

Later came a message to say that a carriage would be sent, in which Diaz might make a private visit to Maximilian.

"Tell him I will do nothing of the kind," and as General Diaz retailed the story to me his eyes sparkled with indignation, the whole man seemed on fire. "Tell him if he wishes to see me, he will have to *order me* to appear as a prisoner between soldiers, for in no other way will I go before him."

"And so you never met Maximilian?"

"Never," said the old General, shaking his head and defiantly jerking it back.

"And yet," he added, after a pause, "I was sorry for him, too."

CHAPTER XII.

THE FALL OF MEXICO CITY.

MAXIMILIAN was dead. For two whole days Mexico City still held out, though the Empire had crumbled away—held out, in fact, until this important news had time to filter through and be digested by the garrison.

Two causes were responsible for this protracted defence of the capital. No reason of state existed why it should longer withstand the Republic. There was now no organised power in the country save the Republican Government. But many of those cooped within the besiegers' lines, who had played a traitor's part when the fortunes of Juárez and the national cause seemed at their lowest ebb, had good reason to fear the consequences of submission, and so left nothing undone in their endeavour to make terms for themselves.

But General Diaz refused to consider anything but the unconditional surrender of the city; and moreover declined to sacrifice his men in an assault which he realised must be unnecessary; time unaided would do all that was required.

"I knew of the complete demoralisation within the city (he writes) by the frequent proposals which came to me from some of the leading men there, offering to desert and to facilitate my occupation."

General Tomás O'Horán had come out in the early stages of

the siege and had a conference with Diaz at night, concerning which the latter says :

"O'Horán offered to deliver the city to me, *together with Márquez and the other officers*, on the sole condition that in return I would give him a passport to leave the country."

It was a small price to pay for so large a prize, the safety of this one wretched man, but General Diaz was fully resolved that the capital and everyone within it should submit to the Republic with no question for future controversy as to how the submission was brought about. His only reply to these overtures was that he considered the town already his own, without the necessity of granting any terms.

Finally Márquez himself sent General Don Ramón Tavera with an offer to surrender the capital to the Republicans on conditions which have not been disclosed, but of which his own safety is pretty sure to have been the first clause. The General-in-Chief again replied that he would accept "nothing but unconditional surrender." He was in a position to dictate.

"The situation of the besieged (he writes) was becoming daily more difficult, owing to lack of provisions to sustain both their troops and the citizens. While the forces in the city diminished every day, mine were considerably increased, for I was daily receiving reinforcements from the army at Querétaro, and by the end of the siege I could muster twenty-eight thousand men."

Márquez thereupon disappeared mysteriously from the city, escaping the vengeance which would undoubtedly have been wreaked upon him by the infuriated people who had suffered under his cruelties. It is extraordinary that he should have got away so easily, for no man was better known than he, and, marked as he was with an ugly scar across his face, disguise was rendered difficult. He made his way to Havana, and troubled the country in which he had been so long a disturbing factor no more.

An expiring effort to arrange terms of capitulation was made

through the agency of the American Consul-General. It was equally without result. I quote General Diaz' diary again :

"On the day following my conversation with him, General Don Ramón Tavera sent me a message by Mr. Marcos Otterbourg, the Consul-General of the United States of America, repeating his appeal and offering to give up the city. I personally received Mr. Otterbourg at Chapultepec, and not only did I refuse to hear in detail the proposals he had brought me from the enemy, but I would not even allow him to alight from his carriage. I gave him warning that I was occupied at that moment in directing an attack upon the city, and that I would allow him five minutes' start on his return there. After that time if his vehicle was still on the road I would fire upon it.

"I waited, nevertheless, until Mr. Otterbourg's carriage had passed out of sight beyond the statue of Carlos IV., before I gave orders to the artillery to open fire, and to all the columns to make a general movement towards the outposts in front of the city."

It proved that a demonstration only was necessary, as General Diaz had anticipated, and soon a token of surrender was hoisted.

"The guard at Chapultepec reported to me that a white flag had appeared on one of the cathedral towers. I thereupon ordered that firing should cease, and later saw that similar flags had been raised in all the trenches around the city. At that moment a carriage came out also bearing a white flag. It brought Generals Miguel Peña, Diaz de la Vega, Palafox, and another, whose name I do not remember. They came to place the city at my disposal, being sent for this purpose by General Tavera, for they told me they had had no news of Márquez since the previous day.

"When these emissaries from the besieged city arrived at Chapultepec, I sent General Alatorre to interview them, and instructed him to receive nothing short of unconditional surrender. The deputation signed articles of capitulation, which were confirmed the same day by myself and General Tavera.

"Once the terms of capitulation were completed, I notified

General Tavera, through the generals who represented him, that he was to retain the command until the next day, when at dawn I would take possession of the city. Until that time he would be held responsible for its safety and all it contained."

Below is the text of the terms of capitulation :

"The Brigadier-General of the Republican army, Citizen Don Ignacio R. Alatorre, nominated by the General-in-Chief of the Acting Army, Citizen Porfirio Diaz, to arrange the occupation of the City of Mexico; and the Generals of the Imperial army—Don Miguel Peña, Don Carlos Palafox, and Don Manuel Diaz de la Vega—nominated by General Don Ramón Tavera, after testing their respective powers and formally engaging in conference, have agreed on the following terms :

- "(1) Hostilities are to cease from this time, pending the ratification of the present treaty.
- "(2) The lives, property, and liberty of the peaceful inhabitants of the city are to remain under the guarantee and protection of Citizen General Diaz.
- "(3) General Tavera shall nominate a deputation composed of three persons, who will place the city at the disposal of General Diaz on these lines: one official of the Exchequer, for that department; one General, on behalf of the Imperialist forces; and one artillery chief, for the military stores. The General to be the head of the Staff. An equal number of persons shall be nominated on the part of Citizen General Diaz, to receive the respective deputies.
- "(4) The Imperial national forces, on being relieved at their posts, shall meet in the city, where they will wait to surrender themselves. The Schenet force shall be quartered in San Pedro and San Pablo, and the other troops in the Palace.

The generals, chiefs, and officers shall retain their swords and present themselves in the places assigned to them, at the time agreed upon by the Generals-in-Chief.

They will remain in these places until General Diaz receives instructions as to their disposal.

The above articles shall be carried into effect at the hour agreed upon, after the ratification of the present treaty, of which two copies shall be made.

"Chapultepec, June 20th, 1867.

(Signed) J. R. ALATORRE.

MIGUEL PEÑA.

CARLOS PALAFOX.

M. D. de la Vega.

"This treaty ratified: PORFIRIO DIAZ.

"This treaty ratified: RAMÓN TAVERA."

General Diaz, always careful and thoughtful in the discharge of his military duties, records his subsequent instructions :

"I reserved the occupation of the City of Mexico for the day following the signing of the capitulation. In order to avoid pillage and the seizure of such military stores as the enemy still possessed, I directed that all the military and civilian guards should remain at their posts until persons authorised by me were sent to relieve them. I at once organised a police service to cover the whole city, recruited from the battalions of Oaxaca Lancers—men whom I had reason to know were especially trustworthy. Detachments were to occupy places which I marked out for them on a plan of the town, and patrols were so arranged that not a single house should be out of sight. I also ordered another Oaxacan battalion, together with Lancers and the Juárez squadron, to be distributed about the city, to put down any attempt at organised rioting, should such be made. After these arrangements were satisfactorily completed troops were sent in."

Thus, without any disorder or bloodshed, the final occupation of Mexico City took place on June 21st, 1867; all the military officers, civil officials, and men who had shared in its defence were made prisoners.

"As a further precaution, I directed that the lines of invest-

ment should be maintained complete until further orders, and that no one was to be allowed to enter or leave the city without written authority from headquarters.

"The Imperialists at the more distant posts of defence did not wait for the arrival of my soldiers to take possession, as I had ordered, but threw aside their arms and stores of ammunition and concealed themselves. The only prisoners who made their submission in the first hours of my occupation of the capital were General Tavera and a few officers and men.

"I then issued a proclamation notifying that all the generals and officers of the Imperialist army were to give themselves up as prisoners of war, presenting themselves at different places which I assigned to them as temporary prisons, according to their rank. Any neglecting to do so would incur heavy punishment. I made a similar request to those who had served as Ministers, Councillors, and Chiefs of Departments in the Imperial administration, allowing them twenty-four hours in which to submit.

"The order was not obeyed, and when the time of grace had expired only a few had reported themselves. Thereupon I sent military pickets all over the city to search for and arrest those who came under the terms of the proclamation.

"General Don Santiago Vidaurri was one of the first to be dragged from his hiding-place. This man, who had been nominated one of Maximilian's Regents in the event of his death, and was head of the Emperor's Cabinet, had got out of Querétaro with Márquez, and had assisted the latter as his chief lieutenant in Mexico City until the end of the siege. Vidaurri had served the Republic, but had treacherously betrayed his country in one of the most anxious moments of the War of Intervention, leading a force of Imperialists into Monterrey against President Juárez, who had only his escort as a defence in that city.*

* Vidaurri had taken a prominent part in Mexican life, and in 1855 had been a candidate for the office of President. His Republican sympathies were believed to be sound, and he had fought for Juárez against the Reactionaries in the War of Reform, inflicting a decisive defeat upon General Miramón at Ahuluco. He was Republican Governor of San Luis Potosí at the time of his desertion to Maximilian, and his proximity to the seat of the Constitutional Government made his treachery doubly dangerous. But for the fortunate escape of Juárez and his Ministers from a position of great peril the Republican cause would have been lost.

"On his arrest being reported to me I gave orders that Vidaurri should be deprived of his arms and shot at once, with only such delay as was necessary for the purpose of formally identifying his person. I took this course, not only because of his having incurred the penalties laid down in my proclamation, but also on account of the part he had taken in prolonging the war by assisting the Imperialist cause; his execution, too, I intended should serve as an example to others who had not obeyed my order.

"I then gave an extension of twelve hours for the prisoners to present themselves, warning the military police to suspend their search during that time.

"This measure, after the example made of Vidaurri, was efficacious, for all the chiefs of the army and of the administration presented themselves without more difficulty. Márquez and O'Horán* alone hung back, but the latter was captured after President Juárez came into the city.

"On account of the friendliness that Baron Csismadia had shown me, and the consideration with which he had treated me when I was a prisoner in Puebla two years before, I allowed Prince Khevenhüller to keep his arms and command the Austrian troops for three days. They were placed under parole not to leave the precincts of the National Palace and its offices, where they were quartered. Some days afterwards I directed the Prince to deliver up his arms and horses, and assisted him in obtaining transport to Vera Cruz, whence he sailed for Europe."

This Prince Khevenhüller was the envoy who returned thirty years later as General Díaz' own guest to open the little chapel put up by the Austrians at Querétaro to mark the spot where Maximilian was shot.

"Captain Schenet, who commanded a body of about two hundred European scouts, had made me similar proposals to those of Prince Khevenhüller. I informed him that he might remain in his quarters, in the convent of San Pedro y San Pablo, surrendering with his arms, until further orders. Afterwards

* General Tomás O'Horán was afterwards tried by court-martial and shot.