

all parts of the country, he promulgated, on February 24, 1821, his plan of independence, known in history as the "Plan of Iguala," from the name of the town where it was put forth. The principal bases of the plan were "religion, union of Spaniards and Mexicans, and independence; Ferdinand VII., or, in case of his refusal, such other member of a reigning family as the congress soon to be organized might choose, to be called to the new empire." His next step was to inform the viceroy of what had taken place, and the latter immediately organized an army to crush the revolution in its infancy. But this measure came too late. Meantime the newly appointed viceroy, Don Juan de O'Donoju, arrived from Spain, and, finding the suppression of the new order of things to be impossible, he concluded with Iturbide, at Córdoba, August 24, 1821, a treaty in accordance with the plan of Iguala, except in the clause relating to the election of emperor, who, in case of the refusal of Ferdinand VII. and of some other



PORTAL DE MATAMOROS, MORELIA.

princes enumerated, should be "any one designated by the Cortes." On September 27 Iturbide made his entry into the capital amid the acclamations of the people. The junta gubernativa prescribed in the plan of Iguala was at once organized, and Iturbide, who at Iguala had prudently refused the title of lieutenant-general and accepted that of first chief of the army, was formally installed in office. Peace was soon established; the few Spanish troops in garrison at important stations became discouraged; the only stronghold left the Spaniards was the fortress of San Juan de Ulua, off Vera Cruz; and the peninsula of Yucatán, with the province of Chiapas and several towns in Guatemala, declared their independence, and were ultimately united to the Mexican empire. Such of the Spanish residents as desired to leave the country were permitted to do so without restraint, which liberal measure, with numerous others emanating from the new government, served to increase its short-lived popularity. But Iturbide, who had been successful in organizing and carrying out a bloodless revolution, was unable to establish a government upon a solid basis. A regency composed of three

members, according to the plan, was appointed. Iturbide was proclaimed generalissimo of the land and marine forces and president of the regency, with an annual salary of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, an immediate donation of one million dollars, twenty square leagues of land in Texas, and the title of serene highness. Before long signs of discord between Iturbide and the junta became visible. The treasury was depleted and nearly all sources of revenue were cut off, while the national expenses were greatly enhanced; the army was without discipline; and public opinion was divided between republicanism and the new form of government. Iturbide hastened the convocation of the first congress, in the hope of immediate relief; but that body obstinately refused to grant him money for the troops, and even

declared the command of the army to be incompatible with the executive power. But the generalissimo had sixteen thousand men at his disposal in the capital, and through the agency of his partisans he was proclaimed emperor on the night of May 18, 1822. On the 21st the proclamation was confirmed by congress, which declared the crown hereditary in his family, fixed the civil list at one million five hundred thousand dollars annually, created an order of knighthood and other accessories of a monarchy, established the imperial household with the customary pomp, and ordered money to be coined with his effigy. He was crowned on July 21. The symptoms of anarchy had not disappeared, however, and a conspiracy organized in Valladolid led to the arrest of several persons, among them fifteen deputies. This, with the arbitrary seizure by the government of one million three hundred thousand dollars deposited at Perote and Jalapa, exasperated the people; and Iturbide, harassed by the continued opposition of the congress, dissolved that body on October 31. But Santa Anna proclaimed the republic at Vera Cruz on December 2; the junta instituyente, which had succeeded the congress, was unable to establish order; defection became general among the army officers, and the republican troops were fast advancing towards the capital. Iturbide, in despair, hastily reassembled the congress and tendered his abdication; but that body, not recognizing the abdication, annulled the election of the emperor, and decreed that he should at once leave the country and "fix his residence in Italy," granting him a yearly pension of twenty-five thousand dollars, and declaring null the plan of Iguala and the treaty of Córdoba. On May 11, 1823, Iturbide set sail for Leghorn, where he arrived on August 2. Impelled by an insane desire for the recovery of his crown, he proceeded to England, and on May 11, 1824, embarked for Mexico. During the year a new government had been formed, with a republican constitution, and Iturbide had no influential friends left in the country. The government, apprised of his movements, declared him "a traitor and an outlaw in case he should at any time and under any title whatsoever set his foot upon Mexican territory, and that by that act alone he should be regarded as a public enemy of the state." Iturbide arrived at Soto la Marina on July 14, and landed in disguise; but he was apprehended by the military commandant, who detained him a prisoner at Padilla, awaiting the decision of the congress of Tamaulipas. That body sentenced him to immediate execution. He was shot on the morning of July 19, 1824. The congress of Mexico decreed that his family should reside in Colombia, and settled upon them a yearly pension of eight thousand dollars; but, as there was no ship for a Colombian port, his wife was permitted to go to the United States. She lived for many years in Philadelphia, and then went to Bayonne, in France. Angel de Iturbide, the eldest son of the emperor, died in the city of Mexico in 1872, leaving a son, who had been adopted by Maximilian as heir to the throne; and the Emperor Iturbide's younger son died in Paris in May, 1873, where he had earned a precarious subsistence as keeper of a public-house. The claims of the Iturbide family in recent times are too recent and too well known to need any comment here.

About five or six leagues from Morelia are the natural hot springs of Cuincho. These baths are resorted to by many invalids, and will doubtless come to be quite a health-resort. All the streams that come pouring down from these rocky hill-sides are hot, evidently coming from volcanic sources, as they are heavily charged with muriatic acid. Humboldt ventures the supposition that in this part of Mexico at a great interior depth is a fissure running east and west for about four hundred miles, through which, bursting the external crust of porphyritic rock, the volcanic fire opens now and then a passage at different points from the Mexican gulf to the Pacific. The famous volcano of Jorullo is on this vein, and boiling fountains are common in various portions of it. The baths at Cuincho are delightfully agreeable, and the temperature



of the water deliciously refreshing. For many decades these baths have been enclosed in great stone walls, the light coming from a high window near the roof.

Jorullo, some twenty leagues to the south, has been ascended many times. As far back as 1813 M. de Humboldt and M. Bonpland ascended to the crater of this burning mountain, which was formed in September, 1759. Its birth was announced by earthquakes, which put to flight all the inhabitants of the neighboring villages; and three months afterwards a terrible eruption burst forth, which filled all the inhabitants with astonishment and terror, and which Humboldt considers one of the most extraordinary physical revolutions that ever took place on the surface of the globe. Flames issued from the earth for the space of more than a square league. Masses of burning rock were thrown to an immense height, and through a thick cloud of ashes



PASEO DE SAN PEDRO, MORELIA.

illuminated by the volcanic fire the whitened crust of the earth was seen gradually swelling up. The ashes even covered the roofs of the houses at Querétaro, forty-eight leagues distant, and the rivers of San Andres and Cuitumba sank into the burning masses. The flames were seen from Patzcuaro; and from the hills of Agua-Zarca was beheld the birth of this volcanic mountain, the burning offspring of an earthquake, which, bursting from the bosom of the earth, changed the whole face of the country for a considerable distance around. In a letter written at the time of this event to the Bishop of Michoacán by the curate of the neighboring village, he says that the eruption finished by destroying the hacienda of Jorullo and killing the trees, which were thrown down and buried in the sand and ashes vomited by the mountain. The fields and roads were, he says, covered with sand, the crops destroyed, and the flocks perishing for want of food, unable to drink the pestilential water of the mountains. The rivulet that ran past his village

was swelled to a mighty river that threatened to inundate it; and he adds that "the houses, churches, and hospitals are ready to fall down from the weight of the sand and the ashes," and that "the very people are so covered with the sand that they seem to have come out of some sepulchre." The great eruptions of the volcano continued till the following year, but have since become rare.

The scenery around Lake Patzcuaro is extremely picturesque. At the foot of the hills which slope back from the northern end lies the village of Tzintzuntán, which possesses the finest picture in Mexico, an excellent specimen of the great master Titian. Although only a small village, Tzintzuntán was formerly the capital of the independent kingdom of Michoacán, an important city, and called in the time of Cortez Huitzitzila. It was formerly the residence of the monarch Calonsi, who was an ally of Cortez, and with his Indian subjects assisted him in his Mexican war. It is now an Indian village, though it is said that some remains of the monarch's palace still exist: apropos of which there may be seen all through the state large stones lying in fields or employed in fences, with strange hieroglyphic characters engraved on them, some of which may be very curious and interesting. The view as we approach Patzcuaro, with its beautiful lake studded with little islands, is very fine. An old church nestles like a bird-house among the trees, and stands at the outskirts of the city. Here, it is said, his majesty of Michoacán came out to meet his Spanish ally when he entered this territory.

Patzcuaro is a pretty little city, with sloping roofs, situated on the shores of the lake and in front of the little Indian village of Janicho, built on a beautiful small island in the midst of the lake. There are churches bearing the date of 1586. The first bishop of Michoacán, Vasco de Quiroga, who died in Uruapan, was buried in Patzcuaro, and the Indians of this state still venerate his memory. He was the father and benefactor of the Tarascan Indians, and went far to rescue them from their degraded state. He not only preached morality, but encouraged industry among them by assigning to each village its particular branch of commerce. Thus, one was celebrated for its manufacture of saddles, another for its shoes, a third for its bateas (painted trays), and so on. Every useful institution of which some traces still remain among them is due to this excellent prelate; an example of what one good and zealous and well-judging man can effect. The old church of Patzcuaro is handsome and rich in gilding. At the door is printed, in large letters, "For the love of God, all good Christians are requested not to spit in this holy place." The better classes in Patzcuaro seem fairer and have more color than is general in Mexico. In this old town, too, one may see specimens of that mosaic-work which all ancient writers upon Mexico have celebrated, and which



COLLEGE OF SANTA MARIA DE GUADALUPE, MORELIA.