

nary mandates. All the offers of Hidalgo, Morelos, and other chiefs, to regulate an exchange of prisoners, and to prosecute the war according to the usages of civilized nations, were invariably treated with contempt by the royalists. Hence has resulted a growing and deadly hatred, on the part of the Americans, against European Spaniards,—an inextinguishable spirit of revenge, which suspends upon a fragile thread the life of every Spaniard in America. This is known and felt by many a Spaniard now residing in Mexico, although the government of Spain appears not yet to be sensible of the important fact. The Indians and Creoles never will, never can, forgive or forget their former grievances, and the recent cruelties which have been practised on them. It is now too late to attempt to regain the affections or homage of these people; and Spain will ere long discover, that it is impossible to bind them with their former shackles. To suppose that the fires and eruptions of Mount *Ætna* might be suppressed by throwing a platform of wood over the mouth of the crater, would not be more ridiculous, than to imagine that the population of America can continue to be controlled by Spain.

In making the preceding remarks, the author has been guided by a mass of proofs derived

from personal knowledge, and by the careful perusal of authentic documents procured from royalists and patriots. The developement of these facts may excite the displeasure of the Spanish government, and wound the pride of the European Spaniard; but we feel bound to place them before the civilized world, in justice to the much-injured inhabitants of Southern America, as well as to perform a duty as a citizen of the United States, and consequently an avowed enemy to all governments inimical to rational freedom.

To return to the operations of Morelos—After the capture of Oaxaca, the numerical strength of his army was much augmented: but, the prevalence of inattention to discipline, and the conduct of the officers, in indulging in relaxation in that luxurious climate, combined with the strange and clashing decrees of a legislative body, inexperienced as well as deficient in energy, rendered it impossible for Morelos to strike a decisive blow against the enemy. No sooner did he and his officers form any military plan, than its merits became the subject of discussion in the Mexican Congress, and thus was rendered ineffectual by delay, or became known to the enemy. The Spanish government put in motion every engine of

intrigue, to gain over to its interests part of the members of the Mexican Congress; and some intercepted despatches, which fell into the hands of the patriot chiefs, unfolded to them the weakness, or rather treachery, of several distinguished individuals of their own party. Jealousy of course ensued; confidence was shaken between the military and civil authorities; and hence originated that train of serious disasters, which will be related in the sequel.

Morelos, on learning that the royalists had retaken Valladolid, and strongly fortified it, marched to effect its reduction, without reflecting that his army was generally composed of the natives of Tierra Caliente, and consequently not adapted to carry on warfare in the cold regions. His attempt, therefore, on Valladolid was not only unsuccessful, but he lost a great number of men, and was compelled to make a precipitate retreat to the warm country.

The royalists now became animated with fresh courage, and determined on pursuing the patriot army. At the hacienda of *Puruaran*, they met a division under the command of the patriot general Matamoros. The royalists began the combat with great fury, while the patriots defended themselves with such obstinacy, that almost every individual of the division was cut

to pieces, and the general remained a prisoner in the hands of the royalists.

Matamoros was a priest, and had on several occasions displayed great valour, and more military talent than any other officer in the patriot service. It is generally believed, that if he had enjoyed the supreme command, instead of the second rank, he would have pursued a very different, and probably a more successful course, than that which Morelos had adopted.

The official despatches of the royalists, on the capture of Matamoros, evince the high opinion they entertained of him. They refused an offer made by Morelos, to exchange several Spanish officers and men, whom he then held as prisoners, for the captured general; and although the former threatened to make a dreadful retaliation, in case Matamoros was sacrificed, yet the royalists, in despite of offers and menaces, caused him to be shot.

Morelos, after experiencing many disasters and difficulties, finding that the province of Valladolid was not a suitable theatre for his army, nor a place of security for the residence of the Mexican Congress, which then held its sessions at a place called *Ario*, resolved on transferring his head-quarters to the city of Tehuacan, in the province of La Puebla, where

the patriot chief Teran had a respectable division. With this view, he put his army in motion, taking with him the members of Congress, and a great number of women and children. We have been informed, by several persons who accompanied this expedition, that it resembled more the migration of a vast body of people, than the march of an army. The road, for several leagues, was covered with baggage waggons and mules; no order was observed on the march; and the military forces were so scattered, that, in case of attack, it would have been impracticable to form a junction with promptitude. Morelos does not appear to have made the least calculation on being assaulted: he conceived, that such was his superiority of numbers, that the royalists would not dare to molest him on his route. He continued his march, without opposition, for several days. At length he separated from the main body of his army, and reached a place called *Tepecuacuilco*, with a small division of cavalry. He there made a halt, intending to remain until his main force should come up.

The royalists, in the mean time, had gained intelligence, by means of spies, whom they had placed in Morelos' army, of all his movements; and although they had several times appeared

on his flanks and rear during the march, yet they had not shewn a disposition to bring him to action. No sooner, however, were they informed that Morelos, with his small party of cavalry, had detached himself from his main body, than they resolved to seize on the advantage thus offered to them. They accordingly pushed on, and came up with him at *Tepecuacuilco*. After a short combat, Morelos was taken prisoner, on the 5th of November, 1815: he was sent to Mexico, and delivered over to the Holy Office. The cities and towns in the kingdom, in possession of the royalists, gave way to the most extravagant demonstrations of joy, on the capture of the patriot chief; for they considered this event as the termination of the contest.

The Inquisition acted a conspicuous part. After declaring Morelos a *heretic*, and degrading him, that tribunal, with all its solemn forms, delivered him over to the military authority, which, in its turn, declared him a traitor, and sentenced him to be shot. The sentence was carried into effect, on the 22d of December, 1815, at *San Christoval*, in the environs of the city of Mexico.

On this occasion, there was published a document, with the signature of Morelos, in which he was represented as making a solemn recant-

ation of his errors; as exhorting his deluded countrymen to return to their allegiance to the Spanish government; and, after imploring the forgiveness of his God and his king, acknowledging the justice of the punishment he was about to suffer. There was likewise published another document, wherein he offered, that if the viceroy would grant him his life, *he would engage effectually to quell the insurrection.*

Both these documents have been declared by the patriots to be forgeries of the royalists; and, in support of this assertion, they have published some very able papers. Indeed, some of the royalists, who were present at the execution of Morelos, have had the candour to acknowledge, that he died in the most heroic manner, fervently praying for the emancipation of his country, and sternly refusing to answer any interrogatories, tending to compromise the safety, or develope the views, of the patriots.

The death of Morelos was a serious blow to the cause of his party, as he was the only one, among their chiefs, whose orders were implicitly obeyed. The forces under his command were much better organized than any other troops in the country; and they had, on several occasions, displayed great valour, particularly in the siege of *Zitacuaro*, where they gained a victory over

a superiority of numbers. The memorable siege of *Acapulco*, which occupied *fifteen months*, evinced the great influence that Morelos possessed over his army; for otherwise it would have been impossible, in such a climate, to induce raw troops to display so much perseverance. In fact, all the royalists, with whom the writer conversed, expressed their belief, that, had Morelos safely reached *Tehuacan*, and there concentrated the divisions of the other patriot chiefs, he would have been able, in a few weeks, to have destroyed any force that the royalists, at that time, could have brought against them.

In proportion as the death of Morelos excited fresh courage among the royalists, it occasioned depression and confusion among the patriots. Dissensions took place in the Mexican Congress; while, among the military chieftains, ambition to obtain the supreme command became the dominant passion. Each refused to act in concert with the other, and endeavoured to promote his separate interests at the expense of those of his country.

The royalists were not idle at this juncture. They knew that the continuance of their power depended upon keeping up this spirit of jealousy among the patriot chiefs; and they employed bribery, and every other available means,

to prevent a union of the revolutionists, well knowing, that so long as they remained scattered in divisions throughout the provinces, it would be easy to subdue them in detail.

The fatal consequences flowing from these dissensions among the patriots will be found detailed, in their proper place, in the sequel.

The members of the Mexican Congress, after the capture of Morelos, pursued their route to Tehuacan, where they arrived, and began to exercise their legislative functions, by issuing decrees, which were obeyed, or disregarded, as suited the interests or inclinations of the military commandants to whom they were addressed.

Don Manuel Mier y Teran, the commander-in-chief at Tehuacan, was viewed with a jealous eye by several members of the Congress; and he discovered their intentions to deprive him of his command. As the officers and soldiers of Teran were devoted to him, and as he conceived that he was likely to fall a victim to the intrigues of the Congress, he resolved on the bold step of dissolving that body, and of seizing the persons of the members. Accordingly, he sent a military force to the house where they were assembled, and put them all under arrest. We have seen his manifesto, in justification of this daring act; and although we do not pretend to decide

that his alleged reasons for the measure are perfectly satisfactory, yet his subsequent conduct proved that he was not guided by any views hostile to the welfare of his country. Neither does he appear to have dishonoured his character, by any act of revenge against those members of the Congress who had previously determined on his destruction; but, on the contrary, although they were completely in his power, he liberated them all, gave money to some of them, and permitted them to depart from Tehuacan, and proceed to any place they thought proper.

The dissolution of the Mexican Congress, by this arbitrary act of Teran, was, however, a fatal event to the cause of the patriots; for the military commanders, in the different provinces, no longer considering themselves subservient to any orders, openly assumed the character of independent chiefs in their respective jurisdictions. They all avowed a deadly hostility to Teran. The extraordinary character of this man, who had not only to contend against the royalists, but likewise against the machinations of his compatriots, will be described in our subsequent details of the revolution.

At the time when the revolutionary cause in Mexico assumed this gloomy and desperate aspect, the gallant Spanish general Mina was

forming a project, in London, in its favour. This brave youth had rendered eminent services to his native country, and had been a principal instrument in frustrating the designs of the emperor Napoleon with regard to Spain. In what manner his distinguished services were requited by the ungrateful Ferdinand, the following chapter will explain.

Prior to Mina's departure from London, he had received some accounts of the disasters in Mexico, which we have briefly noticed: but, so far from his ardour being damped by the unpropitious intelligence, it appeared to furnish him with new incentives to resume his deeds of hardihood and valour, in the cause of an oppressed people. The constancy of this high-minded Spaniard, struggling with obstacles almost insurmountable, has rarely been equalled—never excelled.

The reader will find, in the annexed biographical sketch of Mina, and in the relation of his daring exploits in Mexico, the portrait of a hero worthy of occupying, on the page of history, a distinguished rank among the martyrs of liberty.

CHAPTER III.

General Mina—His early life, and career in Spain—His motives for embarking in the cause of Mexico—Arrival at, and transactions in Baltimore—Departure of the Expedition—Occurrences at Port au Prince—Arrival of the Expedition at Galvezton—Treachery of Correa—Departure of the Expedition from Galvezton, and its arrival off the bar of the River Santander—Disembarkation of the Division.

DON XAVIER MINA was born in the month of December, 1789. He was the eldest son of a well-born and respected proprietary, whose domains lay near the town of Monreal, in the kingdom of Navarre. Brought up among the mountains of his native province, he was accustomed to wander through their rich valleys, and to pursue the chase amidst the grandeur of the Pyrenees. His faculties, thus nurtured and exercised, expanded themselves at an early period, while his mind imbibed all the energy of an unconquerable boldness. The wild aspect, the rugged scenery of an Alpine country, and the cheerful and buoyant feelings they ex-