

splendidly mounted and strongly intrenched. As usual with the Mexican leaders the blame of defeat was thrown upon the defeated officers:—as if Santa Anna had not been the master spirit of the whole defense, and had not, himself, chosen the place of honor on the field of Cherubusco in trying to turn the American left! The wish for a truce was expressed, however. It was, therefore, resolved to send the British Consul-General, Mr. Mackintosh, and the Spanish Minister, Señor Bermudez de Castro, to negotiate for a suspension of hostilities to bury the dead. The Consul passed out to the American camp to sound Scott on the question of an armistice and a peace. He found the chief disinclined to any accommodation, save an armistice to be demanded by the authorities in view of a treaty of peace and amity, for which treaty, a special Commissioner, Mr. Trist, accompanied the army, fully empowered to act in conjunction with Scott. He so wrote to Santa Anna, on the morning of the 21st, at the same time preparing to move forward on Tacubaya. Santa Anna could but agree to an armistice for the meeting of commissioners; and Scott, acting from a deep sense of duty, strove, in all ways, to induce the Mexican people and commissioners to come to terms. He wrote, August 28th:—

“After so many victories, we might, with but little additional loss, have occupied the capital the same evening. But Mr. Trist, Commissioner, etc., 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 *éclat* 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.”

This gives the key to the armistice granted. The negotiations progressed very unsatisfactorily—so much so that, on September 7th at noon, when it closed from expiration, Scott

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