

At this time, large re-enforcements of the enemy approached Contreras, and General Cadwallader hastened to re-enforce Riley. The contest was now terrific. Neither army would yield an inch of ground.

At four o'clock, General Scott passed along the lines, and was welcomed by an enthusiastic shout. Perceiving the immense strength of the enemy, he ordered General Shields to re-enforce Riley and Cadwallader, and strengthen our army in front of the enemy. Now the battle raged higher still, and hundreds fell to rise no more. This dreadful carnage was kept up for six hours, when the darkness of night closed the scene, and the cannons ceased their roar. Our men were disappointed, as they expected by that time to have been in the "Halls of the Montezumas." They were obliged to lie upon the cold, wet ground, without blankets, to rest for the night.

At eight o'clock in the evening, General Scott retired to San Augustin, and Twiggs and Pillow went at eleven.

Scott and Worth set out for Contreras early the next morning. Firing was heard, and soon a messenger came, saying that General Worth had carried the whole line of fortifications at Contreras. He planned and executed the undertaking in a skilful manner and with little loss. He took fifteen hundred of the enemy prisoners, including Generals Salas, Blanco, Garcia and Mendoza. He also captured an immense amount of ammunition and camp equipage, and fifteen pieces of artillery, among them the two taken from Capt. O'Brien at Buena Vista; seven hundred of the enemy were killed and many more wounded.

General Scott now sent General Worth to attack San Antonio, while he with a force would go in its rear. The

soldiers passed over the battle-field of the previous day, and the scene which was presented was enough to make the hardy soldier shudder and feel sick in view of the horrors of war. Hundreds lay covered with blood, stiff and cold in death, while others were uttering piteous groans and begged for water. The streams actually run with human blood. What a shocking scene! How surprising that nations will thus imbue their hands in each other's blood!

When the force reached San Pablo, another action commenced, and at the same time Worth's cannon were heard roaring away at Churubusco. The flower of both armies were now engaged in terrible combat. The rattling of the musketry, the clash of arms, and the deafening roar of the cannon and the groans of the dying, made the scene truly awful!

Scott was in the midst of danger encouraging his men, while Worth and Twiggs were cheering their soldiers on. Thus, one of the severest conflicts ever witnessed on this continent, raged with increasing power for two hours. Finally our forces gained full possession of all the works, and the enemy fled in dismay to the city. Worth followed them almost to the gates.

The next morning, a detachment of our men entered Chapultepec without opposition.

Soon after this, Santa Anna sent flags, proposing a suspension of hostilities. Negotiations took place, and the following armistice was adopted, August 20th:

THE ARMISTICE.

The undersigned, appointed respectively, the first three by Major-general Winfield Scott, commander-in-chief of

the armies of the United States, and the last two by his Excellency D. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, President of the Mexican Republic, and commander-in-chief of its armies, met with full powers, which were fully verified in the village of Tucubaya, on the 23d day of August, 1847, to enter into an armistice for the purpose of giving the Mexican government an opportunity of receiving propositions of peace from the commissioners appointed by the President of the United States, and now with the American army; when the following articles were agreed upon:

ART. 1. Hostilities shall instantly and absolutely cease between the armies of the United States of America and the United Mexican States, within thirty leagues of the capital of the latter States, to allow time to the commissioners appointed by the United States and the commissioners to be appointed by the Mexican Republic to negotiate.

2. The armistice shall continue as long as the commissioners of the two governments may be engaged on negotiations, or until the commander of either of the said armies shall give formal notice to the other of the cessation of the armistice for forty-eight hours after such notice.

3. In the mean time, neither army shall, within thirty leagues of the city of Mexico, commence any new fortification or military work of offence or defence, or do any thing to enlarge or strengthen any existing work or fortification of that character within the said limits.

4. Neither army shall be reinforced within the same. Any reinforcements in troops or munitions of war, other than subsistence now approaching either army, shall be stopped at the distance of twenty-eight leagues from the city of Mexico.

5. Neither army, nor any detachment from it, shall advance beyond the line it at present occupies.

6. Neither army, nor any detachment or individual of either, shall pass the neutral limits established by the last article, except under a flag of truce bearing the correspondence between the two armies, or on the business authorized by the next article; and individuals of either army, who may chance to straggle within the neutral limits, shall, by the opposite party, be kindly warned off, or sent back to their own armies under flags of truce.

7. The American army shall not, by violence, obstruct the passage from the open country into the city of Mexico, of the ordinary supplies of food necessary to the consumption of its inhabitants, or the Mexican army within the city; nor shall the Mexican authorities, civil or military, do any act to obstruct the passage of supplies from the city or country, needed by the American army.

8. All American prisoners of war remaining in the hands of the Mexican army, and not heretofore exchanged, shall immediately, or as soon as practicable, be restored to the American army, against a like number, having regard to rank, of Mexican prisoners captured by the American army.

9. All American citizens who were established in the city of Mexico prior to the existing war, and who have since been expelled from that city, shall be allowed to return to their respective business or families therein, without delay or molestation.

10. The better to enable the belligerent armies to execute these articles, and to favor the great object of peace, it is further agreed between the parties, that any courier with despatches that either army shall desire to send along the line from the city of Mexico or its vicinity, to and from Vera Cruz, shall receive a safe conduct from the commander of the opposing army.

11. The administration of justice between Mexicans, according to the general and state constitutions and laws, by the local authorities of the towns and places occupied by the American forces, shall not be obstructed in any manner.

12. Persons and property shall be respected in the towns and places occupied by the American forces. No person shall be molested in the exercise of his profession; nor shall the services of any one be required without his consent. In all cases where services are voluntarily rendered, a just price shall be paid, and trade remain unmolested.

13. Those wounded prisoners who may desire to remove to some more convenient place, for the purpose of being cured of their wounds, shall be allowed to do so without molestation, they still remaining prisoners.

14. The Mexican medical officers who may wish to attend the wounded shall have the privilege of doing so, if their services be required.

15. For the more perfect execution of this agreement, two commissioners shall be appointed, one by each party, who, in case of disagreement, shall appoint a third.

16. This convention shall have no force or effect, unless approved by their excellencies, the commanders respectively of the two armies, within twenty-four hours, reckoning from the sixth hour of the 23d day of August, 1847.

A. QUITMAN, *Maj. Gen. U. S. A.*

PERSIFOR F. SMITH, *Brig. Gen.*

FRANKLIN PIERCE, *Brig. Gen. U. S. A.*

IGNACIO DE MARA Y VILLAMIL.

BENITO QUIJANO.

It is believed that the whole force of the Mexicans, in these brilliant engagements, was about thirty-two thousand men. They lost between five and six thousand, including thirteen generals and forty-five pieces of cannon. Our army consisted of seven thousand, eleven hundred of whom were killed or wounded. What a terrible slaughter!

After the armistice was agreed upon, various meetings took place between Mr. Trist, the American minister, and Mexican Commissioners, and endeavors were made to effect a treaty of peace, until September 2d, when Trist handed in his ultimatum in reference to the boundary line, and the Commissioners were to meet again on the 16th.

Some infractions of the truce were made by the enemy, in reference to our supplies from the city; but the Mexicans apologized.

It appears that as soon as the propositions of Trist were considered in a grand council of ministers and others, Santa Anna, on the 4th and 5th, without giving any notice to General Scott, commenced again fortifying the city, directly in opposition to the armistice. Scott immediately sent him a note, which was answered in a false and impudent manner.

Our arrangements were delayed more than two weeks by the armistice. It is probable that Santa Anna only entered into it for the purpose of gaining time.