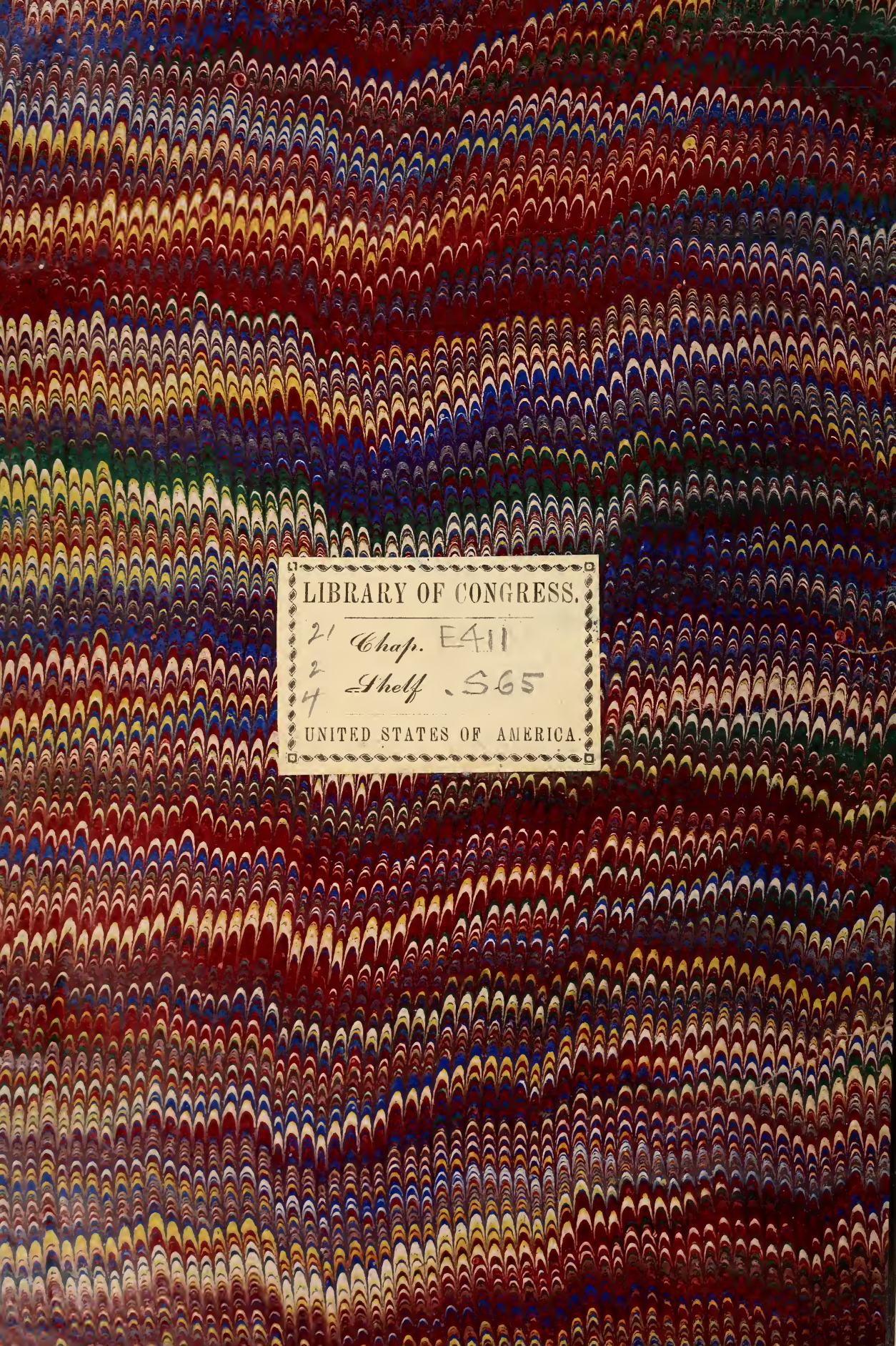


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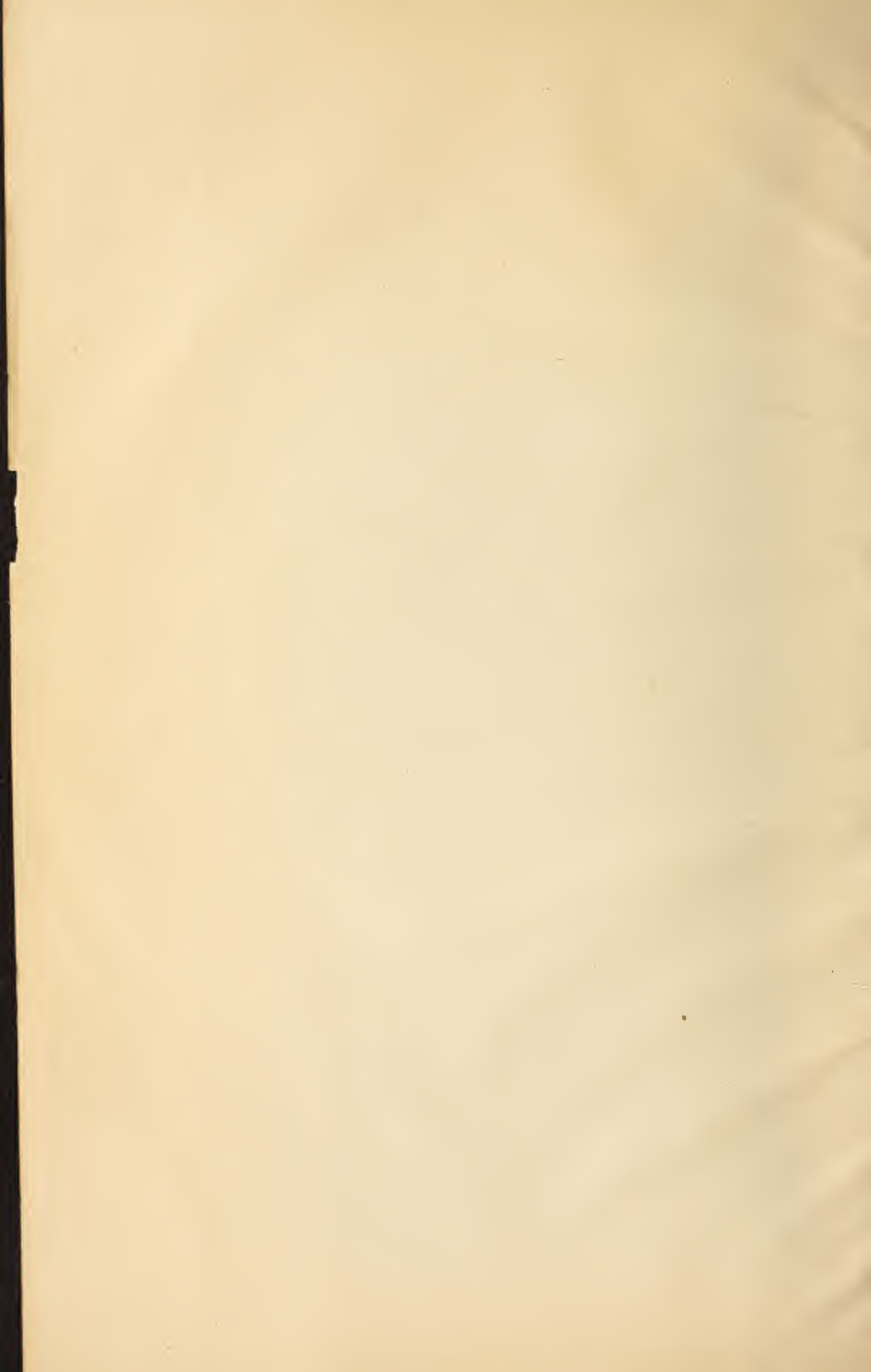
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

















*Jeremiah W. Proença Jr Esq*  
*from*  
*John M Proença*  
*U.S. Army*

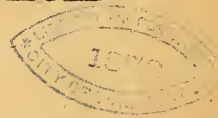
A SERIES OF

*Mexico City Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 47*

# INTERCEPTED LETTERS,

CAPTURED BY THE

## AMERICAN GUARD



AT TACUBAYA, AUGUST 22, 1847.

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OCTOBER, 1847.

"AMERICAN STAR" PRINT, MEXICO.



INTERIOR AND PLANTS

THE MOUNTAIN

AMERICAN GUARD

THE MOUNTAIN

595



## INTRODUCTION.

Major General Scott entered the village of Tacubaya and established his headquarters there on the 21st of August, 1847. Tacubaya is one mile from Chapultepec, (a fortified hill,) which is itself about a mile and a half from the gates of the city of Mexico. On the morning of the 22d of August, a Mexican mail was intercepted by the American guards, containing two parcels of letters, one addressed to Toluca, the capital of the State of Mexico, and the other to Morelia. These letters are now in the possession of the Inspector General of the army—translations of them, carefully prepared by a capable hand, are here offered to the public for reasons which will be manifest to the considerate reader. To make them intelligible, some few facts must be stated, which occurred before the letters were written, and a few also which transpired after the capture of the letters; but we wish it to be understood that it is not our purpose to give a history of the operations of the American army before and at the Mexican capital: we speak only of what the army has done as an army. No attempt is made to do justice to individuals and we select this course for two reasons—we wish only to make the letters intelligible, and with our information and means, we cannot hope to award what is due to all. We therefore omit names, and deal only with events. The distinguished judgment, ability and zeal of our engineer officers of both corps, will then stand out in broad relief, and the skill of our ordnance officers will also be conspicuous, and justly so, as they are, not with service under cover in the arsenals, preparing guns and ammunition, but they follow to the field their heavy ordnance, and the fire of the enemy give practical proof of its excellence and power. In like manner will be done to the judicious arrangements and abundant supplies of the quartermasters' and commissaries' departments, without which the army could neither move nor remain in position. Justice will also be done to the talents, skill and humanity of our admirable corps of medical officers. So also, a just view of the army will ex-

hibit to the world its great excellence of personnel, in officers and men, in all the different regiments and corps. Then, too, will be made manifest the extraordinary ability of the commander of this army, in all respects worthy of it, as he has given the most abundant proofs, by the directness and greatness of his objects, and the certainty and comparative ease with which he has accomplished them. Such splendid results could only be achieved by a commander gifted with the highest powers of combination, capable of the clearest views, and endowed with the most unwavering firmness and steadiness of purpose. Excepting some very few of the letters, they were written on the 21st of August, and refer principally to the events of the few preceding days, especially to those of the 20th of August. The letters were written by Mexicans to Mexicans—they exhibit the unrestrained outpourings of friends to friends, when all motives for concealment and misrepresentation seem to have been entirely out of the question. These letters, therefore, furnish valuable testimony on the points within the knowledge of the writers, though they contain some unintentional errors when statements are made respecting facts not personally known. Thus, when these letters state, as they do, that the aggregate strength of the army concentrated by Gen. Santa Anna for the defence of Mexico exceeded thirty thousand men, there is every reason for relying upon this statement; and thus, in the same manner, we have unquestionable evidence that not fewer than twenty-six thousand men were engaged in battle on the Mexican side on the 20th of August. But the evidence is not equally good when the letters refer to the strength of the American army; for the fact could not be equally well known. Thus, it is, not true, though stated in some of these letters, that the American army was twelve thousand strong; but it happens to be true, as stated in others, that the American force was about ten thousand—though not all of this force was at any one time engaged in battle. Valencia's entrenched camp at Contreras was taken in seventeen minutes, by the watch,



by about fifteen hundred men, without artillery and without cavalry—he having five thousand men, with twenty-three pieces of fine artillery, covered with about two thousand cavalry. The fruits of this brilliant surprise, in the immediate vicinity of Contreras, in prisoners, &c., were secured by other troops, besides the assaulting columns, posted for the purpose; but the actual defeat and almost annihilation of Valencia's division, so often referred to in the following letters, was accomplished, as stated, in seventeen minutes, instead of two hours, as stated in several of the letters.

These letters also furnish ample evidence that the Mexican army was most abundantly supplied with munitions of war of all kinds, especially with ammunition in all its forms of preparation; most of which is now in the hands of the Americans.

One of the chief points of value in the evidence furnished by these letters, has been superceded by the events of the 12th, 13th and 14th of September: we refer to the fact that the American army, by the victories of the 20th of August, had entirely defeated the Mexican army, and could have entered the capital, had it been the pleasure of the general, on the evening of that day; a fact which no one can now dispute, since the Mexicans were unable to prevent the occupation of the capital by the Americans, after having had from the 20th of August to the 12th of September to recuperate and recover from the blow inflicted on the first of these dates—over twenty days—during which time the fragments of the Mexican army were brought together and reorganized into a force of about twenty thousand men, having been reduced to about eight thousand, as the letters testify. The fortifications had also been immensely increased between the 20th of August and 12th of September on the side of the city threatened by the Americans; and the same time enabled the Mexicans to withdraw all their artillery from the Peñon and other points, not in danger, and dispose it on the southern and south-western side of the city, where they knew the attack was to be made. All this did not avail. The American army effected a lodgment in the city at two points on the evening of the 13th of September; and on the 14th, entered the grand plaza, the headquarters of the army being established in the National Palace, over which waved the star-spangled banner—what remained of the Mexican army on the evening of the 13th, having been withdrawn during the night. At that time the effective American force was less than eight thousand men.

A few words on the subject of the armistice may not be amiss. It is very generally believed that before the army left Puebla, intercourse of some kind, looking towards a peace, had been partially established between the Americans and Mexicans, but it was said that the Mexican authorities were restrained by public opinion, which was unable to conceive it possible that the immense preparations in Mexico could fail in securing the city; but as the object of General Scott, in the whole of his operations in this country, has been to bring about an honorable peace, he gave out, in advance, before he left Puebla, precisely what he would do before he would, by force of arms, enter the capital.

The Mexican army being so large, and its appointments so complete, while the fortifications, which astonish all who see them, were constructed with scientific skill—all these facts made it necessary for Gen. Scott to move from Puebla and strike a severe blow near the capital as the only means of convincing the Mexicans that, notwithstanding all their preparations, they could not resist the American army, small as it was. There was some hope that by thus opening the eyes of the Mexican people in the capital, negotiations might be entered upon, and a peace secured; to accomplish which important object Gen. Scott was willing to forego all the eclat of a forcible entrance into the capital. We know that all this was distinctly within the contemplation of Gen. Scott before he put foot in the stirrup to leave the city of Puebla. His foresight and deliberate plan, in this respect, is one of the most remarkable incidents, all things considered, that has ever occurred in the history of wars. Let his position be considered—his distance from home—the extent of his march to Puebla—the distance yet to be overcome—the smallness of his force—the character of the city to be assailed, the great capital of a great country, defended by an army full three times his numbers, and known to be so—that capital surrounded by lakes or swamps, and only to be approached by narrow causeways, with deep ditches on either side, and swept by artillery in front and in flank. In view of all this, Gen. Scott said, before he left Puebla, in so many words, that he would march to the neighborhood of the capital and either *defeat the Mexican army in the open field if they would give him battle: or he would take a strong position from the enemy*, and then, if he could restrain the enthusiasm of his army, he would pause without the city, and summon it to surrender, in order to give the authorities within the city an opportunity and a motive (the safety of the capital) for making a peace.



He did precisely what he designed. He marched from Puebla in four columns, with the interval of a days march between each two columns, and arrived himself, being with the leading column, at Ayotla, before the Peñon, on the 11th of August.

While the rear was coming up, he reconnoitred the Peñon and country around, and satisfied himself of the practicability of a march by the way of Chalco to San Augustin. As the rear columns came up they were directed towards Chalco, and taking up that route himself, the General went to San Augustin, 15 or 17 miles—the road, as the letters will show, being deemed impracticable by the Mexicans—arriving there on the 17th of August, being then 12 miles from the capital, and in front of the fortifications of San Antonio, which are about two and a half or three miles from San Augustin. These fortifications were threatened by a division, while the General, on the 19th, ordered a force to open a road in order to turn them to the left. This force had to pass what, in the letters, is called a *Pedregal*, i. e., a surface of volcanic scoria, broken into every possible form, presenting sharp stones and deep fissures, exceedingly difficult for the passage of infantry, and impossible for that of cavalry, except by a single road, in front of which, and perfectly commanding it, General Valencia had established an entrenched camp on elevated ground, which camp he occupied with his division of 5000 men from San Luis Potosi, every where in the letters spoken of as the “flower” of the Mexican army. He had twenty-three pieces of superb artillery, and was covered by a large body of cavalry. There was firing from and upon this entrenched camp during the afternoon of the 19th of August, but no serious demonstration was made upon it that day, the time being employed by the engineers in looking at the position and studying the grounds around it; so that the Mexicans both in the camp and in the city imagined they had gained a victory, merely because our army had not yet defeated them. The bells in the city were rung for joy, and Gen. Valencia distributed honors among the leading officers of his camp as the shades of evening left him in security within his lines.

During the night of the 19th, a body of our troops passed along a ravine under cover of a night made doubly dark by a heavy rain, and in the morning they had gained the rear of the entrenched camp, into which they plunged headlong before the astonished Mexicans had time to put themselves in position for defence. The assault was commenced and completed in the short period of seventeen minutes, though our

troops were engaged during an hour or two in picking up the scattered fragments of the proud “division of the North”—Valencia himself disappearing altogether. Several names are applied to this entrenched camp, (San Geronimo, Padernas, Magdalena, &c.,) but it is generally called Contreras, and it is about five or six miles from San Augustin, to the left of the San Antonio road. Passing by Contreras our troops, before mid-day, were in full march by San Angel and Coyoacan towards Churubusco, where the Mexicans were in force in a church or convent strongly fortified. About five or six hundred yards beyond this convent the road by San Angel, &c., comes into that of San Antonio at a point where, by a bridge, the San Antonio road or causeway crosses a small stream, or canal, called the Churubusco river. This bridge was defended by a perfectly constructed scientific *tête de pont*, the defences here and at the convent forming a system mutually supporting each other.

No time was to be lost; and at a few minutes before 1 P. M. our troops were pushed forward to the attack of the fortified convent, where the firing became very severe with both artillery and small arms. There had been some firing at San Antonio on the 18th and again on the 19th; but on the 20th, after the defeat of the enemy at which, and perfectly commanding it, General Contreras, Gen. Santa Anna saw that our troops, by the way of San Angel, would soon be in the rear of his fortified position at San Antonio, and he therefore ordered that place to be abandoned, directing some few of the guns, which there was no time to remove, to be spiked; but the American division in front, by passing a column to the left, had already turned the position and succeeded in cutting the line of the retreating troops, which were also attacked along the causeway itself by another portion of the division, and thus the Mexican force at San Antonio was broken and in great part dispersed or taken prisoners, only a few reaching the *tête de pont*—the American division now passing down to the attack of that place, while the attack upon the convent of Churubusco was going on. At about half past 1 P. M. the Mexicans were in force at the church or convent and at the *tête de pont*, and had, besides, an immense body of infantry to their left (our right) along and behind the Churubusco river, nearly at right angles to the San Antonio causeway: they had also another body of infantry and an immense body of cavalry extending along the causeway itself from the *tête de pont* towards the city. The American general being on the San Angel road, in front of Churubusco, directed the whole of the operations, which soon after 1 P. M. became general,



extending throughout the entire Mexican army. He directed columns to support the main attack in front, and other columns to the right to support the San Antonio division in the attack upon the *tête de pont* and the extensive line of infantry along the Churubusco river; other columns again, to the left in order to turn both the convent and the *tête de pont* in which operation the enemy's force along the causeway beyond the *tête de pont* was engaged. The battle now raged at all points and in all directions, wherever the enemy was found in position, and continued without intercession during a period of nearly three hours, when the convent and *tête de pont* were both carried, and the enemy was driven from the river and the causeway, and compelled to fly in consternation towards the city, entering it by the gate of San Antonio in confusion and dismay, followed by a considerable body of our troops at least a mile and a half beyond the *tête de pont* while a body of cavalry pushed the pursuit into the very gate itself, about a mile and a half still further, not hearing or heeding the *recall* which had been sounded from the rear. This cavalry charge is frequently referred to in the following letters and no doubt amazed the Mexicans to an extraordinary degree, both by its boldness and by the little loss attending its successful retirement to the main army, which had halted near a place called in the letters *Portalis*. The American force, at about 4 P. M., was in the entire possession of all the outer defences of the city, on the San Antonio causeway, and could have entered the city that evening without serious difficulty. But the general had accomplished exactly what he had designed before he left Puebla. He therefore halted the troops and after giving necessary instructions returned by the San Antonio road to San Augustin, arriving there about dusk in the evening, having been the whole day in the saddle, directing the important operations briefly recited above.

In the evening he was visited by some Englishmen from the city, for what purpose is not precisely known—but the next morning the general, starting on the San Antonio road, turned to the left and was met at Coyoacan, near Churubusco, by a deputation from the Mexican government, under a flag, proposing some terms which, whatever they were, were instantly rejected; and the general sent by the deputation a paper he had himself prepared, offering to grant an armistice on certain conditions, the first being that the Mexican Government should appoint Commissioners to receive and consider the propositions of the American Government

to be presented by an American Commissioner then, at the headquarters of the American Army. This communication being sent, the general, with one division of his army, continued on to Tacubaya, about six miles from Coyoacan, and entered that village as stated at the commencement of this preface.

The proposal of the American general was agreed to by General Santa Anna, and on the 24th of August, the ratifications of an armistice were duly exchanged.

Commissioners met to treat of peace, and this is an important point in the history of the events before the Mexican capital. The army, one is disposed to think, had accomplished its mission. It had brought commissioners together to treat of peace after the governments of both countries had declared that a peace was desired that should be honorable to both nations. But peace was not made.

It is proper to say that the General-in-Chief had no power confided to him by his government authorising him to act as a commissioner in concluding a treaty of peace—he was sent to this country as a military man exclusively. He, therefore, is in no manner responsible for the failure of the negotiations, which nevertheless he has all the merit of having brought about, after the events of the 20th of August.

It is equally proper to say, in justice to the talented and experienced gentleman selected by the government of the U. S. and sent to the headquarters of Major Gen. Scott as the commissioner to treat for peace, was trammelled by the instructions of the government, in so much, that it will remain a problem as to whether more enlarged powers would not have enabled him to have made a treaty "honorable to both nations."

The ultimatum of our Commissioner was handed to the Mexican Commissioners early in September, about the 2d of the month, and very soon afterwards, reports began to reach the general and accumulated very rapidly, that the Mexicans were engaged, in violation of the articles of the armistice, in fortifying the city, especially at night. On the 6th, the Mexican commissioners, it was expected, would give their answer to the propositions of our commissioners, and they did so, refusing to accept them. Simultaneously with this, the general sent a paper to Gen. Santa Anna declaring that, as the articles of the armistice had been violated by the Mexican authorities, he felt at liberty to terminate the armistice at his pleasure, but would allow until the next day at noon for explanations. Up to 12 o'clock of the 7th of September, the general had not only made no reconnoissance, but had ordered the



engineers to make none, in strict compliance with the armistice.

Soon after 12 M. on the 7th September, the general rode to the heights of Tacubaya over against Chapultepec, where a building was pointed out to him a few hundred yards from the base of the Chapultepec hill, which was said to be a foundry in full operation, casting cannon from bells removed from the churches in the city. As he rode away from the place of observation he remarked that he would, the next morning, destroy the foundry, so as to prevent the enemy from making any more cannon, and would then at his leisure lay down his plan for a final attack upon the city.

The battle of the 8th of September, called the battle of the Molino del Rey, was the result of this determination, this being the name of the building pointed out as the foundry. The enemy, anticipating an attack in that direction, had moved out, on the 7th, a very large force, said by some prisoners taken on the 8th to be 8000 men, besides a thousand within the works at Chapultepec. This force was covered by buildings and entrenchments extending full a mile in length, its left being at the Molino del Rey, near some woods at the base of the Chapultepec hill, while its right was within a strongly built hacienda, of stone as usual.

Early in the morning of the 8th, the attack was made by a division of our troops, and the fight was continued rather more than an hour and a half, when the enemy was driven from his entire line with the loss, besides killed, of many prisoners and of several pieces of field artillery, all he ventured to bring into that engagement.

As the enemy supposed this attack was intended to lead the way to Chapultepec, and as Chapultepec was not assailed the opinion in the city was quite decided that we had sustained a defeat, although we had in fact most completely accomplished the only object in view. Our loss in the fight was very great, and although something like the means of casting cannon had been found and destroyed—although we had taken many prisoners (several hundreds) and several pieces of artillery—still, we believe the army would much rather have dispensed with the glories of that day, as it was accompanied with unusual sorrow and mourning for many of its noblest spirits.

The general then began his preparations for a final attack. He ordered a depot of sick and wounded, of captured artillery, &c., including prisoners, to be established at a small village called Miscoac, to the right of Tacubaya, through which he had passed in coming from Coyoacan; and in front of this village, at a place called Piedad, he posted a division to threaten the city in that direction. Immediately there was seen an immense number of laborers busily engaged night and day in fortifying the causeways, by which the city was accessible from the Piedad. It was wonderful to see the activity with which they worked.

At the end of three or four days the fortifications in that direction seemed very complete, and lined with artillery and men.

It was evident that the enemy looked upon that as the contemplated place of attack, and for this very reason, perhaps, the general made his arrangements to attack, not there on the right, but at Chapultepec on his left, but still he kept up a show of attack from the Piedad. On the morning of the 12th of Sept. the firing commenced from three or four batteries upon Chapultepec, but no show of force was made, and the enemy thought it a feint, keeping his principal force in the direction of the Piedad. The firing continued all day on both sides with very little effect.

It was resumed the next morning, and continued about two hours, when it ceased by order of the general, the cessation being the signal or time determined for the advance of two assaulting parties of 250 men each, supported by strong columns, the artillery resuming its fire as soon as the movement was in full operation, and in about an hour the heights were ascended by our troops and the scaling ladders being placed against the walls, our intrepid officers and soldiers passed over into the main work, driving the enemy either out of the work altogether, or into buildings where they surrendered at discretion. The enemy, during the night of the 12th, had sent additional force to defend Chapultepec, though evidently at a loss to know where the real attack was to be made. The defence, however, was desperate, the fight being maintained at a multitude of points in the woods near the hill—at batteries and breastworks at the base of the hill, and from various points and different positions on the sides of the hill. This fight was, on the whole, one of the most remarkable that has occurred during the war.

But I design merely an outline. As the military school was at that place, the superintendent, professors and students became prisoners of war, with a large body of other officers and men including the celebrated veteran Gen. Bravo.

Chapultepec having fallen, our troops were directed in two columns along two causeways, one leading directly to the city, and the other to the left, to intersect the San Cosme causeway, and now the fight was resumed inch by inch upon each route, but the infantry of the enemy was driven, and his batteries taken in rapid succession along a distance upon each causeway of more than a mile and a half, and at night both columns had made a lodgement within the gates of the capital.

Our force at Piedad was not unoccupied on either of the two days. A field battery opened its fire upon the enemy, and movements were made as if to attack in that direction, thus occupying the enemy, already strongly in the belief that the real attack was to be there—but after



Chapultepec was taken, and our forces had nearly penetrated the city, the force was withdrawn from Piedad, and sent to the support of one of the attacking columns in the city. The deeds of valor by our troops on this day, as on previous occasions, deserve to be recorded by a Tacitus or a Livy or a Thucydides, and therefore we do not attempt it.

The general, after directing in person the entire operations of the day, giving the most minute and exact instructions for every movement, finally returned after dark to Tacubaya, where he was called upon in the night, towards morning, by a deputation from the city council, with information that General Santa Anna had left the city and had withdrawn the army, and they desired the general to give them some assurances or conditions before entering the city. This he declined doing, telling them in substance, that he would agree to no conditions until he should first go into the city, and then only to such as should be self-imposed, but that his course would be such as the dignity and honor of the United States required.

At nine o'clock on the morning of the 14th of September, the general dismounted within the court of the National Palace, and ascending the broad flight of stairs to the saloons above, sat down and wrote a brief order, announcing his occupation of the Capital of Mexico.

SAN ANTONIO, 19th August.

(Extract.)

Yesterday we commenced firing upon the enemy with our cannon, and killed some men and horses. To-day, up to 12 M., we have fired but few shots, and the enemy are retreating, with the object, I suppose, of going to Tacubaya by the way of Pedregal [Contreras]. They have a long distance to march, and I do not know what will become of them in their unfortunate situation. Every day is a loss to them and a gain to us. The struggle will be severe but favorable to us, as the measures we have taken are very good, and they will not this time laugh in their beard, as they have on former occasions. D. P. J.

The following letter is from a member of the Mexican Congress, and is marked, *private*.

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

My Dear Friend:—I have before me

your welcome letter of the 10th inst., in which, among other things, you are pleased to point out to me the reasons why you had suspended our correspondence. The idea you present to me, that I ought not to leave this place before having arranged every thing relative to that —, is a good one, but cannot be realized at present, owing to the afflicting circumstances which overwhelm us, every thing being in the greatest disorder, and there being, in fact, no Congress, and government occupying itself only with matters of the war, and, absolutely, no other business can be attended to. In truth, this war is going to cease, as I suppose, because, on the 19th and 20th, at the gates of Mexico, our nation has covered itself with mourning and dishonor, and our generals and chiefs in particular, with opprobrium. There is not even left to us the glory to say, with that French personage well known in history, that "all is lost but our honor;" as our army has long since lost both honor and shame, which is not necessary to prove when this capital groans with sorrow and anger against those who call themselves its defenders. The enemy, as yet, has not soiled with his tread the palaces of the Montezumas, but that is because a suspension of hostilities has caused him to pause in his triumphant march. This suspension, which has no other object than to collect the wounded and to bury the dead, as some say, has also another purpose, and that is, to see the propositions of peace from the government of Washington, of which Mr. Nicholas Trist is the bearer. The actual government, that is to say, the President, who finds himself compromised before the nation, has sent a message to Congress, which I take to be a matter of mere form, that upon hearing the above-mentioned propositions he would use only the powers belonging to him by the constitution. The Congress, beside the fact that it does not exist, there being assembled to-day



but twenty-five deputies, as yet has not wrong, Santa Anna looked upon the thing as done with the matter, so that the rout of Valencia as a cold spectator, messenger of the President seems to me sending him no assistance, after which to be untimely, nevertheless, being so on every thing was disorder and rout, on not Congress, as I said before, as it does our part! You can make such comment not exist, can do nothing! From this I taries as you please, but bear in mind, in deduced, with other friends, of the same order to make no mistakes, that our army opinion, the following results—that the was composed of twenty-four or twenty-five thousand men, and that of the enemy five thousand men, and that of the meeting of Congress being impossible in that latter the actions of the 19th and 20th, our forces do not amount to over eleven thousand men, all of whom are Ex-dutiman is necessarily obliged to be frightened to death. I Among the misfortune powers not conceded to it by the times which have befallen us, we have in constitution, to wit, that of approving the hands of the enemy many hundreds of prisoners, including the battalions of normal state of the country this would be Independence and Bravo, the loss of an assumption, land against law, so that Perdrigan, Blanco and Frotnera, and the Executive, in order to exercise this other generals, and a great many killed. power is in itself necessary to use revolution. The Ex-President Anaya and many from his means. Hence, the necessity of others are prisoners, all of our artillery and Dictatorship, which is already lost, and our regular troops dispersed or omitted to us, and I think but a few cut to pieces.

My friend, in all our misfortunes I do days will elapse before this will be healed. If I learn any not particularly note, as some people will thing afore I will inform you of it. It is have it, that there has been any treason there, that if our army had been successful or any secret understanding, but I must we should have fallen under a Dictator say that there is great weakness and diship, about which our military chiefs have ignorance and very little honor shown on the so much occupied themselves, and per part of our generals in chief. We must haps they were dreaming of what when only look to God for the salvation of our they were all beaten, but being beaten the country. I am pleased that you intend some hopes remain, with this difference, to enter into relationship with the ministhat as they must have some thing to ters and with His Excellency the Presi-lean upon, that support, I suppose, will dent, but I must recommend that you be how best the Yankees. Be this as it may, very respectful in your letters, that you I will soon ascertain and tell you. I will touch their pride without adulation. The not get up myself in giving you a minute minister of T. says he will answer your description of how the action was brought note. No one knew of the intentions on, and how lost, nor will I give you a Valencia had, but after his rout it was former opinion of the motives of the par-said that had he gained the victory, he ties, however, I will tell you what I there would have overpowered Santa Anna from rational and well informed people, and made himself Dictator, for which Gov. Valencia, the rival of Santa Anna, purpose he had already named his minis-wished the glory of defeating the enemy, ters, and had promised the rank of gen-but he needed assistance, which should call to several of his friends. Others say have been sent him. Well—the battle, that Valencia was in league with the on commenced, whether right or enemy, but this to speak the truth, I



cannot and shall never believe. How- the same afternoon were divided, one part ever, the man, (Valencia,) who has been of which took the right of Valencia; and in ordered to be shot by Santa Anna, has the mean time he had sent reinforcements to the body stationed on the left, escaped through the State of Mexico, obliging his soldiers to cross a river half which government has received him well, body (up to the waist) deep. In this manner Valencia, during the night, was which I do not understand. Should there be a Dictatorship or not, you must be very vigilant and take care of our interests, that is to say, should our territory not be benefited, that we shall not lose. I have heard it announced that the states of Jalisco, Guanajuato and Zacatecas, &c., wish to make a separate republic, but I do not know what to think Colina, on which account it would be necessary for them to think us instruments (tools) to be cheated, others say that those states who are against the army will annex themselves, together with other states of the North to the United States of America.

[Here follows much miscellaneous and private matter.]

[Note: The first sheet of the original of this letter was lost.]

\* \* \* Scott, a man of superior talents in the art of war, as it appears, considering the position of Valencia very advantageous, established a small portion of his troops in a ravine very near our batteries from whence he could use his muskets to advantage, without injury from us, he, Scott, having no artillery. Afterwards he sent a column with three light pieces of artillery to take a position on the heights on the right of Valencia's camp, and another body of troops on the left of Valencia in order to flank this general. At about 6 o'clock in the morning [of the 20th of August] he obtained his object, having troops concealed on both flanks of Valencia, and a very few in front with a number of wagons, to call the attention of Valencia that way. The column which, on the previous afternoon had taken position on the right of Valencia, Scott ordered should get into the rear during the night, and the body of troops that were in front of Valencia

the same afternoon were divided, one part of which took the right of Valencia; and in the mean time he had sent reinforcements to the body stationed on the left, obliging his soldiers to cross a river half body (up to the waist) deep. In this manner Valencia, during the night, was entirely cut off, and at 6 o'clock the next morning he was attacked at the same time in the front, in the rear and on both flanks. The engagement lasted about two hours, the result of which was, that all our artillery was lost, with the entire train, ammunition and all; a great many killed and wounded and those who were not made prisoners were entirely dispersed. On the afternoon of the day previous, Valencia, seeing that he was in danger of being flanked, asked assistance of Santa Anna, who ordered him to retire immediately, but he, Valencia, did not retire, probably because he considered victory possible. Valencia did not send for reinforcements once, but several times, on all which occasions he was refused by Santa Anna, and the order to retire was repeated—on account of which, after the unfortunate result of the engagement, Santa Anna ordered this general to be shot for disobedience. Some assure us there is foundation for this order, for Valencia was very obstinate, and thereby caused the loss of the whole army—still, others do not think so, as, having behaved with valor, saves him from all discredit-able imputations. My opinion is, that Santa Anna should have sent Valencia reinforcements and should have procured a victory by any means, and after that, chastised him for his disobedience of orders. In this manner he would have rendered an important service to the nation and it would have been a salutary example for generals-in-chief in future. Scott, having destroyed our best troops, the flower of the army, then proceeded with his forces and attacked the main army immediately afterwards—that is to say, those stationed at



San Antonio and Churubusco and Mexico, thereby effecting in one single day the destruction of an army of more than thirty thousand men. This North American general, in a strange country, has fought us in detail and destroyed our large army, a thing which our general has done with respect to his army. It is now 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and the enemy has sent in an intimation allowing 48 hours for the évacuation of this city, so that their (his) troops may occupy it. Our troops which with great difficulty have been brought together, do not exceed eight or nine thousand men, with which we can do nothing, as they have lost their *morale*.

The companies of Bravo and Independence, with the exception of a few killed, are prisoners. Generals Salas and Górriz, are prisoners, as also others whose names I do not recollect. As yet I hear of the death of only Gen. Méhía and of Frontera, Col. of cavalry. It is also said, but not certainly, that Perdigán was killed. I have just been told that Bravo is a prisoner and also Anaya.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

J. C.—*My much loved and respected*

*Friend*:—The enemy made his appearance on the 12th near the Peñon, which place they did not appear disposed to attack, it being too well fortified, and they went around by the way of Chalco. On the 16th they made their appearance at San Augustin Tlalpam, and Valencia immediately took position on the hills of Contreras, near the town of San Angel, with his brilliant division, brought by him from San Luis Potosi, in number 6000 men, perfectly well equipped and furnished with 24 pieces of cannon. This was a precaution taken by government, as no one thought that the Americans would take the road from San Augustin to Contreras, as it is over a pedregal. I do not know whether you are acquainted with the road, but even those who go over it

on foot encounter a thousand obstacles. [*Pedregal* means volcanic grounds exceedingly broken, full of sharp stones, rising almost into precipices and broken into immense chasms.] Part of the Americans went down to the Hacienda of Coapa, and Santa Anna thought fit to place troops at San Antonio, in order to

impede their progress that way. Things remained in this position until Thursday, the 19th, when the Americans having overcome the obstacles of the *Pedregal*, presented themselves in front of Valencia, who gave them a hard fight, having confidence, owing to the past, in the valor of his troops; but on the morning of the 20th, about ten minutes after 6, he found himself attacked by the enemy, who destroyed all his division, took all of his artillery and over twenty thousand dollars he had for the payment of his troops.

This great disaster was increased in the afternoon at about 3, when the Yankees took the well fortified point at Churubusco, causing a great many deaths, and taking a great number of prisoners. You can imagine our state in the capital under such repeated misfortunes, the more so as all of our troops are dispersed and we are momentarily expecting an attack upon the capital. We are lost, Mr. J., and in my opinion there is no hope of reparation. Some people are spreading the report, that Santa Anna is implicated in an intrigue, but this I know is false and no one has any right to suspect anything of the kind.

Who knows what is to become of us when these men come into the capital. \* \* \* Very possibly these devils will find some means to intercept this letter, [indeed!] but, as I said to you before, I will see by what stratagem I can send you my letters in future. B. R.

\* \* \*

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

*Dear*—Yesterday was the date of a



most bloody battle at the edge of the stony ground of San Angel, and though until yesterday morning victory had declared itself in favor of our arms, yet the enemy, favored by the darkness of the night, and by rain and some cornfields in that vicinity, found means to place their troops in all directions, taking possession of a height, and yesterday morning they opened the action upon our forces on all sides, from which resulted a dreadful slaughter, and a general dispersion, which it was impossible to restrain. Gen. Valencia lost his entire battery, which is now in the hands of the enemy, consisting of twenty-two cannon of large calibre. In consequence of this affair, there is a want of confidence in all parts, many saying that it was a deliberate surrender; but, according to my opinion, the fault lies in the want of foresight and precaution in our principal officers who rely too much for success upon numbers, while the enemy neither sleep nor know fear in war. We have lost Chirubuseo and more than five thousand men between killed and wounded, without having been able to think how to make the slightest advance on the contrary all has been lost. To-day the lines (referring to the garitas) have been reinforced, and the next action will be decisive, placing this capital in the hands of the Yankees, or it will cease to exist. *[Extract.]* Some people repeat the report that San Anna is implicated in an intrigue, but I know of nothing.

Mexico, Aug. 21, 1847.

To R. C. C.—On Thursday the firing commenced against Valencia's division, and continued until 5 P.M., when the victory appeared to be on our side, &c. then follows the reverse.

This can only be a curse of Heaven, otherwise it would not have been possible for the enemy to have given us such a severe blow.

\* \* \*

My Dear Pepita:—After the immense misfortunes which have befallen us, and Tacubaya, and I will at another time give

the thousand fatigues and risks I have gone through, the hand of providence has saved me, and I reached the capital last evening. Pedro is well, and I have the pleasure of commending him to you. A. J. is well, and saved himself. I cannot now write you any more. And it appears there is an armistice of 48 hours, at the end of which I do not know what will occur. I will notify you.

J. M.

(Mexico, 20th Aug., 1847.)

My Dear Chilena:—Wishing to relieve you of the fear and anguish so natural on account of the misfortunes that have beset us, I wrote to you and concealed the truth, but now that the danger is all over, I will speak the truth, and say that we have been completely routed, losing all of our fortifications in less than six hours. We have only a small portion of our troops left, which will leave the city to-morrow. All personal danger is now at an end, and nothing disturbs us but the sense of our calamities. The spectacle to-day has been distressing, as you can well imagine, to-morrow it will be worse, and I shall shut myself up between four walls, to avoid personal danger. I will go to you if the diligence leaves to-morrow, but this is not certain. As we have no more combatants in the city, the entrance of the enemy will be pacific; we shall only have the mortification of seeing around us imperious visitors. We have had enough of misfortune.

Mexico, Aug. 21, 1847.

G. M. & T.—Mr. Trist has been recognized as the commissioner of the United States. To-morrow our government will listen to him. If there is prudence observed something may be arranged, and the future—God knows what it will be.—That the enemy should have reached the very gates of the city is not at all strange. It was unavoidable, and conquerors cannot be restrained. The enemy are at Tacubaya, and I will at another time give



by a detailed account of Valentin's dis- be anxious if we do not write. Remem- comfitures, added to one and abashed to the girls, who ed to (90) Mrs

— Mexico, Aug. 21, 1847.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847. His Excellency M. O.

**Dear Father:**—The end has proved in the most unequivocal manner, the correctness of our prophecies. The brigade under Valencia was completely routed between 7 and 8 yesterday morning, and in continuation the same fate befell the brigade of Perez, stationed at Coyoacan, and the troops at Churubusco.

Who is to be punished, for these disasters? The public voice accuses Santa Anna of having been a cold and impassive spectator of the route of Valencia, whilst his assistance might possibly have decided the battle in our favor. The Yankees surrounded Valencia, and some of them placed themselves between him and Santa Anna, without any interruption from the latter. Some say that Valencia disobeyed the orders of Santa Anna, and Santa Anna was piqued by the disobedience, but this does not lessen the culpability of the rascal who gratifies a private feeling and thereby jeopardises the most sacred interests of his country.

The fact is that everything is lost, and from North to South, was determined by the Yankees will be here to morrow.

calcingo, and the hacienda of San Antonio, and the extremes (great) were con-

At the break of day the following (Excerpt):

moveable from Texcoco on the left to

*My Dear Brothers* — Antonio and my being available for the defence of the line

self are both well, thanks to God. We from San Antonio to Chapultepec, whilst have received your letter. &c. Alvarez's division of cavalry was ordered

We are in a bad way. We lost the upon the rear of the enemy, in order to battle on the hills of Contreras, and that complete their destruction in case of a

of Churubusco, and to-morrow or next morn. With regard to the fortifications, day the Yankees will be in the capital in order that we might find some idea of

The Yankees have lost 4000 men out of them, I will say this that on the road the ten thousand they had, and will 6000 of them. (See August 1863 there were

men they undertake to occupy the capital fortifications at San Antonio, a strong-  
hold, which is almost incredible. We still fear at Chihuahua and at the border

have about 12,000 men, and entertain There were some fortifications in the hopes of final success. Farewell to the plain of Natividad.

farewell—do not plain of Natividades, about a league from



the city, and also at their garita (entrance) of the city, called San Antonio Abad.

Our assembled forces amounted, at the least, to twenty-six thousand men, of all arms, with about seventy pieces of cannon, while those of the enemy hardly reached ten thousand, with forty pieces of artillery, as has been reported. The situation of the enemy was a very difficult one, as they had no money. At Puebla they paid one per cent. for money, and on the road they made purchases by drafts payable in Mexico, after occupation by them.

When the news reached here on the 10th, that the enemy were at Rio Frio, some troops, together with the national guards, left the capital to occupy and strengthen the Peñon, where it is estimated we had about seven thousand men and twenty-five pieces of cannon; Valencia was then at Texcuco with five thousand men and twenty-two pieces of cannon. The enemy came in sight on the 11th, and on the 12th they came within a league of the fortifications of Peñon, without interruption, and having made a reconnoissance, they moved towards Chalco, and we were then certain that the point of attack would be San Antonio. Therefore, it became necessary for Valencia to move rapidly to San Angel, and the larger part of the troops at the Peñon were ordered, with some cannon, to San Antonio and Churubusco.

At these two points and at the Portalis there were over ten thousand men, with artillery of various calibres, from four to twenty-five pounders, together with large howitzers. Although Valencia had expressed orders to avoid a fight with the enemy still, the thunder of his cannon on the 19th, at about 12 o'clock, gave notice that a fight was going on at the Pedregal, [rough volcanic ground,] near San Angel. The fight became very sharp at about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and Santa Anna drew some

troops from San Antonio and proceeded towards the scene of battle, and joined to his troops on the road the brigades

of reserve, composed of the brilliant 11th, and the light battalions. With these forces, which, if they did not exceed, were certainly not less than three thousand men, Santa Anna remained a cold spectator of the battle, although he sent a body of troops to dislodge a portion of the enemy's force in the edge of the woods, near the tower of Padierna, [near Contreras,] which were cutting off Valencia's communications, but while marching with bayonets fixed to execute this order, Santa Anna ordered them to retire. He then ordered two pieces of cannon to be brought up, which arrived at about dusk, and only about eight shots were fired, without effect, as the evening had set in. At night Santa Anna withdrew his supporting force to San Angel to sleep. The opposing forces, left in the field, lit their fires, and Valencia, in consequence of the heavy rain that fell during the night, ordered a piquet of two hundred horse to retire, which had been posted in a ravine to prevent precisely what afterwards occurred.

NOTE.—This refers to the night movement of the American troops, which was made along a ravine to the rear of Valencia's camp, by means of which a surprise was effected on the morning of the 20th.

At the break of day the following morning, Santa Anna notified Valencia not to continue the action, and he sent the auxiliary brigade to the capital, he himself returning to San Antonio, leaving Valencia isolated, who could not then retreat, as he was surrounded by the enemy, who had availed themselves of the night to select their own positions as they pleased. Valencia therefore continued in his position, and met the enemy in a fight, which did not last over ten minutes at most, as one of the enemy's columns attacked him in the rear, and with impunity took possession of twenty-two pieces of artillery, which were point-



ing towards the principal body of the very costly to the enemy, owing to the enemy in the front. [This assault lasted number they lost, was still a decisive one, seventeen minutes by the watch.] This, as I shall explain, not to be omitted together with the conduct of Santa Anna. Soon after Santa Anna returned to Anna, depressed the enthusiasm of our Churubusco; he heard the news of the troops; and they were dispersed, and route of Valencia, and as he thereby lost Valencia, it is said, is gone to the South the only point which could protect San with Alvarez, whose cavalry, it appears, Antonio, he ordered that place to be was not able to act, owing to the nature abandoned, but, without doubt, there was of the ground, although it is said that the not one among our generals who knew day previous the cavalry made a charge how to direct this difficult operation, not upon the enemy. As far as I have been even Santa Anna himself, whose head is able to ascertain, it appears that the not inventive. [Note—when Valencia's troops which attacked Valencia were not camp was forced, the passage to San Angel superior to his in numbers; besides, that was open, and thus San Antonio was Valencia had artillery and the choice of turned by its right.) I had forgotten to tell you, and it is necessary during the fight of the afternoon of the sary for you to know it, that Coapa was 19th the advantages were on our side, the general headquarters of the American and the enemy, we are assured, lost over cans, that is to say, half a league from two thousand men, and we, much less. San Antonio, a place which the enemy [The American loss, on the contrary, occupied with tranquility, notwithstanding was very trifling, not even fifty men.] ing the fire of our heavy artillery. The results of this affair depended on From Coapa the enemy could easily tirely upon the operations of the enemy, perceive without glasses our movements under cover of the night, the natural at San Antonio, and attack us in our carelessnes of our generals, and of the treat. Well, then, after Santa Anna heard We are assured that some of Valencia's the news of the route of Valencia, officers advised him to change his posi- he ordered the troops at San Antonio to tion on the morning of the 20th, but Va- retire and sustain Churubusco, and also Valencia, determined to carry out his own ordered the brigade which had left San plans, did not listen to their advice, giving Angel in the morning for Mexico to re- the enemy time to surprise him, by an at- turn and defend the bridge. [Note—there tack upon his rear. Every one agrees that the reciprocal ding to the best principles of fortifica- conduct of Santa Anna and Valencia can tion.] The first part of the order was only be explained, by supposing that each executed at San Antonio, some of the wished to have the glory of a triumph; guns there being spiked and abandoned, and to revenge, each upon the other, the This movement was observed by the sense of previous grievances. I can also Americans, who had not up to this mo- assure you, that I heard Santa Anna give ment moved from their position; but the order, after he heard of the defeat of when they observed our troops retire Valencia, that he should be shot, where and some confusion in our camp, and never he could be found. I give you this derstood our design, they ordered a col- news in time, that you may advise this man to pass by the way of the pedregal, friends and cut off our retreat. At the pedregal, The action, of which the above is a they met some of the victorious troops, brief account, although a partial one, and from Valencia's camp, passing by San



Although with the same object. Then, at last, my friend, the bridge of Churubusco, through which many of our troops, including our best battalions of national guards, wished and at a great sacrifice. The bridge was to engage in battle, there being much lost before the advance of the retreating enthusiasm among them, still, the principal troops arrived at the garita of Mexico. officers in charge of this retreat, would not. The passage at the garita was very narrow, they allowed them to fire, but urged their retreat, rowing up to the parapets, and made by a forced march—the enemy being on more difficult by a savagery which had their left without firing, which circumstances broken down in the road. The stance we cannot understand, as the bridge once lost, a party of American could have repulsed our troops, the Hidalgo cavalry, small in number, drove before and Victoria national guards. Since we have them a thousand of our horsemen—then in this manner—our forces arrived and drove before them, the retreating infantry, Churubusco, from which place their pursuit and the confusion became general. Under suchers had to receive the fire of our muskets, these circumstances, the small garrison, and of one or more cannons, which at the garita, fired rather upon our own, gave our retreating troops time to take men, than upon the enemy. This will break and lengthen the distance which give you an idea of the disorder which separated them from the enemy, by check, reigned throughout this retreat. However, the advance of the latter. It would be difficult to make you understand the very disorder, and one officer, horse disorder which characterized this whole and all, jumped into our parapet—another retreat. Only a few of the cannons taken was captured and made prisoner, while from San Antonio were used, as the we saw two or three of their cavalry fall, bridge, as the greater part arrived too late, and while some of the retreating troops were running into the city, dispersing in all directions, filled troops were going towards Mexico, they with terror, and crying out that the enemy were near, others from the city, going was coming in immediately after them, out to their assistance. Wagons of and the enemy halted without the city. And ammunition were going in opposite directions, some of which broke down, both sides, probably owing to an armistice obstructing the road, perhaps on foot and tamed by the English Minister, for rather those on horseback were coming in, a capitulation, abandoning the city to the lion, and many generals were giving the enemy, upon which the English Minister contradictory orders, &c. &c. and our Minister of Foreign Relations. When this was going on, the fight had a talk at about one o'clock at night, commenced at Churubusco, under the Congress has been ordered to meet, but in the immediate orders of Santa Anna, but as it must be, no more. At this place there was no artillery, and a great many of the members are not other troops but those of the national sent. I have only recited what I know, guards, Bravos and Independence, the from ocular witnesses, separating the enemy easily cut them in pieces, before credible from the incredible, no fresh troops arrived, but even giving us to conclude from want of time, and be sufficient time to use the artillery brought cause both the pen and writer are used from San Antonio. Moreover, the fresh troops did not find ammunition in the city. Good bye, my friend, and I hope, but account of which the 11th regiment that God will not permit you to witness, men of the line retired to Mexicalcingo, as many misfortunes as your friend T without having engaged in the fight.



Don J. P. F.

[After detailing the events as usual down to the midst of the fight at Churubusco, the writer goes on to say:]

The cavalry was ordered to make a charge, but these cowards refused to do it—nevertheless the action was well sustained, but the Yankees advanced their right wing as far as the edge of the river, so that the river only separated us from them—then our infantry in front dispersed, and at their example the fortifications in front [on the road, i. e., the *tête de pont*,] were abandoned, after wards the right, [i. e., Churubusco,] when it saw itself alone—and then the retreat became a dispersion, the enemy following close upon the rear guard, even to the very ditches of the garita [gate]. At twenty yards from the garita, there was an American officer killed, who was about to kill Santa Anna with his sword. This is the history of the battles.

The *morale* of the army has been lost, and all enthusiasm extinguished; nevertheless, the enemy has lost about 2000 men; while we still have 16,000, and if there was a head to these, we could still conquer.

The regiments of Victoria and Hidalgo have dissolved so as not to fight.

An armistice is in discussion, on the basis, that the capital shall not be attacked, and that the Yankees will take nothing without paying for it—and they will encamp in the neighborhood. This armistice will serve to collect the dead, and arrange a peace. The reflections which these events give rise to, are so natural that I omit them. We shall soon see each other, for if peace is made, I am going where you are, and no less if the army take Mexico, as I am resolved never to live in a place commanded by the enemy. I will never witness the degradation of the occupation of our capital by the enemy.

My blood boils at witnessing so much cowardice, so much inaptitude and infamy, and one must either die, or

fly from this country, which is stamped with the seal of Divine reprobation, and God seems to have written against us the words of the feast of Belshazzar. Tears spring from the eyes, and despair seizes the soul, when it is seen that there is only among us a capacity for vice, and that everything is desecrated by a demoralized people. I recommend to your my family. Give my love, &c. &c. T. U.

(This letter was written by a member of Congress.)

Mexico, Aug. 21, 1847.

To J. M. & J.—My Dear Friend:—I have none of your esteemed letters to answer, but I take the pen to recite some lamentable events—not lamentable on account of the blood shed, which has been but little considering the number of combatants engaged, but because we have not the shadow of honor left.

The battle commenced about noon on the 19th against Valencia's division, which lasted until 2 P. M., the next day, there being nothing but a continual series of routs and a series of errors committed by our generals and subordinate officers, who were filled with fear, terror and cowardice, causing a confusion among the soldiery impossible to reduce to order. Even women would have done better.

The consequence of all this is, that all our *materiel* of war fell into the hands of the enemy, together with the fortifications from Mexicalcingo to San Angel, including San Antonio, Churubusco, Paiz-zacola, and in fact all the fortifications in the valley. The dead, wounded and dispersed were horrible to be seen in the city, and an immense cloud of officers rapidly traversing the streets, making it appear that they were occupied about something, in order to avoid meeting the enemy.

Nothing has been left for the salvation of the capital but an armistice obtained by the British Minister, as the American



army is at our very gates, and we have know not which. The other force, that nothing left but the *div* that flies through of General Norrigo, is at San Francisco, our streets to defend the capital—that is and the guerrilla of Mr. Rivera is in the to say, there is no *mórale* left among us. citadel. Having been found in the

You will see, my dear friend, from my rout yesterday from Churubusco, the solemn predictions, that I have the sad battalions of Victoria and Hidalgo have vanity of always approaching the truth, been dissolved, while those of Indepen- However, I will lay aside this gloomy dence and Bravo who escaped with life, picture—abandon it entirely, and take are prisoners.

myself to the bosom of my family, there To all appearance, this farce will be to mourn the errors of my too ambitious finished to-morrow. MANUEL N. G. brothers, whom we are to thank for all our misfortunes. I salute you for the last time with the name of Mexican, but shall always continue to do so as a much attached friend. F. S. J.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

Dear \* \*—I will tell you something by the Yankees—and as it may be of in- I know and something I have seen in this terest to you (at Morelia) I advise you that accursed Babylon. It is said there is a the troops from that place, have not yet suspension of arms, with the object of come into action. All those from Morelia hearing some propositions made by Scott, are in good health, and although the but what is most probable is, that the Yankees have lost a good many—the devil Mexican army will abandon the city, be with them!—nevertheless, things are taking all their train, that the enemy may in a bad state. May God help us happily occupy it. A member of Congress, has out, Manuel is still in Chapultepec, and just said to me that there is a commission it appears that they do not intend to actually sitting on this subject, at the tack that place, as they extend from the lodge.

The greatest consternation reigns in knows what is to come of this? Pray to the city. Some accuse Valencia, (amongst God to deliver us. My dear Mother, it is others the charlatan F. Carbajal,) others, impossible, to give an idea of the present and the larger part, throw the blame on state of Mexico. It is in the most deplora- Santa Anna. The troops are at the ble condition. Only mournful faces are southern gate, but I perceive much cow- seen. May the Supreme Being defend us ardice. The city is full of dispersed, drun- Do not believe all you hear, for many lies ken, roughtish, soldiers. Almost all the are circulated. Mother God of Heaven houses are shut, and in the coffee houses, alone can as-ist us in our trouble. Things the same officers are boasting a great are in a terrible state. His Dixine, Ma- deal, whom we saw run from the battle, jesty has sent these devils to punish us for field ground. The end is, the capital is our sins. These are the fruits of our do- lost, mestic quarrels, for only by this could

Santa Anna has ordered out the cay, these devils have so scorned a nation, but aly by Gaudalupe, the object of which it is very difficult for them to conquer us, you know as well as I. The battalion of I again, reiterate my love and affection to Toluca came last night from the Peñon (family people.) to occupy one of the gates of the city, I J. M. G.



From a Young Lady to Valerius

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847

My much-loved Uncle:—Considering that you would be uneasy on our account under present circumstances, I write to relieve your mind. Everything is lost, and I believe there is no hope left for us. Day before yesterday Valencia had a fight with the enemy near Contreras, and it was supposed he was victorious; but the next morning he lost everything. Yesterday some national guards, at San Antonio, had a small fight and the Batt'ns of Hidalgo and Victoria ran like cowards, as also did the cavalry and the 11th, and 3d light infantry.

[The Batt'ns of Hidalgo and Victoria, also those of Independence and Bravo, were called Polkas, and were composed of the more independent citizens of Mexico. The two first were ordered to retire from San Antonio and did not engage in the fight. The two last were at Churubusco and were taken prisoners, those that were not killed. This is the Mexican account in many letters.]

This is a strange fatality, and it seems that our troops are good for nothing but to boast. I only heard them cry "there come the yankees," overcome with terror and running a whole league without stopping to take breath; from which fact I have no hope that resistance can be made at the garitas, as is intended. You will see what will happen if a defence is attempted; they will all run and there their history will end.

Ruperto saved himself, as he had the luck to run away in company with the Victorias, and he is now safe with his dear aunt and quite tranquil.

It appears impossible that 12,000 men under the command of Scott should have put to flight and entirely cowed 32,000 of our men.

[The American Army was less than 10,000, and there were not over 7,000 in the fight.]

It confounds reason. It is opposite to reason and almost incredible, but nevertheless true. This misfortune has no remedy, and the affair must soon end, as we can do nothing.

Do not believe the thousand lies our troops may tell and of which they boast. You know that even here a thousand lies are told coming only from the distance of our next neighbor;—therefore how much more exaggerated they will be when travelling to you. Do not be afflicted, but hold all you hear in quarantine. Recommend yourself to God and trust in him, and he will take care of us. MARIA. P.S. Dear Uncle, I refer you to my sister's letter for the news. I can add nothing to it but that we, the Mexicans, are

(The blank is not filled in the original.)

MEXICO, Aug. 20th, 1847.

\* \* I know not how to begin to write these few lines, giving you the destiny of this unfortunate city, the theatre of one of the most horrible of wars. Yesterday the enemy and the division of Valencia came in contact among the hills of San Angel, and maintained on one and the other side, a most horrible firing from 12 o'clock until night.

This morning it was seen that Valencia had abandoned his position, and it is said they are prisoners with the artillery. At 3 o'clock, P. M., we have had another well disputed action between San Antonio and another little town called "Los Arcos." [Churubusco?] it was likewise lost, the troops retiring in disorder to the gate of San Antonio Abad, where it is expected they will fight to-morrow and the day after, probably, at the palace.

It is a shame to have it said, that ten thousand men subjugated a city of two hundred thousand inhabitants, and an army of thirty thousand men that defended it. It appears that there is neither tactics, nor genius, nor fortune among us. God save us, for certainly his justice has decreed our ruin. M. S.

August 20th

Anita:—I have entered the city of



Mexico to witness the ignominy of my of Valencia [referring to the regular country. Fear and consternation pervade the whole city. I do not fear the enemy, who have suffered much, but I have no confidence in our *dispersed* soldiers, who are all of them robbers, most of them drunk, and may break open the houses. To-morrow this farce must be concluded. To-morrow I go to Tlahupantle, to lament, in the bosom of my family, the misfortune of being a Mexican, and having children born in this nation of corruption and evil.

M. G.

[The letter is well written, giving the usual account of the defeat of Valencia, and the successful attack at Churubusco, and concludes as follows:]

MEXICO, August 21st.

J. O.---In fact, we have lost the greatest part of the flower of the army, and almost all of our artillery. However, we have still from seven to eight thousand men, who are in charge of the garitas, (city entrances) which, if well protected, we could still gain a day of glory for our nation, routing the enemy, who have lost nearly half of their forces, and are now stationed within gun-shot of the garitas, at \* \* \* \* and San Angel. All I can say, is, that the events of the day are inconceivable, considering the immense number of troops we have brought together, the instruction and discipline they have undergone, and the resources we have obtained with great labor. Our triumph appeared to be certain. \* \* \*

[2d Extract.]

MEXICO, Aug. 21.

My Dear Jesusita:—It never passed my imagination, nor could I have believed that I should to day be obliged to give you news so opposite to our hopes, with regard to the resistance which the enemy would have to encounter. You will remember that on Wednesday last, the division of San Luis, was under command

troops from San Luis Potosi]. He moved from Tacubaya, and encamped on the hills of the Magdalena, [near the village of Contreras,] in order to impede the march of the enemy from San Augustin, through the Pedregal, [i. e., broken volcanic grounds, full of pointed stones, and great chasms nearly impassable from their own character,] to take possession of Santa Fé and Tacubaya. In this manner it appeared that everything for defence was perfectly well arranged. But on Thursday afternoon, [the 19th Aug.] we heard an unexpected sound, like that of cannon. I instantly went to the top of the house, and distinctly saw a large volume of smoke towards the village of San Geronimo, near San Angel. From the direction of the smoke, as I looked through a glass, I supposed that Valencia was attacking the enemy with a heavy fire of artillery, not answered by the enemy, who retired at dusk, thereby leaving me to believe he had been repulsed. I therefore went to bed, indulging hopes; but the enemy was too astute to go to sleep. It is said that the enemy intended to pass by the way of Contreras, but I believed that their only object that afternoon [the 19th] was to make a reconnoissance of Valencia's camp, as proved to be the case. During the night there was a heavy fall of rain, which continued until morning. I woke up early on the 20th, and thought I heard a distant sound, like that of thunder—I ascended to the roof of the house at a quarter past six, and saw a heavy smoke immediately over the broken ground of San Geronimo. It was an active fire of artillery, which lasted but a very short time, and I left the top of the house under the firm belief, that the enemy had either been routed or repulsed, as the position which Valencia occupied was very advantageous. But what was my astonishment when, at about 10 o'clock, the news spread that Valencia



had been surprised by the enemy's attack, met with the enemy, who, not tacking him on all sides, and completely fulfilling the imprudent hopes of our routing him. I would not at first believe chiefs, took the route, as ought to have been it, and I cannot describe my feelings, expected, by San Angel, to the hills of when I found it to be the truth. I was Santa Fé, to gain possession of Chapulte-overpowered by rage and desperation. pec. Between this and San Angel, and No event has ever caused me such an im- another called *La Magdalena*, began a pression. At about 12 o'clock, an attack well disputed action, and if our army did was made at Churubusco, the hacienda not acquire a complete triumph, it could de Tlalpam and San Antonio. The firing not at any rate be said, that they fought lasted until 2 P. M., more or less, and the with a bad result. The pass was fiercely result was, that our troops were driven disputed by each of the forces, which re- and retired from their positions, which tained their position at night, Valencia positions had been occupied by the largest for the time checking the advance of the portion of the national guards, and on enemy. But, as the Americans are sharp and whom every body had confided. The and industrious, they took advantage of the cause of the disaster is attributed to Va- darkness of the night, made more dark by lencia, who, it is said did not obey the heavy rains, and placed their troops, without orders of Santa Anna, and attacked before being suspected, so as to open a fire on the the proper time. According to public opin- 20th on both Valencia and San Antonio. ion, Santa Anna was the only general who At 5 A. M. his batteries commenced an ac- behaved well, for he sustained the fire of tive and terrible fire on the points re- the enemy at San Antonio for two hours, ferred to, and Gen. Valencia (it is said and covered the retreat of the Polka's, disobeying the orders of Santa Anna) [gentlemen soldiers,] who, but for him, marched with his force against them, but would have been destroyed, plunging the was entirely routed. [The writer gives the whole city in grief and mourning. Santa the rumors, as they reached the city— Anna was obliged to retire to the city, Gen. V. was attacked in his camp, and did and the enemy occupied the positions. not advance]. Gen. Santa Anna went to assist him, with all those that were at his command [at hand]. But the enemy had The battalions of Victoria and Hidal- placed itself so advantageously, that the go, [the Polkas,] entered the city without loss, and that of Independence was cap- camp was surrounded by a circle of fire, tured. To day we have no news, but I so constant that our troops lost spirit, suspect that the enemy is arranging his and accustomed by bad luck to run, they plans to take the city, where we have more forces than he imagines. J. S.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

\* \* Heartsick, and filled with indigna- tion, I was preparing to give you, by mail, with Gen. Santa Anna, followed by the news of the fatal rout our army had suf- enemy, within gun shot of the fortifica- fered, when we had the satisfaction to re- tions, at the gate of San Antonio Abad— ceive your favor, and in answer to which from whence they returned, when some I will merely give you the most essential shots were fired from the fortifications. particulars, and true, leaving for the pre- Trains of artillery, cannon, ammunition sent small matters that are of little mo- —all that belong to our army fell into ment. the hands of the enemy, for the dispersion

On the evening of the 19th, Gen. Va- was horrid. Our loss in dead, wounded



and dispersed is reckoned at six thousand men. The loss of the enemy is said to be greater, but you know that this way of expression among us is the fashion. The account I have given you I received from Olacta, who was among the dispersed and as an eye witness can be relied upon.

The enemy are now at the gates of the city, possessed of Churubuseo. Some of our troops are at El Niño Perdido La Piedad, and the rest are in barracks, and since 3 o'clock yesterday there has been a profound silence. I cannot tell why the enemy has not entered the capital, nor why, if it is still to be defended, that our troops have retired to their barracks from which they have not moved all day. The firing has entirely ceased. The enemy are at the gates and our troops are in their barracks; the one advances no further, the other makes no movement for defence. It is not known that a cessation of hostilities has been agreed upon. In this state of things we are all stupefied. You hear nothing in the streets but the question, what has happened. All throw the fault on Santa Anna. 'Tis said he throws the fault on Valencia, accusing him of disobedience of orders.

\* \* \* The only news we have at present from 7 A. M. to 9 P. M. it was entirely a different spectacle: the streets were full of soldiers, bathed in blood, who were continually rending the air with their cries and lamentations, mingled with words of insolence for their bad fortune, as they crawled to their doors or the hospitals. Carts might be seen, with litters, carrying the severely wounded who could not travel on foot, and from their beds of anguish was heard the most heart-rending complaints, which were mingled with the shrieks of women who like demented people straggled about the streets without any particular object, lamenting the fate of their friends, of whose fate they were ignorant. The church steeples and most elevated points were crowd-

decorum requires it; but I repeat, that it is useless.

This is the situation at present of the Mexicans, I had better say of those that unhappily are Mexicans. It is not difficult to see the future; a nation of eight millions of souls domineered over by twenty thousand vandals. If at any time we have deserved compassion among nations, we now merit opprobrium. I am a Mexican, and if God does not deprive me of life, I shall have to outlive this humiliation, and witness to-morrow, *perhaps* to-morrow itself—the destruction of one half of the capital and the occupation by our conquerors; and not to be permitted to fight for its defence for fear of another ignominy. This is a most desperate situation! It is three years the 11th of the present month since I entered public life, and I have suffered all that you are aware of, but I did not know what it was to suffer till now. Who can doubt that this is a chastisement from Heaven. It is rare that the Host is exhibited, but in the fight of the 19th, and until 9 o'clock at night, the Divine Host was shown in the church of Mexico. The temples were full of Mexicans, praying to God for a triumph of our arms. The day following,



ed by numbers of people, who still re-incapacity. Santa Anna is now the mained in their positions, after witnessing object of public execration. The general the issue of the combat, their countenan- opinion is, that his enemy, Valencia, is ces the pictures of consternation. During the cause of the death of so many who the combat some were immoveably trans- died by the side of that general, upon fixed, others were violently startled by whom Santa Anna throws the blame of cannon; soldiers were seen running with all, and has even said that wherever he out muskets, and Polkas (national guards) finds him he will have him shot. wrapped in their blankets, their heads. Those that were in the camp complain covered with slouched hats. What gave that nothing was done but by order of the last sad coloring to this picture was, Santa Anna; that he would not allow the the retiring of soldiers to their barracks least deliberation, from which it resulted in the evening, about one eighth of their that Bravo would not offer even advice, original number, some without cartridge and gave no orders in the matter, so the boxes, some without arms, and all be disorder became frightful. daubed with mud from head to foot. The. Unhappy country! unhappy ourselves! night before, prayers were offered up in it, in the end, we have to receive in this behalf of each soldier in particular and capital our vanquishers. One idea gives for the nation in general; but the follow- me consolation--according to what I have ing day we witnessed the catastrophe. been told, there are only six thousand. How painful to say this! what human Yankees left, and although we yet have pper can oppose such a plague? more than twelve thousand, I will be con- When I saw the Divinity exposed the tent to lose another battle, if we have previous night, I conceived hopes, be- one, as we shall lose, for our soldiers will cause I saw we looked to help more run, but two thousand more Yankees powerful than any recourse of the enemy will be killed; only four thousand will I have seen the result, and this forces me remain, and with these order cannot be to believe that it is nothing less than the kept in Mexico. We are in the last chastisement of Heaven, and this is my struggles of, the drowned. What a reason for saying, as I have said, that all shame! MIGUEL M. resistance is useless, although I judge it necessary for the decorum of the nation. The description which I have attempted (Diary of the War.) to give, though sorrowful in the extreme August 19, at 9 A.M. a dense cloud of for a Mexican, is nevertheless exact; and smoke was seen in the hacienda of San I have given it against my will, for I would Antonio, caused by the fire of our and have wished to save you pain, but you lery, directed against a column of the encl requested the exact truth, and I will con- my who were coming against them. The time to advise you of what may happen. enemy retreated and took the route by To-day all is tranquil; I hope in God, San Angel. Valencia is situated withi that this calm may not be followed by a his division on the hills of Contreras, storm. JUAN G. [i. e. the route by San Angel,] and at about 1 o'clock, P. M. he commenced Mexico, August 21st, 1847. firing his artillery; and continued without \* \* \* I likewise send you ceasing until half-past 6, sometimes sd a diary of the events from the 19th to this rapidly that we counted eight shots per date, by which you will see the pitiable minute, although more commonly only situation in which we are placed, if not four or five. At 6, P. M. some unfavor- by bad faith, at least, by the most visible able rumors came to the city; it was said



that the enemy had taken six pieces ofing all of our movements from the artillery from Valencia, a matter impossi- hacienda of Coapan, detached a column ble to believe, because, from the roof of of about three thousand men on our left the house, we could see that, far from wing, with the object of flanking us and retreating, our troops had charged upon afterwards besieging San Antonio, but the enemy, who was situated in a lower we pushed the movement of our troops, position, and to appearance, in a hollow, in spite of the confusion, so that the and was not at first to be seen, and the enemy only gained his object in a very position was only known by the smoke of small degree, intercepting a small por- tion of our troops and capturing two

20th. Between 6 and a quarter after, pieces of spiked cannon that were left in A. M., the firing commenced in the same the hacienda, where, in a very few place as yesterday, the artillery slowly moments after the battalions of Hidalgo but the musketry sharply, very sharply. and Victoria had left it, there were heard It was heard perfectly well in the main the musketry of the enemy, not of the plaza, and sounded like the rattle of a column that had been detached, but of drum. At 10, A. M., we received the another body that came directly down news that Gen. Valencia's brigade, which the road, and soon took the place. Following the retreat of our troops, had sustained itself the previous day, had we came to the bridge, where Santa on both sides, after first cutting off his Anna was found fortifying himself with retreat, and of consequence he was com- activity, and where we were united with pletely routed and dispersed, except two the brigade of Perez, and we heard the hundred and fifty prisoners, who remained firing at Churubusco, which point was in the hands of the enemy, and twenty defended by the battalions of Indepen- three pieces of cannon. dence and Bravo, who gave up very soon and probably are prisoners. The enemy advanced against the bridge, where the firing was maintained about an hour, but in the end we lost, with a great sacri- fice of men and an immense quantity of ammunition there and at Churubusco. From this till half-past 2, the battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria arrived, sun- burnt, tired and hungry, their feet all blistered and in desperation, as they had brought in their guns as they had carried them out.

[NOTE.—There were over a thousand prisoners.]

At 11 o'clock the dispersed began to arrive, all covered with mud, some with their uniforms and muskets, others with- out them, and from that time till about 1, P. M., the wounded continued to arrive, some in litters, asking mercy of Hea- ven, and others on foot, with their corpse-like countenances still dropping blood.

As soon as Santa Anna received notice of the defeat of Valencia, (whom, it is said, he might have aided to advan- tage, but did not, because he said he had not ordered Valencia to engage in fight,) he ordered the camp at San Antonio to be raised, and begins the retreat on at all.

Mexico. Here the disorder began, the soldiers in some corps were altogether without chiefs, and only employed them- selves in taking away the cannon from the batteries. The enemy, who was observ-

[All Mexican accounts agree, that these two battalions did not fire a shot.]

They had had an opportunity, not only to annoy the enemy, but to repulse him, but they never received an order to fire

Our troops were at night at the gates of La Viga, Candalaria and Niño Per- dido. Some have gone to Chapultepec, others to their barracks.

The enemy remained in possession of



the haciendas Portalis, Santanita and down by Santa Anna for his relief, but other towns of the neighborhood. they had means of communication still

It is said that our loss in killed, open, and Valencia asked assistance of wounded and prisoners, is about four Santa Anna, in order to resist a new at-thousand men. The loss of the enemy tack from the enemy. Gen. Santa Anna is said to be five thousand; we will see retired with his division to San Angel, the truth in time. [four or five miles,] quite satisfied, as he

[NOTE.—The American loss was, altogether, a little over one thousand.]

expressed himself, that he had saved the republic, for which he was cheered by the

August 21st.—This is a day of the most complete confusion; friends are looked for—some are found, some are not; of course affliction and tears are universal. It is said there is an armistice for forty-eight hours, for the purpose of burying the dead and collecting the wounded, and there is some talk about propositions of peace. Some battalions have retired from the gates to their quarters, and although I understand nothing, I understand this less.

troops, who remained at San Angel; but he, not finding a convenient bed at San Angel, continued on, and slept at Churubusco. On Friday morning, quite early, a new attack was made on Valencia, whose camp was carried by the bayonet, and he lost his artillery, and his division was either killed, taken prisoners or dispersed—but Valencia, of course, saved himself. Santa Anna left San Angel so late in the morning, to return to Valencia, that he heard of Valencia's defeat on his way there to him. Every one agrees that Valencia committed a great fault in not

The fault is generally laid upon Santa Anna; all are incensed, mad against him, even his most admitted friends. I believe the devils will take everything, and now I have not a doubt the Yankees will enter the city, although it is said they have only six thousand men.

obeying the orders of the commander-in-chief, but Santa Anna should have united all his disposable force to assist Valencia, in order to destroy the common enemy. Various reflections occur upon the conduct of Santa Anna, who has given orders that Valencia shall be shot wherever he may be found. It is said that

*Doings and Results on Thursday and Friday, 19th and 20th Aug.*

On Thursday Gen. Valencia, to impede the progress of the enemy, took a position with his division on the hills of the hacienda Alsado, [alias Magdalena—Contre-ras, &c.,] where he fought until dusk. Valencia had twenty or twenty-five pieces of artillery, and the Americans four mountain pieces. Gen. Santa Anna went to the aid of Valencia between four and half-past four in the afternoon, with four or five thousand men, but he advised Valencia to avoid a fight; but he, thinking his position advantageous, and wishing to encounter the Americans, disregarded the advice. During the combat, which commenced at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the forces under the command of Valencia were separated from those brought

Valencia answered the order to retire or avoid a fight with the enemy—that he thought his position advantageous, and as a Mexican and as a soldier he could not obey the orders of a traitor and a coward, &c. &c. About noon a division of the enemy approached, which, it is supposed was under the order of Scott himself, to attack San Antonio. Santa Anna ordered the few pieces of heavy ordnance he had there to be spiked, and retired with the light pieces to Churubusco, where a bloody engagement took place, and it is said that the Americans lost a great many men. Santa Anna directed the defence of that point with the brigade of Perez, (the 1st, 3d, and 4th light infantry, and the 11th of the line,) the Batt'ns of Na-



tional Guards, Independence and Bravo, resistance.\* If we compare the deeds of the Piquet of St. Patrick and various our soldiers with their boasting and fan- other corps. The Piquet of St. Patrick, faronades, as they are daily published it is said, was almost totally destroyed. even in the government journal, one is ashamed, and the few Mexicans who are

(This Piquet, so called, was composed of deserters from the American Army, and about 80 of them were taken prisoners and are now under trial for their lives.)

It is not known where the Batt'ns of Independence and Bravo are. The light infantry and the 11th regiment kept up at the commencement a heavy fire, but on the approach of the enemy within pistol shot they fled. Nothing is known of Perez. At about 5 o'clock in the afternoon Santa Anna entered this place with a large body of cavalry and with nearly all the brigade of Perez, the Batt'ns of National Guards, Hidalgo and Victoria, which never burnt a single cartridge—and various other corps. Santa Anna went to the Palace and the troops to their quarters. The result of the actions of this day has been the loss of 45 pieces of artillery—of the dead, wounded, prisoners and dispersed we have no certain information. An army of twenty thousand men and more than 50 pieces of artillery (I speak of those that were used) has been routed by another of nine or ten thousand, without artillery, and without knowing the ground, and while we had the advantage of selecting our positions. It is then clear that our army does not deserve the name of soldiers, and it were better that it did not exist.—The incapacity of our generals is astonishing, but even more so their cowardice, and that of the greater part of the soldiers; although they are very brave in the commission of brutalities. It is said, among other things, that an unfortunate American officer on horseback approached too close to one of the batteries against his will, his horse having ran away; when within pistol shot he was wounded in the foot, and fell crying out that he surrendered; but this did not avail him, he was murdered without being able to oppose

abroad will hide their faces.

Well, then, we now have the valiant General-in-Chief, President of the Republic, &c. &c. &c., again in the palace, and a great many troops in their quarters. We will see what he intends to do with the remainder of the army, without *morale*, without honour or valor, but yet with a great many ignorant generals, officers and leaders, corrupt and cowards on the field of battle, but great talkers and boasters, only fit to dress for show in their gaudy uniforms.

MEXICO, August 21, 1847.

*My Never-Forgotten and Beloved Catila:*—Yesterday there was a great fight with the Yankees, which cost a heavy loss to those accursed enemies; nevertheless the division of Valencia was routed. To-day who knows what will happen! In order that you may not be alarmed, I take advantage of these moments to write by to-day's mail, that you may not miss a letter and grieve over it. The Great Being must hate us.

One of my feet has been hurt, and for that reason I have remained in my quarters, but you need not fear, as it is not of importance, my ankle being only strained as my horse fell with me.

In consequence of the blow which the greater part of Valencia's division has suffered, it is thought that trouble is coming, but I think the Mexicans are still in good resolution. Although the Yankees will enter Mexico, it does not follow that they will be the conquerors of the Mexican nation. Through the misfortune we will be obliged to abandon the capital, and these bad men will remain masters of the territory they tread, and

\* This was Major Mills, 15th Regiment of Infantry.



the whole nation will rise in a mass and destroy them.

Catita, God permits things to go to a certain point in order to undeceive us, but he afterwards sends consolation to the afflicted. This Eternal and Incomprehensible Being will protect us and send us comfort. I only beg you will not afflict yourself, and pray Him to favor me and preserve me. Salute all my relatives and friends, and you and my children receive the love I always have for you.

C. P. S. Say to Señora Petra that Andrew escaped in safety, and that the troop to which Francisco belonged did not fight, and also to pray to God for them and for me; also the troops of Morelia did not go into action, and so far they are all well and God will favor us. Do not afflict yourself, Catita, God protects the just and will bring us through in safety.

*Private.* (This was written on a separate slip.)

Catita---I will do everything not to expose myself to danger, and if permitted I will try to find means to go to La Piedad or C—. Be prepared to send for your uncle. Do not show this little piece of paper to any one. Destroy it, and keep this to yourself alone. But if you wish to see me, I will send for you from the place to which I may go. Be prepared, and I will write to you under the name of G. P. or under that of my god-mother, Da. M. for so I proposed to you.

(This letter shows the confidence of the Mexicans before the fight.)

MEXICO, August 19th, 1847.

\* \* \* Judging from the enthusiasm and positions of our troops, and our good fortifications, we hope for a complete triumph for the Mexicans, as the enemy's force is much inferior to ours in numbers.

(From a Member of Congress.)

MEXICO, August 21, 1847.

*Loved Friend*:---The 19th and 20th of August have been to Mexico days of mourning and ignominy, as we have lost a great many valiant Mexicans, and our immense army has been routed by a handful of adventurers. We are all choking with grief at such a catastrophe, and we fear the sad consequences of the triumph of the enemy. The enemy has not yet entered the city, but they are at our very gates, awaiting the answer of our government, who has already entered into negotiations for peace. What will follow this negotiation, God knows! What does the United States want, who knows? Congress cannot assemble, nor will it assemble; therefore I shall go to you in a few days, as I am anxious to see you and my family. Work for your country. Do not cease your labor. Do what you can to protect the public institutions, the arts, sciences, industry and agriculture.

L. B.

MEXICO, Aug. 20, 1847.

To E., (A Member of Congress.)

*Much Respected and Esteemed Friend*:---To-day after the complete rout of the brilliant northern division under the command of Valencia, who I was posted in the tower of San Geronimo, (Contreras,) I hastened to the city to see what I should do with my house. During the day I heard of the death of Guadalupe Pedrigan. The battalions of Victoria and Hidalgo abandoned San Antonio without entering into the fight, but those of Independence and Bravo sustained themselves well at Churubusco until they were abandoned. The enemy is now at the Hacienda Portalis. The division under Rangel was formed this morning in the Plaza, and ordered to march and take possession of a place called La Viga. Gen. Tornel, with many staff officers, have gone to the same place.



Gen. Santa Anna just passed here with fortunate results of the battles of the Gen. Lombardini. The troops have 19th and 20th, and of the misfortunes of been ordered to their quarters but have our Mexican nation. left the cannons at the garitas, prepared Gen. Valencia was pushed near the to meet an attack in the morning. \* \* factory of Magdalena, where he was

\* The invaders will certainly enter the city on Monday. attacked by 10,000 Americans on the 19th, who endeavored to force their passage that way against 4,000 Mexicans, and had not Gen. Perez came to the

(Another letter of the 21st. August, says:)

The brilliant and selected division under Gen. Valencia, who occupied an advantageous position on the hills near San Angel, near the factory of Magdalena, had a skirmish with some of Scott's troops, who attempted to force their way to Tacubaya on Thursday last. The fire was sustained well on our part until dark without losing an inch of ground. But on Friday morning the Americans, who were keen, attacked Valencia in the front and on both flanks, forced their way into his camp, routing him completely, and remained in possession of his artillery and all his munitions of war. I cannot account for this result, and I do not give you any further facts, for I prefer to ignore them. \* \* \* \*

\* \* The battalions of Victoria and Hidalgo abandoned St. Antonio, and were not in the fight. They arrived in the city without loss, only suffering from fatigue. Gen. Salas, Pedrigan and Frontera are prisoners.

Santa Anna sustained a heavy fire in his retreat, causing the enemy great injury, but thereby protected the retreat of the troops. It is also said that Gen. Rincon is prisoner.

\* \* We have yet a respectable body of troops in Mexico, but Gen. Scott has allowed an armistice in order to allow Congress to meet and consider the subject of peace. There is no telling what will happen to-morrow.

(Of the reported armistice, the writer says :) It is supposed that it will be favorable to peace, but you must be well aware, that should it be effected, of which I have no doubt, it will be a disgrace to the Mexican people. E. C.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

L. R.—*My Dear Uncle*: My heart is oppressed with grief, and I can give you but a very slight sketch of the un-

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

*Señorita Dna. M. de J. M.:*

*My dear Young Lady*:---Yesterday I



arrived at home without accident, having To-day about five thousand of the dispersed have been collected, and we have escaped the dangers of the fight by privilege, or because the Yankees took pity now about twelve thousand men in arms. on us, for, on leaving our camp, such was An armistice, &c. &c. &c.

the disorder and confusion, that if the enemy had attacked us with whips, not a single one of us would have been left.

August 21, 1847.

*Old Man* :—Although I am a regidor, The generals gave orders and the camp- (a civil officer,) still I resolved to go to women screamed, the mules would not the fight, as I could no longer remain in pull, the soldiers did not wish to retreat the city taking care of disorderly women without fighting, and General Bravo, our and drunkards, I determined to see the commander, would not allow it, and at fate of my unfortunate country; consequently, on Tuesday last, I received an munitions, but losing much, which could order from the Minister of War and Government directing me to join General took to outflank us, but meeting with the Alcora as his aid-de-camp; and on division, they commenced a fire. We Wednesday morning I went to the stood on the defence, and they certainly Peñon resolved to endure all the privations of a campaign, and to see in what through pity took the other road, all the tions of a campaign, and to see in what time accompanying us on the left. Hardly I could serve my country. The enemy had we reached the bridge at Churubusco, when the artillery fire was commenced at that place. General Santa Anna arrived there at the moment we but he did not like the *patato*, and on passed, and he ordered such of the artillery as was convenient, should be turned upon the enemy, and that we should continue [to retreat!] On the way we met Monday morning at 9 o'clock we commenced our march towards the same the division of General Perez, which afterwards engaged the enemy, and while place, (by the city) and on Tuesday, after the action continued we reached the city. an examination of the place, we saw We found Mexico in the greatest consternation, perhaps more for our sakes than and it was resolved that we should take for the events of the morning, for I saw up our position at San Antonio. That that our presence produced the greatest same afternoon the Yankees arrived at joy, and we were even cheered when it San Augustin at 2 P. M. We proceeded was seen that we had not met with any with the greatest activity to make preparations for resistance, and ordered the loss.

It seems impossible that in the space of six hours, eight thousand men should have been destroyed, of which not the eighth part were killed. But our troops scarcely saw a movement of the enemy before they fled, and that without the possibility of stopping them. The battalions of Bravo and Independence were attacked in the convent of Churubusco, at Jalapa, was ordered to go around and taken prisoners, and it is thought that Gorostiza is of the number.

The 5th brigade, composed of Victoria,



Independence, Hidalgo and Bravos were ordered to march to Churubusco; this brigade was composed of 2,000 men and generally called Polkas. On Wednesday the Yankees presented themselves at the hacienda of Coapa, about a fourth of a league from San Antonio. There must have been seven or eight hundred men, and we fired several shots at them with our 24-pound piece, and some shells, with a good result. In the mean time I took a nap at general headquarters, about half a league this side of San Antonio, where Bravo commanded. Day before yesterday, (Thursday,) we continued firing cannon on the enemy, and at about 1 o'clock we observed that Valencia was posted at Magdalena to impede the enemy that way, commenced firing cannon. The fire was heavy, when an Aid of Valencia's arrived saying that he was being surrounded, and we sent an aid to Perez and another to Mexico to Lombardini (Minister of War) in order that he might tell Rangel to march with his 2,000 men, together with Perez's brigade to the support of Valencia. At about half past 3 o'clock in the afternoon we found ourselves in front of the enemy, who were taking a position on the left flank of Valencia, who, the enemy, on seeing 5,000 men who came to reinforce Valencia, commenced covering themselves in the bushes and behind the church of San Geronimo. However, the enemy's forces in front of Valencia continued to fire upon him, and he, Valencia, returned their fire with 21 pieces of cannon. A little before dusk we received three light pieces we had sent for, and we fired six times with good result. I had proposed not to ask where we were going, and what was my astonishment when, at night, we were ordered to retire to San Angel, two and a half leagues distant from Valencia's camp. We there met Rangel's division, and ours, together with his, amounted to 12,000 men.

Well, old gentleman, instead of marching early the next morning to the beautiful position we left on the 19th, we did not start till after 6 o'clock, merely, as it were, to see the destruction of Valencia, and we had not arrived at the position of the previous day when we met two flying soldiers, at about 7 o'clock, who brought the fatal news of the complete rout of Valencia. Then Don Antonio (Santa Anna) gave orders for our return to Mexico, as it was to be made another Troy. Rangel's brigade was ordered to take possession of the citadel, and Santa Anna gave Perez and Bravo orders to retire from San Antonio; as San Angel being taken we were cut off by the enemy, and you can imagine the confusion and the destruction of the morale of our Army which ensued. In moving our artillery and ammunition we were put to much inconvenience and delay, for, as it had rained the night previous, the wheels stuck in the mud, and the mules, fatigued, could not haul them. The result was that when the Yankees observed our movement, and saw us withdraw our pieces from the embrazures at San Antonio, he detached two columns, one by the Pedregal (rough volcanic ground) and the other down the main road, and consequently took San Antonio, and most of Alvarez's troops, brought from the South, were made prisoners. Whilst this was going on at San Antonio, the same troops which had routed Valencia, were detached in two columns, one of which attacked Churubusco, where, after a small resistance, the companies of Independence and Bravo were taken prisoners, as also other companies that were cut off in their retreat. The other column came down the main road and attacked the bridge by the same name,

[NOTE.—The American force was sent forward in three columns and attacked the enemy's works in the front and on both flanks. The second work is called the *Tele de pont*.]



where our own wagons (returning from Luis Potosi) could not be overcome, San Antonio and fast in the mud) served much less would it retreat before the them as trenches; and after an attack of enemy. From all I have said you will infantry alone they took our position judge the future destiny of our unhappy which appeared imprégnable, country. JUAN.

[The writer is in the main accurate, but the Yankees had two light batteries in this or these attacks]

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

My Dear F.:

\* \* \* As I wrote to you, you will see that on Wednesday I went to the palace, and on that same day we arrived at Churubusco, and on Thursday we went to the Hacienda St. Antonio. Yesterday we were ordered out at 4 o'clock in the morning, and remained formed in the Hacienda, which was full of mud from the continued rain during the night, till about 11 o'clock, when we marched, expecting to attack the enemy, for we were told we were surrounded, but by a miracle of God, Jorin saved the whole battalion, for, had we left five minutes later our retreat would have been cut off, as happened to other corps following in our rear. Our battalion, [that of Victoria?] and that of Hidalgo, were the only ones to which no accident happened, although some shots were fired at us.

All is lost. The enemy is in Churubusco and San Antonio. At a little after 3, we reached Mexico, very much fatigued as we came in haste. They sent us to the garita of the *Niño Perdido*, where we occupied the breastwork until 5 o'clock, about which time there was united a respectable number of the dispersed soldiers, who came pouring in on every side. At dusk we were marched to our barracks, and thence dismissed to our homes, and from that time till now, half past 5, P. M., we know nothing of what has happened, [i. e., of the negotiations.]

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

My Dear \* \* \*:

It is now 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and an armistice has been concluded be-

putting us shamefully to flight, and had the enemy been any other they would have gone directly into Mexico, for our cursed soldiers, frightened to death, were bellowing through the streets, "here comes the Yankees." Finally, Santa Anna resolved to defend the city at the first line, and if our soldiers would not run, we had a sufficient number left to defend this unfortunate city.

But now they speak of a capitulation, or I know not what. The result is that the Yankees can march directly into Mexico at any hour they please, owing to the cowardice and ———— of our generals-in-chief. Bassadra, Mora Villamil and Aranjais started at day-break this morning with orders from Pacheco to ask Scott for 30 hours armistice, in order to bury the dead and collect the wounded. Santa Anna became very angry and said, this cursed Pacheco had made a fool of himself and compromised me---which remark, having come to the ears of Pacheco, he resigned. Some say it was a pre-concerted affair. I will now give you, my old man, my opinion of all this: Valencia wished to be the hero, but had not the elements to make himself so; Santa Anna wished to destroy him, and, by not sending him reinforcements day before yesterday, he has lost the nation. Keep this to yourself. Valencia received positive orders not to engage in fight, but, notwithstanding those orders, and the order to spike his artillery and retire if necessary, he remained, and replied that he considered himself strong enough to beat the enemy; and that his army from the north, (it was from San



tween the government and the enemy for of the *inaccessible* place the Pedregal, forty-eight hours, and I will avail myself [This is underscored in the original—it of the diligence in that time to join you. refers to broken volcanic grounds.] He Twenty-five others have applied for seats, was entirely surrounded and on all sides, but the diligence is full. I was very they fought like lions. Santa Anna anxious to get a seat as \* \* \*. coolly observed this, and did not send to

It is not true that Bravo is either dead or a prisoner, as I have, to-day, seen him laurels which, against his orders, Valencia in the city, \* \* \*. was gathering; but Valencia was over-

Our dead have been but few, but we powered and succumbed, yet like a brave have been most shamefully routed. I suppose man. At about 7 o'clock this morning, pose you have heard many alarming stories, afterwards, we were defeated at San rics, but calm yourself, as there is no further danger, but we have been lost by points the regiments of Hidalgo and means of a handful of adventurers of the Victoria were ordered to retire. That worst kind. \* \* \*

The battalion of Victoria has not cut off by the enemy—some of its brave fought. They say they will fight, but men were killed, as happened to that will only obey the orders of their Colonel, valuable young man M. De Castro, and as their generals ran away. others were made prisoners. In the midst

Mexico, Aug. 20th, 1847.

All is lost, all. My presentiments never army has been beaten in detail by a have deceived me—and when I have been handful of foreigners, (although brave,) deceived it is when I have *reasoned* with as there have been corps of ours which those who *reason*, and last night it was did not fight, owing to the want of dispo- *reasonable* to confide, and I endeavored sition by the general-in-chief, who has to *confide*, to believe and to persuade made us suffer the torments of hell, we myself, although the instinct of presentiments have seen Santa Anna at dusk, enter the ment would arise and say——just palace, and a multitude of cavalry and what has occurred. You will already infantry, without suspecting until the have heard of it when you receive this, but present moment what it signified; some perhaps you would wish me to repeat it, believing that it was owing to the rain although at this moment a sort of delirium has taken possession of my faculties, like that of yesterday, others thinking and, in truth, I do not know what to say that a capitulation had been agreed upon; to you; but what I can, I will say, be it but the greater part not knowing what what it may. Yesterday morning Santa opinion to form. I shall put this letter Anna ordered Valencia not to fight, into the mail &c., and will write again. Valencia answered that he would fight, \* \* \* \*

as his own and the honor of the nation Everything is complete confusion and required it—and he did fight with exemplary courage until 7 o'clock in the of events. \* \* \*

evening, at which time the firing ceased, I do not know what I have written. when Santa Anna, because it rained, de- I am crushed by the horrible realization termined to take his troops to San Angel, of my presentiments, which have never leaving Valencia at his advanced post.—deceived me, and owing to which I have At daylight this morning Valencia was never been able to have any enthusiasm outflanked by the enemy, in the direction or faith in this war—and for which rea-



son I have not been able to persuade myself to take a part in the war, though I have ardently desired it.

I had forgotten to say that Santa Anna has given orders for Valencia to be shot, when he has the sympathies of all in his favor, and Santa Anna bears all the odium which was not equalled by that of the 6th of December. This is sufficient.—Remember me to, &c. &c.

Your friend, (anonymous.)

[NOTE.—The same writer writes the next day, the 21st, and corrects the report in regard to De Castro, and adds:]

The Battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria would have fought had they not been ordered to retire by Santa Anna, and in spite of the order many of them did fight in the defences (works.) \* \* \*

By this mail you are called to Congress, ordered to convene by Santa Anna, who has listened to the commissioners from the United States, on the subject of peace, in virtue of the constitutional powers which he has. When Santa Anna returned to the capital this afternoon at 4 o'clock, he said that it was in virtue of an armistice of 30 hours, to gather his wounded; but the truth is, he has already made a peace with Scott, for so the interpreter said to a friend of mine, and your friend N. infers from the despatch of Santa Anna to Congress. I nevertheless send you the letter I wrote yesterday.

Scott has very much praised the valor of the Mexicans, and he told A. that he had the best intentions towards us.—Come, then, and assist in celebrating the funeral of our country. A revolution may yet take place in favor of Valencia, caused by the peace. The public mind is exceedingly excited, and for this reason it, perhaps, would not be prudent for you to bring your family.

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

\* \* \* As soon as the Americans had united the other side of the Peñon, by the Americans. It is said that many they took the road by Chalco to San

Augustin Tlalpam, but the most difficult to pass was the stony ground, there being no wagon road through it, and it was declared to be impassable. But, each man of eight or ten thousand Americans, who had to pass that way, took a bag of dirt on his shoulders, so that on the way, with eight or ten thousand bags of dirt, they went on making the road, so that they all passed, without detention, to Tlalpam to take Túcabaya, by the way of the hills of San Angel. The Mexican forces that were in the Peñon came and fortified themselves in San Antonio and Churubusco, below San Angel, while about seven or eight thousand veterans of cavalry and infantry, with thirty pieces of cannon, under Valencia, took post beyond San Angel. Gen. Santa Anna was in the point below with the National Guard, so that, by this plan, we had the Americans in San Augustin, the Mexicans forming their lines between them and the city. But now for the fight. On Thursday, the 19th, the Americans marched with the intention to pass above San Angel. General Valencia marched to encounter them, and sustained the action from 4, P. M., till night closed in. The firing was severe; it could be clearly seen from the roof of the house. At night the Americans marched up a ravine or hollow that divided the two camps, surrounded the Mexicans, and finished with them from 4 till 7, A. M., on the 20th. There were some Americans in a little hacienda beyond San Antonio, who had been shot at the evening before by Mexicans, but they remained very quiet, not answering the shots, but when Valencia was defeated they attacked the points below where Santa Anna commanded in person, and in a few hours all was lost.

The troops yesterday dispersed, with the exception of the battalions of Independence and Bravo's, which were cut off were killed, some escaped, and the rest



are prisoners. This is what has happened up to yesterday. To-day, what troops remain have gone to the gates of San Antonio Abad and Niño Perdido, have been deserted. From this state of things the capital is in a terrible state. and according to the general opinion we shall all, in a few days, be Yankees.

IGN. N.

It is said that Gen. Paredes is here, and that he and Gen. Valencia are searched for by Gen. Santa Anna, who has ordered Valencia to be shot. In fact, you cannot

—  
*Another Letter, (Extract.)*

August 20th.

To-day, at 7, A. M., the Americans took all of our artillery, and our army was so routed that they were entirely dispersed. The fate of Gen. Valencia is unknown. Santa Anna has been compelled to retire upon Mexico, having lost all, including his honor. The Yankees have made many prisoners and taken many cannon.

not imagine in what a lamentable condition we are. I have no time to be more particular, and I beg you will have the goodness to present my compliments to Donna G. and Donna C., and the rest of the family, as also to my friends S., E. and C., and you, my beloved commander, can dispose of the affections of your subject and faithful servant, who, wishing you all happiness, kisses your hand.

J. M. G.

—  
MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

Com'g General Don Jose de Ugarte:

[This letter is from a Minister of the Government to a millionaire.]

My never forgotten Sir and Commander:—

MEXICO, August 21st, 1847.

On the 19th and 20th the division of Valencia fought and was defeated, as was also some other troops from this place. These events have placed things in a terrible state. I cannot say with certainty to what are we to attribute these misfortunes, as there is a great diversity of opinion on the subject. One thing is certain, that from these reverses our affairs are in a most lamentable state, and it will be very difficult to re-establish them and bring them to the condition in which they were on the 19th. The enemy has lost a great number of men, but our's have lost many. There are many chiefs, officers and men in the power of the enemy, and many wounded. Until the present time, now 1, P. M., the firing has not been recommenced. The enemy is in many positions of the second line, and our army has retreated to the first line. It is very difficult to form a judgment of the result of these misfortunes, the more so as so many of our officers are so badly spoken of. The enemy has demanded the surrender of the capital. It is said that Gen. Moro and others have gone as conferees. One thing is certain, that our troops have retired to their quarters, and that the lines have been deserted. From this state of things the capital is in a terrible state. and according to the general opinion we shall all, in a few days, be Yankees. It is said that Gen. Paredes is here, and that he and Gen. Valencia are searched for by Gen. Santa Anna, who has ordered Valencia to be shot. In fact, you cannot imagine in what a lamentable condition we are. I have no time to be more particular, and I beg you will have the goodness to present my compliments to Donna G. and Donna C., and the rest of the family, as also to my friends S., E. and C., and you, my beloved commander, can dispose of the affections of your subject and faithful servant, who, wishing you all happiness, kisses your hand.



armistice with a view to enter upon eternal shame for us. As I said to you negotiations for peace, which naturally when I closed my letter this morning, the was accepted, and to-morrow it will be firing between 6 and 7 was horrible. At arranged by Moro and Quijano, who are the last mentioned hour it entirely ceased, the commissioners. But the enemy de- which caused me to believe that all was clared his purpose of occupying the towns decided. I was listening until 8, and ob- in the immediate vicinity of the capital, serving that there was no ringing of bells in order to obtain quarters and subsis- I began to fear that the result was unfat- tence for his troops. This is the position tenable to us. I went into the street and of affairs to-day. What is to follow you immediately perceived signs of sorrow and can imagine; for we have no alternative down-heartedness in the countenances of but to enter into arrangements or leave all. I walked towards the palace, and the capital at the mercy of the con- observed the same: besides, several of- querers. (To P.)

Present my compliments to the Señores —but their manner shew very plainly our C's, and trusting that you and your family misfortune. enjoy the best health, please to receive The scene of Cerro Gordo has been the affections of your attentive servant repeated exactly, and that, too, when the and friend, who kisses your hand. tactics of the enemy of commencing an

I. R.

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

Sr. Don J. M. C.—My Dear Teacher:

At last, yesterday, we were entirely routed after three battles, Contreras, San Antó- nio and Churubusco, and our troops were dispersed after a horrible slaughter, and the enemy arrived in triumph as far as the hacienda of the Portalis, where they passed the night. The spectacle in this city yesterday was horrible; all was tears, confusion and bitterness, and it was pitia- ble to see the wounded and dispersed coming in, in the afternoon. It is said that Bravo, Perdigan, Zerecero, Perez, Gagoso and others, have been killed. At the present moment, 10 o'clock, there are some troops going out, and, according to appearances, Gen. Santa Anna is re- solved to attack the enemy, with the miserable remains of the army, and, al- though there are rumors of treaties, I think there is no foundation for them. I do not give you any particulars, &c.

J. N. M.

[A letter in the form of notes of events.]

MEXICO, Aug. 20, 1847.

1 o'clock, P. M. Judas! all is lost—

The scene of Cerro Gordo has been repeated exactly, and that, too, when the tactics of the enemy of commencing an action in the evening to strike a finishing blow the next morning, was well known.

This time Valencia remained in his posi- tions and Santa Anna abandoned him, re- tiring to San Angel, and Valencia found himself attacked by double his numbers.

4 o'clock, P. M.—A little after 12 firing was heard in San Antonio, and lasted about an hour and a half, and after a short pause, it was heard much nearer, which by all signs appears to be in Churubusco.

About 2 o'clock I directed my steps to- wards San Antonio, Abad, (the Garita,) where there was seen a numerous crowd.

The sight which presented itself at this place and in all the streets of the Raspro

was horrible: all was full of dispersed soldiers, carts, shrieking women and devils. The battalions of Hidalgo and Victoria, with four pieces, were in the plazuela of San Lucas when I arrived.—

Some of those with whom I spoke said that Santa Anna had betrayed them, that

I at San Antonio when it was least expected they were ordered to retreat, and that,

except four pieces brought away, they had spiked their guns, that Santa Anna

had remained at Churubusco with the di- vision of Perez and the battalions of In-

dependence and Bravo.



When I returned, about 3 P. M., and little time we shall learn how many lives was talking with some acquaintances at have been sacrificed by treason or ignorance the corner of Jesus and San Manuel streets, we heard some shots which we

were sure were fired at the gate of Candelaria; as a matter of course all the world immediately ran, and I came home. The tumult was of short duration, and at this hour all is quiet as on former days; what will they serve? Their spirits are no firing being heard in any direction.

It is said, that the last cannon shots were in the Candelaria, [at the garita of San Antonio,] and were directed against a party of the enemy's cavalry, who are tired in consequence. This occurrence, leaving the ranks and returning to their and the cessation, of firing indicates the loss of San Antonio, Churubusco, and

Mexicalcingo, and that probably Santa Anna is a prisoner or has made a capitulation. According to some, the nationals are situated in the Niño Perdido, according to others, in the gate of Belin. It is said that the brigade of Rangel has returned to the city—the brigade of Herrera, that was at the Peñon, I saw enter about half past 11, and take the route towards the public walls. It is probable they are destined for Chapultepec or Tacubaya.

All, in my opinion, is entirely useless, yesterday very well, but that in the end because with or without reason Santa Anna is generally accused of treason!—What then can be hoped for?

I only know of the death of Pedrigan; this morning took up a soldier said he had seen him with two shots, one in the loins and one in the ribs. A great many wounded have come in, and 40 went to San Andres, according to the account of the surgeon, who lives there.

I am going out to investigate what happens! what mortal anguish!

6 o'clock. Returned from the palace; a great many declare that the complete rout of Valencia in the hills of Contreras, was owing to his being completely abandoned. Amongst the dead are named Don Sebastian Blanco and Frontera. In a

7 o'clock. At this moment various bodies of troops are entering, who cannot be distinguished for want of light. It appears that they are all concentrating in the city.

It is said there are yet 15,000. But for broken, and there is a universal want of confidence; and in this state of things, even if there were 200,000 it would be all ignominy. The Nationals (Polkas) are

leaving the ranks and returning to their homes. Saturday, Aug. 21, 6 o'clock A. M. A short time since Santa Anna was seen marching for the gate of Candelaria with some 3000 infantry, all full of mud and bare footed, and some 800 cavalry have

It marched, for the gate of San Lazaro which seems to indicate that we shall shortly have an action.

I have been able to learn nothing about the enemy or his movements during the night. Nothing is known of General Bravo or his division. It is said that those of Independence and Bravo fought

yesterday very well, but that in the end they were taken prisoners, together with Gorostiza.

2, P. M. The troops that marched took up their positions at the gates. Nothing has yet occurred whatever—the public talk is past bearing—nothing is known with certainty. What seems most certain is that a commission, consisting of Mora Villamil, Arrangoiz and McIntosh have gone to Scott. No one doubts now that peace will be made. The troops are all broken-

spirited and yesterday they were so frightened, cowed, that from Churubusco the division of Perez, including himself, went as far as the Peñon. If I had not received this from persons of veracity I could not have believed it, but this explains



why they were so covered with mud this morning.

It is said openly everywhere that Santa Anna has committed treason—that the division of Valencia and especially his infantry fought well with the main body of the Yankees, and that if Santa Anna had assisted them they would have triumphed; but that instead of so doing he retired from the field, and looked in cold blood upon the destruction of the flower of the army! But why should I tire myself in repeating this to you? You know it better than I do as I am told Valencia has gone with Olaguibel.

It is not true that Pedrigan is killed. Gen'l Bravo is in Mexico, Gen'l. Rincon and Anaya are said to be prisoners.

5, P. M. At 4 o'clock all the troops returned to their barracks and at once I inferred that negotiations were on foot. I went out to inquire and Don J. N. told me, referring to Arrangoiz, that there was an armistice concluded but for what time was not known. We made inquiries: some said for 24 and others 48 hours.

A strange circumstance relating to this is that the armistice was asked for by both parties at one and the same time. I was likewise told by Noriego that the President had addressed Congress stating that a meeting was indispensable by 12 o'clock, but that only 26 deputies met.

From all these dates you will form your own opinion. For my part I believe it will end in a most shameful manner for us.

The Yankees occupy the hacienda of Portalis, Churubusco and Coyoacan, and this gives me some concern for my house, but according to what I have been able to hear, they do no injury.

F. L.

(There are many errors in this letter, which was evidently

written by one who partook of the general alarm, and is only valuable as a general testimony to the state of feeling in Mexico, during the progress of events.)

MEXICO, Aug. 21, 1847.

I take pen in hand with sorrow to communicate to you the sad news that, without knowing how, we have in a few hours lost all.

A great deal of time would be needful to give you even a slight sketch of what has occurred since our starting on the 9th, until our entrance into the capital yesterday evening, tired and low-spirited, after a fatigue since 4 o'clock A. M., but luckily we find ourselves with life, giving thanks to Providence that has saved us from the imminent peril in which we were placed at 11 o'clock yesterday, when we were on the point of perishing with the Batt'ns of Hidalgo and Victoria. Whilst this happened, our companions of Independence and Bravo have been nearly exterminated, and the Brigade of Gen'l Perez has disappeared with the artillery that guarded the bridge of Churubusco, and there was lost here what we had saved from San Antonio.

I have been in peril, and 12 days well worked; but I count them as well employed, having witnessed the military knowledge of this unfortunate country. It has caused us the necessity of opening our gates to the enemy, and I cannot perceive the least grounds for the expectation of a triumph hereafter.

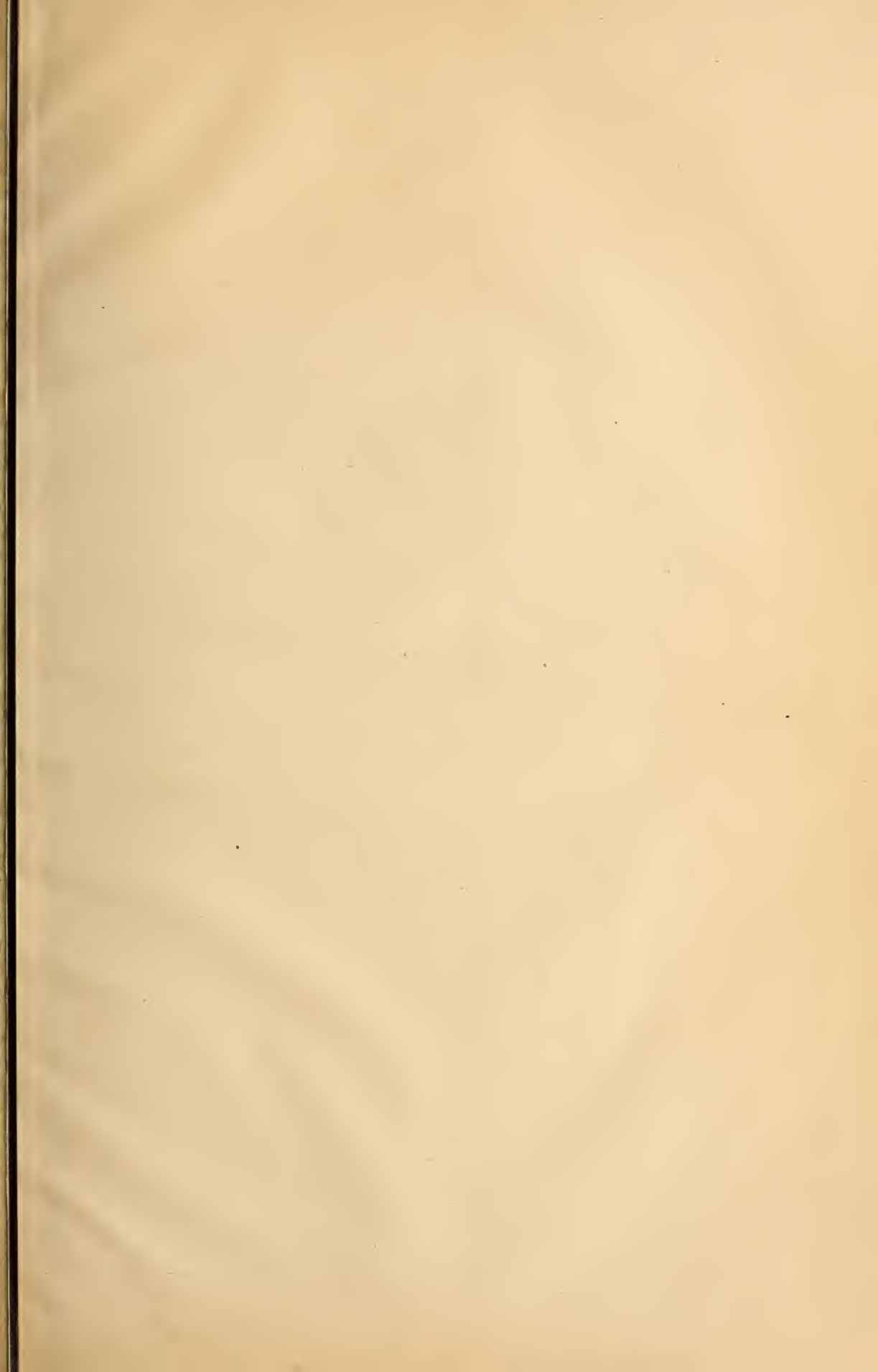
My blood boils when I recollect the unfortunate disasters of yesterday; and when I am more composed I will refer again to the subject, or I will see you personally if the diligence leaves to-morrow or Monday.

We do not certainly know to what extent our misfortunes may go.





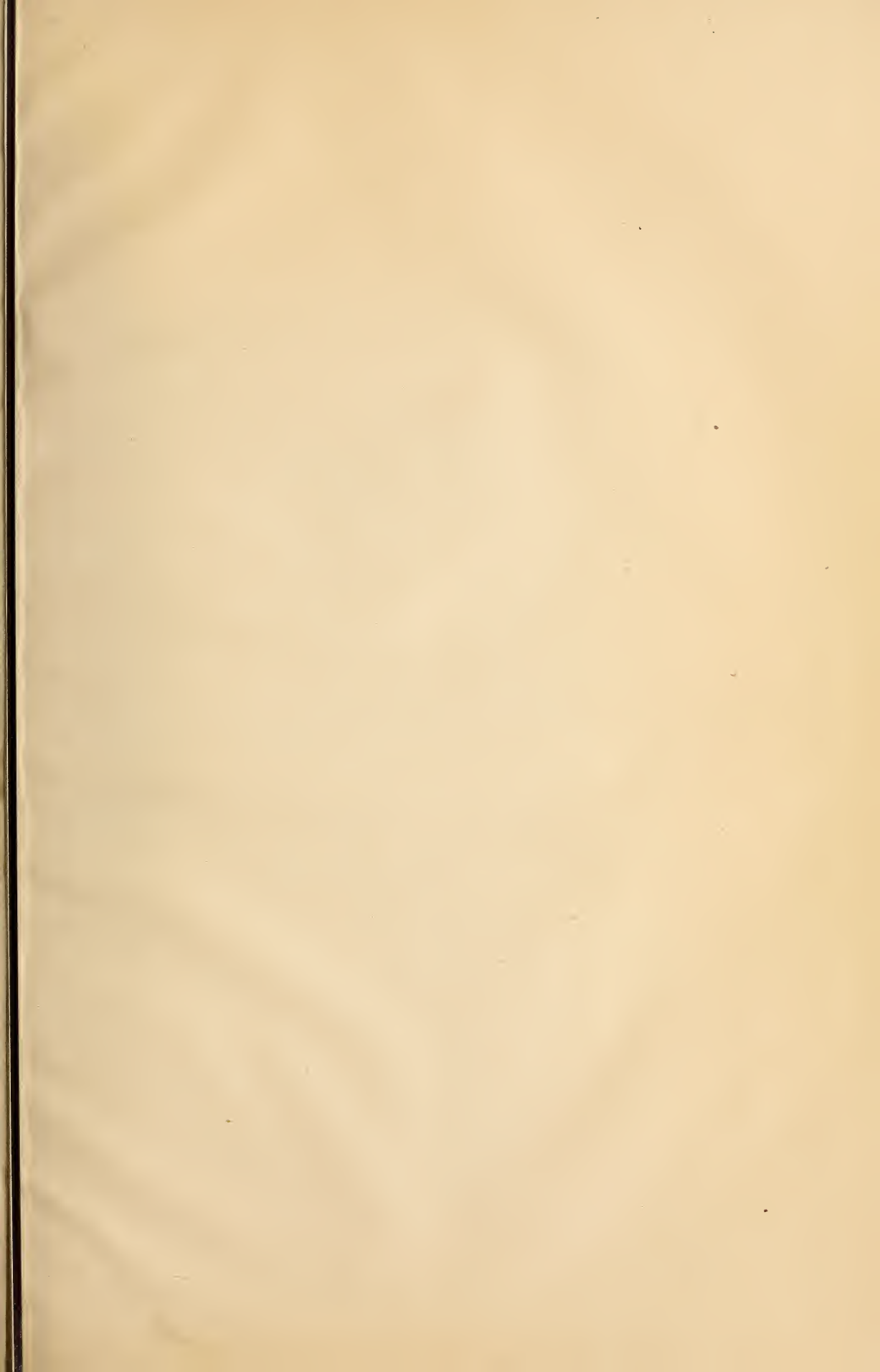








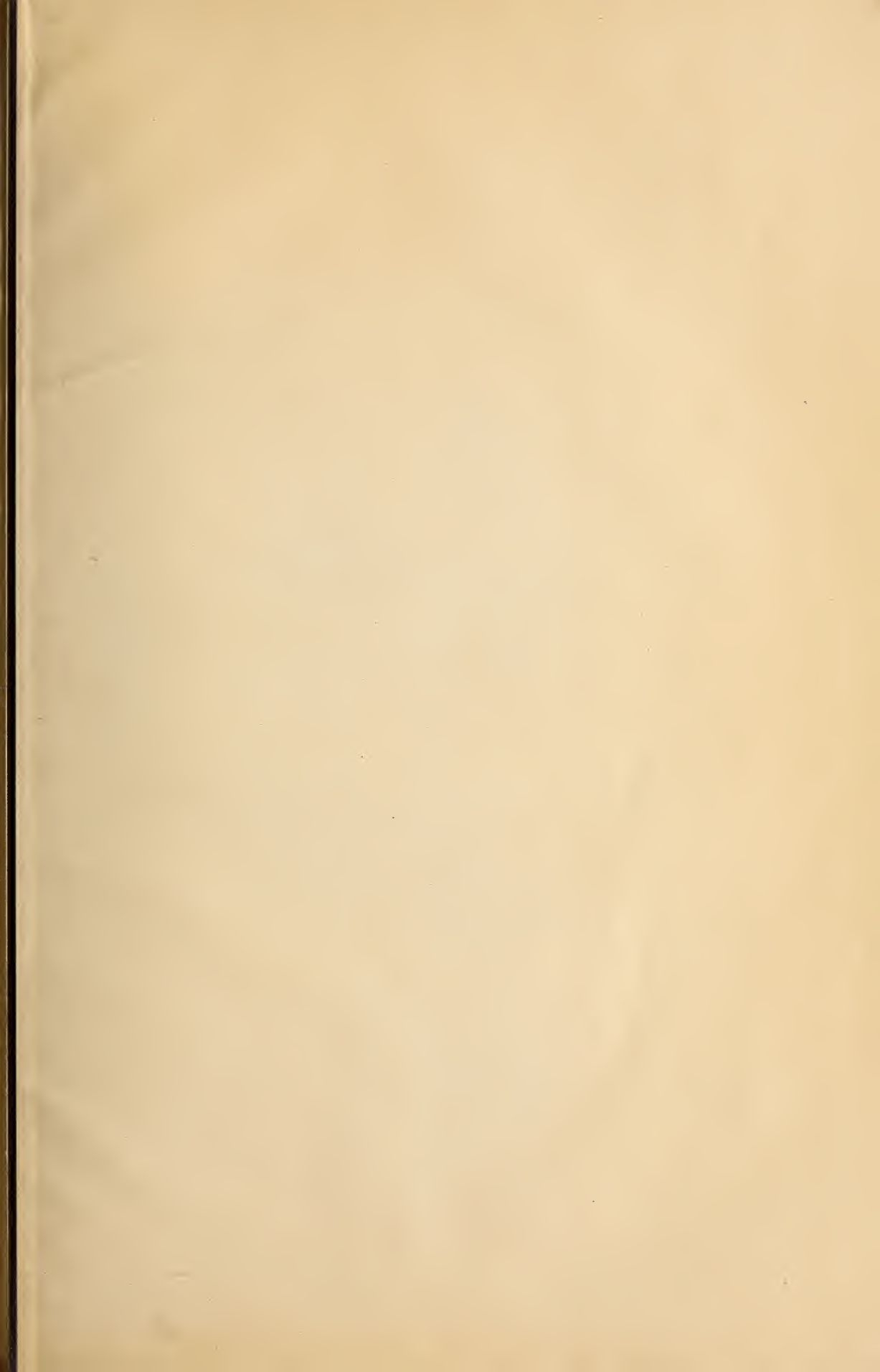








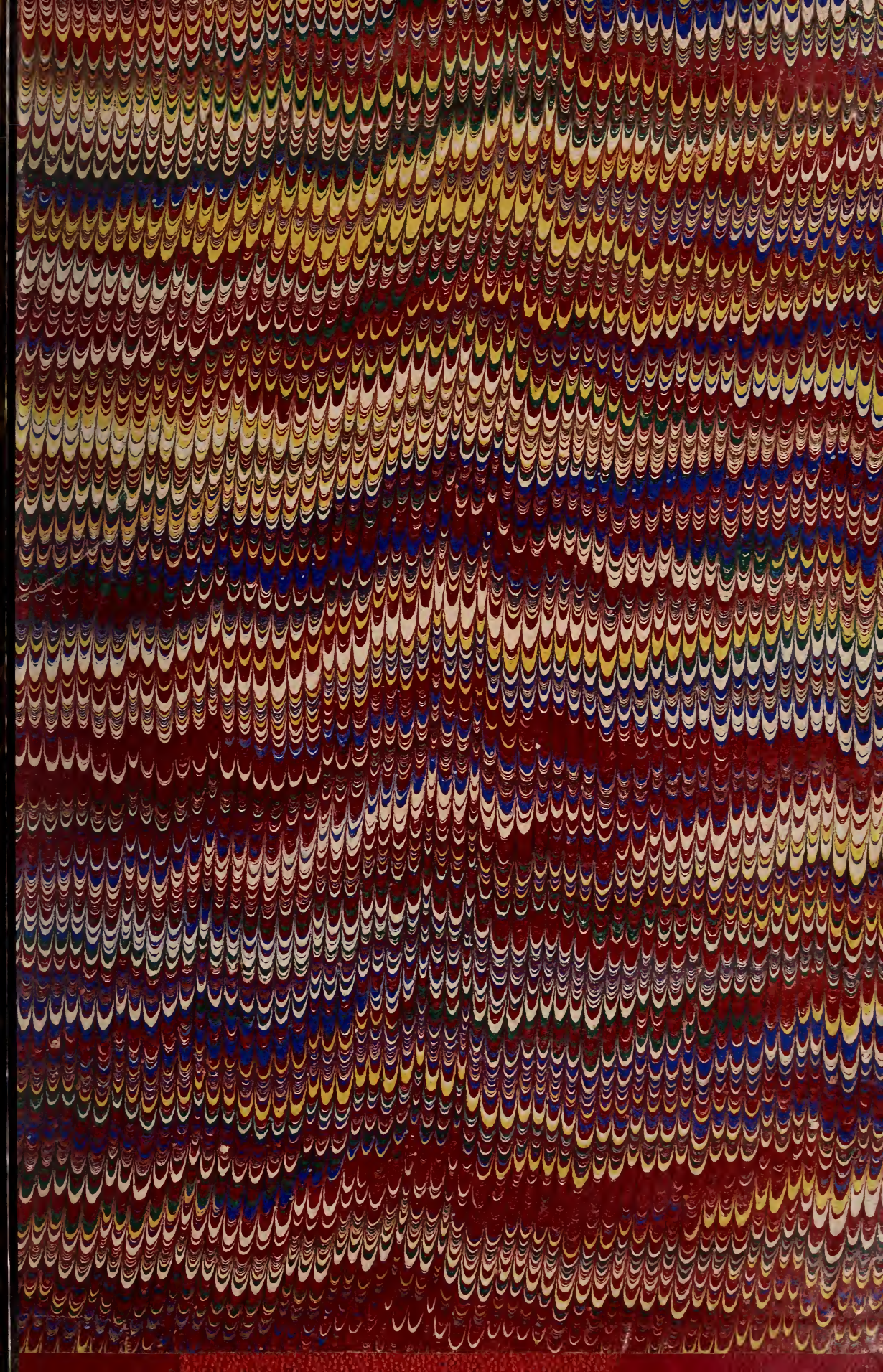














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