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WHOLE NUMBER 929.

NAVAL BATTLE OFF VERA CRUZ.

Capture of the Mexican Steamers--Progress of the Siege--Journal of Events.

The arrival of the prize steamer Miram

on in New Orleans has already been an-

nounced. The following account of the

events which preceded and accompanied

the capture, we find in the correspondence

of the New Orleans Picayune of the 22d.

FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE STEAMERS.

Vera Cruz, March 6.

This morning we have news, through an intercessed letter, from Corona to Miram, asking for assistance, saying that the City of Mexico is seriously threatened by the Liberals.

Three of the officers of Miram, were taken prisoners last evening by some "Rancheros," and brought into the city this morning.

Miram yesterday made two attempts to plant his batteries—one at Camp Santo and the other behind the Medano del Perro—but the quick and well directed bombs from the different forts drove the enemy from his position.

About half past eight o'clock this morning there appeared in sight two steam steamers, and about one o'clock P. M., they passed the castle just outside the shoals without showing any flag, as customary, and in consequence the Governor of the Castle caused a blank shot to be fired as a signal to show their flag or nationality; but no answer was made to it, and supposing them to be the Spanish piratical expedition of Marin, preparations were immediately made to pursue them and ascertain the cause of their strange appearance off the coast and their object.

Capt. S., at once gave his orders to Captain Turner of the Saratoga, to get his ship ready and pursue the strange vessels, and I presume gave him orders to use his best discretion and ascertain their flag. The affair was admirably managed; the two steamers, Indianola and Wave, were immediately put in readiness to give tow to the Saratoga, and Captain Jarvis also ordered some sixty marines and sailors on board the Indianola, under charge of first Lieut. Bryson of the Preble, and thirty more on board of the Wave, under charge of Lieut. Kennard of the Savannah, who were respectively placed in the command of the steamers; in the mean time, the two mysterious vessels had gone to Anton Lizardo and there come to anchor.

In order not to excite suspicions, the vessels were kept in port until after the shades of night, when they left in the direction of the mysterious steamers, and to-morrow morning we shall have the result.

The two Spanish brigs of war lying at Sacremento, have been seen for several nights past, taking munitions of war on shore in boats for the aid of Miram.

PROSPECT OF THE STEAMERS--PARTICULARS

OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

Vera Cruz, March 7, 1860.

At about 12 o'clock last night cannonading was heard in the direction of Anton Lizardo, the first of which was from a gun of small calibre, and supposed to be shot from the strange steamers, after which several broadsides and single shots were heard from the Alameda and Wave, and the latter was dropped at intervals for some fifty minutes; it is supposed that the steamers have been captured.

There was a good deal of firing from the fortifications and castle during the night, and it is said that a column of Miram's troops came as far as the Alameda, but they were soon dispersed by the bombs thrown among them, and considerable signs of blood were seen, bayonets, coats, and equipments found scattered on the ground. It is supposed that a good many were killed and wounded.

The gallant Capt. Turner, has brought the two ships into port, and they prove to be the Santa Anna and the Miram; one was formerly the Marquis of Havana, and the other Paquete No. 1, under command of ex-Capt. Marin.

From an authentic source and eye witness, I have received an account of the taking of Marin.

Capt. Turner had the Saratoga towed very near the two mysterious steamers, when he ordered the Wave and Indianola to let go their lines and stand ready for further orders. This was about 12 o'clock at night, and a beautiful moonlight. It appears that the strangers had their steam up and ready for an emergency, as on nearing them they were in the act of slipping their cables to be off. Capt. T. hailed them to know who they were, but received no reply. In the meantime they were getting under way, when, he (Capt. Turner) fired a shot across the bows of the former steamer as a signal to stop her, that he might know her nationality, which vessel proved to be the Miram, commanded by ex-Commodore Marin, armed with three heavy guns, and some smaller ones, with a crew of 100 men. Instead, however, of stopping he (Marin) kept on, and immediately commenced firing cannon and muskets into the Indianola and the Wave, and also there were muskets at the same time fired from the Marquis of Havana. At this Captain Turner silenced the latter vessel with one broadside, and fired several broadsides at Marin. The Marquis of Havana immediately surrendered; but there was a running fight for three quarters of an hour between the steamer Miram, under the command of Marin, and the two little steamers Indianola and Wave. I learn that Lieut. Bryson had a little twelve pound brass piece, with which and the Minnie rifles, he peppered Marin severely on one quarter, while the Wave, under Lieut. Kennard, with his Minnie rifles, were telling severely on the other. The description reminds one of the blackbirds pouncing down upon the crow; it was too hot work for the old Commodore—he had to surrender.

Lieut. Bryson and Kennard deserve great credit for their gallantry, as Marin made a stout resistance.

Marin hoisted no flag, but the Captain of the Marquis of Havana, after the mischievous was done, hoisted the Spanish flag.

Marin and the Captain of the Marquis of Havana, were immediately ordered on board the Saratoga, when Captain Turner asked Marin if they knew who they were. He replied that he knew they were Americans. Captain T. then asked him how he dared to fire into him in this manner,

instead of announcing his nationality; to which he replied that he had a mixed crew of Spaniards, Portuguese and Manila men, badly disciplined, and that he could not prevent it. Marin's vessel received a shot through and through from the Saratoga, which killed one of his engineers.

The Indianola received several shots from the Miram, wounding one of our men badly, and also bruising Gen. Goenaga, the owner of the Indianola, with the splinters. On the part of Marin, there were some 25 killed and wounded.

These vessels were cleared from Havana by the Mexican Consul as Mexican vessels, and were loaded with all kinds of munitions of war and provisions, for the use of Miram in his attack upon Vera Cruz.

From all accounts there is no doubt that the Spanish Government has been acting covertly in this affair, which confirms my statement in my letter of the 28th ult., that the whole world knows that munitions of war of any kind are not permitted on the Island of Cuba except for the use of the Government. Powder and guns were also found on the Marquis of Havana. It appears the Mexican (Miram) Consul assisted in shipping the men on board of both steamers.

MOVEMENTS BEFORE THE CITY.

Vera Cruz, March 9.

Yesterday and last night there was some considerate firing at intervals to disperse the working and reconnoitering parties of Miram. This morning there were three deserters and a prisoner brought in from his camp. They report that near the Medano del Perro, there fifteen men killed by the bursting of bombs from the city fort, and a good many wounded; and that also a bomb shot from the castle, last evening killed four men and one officer near Camp Santo; and that the day before yesterday Miram's army had only rice and beans to eat, and that yesterday only fresh meat was dealt out to them. So that it appears that he is getting short of provisions.

They also report that his army is very much demoralized—that they have no courage to make a serious attack—that there is a good deal of sickness in the camp, and increasing daily. It is now supposed that as soon as his forces arrive from Alvarado, which place he has evacuated, that he will immediately commence his retreat.

A section of cavalry were sent out this morning to destroy the works of the enemy, at Campo Santo, Malibran and Medano del Perro, which was effectually done.

Yesterday a rather amusing incident occurred here between the French Consul and the Commander of the Spanish squadron. It appears that they were both curious at the Yankees for having taken the two steamers, one of which, the Marquis of Havana, was claimed to be Spanish, and they were about getting up protest on the part of the Spanish Government, when very suddenly, the Spanish commander came to his senses, and concluded that he had better let the affair alone, as it might lead to an investigation which would compromise the Captain General of Cuba; and so the matter, like a hot cake, was dropped.

PROGRESS OF THE BESIEGING WORKS.

Vera Cruz, March 10, 1860.

This morning, two deserters presented themselves to the Consul and the Commander of the Spanish squadron. It appears that they were both curious at the Yankees for having taken the two steamers, one of which, the Marquis of Havana, was claimed to be Spanish, and they were about getting up protest on the part of the Spanish Government, when very suddenly, the Spanish commander came to his senses, and concluded that he had better let the affair alone, as it might lead to an investigation which would compromise the Captain General of Cuba; and so the matter, like a hot cake, was dropped.

PROGRESS OF THE BESIEGING WORKS.

Vera Cruz, March 11.

At about half past four o'clock yesterday afternoon the cannonading was again resumed against the Trinchero or breastworks of the enemy, at the Medano del Perro, and better directed shot I never saw. It was almost equal to rifle shooting. The large 80 pounders were made to boom in continued succession from three of the batteries, and in thirty minutes the breastworks of the enemy were a good deal injured, and the bursting of shells in the trenches soon dispersed the sappers, and must have killed a great many of them.

REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER ON INTEREST.

How many people in the country have found out the truth of the following by Henry Ward Beecher:

"No bluster draws sharper than interest. Of all industries none is comparable to that of interest. It works day and night, in fair weather and foul. It is the speed of a thousand miles from Savannah, and they reached it at 5:20; they ascended precisely at 5:07—so they were just thirteen minutes in traversing the distance."

Notwithstanding Macaulay's reputation for conversational power, he appears to have uttered few *bon mots*, to have made few conversational points which are repeated and remembered. One of the few good stories current of him is the following:

"It is said he met Mrs. Beecher Stowe at Sir Charles Trevelyan's and rallied her on her admiration of Shakespeare.

"Which of his characters do you like the best?" said he. "Desdemona," said the lady. "Ah, of course," was the reply, "for she was the only one who ran after a black man."

There is a proposition before the Maine Legislature to remove the Capital of that State from Augusta to Portland.

How to avoid drowning—always keep your head above water.

PERILOUS ADVENTURES OF AERO-NAUTS—A FLIGHT OF FORTY MILES IN THIRTEEN MINUTES—NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

On Thursday last, a Mr. Cevor, accompanied by one Mr. Dalton, made a beautiful ascent at Savannah, in the presence of several thousand admiring spectators. Their voyage through the air was a delightful one until it came to a conclusion, which approached too near the tragical to be very interesting. The particulars are thus detailed in the Republican of Monday:

"After leaving the city a few miles behind them, the balloon entered a current which bore it to the eastward, and hence directly out to sea. The greatest altitude attained was between two and a half and three and three quarters miles, at which point both land were entirely shut out from view. Seeing nothing and borne along on the rapid current of air, all was perfectly still and the aeronauts unconscious of motion though going at the rate of over three miles to the minute. The roar of the ocean, though, was distinctly heard from beneath, and just then they entered another current that bore them more northward. It was determined to descend and take the chances rather than be carried out to sea. The valve was opened for the escape of gas, and the grapping iron thrown out to the length of the cord, 200

"The balloon descended rapidly, and the anchor finally attached itself to a tree on Danfusky Island. So great however, was the force of the current that the cable snatched like a thread, and the balloon suddenly mounted up to a great height and moved off in a northeasterly direction towards Callaboga Sound, which though several miles in width, had the appearance of a very narrow stream. To descend in the Sound, and risk an encounter with the water, or to be carried out to sea with all its uncertainties became the only alternatives.

Mr. Cevor decided promptly on the former, but so rapid was the flight of the balloon, that he had to act promptly in order to strike the Sound. The valve was raised and the air ship came down, as Mr. Cevor informs us, with almost the velocity of a cannon ball, gaining momentum in its passage. It struck the water with great force completely submerging the voyagers. In going down, however, Mr. Cevor, had the presence of mind to dip his ears so as to enter the water edgewise, and thus, in some measure, break the force of the concussion.

On rising to the surface and finding themselves unhurt, Mr. Cevor and his companion became composed, and set to work deliberately to save themselves and the balloon. They had lost their ballasts, provisions, everything in the descent, and the great point was to prevent the balloon from rising out of the water. A heavy gale was prevailing in the Sound, and they were between five and six miles from shore.

By keeping one edge of the car under water, it would afford sufficient resistance to answer the purpose of ballast. This was done by Mr. Cevor, while Mr. Dalton took his stand on the ring to which the netting is attached, and which kept the bottom of the balloon on the surface. In this condition, and often submerged to their chins, the balloon was made to dip his ears, the balloon was made to answer the purpose of ballast. Eventually they approached a marsh, and discovered persons on the beach, looking with apparent astonishment at the strange spectacle. Mr. Cevor and his companion cried for help at the top of their voices and soon a boat manned by negroes and their overseer, Mr. George Savage, was despatched to aid them.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* says, in commenting upon the letter:

He comes fully up to the standard of Republicanism laid down in the call for our National Convention. The vital principle of the Republican organization is opposition to the extension of slavery, based upon a conviction of the social and political evil of that institution. Could anything be more decided and unequivocal than the avowals of Judge Bates on this head? And these are views which he stands upon the old Whig platform?

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