

to the general hospital; three thousand dollars to be distributed among the poor; one thousand dollars to complete the cathedral; besides many smaller presents to persons in the house where she remained during her stay there.

The following language from the "Yucatanos," addressed to the Empress, is illustrative of their good feeling toward her:

"The daughter of a King, the wife of a Monarch! Beautiful and affectionate Carlota! As the ship which brought you to our shores appeared in our horizon, we saluted you as the aurora of our happiest day; as you touched the sand of our port, we received you as the sovereign benefactor who filled us with hope; on hearing your sweet and consoling words which you addressed us at the foot of the throne, we listened to you as the cherub of benevolence; and to-day, Madam, as you give us new proof of your goodness, saving us from a great affliction, we contemplate you as the white and pure dove of the ark, the bearer of peace, and of reconciliation between God and man. Blessed be thou, Imperial dove! Blessed be thou, beneficent Empress! Were it possible for us to cover your road with pearls and diamonds we would do it with pleasure, in order that your feeling might palpitate the demonstration of our gratitude; but since that cannot be, you will comprehend, just and elevated spirit, the gratitude of our hearts. The mothers, the wives, and the sons of the poor, salute you as their redeemer.

"Accept, Madam, our wishes.

"MERIDA, November 26th, 1865."

Her Majesty left Merida on the 4th of December, in the morning, for the city of Campeachy, passing through Uxmal. A large number of young men, resident at

Merida, voluntarily, as a guard of honor, escorted her to the limits of that department. She made a short visit at Uxmal, where she also visited the hospital, the schools, and gave money to the poor. She ordered copies of the things which she saw there that were noteworthy. She was particularly pleased with the palace of the monks, and the house called the *Tortugas*, of which she had drawings taken.

While returning, on the road from Vera Cruz, where she stopped a short time, a poor woman offered her the breakfast which she had spread for her own family. The Empress, to please her, sat down and ate. While thus eating, the poor Indian woman said, with a great deal of simplicity, "I like Your Majesty very much, because you are very good, and because you have an Indian lady of honor, which proves that Your Majesty does not dislike, but rather loves the Indians." When Her Majesty left, she gave twenty dollars to the woman. There is no doubt of one fact, that the Indians became much pleased with her and the Emperor, on acquaintance with them. Their Majesties, on all occasions, were particular to see that that class of people were properly treated.

In the city of Puebla, she extended her visit to the hospitals; decorated some soldiers who had distinguished themselves for bravery; also some ladies who had given their services to the care of the sick and wounded soldiers, and several civil officers who had shown a great zeal in the advancement of the welfare of the country.

She requested to see the Americans that were living near and around Orizaba and Cordova; some of whom were engaged in the service of the railroad company. Many of them had but a small amount of means, which they had use for otherwise than expending for fine wearing apparel, and did not consider that they were suit-

ably arrayed to enter the presence of Her Majesty. When she was informed of that fact, she said, "Tell them to come without fine clothes." She had the faculty of pleasing every one.

She reached the capital, on her return, about the first of the following year. Soon after that, the sad intelligence of her father's death was communicated to her. It was a heavy blow to her, and it affected her long and seriously. Having lost her mother at an early age, she cherished more than ordinary love and affection for that remaining parent.

She founded the House of Maternity; and watched like a nursing-mother over those that needed assistance from the hand of charity.

As President of the General Council of Charity, she made a written report to His Majesty, on the 14th of April, 1866, setting forth briefly what had been done, and the condition of the society; saying therein, "I have presided at the various meetings which occurred in 1865, up to the time of my departure for Yucatan." Thereby showing that she never failed to be present, doing duty in the regular works of assistance to the needy.

Her energy was unbounded; she was ever ready to promote the happiness of the people, improve the condition of the country, and develop its resources. It became necessary for His Majesty to have a confidential representative in Europe, and to make some explanations and requests of Napoleon. She was prepared and willing to undertake the task. With that view she left the palace of Chapultepec at three o'clock on the morning of the 8th of July, 1866, for the church of Guadalupe, in the village of the same name, about a league to the north of the capital. She there attended Mass. At the conclusion of that ceremony she took her departure for Vera Cruz. His Majesty ac-

companied her as far as Rio Frio, and there saw her for the last time—Ay, a parting forever! Little was such his thought then. She sailed from Vera Cruz on the 13th of the month, in company with the Minister of State, Castillo; Count de Valle, the Grand Chamberlain; Felip U. del Barrio, Chamberlain; Mrs. Gutierrez Estrada y Barrio, Lady of Honor; and Doctor Bow-slaweck. At Orizaba, she asked for the prayers of her friends, saying, "I shall need them." From Havana she wrote to the Emperor, and also to her lady of honor, Miss Josefa Varela—the pet name of "Josefa" being *Pepita*. The letter to the latter was in the following words:

"MY DEAR PEPITA:

"Only a few words, before the steamer leaves. I am quite well, and ever thinking of you all. I had only one day of sickness. The heat is intense, and the voyage a long one. It is only out of pure patriotism that one undertakes these things with feelings of pleasure. From this to St. Thomas will be the last sojourn over American seas! All the Spanish authorities have treated me with the utmost deference; although I did not land, as the Emperor did not wish me to do so. The bay is very beautiful, and I should also say the town, where there exist fortunes of twenty-five millions and upwards. I have received visits from the principal personages. Many of the dignitaries had walking-sticks, which reminded me of Mexico, and pleased me. The Bishop was very polite. There also seems to exist here a great reverence for the temporal authorities. I have also seen the President of the "Royal Audience;" he reminded me of the ancient history of our country. He also sports a tortoise-shell walking-stick, which from its exquisite loveliness must be from Yucatan. Talking of this peninsula, I must tell you that I have seen *Arthur*

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Peon, who was overjoyed to see me. He seems satisfied with the state of things at home. The gratitude of the Yucatecos to me has given me great pleasure. One of the chamberlains from Campeche, Señor Lavalle, is to come on board to-day, on his voyage to France. You can form no idea of the state of the road; from Cordova all the carriages of my gentlemen were upset. My coachman assured me that it was only through the help of the Virgin that I was not upset. I suppose he meant the Guadalupe one.

“Good-bye, my dear Pepita; my heart remains in Mexico. Write to me, and believe in the affection of
“CARLOTA.”

After her arrival in Europe, she had several interviews with Napoleon, accompanied by her minister, Castillo, relative to important business concerning the Empire of Mexico. The object of her voyage was generally understood to be for the purpose of prevailing upon Napoleon to furnish Maximilian with more funds, and also to induce him to prolong the period of the stay of the French troops in Mexico. She left her adopted home with a great deal of solicitude.

She saw near at hand a powerful republic, having no reverence for monarchical institutions, and whose diplomatic correspondence was in the highest degree threatening to the tranquillity of her home. The situation of Maximilian was critical, requiring immediate succor. The reflection that, although the distant auxiliaries which she hoped for might possibly be obtained, and yet that their possession might not be a positive guarantee to the stability of the Empire, was productive of the most serious consequences.

It was said that such thoughts, added to her ill-success, were more than her agitated brain could support; and that in consequence thereof, despondency and dejection

became so oppressive, that her mental faculties completely succumbed to the weight. It has since been doubted that the foregoing excitement was the cause of the loss of her mind. Of that, more will be said hereafter.

Her Majesty reached Miramar on the 15th day of August. Orders were given at Vienna to the officers of the navy, to receive her in a manner becoming to her rank. The morning of that day was serene; but by the time Her Majesty neared the surrounding waters that laved the walls of Miramar, where the Austrian squadron were stationed, the angry clouds had gathered, the whistling wind became furious, and the boisterous storm nearly drowned the roar of the loud-mouthed cannon.

On the 16th of September, the anniversary of the independence of Mexico, the Empress gave a grand celebration in honor of the day, at Miramar. Mass was said at the chapel, in the morning; and in the afternoon a banquet was given, where were assembled the Mexicans who were there temporarily, the Mexican Consul at Trieste, the Mexican Minister near Austria, the Prefect of Trieste, and several others. The Mexican colors were waving over the castle, and salvos of artillery were echoed and re-echoed over sea and land.

On the 18th of September, the Empress and suite, which was composed of the same parties who left Vera Cruz in her company, and D. José Blasio, two *valets de chambre*, four Mexican and two Italian servants, started for Rome. As there were several cases of cholera at Trieste, the vessels sailing from that port to Ancona were required to remain in quarantine a few days in the latter port; in consequence thereof, Her Majesty preferred to make the trip by land. They travelled in post-carriages through Tyrol, where there was no railroad, stopping at Binsgton, Botzen, Verona, Mantua—

crossed the Po, and passed through Reggio to Bologna, where they took a special train of cars to Ancona.

The first symptom of derangement was observed at Botzen, in the room where she stopped. She remarked to Mrs. Estrada y Barrio, "I do not wish to go to Rome, because I am afraid they will poison me. I wish to go back to Miramar." The Minister Castillo observed that he thought it a strange remark; but that he did not think her mind was affected. At Ancona was a deputation in waiting to receive Her Majesty, composed of Mr. Valasquez de Leon, the Mexican Minister near the Papal See; Bishop Ramirez; Don Maria Degollado, and many others; all of whom were transported by the cars through the Apennines, to Rome. In all the towns through which her Majesty passed, she was received by civic and military bodies, with great honors, amid cheering, cannonading, and musical demonstrations.

At Rome, the diplomatic corps and other distinguished persons presented themselves, and paid her marked attention. She was thus far, with the exception mentioned, to all appearances well, giving not the slightest evidence of insanity. She addressed the visitors in their respective languages, which, to them, was highly pleasing. On her fourth day in Rome there was a sudden change in her actions. She spoke of a desire on the part of some of her party to poison her. She said that Mrs. Kuhachevich, Count de Valle, and Dr. Bowslaveck, had been hired by Napoleon to poison her. As she said this, she addressed herself to Mrs. Kuhachevich. She then requested the Mexican minister near Rome, and Cardinal Antonelli, to have the three suspected persons arrested. After that, those three kept from her sight. About three days afterward she called at the Vatican, to see the Pope. She said to him that she did not wish to leave his residence, as it was the only safe place where she could remain without being poisoned. She

remained there all night, sitting on the sofa, accompanied by Mrs. Estrada y Barrio, the Minister of State, Castillo, and Mr. Barrio, the Chamberlain.

On the following morning, they all returned to the hotel where Her Majesty's apartments were, known as the "Albergo di Roma." She was afraid to eat or drink anything given her from the hotel. She rode out every day, in her carriage, with Mrs. Estrada y Barrio, taking a jar to the public fountain, and filling it with water, which she carried to her room to drink. She also purchased chestnuts in the streets, which she took to her apartments to eat. They are a common article of food in Italy, and very excellent. She selected one of her servants in whom she had confidence, and whom she daily sent for meat, vegetables, eggs, etc., which were brought to her room, and cooked in her presence. These articles thus prepared she ate without fear.

She remained in Rome about twenty days; when her brother, the Duke of Flanders, arrived there, and after one day's preparation, embarked with her at Ancona for Trieste. He took her to the castle of Miramar, and provided her with the best physicians that could be procured.

At the request of the King of Belgium, Dr. Bulkens, Director of the House of the Insane, at Gheel, proceeded to the castle of Miramar, to take charge of the Empress. He returned to Belgium with her, on the 31st of July last, when she was placed in apartments prepared for her at the palace of Tervuren. She was accompanied, also, on her return, by the Queen of Belgium. King Leopold, and the Prince of Wales went out to the frontier to meet them. Orders were given that no noise should be made at the stations on the line of railroads. The court carriage drove so close to the car at the station of Groenendal, that the Empress passed into it unnoticed. That station is near the line of Luxemburg,

and about three miles from the said palace, and situate in an open space in the woods of Soignes.

The palace of Tervueren and its surroundings present one of the most picturesque views in the neighborhood of Brussels. It belongs to the national domain; but, by a law, it was placed at the disposition of the royal family. During certain seasons of the year the princes of the family of Orange occupied it, prior to the revolution of 1830. It has been preserved in the same condition, with scarcely a change, as it was then seen. The traveller, until recently, has been denied the privilege of gazing at its gorgeously glittering ballroom, and the elegant apartments where the Princess of Orange nestled in her splendor.

It has been said that it was erected for the accommodation of the mighty hunters of royal privileges. Around that mass of adornment extends a large and beautiful park, protected by a wall; and over its grassy lawns leap the bounding game, in variety innumerable, and pass their hours of slumber in greater quietude, perhaps, than their royal owner, and frisk in greater merriment, save when the rifle's crack carries them to that owner's banquet.

The Empress seemed to be aware of the death of her husband, but believed that it was caused by sickness. At times she suffered from violent fits of raving, and became quite prostrated, and almost inconsolable on account of the absence of the Emperor. But in moments of calmness she seemed reconciled to her misfortunes.

Her physicians have lately attributed her insanity to the effect of poison. They are of opinion that her physical condition evidenced that fact. Dr. Bulkens has said that there were great hopes of her being restored to her natural mind.

There are rumors afloat in Mexico, and have been for many months, in support of the opinion of the European

physicians, as to the cause of her derangement. In the fall of 1866, His Majesty Maximilian received an anonymous letter, stating that the Empress had been poisoned in Cuernavaca. The lady who wrote that letter communicated the fact of her writing and sending it to an acquaintance of mine. She had heard statements which appeared to her quite satisfactory that poison had been administered to the Empress. Her insanity, as emanating from such a source, had been talked about in Mexico, before the news of its actual occurrence could have been conveyed from Europe to that country. It was the opinion in Mexico that she had eaten fruit in which had been placed some of the juice of a tree known by the name of *palo de leche*—the milk-tree.

The Mexican journals have recently denied that she was poisoned in their country, by their people. They allege that they do not conquer a foe in that way; but they are of opinion that Napoleon or Bazaine performed the barbarous work,—believing that either of them would pursue such a course to carry out their political plans. They seem to harbor no doubt that Bazaine would do it, and really think he did. They ask, what would not a general do, who would offer to sell out the Emperor Maximilian, under whom he was acting, to the Liberal general, Porfirio Diaz?

The world, outside of Mexico, will hardly credit any story that charges Napoleon or even Bazaine with such barbarous cruelty as that; although the character of the latter, in Mexico, is not enviable.

The death of the Emperor is a heavy weight on the crazed brain of the Empress. His image is permanently mirrored thereon, whether in the brief moments of tranquillity, or during the raging storm of her intellect. Will she forget him?

"No—of the one, one only object traced
 In her heart's core too deep to be effaced;
 The one whose memory, fresh as life, is twined
 With every broken link of her lost mind;
 Whose image lives, though Reason's self be wrecked,
 Safe 'mid the ruins of her intellect!"

Let us hope that she who dealt so lavishly unto the needy, may receive from the Giver of all perfect gifts, that aid which will enable her soon to show forth her mind in all its former lustre.

CHAPTER IV.

MIRAMAR.

THE castle of Miramar, the palatial residence of Ferdinand Maximilian, before he ascended the throne of Mexico, is situated a league distant from the city of Trieste, on a rocky promontory, the base of which the Adriatic Sea laves with its foamy waves, holding photographed beneath its sheeny surface, in the quietude of its calm, the turreted castle and wavy sky.

Through all the spacious halls of that architectural pile, in the silent hours, the whisperings of the ever-murmuring sea fall upon the ear. And as its owner's chain of slumber now and then lost a link by the pilfering hand of wakefulness, he would half forget whether he was balancing on the oaken beams of the Austrian fleet, o'er the heaving sea, or quietly nestling within those castellated walls, supported by a terrestrial base. And as the blue deep was his accustomed element, it was a pleasure to him, while resting from professional labors, at home among the flower-beds, to gaze at the mysterious sea, and listen to its variant notes as they changed from gentle murmurs to the sullen roar of the storm.

Scarcely a dozen years have been recorded in the past, since the grounds of Miramar were observed untouched by the decorative hand of Art; and the drapery of Nature was then, by no means, gorgeous.

The castle is built of stone, is cream-colored, and stands facing the west, sixty feet high, with a front