

NEW YORK, February 16, 1864.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, in common with many loyal citizens, feel much interest in the present condition of Mexico, that important continental state.

We cordially sympathize with the people of Mexico in their unequal struggle, and, appreciating their bravery and sacrifices, and your services in maintaining the integrity of your country, we tender to you, as the faithful representative of Mexico, a dinner in this city, on Tuesday, March 29.

Your obedient servants,

Wm. C. Bryant.	W. Butler Duncan.	Alex. Van Rensselaer.
Wm. H. Aspinwall.	Wm. Curtis Noyes.	Geo. Folsom.
Hamilton Fish.	Henry Clews.	Washington Hunt.
John W. Hamersley.	Fred. C. Gebhard.	Chas. King.
Jonathan Sturgis.	Geo. T. Strong.	Willard Parker.
James W. Beekman.	Henry Delafield.	Adrien Iselin.
J. J. Astor, Jr.	Henry E. Pierrepont.	Robert J. Livingston.
Smith Clift.	George Opdyke.	Samuel B. Ruggles.
W. E. Dodge, Jr.	David Dudley Field.	James T. Brady.
David Hoadley.	Geo. Bancroft.	
Frederick De Peyster.	C. A. Bristed.	

His Excellency M. ROMERO,

Mexican Minister, &c., &c., Washington, D. C.

For any one who is acquainted with society here, these names will suffice, and it will be seen at once that they represent the most distinguished, choice, eminent, and elite people of the city of New York, embracing every profession, every employment, and every political party in all its shades. In order, however, that foreigners and particularly the Spanish-Americans may have some idea of those persons, we will give a brief description of their antecedents in the order in which they have signed their names.

Mr. William Cullen Bryant is a most respectable elderly person, great poet, eminent literary man, and one of the first editors of the press of this city. As a poet he has been a perfect prodigy of precocity and lengthened genius, to be compared only with Lope de Vega and Voltaire. When he was only nine years old he published his first verses, and at thirteen a regular poem, in connexion with other beautiful compositions, was issued to the eyes of the world. He is now over seventy years of age, and has just given light to a new poem that has called forth the eulogy of the press, and in which his robust mental faculties have not deteriorated in the slightest degree. By the refined taste displayed in his compositions, he is considered as a poet of the most classical taste that this nation has hitherto produced. To the golden crown that girdles his venerable head may be added the respectability which Mr. Bryant enjoys for his knowledge, his well-tryed probity, and his constancy in defending the most disinterested political opinions. In regard to these, Mr. Bryant belongs to the extreme portion of the republican party, being consequently an abolitionist. Septuagenary as he is, he still preserves the moral and physical vigor of youth, and is ready to defend any cause that has for a foundation liberty and justice; he has also all the necessary activity to be even now chief editor of the "New York Evening Post."

Mr. William H. Aspinwall is a rich merchant of the highest probity and possessing the most active and intelligent spirit of enterprise. The inter-oceanic communication by Panama is entirely owing to him. There he has founded the city called in New Granada "Colon," but generally known as "Aspinwall," a name that will hence be imperishable. He belongs to the firm of Howland, Aspinwall & Co. He is the owner of one of the best picture galleries in New York.

Mr. Hamilton Fish, a gentleman of the most elevated position in society by the antecedents of his family, much respected in this city as well for his personal qualities as for many other reasons. He has been governor of the State of New York, and senator for the same in the United States Congress.

Mr. John W. Hamersley, also of an ancient and notable family of this city. A man of great wealth, highly educated, and distinguished for his varied learning acquired by great reading and extensive travelling. By his exquisite taste and very fine manners he holds a place among the aristocracy which is obtained by those qualities, it being the only one that can possibly exist in republics. His independent position has hitherto prevented him from being enrolled under any political party; but his heart is entirely American, and he considers that the absolute independence of this continent from the old is (as he so eloquently expresses it) "a principle filtered in the veins of every true son of Washington by the milk that he has drawn from his mother's breast, a pass-word and countersign, and a terrible monition to Europe."

Mr. Jonathan Sturgis, a distinguished and eminent merchant, an enthusiastic philanthropist, who has already dedicated a great part of his wealth for objects of beneficence, and for the fine arts, his delicate taste for which entitles him to be an American Mæcenas. He is president of the "Union League Club," which, as it is well known, represents the most select and influential portion of the republican party.

Mr. James W. Beekman, a descendant from one of the first Dutch families, founders of the city of New York. A man of wealth, highly respected for his honesty and philanthropic sentiments, no less than for the elevated criterion revealed in all his actions. His name is always connected in every useful enterprise or in any charitable undertaking wherein the moral or physical sufferings of mankind are to be alleviated. He has been one of the most eminent senators in the State legislature.

Mr. John Jacob Astor, jr., is a nephew of the famous philanthropic millionaire, his namesake, who lavished enormous sums in objects of public benefit and instruction that bear his name, as for instance the Astor library. The town of Astoria, near this city, was also called after him. The person of whom we are now speaking, besides his illustrious name, his probity and other personal endowments, is the possessor of a fabulous fortune consisting principally of real estate in New York city, and is also a patriot of the purest and most enthusiastic kind, as the fact of his having accepted a colonelship in the volunteer army of the United States and having suffered all the privations and hazards of the campaign clearly indicate. This occasioned a malady from which he has not entirely recovered yet.

Mr. Smith Clift, a lawyer of celebrity and high reputation for his honesty and undeniable talents, is a distinguished member of the republican party.

Mr. William E. Dodge, jr., is one of the heirs to the great fortune and virtues of his father. He is a prominent merchant in this city. The Dodge family have distinguished themselves by their unstained morality and religious piety. He has spent considerable sums in philanthropic and Christian establishments, having subscribed on one occasion more than \$25,000 for the founding of a college in Palestine. Mr. Dodge, partner of the house of Phelps, Dodge & Co., is a banker of high standing and great prospects.

Mr. David Hoadley is also a person of the highest respectability in this city, accredited honesty and good judgment. He is the president of the Panama Railroad Company, and has contributed largely in raising it to the height it now occupies, and is considered as one of the most lucrative and best managed enterprises in this country.

Mr. Frederick De Peyster is a much distinguished and respected literary man, as must be seen at once when he is known to be the president of the Historical Society of New York. He descends from one of the oldest and most honorable Dutch families of this city, and is held as a prominent member of the democratic party.

Mr. William Butler Duncan, a well-known and rich banker of the house of Duncan, Sherman & Co. He is a member of the extreme portion of the democratic party.

Mr. William Curtis Noyes, a prominent lawyer of high reputation, is considered one of the luminaries of the New York bar, well known as a man of probity and judgment, and is one of the principal members of the republican party.

Mr. Henry Clews is a noted merchant of the firm of Livermore, Clews & Co., United States bankers for the sale of some of its bonds.

Mr. Frederick C. Gebhard, banker of high reputation, and of an ancient and prominent family. He is a partner of the house of Schuscherd, Gebhard & Co.

Mr. George T. Strong, lawyer, and treasurer of the United States Sanitary Commission, a post of great trust. He is a learned Greek scholar, of fine taste and exquisite manners.

Mr. Henry Delafield is a rich merchant, retired from business, and brother of the distinguished colonel of engineers of the same name, and of a celebrated physician of this city.

Mr. Henry E. Pierrepont is a wealthy gentleman and eminent lawyer of Brooklyn, a philanthropist, and protector of the fine arts, and belongs to one of the oldest and most respectable Huguenot families.

Mr. George Opdyke is a merchant well known and respected, having been the last mayor of the city of New York.

Mr. David Dudley Field, eminent lawyer, and one of the authors of the present civil code of New York; is a prominent member of the republican party.

Mr. George Bancroft, ex-minister from this country to England, is an eminent historian, and is now publishing a large history of the United States. He enjoys a well-deserved reputation as a literary man, and was Secretary of the Navy in a former administration.

Mr. Charles Astor Bristed, a near relation of John Jacob Astor, of whom we have already spoken, is a man well versed in sciences and letters, and has written several works of great merit upon political matters.

Mr. Alexander Van Rensselaer, son of the founder of Albany, wealthy "rentier." He is a man of much culture, and of an old Dutch family.

Mr. George Folsom, ex-minister from the United States to Holland; native of the State of Maine; connected by marriage to one of the principal families of this city. He is a person of wealth, great learning, and a distinguished member of the Ethnological Society of New York, and consequently a noted philologist. He has made a magnificent translation of the letters addressed by Hernan Cortes to Charles V upon the conquest of Mexico.

Mr. Washington Hunt, ex-governor of the State of New York, and a prominent member of the democratic party. He represents the interests of the eastern portion of the same State, of which he is a native.

Mr. Charles King is a venerable, elderly gentleman, the Nestor of that select meeting, for he is five years older than Mr. Bryant, and consequently seventy-five years of age. Notwithstanding, his features, his deportment, his voice, and, above all, his intelligent and fiery gaze, reveal an extraordinary vigor. Educated in Paris and London, where, in the beginning of the present century, his father resided as minister from the United States, he returned to his country, married into a distinguished and rich family, and was for some time engaged in a large speculating business. He excelled afterwards as a journalist, and having been appointed many years ago president of Columbia College, the most ancient and renowned institution for scientific instruction in the United States, has made great improvements there, and contributed effectively to establish its present celebrity. His good humor, that does not detract from his venerable aspect, gives him a particular attraction, and on approaching him one does not know which is the most predominant feeling of the heart, whether it be the affection inspired by his amiability, or the veneration with which his eminent intelligent qualities, his knowledge, and his purified morality subdue you.

Mr. Willard Parker is an eminent physician of New York—perhaps the most eminent in the United States, after the octogenarian Mott. To a consummate scientific knowledge that he possesses may be added the most noble character and the best qualities.

Mr. Adrien Iselin is a merchant of high standing, and whose name is advantageously known in the New York market.

Mr. Robert J. Livingston is a very wealthy man, and a descendant of an illustrious family of this country, as one of his ancestors was companion to Washington in the revolutionary war, and another one was Secretary of State and an American diplomat in Europe.

Mr. Samuel B. Ruggles, who possessed formerly a large fortune, is a very intelligent and educated person; he has been a delegate from the United States to the international statistic congress, assembled at Berlin.

Mr. James T. Brady is one of the most prominent lawyers of the New York bar, an orator of great reputation, and eminent among the democratic party. He was a candidate of the same State for governor in the election before last.

To the foregoing invitation Mr. Romero answered as follows:

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, March 20, 1864.

GENTLEMEN: I have just had the honor to receive your kind letter of the 18th ultimo, informing me that you, in common with many loyal citizens, feel much interest in the present condition of Mexico, cordially sympathize with the people of that republic in their unequal struggle, and appreciating their bravery and sacrifices, as well as my services (you kindly add) in maintaining the integrity of my country. You are good enough to tender to me, as the representative of Mexico, a dinner in your city on the 29th instant.

Nothing could be more gratifying to myself and to my countrymen than seeing that we have with us the enlightened and uninterested sympathy of so many of the most distinguished and eminent citizens, whose virtues, learning, and persevering enterprise have made of the city of New York the great metropolis of the New World.

The demonstration with which you intend to honor the noble cause for which my country is fighting against one of the strongest and best organized military powers on earth, while it shows your high opinion of the question, and your great sense of justice, will be duly appreciated and thanked for by my government and countrymen, as well as by all unbiased and disinterested people throughout the world, who have some regard for justice, and cannot help noticing it entirely trampled down by the Emperor of the French in the policy he is pursuing towards Mexico.

I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. ROMERO.

Messrs. WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT, &c., &c., and all the other gentlemen who signed this invitation.

Besides the above-copied invitation, Mr. Romero received the following one:

NEW YORK, March 18, 1864.

DEAR SIR: In behalf of the undersigned, who, in common with our countrymen, cordially sympathize with the people of Mexico in their unequal struggle, and with you as their faithful representative, we beg your acceptance of a dinner in this city on Tuesday, March 29, at 7 o'clock.

WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL,
Chairman Invitation Committee.

SEÑOR ROMERO,
Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mexico.

Mr. Romero's answer was this:

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, March 25, 1864.

DEAR SIR: I have to-day had the honor of receiving the polite note you had the kindness to address to me under date of the 18th instant, proposing to me in your behalf, and in common with many of your countrymen cordially sympathizing with the people of Mexico in their unequal struggle, and with me as their representative, that I should accept a dinner in your city on Tuesday, 29th instant, at 7 o'clock p. m.

Thanking you very sincerely for the kindness of yourself and your distinguished friends in tendering me such demonstration, which, on account of the very high social standing and eminent qualities of the gentlemen from whom it originates, carries with it a great significance, I have the honor to state to you that I have already accepted said dinner in a letter dated the 20th instant, which I had the pleasure to address to the gentlemen who have honored me by their kindness in offering it to me, and that I will soon leave for your city with a view to be there on the day appointed.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

M. ROMERO.

WILLIAM H. ASPINWALL, Esq.,
Chairman Invitation Committee, New York city.

The feast was held in the best saloons of Delmonico's hotel, occupying four of the largest. Two were set apart for the reception and convenience of the guests, one for the banquet itself, and the fourth for the orchestra and other matters indispensable to the occasion. The great dining saloon, of five hundred covers, was illuminated for the purpose of receiving a number of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the families of the guests, who assembled to see the table and its ornaments prior to the beginning of the banquet. Important additions had been made to the usual furniture and decorations of those splendid rooms; and among other things that delighted the sight there was a profusion of exquisite flowers, arranged in garlands, branches, twigs, baskets, flowerpots, &c., distributed over the doors, tables, fireplaces, at the sides of the mirrors, and wherever they could serve as graceful ornaments. The hall in which the banquet was set out displayed a most magnificent spectacle. At the head the national flags of the United States and of the republic of Mexico were placed together. On the table itself there were, besides five pyramids formed of slender branches of flowers, a splendid sugar piece, four feet high, placed in the centre, representing the arms of the Mexican republic—that is, the eagle standing in the cactus, the whole supported by a rock, which seemed to rise up in the midst of waters. The elegant table was also decorated with a palm and various kinds of cactus, as a memorial of the tropical clime and productions of Mexico. There was also a piece of pastry work in the form of a small temple, on which were distinctly written these two names: "Juarez," "Uraga," the heroic President and gallant general-in-chief who are now at the head of the Mexican patriots.

A touching and moving picture was presented by those illustrious citizens of the American Union vying with each other in entertaining and welcoming the representative of Mexico, the neighboring republic, in an hour the most difficult and critical that has ever dawned upon her. The generosity of the sentiment which inspires certain men with the desire of honoring and sustaining with demonstrations of affection those who are struggling with misfortune is something that is only within the reach of noble minds, of intelligent and well-organized hearts.

But we must come back to the prosaic but substantial and important question of the dinner itself, without going into particulars, and reserving what is technically termed the "menu" to be inserted afterwards. This we will take from the elegant bills of fare, printed on blue satin with golden letters, which were distributed to the guests. It is enough to say that the eatables were of the most exquisite and delicate kind, only adding that there was an abundance of excellent wines, and we will have said all that is necessary on this part of this subject.

The orchestra, which was magnificent, played a number of operatic selections, intermin-

gled with Mexican airs, alternating with "Yankee Doodle" and "Hail Columbia." The sweet accents of the music, reverberating from the other hall without any noise or disturbance, did not prevent conversation, which flowed on in a constant and animated strain, full of friendship and cordiality.

Some of those who subscribed their names to the invitation were not able to attend the dinner in consequence of family and other matters. Mr. Aspinwall, for instance, lost his mother-in-law a day before the banquet; Mr. Fish, scarcely a week before, had received information of the death of a daughter, resident in France, and Mr. Noyes, only four days previously, lost his old and venerable mother. Other persons had unavoidable business to call them away, as in the case of Mr. Brady and Mr. Ruggles. Some of them expressed to the stewards their regrets at not being able to attend the dinner, as Mr. Brady did in the following letter:

WILLARDS' HOTEL,
Washington, D. C., March 25, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR: I am detained here by professional business, and fear that I will not be able to reach New York in time for the dinner to Señor Romero on 29th, which I would be so happy to attend, and in which I am willing in every way to participate. If I be kept away, please give my best respects to the señor, and let me wish you all the pleasure you expect from the festivity.

Yours, truly,

J. W. HAMERSLEY, Esq.

JAS. T. BRADY.

Besides Mr. Romero, Señor Don Juan N. Navarro, consul-general of the Mexican republic, residing in New York, Señor Don Ignacio Mariscal, a lawyer, highly esteemed and considered in the city of Mexico, who is now secretary of the Mexican legation in the United States, and Don Fernando de la Cuesta, second secretary of the same legation, were also invited to the banquet.

The party were seated at table in the following order:

Señor Romero.	Mr. Beekman.	Mr. Iselin.
Mr. Bryant.		Mr. Gebhard.
Mr. Delafield.		Mr. Hamersley.
Mr. Duncan.		Mr. Clews.
Mr. Astor.		Mr. Hunt.
Señor Cuesta.		Mr. Bancroft.
Mr. De Peyster.		Mr. Sturges.
Mr. Pierpont.		Mr. Folsom.
Mr. Clift.		Mr. Bristed.
Dr. Navarro.		Mr. Dodge.
Dr. Parker.		Mr. Field.
Mr. Opdyke.		Señor Mariscal.

Mr. King.

Shortly before the dessert, Mr. BEEKMAN, the president, arose and said:

"GENTLEMEN: I am going to propose to you, by previous arrangement with some of you, what is, I know it, a complete departure from what has hitherto been customary in dinners of this kind, and which, I believe, will create quite a complete revolution in those which may be given hereafter, and that is, that before we proceed any further the first and regular toast should be made. I propose, then, gentlemen, the health of 'The President of the United States,' and I beg our distinguished friend, Mr. Field, to respond."

This toast was received with general enthusiasm, the whole assemblage rising.

Mr. DAVID DUDLEY FIELD then spoke as follows:

"Mr. CHAIRMAN: Why I should be called upon to answer this toast I do not precisely know. I hold, as you know, sir, no official position, and am in no manner entitled to speak, except as any citizen may, for the President or any member of his cabinet. So far as it is a compliment or salutation for the country of which he is the first magistrate, we who are Americans all share, both in the giving and the receiving it. So far as it calls for the expression of any opinion or intention on the part of the Executive, I, of course, can say nothing. There is one respect, however, in which all of us, private citizens, may venture to speak for the Chief Magistrate, and that is when we interpret or express the judgment of the American people—here, more than anywhere else, the executive department of the popular will.

"When, therefore, we utter the opinion of the American people, we answer, in a great

measure, for the President; and in this manner any private citizen, like myself, may venture to speak. So doing, I assert, without hesitation, that, with unexampled unanimity, Americans feel a profound sympathy for the Mexican people in this day of their trial. The sentiment of the country is all but one on this subject. We do not stop to inquire whether the Mexicans have not made mistakes in the management of their affairs. That is possible; all nations have done as much. We have done so in the management of our own affairs, of which we are now reaping the bitter fruits. But, whatever may have been the mistakes of the Mexicans, they give no sort of excuse to the invasion of the French, or the attempt of foreigners to impose a yoke upon their country.

"Though the minds and hearts of the American people are chiefly occupied with their own long and bloody struggle against an unnatural rebellion, they nevertheless feel deeply the wrongs of Mexico, and they will express this feeling on every proper occasion. We express it here at this festive gathering; they will express it at public meetings, in State legislatures, and in Congress; and they expect the Executive, the organ of the nation, in its intercourse with other nations, to express it also to the fullest extent, within the limits of international obligations.

"Not only do we give the Mexican people our sincerest sympathy, but we offer them all the encouragement which a neutral nation can offer. We bid them to be of good cheer; to hold fast by their integrity; to stand firm through all vicissitudes, believing in the strength of nationality, in the vitality of freedom, and in that overruling and all-wise Providence which, sooner or later, chastises wrong and casts down the oppressor.

"This is not the place to enter upon a discussion of the motives which prompted this French invasion, nor to trace the history of the parties which have divided Mexico, and been made the pretext for the intrusion of foreigners into its domestic affairs. Thus much, however, may be said, that whatever may be the incidental questions that have arisen, there is one great and controlling feature in the controversy, and that is the claim, on the one hand, of the church to interfere in the affairs of the state, and the claim of the state, on the other hand, to be freed from the interference of the church. We hear constantly of the church party in Mexico. Why should there be a church party? What can it have legitimately to do with secular affairs? With us, it has been a fundamental maxim from the formation of our government, imbedded in the organic law, that there must be forever a total separation of church and state. The Mexican people—that is to say, the true and loyal portion of them—are struggling for the same end, and in this we Americans, of all creeds and all parties, bid them God speed. Yes, all of us, excepting only the rebel, who raises his arms against his country, and the deceitful renegade, who, not daring to raise an arm against it, seeks yet to betray it—all of us, I say, with these exceptions, pray for and believe in the deliverance of Mexico. It may be sooner or later; it may come through greater misfortunes than any which she has yet suffered, but come it will. The spirit of freedom is stronger than the lances of France.

"Maximilian may come with the Austrian eagle and the French tricolor; he may come with a hundred ships; he may march on the high road from Vera Cruz to the capital, under the escort of French squadrons; he may be proclaimed by French trumpets in all the squares of the chief cities; but he will return, at some earlier or later day, a fugitive from the New World back to the Old, from which he came; his followers will be scattered and chased from the land; the titles and dignities which he is about to lavish on followers and apostates will be marks of derision; the flag of the republic will wave from all the peaks of the Cordilleras, and be answered from every mountain top, east and west, to either ocean; and the renewed country, purified by blood and fire, will resume its institutions, and be free.

"Such, Mr. Chairman, are, I am sure, the wishes and the expectations of the American people; and thus, I am bound to presume, would be the answer, if he were free to speak, of the President of the United States."

After this interesting speech, which was received with long and general applause, the dinner continued, in the manner which will appear in the bill of fare. When the dessert was served, Mr. BEEKMAN arose and said:

"Gentlemen: The turn of the second regular toast has come. It is 'To Don Benito Juarez, constitutional president of the Mexican republic.' This illustrious personage is, gentlemen, as you are aware, of pure indigenous race. Of humble birth, his eminent virtues and exalted qualities elevated him by the votes of his fellow-citizens to the first magistracy of his country, and he has discharged his duties under the most adverse circumstances that have ever fallen to the lot of any statesman. It can be said of him, as of Bayard, that he is—

"Without fear and without reproach."

"I beg the illustrious president of Columbia college to respond to this toast, after which I trust we will have the pleasure of hearing our distinguished guest."

This toast was drunk with the greatest demonstrations of enthusiasm and most loudly applauded, and, at the request of one of the gentlemen, three cheers were given for the President of Mexico, after which Mr. KING spoke in the following manner:

"GENTLEMEN: The toast you have just drunk to the President of the Mexican republic is worthy of our cheers, for he is the chosen representative of the Mexican people, from whom he himself sprang, and our distinguished guest to-day is accredited to our government as the representative of the government of which President Juarez is the head. In honoring the name of President Juarez, we are, then, acting in harmony with the views and policy of our own government as much as in consonance with our own feelings and convictions.

"For certainly to us, as Americans, there is much in the character and antecedents of Juarez to commend him to our regard. He is, what was the boast of the Athenians of old, (that noblest race of men that ever made a small state great,) born of the soil, and of the people, where he lives—one of those autochthones who, having no progenitors to look back to but mother earth, have all the more inducement to look forward to ennobling, as far as they may, and dignifying, that mother earth.

"Thoroughly trained and educated in all good knowledge, Juarez labors to see his country great, prosperous, and, above all, *free*—free individually and socially—free politically, and, above all, spiritually free. It is there that lies the danger and the difficulty of Mexico. It is spiritual bondage even more than partisan and factious quarrels that has damaged that fine country. It is the influence of a class of religionists as a power in the state that has been most injurious there, as it must be everywhere; and I say this in the most general terms, and not as applicable to any one form of belief.

"Juarez is the avowed and bold opponent of the politico-religious hierarchy which has so largely controlled the affairs of Mexico, while monopolizing a most undue share of its wealth.

"He is proscribed by the priesthood, because he stands, as in New England our forefathers did, for liberty of conscience, for the right of every man to decide for himself in matters of faith. For the same reason he is proscribed by the imperial pro-consul of France; for it suits the present interest of the unfathomable mystery that sits upon the throne of France to cultivate the Roman Catholic hierarchy—which is a united body all over the world—wielding a sword, and that not the sword of the spirit, of which 'the hill is at Rome, and the point everywhere.'

"We, who have tried and known how much safer and wiser it is to separate the church from the state—and where public opinion, and sometimes positive law, forbids the mingling of priests in politics—we can well sympathize with President Juarez in his brave struggle in Mexico against a domineering clergy and against the foreign allies whom they have introduced into the country, to ruin where they could no longer rule.

"In the midst of the agony of our own civil war we cannot be insensible nor indifferent to the cause of Mexico, our neighbor, our friend, our natural ally in every difficulty that shall involve the point of American nationality and American interests, as opposed to European nationality and European interests. Mexico never can, with the assent of the people of the United States, become the appendage of a European nation, or furnish a peaceful throne to any scion of a European imperial house. The opportunity, so auspiciously presented by the visit of our distinguished guest, is eagerly embraced by us—private individuals, indeed, yet not unfair representatives of the popular sentiments of our fellow-citizens of all classes—to give emphatic expression to the declaration that, 'bidding our time,' we will, at all hazards, when that time comes, assert and uphold the doctrine that on this continent we will not permit the interference by arms of any European nation to overthrow republican institutions and to establish monarchy. Especially as respects Mexico, (conterminous with us for so many degrees of longitude, washed on its Atlantic and Pacific shores by the same bays and seas, and anxious to model its institutions after those which have raised these United States to such power and prosperity,) with respect to Mexico, I repeat, we cannot, and we will not, consent that any archduke of Austria, be he puppet or be he principal, nor any other monarchical pretender, shall be imposed upon the Mexican people by foreign bayonets.

"True it is, alas! that, through the great crimes of slavery, we are at this moment unable to give to our firm purposes in this regard fitting outward manifestation; but, as in the inevitable course of justice, which is God, our civil war must ere long close by the extirpation of its accursed cause, and in the restoration of our national unity and territorial integrity, we shall then have disposable such a force on sea and on land as will impart unlimited power of persuasion to the diplomatic declaration we shall then make that Mexico must and shall be Mexican, that Mexico must and shall be American, and not European."

This speech was much applauded and interrupted by demonstrations of approval. Then Mr. Beekman, the chairman, announced that Mr. Romero was about to speak, alluding to him in the most honorable manner as the representative of Mexico, to whom that banquet

was dedicated. Mr. ROMERO, being saluted by enthusiastic applause and three cheers, amid profound silence, spoke as follows:

MR. CHAIRMAN—GENTLEMEN: I feel entirely unable to express to you in a sufficient manner my sincere thanks for the great honor you have bestowed upon me and my country in this refined and splendid demonstration of your sympathy for struggling Mexico. It is, indeed, particularly gratifying to me that this significant demonstration is made by so many of the most distinguished and most eminent citizens, who are an ornament to this great metropolis, and whose virtues, learning, and enterprise have contributed so much to make your city in so brief a period the first, not only of the broad United States, but of the whole American continent, as well as to make your country one of the most powerful, wealthy, and civilized on the globe.

It is, indeed, another motive which greatly adds to my gratification, and for which, in the name of my country, I beg to express to you my gratitude for the kind words with which our distinguished friend has proposed the health of Benito Juarez, the constitutional president of the republic of Mexico, and for the prompt heartiness and cordiality with which that toast has been received. I perceive, with joy and gratitude, gentlemen, that you appreciate the high qualities of that statesman and patriot, and hold a strong and pure sympathy for the noble cause of which he is the leader.

I am rejoiced that I have the opportunity to see with my own eyes the proof that the eminent French statesman, M. Thiers, was somewhat mistaken when, in a speech he recently delivered before the Corps Legislatif, of Paris, against the policy pursued by Emperor Napoleon in Mexican affairs, he stated that the United States would not, under present circumstances, object in any way to that policy; and that, should the Archduke Maximilian come to this city *en route* to Mexico, he would meet with a cordial reception at your hands. It could scarcely be possible to have a more distinguished, complete, and genuine representation of the patriotism, intelligence, and wealth of the great city of New York—the leading city of the Union—than that I see assembled here this evening; yet, if I can trust my senses, gentlemen, I venture to assert that the sympathies of your great city run in a direction very different from that imagined by M. Thiers.

I am very happy to say that the kind feeling you express for Mexico is fully reciprocated. In Mexico there are now but the sentiments of regard and admiration for the United States, and the desire to pursue such a course as will draw more closely all those powerful ties by which both nations should be united.

It has sometimes appeared to me that the gentlemen who controlled the government of the United States for thirty-five years previous to 1861 cared for nothing so much as for the acquisition of territory. Those gentlemen thus caused their country to appear in the character of a very covetous man, who, without knowing the boundaries of his own estate or endeavoring to improve it, constantly exerts himself to enlarge his limits, without being very scrupulous as to the means of its accomplishment.

Just before the war with Mexico commenced, the United States had a boundary question with England, which threatened a rupture between the two countries, and I have been informed that the same documents which were prepared as a declaration of war against Great Britain were used when war was finally declared against Mexico. Thus, while the idea of acquiring domain from Great Britain by a dubious title, to say the least, was relinquished, the same scheme was carried out against Mexico, not only without any plausible reason, but, I must say, in violation of all principles of justice.

I beg of you, gentlemen, to excuse me if I have referred to an unpleasant point in the history of late events. But I wish to forcibly present to your minds the idea that the unfair policy I have alluded to led, in a great measure, to the troubles and complications in which you are now involved, and one of the consequences of which is French intervention in Mexico, as that intervention would never have been but for the civil war in the United States.

Those who have pursued this policy appear to have been, in the main, under the influence of the slave power, and to have had in view their own political influence and personal aggrandizement, rather than the great interests of their country. They very properly thought that, by extending the area of slavery, they would extend in proportion their influence and strength. For that reason they did not insist on increasing the territory of the United States in the far northwest, where their *peculiar institution* could not be acclimated, but rather set their eyes towards the sunny regions of Mexico. By that means the institution of human slavery had so large an increase, that a short time afterwards it was strong enough to commence a gigantic war against the government of the United States. In my opinion, the leaders of the slavery party always had in view the separation of their own States from the free States of the north, and to make up for the loss they aspired to acquire territory southward.

I will not conceal from you, gentlemen, the fact that we have looked with deep apprehension upon such an aggressive policy, which threatened to deprive us of our independ-

ence and nationality—the highest and most precious rights that man can enjoy on earth. We were, of course, fully determined not to give up this precious inheritance, and we had resolved to fight to the last. In our present war with France we are giving a proof of our determination. It may appear foolish and unavailing for Mexico, that has been so often exhausted in her struggles to obtain true liberty during the last forty years, to accept war with the greatest military power in Europe; but there are circumstances in the life of nations which cause them to overlook all secondary considerations, and determine to exert themselves to overcome all difficulties. Besides, our situation is not so bad as many think.

Fortunately, the change of policy towards Mexico operated in the United States brought up a consequent change in the feelings of my country in regard to yours. We do not wish now to have any interest antagonistical to yours, because we mean to keep peace with you, and that object could scarcely be accomplished if our respective interests were in opposition. For that reason, among other very material ones that we had, we established a republican form of government and democratic institutions, modelled on the same basis as yours.

The Emperor of the French pretends that the object of his interference in Mexican affairs is to prevent the annexation of Mexico to the United States; and yet that very result would, most likely, be ultimately accomplished if a monarchy were established in Mexico. Fortunately for us, that scheme is by no means a feasible one.

Mexico is most bountifully blessed by nature. She can produce of the best quality and in large quantities all of the principal agricultural staples of the world—cotton, coffee, sugar, tobacco, vanilla, wheat, and corn. Her mines have yielded the largest portion of all the silver which now circulates throughout the world, and there still remain to her mountains of that precious metal, as well as of gold, which only require labor, skill, and capital to make them available and valuable. The wealth of California is nothing when compared with what still remains in Mexico.

My country, therefore, opens a most desirable field for the enterprise of a commercial nation. Farsighted England discovered this many years ago, and by establishing a line of mail steamers from Southampton to Vera Cruz and Tampico, and negotiating advantageous treaties of commerce, has, beyond all other nations, enjoyed the best of the Mexican trade. France, seeing this, and wishing to vie with England, has undertaken an enterprise which, besides being ruinous to her, will not produce the desired end, as the means adopted must surely cause the opposite result. The United States are the best situated to avail of the immense wealth of Mexico. Being a neighbor nation, they have more advantages than any other for the frontier and coasting trade, and, furthermore, being a nation second to none in wealth, activity, skill, and enterprise, they are called by nature to speculate and enjoy the resources of Mexico.

We are willing to grant to the United States every commercial facility that will not be derogatory of our independence and sovereignty. This will give to the United States all possible advantages that could be derived from annexation without any of its inconveniences. That once done, our common interests, political as well as commercial, will give us a common whole American continental policy which no European nation would dare disregard.

The bright future which I plainly see for both nations had made me forget for a moment the present troubles in which they are now involved. I consider these troubles of so transitory a nature as not to interfere materially with the common destiny I have foreshadowed; but, as they have the interest of actuality, I beg to be allowed to make a few remarks in regard to them.

Every careful observer of events could not help noticing, when the expedition against Mexico was organized in Europe, that it would, sooner or later, draw the United States into the most serious complications, and involve them in the difficulty. The object of that expedition being no less than a direct and armed interference in the political affairs of an American nation, with a view to overthrow its republican institutions and establish on their ruins a monarchy, with a European prince on the throne, the only question to be determined by the United States and the other nations concerned was as to the time when they would be willing or ready to meet the issue thus boldly and openly held out by the antagonistic nations of Europe.

The United States could not be indifferent in this question; just as a man who sees his neighbor's house set on fire by an incendiary could not remain an unconcerned spectator, while his own house contains his family and all his fortune, and combustible matter lies in the basement. The only alternative left to him should be whether it would be more convenient to his interests to help his neighbor in putting out the fire from the beginning, and with the same earnestness as if his own house were already caught by that destructive element, or to wait inactive until the incendiary has succeeded in making a perfect blaze of his neighbor's property, by which all will inevitably be involved in one common ruin. This, in my opinion, is the situation in which the United States are placed with regard

to Mexico. Taking into consideration the well-known sagacity of American statesmen, the often-proved devotion of the American people to republican institutions, and the patriotism and zeal of the administration that presides over the destinies of the country, I cannot entertain the slightest doubt that the United States will act in this emergency as will conduce to the best interests they and mankind at large have at stake in the Mexican question.

In the mean time, however, I consider it of the highest importance that the delusion prevailing throughout Europe that the United States do not oppose, and rather favor, the establishment of a monarchy in Mexico, by French bayonets, should be dispelled. The French government has been working steadily in causing that delusion to prevail on the other side of the water, and, so far, has succeeded more than could be expected considering the absurdity of such an idea. The war against Mexico would be ten times more unpopular in France than it is now—in fact, it could not be maintained any longer, if the French people were made to understand that the people of the United States will never tolerate, much less favor or encourage, the establishment, by force of arms, of a European monarchy upon the ruins of a sister neighboring republic. The French people are friendly to the United States; old traditions, the common love of liberty, and the absence of opposing interests, make them friendly. They would, therefore, be wholly opposed to anything that, without bringing them any real benefit, might, sooner or later, lead to a war with this country. They very well know that such a war could not but be disastrous to France, since France would have everything to lose and nothing to gain by such a war, whatever may be her influence and power in the European continental politics.

The United States may find that they are brought squarely to the issue on the Mexican question sooner than they expected, should the report, lately reached here, of any understanding between Maximilian, as so-called Emperor of Mexico, and the insurgents in this country, prove correct. The archduke, it is stated, will inaugurate his administration by acknowledging the independence of the south, and perhaps he will go further; and this, of course, by the advice, consent, and support of the French government, whose satellite, and nothing else, will the archduke be in Mexico.

The French official and semi-official papers assure us that Maximilian will soon depart for Mexico. All present appearances indicate that he is willing to change his high position in Europe for a hazardous one in Mexico. He cannot stay there unless supported by a French army, and he will not, therefore, be anything more than the shadow of the French Emperor. Should he ever have a different view or desire from the French government, or even the French general-in-chief, he will be obliged to submit to the humiliating condition of forbearing to do that which he thinks best in a country where he will call himself Emperor. As far as the personality of the Austrian duke is concerned he is nothing. If he goes to Mexico to meddle in our affairs we shall consider him as our enemy, and deal with him accordingly. We hold that in the political question which is being agitated in Mexico the person of the Austrian duke is not of much account; and whether he does or does not go there, that question can ultimately have only one possible solution—namely, the triumph and maintenance of republican institutions.

As far as I am concerned, I prefer that Maximilian should go to Mexico, so as to give the European dreamers on monarchies a fair chance to realize their dreams of America. As for Mexico, I can say that nothing that has transpired in my country should surprise any one who is familiar with our affairs. It is true that we have been unfortunate during the past year; we have lost nearly all the battles we have fought with the French; they have occupied some of our principal cities; they have blockaded our ports; but all these gains on the part of the French are nothing when compared with the elements of opposition and endurance which remain with the national government of Mexico, ruling a people numbering eight millions, determinedly opposed to intervention, ready to fight, and fighting already, for their independence; a country that will require half a million of soldiers to subdue and possess; naturally strong in defences, possessing inaccessible mountains, impracticable roads, where the patriots will be able to make a perpetual warfare upon the invader, until he is persuaded of the impossibility of accomplishing the conquest or be compelled to leave for other causes. Such is the prospect before us, and that in case we could do nothing more than make a passive resistance. But we can do better than this.

Among the many events calculated to terminate immediately French intervention in Mexico, the European complications which threaten to cause a general war on that continent should be particularly mentioned. It is certainly wonderful that whilst Europe is in so insecure and agitated a condition, menaced by revolutions everywhere, and wrestling to recover its own existence and independence, the French Emperor should be thinking about arranging other people's affairs, as if his own did not require his immediate and most particular attention.

The only serious support the French intervention had among the Mexicans was that afforded by the church party, which was, in fact, the promoter and supporter of the intervention. The generals of the church party have, with the aid of the French army, been

conscripting Mexican citizens to make them fight with the foreign invader against their brothers and the independence of their country. The church party expected, of course, as a small compensation for the services rendered to the intervention, that as soon as the French should take the city of Mexico they would restore the church property confiscated by the national government, and the *fueros* of the clergy, of which they had been deprived. But the French have thus far failed to do this. They discovered that the church party was the weakest, and that with that party they had no chance of subduing the country. The French now wish to conciliate the liberal party by sustaining and enforcing all the important measures and laws decreed by the national government. But the liberals of Mexico are true patriots before partisans, and will not be conciliated so long as the foot of the invader is on Mexican soil. The policy of the French so incensed the church party that they broke altogether with the French. The archbishop of Mexico, who was a member of the so-called regency, withdrew at once, and was afterwards dismissed by General Bazaine. The so-called supreme tribunal protested against those measures, and shared the fate of the archbishop. All the archbishops and bishops in the republic then joined in signing a protest, in which they declared the condition of the church to be far worse than it ever was under the rule of the liberal government; that now they are not allowed even to issue their pastorals, a right never denied to them while the liberals were in power in the city of Mexico. The protest concluded by excommunicating the French government, the French army in Mexico, all Mexicans who take sides with the French, and everybody who supports the French cause in any way. These proceedings have left the French without the support of the only part of the native population they ever had in their favor, and has combined against them all the elements of the country.

I fear that I have already imposed too much upon your kindness, and, in concluding my remarks, I beg to express my earnest and sincere desire that this demonstration may be the beginning of a new era of perpetual peace and cordiality in the relations between the United States and Mexico. [Cheers.]

Mr. Romero's speech being concluded, which was also often interrupted by prolonged and enthusiastic applause, Mr. Beekman proposed the third regular toast as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: There have not been wanting people who think there are no statesmen in Mexico. Such a thing can only happen to those who are unacquainted with the history of that country. Both during her conquest, as during her independence, and more recently during her regeneration, Mexico has had distinguished heroes as well as good statesmen: Guatimotzin, Hidalgo, and Morelos, Ocampo, Lerdo, and Dogollado, are names venerated in that country. I propose, then, gentlemen, that we drink to the statesmen of the United States and Mexico, and I beg our distinguished friend, the illustrious historian of our country, that he do us the favor of responding to the toast."

We have been unable to procure any authentic memorandum of the speech of Mr. Bancroft, as we have done with the three preceding ones, and although we will inevitably be obliged to make some alterations in his words, we are sure that we are faithful in giving his ideas. Mr. BANCROFT expressed himself substantially thus:

"GENTLEMEN: Although I am not prepared to deliver an address worthy of this auditory, I cannot refrain from replying and expressing my sentiments, as I have been called to reply to the toast which our president has just proposed to the statesmen of the two neighboring sister republics. The struggle which for many long years the Mexican people have sustained against their interior tyrants has been a heroic struggle, worthy of a civilized and cultivated people, and in which the sympathies of the whole civilized world—of all the friends of political and religious liberty—ought to have been manifested in a frank and decided manner in behalf of the Mexican people, directed by the liberal party. I believe, gentlemen, that the cause of civil wars, not only in Mexico, but throughout all Spanish America, has been the clergy alone, who, when they come to acquire power in the state, always strive to overturn the government and to subordinate the temporal interests of society to their own. This attribute seems to belong principally to the Catholic clergy.

"The struggle, then, in which up to this time the patriotic Mexicans have been engaged, was a holy struggle, and the sympathy of the whole people of the United States was with them—a people who, whatever may be their religious creeds, adopts as a fundamental principle the most complete religious liberty, and the absolute independence of the church from the state.

"But now the sympathy of the United States is increased for the Mexican people, when, in addition to the facts already mentioned, we find this people struggling for their independence and nationality against a European nation, which, taking advantage of the civil strife in which we are engaged, has sought to establish before our eyes a form of government in open antagonism to our own. We cannot do less than receive this project in the same way as Europe would receive it were we to foment revolutions and establish republics on that continent.

"Thus it is that those statesmen in the United States who aid us to emerge from our

present difficulties, and to restore our power and legitimate influence, and those who in Mexico not only consummate the great work of establishing religious liberty on a solid basis, but who succeed in driving from their country the foreign invader, or at least keep the sacred fire of patriotism and of resistance to the invader burning, while we disembarass ourselves of our complications, deserve, in the highest degree, our sincere and ardent homage.

"Gentlemen, the Egyptians used to place a burning lamp at the feet of their royal corpses. On descending to the deep vaults in which the corpses were deposited, the lamp was naturally extinguished.

"Let Europe place at Maximilian's feet the weak lamp of monarchical power. It will not burn in the free atmosphere of our continent."

This speech was listened to with great attention and applauded with enthusiasm.

Mr. BEEKMAN then arose and said:

"GENTLEMEN: Mexico has had illustrious poets of whom I cannot give the eulogy they deserve, but whose memory I am desirous you should honor, remembering the names of some of them, such as Atarcon, Heredia, Gorosteza, Carpio, Calderon, and many others. I should like our illustrious and venerable friend, Mr. Bryant, as a worthy representative of the poets of our country, to respond to this toast."

This toast having been loudly applauded, Mr. BRYANT, after some allusion to the complimentary manner in which he had been called up, remarked that there were topics of greater importance on which he desired to say a few words, and proceeded thus:

"We of the United States have constituted ourselves a sort of police of this New World. Again and again have we warned off the highwaymen and burglars of the Old World who stand at the head of its governments, styling themselves conquerors. We have said to them that if they attempted to pursue their infamous profession here they did it at their peril. But now, when this police is engaged in a deadly conflict with a band of ruffians, comes this Frenchman, knocks down an undefending bystander, takes his watch and purse, strips him of his clothing, and makes off with the booty. This act of the French monarch is as base, cowardly, and unmanly as it is criminal and cruel. There is no person acquainted even in the slightest degree with the political history of the times who does not know that it would never have been perpetrated had not the United States been engaged in an expensive and bloody war within their own borders.

"There is a proverbial phrase used by lawyers, who say of a purchaser of land who does not obtain a clear and undisputed title, that he has bought a lawsuit—paid out his money for a controversy in the courts. We may say of this Maximilian of Austria, that in accepting the crown of Mexico from the hands of Napoleon, he has accepted, not an empire, but a quarrel—a present quarrel with the people of Mexico, and a prospective quarrel with the people of the United States. The rule of a branch of the Austrian family will be no less hateful to the Mexicans than that of the Austrian monarch is to the inhabitants of Venice. Its yoke will be hated because it is a foreign yoke, laid upon their necks by strangers; it will be hated because it is imposed by violence; it will be hated because that violence was accompanied by fraud; for never was there a more shallow and transparent deception than that of the convocation of notables, from whom Napoleon pretended to receive the supreme dominion over Mexico.

"Then, as to the relations of this new emperor with the United States, does any one suppose that they can possibly be amicable? Does any one suppose that, after our civil war is ended, as it soon will be, the numerous class whom it has trained to adventure, and made fond of a military life, will all remain quietly at home when the cause of liberty and independence in Mexico demands their aid? Does any man doubt that, whatever may be the course taken by our government, they will cross the Mexican frontier by thousands, to take part in favor of the people of that country? The party of liberty in Mexico will then have its auxiliaries close at hand, in a contiguous region, while the succors which the despot will need to protect his usurped dominion will be far away beyond the Atlantic.

"Yet I wonder not that Maximilian should covet the possession of so noble a principality as Mexico, provided he were allowed to govern it in peace. I remember that, a few years since, in making a voyage to Europe in one of our steamers, there was a passenger on board to whom we gave the name of the Knight of the 'Woful Countenance.' He was a thin, dark man, dressed in black, with a very broad-brimmed hat, long features, and a most sorrowful aspect. I learned that he was a Mexican, and entered into conversation with him. He described the natural advantages and resources of his country with much of that eloquence which I believe is the natural inheritance of the Latin race. He spoke of its mountains, pregnant with ores of the precious and useful metals; its vast plains and valleys of exhaustless fertility; its variety of climates—in some regions possessing the temperature of perpetual spring, in which were reared all the productions of the temperate zone, and in the other places basking under a torrid sun, which ripens all the fruits of the tropics to their most perfect maturity. Yet these rich mines were unwrought, these

fertile fields untilled, these regions with the climate of Paradise thinly peopled by a race without enterprise, almost without arts, and living almost from hand to mouth. This unhappy state of the country he attributed to the want of a permanent, enlightened, and liberal government, which, while maintaining peace and order, and securing to every man his individual rights as a freeman, left open every path of lawful enterprise.

"We thought that we saw the dawn of this era of enlightened government in the administration of Juarez. That dawn has been overcast by the clouds of a tempest wafted hither from Europe. May the darkness which has gathered over it be of short continuance; may these clouds be soon dispelled by the sunshine of liberty and peace, and Mexico, assured in her independence, take the high place which belongs to her in the family of nations."

After the termination of this interesting speech, which, like the others, was repeatedly interrupted by prolonged applause.

Mr. BEEKMAN, rising again, said:

"GENTLEMEN: There is now among us a distinguished lawyer of Mexico, whose knowledge, probity and patriotism are acknowledged and duly appreciated in that city, the dwelling-place of so many men of culture and privileged minds. This lawyer is Señor Don Ignacio Mariscal, secretary of the Mexican legation, and one of our guests. I propose, gentlemen, that we drink his health, as well as that of his fellow lawyers of Mexico."

The preceding toast was received by acclamations and great enthusiasm, after which Mr. Mariscal said:

"GENTLEMEN: I never was more sorry than now for not having the control of your expressive language, that I might give a full utterance to my sentiments. Yet I cannot help saying a few words to thank you very warmly for the kind and splendid manner in which you are complimenting the representative of my country, as well as for the enthusiastic allusions you have made and applauded in honor of its leading patriots and distinguished men. Finally, gentlemen, the toast you have just dedicated to me, and the too benevolent terms in which it was proposed, are things which I am not able to be thankful for in a sufficient way. I am perfectly aware that the general feeling of the people of the United States is most favorable to Mexico in her present struggle to resist conquest. But when I see that feeling shared by such prominent and enlightened citizens as you are, gentlemen, I consider it is not a blind sentiment, but rather a conviction, a deep sense of right and justice, as well as the knowledge of a danger common to both republics. I cherish the idea that while this unanimous sympathy for Mexico exists, my country will not be subjugated for a long time by the brutal force of a European army. The day will soon come, I trust, in which the sympathies of this great people will be no longer disregarded by any power in the world. You know, better than I do, which are the clouds now darkening your political horizon and preventing the break of that promising day. May they be soon dispelled! The sun of America will then shine triumphant upon the end of your national disturbances and the direful sufferings of Mexico."

These remarks were much applauded and approved by demonstrations of assent.

The PRESIDENT then said:

"GENTLEMEN: We have drunk to the President of Mexico, to the statesmen, poets, and lawyers of that republic: it is now time we should devote a toast to Mexican diplomats. Among them you will find an illustrious citizen who now occupies an elevated position in the army of his country. His name as a general and a diplomat is well known in Europe. It is General Don José Lopez Uruga, who, not long ago, represented his country at Berlin. I hope, gentlemen, that a toast for General Uruga will be well received, and I beg our distinguished friend, who formerly represented our country at the Hague, will respond in the name of the diplomatic corps."

This toast, like the rest, was well received, all those present partaking of the same; after which Mr. Folsom expressed himself substantially as follows, it being impossible for us to obtain from the orator any notes:

"SIR: Being at this moment invited to speak to this toast, and without preparation of any kind, it will be difficult for me to say anything worthy of my hearers. Nevertheless, although without regularity or good order, I will say a few words, for I cannot do less than accede to the request of our worthy president, Mr. Beekman—a gentleman who is worthy of all my appreciation from his antecedents in the senate of New York, as the representative of our rich and powerful city. I have always been attached to the beautiful Castilian language—to that language so robust and manly, yet so soft and insinuating, which is capable of the highest flights of eloquence, as well as of the sweetest sentiments of love. Its study has occupied a part of my life, and I declare that it would have been difficult for me to have found a more delightful task. This love of the Spanish language could not but extend to the generous people who speak it, and more especially to the people of Spanish America, among whom Mexico occupies the first place, for its extent, resources, the beauty of its climate, the fertility of the soil, and, above all, from the very essential circumstance of being our neighbor, and having, since her emancipation, adopted republican institutions similar to those which have made our happiness. Guided by these sentiments, I undertook years ago a translation of the letters which Hernan Cortez addressed to the Emperor Charles the Fifth,

giving an account of the conquest of New Spain—letters which contain very important historical data, and which were then entirely unknown to us until Mr. Prescott, our immortal historian, published his history of the conquest of Mexico. I say all this that it may be seen that my sympathy for the affairs of Mexico is of long standing. And is it possible that it could cease to exist now that her sons are gloriously fighting to preserve an independence which it cost them so many sacrifices to achieve? No; certainly no. It exists in me now more actively than ever, as it does in the heart of every true American; for on this point, as some of the gentlemen have already well said, the opinion of our people is unanimous. Every one knows that on the Mexican soil a struggle is going on for a principle left us as an inheritance by one of our great statesmen, and without whose strict observance our institutions and political institutions run great danger. I wish, then, that Mexico will sustain, without rest, the struggle to which she has been so unjustly provoked, and I do not fear that I deceive myself in saying, in the name of the American people, that, as soon as our civil war is ended, our aid to Mexico will not be limited to barren sympathy."

The applause which followed this speech being ended, Mr. BEEKMAN arose and said:

"GENTLEMEN: I have the pleasure to present to you Dr. Navarro, one of our guests, and chief of the medical staff of the Mexican army during the heroic defence of the city of Puebla, when attacked by the French. At the end of the siege, Dr. Navarro delivered up all the French wounded who had been amputated and attended to by him in the best possible condition, and offering every hope of a complete cure, many of them being already in a convalescent state, as was fully testified by the surgeon in chief of the besieging army. At most none of those amputated had died, whilst at the French camp nearly every amputation made upon either French or Mexican had had an unfavorable result. Judge, then, gentlemen, of the skill of Dr. Navarro in his difficult art by that fact; and when you know that those services were given by him, on the occasion to which I allude, entirely gratis, and guided only by his patriotic feelings, you will be pleased to drink to his honor."

The toast was received with enthusiasm, and Dr. Navarro was saluted with cheers. Dr. PARKER being called upon by the president to respond, he expressed himself more or less as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: Dr. Navarro does not only deserve our consideration as a distinguished surgeon and professor of medical science, but he is still more worthy of our appreciation and our homage as a man loyal to his country—as a true patriot. I will add an important fact to what the president said, which will doubtless attract your attention. When the general-in-chief of the French army was persuaded of the ability and skill of Dr. Navarro, and of the kindness and attention he had shown to the wounded Frenchmen, he made various offers of the most advantageous kind, through trustworthy sources, to transfer his services to the medical corps of the expeditionary army, fixing himself the remuneration and advantages which he should enjoy. Then, gentlemen, Dr. Navarro, like a true member of my profession—like a loyal son of Hippocrates—energetically repelled these seductive offers. I cannot help but remember in connexion with this act the sublime action of the venerable father of medicine, who, when solicited, implored, by the conqueror Alexander to give him his services in exchange for immense treasures, replied with sublime abnegation: 'My talent, my art, my existence, all belong to Greece, and never can they be employed against my country.' Such, gentlemen, was the conduct of Dr. Navarro under circumstances analogous to those of Hippocrates. We offer him, then, the homage which he deserves; and in doing so we do not forget that in his country they are now contending, as in Greece in former days, with an invader who is aided in nothing except force and treason to carry out his ominous intentions. We hope, however, that the sons of Mexico, each one, and in the place belonging to him, will imitate the patriotism and undoubted loyalty of Dr. Navarro. [Applause.] In this way there is no doubt that that republic, our sister, will be saved from the crisis which now threatens her, and, animated by our sympathies, will succeed in carrying forward her interests and safety to the success her immense elements demand for her.

The president then announced that Dr. NAVARRO was about to speak. He spoke as follows:

"GENTLEMEN: I regret very much that my slight knowledge of your beautiful language does not permit me to duly express my feelings. I feel the greatest satisfaction in being a witness to the ardent sympathy manifested towards my dear country by persons of such a high social position and so respected for their scientific and literary knowledge. I have no words to express my gratitude for the toast and for the kind allusions which you have been pleased to make concerning me. Mexico, in defending her independence, has been struggling for a long time past with one of the most powerful monarchs of Europe, and she will struggle year after year, proving in this way the patriotic sentiments of her sons, and that she is worthy of that sympathy which all over the world every friend of justice and right share with you in extending towards her. Please to receive, gentlemen, my most sincere prayers for the ending of your civil war—of the bloody struggle which has shaken this great republic and given to European tyrants the opportunity of audaciously treading on the American continent—this sacred ground on which liberty only reigns, and in which thrones are but the sorrowful remembrances of times which will never return again. The time will come, and perhaps it is not very far off, when we shall see our republic free of all foreign intervention and your glorious Union happily restored—being once more, as it always has been, the astonishment of the civilized world and the fear of the despots of the Old World."