PARAGUAY.

The Character of Lopez Barbarities of the Tyrant.

From a work by Colonel George Thompson, an Englishman, who was eleven years a resident of Paraguay, and during the war the chief engineer of the army of Lopez, we give below some extracts which will show the reader what manner of man Lopez was, and what kind of ruler he made.

The Growth of Tyranny in Paraguay.

When Francia, the first Dictator, gained power, he instituted so perfect a system of espionage that no one saying a word to his nearest relations could feel safe that it would not be reported to Francia. Every one supposed to be against the government, even only in thought, was thrown into prison, and some of them shot (especially the more in finential men of the country), and their property confiscated. Francia was in coninual fear of being assassinated; and when he rode in the streets every one was obliged to hide, even women, for his escort used to beat every one found in the streets when his Excellency passed,

He closed the whole of Paraguay, by land and by water, to all communication from abroad, placing guards and piquets all around the frontiers. He prohibited ingress and egress, both of persons and goods; and any one attempting to leave the country, or to send money out of it, was shot. A ship was now and then allowed to go to Paraguay with goods, for which Francia paid in yerbs (the tea of the country), but any other foreigners who came within his grasp he de-

tained in the country. He made a law prohibiting the intermarriage of whites, blacks, Indians, and mulattoes: and declared several of the chief families, whom he disliked, to be mulattoes, so that they should not marry-for no white Paraguayan would degrade himself or herself by marrying with one of a lower caste. He expected thus to exterminate those families, but the Spanish law of legitimacy enabled them to marry after his death, and so legitimatize their children. Marriage generally was discouraged by Francia, and hence arose the immorality to which the lower classes gave way, though rarely the higher. Their morals were not, however, in reality so bad as would be supposed; for although the marriages were not celebrated in church, the women were nearly as faithful as if they had been regularly married, with the difference that, as the tie was not irrevocable, when two people found they did not agree well they separated.

Francia died in 1840, 85 years of age. He was buried under the altar in the Encarnacion Church, at Asuncion; but his remains were afterwards dug out and flung into the river by men whose families he had wronged. Three of the principal men of Paraguay were to have been shot the morning he died, but the order for their execution was never car-

ried out.

A Congress was assembled, and Carlos Antonio Lopez and Roque Alonzo were chosen consuls. The second of these was a good man, and well spoken of by all who knew him: but he had not strength of mind enough to keep up with Lopez, who soon turned him out and remained alone in the government. At first they both signed in one line, denoting equality of power. Soon afterwards Lopez signed first, and Alonzo underneath him, as second: but at last Lopez said to Alonzo, "Andate, barbaro" (Go away, barbarian), and had himself elected President for ten years by a congress which he called together in

The Lopez Family.

His family was poor when he first entered the Government, and he himself, in Francia's time, was a poor lawyer glad to get a dollar fee. Carles Antonio Lopez was married to Dona Juana Carrillo. Both of them were "white," and both extremely stout. They had five children: three sons-Francisco Solano, Benancio, and Benigno-and two daughters-Inocencia and Rafaela-all of them very stout. Lopez I began his reign by pushing his children's fortunes in a most unscrupulous wap. He made his eldest son (afterwards Lopez II) General-in-chief of the Army and Minister of War. From an early age this young man was entrusted with a great deal of the executive power by his father, who used sometimes to pay him an official visit, on which occasion the foldingdoors were all thrown wide open with a rush, as he used to take his son by surprise. His second son, Benancio, was made colonel and commander of the garrison of Asuncion. The third, Benigno, was made major in the army, but not liking it, was promoted to be admiral of the fleet. This post, however, he also resigned, preferring a roving life. He was the great favorite of the old man, Each of the sons had a separate house and establishment: and they were all noted for their libertinism, especially the eldest and the youngest.

This unlimited authority of Lopez, which the sons also exercised under his auspices, made people very much afraid of saying or doing anything to incur their displeasure, They all got rich very quickly, by every means in their power. They used to offer a price for cattle far below the market price, and which people were afraid to refuse. They then sent the cattle to market, and sold them at any price they liked, as no one was allowed to sell cattle in the market when any belonging to the President's family were there. They also bought property at the same low prices, from private people and from the Goyernment. The ladies of the family established an exchange, where torn paper-money, which would no longer pass, was bought at a discount of sixpence in the dollar, and by their connection with the Government they changed it at the treasury for new paper of the full value. They also lent money on jewelry at a large profit, and anything they liked they kept, without any reference to the owner's

Mahits of the People.

The Paraguayan costume was, for men, a tall black hat such as is at present worn in Europe, a shirt with the front and cuff's beautifully embroidered, a pair of white drawers with a foot of fringe down to the ground, and three or four inches of embroidery above the fringe. Over these a "chiripa," or sort of sheet wrapped around the legs from the waist down to above the embroidery on the drawers, and secured by a searlet silk sash; no shoes, and a "poncho" hanging over the shoulder, The women wore a white chemise with short sleeves, embroidered and edged with lace, and the top of the chemise embroidered all around in black silk. They were nothing over their chemise down to the waist, where a scarlet sash secured a white petticoat embroidered with a broad black band half way down. They had no shoes. These costumes were only worn by the country people, and by those of the lower class in town. The women's chemises, called tupoi, are very beautiful, and look charming. The ladies and gentlemen in town dressed like Europeans, and the ladies showed generally very good taste. They were very ladylike and graceful, and any one going to a ball in Asuncion might have almost imagined himself in Paris.

In 1854 Lopez sent his son, General Lopez, to Europe as Minister to the different courts. He was eighteen months in Europe -- in England, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy. In this trip he picked up a great deal of superficial knowledge and some polish. It was by seeing the European armies, probably, that he imbibed a notion of imitating them, and playing Napoleon in South America. His mission had no particular object, beyond bringing Paraguay before the world.

The first Lopez died in 1862. A subscription was got up to erect a monu-ment to the memory of Lopez I. This was ostensibly a spontaneous motion of the citi zens, though in reality done by the order of Lopez II. It was arranged that no subscrip tions greater than five dollars (£1) should be received, and receipts for that amount were made out in the name of every one who was supposed to have five dollars, and sent round with a demand for the money, without asking whether the people wished or not to subscribe. This was done with foreigners as well as natives. In the month of June fifty-five thousand dollars were collected from Para guayans alone. The whole amount collected has disappeared, and of course no inquiries are made as to the reason, neither did any monument make its appearance,

The Bishop of Paraguay, Urvieta, was an old man, but still rode about on horseback. In Congress Lopez II referred to his old age. and proposed to get a bull from the Pope for a new bishop, to be ready at the decease of the old one. He got the bull for a country priest called Paiacios, a man about thirty-five years old, and one on whom he could count for anything.

The new President was feted with banquets and speeches, as it was deemed indecent to give balls so soon after the death of the late President.

Neither the first nor the second Lopez ever allowed anything to be said against Francia. Their own system would have been the next to come under criticism.

The War.

The forces of Paraguay at this time consisted of an army of eighty thousand men, a third of which were cavalry, and the rest infantry and artillery. The best men were picked out for cavairy and artillerymen. The cavalry was divided into regiments, and the infantry into battalions: the artillery nominally into regiments of horse, and battalions of heavy artillery.

There was at this time in the whole of Paraguay perhaps one hundred thousand horses, only half of which could gallop two or three miles. The Paraguayan horses were never good, and a terrible disease in the spine had latterly carried off the greater part of them, attacking generally the best

They had sufficient, but poor artillery. As in the French army, all officers were promoted from the ranks. Young men of good family who were enlisted had to take off heir shoes and go barefooted, as none of the Paraguayan soldiers were allowed to wear

Lopez in the Field.

Lopez was continually in great fear of being assassinated, and at night had a double cordon of sentinels round his house. This was afterwards increased to a treble one. During the daytime these were removed, and the guard was kept under an open roof next door to Lopez. People who wished to see him had to wait under this same roof. One evening I was waiting there to see Lopez, as were also several other officers, and a sergeant of the guard entered into conversation with me. After a short time there was a great stir, officers going in and out of Lopez's room: the guard relieved, and the other officers who were waiting all arrested. One of Lopez's aids-de-camp came and said to me, "His Excellency sends word to you to write down all the conversation you have had with the sergeant of the guard, and to bring it to-morrow morning." I went away, not expecting to be able to remember a twentieth part of the silly talk of the sergeant; but as things looked serious, I tried, and probably remembered it all. It filled a whole sheet of paper, and was all of it somewhat in this style:-"The sergeant asked me if Queen Victoria always were her crown when she went out to walk." "The sergeant asked me if I should wear the Paraguayran uniform when I went to England." It was sealed up and taken next morning to Lopez, about 7 A. M. He was not yet up, but the sergeant was already shot, and all the soldiers of the guard received a hundred lashes each. A few months afterwards I heard that the surgeant had been convicted of conspiring, with two men who had just returned from Uruguyana, to murder the President, and that the two men had been found that night in the yard of Lopez's house. The sergeant's manner that evening was certainly not that of a conspirator. Lopez never said a word about it to me, nor acknowledged receipt of the written conversation, probably feeling ashamed to do so.

A Correntino girl, who had come over with the army from Corrientes, tried to go away one day into the country, but was caught, and received sixty lashes in public on her bare flesh, which was considered a very good joke.

In the Paraguayan camp no correspondence was allowed between the army and their rela tives; women, however, were constantly coming and going, and these carried news to Asuncion of what was taking place in the camp. People were ordered to consider every day a new triumph for Lopez, and of course they dared not show that they did not think so, though many people in Asuncion expected every day to see the Allies march in. People there were kept well occupied, every family having orders to buy, make, and deliver within a certain period so many dozen shirts and drawers for the army. Almost every day, too, masses were said at the Cathedral "for the safety and welfare of Don Francisco Solano Lopez." These masses were paid for by private people.

If a Paraguayan, in the midst of his com-rades, was blown to pieces by a shell, they would yell with delight, thinking it a capital joke, in which they would have been joined by the victim himself had he been capable.

Levying on the Ladies.

Lopez's birthday was on July 24, and the date of his election to the presidency was October 16. Both days were kept, but the latter was specially marked. On these as well as on Christmas Day, and on one or two civil feast-days, Lopez held a levee, all the officers who had the uniform being in full dress. Lopez used to go to church, after which, at his house, all being assembled around him, the Bishop would address him a most complimentary speech, to which Lopez, who was a very good speaker, would reply at length.

After the reception, champagne, beer, etc. were served under the orange trees, and hundreds of toasts given, only to Lopez, as it was not allowable to toast any other person. He sometimes, however, had something more tangible than an address to remember the day In 1865 a magnificent Paraguayan flag, embroidered in gold, diamonds, rubies, etc., with gold and silver staff and mountings, was embroidered by the ladies of Asuncion; and

solid gold box with an equestrian statue of gold on it, was made in Asuncion, and sent lown by the ladies as a testimony of their patriotic feelings. The hints and ideas for these things emanated from headquarters, a lady friend of Lopez being the medium. No one, of course, dared refuse to contribute to-

Next (1868) the citizens had to make an offering, and this time there was no reserve as to the source of the idea, designs being made by request of the lady at headquarters, and from thence sent to Asuncion, where they were executed. The presents this time consisted of a sword of honor and a crown of laurel leaves in gold. Lopez sent one of his own swords to be remounted. The hilt was made with a Saint George and the Dragon on the guard, all of gold, with twenty-three brilliants and numbers of other stones in it. The sheath was of solid gold, with relieved ara-besques, and the whole was encased in another telescopic sheath, also of pure gold, with a golden statue on the top, and made so that when the telescopic part was shut up, the part which contained the hilt alone was visible, thus making a beautiful ornament on a table. The whole was laid on an immense silver salver.

Another patriotic demonstration was ordered to be made by the women, viz., to beg permission to take up arms and fight by the ide of their brethren. The offer was made to the Vice-President at Asuncion, and was declined for the present. Some twenty girls, however, belonging to the village of Aregua, got lances and white dresses with tricolor bands, and a sort of Scotch cap, designed by Mrs. Lynch, and they used to go about Asuncion singing patriotic hymns.

Paper had become very scarce. A great quantity was used in Paraguay, as there was always a document executed to show for everything which was done. Three new weekly papers were started, besides the Semauario, viz., the Centinela, in Spanish, with an article or two in Guarani: and the Lambare and the Cabiehui, both entirely in Guarani. The last-named was meant for a representative of Punch, but the jokes in it were very wretched, and sometimes scandalous. The Cabichui and the Centinela were illustrated by woodcuts made by two or three soldiers, from their own drawings, and were cut with a

M. Treuenfeldt, of the telegraph, established a paper manufactory, making some of cotton and some of "caraguata," turning out very respectable paper. All the government archives were overhauled, and the fly-leaves torn off and used for writing. Everything was written on as small a piece of paper as possible. There was a printing-press with the army, where Cabiclesi was printed. The articles for the Semanario were read to Lopez, and when approved were sent to town by tele graph; those which were written in town being sent by telegraph for his approval, the amount of correspondence that went through the wires being thus something marvellous. Pieces of cowhide were scraped and brought to a white surface, and bound up in books for writing journals, etc. Parchment was made from sheepskin, and after some trials was made equal to European parchment, This was used for the commissions of the officers.

Ink was made from a kind of black bean, by extracting the coloring matter with ashes. Soap was made by every division for its own consumption by boiling together for a time, varying from four to eight days, according to the quality of the ashes, fat meat and wood ashes. Three men used to be constantly employed in the woods burning these ashes, having to select a particular tree called "Youwu," to make strong ashes,

Salt was made formerly made a large scale at Lambare, from the river mud, but the women were too much occupied with other things to have time to make enough; consequently only the hospitals were supplied, and that insufficiently. The troops certainly had a fortnightly ration, but it was quite nominal, not being sufficient to salt one meal. Some months afterwards the men discovered in the Chaco a tree with very thick leaves, from which they extracted, by boiling, a substance resembling salt, but in taste like salt chalk, This, however, they ate, being in great want

Hides were stretched tight on large square frames, and scraped with steel tools till they were tolerably thin, after which they were thoroughly rubbed all over with the blunt point of a stick, till they at last became of the consistency of a very thick wash leather. These were then cut up and made into trowsers, etc.; but if the rain fell on them, they got so stiff that the wearer absolutely could not bend his legs. They had therefore to be given up.

The carpets from the ball-rooms of the club, the railway terminus, etc., in Asuncion, were cut into "ponchos" for the soldiers, and were so stiff that they stood out like advertising boards. As the winters in Paraguay are extremely cold when the south wind blows, the men suffered much from want of clothing.

Gunpowder was made, the sulphur being obtained from iron-pyrites, of which there is an abundance in Paraguay, and the saltpetre being manufactured from urine and decomposed animal substances.

Admiral Davis Outwitted.

On December 3 the United States ship Wasp again made her appearance, carrying an Admiral's and a Minister's flag. The new minister was General McMahon, sent to replace Mr. Washburn, whom he had met at Rio Janeiro. As Mr. Washburn had been subjected to some indignities on leaving Paraguay-especially in having two members of his legation forcibly taken from him while on his way to embark, thrown into irons and sent to the army to be judged-it was determined that Admiral Davis should go with a squadron of war vessels, and demand the surrender of these prisoners, and that, until they were given up, General McMahon should not land. The morning the Wasp arrived, Captain Kirkland went to see Lopez at his headquarters, and arranged that Lopez should meet the Admiral the same evening at Agostura. The meeting took place at my house, Lopez being so amiable and plausible that he delighted Admiral Davis, and made him really believe that Masterman and Bliss, the two prisoners demanded, were guilty of a horrible conspiracy. He told the Admiral that he himself wishe to give them up, but that the tribunals would not do so. However, Admiral Davis had some arguments with him in the shape of 11-inch guns, which would have been applied in a more persuasive manner than the Brazilians did theirs; and so on December 10, at night, Masterman and Bliss were sent to me, with orders to deliver them to Captain Kirkland as prisoners. I was only too glad to obey this order, as I knew it was only a farce. I could not, of course, see either Admiral Davis or Captain Kirkland to tell them my idea of their guilt. On the 12th General McMahon landed and went up to headquarters, where he remained some time with Lopez.

The Final Defeat of Lopez. On the morning of the 27th, after another

an album, bound in solid gold and stones, in a | bombardment, the Allies marched into Lopez's lines, the Argentines at the head; the few Paraguayans who were left made a desperate resistance, and fought individually against whole battalions, till they were cut down. The artillery was all dismounted, and two or three guns had been still firing, where they lay on the ground, propped up by heaps of earth. Such of the wounded Paraguayans as were able, and some two or three hundred sound ones, betook them to the woods in the rear of Lopez's house, and were soon surrounded by the enemy, and in more or less time all were made prisoners. Lopez himself had started off alone for Cerro Leon, with one or two companions, the moment he saw that the Allies were marching in, by a road he had lately made through the woods.

He went away in a great hurry, leaving to her fate Mrs. Lynch, who went out among the bullets, looking for him. She followed him, and got away, so did Generals Resquin and Cabellero, and the few dozen of his cavalry who were still sound and mounted.

All Lopez's baggage was taken, his carriages, clothes, papers, hat, gold-embroidered "poncho, etc., and even some of his female slaves with the baggage. A few lucky pri-soners were saved by the advance of the allies, as they captured an aid-de-camp of Lopez, whom he sent back from the road with an order to have them shot. He had shot his brother Benigno, the Bishop, Berges, Colonel Allen, the wife of Colonel Martinez, and General Barrios, on the 25th His sisters, Inocencia and Rafaela, he had taken away to Cerro Leon, after they had been repeatedly flogged by common soldiers, and lived on a cowhide for months.

The Future. Lopez's resources at the beginning of the year 1869 consisted of six thousand wounded men in hospital in the Cordillera, which is a ow range of hills, forty or tifty miles from Asuncion, and six from the line of railway. He had about twelve small field-pieces, no muskets, and no ammunition, and five small steamers which he had taken into the Rio de Manduvira. The Brazilians have purposely allowed many of their prisoners to go and join him, as they are determined not to leave Paragunyan of any age or sex alive; and when Lopez has got together as many men as it is possible for him to collect, they will fight again, and then again give him time to get up nother poor force.

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The business by these lines will be resumed on and after
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