

ascertained that the tower was the point of observation, did not fail to have guns bearing directly upon it continually. No person could place himself within that tower without being immediately discerned through the spyglass of Escobedo. On one occasion the Emperor and five of his officers were in the tower, making close observations; suddenly there came a shell, which fell in their midst, bursting, and, most miraculously, killing no one, but wounding very slightly one of the officers. After that it was walled up, and no more views taken therefrom.

About the 1st of May, it was quite apparent that great suffering among the poor was near at hand on account of the scarcity of edibles. His Majesty therefore issued an order that persons who had large stocks of provisions should sell them at reasonable rates, so that they would be within the reach of the poorer classes. The order contained the prices which specified articles should not exceed.

After that date the army learned the flavor of horse and mule meat. Whether the latter was as refractory in mastication as it generally is in the harness, is a subject upon which I received no information.

Had the name been unknown to them, doubtless a fat horse-steak would have been more palatable than poor beef. About the tenth of the month, the citizens were reminded of the fact, that they would be no longer the recipients of animal food, unless they too could relish the viands taken from the flesh of the same class of four-footed beasts. The Emperor fared no more sumptuously than the rest. He was favored with the same elegant and rare dishes. Every action and move he made there proved him to be quite as democratic as any one who was nursed in republicanism.

Both the political and military condition of the Empire had attained that state in which everything was

viewed through the greatest doubt; and as Maximilian was in the field in person, there was no certainty among the chances of war that he might not some day, not far distant, be found among the fallen. He deemed it requisite to be prepared to meet such emergencies as were within the range of possibilities. He, therefore, on the 11th of April, created a Regency, by a decree to take effect in case of his death. That decree is in the following words:

*“Maximilian, Emperor.* Considering that if Our death should happen, the Government of the Empire would be without a head, on account of the absence of its Regent, Our august spouse, the Empress Carlota:

“Considering that, in order to obviate such a misfortune, and to procure on Our part the well-being of the Mexican nation, even after Our death, it is indispensable to leave a Government which the nation may recognize as the head of the Union:

“Considering that, in the mean while, if this nation, through the means of its Congress, freely convoked and assembled, should not declare the form of government which it will adopt, the present one will exist—which is the monarchy; and therefore, in case of Our non-existence, the government ought to be deposited in a Regency:

“We decree:

“ART. 1. In case of Our death, D. Teodosio Lares, D. José M. Lacunza, and General D. Leonardo Marquez, will be the Regents of the Empire.

“ART. 2. The Regency will govern in subjection to the Organic Statute of the Empire.

“ART. 3. The Regency will call a Congress, which must definitely establish the nation, as soon as the war may be determined either by arms or armistice. The

free and legitimate election and meeting of that constituent body shall take place.

"ART. 4. After the instalment of Congress, the Regency will cease, terminating, with that act, the power which We confer upon it by this decree.

"Our Minister of Public Instruction and Worship is charged to make known this decree to the Regents whom We have appointed, in case of Our death.

"Given in Queretaro, May 11th, 1867."

On the morning of the 13th, preparations were going on for a final departure that night, but as the three thousand citizens who were to have been armed, had not that day received their implements of warfare, the movement was postponed. The following morning, General Miramon consulted the Emperor as to the propriety of leaving that night. Their views coincided in favor thereof, but the latter desired first to hold a council of generals and to discuss the mode of procedure. The council having assembled, discussed the matter, and decided to leave that night at eleven o'clock. General Miramon, accordingly, notified the chiefs of the different corps to appear at his quarters, which was done; whereupon he advised them of the intended departure. He also notified Colonel Gonzalez, commander of the Regiment of the Empress, that that regiment had been detailed as a special escort to the Emperor.

About the time for the move, on the night of the 14th, it appeared that only twelve hundred of the new volunteers had received their arms; in consequence of which, some of the generals were in favor of another delay. And besides, General Mendez had sent Colonel Redonet with a petition to the Emperor, asking a delay for another day, saying that he was quite unwell, and that he wished to command in person his old brigade, in which he had great confidence; and that if His Majesty would

make the concession, he, Mendez, would be responsible for a safe exit. In view of the foregoing facts, the Emperor called Generals Miramon and Castillo for another council, when it was determined to positively leave the next night at twelve o'clock. General Miramon notified the chief officers to remain quiet until further orders.

The west side of the city, where the forces of General Corona were stationed, was considered the best point on which to centre the whole body of men in making the sortie.

At the Imperial headquarters, staff department, orders were issued by General Castillo, secretly and verbally, to the various officers of the army to be ready for action at the time designated. No fires were to be lighted, and strict silence was to prevail.

The infantry were to carry nothing but their blankets and tin pots. All of the cannon on the fortress of the Campana were to be spiked, and the magazines to be flooded. The light mountain-pieces of eight and ten pounders were to be dismounted and packed on mules, together with light supplies of grape and canister.

The men were ordered not to burden themselves with anything not actually necessary, or that might be disadvantageous in a forced march, which it was anticipated they would be compelled to make through the defiles and mountain gorges of the Sierra Gorda. That route, with light accoutrements, would have defied the rapid pursuit of the enemy.

General Mejia had armed twelve hundred citizens of Queretaro, who were ordered to remain behind to protect the city and to keep order. They were further ordered to surrender to General Escobedo at discretion, at any time they should think proper, provided they first allowed twenty-four hours to pass after the evacuation.

Complete orders having been issued, and all arrange-

ments having been made in accordance with the projected plan, the Emperor retired. His accustomed hour was eight o'clock, but the business of that eventful night extended his hour of slumber until a quarter past one o'clock.

Prince Salm Salm was working until after twelve o'clock that night, arranging the Emperor's archives, after having packed them the day before into small canvas sacks, ready to be strapped to the escort saddles.

Many of the men occupied a short time in writing to their relatives, saying a parting word to their families and friends. As lights were prohibited, they assisted each other by smoking cigarettes close to the paper. One would puff his exhilarating weed, while another would scribble a few words by the glimmer thereof.

Between one and two o'clock, the traitor, Colonel Lopez, who had previously plotted with the enemy to betray his own party, silently crept out of his quarters, and threaded his way through the dark and narrow streets of the city, in pursuit of General Escobedo. He first met Colonel Garza, who was in command of the advance guard of the enemy. Garza took Lopez to General Veliz; the latter and Lopez went to see Escobedo: after which interview the two returned to meet Garza. General Veliz ordered Colonel Garza to take his command and follow Lopez, who guided him to a hole in the wall near the church called La Cruz. General Veliz himself proceeded to this opening in the wall, and there remained for a while; at which time he ordered Colonel Garza to proceed further under the guidance of Lopez. The latter was the officer of the day. On arriving at the nearest station of the Imperial troops, Garza's command halted. Lopez asked an Imperial officer if there were any news; to which the latter replied, none. Lopez then ordered the Imperial officers at that post to be paraded, and that the roll be

called. That was done, the officers standing up in a line. Lopez then ordered the command to be formed and marched to the rear of Garza's forces, leaving Garza in possession of that post. Lopez immediately escorted other Liberal officers to the different posts under his command, in order that the same plan should be executed, until the enemy had possessed themselves of all the points within the control of Lopez.

When the Liberal forces entered the city, quite a number of the Imperial officers were awake, with the excitement of the expected engagement, and were cleaning their arms and making preparations for their contemplated departure. As they saw Col. Rincón's regiment pass their bivouacks, they supposed it was a part of their own forces moving toward the Casa Blanca, for some reason unknown to them, before the designated time. It being in the darkness of the night, and the dress of the two armies being so near alike, it was quite difficult to distinguish the one from the other.

By half-past three o'clock, nearly one half of the city was in the almost noiseless possession of the Liberals. Soon thereafter nearly all of the church bells commenced, almost simultaneously, to ring with great force. The Imperialists were much confused. Many of them were of opinion that Marquez had arrived from the city of Mexico, attacked and defeated Escobedo: hence the great rejoicing. What a sad deception!

Commander Yablonski, an adjutant of Lopez, was in the treasonable plot with him; but he did not wish any harm to fall upon the Emperor. He went to the room of Don José Blasio, Secretary of His Majesty, which was in the convent of La Cruz, and near that of His Majesty, and awoke him, and said, "The enemy are in the garden; get up!" Blasio immediately dressed himself, went to the room of the Emperor, called him, and informed him of the condition of affairs. He then noti-

fied Gen. Castillo and Col. Guzman, who roomed together; also Prince Salm Salm and Col. Pradillo,—all of whom were in that convent and came to the Emperor's room. Colonel Pradillo informed the Emperor that the enemy occupied that convent, and had taken eight or ten pieces of artillery in the plaza of La Cruz; and that it would be useless to attempt to defend it. The Emperor gave Col. Pradillo one of his pistols, and holding another in his hand, went to the door, followed by Pradillo, Prince Salm Salm, and Blasio, and then said, "To go out here or to die is the only way." They crossed the corridor, and on the stairs met a sentinel, who ordered them to go back; but an officer of the Liberals, said to be Colonel Rincon, saw them, and said to the sentinel, "Let them pass, they are citizens." As the Emperor and party advanced a little further into the plaza, they were met by a party of Liberal soldiers, who were about to stop them, when Colonel Rincon came up, and said to the soldiers, "Let them pass, they are civilians!" They then hurried on to the quarters of the "Regiment of the Empress," which were the Emperor's escort, and ordered them to prepare and mount, and to advance with all speed to El Cerro de las Campanas. In the mean time the Emperor said to Colonel Pradillo, that it would be more convenient for him, the Emperor, to have his horse. Pradillo then went for it. The Emperor, Prince Salm Salm, and Blasio immediately proceeded to the Departmental palace, where Pradillo soon met them with the Emperor's horse. General Castillo had just met them also, when Lopez came riding up to them, of whom His Majesty asked what was going on. He replied, "All is lost. See, your Majesty, the enemy's force is coming very near!" Just then a body of infantry were entering the plaza, which the Emperor thought were of his own army; and he exclaimed, "Thank God, our battalion of Municipal Guards are

coming." One of his officers advanced toward them, and ascertained that they were a part of the enemy, and returned to notify the Emperor, who, with his little party, started again; and when near the house of Señor Rubio, Lopez said to the Emperor, "Your Majesty ought to enter this house or some other, as it is the only way to save yourself." The Emperor refused to do so, and was determined to go to the hill (El Cerro), as first contemplated. In front of the Casino, they met Capt. Jarero, Adjutant of Gen. Castillo, whom the Emperor ordered to notify Gen. Miramon to bring all the force he could gather to El Cerro de las Campanas. The Emperor was implored by Lopez to mount the horse that was saddled; but his Majesty refused to accept of that comfort, so long as Gen. Castillo and his other surrounding friends had no horses to ride in his company. They all proceeded on foot to El Cerro. When they reached that position, they found about 150 men of their forces there. Soon the Regiment of the Empress reached them. His Majesty was anxiously waiting the arrival of General Miramon, and frequently remarked, "See if he cannot be distinguished in the crowd that is coming." General Mejia had rallied a few men in the plaza del Ayuntamiento, and rushed on to El Cerro.

General Mendez was surprised in the Alameda, and surrounded. He opened fire on the enemy, which was returned. His men were cut down rapidly; but he tried, notwithstanding the havoc made among his men, to rally them, with a view of cutting his way through the enemy's lines to the convent of La Cruz, to save the Emperor. The enemy's force met him on another point, and being between two fires, his men falling rapidly, he surrendered at half-past five. He was shot the next day at six in the morning.

General Miramon, awakened by the ringing of the bells, rushed down, with an aid-de-camp, into the street,

was surrounded by soldiers whom he took to be his own men, and told them that he was General Miramon. An officer on horseback fired at him, and he received the ball in his cheek. He returned the shot, and a running fight ensued along the street. Finally, he saw a door ajar; he entered the house, which he learned was that of Dr. Samaniegos, who hid him, as he was weak from loss of blood. The owner of the house rushed into the street, met a party of Liberals, and informed them that he had captured Miramon. After the Liberal force had discovered him, they tied him, dragged him away, and placed him in the convent of Terrecitas.

For nearly half an hour after the arrival of the Emperor and his small force at El Cerro de las Campanas, a fire from two different batteries of the Liberals, that of San Gregorio and the one at the garita of Celaya, poured their shot in that direction.

The Emperor, considerably excited, exclaimed in German to Prince Salm Salm, "Oh, Salm, how much would I give now for a friendly shell!" wishing that one might end his life.

When Colonel Gonzales reported the arrival of his regiment to the Emperor, and that Miramon was wounded, the Emperor took Castillo and Mejia one side, and asked them if it were possible to break the lines of the enemy. Mejia took his glass and surveyed quite accurately the position of the enemy, and then replied to His Majesty, "Sire, it is impossible; but if Your Majesty orders it, we will try it: for my part, I am ready to die." His Majesty immediately took Colonel Pradillo by the arm, and said, "It is necessary to make a quick determination, in order to avoid greater misfortunes." He then put up a white flag on the fort on the hill, and ordered Colonel Pradillo and Ramirez to go and have an interview with General Escobedo upon the following basis: "First, that if he wished another victim, he could take him,

the Emperor; Second, that he wished that the men of his army should be treated with all the consideration that their loyalty and valor merited; and, Third, that he and the men of his personal services should not be molested in any manner."

The Emperor saw in the distance a small squadron of soldiers dressed in scarlet, riding at a rapid speed toward the Campanas; and as he descried them, he exclaimed, with tears in his eyes, "See! see! my brave hussars! How fearful a risk they run, exposed to the full fire of the enemy's batteries! Who would not be proud of being their chief?" But, alas! what a terrible disappointment! He soon learned that they were a part of General Treviña's cavalry, of the Liberal army. The firing soon ceased. A squad of cavalry rode up, and an officer among them asked where the Emperor was, using at the same time a vulgar epithet. His Majesty stepped outside of the fortification, and said, "I am he." The officer declared that Mendez had been taken, and demanded that the Emperor should deliver up himself and all his officers as prisoners. The Emperor consented, and was taken prisoner by General Echegary, and said to him: "If you should require anybody's life, take mine, but do not harm my officers. I am willing to die, if you should require it, but intercede with General Escobedo for the life of my officers." Soon General Corona appeared, to whom the Emperor said, "If you wish another victim, here he is," meaning himself. General Corona replied that it did not belong to him to treat upon that question; that until he could deliver him to the general-in-chief, his person and the generals around him would be safe.

The Emperor had on his overcoat when taken. He opened it to show his uniform and rank. He, Generals Castillo and Mejia, and Prince Salm Salm, accompanied by General Echegary (Liberal), mounted horses, which were furnished them by the Liberals, and rode down

the hill several hundred yards, where they met General Escobedo, with whom they returned on to the hill, and into the fort, where they dismounted. His Majesty, General Escobedo, and two of his officers, and Prince Salm Salm entered a tent. The Emperor shook hands with Escobedo, and said to him: "If you wish more blood, take mine; and I ask that the officers, who have been true to me, be well treated, and that I may not be insulted by your officers or men." Escobedo replied that the Emperor should be treated like a prisoner of war, and that he should not be insulted. Shortly after that, Escobedo delivered the Emperor, Generals Mejia and Castillo, and Prince Salm Salm into the hands of General Riva Palacio, who conducted them to La Cruz Convent, passing around the city by Casa Blanca, through the Alameda, thence through the ruined part of the city to the convent.

The Emperor was placed in the same room which he had previously occupied in the Convent of La Cruz. That day he requested General Escobedo to permit the officers of his house to remain in the same convent, which was granted. Those officers were Prince Salm Salm, Colonel Guzman, the Minister Aguirre, Colonel Pradillo, Doctor Basch, and Don José Blasio, secretary. They remained four days there; three of which His Majesty was sick with the dysentery. The fifth day they were removed into the Convent of Terrecitas, which place they occupied seven days; thence were taken to the Convent of Capuchinas, where were also imprisoned all the generals of the Imperial army. They all occupied the first floor until the third or fourth day, when the Emperor and Generals Miramon and Mejia were placed in the second story, where they remained until their execution.

His Majesty lost everything the day the city was taken, except the clothes he had on.

No form of speech could express His Majesty's astonishment at the acts of Colonel Lopez. A man in whom he had placed the utmost confidence, whom he had treated like a brother, as it were, stabbed him in the dark. And it would hardly be considered an error in judgment, in placing entire and confident reliance on the fidelity of the man whose interests, he supposed, were united with his, in asserting and maintaining a cause and rights common to both. His Majesty was the godfather to Lopez's child. He laid his heart and cause open to Lopez, with all the confidence of a child in its mother; and in consequence thereof lost his life. Had the Imperial party not been betrayed, they would have undoubtedly broken through the enemy's line, and made their way down to Vera Cruz.

Lopez is equally despised by both parties in Mexico; yet he has the effrontery to attempt to write himself innocent, by filling one or two journals with his evidence, which, closely scanned, proves him guilty. He ought to hide his face in shame, from the view of heaven and earth. He has at last succeeded in obtaining a few of the Liberals to assist him, while the others, who were eye-witnesses to his work of betrayal, stand back and laugh.

The Emperor had often gallantly steered his bark upon the sea-waves; but he had never been baffled by the waves of duplicity before; they were too strong for him; they washed him from the deck, and stranded his ship of state; and the Mexican eagle sprang from the Imperial and lighted upon the Republican banner, save at the Capital of the nation, where for a short period thereafter, Imperialism held sway through the cowardly oppressor, Marquez, who was as little friendly to his Sovereign as he was to his open foe.

But few sovereigns ever found themselves so completely surrounded by bad faith and treachery. And

the ruler who shall stand at the head of that nation, whence fell Maximilian, and succeed in preserving fidelity and attachment to his administration, for any considerable length of time, will have exhibited greater skill in the art of government than has been the fortune of any preceding one to manifest. Let us hope, for the sake of humanity, that in the future the banner of peace may spread its ample folds all over the broad lands of Moctezuma.

Imprisonment, and even death, were insufficient for the gallant and ill-fated Emperor, in the estimation of his enemies. They must endeavor to tarnish his honor by the breath of falsehood. Hate was so engendered in them, that it was bound to show itself in every conceivable form. It came from the depths of their hearts to their mouths like the bubbles that rise up from the bottom of the seething kettle to its surface. All kinds of foolish statements have been circulated as coming from the Emperor's lips. Such a course of revenge only springs from those who, by mistake of the authorities, have not worn the halter—contemptible and cowardly hearts who never remember that true honor strikes not a fallen foe.

Not long after the imprisonment of His Majesty, an article purporting to be a proclamation from him to the inhabitants of Mexico, was circulated in every newspaper within the territory of Mexico, but which bears no date. Some of its circulating mediums had the effrontery to guarantee its authenticity.

No writing of a public character was issued by His Majesty after his capture. That false proclamation is in the following words:

“The Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Hapsburg, ex-Emperor of Mexico, to all its inhabitants:

“COMPATRIOTS:

“After the valor and the patriotism of the Republican armies have brought about the end of my reign in this city, the obstinate defence of which was indispensable to save the honor of my cause and of my race; after this bloody siege, in which have rivalled in abnegation and bravery the soldiers of the Empire with those of the Republic, I am going to explain myself to you.

“Compatriots: I came to Mexico animated not only with a firm hope of making you, and every one of you, individually happy, but also protected and called to the throne of Moctezuma and Iturbide by the Emperor of France, Napoleon III. He has abandoned me cowardly and infamously, through fear of the United States, placing in ridicule France itself, and making it spend uselessly its treasures, and shedding the blood of its sons and your own. When the news of my fall and death will reach Europe, all its monarchs, and the land of Charlemagne, will ask an account of my blood and that of the Germans, Belgians, and French, shed in Mexico, from the Napoleon dynasty. Then will be the end . . . . .

“The whole world will soon see Napoleon covered with shame from head to foot.

“Now the world sees H. M. the Emperor of Austria, my august brother, supplicating for my life before the United States, and me a prisoner of war at the disposition of the Republican government, with my crown and heart torn to pieces.

“Compatriots: My last words to you are these: I ardently desire that my blood may regenerate Mexico; and that as a warning to all ambitious and incautious persons, you may know how, with prudence and true patriotism, to take advantage of your triumph, and through your virtues ennoble the political cause, the

banner of which you sustain. May Providence save you, and make me worthy of myself. "MAXIMILIAN."

It is quite clear, from the reading of the foregoing pretended proclamation, that the feeling that prevailed in the mind of its author was based upon a deep-rooted hatred, and void of that magnanimity which flows from a brave and noble-minded conqueror.

On the 20th of May, the Emperor was permitted to visit General Escobedo. He went accompanied by Prince Salm Salm and wife. He empowered the Prince to treat with General Escobedo; and in order that the latter might show his authority thus to act, the following written power was executed by the Emperor:

"I authorize Colonel and Aid-de-camp Prince Salm Salm to treat with General Escobedo, and I acknowledge the acts done by him as done in my name.

"MAXIMILIAN."

Prince Salm Salm, accordingly, wrote down certain propositions which were presented to, and rejected by, General Escobedo. One of the main ones was, that the Emperor, if permitted to leave Mexico, would never return to it again.

## CHAPTER XII.

Convent—Prison of Maximilian—Author's visit and conversation with Maximilian—Arrival of lawyers from the city of Mexico—Foreigners ordered to leave Queretaro.

THE convent of the Capuchinas, in Queretaro, is an ancient, spacious building, all over which the hand of Time has drawn its dingy strokes; and as you gaze at its exterior, observing its dimensions, its domes, its statuary, and carvings, you are reminded that the pile of silver and gold that reared that massive temple, could be enclosed in no small compass.

Year after year, mite after mite, was contributed by rich and poor, to raise its lofty dome toward the heavens; beneath which, the ever faithful daily gathered to offer up, on bended knee, thanks to our Maker for the many blessings they had received. Those who gave their mite, those who laid stone upon stone, upward, upward rising in the sky, little thought that they were walling in their descendants for sustaining political opinions honestly formed, and conscientiously advocated. They never dreamed that they were erecting warriors' abode, a depository for bristling bayonets, polished swords, powder and balls;—where the bugle, the fife, and drum were to summon the inmates to service; where the armed sentinel paces to and fro, with a measured tread. Those workmen reared that costly structure for a house of Peace; where the multitude, armed with the word of God only, were to be taught, "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord."

As you approached the door of that temple, after the taking of Queretaro by the Liberals, you observed two