1894

Origin and Fall of the Alamo, March 6, 1836

John S. Ford

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/sbtscrapbook

Recommended Citation
Ford, John S., "Origin and Fall of the Alamo, March 6, 1836" (1894). Satanta & Big Tree Scrapbook. 3.
https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/sbtscrapbook/3

Copyright © 1894 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.
https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/sbtscrapbook
ORIGIN AND FALL
OF THE ALAMO,
MARCH,
A. D. 1836

Col. Ino. S. Ford, Author.
Alamo Monument Association.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.

CHARTERED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS.

MRS. MARY A. MAVERICK............................ PRESIDENT
NATHANIEL MITCHELL............................... VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN S. FORD........................................ VICE PRESIDENT
HAMILTON P. BEE....................................... SECRETARY

DIRECTORS.
W. H. YOUNG, MRS. A. J. DIGNOWITY,
MRS. GEO. NEWTON, SAM MAVERICK,
MRS. GEO. CHABOT, SR., R. B. GREEN,
MORRILL POOR, CARLOS BEE,
C. L. DIGNOWITY, SAM LYTLE,
BRYAN CALLAGHAN, HART MUSSEY,
ARTHUR SHELLIGSON,

Published by authority.

H. P. BEE,
Sec'y Alamo Monument Ass'n.
Origin and Fall of the Alamo

March 6, 1836

BY JOHN S. FORD,
One of a Committee of the Alamo Association.

1894:
JOHNSON BROTHERS PRINTING COMPANY,
San Antonio, Texas.
Copyright applied for.
San Antonio, December 1, 1894.

The committee, appointed to prepare a history of the Alamo, report as follows:

In treating of the Alamo it is due to the people of Texas to give, at least, a short account of the settlement of Americans in Texas, and of the causes leading to the revolution of 1835 and 1836. There were Americans in Texas previous to the advent of Moses Austin, December, 1820. Anterior to this period of time Americans had entered Texas with a view of assisting the revolutionists in the war they were waging against the King of Spain. They effected good service on several occasions. In the interior portions of Mexico Americans rendered considerable aid to the Mexicans. The United States in throwing off the yoke of England was an example many states in America endeavored to imitate. The effect of these causes gave to Americans a distinguished consideration. It was, no doubt, one of the main inducements causing a favorable answer to be made to Moses Austin when he applied for authority to introduce settlers into Texas. This authority was granted in 1821.

It must be remembered that La Salle had entered Texas in 1685, and had made a settlement of Frenchmen, and had built Fort St. Louis, on the Lavacca river. This fact, with others of a later date, induced the Viceroy of Mexico, the Duke of Linares, to take steps for the permanent occupation of Texas. He sent Don Domingo Ramon with troops, and a party of Franciscan friars to civilize and christianize Indians. This occurred in 1715. Ramon established some forts and missions. He located a fort, or presidio as the Spaniards call them, on San Pedro creek, three-fourths of a mile from the public square of the city of San Antonio. The name given to this presidio was San Antonio de Valero. In 1718 the Franciscans established a mission at this place. It was removed on more than one occasion, and was located on what is now the Military plaza of San Antonio. From there it was removed, in 1718, to its present site, the east bank of the San Antonio river, and is known as the church of the Alamo.
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

It received a supply of water by means of the Alamo ditch—
Acequia Madre del Alamo. The erection of the church was com-
menced in 1716. It faces to the west. There were other build-
ings connected with the church. East of the church stood the
Convent, 191 feet in length; it ran north to the south line of East
Houston street. There was an enclosure north of the Convent
yard. There were houses attached to the mission, which had
been inhabited. Outside of the mission were houses occupied, at
one time by christianized Indians. They abandoned them when
the Texians took possession of the Alamo. It was in these houses
that the Texians found eighty or ninety bushels of corn. The
walls of the Alamo and the adjoining structures were too ex-
tensive to be occupied and defended by 150 men.

After the death of Moses Austin, his son, Stephen F. Aus-
tin, proceeded to carry into effect the introduction of settlers into
Texas.

Great attention to Texas had been drawn by the reports of
men who had been engaged with officers who had entered Texas
to aid the Mexicans in achieving their independence. It was
known that Mexico was encouraging emigration. When Austin
visited the City of Mexico, he found a number of influential gent-
lemen asking for permission to become empresarios, that is, to
become leaders of immigrants. They were offered, and, as a rule,
received a grant of land for the introduction of each person. Aus-
tin succeeded, and began his settlements on the Brazos river.
Other gentlemen were also successful. The country began to fill
up with settlers. It was full of Indians, who were opposed to the
introduction of white people. They waged an incessant and cruel
war upon the Texians.

The leaders in Mexico became jealous of the accession of
Americans as citizens. They evinced their opposition by acts of
oppression. The American settlers had sworn to obey and sup-
port the Mexican constitution of 1824. By several acts of Gen.
Santa Anna indicating his intention to assume the dictatorial
position the people of Texas became assured of his intention to
overthrow the constitution of 1824. The people of Texas had
given the Mexican government some very convincing proofs of
their intention not to submit to the exercise of any illegal and
tyrannical acts against them.

The government of the United States had proposed to pay
the Mexican government $4,000,000 for Texas. This proposition
angered the Mexicans, and increased their antipathy to Texians. They began to persecute them by sending troops, not to chastise Indians, but to check and punish Texians for their adhesion to correct and liberal principles. These military aiders of tyranny were expelled from Texas. One of these envoys of a despotic president was an American by birth, Col. Bradburn. He robbed Texians, and made prisoners of William B. Travis, Patrick H. Jack and Monroe Edwards. The Texians embodied, elected Col. Francis W. Johnson to command. By their representations to Col. Piedras, commander at Nacogdoches, Col. Bradburn was removed from Texas. This event took place in 1831. Bradburn was posted at Anahuac. On June 25th Capt. John Austin, at the head of sixty men, defeated Lt.-Col. Ugartechea, at Fort Velasco. He had 125 men. August 2, 1832, Col. James W. Bullock defeated Col. Piedras at Nacogdoches. These affairs took place while President Bustamente was in power in Mexico. The Texians took sides with Santa Anna at that time. He was beaten by Gen. Santa Anna, who succeeded to the presidency of Mexico. The people of Texas reposing confidence in Santa Anna declared for him. He had been one of the heroes in the Mexican struggle for independence. He soon undeceived them; became dictator; overthrew the constitution of 1824, and issued an order for the disarming of the people—one man out of every five hundred was allowed to own a firelock. On May 16, 1833, Santa Anna took his seat as President of Mexico. At that date Stephen F. Austin was a prisoner in the City of Mexico. Austin had belonged to a convention to form a constitution for Texas. That body elected Austin, W. H. Wharton and Miller to present to the President of Mexico a statement of affairs in Texas. It was written by David G. Burnet, afterwards President of Texas. Stephen F. Austin was the only person who visited Mexico. This was in March, 1833, Santa Anna, at that time, had retired from the Mexican capitol. He was scheming to effect the work he afterwards performed, that is, to be made President under laws he dictated. He, after various trials to have Austin condemned by a court, allowed him to return to Texas. He arrived in September 1835.

Col. Austin found the people of Texas in great excitement. They had discovered that Santa Anna was unfriendly to them. The municipalities of different sections had held public meetings, and announced their intention to support the Mexican constitu-
tion of 1824. It must be remembered that the Indians had made war upon them, and they were compelled, as a measure of personal safety, to carry arms at all times. Circumstances made them watchful and efficient soldiers. War was forced upon them; necessity caused them to bear arms; God had implanted in their natures the principles of honor and integrity; and practice had converted them into heroes in the cause of right.

The Texians appealed to their fellow citizens of Mexico without effect. They used every effort in their power to prove their disposition to be peaceful, and useful citizens of the Republic of Mexico. It was all of no avail. In 1834 Santa Anna determined to send 4,000 troops to San Antonio. He sent Col. Juan N. Almonte into Texas; as a spy, no doubt. On October 13, 1834, the first revolutionary meeting in Texas was held at San Antonio. They approved the calling of a convention at that place, to meet November 15. This motion was made by Don. Erasmo Seguin. October 20th another meeting was held, at San Felipe. They proposed a dissolution of Texas from the State of Coahuila.

In January 1835, the Congress of Mexico met. The State of Zacetecas had declared for the constitution of 1824. The Congress declared Zacetecas in a state of rebellion. This induced Gen. Santa Anna to head 3,400 men to march into Zacetecas. May 10, 1835, Don Francisco Garcia, at the head of 5,000 troops, was defeated by Santa Anna. The City of Zacetecas was delivered to the Mexican soldiers, and was plundered for two days. The people of Texas now saw what they might expect from President Santa Anna. Gen. Cos, a brother-in-law of Santa Anna, was ordered from Matamoras to Monclova to disperse the legislature of Coahuila, which he accomplished.

Meantime the people were preparing to meet the coming war. The municipalities resolved to do their duty. In July, 1835, Lorenzo de Zavala, late governor of the State and City of Mexico, arrived in Texas. He was made Minister to France, but fled from Santa Anna. The Texians formed committees of public safety. July 17, 1835, there was a meeting of representatives of the municipalities of Austin, Columbia and Mina, held at San Felipe. They did some good.

The Mexican forces were expected in October to aid in the change of government in Texas. Immigrants from the United States, since the law of April 6, 1830, were to be driven from the
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

country. A long list of proscribed Texians had been prepared. They were to be arrested and tried by a drum-head court. Slaves were to be freed. *Empresarios* dismissed—none but emigrants from Mexico admitted. These were among the objects proposed to be accomplished. These intended changes spurred the Texians on to resistance.

In 1835 the command of Capt. Tenorio, at Auaahuac, were captured by Col. Wm. B. Travis. The Texians of Columbus issued a call for "a consultation of all Texas." It was dated August 20, 1835. Col. Ugartechea was removed from command, at Goliad, by Gen. Cos, Col. Candelle took his place. He stripped Goliad of arms, forced the citizens to become soldiers, and ordered five soldiers to be quartered on each family. He placed the alcade in jail, and forced the *administrador* to hand over $5,000, under penalty of going to San Antonio in two hours, on foot. Gen. Cos reached San Antonio late in September, 1835.

In 1831 a piece of artillery had been furnished the town of Gonzales by the commandant at San Antonio. Ugartechea, in San Antonio, in 1835, sent a messenger to demand the cannon. It was refused. Cos ordered Capt. Castonado to take one hundred men and secure the cannon. He reached Gonzales September 29, 1835.

During the interval the committee of safety had sent runners to procure men. The men came. They numbered 168, and elected John H. Moore Colonel, and J. W. E. Wallace, Lt. Col. The Texians crossed the river Gaudalupe, and firing occurred—some Mexicans reported killed. Capt. Castonado retreated. This affair opened the revolution.

The Texians felt the importance of united action and preparation. The committees of safety agreed to send one of their number from each municipality to San Felipe, for the purpose of procuring unity and concert in measures. Of this R. R. Royall was chosen president. The people of San Augustine nominated Gen. Sam Houston to command her troops. Nacogdoches approved the suggestion. The money paid for land and custom-house dues was appropriated by the Texians. Efforts were made to secure arms and ammunition. The people were united. The spirit of '76 was in the ascendant. Less than 100,000 in population, threw down the gauntlet to an organized government of 8,000,000. They knew the penalty of failure was death in all its horrible forms.
The volunteers arrived daily at Gonzales. They made a proposition to defer the meeting of the consultation till November first. October 12th five hundred men crossed the Gaudalupe river, destined for San Antonio. The resolution had been formed to drive every Mexican soldier out of Texas. Stephen F. Austin arrived at Gonzales October 10th. He was elected general. The fight at the Mission of Concepcion took place on October 28th. The Texians numbered ninety, the Mexicans several hundred. Victory perched on the banner of the revolutionists.

The members of the consultation in the Texas army were permitted to proceed to San Felipe. The army besieged San Antonio. Gen. Austin was appointed to visit the United States to procure men and means. His colleagues were Dr. Branch T. Archer and W. H. Wharton. Edward Burleson was elected to command. On December 10, 1835, Gen. Cos surrendered.

The incidents of the siege of San Antonio are worthy of notice. It was reported in the Texian camp that Col. Ugartechea was on his way with reinforcements for Gen. Cos. A force of Texians under Col. Bowie, with Deaf Smith as guide, was sent out to intercept Ugartechea. Gen. Cos had sent men out to obtain a supply of grass for his horses. They were on their return and about five miles from the city they were discovered. When they were within a mile of town, the Texians, under Bowie, charged them. A fight ensued. The Mexicans were endeavoring to reach their headquarters. Gen. Cos detached reinforcements. The main body of the Texas troops came up. They charged, and the Mexicans continued to fight though moving for town. Their loss was about fifty killed and a number wounded. The Texians had none killed, two wounded and one missing. They captured about seventy head of horses. This affair is known as the "Grass Fight." It occurred November 26, 1835.

Dr. Grant created trouble by advocating a campaign against Matamoros, Mexico. Two hundred and fifty were deluded into the belief that the Mexicans were ripe for driving Santa Anna out of Mexico. November twenty-ninth Grant was reported to have two hundred and fifty men ready to march to the Rio Grande. The annexed happenings, no doubt, prevented Dr. Grant from dividing the Texas force.

December third, 1835, Messrs. John W. Smith, Holmes and Samuel Maverick entered the Texas lines. They had been
detained by Gen. Cos since the affair at Gonzales. They reported the strength of the enemy as exaggerated. The idea of storming San Antonio had been suggested and advocated. It was popular. Meantime, about the fourth of December, Arnold, the Texas guide had returned. Lieut. Vuavis, of the Mexican army, had deserted, and was examined by Gen. Burleson. He reported dissatisfaction in the Mexican camp, that the strength in the city was much less than supposed. On the evening of that day Col. Benjamin R. Milam cried aloud, "Who will go with old Ben Milam to San Antonio?" There was a general shout of approval. The parties advocating the scheme assembled at Gen. Burleson's headquarters. They fell into line, and at once elected Milam to lead them. He directed them to meet him at the old mill at night to complete arrangements. Gen. Burleson and the whole command said the matter met their approbation. At the mills the attacking party was formed in two divisions. The first under the immediate command of Col. Milam, assisted by Col. Nidland Franks of the artillery, and Maj. R. C. Morris of the New Orleans Greys. Messrs. Maverick, Cooke and Arnold acted as guides. The second column was commanded by Col. Frank W. Johnson, assisted by Cols. James Grant and Wm. T. Austin, with Deaf Smith and John W. Smith as guides. Gen. Burleson agreed to hold his position until the result of the attack was known. Col. J. C. Neill was directed to make a feint upon the Alamo to direct the attention of the enemy, while the others were entering the town. The attacking party consisted of three hundred and one men. The companies of Captains York, Dickinson, English and Ward, composed the first division, under Col. Milam, commander. The companies of Captains Cook, Breese, Peacock, Swisher and Edwards, formed the second division under Col. Johnson.

Col. Neill performed his part. He opened fire on the Alamo, and drew the attention of the enemy to that quarter. When he heard the guns of Milam on the opposite side of the river he withdrew. Milam moved on Acequia street (Ditch street). Johnson entered Soledad street (Solitary street). These two streets run nearly south on parallel lines, and enter the Main square, the first at the northwest and the other at the northeast corner. At these points the enemy had erected works. Milam's division occupied de la Garza's house, Johnson the Veramendi house. Both these houses were about one hundred yards from
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

the Main square. The Veramendi house is still standing. The door on the street side shows signs where balls passed through. On approaching the Veramendi house, a sentinel fired on the Texians. He was killed by Deaf Smith. Upon this, the Mexicans began a furious firing from town and the Alamo. A twelve pounder and a six pounder accompanied the two divisions. The twelve pounder was soon dismounted, and the six pounder made about useless. The Texians covered themselves with difficulty. They soon opened fire with their rifles, and silenced all the artillery within their reach. The fight continued during the day. The Texians established communications between the two divisions. That day, the fifth of December, they lost one man killed and twelve wounded. Among the wounded were Lieuts. Hall and Deaf Smith.

During the night the enemy kept up a continuous fire. They placed men on the tops of houses in their possession. They cut loop-holes in the parapet walls of the houses.

On the sixth the Mexicans kept up a steady fire of cannon and small arms. On that day Lieut. William McDonald of Capt. Crane's company captured a house to the right and a little in advance of de la Garza's house. This extended the Texas line westwardly, and in direction of the Military Plaza. They strengthened their works and remounted their twelve pounder. On this day they had five men wounded.

The morning of the third day the enemy fired briskly from a trench between the Alamo and the river. By 11 o'clock this fire was silenced, and that of some of the Mexican artillery. A house stood between the Garza house and the plaza buildings. This was entered by the gallant Karnes, crowbar in hand, backed by the company of Capt. York. They held the position. In the evening the fire of the Mexicans was brisk. Col. Milam was killed at the back of the Veramendi house. He was buried near where he fell. Capt. Swisher was present at the burial, and afterwards pointed out the exact spot. This was an incentive inducing Texians to strike for vengeance.

Yoakum says: "They immediately set on foot a party to take possession of the house of Antonio Navarro, situated on the north side of the Main street, one block west of the Main plaza, but commanding a portion of the Military plaza, and the Mexican redoubt on the second block west of the main square. The party consisted of portions of the companies of Captains Llewy-
Ilcan, English, Crane and York. They advanced from the house taken by Karnes, and forced an entrance. The enemy endeavor.
ed to retake it by firing through the loop-holes made in the roof; but the Texians returned the fire through the same loop-holes, and drove them off.

On the eighth of December the "Zambrano Row" was taken. The fight was fierce and stubborn, but the enemy were finally expelled. Gen. Burleson sent a detachment under Lieut. Gill to assist the Texians. The Mexicans attempted a diversion by sending a detachment of about fifty men in the direction of the Texas camp. They were forced to retire by the fire of a six pounder. The occupants of the Zambrano Row were reinforced by the companies of Captains Swisher, Alley, Edwards and Duncan. At this time the Texians had command of the northwest portion of the enemy's main defenses.

On December eighth, at night, a party of about one hundred Texians attacked the "Priest's House." It commanded the plaza. In approaching the building the men were subjected to a heavy fire. They moved rapidly, broke down the wall of an out-building, and drove the Mexicans from the priest's house. They cut loop-holes, and prepared to use their rifles with effect when day light appeared. The enemy abandoned the square and retired to the Alamo.

On the morning of December ninth Gen. Cos sent in a flag of truce, proposing to surrender. Cos had been reinforced by five hundred convicts, conducted by Col. Ugartechea. They were chained and guarded by one hundred infantry. They were a source of trouble and disquietude. In addition, there was a dearth of provisions. The force of Gen. Cos was estimated at 800 previous to the arrival of the "volunteers." After that his force consisted of 1,400 men. These he surrendered, December 10, 1835. He pledged that he and his men were not to fight against the Texians, unless exchanged. He was allowed to purchase provisions. He begun his march to Laredo on the 14th day of December, at the head of 1,105 troops. The balance were allowed to remain in obedience terms of capitulation. The Mexican loss was about 150 killed. The Texian loss very small. The disabled and sick Mexicans were allowed to remain, and were cared for by the victors.

Col. Johnson, the leader of the attacking party after the fall of
provender had rendered them unable to carry a soldier. Gen. Santa Anna issued orders on the march, indicating his intention to treat Texians with the most relentless severity. When the Mexican command reached the Medina, Sergeant Becerra said Gen. Santa Anna was visited by a Mexican gentleman of San Antonio, Senor Navarro. The General asked questions about the Texians. He was informed there was a fandango in the city, and quite all the Texians were in attendance, no doubt. The General expressed an intention to move at once, and surprise them. A very heavy rain had fallen recently. The Medina was quite full. The army had camped on both sides the stream. The ammunition wagons were on the south side, and could not be passed over with apparent safety. There was no boat with the Mexican command. In a conversation, Gen. Santa Anna is reported to have said, that the Mission of Concepcion was better calculated to be defended by a small party than the Alamo, and he anticipated the Texians would occupy it.

February 23, 1836, the Mexican army, 4,000 strong, formed by the Desiderio hill. A Texian sentinel on the church, between Main and Military Plazas, reported a force in view. A man went up. The sentinel said the force had been moved. A spirited altercation ensued. The report of the sentinel caused excitement. In order to arrive at the truth Col. Travis directed Dr. John Sutherland and Mr. J. W. Smith to ride out and see. They proceeded to Desiderio hill, looked below, and saw an army drawn up, not far from them. They retreated rapidly. Sutherland’s horse moved badly. His feet seemed clogged with mud. He turned over, topsy-turvy, fell on Sutherland, crippled him and broke his gun. He laid on Sutherland till Smith alighted, and pulled him off. When they reached the public square the Texians were retiring to the Alamo. On their march they came upon a herd of cattle, twenty-five or thirty in number. These they drove into the Alamo.

Dr. Sutherland wrote an account of the fall of the Alamo. It is the nearest evidence of one of the noble defenders of the Alamo we have. The wounds he received from the fall of his horse rendered him incapable of bearing arms. He was employed in the effort to procure reinforcements to the garrison of the Alamo. This will be noticed hereafter. According to Dr. Sutherland Gen. Santa Anna sent a couple of officers, under a white flag. They were met by Maj. Morris and Captain Martin, at a foot-
prised, defeated and many of them killed. Gen. Urrea had moved from Matamoros. He destroyed the command of Col. Fannin. They surrendered as prisoners, and the main portion of them were afterwards shot, by order of Gen. Santa Anna, in violation of the rules of civilized warfare. The Alamo had previously fallen. The number of soldiers who had been sacrificed by the vaulting ambition of a few leaders, and the acts of a few members of the consultation, amounted to nearly one thousand. These, if they had obeyed Gen. Houston's order to fall back, and concentrate, would have been able to meet Santa Anna on the outskirts of the settlements, beaten him, and secured peace.

After Dr. Grant had stripped San Antonio of men and means there was left of the garrison 150 men. They had been poorly paid. Col. Neill had received orders to burn the Alamo, destroy what he was unable to remove, and march to a designated place. He has never published his reason for disobedience of orders. He left, it is averred, to procure transportation for the arms, and public property, in the city. Deaf Smith accompanied him, which was a deprivation to the men of the garrison. About this time Col. Travis arrived, he brought about thirty men. He assumed command of the regulars. Col. Bowie commanded the volunteers. He had visited the different commands aiming to march into Mexico, and endeavored to persuade them to desist, and obey orders. He came to San Antonio; it was his home. After the departure of Deaf Smith there was no one the Texians placed confidence in who could inform them of the approach of Gen. Santa Anna. He was expected, but no one knew when he would arrive. Col. Seguin was in the employ of the Texians. He was afterwards in the battle of San Jacinto. He sent a relative to Laredo. He returned, and reported Gen. Santa Anna at Laredo, at the head of an army. The Texians would not believe him.

Gen. Santa Anna proceeded up the Rio Grande to a point opposite Presidio Rio Grande, to effect a junction with troops coming from the State of Coahuila. At Laredo he met the retiring corps of Gen. Cos. This command was forced to violate the terms of their surrender, and return to Texas. Santa Anna marched upon the road direct from Presidio Norte to San Antonio. Prairie fires had destroyed the grass. Sergeant Becerra, of Santa Anna's army, affirms, that the members of a mounted regiment had to walk and lead their horses. The want of
provender had rendered them unable to carry a soldier. Gen. Santa Anna issued orders on the march, indicating his intention to treat Texians with the most relentless severity. When the Mexican command reached the Medina, Sergeant Becerra said Gen. Santa Anna was visited by a Mexican gentleman of San Antonio, Senor Navarro. The General asked questions about the Texians. He was informed there was a fandango in the city, and quite all the Texians were in attendance, no doubt. The General expressed an intention to move at once, and surprise them. A very heavy rain had fallen recently. The Medina was quite full. The army had camped on both sides the stream. The ammunition wagons were on the south side, and could not be passed over with apparent safety. There was no boat with the Mexican command. In a conversation, Gen. Santa Anna is reported to have said, that the Mission of Concepcion was better calculated to be defended by a small party than the Alamo, and he anticipated the Texians would occupy it. February 23, 1836, the Mexican army, 4,000 strong, formed by the Desiderio hill. A Texian sentinel on the church, between Main and Military Plazas, reported a force in view. A man went up. The sentinel said the force had been moved. A spirited altercation ensued. The report of the sentinel caused excitement. In order to arrive at the truth Col. Travis directed Dr. John Sutherland and Mr. J. W. Smith, to ride out and see. They proceeded to Desiderio hill, looked below, and saw an army drawn up, not far from them. They retreated rapidly. Sutherland's horse moved badly. His feet seemed clogged with mud. He turned over, topsy-turvy, fell on Sutherland, crippled him and broke his gun. He laid on Sutherland till Smith alighted, and pulled him off. When they reached the public square the Texians were retiring to the Alamo. On their march they came upon a herd of cattle, twenty-five or thirty in number. These they drove into the Alamo.

Dr. Sutherland wrote an account of the fall of the Alamo. It is the nearest evidence of one of the noble defenders of the Alamo we have. The wounds he received from the fall of his horse rendered him incapable of bearing arms. He was employed in the effort to procure reinforcements to the garrison of the Alamo. This will be noticed hereafter. According to Dr. Sutherland Gen. Santa Anna sent a couple of officers, under a white flag. They were met by Maj. Morris and Captain Martin, at a foot-
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

bridge on the river, about where Commerce street crosses the San Antonio river. The Mexican officers demanded an unconditional surrender, which was refused. As an answer, Col. Travis ordered a cannon to be fired at the part of town occupied by the Mexican troops.

As stated by Sergeant Becerra, Gen. Santa Anna intended to cross the river below town, out of reach of the fire of the Texian artillery. To obtain wood for the construction of a bridge, he directed Gen. Castrillon to proceed with two companies of the Matamoras battalion to the neighborhood of the Alamo, and take wood from the houses. Gen. Castrillon endeavored to obey the order. He reached the designated point, and was soon under the fire of the Texians. In a short while Castrillon reported to Santa Anna, saying in substance: "if you wish any of the two companies of the Battalion to remain alive you had better order them to retire at once." They were withdrawn. Within a few minutes they had lost thirty men. Gen. Castrillon reported having met two ladies. The result of the announcement was the performance of a mock marriage ceremony—Gen. Santa Anna as groom, and a beautiful Mexican woman as bride, and a rascally Mexican soldier as priest.

Becerra states: "Col Mora was ordered to take position north and east of the Alamo to prevent escape from the fort."—"A small fort was commenced above the Alamo." This was finished, but was not approved by Gen. Santa Anna. Another fort was constructed by Gen. Amador, nearer the Alamo, on the hill to the northeast. The firing from the Alamo was kept up with spirit.

The intention of Gen. Santa Anna was to take the Alamo by escalade. He brought 4,000 troops to Texas. He awaited the arrival of Gen. Tolsa, in command of 2,000 troops. He arrived on the third day of March. The exultation and shouts of the Mexicans on that day induced Dr. Sutherland to believe that Santa Anna came on that date.

Here the Doctor's estimate of the Texian force will be given: "The strength of the Texians at Bexar now consisted of one hundred and fifty-two men. Eighty of these were a part of the original garrison, who had not caught the Matamoras fever; twenty-five had returned with Col. Bowie from Goliad. Col. Travis had brought with him about twenty; Col. Crockett twelve; Capt. Patten eleven. These detachments, with their respective commanders, make the number. A few days after their
concentration, some twenty Mexicans of the city joined them, increasing the number to one hundred and seventy-two."

Counting the commanders of these bodies and the twenty Mexicans increases the number to 192. The idea suggesting itself to any sensible man would be, what did Gen. Santa Anna wait for Gen. Tolosa for? He had 4,000 men. Was he doubtful of attacking less than 200 men? An expressive compliment to the bravery of the soldiers of Texas. Texas had not paid them. They had not been supplied with medicine, until Dr. Sutherland had been appointed Surgeon. They had nothing to eat but beef and corn bread. These supplies were obtained by accident, as has been seen. There was a spirit in these men that no earthly power could conquer. Death could visit the body. The heroic resolution passed hence with the soul to another world, unchanged and unchangeable. The love of liberty, the determination to maintain it, is a gift from God. In the garrison of the Alamo it ruled.

On the twenty-fourth of February Col. Travis wrote an appeal to the people of Texas:

"COMMANDY OF THE ALAMO. Bexar, February 24, 1836.

"Fellow-Citizens and Compatriots: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continued bombardment for twenty-four hours, and have not lost a man. The enemy have demanded a surrender at discretion; otherwise the garrison is to be put to the sword; if the place is taken, I have answered the summons with a cannon shot, and our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat. Then I call on you in the name of liberty, of patriotism, and of everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid with all despatch. The enemy are receiving reinforcements daily, and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. Though this call may be neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible, and die like a soldier who forgets not what is due to his own honor and that of his country. Victory or death!

W. BARRET TRAVIS.
Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding.

P. S. The Lord is on our side. When the enemy appeared in sight, we had not three busheIs of corn. We have since found in deserted houses, eighty or ninety bushels, and got into the walls twenty or thirty head of beeves."

"T."
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

Col. Travis was unapprised of Santa Anna's number of soldiers. He spoke of what he had seen. Why was his appeal not answered by the appearance of reinforcements? The reason is obvious—the trouble between the governor and the committee raised to assist him. This committee had forwarded the forces of Texas to Goliad and San Patricio. They had as far as they could superseded Gen. Houston as commander-in-chief. At the same time they named no one to take his place. Col. Fannin and Col. Johnson each expected to be commandant of the army to invade Mexico. Had they united their forces they could have defeated the force under Gen. Urrea. He defeated them in detail. Gov. Smith, to whom Gen. Houston remained faithful, after his trouble with the committee, granted the general a furlough till March first. The people of Texas were uncertain what they should do. They did little during this period, and the Alamo fell.

Col. Travis wrote to Col. Fannin, February twenty-third, asking him to come to his relief. Fannin failed from want of transportation. Gen. Santa Anna was notified of Fannin's effort to reinforce Travis. On the twenty-ninth of February he despatched Gen. Sesma, with a force, to meet Fannin. The return of Fannin to Goliad prevented his meeting Gen. Sesma.

Dr. Sutherland and John W. Smith were sent to procure reinforcements for Col. Travis. They visited Gonzales. There they obtained thirty-two recruits. These they conducted to the neighborhood of San Antonio. Smith conducted them to the Alamo, March first. Sutherland still unable to perform military service remained outside.

The fight continued without abatement. On the third of March Col. Travis made his last appeal for help to the President of the Convention, which convened at Washington, on the first of the month. Among expressions used were the following: "The blood-red banners which waved on the church at Bexar, and the camp above him, were tokens that the war was one of vengeance against rebels." To a friend in Washington he wrote: "Take care of my little boy. If the country should be saved, I may make him a splendid fortune; but if the country should be lost, and I perish, he will have nothing but the proud recollection that he is the son of a man who died for his country."

William Corner wrote a history of San Antonio in which is published Sidney Lanier's Historical Sketch. He notices the
withdrawal of the Mexican troops from the Alamo, March third.
The following is given as incidents of that day:

"About two hours before sunset on the 3rd of March, 1836, the bombardment suddenly ceased, and the enemy withdrew an unusual distance. * * * Col. Travis collected all his effective men in a single file, and taking his position in front of the centre, he stood for some moments apparently speechless from emotion; then nerving himself for the occasion, he addressed them substantially as follows:

"My companions: Stern necessity compels me to employ the few moments afforded by this probably brief cessation of conflict, in making known the most interesting, yet the most solemn, melancholy and yet unwelcome fact that humanity can realize. * * * Our fate is sealed. Within a few days, perhaps a very few hours, we must be in eternity! I have deceived you long by the promise of help; but I crave your pardon, hoping that after hearing my explanation you will not only regard my conduct as pardonable, but heartily sympathize with me in my extreme necessity. * * * I have continually received the strongest assurances of help from home. Every letter from the council, and every one that I have seen from individuals at home, have teemed with assurances that our people were willing, ready and anxious to come to our relief. * * * These assurances I received as facts. * * * In the honest and simple confidence of my heart I have transmitted you these promises of help and my confident hope of success. But the promised help has not come, and our hopes are not to be realized. I have evidently confided too much in the promises of our friends; but let us not be in haste to censure them. * * * Our friends were evidently not informed of our perilous condition in time to save us. Doubtless they would have been here by the time they expected any considerable force of the enemy.

"My calls on Col. Fannin remain unanswered, and my messengers have not returned. The probabilities are that his whole command has fallen into the hands of the enemy, or been cut to pieces, and that our couriers have been cut off." [So does this brave simple soul refuse to feel any bitterness in the hour of death.] "Then we must die. * * * Our business is not to make a fruitless effort to save our lives, but to choose the manner of our death. But three modes are presented to us; let us choose that by which we may best serve our country. Shall we sur-
render, and be deliberately shot without taking the life of a single enemy? Shall we try to cut our way out through the Mexican ranks, and be butchered before we can kill twenty of our adversaries? I am opposed to either method. * * * Let us resolve to withstand our enemies to the last, and at each advance to kill as many of them as possible. And when at last they shall storm our fortress, let us kill them as they come! Kill them as they scale our walls! Kill them as they leap within! Kill them as they raise their weapons, and as they use them! Kill them as they kill our companions! and continue to kill them as long as one of us shall remain alive! * * * But I leave every man to his own choice. Should any man prefer to surrender * * or attempt an escape * * * he is at liberty to do so. My own choice is to stay in the fort and die for my country, fighting as long as breath shall remain in my body. This will I do even if you leave me alone. Do as you think best; but no man can die with me without affording me comfort in the hour of death."

"Col. Travis then drew his sword, and with the point traced a line upon the ground extending from the right to the left of the file. Then resuming his position in front of the center, he said: "I now want every man who is determined to stay here and die with me to come across this line. Who will be the first? March."

The first respondent was Tapley Holland, who leaped the line at a bound, exclaiming, "I am ready to die for my country." His example was instantly followed by every man in the file, with exception of Rose. Every sick man that could walk, arose from his bunk, and tottered across the line. Col. Bowie, who could not leave his bed, said: "Boys, I am not able to come to you, but I wish some of you would be so kind as to remove my cot over there." Four men instantly ran to the cot, and each lifting a corner carried it over. Then every sick man that could not walk made the same request, and had his cot removed in the same way.

"Rose was deeply affected, but differently from his companions. He stood till every man but himself had crossed the line. He sank upon the ground, covered his face, and yielded to his own reflections. * * * A bright idea came to his relief; he spoke the Mexican dialect very fluently, and could he once get out of the fort, he might easily pass for a Mexican and effect his escape. He directed a searching glance at the cot of Col. Bowie. Col. David Crockett was leaning over the cot, conversing with
its occupant: in an undertone. After a few seconds Bowie looked at Rose and said: "You seem not to be willing to die with us, Rose." "No," said Rose, "I am not prepared to die, and shall not do so if I can avoid it." Then Crockett also looked at him, and said, "You may as well conclude to die with us, old man, for escape is impossible." Rose made no reply, but looked at the top of the wall. "I have often done worse than climb that wall," thought he. Suiting the action to the thought, he sprang up, seized his wallet of unwashed clothes, and ascended the wall. Standing on its top, he looked down within to take a last view of his dying friends. They were all now in motion, but what they were doing he heeded not; overpowered by his feelings, he looked away, and saw them no more. * * * He threw down his wallet, and leaped after it. * * * He took the road which led down the river, around a bend to the ford, and through the town by the church. He waded the river at the ford, and passed through the town. He saw no person, * * * but the doors were all closed; and San Antonio appeared as a deserted city.

"After passing through the town he turned down the river. A stillness as of death prevailed. When he had gone about a quarter of a mile below the town, his ears were saluted by the thunder of the bombardment which was then renewed. That thunder continued to remind him that his friends were true to their cause, by a continued roar, with but slight intervals, until a little before sunrise, on the morning of the sixth, when it ceased and he heard it no more."

Rose stopped at the house of Zuber. His account of the incidents of March third was published in the Texas Almanac of 1873. Mr. W. P. and Mary Ann Zuber are responsible for its authenticity as coming from Rose. They affirm that Rose proceeded to Nacogdoches county.

After the arrival of Gen. Tolza there was, as previously stated, a suspension of operations for a time. The intentions of Gen. Santa Anna seemed to have been to allow no cessation of attack, and to allow the small garrison of Texians no time to sleep. They were overworked, worn down, almost asleep when firing.

Sergeant Becerra thus describes the preparations for a final assault: "On the third of March Gen. Tolza arrived. The greatest activity prevailed in every department. The plan of assault was formed and communicated to the commanders of
corps, and others, on the fifth. On the same day ammunition, scaling ladders, etc., were distributed. Everything was made ready for the storming. During the night troops were placed in position. About three o’clock on the morning of the sixth the battalion Matamoros was marched to a point near the river, and above the Alamo. In their rear were two thousand men under Gen. Cos. Gen. Castrillon commanded this part of the army. Gen. Tolza’s command held the ground below the Alamo. Gen. Santa Anna spent the night in the work near the Alamo. The troops were to march to the attack when the bugler at headquarters sounded the advance. * * * The bugle was sounded at 4 o’clock a.m., March 6, 1836.

“‘The troops of Gen. Castrillon moved in silence. They reached the fort, planted scaling ladders, and commenced ascending, some mounted on the shoulders of others. A terrible fire belched from the interior. Men fell from the scaling ladder by the score, many pierced through the head by balls, others felled by clubbed guns. The dead and wounded covered the ground. After half an hour of fierce conflict, after the sacrifice of many lives, the column of Gen. Castrillon succeeded in making a lodgement in the upper part of the Alamo to the northeast. It was a sort of outwork. I think it is now used as a lot or a courtyard. This seeming advantage was a mere prelude to the desperate struggle which ensued. The doors of the Alamo building were barricaded by bags of sand as high as the neck of a man; the windows also. On the top of the roofs of the different apartments were rows of sandbags to cover the besieged.

“Our troops, inspired by success, continued the attack with energy and boldness. The Texians fought like devils. It was at short range—muzzle to muzzle, hand to hand, musket and rifle, bayonet and bowie knife—all were mingled in confusion. Here a squad of Mexicans, there a Texian or two. The crash of fire arms, the shouts of defiance, the cries of the dying and the wounded, made a din almost infernal. The Texians defended desperately every inch of the fort—overpowered by numbers they would be forced to abandon a room. They would rally in the next, and defend it until further resistance became impossible.

“Gen. Tolza’s command forced an entrance at the door of the church building. He met the same determined resistance without and within. He won by force of numbers and a great sacrifice of life.
There was a long room on the ground floor. It was darkened. Here the fight was bloody. It proved to be the hospital. A detachment of which I had command had captured a piece of artillery. It was placed near the door of the hospital, doubly charged with grape and canister, and fired twice. We entered and found the corpses of fifteen Texians. On the outside we afterwards found forty-two dead Mexicans.

"On the top of the church building I saw eleven Texians. They had some small pieces of artillery and were firing on the cavalry and on those engaged in making the escalade. Their ammunition was exhausted, and they were loading with pieces of iron and nails. The captured piece was placed in a position to reach them, doubly charged, and fired with so much effect that they ceased working their pieces."

Sergeant Becerra was of opinion that the two last men killed were Travis and Col. Crockett, though he admitted he did not know them personally and might be mistaken as to their identity.

"The Alamo, as has been stated; was entered at daylight; the fight did not cease till 9 o'clock. * * *

"Gen. Santa Anna directed Col. Mora to send out his cavalry to bring in wood." This was done. The bodies of the heroic Texans were burned. Their remains became offensive. They were afterwards collected and buried by Col. Juan N. Seguin.

Sergeant Becerra said:

"There was an order to gather our own dead and wounded. It was a fearful sight. Our lifeless soldiers covered the ground surrounding the Alamo. They were heaped inside of the fortress. Blood and brains covered the earth and the floors, and had spattered the walls. The ghastly faces of our comrades met our gaze, and we removed them with despondent hearts. Our loss in front of the Alamo was represented at two thousand killed, and more than three hundred wounded. The killed were generally struck on the head. The wounds were in the neck, or shoulder, seldom below that. The firing of the besieged was fearfully precise. When a Texas rifle was levelled on a Mexican he was considered as good as dead. All this indicates the dauntless bravery, and the cool self-possession of the men who were engaged in a hopeless conflict with an enemy numbering more than twenty to one. They inflicted on us a loss ten times greater than they sustained. The victory of the Alamo was dearly bought. Indeed, the price in the end was well nigh the ruin of Mexico."
The numbers of the Texas dead at the Alamo was never accurately ascertained. It included the whole number of the volunteers besieged. The number of Mexicans taking service with the Texians was stated at twenty or twenty-five. These were, many of them sent out on various occasions by Col. Travis. When divested of their arms it was no difficult matter to pass the Mexicans on guard without much scrutiny. Mrs. Candelaria, Col. Bowie's nurse, gives the names of four Mexicans who were alive when the Alamo fell, or were killed fighting. Mrs. Alsbury in her statement, mentions the killing of one Mexican after the Mexicans entered the Alamo. The Texans lost in the siege is not positively known. It was certainly less than two hundred.

Dr. Sutherland endeavored to learn the exact loss of the Mexicans at San Antonio. He says:

"The messenger who was sent by the Navarro family, at San Antonio, to Col. Seguin, at Gonzales, four days after the fall, reported the enemy's loss to have been about fifteen hundred." Dr. Sutherland visited Gen. Santa Anna after he was made prisoner at San Jacinto. He questioned Gen. Santa Anna's private secretary as to the number of men in the army at San Antonio, and the number killed in the operations? His reply, as stated by Dr. Sutherland, was, "we brought to San Antonio five thousand men, and lost during the siege fifteen hundred and forty-four of the best of them. The Texans fought more like devils than men." Santa Anna and Almonte were both present at the time, and, if the statement had deviated far from the truth, for it certainly derogated from their soldierly (qualifications) for them to have denied it, without scrupling to question the veracity of their fellow (prisoner.)" That answer was, no doubt, made by Ramon Martinez Coro, who signed the order for the attack on the Alamo, March sixth. The gentleman acting as interpreter was Capt. Patten. Gen. Santa Anna and Col. Almonte were both present, and neither of them denied the allegation. Almonte was educated in the United States, and spoke English fluently.

Dr. Sutherland observes: "Ruiz says it was estimated at 1,600," speaking of the Mexican loss. Again speaking of one charge made by the Toluca battalion, he says: "They commenced to scale the walls and suffered severely. Out of 800 men, 130 only were left alive." Dr. Sutherland argues that 670 were killed out of 800 men; 1,600 slain in all would be no exaggeration. The writer came to Texas in 1836. There were then in
San Augustine county Mexicans who were made prisoners at San Jacinto. They represented the Mexican loss at the Alamo at 2,500. They may have meant the killed and wounded.

Before referring to matters pertaining to Texans the order of Gen. Santa Anna to attack the Alamo, by scaling the walls, will be given. It may show that Sergeant Becerra's memory was defective in some particulars, but is more a corroboration of his version than a denial.

"General Orders."

[For the private information of Generals of Division and Corps Commanders.]

"As it has become necessary to make a decisive movement against the enemy defending the fortress of the Alamo, His Excellency, the General-in-Chief, directs that by four o'clock on to-morrow morning the attacking columns shall be stationed within gunshot of their first line of intrenchments, for the purpose of making the assault, upon the signal to be given by His Excellency, which will be the sounding of the bugle from the north battery.

"The first column will be commanded by General Don Martin Perfecto de Cos, and in his default by me, (the Commander-in-Chief). This column will be composed of the Aldamas battalion of regulars, with the exception of the company of Grenadiers, and the three first companies of the volunteer battalion of San Luis.

"The second column will be commanded by Gen. Don Francisco Duque and in his default by Gen. Don Manuel Fernando Castrillon. This column will be composed of the three remaining companies of the San Luis battalion of volunteers.

"The third column will be commanded by Colonel Don Jose Maria Romero, and in his default by Col. Don Mariano Salas. This column will be composed of the infantry companies, in full force, of the Matamoros and Jimenes battalions of regulars.

"The fourth column will be commanded by Col. Don Juan Morelos, and in his default by Col. Don Jose Minon. This column will be composed of the cavalry companies of the Matamoros and Jimenes battalions of regulars, and the San Luis battalion of volunteers.

"The General-in-Chief will, at the proper time, designate the points against which the attacking columns will operate, at
which time commanding officers will also receive their orders.

"The reserve will be composed of the battalion of Sappers and Miners, and the five companies of the Grenadiers of the Matamoros, Jimenes and Aldamas battalions of regulars, and of the Toluca and San Luis battalions of volunteers.

"The reserve will be commanded by the General-in-Chief in person, at the time of making the attack, but these forces will be organized by Col. Don Agustin Amat, under whose control they will remain from this evening, and who will conduct them to the point which will be designated to him at the proper time.

"The first column will be provided with ten scaling ladders, two crow bars and two axes; the second will be provided with the same quantity; the third with six, and the fourth with two. The men carrying the ladders will sling their guns over their shoulders so as to leave them entirely free to place their ladders wherever they may be directed.

"Grenadier and cavalry companies will be supplied with six packages of cartridges to the man, and to the infantry companies four, with two extra flints. The latter will be encumbered with neither overcoats, blankets nor anything which will impede the rapidity of their movements. During the day all caps will be provided with chin straps. Corps commanders will pay particular attention to this provision, and are also required to see that the men are provided with shoes, or other covering for their feet.

"The men composing the attacking column will retire to rest at sundown, preparatory to moving at midnight.

"The men not well drilled will remain at their quarters.

"Arms, particularly bayonets, will be put in the best condition.

"When the the moon rises the riflemen of the San Luis battalion of volunteers will retire to their quarters, abandoning the points they cover along the line, so as to give them time to put their equipage in readiness.

"The cavalry, under the command of Gen. Don Joaquin Ramirez y Sesma, will occupy the Alameda, and saddle up at 3 o'clock in the morning. It will be their duty to watch the camp, and prevent the escape of anyone who may attempt to do so.

"The honor of the nation, and of the army, being involved in this contest against the daring foreigners in our front, His Excellency, the General-in-Chief, expects that each man will perform
his duty, and contribute his share in securing a day of glory to his country, and of honor to the Federal Government, which knows how to honor the brave men of the army of operations who shall distinguish themselves by performing feats of valor.

JUAN VALENTINE AMADOR."

"I certify the foregoing to be a true copy.

RAMON MARTINES CORO, Secretary."

"A correct translation.

DAVID G. WHITING,
Translator General Land Office."

N. B. This order Becerra said, was issued March 5, 1836, and copied next day.

This was the order given by the President of Mexico, and commander of her armies, to six thousand Mexicans, the elite of the Mexican Army, who had been besieging less than two hundred Texans for thirteen days. It speaks for itself.

On March 7th Gen. Santa Anna issued a "Proclamation," in which he speaks of the immolation of the Texans as a matter of justice, and argues that the "Army of Operations," has been marched into Texas for the performance of such deeds.
REMARKS.

Col. Bowie had been ordered by Gen. Houston to proceed to Goliad and adjacent points, and confer with officers in command. Gen. Houston's intention were to withdraw the Texian forces from advanced positions and concentrate them, with the object of meeting and defeating the Mexican army of invasion which was believed to be advancing upon Texas. After the performance of that duty he proceeded to San Antonio, where he resided. On the 11th or 12th of February, 1836, Col. Neill left San Antonio accompanied by Deaf Smith. William Barrett Travis, Lieutenant Colonel of the regular army of Texas, was deputed to the command. The volunteers on duty at San Antonio objected to be commanded by a regular officer. Col. Travis, with a sincere desire to promote the public good, ordered an election. Col. Bowie was the choice of the men.

"On February 14th a general report was made to Gov. Smith, which concludes as follows: "By an understanding of to-day, Col. J. Bowie has command of the volunteers and Col. W. B. Travis of the regulars and volunteer cavalry. All general orders and correspondence will be, henceforth, signed by both, until Col. Neill's return.

JAMES BOWIE,
W. BARRETT TRAVIS, Commander of Volunteers.

Commander of Cavalry."

Col. Seth Shephard's oration on the 'Fall of the Alamo.' San Marcos, July 8th, 1889."

James Butler Bonham had been a schoolmate of Col. Travis; he was one of the messengers sent to Col. Fannin by Col. Travis asking for help. After the performance of that duty he delayed returning to the Alamo until March 31st. According to Hon. Seth Shephard, Bonham declined to remain outside San Antonio. He affirmed: "I will report the result of my mission to Travis, or die in the attempt." "Mounted on a cream colored horse, with a white handkerchief floating from his hat—a signal previously arranged with Travis—he dashed through the Mexican
lines amid a shower of bullets, and entered unharmed the gates which were thrown open to receive him. Unable to save his comrades, he was determined to die with them."

Col. Bowie fell sick in the early part of the siege. Mrs. Candelaria was his attendant. He died with unaltering courage. A Mexican gentleman told Mrs. Sam Maverick that his body was hoisted on Mexican bayonets until a Mexican officer ordered them to desist.

Mrs. Dr. Alsbury and her little sister were in the Alamo when it fell. A Mexican defender of the Alamo was bayonetted while clinging to her for help, and to avoid death. She was carried off by the brother of her first husband. Her son, then small, is yet in San Antonio.

Mrs. Dickinson was allowed to leave the town. Her young child, afterwards styled 'The Daughter of the Alamo,' was her companion. They are both dead.

Dr. Sutherland tells us something of Col. Crockett: "Col. David Crockett arrived, * * * with twelve others, direct from Tennessee. Crockett was immediately offered a command by Col. Travis, and called upon by the crowd for a speech. The former honor he would not accept, but mounted a goods-box on the civil plaza, amid prolonged cheers of the people. The applause, however, was followed by profound silence, when the full-toned voice of the distinguished speaker rose gradually above the audience and fell smooth and lively upon the ears of all; its sound was familiar to many who had heard it in days past, while the hearts of all beat a lively response to the patriotic sentiments which fell from his lips. Frequent applause greeted him, as he related in his own peculiar style, some of those jolly anecdotes with which he often regaled his friends, and which he only could tell with appropriate grace. He alluded frequently to his past career, and during the course of his remarks, stated that not long since he had been a candidate for Congress in his native district, and that during the canvass he told his constituents that, "if they did not elect him, they might all go to h——, and he would go to Texas." After which he concluded, in substance as follows: "And fellow citizens I am among you. I have come to your country, though I hope, not with any selfish motive whatever. I have come to aid you all that I can in your noble cause. I shall identify myself with your interests, and all the honor that I desire is that of defending as a high private, in
common with my fellow-citizens, the liberties of our common country."

As long as liberty has a follower the names of Crockett and the other defenders of the Alamo will have an admirer. Their unselfish and undaunted heroism confers upon them the immortal remembrance of the lovers of freedom. The affair of the Alamo caused intense excitement in the United States, in fact, throughout the civilized world. An Englishman, named Nagle, had the honor of originating the "Monument Erected to the Heroes of the Alamo." It stood at the entrance of the Capitol at Austin. This building was burned in 1880, and the monument suffered injury. The inscription on the north front was: "To The God Of The Fearless And The Free Is Dedicated This Altar Of The ALAMO." On the west front: "Blood of Heroes Hath Stained Me. Let The Stones Of The ALAMO Speak That Their IMMOLATION Be Not FORGOTTEN." On the south front: "Be They Enrolled With LEONIDAS In The Host of The Mighty DEAD." On the east front: "Thermopylae Had Her Messenger of DEFEAT, But The ALAMO Had NONE."

Mrs. Maverick and Mrs. Canterbury, at that time Mrs. Wilson I. Riddle, both were acquainted with Mr. Nagle, and speak kindly of him. He received from the Legislature of Texas a small consideration for the Monument, and is since dead. His memory should be honored by every friend of Texas.

Sergeant Becerra was made a prisoner at San Jacinto. In the war between Mexico and the United States he was in the service of the latter. When he died he was a Mexican veteran of the United States.

Col. Travis' son was a member of the legislature of Texas. He was a captain in the regular army of the United States, and belonged to the regiment commanded by Col. Sidney Johnson. He had a daughter also. She was living some years ago.

After the fall of the Alamo there were thirty-three wives left widows in Gonzales.

Mr. J. W. Smith was highly respected by the Texians. He died while a member of congress, at Washington, on the Brazos river. He is worthy of consideration as one of the tried and true friends of Texas in her days of peril.

Dr. Sutherland lived many years after the revolution of 1836. He was honored by all as one of the able and trusted men who served his country with zeal and fidelity when her cause
appeared almost hopeless. He died full of years and full of honors.

Mrs. Candelaria is still living. She claims to be over one hundred years of age. The State of Texas has granted her a pension.

However, want of space prevents the mention of many who performed important services to Texas in the days of trial and adversity.

The name of Capt. Reuben M. Potter, U. S. A., retired, was an efficient friend of the Republic of Texas. In the days of gloom he wrote the "Hymn of the Alamo," and predicted the success of her cause, which is herewith presented:

"Arise! man the wall—our clarion's blast
Now sounds its final reveille—
This dawning morn must be the last
Our fated band shall ever see.
To life, but not to hope, farewell,
Your trumpet's clang, and cannon's peal,
And storming shout, and clash of steel
Is ours, but not our country's knell.
Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall—we die—but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life.

"Here on this new Thermopylae
Our monument shall tower on high,
And "Alamo" hereafter be
On bloodier fields the battle cry."
Thus Travis from the rampart cried;
And when his warriors saw the foe
Like whelming billows move below;
At once each dauntless heart replied:
"Welcome the Spartan's death—
'Tis no despairing strife—
We fall—we die—but our expiring breath
Is freedom's breath of life!"

They come—like autumn leaves they fall,
Yet hordes on hordes they onward rush.
With gory tramp they mount the wall,
Till numbers the defenders crush.
The last was felled the fight to gain;
Well may the ruffians quake to tell
How Travis and his hundred fell
Amid a thousand foemen slain.
They die the Spartan's death,
But not in hopeless strife;
Like brothers died—and their expiring breath
Was freedom's breath of life,
Names on the Alamo Monument.

By Mr. Nagle.

And a few others, whose names are not remembered.

To these Mrs. Candleria adds the following Mexicans:

Joseph Marera Cabrera, Tulia, Mexico.
Jose Ma le Jimez, Mexico.
Enjio Elia Losoya, San Antonio.
Jacinto, from the coast of Texas.

These make 169 slain. Dr. Sutherland stated 172.
The Defense of the Alamo

Santa Ana came storming, as a storm might come; There was rumble of cannon; there was rattle of bugles; There was cavalry, drum—and bugle. 

Full seven thousand, in pomp and parade, The chirality, flower of Mexico; And a scant two hundred in the Alamo! And thirty eight, and some were shot through; For the siege had been bitter, and bloody, and long. 

“Surrender or die!” Then, what will YOU do? And Travis, great Travis, drew sword, quick and strong; Drew a line at his feet • • • “Will you come? Will you go?” I die with my wounded, in the Alamo.”

Then Bowie gasped, “Lead me over that line!” Then Crockett, one hand to the sick, one hand to his gun, Crossed with him; then never a word or a sign.

Till all sick or well, all, all save but one, One man. Then a women stepped, praying, and slow Across; to die at her post in the Alamo. Then came Santa Ana, a crescent of flame! Then the red escalade; then the light hand to hand; Such an unequal fight as never had name.

Since the Parian horses butchered That doomed Spartan band.

All day—all day and all night; and the morning? So slow. Through the battle smoke mantling the Alamo.

Now silence! Such silence! Two thousand lay dead In a crescent outside! And within! Not a breath Save the gasp of a woman, with gory gashed head. All alone, all alone there, waiting for death; And she but a nurse. Yet when shall we know Another like this of the Alamo?

“Victory, victory, victory he!”

Short—victory, victory, victory he!”

Said to the victors, high or low, I say that the victors, high or low, Be given the titles who grapple with sin, Or legions or single; just asking to know. When duty fronts death in the Alamo.

—Joaquin Miller.
ORIGIN AND FALL OF THE ALAMO.

The convention of Texas met at Washington on the Brazos, March first, 1836. On the second day of that month they issued a declaration of independence. They formed a constitution; elected David G. Burnet provisional president, Lorenzo de Zavala vice-president. They also pronounced Sam Houston general-in-chief of the Texas army. President Burnet appointed the following gentlemen as his cabinet:

- **Samuel P. Carson** ................. Secretary of State
- **Bailey Hardeman** ................. Secretary of the Treasury
- **Thomas J. Rusk** .................. Secretary of War
- **Robert Potter** .................... Secretary of the Navy
- **David Thomas** .................... Attorney General

They adjourned, and many of the members proceeded, at once, to the Texas army.

On the twenty-first day of April, 1836, the battle of San Jacinto was fought. Gen. Lopez de Santa Anna, president of Mexico, and commander-in-chief of her army, was made a prisoner of war. He recognized the independence of Texas. The balance of the Mexican army, in accordance with its stipulations, was permitted to march out of Texas unmolested. Mexico received the benefits of the treaty, and according to the laws of nations could not go back on that agreement, inuring to her benefit. Texas became sovereign, free and independent by reason of that treaty.

**John S. Ford, One of Committee.**

In addition to the above your committee have concluded to add the annexed:

The points occupied by the Mexican forces during the siege of the Alamo, particularly on the morning of March 6, 1836, are of interest. A fort was built northeast of the Alamo, which was situated, probably, on what is now known as Dignowity Hill. This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that in making improvements on that hill cannon balls and other articles of that character were found. These balls may have been thrown from the Alamo. It is probable that the present site of the street, Avenue C, was included by the troops occupying that fort. The cavalry were stationed at the foot of what was then known as Powder House Hill to prevent escapes from the Alamo. That section is now covered by grave yards. The Mexicans moved in four columns when they made the final attack. Of course they advanced from four different points.
The people and the legislature have endeavored to honor the memory of the men who were prominently engaged in defense of the country. The capital of the state is named in commemoration of Stephen F. Austin, the father of Texas. The capital of the Republic of Texas in early days was named Houston, in honor of Gen. Sam Houston, the Washington of Texas. Travis, the county in which the present capital is located, was named for the disinterested patriot, who sacrificed his life in the cause of Texas. Bowie, Bonham, in fact nearly all of the heroes of the Alamo, and quite all the men who distinguished themselves in the service of the Republic and the State of Texas have been remembered by a grateful people.

Among these is Col. Juan N. Seguin, who was an officer at San Jacinto, and for whom the town of Seguin is named.

The weight of years, and in many instances the hand of poverty is laid heavily upon the old patriots who nobly aided Texas in her days of infancy and feebleness. Some of those who suffered, fought and talked for the Lone Star State, yet live in San Antonio. We may mention: Mrs. Mary Maverick, Mrs. Elizabeth Canterbury, Mrs. Amanda J. Dignowity, Capt. Nat Mitchell, a former soldier of San Jacinto, Thomas Rife, William McMasters, veteran of San Jacinto, Gen. H. P. Bee, Col. John S. Ford, Jacob Golls, Mexican veteran, Mr. George Linswiller, Capt. William Edgar, Capt. P. S. Buquor, formerly mayor of San Antonio, and a few others whose names are not remembered.

C. L. Dignowity, Chairman.
H. P. Brr,
WM. H. Young.
ERRATUM:

Thirteenth line on page twelve should read: "Mrs. Bradley," etc., instead of "Mrs. Bradford," etc.