

them in the beginning of 1836, with an army which was defeated and annihilated at San Jacinto, April 21, the Mexican president himself being taken prisoner.

In the previous month a convention of delegates assembled at the town of Washington had declared Texas an independent republic.

The captivity of Santa Anna threw Mexico again into confusion. Bustamente, who had returned from exile, became president April 19, 1837; but in the latter part of his term the power was virtually in the hands of Santa Anna, who, after a visit to President Jackson, at Washington, had been sent back to Mexico in a United States ship of war, in 1837. He held



TOMB OF JUAREZ.

office as revolutionary provisional president from March to July, 1839, when Nicolas Bravo became president for a week.

A long period of confusion followed, during which the constitution was suspended, and the government became a dictatorship, at the head of which was alternately Santa Anna, Bravo, and Canalizo (the last two as substitutes during the frequent absences of the first), from October 10, 1841, to June 4, 1844. Constitutional government was resumed in 1844, with Santa Anna as president, under another constitution promulgated June 12, 1843. He was deposed and banished by a revolution, and was succeeded, September 20, 1844, by Canalizo, who was deposed by a revolution in December. His successor, Herrera, was also driven from office by a revolution, December 30, 1845. Herrera was succeeded by General Paredes.

During his administration war opened with the United States, in consequence of the annexation of Texas to the American Union. In May, 1846, General Taylor crossed the Rio Grande, and after a series of engagements in which the American arms were uniformly suc-

cessful, Santa Anna, who had returned from exile, regained the presidency, and, taking personal command of the army, was completely overthrown. By the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, signed in February, 1848, the war was ended, and California and New Mexico were ceded to the United States on the payment therefor of the sum of fifteen million dollars.

Santa Anna again left the country, but after the new administration of Herrera and that of Arista he was recalled in 1853, and was for the fifth time elevated to the presidency, though for a short season only, for, having attempted to secure the office for life, with the right to appoint at his death his own successor, he was deposed in August, 1855, by a revolution under Alvarez, governor of Guerrero, who was at once appointed to take his place. The latter resigned in favor of Comonfort in December of the same year, and a series of revolutions ensued, chiefly instigated by the church party, whom the president made his implacable enemies by a law recommended by him and adopted in June, 1856, for the sale of the church lands and the freedom of religious belief.

In March, 1857, a new and very democratic constitution was promulgated by congress, and Comonfort was constrained to accept it, but, owing to strenuous opposition from the church party, it did not come into operation till May. Meantime the repudiation of an acknowledged debt to Spain seemed likely to involve the republic in a war with that power. The president sought in vain for aid from the United States, and conspiracies multiplied on every side. Comonfort, although confirmed in the presidency under the new constitution in September, announced in December a change of government and of constitution; and in January, 1858, he was superseded by Zuloaga, who for a while had been his supporter, and was forced to take refuge in the United States.

Zuloaga was immediately opposed by Benito Juarez, who, as chief justice of the Supreme Court, was, by the provisions of the constitution, the president's lawful successor. Juarez was defeated, but he went to Vera Cruz and there established himself as the constitutional president.

Zuloaga was constrained to abdicate in favor of Miguel Miramon, his own general-in-chief, January 1, 1859. Miramon, a successful soldier rather than a good statesman, relied solely upon the fortune of arms for the subjection of Vera Cruz. Leaving Zuloaga as provisional president, he set forth upon a series of campaigns, which terminated in that of Calpulalpam, and the triumphal entry of Juarez into the capital on January 11, 1861. Much of Juarez's success was due to the recognition of him as the head of the government by the United States. While still at Vera Cruz he began the series of reforms which rendered his administration so popular on the one hand, but, on the other, paved the way for foreign invasion. Among them stand most prominent the making marriage a civil contract, the abolition of perpetual monastic vows and of ecclesiastical tribunals, the suppression of monasteries, and the appropriation of church property to the service of the state, the total value of which was estimated at rather more than three hundred million dollars, or nearly one-half the value of all the landed property in the country. These measures were soon followed by the complete separation of church and state.

A favorable opportunity soon offered. Spain, France, and England urged claims for the reparation of injuries and losses alleged to have been sustained by their subjects resident in Mexico; and, no satisfaction having been obtained from Juarez, he was informed that a joint expedition from the three powers would be sent to demand it; a measure agreed upon by the convention of London, October 31, 1861. In December, Vera Cruz was occupied by Spanish troops from Cuba, commanded by General Prim, and in January, 1862, by French and British forces.



But it was soon discovered that the English and Spanish claims could be settled by negotiation; it was agreed that a portion of the custom receipts should be appropriated to their liquidation, and in May the forces of both these powers were withdrawn from the country. The French army remained in the republic, thereby tacitly avowing their intention to overthrow the existing form of government in Mexico. This determination appears to have been solely prompted by Almonte and other agents of the church party sent to Europe for that purpose, and it was readily concurred in by Napoleon III. The French refused to treat with Juarez, and war was declared on April 16, 1862. Almonte, appointed president by the Vera Cruz authorities, who had revolted against Juarez (June 3), was deposed, and his government dissolved on October 2, by a decree of General Forey, the French commander. Hostilities began with an attack on Puebla by the French, who were then defeated, but who, after a number of subsequent engagements of varying success, occupied Mexico City on June 10, 1863. Juarez and his ministry having removed to San Luis Potosi. A regency was formed on the 24th; on July 8 an assembly of notables was convened, with power to decide upon the form of the future



THE NATIONAL PALACE.

government of Mexico; and on the 10th it resolved, by two hundred and fifty votes against twenty, upon an hereditary monarchical government under a Roman Catholic emperor. The crown was accepted by the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, with the title of Maximilian I., Emperor of Mexico. He arrived at the capital on June 12, 1864. The republican president, continually pursued by the imperialists, arrived by successive retreats at El Paso in September, 1865, and remained there until the commencement of the following year. On March 25, 1866, the Juarez troops captured Chihuahua, and that victory was followed by a number of others.

The 1st of November, 1866, General Diaz entered his natal city, to be crowned with laurels as her liberator. On April 2, he won in Puebla another most glorious victory, which made the walls of the empire totter, as this was one of the invader's strongholds.

After repeated remonstrances from the United States government, the French troops under Bazaine were withdrawn from Mexico early in 1867, the last detachment embarking at Vera Cruz on March 16. Maximilian, now left to his own resources, deemed it expedient to leave the capital and proceed northward. Toward the end of February he set out at the head of five thousand men and reached Querétaro, which was at once besieged by General Ramón Corona and General Mariano Escobedo, with an army of twenty thousand Juarists; Mexico, Puebla, and Vera Cruz being simultaneously invested by other divisions of the republican forces.

The ill-fated emperor was captured (May 15), tried by court-martial, condemned, and shot, with his two generals, Miramon and Mejia, on June 19, 1867.

Juarez re-entered the capital on July 16, and was re-elected president in the following October. During his flight before the imperial forces in the north his term of office had expired; but he issued a wise decree prolonging his exercise of the presidential functions until it should become possible to summon the representatives for a new election.

The work of reconstruction was interrupted for a short time by an attempt on the part of Santa Anna to occupy some of the gulf ports and promote a conspiracy against Juarez, who had rejected his offer to assist him in driving out the invaders. Santa Anna was captured at Sisal on July 12, 1867, tried at the castle of San Juan de Ulua, and condemned to banishment for eight years.

The years 1868 and 1869 were marked by insurrections, pronunciamientos, and revolutions, the most formidable of which was the pronunciamiento of Angel Santa Anna, who was taken after four months of depredations and bloodshed, and shot in company with his followers. President Juarez was again elected in 1871, the opposing candidates having been General Porfirio Diaz and Don Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada. He was the first president of Mexico who held power during his full term of office.

President Juarez died July 18, 1872, and was succeeded by Lerdo de Tejada, who was overthrown by another revolution in 1876.

General Porfirio Diaz, who had ably served his country all through her latter days of stress and trial, was then placed in the chief executive office in May, 1877. At the regular election of 1880, General Manuel Gonzalez was chosen to fill the position of president, and General Diaz gave way to him on December 1. General Gonzalez served out his full term of four years, and was then succeeded by General Diaz, who was elected by popular acclamation to the highest post of honor in the gift of Mexico. Ever since that time, December, 1884, President Diaz has served his country nobly and faithfully in that position, being now in his fifth term,—a record unmatched by any patriot in any country in the world.