

## A P P E N D I X.

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### DIARY OF THE SIEGE OF MEXICO.

IN compiling a Diary of the Siege many difficulties are met with. Neither Cortés nor Bernal Díaz are accurate in the matter of dates, and they not only contradict one another but often contradict themselves.

In the year 1521 Easter fell on the 31st March.

One point on which both are agreed is that the division of the forces and the announcement of the commands was made on the second day of the feast of Espiritu Santo, which feast in the year 1521 fell on Sunday, 19th May. The second day of the feast would therefore be the 20th May, and Bernal Díaz says that the companies of Alvarado and Olid had orders to start on the day following (21st May), but on account of the defection and execution of Xicotencatl (of which Cortés makes no mention) that their departure was delayed until the next day (22nd May). Nevertheless, Bernal Díaz says the companies of Alvarado started on the 13th May, and Cortés gives the date as the 10th May.

Then, again, Bernal Díaz, twice over, mentions ninety-three days as the length of the siege. The siege, we know for certain, ended on the 13th August, so that to make up ninety-three days he must have begun his count on the 13th May.

It is impossible to reconcile these various statements, and in the following Diary the departure of Alvarado and Olid from Texcoco is assumed to have taken place on the 22nd May, as that date fits in best with the events that follow.

The next certain date is (31st May) "Friday, the day after the feast of Corpus Christi," on which day Cortés says that Sandoval left Texcoco for Iztapalapa, and he himself embarked in the sloops and fought a battle on the lake.

The disaster to the Spaniards, when so many of the soldiers were captured alive and dragged off to be sacrificed to Huitzilopochtli, may, with some certainty, be dated Sunday, 31st June. In July, the mention by Cortés of the Feast of Santiago, enables some dates to be fixed, and San Hipolito's day, 13th August, is definitely given both by Cortés and Bernal Díaz as the date of the capture of Guatemoc and the termination of the siege.

Between these fixed points the dates of the different events can only be approximated from such indications as "after having heard Mass" (probably a Sunday or Feast day), "already more than forty-five days had been spent in this siege," "Three or four days passed in concerting this plan," "The next day," etc.

After drawing up the following Diary from the Narratives of Cortés and Bernal Díaz, I compared it with the dates given by Orozco y Berra, in his *History of Mexico*, and found that there was hardly any difference.

Cortés being himself in command and writing his letters to the Emperor within nine months of the end of the siege (the Third Letter is dated 15th May, 1522) is more trustworthy in the matter of dates and the sequence of events than Bernal Díaz, who wrote many years afterwards and frequently repeats himself and places events in the wrong order.

It has not been thought necessary to disentangle the events described by Bernal Díaz in his narrative of the siege, but merely to place occasionally a date in a footnote, to enable the reader to refer to the Diary.

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## DIARY OF THE SIEGE.

*April.*

28. Cortés holds a review. The launches are launched in the Canal.
- M. 29. Messengers sent to Tlaxcala and other towns warning the Native Contingents to be ready to march in ten days.

*May.*

- S. 19. Feast of Espiritu Santo.
- M. 20. Cortés divides his forces and appoints Commanders.
- T. 21.
- W. 22. Alvarado and Olid leave Texcoco for Acolman.
- Th. 23. Alvarado and Olid march to Citlaltepec.
- F. 24. Alvarado and Olid march to Guatitlan.
- Sat. 25. Alvarado and Olid march by Tenaynca and Azcapotzalco to Tacuba.
- S. 26. *After hearing Mass* (B.D.), Alvarado and Olid cut off the water from Chapultepec and make a reconnoissance on Tacuba Causeway.
- M. 27. Olid leaves Tacuba for Coyoacan, finds it deserted, goes to look at the Causeway to Mexico, which he finds broken.
- T. 28. }  
 W. 29. } Alvarado remains in camp at Tacuba.  
 Th. 30.<sup>1</sup> }
- F. 31. Sandoval leaves Texcoco for Iztapalapa, and attacks that town. Cortés sets out from Texcoco with the launches, attacks the Peñon (del Marques), fights a battle with the canoes in the lake, and lands on the Iztapalapa Causeway at Acachinanco, which he makes his headquarters.
- Olid, from Coyoacan, fights his way along the Causeway and joins Cortés at Acachinanco; as Cortés says that Olid was helped by the launches "which sailed near the Causeway," it must have been the Iztapalapa Causeway along which he marched; he apparently returned to his headquarters at Coyoacan that night.

*June.*

- Sat. 1. Cortés, reinforced by some of Olid's troops, reaches the first houses in the City.
- Enlarges or makes a breach in the Iztapalapa Causeway, so that the launches can pass to the west side.
- S. 2.

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<sup>1</sup> Feast of Corpus Christi.

*June.*

- M. 3.  
 T. 4.  
 W. 5.  
 Th. 6.  
 F. 7.  
 Sat. 8. Alvarado reports Tepeacac Causeway open.  
 S. 9. Sandoval arrives at Tepeacac.  
 M. 10. Cortés captures Xoloc and reaches the Plaza.  
 T. 11. Cortés pushes his attack.  
 W. 12.  
 Th. 13. }  
 F. 14. } No fighting from Cortés's side.  
 Sat. 15. }  
 S. 16. General assault. Cortés reaches the Plaza. Burns Montezuma's Palaces.  
 M. 17. Cortés captures two bridges on the Tacuba street. Alvarado writes from the Causeway. Iztapalapa, Churubusco, Culucan, Mexquic, and Cuitlahuac seek peace and build huts for Spaniards on Iztapalapa Causeway.  
 T. 18. }  
 W. 19. } Continual attacks on the City, with the assistance of a  
 Th. 20. } fleet of Canoes provided by the towns on the lake, in  
 F. 21. } all 100,000 Indian allies. Cortés captured and filled up  
 Sat. 22. } three bridges on the Tacuba street. Sandoval and Alvarado also advanced successfully, and the Spaniards appeared to have captured three-quarters of the City.  
 S. 23. Defeat of Alvarado at the large water-opening.  
 M. 24. Cortés visits Alvarado's camp.  
 T. 25. }  
 W. 26. } Alvarado on the defensive while recovering from his  
 Th. 27. } defeat. Cortés made continual attacks, and after consulting his officers made plans for a combined attack  
 F. 28. } on Sunday (B.D.), 30th June.  
 Sat. 29. }  
 S. 30. Defeat of Cortés. Many Spaniards captured alive. Alvarado fairly successful. Cortés made his attack from the Tacuba street along the three streets running north from Tacuba street towards Tlatelolco. The Spaniards probably crossed the large water-opening which originally divided Tenochtitlan from Tlatelolco, and it was on the Causeway connecting the two Cities that they met with their disaster.

*July.*

- M. 1.  
 T. 2. Cuernavaca begs Cortés for help. Cortés despatches Andrés de Tápia with a force to their assistance.

*July.*

- W. 3. } Andrés de Tápia absent on expedition to Malinalco.  
 Th. 4. } No advance was made on Alvarado's part during the next  
 F. 5. } few days. A large water-opening was filled in.  
 Sat. 6. } Cortés<sup>1</sup> kept up attack at intervals as far as the Plaza,  
 S. 7. } and Chichimecatecle advanced from Alvarado's camp  
 M. 8. } without the assistance of the Spaniards, but nothing of  
 T. 9. } importance appears to have taken place until  
 W. 10. Return of Andrés de Tápia (?).  
 Th. 11.  
 F. 12. The Otomies beg Cortés for help. Cortés despatches  
 Sandoval with a force to their assistance.  
 Sat. 13. Alvarado's camp attacked by full force of Mexicans at dawn.  
 Cortés sends reinforcements.  
 S. 14.  
 M. 15. Native Allies begin to rejoin the Spaniards. Powder and  
 arms arrived from a vessel which had put into Vera Cruz.  
 Forty-fifth day of siege.  
 T. 16.  
 W. 17. Sandoval returns from his Expedition (?).  
 Th. 18. Mexicans propose peace on condition that the Spaniards  
 leave the country.  
 F. 19. Cortés determines on the systematic destruction of buildings.  
 Sat. 20.  
 S. 21. { General attack on the City. Cortés slaughters great  
 M. 22. { numbers by an ambush in the Plaza, and finally clears  
 T. 23. { the Plaza of Tenochtitlan of the enemy. Clears and  
 W. 24. { fills up Tacuba street (so that communication was  
 Th. 25. { effected with Alvarado's Camp although the forces did  
 not join hands), and Guatemoc's palace on Tacuba  
 street was destroyed.  
 Th. 25. SANTIAGO'S DAY, Cortés crossed and filled in the broad  
 water space between Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco.  
 F. 26. Cortés reaches Sta Ana (Xacaculco), and finds the heads of  
 Spaniards in a temple.  
 Sat. 27. Alvarado reaches the Market-place of Tlatelolco and sets  
 fire to the great temple.  
 S. 28. Cortés and Alvarado meet in the Market-place of Tlatelolco.

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<sup>1</sup> A few days after the defeat many of the native allies deserted the Spaniards and returned to their homes, disheartened by the Spaniards' failure to capture the City and scared by a prophecy of the God Huichilobos that all the Spaniards would be killed within eight or ten days.

*July.*

- M. 29. Catapult brought to Tlatelolco.  
 T. 30. No fighting.  
 W. 31. No fighting.

*August.*

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|------|----|---|
| Th.  | 1. | } Between Monday, 29th July, and the capture of Guatemoc on the 13th August, the dates of events cannot be stated with any certainty. The Spaniards were tired out and the Mexicans utterly exhausted, and apparently for some days no fighting took place. During part of this time the Spaniards were at work on a Catapult which proved a complete failure. Throughout these last days Cortés made efforts to induce the Mexicans to give in without further fighting and slaughter. |
| F.   | 2. |   |
| Sat. | 3. |   |
| S.   | 4. |   |
| M.   | 5. |   |
| T.   | 6. |   |
- W. 7. After unsuccessful negotiations P. de Alvarado was ordered to attack a quarter containing more than a thousand houses (probably to the N. of the Plaza of Tlatelolco), and drove out the Mexicans with fearful slaughter.
- Th. 8. More unsuccessful negotiations.
- F. 9. A Texcocan chieftain, who had been taken prisoner, was freed and sent back to Guatemoc with messages of peace, but Guatemoc ordered him to be killed at once and sacrificed to the Gods. The Mexicans then made their final attack on the Spaniards.
- |      |     |                                      |
|------|-----|--------------------------------------|
| Sat. | 10. | } Two days of fruitless negotiation. |
| S.   | 11. |                                      |
- M. 12. The Mexicans ask Cortés to meet Guatemoc in the Market-place. Guatemoc fails to appear, and after waiting for three or four hours Cortés ordered his troops and the allies to attack, with the result that the Mexican killed, wounded, and prisoners numbered more than 40,000.
- T. 13. *San Hipolito's Day.* Finally, on this day Cortés, Alvarado and the Indian Allies made an attack on the extreme N.E. corner of the City, where the wretched half-starved remnant of the Mexicans still held out. Sandoval, with the launches, cut off the retreat of the Mexican canoes towards the lake, and amid scenes of awful carnage the last houses of the City were captured and Guatemoc who attempted to escape in a canoe, was taken prisoner.
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## I N D E X.

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