

quarters were established at San Augustin, a town on the main Acapulco road, where we had been preceded by General Worth. Thus far, there had been no fighting; but here evidently it was to begin, if ever; for the only road to the city (this road being the continuation of the one leading from Mexicalcingo to the capital, and on which we should have had to travel, had the plan been pursued of carrying that place) here consisted of a causeway, flanked on either side by flooded lands, (on the firmest spots of which a man would have been ankle deep in mud, and consequently impracticable for cavalry or artillery,) and intersected by a series of redoubts and batteries of great strength and very heavy metal. The first of these, about three miles by the road from San Augustin, was at the hacienda of San Antonio. It presented an obstacle so formidable, that, after the most careful reconnaissances—in the course of which Captain Thornton, of the dragoons, was cut in two, while supporting Captain Mason of the engineers, over whose head the ball passed—but little or no doubt remained that it would cost General Worth, who had approached it for this purpose, half of his division to carry it by assault.

Other reconnaissances were made on the day of our arrival at San Augustin; and the result being brought in by the engineers late at night, the determination was then taken to turn San Antonio, by opening a road through the hilly country, from San Augustin to an excellent turnpike which connects some manufactories with the city.

On this work General Pillow's division was detailed, to (commence operations on the morning of the 19th,) and that of General Twiggs to act as the support of the working party. This design on our part having become apparent, through the employment on the day previous of Captain Lee, of the engineers—whose supporting party had been attacked by, and had driven, an immensely superior force—the next morning (the 19th) the enemy appeared in heavy force, consisting of cavalry and artillery as well as infantry, occupying a position of very great strength, just beyond the turnpike to which I have referred as the one which our contemplated road was intended to enable us to reach with our wagons and artillery. There was but one possible track for this road; and this track, for the greater part of its length, was commanded by the position which the enemy occupied on the morning of the 19th.

The design, however, was not abandoned. Pillow's division went to work with their pickaxes and spades, with Twiggs in proper position to protect them. About three o'clock, they reached a point beyond which the labor could not proceed without first driving the enemy, for there they came under the fire of his guns, 26 in number, and many of them of exceedingly heavy calibre. Owing to the nature of the ground over which our troops had to approach the enemy, and which was absolutely impassable for horse or artillery, or even for single horsemen picking their way, the work of dislodging him had to be done entirely by the infantry. Then commenced a series of actions, and a display of qualities on the part of our troops, which can never be properly estimated by

our country—for this would require a detailed and personal knowledge of the inconceivable difficulties presented by the ground, and these aggravated by the weather—but which, I feel perfectly convinced, surpass in military merit anything that has ever occurred under our flag.

The battle of Mexico—as this series of most brilliant exploits is called—terminated about three o'clock in the afternoon of the second day, the 20th instant; the last point carried being Churubusco, a small town on the main road from Acapulco to Mexico, which we here again came upon, having left it at San Augustin. It is but three and a half miles from the capital; and our troops might beyond doubt, have penetrated there—possibly without any additional fighting—had not this been forbidden by considerations of humanity towards the unoffending inhabitants, to say nothing of the *reasons of policy* which stood in the way, or of the condition of our troops, who were in a state imperatively demanding food and rest. I must say in justice to General Scott, that he is never unmindful of *either* of these considerations.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. P. TRIST.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,
Secretary of State.

PALACIO DEL GOBIERNO FEDERAL,
Mexico, 20 de Agosto de 1847.

El infrascrito, ministro de relaciones interiores y exteriores, tiene orden del exmo. S. Presidente interino de la republica de decir á S. E. el S. Buchanan, ministro de negocios extranjeros de los Estados Unidos de America, que no siempre el exito de las batallas acompaña á la justicia de la causa porque se han dado: atendida esta y nada otra cosa, si otra hubiera que atender, el gefe de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos ha combatido hasta el momento en que por sucesos que no es la ocasion de referir, las tropas de los mismos Estados Unidos de America se encuentran en las puertas de la capital: escuchando entonces otros deberes que tambien tiene como primer magistrado de su pais, y mando de las facultades que le competen conforme á su constitucion, ha resuelto se dé oido á las proposiciones que haya de hacer D. Nicolas Trist nombrado por parte de aquel gobierno, con tal que ellas sean ventajosas á las dos naciones y dejen á cubierto el honor de la republica Mexicana, como constantemente se ha dicho en las camaras de Washington y lo aseguró el ministro Norte Americano al gobierno de la Gran Bretaña, y en la inteligencia de que el gobierno Mexicano se prestará á que se abran preliminares de paz no pasando de un año el termino dentro del cual haya de celebrarse un tratado y sometiendo este, segun la constitucion del pais, á la aprobacion de la autoridad á quien ella comete esta atribucion.

La naturaleza de esta comunicacion no permite estenderse en

ella, y crée el infrascrito que lo dicho es bastante para responder la nota de S. E. el Sr. Buchanan de 15 de Abril ultimo, á quien con este motivo presenta las seguridades de su distinguida consideracion.

J. R. PACHECO.

A. S. E. el Sr. MINISTRO de Negocios Extranjeros
de los Estados Unidos de America.

[No. 13.]

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE U. S. ARMY,

Tacubaya, August 24, 1847.

SIR: The enclosed is the duplicate of part of my despatch No. 12, written on the night of the 22d, and sent off at daybreak the next day. I have since learnt that the courier bearing my No. 10, July 31st, enclosing a duplicate of No. 9, July 23-25, has been intercepted, and I do not know how many others of my communications may have shared the same fate; for yours under date the 14th June is the only one that has reached me since my arrival in the country. Mishaps of this kind are matters of no small moment to me in my present situation; the demands upon my time being greater than the utmost diligence can enable me to meet. To say nothing of the loss of it unavoidably caused by the hurry and bustle of camp life, in the heart of an enemy's country, those portions of the day (and very often of the night also, to a very late hour) which might otherwise have been spent in writing, have to a very great extent been passed in the company of General Scott, who, independently of the occasions requiring consultation with me, very naturally feels desirous that I should fully understand the views by which he is governed at every step taken by him in discharging the duties of the post with which he is entrusted. In this way I have necessarily been present not only at military consultations taking place daily, and running often into a late hour of the night, but also whenever an incident arose (and these have been many) of sufficient interest to render his determination upon the subject a matter of any consequence; whether with regard to the success of our arms, or in its bearings upon the object for which the war is waged, or in respect to the principles which govern his conduct towards the enemy and towards those placed under his command. Having thus been led to touch upon this topic, I must add that I have never, on any of these occasions, witnessed anything but what struck me as highly commendable, and as calculated to raise him in the estimation of all enjoying the like opportunities of understanding his character and his qualifications. These never can be done justice to by any one who judges of them as I had, by the mere surface which he presents to the world. A close insight renders more and more manifest, in proportion as it is enjoyed, his pre-eminent fitness in all material respects for the very trying position in which he here finds himself; and it fully justifies the confidence which the army reposes in him as a master of his profession, as a commander under whose direction they may

confidently count that their success or their safety, or their comfort, will never be left to chance or hazard, so far as this can be avoided by vigilance and thoughtfulness, and a ready and skillful application, on every emergency, of the principles of the art of war, by one to whom practice and study have made them, and all details appertaining to them, perfectly familiar.

I shall doubtless have occasion to recur to this subject; for, although I have hitherto looked upon the continued occupation of the country, even within the limits just indicated, as altogether out of the question, and have considered the plan of assuming a boundary as the only one which could be adopted in the event of our failing to obtain peace, upon taking their capital, (now within our grasp, *certainly*;) yet, it does now seem to me exceedingly doubtful whether the plan of continued occupation will not be in every respect the preferable one, provided reasonable grounds should exist for believing that it will not be necessary to run it into too great length.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HON. JAMES BUCHANAN, *Secretary of State.*

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE U. S. ARMY,

Tacubaya, August 29, 1847.

SIR: I have time only to refer to the enclosed, numbered from 1 to —, inclusive, as giving a connected view of what has taken place down to the time of my meeting the Mexican commissioners. This meeting took place on the 27th instant, late in the afternoon, at a village eight miles distant, instead of two miles, as I had been led to believe when I accepted the invitation. This distance from head-quarters being decidedly objectionable, for reasons which time does not permit me to enter into, I proposed another place about two miles distant, which has since been assented to; and we are to meet there to-morrow (Monday) morning. We met yesterday for the second time at Itzcapusalco, General Herrera being absent on account of an attack of gout. From what then took place, I drew a favorable augury. At the first meeting our respective powers were exhibited, and I remarked upon their (the Mexican commissioners) being restricted to the mere receiving of my propositions for transmission to the President for his consideration, observing that my powers authorized me to confer only with persons having the like authority. Nevertheless, I would deliver to them the propositions I had to make, which had been put in the form of a treaty, in the expectation that when we met to discuss the subject, their powers would correspond to mine. I determined upon this course, because it was obvious that if the sight of our propositions was to have the effect of preventing them from proceeding in the negotiation, this could take place just as well after they had re-

ceived their full powers as before. This was, therefore, a point of mere etiquette, and I sacrificed it to the substantial advantage of gaining time, and of pleasing the other party by not taking a stand against their mode of proceeding at the first step. Yesterday I was informed that the government had my propositions under consideration, and that they would lead me on Monday *with powers corresponding to mine*. The determination of the President to give these powers has, it is to be observed, taken place *after* they had my proposition under consideration; certainly not an unfavorable symptom.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. P. TRIST.

Hon. JAMES BUCHANAN,
Secretary of State.

[No. 1.] HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA,
Cuyoacan, August 21, 1847.

SIR: Too much blood has already been shed in this unnatural war between the two great republics of this continent. It is time that the differences between them should be amicably and honorably settled; and it is known to your excellency that a commissioner on the part of the United States, clothed with full powers to that end, is with this army, to enable the two republics to enter on negotiations. I am willing to sign, on reasonable terms, a short armistice.

I shall wait with impatience until to-morrow morning for a direct answer to this communication, but shall in the mean time seize and occupy such positions of the capital as I may deem necessary to the shelter and comfort of this army.

I have the honor to remain, &c., &c.,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

His Excel^y the PRESIDENT AND GENERAL IN CHIEF
of the republic of Mexico.

[No. 2.] PALACIO DEL GOBIERNO FEDERAL,
En Mexico, á 21 de Agosto de 1847.

SEÑOR: El infrascrito, ministro de guerra y marina del gobierno de los E. U. Mexicanos, ha recibido orden del E. S. Presidente general-en-gefe de contestar á la comunicacion de V. E., en que le propone la celebracion de un armisticio con el fin de evitar mas derramamiento de sangre entre las dos grandes republicas de este continente, oyendo las proposiciones que haga para el efecto el comisionado del E. S. Presidente de los E. U. de America, que se halla en el cuartel general de su egercito.

Lamentable es ciertamente que por no haber sido considerados debidamente los derechos de la republica Mexicana, haya sido inevitable el derramamiento de sangre entre las primeras republicas del

continente Americano, y con mucha esactitud califica V. E. de desnaturalizada esta guerra, no solo por sus motivos sino por los antecedentes de dos pueblos tan identificados en relaciones y en intereses. — La proposicion de un armisticio para terminar este escandalo, ha sido admitida con agrado por S. E. el Presidente general-en-gefe, porque facilitará el que puedan ser escuchadas las proposiciones que para el termino decoroso de esta guerra haga el Sr. Comisionado del Presidente de los E. U. de America.

En consecuencia, me manda S. E. el Presidente general-en-gefe anunciar á V. E. que admite la proposicion de celebrar un armisticio, y para el efecto ha nombrado á los Señores generales de brigada D. Ygnacio Mora y Villamil y D. Benito Quijano, quienes estaran en el lugar y hora que me anuncie.

Tambien me previene S. E. el General Presidente que comunique á V. E. su deferencia á que el egercito de los E. U. tome cuarteles cómodos y provistos, esperando que estos se hallaran fuera del tiro de las fortificaciones Mexicanas.

Tengo el honor de ser con alta consideracion y respeto de V. E. Su mas obediente servidor.

ALCORTA:

A. S. E. el General WINFIELD SCOTT,
En gefe del egercito de los E. U. de America.

[No. 3.] TACUBAYA, August 25, 1847.

The undersigned, appointed commissioner of the United States of America to the United Mexican States, with full power to meet and confer with any person or persons having the like authority from the Mexican government, and with him or them to negotiate and conclude a lasting treaty of peace, friendship, and limits, between the two republics, begs leave to invite the attention of his excellency the minister of relations of Mexico to the military convention establishing an armistice, concluded on the 23d and ratified on the 24th instant, and has the honor to state that he is prepared to meet the commissioner or commissioners on the part of Mexico, and to request that an early day may be appointed for the meeting, at some place which may be convenient to both parties.

The undersigned tenders to his excellency the minister of relations the assurance of his most distinguished consideration.

N. P. T.

[No. 4.] PALACIO NACIONAL,
Mejico, Agosto 26, de 1847.

El infrascrito, ministro de relaciones interiores y exteriores, ha tenido el honor de recibir y poner en conocimiento del E. S. Presidente interino de la republica la nota en que á consecuencia del armisticio celebrado con el general-en-gefe de las tropas de los Estados Unidos, el Sor. Don Nicholas Trist, comisionado del gobierno

de aquella nacion, con fecha de ayer, manifiesta que esta pronto á tratar con el comisionado ó comisionados de esta republica, acerca de las proposiciones de paz que esta autorizado á hacer pidiendo se señale proxicamente dia para la reunion en el punto que se estime conveniente para ambas partes.

El infrascrito ha recibido orden del E. S. Presidente para manifestar al Sor. Trist, en contestacion que ya se ocupa de nombrar á la mayor brevedad los comisionados para oír las proposiciones que tenga viene á hacer el mismo Sor. Trist, los cuales concurriran á las cuatro de la tarde del dia de mañana en el pueblo de Atzacaposalco como punto intermedio entre los que ocupan las fuerzas de ambas naciones, siempre que en esta designacion no encuentre inconveniente el Sor. Trist, á quien el infrascrito ofrece las seguridades de su distinguida consideracion.

J. R. PACHECO.

Al Sor. Don NICOLAS TRIST,
Comisionados de los Estados Unidos de America.

[No. 5.]

TACUBAYA, August 26, 1847.

The undersigned, commissioner of the United States of America, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of this date, H. E. Señor Pacheco, Minister of Relations of Mexico, acquainting him that if no objection exists on his part to the place indicated, he will be met by commissioners on the part of Mexico to-morrow at four o'clock of the afternoon, at the village of Atzacapusalco, as being an intermediate point between those occupied by the respective forces of the two nations.

The undersigned has the honor to state, in reply, that he accepts with pleasure this invitation, in the hope that this first meeting will promptly be followed by a satisfactory settlement of all differences between the sister republics.

He renews to Señor Pacheco the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

N. P. T.

H. E. Don J. R. PACHECO, &c., &c., &c.,
Minister of Relations of the Mexican republic.

[No. 6.]

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA, GENERAL DE DIVISION, BENEMERITO DE LA PATRIA, Y PRESIDENTE INTERINO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS MEJICANOS.

A todos los que el presente vieren, saber :

Que habiendo resuelto en uso de las facultades que me concede la constitucion federal, oír las proposiciones de paz que quiere hacer el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de America, por medio de su comisionado el Sor. Don Nicolas Trist, y teniendo entera confi-

anza en el patriotismo, ilustracion, y demas recomendables circunstancias que adornan al E. Sor. General de Division, Don José Joaquin de Herrera, al Sor. Lic. Don José Bernardo Couto, al Sor. General de Brigada, Don Ignacio Mora y Villamil, y al Sor. Lic. Don Miguel Atristain, he venido en comisionarlos para que pasen al pueblo de Atzacaposalco á recibir y transmitirme las citadas proposiciones que viene á hacer el mencionado Señor Don Nicolas Trist; para cuyo efecto les concedo á los cuatros el pleno poder necesario; autorizando al Sor. Don Miguel Arroyo para que les asista y acompañe en clase de secretario é interprete por la confianza que igualmente mereze.

En fé de lo cual he hecho espedir el presente firmado de mi mano, autorizando con el sello nacional, y refrendado por el Secretario de Estado y del despacho del Ministerio de Relaciones Interiores y exteriores en el Palacio Federal de Mejico, á los veinte y siete dias del mes de Agosto del año de mil ochocientos cuarenta y siete, vigesimo septimo de la independencia.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

Refrendado—

J. R. PACHECO.

[L. s.]

[No. 15.—Confidential.] HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE U. S. ARMY,
Tacubaya, September 4, 1847.

SIR: The conference between the Mexican commissioners and myself, on the 2d instant, resulted in my saying that if they would submit to me a formal proposition to establish as the boundary between the two republics the one defined in the accompanying paper, (enclosure No. 1,) I would transmit it to Washington, and would propose to General Scott to consent to the continuation of the armistice until the answer of our government should be received; the calculation being that this would require from forty to forty-five days, sending expresses both to Tampico and Vera Cruz. The idea had been thrown out by one of them, (not without his being interrupted by the others, to remind him that their instructions did not in any way warrant any such proposition or intimation on their part, but just the reverse,) that provided I should agree to the other parts of a boundary nearly coinciding with the one above referred to, they might possibly obtain permission to relinquish New Mexico. This, he said, was the utmost possible extent to which they could go, in the way of sacrifices to the cause of peace; and supposing that they should succeed in obtaining the consent of the government to its being made, which was exceedingly doubtful, it would then remain more doubtful still whether the government could maintain itself in a position so highly perilous with reference to the sentiment of the country, and affording so great advantage to those disposed to assail it, as well as to those who, independently of this motive, were banded together as opponents of all negotiation, ready to brand as a traitor every man who manifested