A DAILY LESSON IN HISTORY.

MRS ANN CHASE, THE HEROINE OF TAMPICO IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

MRS. ANN CHASE.

Born in North of Ireland in 1809. Died at Brooklyn, L I, Dec 24, 1874.

When Ann McClarmondé was a little girl of 11 years her father died and left the family with very small means of support. The widow for five years struggled to keep a home for her children and then decided to come to this country.

They landed at New York in 1824 and one of the brothers went to Philadelphia, where he was able to engage, almost at once, in a business of his own. Mrs McClarmondé only lived a year and Ann then joined this brother and began to help him in his affairs, looking after certain details and keeping his books. Before long she had a share in the business and showed remarkable ability and industry.

When Ann was 25 she and her brother went to New Orleans and two years later went on to Tampico, Mex. Their business threw them into constant relations with the American consul there, who was Capt Franklin Chase, and when she was 29 Ann McClarmondé and he were married.

On the date of May 12, 1846, there fell a cruel blow upon all the American residents in Mexico. The government confiscated all their property and used it for purposes of the Mexican war. This high-handed act was followed by a decree that all Americans living in the coast towns should remove to a certain distance into the interior, and if they did not see fit to do this they must leave the country by ship. Eight days were allowed them to make the change and if they did not do as directed they would be considered hostages till the war was ended.

The Chases were doing a large business and much money was due them and they also had quantities of goods on hand. Mrs Chase, on the strength of being a British subject, claimed her right to stay at Tampico. Mr Chase had to go, so he made over his property to her. Forbidden to communicate with him, she contrived to do so, and she also got important information in the hands of the American officers.

At one time she was so suspected that a mob attacked her servants were sent away and she was set to watch her. She had a plan of the city, with all the defences. She showed this to Commodore Conner and told them in great secrecy that the Americans were to attack at once with 30,000 men.

The Mexicans were thrown into terror when they learned this news, and Santa Anna, who was at San Luis Potosi, sent word that the city should be evacuated when the Americans approached. Mrs Chase got this news conveyed to the commodore and when he sailed up the river the stars and stripes were floating from a tall flagstaff near her home.

And so the important port of Tampico was taken without the shedding of a drop of blood, and Gen Scott made it his place of rendezvous in all his operations. Mrs Chase was publicly commended and the name of the Chief Fort at Tampico was changed to that of Fort Ann.

The women of New Orleans headed a movement that resulted in the presence of Mrs Chase of a very handservice. Mr Chase, on his return to Tampa as consul