

toche, on the coast of Yucatan. At this place they joined a part of the expedition, which had arrived some time previous on the brig *Susan Loud*, and the barque *Georgiana*. The whole force was then six hundred and fifty men, and was composed of three regiments, the Mississippi, Louisiana, and Kentucky. Information was sent from here to Havana by a Smack to delude the Government as to the point of attack.

After two days' stay at the island, the whole expedition embarked on the *Creole* for Cardenas, having sent the brig and barque back to New Orleans. They reached Cardenas, on the 19th inst. at two o'clock, A. M. Here, on account of low tide and other obstructions, they were delayed two hours before a landing could be effected. This delay, with the noise of landing, had given the alarm, and a dispatch was immediately started by the Governor of Cardenas for Matanzas.

As soon as they landed, an attack was made on the garrison, the Americans shouting as they advanced, "Libertad de Cuba y Independencia." At daylight, after three hours hard fighting, the city was captured, with the loss of seven Americans and fifteen wounded. The loss of the Spaniards is not known, but is supposed to have been from fifty to one hundred. The Governor and Lieut. Governor of Cardenas were taken prisoners. The Governor's palace was burnt. This was necessary to make them surrender. The firing was constant and hot from the garrison and tops of houses until the city was taken. The Spanish soldiers fought well and bravely, but the Americans, with the same dauntless and vehement courage that swept Mexico, carried every thing before them, and in a few hours after landing, this city of seven thousand inhabitants, was in the possession of six hundred men.

On reaching the rail-road depot, the rails were found to have been taken up, so as to

render it impossible to reach Matanzas by that means. Before they could have reached there by foot the whole force of the Government would have been ready to receive them. This part of the project having failed, it was concluded to remain at Cardenas, and await a demonstration in their favor. The citizens in the morning appeared friendly and disposed to join the invaders, invited them to their houses, and treated them hospitably, but none took up arms, and none came in from the country.

In the evening about sundown, a hundred and twenty lancers marched into the city. A part took a position in one street to cut off a retreat. The others, fifty in number, charged the Americans, and were all with one exception shot down. The lancer that escaped showed reckless valor—twice, single handed and alone, he charged—at the second charge his horse was killed, his arm was broken, and he taken prisoner, and brought here. In this attack no assistance was rendered by the citizens. On the contrary, the Captain of the lancers was found to be the very man who had feasted the officers sumptuously at dinner, and made them believe he was with them.

One of the Aids of Gen. Lopez, Gen. Gonzales, lays here badly, but supposed not dangerously, wounded. Col. O'Hara, of Kentucky, is also wounded, but not dangerously. Capt. Logan, of Kentucky, died of his wounds, and his body was thrown overboard the day after they left Cardenas. Among those killed, was an Episcopal parson from the West, whose name I have not learned.

The Americans, receiving no assistance from the people, and aware that a force of ten thousand men stationed near Cardenas, were on the march to attack them, took to their boat at night, and put to sea for Key West. The next morning, the steamer *Pizarro*, was discovered astern in chase. They kept ahead all that day, and at night changed their course to North East, and made the reef at Key Vaca. There a pilot took them inside the reef, and ran down.

The *Pizarro* was off the ship Channel, having arrived in the night. She demanded a pilot of Lieut. Rogers, who lay out there in the *Petrel*, the United States schooner engaged in the coast survey. The purpose for which they wanted a pilot was, as they avowed, to chase the *Creole*.

Mr. Rogers replied that they could have a pilot to come into Key West, but not to pursue the *Creole*. The commander of the *Pizarro* threatened to inform the Government of his refusal to furnish him a pilot, on which Mr. Rogers sent him his card, so that there might be no doubt who he was. After a short time, a pilot boarded the *Pizarro* from a pilot-schooner, and brought her through the ship channel.

In the meantime, the *Creole* was running down inside the reef with all the steam she could raise. She rounded the Light-house point a half hour before the *Pizarro*. What might have been the consequence had she gotten a pilot from Mr. Rogers, or whether it was her intention after having crossed the bar and gotten in our waters, to have attacked the *Creole* and cut her off from this place, we can't tell; but such it is supposed must have been her design, from the fact of her wanting a pilot to chase, and from the knowledge which her officers must have had, that it was impossible for a vessel of so great a draught to go inside the reef. The only use for a pilot was to come inside and await the approach of the *Creole*.

The *Creole*, after being detained twenty minutes by the health officer, was allowed to come to the wharf, at Key West; while dropping down, the *Pizarro* passed on above, and came to anchor. The commander ordered the pilot to put her between the *Creole* and the shore. He replied, he would be d—d if he would.

As soon as the *Creole* touched the wharf, a rush was made by the men with their bundles and side-arms for the shore, and soon the boat was entirely abandoned. They seemed glad enough to have gotten once more on American soil. Fortunately for them, the U. S. Barracks, about a mile from the city, were vacant, and afforded a shelter.

The *Pizarro* lays here still, having kept up steam all yesterday and last night, as if apprehensive she was in a dangerous neighborhood, and it might be necessary to take very suddenly to her heels. She has, we understand, about a hundred men aboard, and one of the Spanish officers who escaped from Cardenas.

It was the design of the Americans, had they found it impossible to escape, to have boarded the *Pizarro*, if they could. Could they have done this, they would have taken her in ten minutes.

Twenty-six men and four officers of the garrison at Cardenas, joined the Americans during the fight, and have come over with them. They seem much attached to Gen. Lopez. When the men returned to the boat at Cardenas, they found about twenty negroes, who prayed to be taken with them. All were sent ashore, however, except seven who hid themselves, and were not discovered till the boat got out to sea. They were brought before Judge Marvin, the district judge, this morning, upon a writ of HABEAS CORPUS, who ordered them to be delivered to the Spanish Consul. He will send them on board the *Pizarro*, to be delivered to their respective owners. The *Creole* has been seized by the collector, for various breaches of the revenue laws, and will doubtless be for-