General Scott's Official Despatches.

No. 24.

(Duplicate.)

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
SAN AUGUSTIN ACAPULCO ROAD,
9 miles from Mexico, August 19, 1847.

SIR: Leaving a competent garrison in Puebla, this army advanced upon the capital as follows: Twiggs' division, preceded by Harney's brigade of cavalry, the 7th; Quitman's division of volunteers, with a small detachment of U. S. marines, the 8th; Worth's division the 9th, and Pillow's division the 10th—all in this month. On the 8th, I overtook, and then continued with the leading division. The corps were, at no time, beyond five hours, or supporting distance, apart; and on descending into the basin of the capital (75 miles from Puebla) they became more closely approximated about the head of Lake Chalco, with Lake Tescuco a little in front and to the right. On the 12th and 13th, we pushed *reconnoissances* upon the Penon, an isolated mound (eight miles from Mexico) of great height, strongly fortified to the top, (three tiers of works) and flooded around the base by the season of rains and sluices from the lakes.—This mound, close to the national road, and commands the principal approach to the city from the east. No doubt it might have been carried, but at a great and disproportionate loss, and I was anxious to spare the lives of this gallant army for a general battle which I knew we had to win before capturing the city, or obtaining the object of the campaign—a just and honorable peace.

Another *reconnoissance* was directed, (13th) upon Mexicalzingo, to the left of the Penon, a village at a fortified bridge across the outlet or canal, leading from Lake Xochimilco to the capital—five miles from the latter. It might have been easy (making the Penon) to force the passage; but on the other side of the bridge we should have found ourselves four miles from this road, on a narrow causeway, flanked to the right and left by water or boggy grounds. Those difficulties, closely viewed, threw me back upon the project, long entertained, of turning the strong eastern defences of the city, by passing around south of Lake Chalco and Xochimilco, at the foot of the hills and mountains, so as to reach this point, and hence to manœuvre on hard ground, though much broken, to the south and southwest of the capital, which has been more or less under our view, since the 10th inst.

Accordingly, by a sudden inversion, Worth's division, with Harney's cavalry brigade leading—we marched on the 15th inst. Pillow and Quitman's divisions followed closely, and then Twiggs' division, which was left till the next day at Ayotla, in order to threaten the Penon and Mexicalzingo, and to deceive the enemy as long as practicable.

Twiggs, on the 16th, marching from Ayotla, towards Chalco (6 miles) met a corps of troops, than double his number,—cavalry and infantry—under Gen. Valencia. Twiggs halted, deployed into line, and by a few rounds from Capt. Taylor's field battery, dispersed the enemy, killing and wounding many men and horses. No other molestation has been experienced except a few random shots from guerilleros, on the heights; and the march of 27 miles, over a route deemed impracticable by the enemy, is now accomplished by all the corps—thanks to their indomitable zeal and physical prowess.

Arriving here, the 15th, Worth's division and Harney's cavalry were pushed forward a league, and to carry or to mask San Antonio, on the direct road to the capital. This village was found strongly defended by field works, heavy guns and a numerous garrison. It could only be turned by infantry, to the left, over a field of volcanic rocks and lava; for, to our right, the ground was too boggy. It was soon ascertained by the daring engineers, Capt. Mason and Lieutenants Stevens and Tower, that the point could only be approached by the front, over a narrow causeway, flanked with wet ditches of great depth. Worth was ordered not to attack, but to threaten and to mask the place.

The first shot fired from San Antonio, (the 8th) killed Capt S. Thornton, 2d dragoons, a gallant officer, who was covering the operations with his company.

The same day, a *reconnoissance* was commenced to the left of San Augustin, first over difficult mounds, and farther on, over the same field of volcanic rocks and lava which extends to the mountains, some 5 miles from San Antonio towards Magdalena. This *reconnoissance* was continued today by Capt. Lee, assisted by Lieutenants Beauregard and Tower, all of the engineers; who were joined, in the afternoon, by Major Smith, of the same corps. Other divisions coming up, Pillow's was advanced to make a practical road for heavy artillery, and Twiggs' thrown further in front, to cover that operation; for, by the partial *reconnoissance* of yesterday, Capt. Lee discovered a large corps of observation in that direction, with a detachment of which his supports of cavalry and foot under Capt. Kearney and Lieut. Col. Graham, respectively, had a successful skirmish.

By 3 o'clock this afternoon, the advanced divisions came to a point where the new road could only be continued under the direct fire of 22 pieces of the enemy's artillery, (most of them of large calibre,) placed in a strong entrenched camp to oppose our operations, and surrounded by every advantage of ground, besides immense bodies of cavalry and infantry hourly reinforced from the city, over an excellent road beyond the volcanic field, and consequently entirely beyond the reach of our cavalry and artillery.

Arriving on the ground, an hour later, I found that Pillow's and Twiggs's divisions had advanced to dislodge the enemy, picking their way, (all officers on foot,) along his front, and extending themselves toward the road, from the city and the enemy's left: Capt. Magruder's battery of 12 and 6 pounders, and Lieutenant Callender's battery of mounted howitzers and rockets, had also, with great difficulty, been advanced within range of the entrenched camp. These batteries most gallantly served, suffered much in the course of the afternoon, from the enemy's superior metal.

The battle, though mostly stationary, continued to rage with great violence, until nightfall. Brevet Brig. Gen P. F. Smith's and Brevet Col. Riley's brigades (Twiggs' division) supported by Brig. Generals Pierce's and Cadwalader's brigades (Pillow's division) were more than three hours under a heavy fire of artillery and musketry, along the almost impassable ravine in front and to the left of the entrenched camp. Besides the 22 pieces of artillery, the camp and ravine were defended closely by masses of infantry and cavalry, these again supported by clouds of cavalry at hand and hovering in view. Consequently no decided impression could be made by day light, on the enemy's most formidable position, because, independent of the difficulty of the ravine, our infantry unaccompanied by cavalry and artillery, could not advance in column without being mowed down by the grape and canister of the batteries, nor advanced in line without being ridden over by the enemy's numerous cavalry. All our crops, however, including Magruder's and Callender's last batteries, not only maintained the exposed positions early gained, but all attempted charges upon them, respectively—particularly on Riley, twice closely engaged with cavalry in greatly superior numbers—were repulsed and punished.

From an eminence, soon after arriving near the scene, I observed the church and hamlet of Contreras (or Ansalda) on the road leading up from the capital, through the entrenched camp to Magdalena, and seeing, at the same time, the stream of reinforcements advancing by the road, from the city, I ordered (through Major Gen. Pillow) Col. Morgan, with his regiment, the 15th, till then held in reserve by Pillow, to move forward, and to occupy Contreras or Ansalda—being persuaded, if occupied, it would arrest the enemy's reinforcements and ultimately decide the battle.

Riley was already on the enemy's left, in advance of the hamlet. A few minutes later, Brig Gen. Shields, with his volunteer brigade, (New York and South Carolina regiments—Quitman's division) coming up under my orders, from San Augustin, I directed Shields to follow and sustain Morgan. Three or four over the extreme difficulties of ground—partially covered with a low forest—before described, reached Contreras, and found Cadwalder's brigade, in position, observing the formidable movement from the capital and much needing the timely reinforcement.

It was already dark, and the cold rain had begun to fall in torrents upon our unsheltered troops; for the hamlet, through a strong defensive position, ran hold only the wounded men, and, unfortunately, the new regiments have little or nothing to eat in their haversacks. Wet, hungry, and without the possibility of sleep, all our gallant corps, I learn, are full of confidence, and only wait for the last hour of darkness to gain the positions whence to storm and carry the enemy's works.

Of the seven officers despatched, since about sundown, from my position, opposite to the enemy's centre, and on this side of the field of rocks and lava—to communicate instructions to the hamlet—not one has succeeded in getting through those difficulties, increased by darkness. They have all returned.—But the gallant and indefatigable Capt. Lee, of the engineers, who has been constantly with the operating forces, is just in from Shields, Smith, Cadwalader, &c., to report as above, and to ask that a powerful diversion be made against the centre of the entrenched camp towards morning.

Brigadier General Twiggs, cut off, as above, from the part of his division beyond the impracticable ground, and Capt. Lee are gone, under my orders, to collect the forces remaining on this side, with which to make that diversion about 5 o'clock, in the morning.

And here I will end this report, commenced at its date, and in another, continue the narrative of the great events which then impended.

I have the honor to be, sir, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

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

No. 32.

(Duplicate.)

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
TACUBAYA, at the Gates of Mexico
August 28, 1847.

SIR: My report, No. 31, commenced in the night of the 19th instant, closed the operations of the army with that day.

The morning of the 20th opened with one of a series of unsurpassed achievements, all in view of the capital, and to which I shall give the general name—*Battle of Mexico.*

In the night of the 19th, Brigadier General Shields, P. F. Smith and Cadwalader, and Col. Riley, with their brigades, and the 15th Regiment, under Col. Morgan, detached from Brigadier General Pierce—found themselves in and about the important position—the village, hamlet or *hacienda*, called, indifferently, Contreras, Ansalda, San Geronimo—half a mile nearer to the city than the enemy's entrenched camp, on the same road, towards the factory of Magdalena.

That camp had been, unexpectedly, our formidable point of attack the afternoon before, and we had now to take it without the aid of cavalry or artillery, or to throw back our advanced corps upon the road from San Augustin to the city, and thence force a passage through San Antonio.

Accordingly, to meet contingencies, Major General Worth was ordered to leave, early in the morning of the 20th, one of his brigades to mask San Antonio, and to march with the other 6 miles, via San Augustine, upon Contreras. A like destination was given to Major General Quitman and his remaining brigade in San Augustin—replacing, for the moment, the garrison of that important depot with Harney's brigade of cavalry, as horse could not pass over the intervening rocks, &c., to reach the field of battle.

A diversion, for an earlier hour (daylight) had been arranged the night before, according to the suggestion of Brigadier General Smith, received through the engineer, Capt. Lee, who conveyed my orders to our troops remaining on the ground opposite to the enemy's centre—the point for the diversion of a real attack, as circumstances might allow.

Guided by Captain Lee, it proved the latter, under the command of Colonel Ransom, of the 9th, having with him that regiment and some companies of three others—the 3d, 12th, and rifles.

Shields, the senior officer at the hamlet, having arrived in the night, after Smith had arranged with Cadwalader and Riley the plan of attack for the morning, delicately waived interference, but reserved to himself the double task of holding the hamlet with his two regiments (South Carolina and New York volunteers) against ten times his numbers on the side of the city; including the slopes to his left, and, in case the camp in his rear should be carried, to face about and cut off the flying enemy.

At 3 o'clock, A. M., the great movement commenced on the rear of the enemy's camp, Riley leading, followed successively by Cadwalader's and Smith's brigades, the latter temporarily under the orders of Major Dimick of the 1st artillery—the whole force being commanded by Smith, the senior in the general attack, and whose arrangements, skill, gallantry always challenge the highest admiration.

The march was rendered tedious by the darkness, rain, and mud; but about sunrise, Riley, conducted by Lieut. Tower, engineer, had reached an elevation behind the enemy, whence he precipitated his columns;—stormed the entrenchments, planted his several colors upon them; and carried the work—in twenty-seven minutes.

Conducted by Lieut. Beauregard, engineer, and Lieut. Brooks, of Twiggs' staff, both of whom, like Lieut. Tower, had, in the night, twice reconnoitered the ground—Cadwalader brought up to the general assault, two of his regiments—the voltigeurs and the 11th, and at the appointed time, Colonel Ransom with his temporary brigade, conducted by Captain Lee, engineer, not only made the movement to divert and distract the enemy; but, after crossing the deep ravine in his front, advanced, and poured into the works and upon the fugitives, many volleys from his destructive musketry.

In the meantime, Smith's own brigade, under the temporary command of Major Dimick, following the movements of Riley and Cadwalader, discovered, opposite to, and outside of the works, a long line of Mexican cavalry, drawn up as a support. Dimick, having at the head of the brigade the company of sappers and miners, under Lieut. Smith, engineer, who had conducted the march, was ordered by Brigadier General Smith, to form line faced to the enemy, and in a charge against a flank, routed the cavalry.

Shields, too, by the wise disposition of his brigade and gallant activity, contributed much to the general results. He held masses of cavalry and infantry, supported by artillery, in check below him, and captured hundreds, with one general, (Mendoza) of those who fled from above.

I doubt whether a more brilliant or decisive victory—taking into view, ground, or official defences, batteries, and the extreme disparity of numbers—without cavalry or artillery on our side,—is to be found on record. Including all our corps directed against the entrenched camp, with Shields' brigade at the hamlet, we positively did not muster over 4,500 rank and file; and we knew, by sight and since, more certainly by many captured documents and letters, that the enemy had actually engaged on the spot 7,000 men, with at least 12,000 more hovering within sight, and striking distance—both on the 10th and 20th. All not killed or captured now fled with precipitation.

Thus was the great victory of Contreras achieved; one road to the capital opened; 700 of the enemy killed; 843 prisoners, including among 86 officers, 4 generals; besides many colors and standards; 22 pieces of brass ordnance—half of large calibre; thousands of small arms and accoutrements; an immense quantity of shot, shells, powder and cartridges; 700 pack mules, many horses, &c.; all in our hands.

It is highly gratifying to find that, by skilful arrangement, and rapidity of execution, our loss in killed and wounded, did not exceed, on the spot, 60—among the former, the brave Capt. Charles Hanson, of the 7th infantry—not more distinguished for gallantry, than for modesty, morals and piety. Lieut. J. P. Johnstone, 1st artillery, serving with Magruder's battery—a young officer of the highest promise, was killed the evening before.

One of the most pleasing incidents of the victory, is the recapture, in the works, by Capt. Drum, 4th artillery, under Major Gardner, of the two brass six-pounders, taken from another company of the same regiment, though without the loss of honor, at the glorious battle of Buena Vista—a bout which gone the whole regiment had mourned for so many long months! Coming up, a little later, I had the happiness to join in the protracted cheers of the gallant 4th on the joyous event, and indeed, the whole army sympathizes in its just pride and exultation.

The battle being won before the advancing brigades of Worth's and Quitman's divisions were in sight, both were ordered back to their late positions—Worth, to attack San Antonio, in front, with his whole force, as soon as approached in the rear by Pillow's and Twiggs' divisions—moving from Contreras, through San Angel and Coyoacan. By carrying San Antonio, we knew that we should open another—a shorter and better road to the capital, for our siege and other trains.

Accordingly, the two advanced divisions and Shields' brigade marched from Contreras, under the immediate orders of Major General Pillow, who was now joined by the gallant Brigadier General Pierce on his division, personally thrown out of activity, late the evening before, by a severe hurt received from the fall of his horse.

After giving necessary orders on the field, in the midst of prisoners and trophies, and sending instructions to Harney's brigade of cavalry, left at San Augustin, to join me, I personally followed Pillow's movement.

Arriving at Coyoacan, two miles by a cross road, from the rear of San Antonia, I first detached Capt. Lee, engineer, with Capt. Kearney's troops, 1st dragoons, supported by the rifle regiment, under Major Loring, to reconnoitre that strong point, and next despatched Major Gen. Pillow, with one of his brigades (Cadwallader's) to make the attack upon it, in concert with Major Gen. Worth, on the opposite side.

At the same time, by another road to the left, Lieut Stevens, of the engineers, supported by Lieut. G. W. Smith's company of sappers and miners, of the same corps, was sent to reconnitre the strongly fortified church or convent of San Pablo, in the hamlet of Churubusco—one mile off. Twiggs, with one of the brigades (Smith's—less the rifles) and Captain Taylor's field battery, were ordered to follow and attack the convent.

Major Smith, senior engineer, was despatched to concert with Twiggs the mode and means of attack, and Twiggs' other brigade (Riley's) I soon ordered up to support him.

Next (but all in ten minutes) I sent Pierce (just able to keep the saddle) with his brigade, (Pillow's division) conducted by Capt. Lee, engineer, by a third road, a little farther to our left, to attack the enemy's right and rear, in order to favor the movement upon the convent, and cut off the retreat towards the capital. And finally, Shields, senior brigadier to Pierce, with the New York and South Carolina volunteers, (Quitman's division,) was ordered to follow Pierce, closely, and to take the command of our left wing. All these movements were made with the utmost alacrity by our gallant troops and commanders.

Finding myself at Coyoacan, from which so many roads conveniently branched, without escort or reserve, I had to advance, for safety, close upon Twiggs rear. The battle now raged from the right to the left of our whole line.

Learning, on the return of Captain Lee, that Shields, in the rear of Churubusco, was hard pressed, and in danger of being outflanked, if not overwhelmed, by greatly superior numbers, I immediately sent, under Major Sumner, 2d dragoons, the rifles (Twigg's reserve) and Capt. Sibley's troop, 2d dragoons, then at hand, to support our left, guided by the same engineer.

About an hour earlier, Worth had, by skilful and daring movements upon the front and right, turned and forced San Antonio—its garrison, no doubt, much shaken by our decisive victory at Contreras.

His second brigade (Col. Clarke's) conducted by Capt. Mason, engineer, assisted by Lieut. Hardcastle, topographical engineer, turned the right, and by a wide sweep, came out upon the high road to the capital. At this point the heavy garrison (3,000 men) in retreat, was, by Clarke, cut in the centre: one portion, the rear driven upon Coyoacan, off to the right; and the other upon Churubusco, in the direct line of our operations.—The first brigade (Col Garland's) same division, consisting of the 2d artillery, under Major Gates, the 3d artillery, under Lieut. Col Belton, and the 4th infantry, commanded by Major P. Lee, with Lieut. Col. Duncan's field battery, (temporarily) followed in pursuit through the town, taking one general prisoner, the abandoned guns (five pieces) much ammunition, and other public property.

The forcing of San Antonio was the second brilliant event of the day.

Worth's division being soon re-united in hot pursuit, he was joined by Major General Pillow, who, marching from Coyoacan, and discovering that San Antonio had been carried, immediately turned to the left, according to my instructions, and though much impeded by ditches and swamps, hastened to the attack of Churubusco.

The hamlet or scattered houses, bearing this name, presented, besides the fortified convent, a strong field work (*tete de pont*) with regular bastions and curtains, at the head of a bridge over the road passes from San Antonio to the capital.

The whole remaining forces of Mexico—some 27,000 men—cavalry, artillery, and infantry, collected from every quarter—were now in, on the flanks or within supporting distance of those works, and seemed resolved to make a last and desperate stand; for if beaten here, the feeble defences at the gates of the city—1 miles off—could not, as was well known to both parties, delay the victors an hour. The capital of an ancient empire, in view of a great republic, or an early peace, the assailants were resolved to win. Not an American—and we were less than a third of the enemy's numbers—had a doubt as to the result.

The fortified church or convent, hotly pressed by Twiggs, had already held out about an hour, when Worth and Pillow,—the latter having with him only Cadwalader's brigade—began to manœuvre closely upon the *tete de pont*, with the convent at half gun shot, to their left. Garland's brigade (Worth's division,) to which had been added the light battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Smith, continued to advance in front, and under the fire of a long line of infantry, off on the left of the brigade; and Clarke, of the same division, directed his brigade along the road, or close by its side.—Two of Pillow's and Cadwalader's regiments, the 11th and 14th, supported and participated in this direct movement; the other (the voltigeurs) was left in reserve. Most of these corps—particularly Clarke's brigade, advancing perpendicularly,—were made to suffer much by the *tete de pont*, and they would have suffered greatly more by flank attacks from the convent, but for the pressure of Twiggs on the other side of that work.

This well combined and daring movement, at length reached the principal point of attack, and the formidable *tete de pont*, was at once assaulted and carried at the point of the bayonet. Its deep, wet ditch, was first gallantly crossed by the 5th and 8th infantry, commanded respectively, by Major Waite and Lieutenant Colonel Scott—followed closely by the 6th infantry, (same brigade) which had been exposed so much in the road—the 11th regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Graham, and the 14th, commanded by Colonel Trousdale, both of Cadwalader's brigade, Pillow's division. About the same time, the enemy in front of Garland, after a hot conflict of an hour and a half, gave way, in a retreat towards the capital.

The immediate results of this *third* signal triumph of the day, were 3 field-pieces, 192 prisoners, much ammunition, and two colors, taken in the *tete de pont*.

In the concurrent attack upon the convent favored physically and morally, the assault upon the *tete de pont*, so, reciprocally, no doubt the fall of the latter contributed to the capture of the former. The two works were only some 150 yards apart; and as soon as we were in possession of the *tete de pont*, a captured 4 pounder was turned and fired—first by Captain Larkin Smith, and next, by Lieut. Snelling, both of the 8th infantry—several times, upon the convent. In the same brief interval, Lieut. Col. Duncan, (also of Worth's division,) gallantly brought two of his guns to bear, at a short range, upon the front and on the tower of the church, which in the obstinate contest had been often refilled with some of the best sharp-shooters of the enemy.

Finally, twenty minutes after the *tete de pont* had been carried by Worth and Pillow, and at the end of a desperate conflict of two hours and a half, the church or convent—the citadel of the strong line of defence along the rivulet of Churubusco—yielded to Twiggs' division, and threw out, on all sides signals of surrender. The white flags, however, were not exhibited until the moment when the 3d infantry, under Capt. Alexander, had cleared the way by fire and bayonet, and had entered the work. Capt. J. M. Smith and Lieut. O. L. Shepherd, both of that regiment with their companies, had the glory of leading the assault. The former received the surrender, and Capt. Alexander instantly hung out, from a balcony, the colors of the gallant 3d. Major Dunick, with a part of the 1st artillery, serving as infantry, entered nearly abreast with the leading troops.

Lieut. J. E. Irons, 1st artillery, aid-de-camp to Brigadier General Cadwallader, a young officer of great merit and conspicuous in battle, on several previous occasions, received, in front of the work, a mortal wound. (Since dead).

Captain Taylor's field battery, attached to Twiggs division, opened its effective fire, at an early moment, upon the out-works of the convent and the tower of its church. Exposed to the severe fire of the enemy, the captain, his officers and men, won universal admiration, but at length, much disabled in men and horses, the battery was, by superior orders, withdrawn from the action, thirty minutes before the surrender of the convent.

Those corps, excepting Taylor's battery, belonged to the brigade of Brig. Gen. Smith, who closely directed the whole attack in front, with his habitual coolness and ability; while Riley's brigade—the 2d and 7th infantry, under Capt. T. Morris and Lieut. Col. Plympton, respectively; vigorously engaged the right and left of the work and part of its rear. At the moment, the rifles, belonging to Smith's, were detached in support of Brig. Gen. Shield's, on our extreme left, and the 4th artillery, acting as infantry, under Major Gardner, belonging to Riley's brigade, had been left in charge of the camp, trophies, &c., at Contreras. Twigg's division, at Churubusco, had thus been deprived of the services of two of its most gallant and effective regiments.

The immediate results of this victory were—the capture of 7 field pieces, some ammunition, one color, three generals and 1,261 prisoners including other officers.

Captains E. A Capron and M. J. Burke and Lieut. S. Hoffman, all of the 1st artillery, and Capt. J. W. Anderson and Lieut. Thos. Easley, both of the 2d infantry—five officers of great merit—fell gallantly before this work.

The capture of the enemy's citadel was the *fourth* great achievement of our arms in the same day.

It has been stated that some two hours and a half before, Pierce's, followed closely by the volunteer brigade; both under the command of Brig. Gen. Shields; had been detached to our left to turn the enemy's works;—to prevent the escape of the garrisons, and to oppose the extension of the enemy's numerous corps, from the rear, upon and around our left.

Considering the inferior numbers of the two brigades, the objects of the movement were difficult to accomplish. Hence the reinforcement (the 15th, &c.,) sent forward a little later.

In a winding march of a mile around, to the right, this temporary division found itself on the edge of an open wet meadow, near the road from San Antonio to the capital, and in the presence of some 4000 of the enemy's infantry, a little in rear of Churubusco, on that road. Establishing on the right at a strong building, Shields extended his left, parallel to the road, to outflank the enemy towards the capital. But the enemy extending his right, supported by 5000 cavalry, moved rapidly (being favored by better ground) to the same direction, Shields concentrated the division about a hamlet, and determined to attack in front. The battle was long, hot and varied; but, ultimately, success crowned the zeal and gallantry of our troops, ably directed by their distinguished commander—Brig General Shield. The 9th, 12th and 15th regiments, under colonel Ransom, Captain Wood and Colonel Morgan, respectively, of Pierce's brigade, (Pillow's division,) and the New York and South Carolina volunteers, under Colonels Burnett and Butler, respectively, of Shields own brigade (Quitman's division) together with the mountain howitzer battery, now under Lieut. Reno, of the ordnance corps, all shared in the glory of this action—our *fifth* victory in the same day.

Brigadier General Pierce, from the hurt of the evening before—under pain and exhaustion—fainted in the action. Several other changes in command, occurred on the field. Thos. Colonel Morgan being severely wounded, the command of the 15th infantry devolved on Lieutenant Colonel Howard. Colonel Burnett received a like wound, the command of the New York volunteers fell to Lieut. Col. Baxter, and on the fall of the lamented Colonel P. M. Butler—earlier badly wounded, but continuing to lead nobly in the hottest part of the battle—the command of the South Carolina volunteers devolved first, on Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson, who being severely wounded (as before in the siege of Vera Cruz) the regiment ultimately fell under the orders of Major Gladden.

Lieuts. David Adams and W. R. Williams, of the same corps; Capt Augustus Quarles and Lieut. J. B. Goodman, of the 12th, and Lieut. T. Chandler, New York Volunteers—all gallant officers, nobly fell in the same action.

Shields took 380 prisoners, including officers, and it cannot be doubted that the rage of his command between him and the enemy, just in the rear of the *tete de pont* and the convent, had some influence on the surrender of those formidable defences.

As soon as the *tete de pont* was carried, the greater part of Worth's and Pillow's forces passed that bridge in rapid pursuit of the flying enemy. These distinguished generals, coming up with Brigadier General Shields, now also victorious, the three continued to press upon the fugitives to within a mile and a half of the capital. Here Colonel Harney, with a small part of his brigade of cavalry, rapidly passed to the front and charged the enemy up to the nearest gate.

The cavalry charge was headed by Captain Kearney, of the 1st dragoons, having in squadron, with his own troop, that of Captain McRey nolds of the 3d—making the usual escort to general headquarters; but being early in the day, detached for general service, was now under Colonel Harney's orders. The gallant captain not hearing the *recall* that had been sounded, dashed up to the San Antonio gate, sabreing, in his way, all who resisted. Of the seven officers of the squadron, Kearney lost his left arm; McReynolds and Lieutenant Lorimer Graham were both severely wounded, and Lieutenant R. S. Ewell, succeeded to the command of the escort, had two horses killed under him. Major F. D. Mills, of the 15th infantry, a volunteer in this charge, was killed at the gate.

So terminated the series of events which I have but feebly presented. My thanks were freely poured out on the different fields—on the abilities and science of generals and other officers—to the gallantry and prowess of all—the rank and file included. But a reward infinitely higher—the applause of a grateful country and government, will, I cannot doubt, be accorded, in due time, to so much merit, of every sort, displayed by this glorious army, which has now overcome all difficulties—distance, climate, ground, fortifications, numbers.

It has in a single day, in many battles, as often defeated 32,000 men; made about 3,000 prisoners, including eight generals (two of them ex-presidents) and 250 others; killed or wounded 4,000 of all ranks—besides entire corps dispersed and dissolved;—captured 37 pieces of ordnance, more than trebling our siege train and field batteries—with a large number of small arms, a full supply of ammunition of every kind, &c. &c.

These great results have overwhelmed the enemy.

Our loss amounts to 1,503—*killed* 130, including 16 officers; *wounded*, 876, with 40 officers. The greater number of the dead and disabled were of the highest worth. Those under treatment, thanks to our very able medical officers, are generally doing well.

I regret having been obliged on the 20th, to leave Major Gen. Quitman, an able commander, with a part of his division—the fine 2d Pennsylvania volunteers, and the veteran detachment of United States marines, at our important depot, San Augustin. It was there that I had placed our sick and wounded; the siege, supply, and baggage trains. If these had been lost, the army would have been driven almost to despair; and considering the enemy's very great excess of numbers, and the many approaches to the depot, it might well have become—emphatically, *the post of honor.*

After so many victories, we might, with but little additional loss, have occupied the capital the same evening. But Mr. Trist, commissioner, &c., as well as myself, had been admonished by the best friends of peace—intelligent neutrals and some American residents—against precipitation—lest, by wantonly driving away the government and others—dishonored—we might scatter the elements of peace, excite a spirit of national desperation, and thus, indefinitely postpone the hope of accommodation. Deeply impressed with this danger, and remembering our mission—to conquer a peace—the army very cheerfully sacrificed to patriotism—to the great wish and want of our country—the *eclat* that would have followed an entrance—sword in hand—into a great capital.—Willing to leave something to this republic—of no immediate value to us—on which to rest her pride, and to recover temper—I halted our victorious corps at the gates of the city, (at least for a time) and have them now cantoned in the neighboring villages, where they are well sheltered and supplied with all necessaries.

On the morning of the 21st, being about to take up battering or assaulting positions, to authorize me to summon the city to surrender, or to sign an armistice, with a pledge to enter at once into negotiations for a peace—a mission came out to propose a truce. Rejecting its terms, I despatched my contemplated note to President Santa Anna,—omitting the summons. The 22d, commissions were appointed by the commanders of the two armies; the armistice was signed on the 23d, and ratifications exchanged on the 24th.

All matters in dispute between the two governments, have been thus happily turned over to their plenipotentiaries, who have now had several conferences, and with, I think, some hope of signing a treaty of peace.

There will be transmitted to the Adjutant General, reports from divisions, brigades, &c., on the foregoing operations to which I must refer, with my hearty concurrence in the just applause bestowed on corps and individuals by their respective commanders. I have been able—this report being necessarily a summary—to bring out comparatively, but little of individual merit, not lying directly in the way of the narrative. Thus, I doubt whether I have, in express terms, given my approbation and applause to the commanders of divisions and independent brigades; but left their fame upon higher grounds—the simple record of their great deeds and the brilliant results.

To the staff, both general and personal, attached to general head quarters, I was again under high obligations for services in the field, as always in the bureaus. I add their names, &c.: Lieut. Col. Hitchcock, acting inspector general; Major J. L. Smith, Capt. R. E. Lee, (as distinguished for felicitous execution, for science and daring.) Capt. Mason, Lieut. Stevens, Beauregard, and Tower—all of the engineers; Major Turnbull, Captain McClellan, and Lieut. Hardcastle, topographical engineers; Capt. Hagner and Lieut. Hagner, of the ordnance; Capts. Irwin and Wayne, of the quartermasters' department; Capt. Grayson, of the commissariat; Surgeon General Lawson, in his particular department; Captain H. L. Scott, acting assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Williams, aid-de-camp, and Lieut. Lay, military secretary. Lieut. Schuyler Hamilton, another aid-de-camp, had, a week before, been thrown out of activity by a severe wound received in a successful charge of cavalry against cavalry, and four times his numbers; but, on the 20th, I had the valuable services, as volunteer aids, of Majors Kirby and Van Buren, of the pay department, always eager for activity and distinction; and of a third, the gallant Major J. P. Gaines, of the Lentucky volunteers.

I have the honor to be, sir, with high respect,

Your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, Secretary of War.

The Daily Morning Post.

L. HARPER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

PITTSBURGH:
THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 18, 1847.

Arrival of the French Steamer New York.

The French steam packet New York put into Newport on Friday morning, the 12th inst, bound to New York, short of coal, not having more than one ton when she came to anchor in that harbor.

She sailed the same day from Havre that the Washington did from Southampton, and brings latar dates from France.

We do not find much of interest beyond what relates to Italy and Switzerland.

The pressure upon the money market in Paris, exhibited nothing like the severity that existed in London, and everything was having a more favorable aspect.

The Government had seized *Le National* newspaper at Paris, though on what ground is not apparent.

The firm of Venein and A. Giells, of Courtray, has suspended payment; their liabilities amount to two millions of francs.

The French Government is about to send to Senegal, artillery and munitions of war for the forts which are to be erected there in defence of the factories.

ITALY.—Pope Pius IX has promulgated a decree establishing a council of State, agreeable to the design expressed by the Pope in his famous circular of April the 10th. He declares such a council to have been, in former times the glory of the States of the Holy See, and that when the pontifical government is enriched by such an institution, with the aid of those honored with the suffrages of the provinces, the public administration will be more vigorously executed, and give to the government the practical character which his holiness desires it should have

Four suspension bridges were about to be erected in Rome by a French company. Hitherto such privileges were not granted to foreigners.

In Tuscany the punishment of death had been abolished by proclamation of the Grand Duke.

The accounts respecting the negotiations with Austria do not appear so favorably as by former advices. It is said that by addressing himself directly to the Emperor of Austria, the Pope has retarded rather than advanced negotiation.

SWITZERLAND.—The Swiss Diet met at Berne, on the 18th of October, to discuss the means of carrying into execution the vote of the Diet on the 20th of July. A conciliatory spirit was shown by all parties.

Supplies of cannon, muskets, and ammunition, furnished by the French government, are pouring into the cantons of the Jesuit League, or "Sonderbond." The Protestant cantons are all flying to arms, and late accounts say hostilities had commenced between the two armies.

SWEDEN.—Apprehensions of the cholera were entertained, and it was said, on the authority of a letter from Stockholm, that two schooners and two barques, with medical men on board, had been sent out to superintend the quarantine on the frontier, on account of its appearance.

GLEANINGS FROM LATE EUROPEAN PAPERS.—The *Christian Record* contradicts the report that the house of Constable & Co, has given £10,000 for the MSS. of the late Dr. Chalmers. The house divides the profits of the publication with the family.

From Normady and Picardy, the great apple districts of France, the intelligence is, that the crops of apples are extraordinarily great; so much so, indeed, that there are not enough people to gather them; whilst in a great number of cases the trees have broken down beneath their weight.

AEROSTATICS.—Mr. Green, the English aeronaut, made his 174th ascent on Sunday last at Brussels, taking up with him an officer of the English navy, and M. Bischoffsheim, son of the banker at Amsterdam. After floating in the air for about two years, and having attained the height of 2500 yards, Mr. Graeen and his companions alighted safely on the plain outside the gates of Lierre.

POSTAGE.—The following circular was lately issued by the head of the Post Office Department at the city of Washington:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Nov. 5, 1847.

The British government having seen fit to charge with full postage across the Atlantic, the mail matter which was actually conveyed across it by the United States mail steamer Washington, it becomes necessary, as a matter of self-protection, that this government should take the step therein authorised for terminating the subsisting arrangement between the two countries, in relation as well to British mails in transit through this country for their colonial possessions on this continent, as the ordinary mail intercourse between those possessions and the United States. This was accordingly done; and those arrangements will in consequence, terminate on the sixteenth day of the present month.

The necessary result will be, that on and after the sixteenth instant, no mail matter destined for any of the British possessions on this continent, will be permitted to leave the United States, unless the United States postage thereon is previously paid.

CAVE JOHNSON, Postmaster General.

☞ A public meeting has been called in the city of New York, for the purpose of giving expression to the feelings of sympathy and admiration of the citizens, for Pope Pius IX, in his efforts to promote the welfare of his people.

DESPATCHES BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

EXPRESSLY FOR THE MORNING POST.

LATEST FROM MEXICO.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 17.
9h. P. M.

By the pony express we have received New Orleans papers of the 11th inst.; which contain intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 5th.

The N. O. Picayune has a list of the killed and wounded, at the seige of Puebla.

Lieut. Sears came passenger from Vera Cruz, by this arrival. He was escorted by a Mexican spy company, which had been employed by General Scott.

The killed of the 1st Pennsylvania regiment at Puebla were:—Eurich, John Price, E. H. Jones, John H. Gilchrist, John Herrod, F. B. Johns, H. J. Rutzilman, Jas. Phillips, W. A. Phillips, S. D. Sewell, Wm. Smith, D. S. Berry, A. Vandyke, J. Wilson, S. Froger. Wounded—Geo Rusheberger, J. M'Cutcheon, J. H. Hoover, D. Lindsey, H. Lynch, M. Mason, Jas. Bowden, R. Wilson, J. Dowlan, C. Coltuanan, John D. Herron, D. W. Larlott, James Ellis, Dominie De Vandy, Luke Floyd, Capt. John Herron; Thos. B. Furman, A. E. Marshall, W. C. Wimbiddle, R. Reed, S. Boslye, J. M'Clellan, Jas. Lambert. Missing—Jno. Longstaff, M. Stemmar, Dr. Bunting, Hospital Surgeon, Wm. Deal, John Biess; and several of the 2d Pa. regiment wounded.

NEW YORK MARKET.

November 17, 4 P. M.

Flour—Sales of Genesee at $6,12½. Western brands are selling at $6,00. Market heavy, with more sellers than buyers.

Corn—Sales of prime white at 72c.

Oats—Moderate sales at 51c.

Prime Pork—Sales of western at $10.

Mess Pork—Sales of western No. 1 at $15,75 per bbl. Prices firm.

Mess Beef—Western No. 1 is selling at $8,37½ per bbl.

Market generally without change.

BALTIMORE MARKET.

Nov. 17, 3 P. M.

Flour—Sales at $5,65. Sales of 1000 bbls. City Mills are reported at $5,75.

Grain—The supply of grain is small; sales of prime white Wheat at 128@131c; 5000 bu. prime red were sold 125c.

Corn—Sales of prime white at 56@58c.; prime yellow is selling at 68@69c.

Oats—Moderate sales at 40c.

Rye—Sales at 90c.

Whiskey—Moderate sales at 28½c.

Molasses—Sales of Porto Rico at 30½@31½c.

Baron—Sales of western hog round at 7½@7½c. per lb.

Provisions—There is an increased demand in the market.

PHILADELPHIA MARKET.

November 17, 4 P. M.

Flour—Sales of 600 bbls. Genesee are reported at $6 per bbl.

Wheat—Sales of superior white at 128c.; good prime white is held at 130c.

Corn and Oats—The market is quiet, with no sales to report.

Corn Meal—Moderate sales at $3,12½.

Whisk