

24 Calle de Barabaya, Lima.
26th January 1881

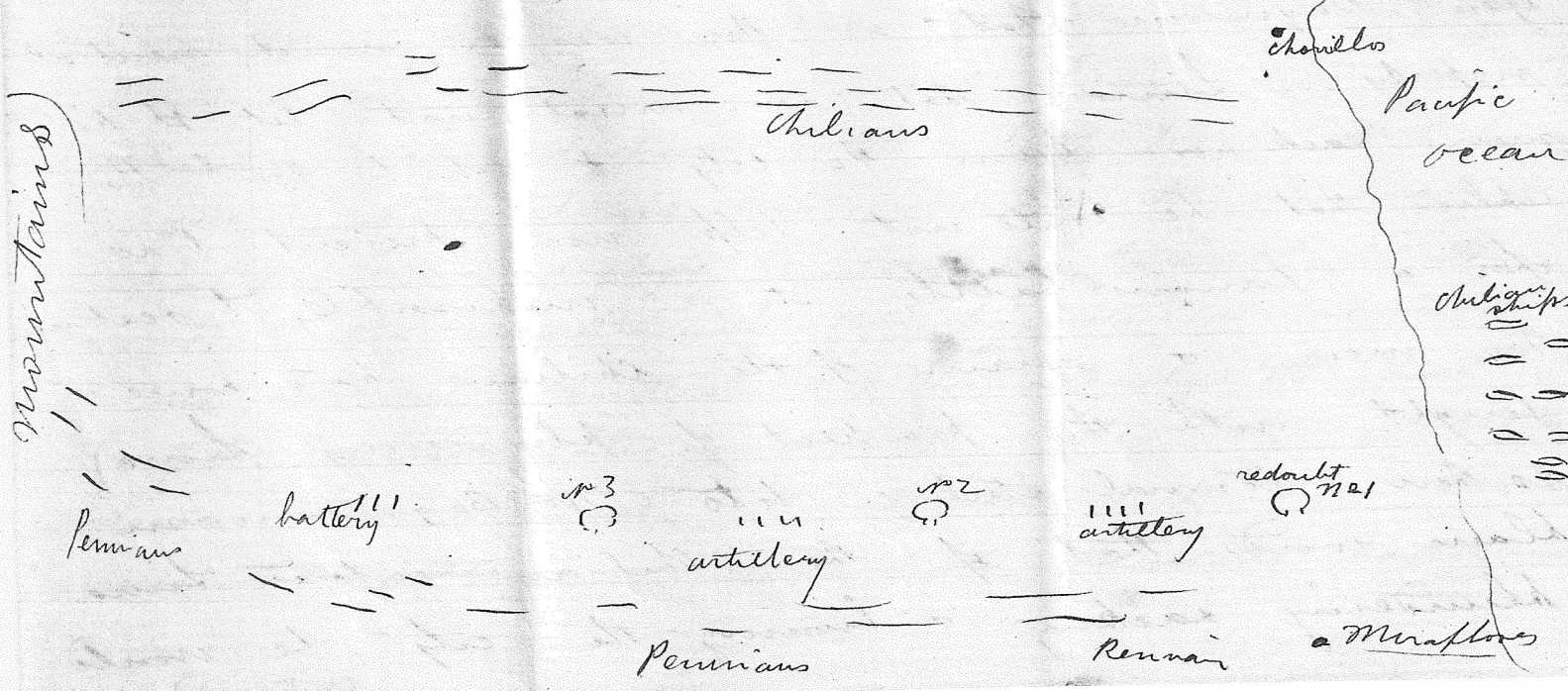
My dear Father,

Last night I received your letters of 15th & 16th Dec. very much behind time of course. & I note all you say & I am very thankful that you have agreed to my leaving here in August or thereabouts & I am quite satisfied to go to the States.

I wrote you last week a few lines telling you about Mr. Barron's death & today I am going to give you a detailed account of what has happened here during the last fortnight; to begin at the beginning, the Chileans commenced their attack on the Peruvian positions at about 4 a.m. on Thursday 13th inst. and at 9 o'clock and afterwards Peruvian soldiers, some wounded & some runaways began to stream into Lima in great numbers, there were so many runaways that they were taken & formed into battalions again & sent out to Miraflores where the Reserve Army (or part of it lay). So towards noon it became clear that the Regular Peruvian Army had been defeated & the next day the Chileans entered Chorrillos. I haven't been able to get a very clear statement of the battle but from what I can gather the Chileans crept up close to the Peruvian camp before it was daylight & fired on them at about 150 yards & then charged with fixed bayonets, at which the Peruvians, surprised, thunderstruck, & decimated by the first volley of the Chileans fled in disorder then the whole Chilean line advanced & there appears to have been some hot fighting as some of the Peruvian battalions

or to have been cut up entirely while others haven't lost
man, & there is not the least doubt that whole
battalions fled, the Chilianas captured the greater part
of the Peruvian artillery & took two or three Peruvian
forts, according to reports they lost a great many men
(Chilianas) by the explosion of some mines laid with
dynamite. We could hear the cannons shots quite
plain from Lima, & by going on to the roof we
could hear the rifles, which sounded like an immense number
of rattles going together. all Thursday afternoon wounded men
kept coming in some by train from Chivillos some
in carts & on mules & some of them presented awful
spectacles covered with blood and with their wounds
tied up with a handkerchief, it was evident that the
Chilian Cavalry had been at work because many of
the wounded were cut with sabres at night there
was much disorder in the streets & lots of rows &
shots fired caused by so many runaway men all
armed etc so I thought it was time to get out of
it and therefore determined to go to Ancón next day
where I knew there were some English ships lying
I told Elvira I was going & offered to conduct her to
any place of safety I could but she declined to stir
away from the house & as Natalio has deserted his
battalion during the night & come back I thought it
useless me staying so with lots of other foreigners
etc I got down to Ancón per train but the
English ships lying there viz "Shannon" & "Thetis"
would not admit people on board but jointly
with the other foreign men of war on seeing such

crowds of people coming agreed to declare Ancón a neutral port
 for the time being & each ship sent a guard of marines
 on shore to protect it. (Ancón is merely a small
 coast watering place about 20 miles north of Callao)
 there were besides the two English ships 2 American,
 2 Italian, 2 French & 1 German but the "Shamou" ^{was}
 was the only ironclad amongst them. on Saturday crowds
 more of foreigners & Peruvians also came to Ancón
 but our marine guard took away the arms, rifles
 swords etc from all soldiers that came some
 Peruvian soldiers made some resistance but were soon
 brought to reason by a few British Lancers. Meanwhile the
 Chileans were getting ready to attack the second Peruvian
 army viz the Reserve & what remained of the active or
 regular army which were stationed at Miraflores &
 stretched from the sea a few miles inland the Peruvian
 positions were well arranged so the Chileans themselves
 say ^{that} were a series of redoubts made a few weeks
 before by building a thick wall of sand bags & digging
 a ditch all round, the positions were something as follows



The redoubts were each occupied by a battalion of the
 Peruvian Army. Mr Barons' battalion the N^o 2 occupied
 redoubt N^o 1 nearest the coast. The Peruvians were
 quite ready & expecting the attack all Saturday
 but it was about 3.30 in the afternoon before the
 Chilians were seen advancing not in battalions but
 dispersed at the same time the Chilean ships
 commenced shelling the Peruvian positions. Before I go
 any further I must tell you about an important
 part the foreign ministers were taking. The English
 French, German, American & Italian Ministers in Lima
 accompanied by Admiral Sterling (of our Pacific Squadron)
 & the French Admiral, went to try & mediate between
 the two armies. The Commander in chief of the Chilean
 forces Gen^l Baquedano would only consent to the
 unconditional surrender of Lima to which Peru would
 not listen so the peaceable efforts of the foreign ministers
 were of no avail; when the latter saw this they told
 Gen^l Baquedano that as there was so much neutral
 property in Lima that he must not let his
 men sack nor burn the city to which Gen^l Baq^{do}
 replied that he could not help nor prevent it, as
 after a furious battle it is impossible to restrain
 these men (& many of the Chilians had come and
 fought with the prospect of plundering Lima)
 so then Admiral Sterling told Mr Baquedano in
 plain words that if the Chilians entered Lima
 plundering, sacking & burning the city, he would
 (continued.)

(Continued).

(5.)

destroy or capture every Chilean ship afloat, besides which he along with the other admirals would land a force of 10,000 foreign marines & expel the Chileans out of the city. Now mind I don't vouch for the truth of all this, but I have it on pretty good authority & while I was in Ancor I was told by a seaman of the "Shannon" that they had orders for to prepare for immediate service, but to return to the two armies who had been facing each other all Saturday with not more than 5 miles between them. The armistice made by the ministers expired I think at 3 p.m. & at 3.30 the Chileans advanced. I have been told by several of Mr Barrow's battallion that the Peruvians were frightened from the first & that some of them ran after firing the first shot. I have also been told that some ran without ever firing a shot & I believe both accounts & it seems that the greater part of the battallion which was abt (400 strong) ran before the fight had properly commenced & left a few of their bravest men to fight it out by themselves, and what happened at the No 1 Redoubt I suppose happened at the others for the Chileans say they never expected to win so easily & that the battle was won before half the Chilean army had fired a shot. As to what happened in the redoubts of course we cant tell except what the survivors say & they were so thoroughly scared that they dont know themselves what happened. men that were in the same company as Mr Barrow & next to him cant give any account of him; he was found 3 days afterwards in the ditch at one side;

the Redoubt his pockets had been searched & watch stole
 & he had as far as could be ascertained two bullet
 wounds one in the cheek & the other in the stomach.
 We took him in a cart to the Pantheon & buried him
 on Wednesday ^(19th inst) night at 6. pm.

after the battle at Miraflores the Chilians remained
 where they were, & they say they couldn't believe they had
 been won so easily and ^{thought} that it was some trap of the
 Peruvians to catch them & were quite surprised to hear
 next morning that the Peruvian army was broken up
 & dispersed part gone up the mountains etc etc.
 On Saturday night after the battle Lima was in a
 state of riot & disorder the Peruvian soldiers came
 & broke open shops stores set fire to buildings & shot
 a lot of people the Chinese seem to have suffered
 most their stores were broken open & the contents
 stolen & strewn about the street & the Chinamen were
 butchered without mercy. In this state of things
 with the city on fire in several places the night
 passed & people that were in Lima that
 say that it was something terrible. In the morning
 (Sunday) the greater part of the Peruvians had
 cleared out with bundles of stolen goods & plunder
 & gone into the interior etc as they were expecting
 Chilians to come in all the time. but there were
 still bands of niggers going about robbing the stores
 etc so a lot of foreigners furnished into a kind
 of police & got rifles from the palace & went
 shooting the rioters right & left. Campbell
 didn't get away to Ancón says he saw a

many as six all being engaged in the
men about 6 ft. During the rest of Sunday the
foreigners went about with rifles protecting the stores
etc & on Monday two days after the battle the
Chilians came in quietly & in order without even
an "hurrah" or "viva". What a contrast they are to
the Peruvian soldiers, bigger stouter, more intelligence
& a more determined look about them & much better
clothed with good strong boots on, whilst the Peruvians
were very badly clothed & had without boots at all. ~~That~~
that is the men but the Peruvian officers are much
more expensively dressed than the Chilians, the ~~last~~ latter
haven't got so much gold lace about them. Of course they
have only brought a few regiments into Lima & it is
natural that they will have brought their best ones
so I don't know if they are all as well equipped as
these are. They have committed no serious disturbances &
have behaved very well & I hope they will continue
to do so. The stores & shops have begun to open this
week but we have not done so. I think Natalis is
waiting for Mr Gil who wasn't in the fight at all
but who went into the interior to be out of the
way. But as there is no proper rate of exchange yet
everybody asks very high prices for their goods. Callao is opened
but the dock & mole etc are rendered useless for the
present because the Peruvians sank all their remaining
ships & blocked up the entrance. The Chilians are
trying to raise the "Union". There is no prospect of
peace being signed yet because Piccola has retired to
the interior & declared that the Capital of Peru is where

is & nobody here dares to attempt to make peace
 the Chile, for if anyone did as soon as the
 Chilians went away Pirola would come back &
 anybody doing so has been threatened to be hung
 from the Cathedral Tower & roasted alive. The
 feeling of the natives here is of course very bitter
 besides the shame of being beaten comes the shame
 of the way they have behaved here & that the
 Chilians have not robbed nor plundered at all.
 Also the feeling against the foreigners is about
 twice as intense as it was before. They are dreadfully
 accused against us and I have heard several English-
 men & others here say that we are all right as long
 as the Chilians stay here but when they leave it will
 be dangerous for us, besides the Chilians will drain
 the country now for years & it will be poorer &
 worse & worse & I know several that are
 making preparations for leaving the country.
 Gibbs & Co are going altogether from here & almost every
 foreigner that I have spoken with says that those
 that can ought certainly to get away. It will be a
 bad thing for the Barons if as some people expect
 the Chilians are going to levy large sums on Peruvian
 houses or else confiscate the property.
 I am in good health & hope to be out of this in six months
 longer. Even if I don't go home to England if I once get to
 the States I think I shall be all right.
 We sent a telegram last week to S G over with the two words
 "Baron moves" so that Henry would know & we expect he will
 come immediately & bring all the family.
 With the warmest love to yourself all the others
 remaining
 I remain your affectionate son
 Thurston Tanner.