

General Alvarez established his government at Cuernavaca, and was recognized by the representatives of foreign powers. He came to the city of Mexico and remained till the 11th December, 1855, when he voluntarily retired, leaving the government in the hands of General Ignacio Comonfort. Comonfort remained in office from the 11th December, 1855, to the 21st January, 1858, two years, one month, and ten days, when he fled the country. Félix Zuluaga, under a plan of Tacubaya, proclaimed by a body of soldiers, usurped the presidential chair at the capital, and Don Benito Juárez, the constitutional President, by virtue of his office as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was obliged to fly for his life. After taking the circuit of the country, President Juárez finally arrived at Vera Cruz, via New Orleans, in the summer of 1858, and gathering around him a cabinet, demanded the allegiance of the various states. This was immediately granted by all, except two or three of the central states and the capital, which, being in the immediate possession of the army of the church, were forced to submit to the rule of a faction headed at the present moment by Miguel Miramon, who deposed Zuluaga in November, 1858, and subsequently, General Robles Pezuela, who held power but two days.

The independence of Mexico dates from February, 1821, since which period to the present time, a space of thirty-eight years, the country has had thirty-six different forms of government, and seventy-two individuals have figured as chief executives of the nation under imperial and every variety of republican titles.

By reason of our limited space, we cannot give a specific exposition of the principle for which the two parties are contending in Mexico, or relate the events attending

the bloody and disgraceful struggle that has occupied the nation for the past thirty-eight years. For the last two years, two distinct governments have been in operation in the republic of Mexico, and during this period, the true principles of the controversy, the real condition of the country and its actual wants, have been brought out more distinctly before the world than ever before, and more especially since the recognition of Don Benito Juárez, the constitutional and liberal president, in April, 1859, by the United States minister, Mr. McLane. The present revolution is the only one that in reality has struck at the root of the evil.

The *New York Herald*, in a recent editorial relative to the struggle in Mexico, after stating how few of the states in comparison with the whole, acknowledge the church faction, makes the following very just remarks :

“Why has not the great majority of the nation prevailed against the minority? The answer is: The clergy are richer than the nation. While the best national securities, unguaranteed by foreign treaties, are selling for from three to eight per cent. the clergy can borrow on their paper at the rate of ninety to ninety-five per cent. The clergy are therefore more powerful than the nation, and they have made use of their moneyed power to bribe the army of the country. With this and a liberal use of money in other quarters, they have been able to hold their own in a few of the central walled cities, and by means of shrewd secret agents in foreign countries, have managed to blind the eyes of those governments holding relations with Mexico. They have been materially aided in this last work by the criminal stupidity or knavery of resident foreign ministers in Mexico, who have allowed themselves to be made their ready tools. It was

perhaps all for the best that the clergy should have had power sufficient to defeat the popular will and plunge the country into anarchy ; that foreign ministers should have taken notice of knaves or fools—in fact, that all possible calamities should have been heaped upon the country at once. The circumstance has brought Mexico into a crisis from which she can hardly escape without leveling all the destroying evils which have obtained such mammoth growth in this rich and most beautiful portion of America. The civil war in Mexico has already illustrated to the world how vicious and demoralized are the clergy, and how entirely wanting is the country in enlightened leading men. This war has demonstrated the absolute necessity for a large infusion into Mexico of liberal, progressive ideas, based upon reason and the spirit of peaceful compromise. It has aroused foreign governments to the necessity of sending them enlightened men to attend to their affairs. The United States have taken the lead, and England has followed the example, by recalling a man who certainly has done nothing for his future position, nor any good to the country he represented, except it may be in giving her a very expensive lesson. A question may yet be entertained as to what France will do. It is barely possible that that power may entertain the idea of finally compromising the Mexican question in the same manner the Italian question has been arranged—by securing the supremacy of the Church of Rome over the country. But the schemes of France cannot prevail in Mexico, if the United States and England are united, and adopt a decisive policy with regard to it for the purpose of ending the present anarchy and securing peace to the country.”

The following is a synopsis of the platform of the

constitutional government of Mexico, acknowledged and supported by the liberal party.

First. The establishment of a constitutional federal government in the place of a military dictatorship.

Second. Freedom of religion.

Third. Freedom of the press.

Fourth. The nationalization of over \$200,000,000 of property held by the clergy, from which, and other sources, the Church derives an annual income of not less than \$20,000,000.

Fifth. The subordination of the army to the civil power, and the abolition of military and ecclesiastical *fueros*, or special tribunals.

Sixth. A reduction of the tariff, the stoppage of the system of exceptional permits, and the entire abolition of *alcavala* or interior duties ; also, the abolition of passports.

Seventh. The negotiation of commercial treaties of the fullest scope and liberal character, particularly with the United States, and including reciprocity of trade on our frontiers.

Eighth. The colonization of Mexico by the full opening of every part of the country to immigration, and the encouragement of foreign enterprise in every branch of industry, particularly in mining and in works of internal improvement.

In contradistinction and opposition to the principles and purposes of the liberal, progressive constitutional government, we have the following as a synopsis of the *Plan of Tacubaya*, upon which the government of Miramon in the city of Mexico, supported by the clergy, is based.

First. The inviolability of all church property and church revenues, and the re-establishment of former exactions.

Second. The re-establishment of the *fueros*, or special rights of the church and of the army. Under these *fueros*, the military and the clergy are responsible only to their own tribunals.

Third. The restoration of the Roman Catholic religion as the sole and exclusive religion of Mexico.

Fourth. The censorship of the press.

Fifth. The maintenance of a high tariff, the restoration of the oppressive system of *alcavala*, or interior duties, and the continuance of special monopolies.

Sixth. The exclusive system with regard to foreign immigration, confining it solely to immigrants from Catholic countries.

Seventh. The overthrow of the constitution of 1857, and the establishment of an irresponsible central dictatorship, subservient solely to the church.

Eighth. If possible, the restoration of a monarchy in Mexico, or the establishment of a European Protectorate.

This is a true exposition of the principles of the two parties now contending for the mastery in Mexico.

In speaking of the Mexican church, its bigotry and despotism, we would not be understood as making war on the true Catholic faith, or the church of Rome as it exists in the United States. It is the perversion of its name and power to base purposes which we so much deprecate in Mexico.

The question before the people of the United States is, whether they will suffer to be established on their own southern borders, a monarchy like that of Old Spain in the sixteenth century, or whether they will give their cordial and united support to the liberals in their efforts to redeem Mexico from the church and military despot-

ism which has for ages drenched her fair fields in blood, demoralized her people, and finally made the nation a hissing and a byword all over the earth.

There is no way left by which the United States can safely and profitably build up trade and commerce with Mexico, except through the liberal party. A liberal treaty once concluded, and a good understanding established between the two nations, we shall find in Mexico a magnificent field for our enterprise, industry and capital. The principles of liberty will be there developed under our fostering care, and that down-trodden people will eventually rise up our faithful friend and ally. On the other hand, the success of the church or monarchical party will seriously compromise the well-being of the United States; for in case the faction now represented by Miramon obtains control of the republic, a policy will be inaugurated which must bring us into hostile collision, not only with Mexico, but with one or more of the European powers.

In view of the immense importance to our country that attends the safe and speedy solution of the Mexican question, the projector of the "*United States and Mexican Mail Steamship Line*" has been induced to do more than simply record such figures and facts as have a direct bearing upon his enterprise; he has given, in addition, a mass of matter which he conceives will be interesting to the *reading public* in the present condition of our relations with Mexico. This is done with the hope that the public mind will, in some degree, become impressed with the importance of inaugurating a new commercial policy with the India south of us, the first step towards which is, THE CALLING INTO EXISTENCE OF UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMSHIPS.