

we charged by the help of fascines. It was defended by heavy artillery, manned by the most learned and skillful gunners of their army, including some French artilleryists of distinction. The infantry force consisted of the officers and students of the institution, and the national guards, and chosen men of war of the republic—the whole under the command of General Bravo, whom we made prisoner. The whole hill is spotted with forts and outposts, and stone and mud walls, which were filled with their picket or Castle-guard. A huge, high stone wall extends around the whole frowning craggy mount, and another along the south-east base, midway from the former and the Castle. A well-paved road leads up in a triangular form to the main gate, entering the south *terre-plein*; and the whole works are ingeniously and beautifully ornamented with Spanish fastidiousness and skill."

Of the approaches to the city Scott in his Official Report says:—

"The city of Mexico stands on a slight swell of ground, near the center of an irregular basin, and is girdled with a ditch in its greater extent—a navigable canal of great breadth and depth—very difficult to bridge in the presence of an enemy, and serving at once for drainage, custom-house purposes, and military defense; leaving eight entrances or gates, over arches, each of which we found defended by a system of strong works, that seemed to require nothing but some men and guns to be impregnable."

On the night of September 11th four heavy batteries were mounted, under direction of the engineers, Huger and Lee, on a ridge between Tacubaya and the height—in charge, respectively, of Captains Drum, Hagner, Brooks and Lieutenant Stone—which opened fire on the morning of the 12th. All day the cannonade was kept up. Bombs with hissing fuses flew in magnificent arches through the air, and dropped, to burst with terrific violence, within the inclosure above. The great balls leaped from the guns, and went careering overhead like dark meteors, to tear and crash through the ramparts and walls with all the awful havoc of an earthquake. The men only rested at their guns when darkness descended over all with its protecting shadows.

Previous to this bombardment, the troops had made imposing demonstrations before the southern gates of the city. During the day (11th) Scott surveyed the gates very closely, using as a covering party Pillow's entire division and Colonel

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