An Important Official Document—The Spanish Admiral's Account of the Bom-bardment of Valparaiso—The Negotia-tions of Gen. Kilpatrick, Com. Rodgers and the British Admiral.

Headquarters of Her Catholic Majesty's squadron in the Pacific, on board the Numancia, in the Bay of Valparaiso, the 2d day of April 1826

day of April, 1866.

To Her Majesty's Envoy Exrtaordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, at Washington.

EXCELLENCY: In order that your Excellency may form an exact idea of the occurrences of the last fortnight, I have the honor of placing before you a summary of the most recent events, regretting that want of time should prevent my sending copies of the despatches I have addressed to Her Ma-

jesty's Government.
On the 17th of last month I was invited to dine by the American Commodore Rodgers, on board of his flagship. During dinner, the Commodore expressed ardent wishes for the termination of our difficulty with Chile, and suggested that, were I clothed with full powers, the attainment of such an object might, in his opinion, be accomplished. Upon being informed that I had the necessary powers, he said that he would immediately communicate with his Minister and see if their united efforts could not secure

peace.

A few days after, I received the visit of A few days after, I received the visit of the Commodore and of General Kilpatrick. Both seemed animated by the best wishes, and invited me to join them in a conference which, though of a private and confidential nature, might perhaps result in the termination of the war.

Upon my acceptance of the proposal, the American Minister said to me, that although the conference was strictly confidential, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic had notice of the step that was now being taken, and that he (the American Minister) as well as the Commodore, who had taken the initiative in the matter, were very much interested in arriving at the object they had in view. The Commodore made some remarks to abow the inconveniences which he marks to anow the inconveniences which he thought existed for Spain, in the prolongation of this war; and giving me to understand that an unforeseen obstacle would be met with, if the bombardment of Valparaiso were attempted, he proposed a plan for

an arrangement which he considered equally honorable to both belligerents.

In accordance with this plan, there should be a cessation of hostilities, my credentials presented, and a new investigation made of the different grievances against Chile. As an earnest of peace there should first has an earnest of peace, there should first be a reciprocal salute of one-and-twenty guns, in the following manner: The flags of Spain and Chile, hoisted at the mast-heads of the English and American flagships, should be saluted by the guns of the two squadrons, and in this salute a Chilean fort and the Spanish squadron should join, in such manner, that, with the roise and the smoke, it should never be known by whom the first

As your Excellency may readily suppose,
As your Excellency may readily suppose,
I rejected this arrangement, acknowledging, however, the good intention that had
suggested it, and stating that the instructions of my Government were so positive,
that notwithstanding any difficulties I might have to overcome; and should I go to the bottom of the Pacific in the attempt, I must have from Chile the satisfaction which was due to us.

Moved, nevertheless, by a sincere desire for reconciliation, I would take upon myself the immense responsibility of not requiring any other satisfaction than that conquiring any other satisfaction than that contained in the arrangement proposed by England and France, and accepted by Spain, to which I would only add, the restitution of the Covadonga, with its flags, arms and crew, in return for the prizes and prisoners I had in my power, I at the same time gave notice that if, by eight o'clock on the morning of the 27th, I should not have received an answer, accepting the terms of this arrangement, I would address a communication to the Diplomatic Corps fixing cation to the Diplomatic Corps fixing a delay, at the expiration of which I would open fire on Valparaiso.

Both the Minister and the Commodore found the terms honorable. General Kilpatrick said he would exert himself to his utmost to have them accepted by Chile, adding, that, however strange it might appear, it was his predecessor, Mr. Nelson, who had most strenuously opposed any concession to Spain—so much so that unpleaswords had already passed between them. On the following day, General Kilpatrick left for Santiago, not without hope, and the promise, given of his own accord, that he would let me know the result of his negotiation. Both the Minister and the Commodore

On the 27th, before eight o'clock in the morning, General Kilpatrick again came on board of my ship, with Commodore Rodgers. His efforts had been in vain. The reply of the Chilean Government was that, in so short a time it was not possible to assemble and consult the accredited representatives of the allied Republics. In consequence of this reply, I stated to the Minister of the United States, that, as I had previously informed him, I would within an hour send him the promised company an hour send him the promised communi-

The Commodore then told me more clearly what the unforeseen obstacle would be, to which he had alluded in our, former interview. He said that probably he would not be able to remain a passive spectator of the destruction of a defenceless city; that perhaps he might be compalled to oppose it by haps he might be compelled to oppose it by force; and that he thought the commander of the naval forces of Great Britain would join him for the same purpose. I replied that I should be extremely sorry to collide with him after the warm interest he had shown for Spain and her agents; but that such considerations would not be sufficient to prevent my executing the orders of my Government. The Commodore approved my resolution, and said to me, on taking ive, that whatever might be the conse quences of the conflict, I must ever be assured of his friendship and esteem. The same words were repeated by General Kil-

One hour after this interview I sent my communication to the American Minister, in order that through him it might reach the other members of the Diplomatic corps at Santiago.
On the 29th of March I received the visit

of Admiral Denman, who told me that he had been informed by the American Commodore of my interviews with the United States Minister; that the laws of war did not authorize the destruction of defenceless not authorize the destruction of defenceless cities, inhabited almost exclusively by foreigners; that it would be impossible for him to be a passive spectator of such a deed; that he would have to adopt measures the extent of which he could not then define, and that he bagged me not to commence and that he begged me not to commence operations until the arrival of the mails from Europe. My answer was that as to the question of right, the decision belonged to my Government, but that as an officer I should obey my orders, and that, whatever might be the attitude assumed by the naval forces then in the bay, however reluctant I might be to come to such an extremity, however formidable those forces might be, no earthly consideration should detain me from the discharge of my duty. The Adno earthly consideration should detain me from the discharge of my duty. The Ad-miral grasped my hand, and left me with the same assurances of friendship and esteem as in the case of the American Com-

On the same day (the 29th) I was once On the same day (the 29th) I was once more visited by the American Commodore, accompanied by the Secretary of Legation, with the apparent purpose of handing the reply to my communication. On doing so he said that he had intended to oppose the bombardment of Valparaiso by force, because he was at the time convinced that Spain could not lawfully do so, and that Chile was in the right, but that subsequently he had arrived at the conclusion that right, moderation and dignity were on the side of Spain; wherefore, he not only should not oppose anything, but that his ships would move out of the way at eight o'clock on the morning of the lar.

move out of the way at eight o'clock on the morning of the 31st.

He insisted, nevertheless, in proposing another plan, which was that I should write a manifest, stating that since nothing could prevent the bombardment, I would desist and spare Valparaiso. The Commodore thought that such an act of generosity would be appreciated by the Government of Chile, which would then declare its readiness to accede to my demands. My reply was, that although by so doing I would incur the heaviest responsibility, still, for the sake of peace, I would accept the proposition, provided a member of the Chilean Government would guarantee to me personally, in the would guarantee to me personally, in the presence of the American Minister, that my proceeding would be appreciated and reciprocated. The proposal of the Commodore was nevertheless rudely rejected by Chile, and another one advanced in its stead, so ridiculous that it has only served as a laughing stock to the English and American commanders. The idea was that a contract of the commanders. can commanders. The idea was that a sort of international duel should be enacted; and his in terms indecorous and even insulting, It being assumed that I dared not seek them at Chile, they proposed that we should meet with equal forces, the determination and equalization of which should be left to Commodore Rodgers.

The result of the duel was to be the ter-

mination of the war; and to this no other declaration whatsoever was added. The proposal, I again say it, was simply ridicu-lous, and in this light it has been viewed by everyone, without perhaps excepting the very persons who originated it. I conse-quently authorized the American Commodore, who bore the despatch, to say in my be-half, that such proposals deserved no answer. It is gratifying to me to be able to state that both the Commodore and English Admiral approved my answer. The latter was so disgusted that, losing his habitual reserve, be said to me, "The letter you have just received is in itself a sufficient justification for the act you are about to accomplish. Your conduct has been most dignified and proper; and your generosity has met no response from the government of this country."

Previously to these incidents, on the 27th, I had in like manner been called upon by the representatives of England and France. Instead of presenting themselves in the guise of friendly negotiators, and strictly neutral, these gentlemen showed themselves in the second of the second selves, on the contrary, altogether partial to Chile. They contended that the brief delay granted to the Government for the acceptance of terms, would make any resolution ance of terms, would make any resolution appear as dictated under the pressure of force; that sufficient time had not been allowed for consultation with the allies; that, in fine, a long delay should be conceded. They concluded by observing that they had strong reasons to fear for the lives of the Spaniards at present in Santiago, should the bombardment take place. To all these remarks I answered: That it was six months since the war had commenced, and that the Government of Chile, who now comthat the Government of Chile, who now com plained of the short space allowed, had never up to the present moment made any proposal for an arrangement; that the terms offered by me were precisely those of their

offered by me were precisely those of their own Governments of England and France; and that in the event of so savage a butchery taking place, it should be visited with new and terrible rigor. The interview terminated with marks of mutual coldness.

On the 30th I received from the same gentlement of the same gentlement of the same gentlement. tleman a plan for an arrangement, in which they proposed the cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of my vessels, and the presentation of my credentials; all of which were, as your Excellency perceives, totally inadmissible.

At eight o'clock on the morning of the 31st, the foreign vessels of war had withdrawn from my front. At the said hour of eight the two guns were fired that were to eight the two guns were fired that were to serve as an announcement that one hour later I would open on the city. At a quar-ter past nine the frigate Blanca commenced firing at the Government warehouses and a small fort, and was immediately followed by the frigate Ville de Madrid.

by the frigate Vilia de Madrid.

Meanwhile the schooner Vencedora directed her guns against the Intendencia, and the frigate Resolucion against the railroad terminus, all of which buildings were Govthe warehouses were reduced to ashes; the fort was considerably damaged, as were also the Intendencia and railroad terminus, and restrict of the city was set on fire by a greater of the city was set on the city was set on the city was set on a portion of the city was set on fire by agre-nade ricocheting the Intendencia, and ex-pleding in a chemical laboratory. The firing was suspended at half-past eleven. It is as yet impossible to estimate the damages.

The Chilean Government had decided on The Chilean Government had decided on making no resistance, and consequently ordered that not a gun should be fired.

It was confidently expected that the forces of England and the United States would oppose the bombardment.

The property stored in the Government warehouses, and entirely consumed by the firing, belonged to Frenchmen and German.

The Government had opposed the removal of goods by the foreign merchants.

I remain, &c.,
d] Casto Mendez Nunez, [Signed] WATCHES AND JEWELRY

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