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## The Nation's Requiem.

BY ROBERT E. H. LEVERING.

Air.—"Pleyel's Hymn."

Battle joy and battle woe,  
Chequer'd tidings mingling flow,  
Sound of glorious victory,  
Plains of conquerors who die,  
Triumph palm and cypress gloom—  
Glory's path is to the tomb!

Triumphers in martial fame,  
Breathing in the patriot flame,  
Marking with full ecstasy,  
Freedom's banner waving high,  
Whence the mingling sigh and tear  
As ye muse the Southern war!

Ye have gladness for the time,  
Mark'd by victory sublime—  
Souls to give, and hearts to stand  
Nobly by your native land!  
Ye have tears, and shed them, too,  
For the dead who died for you.

Weepers round the nation's urn,  
Noble hearts that nobly mourn,  
Sighing for the mighty slain;  
Dead—they'd live to die again—  
As their ling'ring spirits said,  
Well ye weep the Nation's Dead!

Sigh, but do not sigh in vain;  
Mute, but muse the battle plain,  
As ye mourn their triumphs done,  
Seek the deathless wreath they won;  
As ye weep beyond control,  
Gird their mantles 'round your soul!

View them linked with Washington,  
Worthies of the eras gone,  
Whispering from the world on high—  
Triumph wreaths for chivalry—  
Pointing to the path they trod,  
Glory's path to glory's God!

Spirits of the spirit land,  
Glittering as a hero band,  
Ye shall cherish thoughts of peace,  
Soothing from the land of bliss—  
Ye shall come with greatest pow'r,  
Nerving for the battle hour!

Ye shall through the glory field  
Stir to martial fame and deed—  
Whisper, if we there survive,  
"Sweet for native land to live!"  
Whisper, if we bleeding lie,  
"Sweeter still for it to die!"

## Correspondence Between Gen. Scott and the War Department.

Head quarters of the Army,  
WASHINGTON, May 21, 1846.

Sir—I have received no orders, as yet, assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised to conquer a peace within Mexico; but I have been told to hold myself in readiness for that service. From that moment I have occupied myself, incessantly, with the vast preliminary arrangements which can only be made advantageously at this place, through the respective chiefs of the general staff—the adjutant general, quartermaster general, commissary general of subsistence, chief of ordnance, and surgeon general. I have been much occupied also in the distribution of the quotas of volunteers needed among the several States; in appointing the horse to the foot; in the study of the routes of march and water conveyances for the several bodies of troops to the best points in the frontiers of Mexico; in the study of the northern interior, and the southern routes of that republic; in looking to the means of transportation on the Rio Grande, to and beyond that river; in determining the depots of supplies of all sorts on this side, &c., &c.

As these matters are respectively settled, orders and instruction have been, or will be given, to the chiefs of the general staff at this place, and the routes of march and water conveyances, together with the depots of supplies of every description, are finally to be communicated to the unknown commanders of volunteers whose services are to be accepted.

In the midst of these multitudinous and indispensable occupations I have learned from you that much impatience is already felt, perhaps in high quarters, that I have not already put myself in route for the Rio Grande; and now, with fourteen hours a day of preliminary work remaining on my hands for many days, I find myself compelled to stop that necessary work to guard myself against, perhaps, utter condemnation in the quarters alluded to. I am too old a soldier, and have too much special experience, not to feel the infinite importance of securing myself against danger (ill will or precondemnation) in my rear before advancing upon the public enemy.

Not an advantageous step can be taken in a forward march without the confidence that all is well behind. If insecure in that quarter, no general can put his whole heart and mind into the work to be done in front. I am, therefore, not a little alarmed, nay crippled in my energies, by the knowledge of the impatience in question, and I beg to say I fear no other danger.

My intentions have been, after making all preliminary arrangements here, to pass down the Ohio and Mississippi, to see, or

assure myself by correspondence, that the volunteers, on whom we are mostly to rely in the prosecution of the existing war, are rapidly assembling for service; to learn the probable time of their readiness to advance upon Mexico; to ascertain if their supplies of every kind are in place, or are likely to be in place in sufficient time; to hasten one and the other; to harmonize the movements of volunteers, and to modify their routes (if necessary) so that all, or at least a sufficient number, shall arrive at the indicated points in the Mexican frontier at the best periods, and, as far as practicable, about the same time. All that I have but sketched I deem to be not only useful to success, but indispensable. As a soldier I make this assertion without the fear of contradiction from any honest and candid soldier.

Again the *ad captivum* condemnation of all other persons whoever may be designated for the high command in question, there can be no reliance (in his absence) other than the active, candid, and steady support of his government. If I cannot have that sure basis to rest upon, it will be infinitely better for the country (not to speak of my personal security) that some other commander of the new army against Mexico should be selected. No matter what he may be, he shall, at least, be judged and supported by me, in this office and every where else, as I would desire, if personally in that command, to be myself judged and supported.

My explicit meaning is, that I do not desire to place myself in the most perilous of all positions—A FIRE UPON MY REAR FROM WASHINGTON, AND A FIRE IN FRONT FROM THE MEXICANS.

It was distinctly admitted, and laid down as a basis, in the interviews I had the honor to hold with the President and yourself on the subject, that a special army of some thirty thousand troops, regulars, and twelve months' volunteers, would be necessary for the march against, and the conquest of a peace in Mexico. I adhere to that opinion. It is foreseen, with tolerable certainty, that we shall not have, in many months, more than seven thousand (if quite so many) regulars, applicable to that service. The remaining numbers are to be made up in volunteer horse and foot. I suppose of these, taken together, about 17,000 have been actually called for. There is yet good time I think to make the additions suggested in one of the tables I had the honor to submit last night.

But for the conquest of a peace, by regular, incessant, and forward movements, the basis of our calculations here (as to numbers) must be altogether extravagant, if a much larger army, including that in position, and one very differently composed, (in horse and foot), be not necessary. It was to command such larger army that I understood myself likely as to be sent to the Mexican frontier, as it is always unjust to a junior general who has done well, to supersede him by a general of higher rank, without sending with the latter corresponding reinforcements. I should esteem myself the unhappy instrument of wounding the honorable pride of the gallant and judicious Taylor, if ordered to supersede him under different circumstances.

However the foregoing suggestions, (hastily thrown together) may be viewed, I have deemed it due more to the country than my humble self, that I should present them, and await the wishes or the orders of the President.

With great respect, I have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient serv't.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. Marcy, Sec'y of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
May 25, 1846.

Entertaining, as it is most evident you do, the opinion that such are the motives and designs of the Executive towards you, and declaring it to be your explicit meaning that "you do not desire to place yourself in the most perilous of all positions—A FIRE UPON YOUR REAR FROM WASHINGTON, AND THE FIRE IN FRONT FROM THE MEXICANS," and so entertaining them entirely without cause, or even the shadow of justification, the President would be wanting in his duty to the country, if he were to persist in his determination of imposing upon you the command of the army in the war against Mexico. He would probably misunderstand the object you had in view in writing your letter, and disappointing your expectations, if he did not believe that it was intended to effect a change of his purpose in this respect. I am, therefore, directed by him to say that you will be continued in your present position here, and will devote your efforts to making arrangements and preparations for the early and vigorous prosecution of hostilities against Mexico.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your obedient servant.

W. L. MARCY,  
Major General WINFIELD SCOTT,  
Commanding General, &c.

Headquarters of the Army,  
Washington, May 25, 1846.

Sir—Your letter of this date, received at about 6 P. M., as I sat down to take a

hasty plate of soup, demands a prompt reply.

You have taken four days to reflect, and to convict me, upon my letter to you of the 21st instant, of official, perhaps, personal disrespect to the constitutional commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States.

If you have succeeded in imparting that impression to the President, then, by the conclusion of your letter, written in his behalf, I am placed under very high obligations to his magnanimity—may I not add, to his kindness!—in not placing me instantly in arrest, and before a general court martial. I may then hope that the President saw no such intended disrespect; and I can assure you both that I feel too great a deference to the constitution and the laws of my country to offer or to design an indignity to our chief magistrate.

The strongest passages in my condemned letter are, I think hypothetical. In it, I spoke of "impatience"—"perhaps high quarters," of "perhaps utter condemnation, in the quarters alluded to," of the "infinite importance of securing myself against danger (ill will or precondemnation) in my rear," and of that "most perilous of all positions" to any commander—"a fire upon [his] rear from Washington," and the [his] rear from the Mexicans."—And I also spoke of the necessity of "the active, candid, and steady support of such commander's government" in the hope of conciliating it.

Now, if there be any offence to the President in these passages—the intention of committing which I utterly disclaim—it must, in candor, be found in the meaning of the passages "high quarters" and the "quarters alluded to," which qualify all the others quoted by you.

It will be perceived that I spoke not of the HIGHEST QUARTERS, but, in the plural, "high quarters;" and I beg as an act of justice, no less to myself than the President, to say I meant "impatience," and even "precondemnation," on your part, and the known, open, and violent condemnation of me on the part of several leading and supposed confidants of the President in the two houses of Congress, (high quarters); because, on an intimation—not an order—I did not fly to the Rio Grande, without waiting for the invading army, yet to be raised—nay abandoning it to get to that river as I could, and without the least regard to the honorable pride and distinction of the gallant general already in command on that river; who, we knew, had done well, was doing well, and who I was quite sure, and his little army, would, if the occasion offered, cover themselves with glory. My prediction, in this respect, has been fully accomplished.

But that I did fear, and meant to express the fear in my hasty letter of the 21st, that those persons here enumerated would sooner or later impart their precondemnation of me to the President, I will not deny. My letter was written, in part, to guard both the President and myself against such a result, which would have been fatal, not only to me, but perhaps, for a campaign to the service of the country. Hence the details I entered into to the President and the Secretary of War—neither supposed to be professionally experienced in the technical preliminaries of a campaign—what had been, and what would continue for some days—my incessant occupations. There is no special pleading in this explanation. It is written and offered in good faith; in proof of which I beg to refer to my letter to you of this date, sent here three hours before the reception of that to which I am now replying.

You speak of my interview with the President on the subject of the intended formidable invasion of Mexico. I wish I had the time to do justice to my recollection of the President's excellent sense, military comprehension, patience, and courtesies, in these interviews. I have since often spoken of the admirable qualities he displayed on those occasions, with honor, as far as it was in my power to do him honor.

And to you, sir, allow me to say I have not accused you, and do not mean to accuse you, of a set purpose to discredit me as the commander at first designed for the new army that is to invade Mexico. I bear in mind with pleasure the many personal courtesies that I have, for long years received at your hands. But I have for many days believed that you have allowed yourself to be influenced against me by the clamor of some of the friends to whom I have alluded. To that source, and from no ill-will of your own, I have feared that you had not made, and were not likely to make, the just and easy explanations in my behalf, which might be made. You are also aware of other causes of uneasiness I have against the department—of the want of that confidence and support necessary to my official position—whether here or on the Rio Grande. I have heretofore explained myself on these points, which renders repetition unnecessary.

Whether it shall be the pleasure of the President to send me to the Rio Grande, (which I would prefer), or to retain me here, I can only say, I am equally ready to do my duty in either position, with all my zeal and all my ability.

In great haste I have the honor to remain your obedient serv't.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. Marcy, Sec'y of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, May 27, 1846.

Sir—I had the honor to receive your letter of yesterday, at my office, about 9 o'clock at night.

As you do not say that you had shown my explanatory note to you of the previous night, May 25, to the President, may I beg you to lay the fair copy (herewith) before him? In this copy I have inserted in brackets a material word; "friends"—accidentally omitted in a hurry of writing, and also a development of my meaning in another place, in red ink and in brackets.

Allow me to recapitulate some of the principal facts in my present (to me) unfortunate misunderstanding with the War Department.

About the 13th inst., both you and the President expressed the desire, very explicitly, that I should conduct, on an extensive scale, with the new forces about to be raised, the conquest of a peace within Mexico. I considered myself honored by the intended appointment, and I beg that my expression on the occasion, which I need not here repeat may be remembered.

I have said in my letter to you of the 21st instant, "I have received no orders as yet, assigning me to the immediate command of the army about to be raised," &c. No officer of the army or navy was ever despatched by any executive, on distant and important service, without written instructions, or orders from his government. I have received no such paper, and have never even heard that such paper had been drawn up, or was even in preparation for me. It is evident, then, that, without written instructions, or orders, I could not have left my habitual duties here, independent of the preliminary arrangements for the formidable movements contemplated against Mexico.

On the 18th instant, hearing that Mexican troops had passed the Rio Grande, and of the capture of Capt. Thornton's detachment, I addressed a letter to Gen. Taylor, a copy of which I annex, and beg it also, (with this letter,) may be laid before the President. The letter to Gen. Taylor was twice sent up to you before it was despatched, and at your instance, was changed (by the omission of a paragraph) to the exact shape of this copy.

Its last paragraph in these words: "I do not now expect to reach the Rio Grande much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to above, or to assume the immediate command in that quarter before my arrival."

I quote this paragraph to show that I did not expect to be sent to the Rio Grande, and did not even suspect it was the intention of the President, or yourself, to send me thither, "much ahead of the heavy reinforcements alluded to"—viz: some twenty odd thousand volunteers, besides a few additional regulars.

Though I had occasion to see you twice or thrice in the meantime, I heard no complaint from you, and received no correction of that misapprehension—if, in fact, I had fallen into any—before the evening of the 29th inst. when you spoke of the impatience manifested at my occupations (or delay) here—which complaint caused my letter to you of the next morning—May 21st.

It seemed, therefore, evident to me at the time, that your complaint had been caused by the out of door clamors to which I have since alluded.

Three hours before I received your letter of the 25th inst. conveying the displeasure of the Executive, and without the least expectation of receiving such a letter, I had sent in to you my report or note of the same day, (the 25th) which concluded with this declaration:

"I think my preliminary and necessary occupation may be ended here in (say) three days more, when—promising that after the great and brilliant victories of the gallant Taylor, (of which we have recently heard,) I should be ashamed to supersede him before the arrival of competent reinforcements to penetrate the interior of Mexico, and to conquer a peace—I shall be ready for any instructions or orders with which the President may honor me."

And again on that day (the night of the 25th) after receiving the censure of the President, through your letter, I concluded my prompt explanatory reply, thus:

"Whether it shall be the pleasure of the President to send me to the Rio Grande, (which I would prefer), or to retain me here, I can only say I am equally ready to do my duty in either position with all my zeal and all my ability."

I still hope when the President shall have read that explanatory letter and the foregoing exposition of facts attentively, he may be willing to recur to his original purpose, and accord to my senior rank the preference which I have never ceased to entertain, & which I should have pressed with incessant zeal, but for the apprehensions heretofore expressed, and which your letter have nearly, if not quite, re-

moved. I therefore beg to claim that command, when ever the President deem it proper to give me the assignment—whether to-day, or at any other better time, he may be pleased to designate.

In your rejoinder to me of yesterday (May 26th) which I have acknowledged above, you quote from my letter of explanation the words: "You are also aware of other causes of uneasiness I have against the department," &c. &c.

Your notice of this complaint, on my part, is so liberal—not to say kind—that I am bound to be frank and explicit, as to one of those causes. I had, upon my mind, in hastily penning those words, these facts: Brigadier General Wool was called to this place, by a letter of your own writing, to command, under me, one of the detached columns against Mexico, according to an understanding between the President, you, and me, that to effect. I saw Gen. Wool first, the day of his arrival (May 17) and communicated to him the purpose of his being called to this place.

In a day or two I learned from General Wool that, notwithstanding my intimation, he had been told by you, he might not be ultimately assigned to that command, because, perhaps, other generals might be authorized and appointed, for the army, and called into service from the States. That information gave me no serious apprehensions for Gen. Wool or myself, until I saw, in the morning of the 20th a bill reported in the Senate (at your immediate instance I knew,) the day before, providing for two major generals, and four brigadier generals, to be added to the regular military establishment, besides giving to the President the power of selecting State Generals for the command of the 50,000 volunteers. I then thought I saw a strong probability that both Gen. Wool and myself would be superseded, at least in the war against Mexico, by two of the new regular generals of our respective grades, to be appointed, as was generally understood, from civil or political life. It was then that my apprehensions became serious, as may be seen in my letter to you on the following day, (May 21st), and in many of my subsequent acts. From that moment, (before my letter of the 21st) I have had but little doubt down to last night, that if that bill became a law—connecting it with the clamors against me, to which I have alluded—I should not be sent against Mexico.

I will now, however, hope for better fortune; still appealing to the justice of the President for all the rights of senior rank. I have the honor to remain, sir, your most obedient servant.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

P. S. I add to the papers, herewith, a copy of Col. Butler's EXPLANATORY NOTES of a rough sketch made by him, of Northern Mexico, which is very valuable.—The Colonel, in the notes, is not so full on the rainy season as he and Gen. J. T. Mason were in conversation with me. I beg again to refer to them personally.

W. S.

Hon. Wm. L. Marcy, Sec'y of War.

War Department, June 2, 1846.

Your communications have all been laid before the President, but I have received no instructions to change or modify the directions contained in the closing part of my letter of the 25th ultimo.

Very respectfully your ob't serv't,  
WILLIAM L. MARCY,  
Major General, W. Scott.

Correspondence of the St. Louis Republican.

INDEPENDENCE, (Mo.) May 26.

A gentleman who has just arrived from the California camp on Kansas river, informs me that the company had organized before reaching that point, but had divided, owing to a slight altercation which took place between Captain Russell and Rev. Mr. Dunleavy—Russell called off all that were willing to go with him as their commander, leaving a large party who chose Dunleavy as their captain. It was generally believed that Gov. Boogs would return. They had received news that several thousand Mormons had crossed the river at Iowa Point, on their way to California. As Boogs apprehended some danger of being assassinated by them, he began to talk strongly of returning. It was impossible to obtain a correct estimate of the number of wagons and souls in the emigrating parties up to the time our informant left, two hundred and thirty wagons had crossed Kansas river. It was supposed there were about sixty yet to cross.—The number of souls in both the Oregon and California companies, in the aggregate, is estimated at about two thousand.

Several companies of Mexican traders have gone out since the war news reached here, and are making rapid pace across the plains to get into Mexico as soon as possible. They fear the U. S. troops at Fort Leavenworth will be ordered to intercept them. Several companies yet to go out are hesitating whether they will go or not; but the boldest will venture at any rate. They have no dread of anything, if they can once get

into Mexico; but they fear interruption on the part of the United States. There is a report out, that troops from Fort Leavenworth had been ordered to Council Grove, on the Santa Fe road, to examine wagons as they pass, and seize upon all the powder and ammunition that they may find going to Mexico as merchandise. This report is not generally credited. Several companies of traders contemplate leaving in about ten days.—St. Vrain, of Bent's Fort, is expected in a few days. A small company of three wagons arrived this morning from the mountains; they bring no news of interest.

Gen. S. Lucas of the 4th Division of the Missouri Militia, has received orders from the Adjutant General of the State to raise seven companies of volunteers, to organize and be brought under discipline and hold themselves in readiness to enter the service at a moment's warning. The general day for volunteering in this place is fixed for next Wednesday. The fire of the military spirit has caught in this upper country, and many are anxious to engage in the conflict. Most of them do not like to volunteer, and remain at home inactive; they wish to enter the service as soon as they volunteer. If volunteers were to be called for to march to the scene of war immediately, you would find whole regiments from upper Missouri who would pour in. But at the time we received the call of Gov. Edwards for 1200 men, it was too late to get in—the number required was nearly made up in St. Louis before the news reached us. There are a few fighting men in upper Missouri, and if they want them they can get them in short order.

We see it mentioned in the St. Louis papers, that it was in contemplation to raise volunteer companies in Missouri, to march to New Mexico and take it. The opinion of those here who know best, is that such a thing would be exceedingly impolitic, and that it would ruin our trade with that country. Every business man in St. Louis knows, or ought to know, that a very large amount of goods are annually bought there for New Mexico, and if we send a military force against them without cause or provocation, (for they are with us in part,) it would intercept this trade entirely, and thereby cut off a traffic that has reached to near two millions of dollars per annum. If the war is protracted, or if our citizens should be ill-treated in New Mexico, it would then become necessary to send a military force there to protect them, but under the present condition of affairs it would not be expedient to send any armed force there whatever. If the war continues, and the trade across to New Mexico is still kept up, it will be increased at least four-fold over what it ever has been. No doubt New Mexico will fall into our hands, with the Californias, if the war should be protracted. But if a negotiation should be brought about shortly, such will not be the case.

Business is quite brisk here; crops very promising—wheat never looked better in the country at this season than now.

Yours,  
B.

HENRY HORN.

In our last we stated on the authority of a report from Washington, that Henry Horn, the gentleman who Gen. Jackson said, "can't lie," had been confirmed as Collector of the Port of Philadelphia.—This was incorrect, as he had been rejected by a vote of 25 to 21, but has since been re-nominated to the Senate for the same office, President Polk, having resolved to act upon the precedent set by Gen. Jackson, to rebuke the Senate for daring to act counter to his will. We shall see whether the Senate will succumb, and lick the hard of power up-raised!—Pa. Tel.

The New York Herald says:—"We understand that the immense estate of Lord Townly, which had been in the Chancery for many years, has lately been decided, and the amount is over \$70,000,000. Heirs are wanted for three quarters of the estate—one quarter of the amount having been decided to belong to an aid of the Duke of Wellington. The other heirs in the United States, for whom Mr. Croubie, of New York city is concerned, are about to put forth a claim, having the same relationship to the deceased as the gentleman who has perfected his claim."

PURPOSES OF THE EXECUTIVE.

The following semi-official paragraph is from the Washington Union:

"Gen. TAYLOR had, according to the last accounts, about 8,000 troops under his eagles. Hundreds and thousands of volunteers were pouring into his camp. He will soon be in advance into the enemy's country; and we shall not be surprised to hear of his reaching Monterey, about 130 miles from Matamoros, about the commencement of the table-land, in a healthy region, at no distant day."

"Annexation and war—that's true, every word of it," said a pert old man: "no sooner do you get married than you begin to fight!"