

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

BRILLIANT VICTORIES.

BATTLES OF CONTRERAS AND CHURUBUSCO.

American Arms Triumphant!

From the New Orleans Picayune, Extra, September 8.

The U. S. steamship Mary Kingsland, Capt. John Davis, arrived at an early hour this morning. By her we have received our letters from Mr. Kendall from the 22d to the 28th of Aug., all dated from Tacubaya. A courier dispatched by him on the 20th with the first account of the battle fought on that day was cut off.

From a map and plan of the battle-fields before us, we note that they are called the battles of Contreras and Churubusco—so called from field works of the enemy of those names. The victories were decisive, but so far as we can judge from a hasty perusal of a portion of our letters, the proposition for an armistice was made by Gen. Scott—probably at the suggestion of the British embassy. The report we have hitherto given that the city of Mexico was at our mercy appears to have been unfounded. Should peace not follow from the negotiations now pending, another battle must ensue, the enemy having a force of from 15 to 20 thousand men yet left. But the road appears to be completely open to us, and the city is only two and a half miles from our encampment.

Our victories have been purchased at a vast loss of valuable life. We see names of men at the loss of whom we weep; but all have their friends and we make no distinctions.

Our entire loss in killed and wounded is short of eleven hundred; that of the enemy is not well known. His loss in killed alone is believed to be fully equal to our entire loss, and it is estimated that at least 2000 prisoners were taken. The number of his wounded was not ascertained, but is supposed to be very large. Gen. Scott himself received a wound in the leg below the knee, but from the manner in which Mr. Kendall speaks of it, we are led to hope the injury a slight one.

Editorial Correspondence of the Picayune.

TACUBAYA, Aug. 22, 1847.

The celebrated Archbishop's Palace of Tacubaya is now occupied by Gen. Scott; and a portion of the army, after twice defeating the enemy in two of the hardest fought battles of the war, are quartered immediately around him. I have already sent you off a hurried sketch of the glorious events of the 20th, and even the present letter must be but a hurried synopsis of the battles, which have shed such additional glory upon the American arms.

On the 11th inst. a reconnaissance made by Col. Duncan having proved that a road for artillery and wagons could be cut from Chalco to San Augustin Gen. Worth's division moved on the afternoon of the 15th in that direction. Gen. Pillow followed the next morning; at the same hour Gen. Quitman broke up his encampment at Buena Vista, a small hacienda between Venta de Cordova and Ayotla, and immediately Gen. Twiggs was in motion from the latter place. By this move a new line of operations was taken up on the southern and north-western side of the city of Mexico, and the strong works of the Penon and Mexicalingo, upon which Santa Anna had bestowed such immense care and labor, were completely turned.

On the 16th of August Gen. Worth marched as far as the hacienda of San Gregorio, beyond which it was found that the enemy had cut up and ditched the miserable trail along which the artillery and wagons were obliged to pass. He would have gone to Santa Cruz, another hacienda a league farther on, had not an order come up from Gen. Scott for a halt. It seemed that Gen. Twiggs had met a large force of the enemy drawn up in front of him near Chalco, as if with the intention of disrupting his advance, cutting him off from the main body of the army, and perhaps bringing on a general action. Gen. Twiggs promptly ordered some of his heavier guns to be unlimbered, and after a few discharges the enemy was dispersed, with the loss of five or six killed, but the demonstration made by the Mexicans, as I have before said, caused a halt of Gen. Worth's division before half a day's march was made.

At 6 o'clock on the morning of the 17th Gen. Worth resumed his march, his route running through cornfields and narrow and rocky lanes, along which carriages had never passed before. The tilting up of the ditches caused some little delay, but by 8 o'clock the advance was in sight of Santa Cruz, and the spires and domes of the noted capital of Mexico could be discerned in the distance. The obstructions in the road, of which I have spoken, were obviously of recent construction—evidence that the enemy had but just got wind of our approach, and that Gen. Scott had completely stolen a march upon Santa Anna.

Other than the ditches and rocks which had been rolled down from the precipitous hillsides in opposition was made to the advance of Gen. Worth until he had reached a point in the road not far from Santa Cruz—but now a scattering fire was opened upon the head of his column by a force stationed at advantageous positions above the road to the left. The enemy was quickly dispersed, however, by Col. C. F. Smith's light battalion and the 21st Artillery, under Maj. Gab. As the division neared the hacienda of La Noxia the advance was again hindered, but again the enemy's pickets were driven in, without loss. A turn of the road beyond La Noxia brought the pleasant village of San Augustin in sight, and after two or three light skirmishes, in which the Mexicans had two or three lancers killed and wounded, our troops only lost during the day was one man, a soldier of Smith's light battalion, who was wounded from a corn-field near Noehimide.

At 7 o'clock on the morning of 18th, Gen. Scott arrived at San Augustin, and at 10 o'clock Gen. Worth was in full march for the city of Mexico by the main road. Majors Smith and Turnbull, Capt. Mason and other engineer officers, were sent in advance, supported by Capt. Blake's squadron of dragoons, to reconnoitre, as it was known the enemy was in force at near San Antonio. The party, when within a thousand yards, was fired upon from a battery, which was masked by trees, and the first ball from a 12-pounder instantly killed Capt. Thorn-ton, of the 2d dragoons, besides severely wounding a guide, Jonathan Fitzwalters. Col. Garland's brigade was now ordered to occupy the

hacienda of Carrera, within plain sight and range of the enemy's batteries at San Antonio, while Col. Clarke's brigade and the battery under Col. Duncan took a station in the rear close by. The engineer officers were at once sent out to reconnoitre by Gen. Worth, to ascertain the practicability of turning the strong works of the enemy, and in the mean time Gen. Scott had despatched Capt. Lee with a supporting party, composed of Capt. Kearney's squadron and a body of the 11th Infantry under Col. Graham, to ascertain the practicability of finding a road by which the village of San Angel could be reached, and thus turn the strong hold at San Antonio. This latter party had a sharp encounter with the advance of the enemy, the main body being bound posted at a strong point not far from the factory of Contreras. In the skirmish some six or eight Mexicans were killed and as many more taken prisoners—on our side not a man was touched. The result of the reconnaissance proved favorable. It was ascertained that a road could be made which would enable the army to reach San Angel, and thus turn the strong batteries at San Antonio, and perhaps others the enemy might have upon the road between that and the city of Mexico. The Mexicans were plainly seen in force at a commanding position near Contreras and it was evident that they had a number of cannon in position; but at a council held at night it was determined upon to attack them the following day.

In the mean time while this reconnaissance was in progress, Gen. Worth had established his headquarters at the hacienda of Curera, while from the windows countless numbers of the enemy could be seen at work upon the batteries of San Antonio. About noon they opened upon the hacienda with both round shot and shell, nearly every one of which took effect, but without doing other injury than to the building. Late in the evening the batteries again opened, but with no other result than showing the position of the different guns. For a marvel the fire been kept up, the hacienda might have been torn in pieces and the entire command compelled to retire. Before going further, it may be well to state that the city of Mexico lies about nine miles north of San Augustin, that San Antonio is about three miles in the same direction, while the point occupied by Gen. Valencia, near Contreras, for he had command at that place, is at least three miles in a straight line and in a direction nearly west. It was ten miles the way many of our troops had to march, for you cannot imagine a more rough, uneven and jagged surface.

At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 19th the batteries again opened on Gen. Worth's position at the hacienda near San Antonio, the balls crashing through the walls and filling the rooms with fragments of plaster and broken furniture. Shells also burst in the air over the building and the pieces dropped among the men stationed in the rear. So hot was the fire that the troops were obliged to gain shelter behind the building, but still did not give up the position. About 9 o'clock the divisions of Gens. Pillow and Twiggs were ordered to advance in the direction of Contreras, and by 1 in the afternoon were in plain sight of the enemy's batteries, and within range of his heavier guns. The brigade of Gen. P. F. Smith was ordered to advance directly towards the enemy's works, while that of Col. Riley moved towards a small village to the right, with orders to gain the main road and thus be enabled to cut off any reinforcements which might be sent to Valencia from the city. An incessant firing of cannon was opened upon the advance of General Smith, and soon the Rifles were engaged in skirmishes with the pickets of the enemy and driving them in. The 12-pounder battery of Capt. Magruder was pressed forward with all speed, as was also the rocket and mountain howitzer battery, now commanded by Lieut. Callender, of the Ordnance Department. As soon as they could gain a position they opened upon the enemy, but were so exposed to a fire from heavier guns that they were soon silenced. Lt. Johnson, of the 1st Artillery, had attached to Magruder's battery, was mortally wounded, while Lieut. Callender was severely wounded in both legs. At 3 o'clock the brigade of Gen. Cadwalader was ordered out to support Col. Riley, heavy reinforcements being seen on their way out from the city, while Gen. Pierce's brigade was sent to sustain Gen. Smith. The firing from the batteries of the enemy continued incessant, while from a hill just outside the range of their guns, the spectacle was most grand and imposing. At about 4 o'clock Gen. Scott arrived, and seeing the immense strength of the Mexicans, at once ordered Gen. Shields' brigade from San Augustin—a part of General Quitman's command—to the right, to support Riley and Cadwalader, and prevent, if possible, a junction of the forces coming out from the city with those of Valencia. But few of the movements of our own troops could be seen from the hill where we were posted, owing to the dense chapparal, sharp rocks and ravines, but not a motion of the enemy but was plainly visible. The order of battle of Valencia was certainly most imposing—infinity were seen drawn up to support the batteries, while long lines of the enemy's cavalry were stationed in the rear, as if awaiting the shock of battle. Two separate charges of the latter were distinctly seen repulsed by Col. Riley, who had moved his brigade at one time to a position partially in the rear of the enemy's works. Col. Harney was exceedingly anxious to march his cavalry to the scene of action, but it was deemed utterly impracticable. The nature of the ground was such that the infantry even had great difficulty in finding the way across the pedregal, as the Mexicans term it—ground covered with sharp, jagged rocks.

Until night had fairly closed in the fire from the enemy's batteries did not slacken—it had been a continuous roar for nearly six hours. Gen. Scott retired to San Augustin about eight o'clock, and in the midst of a hard rain which had just commenced falling, Gens. Twiggs and Pillow came in about 11 o'clock, wet and completely exhausted. It was impossible to use horses on the rough and exceedingly broken ground on which they had been operating for nearly twelve hours. Not anticipating the immense strength of the works of the enemy, or the almost insurmountable difficulties of reaching them, it had been at first thought that the batteries would be taken at a dash, and that the troops would be all comfortably quartered in San Angel for the night; instead of this, a large portion of them were compelled to bivouac with blankets in the midst of a pitiless rain, and on ground where they could not even stretch themselves out. Add to this, the prospects of the morrow were far from flattering—were enough to dismay any but the stoutest hearts—that the enemy would doubtless reinforce and strengthen his works during the night, having every superiority in knowledge of the ground—and again to this, that the men were weakened by close exertions, want of food, and chilled by the continuous night rain, and it is not saying too

much to assert that the bivouac of the 19th of August was gloomy in the extreme.

Early on the morning of the 20th General Worth was ordered to move away a part of his division—Garland's brigade—towards the scene of action at Contreras, to aid in the attack upon Valencia, for to force this position was deemed indispensable. A few discharges of cannon were heard about 7 o'clock, and a heavy rattling of musketry, and some even said that in the distance they had seen large masses of Mexicans in full flight towards the city; yet few dreamed that the batteries at Contreras had been stormed and carried. Yet so it was. Gen. Scott himself, accompanied by General Worth, started for the scene of action, when they were met by Capt. Mason with the joyful intelligence that Valencia had been completely routed after a short but terrible struggle. The attack upon his works was planned by Gen. Smith, and resulted in the capture of 15 pieces of artillery, and some 1,500 prisoners—among them Generals Blanco, Garcia, Mendoza, and the notorious Salas; all the ammunition and camp equipage, while the road along which those who escaped fled was strewn with muskets. No less than 700 of the enemy, among them many officers, were left dead on the field—the number of wounded was undoubtedly far greater. I have no time now to enlarge or comment upon this well-planned brilliant achievement, but reserving a more full description for some other time, must pass on to other exciting events. The works at Contreras completely in the power of the American army, Gen. Scott at once ordered Gen. Worth to fall back upon San Antonio, to turn and capture that work and then to push on towards the capital by the main road, while the main body of the army under Gens. Twiggs, Pillow, Smith and Cadwalader, moved on towards San Angel and Chohoyan.

Scarcely had the advance of Gen. Twiggs got half a mile beyond the latter village, before a rattling fire of musketry announced that it was actively engaged with the outposts of the enemy, and the heavy booming of cannon now gave token that the noted 2d division had fallen upon another strong work. But a few minutes more and a tremendous firing from the right, and immediately in the main road from San Augustin to the capital, made it evident that Gen. Worth's division was actively engaged. He had completely turned the strong works of San Antonio, but while doing so the enemy had abandoned the place with the loss of their heavy guns, and had fallen back upon his stronger line of works. It was now at the commencement of the battle, about 1 o'clock in the afternoon, and sure such a rattling of fire-arms has seldom or never been heard on the continent of America, accompanied with such booming of artillery; and this was continued over two hours and until the enemy was fully routed from every point, and until those who were not killed or taken prisoners were in full flight for the city. Let me endeavor in words to give the reader an idea of the position and works of the enemy. As you come along the road leading from San Augustin to the capital, and immediately this side the Puente del Rosario, the Mexicans had thrown up a strong and exceedingly well built battery, commanding the road completely. On the right as you faced the city, stretching for a long distance, was a continuous ditch, behind the bank of which an immense number of Mexican infantry were posted. On the left of the *levee de pont*, or work at the bridge, and about three hundred yards distant, was the church of Churubusco, or San Pablo, strongly fortified with works for infantry, and also having a well constructed battery containing a number of guns of heavy calibre. This work was a little advanced from the *levee de pont*, and nearly in a line between it and the village of Chohoyan. Further on, on the other side of the work at the bridge, and about three hundred yards from the road, was a large building, well adapted for the protection of infantry, and in which the enemy had also posted an immense body. The ground in the vicinity of all these points was completely covered with corn, and other fields, cut up in every direction by wide and deep ditches, presenting obstacles insurmountable to the advance of our troops. No reconnaissance of the position of the enemy had been made, and consequently its strength could only be ascertained by blows and knocks.

The divisions of Gens. Twiggs and Worth were at once engaged, the former with the church and stronghold of Churubusco, and the latter with the batteries at the bridge; and in the meantime Gen. Shields' brigades—the N. York and South Carolina volunteers—together with the 9th, 12th and 15th Regiments of Infantry under Gen. Pierce, were hurrying on toward Chohoyan to attack the hacienda. Soon they too were engaged, and now the battle became general. The enemy had over twenty pieces of cannon, all in admirable position and served with more than ordinary skill, while but few of our guns could be brought to bear. The battery of Capt. Frank Taylor, it is true, opened a well-directed fire upon the Churubusco, but so exposed was its situation that it suffered most terribly, both in officers and men.

To describe the fierce conflict, even now that two days have elapsed, or to give an account of the part taken by the different regiments, were impossible. From the opening of the strife up to the time the Mexicans were entirely routed and in full flight for the city, was one continuous roar of cannon and musketry, accompanied by the loud shouts of the victors as some new vantage ground was gained; and high above the din rose a dense column of smoke, at times completely shrouding the combatants. The strength of the enemy at this battle is known to have been 15,000 at least, many say 20,000, all fresh troops, and in a position of uncommon strength. Opposed to them were about 6000 Americans, judiciously broken down by marches and counter-marches, and by incessant toil before the stronghold of Contreras and San Antonio. At Churubusco, the Mexicans themselves say, Santa Anna commanded in person, but that he left early. The noted battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria, and of Independence—the Polkas, or young men of the capital, from whom so much was expected—nearly all fled without firing a gun.

In the different works (but mostly in the church.) taken by Gen. Twiggs, 2000 troops were captured. Among them were Gen. Rincon, who commanded in person, Gen. Anaya, lately President Substitute, and Gen. Arevalan, as also Col. Gorostiza, formerly Minister near Washington. Gen. Garay was captured near San Antonio by Gen. Worth, and several influential officers, among them Col. Miramon, by Shields at the hacienda; but the most important capture of all was the entire Foreign Battalion, mostly made up of deserters from our own army, with their commander, the notorious Riley himself. They are all now under close guard, and I trust will be strictly dealt with. The loss on our side has fallen most heavily

upon the South Carolina and New York volunteers, the 6th Infantry, and Smith's light battalion, attached to Worth's division, and the batteries of Capts. Magruder and Taylor. The South Carolina Regiment was nearly cut to pieces, losing 137 out of 272 men, with which it went into action. The 1st Artillery has suffered severely in officers.

The Mexican accounts acknowledge the loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, of no less than thirteen generals, (among them three ex-Presidents,) and forty-five pieces of cannon.—One of our officers says that we have captured more ammunition than Gen. Scott has used since he has been in the country.

Yours, &c. G. W. K.

TACUBAYA, August 24, 1847.

I have spent not a little time in endeavoring to collect a list of the killed and wounded officers in the great battles of the 20th, a difficult matter, inasmuch as the different divisions are quartered in villages several miles apart. The following will be found in the main correct:

UNITED STATES REGULARS.

Killed—Maj. Mills, 15th Infantry; Captain Burke, 1st Artillery; Capt. Hanson, 7th Infantry; Capt. Thornton, 2d Dragoons; Capt. Capron, 1st Artillery; Capt. Quarles, 15th Infantry; Capt. Anderson, 2d Infantry; Lieut. Irons, 1st Artillery, but attached to Gen. Cadwalader's staff; Lieut. Preston Johnston, 1st Artillery, but attached to Magruder's battery; Lieut. Easley, 2d Infantry; Lieut. Goodson, 15th Infantry; Lieut. Hoffman, 1st Artillery.

Here follows a long list of the wounded of the regular division of Gens. Worth, Twiggs, and Pillow, which are not of especial interest to our readers generally, and is therefore omitted.

The entire loss killed and wounded in the division of Gen. Twiggs was 266, in that of Gen. Worth 339, in that of Gen. Quitman (Shields' brigade) 250, in that of Gen. Pillow 212.

VOLUNTEERS.

The regiment of New York Volunteers lost 103 in killed and wounded.

Palmetto Regiment, S. Carolina Volunteers. Field and Staff.—Killed—Col. Pierce M. Butler. Wounded—Lieut. Col. Dickenson, severely; Capt. James D. Blanding, slightly; Adj. James Cautey, severely.

COMPANY A.—Killed—Corp. Wilder, Private, Thos. Black. Wounded—7.

COMPANY B.—Killed—Private W. R. Davis. Wounded—14.

COMPANY C.—Killed—Private Hilton. Wounded—15.

COMPANY G.—Killed—None. Wounded—23.

COMPANY H.—Killed—Privates Timothy Kelly and Shadrack Wiggins. Wounded—23.

COMPANY K.—Killed—Lieut. W. R. Williams and Privates John Slattery and Bernard Creagan. Wounded—2.

COMPANY L.—Killed—Sergt. James Denison. Wounded—9.

Total, killed 13; wounded, 124.

The field strength of this regiment, before the action commenced, consisted of 1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant Colonel, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 1 Commissary, 7 Captains, 24 Subalterns, 22 Sergeants—273 rank and file, including 21 corporals.

The New York Volunteers also suffered severely, but not in proportion to the Regiment from South Carolina. Col. Butler, who commanded the latter, behaved in the most gallant manner. In advancing upon the hacienda attacked by Gen. Shields, at the head of his regiment, his horse was shot dead. He then advanced on foot until he received a severe wound in the leg, which caused him to fall. In a fainting condition he was carried to the rear, but soon rallying he again advanced to the head of his regiment when a musket ball struck him in the head and he died almost instantly. S. Carolina lost one of her bravest and most generous spirits when Col. Butler fell.

I have not had time to obtain a full list of all the killed and wounded in the different divisions of the army, but shall endeavor to do it at the earliest opportunity. A great proportion of our loss—perhaps nine-tenths was in the attack upon the strong works at Churubusco—Santa Anna's second line, as he called it. As I have previously stated, no reconnaissance whatever of this strong position had been made. The brilliant success of the morning had inspired both officers and men with the highest enthusiasm, and they rushed pell-mell into the positions the most exposed, and where they were mowed down by hundreds.

It will be seen that our own loss falls a little short of *chosen hundred*—about 6000 men were actively engaged. When the works of the enemy are examined, one naturally wonders that Gen. Scott's entire force was not swept away. Put his army in the same position and since the days of the viceroys there have not been Mexicans enough born to drive them out.

White flags are now constantly passing and repassing between the Palace here and the Palace in Mexico. At this game the Mexicans can beat us.

Yours, &c. G. W. K.

TACUBAYA, August 25, 1847.

The armistice has finally been settled and signed, and I do not tell half the story when I say that it has produced universal dissatisfaction in the army—in the entire army. In the first place let me give you, from recollection, its main provisions, and then I will give you an idea as to the mode by which it was brought about.

The articles of the armistice first go on to say, that hostilities between the two armies are at once to cease, in order that the peace propositions of the United States may be listened to, and that they, the hostilities, are not to be renewed until either commander shall give the other forty eight hours' notice; that in the meantime all works or fortifications on both sides shall cease, and that no further reinforcements for either party shall be allowed to approach nearer than twenty-eight leagues of the capital; that no persons other than citizens shall be allowed to enter the city, and they only with passports from the Mexican authorities; that certain persons of the American army shall be allowed to enter the city to borrow money and purchase supplies, but no officers are allowed to pass in except upon special business and under a flag. Such are about the amount of the different articles of the armistice, signed on our part by Gens. Quitman, Smith and Pierce, and on the part of the Mexicans by Gens. Mora and Gut-jano.

Let me now give my speculations as to the mode by which this armistice was brought about. On the night of the 20th inst., after the great Mexican army was thoroughly beaten, broken to pieces and routed, Mr. Thornton, of the English legation, accompanied by the British Consul, Mr. Mackintosh—a man who regards Santa Anna, hates the Yankees and never moves unless his own ends are to be gained—came out of the city post haste on a visit to General Scott. The next morning General Mora, accompanied by Mr. Arrangoiz, who was formerly Mexican consul in New Orleans, came out, also on a visit to General Scott, and on the same day the latter wrote a letter to the Mexican authorities, hinting at an armistice between the two armies with a view of opening negotiations for a peace. This proposition was eagerly jumped at by the Mexican Minister of War, at the instigation of Santa Anna of course, and the result has been a treaty of armistice in which, according to rumor, nearly every thing the Mexicans asked for was conceded. I know nothing of the proceeding of this commission except from hearsay. There are many who believe that Gen. Scott has been compelled to adopt this policy, at the threshold of the Mexican capital, by Mr. Trist and his instructions, but there are a few, and I must acknowledge myself among the number, who think that a peace honorable and satisfactory to the U. S. is to grow out of this matter. The whole affair, on the face of it, looks like one of Santa Anna's old tricks to gain time and plan some new scheme of trickery and dissimulation, and as he has British influence to back him he will be likely to carry out what he undertakes. I have always said and always believed that Santa Anna was favorable to peace—to peace from policy only—and still believe he may endeavor to bring it about; but great as is his power, like a sail vessel he can only go with the wind and current, and has too many and too powerful enemies to carry out his present schemes, at least without strong assistance from the United States.

Santa Anna accuses Valencia of having lost the capital by not obeying his orders to abandon Contreras on the 19th, and has ordered him to be shot wherever found; on the other hand, Valencia accuses Santa Anna of having lost every thing by not coming to his assistance, and it is now said that he has pronounced against him and peace with the Yankees at Toluca. Thus matters stand between these great Mexican leaders. Again, it is reported that Paredes is advancing from Orizaba, which place he successfully reached from Vera Cruz, breathing nothing but death and utter annihilation to the infamous North Americans, while it is further stated that Bustamante is at or near the capital with 6000 men, breathing the same sentiments. The papers of the capital are almost silent about every thing—they do not even give an account of their recent defeat.

The number of deserters and other fugitives found fighting against us the other day, and who are now prisoners, is 72. A court martial, with Col. Garland as president, is now in session here, for the trial of a portion of this precious set of scoundrels, and it is to be hoped they may have full justice done them. Riley, the Irishman who commanded the battalion of San Patricio, as it is called, openly makes his brags of what he has done, and says he expects no mercy.

Gen. Scott was himself wounded on the 20th inst. by a grape shot. It struck him on the outside of the leg below the knee, and gave so little pain at the time that he said nothing about it, but it has since caused him more uneasiness. Our own loss, in killed, wounded and missing, is put down in round numbers at 1000—it may possibly range a little under. The Mexican loss in killed alone amounted to nearly that number, their prisoners to about 3000, while their wounded we have no means of computing. Among the officers taken prisoners were three members of Congress and I believe they are to be liberated to take part in the proceedings of that body in relation to peace.

Yours, &c. G. W. K.

TACUBAYA, August 26, 1847.

We now have certain intelligence that Valencia arrived at Toluca with only two men, his aid de-camps, and they were thankful for their good horses, or else they could not have kept up. It is asserted positively that he was drunk on the night of the 19th inst., and promoted all his officers for their extraordinary gallantry in standing firmly to their guns during the afternoon when no one was returning their fire. The account that he has pronounced against Santa Anna is not fully confirmed, but there is no doubt that Santa Anna has denounced him in a public decree, and accuses him of all blame in bringing about the recent disasters to the country. He must accuse somebody, and Valencia, by his disobedience of a cowardly order, has made himself amenable—offers a target for his master's wrath. The prospects for a peace look brighter, although the treaty is far from being signed. Our accounts from the city would certainly indicate that a strong peace feeling pervades the better class of citizens, as well as those of the middling order—they have evidently lost all confidence in their own vaunting soldiers, and are anxious to get rid of future taxes for their support. For a wonder, such places as Sanguitum, Mumantia and Saragosa, whose examples they were to follow and even excel in the matter of defending themselves to the last, have not been mentioned nor alluded to for a week past. The Mexicans are certainly becoming rational. No more do the Polkas, the "upper tenthousand" of Mexico, parade the streets petitioning like, so many Claude Melnottes, to be placed where their country most needed soldiers; their shameful conduct before Churubusco, in running without

even firing a gun, and their subsequent flight out of them, noisy military displays, no more do they and vaunt of what they can do, and of how the walls of the city have been blown down, and how the capital was their by an extraordinary feat, the evidence of their feats, the infamous tales they told, compared with the illustrious Hidalgo, routed by a force as their own; grounds without a struggle by the so shamefully by the Mexican ingenuity find no palliation. Divide all the self-weeving pride in the Mexicans, they had only the same tenacity of valor they might have it even although. Now, all is gone—and standing in the town is a portion of the Mexican capital, peace and death.

The policy of Gen. Scott—I do not know of the measure—and consequently a trite—this policy is flattery to the fought the sanguinary and Churubusco, dency to soften the lead to some kind of was the public sentiment on the 20th that the Mexicans could have driven every city or to some walls, Santa Anna's semblance of a God have fled, and then power with which to treat, then, that the enter and occupy view of a peace—be solved. I must, even as matters one of a large major but rejoiced that the city at first, and tions are not to tional Palace. Y.

P. S.—Since we have received news from the city, armistice is approaching, troops is renewed of the advance of the tal. All the shops have it, the evidence per eye, that the up breast works carries at different points that Santa Anna's entering time, or else to conditions of peace reported by American tion that may result they are probably. A train of wagons, this morning loaded and an escort of back by the Mexi that there were convey. I don't know have his own way, many of them presence.

The official report second in command now a prisoner, has He admits that he lays the blame on He says that on the was while no one Mexicans fought with enthusiasm, but that on 20th August they were at once thrown into utterly routed. Santa Anna ordered the troops of Torrejon to charge according to the game the most cowardly mixed up with the rest of all was commended. Santa Anna says that Valencia's denunciation of such has become of such felt himself called. This is the account Gen. Sr. Dan E. Mora feat at Contreras—stories achieved by the of the war—on for the great results on our side, and for as Col. Riley said it, are receiving the the entire army.

Gen. Salas himself Gen. Gen. Francisco himself General Mora were wounded and to a list of over 100 captains, &c., &c., ed, or are now in mention one fact in at Churubusco, where Scott was captured at the time Gen. T. je de pont, Gen. T. Gen. Shields and P. ther son, the count- Sumner to take com- a circuitous route the enemy and ing, apparently of this plan from held out or our pres