



THE FALL  
OF  
MAXIMILIAN,  
LATE EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

PART I.  
HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

SECTION I.

*General History prior to Independence.*

THE execution of Maximilian, sometime Emperor of Mexico, has been but too commonly regarded as a lawless and ferocious act, perpetrated by a semi-barbarous people in its blind and insensate intolerance of all wholesome rule and government.

This erroneous impression is, to a great extent, attributable to the fact that the chequered history of that interesting country and community is by no means generally known and understood.

The more charitable, though, probably, less popular, opinion that the deplorable episode referred to was the natural, if not inevitable, outcome of a series of events in which he himself had neither part nor lot, and in which the Mexicans themselves were but little if any more blameworthy than other nations who have successfully struggled for national independence, can scarcely be duly and intelligently appreciated without a brief review of the history of the country from the early part of the present century down to the date of the establishment of a Constitutional or Republican Government, to supersede which he was