of volunteers, with Col. Alexander W. Doniphan, the most prominent officer in the expedition, as second in command, was massed at Fort Leavenworth on the Missouri River, and after a short delay was marched 2,000 miles toward Santa Fe and the Pacific. The vast territory of more than half a million square miles capitulated to the army of volunteers without the striking of a single blow. Gen. Kearney at one time learned that 2,000 Mexicans awaited him at Las Vegas, but when he got there the Mexicans had fled, and the Americans had come merely for a feast instead of a fight. Kearney later pushed on into Upper California, which he occupied after an inconsequential skirmish on land and demonstration on sea successively by Commodores Sloat and Stockton.



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The whole vast territory was won practically without bloodshed, the gate to California being opened to Americans just in time for the discovery of gold



GEN. SANTA ANNA

BATTLE OF CHAPULTEPEC

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