

the future. Hitherto Mexico has refused all the accommodation by which such a peace could be obtained.

Whilst our armies have advanced from victory to victory, from the commencement of the war, it has always been with the olive-branch in their hands; and it has been in the power of Mexico, at every step, to arrest hostilities by accepting it.

One great obstacle to the attainment of peace has, undoubtedly, arisen from the fact, that Mexico has been so long held in subjection by one faction of military usurper after another, and such has been the condition of insecurity in which their successive Governments have been placed, that each has been deterred from making peace, lest, for this very reason, a rival faction might expel it from power. Such was the fate of President Herrera's administration in 1845, for being disposed even to listen to the overtures of the United States to prevent the war, as is fully confirmed by an official correspondence which took place in the month of August last, between him and his Government, a copy of which is herewith communicated. "For this cause alone, the revolution which displaced him from power was set on foot," by General Paredes. Such may be the condition of insecurity of the present Government.

There can be no doubt that the peaceable and well-disposed inhabitants of Mexico are convinced that it is the true interest of their country to conclude an honorable peace with the United States; but the apprehension of becoming the victims of some military faction or usurper may have prevented them from manifesting their feelings by any public act. The removal of any such apprehension would probably cause them to speak their sentiments freely, and to adopt the measures necessary for the restoration of peace. With a people distracted and divided by contending factions, and a Government subject to constant changes, by successive revolutions, the continued successes of our arms may fail to secure a satisfactory peace. In such event, it may become proper for our commanding generals in the field to give encouragement and assurances of protection to the friends of peace in Mexico in the establishment and maintenance of a free republican Government of their own choice, able and willing to conclude a peace which would be just to them, and secure to us the indemnity we demand. This may become the only mode of obtaining such a peace. Should such be the result, the war which Mexico has forced upon us would thus be converted into an enduring blessing to herself, and a relief to our military usurers, by whom she has been kept with a republican Government in the enjoyment of real independence, and domestic peace and prosperity, performing all her relative duties in the great family of nations, and promoting her own happiness by wise laws and their faithful execution.

If, after affording this encouragement and protection, and after all the persevering and sincere efforts we have made, from the moment Mexico commenced the war, and prior to that time, to adjust our differences with her, we shall ultimately fail, then we shall have exhausted all honorable means in pursuit of peace, and must continue to occupy her country with our troops, taking the full measure of indemnity into our own hands, and must enforce the terms which our honor demands.

To set otherwise, in the existing state of things in Mexico, and to withdraw our army without a peace, would not only leave all the objects of which we complain unredressed, but would be the signal for new and fierce civil dissensions and new revolutions—all alike hostile to peaceful relations with the United States.

Besides, there is a danger, if our troops were withdrawn before a peace was concluded, that the Mexican people, wearied with successive revolutions, and deprived of protection for their persons and property, might at length be inclined to yield to foreign influences, and cast themselves into the arms of some European monarch for protection from the anarchy and suffering which would ensue. This, for our own safety, and in pursuance of our established policy, we should be compelled to resist. We could never consent that Mexico should be thus converted into a monarchy governed by a foreign prince.

Mexico is our near neighbor, and her boundaries are continuous with our own, through the whole extent across the North American continent, from ocean to ocean. Both politically and commercially, we have the deepest interest in her regeneration and prosperity. Indeed, it is impossible that, with any just regard to our own safety, we can ever become indifferent to her fate.

It may be that the Mexican government and people have misconstrued or misunderstood our overtures, and our objects, in desiring to conclude an amicable adjustment of the existing differences between the two countries. They may have supposed that we would insist on terms degrading to the nation; or they may have drawn false inferences from the supposed division of opinion in the United States on the subject of the war, and may have calculated to gain much by protracting it, and indeed that we might ultimately abandon it altogether, without insisting on any indemnity territorial or otherwise. Whatever may be the false impressions under which they have acted, the adoption and prosecution of the energetic policy proposed must soon undeceive them.

In the future prosecution of the war, the army must be made to feel its pressure more than they have heretofore done. At its commencement, it was deemed proper to conduct it in a spirit of forbearance and liberality. With this end in view, early measures were adopted to conciliate as far as a state of war would permit, the mass of the Mexican population, to convince them that the war was waged not against the peaceful inhabitants of Mexico, but against their faithless government, which had commenced hostilities; to remove from their minds the false impressions which they, designing and interested rulers had artfully attempted to make, that the war on our part was one of conquest, and that it was against their religion and their churches, which were to be destroyed and overthrown, and that their rights of person and private property would be violated. To remove these false impressions, our commanders in the field were directed scrupulously to respect their religion, their churches, and their church property, which were in no manner to be violated; they were directed also to respect the rights of persons and property of all who should not take up arms against us.

Amnesty to this effect was given to the Mexican people by Major General Taylor, in a proclamation issued in pursuance of instructions from the Secretary of War, in the month of June, 1846, and again by Major General Scott, who acted upon his own responsibility, in

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The receipts into the treasury for the same period amounted to twenty-five million three hundred and forty-six thousand three hundred and ninety dollars and sixty cents, and during the six months under the act of 1846, the amount received from customs was seven million three hundred and forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty dollars and ninety cents, and during the six months under the act of 1846 the amount received was fifteen million nine hundred and fifty thousand five hundred and fifty-seven dollars and seventy-six cents.

The net revenue from customs during the year ending on the first of December, 1846, being the last year under the operation of the tariff act of 1842, was twenty-two million five hundred and seventy-one thousand four hundred and three dollars and twenty cents; and the net revenue from customs during the year ending on the first of December, 1847, being the first year under the operation of the tariff act of 1846, was about thirty-one million five hundred thousand dollars; being an increase of revenue for the first year under the tariff act of 1846, of more than eight million five hundred thousand dollars over that of the last year under the tariff act of 1842.

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