

subject and faithful servant, who, wishing you all happiness, kisses your hand

J. M. G.

Com'g. General DON JOSE DE UGARTE.

[This letter is from a minister of the government to a millionaire.]

MEXICO, August 21, 1847.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—In my last I gave you an idea of the state and position of our army. Yesterday, at daylight, our right [referring to Valencia] was completely surrounded and routed, and afterwards the positions on the left [Churubusco, Portalis, &c.] were attacked, to which succeeded a disorderly retreat of our troops, which led the victorious enemy to within one league of the city, where he paused, not to be wanting in a prudence becoming a wise general, although he might have entered to the very palace itself. You may imagine the consternation and disorder prevailing in the capital at this time. To-day Don Ig. Moro left the city with the object of proposing a cessation of hostilities, under the pretext of collecting the wounded and an exchange of prisoners, although we have but very few of the latter. When he arrived at the camp of the enemy, he was handed a letter which the American general had already prepared, proposing an armistice with a view to enter upon negotiations for peace, which naturally was accepted, and to-morrow it will be arranged by Moro and Quijano, who are the commissioners. But the enemy declared his purpose of occupying the towns in the immediate vicinity of the capital, in order to obtain quarters and subsistence for his troops. This is the position of affairs to-day. What is to follow you can imagine, for we have no alternative but to enter into arrangements or leave the capital at the mercy of the conquerors.

Present my compliments to the Señoras C's, and trusting that you and your family enjoy the best health, please to receive the affections of your attentive servant and friend, who kisses your hand.

I. R.

Sen. DON G. M. and T.

MEXICO, August 21, 1847.

MY DEAR TEACHER: At last, yesterday, we were entirely routed after three battles, Contreras, San Antonio, and Churubusco, and our troops were dispersed after a horrible slaughter, and the enemy arrived in triumph as far as the hacienda of the Portalis, where they passed the night. The spectacle in this city yesterday was horrible; all was tears, confusion, and bitterness, and it was pitiable to see the wounded and dispersed coming in in the afternoon. It is said that Bravo, Perdigan, Zerecero, Perez, Gagoso, and others, have been killed. At the present moment, 10 o'clock, there are

some troops going out, and, according to appearances, General Santa Anna is resolved to attack the enemy with the miserable remains of the army, and although there are rumors of treaties, I think there is no foundation for them. I do not give you any, particulars, &c.

J. N. M.

Sr. DON J. M. C.

(A letter in the form of notes of events.)

MEXICO, August 20, 1847.

One o'clock, p. m., Judas! all is lost, eternal shame for us. As I said to you, when I closed my letter this morning, the firing between six and seven was horrible. At the last mentioned hour it entirely ceased, which caused me to believe that all was decided. I was listening until eight, and observing that there was no ringing of bells, I began to fear that the result was unfavorable to us. I went into the street and immediately perceived signs of sorrow and down heartedness in the countenances of all. I walked towards the palace and observed the same; besides, several officers, who arrived, said they knew nothing, but their manner showed very plainly our misfortune.

The scene of Cerro Gordo has been repeated exactly, and that, too, when the tactics of the enemy of commencing an action in the evening to strike a finishing blow the next morning was well known. This time Valencia remained in his positions, and Santa Anna abandoned him, retiring to San Angel, and Valencia found himself attacked by double his numbers.

Four o'clock, p. m. A little after 12, firing was heard in San Antonio, and lasted about an hour and a half, and, after a short pause, it was heard much nearer, which, by all signs, appears to be in Churubusco. About two o'clock I directed my steps towards San Antonio Abad, (the garita,) where there was seen a numerous crowd. The sight which presented itself at this place, and in all the streets of the Raspro, was horrible; all was full of dispersed soldiers, carts, shrieking women, and devils. The battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria, with four pieces, were in the plazuela of San Lucas when I arrived. Some of those with whom I spoke said that Santa Anna had betrayed them; that at San Antonio, when it was least expected, they were ordered to retreat, and that, except four pieces brought away, they had spiked their guns; that Santa Anna had remained at Churubusco with the division of Perez and the battalions of Independence and Bravo.

When I returned, about three, p. m., and was talking with some acquaintances at the corner of Jesus and San Manuel streets, we heard some shots which we were sure were fired at the gate of Candelaria; as a matter of course, all the world immediately ran, and I came home. The tumult was of short duration, and at this hour

all is quiet as on former days; no firing being heard in any direction.

It is said that the last cannon shots were in the Candelaria, [at the garita of San Antonio,] and were directed against a party of the enemy's cavalry, who retired in consequence. This occurrence, and the cessation of firing, indicates the loss of San Antonio, Churubusco, and Mexicalcingo, and that probably Santa Anna is a prisoner, or has made a capitulation. According to some, the nationals are situated in the Niño Perdido; according to others, in the gate of Belin. It is said that the brigade of Rangel has returned to the city; the brigade of Herrera, that was at the Peñon, I saw enter about half past 11, and take the route towards the public walls. It is probable they are destined for Chapultepec or Tacubaya.

All, in my opinion, is entirely useless, because, with or without reason, Santa Anna is generally accused of treason. What, then, can be hoped for?

I only know of the death of Perdigan; a soldier said he had seen him with two shots, one in the loins and one in the ribs. A great many wounded have come in, and forty went to San Andres, according to the account of the surgeon who lives there.

I am going out to investigate what happens! What mortal anguish!

Six o'clock. Returned from the palace; a great many declare that the complete rout of Valencia in the hills of Contreras was owing to his being completely abandoned. Amongst the dead are named Don Sebastian Blanco and Frontera. In a little time we shall learn how many lives have been sacrificed by treason or ignorance.

Seven o'clock. At this moment various bodies of troops are entering, who cannot be distinguished for want of light. It appears that they are all concentrating in the city. It is said there are yet 15,000. But for what will they serve? Their spirits are broken, and there is a universal want of confidence; and in this state of things, even if they were 200,000, it would be all the same.

The seal has been set to our ignominy. The Nationals (Polkas) are leaving the ranks and returning to their homes.

Saturday, August 21, 6 o'clock, a. m. A short time since, Santa Anna was seen marching for the gate of Candelaria with some 3,000 infantry, all full of mud and barefooted; and some 800 cavalry have marched for the gate of San Lazaro, which seems to indicate that we shall shortly have an action.

I have been able to learn nothing about the enemy or his movements during the night. Nothing is known of General Bravo or his division. It is said that those of Independence and Bravo fought yesterday very well, but that in the end they were taken prisoners, together with Gorostiza.

2 p. m. The troops that marched this morning took up their position at the gates. Nothing has yet occurred whatever—the public talk is past bearing—nothing is known with certainty. What seems most certain is that a commission, consisting of Mora Villamil,

Arrangoiz and Mc'Intosh have gone to Scott. No one doubts how the peace will be made. The troops are all broken spirited, and yesterday they were so frightened, cowed, that from Churubusco, the division of Perez, including himself, went as far as the Peñon. If I had not received this from persons of veracity, I could not have believed it, but this explains why they were so covered with mud this morning.

It is said openly everywhere that Santa Anna has committed treason—that the division of Valencia and especially his infantry fought well with the main body of the Yankees, and that if Santa Anna had assisted them they would have triumphed; but that instead of so doing he retired from the field, and looked in cold blood upon the destruction of the flower of the army! But why should I tire myself in repeating this to you? You know it better than I do, as I am told Valencia has gone with Olaguibel.

It is not true that Perdigan is killed. General Bravo is in Mexico, General Rincon and Anaya are said to be prisoners.

5 p. m. At 4 o'clock all the troops returned to their barracks, and at once I inferred that negotiations were on foot. I went out to inquire, and Don J. N. told me, referring to Arrangoiz, that there was an armistice concluded but for what time was not known. We made inquiries: some said for 24 and others 48 hours.

A strange circumstance relating to this is, that the armistice was asked for by both parties at one and the same time. I was likewise told by Noriego that the President had addressed Congress, stating that a meeting was indispensable by 12 o'clock, but that only 26 deputies met.

From all these dates you will form your own opinion. For my part, I believe it will end in a most shameful manner for us.

The Yankees occupy the haciendas of Portalis, Churubusco and Coyoacan; and this gives me some concern for my house, but according to what I have been able to hear, they do no injury.

F. D.

[There are many errors in this letter, which was evidently written by one who partook of the general alarm, and is only valuable as a general testimony to the state of feeling in Mexico, during the progress of events.]

MEXICO, August 21, 1847.

I take the pen in hand with sorrow to communicate to you the sad news, that without knowing how, we have, in a few hours, lost all.

A great deal of time would be needful to give you even a slight sketch of what has occurred since our starting, on the 9th, until our entrance into the capital yesterday evening, tired and low spirited, after a fatigue since 4 o'clock a. m., but luckily we find ourselves with life, giving thanks to Providence that has saved us from the imminent peril in which we were placed at 11 o'clock yesterday, when we were

on the point of perishing with the battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria. Whilst this happened, our companions of Independence and Bravo have been nearly exterminated, and the brigade of General Perez has disappeared with the artillery that guarded the bridge of Churubusco, and there was lost here what we had saved from San Antonio.

I have been in peril and 12 days well worked; but I count them as well employed, having witnessed the military knowledge of this unfortunate country. It has caused us the necessity of opening our gates to the enemy, and I cannot perceive the least grounds for the expectation of a triumph hereafter.

My blood boils when I recollect the unfortunate disasters of yesterday; and when I am more composed I will refer again to the subject, or I will see you personally, if the diligence leaves tomorrow or Monday.

We do not not certainly know to what extent our misfortunes may go.

G 1.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Adjutant General's Office, Washington, January 28, 1847.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 3. }

The following regulation has been received from the War Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT,

*Washington, January 28, 1847.*

The President of the United States directs that paragraph 650 of the general regulations for the army, established on the 1st of March, 1825, and not included among those published January 25, 1841, be now published, and that its observance, as a part of the general regulations, be strictly enjoined upon the army.

By order of the President.

W. L. MARCY,

*Secretary of War.*

The following is the paragraph of the general regulations for the army, established on the 1st of March, 1825, referred to above:

"650. Private letters, or reports, relative to military marches and operations, are frequently mischievous in design, and always disgraceful to the army. They are, therefore, strictly forbidden; and any officer found guilty of making such report for publication, without special permission, or of placing the writing beyond his control, so that it finds its way to the press, within one month after

the termination of the campaign to which it relates, shall be dismissed from the service."

By order:

WM. G. FREEMAN,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 349. }

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Mexico, November 12, 1847.*

The attention of certain officers of this army is recalled to the foregoing regulation, which the general-in-chief is resolved to enforce, so far as it may be in his power.

As yet, but two echoes from home, of the brilliant operations of our arms in this basin have reached us; the first in a New Orleans, and the second through a Tampico newspaper.

It requires not a little charity to believe that the principal heroes of the scandalous letters alluded to did not write them, or specially procure them to be written, and the intelligent can be at no loss in conjecturing the authors—chiefs, partizans, and pet familiars. To the honor of the service, the disease—pruriency of fame, *not* earned—cannot have seized upon half a dozen officers (present,) all of whom, it is believed, belong to the same two coteries.

False credit may, no doubt, be obtained at home by such despicable self-puffings and magignant exclusions of others; but at the expense of the just esteem and consideration of all honorable officers, who love their country, their profession, and the truth of history. The indignation of the great number of the latter class cannot fail, in the end, to bring down the conceited and the envious to their proper level.

By command of Major General Scott.

H. L. SCOTT,  
*A. A. A. General.*

H.

*Captain Huger's letter.—Another view of the battle.*

[Extract of a letter from an officer to his friend.]

CITY OF MEXICO, *September 27.*

MY DEAR C.: I have letters, reports, &c., all written up for you, for months past, but no possibility of sending you a line. I must try and get this slip taken as a favor, to let you know I am still living. You will have heard of us, no doubt, but not a word have I heard from any one for months.

I brought with me from Puebla two 24-pound guns, two 8-inch

howitzers, and one 10-inch mortar. We found the capital of this country fortified at all points, and armed with near one hundred cannon and thirty thousand men. Our march round the south side of Lake Chalco, and our battle of the 20th of August, and the armistice which followed, with a view to peace, brought no peace. I had no part in the battles of 20th of August, by which we increased our artillery by thirty-one pieces and large quantities of ammunition. I had Captain Drum's company and four pieces added to my siege train, and remained at Tacubaya during the armistice. When it was broken on the 6th, I got ready for the work. On the rather unfortunate day—the 8th of September—I was engaged with two 24-pounders. General Scott, after that, intended to attack the south side of the city, and moved troops, and my train, accordingly. On the 11th, he sent for me to consult about taking the castle of Chapultepec. It projected so far towards us as to impede our operations on the west side, and he found many difficulties of ground on the south side. I always was in favor of taking Chapultepec first, and encouraged the idea. All the engineers were out on the south side. He ordered Drum and myself to make the reconnoissance; ordered the troops up that night. We moved our heavy guns two miles, conducting the working parties with the engineers to the ground. Batteries were built; our guns were put in and opened at sunrise next morning. We cannonaded the place on the 12th, and from sunrise till 8, a. m., on the 13th. It was then carried by storm, and we rushed thence to the city gates, and took the batteries there (two of them) before dark. I then fired a few 24-pound shot, and threw fire-shells towards the centre of the city, just to let them to know we were there. We entered the city on the 14th.

I have been most fortunate in keeping my health, never being sick; and I have been able, with my slender means, to perform all required of me. I have labored very hard, and have been most ably assisted by my officers and men, to have all ready that was possible; but luck has favored me, so I must believe. We have been here these ten days. I have a grand arsenal at the citadel, and have been busy repairing damages to our carriages and arms, and collecting the captured property. We have taken about seventy pieces in the valley of Mexico. I have on hand very near two hundred barrels of powder, and an immense supply of ammunition. Major Talcott will, no doubt, write to you. He has suffered much from what seemed a slight wound on the shin, but is now getting over it. He received his wound at the attack on Molino del Rey, on the 8th of September. Callender is with me, shot in both legs; cannot walk at all; I have a chair on rollers, and he wheels about. Reno, shot through the arm; nearly quite well. Poor Drum and Benjamin, who were serving with me, are killed. Porter and Hagner touched, and Stone and myself untouched—the fate of our mess of six. Hagner and Stone deserve all that can be done for them. Laidley, who is a capital fellow, I had to leave at Puebla. If that place is attacked, as we hear it is, he no doubt will do handsomely. From Vera Cruz I hear and re-

ceive nothing. What has become of Gorgus, I know not. Our carriages stand well, generally. Our little mountain howitzers have done famously. Some 100 of Hale's rockets were fired on the 19th of August, and went well; I have never had time to fire any. My new fuses have answered perfectly.

Now, where is the end of all this? When are we to get back again—ever? I believe the war has just begun, and will not terminate this generation. Let my friends know I am safe, and ready for twice as big a fight, if it would only end the war.

Yours, ever.

J.

*Major Turnbull's Letter.*

[Extract of a very interesting letter, received in Washington.]

TACUBAYA, (IN FULL VIEW OF THE CITY OF MEXICO.)

August 24, 1847.

The army left Puebla on the 8th of this month, and, after a few days' march, reached Ayotla, immediately on the margin of the valley of Mexico. Between this place and the city, about four miles distant, we knew there was a strongly fortified position, called St. Pinon. It is a small, isolated mountain, surrounded by water, on one side of one of the principal causeways leading to the city. After spending a day or two in reconnoitring this place, and which it would have caused a great loss of life to have taken, it was ascertained that there was a practicable road south of Lake Chalco. The general determined to take this route, and put the army in motion, leaving our division to watch the enemy in our rear. The march was a dreadful one, it being the rainy season.

The road was, in many places—where it passes at the foot of the mountains, and on the margin of the lake or narrow causeway—nearly covered with water, and excessively muddy; at others, it was over rocky spaces of the mountains, and, in places, entirely obstructed by huge rocks, rolled down by the enemy; but nothing seemed to damp the ardor of the army; all obstacles vanished before them. In two or three days, when the whole army was in motion, they could be seen from the front, stretched out over a distance of seven or eight miles. On the 18th, the general reached a small town called St. Augustin, about twelve miles south of the city—the leading division having arrived there the day before. General Worth had placed his pickets in advance, for the arrival of the general. He ordered the whole division to advance, and take possession of a hacienda, within striking distance of a strongly fortified place, called San Antonio; and also that the reconnoitring parties should be pressed forward still in advance. The party was supported by a squadron of cavalry and a battalion of infantry. In passing to the front I found that a troop, which had been placed