AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN EGYPT.

BY COLONEL C. CHAILLE-LONG.

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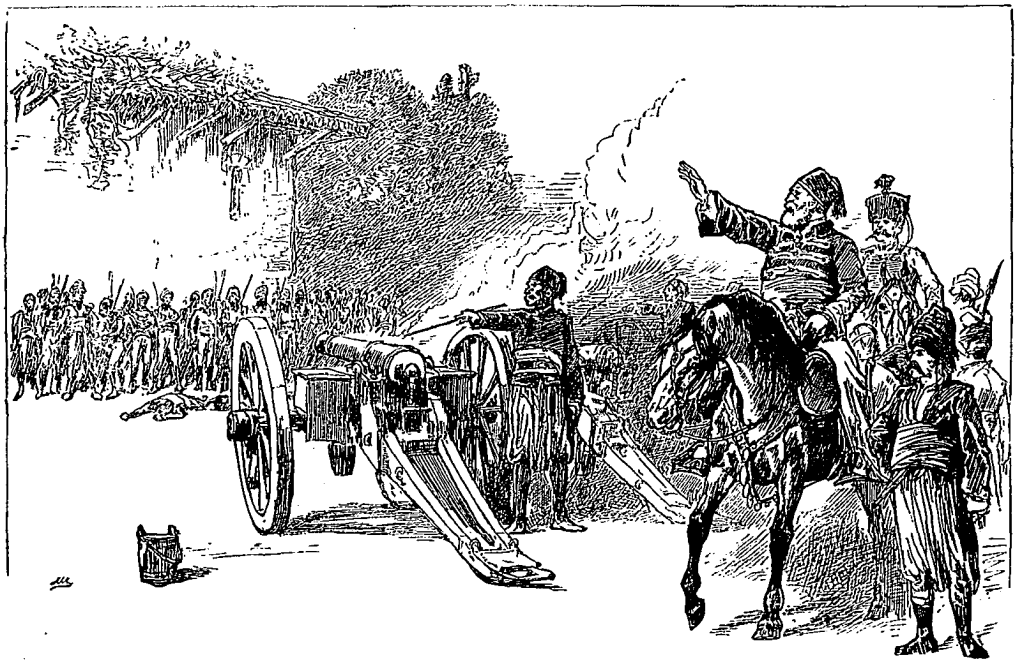


AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN EGYPT.— MEHEMET ALI FIRING ON THE MUTINEERS.— SEE PAGE 486.

AMERICAN SOLDIERS IN EGYPT.

By Colonel C. Chaillé-Long.

In the record of the "American Soldier Abroad," we must present to the reader some of the types of the American soldiers who served with distinction in the Army of the Khedive of Egypt. The so-called American Mission in Egypt was a misnomer. It was purely a personal venture on the part of the individual officers, and with the exception of a few officers furloughed by General William T. Sherman, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army, as a special favor, the United States Government was in no way interested in the results, and Mr. Fish, then Secretary of State, took great pains to forbid that his diplomatic agent in Cairo should refer to these officers as Americans. There is little wonder that the "Mission" was a failure when subjected to such a display of diplomacy—Heaven save the mark!

The employment of Americans was brought about in this wise: The "French Mission," composed of officers of the French Army, duly authorized by that Government, had been engaged for several years in organizing and instructing the Egyptians. They were recalled summarily after the inauguration ceremony of the Suez Canal.*

Ismail Khedive was anxiously looking to replace the French officers, when General Thaddeus P. Mott arrived in Egypt bearing a letter from Blacque Bey, some time the Turkish Minister at Washington, and who had married Mademoiselle Mott, sister of Mott. At the same time the formal application, in writing, of an ex-American officer, attracted the attention of the Khedive, and thereupon General Mott was charged with the employment of American officers, and given, as a "send-off," the rank of Major-general and Aide-de-camp to His Highness. The immediate and urgent reason of this move—it was well known, and even boldly asserted by the Khedive himself—was to sever the Turkish yoke, and by an appeal to arms declare Egypt a free and independent Moslem Power. This, indeed, had been the dream of Mehemet Ali, his illustrious grandsire, when, thundering at the very gates of Constantinople, his victorious army was obliged by the Great Powers to return to Egypt with no other result than to establish the hereditary claim of his family to the sovereignty of Egypt. Mehemet Ali had accomplished this with the aid and genius of a French soldier.

Colonel Sevès was at Waterloo with Napoleon I. Rather than continue in France after the fall of his great captain, he went to Egypt at the moment that Mehemet Ali was nursing his dream of empire and independence. Sevès was asked to organize an army out of the fellahs—little better than slaves—for it will be remembered that the drama enacted at the Citadel—the massacre of the Mamelukes—had deprived Egyptians of the only soldier element of the country. The task was an herculean and seemingly impossible one, but he succeeded. In the place of the Mameluke he substituted the Albanian Greek, Syrian, Turk and negro. The fellah element was mixed in with these, but with a result which proved wellnigh fatal. The fellahs are not brave. Patient toilers of the land, drawers of water, these *adscripti glebæ* have been in fact, though not in name, the slaves who, under the lash of the taskmaster, have been the inexhaustible mine from which the Pharaoh, and the Mameluke as well, have drawn their wealth. The fellah is neither Arab nor Egyptian—he is a nondescript, a strange intermixture with the negro and the servile class, of the conqueror and the conquered, who have handed him down from century to century, from Menes to Mohammed. Bound to the glebe, he has always been treated as a bondman in fact, though not in name. He is a fanatic of the most malignant type. That which he proved himself under Ismail he was also at the time of Mehemet Ali.

It is told that General Sevès, one day, exasperated by the insolent attitude of the newly formed troops, who refused to obey his command, turned and galloped off to the palace, where he offered his sword to Mehemet Ali. His high spirit could not brook the insults offered to the Christian colonel. He would return to France.

Mehemet Ali, his eye blazing with anger, ordered out a battery of artillery of the guard. "Come with me, Sevès; we will see to this." Arrived before the mutinous line of infantry, the battery was unlimbered, and Mehemet Ali commanded himself, "Fire!" The first shot killed

ten men. "Close up the ranks!" he cried, and another shot, another shot—six shots went crashing into the torn and mutilated ranks. And when this had been accomplished, he sternly ordered the survivors to be marched to their *casernes*.

Fancy, if you may, the feelings of Colonel Sevès! When he had returned, this strange, lion-hearted man turned and said to Sevès: "Now, one thing remains—you must do away with the religious pretext, and we may have an army." The following day Colonel Sevès was announced to the army as a Moslem—one of the Faithful, who henceforth was to be known as Soliman Pasha. From that day, his name became a legend in the East, and the Egyptian soldiers under Ibrahim Pasha at Nezib were called the Tigers of Soliman. Fifty years of instruction, more or less continued by the French, has, after all, made but little impression upon the Egyptian. His religion and fanaticism cause him to move in a perpetual *cercle vicieux*. He is perhaps the best illustration of the familiar admonition, "Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone."

With a Soliman Pasha and a Mehemet Ali in 1870, the Americans might have accomplished some lasting results, but there was neither a Soliman Pasha nor a Mehemet Ali. There was only an officer (the Chief of Staff) of very moderate capacity and little or no firmness, and Ismail. The failure of the "American Mission" could have been readily anticipated in 1870.

We have already referred to General Thaddeus P. Mott, the first officer to take service with the Khedive, who was born in New York, December 7th, 1831, the son of Dr. Valentine Mott, M.D., LL.D., Emeritus Professor of Surgery of the University of New York. Young Mott early developed a spirit of adventure. To a splendid physique and elegant appearance he joined a wonderful facility for languages. He was seventeen years of age only when, restive under the restraints imposed at the University of New York, he "bolted," and when heard from by his parents he had joined the revolutionary movement in Italy, and, serving in Sicily and elsewhere, attained, though a mere boy, the rank of second-lieutenant.

Exposure and privation were too much, however, even for the sturdy boy, and we next heard of him as returned to the States, where, on the plea of ill-health, but perhaps for further adventure, he shipped in 1850 before the mast on the clipper-ship *Hornet*, bound for California. In the following year, he was promoted to the post of third-mate on the clipper *Hurricane*. In 1852 he was second-mate of the *St. Denis*. In 1853, first-mate of the *St. Nicholas*, returning after several voyages, in 1855, to California. Mott was in Mexico, under Comonfort, in 1856 and 1857.

In 1861, at the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion, Mott organized a battery, known as Mott's Battery, which formed a part of the Third Independent New York Artillery. Captain Mott was then transferred to the Nineteenth United States Regular Infantry. In 1862, he was Lieutenant-colonel of Cavalry, and in 1863, promoted to Colonel of the Fourteenth New York Cavalry, and in this capacity was chief of the outposts of the Department of the Gulf, under Major-general Franklin.

Colonel Mott participated in several engagements on the Peninsula and in the Department of the Gulf, and resigned the service in 1864. In 1867, Colonel Mott was nominated as Minister Resident to Costa Rica, to succeed General Lawrence, but declined. In 1868, Colonel Mott was in Turkey, and in the following year, at Cairo, was appointed by Ismail Pasha to the rank of General and Ferik Pasha, and, later, Aide-de-camp to His Highness. In 1874, by reason of the expiration of his contract, Mott quitted the Egyptian service and removed to Toulon, in the south of France, where he now resides. General Mott is possessed of a generous, frank and enthusiastic character. It was this which led him to engage General C. P. Stone as one of the officers to serve in Egypt. A few months after the latter's arrival, an estrangement took place between these officers, which resulted in General Mott's voluntary retirement from control. The American Mission being left thus practically without a chief capable of holding its own against the intrigues of an Oriental Court, left to contend with the jealousies of England and Germany—who each seized the occasion to demand the dismissal of the Americans—and obliged to bear the wretched, but just, reflections cast upon the American name by the consular representative who should have been its main prop, there is but little wonder that all parties concerned had very much the sort of experience reported by the parrot as having happened between his birdship and a pugnacious monkey—*i. e.*, "a h—l of a time." It is but just to say, however, that the American officers "were more sinned against than sinning." They were, comparatively speaking, parrots, their rivals and opponents playing the more enviable *rôle* of monkeys.

General H. H. Sibley—Lewa Pasha—was born in Louisiana on January 15th, 1815, and graduated at the Military Academy. He was appointed Second-lieutenant of the Second Dragoons on July 1st, 1838; promoted First-lieutenant, March 8th, 1840; Captain, February 16th, 1874; and Major, First Dragoons, March 25th, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the affair at Medelin, near Vera Cruz, Mexico.

General Sibley served as a subaltern in the campaign against the Seminole Indians, and subsequently in Mexico, and in the Utah Expedition; was promoted Major, First Dragoons, May 13th, 1861, and shortly after resigned, to cast his fortunes with the Confederacy.

He was the inventor of what was known as the "Sibley tent," and this interest was naturally forfeited to the United States Government when he turned his face southward.

He was made a Brigadier-general in the Confederate Army, June 17th, 1861, and placed in command of San Antonio, Texas. In February, 1862, he attacked Fort Craig, in New Mexico, and was repulsed.

In January, 1870, General Sibley, in company with General Loring, was appointed a Lewa Pasha in the Egyptian Army, and placed in command at Rosetta of the defenses there, as Chief of Artillery. General Sibley was a gallant, high-minded soldier, but his health, seriously impaired by the Egyptian climate, could not resist the change, and early in 1871 he resigned and returned to America a confirmed invalid. He died at Fredericksburgh, Va., in January of the present year, within a few weeks of Loring and Stone, who fell suddenly whilst in the enjoyment of perfect health. As one of the Egyptian veterans remarked, "this turnout seems the final roll-call for the *old guard*."

General William Wing Loring entered the Egyptian Army in January, 1870, as a Lewa Pasha, or Brigadier-general, but was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major-general and Ferik Pasha. He was born in Raleigh, N.C., in 1818, but removed when an infant with his parents to St. Augustine, Fla. It was there, in the everglades of his adopted State, that the talent of war—which, like the inspiration of the poet, is born, not made—was first called into action and developed.

It reads like a romance to turn back and retrace the rugged steps by which this gallant one-armed chieftain climbed the ladder of fame; for, reader, the subject of this sketch was a real hero—not one of the trumpet-blown sort, but one of the silent, modest kind rarely

GENERAL H. H. SIBLEY.

noticed by the canting groveler and hero-worshiper. Loring was a warrior, a fighter. Others might have in their composition a deal of thunder—his nature resembled the lightning. In the wars with the Seminoles, in the forest fights at Osceola, Mikinopie, in the Wahoo Swamp, and along the Withlacoochee River, at Okechobee and Alaqua, there the boy soldier fought, and learned the first rude lessons which laid the solid foundation out of which sprang the genius of later years. The first note made of his service on the record of the War Department reads: "Served as Second-lieutenant, Florida Volunteers, in the Indian war in Florida, from June 16th to August 16th, 1837."

In the interval of ten years which elapses before he is noted again he made an ineffectual attempt to join the cause of Houston in Texas, but his parents sent him to school at Alexandria and at Georgetown, D. C., where he studied law. Entering politics, he was elected to the General Assembly of Florida. The Adjutant-general's note resumes: "He was appointed Captain Mounted Riflemen, May 27th, 1846; promoted Major, February 14th, 1847; Lieutenant-colonel, March 15th, 1848; and Colonel, December 30th, 1856."

He received the brevet of Lieutenant-colonel, August 20th, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco, Mexico; and of Colonel, September 13th, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Chapultepec and the Garita de Belen, Mexico. It was there he lost an arm whilst gallantly leading the Mounted Rifles into the very jaws of death, for such, at that critical moment, was the storm of lead and flame which belched from the Belen Gate. The record scarcely mentions the incident, which, in another army and another government would have been eulogized in general orders, and rewarded with some substantial token by the Government. A republican government contents itself in such matters with the reflection that, inasmuch as republics are said to be "ungrateful," it should not be an exception to the rule. General Scott, addressing the Mounted Riflemen on the field of Chapultepec, used these memorable words: "*Brave Rifles, you have gone through fire and blood, and come out steel.*"

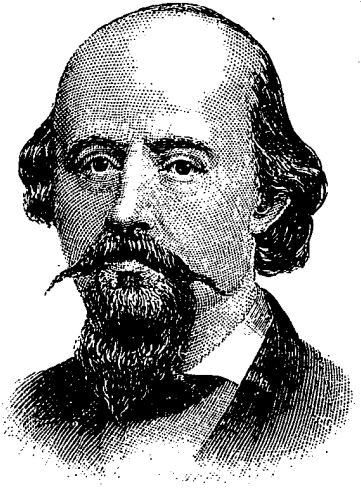
The people of Appalachicola, remembering with pride the boy soldier who but ten years before had shown such gallantry on its soil, presented him with a handsome sword, upon whose blade they caused to be engraved in letters of gold the note of praise uttered by Scott on the field of Chapultepec.

In 1849, the gold fever broke out with great violence. The Government was obliged to provide protection from the Indians to the multitude who flocked to the Eldorado of California. Colonel Loring was ordered to the arduous service, and marched the Mounted Riflemen with full ranks, accompanied by a train of 300 six-mule teams, a distance of 2,300 miles across the continent to Oregon. There he was assigned to the command of that Department, and, subsequently, the Rio Grande frontier, being constantly engaged during a period of the five years which ensued in conflicts with the hostile savages.

In 1856, now a full Colonel, Loring was ordered to take his regiment to Fort Union, a distance of 2,000 miles. Another twelvemonth, and again Colonel Loring and his riflemen were called into arduous service, marked by interminable marches and conflicts with the Indians in the Sierra Blanca or in the Territory of Arizona.

In 1858 Colonel Loring's regiment made another march of 2,000 miles to Utah Territory, where he was associated with that great soldier whom Mr. Davis declares to have been the ideal genius of the warrior, General Albert Sydney Johnston, who was then occupied with what was known subsequently as the "Mormon War."

At the post of Fort Union he received a leave, with permission to visit Europe, Egypt and the Holy Land, returning to his command of the Department of New



GENERAL WILLIAM WING LORING.

Mexico on March 22d, 1861. On May 13th, 1861, Colonel Loring resigned from the United States Army. It was the commencement of that "irrepressible conflict" which had been foretold, and in obedience to the voice of his adopted State, he, as almost all others of the South did,

cast his fortunes with the Confederate cause. He served with distinction in Western and Northwestern Virginia, and was commissioned a Major-general on February 15th, 1862.

His gallantry on every field was only equaled by his genius, which carried him with unerring judgment to the thickest of the fray, if it was there that a weak point was to be maintained; or, as at Vicksburg, to fold his tent like the Arab and silently steal away, if it was to save his command from inevitable defeat or capture.

His Chief of Staff and Aides, Colonels I. H. Thomas and I. R. Ogden, were with Loring when engaged in the exterior defenses of Vicksburg. The enemy was expected with his gunboats at early dawn, and Loring's Chief of Engineers reported his inability to place in position certain dismounted guns. Loring, pale with rage, relieved the discouraged officer from duty. A sergeant, an old artilleryman, who had overheard the conversation, walked up and said: "General, with your permission I can place the guns in position." "If you can do so, do it," said Loring. The next morning the gunboat came and received a hot reception from the pieces which the sergeant had successfully mounted. Loring stood upon the parapet swinging his old slouch hat, and full of strong language, cried, as the shots plowed into the hull of the battered gunboat: "*Give her a blizzard, boys! give her a blizzard!*" To the brave soldiers who recognized the *elan* of the old soldier he was ever after known by the *sobriquet* of "*Old Blizzard.*" The Confederate cause lost, Loring went to New York, where, engaged in business in Wall Street, he was soon relieved of a considerable sum of money.

At the close of 1869, accompanied by General W. H. Sibley, he sailed for Egypt, having accepted the post of Brigadier-general in the Army of the Khedive, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Ferik Pasha, or General of Division. He commanded what was known as "Loring's Corps" in Alexandria and the defenses extending to Rosetta. He was sent as Chief of Staff to Ratif Pasha, the Commander-in-Chief, and with a brilliant staff of American officers was enabled to save the Egyptians from complete annihilation on the plains of Khaya Khor, by his unexampled courage and skill, from the fierce onslaught of the Abyssinians. An account of this battle is given *in extenso* in a volume entitled, "A Confederate Soldier in Egypt," published by him after his return to America in 1879. General Loring quitted the Egyptian Army at the same time as the officers composing the American Mission, who were discharged from the service as a measure of economy. The Khedive conferred upon General Loring the decorations of Commandeur and Grand Commandeur of the Medjidieh, and Commandeur of the Osmanieh. As a soldier and friend few men have attained a higher place upon the roll of honor or in the esteem of men than the modest soldier and hero whose life has been a long chapter of romance and unexampled adventure.

General Loring died suddenly in New York on December 30th, 1886, and his funeral ceremonies at Grace Church were attended by his comrades in arms, some of whom had been with him in the Seminole wars, in Mexico and in Egypt. A subsequent interment at St. Augustine, Florida, was attended by imposing civic and military ceremonies, in which the officers and soldiers of the United States marched side by side with the Confederates, who had gathered by thousands from all parts of the United States to offer thus a tribute to the hero whose sword was now sheathed for ever.

COLONEL C. CHAILLÉ-LONG.

General Charles Pomeroy Stone was born in Greenfield, Mass., September 30th, 1824; received his early instruction at the Fellenburg and Deerfield Academies; and entering West Point, was graduated and promoted to be Brevet Second-lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps, July 1st, 1845; to be Second-lieutenant, March 3d, 1847; and a First-lieutenant, February 26th, 1853. Resigned honorably on November 17th, 1856; appointed Colonel Fourteenth Infantry, May 14th, 1861; resigned honorably, September 13th, 1864. The records of the War Department add that he was breveted First-lieutenant, September 8th, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Molino del Rey; Captain, September 13th, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Chapultepec, Mexico.

In the volunteer service for the suppression of the rebellion, Lieutenant Stone was appointed Colonel and Inspector-general, District of Columbia Militia, January 1st, 1861, and a Brigadier-general, United States Volunteers, May 17th, 1861. General Stone had the great advantage of being a special *protégé* of the General-in-Chief, Lieutenant-general Scott, and by the latter was placed in charge of all the outposts of Washington, guarding the railway between Washington and Annapolis Junction; also in command of the advanced guard in the passage of the Potomac, under such admirable arrangements (made by him), that he was enabled to take possession of the Virginia side of the Long Bridge before any alarm was given, thus preventing the Confederates from firing it, and taking Alexandria, Va., May 24th, 1861.

Stone commanded at Alexandria for two days, and when recalled resumed command of the outposts of Washington. Subsequently, in his capacity of Brigadier-general of Volunteers, he was appointed, on August 10th, to the command of a special corps of observation on the Upper Potomac. In October, 1861, a portion of his

force, under the command of Colonel Baker, was engaged in the combat of Ball's Bluff—a combat in which Baker was killed, and almost his entire command annihilated. Some time after, General Stone was suddenly arrested, and sent hurriedly to Fort Lafayette, New York Harbor, where he was incarcerated, with strict orders that he should be kept in close confinement. No charges were preferred against him, no court of inquiry or court-martial held. He was confined at Forts Lafayette and Hamilton until August 16th, 1862, when he was released. The whole matter was, and is still, involved in mystery. General Halleck, when asked of the cause, was silent, and the President, who received General Stone on his return, said: "If I told you all I knew about it, I should not tell you much."

General Stone's friends refer to the Hon. James G. Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress" for his vindication, and promise that the secret history of this extraordinary case will appear in its own good time.

In the month of July, 1870, General Stone, who had been recommended to General Mott by General Loring, was appointed Brigadier-general in the Khedive's Army, and, shortly after his arrival in Egypt, was assigned by General Mott to the duty of Chief of Staff. In a military sense, as the sequel has shown, little was done for the organization or the *morale* of the Egyptian Army. The campaign in Abyssinia and the flight at Tel-el-Kebir would badly reflect upon the work of the American officers—instructors of that army—if those officers had ever seriously performed such duties. The truth is, that fanaticism and hatred of the Christian deterred both General Stone and the American officers from ever holding intimate relations or having actual contact with the fanatical fellah army of the Khedive.

It is true that many officers were enabled to render service in the several departments, but it is also true that this service, although placed to the credit of the War Department, effected little result toward the principal object for which General Stone and other Americans entered the service of the Khedive—namely, the reorganization and instruction of the Egyptian Army.

Individual officers succeeded in their various *rôles*, but the American Mission work, in its relation to the army, was a lamentable *fiasco*. It required talent of a different order from that possessed by General Stone, who was essentially a bureaucrat and of a mild and yielding nature—characteristics which the wily Oriental soon knew how to turn against the general himself and the American officers *en bloc*.

General Stone was in great favor with Ismail Khedive, and was the only officer retained in service after the dethronement of the latter. He remained with Tewfik, and was with him in Alexandria when the Khedive escaped to the Palace of Ramlé—escape which was rendered possible by the timely *reconnoissance* of the American Consul and the aid given that officer by Admiral Nicholson, the commander of the American squadron, who placed two hundred marines, commanded by their officers, and sailors, at his disposition.

General Stone found himself shortly after in Alexandria, without money and without shelter for his family, about to arrive from Cairo. The Government having no money in its treasury, the Acting American Consul (Colonel Chaillé-Long) came to his rescue, and placed the general and Mrs. Stone in one of the palaces abandoned by the fugitive American Consul, Baron Menaree, who, from his hiding-place in Europe, had telegraphed to Colonel Long to take possession and control of his immense property, much of which the Consul had saved from the conflagration. General Stone's gratitude and that of his family was unbounded.

General Stone left the Egyptian service in January, 1883. He had received during his service a number of important decorations from the Egyptian Government. He was President of the Geographical Society at Cairo, and also a Member of the Egyptian Institute.

Returning to New York, he was appointed Engineer-in-Chief to the committee for the construction of the pedestal of the great statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World," known as Bartholdi's Statue.

General Stone died suddenly, of pneumonia, in New York, in January, 1887.