

firmation. He begged to be sent before the Congress which was then sitting at Padilla; and that his chaplain, who had accompanied him to Mexico, should be allowed to attend him.

La Garza, fearful of incurring the responsibility of carrying into effect the decree, determined on granting his request; and immediately sent a letter to the Congress, informing them of the return of Iturbide, and of his intention to bring him before them.

This news created great consternation. The remembrance of the services rendered by Iturbide to the country, seriously affected them, and they endeavoured to evade, if possible, the spirit of the Act; but unhappily without avail. Only six deputies remained in session, who ordered the immediate execution of the unfortunate Emperor.

At six in the evening, he was conducted to the place of execution, accompanied by his chaplain, to whom he entrusted the rosary which had hung on his neck, to be given to his eldest son, also a letter for his wife.

Distributing among the firing party the contents of his purse, he addressed these words to the crowd in a firm and distinct tone:—

“Mexicans! At the moment I am about to die, I commend to you the love of your country and the observance of our holy religion; it is that which must conduct you to glory. I die for having come to your aid; and I die content, because I die amongst you. I die with honour,—not as a traitor. I would not leave that stain to my children and to posterity. No; I am not a traitor! Observe subordination and be obedient to your chiefs. In executing their orders you accomplish the will of God. My words are not inspired by vanity, I am far from possessing it.” At the conclusion of this address, he desired the adjutant, Castillo, to fire; and immediately fell, pierced by five bullets.

He was buried in the cemetery of Padilla, without any solemnity; but his death has been a lasting sorrow to the nation.

## PART I.

### HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION.

#### SECTION III.

##### *The Republican Era.*

THE Republics which succeeded on the fall of Iturbide were remarkable for the constant change of Presidents through national dissensions, of which the clergy were credited as being the chief cause.

The clergy had obtained a great hold on the country, and were continually in opposition to the wishes of the people.

Possessed of enormous wealth which they had gradually accumulated; and having the army on their side, the whole country was virtually in their hands.

This state of affairs continued up to 1847, when on the invasion of the country by the United States, the inefficiency of the executive was proved, and a Government succeeded which introduced several reforms both clerical and military.

In 1853 Santa Anna was proclaimed Dictator; the result of a revolution in which the clergy took a prominent part; and the despotic rule which followed the proclamation of Santa Anna as Dictator was the result of a combination between the clergy and the army.

The people became dissatisfied; and in the same year the standard of rebellion was raised by Ignacio Comonfort in the State of Guerrero; this insurrection soon became general, and terminated in the complete overthrow of Santa Anna and the clergy.

In 1855 Comonfort became President, but after two years of turbulent rule he found himself unable to carry on



the Government satisfactorily, he therefore abdicated in favour of Don Benito Juarez.

For some time the Conservative and Liberal parties in the country had been bitterly opposed to each other.

During the presidency of Comonfort, the Conservative General Zuloaga proclaimed himself President, and he, in his turn, was supplanted by Miramon.

Here were two powerful parties, each with a President at its head, contending for supremacy; and many desperate conflicts ensued, until a decisive victory won at the battle of Calpulalpam by the Liberals, placed Juarez in possession of the capital.

Juarez set to work to repair the losses suffered during the late war, and to carry out those liberal measures which had been commenced by Comonfort. The suppression of monasteries, the confiscation of the vast wealth of the clergy, the principles of civil and religious liberty were the chief reforms which were established.

The clergy, with the Bishops Munguia and Labastida at their head, continued to conspire against the Government of Juarez, but at length they were expelled the country, and Europe became their scene of action.

Their aim was the establishment in Mexico of a Spanish monarchy; for which purpose they endeavoured to bring about the intervention of France.

During the pseudo-presidency of Miramon, bonds were issued by his party to the extent of several millions of dollars for the purpose of carrying on the struggle. These, known as the Jecker Bonds, were taken by several European capitalists, and the hope of redemption lay in the successful overthrow of Juarez, who repudiated the debt.

The religious enthusiasm of the Empress of the French was enlisted in behalf of the exiled party, and the riches of Mexico was a bait temptingly held out in order to obtain the support of the French nation.

The Governments of England, France, and Spain were petitioned to intervene in order that the bondholders should be enabled to obtain payment of their claims.

Earl Russell, on the part of England, was unwilling to interfere, but finding France and Spain had determined on acceding to the request, he at last consented, and on the 31st of October, 1861, was signed the "Convention of London."

Shortly after the signing of the Convention, naval forces from each Power, with the addition of military on the part of France, proceeded to Vera Cruz, the principal maritime town and port of Mexico, where they arrived on the 7th of January 1862. The first Liberal Government in Mexico was then in power, having at its head Don Benito Juarez, as President of the Republic. To him despatches from the combined representatives of the three European Powers were forwarded, demanding payment of the debt due to them respectively by the Mexican nation, and with the avowed object of ascertaining in what manner the Government purposed to liquidate those liabilities. With that frankness and sterling honesty of principle which characterizes President Juarez, he explained the pecuniary position of his Government, which had very recently been established, after overthrowing the fatal sway of the Clerical party: stating that the coffers of the nation were in an impoverished condition, consequent on the contentions of many years' civil war; that it was the desire of the Government not only to satisfy the creditors of the nation as to all existing obligations, but also to make arrangements respecting the future—for all which time only was solicited.

It was obvious, both to the then British Minister in Mexico (Sir Charles Wyke), as well as to the representatives of France and Spain, that the Juarez Government was desirous to avoid any outbreak of ill-feeling or hostilities, by acceding to any reasonable propositions that might be made, or could be entertained, for the fulfilment of the conditions of the existing treaties, and that they were willing at the same time to offer material guarantees by way of security.

On the 10th of January a proclamation was issued by the allied representatives to the Mexican people, in which was stated, that the treaties violated by the various Governments of Mexico, by which the guarantees of their countrymen



were incessantly menaced, rendered the expedition necessary; they had no pretensions of conquest, nor any aspiration to intervene in the politics or administration of the Mexicans; they simply desired to obtain reparation for grievances inflicted on their countrymen; they tendered a friendly hand towards a people whom Providence had favoured with gifts, but who used their forces and exhausted their vitality in civil wars and perpetual convulsions: it was the object of the three powers to work for the future of Mexico, and not to make war: it was exclusively for Mexico without any foreign intervention, to constitute itself in a solid and durable manner; and they only wished to assist in their regeneration to order and liberty.

On the 25th of January a manifesto was published by Juarez against the Interventionists; in which he declared his intention to inflict punishment on them for offences committed against the nation; against order, public peace and individual security.

Amongst the offences against the independence and stability of the nation were comprised:—

*First.* The armed invasion made on the territory of the Republic by foreigners, not having been preceded by a declaration of war on the part of the powers to which they belong.

*Second.* The voluntary service of the Mexicans amongst the foreign troops of the enemy, whatever may be the character in which they accompany them.

*Third.* The invitation made by Mexicans or foreigners residing in the Republic to the subjects of other powers to invade the national territory, whether to change the form of the Government of the Republic, or on any other pretext.

*Fourth.* Every kind of complicity to incite or prepare the invasion, or to favour its realization.

*Fifth.* Every attempt to organize even the semblance of a new Government, by giving votes, or otherwise assisting at meetings to make resolutions with that view, or by accepting office or commission whether it be under the invader himself or other persons delegated by him.

In spite of this, despatches were forwarded from the French representatives, asking permission from the Mexican Government to march their troops to a more salubrious part of the country, as the excessive heat on the coast had caused much sickness amongst them.

Señor Doblado replied on the 6th of February: "As the Government of the Republic is unaware of the nature of the mission which the Commissioners of the allied powers have come to fulfil in Mexico, because, up to this moment they have only indicated vague promises, of which no person understands the veritable object, it cannot permit the invading troops to advance, unless there be arranged with clearness and precision, certain general bases explaining the intentions of the Allies, upon which important national interests may be deliberately discussed."

"The Citizen President commands me to say for more ample explanation, that if you send promptly to Cordova a Commissioner to discuss with one from the Mexican Government the bases indicated, he will give orders to permit him to advance to such points as may be agreed upon."

The Allies replied to that note on the 9th of February as follows:—

"Desirous of attempting a last effort to prevent a conflict which they would sincerely regret, the undersigned representatives consider it their duty to invite His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs to come in person to meet the Conde de Reus, who will in their name give every necessary explanation, to dissipate injurious doubts as to the loyalty of the high powers signing the Convention of the 31st of October, 1861."

"The Conde de Reus will, accordingly, be at the Rancho de la Pulga—a point equidistant from La Tejeria and La Soledad—on the 18th of February, at 11 A.M. The representatives trust that the Minister of Foreign Affairs may be able to present himself at the rendezvous with a guard of honour of fifty cavalry and



"fifty infantry. The Conde de Reus will be attended by a similar escort."

This arrangement for an interview having been accepted, General Prim went to the place designated; and from thence proceeded, accompanied by Señor Doblado, to La Soledad—a town in the interior, about thirty miles from Vera Cruz. They immediately retired to an isolated house, where they remained several hours in secret conclave.

To facilitate an amicable arrangement, a Conference was held at that town. This Conference was called the "Preliminary Convention of La Soledad." It was held on the 19th of February 1862, and provided (between the Mexican Government of the one part, and the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, France, and Spain of the other part):—

"ARTICLE 1.

"The Constitutional Government, which is actually in power in the Republic of Mexico, having informed the Commissioners of the Allied Powers that it did not require the assistance offered with so much courtesy to the Mexican people, because they possess in themselves sufficient elements of force to preserve themselves from any internal revolution; the Allies will have recourse to the existing treaties to present all claims which they are charged to make in the name of their respective nations.

"ARTICLE 2.

"With that object—all the representatives of the Allied Powers protesting that they have not, by any means, the intention to injure the sovereignty or integrity of the Mexican Republic—negotiations shall be opened at Orizaba, where the Commissioners of the Allied Powers and the Ministers of the Republic shall meet, unless delegates be named by both parties by mutual consent.

"ARTICLE 3.

"Whilst these negotiations proceed, the forces of the

"Allied Powers shall occupy the towns of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan.

"ARTICLE 4.

"In order that it may not in any manner be supposed that the Allies have signed these preliminaries with the object of obtaining their admission to the fortified positions now occupied by the Mexican army, it is stipulated that, in case the negotiations, unhappily, shall be broken off, the allied forces shall retire from the said towns, and take up their positions in line before the fortifications, on the road to Vera Cruz, the extreme points being Paso Ancho on the road to Cordova, and Paso de Oveja on the road to Jalapa.

"ARTICLE 5.

"In case, unhappily, the negotiations shall be interrupted, and the Allies shall retire within the lines before indicated, the hospitals of the Allies shall remain under the protection of the Mexican nation.

"ARTICLE 6.

"The day on which the Allies shall commence their march to occupy the points mentioned in the 3rd Article, the Mexican flag shall be hoisted over the town of Vera Cruz, and on the fort of San Juan de Uloa.

(Signed)

"CONDE DE REUS.  
MANUEL DOBLADO.  
CHARLES LENNOX WYKE.  
HUGH DUNLOP.  
A. DE SALIGNY.  
E. JURIEN."

"La Soledad, 19th February, 1862.

"In exercise of the full powers with which I am invested, I approve these preliminaries.

(Signed)

"BENITO JUAREZ,  
President of the Republic.  
JESUS TERAN, SECRETARY."



The French plenipotentiaries, acting on instructions which reached Vera Cruz on the 24th of February, commenced a course of action independent of that of the representatives of England and Spain, who were in harmony with each other. The French wished the terms of the Convention of London to be strictly adhered to, *irrespective* of the preliminaries of La Soledad.

This difference of opinion was the prelude to still greater difficulties, the French being determined to adopt an aggressive policy, in order to pave the way for the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico.

In accordance with the preliminaries of La Soledad, the French troops were permitted to march into the interior, to the salubrious and luxurious climate of Cordova, Orizaba, and Tehuacan, where the invalids rapidly recovered from the effects of their residence on the seaboard. Shortly after this, General Lorencez arrived from France, accompanied by the exiled Mexican General Almonte, who in Europe had concerted plans for securing the Mexican throne to the Archduke Maximilian of Austria. Almonte lost no time in initiating a system of intrigue, for the purpose of inducing the supporters of Juarez to revolt against his Government, by issuing invitations to the Mexican people to pronounce against him.

On the 9th of April, 1862, a Conference was held at Orizaba between the allied representatives, to take under consideration the reply which should be given to a communication received from the Mexican Government, demanding the re-embarkation of General Almonte and those who accompanied him. At that Conference the Commissioners disagreed; M. Saligny avowing, that "for his part he formally declared he would not treat with that Government; and his opinion was, that the allied forces ought to march on Mexico." The Conde de Reus and Sir Charles Wyke dissented, and considered that what had been said was unjustifiable.

"Sir Charles Wyke wished to know if it were true

that M. de Saligny had said that he considered the preliminaries of La Soledad as not worthy the paper on which they were written." To which the latter replied, that "he never could have the least confidence in whatever emanated from the Government of Mexico; no more in the preliminaries than in the other engagements." After further discussion, M. de Saligny repeated that he considered the march of the troops on Mexico as "indispensable for the security of his countrymen," and declared his irrevocable resolution "not to treat with the Government of President Juarez." To which the English and Spanish Commissioners replied that they "did not know any motive to justify such a resolution," and declared their intention to retire their forces from the Mexican territory.

On the 16th of April the French Commissioners published the following proclamation, which was the commencement of hostilities against Juarez:—

"Mexicans. We have not come here to take a part in your divisions: we have come to terminate them. We would invite all good and true men to co-operate in the consolidation of order, to the regeneration of your beautiful country. To demonstrate the sincere spirit of conciliation with which we are animated, we first addressed ourselves to the Government itself, against which we had the most serious grievances. We have asked it to accept our assistance in order to establish in Mexico a state of affairs which would spare us in future the necessity of these remote expeditions, the gravest inconvenience of which is the suspension of commerce and the interruption of the course of relations which might be so profitable to Europe and to your own country.

"The Government has responded to the moderation of our conduct by measures to which we never intended to lend our moral support; such as the civilized world would reproach us for if we sanctioned them by our presence. Between that government and us, war is this day declared; but we do not confound the Mexican people with an oppressive and violent minority. The Mexican people are



always entitled to our liveliest sympathies. It is for them to show themselves worthy of this. We appeal to all who have confidence in our intervention, to whatever party they may belong.

"No sensible man would believe that the Government created by the suffrages of one of the most liberal nations of Europe could have, for a moment, the intention to restore ancient abuses amongst a foreign people, and to revive institutions which are not of this century.

"We desire equal justice for all, and that that justice may not have to be enforced by our arms. The Mexican people ought of themselves to be the primary agents of emancipation. We have no other object than to inspire the honest and peaceable portion of the country, that is to say, nine-tenths of the population, with courage to make known their wishes. If the Mexican nation remains inert, if she will not comprehend that we offer her an un hoped-for opportunity to escape from ruin, if she does not by her own efforts, give a direction and a practical moral significance to our support, it is evident that we shall only have to attend to the precise interests for which the Convention of London was ratified.

"Let those men divided for so long a period by quarrels without an object, hasten then to come to us. They have the destiny of Mexico in their hands. The flag of France has been planted on Mexican soil; that flag will never recede. Let those wise men welcome it as a friendly standard. Let the foolhardy dare to fight against it.

"Cordova, 16th April, 1862.

"The French Plenipotentiaries to Mexico.

"V. A. JURIEN,

"COMTE DE SALIGNY."

General Lorencez, on the 26th of April, marched at the head of his forces, amounting to about 5000 men, towards the Capital of the Republic, under the conviction that no Mexican opposition could prevent his entering the city of Mexico: but he was brought to a halt by a

formidable barrier, which presented itself at the city of Puebla, where the Mexican Government had concentrated about an equal number of troops, under the command of General Zaragoza, and thrown up temporary fortifications.

The French General did not delay in attacking the Mexicans with all the forces at his command; but, after some severe fighting, which lasted for several days, an attempt was made, on the memorable 5th of May, to carry the city by assault; the French General, however, found he had too cheaply estimated his foe, who repulsed the daring invader.

Never did a General more deservedly receive chastisement. Lorencez having sacrificed the honour of his country by violating the Treaty of La Soledad; and the glory of France being thus tarnished by the failure of the attack on Puebla; he retired to the city of Orizaba (from whence he had so recently marched), to await reinforcements from Europe. Many months of inactivity followed, bordering on a complete cessation of hostilities, until fresh troops arrived from France, accompanied by General Forey, who arrived at Vera Cruz on the 22nd of September, and immediately deprived General Almonte of the powers which had been conferred upon him by the small town of Cordova.

Forey had received instructions from the Emperor of the French respecting the line of conduct to be observed by him, as follows:—

"THE EMPEROR TO GENERAL FOREY.

"Fontainebleau, 3rd July, 1862.

"MY DEAR GENERAL,

"On the moment of your departure for Mexico, entrusted with political and military powers, I consider it desirable to make my thoughts known to you.

"This is the line of conduct you have to pursue:

"*First.* To issue a proclamation on your arrival, the principal ideas of which will be indicated to you.

"*Second.* To receive with the greatest consideration all Mexicans who offer themselves to you.



"*Third.* Not to espouse the quarrel of any party ; but to declare that all is provisional as long as the Mexican nation shall not have declared itself ; and show great deference to religion, but at the same time encourage the holders of national property.

"*Fourth.* To nourish, pay, and arm the Mexican auxiliary troops according to your means ; causing them to take the principal part in the battles.

"*Fifth.* To maintain amongst the troops, as well as amongst the auxiliaries, the strictest discipline ; to rigorously repress every act, all gossip, offensive to Mexicans ; for their characteristic pride must not be forgotten, and it is important to the interests of the enterprise, above all, to conciliate the feelings of the people.

" Having reached Mexico it is to be hoped that notable persons of every shade, who may have espoused our cause, will come to an understanding with you to organize a provisional Government. That Government will submit to the Mexican people the question of what political *régime* ought to be definitively established. An assembly will be immediately elected according to the Mexican laws.

" You will aid the new power to introduce into the administration, and especially in the finance, that regularity of which France offers the best model. For that purpose, persons capable of assisting in its new organization will be sent.

" The object to be attained is not to impose on the Mexicans a form of government which would be distasteful to them ; but to aid them in their efforts to establish, according to their own will, a Government which may have a chance of stability, and may be able to secure to France redress for the grievances of which she has to complain.

" Of course, if they prefer a monarchy, it is the interest of France to support them in that view.

" There will not be wanting some who will ask you why we have provided men and money to establish a regular Government in Mexico.

" In the present state of civilization of the world the prosperity of America is not indifferent to Europe ; for she it is who feeds our manufactures, and keeps our commerce alive. It is to our interest that the Republic of the United States may be powerful and prosperous, but by no means that she should take all the Gulf of Mexico, and hence command the West Indies as well as South America, and be the sole dispenser of the products of the New World. We see to-day, by a sad experience, how precarious is the fate of an industry which is reduced to seek for its principal products in one market only, where it undergoes every kind of vicissitude.

" If, on the contrary, Mexico conserves her independence and maintains the integrity of her territory ; if a stable Government be constituted there with the assistance of France, we shall have restored to the Latin race, from the other side of the ocean, its strength and its prestige ; we shall have guaranteed their security to our colonies of the West Indies and those of Spain ; we shall have established our beneficent influence to the centre of America ; and that influence, by creating immense openings to our commerce, will procure for us the indispensable materials for our industry.

" Mexico, thus regenerated, will always be favourable to us ; not only by acknowledgment, but also because its interests will be in harmony with ours, and it will find a point of support in its good relations with the European powers.

" Now, therefore, our military honour pledged, the exigence of our politics, the interest of our industry and our commerce make it our duty to march on Mexico, to plant there boldly our standard, to establish there, — a monarchy, if it is not incompatible with the national sentiment of the country — but at all events a Government which promises some stability."

" NAPOLÉON."



General Forey now took command of the troops and advanced on Puebla, which had been placed in a state of defence, and was occupied by the bulk of the Mexican army. He formed his encampment in front of that city, against which he laid siege. Hostilities were carried on, with varied success on either side, for several weeks; repeated attacks were made by the French troops without any decided result; and it has been doubted whether they would ever have conquered the Mexicans, if a more formidable enemy than French soldiers had not crept into the besieged city. The supplies having been cut off by the French, *hunger* came effectually to their help. During this state of affairs the President Juarez was not idle; another small army was formed, which, under the command of General Comonfort, advanced to the relief of Puebla. That small army, however, was composed of volunteers and raw recruits; and although these were not wanting in courage, and fought with intrepid bravery, it is not to be wondered at that undisciplined troops were routed by the French: some hard fighting, nevertheless, preceded their defeat, and General Forey lost a considerable number of men. But the stores and ammunition intended for the besieged army having fallen into the hands of the French, and the relieving forces of the Mexicans having disappeared, the defenders of Puebla destroyed their arms and fled in great confusion, entirely abandoning the city to the victors.

No obstacle now remained to prevent General Forey from pressing on with his troops to the Capital of the Republic. No effective resistance could now be made to his advance from Puebla. The President Juarez resolved on saving the beautiful city of Mexico from the consequences of a prolonged siege, and its inhabitants from the hardships to which by it they would inevitably be exposed. The Mexican Government withdrawing to San Luis Potosi, abandoned the Capital, leaving the gates unprotected, and the French army made its triumphant entry on the 10th of June, 1863.

Without any sacrifice of time, measures were taken by the Mexican intriguers, under the protection of France, to form a new Government. General Almonte, previous to his departure from Europe, had secretly arranged his course of tactics with the Emperor Napoleon in reference to the establishment of a Monarchy in Mexico; and the opportune moment having arrived, he commenced his operations by setting up a Regency, represented by General Salas, Father Ormaechea, and himself. An "*Assembly of Notables*" was summoned to co-operate with the Regency, to take into consideration and resolve upon the form of Government it would be most prudent to establish for ruling the nation. This mockery, as a matter of course, resulted, without a dissentient voice, in the adoption of the decision which had months previously been arrived at in Europe by Almonte himself.

At that sitting the Assembly named a commission to decide on the form of government that should be adopted for Mexico; and on the 10th of July, that commission read to the Assembly a report which concluded in favour of a monarchy, submitting to the deliberation of that Assembly the following propositions:—

"*First.* The Mexican nation adopts a *monarchical, temperate, and hereditary* form of government under a Catholic prince.

"*Second.* The sovereign shall take the title of Emperor of Mexico.

"*Third.* The Imperial Crown of Mexico shall be offered to His Imperial and Royal Highness the Prince Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria for him and his descendants.

"*Fourth.* In case, from circumstances which cannot be foreseen, the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian should not take possession of the throne which is offered to him, the Mexican nation shall place it under the *consideration* of His Majesty Napoleon III., Emperor of the French, that he



may indicate another Catholic Prince to whom the Crown shall be offered.

"Mexico, 10th July, 1863.

"AGUILAR.  
VELAZQUEZ DE LEON.  
OROZCO.  
MARIN.  
BLANCO."

These propositions were accepted and published in the form of a decree. A commission was then named to convey to the Archduke Maximilian the decree of the Assembly of Notables, and to offer him the Crown of Mexico.

That commission was received on the 3rd of October, 1863, by the Prince at his palace of Miramar. It would appear that the ambition of Maximilian was too strong to allow him to refuse the Crown, inasmuch as he at once accepted it, under the proviso that it should be made manifest to him that the offer came from the Mexican nation in general.

In a letter dated the 3rd of September, 1863, addressed to General Almonte by the Archduke, he says:—"If the votes of the entire country ratify the wishes of the capital; if the other conditions on which depends the accomplishment of those wishes be realized, I shall not hesitate before the difficulties of that grand enterprise."

The Regency was in a happy position to prevent any public demonstration in opposition to the proposed Monarchy, as the army of the Republican Government was destroyed at the siege of Puebla, and the forces which had rallied round the Regency, and were now amalgamated with the French, spread themselves over the principal part of the country. In all the towns and villages they occupied, the Conservative or Clerical party appointed and coerced the local authorities, so as to prevent any apparent want of unanimity in expression of feeling on the part of the inhabitants in favour of this Monarchy; and, consequently, it became an

easy matter to frame documentary evidence of such a nature as to beguile the credulity of the Archduke Maximilian, who, on its being placed before him at Miramar, no longer vacillated, but at once resolved on accepting the proffered Crown.

When the Archduke was at Brussels, at the end of February, he decided on going to Mexico; and in order to give to his acceptance of the Crown all the solemnity possible, the following letter was written, by his command, to General Woll:—

"Brussels, 29th Feb., 1864.

"MY MUCH ESTEEMED FRIEND,

"I am commanded by His Highness the Archduke to write to you and say that he wishes the prisoner generals who have adhered to his august person, and whom you may consider worthy, to present themselves at Miramar; but that this be done without their knowing that the Archduke desires it, and as a voluntary act on their part, to assist at the solemn acceptance of the Crown of Mexico, which will take place at Miramar in the presence of our Commission and several Mexicans, invited for that purpose, when the registers arrive—the votes—which as yet are wanting. You will present those generals, and His Highness hopes that for that purpose you will arrange with Señor Escandon, because he has recommended several prisoners, amongst whom there are one or more Indian officers; the Archduke desires that the last named may also assist at the solemnity at Miramar.

"The Archduke desires, besides, on account of the knowledge you possess respecting the Mexican army, that you should propose, if they meet with your approbation, one or more experienced officers who are able by their special acquaintance with arms and their skill, to select and receive the armament which has to be purchased here; if not, a commission will be named here for these transactions.

"J. VELAZQUEZ DE LEON."