

sides, the mints, (some seven or eight,) by payments in advance, have, I learn, hired the privilege of coinage for a term of years, and they are mostly, if not entirely, in the hands of neutrals. And in respect to other internal resources of ordinary revenue, I suppose they cannot be made available towards the support of this army, except by the occupation of the State capitals and through the State authorities. To collect such revenue directly, by means of agents of our own—Mexican or American—would require a host of civil employes, involving much extortion, waste, and corruption. The superintendence of the latter system would be extremely repugnant to my habits and feelings. But, I repeat, I have but recently commenced the study of the subject. By the arrival of adequate reinforcements, I hope to be better informed, and, under a general system to be devised, to be able to collect, in the interior, at least a part of the means necessary to support the occupation.

I have to acknowledge despatches from the department dated July 12 and 19, both received October 31; September 1, received November 17; October 6, received November 18; and October 24, received November 16. In the despatch of the 19th July, it is said a duplicate of one dated "the 14th ultimo" is herewith enclosed. Neither copy has been received, and only the duplicate of that dated July 12. In respect to the latter, I have only time to say, that I have ample topics for reply and self-justification, but waive them for the present.

I shall probably, in three or four days, write again by the downward train. I now avail myself of a messenger who can only take a few letters and packages.

I have the honor to remain, sir, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, *Secretary of War.*

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Mexico, November 25, 1847.

GENERAL ORDERS—No. 358.

Under instructions from the government at home, requiring that this army shall, as soon as practicable, begin to raise, within the country it occupies, the means, in whole or in great part, of maintaining the expenses of the occupation, until the federal government of Mexico shall submit terms of peace which the United States may honorably accept, it is *ordered* that no uncoined bullion, bars or ingots, either of gold or silver, shall be shipped from any port of Mexico, until the further orders of the government at home shall be made known on the subject, so as to give time for said government to fix the rate of export duty on such bullion, and perhaps a smaller duty on gold and silver coins.

As the beginning of the change of system intimated above, all rents for houses or quarters occupied by officers or troops of the army, in any city or village in Mexico, will cease as soon as con-

tracts may permit, and absolutely from and after the end of this month, wherever this order shall be received in time; and, in future, necessary quarters, both for officers and troops, where the public buildings are insufficient, will first be demanded, as required, of the civil authorities of the several places occupied by the troops, so as to equalize the inconvenience imposed upon the inhabitants, and diminish the same as much as possible.

If the authorities fail to put the troops promptly in possession of such quarters, then the commanding officer, in every such case, following out the same principle of giving the least distress practicable to the unoffending inhabitants, will cause the necessary buildings to be occupied.

Subsistence, forage, and other necessaries, for the army, will be purchased and paid for as heretofore; and the injunctions and penalties of the *martial law* order, dated February 19, 1847, originally published at Tampico, and republished several times since, with additions, will, as from the first, be strictly enforced, as also, in general, all the obligations of good morals and the most exact discipline.

By command of Major General Scott:

H. L. SCOTT,
A. A. A. G.

[No. 37.]

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Mexico, December 4, 1847.

SIR: I had designed to send down to Vera Cruz, some five days ago, another, or a second train of wagons, under an escort, principally to furnish means of transportation, in part, for reinforcements at that city destined for this place; but learning nothing of the approach of Major General Patterson's column (or of any other) since his report from Jalapa of the 10th ultimo, and hearing unofficially that the train (400 wagons, 150 for reinforcements) despatched hence the first of that month was likely to be detained by some unknown cause at Vera Cruz, till the 1st or 5th of the present month, I have been obliged to delay the second train, as the force here and at Chapultepec "fit for duty" is only about 6,000 rank and file; the number of "sick," exclusive of officers, being 2,041.

What has detained Major General Patterson so long at Jalapa, I am at a loss to conjecture. He reported on the 10th ultimo that he would renew his march in ten days, in which case he would now have been here, but very late unofficial news from Puebla is silent on this subject. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, who will command the first train returning up, has probably been detained at Vera Cruz, waiting for the arrival of essential articles of clothing from New Orleans. All the reinforcements which have joined me *via* New Orleans, since I left Vera Cruz, have reported that they were officially told, before leaving their respective rendezvous, they would find abundant clothing at New Orleans, and there; that the

depot at Vera Cruz would be found ample; whereas not a sixth, perhaps an eighth part, of the clothing needed by this army has reached the latter depot since we landed early in March, except, perhaps, very recently; and that little, it is now reported, has been issued to the troops that have arrived there since about the middle of September; they also, it is presumed, having left home with insufficient clothing. Please recur to a notice on the same subject, in my report to the department (No. 30) dated July 25. If, therefore, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson be waiting at Vera Cruz for the article so much needed here, he will, in the end, probably learn that one clothing depot is as empty as the other. We have caused a great number of garments of absolute necessity to be made here, but of inferior materials and at high prices compared with those of Philadelphia.

Mr. Trist will go down with the next train.

No proposition has been made to me, looking to peace, by the federal government of this republic, or its commissioners; the latter understood to be still in this city. I have not seen them.

In the act of writing, I learn through a merchant that Major General Patterson was, on the 2d instant, expected at Puebla the following day.

I have the honor to be, sir, with high respect, your obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

P. S.—The foregoing letter was despatched the day of its date, by a hired Mexican. I have just learned that he was robbed of his despatches and horse, near and in sight of our new post at Rio Frio, occupied by new troops.

I send this duplicate with copies of the same papers which accompanied the original, to overtake the second train that left here for Vera Cruz yesterday, under the orders of Brigadier General Twiggs, who will assume command of the Vera Cruz department, after inspecting the intermediate garrisons of Rio Frio, Puebla, Perote, Jalapa, National Bridge, and San Juan.

Colonel Hays, with five companies of rangers, and Major Lally, with a detachment of regulars, arrived here the 7th instant. Major General Patterson came up the following day, and Brigadier General Cushing and brigade were close behind. I have not yet been able to obtain a return of those reinforcements; but Major General Patterson thinks they may in all amount to 3,500, officers and men.

I have nothing else to add of interest, except that Major General Butler's column, as well as the train sent hence the first of November, are both expected here in about a week.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

MEXICO, December 10, 1847.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 14, 1847.

SIR: You will herewith receive a copy of the President's message to Congress, and also a copy of the annual report from this department. The message will make you acquainted with the views of the President in regard to the future prosecution of the war.

It is expected that you will use the force under your command to hold the city of Mexico, and other places now in your possession, and to keep open the communication from that place to Vera Cruz, so that supplies, munitions of war, and merchandise, can be safely conveyed along that line with only a small force to escort and protect them. Should robbers and guerilleros continue to obstruct the road, to plunder and murder as heretofore, the most vigorous measures should be pursued to punish them, and prevent their depredations. It is desirable to open the country to the ingress of merchandise from the ports in our possession to the utmost practicable extent. In this way it is anticipated that considerable assistance will be derived towards meeting the expenses of the war.

You will perceive that the government here contemplate that the resources of the country are, to a considerable extent, opened to us, and that they are to be resorted to for the purpose of diminishing the burden of our expenses. It is also expected you will make them available for this purpose as far as practicable.

The internal revenues to the extent, at least, to which they were levied by the Mexican government, are to be kept up and paid over to the use of our army, so far as it is within our power to control them, with the exception of the departmental or transit duties, mentioned in a former communication. For this purpose, and to deprive the enemy of the means of organizing further resistance to protract the war, it is expedient to subject to our arms other parts of his country. What those parts shall be is left to your judgment. Our object is to obtain acceptable terms of peace within the earliest practicable period, and it is apprehended that this object cannot be speedily obtained without making the enemy feel that he is to bear a considerable part of the burden of the war.

Should there not be at this time a government in Mexico of sufficient stability to make peace, or should the authority which there exists be adverse to it, and yet a large and influential portion of the people really disposed to put an end to hostilities, it is desirable to know what prospect there is that the latter could, with the countenance and protection of our arms, organize a government which would be willing to make peace, and able to sustain the relations of peace with us. It is presumed that your opportunities of knowing the disposition of the people of Mexico will enable you to furnish your government with correct information on this subject; and the President desires to be furnished with your views thereon.

Major General Taylor has obtained leave of absence from his command to visit his family. He will remain in the United States

for six months from the first instant, unless the exigencies of the public service shall require his earlier return to Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Major General WINFIELD SCOTT,
Commanding United States Army, Mexico.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
January 26, 1848.

SIR: I presume that the correspondence of this department with Major General Scott is already in your hands, and that you are in discharge of the duties devolved on you by the order of the 13th instant. You are therefore fully apprized of the character in which N. P. Trist, esq., was sent to Mexico, and of his recall by the President. The recall of the commissioner was accompanied by an order that the general in command should receive and transmit, for consideration here, any overtures or propositions for peace which the Mexican government might think proper to submit through him. From despatches recently received from Mr. Trist, acknowledging the receipt of his letter of recall, it is understood, that since its receipt he has been engaged in negotiations with the Mexican government. This assumption of power imposes on the President the painful necessity of maintaining the authority of his office, and of enforcing obedience to his orders. If, on the receipt of this despatch, Mr. Trist shall not have signed a treaty, it is the order of the President that you communicate to the Mexican government that he will no longer be recognised by this government, as authorized to continue the negotiation.

In communicating this fact, the President directs that you will make known to the Mexican government that his desire for the restoration of peace and for a just and honorable adjustment of the matters in controversy between the two republics, is unabated; and that any proposition for this desirable consummation which the Mexican government may think proper to submit or place in your hands to be transmitted, will be considered by this government with an anxious desire to promote a pacific result.

If Mr. Trist shall have actually signed a treaty, you will make no communication on the subject to the Mexican government; the President will dispose of the subject when communicated to him, as of course it will be, in such a mode as the great public interests involved may require, giving due weight to the circumstances under which Mexico may have acted, and uninfluenced by the unprecedented conduct of our late commissioner.

If, when you receive this despatch, the circumstances are such that you make to the Mexican government the communication as herein directed, you will inform Mr. Trist of this order and of its execution on your part; and that he will no longer regard himself

as being at the head-quarters of the army, under the orders of his government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Major General W. O. BUTLER,
Commanding U. S. Army, Mexico.

[Written in pencil on a slip of paper.]

[Private]

DEAR GENERAL: You may infer that it is intended that you should give the notice, if necessary to be given, by sending copies of the despatch; but such is not the case. Stating the substance will suffice.

W. L. M.

General BUTLER.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 24, 1848.

SIR: A treaty of peace negotiated by Mr. Trist and certain Mexican commissioners has been received by the President, and he has sent it to the Senate for ratification, with the exception of the tenth article, which has reference to the title of lands in Texas. This article is so entirely inadmissible, that any treaty containing it can never be ratified by the United States. Rejecting this tenth article, and perhaps "the additional and secret article," it is probable that the treaty will be approved by the Senate and President.

One of the stipulations of the treaty provides for the payment of three million dollars in Mexico, on its ratification by the Mexican government.

If the Mexican government should ratify the treaty in its present shape, and thereupon claim the first instalment, it is very important that the payment should be withheld until the action of the government here is made known in Mexico; for, should the money be paid, and the treaty be here modified, as it certainly will be, and the Mexican government refuse to adopt the modification, the amount so paid will be lost. It is proper to guard against such an occurrence.

Mr. Trist took out with him an authority from the Secretary of the Treasury to draw for three millions, to be paid on the ratification of a treaty by Mexico, and he may assume to act on that authority, notwithstanding his recall. No doubt is here entertained that his recall is a revocation of his power to draw on his government; yet, considering the extraordinary course of his conduct, it would not be very surprising if he should persist in claiming the

right to act on the revoked power. If the Mexican government should ratify the treaty in the form in which it may be ratified by the government here, it will be necessary that we should be prepared to pay, in the city of Mexico, the first instalment of three millions. For that purpose I herewith transmit to you authority from the Secretary of the Treasury to draw for that sum, to be used when the Mexican government shall have ratified the treaty in the shape and form in which it shall be ratified by this government.

To remove all question or cavil as to Mr. Trist's authority to act in the matter, I herewith enclose to you the evidence of the revocation of his power to draw on the treasury, and you are requested to deliver a copy of it to him, in the event that the Mexican government should ratify the treaty as it was made by Mr. Trist and the commissioners. On exhibiting to him the enclosed evidence of the revocation of his power to draw, you will ask the surrender of that power to you. Should he refuse to surrender it, you will notify the Mexican government that his power to draw on this government has been revoked, and that you are vested with authority to do what is required in regard to the payment of the first instalment provided for in the treaty.

From the information here received, it is not probable that the Mexican Congress can be assembled, and the treaty be ratified in Mexico, before the course of our government on it will be known. Should you be sure of this fact, there will be no occasion for you to act on this communication or to apprise any one of its import or object.

As soon as the government of the United States shall have acted on the treaty, the result will be immediately transmitted to Mexico, and all the necessary arrangements made to carry the treaty into effect, in all its stipulations, as soon as it is mutually ratified. The sole object of this communication is, to prevent the payment of any part of the sum stipulated to be paid on a treaty ratified by Mexico, one article of which (the tenth) cannot be accepted by the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. L. MARCY,
Secretary of War.

Maj. Gen. WM. O. BUTLER,
Commanding U. S. Army in Mexico.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 25, 1848.

SIB: You were informed, in my despatch of yesterday, that a treaty signed by Mr. Trist and commissioners on the part of Mexico, and transmitted to this government, has been submitted to the

Senate with a view to its ratification. In the conduct of Mr. Trist in remaining in Mexico after his recall, in assuming to himself powers which had been revoked, in arrogating to himself the right to judge of the best mode of conducting the negotiations with Mexico, which the constitution has devolved on the President, and in inserting in the treaty a provision unjust to Texas, which his instructions never authorized, but especially in his despatches to the State Department, the President saw such flagrant violation of duty and of decency, that if he had yielded to personal considerations, he would have refused to recognise any act of his after he had so far disregarded his duty. But looking at the subject with a dispassionate sense of public duty, the President has submitted the treaty to the Senate, with a view to its ratification with an amendment. If the Senate shall approve the treaty with amendment, the question will be for the Mexican government and Congress to determine whether they will concur, and thus terminate the war. No public interest can require that Mr. Trist should longer remain at the head-quarters of the army. The President feels that he owes it to his country and its constitution not to suffer the authority and dignity of the high office in which his fellow-citizens have placed him to be contemned and insulted by one whose authority as a diplomatic agent he has deemed it best for the public interest to revoke, and who has proved unworthy of the confidence reposed in him. Judging from his past conduct, Mr. Trist, in his contempt of the instructions of his government, may feel disposed rather to prevent than promote the adoption by Mexico of the modifications deemed indispensable by the President, as those modifications, when adopted, will effect changes in the treaty signed by him. The tone of two despatches addressed by him to the Secretary of State, and which, although they came with the treaty to Washington, were, by inadvertence, not delivered to the Secretary of State, nor brought to the notice of the President, until after the treaty was sent in to the Senate, is so objectionable, that while they would not have prevented him from pursuing the course which he has taken in regard to the treaty, yet he cannot countenance Mr. Trist longer occupying a position in which he appears to the world as the representative of his government, and of which he avails himself to defy and insult the authority of that government.

It is not deemed to be necessary to characterize these and other despatches from him since his recall, further than to say that they are grossly insulting, abound in extraneous and impertinent matter, and present such a commentary upon the course of his government as could result only from great ignorance or a design to put forth perversions and misrepresentations. You will therefore require Mr. Trist to leave the head-quarters of the army, and will furnish the necessary escort for him to Vera Cruz. But if, as has been intimated, his testimony shall be required in the judicial proceedings conducted by the court of inquiry of which General Towson is president, you will interpose no objection to his going to and remaining at the place where the court is in session, until his at-