

marle, the friend and pupil of the Duke of Cumberland. The fleet was intrusted to Pococke, already illustrious as the conqueror in two naval battles in the East.

“Assembling the fleet and transports at Martinico, and off Cape St. Nicholas, the adventurous admiral sailed directly through the Bahama Straits, and on the sixth day of June came in sight of the low coast around Havana. The Spanish forces for the defence of the city were about forty-six hundred; the English had eleven thousand effective men, and were recruited by nearly a thousand negroes from the Leeward Islands, and fifteen hundred from Jamaica. Before the end of July, the needed reinforcements arrived from New York and New England; among these was Putnam, the brave ranger of Connecticut and numbers of men less happy, because never destined to revisit their homes.

“On the thirtieth of July, after a siege of twenty-nine days, during which the Spaniards lost a thousand men, and the brave Don Luis de Velasco was mortally wounded, the Moro Castle was taken by storm. On the eleventh of August, the governor of Havana capitulated, and the most important station in the West Indies fell into the hands of the English. At the same time, nine ships of the line and four frigates were captured in the harbor. The booty of property belonging to the king of Spain was estimated at ten millions of dollars.

“This memorable siege was conducted in mid-summer against a city which lies just within the tropic. The country round the Moro Castle is rocky. To bind and carry the fascines was of itself a work of incredible labor, made possible only by aid of African slaves. Sufficient earth to hold the fascines firm was gathered with difficulty from crevices in the rocks. Once, after a drought of fourteen days, the grand battery took fire by the flames, and crackling and spreading where water could not follow it, nor earth stifle it, was wholly consumed. The climate spoiled a great part of the provisions. Wanting good water, very many died in agonies from thirst. More fell victims to a putrid fever, of which the malignity left but three or four hours between robust health and death. Some wasted away with loathsome disease. Over the graves the carrion-crows hovered, and often scratched away the scanty earth which rather hid than buried the dead. Hundreds of carcasses floated on the ocean. And yet, such was the enthusiasm of the English, such the resolute zeal of the sailors and soldiers, such the unity of action between the fleet and army, that the vertical sun of June and July, the heavy rains of August, raging fever, and strong and well-defended fortresses, all the obstacles of nature and art, were surmounted, and the most decisive victory of the war was completed.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>History of the United States. By George Bancroft. 1852. Vol. iv., pp. 444-446.