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The
Reactionary Revolt
and
The Revolution For Liberty
In Mexico

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The Reactionary Revolt and The Revolution for Liberty in Mexico.

The deplorable spectacle which Mexico has been presenting to the public eye, variably considered as anarchical and as the struggle of men engaged in a reckless quarrel of social dissolution and fratricidal destruction, does not suggest the lofty sight of the liberating war initiated and lead by Mr. Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, and vested by a decree of the same revolution, with the Executive Power of the Republic.

This state of disorder is simply and purely the consequence, first of insubordination, and second of the revolt of a military chief commanding a number of troops belonging to the army hereinbefore mentioned. It has therefore, arisen from an act of treason against the armed movement which followed the usurpation of the Government of Mexico by General Victoriano Huerta and the murder committed by him in the persons of President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez. It is nothing more than the result of mutiny on the part of a number of rebel soldiers headed by Francisco Villa against the General in Chief of the army, Venustiano Carranza, and not the sequence of the revolution itself which continues unaltered in its march towards its noble ideals, carrying as its banner the public liberties of Mexico, and the Plan of Guadalupe as its only rule of action.

The disloyalty of Villa, Chief of one of the best equipped divisions of the Constitutionalist Army, means the insurrection of a band of undisciplined men against the Commander in Chief of a popular army which came to exist and was formed, organized and led to victory in behalf of a cause also popular; that of freedom, emancipation and regeneration of a country. This army carried its victory to the extent of dethroning the Government of an usurper and tyrant, Victoriano Huerta, and in the midst of its work of reconstructing the government of the Republic, the revolt of Villa has occurred, and while it may retard the final success of the revolution, seriously injuring the country in its internal and international life, it will in no way be able to check it or even deter it.

Between the Villa movement and the revolutionary attitude of Carranza there is a fathomless difference equal to that which distinguishes a seditious faction from a liberating army; the difference

which exists between a revolution inspired by the principles of freedom and the quarrel of a gang of mutineers. The struggle which the Mexican people are waging for their freedom and political and social emancipation offers other examples fatally equal to the above which have occurred with lethal frequency. This struggle has been raging for over one hundred years, interrupted at times by few periods of ephemeral peace, incomplete advancement and slow intellectual uplifting, such, for example, as the period of autocracy of General Diaz, which endured over thirty years, until he was dethroned by the revolution headed by Francisco I. Madero, continued by Venustiano Carranza and assailed today by Villa and his accomplices.

After a war of eleven years in support of the independence proclaimed in 1810 by the venerable priest of Dolores, Miguel Hidalgo, it happened that Agustin Iturbide, a member of the Royal Army of Spain, joined the Independent Army, claiming that he was animated with the desire to contribute to the success of the cause, but when the independence of the Republic was accomplished in 1821, Iturbide ignored its efforts and the sacrifices of its heroes and martyrs, and with the support of the privileged classes, which from that day to the present time have constituted the reactionary or anti-democratic party, declared himself Emperor of Mexico. His government lasted ten months and he paid at Padilla with his life the crime of having betrayed the cause of freedom.

In 1829, the Spaniards attempted to reconquer Mexico, General Vicente Guerrero, one of Mexico's great patriots, was then President of the Republic, and under his leadership the Mexicans defeated the invaders and thus he affirmed the independence of the nation. During this defensive movement, Anastasio Bustamante, who had been entrusted by President Guerrero with the command of an army corps in order to prevent the landing of the invaders at Vera Cruz, revolted against President Guerrero, on the day he learned that the Spaniards had been defeated at Tampico; he bribed Francisco Picaluga, an Italian sailor, giving him fifty thousand dollars, to the end that on the occasion of a banquet given on board the "Colombo," he should arrest President Guerrero and turn him over to Bustamante himself. Guerrero was murdered in February 1831 and Bustamante, a traitor and an assassin, assumed the presidency of the Republic.

In 1845, when Texas was annexed to the United States and war between the two countries followed, on that account, General Joaquin de Herrera was President of Mexico; he sent General Mariano Paredes to reinforce the ranks of the army of national defense

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commanded by General Mariano Arista, who was then in the frontier. General Arista begged Paredes to hasten his march, and kept him informed about the movements of the invading army; but Paredes at once showed his ambition to become President of Mexico and committed the crime of revolting at San Luis Potosi with the same troops and money he had been given by the government to check the advance of the invaders. He was supported by the privileged classes, which at that time, instead of thinking in the defense of the fatherland, were already plotting to bring a foreign prince and place him at the head of the government. President Herrera fell and Paredes saw the realization of his dream, but his name passed into history as that of a disloyal soldier and a traitor to his country, no less than Iturbide and Bustamante.

Towards the end of 1857, Comonfort, Provisional President of Mexico, gave a coup d'etat to annul the Constitution which had been proclaimed in February of the same year and which is the one today in force in the Republic. The coup d'etat did not succeed and Comonfort had to leave the country, but the presidency was then occupied by General Felix Zuloaga, a representative of the reactionary party.

During the civil wars of Mexico it has been the custom that when a political party takes hold of the capital, the same should be considered victorious and therefore the reactionary party, which on account of the coup d'etat took hold of the City of Mexico at a very small cost, was considered as the victor over the liberal party. It is at this time that the great patriot Benito Juarez appeared in the field, by issuing at Guanajuato, a manifesto to the nation in which he said, that inasmuch as he was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and ipso facto, the Vice-President of the Republic, he assumed the supreme command of the nation, in view of the retirement of Comonfort, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of 1857, whose depository and defender he was. There were therefore two presidents of Mexico: Juarez, who was vested with this character by a precept of the Constitution, and the other man who assumed power through the coup d'etat. The three years war, that is, the war of Reform, began with the defeat of Juarez' forces at Salamanca, General Parrodi leading the liberal army, while General Osollos commanded the reactionaries. When Juarez was informed of this first disaster, he said calmly: "Our fighting cock has lost a feather." This liberating war ended with the victory of the Constitution of 1857, that is, the triumph of democracy and of the Republic over slavery and reaction, the Constitutional Army having made its triumphal march into the

Capital of the Republic commanded by an armed citizen, General Gonzalez Ortega, on the 1st of January 1861.

Once again the hand of the reaction was raised against the men and principles which had been gained and established; but this time the reaction appeared in the form of a royalist party whose aims were to change the republican, democratic, representative government, consolidated by the Constitution and its amendments, into a monarchical government headed by a foreign prince. The work of the reactionaries and the bayonets of Napoleon Third imposed upon Mexico the Empire of an Austrian prince, Maximilian of Hapsburgh, who paid with his life at the "Cerro de las Campanas," just the same as Augustin the First at Padilla, the price of his adventure. This war lasted from 1862 to 1867, and during all of this period President Juarez was seen to carry his government, never disowned by either natives or foreigners, from the Capital of Mexico to San Luis Potosi, and successively to Saltillo, Monterrey, Chihuahua and Paso del Norte, today Ciudad Juarez, where he remained during the fiercest struggle for national independence.

President Juarez with his government reinstated the City of Mexico as Capital of the Republic, after a long and indomitable pilgrimage. He entered the legendary city on July 15, 1867. He returned to it after an absence of four years, bringing with him unblemished the flag and the Constitution of the Republic. On that same day he issued a manifesto full of dignity and patriotism in which are set in relief and as the teachings to posterity, the following words: "That the government and the people should respect the rights of everybody. Between individuals as between nations, the respect to the rights of others brings peace."

President Juarez died in July 1872. He was succeeded by Presidents, Lerdo de Tejada, Porfirio Diaz, during one constitutional term, and Manuel Gonzalez, during another. Since that time, 1884, Porfirio Diaz occupied the presidency of Mexico until he was forced to resign it on account of the revolution initiated by Francisco I. Madero, who, pursuant to a popular election, assumed the presidency of the Republic in November 1911.

Only a short time after Mr. Madero was inaugurated as President of Mexico, one of the leading chiefs of the Revolutionary Army, who had militated under him and had distinguished himself for his courage and adhesion to the cause represented by that great patriot, felt the malefic influence of ambition, and, from Governor of the State of Chihuahua, a distinction he had received as a recognition of his services, he, like Paredes, lent an easy ear to the voice of reaction: the presidency is first, the fatherland comes next to it.

He thereupon revolted against the government and against the man from whom he had received so many honors. He treacherously disposed of the elements of war which had been entrusted to him by the government and the President and fought the Federal Army with the intention of destroying both the government and the President. This perfidious man was Pascual Orozco.

Under such conditions, President Madero called General Victoriano Huerta to his side and entrusted him with the command of an expeditionary column against the traitor Orozco, whom he successively defeated at Conejos, Rellano and Bachimba, clearing the road to Ciudad Juarez with his forces. Huerta returned a victor to the City of Mexico, where President Madero lavished honors and distinctions upon him.

While the rebel Emiliano Zapata was waging his vandalic war in the southern portion of the Republic, General Reyes, who for a long time had been hatching an uprising in the Texas frontier, crossed the Rio Grande at Starr County, and a short time later was made a prisoner at Linares, wherefrom he was brought to the Capital to be tried according to the law.

A few months later, General Felix Diaz was also brought to the Capital as a prisoner, after his unsuccessful uprising in Vera Cruz. Reyes and Diaz, aided by their friends, plotted a new uprising while in prison. With the assistance of several military chiefs who had caused one or two regiments of the garrison to revolt; they were freed from prison and at the head of the boys from a military training school they attacked the National Palace which was defended by the Presidential Guards. Reyes lost his life in front of the Palace, and Felix Diaz, through the connivance of General Mondragon and General Davila, who commanded the forces at the Arsenal, took hold of the latter fortress and with its powerful elements of men and war material, fought the forces of President Madero, who once more entrusted the command of the Government's army to General Victoriano Huerta. This time Huerta had already felt the presidential thirst and simulating a defense in which he sacrificed thousands of men, and acting in collusion with Felix Diaz and the Corps of Engineers, commanded by General Aureliano Blanquet, took hold of the President and Vice-President, subjected them to imprisonment, compelled them to resign their posts and with the points of bayonets on their breasts forced a minority of Congress to proclaim him Provisional President of the Republic. This happened about February 19, 1913, and on the evening of February 22, he murdered with incredible cruelty and barbarism the victims of his treason: President Francisco I. Madero, and Vice-President Jose Maria Pino Suarez. On the very same day and hour in which Venustiano

Carranza, Constitutional Governor of the State of Coahuila, received telegraphic information of the above horrible crime, he rose in arms against such treacherous usurpation.

In a small hamlet named Guadalupe, of the State of Coahuila, he proclaimed the political plan known under the name of the little village, which was subscribed by a scant number of men. This handful of patriots was the nucleus of the Constitutionalist Army, which grew, as if a biological phenomenon had taken place, acquiring the formidable proportions which permitted it to defeat the disciplined, well trained and well equipped armies which during a period of thirty years had been the subject of governmental organization. It was the veteran army that had supported Diaz during his long and absorbent autocracy, the one which had shown its military value in the numerous uprisings which uselessly occurred against that long blend of oligarchy, teocracy and democracy impersonated by Porfirio Diaz. Its resistance was useless against the impulse of the then powerful army of citizens who had rallied around Venustiano Carranza; they rushed the hosts of Huerta to defeat and did not stop until they had overthrown him and entered the Capital of the Republic on August 19, 1914, not without a terrible loss of life during the battles which were fought and great destruction of property.

The triumphal entry of the Constitutionalist Army, at whose head was its First Chief, into the Capital of the Republic, forms epoch in the history of Mexican democracy, parallel to that of President Juarez, first when the struggle for reform was consummated and the Constitution of 1857 became consolidated; and later, when the second independence of Mexico was accomplished, with the downfall of Maximilian's Empire, and the Republic was reestablished; and not only because of this, but also because of the spirit of popular recognition with which both men were hailed by the whole nation.

The First Constitutional Chief, pursuant to a provision of the Plan of Guadalupe, has been since the depositary of the Executive Power of the Republic.

For some time past Francisco Villa, Commander of the Northern Division of the same Constitutionalist Army, has exhibited his dislike for the First Chief, obeying his orders with displeasure and criticising some of his acts. The First Chief, however, continued to distinguish him with his kindness, honoring him with distinction and supplying him with money and all kinds of elements for the support of the army corps he commanded. First Chief Carranza's power of observation, did not fail to anticipate an insubordination of General Villa, which did not take long before it was revealed

with ostensible marks of the most radical sedition and with the appearance of a new political movement engendered by the reactionary party. For this reason and with the intention of avoiding this reactionary movement, the First Chief called a meeting of generals in the City of Mexico, in October 1914, which, among other matters, was entrusted with the mission of bringing back to the brotherly ranks the Northern Division which Villa had caused to revolt, and induce it to continue over the common trail of military operations, to the end that it should in perfect unity, accomplish the work of national regeneration until the country and the Mexican people should be saved. This division had shown great courage and endurance in the performance of their noble work, which had already cost enormous and most painful sacrifices. At the same time, the First Chief, sent his resignation to the convention as the head of the army and depositary of the Executive Power of the Nation, in order to determine from its acceptance or refusal the extent of his moral worth in the estimation of his subordinates. This convention declined to accept by an unanimous vote the resignation of Mr. Carranza, and emphasized their action by a vigorous demonstration of esteem, adhesion and respect for the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, Depositary of the Executive Power of Mexico.

The seditious activities of General Villa had already pervaded the minds and influenced the spirit of the most prominent generals of the assembly of October 4, 1914, inducing them to proceed to Aguascalientes as a deliberative body to resume their functions. In the City of Aguascalientes the convention fell into the armed power of General Villa, who reorganized the same at his will, allowing the civil element which the convention in the Capital of Mexico had segregated from its midst, to participate in its deliberations. He induced Zapata to send a large number of representatives: and that which in its origin was a simple economic, intimate meeting of generals, convened for the purpose of cooperating with the Executive in the management of the existing military government, pending the complete pacification of the country, constituted itself and *per se* a sovereign convention, with only one directing voice, that of its oppressor, General Villa, who converted it into a megaphone of his repudiation of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army and Depositary of the Executive Power of Mexico, against whom he is today hurling the flag of rebellion.

Villa carried his boldness to the extent of offering \$200,000 to each delegate who would give him his support.

The so-called convention comes to a crisis, when its Chairman and the leaders of the most important divisions of the Constitutionalist

Army retired en masse, and it finally became a caucus of representatives of Villa and Zapata only, who elected General Eulalio Gutierrez, with the title of a twenty days President, to take the place of Mr. Carranza. Mr. Carranza then transferred his government to Cordoba and later on to Vera Cruz, where he established, as Juarez did in another epoch, the legitimate government and the Capital of the Republic. Gutierrez at the same time gave the appointment of Commander in Chief of the army which supported him, that is, of the rebel division, to Villa, the author of the rebellion, and together with him he entered into the city of Mexico, covered by a very transparent veil of legality, but with a very heavy conscience of sedition, at a time when the fatherland and the Mexican people were in painful distress.

Zapata accompanied them to the historic city and together with Villa, using Gutierrez as a marionette, took the reins of public administration.

Under a dead surface similar to that of stagnant waters, a frightful era began to unfold in the City of Mexico, a regular pandemonium of disorder, homicides, treacherous murders, outrageous impudicities, assassinations provoked by old personal grudges or new hatreds growing out of collusion and complicity in the infernal turmoil which was raging in the unfortunate City of Mexico. The President himself, whom Villa had installed, feels that his life is menaced by the wrath of passions of his maker, and horrified by the ferocity of the latter, leaves the city, carrying with him his artificial investiture, a few of his ministers, five thousand soldiers and ten million of dollars belonging to the national treasury. During his flight, Gutierrez denounces the military coercion of the convention, and decreed the discharge of Villa, Zapata and other generals from their respective commands in the Northern Division, which had denied its obedience to the supreme authority of the Constitutionalist Army, whose headquarters were then established in Vera Cruz under the leadership of First Chief Carranza. After making reference to the murders of Aragon and Berlanga, members of the Convention, the former having been sacrificed by Zapata, and the latter by Villa, President Gutierrez said: "During his recent return to the Capital of Mexico, Villa committed new robberies and murders, violated domiciles, severed many lives and confiscated the property of his victims. * * * * * He came to my house accompanied by two generals and escorted by two thousand cavalry soldiers, and revolver in hand poured all kinds of insults on me because he had been apprised of my intention to discharge him and

Zapata. To do this and save my government, I have left the City of Mexico, which has been governed by force of arms by Villa and Zapata, spreading terror and desolation everywhere."

In view of the elimination of Gutierrez, Villa placed Roque Gonzalez Garza at the head of this terrible state of affairs, as he was Villa's representative and factotum in the convention of comrades and accomplices; and this new potentate assumed the responsibility of the doings of Villa and Zapata in the midst of the Mexican society, designating himself Provisional President of the Republic, and as such, he declared that Gutierrez was a fugitive from power.

At the same time, Gonzalez Garza, abandoned to his own fate by Villa, divests himself of his pretended investiture and denounces Villa's procedure; he declares that Zapata is a brigand; he also states that Villa's forces have suffered terrible defeats in the north; that his most faithful generals have left him; that the people are against him and that the reign of disorder is supreme.

At last Villa declares himself President outside the pale of the Convention which he had been using to disguise his ambition and which has opened his way, sacrificing every ethical and humanitarian principle.

The spectacle cannot be more discouraging and hideous. Nevertheless, nothing better could be expected from a sedition which was consummated at the providential hour in which an army of citizens carried into effect the most glorious vindication of the rights of the fatherland and was laying down the foundations for a new era of freedom for its fellow-citizens.

The disloyalty of Villa has had no other reason to be than his own debauchery, his former profession *homo trium literarum*, and the inborn weakness of his ethics. His treason is the result of his first characteristic, his crimes are in keeping with his early pursuits and his third is responsible for his versatility, which has made him the prey of the eternal curse of the freedom of the Mexican people, that is, the reactionary party. Villa is the reincarnation of the recreant we have historically pointed out with the ethical purpose to show that his apostasy should be charged with all the evils which the people have suffered on account of that inexorable party; and to indicate the fact that his rebellion is not strong because Villa be the author of it and its leader, but because it is the reaction with all of its physical and moral elements which avails itself of his agency to face again the party of freedom, still stronger and more enduring, because liberty being, as it is, the life itself of the peoples, also means progress and civilization which prompts the tireless march of mankind.

The party of freedom and of the government "of the people, by the people and for the people," has nothing to fear; at the end of the struggle, to which it is forced by this movement headed by a new Cain, it will again be sovereign, because sovereign is the people who proclaims it, and will quietly march to the conquest of its destinies. The history of the country confirms this assertion beyond refutation, because it does not show a single failure of the liberal party under the reactionary, as demonstrated by the many acts of treason we have pointed out, with the wish of fortifying the spirit of those who are suffering the horrors of the present disturbance and to admonish those who have mistaken them for the hardships of the liberating war waging throughout the country, whose hosts militate under the command of Mr. Carranza its initiator and chief. This is a just and sacred war, and the former is but a mutiny fostering licentiousness immolations and devastation, the real and everlasting methods of the reactionary faction of the Republic.

That there has been such a misunderstanding in the public mind there is no denial, but this is not surprising, because the press in the interior of Mexico has been muzzled and the one abroad has not been able to discern between the liberating movement and the rebellion of one of its military elements, which came to light under the pale of the misleading appearances of a convention of fictitious legality; a rebellion which has resolved itself in a storm of unprecedented outrages in the history of Mexico's misfortunes. Especially the press in the United States has fallen into the above unfortunate error; rather, audacious deceit, which fortunately, for the sake of truth and right has never touched the mind of the Chief Executive of the United States, nor of his Secretary of State or the most prominent men of this country's public administration. All the efforts of Villa have tended to deceive the above great men, but to no avail. The Executive power of the American Union is at the present time in the hands of two men, singular for the purity of their liberalism, their morality and humaneness.

The falacy of the outbreak by which the desertion of a combatant seemed to suddenly assume the character of a political uprising to supplant a revolution of fundamental principles could not have escaped the vigilance of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan.

It was imperative to wait and observe the unfolding of such coup de main, to know its instigators, the historical antecedents of them, the causes of the defection; its morality, and the road it would follow to assail the work, already accomplished in its greater part by the revolutionists of Guadalupe, with whom the disloyal leader had fought bravely. Only the most powerful reasons, which the best

leveled mind could not resist, could have induced President Wilson and his Prime Minister to see in the disloyalty of Villa a movement worthy of being considered as that of a belligerent instead of an outrage against the Constitutionalist Army, from which he had deserted.

And, as a consequence of study and great circumspection, President Wilson has expressed himself with admirable energy and vehemence during the political oration he delivered at Indianapolis, on the very opportune occasion in which the centenary of the liberating battle of New Orleans, was being celebrated on January 9 of the present year. The President then said: "There is one thing I have got a great enthusiasm about. I might almost say a reckless enthusiasm, and that is human liberty. * * * I hold it as a fundamental principle, that every people has the right to determine its own form of Government: and until this recent revolution in Mexico, until the end of the Diaz reign, 80 per cent of the people of Mexico never had a 'look in' in determining who should be their governor or what their government should be. Now, I am for the 80 per cent. It is none of my business and it is none of your business how long they take in determining it. The country is theirs. The Government is theirs. The liberty, if they can get it, and God-speed them in getting it, is theirs. And so far as my influence goes while I am President nobody shall interfere with them. * * * That is what I mean by a great emotion, the great emotion of sympathy. Do you suppose that the American people are ever going to count a small amount of material benefit and advantage to people doing business in Mexico against the liberties and the permanent happiness of the Mexican people? Have not European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilt as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs, and shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak? No, I say!"

And the consequence of that study, I repeat, of that admirable circumspection, has been the above Dantonian declaration, of an immovable attitude of non-interference in the affairs of Mexico, an attitude which has been bitterly assailed by his political opponents, but which the whole world has applauded and sanctioned as the most brilliant example of the respect for the rights of others among nations; which according to the doctrine of Juarez, constitutes peace.

The President's declaration was followed by that of his Secretary of State, on the 23rd of January, 1915, in which he is quoted (Washington Post) as saying: "As long as I am Secretary of State, we will under no circumstance interfere in Mexico. Villa should know this by now."

Before Villa's defection, when the Constitutionalist Army marching in unison, from battle to battle, throughout the Republic, against the hordes of Huerta, the usurper and murderer, President Wilson said (Saturday Evening Post, May 23, 1913)‡ with regard to that revolution: "my ideal with respect to Mexico is that an orderly and just government should be established there; but all my sympathies were with the eighty-five per cent of the chosen people of that Republic who are now struggling for their redemption. * * * I challenge any one to cite me a single example in history showing that freedom had ever come from above. Freedom has always been conquered operating from below, in the under-soil, so to speak by the supreme movement of the people, not of the leaders. That movement fermented by preterition, injustice and oppression, wanting in the yeast of human rights within their reach, even though it may frequently fail, it succeeds in the end and always brings freedom.

"It is a curious thing that all those who cry out for the establishment of order in Mexico, should take into consideration, not an order which would be beneficial to the Mexican people, but one which would perpetuate the old regime, in behalf of the aristocrats, of the vested interests, of the intriguers of traditional oligarchy, who are responsible for the *past and present disturbances* of that country. No one pleads for peace and order in Mexico to help the masses to secure their share of rights and lands; they do want peace to the end that the rich land owners, the feudal lords, the *Hidalgos*, the natives and foreigners who have selfishly exploited her rich soil, may continue their spoliations in spite of the protests of the people, whose blood and wealth are their spoils.

"It is believed that the dangers which are menacing the Republic are the individual and cooperative injuries of those vampires, without distinguishing that it is the aggregate injustices piled upon the majority of the people, who are today struggling to recover by force that which is due to them by right. Order they clamor for, the order of latifundia and oligarchy, the old order; but I declare that the old order in Mexico is for ever dead. And my attitude, my duty, as I see it is to help to cause those differences and privileges to disappear as far as I may be able to do so, to the end that the new order, based upon freedom and human rights may prevail. * * * The present revolution is essentially, a revolution of the peons to recover their lands. To a certain extent, the situation in Mexico is similar to that of France in 1784; there may be many differences, but the basic situation is the same."

‡Retranslated from the Spanish.

The occupant of the White House has seen under the clear light of his erudition, with the exquisite sensibility of his humanitarian devotion and his profound desire to enhance human freedom, what the Mexican revolution is in reality ; which, as he says, is the struggle of the chosen people of Mexico against their oppressors ; of the majority of the people who have been despoiled of their welfare against the eternal vampires of their freedom, their property and their blood.

This revolution started with the independence of the nation and shall not end except with the freedom and happiness of the Mexican people. It has lasted more than one hundred years and its natural enemy, though enfeebled by the progress and victories obtained over it by the liberal party, will still arise from its death bed to fight its last battle.

Let us see what has been accomplished during that long and bloody struggle.

In 1808, Primo de Verdad laid the corner stone for the edifice of public liberties in Mexico when he said : "The sovereignty of the state devolves upon the Mexican people." In 1810 Hidalgo proclaimed national independence and the abolition of slavery. In 1813, Morelos convened the first national congress, which declared : "The sovereignty of the nation emanates directly from the people ;" slavery is hereby abolished ; privileges are also abolished ; domicile and property are inviolable ; torment and all infamous penalties are abrogated ; and the freedom of labor, commerce and industry.

In 1821 the independence of Mexico was accomplished. In 1825, Victoria, the First President of Mexico, gave freedom to all slaves. In 1857, the Second Constituent National Congress, enacted the Constitution of the Republic, in which was embodied the bill of rights. In 1861, the laws of reform were promulgated, including the nationalization of the property of the church ; the separation of the church and the state. In 1867, the Empire of Maximilian came to an end, and the Republic and its government were reinstated.

This progress is little less than wonderful in that it has out-distanced many of the most cultured nations, in the abolition of slavery, the separation of the church and State and the constitutional guarantees of personal rights ; but its accomplishment has required a long series of internal struggles, among which there have been four international wars ; and at no time have the liberal and the reactionary parties failed to be face to face with each other ; the former, defending the principles of human liberty, and the latter, those of retrogradation, oppression, the slavery of the people by the clergy, the aristocracy, the privileges and the privileged. And those who have

classified the Mexican people, on account of its constant state of war, as an anarchical people, incapable of self government, incur in a profound error and sin on the side of levity for their ignorance of history. But light is made; the highly authorized voice of President Wilson is raised; his Christian gentleness is inspiring and his adjuration convincing to his fellow countrymen who for the first time perhaps, listen and learn from the lips of their First Magistrate the apostolic lesson of respect, consideration and sympathy for the cause of Mexico's liberty, which embraces all the noblest aspirations of humanity in its open struggle to live, and to be happy.

President Wilson has recognized as a profound moralist; as a christian philosopher and thinker; as a humanitarian statesman, all the worth of Mexican strife in its civic significance, its sublime abnegation, and he believes, with sound reason, in its final victory.

In this marvelous attitude of the one Statesman "who, more than all others combined," now holds it within the possibilities of his power, in Washington's simple words, to "make a nation happy," and who may become the arbiter of the destinies of a world, not only Mexico should trust but all the society of nations, to attain the free operations, of their political and social order.

Unconsciously, it would seem, says a writer (North American Review, January 1st, 1915) "Mr. Wilson drew the inspiration for his Mexican policy from Mr. Madison, but happily thus far without producing the original direful consequences of 'a war of arms brought on by a programme of peace.'"

The same writer makes some admirable remarks about the anti-slave war of the United States and the present European conflict, which I can not leave out of these lines, because, due to an irresistible concomitance, it fortifies the thesis and the liberating program of the present Mexican revolution. Sixty years ago, says the above mentioned writer, "Buckle heralded the 'decline of war' as a consequence of the advance of science in the realms of knowledge and understanding; and six years later a million men of the North were grappling at the throats of their brethren of the South. * * * The South was right in law but wrong in morals, wrong in resistance of freedom of mankind, and the South was beaten justly and rightfully as the South now recognizes. No lesson of history, no deduction from principles of human nature had been clearer than the fatality of slavery upon public morals, upon politics, upon industry, upon development and progress; and yet it took four years of the most devastating warfare ever known and the desolation of half a continent to make convincing what all the wisest men in the world had been saying for a century. That it could have been done in no other

way is generally admitted now—but it was not conceded then. The terrible war was waged under pretexts of human making, but for a purpose now realized to have been divine.

“May it not be so with this greatest of wars? Our struggle liberated the blacks of America, may not this be designed to free the whites of Europe?”

“The outcome God alone knows * * * and we care not for what are called the causes of strife if the *purpose*, the *divine purpose*, shall prove in the end to have been the extinguishment of slavery from the face of the earth, the freeing of mankind the making in Europe of a democracy, however limping and stumbling, so it have at least the privilege in common with our own to grope and seek, as a child in the dark, for the light of a better day. * * *

“A hundred years hence we may look back to this convulsion as the final storm before the clearing, precisely as now we revert to the Waterloo of our birthyear and the last stand before Appomattox just fifty years ago. For the present, having in mind the extraordinary delicacy of so crucial a situation and the possibly determining influence which may be wielded by this most powerful of neutral Powers, we should fail in our obligation if we did not urge with utmost earnestness the heeding of our President’s solemn adjuration, to be patient, supremely patient, even as he has been and is and, we doubt not, will continue to be, in the face of all complexities and temptations.

“The quarrels of nations, like those of individuals, grow out of their ill-regulated passions; and these can be checked and restrained, not by considerations addressed to the intellect, or even, as so urgently, so unwisely, so almost unpatriotically demanded by Mr. Roosevelt, to questionable regulations, but, if at all, by the teachings of morality and religion exemplified by Mr. Wilson. Never was a war more obviously and ruinously destructive of all public and private interests than that into which the great States of Europe have blindly plunged; but to oppose their madness inopportunistly upon grounds drawn from political economy or international law would be like preaching to a tornado. The tempest must blow itself out. Only when the wind has lulled can the voice of reason or the whispers of conscience be heard.

“And God is in His world, only abiding his time.”

The above most beautiful and edifying thoughts portray faithfully President Wilson as the ablest ruler for the good of the people of all those who have preceded him in the administration of this great country. In him, Christian morality applied to the science

of government, is the most powerful element of cohesion of all civic virtues which spread from his brilliant intellect to vivify all principles of human liberty; a noble passion which awakes his enthusiasm without making of him a fanatic, but on the contrary, opening ample fields for study, discussion and the determination of everything which can be utilized for the enhancement of society in its constant pursuit of that liberty which shall always redound in human happiness. His incessant work in the forum, in the cathedra, in his books, has for its only task to enlighten the burden of the working man, of the popular masses, in their daily struggle for life; and to this end, there is an admirable work in his gigantic little book, "The New Freedom." With a captivating simplicity, with a fraternizing frankness, with a clear and didactic style, he discusses and expounds in that powerful book the most arduous governmental problems, more far-reaching, and of a more urgent solution, because of the obvious necessity to protect the governed against oppression, tyranny, exploitation and slavery exercised by the magnates of the money markets, of industry and commerce, and because of the influence that the latter bring to bear on legislative enactments through collusion with legislators and other elements of the national government; with his "thought always attentive to the fact that human liberty consists in the perfect adjustment of human interests, human activities and human energies."

"I believe in human liberty as I believe in the wine of life. In a land of free men there is no room for guardians."

What a glorious conception, what a glorious positive philosophy in a ruler who has a conviction of his creed and the courage to stand by it and to battle for its application and development; because civic valor is one of the many virtues of this great citizen, the educator of a generation in the school and the educator of many generations to come as a Magistrate.

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