

Quitman was ordered by Scott to maneuver against the Belen *garita*, in order thus to divert the enemy from concentrating all their forces on Worth. But, his men could not be restrained. Onward they pushed, under flank and direct fires, over their own fast falling comrades—onward, until Belen was carried and the city entered. The strong Citadel near, where Santa Anna had taken refuge, remained unsilenced, however, and the men suffered severely, not only from its tremendous fire but also from musketry poured in from housetops and windows around. The indomitable leader resolved to hold his ground:—his men were the first to enter the fated capital, and they should retain their prize and honors. He therefore threw up strong protecting defenses, and awaited the coming of morning to push forward to the Great Square, or to take such other steps as the General-in-Chief should direct.

Thus closed the fortunes of that most memorable of days to the little army. Many a gallant spirit had fallen in the conquest, but the joy at victory overshadowed even regrets for the brave dead, and the troops fell asleep to dream of the fabled glories of that fabled city of kings.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

ENTRANCE TO THE CAPITAL—ITS OCCUPATION—QUITMAN GOVERNOR—PRESERVATION OF ORDER—EFFORTS TO SECURE A TREATY—MR. TRIST RECALLED—TARRIES TO CONSUMMATE THE NEGOTIATIONS—SCOTT SUSPENDED FROM COMMAND—RETURNS HOME—HONORS BESTOWED UPON HIM.

A COUNCIL of Mexican commanders was held in the Citadel early in the evening of the 13th, to take action in the extreme state of affairs. Crimination and recrimination followed. Santa Anna "washed his hands of the defeat," for which other Generals were responsible! Generals Carrera, Perez, Lombardini and Alcosta no longer relied on their men, for they were thoroughly demoralized by defeat. Nothing therefore remained but to evacuate the capital. Lombardini was named Commander-in-Chief, Perez his second, to whom all military