

PART III.

THE TRIAL.

Translated from the original Spanish.

SECTION I.

Maximilian's Declaration and Protest.

" To the General-in-Chief of the Army of Operations :

" The declaration of Maximilian, a prisoner of war in
" the ex-convent of Capuchinas, in this city, sheweth :—

" That the principles of justice and dignity compel
" me to protest against the proceedings which are being
" taken against me in conformity with the law of the 25th
" of January, 1862, and to repudiate the military jurisdic-
" tion created thereby ; it being, in fact, incompetent to
" conduct and judge in the trial to which I must be sub-
" mitted. In making this declaration—which I will endea-
" vour to establish briefly, not having time for more—I am
" very far from seeking to evade a trial, for I ardently
" desire it, that my public conduct may be made known
" to all the world ; but I must urge my just claim that
" it be examined and scrutinized by competent judges, and
" with that deliberation, calmness, and circumspection,
" which are demanded by the nature of a process, so grave
" and so exceptional—the only one in the country.

" The more the said law of the 25th of January is
" read and studied, the more the conviction is established,