

for the ball, which took place at the residence of the French Consul, Señor Bernard. The house was most elegantly decorated for the occasion. The road to the house was lighted by torches, held by French soldiers. Their Majesties entered at ten o'clock, and were received by the municipal authorities and a committee of ladies and gentlemen at the entrance.

The first quadrille was formed as follows: The Emperor, with the lady of Gen. Almonte; the Empress, with Gen. Almonte; Señor Arroso, with Madam Bernard; General Woll, with Madam Herrera; Gen. de Maussion, with Madam Adalid; Señor Suary Peredo, with Miss Swane.

The next quadrille His Majesty danced with Madam Herrera, and the Empress with General Maussion. Their Majesties retired at twelve o'clock, without partaking of the supper, remarking that it was not their custom to eat late at night. The ball went on till six in the morning.

The next morning at ten o'clock the Empress, plainly dressed, accompanied by two or three persons of her household, entered an ordinary carriage drawn by two mules, having a driver and lackey, and proceeded to visit the Carmelite Convent of Nuns. A collation had been prepared for Her Majesty, which was kindly accepted and eaten by her on a table before which, on two benches, the Nuns seated themselves. The Superior of the Convent requested the Nuns to take off their veils in honor of Her Majesty, and to remain uncovered until the eating was finished.

In the mean time the Emperor was occupied reading the newspapers, and receiving those who desired to meet him. Their Majesties contemplated a horseback ride at eleven o'clock, but on account of the weather they postponed it until four o'clock in the afternoon. As it rained at that hour of the afternoon slightly, they took

a carriage and rode beyond the suburbs, as far as the cotton-factory called Cocolapam, about a mile distant; thence to the paper-mill; and thence to the Valley of Borrego. It soon ceased raining, then became clear, and the new rulers lingered awhile to contemplate the exquisite, the grand, the majestic beauty of the wild mountain-scenery. It would be difficult for the pen to over-color the appearance of nature around Orizaba. That section, and the Cordova Valley, are the gardens of Mexico.

That evening Their Majesties and the Grand Marshal ate together, exclusive of others. The people of Orizaba were very much surprised at the simplicity of their new Sovereigns. Their idea of royal personages was connected more with great dignity and pomp. And when they observed Their Majesties giving such attention to the poorest and most humble, it was beyond their expectation.

A small group of Republicans stood near where the Emperor was about to pass: of them it had been said that they did not intend to notice him when he neared them. His Majesty passed them, raising his hat very politely; and the group, by impulse as it were, immediately raised their hats. The gentleness of his manner overcame them, and they concluded that he was quite as democratic as they.

The Empress gave three hundred dollars to the Municipal Prefect for the benefit of the poor, and the sick of the hospitals.

At about eight o'clock the following morning Their Majesties were moving toward Puebla, escorted by mounted men, carriages, footmen, numbering thousands, amid the booming of artillery and the shooting of rockets. The air was freighted with music and perfumed by every kind of flower, like the ambrosial breeze of India; exquisitely-wreathed arches o'erhung the road,

while silvered apparel on horse and man glittered in the sun with diamond brightness; and fair gardens, ornamented with their golden fruit, burnished by the broad sunshine of the blushing moon, extended far and near. All, all this, drank in by the vision, with a mingled view of the wintry grandeur of Orizaba Peak, was enough for Fancy to call it the grand entrance to the golden bowers of Eden.

Their Majesties and retinue reached Acultzingo at half-past eleven, where they, for the first time, ate a Mexican breakfast of tortillas, chili (red peppers), and drank pulque, the fermented juice of the maguey plant. At this place they rested awhile, also taking another view of the country from a high hill. They could not refrain from seeking every prominent position to look at the scenery. They were enchanted. The road to Puebla was one continued bower of flowers, flags, banners, and poetical verses—it was a chain of ovations.

The Sovereigns entered the city of Puebla at ten o'clock on the morning of June 5th, surrounded by great splendor. Near the triumphal arch in the street of Alguacil, the ceremony of delivering the keys of the city to his Majesty by the Municipal Prefect took place, on which occasion the Emperor said:

“I accept, Gentlemen, with joy the keys of this city, because I see in this act that you place confidence in me, and understand my loyal intention; but being sure of your fidelity, I return them to you, asking only to possess your hearts.”

After this the grand procession moved on into the city, and halted before the cathedral. Their Majesties stepped out of the carriage, and were received under a pall by the venerable Prelate and two Bishops; thence

they passed into the temple, which was superbly adorned. A beautiful hymn was chanted, followed by other solemnities. At the conclusion, Their Majesties entered the Bishop's beautifully-decorated palace; there the Political and Municipal Prefects each addressed them.

His Majesty responded first to the authorities of Puebla, thus:

“It is very flattering to us to see ourselves surrounded by the authorities of a department so important, and of a large and interesting city; and with pleasure we receive your salutations. The noble Mexican people have placed in us their confidence. We shall consider it our duty to act accordingly, and to concentrate our efforts to procure for the nation the fulfilment of its just aspirations.

“Through the means of institutions really free, of exact justice, protection to persons and property, the Chief and his organs will be able to carry the country through the path of progress which leads to prosperity and true greatness.

“It belongs to Puebla, which is one of the largest central cities of the Empire, to shine forth as an example.”

Then to the Ayuntamiento of Puebla he said:

“With a sentiment of pleasure mingled with grief, I see your city;—with pleasure, I salute one of the largest, most beautiful, and important cities of the Empire; with pain, I contemplate the unfortunate inhabitants agitated by the evils of political disruptions. The government to whose election you have contributed, will impose upon itself the task of healing your wounds as soon as possible, and of facilitating, through means of institutions which are in accordance with the age, the development

of prosperity, so that the resources of this rich country may be cultivated in the highest degree. I hope the day is not far distant when the iron road will unite your valley with the ocean, and bring you such an abundant compensation, that you will forget your past troubles. Then will this noble city be regenerated with new vigor and beauty."

On the 7th of June, the anniversary of the Empress's birthday, solemn Mass was said in the cathedral. Praises to the Almighty were sung by the Bishop, assisted by the choir and the whole audience. At seven o'clock in the evening a grand banquet was given at the palace, attended by about sixty persons.

At ten o'clock Their Majesties repaired to the Alhondiga, market building, where a grand ball was given in honor of Her Majesty's birthday. From the street to the foot of the stairway a carpet of flowers was strewn for Their Majesties to walk upon. In the angles of the court stood colossal pyramids, covered from their base up with crystal vases of variegated colors, which presented a group of rainbow hues, reflected from the brilliant evening lights.

Their Majesties entered, taking possession of the throne erected for the occasion. Presently a quadrille was called. His Majesty, accompanied by Señora Da Guadalupe Osio de Pardo, took his position; the Empress, with the Political Prefect, Señor D. Fernando Pardo, stood opposite: General Brincourt accompanied Señora Navarrete de Marion; and opposite them stood General D. Maussion, with Señora Da Dolores Quesada de Almonte: at the right of the Emperor was General Woll and Señora Da Emilia Cota de Tapia, and the Municipal Prefect, D. Juan E. de Uriarte, with Señora Da Guadalupe Pardo de Pardo; on the left, the Minister of State, D. J. M. de Arroyo, with Señora Da Guadalupe Al-

monte; and Colonel Jeanningras, with Señora Da Carmen Marron de Gonzales.

The Empress wore a plain but elegant white silk dress. On her head was a crown of diamonds and emeralds, with a red and a white rose—the Mexican colors. A superb necklace of diamonds brilliantly sparkled, and rich bracelets of precious stones dazzled in the evening light.

The Emperor with the Empress left the room at half past twelve. The next noonday they were again in the carriage, advancing toward Cholula, for the great Capital. Stopping occasionally to gratify the curiosity of their subjects, who showed unparalleled good-will, they reached Guadalupe on the eleventh of June, making their entry at two o'clock in the afternoon. They were with great solemnity received by the Archbishops of Mexico and Michoacan, under a pall, near the railroad station: they were also there met by the civil authorities of the town. They soon entered the renowned church of Guadalupe, and there occupied the throne in the presbytery. The illustrious Señor Labastida, accompanied by the other prelates present, intoned the *Domine Salvum fac Imperatorum*. After this solemn act, Their Majesties passed into the sacristy; thence into the chapter.

The authorities of the town being gathered into one of the halls, it was announced that Their Majesties would soon advance to the capital of the nation, one league distant from Guadalupe. Loud cheers rent the very air, and when silence prevailed, the Political Prefect of Mexico, Señor Villar y Bocanegra, remarked:

"At the foot of the prodigious hill of Tepeyac, and being separated only by a wall from the temple in which is venerated the protector and mother of the Mexicans, the Virgin Guadalupe—the Political Pre-

fect of the first department of the Empire, the Municipal Prefect of the great Capital of Mexico, its Excellency the Ayuntamiento, the Illustrious Señor Archbishop, and other authorities, present themselves full of grateful pleasure, with their souls overflowing with joy, before their beloved Sovereigns, to congratulate them on their pleasant arrival at the gate of the city in which is erected the throne which has been raised by the Mexicans for them. Words fail me to manifest our gratitude; because you have, in compassion for our misfortunes, abandoned another throne, riches, country, parents, brothers, and friends, and condescended to come and try to make us happy and save us from the evils that were causing us to disappear from the catalogue of nations. Your Majesties only knew through statements and papers the will of the people who applauded you; and now, to-day, you see that you are not deceived; and that from the shores of Vera Cruz to the gate of the Capital, all applaud their Sovereigns with an unbounded enthusiasm. The Mexicans will so continue until the end; and I protest, Sire, in the name of the department within my charge, that all of us will obey and assist the Monarchs, whom by acclamation we have chosen."

Tremendous shouts followed this address. After which, His Majesty, with a great deal of emotion, answered in the following words:

"Profoundly moved, I say, by the universal enthusiasm which I have received in all the towns in my transit, my emotion and my gratitude acquire greater intensity as I find myself at the gate of the Capital, as I see gathered to salute me its principal authorities, in a place so much respected and loved by me and the Empress, and by all Mexicans.

"I happily receive your congratulations, and I salute

you with the effusion of one who loves you, and has identified his fate with yours."

As the grand procession moved stately on to the place called the Plain of Aragon, they halted in a double line. Their Majesties passing through to a place designated, were met by two deputations, one of ladies, the other of gentlemen; both of whom saluted the Sovereigns, and presented, in behalf of the inhabitants of the Capital of the Empire, congratulations; those to Maximilian were as follows, viz:

"SIRE:

"The undersigned, natives and foreigners, residents of the Capital of Mexico, all agreeing in their aspirations for peace and public order, without distinction of political opinions, and with the most profound respect, hasten to salute Your Imperial Majesty, voluntarily and sincerely, and also your august spouse, on your arrival at the Capital of the new-born Empire of Mexico.

"We well understand the magnitude of the arduous and glorious undertaking which is imposed on Your Imperial Majesty. We estimate the abnegation at its full value, also the faith and spirit which animate the illustrious founder of the Empire; and we foresee the good, for which the future of this unfortunate nation will be your debtor.

"We comply, therefore, with a sacred duty in offering before Your Imperial Majesty the effusion of our thanks, the testimony of our admiration, and the most solemn protest to co-operate with all our strength for the realization of the noble and generous mission which, by a decree of high Providence, has been committed to Your Imperial Majesty—that of redeeming and regenerating a people destroyed by civil discord.

"May it please Your Imperial Majesty to accept

favorably our wishes for the happiness of your person, and that of your august consort, and for the prosperity of your kingdom."

The deputation of ladies offered, in behalf of the ladies of the Capital, to Her Majesty the Empress, the following affectionate address:

"MADAM:

"The presence of Your Imperial Majesty in this part of the New World, as a companion of the magnanimous Prince destined by Heaven to govern it, has just realized the many honors which are reunited on the throne which is raised to-day upon the love of this people. Our happiness is complete, in representing before Your Imperial Majesty the families of the Empire, and of being the organ of these sentiments of affectionate adhesion and of purified fidelity with which Your Majesty is surrounded, in the midst of an applause and of a rejoicing which have no limits, and which would be the best title (if there could be any superior to your noble virtues) to the crown which encircles your brow, and which prepares for Mexico a worthy name from the glorious race which brought, with Christianity, to these distant regions, culture and civilization.

"Policy, Madam, will speak under a thousand different forms of the prosperous exchange which it realizes, and which excites such a lively and deep interest in Europe and America. It only belongs to us to contemplate your eminent qualities, with which divine Providence has endowed you, without doubt, with the design that there may shine in them all that is elevated in the majesty of the throne, all that is tender in the heart of princes, and all that is exemplary and modest in the bosom of private life. With Your Majesty and your august husband, who are the objects of public admira-

tion, and the delight of this vast Empire, commences the dynasty which takes the name of your new country. It will be able to figure by the side of the country of Charles V. and Mary Theresa; by that of Louis Philippe and Napoleon III., and by that of the respected and beloved Sovereign the father of Your Imperial Majesty.

"We, Madam, shall never cease blessing you for the services you render Religion, the fountain of the greatness of Mexico, and of that generous character which is ennobled to-day by a model and by an example which cannot be less than admired. Your Imperial Majesty being a worthy heir of two great queens, your grandmother and your mother, religion can suffer nothing before your throne. And when Heaven, with a singular clemency, sent us a pledge of peace and union which may cause us to forget what has divided Mexicans, we cannot deceive ourselves by assuring Your Majesty that those wishes and that hope are going to be realized.

"Permit us, then, Your Majesty, to present you the profound homage of our respect and of our obedience, and the warm gratitude with which the families of the Capital are possessed, and who bless your name, and who will never cease asking Divine Providence for the happiness of the kingdom, and of your august husband, to whom He so visibly dispenses His bountiful protection. Your genius and your piety will assure your new country a worthy name in the world, and a prolonged peace."

The quarters reserved for Their Majesties were the Collegiate church. The Archbishop escorted them into it, and said to the Emperor, "This is the house provided for Your Majesty." He replied, "It is magnificent."

The Sovereigns remained over-night; and on that day and the following they received many people in their apartments.

The next day, Sunday, the 12th of June, after Mass

was said, Their Majesties entered the cars for the Capital. Arriving at the station in the city, they were surrounded by an immense throng, waiting to escort them to the cathedral and palace. Banners, flags, and flaunting streamers of all kinds were to be seen on every side. Triumphal arches festooned with orange-blossoms scented the balmy air; ribbons and roses, all tinselled, twisted, and curled, covered the earth, and were woven in wreaths at every window; portraits of the Sovereigns were smiling at you in every street; ladies were gayly attired, as for their wedding-day; polished carriages mirrored the passing objects; mounted men with their silver-corded broad-brimmed hats, were prancing their gallant steeds all mantled with saddles, bridles, and housings woven with silver and gold; uniformed soldiers all laced for review, with glittering lances and gold-burnished armory;—all, all, glittered like a bed of diamonds. And while all these were gleaming in the eye, artillerymen and musicians were tingling the ear with their variations, from the mellow breath of the flute and horn to the thunder-notes of the deep-toned cannon, mingled with shouts, the neigh of horses, and the chiming of bells; until it appeared as though the world was turned into a gorgeous show, where audience and actors were promiscuously mingled.

When Their Majesties, with their grand *cortège*, arrived at the stopping-place called *Parador de la Concepcion*, they halted, and received from the hands of the Municipal Prefect, D. Miguel Maria Azcárate, the keys of the city; at the delivery of which, the Prefect, in a short address, welcomed the new rulers in a most cordial manner. The Emperor, with a good deal of feeling, responded, as though he believed that the reverence paid him came from the depths of the Mexican heart.

The keys that were delivered to His Majesty were of gold, beautifully enamelled in places, and richly wrought

by a Mexican artist. One had on its head an eagle; the other possessed the imperial diadem; and both were placed on a silver waiter of exquisite filigree-work.

The Sovereigns then entered their carriage again, and proceeded through the city, followed by the splendid procession, until they reached the ancient, the costly, and far-famed cathedral of the city of Mexico, adorned with massive silver and gold. Halting in front of that venerated temple, the imperial pair stepped down from their vehicle, and were received by the Archbishop, under a pall, a richly emblazoned canopy of metallic lustre, and entered the holy sanctuary. The main door of that immense, massive structure was decorated with an arch woven with red, white, and yellow flowers, surmounted with the imperial crown of the same material, made by the Indians of Xochimilco, and in which was interlaced this inscription, "Xochimilco to His Imperial Majesty Maximilian I." The arch was surmounted with a circular inscription, traced with flowers, as follows: "11th of June, 1864." At each door of the cathedral was an oil portrait of the Emperor. The interior was illuminated and decorated gorgeously. Velvet tapestry of bright cochineal hue, elegantly fringed with balls of gold pendent therefrom; streamers hanging from the arched dome, with trophies of national ensigns mingled therewith; Mexican, French, Austrian, and Belgian banners representing the friendly powers: and with all this magnificence, the mantle of solemnity was worn by all, in reverence for the place and occasion.

Their Majesties occupied the throne prepared for them. His Majesty was dressed in the uniform of a Mexican General, bearing upon his breast the insignia of Grand Master of the Order of Guadalupe. The Empress wore a blue-and-white silk dress, a blue scarf, and a hat adorned only with beautiful flowers, as fresh as her own fair cheek.

As the imperial pair took their position, the grand Te Deum commenced, intoned by the Most Reverend Señor Labastida, accompanied by the accomplished orchestra.

At the end of this solemn ceremony, Their Majesties, escorted by the Archbishop, Bishops, and clergy, proceeded on foot to the palace, over carpeted ground, beneath an elegant canopy, a distance of about six hundred feet. Having arrived in the palace, preparations were soon made to receive the officers of State and other distinguished persons.

The master of ceremonies, according to the rules of etiquette, called the authorities of the government in order, and presented them to Their Majesties. The first called were the acting Secretaries of State and General Bazaine. Soon after this, the Sovereigns rested awhile, and were ready to view the artificial lights at night, which are in Mexico, at times, presented in a superb style.

That night was illuminated beyond comparison; so that it seemed as if day had broken forth by mistake, from the disarrangement of the "orbed continent." Everything dazzled in the dancing lights, from house-tops down. Jets of fire whizzed here and there, like meteors in the heavens; stars were bursting in the sky, imitating the vault of the universe; wheels of rainbow-fire whirled on their axes as though turned by the wild lightning spirits that darted athwart the heavens with comet speed; and one might well have fancied that the great Pyrotechnist was that ancient war-god, Mexitli, who had been aroused from his five centuries of slumber by the announcement of that tumultuous demonstration of splendor, and, swelling forth a blast from his trump of battle, led on his mighty host in barbaric pomp, and flamed the heavens with his fiery elements of war.

With all that dazzling blaze ended the gay pomp of that gorgeously arrayed procession, that turned its back

upon the sea, traced the heated sands, and, through richly enamelled vegetation, wound up the rugged steeps of picturesque grandeur. What a change! what a variety they passed through, as they left the murmurs of the loud-voiced ocean to view the glassy lakes around that fair city, where centuries ago the ancestors of Maximilian laid claim to its lands and waters, when the name of Moctezuma was synonymous with the god of earth.

If it be thought that this description is painted in too glowing colors, and considered but a sketch of fancy, let those speak who saw the glittering reality, and who will clearly testify that this is no web of fiction.

It would be no easy task to delineate in true shades the splendor and magnificence of the festivities in honor of that great event, the re-establishment of the Mexican Empire.

The smiling faces of the Mexican people at that time, among high and low, were the dial-plates of their hearts. Thus thought observing foreign residents.

It seems to me that it cannot well be denied that such an exhibition of magnificence may truly be considered as some evidence of the real affections of the people. That it could all be a disguise is not probable. Those who were close observers of all that show of pomp and merriment, are of opinion that it was a mirror which reflected the true sentiments of the citizens of Mexico.