

Don Ignacio Allende.

Don Ignacio Allende was born in the Village of San Miguel el Grande on the 25th day of February 1769, he was the son of an honorable Spanish merchant Don Domingo Narciso Allende and of Doña Maria Unzaga.

Allende felt from his childhood an irresistible attraction for military life, and when the Viceroy of Mexico called for volunteers to protect the coasts from foreign invasion he was one of the first to enlist in the Queen's dragoons as a private. By his bravery on the battle field he won a lieutenantcy in 1795 and a captaincy in 1807.

In 1808 his regiment was mustered out of service and Allende returned to his native village where he began to disseminate the idea of the independence of Mexico amongst his relations and friends. He succeeded in

forming committees in San Miguel el Grande and in Queretaro which held secret meetings to discuss the organization of the party and the ways and means of opening the campaign.

In one of these it was suggested to secure a man of great influence amongst the people, one occupying a high position in the society, and, if possible, a member of the Clergy so as to gain the good will of the masses as the head of the organisation and the leader throughout the coming struggle. Allende immediately suggested Hidalgo, parish-priest of Dolores who was respected and beloved by all, and offered to go himself and enlist his services. This was done in due time and Allende stood at the side of Hidalgo when the cry of independence was raised in Dolores on the 16th of September 1810.

From that day on our hero worked and fought incessantly for the cause which was so dear to his heart until, after many hardships and dire experiences, after many a battle lost and won he was made a prisoner with Hidalgo, his chosen chief, at Acotila de Bajan on the 21st of March 1811 and sent to Chihuahua where he was tried by a court martial and where on the 26th of May he

fell a martyr to the noble cause he had fought for.

Allende is one of the grandest figures of the war of independence. Of a frank and open nature, generous to a fault and of indomitable courage there is not a stain on his career, not even a fault which can be imputed to him during the terrible war of reprisals which was waged on both sides, and which finally secured to the people of Mexico their dearly bought freedom.

J. S. H.

XXXVIII.

Hidalgo.

General Don Miguel Hidalgo, Parish-Priest of Dolores, was born in Penjamo, in the State of Guanajuato, the 8th of May 1753, and was the son of Don Cristobal y Costilla and Doña Ana Maria de Gallaga.

He studied philosophy and theology in the College of San Nicolas de Valladolid (now Morelia), later on he became rector of the

same College, and in the beginning of 1779 he was sent to take charge of the Parish of Dolores.

It was in this town, on the 16th of September 1810 that Hidalgo raised the cry of independence, and, at the head of a few patriots, started the famous revolution which, a few years later, destroyed Spain's reign over Mexico for ever.

The courage, energy and constancy shown by this virtuous priest at an advanced age, in the midst of the labors, difficulties and hardships of such a terrible strife are as extraordinary as they are admirable. Victorious one day and defeated the next, he would always return to the battle-field with the same ardor and tenacity. After one of these battles in which fate was against him he was taken prisoner with all his followers at Acatila de Bajan on the 21st of March 1811, brought to Chihuahua and shot the 31st of July 1811. Our hero showed in his last moments the same admirable courage and serenity of soul as he did on the battle-field.

The people of Mexico are mostly indebted to this celebrated patriot for the independence of their country, in fact the 27th of

September 1821 is but the sequel of the 16th of September 1810 on which day Hidalgo cast to the echoes of Dolores the first cry of independence.

And, be it said to the honor of the Mexicans, they have done their duty nobly and well towards their liberators. Hidalgo and Allende were declared "*benemeritos de la patria con grado heroico*," their names were inscribed in gold letters in the national Congress hall, and their bones were united and solemnly interred in the beautiful cathedral of Mexico by order of the General Congress in 1824. Every City, town and village has erected monuments to the heroes of the nation and one of the most beautiful sights in Mexico to day is the grand commemoration of the cry of independence all over the Country on the eve of the 16th of September each year, together with the tribute of love and honor which is then paid by the people to the Saviours of the nation.

J. S. H.