

"REMEMBER THE ALAMO!"

SOME TRUE TALES OF THE OLD HISTORIC FORT—DR. BARNARD'S ACCOUNT OF THE BURNING OF THE BUILDING—FATE OF ORIGINAL MONUMENT.

(Ben C. Stuart, in the Dallas, Texas, Morning News.)

The recent special dispatch from Austin to the News, stating that the Daughters of the Republic would petition the Legislature to amend the existing law so as to place the custody of that historic edifice, the Alamo, at San Antonio, in charge of a commission of five, recalls the tragic story of that Texas fortress. While much fact and more myth regarding the fall of the Alamo has been written during the last half century, probably the best and most authentic account was that contributed by the late Capt. R. M. Potter, of the United States Army, to the Texas Almanac, printed at Galveston in 1868.

Capt. Potter was himself a veteran and held several offices of trust under the republic of Texas. After Texas became a State in the Federal Union he was appointed paymaster in the United States army. He was in the State when, in 1861, the United States posts were surrendered to the Confederate authorities, and passed through Galveston on his way North. While here he informed a life-long friend of his determination to remain steadfast to the old flag, and, deprecating the secession movement, he remained in the service until his death at or near New York city some years since. He was also the author of the *History of the Alamo*, as well as a vigorous and painstaking writer upon topics of Texas history. During the celebration of the semi-centennial of the battle of San Jacinto by the Texas Veterans' Association at Dallas, in April, 1886, Capt. Potter wrote the chairman of the committee on invitations a letter, in which he regretted his inability to be present in consequence of the infirmities of age and the pressure of occupation, but he wrote at some length concerning the fall of the Alamo, and his remarks in this age of seeming historic inaccuracy and exaggeration are considered as worthy of reproduction in this connection.

The True Story.
"So remarkable a victory as San Jacinto," wrote Capt. Potter, "was liable to create legendary exaggeration, yet the published narrative is remarkably free from it. There is less dispute about incident and personality in the history of San Jacinto than that of Bunker Hill, though the latter was fought under the eyes of a city's population, most of whose families had a member or a kinsman in the combat. It happens, however, that one other of the two most remarkable events in the history of Texas has not been so historically fortunate. This, indeed, was to be expected. Of those who fought at San Jacinto nearly all outlived the campaign. Of those who fought at the Alamo not one survived, and the beautiful exaggeration to which this nation is so much addicted had consequently full play. The result has been an amount of absurd fabrication which might lead an incredulous and ill-informed person to doubt if such an event as the fall of the Alamo ever occurred. It behooves all who respect patriotic history to discountenance such fictions, lest heroic fact should be rejected for being in such company. The fabrications I refer to, which I think have mostly originated outside of Texas, have been especially injurious to the fame of David Crockett, which they threaten to Munchausen into oblivion. In articles published in two respectable monthlies in New York, Crockett is represented as the last defender who fell after incredible exploits. In such a fight, where all knew they had to die, the bravest die first, and the last who is reached is almost certain to be a sneak. So it was at the Alamo. Travis and Crockett fell early. Bowie would have done the same had he not been on his death bed. The last who died was a soldier dragged from his hiding place, along with three or four others, who were all shot.

All Fell Fighting.
"The walled inclosure of the Alamo was too large to be long held by so feeble a garrison. It was soon entered by two columns of attack, and the men on the outworks mostly took refuge in the long benches of the chapel, where the last desperate struggle occurred, and all fell fighting to the last. Travis and Crockett did not take such refuge. They were among the few who fell early on the outworks, each being shot down on the platform where they stood. The station of Travis was a one-gun battery in the northwest angle of the area. That of Crockett was a one-gun battery which overtopped the west wall of the area. When the enemy entered the area that gun was turned against them. It is a disputed point whether the cannoners

succeeded in effecting a discharge before they fell, but it is certain that they all went down almost immediately under a shower of musketry from within the area. There Crockett died before any sword or bayonet reached him, and before he had any opportunity to break skulls with the barrel of his broken rifle. On that platform the body was pointed out to Santa Anna by Mr. Ruiz, of San Antonio, who was sent for to identify the dead leaders. Ruiz tells us where Crockett died, but says nothing about a semi-circle of dead Mexicans, of which I have read, struck down by the fallen hero. The incidents of the fall of the Alamo and all matters therewith connected I early made a study, and continued it for years as opportunities occurred, and for this I had, perhaps, better facilities than any person now living.

"The first publication which I made was done at San Antonio in 1860. The narration I then gave was imperfect, and, on some minor points, incorrect, but I afterwards obtained more and complete information. From the latest and fullest data I published in the Magazine of American History in New York, on January 1, 1878, what I believe to be the fullest and most correct account of the siege and capture of the Alamo which has ever appeared. In that article I gave my authority for every alleged fact, and my grounds for my every conjecture. * * * I cannot better close than by praying that the heroes of the Alamo may escape the curse of absurd and fabulous eulogy which so often throws a blighting shadow on real merit."

The Alamo Building.
In the Texas Almanac article referred to before the Alamo as it existed in March, 1836, at the time of the Mexican assault, is thus described: "It had been founded soon after the settlement of that vicinity as a place of safety for the settlers and their property in case of Indian hostility, but while it was large enough for that purpose it had neither the strength nor arrangement which belong to a regular fortification. The front of the Alamo Chapel bears date 1757. The other works must have been built earlier. The chapel of the fortress is 75 feet long, 62 feet high, surrounded by walls of solid masonry four feet thick. It was built of one story, with upper windows, under which platforms were built for the mounting of cannon. The long barrack which was connected with the church is 168 feet long, 18 feet wide, 18 feet high, and of two stories. There was another barrack 114 feet long and 17 feet wide. These barracks, like the church, were of solid rock, and their walls are still standing (1867). The fortifications were manned by 14 guns, but these proved of little use in the defense, as the enemy either kept out of range or approached from a quarter they could not be made to bear upon."

The final assault, intrusted to Gen. Castrillon, a Spaniard by birth and a brilliant soldier, was made April 6th, 1836, and was timed so that the attacking columns should reach the foot of the wall at daybreak. "When the hour came," says the Almanac article, "the batteries and the music were alike silent, and the single blast of the bugle was followed by no sound save the rushing tramp of soldiers. The guns of the fort soon opened upon them, and then the band, as the south battery struck up the assassin notes of 'Dequello,' a Spanish martial air, which signifies to the soldier no quarter. But few and not very effective discharges from the works could be made before the enemy was under them, and it is thought that the worn and wearied garrison was not till then fully mustered."

All Are Slain.
"The Tolucan column was the first at the base of the wall, but it was not the first to enter the area. A large piece of cannon at the northwest angle commanded the breach. Either this or the deadly fire of the riflemen at that point, where Travis in person commanded, brought the column to a disordered halt, and its leader, Col. Duque, fell dangerously wounded. But at this time another column arrived and entered the gate or by esplanade near by it. The defense of the outer wall had now to be abandoned, and the garrison took refuge in the buildings already described. It was probably while the breach that Travis fell at his post, for his body was found beside the gun referred to. All this passed within a few minutes after the bugle sounded. The early loss of the outer wall so thinly manned was inevitable, and it was not until the garrison became more concentrated that the main struggle began. They were more compact as to space, but not as to work, for there was no connecting space between buildings, nor always between rooms. There was now no retreat from point to point. Each group of defenders had to fight and die in the den where it was brought

to bay. * * * The church was the last point taken. The column which moved against it, consisting of the battalion of Ximenes and other troops, was at first repulsed, and took refuge in some old houses outside of the barrier, near the southwest angle, but it was rallied and led on by Gen. Amador. It was soon joined by the rest of the force, and the church was carried by a coup de main. Its inmates, like the others, fought to the last, and continued to fire from the upper platform after the Mexicans had occupied the floor. During the closing struggle Lieut. Dickinson, with one of his children in his arms, or, as some say, tied to his back, leaped from an upper window. Both were killed. Of those he left behind the bayonet soon gleaned what the bullet missed, and the upper part must have fallen. The morning breeze which received his parting breath probably still fanned his flag above him ere it was pulled down by the victors. The Alamo had fallen."

After the Battle.
The garrison of the feeble fort was some 188 men, all of whom perished. The investing force has been variously estimated at from 3,500 to 4,000 men, under the immediate command of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the president and virtual dictator of Mexico. Of the inmates of the fort only three were spared—Mrs. Dickinson, her babe and a negro man owned by Col. Travis. The rudest form of sepulchre was accorded the slain Texans, the historian Kennedy stating that "their bodies were stripped, thrown into a heap and burned." Dr. J. H. Bernard, a surgeon in Franklin's command, who was saved from the massacre at Goliad, was in San Antonio as a prisoner in April, 1836, and in his diary made this record under date of the 21st of that month:

"Yesterday and to-day we have been around with the surgeons of the place to visit the wounded, and a pretty piece of work Travis and his faithful few have made of them. There are now about one hundred here of the wounded. The surgeon tells us there were 400 brought into the hospital the morning they stormed the Alamo, but I think from appearances there must have been more. I see many around the town who were crippled. There are apparently 200 or 300, and the citizens tell me that 300 or 400 have died of their wounds.

After news had been received of the defeat of Santa Anna at San Jacinto orders were issued to evacuate San Antonio and to destroy the Alamo. Under date of May 24, 1836, Dr. Bernard's diary contains this entry: "Six o'clock p. m.—As the troops left town this morning a large fire streamed up from the Alamo, and as they had fairly left Dr. Shackelford and myself, accompanied by Senor Ruiz and some of the citizens, walked over to see the state in which they had left it. We found the fire to proceed from a church, where a platform had been built extending from the great door to the top of the wall on the back side for the purpose of taking up the artillery to the top of the church. This was made of wood and was too far consumed for any attempt to be made to extinguish the fire. The walls of the church, being built of solid masonry, of course would be but little damaged by the fire. The Alamo was completely dismantled. All the single walls were leveled, the fosse filled up and the pickets torn up and burned. All the

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In all stations of life, whose vigor and vitality may have been undermined and broken down by over-work, exacting social duties, the too frequent bearing of children, or other causes, will find in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription the most potent, invigorating restorative strength ever devised for their special benefit. Nursing mothers will find it especially valuable in sustaining their strength and promoting an abundant nourishment for the child. Expectant mothers will find it a priceless help to prepare the system for baby's coming and rendering the ordeal comparatively painless. It can be had in any state, or condition of the female system.

Delicate, nervous, weak women, who suffer from frequent headaches, back-ache, dragging-down distress low down in the abdomen, or from painful or irregular monthly periods, gnawing or distressed sensation in stomach, dizzy or faint spells, see imaginary specks or spots floating before eyes, have disagreeable, pelvic catarrhal drain, prolapsus, anteversion or retroversion or other displacements of womanly organs from weakness of parts will, whether they experience many or only a few of the above symptoms, find relief and a permanent cure by using faithfully and fairly persistently Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

This world-famed specific for woman's weaknesses and peculiar ailments is a pure glyceric extract of the choicest native, medicinal roots without a drop of alcohol in its make-up. All its ingredients printed in plain English on its bottle-wrapper and attested under oath. Dr. Pierce thus invites the fullest investigation of his formula knowing that it will be found to contain only the best agents known to the most advanced medical science of all the different schools of practice for the cure of woman's peculiar weaknesses and ailments.

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You can't afford to accept as a substitute for this remedy of known composition a secret nostrum of unknown composition. Don't do it.

artillery, and ammunition that could not be carried off has been thrown into the river."

The defenders of the Alamo did not fight under the Lone Star flag, nor did they know that the independence of Texas had been declared. Although the declaration was adopted on March 2, 1836, there was no means by which information could be conveyed to the beleaguered garrison before the end came on the morning of March 6, and consequently Travis and his men went down to defeat and death under the flag of constitutional liberty in Mexico—a tri-color, with 1824 stamped or printed upon it.

The Old Alamo Monument.
As previously stated, the bodies of the defenders of the Alamo were burned by the Mexicans. On the 25th of May, 1836, Dr. Bernard visited the spot and thus mentions it in his diary: "After looking at the spot where, it is said, Travis fell and Crockett closed his mortal career, we went to visit the ashes of those brave defenders of our country. About a hundred yards from the fort we came to where they were burned. The bones had been reduced to cinders; occasionally a bone of the leg or arm was seen almost entire. Peace to your ashes! Your fame is immortal!"

To the memory of those heroes Texas erected a monument, which for years stood at the entrance of the old State house at Austin. It was ten feet high, and was constructed from rock taken from the Alamo. Each of the four fronts contained the names of Crockett, Bonham, Bowie and Travis in bold relief. The inscriptions on the monument were as follows:

North front—
* * * * *
TO THE
GOD
OF THE
FEARLESS AND FREE
IS DEDICATED
THIS ALTAR
MADE FROM THE RUINS
OF THE ALAMO.
MARCH 6, 1836, A. D.
* * * * *

West front—
* * * * *
BLOOD OF HEROES
HATH
STAINED ME.
LET THE STONES OF THE
ALAMO SPEAK
THAT
THEIR IMMOLATION
BE NOT
FORGOTTEN.
MARCH 6, 1836, A. D.
* * * * *

South front—
* * * * *
BE THEY ENROLLED
WITH LEONIDAS
IN THE HOST OF THE
MIGHTY DEAD.
MARCH 6, 1836, A. D.
* * * * *

East front—
* * * * *
THERMOPYLAE
HAD HER
MESSENGER OF DEFEAT.
BUT THE
ALAMO HAD NONE.
MARCH 6, 1836, A. D.
* * * * *

In addition the names of 156 of the men who fell in the 40's were inscribed on the north and south fronts. About 1880 the old State house was burned and the monument was almost destroyed at the same time. After the fire a portion of the memorial was kicked about in the debris of the grounds and finally attracted the attention of Hon. John P. White, then one of the Judges of the Court of Appeals. He recognized its value and preserved it. The portion saved by Judge White was the upper part of the monument, containing a portion of the inscriptions noted in full above. On August 31, 1888, Judge White presented the relic to Hon. L. L. Foster, commissioner of insurance statistics and history, with this note:

"I herewith turn over to your department two pieces of the old Alamo monument, which I have been preserving ever since the burning of the old capitol. These are the only portions of the monument which I believe have been preserved. The monument, you recollect, stood in the porch of the old capitol, and was made out of the stones of the Alamo."

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Beware the Signature
Chas. H. Fletcher

Methuselah is Dead!
New York, April 2.—Methuselah died here today at his home in the Bronx Zoo. He was 1,000 years old! His death is ascribed to his incident to old age.

Methuselah, also known as Rameses II, was a toad which was discovered in a rock pocket in a mine 500 feet below the surface at Butte, Mont., two years ago. His age was carefully computed by the zoologists and geologists.

Every Month

writes Mrs. E. Fournier of Lake Charles, La., "I used to suffer from headache, backache, side ache, pressing-down pains, and could hardly walk. At last I took Cardui, and now I feel good all the time."

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AT ALL DRUG STORES

THE SOUL'S TURNING POINT

By J. Russell Wright.

A person is converted when the whole life becomes changed through the influence of divine grace upon the heart. It is not merely a change in our religious professions. It must include the transformation of our thoughts, desires and inclinations. This is the result of saving faith in Christ Jesus. And let us not doubt the fact of a man's conversion because it happens to differ with our own in non-essential features. Some have visions and tears and emotions and others do not. Some have hard struggles before they enter the Kingdom; others find the gate wide open and simply walk in. Test conversion, not by the attending features, but by the fruits of the spirit, and by the attitude of love to God and man.

It has been said that tears are a mark of weakness. Such is not the case. There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They are messages of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, of unspeakable love. If there were wanting any argument to prove that man was not mortal, I would look for it in the strong, convulsive emotions of the heart. When the mountains of feeling are rising, and when tears are gushing forth in crystal streams, Oh, speak not harshly of the stricken ones weeping in silence; break not the solemnity by laughter or intrusive footsteps. Despise not woman's tears; they are what makes her an angel. Scoff not if the stern heart of manhood is sometimes melted into sympathetic tears; they are what help to elevate him above the brute. I love to see tears of affection; they are plain tokens, but still most holy. There is a pleasure in tears, an awful pleasure. If there was no one on earth to shed tears for me, I should be loath to live; and if no one might weep over my grave I could never die in peace. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. Jesus shed tears of deep sympathy at the grave of Lazarus. Tears help to dispel deep grief; they soften the heart, and expand the soul.

—Go to W. M. Brown for buggies, wagons, harness, etc. ff

MEETS DEATH ON TRESTLE.

Woman was Going to See her Husband in the Penitentiary.

Macon, Ga., April 1.—Caught on the trestle of the Georgia road over Walnut creek, a short distance out of Macon, Mrs. Imogen Compton, 35 years of age, was knocked 40 feet to the ground below and instantly killed. Engine No. 61 and passenger train No. 71, bound from Camak to Macon, in charge of Engineer B. F. Anderson and Conductor Ahren, met the woman and her little son as they were getting off the trestle on the end toward the direction from which the train was coming. The engineer looked for them to get off until he was within short range, but made immediate efforts to stop when he found the woman was struggling with time to get out of the way.

The little boy ducked down on the end of the ties, and the mother, in her hurry, slipped and fell through in the middle of the road-bed. Here she was picked up by the pilot of the engine and hurled into the creek. The engineer allowed his engine to pass over the boy so he could get out, and when the train crew went back they found the mother lifeless.

Mrs. Compton resided in South Georgia and was passing through to her former residence near Athens. She had applied to Mayor Miller for transportation, but through some mistake she left without getting the tickets. She had started out to walk and was overtaken. Her husband, Dick Compton, is serving a life sentence in the State penitentiary for having killed three men near Athens. The little boy is left a charge on the public, ten years of age and heart-broken.

For a mild, easy action of the bowels, a single dose of Doan's Regulets is enough. Treatment cures habitual constipation. 25 cents a box. Ask your druggist for them.

Card of Thanks.

Editor Keowee Courier: Please allow us space in your columns to again thank the good people of the Taber section for their kindness and assistance to us in the sickness and death of our six-weeks-old baby. May God ever bless them with His richest mercies. Respectfully,
Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Colley.

The Best Fertilizers for Corn

That the yield of corn from the average farm can be greatly increased by intelligent and liberal fertilization has been repeatedly demonstrated. Large crops of good corn result from preparing the land well, using the right kind and quantity of fertilizer, good seed and proper cultivation.

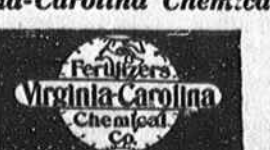
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will greatly "increase your yield per acre" of corn or any other crop. In some cases remarkable results have been obtained.

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