

ed, Prieto having, led, attempted to seek security in Prieto obtained and incorporated his gross treachery command of his two days before he province was favored in a long but which his family in in of the contest, title of the 14th of is trying moment, very short extract. corps in Santiago, e government and extremely rare in to otherwise, and question was not y was at all called els being confined aw had not been ent. I knew more- d object might be, views—that they he country at dis- o free government military were once and decide points now too generally y the chiefs, who h of this opinion. port of legitimate left Santiago.” Tupper touched at r, while command- h life in attempt- lles, a 20 gun brig d then blockading t hand was pierced d he was knocked east, but being an ome distance, and e was soon after n the night of the e was among the s carried, although ed into some inner pelled to retire.

General Freire, having been repulsed from Coquimbo, landed near the river Maule, after sustaining the, to him, irreparable loss of a vessel laden with arms and ammunition, and was soon joined by Colonel Tupper, who found his troops badly clothed and paid, as he would not follow the example of his opponents, who impressed, without hesitation, every necessary supply for their army. They had, moreover, under their control all the resources of the capital, of which Freire had been so treacherously dispossessed; and the faithless Prieto commenced his march from Santiago for the south under highly favorable circumstances. When the deep and rapid Maule, whose fords are not always practicable for cavalry, much less for infantry, alone separated the rival armies, Colonel Tupper requested to be allowed to cross over with 400 or 500 infantry, for the purpose of making a night attack on the enemy's camp, which, in the desperate state of affairs, was the best expedient that could be devised; but unfortunately General Freire would not sanction the attempt, as, in the fatal persuasion that his popularity would carry him through the contest, he had allowed himself to be deceived by some of Prieto's chiefs, who, probably at the instigation of their general, had promised to join him with their troops at the first convenient opportunity. In consequence, Colonel Tupper is said, by one of his officers, to have been completely disgusted at Freire's evident infatuation or incapacity, and to have anticipated the fate which awaited him with gloomy resolution. He well knew that his enemies were too anxious for his fall to shew him any quarter, and as a husband and a father he could not but feel deeply the forlorn and desolate condition in which his death would leave his wife and children. He had, however, gone too far to recede, and in any extremity his high sense of honor would have prevented his withdrawing himself on the eve of a battle from the cause he had espoused. On the 15th of April, 1830, General Freire crossed the river, and marched three leagues without obstruction to Talca, the principal town of the province, beautifully situated midway on the high road from Santiago to Concepcion, and about 200 miles from either city. Here his army was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and a council of war being called, it was resolved that as the enemy was so much superior in cavalry and artillery, the constitutional troops should remain in the vicinity of the town, where they could not be attacked but under a very great disadvantage, as Talca is skirted by enclosures and ditches. On the 16th, Prieto endeavoured to bring on an engagement, but could not draw the constitutionalists from their vantage ground. Early on the 17th, Freire proceeded with the cavalry to the adjoining plain of Carcharayada, for the purpose probably of making a reconnaissance,