

MEXICO CITY November 10th. 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I have postponed writing during the last two months, owing to my being unable to procure correct information relative to the important object, for which I came to this Country, and further the great hazard of my letters falling into the hands of the enemy before they could reach the Coast, not only from the hundred spies of the government, but from the various *partidos* of *Federalistas*, who bent on revenge, still scour the plains in search of News and plunder. Sometimes the highway is interrupted by gangs of fifty of those desperadoes who sally from the Mountains or ravines under the mask of brigands, drive off whole Caravans without respect to person or property; add to these, the professed brigands who infest the Country in every direction, and you may form some idea of the risk of conveyance of private or Common business letters from the interior of this Republic. But having returned to this City from a tour through the Northern part of Mexico, I shall be able from time to time to write whatever of information or of interest that I may be able to procure, relative to that which most interests a patriotic heart in the welfare of his Country.

1st. A concise view of Mexico at present so far as my information extends, stands thus. Chihuahua City with a little upwards of twenty thousand inhabitants, stands at present at a very low ebb; its police broken up for the want of money and of confidence; The various *partidos* have not only rendered miserable the citizens of the City, by their various broils and bloody skirmishes, but the whole state with 180,000, inhabitants from causes of a similar kind have been rendered very miserable, setting aside other events if possible still more distressing. $\frac{5}{8}$ th. of this people are Indians, poor, miserable beings, that drag out life in a truly wretched State; domineered over by the more superior class of Mexicans, who are generally natives born but descendants of Spain. Add to the above, the drought of the past season, during which many died of hunger, hundreds swept off by the small pox, their villages plundered, and many of the male inhabitants murdered, females who could not escape, ravished, and carried off on various occasions by the ^a tribes of the north. Groaning under various accumulations of Misery, again and repeatedly they have applied, to the Head Department for assistance, that their frontiers might be guarded; Congress full of other matters; political villainies lurking, in every quarter has been unable to alleviate this more than wretched state, until the people are almost driven to desperation, and had they the means and intelligence necessary they would form a petty government of their own. As respects the feelings of this people in general, it is hostile to Texas, but there are

^a A blank in the copy on file occurs here.

some of the leading (and be friends with Texas confidence) have I had too much confidence in the Rio Grande, and have learned, have ^b be *Alert*, be aware ^c to the Centrals (who proposing to lay ^d as a patriotic body in CANALES, he has called drive the Texians from or White House) ^e

Durango—The affairs much better aspect than be of a much more ^f the same; they are Tamaulipas to drive the tecas and New Leon and hatred towards Texmen, on Rio Grande, Texas, and in this Country sentiments of the ^g of money and party Texas. The want of

The Central party I can hardly say the Bay, nor of the ^h not content. But in favor of Santa Anna lately made by ⁱ of anxiety for the ^j days since, under ^k

Having run over hurried and faint ^l the movements of ^m not have you ⁿ (ing) were uniting ^o ing in much. I in August, that the ^p and that it was ^q under Some ten ^r

^a Another blank.

^b Meant for beware.

^c There are two copies indicated.

some of the leading characters of the Federal party who pretend to be friends with Texas, not openly, but from a private source (and in confidence) have I learned the Same. But I would not have you lay too much confidence upon the friendship proposed by those who skirt the Rio Grande, and ^a nearly to Rio Nueces, some of those, I have learned, have made propositions to the Government of Texas; be *Alert*, be aware ^b of treachery; the same proposals have been made to the Centrals (who are now in power) by the same individuals, proposing to lay aside their national quarrel for the present, and join as a patriotic body in the expulsion of a foreign enemy. Be aware of CANALES, he has called on the Mexican Govrmt. for assistance to drive the Texians from their post on the Rio Nueces. (Casa Blanca or White House) *he no doubt has called on Texas in the same way.*

Durango—The affairs of state in the District of Durango, bear a much better aspect than the last mentioned, and I find the people to be of a much more active class of beings. It and Coahuila are almost the same; they are scratching together ways and means to assist Tamaulipas to drive the Texians off the Rio Nueces; Durango, Zacatecas and New Leon would shew much patriotic feeling for Mexico, and hatred towards Texas; in fact the great majority of the leading men, on Rio Grande, are far from recognizing the independence of Texas, and in this Country, the voice of the few wield the will and sentiments of the thousands of the motley crowd. However, want of money and party spirit is a great annoyance to the enemies of Texas. The want of confidence.^c

The Central part of Mexico, is tranquil as respects party Spirit. I can hardly say the same of the Southern Coast, of the Mexican Bay, nor of the Pacific: Many of the Citizens of these districts are not content. But nothing serious is apprehended. A declaration in favor of Santa Ana, *at most*. A feeble attempt of the Kind was lately made by Genl. Urrea, but, poor fellow, after suffering much of anxiety for the completion of his plans, he was taken prisoner ten days since, under an assumed name in a convent of Guadalajara.

Having run over in haste the Country at large, giving you a hurried and faint sketch, I shall proceed more leisurely to give you the movements of the Head Department. In the meantime I would not have you forget, that a small force of enemies (and augmenting) were uniting on the Rio Grande in May last, but doubt its ending in much. I informed you when in Vera Cruz about the first of August, that the great Army Spirit had in a manner ceased to exist, and that it was not likely that an army would or could be raised under Some ten months to go to Texas. I was, from what I have

^aAnother blank.

^bMeant for beware.

^cThere are two copies of this letter on file, both of which show the incompleteness here indicated.

learned since, not far wrong in my surmises. But, previous to my entering upon affairs of more weighty interest, I must inform you of what I learned of one of two principal officers under Government. One the Governor of Vera Cruz, the other a Colonel who had been in the Texian War with Santa Ana. This happened in a village called Santa Fe. The Colonel was a German. I, like Satan roving up and down the world was very anxious, from what I had overheard to ingratiate myself if possible with this Colonel; having watched my time, I pounced upon him in German, he replied in English; a long conversation ensued, and to my great surprize he informed me, amongst others, the following That the 60,000 men were now considered unnecessary, as the enemy had left the Mexican ports, and that an Army would now be raised by Volunteers or draft, not 60,000 but some 20 or 25 thousand men, to go against Texas, and he expected to be one of the Officers. He said it would be some months first, before affairs could be regulated to equip a campaign. They were awaiting supplies of powder from the North—their arms were on the way from England, or had already arrived at the Custom House—that the intention of the Government was to have Steamboats or Schooners to carry the right wing of the Army, (he meant the troops that would be taken by sea) to the Coast of Texas; and that they intended to have flat bottomed row-boats, by which the army could be landed under ambush by entering the inlets. They are all to be landed (said he) either by the mouth of the Nuices or Colorado rivers, as circumstances would permit and from what I have since learned he was correct. As I am persuaded an army will march next spring, *if money can be raised by loan.*

Again, he informed me that Monterey, would be the depot rendezvous, Matamoras and Tampico would be the ports of embarkation, and that the troops destined to march would start direct for some point on the Rio Grande; he supposed the army in all would amount to 20,000. men. This, Dear Sir, I give you pretty much word for word as I then received it. (The conversation overheard is unnecessary to relate here.)

HEAD DEPARTMENT, *Mexico City Nov. 1839.*

Important; Congress is still in Session. Bustamente, President; and much time is occupied in both *Camaras* in Secret or private consultation. Two very important points take up much of the time employed in private Council: The first is to establish tranquillity throughout the Country by granting such privileges, and passing such laws, as shall be conducive to the happiness of the people, and carry with them the desired effect of leading over to the present power, the revolting spirit, that still stalks abroad in many of the frontier states. *So far, so good.*

The Second, and upon "the Ways a RETAKING OF TEXAS have had much did much risk to my p a suspicious person every point, and able to prove any this to make them " of Memphis came with me in with He Texas to live; he about 25 years of very favourable had I obtained thereupon that whatever he be kept secret. An beneath the charade Silly unthinking wa phia, put me on m

him of immediate persuaded that he ought not to leave tion; which I have wrong.

But to proceed relative to the re hard to procure link, every fibre the ing war have their fastness of Some (papers) of the pyramidal tombs Sir, arises the g can have no cor from travellers moment. For is Country, and and no two will and no efforts formed opinions

^a The names of persons have been carefully erased

The Second, and no less important point of secret discussion is upon "the Ways and Means" best calculated to carry success, in the RETAKING OF TEXAS!!! Too true to be a joke. Yes, dear Sir, I have had much difficulty in procuring this important fact, and with much risk to my personal safety. Thrice have I been announced as a suspicious person, but fortunately the information was so lame in every point, and the traitors (for such I must call them) not being able to prove anything, with shame fell short of their object (and this to make themselves popular with the Mexicans). The 1st. was

" of Memphis, who saw me conversing with Col. Bee, and who came with me in the Same vessel. The second was who came with

He has returned to Orleans, and intends to go to Texas to live; he is pock-marked, sandy complexion, slender built, about 25 years of age. The 3d. I having learned that something not very favourable had escaped the lips of Mr. in reference to me,

I obtained thereupon his word of honor (a puff of wind, his honor) that whatever he knew directly or indirectly, or by hearsay should be kept secret. And did he keep it? No Sir; like a low puppy, far beneath the character of any gentleman, his tongue was that of a Silly unthinking woman. A few days after this, a Mr. S of Philadelphia, put me on my guard against Mr. . So much for this

is still in this City; but as I have forewarned him of immediate death in case of another word, that I am somewhat persuaded that he will remain mute, as I am of the belief that I ought not to leave the country, until every thing is ripe for destruction; which I have no doubt will be in March. *I hope I may be wrong.*

But to proceed to the movements of the *Deputados* of the Camara, relative to the retaking of Texas. Perhaps in no country is it so hard to procure correct information as in this. Every pass, every link, every fibre that is made to compose the materiels of this brooding war have their origin around the midnight lamp, or in the retired fastness of Some appropriate room of Iturbide's palace—the Diarios (papers) of the day, are as silent upon this great outfit as the pyramidal tombs of the Emperors of the ancient Mexics. Thus, dear Sir, arises the great difficulty under which your Country labors, you can have no correct or at least no important information, except from travellers, and they too often write from the spur of the moment. For instance, you may go aboard of a vessel from this Country, and enquire of the passengers, what news from Mexico? and no two will tell you the same story. One will say, all is quiet, and no efforts are making for war, because they speak from self formed opinions, or external appearances. The secret movements of

^a The names of persons mentioned in this paragraph, except that of Colonel Bee, have been carefully erased in one of the copies on file and omitted from the other.

a political body Can only be obtained in Mexico by one who resides in the City and makes it his sole business for a time, for months, we may say, courting favor with those who are in the favor of the Courts. This has been my plan since I arrived in this City and Country, how far I may have been successful, time will tell.

1st. Bustamente it seems, has been chosen as the leader of the Army about to be raised (Santa Ana will probably take the chair in his absence) or some other, it is not yet known I believe.

2d. To raise men, a list of the young unmarried men, and widowers (without issue or children) and Bachelors, throughout all the Mexican territory has been made, as a proof of which I have seen a list of some 6,000 names residents of this city, out of each a certain number are to be drafted, I cannot give you the exact number. (The infantry and horse of this City already amounts to some 3,500.) The proclamation that I saw issued some time since to have the draft made throughout the States without fail was so carefully worded that the mass of the populace scarcely know the intention of the draft. The idea held out is an augmentation of the army to defend "*La Patria*," against her enemies, and for the better protection of her frontiers and coasts, which is the self and same thing, and likewise to replace various vacancies caused by the expired time of certain soldiers.

This great draft will shortly be made in the form of a Lottery.

2nd.^a To raise money to fit out a campaign with an empty Treasury? This I know has been harped abroad; that Mexico could do nothing for want of means; the Treasury, true is in a measure bankrupt, but Congress anxious to lend whatever it can in so worthy a cause will vote for almost any act, that will be beneficial to the cause, and if I mistake not, a law already has been passed, authorizing the Government to borrow \$800,000; but setting aside this sum; Mexico has many very wealthy citizens who are ready at a moment to lend thousands upon thousands to defray the expenses of the war against Texas, and that, upon moderate terms of interest; as a proof of what I say, I give you for example: At the time the French had taken Vera Cruz, an army was about to be raised here in Mexico, and that to be paid in part by Mexican citizens, when one man alone (Col. ^b) proposed to furnish 6,000 men; therefore do not be deceived: Had not the French annoyed the Mexican's Coasts, an army would have been on foot long since; thus when I was on the frontiers, the Comanche Indians boasted of the great Mexican Army, which was to assist them against Texas; I wrote the same to head-quarters. These same Indians, I have learned are growing impatient, and it is urged by those Spanish officers in Texas, that if the army is not soon on

^a Either a misnumbering in the original, or an error in making the copy on file.

^b Name not given.

the frontiers, thus one very wild and ferocious by the same. templated expenses. As it respects the present.

I am persuaded more, when I have and be brought to Country encouragement, that I know designs of the nation take place in increase of Texas no hope of victory it not be much by war? Rouse not power if exasperated. Yes, dear Sir, I 8,000 well armed the five principles. Sir, I urge you with communication, nation. I would not pence under pressure understand is this position as to be ruling, in case the convinced of the certainty I shall not cry "embodied in this announce to you the

But I would not another page, of in Coahuila; this understand it was serious. These were intended to make spy out the Country troops be discovered to ascertain for a vanquished federal security; in being the ment may be avoided

the frontiers, that the Comanches may turn in favor of Texas, and thus one very important point of Country fall into the power of a wild and ferocious enemy, instead of having it guarded and defended by the same. Another Spur to the quick advancement of this contemplated expedition is the probable recognition of Texas by France. As it respects a recognition of Texas by Mexico, there is no hope at present.

I am persuaded that the cry of honor and war must resound once more, when I hope (and not without grounds) they will be satisfied and be brought to terms. Guard well your Coasts, and let not the Country encounter the enemy unprepared. There is but one impediment, that I know of at present, that may impede or frustrate the designs of the present enemy; and that is should another revolution take place in this Country. Again Mexico is aware of the rapid increase of Texas, and that if the blow is not struck soon, very soon, no hope of victory will remain. Oh! deluded race of beings. Would it not be much better to come to terms of peace, than to risk another war? Rouse not again the lion's whelp, it has grown strong, and its power if exasperated further, may be felt beyond the Rio Grande. Yes, dear Sir, I am persuaded at the present state of affairs that 3,000 well armed Texians, landed on the Rio Grande could lay waste the five principal states bordering west of said river. Again, Dear Sir, I urge you with all the powers of my soul, and at the risk of this communication, not to treat what I have here written with inattention. I would not have you run the Country to any unnecessary expense under present circumstances, but what I would wish you to understand is this, be on the alert, let the Government be in such a position as to be ready to act, and Supply means at a moment's warning, in case the enemy does come. I shall remain until I am convinced of the certainty, in the meantime you will hear from me; but I shall not cry "To Arms," "To Arms" until I behold the enemy embodied in this country. Then by extraordinary express I will announce to you the Same.

But I would not have you misconstrue my words; I mentioned in another page, of troops gathering in Tamaulipas, in New Leon, and in Coahuala; this was set on foot in the forepart of Summer and I understand it was rather doubtful if it would amount to any thing serious. These were only intended to draw back the Texans, and not intended to make a general invasion. It would perhaps be well to spy out the Country between the Rio Grande and Nuices, but should troops be discovered in said part, it must be the business of said spy to ascertain for a certainty (if possible) if said troops be enemies or vanquished federals, who have only posted themselves there for security; in being thus careful much unnecessary expense and excitement may be avoided.

As respects El Sr. Canales, who took refuge in Texas in April last, you perhaps know more of him, than I can inform you at present; it is supposed by some here that he has thrown himself upon that Country. As before mentioned, he proposed by letter to Genl. Canalisso of Matamoras to join against Texas; the Genl. was suspicious, and did not think it prudent, either to accept or discard the offer, but proposed to a higher source, that it would be well to secure Canales for a time, until the truth of his loyalty or villainy was determined. At present (November) from last accounts which I received direct from Matamoras and Tampico, State the amount of troops (under Genl. Canalisso) from ^a and adjoining States to amount to 2000 men, but it is presumed that these troops are not designed for foreign but internal purposes, namely, to keep down the Federal party. The Country therefore I have reason to believe is without any formidable foe. A few stragling parties at most (I mean [in the] Rio Grande Country).

Genl. Filisola is commander in chief (of the troops) in Mexico. Genl. Arista, is now in this city. Gen. Victoria is in Vera Cruz. Santa Ana, I believe, at his estate, near Vera Cruz; he took with him when he left this city, in Gold \$76,000!! (Doubleloons \$1,216,000!!) and \$300 over in Silver which he could not exchange here for gold. So much to be a president with power to make contracts for Government.

I am Sir, Your Very obedt. Servt.

MEXICO CITY *Novr. 18th. 1839.*

DEAR SIR

I have no doubt you have considered the time long since I last wrote you, and perhaps thought strange of so much time elapsing without any intelligence directly or indirectly relative to Mexico. The truth is that I have wrote since I have been in the Republic several letters, and as often destroyed the same, owing to my having been misinformed, and the great probability of my letters not reaching the Coast in Safety, my having been so far in the interior. Perhaps there is no country in which it is so hard to come at matter of fact as in this; the great mass of beings that compose the population of this romantic and interesting region are far behind, as it respects intelligence of mind, in the advancement of knowledge, the Camanches, and Pawnee tribes, who have had their homes in the far western wilds out of the reach of civilization. The latter tribes averse to every species of domestication, still out-vie the Mexican Indians in almost every point. Three-fifths of the whole population of Mexico are Indians of the lowest order; they live in mud cabins, straw huts, under projecting banks or rocks, and many the wide canopy for a covering; they live

^a Name not given.

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Questions.^b

Who is the President
Where is Santa Ana
What is he doing the

Will the people call
to the Head departme

Who is the comman
in the City of Mexico
How many troops h
the City?

How many Cavalry
How equipped—how

What are they no
Mexico?

What for? for fire?

^a Lest.

^b In the manuscript, this
after Wright's letter of Nov

from hand to mouth, and hundreds die annually for want of food; these of course, Dear Sir, were not likely to give me any great information of an interesting nature—and nothing correctly.

Among the higher order of beings in this country is the only source from which, then, I have been able to procure any intelligence whatever, matter of fact, or otherwise the Contrary; and [I confess] that, as an important truth related to me one day has as often been contradicted on a succeeding day; thus I have torne up my letters and burnt my notes, least^a I should commit a fault in writing you that which was not correct.

Much of the news published in your papers relative to this country is very erroneous, given by travellers who have been here, or who live here, who write from first sight, over excitement, or on the spur of the moment. You may therefore Dr. Sir, consider whatever news coming from the present source as having been well digested, not having come from a single blast of some noisy throat or whispering news-carrier, but from a source that will carry a weight sufficient to justify at least the probability that I have hit the mark.

Questions.^b

Answers.

Who is the President of Mexico?
Where is Santa Ana?
What is he doing there?

El. Sr. Bustamente.
At his farm near Vera Cruz.
Contemplating on some visionary political event, and enjoying the fruits of a million of dollars, carried with him from this city, the reward of his "full" duty while President.

Will the people call him again to the Head department?

It is very uncertain, he has many friends and many enemies. It is said he wishes to live retired from public life.

Who is the commanding Genl. in the City of Mexico?

Genl. Filosola, the same who was with Santa Ana in Texas.

How many troops have they in the City?

3,000 Infantry.

How many Cavalry?

500 Cavalry.

How equipped—how clothed?

Tolerably well, better than any I have seen in the Republic.

What are they now doing in Mexico?

Ringing of bells and Saying of Mass.

What for? for fire?

No, for one eternal round of prayers (perhaps spiritual fire).

^a Lest.

^b In the manuscript, this series of questions and answers is transcribed immediately after Wright's letter of November 18, without any explanation or even reference to them.

Questions.

Answers.

Have they much wealth in Mexico?

Yes, millions in Convents and churches; gold and Silver and diamonds weigh down their altars but it all belongs to the clergy.

How is the Treasury?

Empty, drained to the last dollar.

What resources to replenish the Treasury has the Government?

The enormous duties paid on goods brought into the Country, and likewise export duties with rents of mines etc. etc.

When will she be able to pay her public debt?

Can't say. I am informed that there is excess in favor of Government in time of peace.

How is her credit at home and abroad?

The credit at home is truly bad, and I believe worse abroad. However, She with England still has power to make loans at enormous rates; it is the only country to which she is able to apply for assistance.

Can she raise money by loan at home upon any terms?

I find that by the consent of Congress, she may lease out certain of her mines by which she is enabled to receive [payment] in advance, or make loans when there can be found those who will lend her money.

Will the citizens lend her money to pay for expenses for internal revolutions on any terms?

Only by solvent security.

Can she find those who will assist her to expel a foreign enemy?

I have been informed that when the country is invaded or likely to be so by a foreign enemy that among the patriotic rich are to be found those who are willing to lend assistance upon very moderate terms. For instance, had the French continued their march into the Country.

What do [you] mean, by "if the French etc. etc."

I mean, Sir, that the Citizens of Mexico (City) proposed to pay the outfit of ten thousand men to go against them.

Questions.
If that was the means to retake, suppose they were as well as the Fr will not recognize ence?

they been in a state safety? Has not of the Kind? 2d. hope of regaining of Texas been swarmed various Spanish of 3dly. I must inform can be obtained in there will march five thousand Men, citizens of the County named as the leader must decline the offer grand expedition, as "Traitors as Citizens come and partake of Dr. Sir, are expressive Texians; here in the but little about man [they] View the Tex the fear of God, the divine, as such deas you ask received the robbed gentry of the

Questions, Con

Are you certain the cans are about to in

Questions.

If that was the case, why do not they supply the governmt. with means to retake Texas; I should suppose they were foreign enemies as well as the French, since they will not recognize their independence?

Answers.

Were you to ask a Mexican or one of the Courts you would perhaps receive the reply "that the world was not made in a day," but as a traveler in this region of the clouds I must be more explicit with you

1st. Suppose means were offered them to go against that country, have they had the time? Have they been in a state during the last two years to leave the Country in safety? Has not party spirit and internal wars prevented anything of the Kind? 2d. As a proof that the ruling party have had some hope of regaining that country has not the whole North West frontier of Texas been swarming with hostile Indians Kept in fomentation by various Spanish officers under the recognition of Mexico: But 3dly. I must inform you as a matter of fact (if any matter of fact can be obtained in this Country) That the year FORTY! in the spring there will march from this country an army not exceeding Twenty five thousand Men, which is to be paid for, in part, by the patriotic citizens of the Country, and that his Excellency Bustamente has been named as the leader of said Campaign; but of course as President he must decline the offer. Another must have the honor of leading this grand expedition, against those "*Rebels*; foes of God and Liberty," "Traitors as Citizens of the Mexican Republic that invited them to come and partake of her lands at very reduced prices." The above Dr. Sir, are expressions frequently made use of here, relative to the Texians; here in the far interior, among the populace who know but little about mankind, or the laws of Man, or even of their Creator [they] View the Texans as a distinct class of people who having lost the fear of God, the Virgin and Saints, and all that is human or divine, as such deserve to be exterminated. From Whence? would you ask received they the intelligence? I answer from the Black-robed gentry of the sacred *

Questions, Continued.

Are you certain that the Mexicans are about to invade Texas?

Answers.

I am so far certain, it is their intention at present, and as a proof of the Same, a proclamatin has been issued, to have a list taken of a certain number of

* The sentence ends abruptly here.

young men—throughout the Republic, and that a draft be made from said number in order to replenish the Army with troops sufficient to defend "La Patria" against her enemies". In this City already has appeared posted on the corner of the Streets, [a list] of three thousand names taken in this City; they are printed in alphabetical order, commencing at A, and the list reaches down to H, from which I judge that the whole list must contain in all 6000 names. Out of this the draft is to be made. The proportion I know not. It is in accordance not with the act of Santa Ana (of 60,000) but of the more moderate plan, I presume of Congress. I am informed that *they intend* to carry the Army in part by Steamboats with scows to the mouth of the Nuices, or between that and Rio Grande, or near the mouth of Colorado, and land the men with the small boats along the unfrequented coast of Texas, and thus take the country by surprise; Matamoros and Tampico will be the posts of embarkation; there will also at the same time or previous march an army from Monterey or thereabouts by land to some point on Rio Grande, and from thence to Texas in order to meet if possible, near the same time those embarked by Sea. (If steamboats cannot be obtained, Coasting vessels will be employed instead.) Now should nothing impede this grand effort of Mexico, you may expect the arrival in Texas, of the enemy about the 1st. of May when those noble sons of that little star will have to wake up, and try another San Jacinto battle, or receive their fate like unto the vanquished of that day.

Questions.

What is your opinion as to the future events of these two countries?

No Sir, how can I be content with such an answer. I dare say you will remark.

Answers.

My opinion is this however erroneous, that there is but one way in which Mexico can retake Texas, but as I believe myself in duty bound to keep close in such important matters, you will excuse my silence on this subject, and be satisfied in my telling you that Mexico will not pursue the successful path. Are you satisfied?

But as my precarious condition is so delicate, in a Strange Country, you will have to excuse my indirect way of writing to you, as a thoughtless hint might provide me a dungeon, or a cell for future meditation, should my letter fall into the hands of an enemy.

Questions.

But you can give me an opinion. What will Mexico do in this war or what will she do in other words will she be victorious, or will she be vanquished?

or rush upon the enemy she must fall back, and in that way they may torment her scarce, and their Cavalry when they (the Texans) gain an eternal victory will be the immediate recognition. I be writing to you so *can't have much interest know that I am averse to comments.* I must tell you

Mexico City is well built with numerous palaces, with

Situated in a valley of feels neither heat nor cold bounds, live, move, and rounds through favorite chant, and the industry with the customs of an Mexican blood daily cry some in errands pay, or potters clay; ten around the portals of along the frequented each passer-by in affection's point, showing deformed limb, or die Medio, (6¼ cents) to go] direct to some public scarcely leaving a four

This, Dr. Sir, is the

Questions.

What do you know of the Rio Grande country?

Questions.

But you can give me your opinion. What will Mexico gain by this war or what will she lose, or in other words will she prove victorious, or will she be vanquished?

Answers.

I hinted above that she was not taking the right step. I believe that she will fail in her object, that is, she will get whip't. providing the Texans prepare in time, keep united and do not fly the country: she must not pounce or rush upon the enemy at once or she will be overpowered, but she must fall back, retreat, reconoitre, and again retreat. In this way they may torment their enemy until their provisions grow scarce, and their Cavalry be diminished, their Soldiery become tired, when they (the Texans) may make a successful rush upon the enemy, gain an eternal victory over their Mother foe. Such an event will be the immediate recognition of Texas by Mexico. But why should I be writing to you so much about Mexico and Texas? *You surely can't have much interest for either party, and as for myself, you know that I am averse to all kinks of politics and political movements.* I must tell you something else.

Mexico City is well built, solid in its structure and beautified with numerous palaces, with three hundred towers.

Situated in a valley of the clouds, in a tropical climate, where man feels neither heat nor cold, two hundred thousand souls, within its bounds, live, move, and breathe; the rich in Coaches roll their usual rounds through favorite grounds in careless ease. The aspiring merchant, and the industrious of the medium class only bear affinity with the customs of an American City; fifty thousand souls of native Mexican blood daily crowd the Streets in search of food, for which some in errands pay, some with trivial toys made of rags, or wood or potters clay; ten thousand more, like Naples Lazaroni, crown around the portals of convents, kneel, and under arches stand and along the frequented streets and walks, bend their way supplicating each passer-by in accents of pitying woe (by practice learned to perfection's point, showing some a withered hand, or crippled foot, or deformed limb, or disgusting sore or some framed excuse) for a Medio, (6¼ cents) to buy them bread, which when obtained, [they go] direct to some pulky^a shops (where a kind of beer is sold) and scarcely leaving a fourth for bread.

This, Dr. Sir, is the State of Mexico.

Questions.

What do you know of the Rio Grande country?

Answers.

The Rio Grande country I pronounce at a lower ebb at this time than any other part of the whole republic of Mexico. This has

^a Pulque.

been caused from the great drought in Chihuahua and the surrounding country last summer, by which many of the lower classes died of hunger. The Small pox carried off hundreds, and many of the villages of the country were laid waste by the Wild Indians

A Query—Chihuahua?^a

living North and N. East. of that State. Add to this the revolution and its attendant consequences, and you may form some idea of their condition, without a police, driven to a state of desperation they have applied to Government in no very supplicatory terms for some immediate amelioration of their sufferings (having often stated their wrongs without being heard).

The country from Chihuahua, South, has not suffered so much from drought etc. as the above, but the whole country down to the Sea Coast has been in a measure ruined, by the revolution, and at present, but little of interest is going on. Genl. Canalesio of Matamoras has under his command some 2,000 Men, in order to keep down the Federals. He applied in May last for an increase of troops to drive the Texians from *Casa blanca* (White House) on Rio Nuices (Nut River) but I cannot learn of anything having been done.

Some of the Federals I have been informed, applied^b to that country (some six hundred) between Rio Grande and Nut River; whether to live with the Indians or with the Texians I cannot inform you; likewise, one whose name is Canales, at the head of about 1000 men, also of the Federal party took refuge in that Country. The same wrote to the General at Matamoras (Caneliso) proposing to lay down their quarrel, and as true Mexicans, join and drive the Texans off of their post at *Casa blanca*. Mexico doubting of his sincerity did not accede, but concluded not to persecute him further. Genl. Canalisio of Matamoras wrote here, that Canales had made the same overtures to the Texans, perhaps you know more of this matter than I can inform you; I believe therefore that this constitutes the troops on Rio Grande. Spanish officers are still roving over the Texian frontiers, seeking friendship with the wild Indians, and frequently writing to this Government to hurry on with an Army, lest^c the Camanches should grow tired in waiting, and turn in favor of Texas.

You may expect to hear from me shortly; Keep my Name from the public prints, and be so good as to write me to Vera Cruz (be careful) to care of Eliot and Snyder, who will forward the same to Mexico.

I am etc.

^a Note by copyist. Of course the name intended was Chihuahua.

^b This may be simply a bit of bad English for "betook themselves."

^c Lest.

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Mexico, (Imp
DEAR SIR,

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Yours etc.

Note, 19th, Even
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General Caneliso
movemnts of Texa

Notes, etc.

"I can give you nothing of what may occur here, as the news has just arrived; this immediate declaration of war has been set on foot (much sooner than I anticipated) by Canales and Zapata joining Texas, and they are apprehensive that Texas will make a rush upon Matamoras."

Mexico, (Important). Nov. 19 10. o'clock. P. M. 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I in haste send you this slip, declaring to you that an immediate invasion will be made upon Texas; I have received dates from Matamoras, bearing date 8th. Novr. Genl. Canaliso, on Sunday called on the inhabitants to raise to arms. The Alcalde likewise has sent out a proclamation, and the whole Rio Grande Country West has been supplicated in the name of God, and the Salvation of the Country to turn out en masse to go against that Republic. Awake! The hour has come. The War dogs Come! The regular troops are only 2000.

Yours etc.

Note, 19th, Evening. (Important.) I have just recd. intelligence from Matamoras, that Canales has joined Texas, and said letter says it is more than probable that a great part of the Federal party on Rio Grande will declare for Texas, but more of this to-morrow.

Note of 19th—I received a letter this morning from Zacatecas stating that an attempt in that City was made a few days since by the Federal party, to commence again the Revolution. Genl. Urrea has been taken prisoner in Guadalajara some fifteen days since; some say he is to be brought to Mexico to be hanged, others that he has already arrived; others say, he is on his way to Vera Cruz, to be banished; nothing is certain as to his fate or where he is. He has no doubt been taken prisoner.

Note 19th.—A writer from Vera Cruz informs me that it is feared that Matamoras and Tampico stand good chance to fall into the hands of the Texians.

Note. 19th. The net proceeds of customs in Matamoras has amounted (it is said) to near \$300,000; solely from fifteen vessels.

Four hundred houses in the city of Chihuahua^a were destroyed solely by overflow.

Note 19th. A considerable stir is still making in order to unite the people against a foreign foe, setting aside party quarrels.

Look out! Mexican Spies in Texas!!

I find that a private correspondence is Kept up between Texas and Mexico.

General Caneliso of Matamoras received regular accounts of the movemnts of Texas.

^a Chihuahua.