

cases in ligation involving the validity of pagarès. The conscience of the magistrate and of the citizen revolted at the idea of recognizing the validity of such bonds, and all the world knows that their consciences are not over-scrupulous."

The Abbé's views of the result. "The disorders resulting from this question became very serious. The public were deprived of the use of an immense capital, which had always been at its service for two centuries. Reclamations were so numerous that the execution of the law relative to rents, to the demolition of churches, of convents, and benevolent institutions, was for some time suspended. On all sides, suits were commenced, with which the judges did not wish to meddle. It now appears why it was that the Mexican population, to a certain extent, was interested in maintaining the 'statu quo,' because the sale of property in mortmain had excited a civil war; and why the conservatives made such an outcry, when it was told to them that the French intervention would sanction the acts of the Juarez Government."

Faithful to the Pope. "It is impossible to undo the past. But the Imperial government should have inaugurated its reign by the publication of a "*Concordat with the Holy See*," declaring valid all the sales of the church property, regularly made. It should then have come to an understanding with the clergy, and regulated the action of the government in conformity with the usage in other Catholic countries."

## CHAPTER II.

## THE INTERVENTION, ACCORDING TO THE ABBÉ DOMENECH.

The Intervention. In Chapter VII., the Abbé Domenech treats of the intervention. He says, "Whatever were the motives that led to the intervention, the campaign in Mexico might have been the most brilliant act in the reign of Napoleon III." "If the Emperor had succeeded, it would have been one of the most humane, glorious, and important enterprises of the XIX. century."

Mexicans in Europe. "The greater part of the Mexicans who furthered most the creation of the Empire had been in Europe many years. They no longer knew the actual, moral condition of the country, nor the measures necessary to heal its disorders."

Who these gentlemen were, their motives and objects, and the consequent deceptions, may appear in the sequel of this work.

"Every thing was a delusion. Unhappily, there were a great many interested parties. However, be that as it may, we were deceived on every side, and urged on, if not, by a chivalric sentiment, like that which led us to take up arms for the Christians in Syria, and for the independence of the Italians, at least, by a sentiment of high policy. France entered upon Mexico, and substituted, in favor of the Archduke Maximilian, a monarchy for a republican regime."

"The intervention presents so many aspects, and such varied points of view, that it would require volumes to record the studies, which a faithful observer would have to describe."

## THE GREAT ENTERPRISE OF THE XIX. CENTURY.

"I shall show that, if the Emperor had succeeded, the intervention would have been one of the *most philanthropic, glorious, and important enterprises of the XIX. century.*"

The Emperor's  
Crown a  
"Church"  
Crown.

"The influence of France, on which the Mexican Government ought to have relied, was entirely set aside on the arrival of the Emperor Maximilian. The Emperor being very liberal in his ideas, and not knowing that Mexico *had repudiated the conservative party, WHICH GAVE HIM THE CROWN*, sought to attach the liberals to his interests, by sacrificing his only true friends, and placing power in the hands of members of the liberal party, more or less moderate in their views. The confidence of the Sovereign, the honors and positions, were divided among a multitude of national nobodies, aspiring renegades, interested weather-vanes, birds of prey, in a word, the refuse of the two parties that divided the Empire."

## THE REPUBLICANS.

French view of  
the Republi-  
cans.

"The power being thus in the hands of vagrants, without principle, without energy for any good, without a shadow of patriotism, universally despised, betraying their Sovereign by studied flatteries, by stupid opposition, by notorious incapacity and faithlessness, the government fell into the most absolute disrepute, and the intervention, unable to defend itself, lost its prestige."

Loyalty to  
Mexico, treason  
to France.

"Almost all the employés of the government, from the minister to a village judge, form the category of men whom I have just described. Many of them were public felons, and if they had been judged by

French laws and French judges, the gallows and the galleys would have left few of them in the country. These men, jealous, envious, and fools, kept sincere and truly honest men aloof. Their contracted ideas, their anti-national selfishness, repelled every generous thought or useful counsel, suggested either by patriots or by foreigners, to promote social progress, public prosperity, or the consolidation of the Empire. Most of these political eunuchs had such shallow brains as to sacrifice, even without knowing it, their own personal interests to their individual animosities and jealousies. They would have neither French intervention, nor the Emperor Maximilian. Holding in their hands the power and the honors, they would not share them with foreigners, much less surrender them. Their pretext was, as they knew the country better, they knew better how to govern it."

## MEXICAN INGRATITUDE.

Ingratitude of  
Italy and Mex-  
ico to France.

"All who understand the human heart, know ingratitude affects a nation. France is learning this sad truth every day, to its cost. Italy, which owes its existence and its unity to us, nevertheless hates us, as if we had made her a fatal gift. Mexico was about to owe her welfare and existence as a nation to us; nevertheless, all the employés of the government we wished to establish, were hostile to us. The conquered never loves the conqueror. Does not national pride create the most incomprehensible national antipathies!"

"A certain general, who had had many years of contact and conflict with the authorities of Mexico, said that 'what would forever prevent Mexico becoming any thing, was the Mexicans themselves. Their bad faith, their idleness, their incapacity, passes all bounds of imagination.'

Mexican prowess. The French mistake. "The liberals, encouraged and reënforced by the numerous deserters, Belgian, Austrian, and even French, have learned to measure swords with us. It is scarcely two years ago since they fled before us, as from a pestilence." \* \* \* "To-day the Mexicans know that we are not invincible. Would it have been so, if we had not diminished our forces, just in proportion as we extended the circle of our operations; if we had limited that circle; if we had aimed at a moral conquest, instead of a material one, quite impossible with so limited a force?"

"The moral conquest of Mexico was easy. Every honest Mexican, every one who had a family to support, or a dollar to save, was in favor of the intervention." \* \*

An assertion. "Except the self-styled *liberals*, armed with carbines or poniards, who do not wish order on any terms, the Mexican people, interventionists or conservatives, are for a monarchy. That is the only form of government they desire, and is the only one suited to them. \* \* \* The monarchical sentiment is in their blood, it is the universal liking."

#### A FRENCH PRINCE FOR THE THRONE.

An "arrière pensée." "Before the arrival of the Emperor, the Mexicans were familiar with the idea of seeing a French Prince, or indeed a Marshal of France, govern Mexico. Many residents of the high plateaux thought that the *statu quo* was only a provisional arrangement, accepted for the nonce, in deference to England and the United States, but that we should finish the business, by taking the reins of power ourselves."

Monarchy to be the life of Mexico. "Notwithstanding his absence, monarchy would have given to Mexico a mighty vitality; republicanism, on the contrary, has weakened it, by

instability, civil war, and corruption. The idea of a monarchy is far from having been started by the French intervention. It was born of the force of circumstances. The initiative of it belongs entirely to Mexico. It is altogether Mexican. The European convention of October 31st was the result. The general opinion was, that the nation could not maintain itself—that its ruin was inevitable without foreign aid. There had been for a long time before the cabinets of Europe, applications for intervention, even from the Mexican Government itself, as we shall soon see."

#### MEXICAN COMMISSIONERS TO THE BRITISH AND TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENTS.

"The question of monarchy in Mexico is not a recent one. Passages in the report of M. Gutierrez de Estrada, presented to the British Government, and to that of Louis Philippe, prove it. This report, unfortunately, had no result, in consequence of the estrangement of the two governments growing out of the Spanish marriages."

#### REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

The Mexican Monarchists.

"The old Monarchical party," says the Report, "which was compelled to merge itself in the Centralist party, after the fall of Iturbide, and which also yielded in good faith to the Republican system, nevertheless believed it would yet recover from its long lethargy. The scattered members of the party united again. A new revolution broke out. General Parédès, rallying to the monarchical party, was its active instrument. The Government of General Herrera made way for that of Parédès. The manifesto which he published left no room to doubt of his intentions. Leaving entirely to a constituent assembly, the power to decide the form of Government

which should hereafter rule the country, this manifesto clearly indicated that monarchy alone could save it from anarchy, secure the repose it needed, and the prosperity of which it was capable."

DUTY AND DESTINY OF MEXICO.

"Mexico had henceforth a duty to fulfil, as a member of the family of nations, which it could not perform without the coöperation of foreign governments; and hence, for Europe, the duty, and much more the necessity, to come to the aid of Mexico."

Appeal of the Clergy to European monarchs. "The monarchical party made great progress in a very short time. It was composed of men most respectable for their morality and social position, and of the generality of the clergy, and of citizens enlightened by the experience of the past. This party sought to attach itself to Europe by a bond which offered guarantees for the future: namely, to consolidate the social institutions of Mexico; to establish commercial relations between the old world and the new; to guarantee the numerous stocks invested in Mexican mines; in a word, to put an end to the revolutions so fatal to distant transactions; and finally, to close the door against those abuses which occasion so frequent differences between foreign powers, and those ephemeral governments to which Mexico was periodically subjected."

Animus of the appeal, hatred of freedom. "It is notorious," says M. Domenech, in respect to this Report, "that those Mexicans who desired sincerely the well-being of their country, made this appeal to Europe with great earnestness. It was painful for them, no doubt, to confess that they could not, without the help of Europe, save themselves from that principle which was destroying the existence of their country; but the

truth cried louder than vanity, and they had to confess it. Even the liberals themselves, who applied for American intervention, only obeyed that secret instinct which declared that Mexico could not govern itself. They only deceived themselves as to the consequences of that intervention.

"Maximilian has done more for the welfare and happiness of the Mexicans, than the republic has done in half a century."

THE SPECTRE OF THE YANKEES.

The Imperial Dynasty unpopular. "There are," said the *Mexican Times* lately, "Mexicans who believe that they could rejoice in the evacuation and probable fall of the Empire. Very well. Suppose the French gone, and the Imperial dynasty ended. After all, the Yankees will come, and what will follow?"

Kind warning against the Yankees. "They will enter every city, every village, every hacienda. They will seize the reins of government, and fill all public positions with men of accommodating views and morals. The Indians will be penned up, and placed under legislation that will soon make an end of them. Every mine will be overrun and exhausted. These pioneers will establish themselves in every hacienda and drive off the proprietors. The national costumes will be a butt of ridicule, religion despised, and the traditions of the country trodden under foot. Every road to fortune will be blocked up, by a horde of greedy monopolists."

The armies of Grant, and of Scott. "Never did a people commit a greater error than that of the Mexicans to-day, who will judge the *Republican* army of Grant by the *American* army of Scott. They no more resemble each other than Samson

with his flowing hair, and Samson shorn in the lap of Delilah. The republican party in America has tasted blood, and its thirst is now insatiable. It is given up to passions so formidable, that nothing now remains but the sentiment of despotism. It has Butlers for Vera Cruz, Sheridans for the Valley of Mexico, and Milroys for interior cities. Their soldiers now know how they subdue refractory populations."

## THE UNITED STATES.

No common sympathy in the two Republics.

"The United States have no sentiments in common with the Mexicans; but, on the contrary, are separated from them by every possible difference of manners, social habits, traditions, and interests. If ever the United States come to Mexico, it will be to re-model, re-people, re-baptise, and absorb the country until the very soil shall produce only Connecticut nutmegs, and the birds warble the '*Star Spangled Banner*'!"

## FINAL WARNING TO THE MEXICANS.

Final warning against Americans.

"One word more to those Mexicans who invite this annexation and conquest. When you shall see, which may God preserve you from it, a provost-guard in every hamlet, a company in every village, a regiment in every city, going, coming, swearing against the country, with full consciousness of their power and full license of their natural brutality, then you will bitterly repent not having sustained a régime which sought to identify itself with all your sentiments and all your customs.

"Who shall save Mexico from the revolutionary bondage, or from the destruction of its nationality, threatened by the odious calculations of the Government at Washington? God alone can now deliver her."

The enterprise of the century. Such are some of the views of the French ex-chaplain of the expeditionary corps respecting the intervention. It may be supposed that the Abbé was not entirely uninformed of the counsels of the Emperor, and it is quite evident from his narrative, that he knows more than he tells. We may be able in the sequel to eliminate, from the sketch he has given, some features of that "*grand and glorious undertaking*" which promised to be, for France, the crowning glory of the reign of Napoleon III., and for Europe and the world, the "*grandest enterprise of the XIXth century.*"

## CHAPTER III.

## THE MEXICAN QUESTION AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT—THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

M. DOMENECH devotes the last chapter of his book to an exposition of the Mexican question, from an American and from a European point of view. His comments upon the whole movement of the intervention, its inception, its policy, and the great ulterior objects of European Governments on this continent, throw much light upon the subject. His *quasi* official relations to the Empire, the avowed objects of his book, and the portrait he has drawn of Americans, of the American Government, of American statesmen, of the National policy and aims, designed to influence public opinion in Europe, make it desirable that the character and spirit of his writings should be understood. His representations of the condition and moral influence of "the Church" party and the Church institutions in Mexico, cannot be suspected of bias to their prejudice. The testimony of the volume is therefore valuable, in sustaining the statements of other authors.