

there will dawn upon the earth a new day of "peace and good will,"—a new era of commerce, civilization, and Christianity.

CHAPTER III.

CONCLUSION.

THE story of Mexico from the Conquest in 1520, to the adoption of the Constitution of the Federal Republic in 1859, constitutes a passage in the history of nations, without a parallel. The limits of this volume have not admitted the introduction of many subjects that are essential to a complete view of the Mexican war of Independence, and of the life struggles of the young Republic. Indeed, the narrative has necessarily been restricted to a very cursory sketch of great events, extending over a long period of time, but all having an essential connexion with the great final result. Many topics have been quite excluded, and many more but very imperfectly and inadequately represented. But enough, it is hoped, has been exhibited, to sustain the position it has aimed to establish. It is a matter of great regret, that the history is thus cut short, at the very point where, for some purposes, it ought to begin.

The establishment of the Constitution, the war of the Intervention, the rise and fall of the Empire, the restoration of the Republic, and the new efforts of the government at the Capital for the reconstruction of the Commonwealth, the "consolidation of peace," and the restoration of all the disturbed functions and interests of the interior life of society, would require extended narration.

The relations of England, France, Austria, and Rome, to the *great act* of the XIXth Century—great in a very

different sense from that in which it has been heralded to the world—would require almost a volume in itself.

The story of the Intervention, its origin, objects, progress and defeat is a history of itself, which some future historian will doubtless give to the world.

The object of the present volume will appear, from a brief recapitulation of some of the leading issues, great difficulties and grand results, which have marked the heroic struggles of the Mexicans.

The leading issues may be stated, as,

1. Colonial subjection to Spain, or National Independence.
2. A Monarchical Government, or a Constitutional Republic.
3. A Spiritual despotism, or religious freedom.
4. Church and State united, or separate and independent.
5. A system of ecclesiastical, and military, fueros, and aristocratic privileges, or equal rights and laws for all.
6. A moneyed "church" despotism, holding half the wealth of the nation, and exempted from the burdens of the State, or a just and equal distribution of common property, and of burdens necessary for the common weal.
7. Class and caste prejudices, imposing endless disabilities, or equal privileges and immunities without distinction of nationality, or race.
8. Slavery or Freedom.
9. Inquisitorial intolerance, or freedom of conscience, of opinion, of speech and of the press.
10. National education, or national ignorance.
11. Blind restrictions upon international intercourse and commerce, or open doors to the interchange of the benefits of modern civilization.

Such are the leading issues which have entered into the Mexican Revolutions of the last forty years.

The enemies and difficulties, the Mexican Republicans have had to encounter have been :

1. The Power of Old Spain.
2. The Spanish Colonial Government.
3. The Mexican Hierarchy; with all their spiritual, political, military, monetary, aristocratic, and social influence and power.
4. The military arm of the Government.
5. Diplomatic intrigue and opposition.
6. Foreign commercial interests.
7. The whole weight, moral, material, and, military, of England, France, Spain, Austria, and Rome.
8. Want of education in the masses; want of disciplined troops, and of weapons and munitions of war, of money, of officers, and of loyal, incorruptible men.

In the face of all these hostile elements, at home and abroad, in the face of all these difficulties and trials, what have they accomplished ?

1. They have thrown off the yoke of the mother country.
2. They have disenthralled themselves of the despotism, political and ecclesiastical, of three centuries.
3. They have overthrown the system of *fueros* and class monopolies.
4. They have destroyed the tyranny of caste.
5. They have adopted one of the noblest Constitutions for a human Government ever framed, since the promulgation of the Constitution and laws of the Hebrew commonwealth, three thousand years ago.

They have modelled it after our own immortal instrument, and they have improved upon it. In their declaration of the rights of man, which echoes the sound of the trumpet of the Divine law, they proclaim the great fundamental truths, and principles which mark the progressive civilization of the age.

1. That the "rights of man" are the basis and object of Government.
2. That all are born free in the Republic. Slaves that set foot on their soil are free.
3. Education is free.
4. Professions and vocations in life are free.
5. All compulsory, unremunerated labor prohibited.
6. Expressions of opinions are free.
7. The press is free.
8. Right of petition guaranteed.
9. Voluntary associations and assemblies free.
10. Passport requisitions abolished.
11. No titles of nobility.
12. No special laws, nor tribunals; no *fueros* nor monopolies.
13. No "ex-post facto" laws.
14. The domicile is sacred.
15. No punishments of mutilation or torture.

Such are some of the principles for which the patriots of Mexico have been contending. They have struggled under an accumulation of difficulties and discouragements, such as other nations have rarely encountered. The mass of the population, oppressed for ages, were poor, uneducated, and denuded of all the elements of power, influence, wealth, or material resources. Intelligent, they understood their "inalienable rights," of civil and religious liberty, and of independent and constitutional government. Resolute and determined, with unalterable convictions of the ultimate triumph of justice, with unbounded faith in a leader of stainless patriotism and incorruptible integrity, they waged the unequal contest. Undisciplined in the arts of war, they faced trained regulars. Volunteers undrilled, they coped with the "old guard." The uprising people met a banded ecclesiastical establishment, united as in one solid phalanx, with all the accumu-

lated resources and prestige of ages, fighting for spiritual and political supremacy, wielding all the powers of the political, religious, military, and civil organizations of church and state. And then, to crown the climax of their trial, the united governments of England and France threw the weight of their moral influence, and all the intimidation of their fleets and guns, in favor of the oppressors and oppression. The threatening broadsides of foreign squadrons in the ports and harbors of the Gulf, and on the Pacific, frowned on the Republican cause.

The great powers recognized as a government "de facto," the politico-clerical cabal, which beyond the City of Mexico and a few central cities of the Republic, commanded neither the recognition, the respect, nor the allegiance of the nation.

The sympathies and covert acts of the diplomatic corps were neither disguised nor inactive, in behalf of the party of the "old régime."

Juarez and his ministers, and the illustrious band of their co-patriots, civil and military, sustained by the masses of the native population—"THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO," with incomparable prudence, energy, and courage, were enabled to surmount all the difficulties and complications, that surrounded them. The conviction is almost irresistible that One mightier than all human powers and combinations heard the cry of the oppressed, has broken the arm of the oppressor, and guided thus far the destinies, and preserved the liberties of Mexico.

Of twenty-four States of the Republic, TWENTY-ONE STATES and one Territory, with all the Seaports on the Atlantic and on the Pacific coasts, officially acknowledged and sustained the liberal, constitutional government, and repudiated the other.

Thus the long contest from 1810 to 1859, ended in the final establishment of the present democratic Republican Constitution of Mexico.

The fearful episode in the history, from 1860 to 1869—the Intervention, the Empire, its overthrow, the restoration of the Republican government, and the re-establishment of the Constitution, only intensifies the appreciation due to the work and sacrifices of Mexico.

The most bitter, and the most formidable elements of the conflicts of ages in Europe, were transplanted to America. The direst elements of strife, the irreconcilable antagonisms which had wrought havoc among the thrones and empires of the old world, seemed to meet and spend their fury in the Empire of the Aztecs. The theatre and the parties were changed, but the principles involved were the same. Instead of a Pope, and kings, and queens, and nobles, and serfs, it was a Cortez, a viceroy, a bishop, a monk, a priest, a friar, and four millions of unenlightened aborigines, unresisting and defenceless, save in the might of eternal justice, and in the aid of that unseen power, that sees and pities, defends and liberates the slave.

The race that had writhed and groaned for centuries under remorseless oppression, attempted, to the best of their ability, to throw off the yoke of intolerable despotism. They have been abused, vilified, and denounced from one end of Christendom to the other. Is it true they are Indians. They have a dark skin. Ages of bondage have shut out almost the last ray of knowledge, and their masters have taken away its key. They are ignorant. A paganism worse than their own, has shrouded their minds in darkness, superstition, and almost despair. In their struggles for freedom, for knowledge, for self-improvement

and self-government, instead of a word of encouragement and cheer, from "men whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high," they have received, with too few exceptions, the scorn and derision of the world.

Statesmen of England and France, in Parliament and in the "Chamber," have led the hue and cry. The enlightened journalists of London and Paris have filled their columns with abuse.

The enemies of Mexico have indulged in every species of vituperation, not of the oppressors, but of their victims. There has been little discrimination between the right and the wrong; little recognition of the claims of justice, or the deserts of tyranny; no distinction between the principles of a just government and an execrable despotism; but indiscriminate and sweeping denunciation of the victims of almost every conceivable outrage in the violation of human rights or of divine law. Plenty of contempt and derision of a priest-ridden people, but not a word of condemnation for an ignorant, debased, and profligate priesthood. Any amount of complacent detestation of ignorance, superstition, vice, and wretchedness, but not a word for that detestable, despotic system which occasioned and sustains it.

European haters of republican institutions and of the principles of civil and religious freedom, that are the glory of Americans, have plied all the arts of their vocation to extinguish the kindling spark of liberty on Mexican soil. They point to the shackles and fetters of the Atzec race, and ask if they are fitted to be free!

From Europe to America, the shuttlecock of falsehood and slander has been tossed to and fro, until the distinctions of truth, justice, and right, are lost in the clamor for "intervention in Mexico."

Books, pamphlets, and papers repeated, exaggerated and intensified the wrong. Mexico and Brownsville, Havana and New York, Washington, London and Paris, were the great centres from which spread the foulest rumors, the most glaring falsehoods, and the most cruel wrongs.

THE FUTURE OF MEXICO.

What, then, are the hopes and prospects for the future of Mexico?

She awaits only, as President Juarez says, "The consolidation of peace;" the restoration and reconstruction of a just and equal government, and the reorganization of society. She will then enter, *with the United States*, on a new career of freedom and prosperity. She has,

1. A country, in extent, with which only one Empire in Europe can compare.
2. A geographical position among the nations, with which none other on the earth can compare.
3. A docile, plastic population of six millions, ready with open hands and hearts, to receive all the light and blessings of modern civilization and of a pure Christianity.
4. Exemption from all political and ecclesiastical domination, and complete investiture with all the prerogatives and powers of self-government.
5. A form of government, and a constitution not second in excellence, to any other in the world, not excepting our own.
6. A President of purity unimpeached; of integrity incorruptible; of energy and perseverance, indomitable.
7. A cabinet embodying men of a statesmanship and character, worthy of the confidence of their nation.
8. The organization of the various departments of government modelled after our own.

9. A declared policy, domestic and foreign, for the administration of government, in a manner designed to secure the highest welfare of the state.

The measures already initiated are a pledge and almost a guarantee, that nothing shall be wanting to build up the fabric of social life, on sure and permanent foundations. One of the Cabinet, the Secretary of the Treasury, has been for eight years, the representative of his Government near our own, and has discharged his duties under the most trying circumstances, with an ability, discretion, and dignity worthy of any minister in Christendom. He has won for himself the esteem and respect of the Government and people of the United States. He has studied with indefatigable diligence, all the machinery and operations of our Government, and has returned to his own, with the avowed purpose of making all his experience and observations here of the result of over fourscore years of trial, subservient to the best interests of the institutions of his country.

But there is yet a great work to do. The difficulties and the obstacles are numerous and formidable—enough to embarrass the ablest and most experienced Cabinet. There is,

1. The old Spanish monarchical element, like the old Tories, in the time of our Revolution.
2. The ubiquitous "Church" party.
3. Ambitious military chieftains of the Old Regime.
4. The representatives of foreign interests, commercial and otherwise, still lingering in the Republic.
5. The distant, yet unfriendly influence of Rome, Austria, France, and England.
6. The depressed condition of the masses of the native population, uninstructed in a knowledge of their rights and duties; inexperience in the exercise of the rights of citizenship, and unaccustomed to self-government.

The prejudices of the old political and ecclesiastical rulers, the ignorance and superstitions of other classes, the antipathies of races, international prejudices, hereditary caste distinctions, and the ambitious aspirations of multitudes, all combined, environ the Government with perplexities which demand consummate patience, wisdom and skill. Then there are those who are always predicting domestic or foreign troubles. New European complications, or aggressions from the United States, are conjured up, to disturb the tranquillity and repose, which are essential to the restoration of the peaceful industry, and of the prosperity of the Republic.

There are others who believe that all these embarrassments will be overcome; that the Mexican Government and the Mexican people, will join heartily with the Government and people of the United States, in a career of just, equal and fraternal coöperation, for the development of the resources, and the advancement of the prosperity and happiness of both nations.

THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MEXICO.

The future of Mexico must depend upon the relations established, and the policy pursued, with foreign nations. China, even, can no longer live in isolation from the rest of the world. Neighborhood and good neighborhood, are alike the true interest and policy of all people.

The relations of Mexico and of the United States, with European Powers, are compassed, at the present time, with grave and delicate considerations. And yet, it is for the welfare of the world, that injuries should be forgotten, and mutual offices of good-will encouraged.

It is perfectly evident from the statements of Mr. Lempriere, the English author of "Notes on Mexico," in