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MEXICO.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN ANSWER TO

*Resolution of the House of 22d ultimo, in relation to the alleged interference of our minister to Mexico in favor of the French.*

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JANUARY 6, 1863.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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*To the House of Representatives :*

In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d ultimo, in relation to the alleged interference of our minister to Mexico in favor of the French, I transmit a report from the Secretary of State, and the papers with which it is accompanied.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, *January 5, 1863.*

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, December 29, 1862.*

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant, requesting the President, "if not incompatible with the public service, to communicate any correspondence or information in his possession relating to the alleged interference of our minister to Mexico in favor of the French in the present war between the Mexican republic and the Emperor of the French, by signing a protest against the expulsion from Mexico of French subjects," has the honor to lay before the President the papers mentioned in the subjoined list.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

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*List of enclosures.*

Exhibits B 1 and B 2, accompanying Mr. Corwin's despatch No. 34, dated October 24, and received November 21, but not otherwise alluded to.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward, November 25, with enclosures.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, November 25, 1862.*

MR. SECRETARY: I have the honor to transmit, herewith enclosed, for the information of the government of the United States, the copies, which are mentioned in the annexed index, of the documents which I have just received from my government, and which show the condition of public affairs in Mexico up to the end of October last.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, sir, the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, &amp;c., &amp;c., &amp;c.

*Index of the documents which the Mexican legation in Washington this day transmits to the Department of State of the United States, annexed to its note of this date.*

No.	Date.	From whom and to whom	Contents.
* * *	* * *	* * * * *	* * * * *
5	1862. Oct. 3	The diplomatic corps in Mexico to Mr. Fuente.	Requesting that the order of the Mexican government, expelling from the country Jecker and other obnoxious Frenchmen, should not be carried into effect.
6	Oct. 6	Mr. Fuente to the diplomatic corps in Mexico.	Informing them that the Mexican government cannot accede to the foregoing request.
7	Oct. 2	Mr. Wagner to Mr. Fuente.	Asking that judicial proofs of the criminality of the expelled Frenchmen be presented.
8	Oct. 6	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Wagner.	Replies to the foregoing, setting forth that the order of expulsion has been a purely administrative measure.
9	Oct. 9	Mr. Wagner to Mr. Fuente.	Transmits a protest from the house of Jecker against the expulsion of its principal partner.
10	Oct. 24	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Wagner.	Returning to him the foregoing protest as inadmissible.
11	Oct. 2	Mr. Corpancho to Mr. Fuente.	Interposes his good offices in behalf of the obnoxious Frenchman expelled.
12	Oct. 10	Mr. Fuente to Mr. Corpancho.	In reply to the foregoing.
13	Oct. 14	Mr. Corpancho to Mr. Fuente.	Recognizing the magnanimity, justification, and clemency with which the Mexican government has acted in this affair.
14	-----	-----	Ten intercepted letters, addressed to Mr. Jecker by his relatives and friends in Europe.
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ROMERO.

## No. 5.

[Translation.]

MR. MINISTER: The undersigned, members of the diplomatic corps, present in Mexico, have learned with regret of the arrest of various foreigners, to whom the Mexican authorities have given the order to depart from the capital within forty-eight hours, and to leave the republic.

The undersigned indulge the belief that the Mexican government will not carry into effect a measure so extreme without having evident proofs that these foreigners have committed hostile acts against the state, and that their presence in Mexico offers some real peril.

The undersigned, in consequence, trust the government of the republic will be pleased to communicate to them its final resolution, until which time they reserve such further and necessary communications as the measure referred to may require.

The undersigned have the honor to renew to his excellency the minister of foreign relations the assurances of their high consideration.

THOMAS CORWIN,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary United States.*

MEXICO, *October 2, 1862.*

E. DE WAGNER.

FRANCISCO DE P. PASTOR.

AUGUST T. KINT DE RODEMBEC.

MANUEL NICOLAS CORPANCHO.

NARCISO DE FRANCISCO MARTIN.

His Excellency the MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS  
*of the Mexican Republic.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

## No. 6.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico, October 3, 1862.*

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations of the Mexican republic, has received the collective note which their excellencies the members of the diplomatic corps, present in the city of Mexico, have done him the honor of directing to him under date of to-day, with reference to the order issued by the government for the arrest of certain foreigners, their withdrawal from the capital within forty-eight hours, and their departure from the republic.

Their excellencies add that they indulge the belief that the general government will not carry into effect this order without having evident proofs that these foreigners have committed hostile acts against the state, and that their presence in Mexico will be really dangerous. And, finally, their excellencies express the desire that the government of the republic will communicate to them its decision in this affair, reserving to themselves to make to it such further communications as may be rendered necessary by the measure in question.

The undersigned, after having received the instructions of the President,

hastens to answer the points which, in the same terms employed by the diplomatic corps, he has just stated.

It is true that if the government hesitated a moment as to the full conviction which it has that it has decreed this expulsion upon sufficient grounds, it would take very good care as to carrying it into effect, and in this the collective note does it but justice; but the undersigned regrets very much that the presumption of rectitude on the part of the general government was not extended to the time when it took the step treated of, and that it should have been limited solely to the interval comprehended between the adoption of the resolution and its execution.

And, notwithstanding, that presumption *prima facie* would have been reasonable, for it is the ordinary rule of judgment which justifies the acts of legitimate governments in the exercise of their faculties until another state of things is proved.

But the undersigned desires to persuade himself that the omission just alluded to was not intentional and deliberate.

Entering into the merits of the affair, the undersigned has to repeat in this note what he has already had the honor to state verbally to one of the ministers with whom he has conferred privately and confidentially with reference to this affair, that is to say, that the federal government, upon sufficient evidence, examined in a dispassionate and lengthened council, had become profoundly convinced that the foreigners in question were, by their conduct, violating that neutrality which is their duty, and that, for this reason, their residence in the country gravely compromised the public tranquility, and was not without peril to these individuals personally.

By the constitution and laws of Mexico the government of the federation is invested, at all times, with the faculty of issuing passports and of causing any foreigner not naturalized to leave the country, whose presence shall be shown to be prejudicial to the public tranquility.

This right of the government becomes also a duty under the present grave situation.

The action of the government has to be as sudden as are serious the circumstances in which the republic is placed, and repressing these dangers solely by measures proper in even normal times, the government of the president has desired to prove once again, after so many times, that it exercises with moderation the right of national defence, although a war is being made upon Mexico equally unjust in its causes as in its measures and ends.

The final resolution of the government, therefore, is to carry into effect the disposition to which the honorable members of the diplomatic corps have referred.

The undersigned has pleasure in reiterating to their excellencies the assurances of his high consideration.

JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE.

His Excellency THOMAS CORWIN,  
*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
 of the United States, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.*

WASHINGTON, November 25, 1862.

A true copy.

ROMERO.



## No. 7.

[Translation.]

MEXICO, *October 2, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: I have just learned that a dozen of Frenchmen have been arrested this morning, and that orders have been issued to them to leave this capital within forty-eight hours, and to quit the Mexican territory.

The expulsion of these foreigners should not be proceeded with without the judicial proof being first given that they are really dangerous to the republic. This measure, even if it were justified in point of public right and of existing treaties, will undoubtedly give rise to new reclamations, demands of indemnity, and new burdens upon Mexico, which its friends will see with regret.

I hope, therefore, that the government will proceed with the justice and circumspection which such a step demands, and that in any case it will present legal and irrefutable proofs of the hostile acts of these foreigners, and the real injury their stay in Mexico would cause.

In default of this, in view of the trust confided to me, I shall be obliged, with the most sincere regret, to hold the members of the government personally responsible for all the losses and injuries caused to the parties interested.

Accept, Mr. Minister, the assurances of my high consideration.

E. DE WAGNER.

His Excellency Sr. Don JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE,

*Minister of Foreign Relations, &c., &c., &c.*WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

## No. 8.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico, October 5, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: I have received the letter which your excellency did me the honor to direct to me on the 2d instant, with reference to the French subjects who had been ordered to be arrested and to leave the capital within forty-eight hours, and to depart from the territory of the republic; and it is very painful to me to say to you that his excellency the president has seen with as much surprise as displeasure the conceptions which that letter contains. This expulsion is a purely governmental act, having nothing to do with the judicial order, with regard to which it forms an entire exception, as is seen by the passages of the constitution and the laws which treat of it.

The judicial proof which your excellency asks for would be valueless, for there are no judicial proofs worthy to be called such, except those that are received and examined in conformity with the rules of judicial proceedings; so that, according to the pretensions of your excellency, it would have been necessary to proceed to the banishment by a formal trial, in place of a proceeding purely administrative, or both courses at once; and these proceedings would be so unusual and foreign to practice that it is a waste of time to refute them. But if the design of your excellency has not been to exact, in this case, a true judicial proof, but simply the intervention of the judge to place on record the data which the government should present to it, it is very clear that by this means

the judge would be nothing more than the blind agent of the government, which, it appears to me, would not satisfy the desires of your excellency.

I have to overcome a profound repugnance in having to speak of the elementary principles of administrative right, but it is necessary to say, although all the world knows it, that the means of information in governmental practice are very different from those usual in the judicial order; that the promptness with which the resolutions in detail of the government have to be dictated and complied with does not permit the preliminary of judicial proofs; and that when this rapidity has to be extreme, because the circumstances which demand the measure are imperative; and, finally, when it is necessary for their success that no one should know of them, or have reason to anticipate them, as precisely occurs in the case of orders of banishment, then preliminary judicial proof would be in every aspect not only incongruous, but destructive to the ends of justice.

Happily this is not anywhere required, and a multitude of governments banish without contradiction, and without the necessity of these strange preliminaries, such foreigners as may be found prejudicial to the public tranquillity.

While in a state of war, it would be difficult to imagine a government of the federation that would render illusory and vain the exercise of a faculty with which it is invested by the constitution and laws of the country, even in times of profound peace.

Your excellency has been pleased to add that even the full justification for this measure would not impede the certain presentation of reclamations against the republic, and that there would rest upon it, for this reason, burdens which would be seen with regret by its friends.

We are thankful in supposing that our friends would regret to see unjust obligations imposed upon us; but the good offices of friendship would most assuredly be better employed in assisting to prevent an act of injustice against us before exhorting us to renounce our legitimate means of defence—that is to say, to accept another manifest injustice.

The government has proceeded in this affair, as in all, with an unimpeachable spirit of justice, and it was only after mature deliberation that it took the step now treated of; but it denies its obligation to furnish to any one judicial proofs of the reasons upon which its resolution was based.

I have to repel, most energetically, the protest with which the letter of your excellency terminates.

Your excellency cannot cite in your support any other usage, right, or reason than the part now for some time taken by the government of France and its agents to procure by all possible means the injury, the humiliation, and the ruin of the government of Mexico.

But neither the Emperor of the French nor your excellency has any right whatever to refuse to recognize in the president of the federation the representative of the republic. Only before him are the members of this government responsible for their acts, but not before the authority of any foreign power, be it what it may. Equally valid would it be for us to impose upon your excellency penalties for what you may do in conformity with the power and instructions of the government which you represent.

This is with reference to the question of right; but in passing to the question of fact, it does not in any way surprise the Mexican government that, after so many violations of the rights of nations, there should now be committed that of refusing to consider the president and his ministers as a moral entity, invested with the powers of the country, and acting by virtue of them; but only as a collection of private individuals to be subjected directly to the rage of the invaders of the country. This offensive threat has no other explanation than that it is designed to intimidate the chief of the nation and his ministers; but in this your excellency has been most pitifully mistaken, for the threat of an unjust attack only inspires fear in men without honor and without dignity. In vain

your excellency appeals to the trust committed to your charge for a reason in support of this unjustifiable threat. For the government of Mexico, your excellency has no other trust, with reference to French subjects, than that of extending to them your friendly protection; and in this trust it is impossible to find any authorization for the protest referred to, because it would be exceeding your rights, even supposing your excellency was invested with the full diplomatic representation of France. For this reason, although with great regret on my part, I am obliged to announce to your excellency that henceforward no proceedings of your excellency in favor of French subjects will be taken in consideration by the government of Mexico when your excellency, upon commencing them, shall exceed, as in this case, the limits of your commission.

Your excellency will be pleased to accept the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE.

His Excellency Baron E. DE WAGNER,  
*Minister Resident of Prussia, &c., &c., &c.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

No. 9.

[Translation.]

MEXICO, *October 9, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: I have the honor to transmit to your excellency an extract of a petition which has just been presented to me by the house of J. B. Jecker & Co., relative to the arrest of the principal of the house.

Reserving to the latter his rights and those of his creditors, I have the honor to renew to your excellency the assurances of my high consideration.

E. DE WAGNER.

His Excellency JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE,  
*Minister of Foreign Relations, &c., &c., &c.*

DOCUMENT CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE.

[Extract.]

MEXICO, *October 3, 1862.*

May we again be permitted, Mr. Minister, to ask the benevolent attention of your excellency for a moment to the grave injuries which have been inflicted upon us. Mr. Jecker is the principal of the house which bears his name, and to him belongs the direction of its affairs, not only as principal partner but in virtue of the contract made with his creditors, who, confiding in his experience and special knowledge, had left to him the care of great enterprises and of immense interests. From the sudden arrest of Mr. Jecker will necessarily result a complete paralyzation of all its enterprises now under way; and, as according to the mining ordinances, the mines, the labors on which are suspended, may be denounced in a very short time, the house will lose not only the immense capitals it has employed in these enterprises, but the property itself of all its mines and of all its reduction establishments.

To prevent such a disaster, it is necessary to employ in time the necessary

funds, which will in future be impossible, as Mr. Jecker is no longer at the head of these works, with which he was specially charged.

The losses which will follow from this situation of affairs will be such that it is not now possible to fix a sum, however enormous; the future alone can inform us.

In the name of Mr. Jecker, in our name, in the name of our creditors, French, English, Spanish, and American, we protest against the losses and injuries caused and to be caused to us by the arrest of Mr. Jecker, reserving to ourselves our rights in full, to the end of making use of them at the proper time.

We beg your excellency to favorably receive our petition, and we have the honor to be, &c.,

J. B. JECKER & CO.

His Excellency Baron E. DE WAGNER,  
*Minister Resident of Prussia, &c., &c., &c.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

No. 10.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico, October 24, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: I have had the honor to receive the note of your excellency, dated the 9th instant, and the copy enclosed in it of a protest directed to your excellency by the house of Jecker & Co., with reference to the arrest of its principal partner, and I see that your excellency, with this motive, reserves the rights of Jecker and of his creditors.

Very unpleasant it is to me, Mr. Minister, that my hopes have proved in vain of averting, by the declarations I have before had the honor of directing to your excellency, a dispute such as that which your excellency has raised by the note referred to.

The government of Mexico cannot admit protest or reserve whatever of rights against such of its acts as take place in virtue of the national sovereignty.

A protest is made to protect or to acquire a right, but no one can contend that a foreigner can reclaim against the measure of his arrest and banishment; always supposing that the power by virtue of which he is made to suffer the one and the other is conferred upon the general government by the constitution and laws of the republic without other limit than its wise discretion, and not subject, consequently, to revision or to demand of responsibility.

The protest, therefore, is without foundation, and is offensive to the dignity of the republic.

This reserve of rights, which, for a favorable time, are left consecrated in the protest received by your legation, has only one explanation, and that is, that in order to give them value a time is awaited, when, abandoning the course of pacific reclamations, which undoubtedly would be rejected, for their manifest lack of reason and of justice, and even exceeding the limits which civilization has imposed upon the rights of war, reparations will be exacted from the ministers of the present cabinet, as your excellency has had the boldness to pretend, on another occasion, treating of this same affair.

But if such is the idea of this protest, as everything induces the belief, the government of Mexico has one reason the more for repelling it.

For these reasons I find it necessary, although not without great regret, to return to your excellency your note, with the protest which your excellency has desired to sustain in it.

Your excellency will be pleased to accept the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE.

His Excellency Baron E. DE WAGNER,  
*Minister Resident of Prussia, &c., &c., &c.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

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No. 11.

[Translation.]

LEGATION OF PERU,  
*Mexico, Oct. 2, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: The undersigned, chargé d'affaires and consul-general of the republic of Peru, has the honor of addressing himself to the most excellent the minister of foreign relations of the United Mexican States, communicating to him that, by a note which he has just received from his honorable colleague, the minister of his Majesty the King of Prussia, he has been informed of the actual imprisonment of the persons of some French subjects by order of the government, whom he thinks it is intended to expel from the republic without form of trial, and when, in the opinion of the said representative, they are in every way inoffensive.

His excellency the minister of Prussia has requested the undersigned to interpose his good offices with the government of your excellency, and the undersigned hastens to do so, relying on the justification of the Mexican government, and in that it will not see in this step but the lively interest which the undersigned feels that the difficulties in which the relations between Mexico and France are at this day, unfortunately, involved, may not be aggravated anew, and also because a measure (in the event of its being hasty) may not happen to the dishonor of the reputation of the Mexican republic.

The undersigned concludes by requesting your excellency to consider the act which prompts this communication under the point of view, eminently civilizing and humanitarian, which has ever guided your policy, and he avails himself with pleasure of this occasion to renew to you the assurances of distinguished consideration and high esteem with which he subscribes himself your most obedient servant,

MANUEL NICOLAS CORPANCHO.

The Most Excellent the MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS  
*of the United Mexican States.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

No. 12.

[Translation.]

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico*, October 10, 1862.

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations of the Mexican republic, had the honor to receive in due course the note which the chargé d'affaires and consul-general of Peru addressed to him on the 2d of the present month, interposing his good offices in reference to the imprisonment and banishment of several French subjects.

The undersigned requests his excellency to excuse him for not having replied more opportunely to this note, first, because of the illness which recently overtook the undersigned, and, furthermore, because a very few days after the receipt of the note at the department the undersigned spoke with your excellency upon the subject-matter of it.

Apart from this, Mr. Corpancho having joined his name to that of the other honorable members of the diplomatic corps, to authorize the collective note which was sent to the undersigned upon this disagreeable affair, when once replied to, as it was, the replying to this one did not now appear so urgent, which had come subscribed by his excellency alone.

The undersigned can, at last, comply with this duty by making known to Mr. Corpancho that the government of the federation is grateful to him, as it is due both for the interest which he is pleased to take in that our present situation may not become more complicated, as for the terms in which he urges the government to consider this matter anew.

But his excellency must persuade himself that the government of the federation cannot nor ought not to think that the abandonment of its means of defence will infuse moderation in the counsels of an enemy which wages war against it in open violation of the law of nations. Furthermore, in order to respond worthily to the unlimited confidence of the country, the government should remove those foreigners from the Mexican territory who, by their vituperable conduct, had come to be a constant threat to its internal peace, and the undersigned hopes that Mr. Corpancho will convince himself, upon reflection thereon, that neither humanity nor civilization suffer any offence whatever, because, under extraordinary circumstances, the government should exercise an authority with which it finds itself invested in ordinary times. This act of interior administration is really one which cannot be attacked.

The undersigned would have desired that the high obligations of the general government should not have prevented him from accepting the good offices of Mr. Corpancho, whose benevolent dispositions towards Mexico are so manifest in this act of his excellency, as in all his official correspondence with this government.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to your excellency the assurances of his high consideration.

JUAN A. DE LA FUENTE.

Mr. MANUEL NICOLAS CORPANCHO,

*Chargé d'Affaires of the Republic of Peru.*WASHINGTON, *November 25*, 1862.

A true copy.

ROMERO.



[Translation.]

No. 13.

LEGATION OF PERU,  
*Mexico, October 14, 1862.*

The undersigned, chargé d'affaires and consul-general of the republic of Peru, has had the honor of receiving the despatch of his excellency the minister of foreign relations, with which he has been pleased to reply in the most courteous terms to that which the undersigned addressed to him, interposing his good offices in favor of the French subjects who have been banished from the Mexican territory.

The undersigned, who is the first to acknowledge the measures of the government which are exercised within the circle of its sovereign attributes, and who, in the act of his friendly mediation, has not departed from this fundamental idea, ought not to have, and has not, anything to say in reply to a measure which has been carried into effect in the exercise of the rights which are beyond the examination of the undersigned. Upon this point the undersigned has never entertained the slightest doubt, and thus the official part which he has taken in this act, both in conjunction with his respectable colleagues, the gentlemen members of the diplomatic corps, and separately, has not signified the disavowal of the sovereignty and independence of the government, nor even the extra limitation of powers which are not annexed to his public character and are not derived from it. The magnanimity, and even the clemency, with which the Mexican government fulfils its great duties in the midst of the storm through which the republic is passing, were the motives which encouraged the undersigned to hope that the condition of the subjects of a power with which Peru maintains friendly relations might in some manner be modified, and whose minister, accidentally charged with the protection of these, besought the assistance of the undersigned. He regrets that in this instance the government has not been able to reconcile the generosity of its feelings with the exigencies of its obligations, and that it has had no room for the moderation of which it has given us evidences, which elevate, in the highest degree, the name of Mexico among the nations who profess in times of war the most humane principles.

It has, therefore, been most gratifying to the undersigned that the enlightened administration of his excellency the president has become fully satisfied of the entirely friendly spirit which controlled him in the act upon which this communication dwells. The sentiments which his excellency the minister of foreign relations has avowed in it are the same with which he has ever been inspired in behalf of a republic which that of Peru desires to see always free and independent and sovereign, and at peace with all the nations of the world.

The undersigned accepts, recognizing their full value, the reasons which his excellency has been pleased to express to him, to explain to him the slight delay in his reply, it being matter of regret to him to find among them the illness of Mr. La Fuente, in whose talents and patriotism Mexico possesses such well-founded hopes.

Wishing him a speedy recovery, the undersigned is most happy to renew to him the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

MANUEL NICOLAS CORPANCHO.

The Most Excellent the MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS,  
*Of the United Mexican States.*

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

No. 14.

[Translation.]

## INTERCEPTED CORRESPONDENCE,

*Addressed to the French subject J. B. Jecker, residing in the city of Mexico; published by authority of the Minister of Foreign Relations.*

PARIS, August 31, 1862.

MY DEAR UNCLE: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, dated in Mexico, the 16th July—the delay in the arrival of which has caused me so much uneasiness, not coming to hand until four days after the receipt of the July mails, that I could not help manifesting it in my last letter of the 15th August. Yours arrived on the 17th, the delay being due, according to the *Indépendance Belge*, to a superior order, which clearly indicates the uneasiness of the government with reference to the position of Lorencez. The order prescribed the suspension of the distribution of the letters from Mexico until the cabinet of his Majesty should have fully examined its despatches.

I have also just received your last, of 27th July, at hand, by way of Southampton.

Complete *statu quo*—paralyzation of affairs—*inertia* of Lorencez! Fortunately, Forey is on the way to take the direction of the war, and will be there by the beginning of the last half of September, as it is now some twelve or thirteen days since he left Europe. He aspires to a marshalship, and will not sleep on the road.

As this packet brought scarcely any news, I have availed myself of your letter, and that of Javier, to write immediately a short article upon the refusal of Juarez to ratify the Prim-Doblado treaty, and I have taken care to make specially apparent the sagacity of the conduct and the correctness of the ideas of Mr. de Saligny with reference to the liability of Juarez and of his government. *While Saligny is so useful to us, it is well to employ all possible means to strengthen his credit.* The journals will enlarge upon this theme from patriotism, and will contrast the triumph of his policy with the inefficiency of Prim. In conclusion, I touch lightly upon the affair of the bonds, showing the impossibility of believing in the protests of Juarez against private contracts, celebrated with the solemn guarantee of the legations, when he gives such proofs of his lack of honor. This article, I believe, will produce a salutary effect and will attract attention, being the first to expose the Jesuitism of Juarez, now that the packet brings us no news whatever from Mexico.

As you do not make in your last letter any inquiries to which I have to respond, I will embrace this opportunity to communicate to you some items of information which, I think, will be interesting to the house, and which I have collected with much care. I have had some difficulty in my relations with father's friends on account of my young appearance, and they were inclined to treat me in a formal manner; but, thank Heaven, after some persistence on my part, and some careful conversations to show them how fully I was informed with reference to the business, they have given me their full confidence, and I am now in a position to be useful to the house to the utmost extent of my ability. To proceed: Your letter of the 16th July, directed to the receptor by way of San Nazario, has been presented entire before the eyes of his Majesty, as has been done with the previous ones *when their tenor has permitted*, and I believe the same has taken place with that received by this packet. His Majesty likes your clear and concise style, and your general observations have attracted his attention. Our friend has particularly recommended to me to charge you to send your letters in two separate sheets, one of which can treat of general

matters of observations on the course of events and of their direction, *leaving it to your sagacity to give them such a turn as may be advantageous*, and of producing a close connexion between the interests of the house and the general interests, although without insisting too much upon this point. The other sheet can treat of confidential matters.

The person whom you believed in Orizaba when you wrote your last letter has returned to France since the 16th August. He remained a month at Vera Cruz without being able to go to Orizaba, because being on friendly terms with Mr. de Saligny, and also having very intimate relations with Lorencez, he would not have known what to have done between these two gentlemen. He also remained some time in Martinique. I had a very long conversation with him on the 23d August, the day of his arrival in Paris, to which place I again returned on the 27th, as he was to leave the 2d September, in order to arrive in Mexico in October, as I wrote to my father. The 27th he suddenly changed his mind, and his voyage was deferred without my being able to penetrate the motives of this sudden decision, when all had already left for the campaign, and he only gave as a reason the useless cost of his residence there, when it was perfectly well understood what we had to do by the tenor of his instructions.

However, in the course of the conversation, in speaking of how false his position there would be, the remark was dropped that he had insisted strongly that the influence which we have should be employed to procure for him from the Emperor some official post there, in order that his position might be established, and that in the next visit he would give the reasons for the new decision, although professing that he should continue acting without reserve.

I suppose he has some other motive, but as from want of time I have not been able to take the necessary steps to inform myself with reference to it, my opinion does not rest upon certain data.

There was in Mexico one Mr. Lapiere, an adjutant of Almonte, an insinuating man, accustomed to intrigue, but in bad standing with the French army, from which he had separated under somewhat unfavorable circumstances. Desiring, at any cost, to use his talents, and seeing that Almonte was slipping out of his hands, he commenced, in Mexico, intriguing to gain the confidence of Mr. de C., and even wrote to Paris, desiring, like a prudent man, to have two strings to his bow. He has since returned here, charged to bring to his Majesty the communications and explanations of Mr. de Saligny, and has carried his mission to a successful issue.

He renewed his approaches in Paris, whence he left on his return on the 2d July. It is believed that the party solicited, embarrassed by the petition of Mr. de C., has arranged with this individual, who, up to a certain point, had been forced upon him, and who has manifested himself very accommodating, because, being less scrupulous than the other, he counts more upon what the future has in store for him, and has not asked money in advance, which is a good deal, as he fills at the same time another mission. Probably he may be employed *ad interim*, as I believe it is always the intention to send C. to Mexico, when the situation becomes more clearly defined. In fact, "if the policy of Forey is diametrically opposed to that of Saligny on account of different impressions," said C. to me this morning, "and if it becomes necessary for Saligny to return to France, it would be a stupidity on my part to go there now, because, on account of the relations which connect me with him, I should be obliged to associate myself with his fortune, and to return in his company, without the ability to be of any further use to the house. It is better to wait the impression which the first letters of Forey make upon the Emperor, and then I can go in any event; because if Saligny is relieved I can, free from all influence, follow another line of conduct, and still be useful, because I do not believe, counting the time necessary to install a new government, that the business of the bonds will come up before November."

C. has had a very long conversation with his Majesty, in which, according to the established ceremonial, he was limited in replying to the questions put to him. There was no allusion, direct nor indirect, to the affairs of the house. The impressions drawn from the interview are the following, which I communicate to you, because they are the views of a man of ability, who, in his visit to Mexico, has formed very correct ideas of men and things, and because they indicate with clearness his idea of the policy of the Emperor: "His Majesty has not yet been able," he says to me, "to come to a definite resolution with reference to the affairs of Mexico, in the midst of the contradictory information which he receives. He examines everything that reaches him, and will only form an opinion after consulting all possible sources of information. Notwithstanding, in the midst of all this, the mission of Mr. Lapierre and the efforts of Mr. de Saligny have been attended with complete success, and the unfavorable impressions caused by the communications of Lorencez have been completely removed. This Lapierre has tact, and has labored with energy, and his efforts have gained their object. The letters of Saligny have much pleased his Majesty, and even kept up some respect for Almonte. I insinuated something to him with reference to the probable candidature of Santa Anna, but I was not able to discover in his impassible face any indication of assent. The idea of the Emperor appears to me to be this: Fearing to mark out at such a distance, and with so slight a knowledge of what is passing, a line of policy which might later embarrass the triumph of the expedition, provoking dissensions, he has confided almost entirely to Forey the care of establishing such order of things as may be necessary. He has no intention to relieve Mr. de Saligny, but the *role* of the latter is too limited to struggle with the new general. With regard to Lorencez, he will return to obscurity, as he well deserves.

"His Majesty greatly desires one or two battles, to restore their lustre to the French arms, and to cause public opinion more readily to accept the necessity of so considerable an expenditure of force."

Permit me, my dear uncle, notwithstanding this letter is already very long, to state also the opinions of C—— with reference to what should be done by the house. These are valuable, not only from the information he has acquired in his visit, but from the intimate knowledge he has of the men placed at the head of the expedition. I let him continue. "My attention was attracted on arriving by hearing all the world talking of the bond business, on the steamer, at Vera Cruz, and in the camp. No one but knows of it, and the efforts employed to discredit them among the officers of the expedition have been completely successful.

"All the French residents of Vera Cruz are liberals. They are in constant relations with the soldiers, and for all the evils they suffer they throw the blame always upon the affair of the bonds, because they consider it the cause of the continuation of the war.

"The reactionaries fear their entire and full recognition, because it would burden the treasury. The liberals execrate them, and the French believe the calumnies employed to depreciate them, so that I can truly say that *I have not encountered any one in Mexico but M. De Saligny who sustains them.*

"Forey will arrive meanwhile; Forey, of violent character, caustic, malevolent, and who refers everything to the military standard, which, for him, is superior to all else. By the decree which relieved La Graviere, the military element, which he represented, was made subject to the diplomatic, as Saligny remained invested with full powers during war, which is an occurrence without precedent. It is, therefore, self-evident that Forey will adopt the opinion of the officers who surround him, and that he will look upon the business with an unfavorable eye, to which must be added that all the chiefs also dislike it—Jurien, Roze, Russel, Lacroix, Doazan, &c., &c.

"Saligny cannot struggle against all this, and he will be obliged to return.

The business has been strongly recommended to Forey; but it is necessary to bear in mind that the influence that sustains our business, as French, is *very great in high places*, but less among the military chiefs, and Forey, who bears almost unlimited powers, will be a species of viceroy, doing whatever he pleases. The opinion of our friends is that he will be against the business, and that it would have been desirable that there should have gone in his place Trechu, a man as reliable as he is able, and of fine manners."

"I acknowledge," adds C., "that Forey can do nothing more than retard the recognition of the bonds, because the sole judge of their validity is the proper tribunal of Paris, and that it will be impossible to dispute their justice, presenting them thus, that is, not reclamations, nor a payment, nor seventy-five millions, but simply the execution of a law of the treasury of Mexico. We have to insist, also, upon the slight value of Mexican paper, which can never be sold for over fifty per cent.

"I would consent, notwithstanding, were I in the place of the house, to some composition by which the chances and the tediousness that would attend a decision by the tribunals might be avoided.

"Appearances could be saved by stating that no arrangement could be consented to that did not have some other guarantee than the faith of the Mexican government, but that an arrangement under the auspices of France would be accepted with pleasure."

Nothing yet of the memoir of Payno, nor of the arrival of D. Ramon Pacheco. The papers speak only of a confidential letter of Juarez to the Emperor, arrived by the last English packet. In default of any attack upon us, it is in every point of view useless to publish the defence of the house, and such is the settled opinion of our friends. It will be well to send copies of it to all the departments, and to such persons as may be able to have any influence with reference to the recognition of the bonds; but it is not desirable to circulate them among the public. The best way will be to take advantage of publications in Mexico, when the French shall have entered there. Secret means can meanwhile be better and more safely employed, and for this reason I sent four copies of the defence of the house a few days since to the editor of the *Indépendance Belge*, a paper very hostile and of great circulation, by the hands of one of my friends, who exercises a great influence with that gentleman, and I hope to convince him of the justice of the affair. The same friend has had a long conference with Mr. De Laumieres, general-in-chief of the artillery in Mexico. As he is intimate with him, he has entered fully into the business of the bonds, and has convinced him, and got his promise to use all his influence, which is very great with the expeditionary corps, in their favor. You should also see General Neigre.

I have to communicate to you a piece of good news. Suberbeille is dead. As he leaves many heirs, the house will no longer have the direction it had during his life. Rascon, a friend of Escaudon, is also dead.

I enclose a number of the *Bulletin of Laws*, which contains the decree of your naturalization. It would not have been printed till the end of October, as there are many others which should have been published first; but as I was aware of its importance, I took such steps with those in charge of its insertion—availing myself also of my friends—that I carried my point. I will send two other copies on the 15th of September.

Adieu, my dear uncle. Desiring that your health may continue good, and taking the most lively interest in the favorable issue of your affairs, I am your affectionate nephew,

LOUIS ELSESSER.

P. S.—I shall not omit any efforts to hasten the departure of Mr. De C., as in your last letters you indicate that you desire it. By way of San Nazario I will write you anything interesting I may learn.



PORENTUI, *August 24, 1862.*

MY DEAR BROTHER: What a convenience is this packet of San Nazario, which enables us to get news from you every fifteen days. Up to the present time it has not been necessary for business, but now it will be. Any way, it relieves our anxiety with reference to yourselves and the perils to which we believe you are exposed.

When you receive the letters by this mail you will already have made the acquaintance of the Zouaves. How consoling is this thought. I congratulate you, with all my heart. How interesting will be your letters of the coming month; give me many details.

They say here that General Lorencez is crazy, and that Valaze manages everything for him. Mr. De G——, who knows his family, says that it is not improbable, for this disease is hereditary in his family. This circumstance has been very unfortunate for you, and much has it caused you to lose.

With reference to the pamphlets of Payno, which you fear so much, I do not believe they will be published. My husband has probably told you of the steps he has taken with the director of the press, and the petitions he has addressed to him have gained the promise that they shall not be printed in France, at least for the present. I have not so much fear now, for its publication would be difficult, since the press has received orders not to insert anything with reference to Mexico, and they are completely silent upon this head. They even say the Emperor has made use of reprisals, ordering the detention of all the letters coming from Mexico, directed to the correspondence of the government of Juarez. Will they be published, as has been done in Mexico? I do not believe so, but it would be very amusing and curious.

Your loving sister,

ELSESSER JECKER.

PORENTUI, *August 27.*

Feeling itself almost anticipated and closely watched by Wyke, the French government lets nothing transpire with reference to its projects of protectorate, colonization, &c. Not less than eighteen generals go out with the expeditionary corps, for which reason it must be very considerable.

*This affair costs a great deal.* How will the government be indemnified so as to satisfy public opinion, if the revenues of the state (twenty millions per annum) are mortgaged in advance?

PORENTUI, *August 24, 1862.*

MY DEAR JECKER: I believe that affairs are taking a better aspect for us, for a decision has been come to to colonize; forty-five thousand men will be sent out, and, in fine, a complete transportation is treated of.

I believe that as it has afforded the pretext under which to realize all this, the unfortunate affair of the 5th May is not now so much regretted.

Your letter of the 12th July has reached my hands. That of the 11th, directed to Mr. ——, has been shown to his Majesty, as has been done with various of the extracts from former favors of yours.

I trust we shall rise from the abyss, for the news received by our friends is good, and their hopes revive.

Mr. de Chr—— is again back in Paris; he returns to Mexico the 1st September. He has given an account to his Majesty of the state of affairs, and I



believe there is reason to congratulate ourselves upon his mission. Our friends think that the bonds will be admitted in Mexico. It is better so, and not that the affair be decided in Europe at the cost of a great sacrifice. Such is my desire.

Your explanations with reference to the bonds are satisfactory. My son has very well translated the Memoire of Payno, the publication of which here, I think, we have been able to prevent; but in order that my data may be complete, please send me a statement of your reclamation separate from those of the bonds, resting assured I will make no use of it without consulting you, and that I will divulge nothing, although I see everything has been published since the disgusting correspondence of Wyke has been submitted to Parliament. That diplomat, the instrument of favor, has been your true adversary, and even your deadly enemy. I have promised nothing to your creditors; but have reassured Mr. Hottinger, who affirms that your liquidation has not yet the regular character which it will have after the entry of the French into Mexico. Louis is very exact in his vigilance with reference to whatever may be of interest to you. I shall see the persons who are interested with us, whose council is awaited with reference to the publication of your defence, which at this moment appears inopportune.

Your naturalization has been inserted in the Boletin of Laws, and I enclose a copy.

Yours, affectionate,

X. ELSESSER.

P. S.—I have reason to believe that the plans of colonization will be arranged according to the ideas contained on page 481 of Fossey. His Majesty, in his works, had selected the transit of Nicaragua. I have already spoken to you of all this in my previous letters. The time approaches in which this idea may be realized. You will not have forgotten that I delivered the map of the railroad route across the isthmus of Tehuantepec to the new duke. He had raised the objection of the project of the Emperor; but I responded with the works of Rais and Fossey. I cannot enumerate to you the reasons which led me to desire a speedy settlement in Mexico; they are too numerous. The presence of the new agent will contribute to this end, as also that of the Minister Saligny. Do not fear as regards Forey, to whom you are already recommended. It is more than a month since I knew of it; but I had forgotten to speak of it. It will be well to take advantage of the liberty of the press to defend yourself. Do not omit my separate paragraph with reference to naturalization.

The expedition will have relation, also, to the affairs of the United States.

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PARIS, August 31, 1862.

MY DEAR JAVIER: I hastily write you these few lines, as I have written uncle so many, many pages, giving all the information possible, and have delayed so much in writing them, to learn positively whether C. would go or not, that the last moment has arrived for letters to be received for the mail for Mexico.

According to your advice, and with the aid of your letter and that of uncle, I have written an article directed to the *Patrie*, drawing a comparison between the conduct of Prim and that of Saligny. As no letters have arrived from Mexico, and all are ignorant of the course of Juarez, I hope that the article will be favorably received, and will produce the effect we desire of touching the national pride of some of the papers, which will not fail to note the fact, and enlarge

upon it, as Prim is very unpopular in France since the affair of Puebla, which is considered as resulting from the course he pursued.

I send the package directly to you, according to the advice of Mr. De G., in order to attract less attention, and do not seal uncle's letter, so that you can read it. Read that addressed to him before those of father and mother. It is very interesting for the news it contains, which is too much to repeat to you here.

Seal it—it already has the envelope—and direct it immediately.

Your affectionate brother,

LUIS.

PORENTROI, *August 24, 1862.*

MY VERY DEAR JAVIER: I have done all I could to tranquillize our creditors, but have succeeded in nothing more. It is true, I was mistaken with regard to the amount of the forces confided to Douay, the famous general of the war in Italy, cited by Bazancourt; *but I have not deceived you in repeating to you for now more than a year, that there would be colonization, a throne, protectorate, &c., &c.*

Now, you will see Forey, who will go forward rough-shod, and who understands no jokes, but with his 40,000 men will go even to the Rio del Norte, to subdue Alvarez, the king of the south. I believe, also, that these forces have in view to restrain the United States, drunk with pride and vain-boasting. With reference to Lorencez, he has lost credit here completely.

Luis is the one who at present keeps me informed of confidential matters. Through him you will get them in full, and they are not unfavorable to us.

You are aware that I have sent to your uncle a memoir which treats of each one of the negotiations projected by him or our friends: First, Tehuantepec; second, Sonora; third, mines; fourth, improvement of forges by the Chenot process; fifth, &c., &c. He has acknowledged receipt without remark. Perhaps this is what has provoked the laugh of his nephew, because there is nothing that now appears to me available except the exchange of the drafts of the army, monopolized in our favor, without the prejudice of dividing the gains with our friends.

Of this Jecker speaks again in a letter to Mr. De N., of which he has sent me a copy.

Mr. De Chevardier will have carried the decree of naturalization; any way it will appear in the *Boletin*, and I will send it to you.

YOUR FATHER.

PORENTROI, *August 24, 1862.*

MY DEAR JAVIER: It is possible that I may have been mistaken as to the forces sent up to the present time; but now it is certain that the misfortune of the 5th of May, prepared by the artifices of Wyke, has only served as a plausible pretext to his Majesty to display his eagles and establish a protectorate, or colonize Mexico, the same as Algeria, which has been much treated of in secret, and I suspected it when I presented to Mr. De ——— the memoir upon Tehuantepec, formed from the notes of Raiss, Fossey, &c., &c., and accompanied by a map of the railroad route across the isthmus.

With a man so positive as Jecker, I want myself to be equally positive. For this I have considered as chimerical some of his projects, that is to say, as not available at present, and that they cannot furnish us funds except in certain contingencies; such are Sonora; the isthmus; the lands near Matamoras, con-

tigious to the Rio Grande del Norte, &c., &c. Of all of them I have made a critical review in order of number. There is no doubt that the future will enable us to realize largely from these values, if for the intermediate time we can count upon the aid of some capitalist not very usurious. Jecker does well in insisting in his letter of the 11th of July upon the theme of the monopoly of the drafts of the army, for this being composed of upward of 45,000 men, the business would be excellent, above all to raise our credit, because under the point of view of gain, as there will be a division, it will not be so brilliant, having only one-half per cent. exchange.

Has the house shoulders sufficiently strong? I have not tried them. Our friends have faith in the capacity of Jecker.

The papers are silent with reference to the projects concerning Mexico, for these are very grave and capable of inspiring serious alarm in England, for by reason of his smartness Wyke has acted like a fool, making a golden bridge and leaving it a free field.

For the present nothing is required but patience, for now only has the horizon been opened to our view.

It is believed here that immediately on the arrival of the French in Mexico your situation will greatly change, and if uncle can be able to pay his interest at the end of the year the result will be superb, above all, for us, because we will receive over 200,000 francs; but he does not speak of it, perhaps remembering that at first he promised too much. Aid him in the articles of J. in Mexico, destined to rehabilitate his bonds. In Paris, for the present, it is better not to wake the cat which sleeps. Wyke has been our real enemy; Juarez should burn a long candle for him.

I do not know if you will publish your defence in Mexico; in any case it will be well to write frequent articles, for the emissaries of Juarez have persuaded the French army that they have only gone to Mexico on our account.

The documents I have received have fully informed me. I have nothing more to say of the business of Corona, and understand perfectly that I have no option, for he has said in Paris that to get his money it would be necessary to put the dagger to Jecker's breast.

Fossey is in favor of the colonization of the isthmus. See his note with reference to this point at the end of the book. His Majesty does not insist any longer upon Nicaragua. With 45,000 men submission will follow, and even a pressure will be brought to bear upon the United States, the position of which is not without its influence on what passes.

The character of the Emperor is that of patience; the affair of Mexico has given him much trouble; but nothing has been precipitated thereby.

According to what they say, he has this trace of similarity with Jecker.

The first care of his Majesty concerns the organization of *gens d'armes* under the charge of Generals Woll and Mirandoi.

When two thousands are had it is calculated that robberies will cease. In fine, we shall even see a visit paid to the viceroy of the south, Alvarez, who will have to keep down the Apache.

Mr. de P. has touched at the Rio del Norte; some of the detachments of the army will also go there. With reference to the organization of the government, Maximilian was nothing more than a pilot balloon without any importance. Almonte can well be laid aside. Who will be placed to govern under the tutelage of France, I cannot say. If I was in Paris I might penetrate certain things, but—

The terrible mystery has at last been discovered; the instructions are first known by the *Presse*, organ of Juarez. They are not very decided, but rather elastic and conditional. For this reason I can understand that they have caused no excitement, although the cabinet of Mexico learned them immediately through Salonde—I mean Selong—who received a copy from Saberbielle, who received

them from Noel, sub-director of foreign relations for America. Abraham begat Jacob, Jacob, &c., &c.

Even if the business of the bonds had been arranged at the time of the recognition of Juarez, I doubt if the house would have come out any better; for it would have been exhausted by forced loans, &c., much aid would it have required.

But now that the affair of the bonds has been discussed by the press of both worlds, Jecker has an universal name, and is from this time forward inseparable from the war in Mexico.

Juarez knows the power of the press, and no one has made a better use of it in Europe and America, and but for the firmness of Mr. de Saligny, he would have carried his point. This has been affirmed by his consul in Paris, with an assurance that would in the end have imposed upon me.

They say that Mexico will be speedily regulated, and that, after having formed a sufficient nucleus of indigenous force, the French will return by degrees, leaving only the number that may be strictly necessary.

Your loving father, who thinks of you constantly.

X. ELSESSER.

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PARIS, *September 14, 1862.*

DEAR UNCLE: The arrival of the steamer which brings the correspondence from Mexico to San Nazario is not yet signalized, and I cannot, therefore, this time, answer your letters by return of mail.

This letter will be only the complement of the news I gave you in my letter of the 1st instant. Since that time I have not been able to have any private conversation with M. Le Receveur, and consequently am yet uncertain as to the rôle he designs for M. De Che, who has now been detained more than twenty days at Puy by the mutiny of the general council.

On the other hand, he has probably not been able to occupy himself usefully with your affairs, as he must have received your letter at the very moment he was receiving at his house the friend who had gone on the occasion of his new position. Mr. De Che considers what you wrote to father, although I read him only extracts from it, as sufficiently important to communicate it to the duke, in order to contrast the conduct of Prim with that of Saligny; and he judges that great advantage may be taken of it to restore the credit of Saligny, for which purpose it is necessary to do everything to influence his Majesty. I have not yet learned the result of the audience, because all these gentlemen are occupied in their preparations for travel, some for the baths of Biarritz, where the Emperor goes, and some to the country.

I believe, however, according to the conversation which I have had with Mr. Che, that the intention of these gentlemen, as I have before stated, is to wait for the first communications of Forey to his Majesty, in order to penetrate the direction he will give to his policy, see his opinion of the conduct of Saligny with reference to the special interests he has sustained, and, if they are favorable to that minister, what effect this may produce upon the mind of his Majesty. On this hypothesis, and if matters should reach a point which would oblige Saligny to resign his post, we shall see Mr. Che, who, then free in his actions and not dependent upon any one, as would have been the case with Saligny, from their relations of friendship, can protect the house in its affairs, using there his powerful influence.

With reference to the bond business, it will then be passed immediately (as Billaut said in the House of Deputies) to the commission of claims, which will give its judgment without appeal, and which will be executed immediately if it is favorable to us, as is to be presumed it will be. It may be there may be

delays in the public proceedings, and these gentlemen fear it, notwithstanding the energetic denial which has been given to the calumnies which have been circulated. In fact, these same scandalous *exposés* which were published in Mexico have commenced since some days to be circulated here in Paris secretly, and our friends are anxious that the affair should be settled and forgotten before these rumors take consistency.

Admitting that the impressions of Forey will be favorable to Saligny, and that the latter should be able to move in accord with him, then the affair should be left to follow its course in Mexico, and, as we know the zeal with which this minister sustains it, in a little time, without the world's knowing it, we will again secure his freedom of action, and the powers which have been temporarily suspended by the arrival of Forey will be returned to him, for if this latter is charged with the task of subduing the entire country, his mission is to see things as they really are since the arrival of the expedition, and his Majesty awaits his opinion in order to form his own. But Forey aspires to a marshalship, and has his own reasons for surrounding himself with friends; and this may be the reason why he vacillated so long before communicating with Mr. De Che.

In that case this gentleman would not leave, for Mr. Receveur thinks that in such event his presence would only be useful to watch over the compliance with our pledges, in the case—and he does not suppose it—that you do not hasten to comply with them yourself.

The individual of whom I spoke in my last letter—the attaché of Almonte—will probably answer, although he knows but little, and we have not advanced much with him; but there is no necessity for delay on this account; as he is only a person of intrigue. At the beginning of the expedition Jurien de la Gravierre paid him 500 francs monthly for account of the ministry of foreign affairs, under what title we cannot learn.

I have caused Mr. Che, in the last interview I had with him, to understand that it is indispensable to accelerate the decision with reference to the affair of the bonds, giving him in my way the general impression which had been produced upon my mind by the reading of your correspondence. I said to him that all the statements which had been given to these gentlemen were exact, and that there were, in fact, immense resources, but that before all it was necessary to restore to the house its liberty of action, in order to get rid of its creditors, although it might be by the credit these had given it, and that then, like a wagon temporarily stuck, it would again resume its progress without delay. He appeared convinced, and as he was going at once to the duke's, he promised to use with him all his influence in order to convince him that this indefinite doubt and paralysis will be the ruin of the house. This gentleman is on the most intimate terms with the duke, as also with Mr. Receveur or Mr. G. He was in college with him, and has the *entrée* of his house at all hours. He possesses some little capital, and has, unfortunately, private affairs which occupy him. Before Mr. Receveur took the sudden resolution of delaying his departure, he had not renewed any relations, and was for all the world still in Mexico, but since he has begun to occupy himself again, and I cannot derive as much advantage as before. He has a fixed salary, and 2½ per cent. of the final result, according to what he has told me. These gentlemen have various projects, some of them rather too ingenious. Here is one they have communicated to me with great secrecy, and from which you will be able to extract some benefit in the future: "When the French army occupies Mexico, there will be a great movement of convoys between Vera Cruz and Mexico. The wagons will come up full and return empty. Persons sustained by powerful influence, and of great estimation with the military chiefs, could, under some gratuitous or slightly-onerous concession, obtain the right to a certain amount of freight by the return wagons, say 300 kilogrammes each wagon. *You can easily imagine the rest.*



The freight will be dollars, and thus there could be managed the remission to Europe of all the sums which now go out by conductas, as of course the English and San Nazario lines of steamers would be glad to take the money on its arrival at Vera Cruz, as all would be gratuitous—the mules, the wagons, and the escort—so all would be clear profit.”

Your letter of July 28 was the first which brought to Paris the news of the new ratification of the Prim-Doblado treaty. I immediately prepared an article to show the able conduct of Mr. De Saligny as compared with that of Prim, in order to create as favorable impression as I could in public opinion regarding this minister so useful to the house. The *Patrie* inserted it the same afternoon, and the article, as the papers were without any news whatever, created a great effect. The Spanish papers have attempted to refute it, but little by little the confirmation arrived from all sides, and now there is on the part of all the papers, particularly the Spanish, an universal murmur regarding the incapacity of Prim. The credit of Saligny has been raised in proportion, and it is also to be noticed that opinion has very much modified its views, for, seeing the manner in which Juarez has treated his colleagues, causes justice to be done to his prevision and sagacity.

There exists in London, as I have been informed by Mr. de Ch——, a company which has been organized to open the transit route by way of the lakes Nicaragua and Leon; you will, without doubt, know of it; he has not been able to give me many details, as he only knows of it through the fact that some two months ago propositions were made to his friend, Prince Lucien Murat, offering him the presidency. This latter consulted the Emperor, and I believe has refused it. Mr. de Receveur, who is somewhat hasty, has confounded it with Tehuantepec, and has led Mr. de Ch—— into an error, which I will correct when I have a chance to speak with him, and I will get all the further news I can with reference to the affair and communicate it to you. Unfortunately my studies occupy me very much, and, notwithstanding the care I take, I am prohibited going out on foot. I dislike to risk the public vehicles in my feeble state. Father combats the project of Nicaragua in a memoir which he has sent to the duke with reference to Tehuantepec, using the arguments of Raiss, Reichthoffen, Humboldt, Fossey, and derived from his own knowledge of the subject; but I believe the Emperor is set in his opinion.

When he was in the fortress of Ham, in 1842, he occupied himself with the project by way of Nicaragua, and he has himself written a book upon the subject which has been printed, and is still in circulation.

At that time M. Castillon, sent by the states of Panama and Honduras to demand the protection of Louis Philippe, because connected with Louis Napoleon, and after returning to his country maintained a correspondence with him, which has also been printed, in which it is seen that the prince agreed with him with regard to the point of departure for the execution of this work, for which the consent of the authorities was obtained.

Nothing has appeared and nothing will appear, I am sure, from the memoir of Payno. Don Ramon Pacheco has arrived at last at London, on the 12th of September, after a journey full of peril; there he stays, and will stay, God knows how long, letting Juarez drop whenever he pleases. Mr. de G. has made strong efforts to induce him to change his opinions and to let matters rest without action, for which purpose he will have a conversation with him before he has commenced any steps.

I have requested Mr. Magnin, who knows everything and understands everything, as only he can, to watch his arrival. I have added that he should proceed in his own name, so that Don Ramon Pacheco will not be two hours in Paris before receiving a visit from M. de G——; and, if he brings the memoir of Payno, care will be taken that he lets it sleep. For the rest, the director of the press will not let it appear. These gentlemen are always of the opinion, as



I have before told you, that it would be imprudent to publish anything with reference to the affair of the bonds before they are recognized—above all, while attacks are made as now. The liberal press is very powerful, and only too ready to take up any scandal, and they would be running over with calumnies.

Your act of naturalization should be in the hands of Mr. De Saligny. It has been sent to Mr. Delon, his secretary, according to the inventory of the papers of M. De P——, in Vera Cruz, and not brought here. On this account I will send you a new copy of the Bulletin of Laws, believing it may be of use.

Father does not write to you by this mail, as he has nothing of importance to communicate. He desires me to assure you of his affectionate remembrance, and to beg that you will send him the details of the other reclamations, apart from the bonds, this latter having already been sent. These gentlemen have not abandoned the idea of discounting by the house of the drafts of the army; but they wait for the situation to clear up a little, and the relations of the house to become more established, as well as certain amounts of funds procured.

No one will continue the house of Subervielle; it is dead, and will not be replaced. Mr. Maguire has told me that he has seen the inventory, and that it amounts to \$600,000—all recently paid.

Adieu, my dear uncle. I hope that my letter will follow and not precede the French in Mexico. Dispose of me for everything.

Your affectionate nephew,

LUIS ELSESSER.

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PORENTROI, *September 3, 1862.*

MY DEAR XR: Our friends are desirous that everything sent to the house should go under cover to you. You will have, therefore, to give verbal instructions to your uncle, as well as have him instruct you in our affairs and his. Notwithstanding none of our letters have afforded ground for the publication of the "Siglo XIX" of Mexico, too much prudence cannot be exercised. Your letters of the 28th of July, and those of your uncle, have been received. Louis, who is in Paris, is the only one who has been able to reply by the same mail, and he has given very grave news to M. J. I believe that I have said to you that, of all the projects with which he has been occupied, there is only one that is possible of realization for the present, and that is to give drafts upon Paris for the army in exchange for the sums paid out to them there; upon this an exchange can be made, and we can divide the profits.

I have told Louis to mention this, and I will myself take charge of the affair, the more readily as I am informed very large sums will not be necessary. I believe that if, upon the entry of the French, the house recovers its credit, that this arrangement can be carried out.

With reference to all the other projects with which, for the lack of something better we have occupied ourselves so long, I do not see any necessity to dwell upon them for the present, and I have already stated my reasons, because in the state of suffering in which our creditors are, nothing can be done but to procure means to satisfy their clamor. Mr. Jecker has spoken to me of his mines, of the future reserved to Catorce, Tasco, and, I believe, Santa Anna.

Pray Heaven we may find a *vita grande* there. Yesterday I was thinking of this, and this is why it was suggested. I went to Montevri with Cr——, and saw the excavations in which Quiqueres and the Abbot Vautrety have found many coins, pieces of Celtic patchets of stone, locks, &c., &c. Cr—— wished to make an assay, and searched for a pick in the farm-house, which, between ourselves, was in such a state of poverty as to appear most disgusting. We dug in the south angle, near the fort, finding stones, scoria, tiles, &c., &c. Finally, after much useless labor, I proposed that we should go down and select

one of the numerous apertures where excavations had already been made, and continue sinking it deeper. We selected the largest as that which had probably given the best results, otherwise it would have been speedily abandoned, like the smaller ones we saw here and there. After some effort Cr—— found a coin, the marks on which were perfect: Victory on the one side, and Cæsar, very large-nosed, on the other. Also pieces of wood of cerfs, of clans, keys, instruments of stone, &c., &c. The rain then commenced and we had to return, coming back in a cart as far as Eremont. Immediately on our arrival home we wished to clean the coin from the earth which covered it, and washed it in clear water; but the stamp of the Emperor disappeared incontinently, and there was nothing left on the other side but a winged Victory, very beautiful. M. Vautre had found an Elena, very beautiful, and I have her son Constantine, more beautiful still. But this is the moral: We lost four hours excavating in five or six pits, and in making a new one, when suddenly a simple reasoning conducted us to works more extensive, which we enlarged still further, saying to ourselves, Is there any reason why we should not continue the vein! If it has been good for others it will be for us.

Carsi is not a Rognon. I am sure that if we return there we shall discover more coins, and perhaps other things. The soil has been extensively removed in various places; the 500 francs given by Napoleon to the Abbot have been expended, and new efforts will be necessary to continue. Cr—— was persevering, and did not wish to return with empty hands, like the fisherman who has gone all day without good luck, and that, &c., &c.

Oh! if we could only in this manner find a vein in our mines.

I can say to you that, in my judgment, if the house had got the real estate of Mr. de —— for half a million of francs and 50,000 francs of rent, its situation near Chapultepec would have enabled us to dispose of it without great loss. Luis labors hard for the house, and with good success, I think. I do not believe there has been any indiscretion. Since its beginning, according to the memoir of Ocegüera, the causes of so great a protection to a Swiss should have been investigated, and as in Mexico everything is done with money, a thousand conjectures have been formed. When the army, which the people of Juarez have convinced that our house is the cause of the war, shall see the tri-color flag floating over the towers of Mexico, they will no longer hate us, for the country is rich and beautiful, and the army must have suffered much confined in Orizaba.

If Saligny knows how to manage with Forey, who is a bear, all will go well; but I fear some pique, and this is why it is necessary that the affair should terminate speedily, even if some concession has to be made. This is the opinion of Mr. de Ch——r, who has not yet returned there, but who could very easily return by way of St. Nazaire. Luis, who has frequent intercourse with him, looks upon it seriously.

I have received a draft of 1,500 francs, in all 5,500 francs, after a thousand efforts. According to your advice, I have opened an account and put down everything, as well as my expenses, &c. This will aid me in sustaining Luis, who will speak to you of his projects of going to Pontgiband, the only mines of silver in France. He will give you his ideas and ask your opinion in reference to it.

I have delivered a letter from Casimiro for Eugenio Aller de Chevardier, and have forwarded another by Southampton on the 2d September.

Our enemies disappear—Souberville, Escandon, Iturbe, Aecguery—but how many remain, and how determined? Deprived of the support of Souberville and of Elcandon, the famous Labadie will fall perhaps. He is not by any means the least evil, according to the correspondence he maintains with Paris. He is the man or the Consul General M——.

Luis has already given you the descriptive portrait of Forey, who will be a

species of dictator. If M. F——r has influence over S——y, it is necessary that he should urge him to be very moderate, and to draw Forey gradually over to his opinion, yielding in case of necessity, because this man will be imbued with the prejudice which exists against us in the army.

In fact, Juarez is not so dull of comprehension as our relative thinks; he has made use of a great lever, the press; he has availed himself of Wycke; has maintained agents in Paris, in the army, &c., &c., with the money he has raised, and all this to get rid of us. His interest counsels him to make it appear that all rests upon us, and that without us all could be arranged, and they have believed it. Forty-five thousand men and thirty vessels-of-war ought to make them now understand that we are not even a plausible pretext. They should think of the United States, of the protectorate of Mexico, of colonization. Truly, Wycke with his intrigues has brought a terrible storm upon that country. If he could have foreseen it! In my judgment, he has lost the end he proposed in getting rid of Prim. He is a very smart diplomat but not as astute as Juarez.

This has caused much pleasure to the duke. Do not be uneasy. I have always thought that he feared for the French interests connected with the house through M. J. and friends. I think only of your uncle and you. Let us give thanks to Providence the hour of decision has sounded. Good or bad, it is better than delay. Courage, therefore; impart it to Eugenio, and do not complain so much; at the same time do not go to the extreme of optimism of your other cousin.

Say to Mr. Jecker that I continue doing everything I can, and that his creditors remain patient in the hope that we are on the eve of a speedy solution. How much that dear relative must have suffered for, and now he only labors to pay his debts, as I have proclaimed everywhere!

Those gentlemen think it is still not desirable to make any publications.

A thousand affectionate expressions from all your family and from your brother.

WASHINGTON, *November 25, 1862.*

A true copy.

ROMERO.

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[Translation].

*Exhibit B 1.—Despatch No. 34.*

MEXICO, *October 3, 1862.*

MR. MINISTER: The undersigned, members of the diplomatic corps present in the city of Mexico, have learned with regret of the arrest of several foreigners to whom the Mexican authorities had notified (given notice) of the order to depart from the capital within forty-eight hours, with the view of betaking themselves out of the territory of the republic.

The undersigned would be pleased to believe that the government will not carry out a measure so severe (*extreme*) without having evident proofs that these foreigners have committed hostile acts against the state, and that their presence in Mexico offers a real danger.

They hope, therefore, that the government of the republic will be pleased to communicate to them its final determination, reserving to themselves the making to it of ulterior and essential communications with respect to the same measure.

The undersigned have the honor to renew to his excellency the minister of foreign relations the assurances of their high consideration.

THOMAS CORWIN,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America.*

E. DE WAGNER.

FR'CO DE P. PARTOR.

AUGUSTE V. KINT DE ROODENBECK.

MANUEL NICHOLAS CORPANCHO.

NARCISO DE P. MARTIN.

His Excellency Mr. JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE,

*Minister of Foreign Relations, &c., &c., &c.*

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[Translation.]

*Exhibit B 2.—Despatch No. 34.*

NATIONAL PALACE, *Mexico*, October 3, 1862.

The undersigned, minister of foreign relations of the Mexican republic, has received the joint note which their excellencies the members of the diplomatic corps present in the city of Mexico have done him the honor to address to him on this day, in reference to the order issued by the government of the president to arrest some foreigners, to make them depart from the capital within forty-eight hours, and to compel them to quit the Mexican territory. Their excellencies add that they are pleased to believe that the general government will not carry out this determination without having evident proofs that these foreigners have committed hostile acts against the state, and that their presence in Mexico was really dangerous. Finally, their excellencies manifest the desire that the government of the republic may communicate to them its resolution upon this question, reserving to themselves the transmission to it of their ulterior communications essentially connected with the measure in question.

The undersigned, after having received the instructions of the president, hastens to reply to the points which he has just stated in the same terms employed by the honorable members of the diplomatic corps.

In truth, if the government hesitated for a moment in the full conviction which it has of having decreed upon good grounds this expulsion, it would avoid indeed the carrying of it into effect. In this respect the joint note does it justice; but the undersigned regrets very much that the presumption of the uprightness of the general government should not extend to the time when it thought proper to adopt the measure which is referred to, but that it should only include the interval which may elapse between its adoption and its execution. And, nevertheless, that presumption *prima facie* would have been reasonable, because the opinion of justification is so in the resolutions which a legitimate authority takes in exercising its powers until it is proved otherwise. But the undersigned would persuade himself that the omission to which he has just referred was not a deliberate one.

Recurring to the essential point of the affair, the undersigned must repeat in this note what he has already had the honor of saying verbally to some of the Messieurs the ministers who have conferred with him privately and confidentially upon this affair, to wit, that the federal government, with good data, examined with mature and calm deliberation, has entirely satisfied itself that the foreigners in question were violating by their conduct the neutrality to which they were subject, and that for this reason their residence in the country compromised seriously the public tranquillity, and even with some danger to their own persons.

By the constitution and laws of Mexico, the federal government is invested at all times with the authority of issuing a passport to, and to cause to leave the national territory, any foreigner not naturalized, whose continued residence it may deem prejudicial to the public order. This right of the government was of itself a duty in the present very critical situation. The action of the government had to be as prompt as the circumstances in which the republic finds itself are threatening, and, repressing these excesses with measures proper even of the normal times, the government of the president has desired to show once more, as on so many others, that it exercises with moderation the right of the national defence, although there is being waged against Mexico a war, equally unjust in its causes as in its means and ends.

Thus, therefore, the definitive resolution of the government is, to carry into operation the measure to which the honorable ministers of the diplomatic corps refer.

The undersigned takes pleasure in reiterating to their excellencies the assurances of his high consideration.

JUAN ANTONIO DE LA FUENTE.

His Excellency Mr. THOMAS CORWIN,

*Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary  
of the United States of America, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ARTS  
1100 EAST 58TH STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

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