THE HEROINE OF TAMPAICO.—The annals of modern times exhibit few instances of female patriotism more noble, chivalrous, and brilliant than that of Mrs. Franklin Chase, at the recent taking of Tampaico. Born from her husband, and shut up in a city filled with the enemies of her country, plundered of her property, and with her life exposed to the will of a lawless multitude, her heroic heart, her cool deliberation, her consummate skill and judgment in planning the expulsion of a powerful enemy, and the taking of the city, will ever challenge the admiration of the world, and form one of the most beautiful themes for the pen of the historian.

Few men, placed in so trying and dangerous a situation, have ever manifested greater presence of mind, greater boldness of purpose, or greater adroitness in the execution of plans. Single-handed as she was, surrounded by the infuriated enemies of her country, who had just torn her husband from her, and with no American force within many leagues of the city, she nevertheless sat down, weak and defenseless as she was, to plan the flight of her enemies and the taking of the city. Animated by the liveliest patriotism, and imbued with the deepest sense of the power and goodness of that great Being who presides over the destinies of men, she thought only of God and her country. That great Being directed her, marked out her liberation, and blinded the eyes of her enemies to her plans. Day after day she spent in gathering accurate information of her Mexican foes—the plan of the city, the number, position, and strength of their fortifications, the forces actually in the field, and their designs; and sleepless nights were passed, in the preparation of documents for the American Commodore. With what deep anxiety must she have awaited the result of her dispatches! Had they not been received with the utmost confidence, and had they not been acted on without delay, all her schemes must have been detected; and her enemies, whom her consummate diplomatic skill had caused to flee precipitantly from the city, would have returned to wreak upon her the full weight of a deadly vengeance. Even if she had not been subjected to all the ignominy of a public scaffold, or torn in pieces by an infuriated populace, she would, at least, have been loaded with chains, and hurried to the deadly gloom and dampness of a Mexican dungeon.

What then, in view of all this, must have been the fortune, the devoted patriotism, the heroic iniquity of this noble lady! It was a game of life or death, at any stage of which she might have been detected; and all this she knew more fully than it can now be described or imagined. It was a fearful drama, in every scene of which the courageous heroine was treading on a horrid volcano, that the slightest error of judgment would have caused to burst upon her. What, then, too, must have been her feelings, her joy, when she saw the American Squadron looming in the distance over the waves of the Gulf, the proud banner of her country waving at the mast-head! See her gazing with delight at the vessels, eyes on her glass the crowded decks, and the glitter of their arms, as they came bounding toward the Bar of Tampaico. See her, then, flying to the top of her house, shouting with exultation and hoisting to the breeze, with her own hands, the Star-Spangled Banner! See her defying the Mexican authorities, and refusing to pull down the bright banner of her country! See her clinging to it, and refusing to leave it, offering to die before it should be taken down by Mexican hands!

Such was the personal heroism, the devoted patriotism, the heroic intrepidity, and the exquisitely judicious and skill, with which Mrs. Chase delivered into our hands the city of Tampaico. The exploit is without a parallel in modern times, whether we consider the magnitude of the undertaking or the nobleness of the character displayed. Mrs. Chase has not only the honor of having displayed the most heroic conduct, thus proving that her countrywomen are capable of the noblest actions, but she has the honor, too, of having taken a city!—first by putting to flight an army of Mexicoans, and next by calling from the ocean an armed force to secure it.

Such has been the high admiration bestowed upon her actions, by the whole country, and such is the profound respect now felt for her, that the ladies of New Orleans are about to present to her a magnificent service of plate, as a manifestation of their regard for one whose noble actions have reflected so much honor upon the sex. It is a patriotic undertaking, and will be hailed with feelings of pride and admiration by all our citizens.

Mrs. Chase, the heroine of Tampaico, who so nobly aided the operations of Gen. Conner, thereby securing a bloody victory to the American arms at that place, is now spending a few days with her relatives in this city, in the family of Abram Barker, Esq. Mr. Chase, it will be remembered, was at that time the American Consul at Tampaico, and was also extensively engaged in trade on his own account. By a decree of the Central Government of Mexico, his property was confiscated, and in common with all American residents, he was compelled to abandon the place. Mrs. Chase, however, with the consent of her husband, determined to remain, not only to save his property from destruction but to keep him and the American officers in the vicinity informed of all that should transpire in the city, and in the result, that important support together with a considerable quantity of stores, fell into our hands without the expenditure of a single dollar, or the loss of a single life. To gain the same by the ordinary course of war, it has been stated, would have cost at least some 500 lives and a million or more of dollars.
LETTER FROM MRS. CHASE—Shamful treatment of the Americans in the City of Mexico.

Tampa, April 17th, 1847.

My Dear Friend:—At this moment there is no news of much interest in this section of the country, except the Mexicans quarreling amongst themselves. It is pretty certain we shall get a chance at the Yankees, and I wish I could tell you the story of another Mexican. Mexican newspapers have given so much coverage to the events, it is difficult to imagine what moment her position was, when she was surrounded for months by designing, treacherous, and revengeful foes. Solitary and unsupported, she stood forth as the vindicator of her country, and the defender of the principles of liberty and justice. She perceived the importance of the moment, and promptly took action. The Yankees, who should have recognized her at once, were so blinded by passion and ignorance that they did not see her even when she was so clear. She was driven to the brink of despair, but persevered, and in the end succeeded in establishing the principles for which she had fought. She is now recognized as the heroine of Tampico, and her name is known throughout the country.

Mrs. ANN CHASE.—We give insertion with pleasure to the following communication, sent to us by a lady. Though Mrs. Chase left the city on the 1st instant, for the north, of which our correspondent was evidently not aware, the tribute she pays to the heroines of Tampico, is not less laudatory. She says:—

Mr. Editor—I receive with pleasure that the distinguished lady, Mrs. Ann Chase, is at present a sojourner in our city. Words are inadequate to express the unabated admiration I feel for her. I have in my mind's eye a picture of her, standing in the midst of the turmoil of war, surrounded by her companions, who are struggling for their lives. She is a true heroine, and her story should be known to the world. She has done more for her country than any other woman I know. She is a true patriot, and her people have reason to be proud of her.

The Heroine of Tampico.—Of Mrs. Chase, the heroine of Tampico, the San Francisco Chronicle has written:

The heroines of Tampico will be, as no other heroines in history have been, the theme of conversation and admiration. They have been named for the great work they have done in this city. Mrs. Chase, a native of the city, has given her life for the Cause. She is a true daughter of the city, and her name will be remembered for ages to come.

The Great Heroine.

We learn, that Mrs. Anna Chase, the great heroine of Tampico, will spend a few weeks in Earlville, in this county, for the purpose of seeing her friends, and rural recreation. And for the purpose of forming an acquaintance with our city folks, she has politely consented to spend this day at Mr. Van Kanen's Eagle Hotel, in this city, where there will be an opportunity of seeing and conversing with her.

For the Evening Mercury.

Dear Sir,—

It is a great pleasure to meet you, and to have the opportunity of expressing my admiration for your work. I have read your articles with great interest, and I am convinced that you have a great deal to say on the subject of the Mexican War. I have seen your articles in the papers, and I have been greatly impressed by the way you have written them. I am sure that your articles have done a great deal to awaken the conscience of the American people, and to make them realize the injustice of the war.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

The Heroine of Tampico.

New Orleans, April 8, 1847.

Secrecy Buchanan escorted the heroine of Tampico to the president's levee. From her thorough knowledge of the Mexican character, who knows but she may not pilot the Ship of State into peaceful moorings? Her instructions were obeyed by our navy—the result was a bloodless victory. She delivered into our hands Tampico.