

was conquered and governed while in possession of the army of Scott.*

Martial law was proclaimed on the 17th, and Quitman appointed civil and military Governor. Orders of great stringency were issued to punish crime, to guarantee the Mexican courts in the exercise of their usual functions, to protect public, church and private property. Scott demanded, instead of a munificent ransom, the meager sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, to be used as follows: ninety thousand dollars for blankets, shoes, etc., for distribution among the needy troops; twenty thousand for extra comforts and care for the sick and wounded; forty thousand dollars for the military chest.

The occupation of the city continued until May, 1848, when the treaty negotiated by Mr. Trist was ratified by commissioners specially dispatched from Washington. Scott, up to January of that year, was incessantly laboring with the Mexican Government to secure the treaty desired. All the interval, during the final conquest up to the month of April—when Santa Anna withdrew in disgrace (forever it is to be hoped) from the distracted country—the war was prosecuted with great bitterness by guerrilla parties, and bands under the Priest Jaranta, in the surrounding States and along the route from Vera Cruz to the capital. New troops arrived under Generals Lane, Patterson and others, who experienced sharp service in hunting down the formidable and, at times, very powerful organizations of the enemy. The final occupation of all important points by the American army, the withdrawal of Santa Anna, and the strengthened authority of the President, Señor Peña-y-Peña, restored a more settled order of things, leading the way for the treaty which followed.

The history of Mr. Polk's administration so far as it relates to the Mexican question, is one of discredit. Mr. Trist, for not accomplishing what could not be forced, was suspended from his functions as Commissioner, and he was recalled.

* Mr. William Jay, in his work already referred to, is very severe on Scott for the tribute he levied upon the city and provinces. Had that author shown as much of the spirit of a Christian as of evident vindictiveness, he would have been spared his censures. Scott was simply obeying orders from Washington in his "levy," and none knew it better, probably, than Mr. Jay.

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