



MEXICO.

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FALL OF  
MAXIMILIAN

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Maximiliano

THE FALL  
OF  
MAXIMILIAN,

Late Emperor of Mexico;

WITH AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION,  
THE EVENTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING HIS ACCEPTANCE  
OF THE CROWN,

AND A PARTICULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE

CAUSES WHICH LED TO HIS EXECUTION;

TOGETHER WITH A CORRECT REPORT OF

THE ABLE DEFENCE MADE BY HIS ADVOCATES BEFORE THE COURT-MARTIAL,  
AND THEIR PERSEVERING EFFORTS ON HIS BEHALF AT THE  
SEAT OF THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT.

By W. HARRIS CHYNOWETH, ✓  
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS RESIDENT IN MEXICO.

"La historia no tendrá un criterio uniforme para juzgar la muerte de Maximiliano."—  
*The Advocates' Reflections.*

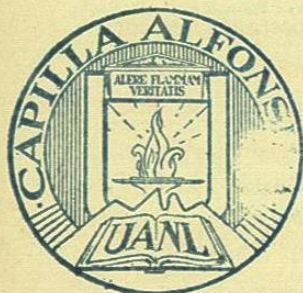
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1872. ✓

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FONDO  
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

## PREFACE.

THE erroneous conceptions which prevail in Europe generally, touching the facts connected with the deplorable execution of Maximilian, late Emperor of Mexico, on the 19th of June, 1867, cannot fail to be wondered at by those who, residing in Mexico at the time, were well acquainted with the real circumstances of the case. The sensation created in England, when the intelligence was first received, that the Emperor had been "*assassinated*," must still be vividly remembered; but no relation of the particulars which led to that so-called "*assassination*" was given; nor does it appear that the main facts connected with the trial and the able defence made on that occasion have ever yet been published, either in this country or on the Continent. The communication of the important event of the Emperor's execution was of itself sufficient to fill the public mind with horror, under the conviction that he had unhappily fallen into the hands of assassins—who, in flagrant violation of every principle of law, justice, honour, and humanity, had most cruelly put him to death. This

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impression was caused by the hurried and excited remarks of the Public Press, on a nation which had been struggling for a series of years to rid herself of the evil which had been exhausting her resources, and consuming her vitality. She was just emerging from the chaos in which she had been engulfed—triumphant in crushing and exterminating the intestine war that prevented her from progressing in the scale of nations—when she was interfered with by a colossal European Power, which prided itself upon having reached the pinnacle of civilisation. This Power espoused the cause of her internal foe—a corrupted Priesthood—adverse to Liberty and Education, and, consequently, opposed to the progress of true civilisation. An attempt was made to establish a Monarchy, which signally failed, and terminated in a lamentable event.

In justice to a severely-criticised people, an effort is now made to place before the world a true and impartial statement of the circumstances which led to the sad fate of the Archduke Maximilian, sometime Emperor of Mexico.

Ambitious to occupy an exalted position—deluded by the fallacious representations of an unauthorised body of men, styled a "Committee of Notables," who pretended to represent the Mexican nation—fascinated by the support of the Emperor of the French, who recalled his protection when it was most needed—this European Prince was sacrificed through an unfortunate concurrence of circumstances.

It is always easy to censure, though sometimes most ungracious to do so; but as it is not the writer's intention to make *comments* on the facts connected with this epoch in the history of Mexico, *they* alone are now submitted to the

judgment of the public without fear. A scrupulous adherence to truth is maintained in this work, the sole object of which is to give general publicity to the particulars of the events which transpired during the period referred to.

A sketch of the events precursory to the entrance of Maximilian into Mexico, and of others which transpired during his reign, comprises the principal matters of interest connected with the invasion, and the most important features of his brief career. They are here given in order to prepare the reader for the intelligent perusal of the judicial proceedings embodied in the Trial.

The address delivered by the Advocates for the Defence before the Court-martial, fairly represents the feelings of a considerable portion of the Mexican people, including the President Juarez, who, of himself, would have been glad to grant a pardon; but the voices of relatives and friends of the victims, executed as Traitors for defending their homes and the Law of the land, demanded an impartial and dispassionate judgment.

London, June 1872.



## CONTENTS.

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### PART I.

#### HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

##### SECTION I.

	PAGE
General History prior to Independence . . . . .	I

##### SECTION II.

Independence—First Empire under Iturbide . . . . .	22
--	----

##### SECTION III.

The Republican Era . . . . .	29
------------------------------	----

##### SECTION IV.

The Second Empire under Maximilian . . . . .	48
--	----

---

### PART II.

#### INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION.

Advocates' Preface . . . . .	79
Incidents prior to Trial . . . . .	83
Post-mortem Negotiations . . . . .	189



PART III.  
THE TRIAL.

SECTION I.		PAGE
Maximilian's Declaration and Protest . . . . .		201
SECTION II.		
Advocates' Preliminary Defence . . . . .		207
SECTION III.		
The Defence at the Court-Martial . . . . .		215
Conclusion . . . . .		268
INDEX . . . . .		271

CONTENTS OF PART I.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

Popular agitation for political liberty—Viceroy acquiesces—Refusal by the Spanish cabal—Deposition of the Viceroy Iturrigaray—Guadalupe and Gachupines—Insurrection in Guanajuato—Lack of a champion for the people—Don Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla—Barbarous edict of Spain—First shout for independence—Response of the Indians—Hidalgo at the head of 40,000 men—March on the silver mines—Fearful massacre and carnage—Retreat of Hidalgo—Rout of the Insurgent army—Seizure of the city of Guanajuato by Calleja—Horrible revenge of the Spaniards—Defeat, escape, and betrayal of Hidalgo—His execution—José Maria Morelos—His military ability—His successes—Defeat of the Spaniards at the Battle of Palmar.	1803.
Successes of the Insurgents.	1812.
Battle of Puruaran—Capture and execution of Matamoros—National Assembly invoked—Its failure—Success of the Spaniards—Capture of Zitacuaro—Proclamation of the Independence of Mexico—Chipalcingo—Proclamation burnt by order of Calleja.	1813.
Perilous expedition of Morelos—His capture—His execution—Remarks on his bravery—Miguel Bravo—His magnanimity—His execution—Confusion in the ranks of the Independents—Acts of cruelty on the part of the Spaniards—Victoria takes the command of the Insurgents—Reinforcement of the Spanish army—Defeat of Victoria—His retreat to the forests of Vera Cruz—Hunted by the Spaniards—Rumours of his death—His reappearance—Padre Torres of Cuchilinga—His vulgar ambition and despotic tyranny.	1815.
Xavier Mina lands at Soto la Marina—Marches to support the rebellion—His daring courage—Hostility of Torres towards Mina—Butchery of prisoners by the Spaniards in the Fortress of Sombrero—Betrayal, capture, and execution of Mina—The siege of Los Remedios—Flight of Torres—Spanish barbarities—Intense hatred of the Spanish by Mexicans—Disappearance of Torres—Public elections—Mexican	1816.
	1817.