

done without injury to them; but it gave pretext for the "house-top war" which followed,—if pretext, indeed, were wanted. The night previous over 1,000 convicts had been turned loose from the prisons. Those terrors of society, uniting with the few companies of desperate soldiers remaining, and with the vagrants, made an attack upon the troops, from house-roofs and windows. Soon the citizens seemed to join in the murderous warfare, and numbers of the brave troops and their officers fell before the covert shot, during the day (the 14th). Finally the divisions of Twiggs and Worth were boldly assaulted by the populace, when Scott ordered batteries to sweep the streets, and the Rifles to pick off every man seen on the house-tops. This drove the infuriated crowd into the strong buildings, from which they continued their firing. Scott then sent word to the municipal authorities that he should blow up every structure, were it church, convent or residence, from which the populace should seek to assassinate his men. This ended the assassins' work, and soon the city assumed its wonted air of quiet.

On the 16th he issued an order for thanks to Divine Providence for their recent victories:—"The General-in-Chief calls upon his brethern in arms to return, both in public and private worship, thanks and gratitude to God for the signal triumphs which they have recently achieved for their country."

Orders were issued, immediately, forbidding any outrage upon public or private property, and holding his entire army under the severest discipline in regard to its conduct toward the people of the city. No conquered capital ever fared so generously at the hands of its conqueror. In a decree, dated September 24th, he said:

"Here, as in all Roman Catholic countries, there are frequent religious processions in the streets, as well as in churches, such as the elevation of the Host, the *viaticum*, funerals, etc. The interruption of such processions has already been prohibited in orders; and, as no civilized person will ever wantonly do any act to hurt the religious feelings of others, it is earnestly requested of all Protestant Americans either to keep out of the way or to pay to the Catholic religion and its ceremonies every decent mark of respect and deference."

This edict breathes the Christian spirit in which Mexico