



COLONEL JAMES A. MULLIGAN.

Colonel JAMES A. MULLIGAN was born in the city of Utica, New York, in the year 1829, and is consequently in his thirty-second year. His parents were natives of Ireland. His mother, after the death of his father, which took place when he was a child, removed to Chicago, where she has resided with her son for the past twenty-three years. She married a respectable Irish-American in Chicago named MICHAEL LANTRY, who has steadily watched with a father's solicitude the expanding mind of the brave young soldier. He was educated at the Catholic College of North Chicago, under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. KINSELLAR, now of New York city, and is a strict member of the Catholic Church. In 1852, 1853, and 1854 he read law in the office of the Hon. ISAAC N. ARNOLD, Congressman from the Chicago District. For a short time he edited the *Western Tablet*, a semi-religious weekly newspaper in Chicago. In 1856 he was admitted an attorney at law in Chicago. At this time he held the position of Second Lieutenant in the Chicago Shields Guards, one of the companies attached to the Irish Brigade now in Missouri, and which did so well at Lexington.

Colonel MULLIGAN is worthy of all praise.—A purer, better man does not live in the State of Illinois. Since he was able to tell the difference between ale and water a glass of spirituous or mal-lighor has not passed his lips. He is a rigid temperance man, although he is fond and

whole-souled to a fault. He is six feet three inches in height, with a wiry, elastic frame, a large, lustrous, hazel eye, an open, frank, Celtic face, stamped with courage, pluck, and independence, surmounted with a bushy profusion of hair, tinged with grey. Honorable in all relations, respected by all, he has won his way by untiring industry and unquestionable courage.—On the 20th of October, 1859, he was married to Miss MARIAN NUGENT by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Chicago.

In the winter of 1857 Senator FITCH, of Indiana, tendered him a clerkship in the Department of the Interior. He accepted of the position and spent the winter at Washington. During his residence in Washington he corresponded with the *Utica Telegraph*, over the *nomme de plume* of "Satan." After his return to Chicago from Washington, he was elected Captain of the Shields Guards. On the news arriving of the bombardment of Fort Sumter, the Irish-American companies held a meeting, of which he was chairman, and soon afterwards he went to Washington with a letter, written by the late Senator DOUGLAS on his death-bed, to the President, tendering a regiment to be called the "Irish Brigade." It was accepted, and, being elected Colonel, the brave MULLIGAN immediately went to work with will. His regiment was rapidly organized, and from that time until the compulsory surrender of Lexington, after a protracted siege, the course of the organization is well known.

The Philadelphia Inquirer.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1861.

Colonel Mulligan at Chicago.

Colonel MULLIGAN, the brave commander of the Irish brigade at Lexington, arrived at Chicago on Friday, and had a flattering reception. He arrived on a special train from Joliet, and was met at the depot by an immense crowd of citizens. In response to an address of welcome from Mr. E. VAN BUREN, the Colonel spoke as follows:—"Sir—I feel profoundly sensible of the honor that Chicago has done me in this most flattering reception. I feel deeply impressed that she has arisen in her might and glory to honor me, who am but her humblest citizen. I am not vain enough to attribute to myself the honor which is thus conferred, but I thank Heaven for the blessed privilege of taking it to my heart, and laying it at the feet of those brave soldiers who bore me through the storms and perils of battle without flinching—without a murmur or a demonstration other than those of unflinching determination and glorious bravery—the men who, for nine days, in a wilderness of danger, with scarcely a torch of hope of success, fought heavily and to the last, and are now cherished in the hearts of all true citizens as heroic defenders of their country should be cherished.

For myself, I only ask to stand again at the head of the Irish Brigade, and once more face rebellion and Missouri, and my earnest hope is that I may yet plant that banner which we bore hence, on heights as dangerous as those over which it floated in those true men stood beside me and defended with their utmost strength. For myself and for my Brigade—for all who fought at Lexington—I assure you that while law is broken, while the honor of

DISASTERS IN THE WEST.

The great battle of Springfield was indecisive in its results, and Missouri still remained the abode of a divided and hostile population, and the destined theatre of future warlike and bloody events. In the early portion of September a powerful rebel force was collected by General Sterling Price, and with these he commenced a march toward Lexington. That city had been occupied and fortified by Col. Mulligan, with a number of Federal troops; although, as seemed to be generally the case with the Federal commanders in the southwest, they were inferior in numbers to the armaments brought against them.

Colonel Mulligan had fortified Lexington by heavy earthworks ten feet in height, with a ditch twelve feet in width. The number of troops under his command was about three thousand; that of General Price was about fifteen thousand. On Thursday, September 12th, General Price reached the scene of conflict, and immediately commenced operations by driving in the Federal pickets. Mulligan ordered out four companies to confront the advanced guard of the enemy. These were about five thousand in numbers. The Federal troops attacked them with spirit, killing a large number, but were compelled to retire within the entrenchments. Price followed with six guns, and commenced to fire upon the college building in which the ammunition and provisions of Mulligan were stored. This attack commenced at three o'clock in the afternoon, and continued till dark. Mulligan responded with his five guns with effect. He silenced one of the cannon of the rebels, knocking it to pieces, and killed about seventy-five men. But when his firing ceased at night all his ammunition had been expended. The engagement on the 12th was adverse to the enemy; they had lost a greater number in killed and wounded than their opponents, and had accomplished nothing. They did not renew the attack on the ensuing day.

It was not until the morning of the 17th that the rebels were prepared to recommence the conflict. During this interval they had received reinforcements, and were now able to surround the city completely, and cut off all access to the river. At eight o'clock a signal gun from General Price's head-quarters announced the opening of the battle. His numerous artillery poured upon the Federal troops and entrenchments a tremendous shower of shot and shell, to which Mulligan replied with his guns, as well as his limited means permitted. The battle lasted from the 17th to the 20th. During the first two days the rebels accomplished nothing, and advanced no nearer the entrenchments than they had been at first. On the 19th they commenced to erect breastworks of hemp bales, from behind which they continued to fire, and which, from time to time, they rolled nearer to the position of the Federals. About three o'clock on that day the enemy made a charge, and flouted their colors upon the summit of the Federal breastworks. Mulligan ordered the Irish brigade, who were posted on the opposite side of the works, to leave their position and retake the entrenchments, of which they had gained possession. This order was obeyed with the utmost alacrity; and, as seems to be the invariable fact during this war, in every case in which the Irish have been brought into action, they charged with such impetuosity and heroism as to completely overpower the enemy. They regained possession of the entrenchments, killed and wounded about five hundred, and captured their colors. Colonel Mulligan, who led the charge in person, was wounded, and his clothes were perforated by six balls. This decisive repulse put an end to the operations of that day.

On the 20th the enemy recommenced the battle. During this day they made several desperate charges upon the works, and were as frequently repulsed with great slaughter. Still, the losses on the Federal side were heavy; and, although Colonel Mulligan and his men fought with the utmost heroism, there were causes which rendered their ultimate defeat inevitable. During this day they exploded six mines successively, under the advancing rebel forces, destroying them by hundreds. At length, at four o'clock, it became impossible to continue the contest any longer. Colonel Mulligan and his men had been destitute of water for several days; all their ammunition was expended; and one half of their cannon had been silent for some time, for want of balls. During the progress of the entire attack the Federal troops had been casting their own round shot at a

foundry within the city, and even that resource had at last been exhausted. Retreat by the river had been cut off by the hordes of the Rebels who swarmed upon the shores, and took possession of all the boats. The surrender was therefore inevitable, though a decisive moral victory had been achieved by the dauntless heroism displayed by the Federal troops. It is computed that, before the end of the contest, the number of men who had collected under the Rebel banners at Lexington amounted to twenty-five thousand men. They had sixteen cannon, and were provided with ammunition in abundance. Their loss was heavy, not less than a thousand in killed and wounded. The loss of the Federals was about one hundred killed and three hundred wounded. So deeply was the Rebel commander impressed with the bravery of Colonel Mulligan and his troops, that, at the surrender, he refused to accept the Colonel's sword; declaring, with a magnanimity worthy of a much better cause, that he was too brave an officer to be deprived of his arms, and well deserved to keep them. Colonel Mulligan and his troops became prisoners of war.

Colonel James A. Mulligan, whose heroism has thus stamped his name indelibly upon the annals of this contest, was born in Utica, New York, in 1829. His parents were natives of the Emerald Isle. He was educated at the Catholic College of Chicago. In that city he studied law and was admitted to the bar. In 1837 he accepted a clerkship in the Department of the Interior at Washington. After spending a year in the Federal Capital, he returned to Chicago, and was elected Captain of the Shields' Guards. When the war broke out he entered zealously into the contest, and proceeded to Washington with a letter, penned by Senator Douglas on his death-bed, commending him to the confidence of the Administration. He had been elected Colonel of the Irish Brigade, whose services the Government at once accepted. The rest of his history is summed up in the heroic struggle of which Lexington was the memorable scene.