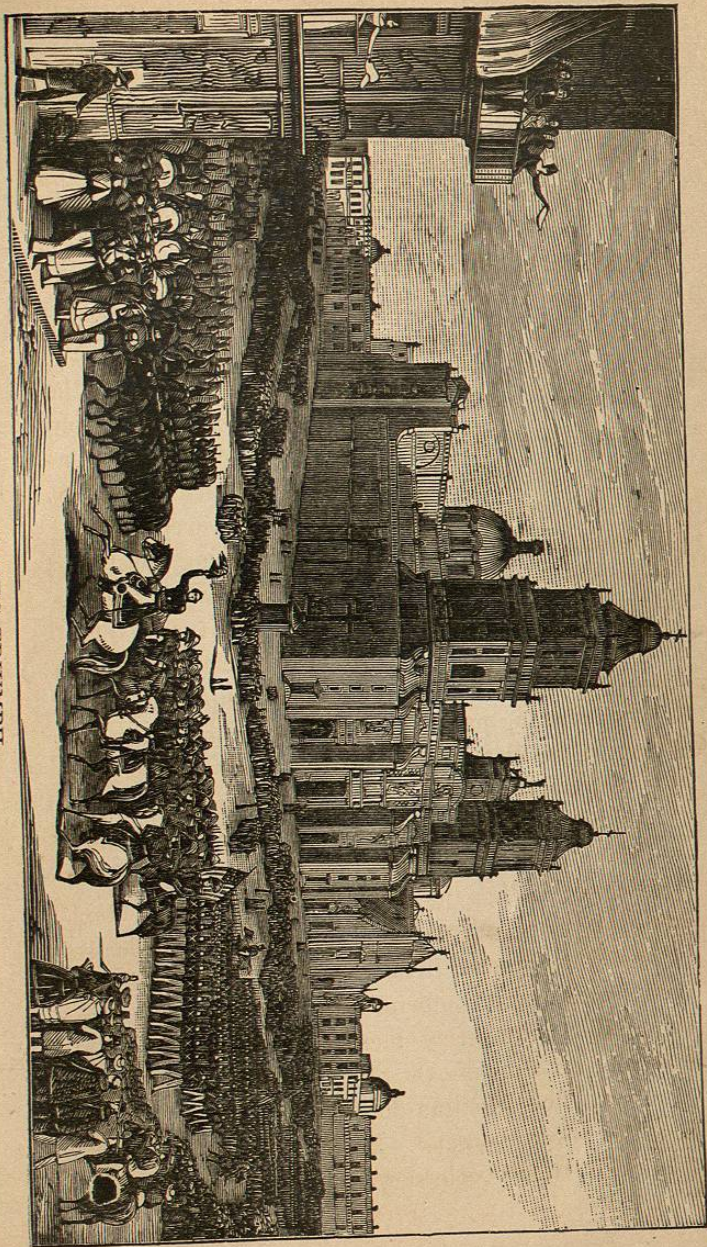


of that number. After a short but desperate conflict, the Mexicans surrendered. The victory of Chapultepec followed, which opened the way to the capital.

The city of Mexico stands on elevated ground, and is surrounded with a navigable canal of considerable breadth and depth, which serves at once for drainage and defence. Over this canal were eight entrances or gates, built on arches, and each of these was defended by a system of strong works. Surrounding the city were meadows, which were largely under water at the time of the approach of the American army, it being the middle of the wet season. Heavy batteries commanding the gates were established, which threw shot and shell into the works. There was severe fighting all around the city, the Americans being constantly under a furious fire of cannon and musketry from the walls.

At length the ditch and wall of the main work were reached, scaling-ladders were brought up and planted by the storming parties, a lodgment was effected, and a stream of soldiers rushed up the works. Opposition was soon overborne, and among cheers from the whole American army, the Mexican colors were pulled down, and the flag of the victors floated over the walls of Mexico. Small as the numbers engaged in the Mexican conflict appear, compared to the enormous masses of men who appeared in later wars, the results achieved were by no means contemptible. The American force, at no time numbering more than twelve thousand, overcame an army of over thirty thousand in their own country. The Mexican loss in killed and wounded was over seven thousand. Four thousand were taken prisoners, twenty colors were captured, seventy-five



SCOTT'S TRIUMPH.

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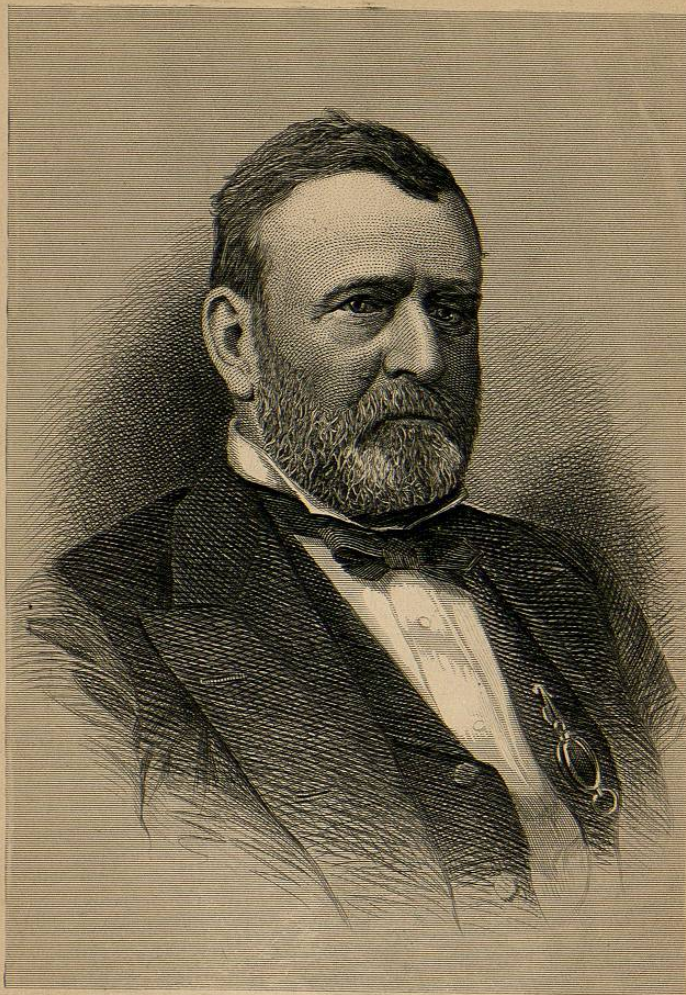
In 1864 Scott completed his own memoirs, a work of some value, but very largely occupied with details of his personal quarrels and difficulties, which were numerous. He had made New York city his home during his later years, but after a somewhat protracted period of ill-health and general infirmity, he decided to make a voyage to Europe for the benefit of his health. The news of the capture of Slidell and Mason was received almost immediately after his arrival in England, and induced him to return at once, as danger of a war between England and the United States appeared imminent. He remained at his home in New York for many months, but removed subsequently to West Point, where he died in May, 1866.



Scott

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*U. S. Grant*

pieces of heavy ordnance, and about twenty thousand small arms. Scott received the thanks and commendation of Congress, and returned to the North with his soldiers to receive the applause of the people.

A treaty of peace was signed in February, 1848, and in time duly ratified in Washington. But the general did not escape adverse criticism. He was not in favor with the president, and almost immediately after the signing of the treaty, he was ordered to turn over the command of the army to Major-General William O. Butler, and to submit himself to a court of inquiry. The charges against him were, however, withdrawn, and the court adjourned and dissolved.

When President Taylor was inaugurated, Scott removed his headquarters from Washington, his personal relations with the president not being of a pleasant character. In 1850 he re-established himself in Washington. He had been again proposed as a candidate for the presidency, in 1848, but failed to receive the nomination. In 1852 he was proposed a third time. He had an extreme desire to achieve the election to the presidency, and this third time it was believed very generally that he would be successful. The Whig convention, at Baltimore, nominated him, but he was signally defeated, receiving only four votes—those of Massachusetts, Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Scott was bitterly disappointed, especially in the fact that his own State, Virginia, did not sustain him.

When the first rumors of secession were heard Scott was called to the capital to consult on the best method of checking any armed opposition to the government. He was, however, suffering from the infirmities of advancing age, and he gave his advice in a series of