

## A San Jacinto Reminiscence.

[To the News.]

VIRGINIA POINT, May 11, 1882.—With a view that every noteworthy incident of the revolutionary history of Texas (and more especially as connected with the battle of San Jacinto) should be carefully preserved, I send you, at the request of many of your readers, a well-authenticated copy of the eloquent and stirring appeal made by Captain Mosely Baker to his company on the eve of that eventful conflict of arms.

It has been religiously treasured in the memory of Captain John S. Menifee, of Jackson county, a member of his command, who recited it in a graceful manner and with felicitous effect to a group of veterans at their late annual meeting in Waco, mostly composed of those who took part in that daring and successful engagement.

This recital was prefaced by recalling a few deeply interesting incidents of the retreat from the Colorado upon the San Jacinto, where the victorious American eagle perched anew upon the standard of liberty, illuminated by the Texas star of independence. This is truly an historic event of a famous battle-field, and well worth the keeping in an enduring form.

The address, called forth by the hateful presence of a cruel and vindictive foe, and inspired by the momentous consequences of the impending struggle, so nobly depicted in the beautiful and glowing strains of the gallant speaker, (whose memory is enshrined in the hearts of all who knew and prized him in those days of trial,) is hardly excelled by any of the carefully prepared bulletins of the most gifted commanders upon more imposing battle-fields.

How strictly true, as then prophesied, of the grand results to follow victory on that day! And how happy we who survive and are permitted to enjoy their full fruition! No other tribute is needed to commend it to every friend of the small band of heroes left to witness the bright opening of the living panorama even now displayed before the surviving heroes and their descendants.

W. J. J.

### ADDRESS OF CAPTAIN MOSELEY BAKER

To his company, just before the battle of San Jacinto, recited by John S. Menifee, a member of the company:

Fellow Soldiers: You are now paraded to go into battle. Our greatest desire for the last few weeks has been to meet our foes in mortal combat, that we might rid our country of their presence; and now that desire is about to be gratified. I have confidence to believe that you will do your duty, and act like men worthy of freedom; but if there be one who is not fully satisfied that he can face death without faltering, he is at liberty to remain in camp, for I do not wish my company disgraced by a single act of cowardice.

Yonder, within less than a mile, is the tyrant Santa Anna with his myrmidons, who have overrun our country, destroyed our property, put to flight our families and butchered in cold blood many of our brave men.

Remember, comrades, that we this day fight for all that is dear to us on earth—our homes, our country, our families, and our liberty—he who would not fight for these is not worthy the name of man.

Remember that this little army, of less than eight hundred men, is the last hope of Texas, and with its defeat or dispersion dies the cause of freedom here, and we will be regarded by the world as rash adventurers; but should victory crown our efforts, of which I have no doubt, we can anticipate a riddance to the country of the oppressor, followed by peace and prosperity, and in the future years, when this broad, beautiful and fertile country shall be occupied by millions of intelligent and thrifty people, who can appreciate the value of liberty, we will be honored as the founders of a republic.

Remember that Travis, Bowie, Crockett and their companions, numbering one hundred and eighty-three of the bravest of brave men, stood a siege of ten days against twenty times their number, and fought until the last man was killed—not one left to carry the news or tell the tale.

Remember that Fannin and four hundred noble volunteers were basely murdered, after they had capitulated on terms that they were to be treated as prisoners of war and sent to the United States.

Remember that you fight an enemy who gives no quarter, and respects neither age nor sex. Recollect that your homes are desolated and your property destroyed. Imagine your wives and daughters trudging through the mud and water and your children crying for bread, and then remember that the author of all this woe is in so short a distance of us; that the arch fiend is within our grasp, and that the time has at last come for us to avenge the blood of our fallen heroes, and to teach the haughty dictator that Texians can not be conquered, and that they can and will be free! Then nerve yourselves for the battle, knowing that our cause is just, and that we are in the hands of an all-wise Creator, and as you deal the murderous blow, let your watchwords be: Remember Goliath! Remember the Alamo!