SANTA ANNA'S RETREAT FROM BUENA VISTA

(A QUICK-STEP)
[Published in 1848 by W.C. Peters in Louisville.]

This patriotic piece, was written in commemoration of an important victory for the United States forces in the Mexican War (1846-47). The Americans under General Zachary Taylor deseated the Mexicans under General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna in the fierce Battle of Buena Vista, in northeastern Mexico, in February of 1847.

This composition is one of the cheeriest retreats in musical history. It is hardly a reflection of hard-fought battle. It is a piece which undoubtedly had a "message" for its time. General Taylor was elected President of the United States in 1848, the same year this work was published.

A Quick-Step is a fast March. In the British Army, for instance, a fast march has 108 steps per minute; a slow one has 75 steps per minute.



Stephen Foster







