

revolution, by a determined opposition to the patriots, and by his generous gifts to the king: he had raised the regiment of dragoons which bears his name, and of which he was appointed colonel. The demands of his own party, and the occasional incursions of the patriots, had seriously diminished his revenue, but he still possessed several millions, and was supposed to have a large amount of specie, buried in various places. This practice of burying money had become frequent since the revolution, as well among the patriots as royalists, many of them not disclosing the secret until at the point of death. Large sums remain yet thus interred, the owners of which have been unexpectedly cut off by the contending parties, and rather than disclose where it was hid, have allowed it to be lost to circulation. Afraid to bury too much money about their edifices, they have generally conveyed their treasures to unfrequented parts of the mountains, so that it rarely happens that they again come to light; instances, however, have occurred of its recovery, which is not inaptly styled by the Americans "*a resurrection.*"

The hacienda of Jaral, as we have before stated, was of great extent: on it was a large mansion house, several valuable and handsome

buildings, and indeed every necessary accommodation of dwelling houses, stores, &c. &c. There were likewise extensive granaries, a neat church, and some comfortable edifices belonging to the marques's principal dependents, besides a great number of peasants' houses.

The Jaral, like all important haciendas belonging to the royalists, was fortified and garrisoned at the expense of the proprietor. It was walled in and surrounded by a ditch. As the patriots in its vicinity had for some time past been diminishing in number and enterprise, no danger of an attack was apprehended, particularly from Mina, whose distance the marques considered in itself a sufficient protection, presuming it would be impossible for him to approach the hacienda through the dependents, which surrounded it for several miles, without his receiving timely information. Under these impressions, the marques and his family were living there, as he supposed, in perfect security. The soldiery who had escaped the disaster of San Juan de los Llanos, were then quartered in the place, and, with its garrison, the military force of the Jaral amounted to upwards of three hundred men, with three pieces of artillery.

In Mina's enterprise against this hacienda, he exhibited his peculiar talent for guerilla

expeditions. Although the road lay through the thickly settled domains of the marques, for two or three hours of the second day's march from the fort, yet such was the good management and judgment of Mina, that his advance arrived within sight of the hacienda, before the marques was advised of his approach; and if Colonel Noboa, who commanded the advance, had strictly obeyed Mina's orders, the marques and the garrison would have been taken. They, however, had just time to save themselves by a precipitate flight. The remains of Castañon's division felt no inclination to measure their strength again with Mina, concluding it safest to accompany the marques, with whom they fled to San Luis Potosi. It was dark when the division entered the hacienda. Mina, who was ignorant of the flight of the enemy, was surprised at meeting no resistance, and conceived it probable that the enemy were in ambuscade. Arriving, however, at the mansion, he was met by the priest at the porch, welcoming his arrival at the Jaral, and informing him of the sudden flight of the marques, presenting, at the same time, the respectful compliments of the latter, with a request that the general would consider the hacienda, and all it contained, at his service; but

that the marques hoped the general would spare the buildings.

Mina immediately issued orders to his troops to respect private property, and to refrain from ill-treating the inhabitants. The latter were, likewise, made acquainted with these orders, and were requested, in case of any violation of them, to give information at head-quarters, that the perpetrators might receive their merited punishment.

Early next morning, an inquiry was made to ascertain where the treasures were buried. One of the marques's servants gave information, that a quantity of specie was concealed under the pavement of a small room adjoining the kitchen. After digging a considerable depth, a shovel of earth, mixed with loose dollars, was thrown up. The excavation was continued for about three hours, during which time the general distributed some dollars among the troops, who, on hearing the news, had flocked to the premises to witness so novel a sight.

In the room where the excavation was going on, Don Pedro Moreno, Don Encarnacion Ortiz, three of Mina's staff, and the labourers, were the only persons admitted; sentinels being placed at the door to prevent the entrance

of others. After the operation was ended, an estimate was made, by the treasurer, of the amount taken, at *one hundred and forty thousand dollars*. It was said that Don Pedro, and other of the chiefs, had privately pocketed some *doublons*, which it is highly probable might have been the fact; these were, of course, not included in the estimate.

At an angle of the marques's mansion was a store-house, stocked with articles for the use of the hacienda. In the front it contained dry goods, of British and native manufacture; and in the rear was a magazine of sugar, cocoa, brandies, and other articles. As the manufactured goods were essentially necessary for the troops, they were distributed; but so small was the quantity, that the share, to those who obtained any, was trifling, and many did not receive any thing. The brandies were particularly withheld, and not an article in the magazine was moved from its place. The manufacture, the specie, and a few horses and oxen, were all that were taken. The money was put into waggons; and the same evening the division took up the line of march on its return.

During the day, a deserter came in from San Luis Potosi, and reported, that the marques,

on his arrival there, not considering himself in safety, had passed through the city; and that the inhabitants were anxiously waiting for the arrival of Mina, ready to receive him with open arms. We cannot entirely vouch for the fact; but, from subsequent information, we know, at least, that the people of San Luis were, at that time, ripe for a revolt.

The progress of the division was so slow, owing to the heavy, clumsy nature of the waggons, that the next day a number of asses were procured from San Felipe and its environs; and, after the specie was removed to them, the waggons and the oxen, with the exception of ten, were sent back to the Jaral, accompanied by Mina's best respects to the marques, and an assurance, that at some future day he would do himself the honour again to visit the hacienda.

The next evening, Mina received intelligence that some troops were in a rancho, three leagues distant from the fort, where he had intended to halt that night. The troops in question were supposed to belong to the enemy. A reconnoitring party was despatched to ascertain the fact; but it returned with the information that they were friends. Previous to reaching the rancho, it became very dark and rainy, rendering it difficult to keep the asses in droves;

and, on arriving at the rancho, two or three of the bags of specie were missing. It was afterwards known, that some of the guard, who had charge of this treasure, taking advantage of the obscurity of the night, had appropriated a few thousand dollars to their own use.

At the rancho, the general met Colonel Don Miguel Borja, the commandant of the district of the hacienda de Burras, who informed him that his *Excellency* General Torres, with Doctor Don José San Martín, and other distinguished patriots, were then at Sombrero, where they had come to pay their respects to, and congratulate the general. Mina accordingly set off early next morning, to meet these republican chiefs; and the division, with its prize, entered the fort in the course of the forenoon, under a salute of artillery, whose unwelcome echoes again announced to the vassals of Ferdinand in Leon, some reverse of their arms.

The money was now counted into the military chest, and proved to be one hundred and seven thousand dollars, in place of one hundred and forty thousand, at which it had been previously estimated.

The Spanish government has stated, (no doubt according to the representation of the marques,) that the property of which the Jaral

was robbed, amounted to three hundred and six thousand four hundred dollars, *viz.*

	Dollars.
In milled money	150,000
Provincial money	33,300
Bars of silver, and clothes . .	86,000
Goods taken out of the stores .	30,000
In Indian corn	5,000
150 oxen, at 14 dollars per head	2,100
	306,400

It is possible that the marques may have lost property to that amount, but we positively assert that no such value was captured, and that two of the items therein stated are altogether false. If the marques has really made such a statement to his government, he has not only violated the truth, but acted most ungenerously towards Mina. Supposing Don Pedro Moreno, or any other of the patriot chiefs, had entered the Jaral as victors, what would have been the consequences, according to the uniform practice of the patriots and royalists on such occasions? We ask the marques, Would private property have been respected; or the disorders of the soldiers restrained? Would they not have sacked the hacienda, as well as the mansions and the dwellings of the dependents? Would

not the stores and granaries have been emptied, and all the cattle within their reach have been driven off? And, after committing those acts, would they not have closed the scene, by setting fire to the hacienda, and all that could not be carried off? Is it not likewise probable, that even some of the dependents of the marques would have lost their lives?

To the honour of Mina, we once more repeat, that he was averse to all scenes of rapine or cruelty. Mercy marked every step of his progress, and he invariably treated an illiberal enemy with a generosity they little deserved; and never, in any one instance, did he distress or maltreat the victims that fell into his power.

We admit the *possibility* of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars being the amount of the specie; but, as before stated, there was only one hundred and seven thousand received into the chest: the amount distributed among the troops, and what was stolen by the guard, with the doubloons taken by the patriot chiefs, may have amounted to forty-three thousand dollars; but we consider it doubtful.

The item of provincial money in his account is not correct, nor was a single bar of silver taken. We know, from the appearance of the money, that it had been buried since 1810 or

1811; a time when provincial money was unknown. The charge of taking clothes is likewise totally false; the troops having been forbidden to enter the house, could have had no chance to pilfer. The head-quarters were in the mansion of the marques, to which only the staff and superior officers had access. The table was served in plate belonging to the marques, the value of which was very considerable, and yet the whole of it was respected. Is any thing more unlikely then, than that clothes should be taken in preference to plate? The fact is, not an article of the marques's wardrobe was touched, except a richly embroidered pair of country boots, which, with a saddle, were presented to Ortiz. A gold-mounted sword and a chacot were likewise given to another officer.

The whole of the manufactures in the storehouse might possibly be valued at thirty thousand dollars; but the portion distributed among the troops did not amount to a third of that sum.

Neither sugar, cocoa, nor any article in the magazine, was touched, except a small fifteen-gallon cask of tolerably good sherry wine, which was consumed by some of the officers in drinking to the health of the marques, and to the success of the cause of Mexican independence.

The item of five thousand dollars for corn, is another palpable mis-statement. The consumption in two days would not have reached the value of one hundred dollars; and there was not a single fanega taken off. As to the charge for oxen, it is likewise ridiculous; for, as we have before observed, there were only ten taken away.

We conceive it more than probable, that the dependents of the marques, taking advantage of circumstances, may have robbed their master, conceiving that every thing missing in the hacienda would be laid to the incursion of Mina; but we consider it due to the reputation of the general to be thus particular, in repelling the insidious and false attacks on his character, made in the Gazette of Mexico, in relating the affair of the Jaral.

The exaggerations and falsehoods which have been published in that famous Gazette, have constituted one of the main springs in the machinery of the government. With great propriety may they exult in having the absolute control of the press; for to that circumstance, rather than any other, may be attributed the success of the royalists, arising from the ignorance of the patriots, or rather the false statements that were spread among them by the

royalist Gazette, from the commencement of the revolution down to the present day.

The interview at Sombrero, between the general and the republican chiefs, before named, bore the semblance of sincerity. We have no doubt, with the exception of Padre Torres, every individual among Mina's visitors, was not only sincerely disposed to co-operate with him, but that their professions of attachment to him, and gratitude for the important services he had rendered the cause of independence, really sprung from their hearts.

Mina's victories, his enterprise, his pleasing address, his renown, and fast-spreading popularity, were all calculated to awaken the diabolical passions, which ruled the breast of the envious Torres. He viewed the hero of Navarre as an unwelcome intruder, who would soon destroy the ephemeral authority he then exercised. He saw in Mina an energy of character, and a superiority of talent, that would soon raise him to an exalted rank among the Mexicans, and that he himself should speedily be supplanted in the seat of power. These anticipations, blended with innate depravity, made him view the noble-minded Mina with a rancorous eye, and he no doubt at once secretly resolved to destroy him; indeed, he had scarce-

ly sufficient art or prudence to conceal his malignant jealousy.

The Padre said, that, in consideration of the military talents and fame of Mina, he had no objections to place himself under his orders, but, at the same time, he begged him to remember, that it was an act of condescension, because he (the Padre) was his superior in rank; yet as the interests of the republic required it, he was proud of having an opportunity to shew his devotion to the public good, by acting under so experienced a military chief. The *manner* in which these sentiments were delivered, did not escape the penetration of Colonel Young, who was present, and who had attentively examined the countenance of the Padre during the whole interview.

Mina stated to the leading republican chiefs, his perfect obedience and devotion to their government, and with his characteristic frankness laid open to them his motives for having espoused the cause of American emancipation. He stated his firm resolution to perish or succeed in it; he unfolded all his plans; placed before their eyes their situation; his views of the method to be pursued in the future warfare; and he endeavoured to convince them of the support which would be cheerfully afforded to

the cause by his external friends; he pointed out to them the cardinal value of a warm co-operation, and conjured them, as men and as Mexicans, assertors of their country's liberty, to unite with him in heart and hand against the common enemy of their land. He expressed his firm conviction, that, with proper exertions within, and the support which would, in that case, be rendered from without, the cause of liberty could not fail of success.

Never did the character of Mina appear to higher advantage, than when uttering these pure and patriotic sentiments. The chiefs of the republic, as well as his own officers, who were present, listened to him with admiration; and every heart seemed to respond with gratitude to the hero. Even Padre Torres, at the time, seemed anxious to convince Mina of his cordial and sincere friendship. Taking him by the hand, he exclaimed, "I have six thousand men to place under your orders." "If that is the case," replied the general, "then will I march direct upon the capital of Mexico."

After the interview, when the parties had separated, Colonel Young observed to one of his comrades, "I think we may rely on the sincerity of all the patriot chiefs, except that Padre;