I collected these arms from him and despatched him to Vera Cruz with his soldiers under the same conditions as Prince Khevenhüller, who offered a passage on the vessel *La Novara* for him and his men."

The soldier had accomplished his work, but there remained much to be done. Diaz lived a simple camp life in those first days of the restoration of the Republic to its former capital, devoting himself untiringly to solving the thousand and one problems which the termination of a prolonged war presented. The finances of the country were completely disorganised.

New men had to be found for administrative posts. Within a month of Maximilian's tragic death nearly one hundred thousand soldiers were quartered in the neighbourhood of Mexico City, few of whom had received pay for months. It is estimated that there must have been at that time quite two hundred thousand men in arms in the whole country; yet to-day Diaz rules Mexico, where population and commerce have vastly increased, with only thirty thousand men.

General Diaz made it his first duty to meet every liability as it became due. His capabilities as an administrator and financier, already put to the test in Oaxaca and other of the Eastern States that he had governed, never stood out more strongly than at this time. Rich Mexicans, knowing him to be a man of integrity, advanced him money with which to pay the soldiers and send them to their homes, and even foreigners in the country entrusted their dollars to him merely on the security of his word.

"During the siege of Mexico City," he says, "I succeeded in paying punctually, not only what was due to the force under my orders, but all other public expenses of the area over which I exercised command; in fact, there was even a balance to the good. The money collected consisted of the ordinary taxes of the States, and some special fines or impositions which I made upon persons who resided in the capital of the State, and whose property was beyond the limits of the State; also upon those who had compromised themselves with Maximilian,

and had thereby incurred the penalty of confiscation of their property.

"I also raised two important loans, one of $50,000 on my own personal credit, and another of $200,000 on my occupying the capital from various foreign merchants, mostly United States citizens, through the intermediary of the Consul-General of that country, the loans being reimbursed before the arrival of President Juárez in the capital.

"In spite of the varying fortunes of the campaign, and of the frequent changes in the persons employed for the commissariat, I was able to keep an account of all the moneys entrusted to me, beginning on October 1st, 1865, together with the money that I captured from Colonel Visoso, in Tulcingo, up to the time of the re-establishment of the Federal Government in Mexico, on July 15th, 1867."

Thus the table of impecuniosity turned. Not only were the rank and file paid, but the pay due to officers, which had accumulated during many years, was settled; and more than that, by the end of Diaz' first term of office he had started paying the *alcances*, or promised bonuses for which the Mexican officers had long waited. As time has gone on these debts have been applied for by all officers, and the *alcances* paid in full, with one notable exception. The President of the Republic has never put forward his claim to a bonus, which now amounts to many thousands of dollars.

An immense sensation was experienced throughout the country when it became known that General Diaz, who had crowned his career by restoring the Republic to its former capital after years of incessant fighting, and was now the future hope of Mexico, had on the very day that he occupied the city sent in his resignation. His communication was as follows:

"Republican Army, Eastern Line.
"General-in-Chief.
"To the Minister for War.

"The glorious war that the nation has waged against foreign intervention having been brought to a happy termination, after

a struggle of some six years, with the surrender of the capital to the army which I have the honour of commanding—as I am reporting to you in a separate despatch sent to-day—I have fulfilled my first duty in placing this city at the disposition of the supreme Constitutional Government of the Republic.

"Now I am going to perform my second duty, by notifying to you that, considering the great powers that have been conferred upon me no longer necessary, and my continuance in the position of General-in-Chief of the Eastern Division of the Army useless—a trust which was unmerited by me—I formally resign that charge, rendering to the President and to his worthy Minister my grateful thanks for the confidence with which they have honoured me, and begging them to be kind enough to nominate some person who can succeed me in command.

"You have the assurance of my humble appreciation and high consideration.

"INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY!

"Tacubaya, June 21st, 1867.

(Signed) "PORFIRIO DIAZ."

This was indeed a thunderbolt!

Juárez avoided either replying to, or accepting, the resignation until after his own entry into Mexico City, where he was welcomed by Diaz nearly a month later, amid tumultuous rejoicings by the army and populace. One of the President's first tasks was to reorganise the Republican army on a new basis, and General Diaz was offered and induced to accept the command of the second division.

It is well known that Benito Juárez always held his younger comrade in the highest esteem, and this feeling was reciprocated, but events were soon to happen which created a certain coldness in the relations of the two great citizens of the Republic. The dismissal by the Government of men who had served Diaz faithfully and efficiently opened the breach. Diaz returned to Mexico City from Tochuacan, where he had gone with his division, to remonstrate with the President. Juárez explained the

reasons for his orders, but declined to withdraw them, and the situation remained strained.

Busy man as he was, General Diaz had yet found time, while he was besieging the capital and a thousand cares fell upon his shoulders, to take to himself a wife—a step which caused no little surprise even to his intimate friends, and aroused great enthusiasm in the camp. The bride was Delfina Ortega y Reyes, and after the wedding, which took place outside the lines at Tacubaya, a large ball was held at the house of his comrade, Juan de Baz. Both bride and bridegroom were present at the ball, and there was great revelry at this soldier wedding. The hostess was the wife of his friend de Baz, whom Diaz mentions in his diary as having herself ridden out from Mexico City when his army approached, with overtures from Maximilian's Minister for War.

I cannot do better than close this chapter, and this important era in the progress of Mexico towards that wonderful consolidation of national sentiment and development of material resources, which have been the leading characteristics of President Diaz' rule, than by giving a couple of anecdotes which show in strong relief two sides of the character of the man.

It gave no little surprise to the army, on marching into the capital from Querétaro, to find posted on the walls and trees, palings and shops, as they neared Mexico City, the following placard:

EVERY PERSON WHO ROBS
FROM 25 CENTS UPWARDS
WILL BE HANGED.

Wheat was growing high in the fields at the time Maximilian was shot. The soldiers cut it for their horses, for their beds, and to keep their cooking fires burning. The men had themselves received no pay, and simply seized on everything they could lay their hands upon to supply their wants, spoiling and destroying everywhere. This conduct roused the resentment of General Diaz, and caused him to issue the above proclamation decreeing

death by hanging for thefts even so small as twenty-five cents (less than one shilling); at the same time, he ordered that the soldiers who came under his command should have all that they legitimately required, but receipts for the goods must be given in full, and these would be paid later.

Some two thousand men were on the march to the capital, under General N——. Many of their horses had been shot during the siege, and as they had not been able to commandeer others in sufficient numbers to replace them, troopers were to be seen trudging along on foot and carrying their saddles. This was hot, exhausting, and uncomfortable. Various officers went off to scour the country to find fresh horses, disregarding the manifesto of Diaz, which they looked upon rather as a joke. At a town a short distance from Mexico City, a scout came to General N——, and informed him that three of his officers were about to be shot for raiding horses. He was furious.

"By whose orders?" he demanded.

"By the order of the General-in-Chief, General Diaz, in his proclamation," was the reply.

"And who is carrying out this order?" the general enquired.

"The *Jefe Politico*," was the answer.

A *Jefe Politico* is a very important personage; he is more than a mayor and more than a magistrate. He has under his command both regular soldiers and the *rurales*. He is responsible for order to the government of his part of his State. He rules over a large area or district, of which there are several in each State, and possesses authority equivalent to martial law.

Never having heard of anything so extraordinary in all his campaigning experiences, General N—— instructed his men to take the *Jefe* prisoner, and bring him handcuffed before him. Shortly afterwards a man arrived with his arm in a sling.

"Who are you?" demanded General N——.

"I am the *Jefe Politico*, and am carrying out the orders of General Diaz, under whom I acted as commandante, and was wounded at Puebla. It is impossible for me to succeed with my small handful of men against your two thousand; but I would not have come to you except under protest."

The General ordered the *Jefe* to be marched as a prisoner in the middle of his soldiers, and so they made their way to Guadalupe, where General Corona had already arrived with a large contingent of men. An order was here awaiting General N——, instructing him to proceed immediately to Mexico City and report himself to General Diaz.

This he did, and when he arrived, after four miles' gallop, he found, to his surprise, the *Jefe* already there before him. Some conversation ensued in which Diaz congratulated the mayor-magistrate on carrying out his instructions, and then asked him how he would wish General N—— punished for not obeying the proclamation.

"I wish for no other punishment than that he should apologise," replied the *Jefe Politico*.

"Do so immediately," commanded Diaz.

A long pause ensued, when Diaz repeated solemnly the three words: "Do so immediately."

Still no reply. Then, thumping his hand on the table, Diaz roared:

"Apologise at once."

General N—— bit his lip, but he apologised.

Turning to the *Jefe*, Diaz again congratulated him warmly on his behaviour and his assiduous attention to orders, and wished him a speedy recovery from his wound. Diaz has always been a man of immense determination but of few words, and this was another instance of these two points. He even blamed his own general when someone else was in the right.

The second anecdote was told a year or two ago at a national commemoration at Chapultepec, in honour of General Bravo, a hero of the War of Independence. With exquisite tact—the President being present—the orator of the day, the Hon. Alfredo Chavero, withheld the name of the "Mexican General who, eighty years after Medellin, wrote the following"; but the author is, of course, General Diaz, and the occasion the surrender of the Imperialists in Puebla after the storming of the city. I quote it as it appeared in the *Mexican Herald*, that wonderful American-English paper printed daily in Mexico City:

"The generals who were prisoners in one part of the same palace asked to speak with me. They begged me to permit the entrance of some members of their families with whom they desired to converse, as well as of some Catholic priests and notaries, as they had arrangements to make.

"I immediately sent for writing materials and sealed paper of all kinds, and caused several additional rooms to be placed at their disposal, so that each in turn might be alone with the priests.

"They spent their time until three o'clock in the afternoon in confession and in making their wills.

"At about half-past three o'clock I conducted them personally and without any other escort than my aides to the Episcopal Palace, where all the prisoners from colonels down to second lieutenants were gathered, to the number of about five hundred, as well as the bishops, whom I had also notified that they must consider themselves prisoners.

"Having arrived there and assembled the entire party, I informed them that, according to the laws in force, they were all liable to the death penalty. But inasmuch as the number was so great, I thought that the Government, when apprised of the circumstances, would exercise clemency. For the end in question it would be necessary, acting strictly, to hold them in close confinement, but I told them that I, who had endured imprisonment and knew how painful it was, would spare them that suffering, if they engaged to present themselves to me whenever I should summon them through the Press, if the Government called me to account. That I acted thus was, I said, to spare them pain as well as on account of the great confidence which I felt in the triumph of the Republic, even if they should be false to their engagement.

"All, deeply moved, answered that they were willing, and they began to sign the document which I caused to be read to them aloud, each one being released as soon as he had attached his signature.

"Colonel Vital Escamilla, who was among the prisoners, had, at the time of my escape from Puebla, been *Jefe Politico* of

Matamoros Izucar. When Count Thun published a circular offering $10,000 as a reward for anyone who should capture me, alive or dead, Escamilla, in his capacity as mayor, impelled by an excess of zeal on behalf of the Empire, when reproducing the circular offered an additional thousand dollars out of his own pocket for my head. Probably on this account he was afraid to come forward and sign, as his comrades were then doing in my presence.

"Colonel Visoso, who served the Republic, and who was a *compadre* and great friend of Escamilla, was also present. He came to crave a pardon for him, making believe that he had hidden Escamilla somewhere in the city, and, of course, withholding the fact that he was really present with the other prisoners. I had not hitherto been acquainted with Escamilla personally, but became so at that moment, someone pointing him out to me. I granted Visoso's request.

"Calling Escamilla by name, I told both him and Visoso that if the former (Escamilla) had not yet gone free, it was because he had not thus far signed the document, but that I hoped he would do so when his turn came.

"Escamilla sought to exonerate himself to me, saying he supposed that certain calumnies against him had come to my knowledge.

"I told him that a copy of his circular had fallen into my hands, and that I had it, in fact, at that moment in my pocket-book. Drawing it out I handed it to him, telling him that I was very glad that neither had I lost my head, nor had he been obliged to disburse his thousand dollars!

"He then signed the promise and went free."