

On the morning of the 12th of September, General Scott, having placed his heavy batteries, opened them upon the castle that crowned the summit of the hill of Chapultepec, whither the enemy had retreated, and where he was now posted in full force. With the capture of this strong and commanding position, the city was destined to fall. The entire day was occupied in a tremendous cannonade on both sides. The spectacle was fearful. Our heavy ordnance thundered their point-blank shot through the walls of the castle with amazing force and precision. The mortars and howitzers belched their destructive missiles upon all parts of the fortress. Bombs burst in fury within the works. Every shell tore up the ramparts. The fire of the enemy was scarcely less furious. Night closed the scene. Early in the day of the 13th the signal for an assault by two detachments already detailed for the service, was given, and our brave troops moved forward to the attack. The stony and precipitous acclivities were but slowly mounted, yet the advance of the columns was unwavering, though made under

#### Entrance into the City of Mexico.

The shouts that rent the air carried consternation to the enemy, and announced the impending fall of the city below. General Scott had arrived on the walls of the castle just as it had been carried, and after a glance at the position of things, determined at once to advance by two routes into the city. The columns of Quitman and Worth were ordered to move forward in separate detachments. Worth's division became engaged in a street fight in the suburbs, but forced its way and took up its quarters close upon the city.

the hottest discharge of cannon and musketry. The first redoubt was carried amid loud acclamations. Pressing steadily on, our troops overcame the most determined resistance, dislodged the enemy at every point, and swept up the hill with prodigious energy, in the face of a desolating fire. Surrounding the castle on its crest, was a deep ditch, and stone walls 12 to 15 feet in height. Scaling-ladders were planted, and over these formidable ramparts, under a sheet of flame, our men poured with fierce intrepidity, filling the castle and overwhelming its defenders, who steadily and fiercely resisted to the last. The stars and stripes were flung out from its high walls, while long-continued shouts and cheers announced its fall, and the entrance of the American army into the regal Halls of the Montezumas. In the language of General Scott, "No scene could have been more animating and glorious." Yet was the victory dearly purchased, by a further loss from our gallant corps of 800 killed and wounded.

Quitman advanced still further on another road, and after some hard fighting, encamped within the gates. On the whole of this eventful and glorious day Scott had displayed wonderful activity, and had been at all points where he could best give directions, animate the troops, or share in the conflicts of his brave comrades. In every place he exhibited the coolest self-command, united with the greatest vigilance and ardor. And now, as heretofore, in all the movements by which Mexico had at length fallen into his grasp,



Entrance into the Grand Plaza of Mexico.

he manifested a prudent care, a sagacious foresight, an unconquerable heroism, as well as the highest military genius.

During the night, Santa Anna, finding all further resistance vain, withdrew the remnant of his army from the city, and on the morning of the 14th our troops entered the Grand Plaza. The American flag was

hoisted from the top of the National Palace, and at the same moment, General Scott, dressed in full uniform, at the head of his staff, rode through the victorious columns, amidst the vociferous acclamations of the conquerors, while the band of the Second Regiment of Dragoons struck up the inspiring air of Yankee Doodle.

#### Pacification of the City.—Scott's Arduous Duties.

In a few days, such was General Scott's judicious conduct, quiet was restored in the city, and all classes resumed their wonted avocations, reposing the fullest confidence in the security afforded by our troops under their humane and Christian commander. To the institutions of religion, General Scott always paid in Mexico a profound respect. Though himself a Protestant, he nevertheless enjoined upon all under his command, a decent and respectful demeanor towards all the ministers and ceremonies of the Catholic Church, himself setting the example upon all proper occasions. He acted upon the rule of perfect toleration towards all who desire to engage in the worship of their Maker.

The losses sustained by the various engagements of the army after leaving Puebla, had now amounted to 2,700 men, leaving but 8,000 of rank and file under arms. Of these, 2,000 were sick and in garrison at the fortress of Chapultepec, so that 6,000 troops were all that were quartered within and held possession of the city. Yet with only this handful of men did General Scott remain in conscious security in the midst of a

hostile city of 200,000 inhabitants, and in the heart of an enemy's country containing a population of eight millions of souls.

Scott was now virtually the governor of Mexico. The country was conquered, and he became sole director of public affairs. The manner in which he performed the responsible duties that devolved upon him for five months after his entrance into the city, exhibits him as a man amply qualified for the discharge of the highest duties of statesmanship. His position was novel and difficult in the extreme. Yet he rose superior to the demands of his station, and treated the complicated concerns that now engrossed his attention with consummate skill and discretion. Alone he performed the duties of Commander-in-chief, President of the country, and Secretary of the Treasury. In no respect did he fail, and in no respect did he come short of the highest expectations of his government. It would be difficult to award any man higher praise than is due to Gen. Scott for his management of Mexican affairs after the termination of his military campaign.

#### Peace Restored.—Scott Recalled.

On the 2d of February, 1848, a treaty of peace was signed at Guadalupe-Hidalgo by the Mexican and American commissioners. A few days afterwards, General Scott received notice that he had been suspended in his command of the army, by the authorities at Washington. This piece of gross injustice to General Scott had been done by the administration of Mr. Polk on the most frivolous grounds. A court of inquiry was called and sat in Mexico to investigate the conduct of certain officers of the war, and also to consider the complaints against General Scott, on account of which he had been suspended. This court afterwards adjourned to Washington, and there, after a brief sitting, finished its inglorious labors. General Scott patiently underwent the examination of this body, and illustrated by his whole conduct before it, his strict obedience to, and deference for, the laws and the con-

stitutional authorities of the country. Nothing was developed by the inquiry to sustain in the least the premature and inexcusable action of the cabinet in suspending General Scott, and the court adjourned without doing any thing, except to order the publication of the proceedings. The whole transaction wore such an odious aspect, and exhibited such an ungrateful return towards a true-hearted and gallant officer, who had shed unexampled lustre upon our arms, that the members of the cabinet soon became anxious to let the whole proceeding drop into oblivion. It was an exhibition of petty malice against a brave officer, which offended the spirit of justice and shocked every generous heart. It was a wrong done to General Scott which the public voice universally condemned, and will ere long emphatically redress.

#### Scott's Triumphant Return.

On the 22d of May, 1848, General Scott arrived at his home in Elizabethtown, New Jersey. Here he was met by a committee from the civil authorities of the city of New York, and invited to a public dinner in that metropolis. He accepted the invitation, and, escorted by a vast and imposing cavalcade, amid the roar of cannon and the waving of flags, and surrounded by dense and enthusiastic masses of his fellow-cit-

izens, entered the city and partook of its highest honors. For a while he remained at his head-quarters in New York. In 1850 he was transferred to Washington, and took his place at the head of the army bureau, where he has since remained, and where he may now be daily seen in the industrious discharge of its multifarious duties; as constant in his attendance at business hours as any clerk of the department.

#### Personal Characteristics.

Here, at his place of business, visitors from all parts of the country throng to see the war-worn veteran without ceremony. He receives all in the most frank, engaging, and affable manner, and with an unfeigned and delightful cordiality; while at his own dwelling,

no man dispenses the hospitalities of life with a more genial and refreshing heartiness and liberality. He manifests on all occasions an unflinching flow of animal spirits, unsurpassed urbanity, and a generous and lofty tone of thought. He is opulent of story and anecdote,

affluent in language, singularly accurate of statement, possessing a marvellously retentive memory, and exhibiting an endless fertility of resource and suggestion on all colloquial topics. With one of the finest physical organizations ever given to man, he bids fair to attain great longevity. He has always lived a strictly temperate life, and so far a regular one, as could consist with his arduous and exposed public services. He suffers somewhat from the severe wound in his shoulder received at Lundy's Lane, the lurking British lead in his body being seemingly uneasy at not having yet

### General Scott among his Soldiers.

General Scott was always a great favorite with the soldiers of the army in Mexico. They had unbounded confidence in his military knowledge and skill, and fully believed, what was the real truth, that he restrained himself with great difficulty from more often mingling in the dangers of the strife of arms, purely from considerations of duty to the army and his country; a duty which rigorously demanded of him to preserve his person from all unnecessary exposure. Yet did every man feel the firmest and most undoubted assurance, that if ever the time should come when it was necessary for the commanding general to lead his troops in person, in some dreadful emergency, that he would embrace the occasion with joyful alacrity, and cheerfully "lead a forlorn hope through a breach spouting with fire." It was this universal conviction that gave perfect confidence to our troops, and formed

### Anecdote of the Battle of Chippewa.

The following authentic anecdote is told of the charge at Chippewa. When the British line had approached within about 100 yards of ours, an order was given by the British commander to "charge bayonet," accompanied by the aggravating remark, "the Yankees cannot stand cold iron!" General Scott heard the remark, and rushing at once to the front centre of

### Our Adopted Citizens.—Letters from General Scott.

WASHINGTON, May 29, 1848.

DEAR SIR:—In reply to your kind letter of the 8th instant, I take pleasure in saying that, grateful for the too partial estimate you place on my public services, you do me no more than justice in assuming that I entertain "kind and liberal views toward our naturalized citizens." Certainly, it would be impossible for me to recommend or support any measure intended to exclude them from a just and full participation in all civil and political rights now secured to them by our republican laws and institutions.

It is true, that in a season of unusual excitement, some years ago, when both parties complained of fraudulent practices in the naturalization of foreigners, and when there seemed to be danger that native and adopted citizens would be permanently arrayed against each other in hostile factions, I was inclined to concur in the opinion, then avowed by many leading statesmen, that some modification of the naturalization laws might be necessary in order to prevent abuses, allay strife, and restore harmony between the different classes of our people. But later experience and reflection have entirely removed this impression, and dissipated my apprehensions.

In my recent campaign in Mexico, a very large proportion of the men under my command were your countrymen (Irish, Germans, &c. I witnessed with

performed its intended work. Yet he is remarkably hale, vigorous, and active, and may be seen any morning at sunrise making his daily pedestrian tour of the city of Washington, and providing at the market for the daily necessities of his household. May he long live; an ornament to his country, an example of the highest and most genial qualities of manhood, embellished by the blandishments of a gentlemanly demeanor, and dignified by a lofty tone of morals and an uprightness of personal character and habits, that not even the tongue of calumny has ever dared to assail.

the corner-stone of our unbroken successes in Mexico, by inspiring the courage and maintaining the spirit of the army up to the highest pitch. United to this feeling of confidence in the commander-in-chief, was that of love and affection for his person. The most touching evidence of the attachment of his comrades in arms was given on numerous occasions. General Scott was always, indeed, a great favorite with his soldiers; and he has those kindly feelings for all, which never fail to touch the chord of the human heart, and deeply endear him to all with whom he comes in contact. Many a tear has fallen at his meetings with his old comrades; and many a firm grasp of the hand given, both on the field of battle and after the perils of war have been followed by the blessings of peace.

his brigade, exclaimed, "Soldiers! do you hear that! Show them that you are TRUE YANKEES. Shoulder arms—wait for the word!" And when the enemy had approached within thirty paces, he gave the order in a loud and distinct voice, "Ready—fire! Charge bayonet—forward!"

### Our Adopted Citizens.—Letters from General Scott.

admiration their zeal, fidelity, and valor in maintaining our flag in the face of every danger. Vying with each other, and our native born soldiers in the same ranks, in patriotism, constancy, and heroic daring, I was happy to call them brothers in the field, as I shall always be to salute them as countrymen at home.

I remain, dear sir, with great esteem, yours truly,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Wm. E. Robinson, Esq.

WASHINGTON, March 11, 1852.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received your note inviting me to join you, at Philadelphia, in the celebration of the approaching St. Patrick's day—an honor which, I regret, the press of business obliges me to decline.

You do me but justice in supposing me to feel a lively interest in Ireland and her sons. Perhaps no man, certainly no American, owes so much to the valor and blood of Irishmen as myself. Many of them marched and fought under my command in the war of 1812-15, and many more—thousands—in the recent war with Mexico, not one of whom was ever known to turn his back upon the enemy or a friend.

I salute you, gentlemen, with my cordial respects,

(Signed) WINFIELD SCOTT.

R. Tyler, C. McCaullay, W. Dickson, P. W. Conroy, and J. McCann, Esqrs., Committee, &c., &c.

### Honorable Testimonials.

That eminent divine and philanthropist Dr. Channing, speaks as follows in the preface to his *Lecture on War*, delivered in 1838:—

"Much, also, is due to the beneficent influence of General Scott. To this distinguished man belongs the rare honor of uniting with military energy and daring, the spirit of a philanthropist. His exploits in the field, which placed him in the first rank of soldiers, have been obscured by the purer and more lasting glory of a pacificator, and a friend of mankind. In the whole history of the intercourse of civilized communities, we doubt whether a brighter page can be found than that which records his agency in the removal of the Cherokees. As far as the wrongs done to this race can be atoned for, General Scott has made the expiation. In his recent mission to the disturbed borders of our country he has succeeded, not so much by policy as by the nobleness and generosity of his character, by moral influence, by the earnest conviction with which he has enforced, on all with whom he had to do, the obligations of patriotism, justice, humanity, and religion. It would not be easy to find among us a man who has won a purer fame."

In 1851 General Scott visited the valley of the Ohio and Mississippi to select the sites of several military asylums, of which he was the originator and founder, and for the endowment of which he applied a portion of the levy made by him upon the city of Mexico at the time of its capture. On this journey he was everywhere received by crowds of his fellow-citizens, who assembled to do him honor, and gratify their own desires to behold the man who had accomplished so much for his country, and was so endeared to its people. His visit throughout was a triumphal tour, made so by the unbought and spontaneous homage of his grateful and admiring countrymen; a tribute more valuable by far than the enforced plaudits of millions given to the occupants of official station.

Since the close of the Mexican campaign General Scott has received complimentary resolutions from the Congress of the United States, and from the States of Virginia, New Jersey, Kentucky, and Louisiana, for his valor and conduct in that memorable campaign. He has likewise received a gold medal of great beauty and value from Congress, silver medals from the State of Virginia and the city of New York, and a sword from the State of Louisiana, all in token of his distinguished services in Mexico.

Henry Clay, in the Senate of the United States, in 1850, spoke thus of General Scott and the Mexican war: "I must take this opportunity to say, that for skill—for science—for strategy—for bold and daring fighting—for chivalry of individuals and masses, that portion of the Mexican war which was conducted by the gallant Scott as chief commander, stands unrivalled either by the deeds of Cortez himself, or by those of any other commander in ancient or modern times."

The Duke of Wellington, in an autograph letter addressed to the Governor of Virginia, under date of December 12, 1851, thus wrote:

LONDON, December 12, 1851.

SIR:—I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 12th November, and the bronze copy of the beautiful gold medal voted by the State

of Virginia to Major-general Winfield Scott, in testimony of the sense entertained by the State of his great and distinguished services in command of the army in the war in Mexico.

I am very sensible of the distinction conferred upon me by your Excellency's notice of me upon this occasion.

In common with the world at large, I read with admiration the reports of the operations of General Scott, and I sincerely rejoice that the State of Virginia has noticed them by this token of its admiration.

I beg to express my thanks for the honor conferred upon me by sending me this beautiful copy in bronze of the gold medal struck by command of the State in honor of General Winfield Scott, as well as for the kind expressions towards myself personally by which your Excellency has accompanied the gift.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient and humble servant.

(Signed) WELLINGTON.

His Excellency John B. Floyd, Gov. of the State of Virginia.

HON. JOHN M. CLAYTON, former Secretary of State, addressed a public meeting at Delaware city, on April 17, when he said, that General Scott possessed a clear judgment and enlightened mind respecting the political affairs of the country; that he was a lawyer by education, having left his profession in early life to serve the nation as a soldier; that he was well instructed in the constitutional law and history of the Union, and acquainted with international jurisprudence; that, while he was the able general, he was also an accomplished scholar and publicist; and that he was competent, in point of intellectual strength and acquirements, to fill, with credit to himself and advantage to the country, the high post of its chief magistrate. In referring to his services, Mr. Clayton said he had fought more battles than any other American general, and achieved more victories; his blood had flowed freely, his life had been perilled over and over again for the people; his military career, from first to last, was a continuous exhibition of devotion to the welfare and glory of that country whose fame he had made illustrious through the world. And yet he has been less rewarded than any other public servant. Nay, he has been cruelly wronged, aspersed, persecuted, by men who were jealous of his high merits and his deserved popularity. Mr. Clayton here spoke of the sudden and unjust recall of General Scott from the scene of his brilliant triumphs in Mexico, by President Polk, to be arraigned before a petty court martial, convened to try him on contemptible charges. Some persons pretended to accuse him of being a haughty, imperious, and violent man. Did he exhibit such a temper, asked Mr. Clayton, under the injustice of the government? What other man, exposed to the same provocation, would have submitted with equal patience and loyalty to Executive wrong and abuse? What other man, situated as he was at the time, at the head of a victorious, devoted army, in the full flush of triumph and conquest, would have resisted so nobly, so firmly, the natural promptings of an outraged, incensed spirit, and laid down without hesitation the high command he held, and returned at once to obey the orders of the government? Did this show haughtiness or rebelliousness? Nay, more than this, said Mr. Clayton—and he desired that all would mark well the statement, for he made it on re-

hable authority—at the very moment when General Scott was so cruelly, unjustly summoned to Washington, at the close of that brilliant series of successes which he crowned with the capture of the city of Mexico, he was tendered the Presidency of the republic he had conquered, and offered the immediate possession of a million and a quarter of dollars, if he would accept the position. But no. Under the keen pangs of the in-

gratitude with which the administration of his own country was visiting him, he refused the glittering prize, clung with undiminished love and fidelity to the land he had served so long and so well, and proceeded to the national capital to meet, with all the loyalty of a patriotic citizen, even the rancor and injustice of those who were envious of his laurels and eager to injure and degrade him.

### Conclusion.

We have thus rapidly traced the career of Winfield Scott. Our limits have confined us to a brief narrative of the leading events of his life. Many details of an interesting nature, but of subordinate character, we have been reluctantly constrained to omit. Yet we trust to have succeeded in giving a correct and connected, though succinct, recital of the more important acts in the life of this illustrious patriot; acts which have made the name of Winfield Scott famous throughout the world, and shed a refulgence over forty years of his country's history that will endure forever. Our brief chronicle is indeed lustrous with deeds the American heart will ever cherish with fond admiration, and which the lapse of time will never efface from the pages of history, or obliterate from the recollection of our remotest posterity.

If there be those who are inclined to regard General Scott simply as a great and successful soldier, we think a perusal of these pages will dispel all such unjust impressions. So to consider him, is to take a very limited and imperfect view of his life, actions, and public services. Educated to the law, residing for more than a quarter of a century at the metropolis of the Union, in the habit of daily intercourse with the eminent statesmen of the country, and frequently a partner and counsellor in their deliberations, he has enjoyed peculiar advantages for mastering the art of American statesmanship, and familiarizing himself with all the workings of our admirable system of government. The glare of his military reputation has, to the superficial observer, thrown into the shade many of his most noble and valuable traits of character, and too often turned public attention from the many proofs which his career affords of his masculine intellect and comprehensive understanding. In beholding the great commander, many have omitted to observe the evidences of the great man. But no one who has carefully examined General Scott's history will fail to recognize the most distinguished claims to personal distinction, independently of his military talents, or

deny to him the possession of mental endowments of the very first order. In exactness of mind, in breadth and clearness of intellectual vision, in accuracy and tenacity of memory, in knowledge of men, and in unerring soundness of judgment, General Scott has no superior among our public men. He has, on numerous public occasions of importance given the most signal and convincing proofs of pre-eminent abilities and superior qualifications for the conduct of civil affairs. In his settlement of the North Eastern Boundary difficulties, in his management and control of the border troubles on the Canada frontier, in his judicious treatment of South Carolina affairs when nullification was threatened, and above all, in his masterly conduct in the discharge of his arduous and perplexing duties in the removal of the Cherokees, he displayed administrative abilities of the highest character, and manifested transcendent qualifications for the management of great and delicate national concerns. His entire conduct in all of these embarrassing exigencies was marked by sound sense, an unflinching discretion, and consummate wisdom.

Happy will it be for our country, if its candidates for the Presidency shall always be able to point to so illustrious a record of deeds that attest wise statesmanship, as the civil career of General Scott affords! The lives of but few of our public men are embellished with so many tokens and evidences of their capacity to treat great national questions with skill and judgment, as adorn the civic experience of Winfield Scott. To doubt his capacity, therefore, and eminent fitness for any station in the government, however exalted, is to confess ignorance of the man and his history; or be wilfully blind to the distinguishing characteristics of one whose celebrity is world-wide, who has not only shown himself to be a commander of comprehensive capacity and consummate genius; a soldier, without fear and without reproach; but a civilian, conciliatory, energetic, and wise; a man, pure, noble, generous, and humane.

For a FULL LIFE of this Illustrious Statesman and Soldier, see "MANSFIELD'S LIFE OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT," an authentic work of 536 pages, by the author of "History of the Mexican War," published by A. S. BARNES & Co., No. 51 John-street, New York.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS