

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

MEXICAN LEGATION,
Washington, May 23, 1864.

Mr. Romero presents his compliments to Mr. Seward, and has the honor to enclose herewith a slip taken from the New York Tribune of Saturday last, containing some letters from Monterey and Matamoras, Mexico. The impartiality and good common sense with which these letters are written, and at the same time the abundance of correct and trustworthy information that they embrace, are the reasons why Mr. Romero thinks proper to send them to Mr. Seward, calling, in a particular way, his attention towards them. They are a new proof of the great interest that the insurgents of this country have in the success of the French army invading Mexico, and show the disposition of the national government of that republic towards the United States.

FROM MEXICO.

Movements of the Mexican troops.—Vidaurri's stock at La Mesa captured.—His son-in-law, Patrick Milmo, in prison; the decree of President Juarez confiscating his cotton.—The rebel land agents and contractors in trouble.

[From our special correspondent.]

MONTEREY, MEXICO, April 5, 1864.

After the flight of Vidaurri, the troops of the Juarez government for a few days flocked into the city from all directions, and now appear to be moving again in detached bodies for Saltillo, it is said en route for San Luis Potosi. The cavalry and artillery sent in pursuit of Vidaurri have not yet returned, though there is now no need of their remaining longer near the Rio Grande, as all the troops of Vidaurri, except a portion of his escort, have turned over to Juarez, and have delivered up the fourteen cannon and seven mountain howitzers he carried with him when he left Monterey. It is now reported here that Vidaurri has escaped into Texas, and is at Laredo, from whence he is expected to go to the north, and perhaps to Europe. President Juarez has recovered, not only all the artillery that he lost by sending it here, but all of Vidaurri's beside, with a large stock of ammunition and an additional supply of small-arms of all sorts. Doblado sent here, after the capture of San Luis Potosi, 25 field guns, which were accompanied by 109 wagons and carts freighted with ammunition, altogether drawn by some 700 mules. These were furnished by the state of Guanajuato alone to the liberal government. These guns, with the ammunition belonging to them, have been recovered, though the mules are missing. It is said that the troops of Juarez have visited Vidaurri's stock rancho, called *La Mesa*, near Lampazos, and, by way of reprisal, have captured his flocks and herds there before his agents had time to drive them across the Rio Grande, and to exchange them for cotton with the rebel contrabandists of Texas. The liberals have lost nothing by this operation. The property of all sorts belonging to the following persons it is commonly thought will be confiscated for his treason: Vidaurri; Rejon, his secretary of state; Hinojoso, his general; Quiroga, his colonel of cavalry, and Yudalecio Vidaurri, his son. His son-in-law, *Patricio* (or, in plain English, Patrick) Milmo, is still in prison, and is said to be on trial before a military commission. He is reputed to be very wealthy, and to have placed most of his money beyond the seas, though he is the owner of large stocks of goods as well as other property here and in Matamoras, and, besides, has a large quantity of cotton in Texas, purchased with goods on which he paid no tariff to the United States when he sent them across the line. He may yet, by claiming its protection, cause the English government (as he is an Irishman by birth) to show what action, or rather non-action, it will consider proper in the case of a person guilty of a double violation of the laws of neutrality, viz: between the United States and the rebels, and between Mexico and her foes, who has carried on a contraband traffic with the rebels, and at the same time asserts that he has paid the duties on the cotton imported by him, not into the treasury of President Juarez, but into the treasury of a governor in armed rebellion against him.

Before this letter reaches you it is probable that you will have received a number of the *Boletin Oficial de Tamaulipas*, containing a decree of President Juarez, declaring all goods (cotton of course included) imported into Mexico at the port of Piedras Negras since March

7, at which date Vidaurri was in arms against the national government, and was collecting the national tariff on importations, without paying it over, to be forfeited for the non-payment of the legal duties into his treasury.

This decree, if enforced, will afford the Juarez government what it most needs—ready money. Not less than 12,000 bales of cotton were crossed over into Mexico at Piedras Negras about March 7, on which Vidaurri collected (as the Mexican tariff in all amounts to \$8 per bale) \$96,000 in coin. This cotton is worth at Matamoras \$200 per bale; that is to say, the gross amount of \$2,400,000 in cash. As a matter of course, every conceivable appliance will be brought to bear to make the Juarez government recede from this decree, and instead of confiscating the cotton, as by law it can rightfully do, to let it pass upon the payment of the duties to the lawful government—or, in other words, to take \$96,000, where it might take \$2,400,000. What will be the result of the pressure brought to bear remains to be seen. In the mean time, the rebel lead agents and contractors are in great trouble. Murphy, who has been supplied with funds by Mr. John Trooling, of San Antonio, Texas, to forward saltpetre and lead from Mexico, and others, will now find that their contraband trade has been brought to a close. As lead for the rebels west of the Mississippi could only be had, since the fall of Vicksburg, from Mexico, and at a greatly enhanced price, their agents and sympathizers here are very uneasy at the prospect before them. Notwithstanding their hitherto openly expressed desire for the success of the French, they now are shamelessly sycophantic to the officers of President Juarez, and omit no occasion to show to the Mexican public that they know how to

"Bend the pregnant hinges of the knee,
That thrift may follow fawning."

Poor creatures! It is rather more distressing than diverting to witness their efforts here, especially when it is to be borne in mind that every one who sees them naturally inquires why, if they are such earnest advocates of the rebellion, they are not at home fighting for it in this its hour of need. By the terms of the rebel government, all who have taken the oath to support it, if between 16 and 60 years of age, and absent without leave, are deserters, and are stigmatized as such by those who remain in Dixie. *The San Antonio Herald* says of the rebels now in Monterey, and who patronize a little sheet called *The Morning Star*, printed by Swope, whom the rebels in Matamoras assert to be a deserter from Duff's command, that "they are few in number, and mostly strapped renegades." This is the unkindest cut of all, and, besides, is incorrect. Though they are "renegades" from Dixie, they are by no means "few in number," and "the cry is, still they come." They are not in general "strapped," or, as Sheridan expressed it, "money-bound," for many of them have made more money than they ever had before, by operations in the contraband line, and others have brought off the proceeds of their property with them, but they are merely "chivalryites" of the class that resemble the war-horse in Job in only one particular: they snuff the battle afar off. While here they occupy a decidedly awkward position. It is, indeed, an arduous task for men who know that they are stigmatized as "deserters" by those they have left behind in Dixie, to talk in favor of the rebellion, and to satisfactorily account for their absence from the theatre of war. The Mexicans have a great deal of quiet amusement at their expense.

Runaway rebels are accumulating here to such an extent, and the prospect for an increase of their numbers is such, that a new hotel is about to be opened. No doubt it will do well for some months to come.

RIO GRANDE.

Results of the pursuit of Vidaurri—Luna, Vidaurri's paymaster, captured.—Milmo still under arrest.—Position of the troops.—Temper of the people.—Juarez.—His cabinet.—A duel.—A military execution.

[From our special correspondent.]

MONTEREY, April 14, 1864.

The pursuit of Vidaurri resulted in the capture of his carriage, of a portion of the eagle dollars he took with him, together with all his artillery and ammunition, and in the pronouncing of his troops in favor of Juarez. The pursuing party has returned, bringing with it the captured guns, and accompanied by the force that joined it. Don Pepe Luna, Vidaurri's paymaster, has been taken, and is now here in person. Vidaurri's son-in-law, Milmo, is still under close arrest, and in the mean time the government is causing his account-books to be thoroughly examined, with a view of ascertaining whether he has in fact ever paid any duties into the national treasury on the immense stocks of goods im-

ported by him, especially those he has sent into Texas, and also whether he has any funds of his father-in-law in his hands. The *Suaristas* believe that for years past Vidaurri has been a silent partner of Milmo, and will spare no effort to prove it, as, in case such should turn out to be the fact, the government will confiscate.

The cavalry force that assembled here, together with a portion of the infantry, have gone up to Saltillo, and will probably advance further, as some 7,000 troops, composed chiefly of *Reaccionarios*, commanded by Mejia, now are assembled in the city of San Luis Potosi, and appear to be preparing to make a move. General Gonzalez Ortega, with his command, is watching them, while Doblado is in Saltillo. Still, quite a considerable force remains here. The marching to and fro of the regiments through the streets, the perpetual blare of the trumpets sounding the calls, and the music of the military bands at night on the *Plaza Militar*, all remind a stranger that the country is involved in war. President Juarez has gained a very considerable accession to his army since he came here, and is daily receiving accessions to his ranks. The common people (*plebe*) of northeastern Mexico are not only patriotic, but are intensely republican. Though the mercantile class may be disposed to give up or to make terms with the French, they will never willingly bend the knee to a foreign invader. They look with a pride, blended with a personal affection, to President Juarez as a fit leader for them in their desperate struggle for the maintenance of a republican form of government. He is an Indian of unmixed race. His personal integrity has never been called in question. He is a thoroughly educated and enlightened man. He has ever stood by his country with a loyal devotion and a courageous endurance.

In coming years, when mankind shall have so progressed that individuals will take position chiefly on account of their moral worth, how much loftier place on the page of history will this Indian Juarez occupy than Napoleon III! He has never robbed his own nor sought to despoil any other country of its liberties. No blood stains his conscience, no ill-gotten wealth soils his hands. In all the relations of life, as a husband, as a father, as a private citizen, as the incumbent of high public trusts, and, lastly, as the chief magistrate of a republic, he has earned the reputation of being an honorable man. Can any sycophant of Napoleon III say as much of him?

Owing to the existing condition of affairs, President Juarez's cabinet at present consists of only three individuals, in whose hands are confided the functions of government. Sr. Lerdo de Legada is minister of foreign affairs, &c.; Sr. Iglesias is minister of finance, &c.; and Gen. Negrete is minister of war and marine. The duties which would devolve upon a cabinet, if full, are divided among out them. Sr. Prieto is the postmaster general, but in Mexico the incumbent of that office does not have a seat in the cabinet.

On Monday last all the merchants interested in the contraband trade with Texas, as I am informed, held a sort of consultation as to what they should do in relation to the decree of President Juarez declaring all the cotton imported, on which the tariff has been paid to Vidaurri when in open rebellion, instead of into the national treasury, to be forfeited. They concluded to pay the tariff over again to the national government under protest. Whether President Juarez's government will accept this proposal or not remains to be seen. My own opinion is that it will, and that even after that they will go to intriguing in favor of the French. All the rebels and contrabandists here are in favor of the French. It is true that just now they pay court to Juarez and his friends, because they know that so much of Dixie as lies west of the Mississippi could not hold out for a month after the stoppage of the trade with Mexico; still written proofs against them are abundant. What position did they occupy in regard to the French while Vidaurri was in power? What ground does the rebel press of Texas hold in regard to the French even now?

It is stated that on Monday evening last a duel was fought between Colonel Juan Varra, of Juarez's forces, and *Commandante, i. e.*, Major Rafael Herrera, formerly of Vidaurri's command, at the lower suburbs of this city. The weapons used were Colt's revolvers. The ground of the quarrel is not stated, but it is supposed that Colonel Varra denounced Major Herrera because he thought that Major H. had been the cause of his having been exiled some time since by Vidaurri. My informant states that the duel was fought by permission of one of the high officers of the government, who witnessed it in person. Colonel Varra was fired at and missed three times by his antagonist without returning a shot, and, therefore, he suggested to his adversary to load up the three chambers that had been discharged, and they would proceed to fight in earnest. Upon this Major H. professed himself satisfied, and made some acknowledgments, and the officer who permitted the duel forbade it to proceed further. I tell the tale as I got it from a respectable informant, who believed it to be true, and who had conversed with one of the parties immediately after the affair was over. This is an unusual occurrence in Mexico, where the law against duelling is severe. I am told that one who fights a duel here is subject to imprisonment for life and a forfeiture of his whole estate.

On this morning, at 6 o'clock, Martin Garcia, said to have been a *commandante* or major

under Mejia, was shot by a file of soldiers at the back of the citadel. He was executed under the sentence of a court-martial on account of his having been guilty of high treason, as well as concerned in the assassination of a late governor of San Luis Potosi. Quite a considerable body of soldiers under arms were assembled to witness the execution. The citadel (or Black Fort, as the Americans have termed it) consists of the massive walls of an unfinished church about sixteen feet high, built of an almost white stone, the abutments or square columns intended to support the arches of the roof inside being a little higher than the incomplete walls. These walls are in the middle of a field-work (lately repaired) surrounded by a dry ditch. The prisoner was made to kneel blindfold, with his face turned toward the outside of the rear wall, the bullet-marks on which showed it had been the scene of other executions, and was shot in the back of the head (chiefly) as well as through the body by a file of six men. Two stepped up after he had fallen forward on his face, and fired into him again. It is said that he was shot in the back because such is the sentence for treason, of which, as well as of assassination, he had been found guilty. A priest attended him to the last moment. As he lay a stream of blood flowed down the sloping ground beyond his feet. Quite a number of women were present. The spectators showed no levity.

Señor Don Jesus Masia Benites y Penillos went into office to-day under the appointment of President Juarez as the governor and *commandante militar* of the state of Nuevo Leon. He has hitherto been a highly respectable merchant of Linares, and has filled the office of first *alcalde* of that city.

Last night a refreshing rain fell on this parched and arid region, and gentle showers have continued to fall at intervals during the day. At sunset this evening the Silla mountain was still enveloped in a cloud.

RIO GRANDE.

Arrival of Señor Iglesias, Juarez's minister of finance.—Good understanding between the Mexican and American authorities.—Interesting news from the interior.—Vidaurri and the rebels of Texas.—Mr. Quintero, the rebel agent, in Monterey.—Major Simeon Hart, the rebel cotton agent, and his cotton.—Monterey the seat of the constitutional government of Mexico.

[From our special correspondent.]

MATAMOROS, April 25, 1864.

On yesterday afternoon the quiet of this city was interrupted by the firing of a salute. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that the cause of the salute was the arrival of Señor Iglesias, the minister of finance of President Juarez's cabinet. The objects of his visit are unknown to the public.

The recent correspondence between Major General Herron and the Mexican authorities, together with the cordial good understanding that manifestly exists between them, is a source of unutterable anguish to the rebels now in Mexico, and to the merchants engaged in the Piedras Negras trade. They are perplexed and bewildered. Their confidence is shaken; and, in short, they know not what to do. The tact and address of Major Generals McClermand and Herron, in their intercourse with Mexico, has damaged the rebel cause on this frontier almost as much as a victory.

The news from the interior is quite important. General Uruga has gained another success over the French at or near the city of Gaudalajara. General Purfiro Diaz has reappeared on the Pacific slope at the head of a well-armed and well-equipped force of 10,000 men. A movement is said to be in progress by the combined forces of Doblado and Gonzalez Ortega against San Luis Potosi, which is held by 1,200 French and 5,800 *reaccionarios* under Mejia; and, best of all, it is reported that the French have abandoned Tampico. Certain it is that the Juarez government is now in excellent spirits. It has, though they are intentionally kept scattered, almost twice as many troops in the field as the French have, and is assured of the loyalty of a vast majority of the people to a republican form of government. Besides, the despatches from General Bazaine to Almonte, which were recently intercepted, show that the Church party (*reaccionarios*) are upbraided as having deceived and misled the French government in every particular. General Bazaine appears to have given utterance to his dissatisfaction with them in very strong and emphatic terms, and to have charged that the persons at different points in Mexico, recommended by Almonte, Miramon, and others, to the confidence of the French generals, were no better than robbers and assassins, devoid of all faith and honor. The worst thing of all for the French cause is that the charges made by General Bazaine are true. What is Marquez but a cold-blooded murderer? What is Mejia but a robber, though on a large scale? What Mexican is there to be found

among those that have betrayed their country that have an unblemished private character; that commands the confidence and respect due to a gentleman?

The most cheering fact of all to the republicans of Mexico is the sanction that has been given by the Emperor to the policy of General Bazaine in regard to the clergy. Now, since the clergy of the *reaccionario* party find that they will not be allowed to take the prominent position in politics they desired, and since they have ascertained from the head of the French government that the nationalized property of the church would not be restored, they have no further use for the French. From this time forward we may expect to see the troops of the church party going over to Juarez in force. What motive have they to fight against Juarez any longer? Why should they aid the French when the secular property of the church—the real bone of contention, so far as they are concerned—would not in case of success fall into the hands of the clergy (of their party,) who could reward them from its revenue?

In this connexion it is but just to remark that the parochial clergy of Mexico are in general liberals, and that the portion of the clergy that belong to the *reaccionario* or church party are in most cases either prelates or members of the monastic orders. The rank and file, if I may so express it, of the clergy of the country, to their honor be it recorded, are republicans. It was so in the revolution of Mexico against old Spain. Priests, who, instead of living in monasteries or palaces, reside among the people, must think and feel as they do. The history of Mexico shows that such have fought for the liberties of their country in times past, and hence may be expected to do so in the future.

Not only such of the clergy as belong to the *reaccionario* party, but the prominent military men on their side, are greatly disaffected. They have been and are overslaughed on all occasions. Mexican generals, even if they are traitors to their country, don't like to be put under the command of French colonels. Still, as the French place no confidence in them, such must continue to be the practice. The pride of the *reaccionario* officers must be often wounded by this course of procedure. How long they will submit to it remains to be seen. Yet it is difficult to perceive how the French can change their policy toward their Mexican confederates at this time. General Bazaine knows that their hopes for the restoration of the nationalized church property, from the revenues of which they expected to be rewarded, have been dashed. He knows that their pride has been perpetually lacerated by their higher officers having been put under the command of French officers, their inferiors in rank, and that they have ever been treated with distrust. He is aware that very many of them are only watching for a chance to make terms with President Juarez, and to turn against him. How, then, can he change his policy and treat them as equals in whom he reposes full confidence?

Since Vidaurri fled into Texas, the forces of Mejia (some 5,800 men) which were at Matelmala and were prevented from advancing by the forces of Gonzalez Ortega, which threatened to get between them and San Luis Potosi, have fallen back to San Luis Potosi. They are now further from Monterey than before, and, as has been stated, instead of attempting to attack, are threatened with an attack from the combined commands of Doblado and Gonzalez Ortega. President Juarez has gained great advantages of late, and may well be sanguine.

It is reported that on hearing that Vidaurri had escaped on horseback, and with only the clothes he wore, to Larado, Texas, the rebel commandant at San Antonio sent a carriage and escort to bring him to that place. The rebels will now go to intriguing to get him back into power, and, before they suspect it, will probably be involved in hostilities with the government of President Juarez. They must have lead, saltpetre, sulphur, and other articles, contraband of war, which they have heretofore been only able to get through Piedras Negras. Indeed, such was the demand for lead by the rebels west of the Mississippi, that it is now worth 100 per cent. more at Monterey than formerly. Under Vidaurri's rule, as he paid no regard to the decrees of President Juarez's government, except so far as they suited his convenience, they got through Piedras Negras everything they could raise, either the cotton or credit to purchase.

The position of the rebels who have, on various pretexts, got out of the so-called southern confederacy into Mexico, is peculiarly embarrassing now since Juarez is in power at Monterey. That they are in favor of the French invasion is perfectly well known. One of their leading papers in Texas not long since, when under the delusion that Vidaurri, aided by the French, would certainly defeat Juarez, openly boasted that Mr. J. S. Quintero, the rebel lead agent residing at Monterey, had done more to bring about the invasion of Mexico by the French than any other one person. No doubt he did his best for the French. Whether his having done so, and his having made contracts with Mr. Oliver, of Monterey, for lead, in violation of the plighted faith of the Juarez government, which has never sanctioned the trade in contraband articles with the rebels, will enable him to continue at Monterey and play the same part near the constitutional government that he did at the court of Vidaurri, remains yet to be seen.

It is a little singular that so many of the leading rebels of Texas, of the class that have had to do with the cotton and money of the insurrectionary government, are now either in or very near to Mexico. The ex-collectors of Eagle Pass and Brownsville are there. Major Russell, the quartermaster of General Bee's staff, is there on a two months' sick leave. Major Simeon Hart, the Confederate States cotton agent in Texas, is at Eagle Pass; so is Captain George H. Giddings. William G. Hale, esq., is also reported to be there, engaged in forwarding cotton for a wealthy firm in Matamoras. It is well for these gentlemen to be safe. When all of their cotton is across the Rio Grande they can follow it, and the rank and file left behind will have to look out for themselves. After a season they can come in and take the oath under a special pardon, as the general one is not broad enough to cover their case, and they will then have the means at command to live handsomely where they may please; or else they can live abroad. By-the-by, has Mr. Simeon Hart a house in your city? His brother, Mr. Henry Hart, who is reputed to be in business in New York, has been through Texas since the rebellion began, and is said to have returned. It has lately been discovered, in the course of a quarrel between Majors Russell and Hart, that a large quantity of cotton which was crossed into Mexico, marked H. H., with M. K. below, though supposed to belong to the rebel government, was really the property of one or both of the Harts and of Thomas F. McKinney, who was one of the commissioners not long since sent out to Vidaurri to negotiate for the reopening of the Piedras Negras trade. Has any of this cotton reached New York; and if so, to whom was it consigned?

By the latest arrival from Monterey the news has come that President Juarez has concluded to make that city his capital. It is, perhaps, more accessible to all the points with which he has occasion to keep up communication than Saltillo.

RIO GRANDE.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Washington, May 25, 1864.

Mr. Seward presents his compliments to Señor Romero, and acknowledges, with sincere thanks, the receipt of the slip from the New York Tribune, of last Saturday, containing very much interesting information concerning affairs in Mexico, and the sentiment of friendly sympathy which is entertained by the national government towards the United States.

SEÑOR M. ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

Private.]

WASHINGTON, May 24, 1864.

ESTEEMED SIR: The Herald, of New York, of the 18th April last past, published an account of what occurred at a dinner which several distinguished persons of that city, friends of Mexico, had the kindness to give me on the 29th of March last. That portion of such account which relates to the remarks which I made when called upon to speak by the persons who honored me with that demonstration, attributes to me some opinions which I never even thought of uttering, and is, in general, so little exact that I think it proper to make known to you, although this can have only an indirect bearing on the official business of the department in your charge, that the enclosure herewith contains a faithful narrative, written in Spanish, of all that passed at that dinner, and an exact translation of what on that occasion I had the honor to say in English.

I am, sir, very respectfully your faithful servant,

M. ROMERO.

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

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

WASHINGTON, *May 25, 1864.*

MY DEAR SIR: I beg to thank you for the authentic report, transmitted with your note of the 24th instant, of the proceedings at the banquet given to you by certain distinguished citizens of New York, and which contains an exact translation of the remarks you made on that occasion.

Although your note is unofficial, I shall place it with the printed report on the files of the legation of Mexico in the Department of State, to protect you from the misapprehensions which might result from the incorrect published reports of your remarks to which you allude.

I am, my dear sir, very truly yours,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, May 28, 1864.

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to transmit you a correct translation, in the English language, of the document of which I sent you a copy in Spanish, annexed to my letter of the 26th instant.

I also enclose you a copy, in English, for the information of your department, of some remarks which I made in New York, about the middle of last December, upon the causes which have brought about the present situation of the Mexican republic.

I renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration,
M. ROMERO.

Speech delivered by Señor Romero, the Mexican minister to the United States, at a banquet given by him in New York on the 16th of December, 1863.

On the 16th day of December, 1863, a banquet was given at Delmonico's by the Mexican minister, to his friends in New York, with the object of informing them of the present condition of affairs in the Mexican republic.

It seems unaccountable, yet it is a fact, that even the most distinguished and learned men of this enlightened metropolis are not fully posted up, not only as regards the important occurrences now taking place in Mexico, but also as to the condition of affairs of that republic—its elements, its tendencies, its politics, and even its inward civilization.

It was the object of Mr. Romero to invite some of the most distinguished persons of this city, who, by their position and antecedents, occupy the front places in social life, to discuss with them, in a confidential and friendly manner, Mexican affairs, and to give them, at the same time, some important data upon the internal situation of his country. He paid special attention in inviting those who were considered as the leaders of the different political parties into which this nation is now divided, with the view that it might not appear as if any preference had been given to any one of these parties, and that the banquet might not have any other character but the one proposed.

The following persons were then invited and assisted to the banquet:

Mr. Hiram Barney, a prominent member of the republican party, friendly to the present administration, and now collector of the custom-house of New York.

Mr. Augustus Schell, a gentleman much esteemed in this city, and a distinguished member of that portion of the democratic party who defend with the greatest warmth and interest the institution of slavery. He was formerly collector of the New York custom-house under the administration of Mr. Buchanan.

Mr. John Van Buren, son of the ex-President of the United States, Martin Van Buren, a celebrated orator and lawyer of this city, and a prominent member of that part of the democratic party which does not sympathize so strongly with slavery, and also a personal and political friend of Governor Seymour, of this State.

Mr. William C. Bryant, one of the most distinguished poets of the United States, member of the radical republican party, and chief editor of the Evening Post, of this city.

Mr. David Hoadly, president of the Panama Railroad Company, a person of conservative ideas, and high standing in this city for his integrity, honesty, and industry.

Mr. James W. Beekman, a gentleman of independence, of this city, descendant of one of the first Dutch families who colonized this island, and much respected for his honorable antecedents, and his constant desires to do good wherever his influence and his services are wanted.

Mr. William E. Dodge, jr., distinguished merchant of this city, and Mr. John H. Hamersley, one of the ancient families of this city, and a gentleman of independence and high personal qualities.

The three last-named gentlemen belong to no particular political party, and only represent the wealthy and higher classes of New York, whose ideas are above the mercantile community.

The following gentlemen were also invited, who, either by sickness, or for having previous engagements, were unable to attend the banquet: Mr. George Opdyke, mayor of the city; Major Generals George B. McClellan and John A. Dix; Mr. John C. Cisco, sub-treasurer of New York; Mr. George Bancroft, the eminent historian of the United States; Mr. James T. Brady and Mr. William M. Evarts, both celebrated lawyers of this city, and a prominent member of the democratic party the former, and of the republican party the latter.

Among the Mexican gentlemen that were present at the banquet, besides Mr. Romero, were Señor Don Ignacia Mariscal, secretary of the legation; Doctor Don Juan N. Navarro, consul general of Mexico in the United States, and Señor Don José Ramon Pacheco, formerly Mexican minister at Paris, and several times secretary of state of the republic of Mexico.

The banquet was given in the handsomest apartment at Delmonico's. At the head of the dining-room the flag of Mexico on the right, and that of the United States on the left, might be seen gracefully entwined together, and under each of them respectively were placed the portraits of Presidents Juarez and Lincoln. At 6 o'clock, the hour appointed for dinner, all the guests who had accepted the invitation were present, and after a few minutes of conversation, during which Mr. Romero presented to them the Mexican gentlemen attending the banquet, and showed them a collection of engravings representing the most important views of the city of Mexico, which were upon a table of the reception room, he begged them to walk into the dining-room, where everything was already waiting for them.

They were seated in the manner which had been previously arranged as follows:

	Señor Romero.	
Mr. Barney.		Mr. Schell.
Mr. Van Buren.		Mr. Hamersley.
Señor Navarro.		Señor Mariscal.
Señor Pacheco.		Mr. Dodge.
Mr. Hoadly.		Mr. Bryant.
	Mr. Beekman.	

The service at table was the best that could be offered by Delmonico's celebrated hotel, as well as the best that could be procured in the abundant market of this city.

The wines were also abundant and of the best quality. The guests did full justice to the viands, and were perfectly satisfied with the ability and good taste displayed by the director of the culinary department. Feelings of the most perfect cordiality and good will prevailed at table.

After the dessert, Mr. BEEKMAN arose and said:

"I propose, gentlemen, that we drink the health of the gentleman who has honored us by inviting us to this agreeable meeting; the worthy representative of a neighboring and a friendly nation, which while it struggles for its independence, struggles also in defence of the principles which the people of the United States have always sustained and defended."

This toast was received with general acclamations, and then Mr. ROMERO responded to it in the following terms:

GENTLEMEN: I have never felt more embarrassed than I feel on the present occasion, in endeavoring to respond to the generous sentiments which our distinguished friend has just expressed towards my country and myself. Nor have I ever so much regretted as I do now, not possessing adequately the English language, that I might duly express the ardent and sincere desires that inspire me for your health and welfare, and for the peace, prosperity,

and happiness of your great country. Since our mutual friend has made allusion to Mexico, allow me, gentlemen, to make a few remarks in regard to that nation, so favored by nature, and so little known, and so greatly misrepresented abroad.

The internal condition of Mexico is scarcely understood or appreciated in this country or in Europe. The general impression seems to be, that we are an uncivilized heterogeneous people, constantly divided by petty personal feuds and ambitions; always engaged in making pronunciamientos; entirely wanting in patriotism and high-toned sentiments; altogether unfitted for self-government; utterly incapable of developing our great natural resources, and therefore unworthy of the sympathy or respect of mankind. Gentlemen, there never has been an opinion more unjustly entertained; never a judgment more unfounded.

All of you are aware, gentlemen, that when Mexico was a colony of Spain, it was the policy of the Spanish government to rule the country through the instrumentality of the Catholic clergy. With this object in view, the clergy were clothed with every kind of personal privilege, and were allowed to monopolize a very large portion of the real estate and other property of the country. They were also the only educated class, and all instruction of the masses was left entirely in their hands. By these means they maintained a profound influence over the consciences of the ignorant people, and they constituted an aristocracy more powerful and more deeply rooted than any other upon the face of the broad earth. When, in 1810, the early Mexican patriots proclaimed the independence of their country from the Spanish yoke, the clergy became alarmed by a movement in which it had not, as an association, taken the initiative, and which, if it should terminate in the overthrow of the Spanish government and the establishment of a national government, might place in peril their numerous privileges, their immense riches, and their controlling influence. They therefore determined to oppose the movement. I do not believe it necessary to tell you, gentlemen, that so long as the Mexican clergy threw the immense weight of their influence on the side of the Spanish government, the Spaniards were everywhere triumphant. But while the struggle was going on in Mexico, a great change took place in Spain. The Spanish cortes, animated by liberal ideas, had issued various decrees, seriously diminishing the personal privileges of the clergy, and had passed laws providing for the desamortization of their immense property, for the benefit of the nation at large. The Mexican clergy then began to change their ground. They saw at once how much they would have to lose if the laws passed by the Spanish cortes should be carried into effect in Mexico; and believing at the same time that they could organize a government which would be fully under their own control, they determined to adopt the cause of independence, and with their aid the independence of Mexico was then achieved.

Since that time a fearful struggle has been going on, between the clergy on the one side, who have sought to control the national government, and, on the other, the few enlightened, patriotic men who, seeing that there was no hope that Mexico could become what nature designed her to be, unless liberal principles should be adopted, and an entire separation be effected from church influence and control, began to labor for the establishment of a liberal, popular government, which should keep down the ambition and usurpations of the clergy, always directed to the promotion of their own interests, without any regard for the welfare of the country.

The result of such a struggle in its earlier efforts could not be doubtful, taking into consideration the power, the influence, and the resources of each party respectively. Whenever the liberal party succeeded in establishing, through the ballot-box, a legal government—a government which would not favor the interests of the clergy, when these were opposed to the interests of the country—a government in favor of promoting foreign immigration, of opening highways, constructing railroads, authorizing the free and public exercise of all religions, the freedom of the press, of reducing import duties, favoring all branches of commerce—in a word, of developing all the natural wealth and vast resources of Mexico—the clergy immediately instigated a pronunciamiento against that government, and brought to bear every influence to secure its overthrow.

Such a state of affairs, however, could not last forever. While the struggle was going on, the people began to grow enlightened. Everybody saw that the money of the clergy was constantly used to foment revolutions, to subvert the public peace, and to shed the blood of the innocent people for the iniquitous purpose of maintaining interests and preserving privileges entirely incompatible with the well-being of the country.

Thus, the liberal party, which at the beginning was small in numbers and weak in power, became stronger every day, until, finally, in the year 1860, it had become strong enough to crush entirely the church party, and to re-establish, it was hoped forever, constitutional law and constitutional government throughout the whole extent of Mexican territory. This was done without foreign aid, and even against the sympathies and encouragement of European powers, who had ever lent all possible aid to the church party. At the same time all the special privileges of the clergy were repealed, and the church

property was declared to be national, and was sold to the people at a low nominal price. This latter measure had a double object. While the Mexican government proposed to disarm the clergy, by taking from them the principal weapon they had used in their efforts to excite pronunciamientos and disturb the public peace, it desired to render useful to the country the immense wealth which had been accumulated by the church, and which, being withdrawn from free circulation, and monopolized by a class indisposed or incapable of making it productive, had only been a source of evil, and a perpetual barrier to the nation.

Thus, when it was generally believed abroad that we were at war without plausible motive, only to promote petty personal ambitions, we were really working out one of the most thorough of revolutions, and one of the most necessary for the true prosperity of the people of Mexico.

I desire to be distinctly understood, gentlemen, that we have never raised any issue with the church party of Mexico on spiritual questions. Our disagreement has been wholly with reference to temporal affairs, and has not, in any manner, involved the dogmas of the Catholic faith.

The church party has wished, as an association, to rule the country for their own advantage. We have sought to establish a perfect independence between church and state, to confine the church to spiritual affairs, and to make it subordinate to the state in temporal matters.

Thus, when we had reason to believe that our long civil wars had ended—for we had removed, even to the roots, the sole cause of all our past misfortunes—and that we were now about to enjoy the blessings of peace—the only thing needed by Mexico to become a prosperous nation—new misfortunes, new calamities of a different kind suddenly fell upon us.

The church party of Mexico, seeing that with their own means it was impossible to make any further resistance, or to foment any further revolutions, and having in view, as they always have had, only their own advantage, regardless of the welfare of their country, resolved to send emissaries to Europe for the purpose of interesting in their behalf some of the principal European governments, in order to be by them restored to power in Mexico.

These emissaries represented that the church party were in favor of a conservative government—a monarchical government—modelled after the European system; while the liberal party were in favor of democratic institutions, and sympathized fully with the views and principles of the United States. On this point I cannot do otherwise than acknowledge that the emissaries were right. The liberals of Mexico do believe that if we can succeed in developing there the great principles which have made the United States so great and prosperous, Mexico will reach the same end by using the same means.

These emissaries, however, exaggerated the influence of the church party in Mexico. They said the liberal government of that country was tyrannical, oppressive, and unpopular, and governed only by force; and they even affirmed that the mere moral force of Europe would be sufficient to overthrow it, and restore the church party to power. They further promised that, after overthrowing the liberal government, the church party would establish a government which should be entirely under the influence of the European nations which would aid them in their purpose.

These false representations of the emissaries led to the allied expedition of France, England, and Spain, which, assuming pretexts utterly insufficient and unjust, disembarked at Vera Cruz in December, 1861.

When the English and Spanish generals and commissioners, after having resided some time in Mexico, saw that the state of things in that country was entirely different from what the church-party emissaries had represented to their respective governments, they decided without hesitation to withdraw, with their forces, from the country; and so clear to them was the deception practiced upon their governments, that they took the delicate step of withdrawing from the alliance of their own accord, without consulting with their superiors, and without even waiting for instructions from their governments, although acting in an affair so full of difficulties and of ulterior complications.

I have reached, gentlemen, without intending it, the actual situation in Mexico; and under this head I beg to be allowed to say a few words more.

The French army did not retire from Mexico with the armies of England and of Spain, for the French government had other objects in view, and it was fully determined to accomplish them. The Emperor of the French believed at that time, and perhaps he still believes, that the United States were permanently divided, and that circumstances might take such a shape as to afford him the opportunity of acquiring Texas, of recovering Louisiana, and of possessing the mouth of the Mississippi.

To accomplish this end, it was necessary to obtain a foothold on this continent, at a point as near the United States as possible, and particularly to Louisiana and Texas—a point of departure where he could collect, securely and conveniently, a large army and a large naval force, and form a base of supplies. The Emperor of the French, therefore, directed himself,

not so much against Mexico as against the United States. How far he has succeeded in his plans is now a matter which belongs to history. It is sufficient for me to say, that by means of his Mexican expedition he has been able to collect, on the American continent, almost on the southern frontier of the United States, a large French army, and has sent to the Gulf of Mexico a very considerable French squadron, larger than the objects of the expedition warrant, and much larger than could have been necessary for any purpose connected with Mexico—a country that has no navy; and all this has been accomplished, strange to say, without any remonstrance, without any protest, and even without any demonstration of interest or concern on the part of the United States.

What the end of these complications will be it is very difficult to foretell. So far as relates to the occupation of Mexico, I am entirely sure that the Emperor of the French will soon be undeceived, and will learn that he has undertaken more than he can accomplish, and that when he sees the complete failure of the farce which his agents are now playing in the city of Mexico, he will find himself compelled to retire from a country which he has so unjustly invaded. With regard to ourselves, therefore, there can be only one result, that will be verified sooner or later. It will inevitably be the triumph of the holy cause of Mexican independence.

The French will soon fail of even the aid of the church party. That party hoped, and, to a certain extent, with reason, that when the French army should occupy the city of Mexico, the imperial government would annul the laws of reform issued by the liberal government of that republic, and, the first thing, would restore to the clergy the property that had been taken from them, and nationalized and sold. But it happened that among the persons who had purchased the ecclesiastical property there were a considerable number of French subjects, who would be injured by the restitution of that property; and this consideration has led the French government not only not to abrogate the reform laws, but to prevent its satellites, who have assumed the name of regency in Mexico, from themselves attempting to abrogate them. If, then, the French government should persist in the policy which they have commenced to follow, it will not be long before the church party will begin to make as decided opposition to the intervention as they did a year ago to the constitutional government.

In conclusion, there is one remark that cannot be withheld. It appears to me, gentlemen, that there exists a striking similarity between the church party of Mexico and the pro-slavery party in the United States. The church was there a power stronger than the state; so was slavery in this country. The church has there been the only cause of our civil wars; so now is slavery here. The church party in Mexico, after being conquered by the people, solicited foreign intervention, in order to be re-established in power; so slavery in this country, as I understand, has sought foreign aid even before being conquered by the government of the United States.

This toast was also received with enthusiasm, after which some of the gentlemen present begged Mr. Hiram Barney to respond. Mr. Barney arose and said:

"GENTLEMEN: After what our friend the Mexican minister, who has given us such important information, and has so thoroughly considered the Mexican question, has said, there is nothing left that I can add. My official position does not permit me either to express my sentiments and my sympathies for Mexico with the vehemence which I feel and with the freedom that I would were I in other circumstances. We have not as yet offered Mexico the aid which it was our duty to give her in the present critical situation, and I really do not know whether it is because we would not or because we could not do it. I need not say that the sympathies of our people are in favor of the Mexican nation, and that we hope that instead of Europe being able to establish monarchies in this continent, she may see, in a short time, some of the monarchies of the Old World turned into republics." [Applause.]

Mr. Barney took his seat in the midst of acclamations of joy from those around him, when Mr. Bryant arose and made the following address:

"GENTLEMEN: Of all the atrocities committed in the world since its creation, I do not believe that there is any more mean, more base, or more vile than that of the present French Emperor, who, taking advantage of the civil war of the United States, and the wearied Mexican republic, has sent from the other continent an army of adventurers, with the object of overthrowing the republican institutions which the Mexican people had given to themselves by virtue of their sovereignty, and establishing a monarchy by force, placing at its head the stem of one of the most absolute and despotic families ever known upon earth. The baseness and villany of this action has no equal, and its lowness can only be compared with the greatness of soul, elevation of sentiments, and pure patriotism with which the Mexicans are endowed, defending the independence of their country and sustaining the constitutional government of Juarez, who is now the emblem of that holy cause. I propose, then, gentlemen, that we drink to the government of Juarez, that eminent patriot who has not hesitated to wrestle in defence of a holy cause with a European colossus, and who has be-

come the representative of patriotism and constancy, presiding now over a government which will realize, by its triumph, the highest hopes for the welfare and prosperity of Mexico." [Applause.]

This toast was as well received as the former ones, and it met with demonstrations of great pleasure.

Several indications were then made to Doctor Navarro, Mexican consul general in the United States, to respond to Mr. Bryant's toast, and after stating the difficulty he labored under to do so in a foreign language to the eloquent and beautiful address of Mr. Bryant, he said that he drank "the health and well-being of the gentlemen present, and the prosperity and happiness of the United States."

Mr. Schell proposed that Mr. Van Buren, as the most distinguished orator, and a gentleman well versed in the politics of foreign governments, should express the sympathies of the United States in favor of Mexico—a proposition that was most favorably received, but which unfortunately could not be granted, Mr. Van Buren suffering then an indisposition which prevented him from speaking sufficiently loud for the time he thought necessary to say anything worthy to be heard by such an audience.

Mr. Dodge asked Mr. Romero several questions about the extent of Mexican territory that the French occupied; upon the so-called "Junta of Notables" who proclaimed the empire, and upon various points of importance. Mr. Romero answered, endeavoring to make himself heard by all the gentlemen present, in terms which showed that the proclamation of the empire was nothing more than a badly-managed farce, and that the French were in a difficult position, which will every day grow worse.

He availed himself also of the occasion to speak upon other points he had omitted in his address, and which were listened to by all with demonstrations of the most intense interest.

Shortly after 10 o'clock Mr. Romero arose from the table, and thus terminated a meeting in which all were highly pleased and satisfied, and which, owing to the object in view, as well as the gentlemen who composed it, cannot be less than of great importance and political transcendence, as well as of great interest to those who have any sympathy for a people who is struggling for its independence against a European tyrant, disturber of the peace of the world.

Great banquet given to the minister from the Mexican republic by several of the most distinguished persons of the city of New York, to express their sympathy for the cause of Mexico and their opposition to French intervention in that republic.

On the evening of the 29th of March last a banquet was given in this city, at Delmonico's hotel, corner of Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue, in honor of Señor Don Matias Romero, minister of the Mexican republic, by very distinguished citizens of New York, with the view of manifesting their sympathy towards the Mexican nation in the bloody struggle they are now carrying on against their invaders. The private character which it was considered proper to give to this demonstration, notwithstanding the importance with which it was invested, its spontaneity, and a thousand other circumstances, have, perhaps, been partly the cause that there has been so little comment on it in the papers.

We are going to supply this deficiency by referring to all that occurred during the entertainment so highly expressive at a time when the Archduke Maximilian (as it is asserted) is about preparing his voyage to go and sit upon a silver mountain, as Napoleon said, instead of upon a throne. Our readers will not think it strange that we enter into so minute a description of a dinner if they think that we are not only treating of a great culinary triumph of Delmonico's, of the splendid fine taste shown by those accomplished Amphytrions, but, what is far better, of a frank reproach and a terrible warning given to Europe by the people of the United States, represented by the distinguished individuals of this metropolis, of whom we shall give an idea afterwards. Now we will enter into the facts.

About a month ago some of those citizens projected a demonstration in favor of the Mexican cause, that, without taking cognizance of the policy which circumstances may have obliged the government of this country to follow, should manifest the dominant feeling in regard to the invasion of Mexico, not only among the great mass of the people of the United States, but among those classes especially favored by intelligence, learning, position, or fortune. They soon found among their friends the same disposition, and they would have collected a very large subscription if the desire they had of carrying out at the earliest opportunity their intentions, and other considerations of minor importance, had not prevented it. So that, without more delay, the following invitation was sent to Washington to Señor Romero: