

No. 11.—*Condition of Affairs in Mexico.*

- Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, March 31, 1863, (with 13 enclosures.)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, April 12, 1863.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, November 6, 1863, (with 1 enclosure)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, November 6, 1863.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, January 26, 1864, (with enclosures)
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, January 31, 1864, (with enclosures)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, February 11, 1864.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, February 2, 1864, (with enclosures.)
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, February 20, 1864, (with enclosures)
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, February 24, 1864, (with enclosures.)
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 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, March 8, 1864.
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 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, March 1, 1864, (with 10 enclosures)
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, March 2, 1864, (with 13 enclosures.)
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, May 10, 1864, (with enclosures.)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, May 31, 1864.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, May 23, 1864, (with enclosures.)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, May 25, 1864.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, May 24, 1864, (with enclosures.)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, May 25, 1864.
 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, May 28, 1864, (with enclosures.)
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 Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, May 31, 1864, (with enclosures.)
 Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero, June 15, 1864.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 Washington, March 31, 1863.

MR. SECRETARY: While continuing the review of the public events which have occurred in Mexico, which I have had the honor to submit to your department since the commencement of the war which the Emperor of the French is waging against my country, I now proceed to refer to you those which occurred during the months of January and February of the present year, as they appear from the official documents which I have just received from my government, and of which I transmit you copies in English, as per form indicated in the annexed Index.

When I transmitted to you my note of the 28th of January last, in which I had the honor to submit to you the events which had occurred in the republic during the month of December previous, the French army was in possession of Jalapa and Tampico, besides the other places of the Mexican territory of which it has been in possession since the defeat which General Lorencez suffered on the 5th of May, 1862. General Forey very soon convinced himself of the impossibility of his retaining both cities in his power, and whether it was because he required the forces which garrisoned them to carry on his operations against Puebla, or because he could not maintain, with the probabilities of security, small garrisons in cities which were decidedly hostile to the intervention, he determined to evacuate both positions. General Berthier consequently abandoned Jalapa on the 15th of December, marching with the forces of his command in the direction of Puebla. General Rivera, in command of a small brigade of cavalry and some infantry of the Mexican army, prepared two ambuscades for the

French; the first at the "Parage de los Carros," and the second at "Cruz Blanca." The first encounter occurred on the 17th, and in the second he was compelled to join issue with a very superior force of the enemy in a formal battle which lasted for three hours. I enclose, under Nos. 1 and 2, the official reports of both actions. The telegraphic despatches which I sent you, marked Nos. 17 and 18, with my aforesaid note of the 28th January, referred to these reports.

The French had scarcely evacuated Jalapa, when that city was occupied by the patriot forces in its environs, as appears from the official report, also enclosed, No. 3. The pretended government which the French set up in it melted away the instant the support of foreign bayonets was withdrawn, and what occurred in Jalapa has been repeated in all the other towns which the French have occupied, and will be repeated in all the others they may hereafter occupy. The general feeling with which the Mexican people rejects the intervention cannot be more clearly manifested. The main body of the French army which was at Orizaba commenced its march on the 30th of November last in the direction of Puebla. These forces were divided into two corps; the first followed the national road from Orizaba to Puebla, and the second took the road of San Andres Chalchicomula, which town was occupied on the 4th of December, while at the same time another column entered San Augustin del Palmar.

A portion of the forces which took the road of Puebla occupied Tehuacan on the 21st of December, and shortly after abandoned it. General Forey left Orizaba on the 23d February. Shortly before doing so, he issued a proclamation in which he announced that the French army was about marching upon the city of Mexico. Up to the 2d of this month there were, however, no indications that the invading forces intended immediately to attack Puebla. Up to that time they had been engaged in marching and countermarching in all directions, in occupying defenceless towns and afterwards abandoning them, and the object of their multifarious movements seems to have been to obtain the supplies which the patriot Mexicans stationed between Vera Cruz and Orizaba do not permit freely to pass. During the month of February last past there had been no encounter of any consequence between the contending forces. While the garrison of Puebla was impatiently awaiting the attack, the pickets of the Mexican cavalry have scarcely allowed a day to pass without annoying the enemy. No column of the invaders can go in search of provisions or forage, or reconnoitre the country, without meeting in their transit with obstacles more or less serious. The Mexican pickets sometimes penetrate into the centre of the towns occupied by the French, and in the daily fights they have with them, and in which frequently the advantages are on their side, they have seen that it is possible to overcome an enemy which had been represented to them as irresistible.

In order to complete the history of the movement of the French army upon Puebla, I transmit copies of the proclamation of General Forey, to which I have previously referred, and of the other which he addressed, on the 16th of February, to the inhabitants of Orizaba, thanking them for the courtesy with which they have treated his soldiers, which he acknowledges is not due to sympathy for the cause which they defend.

The Mexican government ordered General Comonfort to place himself, with a part of the army of the centre, at San Martin Tescmelucan, distant eight leagues from Puebla, in order to protect the garrison of said city. Meantime the contingents from several of the states were arriving at the city of Mexico, which, added to the force which had remained there, would form a sufficient garrison to defend the place, even in case General Forey should determine to lay siege to it without attacking Puebla. The quotas of the state of Michoacan, and those of Guanajuato and Sinaloa, were on their march to the capital.

The military operations undertaken in other parts of the Mexican territory have not been more successful for the French arms. The forces which had occupied Tampico were defeated at Pueblo Viejo, on the 21st of December, in at-

tempting to dislodge the Mexican army at that place. Among the documents annexed, marked No. 4, I enclose a copy of the official report of that action. About the beginning of January, the invading forces made preparations for evacuating Tampico. The Spanish vice-consul at that port, upon receiving notice thereof, addressed himself to General Garza, commanding in chief the Mexican forces in Tamaulipas, asking of him guarantees for the foreigners, and especially for the Frenchmen residing at Tampico, and even for the Mexicans who had remained at that port during the French occupation. General Garza replied by saying that the foreigners residing in Tampico, including the Frenchmen who had not joined the invaders, would enjoy all the rights which the law of nations concedes to them, and that with respect to the Mexicans who had remained in Tampico during its occupation, the interposition of the Spanish vice-consul could only be considered as in an officious light, and that, in any event, he would act with equity and moderation.

I enclose copies of the communications relating to this affair, numbered 5, 6, and 7.

On the 13th of January last the French evacuated Tampico, and on the same day it was occupied by the Mexican forces, as appears from the official report annexed, marked No. 8. The French force composing the expedition was delayed upon the bar, the bad weather not permitting them to embark in the transports. General Garza sent a section of 500 men to annoy the French upon the bar, and notwithstanding that they are there well protected by their war vessels, and by temporary fortifications which they had constructed, they were attacked on the evening of the 20th of January referred to. Subsequently the French burnt the houses at the bar, and when the section sent on the expedition again attacked them on the 21st, they found the village in ashes, and the French embarking in the war steamer *La Lance* and in a steam gunboat. Upon being attacked by the Mexican forces, they attempted to come down the river; the gunboat succeeded in so doing, and the steamer, losing the channel, went on shore, exposed to the fire of the Mexican forces, which, owing to the short distance at which they were, suffered much injury, without receiving any in return, as they were protected by the sand-banks on the coast, though they were opposed both by the steamer and the French squadron which was outside the bar. Night brought on a suspension of the hostilities of the 21st, which were renewed on the morning of the 22d with still greater fury. The French being unable to get off the steamer *La Lance*, and the losses on board of her being very considerable, they determined to set fire to her, first removing her crew and the force on board, and abandoning the provisions, armament, and other effects constituting her cargo, a part of which, notwithstanding the conflagration, were taken out by the Mexican forces. The enemy left, besides, at the mouth of the river Panuco, the American schooner *Eugenia*, laden with munitions of war, the hermaphrodite brig *Indus*, laden with provisions, and the bark *France* and *Britain*, with a cargo of coal, and two large iron lighters. The wheel-steamer *Reforma*, which the French had captured, was also abandoned on the bar, after having been rendered completely useless by the invaders, whose destructive propensities were fully carried out upon everything within their power. Not content with burning a defenceless village, they destroyed a steamer, the only use of which was to facilitate the entrance into Tampico of merchant vessels, and the want of which will be principally felt by foreign merchants. I enclose the official reports of the action near the bar, marked Nos. 9 and 10. Thus ended the French occupation of Tampico, and it is a fair sample of what awaits the invaders throughout the Mexican territory. They not only did not obtain the mules they had gone in search of—not only were they not able to retain a town upon the coast where their naval forces give them so great an advantage, but they were compelled to abandon precipitately the second maritime custom-house of Mexico upon the gulf, leaving to their fate the few deluded Mexicans who had

followed them, destroying a war steamer belonging to the imperial navy, leaving in the hands of the Mexican army a large amount of provisions and munitions of war, and abandoning, both beaten and crestfallen, a position in which they had the aid of their powerful squadron.

A few days before the French found themselves compelled to abandon Tampico with such great disadvantages, the French navy suffered another disaster in the Pacific. A small French squadron, composed of the *Pallas*, bearing the flag of Rear-Admiral Bonet, the *Bayonnaise*, the *Diamant*, and the *Galathée*, mounting in all sixty guns, appeared on the 8th of January before the town of Acapulco, making the singular demand from the chief of the Mexican forces at that port that he should give the lie to a publication published in the *Chaleco*, a newspaper of Callao, in Peru, in an article relating to the excesses committed by the frigate *Bayonnaise* at Acapulco about the end of August, 1862, when General Ghilardi was in command of the garrison of Acapulco, and to whom the article in question had been attributed. The French squadron also demanded the no less singular privilege of being permitted to provision, coal, and water, as though Acapulco were neutral ground. The pretension that the Mexican authorities should disavow the publications of the foreign press is in itself so extraordinary a proceeding, that it can scarcely be supposed that a French rear-admiral should make of it a *casus belli*. Upon issuing that relating to the neutrality of Acapulco, it appears that Rear-Admiral Bonet had forgotten that Acapulco is an integral part of the republic of Mexico; that Mexico is at war with France, and that to propose that a hostile squadron be permitted to enter and leave freely that port, in order that it might provide itself, in one part of the territory of Mexico, with the means it requires for the purpose of attacking another portion of the same country, is the most absurd thing that can be imagined. General Alvarez replied, as it was most natural, by refusing both these demands, in consequence of which the French squadron opened its batteries upon Acapulco on the morning of the 10th, with the immense advantage of having rifled guns; its fire caused great damage, without, in return, receiving any injury, because their vessels were beyond the reach of the Mexican artillery. As the result of so unequal a contest, several pieces of the Mexican artillery, used in the defence of the place, were dismounted. The houses, which had been disoccupied, previously, by order of the military authority, were soon reduced to ruins in consequence of the three days' bombardment which they suffered. The defenders of the port remained in Fort Alvarez, the only one which could resist the fire of the enemy, ready to oppose the landing of the French, which it was believed would have taken place, for it was not possible to believe that the anger of the French should limit itself to knocking down unoccupied buildings. The forces which were to have landed did not attempt to do so, and on the 12th they withdrew from the port without having occupied it, and without obtaining water, provisions, or coal, and without having obtained the objects they had intended. The bombardment of Acapulco was therefore an act of barbarism, which effected no result whatever favorable to the French.

By this bombardment the property belonging to foreigners was destroyed, and this is not the first occasion upon which they have had to lament the kind of protection which France declares she has come to give them. Among the annexed documents I transmit the official report of the action at Acapulco, from No. 11 to No. 19, inclusive. The bombardment of Acapulco is not the only act of barbarism committed by the French. The official report of the outrages which they perpetrated at Tehuacan, which I enclose under No. 20, is simply an exact account of the scenes which occur in all the towns which fall under the French yoke. The most arbitrary spoliations, the most unheard of violences, the banishment to Martinique upon the most flimsy motives, and even from the simple fact of professing opinions contrary to the intervention; the most outrageous ill-treatment, and other wrongs of this same character, are

very frequent occurrences in the towns which are so unfortunate as to suffer the French rule for a shorter or longer period. Among the cases of deportation which have occurred, the more notable ones are those of Don Alberto Lopez, and of the licentiate Don Antonio Corona. The latter was at one time the governor and president of the superior tribunal of the State of Vera Cruz, and the former is a distinguished citizen of Orizaba. Both of them had retired to private life, and both were violently dragged from their homes to be deported to an island whose climate is deadly. Banishments have occurred by the wholesale, and upon the most trivial causes, of many other persons, who, though more humble in their spheres than those named, in no manner diminish the criminality of the outrage. In the document No. 4 enclosed herewith, you will see the barbarous treatment to which four Mexican citizens have been subjected, who were banished from Orizaba; the offence of one of them, Don Diego Miron, being his having defended the honor of one of his daughters, threatened by a French officer.

General Forey, knowing the necessity of giving a light coloring of legality to proceedings so arbitrary and iniquitous, issued a circular (number 22) on the 6th of January last, in which he provides that a military commission composed of French officers shall determine upon "all offences which may endanger the security of the French army," under which loose definition may be included, at the will of the French officers, any acts which may occur in the Mexican territory. There has besides been perpetrated another brutal outrage by the French army, and through which the laws of war not less than the sovereignty of the United States have been outraged. The commandant, Florian Bernardi, who served in the brigade of Rivéra, offered, in compliance with an order from General Ortega, to escort with four dragoons Mr. William H. Corwin, secretary of the United States legation in Mexico, Mr. Marcus Ottenbourg, consul of the United States in the city of Mexico, and Mr. N. A. Cajal, the consular agent of the United States at Puebla, on the journey they made to Vera Cruz, about the end of December, 1862, with the view of taking to the city of Mexico the correspondence of the government of the United States to their minister in Mexico, which had been detained at said port of Vera Cruz. This escort, employed upon a peaceful mission, was under the protection of the United States, in the service of whose agents it was at that time. Notwithstanding this fact, and their carrying a white flag, the commandant Florian Bernardi and his dragoons were captured upon their arrival at Perote, and shortly afterwards the said commandant and one dragoon were shot to death, and the three others were banished to Martinique. This act of barbarity, which would put to the blush the tribes of the Caffres, has been committed by one of the generals of the highest grade in the army which pretends to bring civilization to Mexico. The truth of the facts which I have just related is sustained by the written declarations of the secretary of the United States legation in Mexico, and of the consul of the United States in the same city, of which I transmit copy, marked No. 23. How far this iniquitous proceeding affects the dignity and sovereignty of the United States, is a matter which it becomes their government to determine.

Many of the soldiers of the French army, who are gradually becoming satisfied that neither Mexico nor its government are in the state of disorganization which had been described to them, and who, on the contrary, find that they are used as instruments for establishing oppression and despotism in a country where the most ample liberty is enjoyed, founded upon principles in defence of which these same soldiers have fought gloriously at other periods and places, have become disgusted with so iniquitous an expedition, and have begun to abandon a flag which now only represents the cause of barbarism, oppression and conquest. Among the documents annexed, I transmit two communications, (Nos. 25 and 26) from General Ortega, in which he announces that several de-

serters from the French army have presented themselves to him. Many others have gone towards Oajaca, and as yet no information is had as to their numbers.

The Mexican government deemed it its duty to favor these desertions, and issued to that end the instructions of which I transmit a copy, (No. 24,) in which it recommends to the generals of the national army to extend succor to the deserters who may present themselves, to give them passports to such places at which they may desire to establish themselves, and to make known to them the friendly disposition of the Mexican government to receive them as colonists in the republic. These orders have produced the best results: ten deserters from different regiments of the invading army have publicly acknowledged, in a communication addressed to the President, (No. 27,) the kind manner in which they have been received by the authorities of the republic; and this manifestation, while it will encourage other soldiers to follow the same example, will tend to dissipate the fears which the French officers have sought to instil into the minds of their soldiers with respect to the pretended sufferings and tortures which awaited the French deserters at the hands of the Mexican authorities. The injustice and iniquity of the invasion are so clearly manifest, even to the very soldiers of France, that many of them have been compelled to resort to an expedient of which there are but very few examples in the annals of the French army, and, if the war should be prolonged for any length of time, it threatens to disband the invading army.

The government of Mexico, while it desires to favor the desertions which will weaken an army engaged in the conquest of the country, does not avail itself of any undue means, and which are not conformable to the laws of war, to bring about such a result, and has not attempted to exercise any kind of coercion upon the hostile soldiers which have come under their authority. The following case proves the truth of this assertion: Upon its becoming known in Mexico that General Forey had set at liberty some prisoners belonging to the national army, the government of the republic determined to do as much with respect to several French prisoners which it held in the capital, directing at the same time that they should be provided with the funds necessary to return to the headquarters of the invading army, or to establish themselves in some other part of the Mexican territory. The prisoners decided to accept the first-named alternative, and they were allowed to join the enemy's ranks. These are the acts of humanity which it is customary with the Mexican government to extend, and whom the agents of the Emperor of the French incessantly calumniate in Europe. I enclose herewith (marked No. 28) the documents relating to this affair.

Mr. Wagner, the minister resident of his Majesty the King of Prussia in Mexico, who jointly had under his protection the interests of the Spanish, French, and Belgian subjects, received the authority of his government to return to Berlin, and upon his departure from the city of Mexico he very properly left the said subjects under the protection of their respective consuls, but he committed the mistake of desiring to leave the said subjects and consuls under the extraordinary protection of the minister of the United States. As was most natural, neither the Mexican government nor Mr. Corwin could sanction by their approval a proceeding which was so greatly contrary to international uses, and Mr. Wagner, in a note to the Mexican government, which was received at the department for foreign affairs two days after his departure from the capital, stated that he left the subjects referred to under the safeguard of the diplomatic corps, and "relying, above all, on the honor and loyalty of the Mexican people." By such conduct Mr. Wagner has attempted to cast reproach upon the Mexican government with the least reason for so doing, because the said government has given daily proofs that it causes the rights of foreigners to be respected, which are conceded to them by the treaties, and that it knows how to extend its humanity even to the point of continuing to guar-

antee these same rights to the foreigners who have forfeited them in consequence of the war, as is actually the case with the French residing in Mexico. The government of Mexico energetically repelled the insult implicated in the note of Mr. Wagner, in a note addressed to Mr. Corwin, of which I enclose a copy, and also of all the other communications which refer to this matter. Other letters have been intercepted, addressed to Mr. J. B. Jecker, by some of his friends, relatives, and partners in Europe, and which show how far the business of stock-jobbing of this speculator have influenced in causing the war which the French government is waging against Mexico. I enclose these letters, as per No. 38.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my most distinguished consideration.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &c., &c., &c.

M. ROMERO.

Enclosures with Mr. Romero's letter of 31st March, 1863.

[Translation.]

Index of the documents this day transmitted by the Mexican legation to the Department of State of the United States, annexed to its note of the 31st of March, 1863, relating to events which transpired in Mexico during the months of January and February, 1863.

No.	From—To.	Date.	Contents.
1	General Rivera to General Ortega.	Dec. 17, 1862	Official report of the action at the Parage de Carros.
2	Same to same.....	Dec. 20, 1862	Official report of the battle of Cruz Blanca.
3	General Ortega to General Blanco.	Jan. 21, 1863	Official report of the occupation of Jalapa by the Mexican forces.
4	Colonel Laray Solis to General Blanco.	Dec. 22, 1862	Official report of the battle of Pueblo Viejo.
5	General Garza to General Blanco.	Jan. 10, 1863	Transmits copies of the correspondence between General Garza and the vice-consul of Spain at Tampico respecting the protection of foreigners residing there.
6	Mr. Obregon to General Garza.	Jan. 9, 1863	Requesting protection for foreigners residing in Tampico.
7	General Garza to Mr. Obregon.	Jan. 10, 1863	Replies that the rights conceded by treaty to foreigners will be respected.
8	Colonel Pavon to General Blanco.	Jan. 13, 1863	Official report of the evacuation of Tampico by the French army.
9	General Garza to General Blanco.	Jan. 22, 1863	Official report of the occupation of Tampico by the Mexican army and of the action on the bar.
10	Same to same.....	Feb. 7, 1863	Detailed report of above action.
11	General Alvarez to General Blanco.	Jan. 10, 1863	Transmits copies of correspondence between the Mexican army and the French squadron prior to the bombardment of Acapulco.
12	Commander Bonet to Mr. Van Brunt.	Jan. 8, 1863	Proposal of conditions to prevent hostilities on his part.
13	Captain Le Bris to General Alvarez.	Jan. 8, 1863	Memorandum—same subject.
14	General Alvarez to Mr. Van Brunt.	Jan. 9, 1863	He replies that he cannot accede to the conditions of Commander Bonet.
15	Captain Le Bris to General Alvarez.	Jan. 9, 1863	Respecting the conditions demanded by the French squadron.
16	General Alvarez to Captain Le Bris.	Jan. 9, 1863	Replies that he cannot accept such conditions.
17	General Alvarez to General Blanco.	Jan. 11, 1863	Official report of the battle of Acapulco, of the 10th January.

Index of documents—Continued.

No.	From—To.	Date.	Contents.
18	General Alvarez to General Blanco.	Jan. 12, 1863	Official report of the actions of 10th and 11th January at Acapulco.
19	Same to same.....	Jan. 13, 1863	Official report of the withdrawal of the French squadron from Acapulco.
20	General Ortega to General Blanco.	Dec. 31, 1862	Official report of the spoiliations of the French army at Tehuacan.
21	General Carbojal to General Ortega.	Jan. 7, 1863	The outrages of the French upon four Mexican citizens sent to Vera Cruz.
22	J. D. St. Armand...	Jan. 20, 1863	Circular of the French army to have them tried by a military commission.
23	From the U. S. consul in the city of Mexico and the secretary of the U. S. legation in the same city.	Jan. 4, 1863	Official report of the assassination by the French of an officer and two soldiers of the Mexican army who were under the protection of the United States.
24	General Ortega....	Feb. 1, 1863	Instructions of the Mexican government relating to the protection to be granted to deserters from the French army.
25	General Ortega to General Blanco.	Feb. 3, 1863	Notice of his aiding and sending a French deserter to Mexico.
26	Same to same.....	Feb. 12, 1863	Notice of his aiding and sending seven French deserters to Mexico.
27	From French deserters.	Feb. 14, 1863	From ten deserters from the French army to the President of Mexico, thanking him for their kind reception.
28	Commander Tapia..	Jan. 9, 1863	Official report of his release of five French prisoners, with passports and means to return to the invading army.
29	The President to the Diario official.	Feb. 22, 1863	Denies the statement of General O'Donnell, which alleges that the President was desirous of selling two of the Mexican States to the United States.
30	Mr. Wagner to Mr. Fuente.	Jan. 22, 1863	Permission to leave Mexico, and asking for passports and escorts.
31	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Wagner.	Jan. 30, 1863	Granting his requests.
32	Mr. Wagner to Mr. Fuente.	Feb. 9, 1863	Notice that he leaves the Europeans residing in Mexico under the care of their consuls and the special protection of the legation of the United States.
33	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Wagner.	Feb. 12, 1863	The Mexican government cannot accept the above measure.
34	Mr. Wagner to Mr. Fuente.	Feb. 17, 1863	The minister of the United States declining to accept this commission, he leaves the foreigners under the protection of the diplomatic corps and the loyalty of the Mexican people.
35	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Corwin.	Feb. 24, 1863	The impropriety of the conduct of Mr. Wagner.
36	General Forey to the Mexicans.	Feb. 15, 1863	Proclamation. The invading army marching upon Mexico.
37	General Forey to the citizens of Orizaba.	Feb. 16, 1863	Proclamation; thanking them for their good treatment of the French army—not due to their sympathy for the cause of intervention.
38	Eleven intercepted letters to the friends, relatives, and partners of J. B. Jecker, residing in Europe, respecting the condition of their affairs.

ROMERO.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1864.

No. 1.

[Translation.]

LIBERAL ARMY, RIVERA'S BRIGADE.

I have to communicate to you that this very moment (a quarter to 1 p. m.) a little engagement has taken place at the point called Parage de Carros, half a league from this place, caused by one of the ambuscades which, according to what I have stated in my former report, I had been preparing with my infantry, in connexion with citizen Colonel Antonio Rodriguez, with the national guard of Flacolulam.

I am not aware of the loss of the enemy at this moment. They were fearfully cut up by our fire, which was at close quarters, by about 300 infantry. A dense fog favored us, while it prevented me from ascertaining immediately the results.

The line of the ambuscade covered about three blocks, and its effects have fully satisfied me. I withdrew subsequently with my small corps of infantry and cavalry in the best order, the enemy being only at a very short distance from the latter. I consider it unnecessary to recommend to you the nations of Flacolulam, who have behaved so handsomely, in company of the citizen Lieutenant Colonel José M. Grajale, whom I personally invited to second this movement. I retire to the Cerros de Leon and of Molinos, where I intend to cause yet more damage to the invaders on his passage, as I will to-morrow make another attack.

Citizen GENERAL-IN-CHIEF of the Army of the East.
LAS VIGAS, December 17, 1862.

AURELIANO RIVERA.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

A true copy:

ROMERO.

No. 2.

[Translation.]

LIBERAL ARMY, BRIGADE RIVERA.

As I promised you day before yesterday evening to give you a detailed account of the action which took place the same day between the brigade which I command and the invading enemy, I have now the pleasure of fulfilling that promise.

At 9 o'clock a. m. on the 18th I evacuated the village Perote, taking direction of the Molinos and of Sierra de Agua, with the intention of attacking the enemy on his rear guard if circumstances should favor me.

I had received before positive information that the traitors, to the number of 1,500 men, were covering the rear guard of this army, and immediately I fixed my attention on them at the moment when the invading enemy had the advantage of an immense numerical superiority. I arrived at Sierra de Agua, whence I took the direction of Cerro de Leon, in order to come out near Cruz Blanca, at a point where I could break his line.

Enveloped by a thick fog which disguised the distance to such a degree that objects at fifteen or twenty paces could not be distinguished, I was induced to advance with an escort of *rifleros*, in order to assure myself with my own eyes when the enemy would pass the point indicated. The sound of artillery announced to me that the traitors were advancing upon my position, and suddenly a fierce combat began between my *rifleros* and a small detachment of the traitor cavalry, whom I sought to draw forth upon an advantageous spot, in order to put into execution my other plans.

In consequence of this, I sent word to citizen Edward Manuel Quesada that he should draw out upon an advantageous spot the corps of his command, in order to resist successfully the attack of the enemy. I afterwards saw a large body of French cavalry detaching itself, evidently with the intention of making a charge, and sent immediately to meet it the *resguardo* of Tlaxcala, under the orders of citizen Colonel Doroteo Leon, who had the glory of resisting in an admirable manner a sudden attack, by driving the French cavalry back in the greatest disorder.

At this moment, seeing myself equally supported by the *resguardo* of Huamantla, under the command of citizen Colonel Antonio Rodriguez, I was able to make a charge which drove back the enemy into the midst of the infantry and artillery. The latter I was unable to get into my possession, owing to the fact that two battalions or more were aiming to turn my right flank, at the same time that another battalion, deployed as sharpshooters, were combining in an attack on the left flank, thus placing me between three fires. I immediately ordered the citizen commandant Ugalde to proceed to the right flank at a place whence he could observe and communicate to me any movement of said battalions.

Favored as we were by the lay of the land, this action lasted three hours and a half, at the expiration of which time prudence admonished me to order a countermarch. The enemy, encouraged by this move, wished to make a new and heavy charge, but could not succeed in his object, because, at the distance of 1,000 yards, in consequence of the precaution which I had taken, the squadrons Quesada and *Esplorados* were formed, under command of citizen Lieutenant Colonel Geronimo Fragoso, and the enemy stopped as soon as he perceived them. I at once retreated to this locality leisurely, and the brigade marching in perfect order, the rear guard being covered by the corps Quesada and Fragoso, with the sharpshooters belonging to them.

In the second charge a circumstance took place which I will not allow myself to pass unmentioned. Citizen Colonel Rodriguez encountered the traitor, Colonel Macario Silva; each recognized the other, and the latter invited Colonel Rodriguez to single combat. Rodriguez accepted the challenge, and in a few moments later he had killed the traitor. I enclose with this report the epaulettes worn by Colonel Silva.

It is impossible for me to state the loss of the enemy, but I can assure you, upon my word of honor, that they were considerable. We captured eleven Arabian and five Mexican horses, beside pack-horses, a large number of arms, and five prisoners, (traitors,) who were immediately put to death.

For my part, I have to deplore the loss of the citizen commanding the squadron, Rafael Ledezma, of the force of Rodriguez; also that of citizen Lieutenant Loreto Velasco, of the corps of Fragoso, besides nineteen soldiers of different corps, more than a dozen wounded, and thirteen prisoners.

Citizen general, words fail to describe the heroic conduct of the citizen chiefs, officers, and soldiers who compose the brigade which I am proud to command. In the heat of the combat only the noble cries of "Independence forever! Liberty forever! Death to the traitors! Death to France!" were uttered.

Receive the expressions of my distinguished regards, and it will give me great satisfaction if you will congratulate in my name the citizen President upon the action which took place on the 18th of the present month on the plains of Cerro de Leon and Cruz Blanca between a party of national troops and the invading enemy.

Liberty, independence, or death!

AURELIANO RIVERA.

Citizen GENERAL-IN-CHIEF of the Army of the East.
TEZUITLAN DE MEJIA, December 20, 1862.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

A true copy:

ROMERO.

No. 3.

[Translation.]

The citizen military commander of Vera Cruz has communicated to me, under the date of the 15th instant, from Jalapa, what follows:

"I have the honor to inform you that to-day, noon I occupied this village with the force which is under my command two hours before it had been evacuated by the enemy, who now are two leagues from here."

I have the honor to transmit it to you, so that you may inform the supreme magistrate of the republic of the same.

Liberty and reform!

Headquarters at Zaragoza, January 21, 1863.

J. GONSALES ORTEGA.

Citizen MINISTER OF WAR, Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

A true copy:

ROMERO.

No. 4.

[Extracts.—Translation.]

* * * On the 21st we arrived at Pueblo Viejo with the object of cutting off all communication with the place occupied by the French, and of attacking them should they

present themselves. We placed several guerillas on observation at El Humo, Las Piedras, la Polvora, and San Francisco, covering with the balance of the infantry forces all the line along the beach of the Laguna de Pueblo Viejo. During that day and night following it nothing new occurred; on the 22d, about 11 o'clock in the morning, two gunboats and some Frenchmen were seen on the side of El Humo, reconnoitring our camp, and having observed our guerillas, they fired their guns and muskets in that direction; a slight skirmishing took place with them, causing the invaders to fall back. In the evening Mr. Pavon and myself went, without uncovering our lines, to reconnoiter the commanding points and to observe the movements going on at Tampico. At that moment two small steamers towing five sloops with several boats were approaching by the estero of San Francisco; the enemy was on board and intended to surprise us. A cannon shot from the enemy announced to us the attack on the side of the laguna opposite the town; we returned, and Mr. Pavon, the chief of our brigade, remained at the first point on the right wing to sustain there the fire with an enemy superior both in material and force. As he was some fifty meters from the shore, I ran over myself the line which had been attacked, and I was not further than twenty or twenty-five meters when a ball from the enemy killed my horse. I was slightly hurt, and although this embarrassed my march, I went over on foot the remainder of the line. I mounted again and relieved the citizen commander-in-chief, so that he might take his turn in running over the line. After a lively and heavy fire for three hours, the enemy, unable to resist any longer, withdrew with some killed and about twenty wounded. About 10 or 11 o'clock in the night, as soon as the unjust invader gave up the fight, I ordered the reveille to be beaten all along the line, so as to let the people of the town know that we had triumphed over our oppressors. The Mexican honor has not been violated on this part of our territory, and the arms of justice have showna once more after the example of the hero of Guadalupe, who made them sparkle on the 5th of May. There are among the killed two captains and a lieutenant very much beloved by the French. Thinking that the enemy would return the following day (23d) by land, and in larger numbers, we withdrew the infantry to Tampico el Alto, leaving the cavalry at Pueblo Viejo to observe and draw the enemy into the narrow passes of the mountain, doing this at 3 o'clock in the morning in the greatest possible order. At 8 o'clock the same morning the enemy, ashamed of their defeat, occupied Pueblo Viejo by land, and not finding us there, they most outrageously pillaged the town, during which they broke open the doors which were closed. Maddened by their losses of the night previous, and knowing that we suffered none, they started for Tampico Alto to exterminate us, as they said. We, being prepared to attack them with our guerillas, advanced on the same road to meet them, but they had scarcely advanced about one league when they turned back and re-embarked for Tampico. The enthusiasm of our soldiers looking for an engagement was such that, had the enemy advanced, they would have undoubtedly suffered twice as great a loss as on the day before, and we might even have cut off their retreat. The enemy's loss is officially confirmed.

La Graviere had arrived at the bar of Tampico at the very moment we were fighting; some people assert that he brings with him more forces, some others pretend that the greatest part of the force is to withdraw, and that will only leave a small garrison.

It is also reported that the chief who attacked us is to be subjected to a court-martial, having lost the action. * * * *

A true copy :

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

ROMERO.

No. 5.

[Translation.]

FORCES OF TAMAULIPAS, GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

For the information of the citizen President of the republic, I enclosed to you certified copies of the communications exchanged between the Spanish vice-consul in Tampico and the undersigned respecting the evacuation of that port by the invading forces. By the copies referred to you will be advised of the guarantees that I have conceded to foreigners, and especially to the French subjects who have not mixed themselves in anything with the invader. At the same time please to inform the citizen

President that with this date I commenced the march upon that port with the forces at my command, to effectuate its occupation and to hostileize the enemy by every means that may be possible.

Country, liberty, and reform!

Headquarters in the Hacienda of Chocoy, January 10, 1863.

JUAN JOSÉ DE LA GARZA.

Citizen MINISTER OF WAR AND MARINE, Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

A true copy :

ROMERO.

No. 6.

[Translation.]

CONSULATE OF SPAIN AT TAMPICO,
Hacienda del Chocoy, January 9, 1863.

GENERAL: The undersigned, vice-consul, has the honor to inform you that M. Charles de Saint Charles, who now performs the duties of consul of France, and the commander of the French man-of-war Albatros, who actually is the superior commander of the French forces occupying the port of Tampico, have addressed to him two communications informing him, among other things, that the French forces which garrison said place of Tampico will soon evacuate it.

As you will understand, in circumstances so critical as the present ones, the undersigned has thought proper to call on you at your encampment with the object of inquiring of you if, in case said evacuation should take place, you, as the superior chief of the liberal forces which will occupy it, can grant to peaceful foreigners who find themselves in said place all guarantees, and particularly to the French subjects who are there established, and who have not taken any part with the forces of their nation.

With the same sentiments towards the peaceful Mexicans, inhabitants of said town, and who are in the same case in which are other foreigners and the French to whom I refer, the undersigned would like to know if they may rely upon the same guarantees, requesting you to take into consideration that said place was occupied unexpectedly, and that some, from reason of health, and others from want of resources, have been unable to abandon their families and interests.

Please accept on this occasion, general, the expression of my esteem and distinguished consideration. God preserve you for many years.

RAMON DE OBREGON.

General JUAN JOSÉ DE LA GARZA,

Commander-in-Chief of the forces operating against Tampico.

WASHINGTON, March 31, 1863.

A true copy :

ROMERO.

No. 7.

[Translation.]

FORCES OF TAMPICO, GENERAL-IN-CHIEF.

I have received the note of your vice-consulate, dated the 9th instant, which has acquainted me with the fact that you had been informed by M. Charles de Saint Charles and the commander of the French ship-of-war Albatros, commanding in chief the French forces at Tampico, that that place was to be soon evacuated, and for this reason you desired to be informed, first, whether the peaceful foreigners, and particularly the Frenchmen who have taken no part with the invaders and who are settled in that place, were to enjoy all kinds of guarantees; and, second, if the Mexicans, who find themselves in the same case, may rely on the same guarantees, taking into consideration that the place had been occupied unexpectedly, and that they could not abandon their families and interests, some on account of their health, others for want of resources.