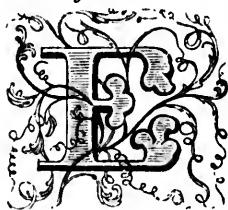


and other public property had been collected, and also that several American soldiers were confined there, in close imprisonment, I moved from Puebla toward that place at seven o'clock, on the evening of the 22d instant, with one piece of artillery, and one hundred and sixty men. Although retarded by five hours rain, we reached Matamoras at seven o'clock on the 23d—accomplishing a march of fifty four miles in twelve hours. Coming upon the advance guard of the enemy, we charged and drove them in upon the main body. In this short and sanguinary action from sixty to eighty of the enemy were killed and wounded. We did not lose a man. Twenty-one American soldiers were set free, and restored to the service, armed with muskets and mounted upon horses taken from the enemy. Three pieces of bronzed artillery, twelve tons of shot, twelve boxes of fixed ammunition, twenty-seven bales escopette and musket balls, seven bales slow and quick matches, five hundred muskets, five hundred sabres, one hundred horses, medical stores and other public property fell into our hands. Of these the muskets, ammunition, artillery, and sabres were distributed among the men; the remainder destroyed.



EARLY on the morning of the 24th, we moved toward Puebla. While moving with difficulty through a long mountainous pass (Pass de Galaxra) five miles from Matamoras, the train became considerably extended. The artillery and four wagons containing captured property, and driven by Mexicans, had fallen in the rear, and were slowly progressing under my immediate superintendence, when it was reported that the enemy had appeared in front. Colonel Hays was immediately ordered to repair to the head of the column, and to engage the enemy with the advance guard. He formed a small party of observation, pursued by about two hundred lancers. These he charged, broke and pursued across an extended plain, and up a long precipitous ascent, toward the mountains from which they had made the attack. Here they were reinforced by a reserve of five hundred lancers, under General Rea. As Hays's men numbered but about thirty-five, and were not only destitute of

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