

THE
WAR IN PARAGUAY.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION.



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le ne fay rien
sans

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José Mindlin

THE WAR IN PARAGUAY.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ'
OFFICIAL PAPERS,
TAKEN BY THE ALLIES,
IN THE
ASSAULT OF DEC. 27, 1868,
AND
OTHER AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION.

*Translated and Published by order of the Argentine
Government.*

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Introduction.



I.

THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT has ordered the publication of the documents and papers found in the campaigning desk of Marshal Solano Lopez, President of Paraguay, on the 27th December, 1868. Many more, of equal importance with these, were lost in the confusion consequent upon the fight, and some are omitted as being redundant, although they contain data of great utility for the historian.

The depositions made by Paraguayan officers taken prisoners, by Argentines, and by several foreigners, which are also added, are incomplete; yet, in as far as they are genuine and spontaneous, they may serve as indications, although they cannot be adduced as proofs. To make the proof complete a deponent—in a case like this—must confess to his being guilty, either as accomplice or participator, a confession which few are willing to make. Those whose duty it is to execute the orders of a

tyrant like Lopez can seldom escape sharing the responsibility of their deeds.

The publication of these papers will enable all the nations that have shown an interest in the Paraguayan war to form an estimate of the morality and justice of the war waged by the Allies.

The correspondence of Mr. Washburn, the North American Minister, took the world by surprise, when it was known on such high authority that sympathy had been bestowed on the worst of tyrants, under the impression that Lopez was defending the honor of his people, whilst in reality he had only issued forth to rob and conquer his neighbors, without any previous declaration of war, and afterwards refused (heroically sheltering himself behind trenches, made at points that were inaccessible) to give any satisfaction to the aggrieved parties. It may truly be said that Europe, in the Paraguayan question, was innocent of its own opinion. The lengthy note of the Paraguayan Minister in Paris shows how public opinion was formed in Europe, thanks to the falsehoods spread through the Paraguayan Legations, the statements of newspapers which, for pecuniary considerations, had become violent partisans, and the pamphlets and wise suggestions of an Argentine, to whom the Paraguayan Minister pays the following well-earned tribute :—

Dr. Alberdi has undertaken the defence of Paraguay with the greatest disinterestedness, and with an ability which unfortunately none of us, Y.E.'s agents, who have the honor of serving our country in Europe, possess to so eminent a degree.

Dr. Alberdi is an authority in the questions whose issue is now sought by force of arms in the River Plate.

This gentleman doubts whether Y.E. is fully aware of his true and sincere attachment to the cause sustained by Y.E., with so much glory and success; he doubts more particularly whether Mr. Barreiro has informed Y.E. minutely as to his dispositions and active proceedings in favor of Paraguay. If Dr. Alberdi abstained during the latter part of Mr. Barreiro's mission from taking any active and direct steps in favor of Paraguay and the Government of the Republic, it was due to the strange disposition he remarked in the youthful agent. Now a most cordial understanding exists between us.

GREGORIO BENITEZ, *Paraguayan Minister in Paris.*

Not so in republican America, both South and North. Ever since the beginning of the war public opinion, both in the United States and among South American nations, has been hostile to the Allies, and has rebelled against every proof that tended to show how unjust were its appreciations.

The less obstinate granted at most that the Argentine Republic had been right at the beginning of the war, as long as it limited itself to driving back an invasion of its territory, which had in no wise been provoked; but, by a process of reasoning that fortunately has no parallel in history, it was considered that as soon as the invaded territory had been re-conquered the war ought to have been abandoned, and no excuse was even admitted for the alliance entered into with Brazil, which also had been invaded and plundered.

Seldom has history presented an instance of such perfect unanimity on the part of all nations in favor of injustice and against those who only defend their own rights.

Time and historical criticism set straight such crooked notions sooner or later, but not before they have produced a certain amount of mischief.

Who has not felt angry against Napoleon for having, according to his contemporaries, broken the peace of Amiens, or against Grouchy for having abandoned him at Waterloo? Time has, nevertheless, proved that England caused the rupture, and that Grouchy did not know, because by neglect he was not informed in time, that a new battle made the victory of Mont Saint Jean doubtful.

It is, nevertheless, always instructive and curious to know the motives of such errors, and in this instance it is not superfluous briefly to allude to them.

In the United States the motive is to be found in the want of proper information respecting this part of the world.

The libraries of the Old World contain several works in English, published at the beginning of the century, and giving a description of these countries.

The narrative of Renger and Longchamps, Robertson's Letters on Paraguay and on Francia's ruthless dictatorship, gave for a time lustre to the country which had earned the name of *American China*, and to the *gloomy Dictator* who gave that character to his country. But half a century of silence had effaced Paraguay from the memory of distant nations, and even its neighbors on the same Continent did not know the beings that called themselves Paraguayans, since these were never to be seen beyond the limits of their own territory.

A visible sign, considered unerring, made public opinion in the United States decide as to which side was right. The Paraguayan *Republic* was defending itself heroically against the onslaught of the Brazilian *Empire*, and a verdict was given without calling for evidence and without appeal.

The heroic resistance of so small a Republic against Allies so powerful, created among all nations that sympathy which is ever felt for the weak, the suffering, and those who defend their own homes; and when public opinion allows itself to be affected by these generous feelings it neither looks closely to facts nor stops to scrutinize details.

Yet there was no lack of heroism on the part of the Allies in attacking impregnable fortresses surrounded by marshes and primitive forests, and in transporting soldiers, provisions, horses, and warlike implements to a distance of more than 400 leagues. There was some heroism in overcoming all this, after four years hard and sanguinary fighting.

In South America, on the other hand, another feeling tended to embitter more and more the public spirit.

We need not take into account the common prejudice against the monarchical form of the empire, strengthened by the gigantic struggle that had been going on in Mexico to save republican institutions, so deeply compromised, nor compare the difference of languages between the descendants of Portuguese and Spaniards, accompanied by the traditional hatred transplanted from the Peninsula, and studiously cultivated in America from the Orinoco

to the Uruguay, during a strife of three centuries with the Empire, whose confines touch almost all the American Republics. The true cause of the antipathy against the Allies, without distinction of republicans or imperialists, proceeded from the fact that the treaty of alliance fixed certain territorial limits to Paraguay, narrowing apparently those that had been formerly recognised, or pretended as such, by Paraguay; and this was taken as an indication that the true object and motive of the war was the traditional and persisting Portuguese policy, inherited by its descendants, of increasing the Brazilian territory, a policy which threatened, like the invading waves of a sea beating against the shore, to dismember piecemeal the Republics of Spanish origin, and enable the Brazilian map to extend as far as the River Plate to the South and the Andes to the West.

This was the secret cause of the aversion against the Allies felt throughout South America, from Venezuela to Chile, and hence followed that all ranged themselves against justice itself, and were led into frequent and unanimous public manifestations, which were even countenanced by governments.

If Chile was less interested in this question of unoccupied territories, a question of which Paraguay figured as the champion, it had, on the other hand, a motive in its proximity to the Argentine Republic, and in the refusal of the latter to be dragged into a participation of the semi-war with Spain, which had lost the character of an American war, given it by the occupation of the Chinchas Islands, and which at first the Argentine Republic had accepted as such with decision.

The very mystery that surrounded Paraguay had no small share in keeping alive the sympathies in its favor, which the above motives had raised. The vulgar prose of our political squabbles tends to estrange all interest from us, who are so little known to the world. For those who watch us from afar, our prominent position can be summed up in one proposition, anarchy or war.

Paraguay could be supposed to be endowed with all the gifts we so anxiously longed for ourselves. For some it was a young and vigorous Republic, for many the patriarchal Eden described in the *Cartas Edificantes*, and Lopez, another Kosciuzko, who had risen to save this new Poland, doomed to dismemberment.

II.

The curtain has, however, been raised, and in the presence of a nation decimated, a country destroyed, forming the wind up of the most cruel war, without excepting the civil war of the United States, that has occurred in this century, it is well to pause horrified and explain the causes that have strengthened the tyrant, and brought about the sacrifice of an entire population, since those who have survived of more than ten years of age, not including the prisoners taken by the Allied armies, do not exceed a few thousands.

On the day following the fight of the 27th December, it was not the the mounds of corpses of the combatants in decomposition that disturbed the sleep of the conquerors, but the cry of children from ten to twelve years, whose shrill voice, peculiar to their tender age, came from the military hospitals.

One hundred and fifty thousand Paraguayans have perished, out of a population which did not exceed 600,000 inhabitants, and of which some believe (Dr. Stewart among others) that not more than 80,000, between women and children, survive. Women, too, have been decimated, by disease, forced to agricultural labor, and to being moved about and driven from one extreme of the territory to the other, without any regard for social rank or condition.

Democracy, with the exception of slaves (slavery still exists in Paraguay), was more exacting there, owing to the tyrant's jealousy of the white families, and of wealthy and intelligent people, who could question the justice of his cause.

Whence came this astounding prodigy of the self-denying obedience of an entire people, unanimous in the one feeling of fighting until all were swept away? Lopez's proclamations always insisted on this; and what elsewhere would have been simply a rhetorical figure has been in this instance a terrible reality. We can only cursorily investigate the primary causes of so strange a phenomenon.

The European spirit, that which is civilised and Christian, seeks in its own vocabulary and in its own feelings an explanation of these facts. But the truth can only be reached through an exactly contrary process, by showing why and how long these feelings had been wanting, and point out the new and strange forms which, under extraordinary circumstances, they had assumed.

III.

Paraguay lies amid secular forests, alone, isolated, at a distance of 500 leagues from the coast of the Atlantic, and it is now half a century since it was cut off from the rest of mankind. None of the ideas or institutions that for the last century have dawned on the earth had penetrated into Paraguay, and yet it is in this very century that all the great social changes have taken place in Europe. Paraguay was a closed book when the Lopez family inherited it, and they took up the key that locked it and that lay near the corpse of old Francia, who, in his turn, had likewise received it sealed up and shut off from all contact with new ideas, at the hands of the Jesuit Fathers, who colonised it now two centuries ago. Such is the history of Paraguay. It is, morally, what Australia is physically, a fragment of the Old World.

The popular masses impress to nations their character, until civilisation, coming from above, penetrates and modifies them.

The singular and strange civil, political, and military organisation which Paraguay still preserves is exclusive to it in Spanish America ; its origin is not to be sought in the nature of the descendants of Europeans, whom Dr. Francia persecuted unrelentingly, but in that into which the Jesuits moulded the indigenous Guarani race.

Whether it was as an experiment of the communist doctrines imbibed by the Jesuits from the Acts of the Apostles or the Epistles of St. Paul, and which exercised such ideal fascination on religious fanatics, or whether due to the necessity of governing neofites rescued from a savage life, Paraguay has been the scene of the most extensive attempt made in modern times of a new system of society and government of nations. The Jesuit gathered around him, in the luxuriant spots where a mission was started, a FLOCK, in the true and figured sense of the expression, Guarani Indians by hundreds of families, without any government of their own, without property, and without traditions. His task above all was to make them Christians, and for this end make them live, and civilise them to a certain degree. The Jesuit was the FATHER, that is to say, the soul, the centre, the teacher, the master, the guardian of this flock, that had neither rights, nor land, nor home, nor government. *To obey*, to learn, and to comply, was the whole code of this people on the road of formation. To work was to obey, to marry was to obey, to exist was to obey. The Jesuit represented God and the king ; and a Jesuit led them to their work, to church, or to war against Mamelukes (the word used to express Christian hatred), or against the savages, their infidel relations. Property due to the work in common of the mission belonged to the state ; the mission for the mission itself, and not for the individual. Commerce was a right unknown to the Indian, who had never practised it, and to the colonist, who knew no other world outside the colony. A system of reciprocal espionage was enforced, tale bearing was made a virtue and enforced, while the confessionary became a moral, religious, and political police

in these flock-like societies. In this the Jesuits made no innovation upon what the Inquisition ordained against heretics in Spain.

The distinctive characteristic of the Guarani organisation is, therefore, the deification of the chief of the state, whether he be called father, dictator, or president, and the chief bond of union reciprocal espionage. Dr. Francia, with the ideas imbued in a college of Jesuits at the end of last century in Cordoba, found such a flock without a father; he undertook to guide it, and use its religious character for political ends. The geographical insulation of Paraguay contributed to the success of this innocent and Christian scheme.

Closing the only entrance to the country, by the river, and thus cutting off his countrymen from all contact with the outward world, at a time when the other Spanish colonies were fighting in the battlefield to secure their independence, the gloomy Dictator directed all his energies to *Guaranise* that part of the population that descended from Spanish Europeans, and to exterminate the few Spaniards (250) that might be an obstacle to him. Thirty years was he engaged in carrying on this work, through terror, perpetual imprisonment, confiscation, and even marriage, of which he availed himself for the purpose of mixing the races, or in order to humiliate the pride of the Spaniards.

Has any one scanned with his imagination how far a powerful mind can influence a people segregated for generations from all contact with the world, among whom there are neither books, press, nor commerce, and who are debarred from the possibility of seeking refuge in other countries.

The Romans could at one time escape and seek an asylum in the territory of barbarian kings; and, therefore, to be exiled was a capital punishment, the efficacy of which was felt by those who became thereby dead to political life, although their body survived. But when all the world was Roman, not even this plank of salvation was left for any who might have incurred the

Emperor's displeasure. Paraguay, by its geographical conformation, realised the same state of things as Imperial Rome, since nobody could escape from the Dictator's authority, however restrained the limit of his jurisdiction. During almost half a century no other Paraguayans were known in the River Plate except the few who were left outside when, in 1811, the gates were shut which closed the country to all foreign commerce and trade.

In 1860, the work of re-modelling the Paraguayan spirit was brought to a close. The blind obedience which admitted of no reply, and the absorption of the individual into the state, had grown into a second nature of the Paraguayan, and, after fifty years of insulation, the despotism of the ruler for the time being became the essence and recognised perfection of government.

An insignificant fact will give a just appreciation of this. In 1845, a Correntino, resident in Paraguay, wished to send a present to Corrientes of a small barrel of caña. Having gone through the necessary preliminaries in the custom-house, and finding that the duty for exportation was exorbitantly high, he abandoned the idea, and, as the application for a permit was useless to him, tore it up, in the presence of the head of the custom-house. The latter, as if he had seen somebody taking poison by mistake, uttered a cry of horror, and, ordering the Correntino to be arrested, immediately reported his having torn up the paper bearing the arms of the state (stamped paper). Two hours later the Correntino was shot for such gross want of respect.

There is no lack of proof to substantiate similar facts. Such are, however, the results of the Guarani civilisation, either through error, necessity, or forethought.

De Moussy has collected in a pamphlet all the opinions emitted by the principal minds of Europe upon the Jesuitical experiment in Paraguay, adducing in its favor the testimony of David cum Sibilla, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Rousseau, of Catholics as well as Protestants. One single voice differed

From this universal chorus of laudations, that of the *only* one who saw with his own eyes this splendid monstrosity—the wise Azara, who, even as far back as 1800, anticipated all the horrors and hollowness of that strange experiment.

In the missions, during 150 years, no Spanish was taught; the dress was not that of Europeans. By royal ordinance it was forbidden to Spaniards to enter these oasis of morality. Their only visible result now is the sifilis that rots the very bones of the Guarani race.

The mission, for a long time, ignored the authority of the King, except through the heads of the mission. The war of the Jesuits, in 1772, became necessary, in order to put an end to his *imperium in imperio*. The import and export trade was ransacked on the company's account.

The Guarani armies were commanded by Jesuit fathers, and municipalities, justices of peace, and all other civil authorities, were mere automata that were moved by their direction.

All was happiness and prosperity in this enchanted country, according to the writings and the history of the Order. But the general result has been that, whilst the secular civil colonisation, imperfect as it was under the Spaniards, has produced Buenos Ayres, Lima, Santiago, Mexico, and a thousand towns and cities, upon which, through independence, were founded civilised states, the missions vanished at the first breath of adversity, leaving behind gorgeous temples, amidst vast orange groves, abandoned to nature, and inoculating the most frightful tyranny witnessed in modern times, with a civil Pope in Dr. Francia, and a Lopez a mighty destroyer, who has exterminated the last remains of Paraguay.

IV.

The public spirit being thus ripe, Solano Lopez, yet in his teens, was sent by his father, the Dictator, as Minister

Plenipotentiary to France; and this youth, nurtured in the ideas entertained now two centuries ago by the princes of Europe, before the revolutionary spirit had taught them to consider themselves as belonging to the same race as their subjects, saw civilised nations, wealth, palaces, and emperors, and for six years enjoyed all the pleasures of civilised life. He brought with him, or knew where to send for afterwards, engineers, mechanics, artisans, and in ten years his father, who was a Phillip to this Alexander, kept secretly collecting cannons and raising fortresses, whilst railways and telegraphs were projected and carried into execution.

A fleet of war steamers (twelve) carried on the traffic between Paraguay and the commercial towns of the River Plate, since the export trade was a Government monopoly, and the navigation of the rivers was maintained on a war footing.

It was pretended that Brazil had forcibly imposed upon the Government of Lopez's father a treaty, and ever since then (twelve years ago) slow but strenuous preparations were made to enable Paraguay to be soon at evens with Brazil. Humaitá being fortified, the advantages of Angostura ascertained by English engineers, and Paraguay declared impregnable by the Hungarian Visner, a grand idea shone like a revelation in the mind of Lopez's son.

Matto Grosso lies behind Paraguay, and is inaccessible to Brazil unless by passing under the cannons of the fortress of Humaitá, the construction of which had been recommended by the Brazilians themselves. A faction in Montevideo appealed to the autocrat of Paraguay in order to resist Brazilian influence. The two Argentine provinces of Corrientes and Entre Rios are almost cut off in the midst of Paraguayan, Brazilian, and Uruguayan territory. Matto Grosso could be easily conquered, and by descending the river with an army of 50,000 men already armed and equipped, and occupying the passes through

* Twenty English mechanics, according to Dr. Stewart, are at present in Ibiery mending arms in Lopez's compulsory service.

Corrientes and Entre Rios, he proposed taking Uruguayana, whence he could advance on Montevideo, as its liberator and ally, planting the Paraguayan flag on the mount that gives it its name.

Thus, after a campaign of two or three months, he could hope to found an empire with the plunder of Brazil, the Argentine Republic, and the Oriental Republic. The enterprise was tempting, and the youthful conqueror able to undertake it.

The world might probably have witnessed without surprise one of the many reconstructions which the map of the different nations is actually undergoing, even though it might not have been slow in perceiving that, for the same causes, and with the same results, an invasion of Northern barbarians, like that which in the fourth century of our era destroyed civilised empires and republics, was being renewed in America, by which the indigenous Guarani race, strong in its submission, in its covetness, and its bravery, and under the command of a modern Attila, poured down upon cities which were flourishing for their commerce and for the progress of European civilisation, but weak from sub-division into small states, into disunited provinces, into unscrupulous political parties, into classes and castes not yet amalgamated, into apathetic foreigners, and into nations without natives.

The danger has been immense! Matto Grosso was taken; Corrientes occupied; Uruguayana conquered; the Brazilian squadron almost totally defeated in the Riachuelo. What was wanting to complete the work? Intelligence!

A Brazilian admiral changed the fortunes of the day, by boldly attacking with his ship the victorious Paraguayan fleet; General Paunero, with a handful of men, stopped the advance of a Paraguayan army in Corrientes; General Flores exterminated

* A model of an imperial crown was lately found among some articles of furniture of regal magnificence, ordered by Lopez in Paris, and probably destined to be put into use at his coronation.

an army corps detached in Yatay, without either reserves or retreat.

The Emperor and General Mitre witnessed the surrender of 7,000 Paraguayans who, in compliance with the senseless orders of Lopez, had occupied the town of Uruguayana, almost in the rearguard of the Allied forces.

Owing to the precipitate abandonment of the easy conquest of Corrientes, and once the illusion of a vast empire had vanished, the problem was reduced for Lopez to a defence of Humaitá, in order to escape the punishment he so richly deserved. This has been the heroism of the Paraguayan tyrant, the same that has ever been displayed by bands of marauders when obliged to take refuge in their last inaccessible dens, amidst rugged mountains. The bandits of the Abruzzi, however, have not at their disposal 300 cannons, European engineers, or a nation of helots, with which to show off their heroism.

V.

We do not purpose giving here the history of this long war, a war as ruinous to Paraguay as it has been prejudicial to the Allies, who did not provoke it.

What we want to know are the secret springs that have kept in arms a whole nation during four years of disasters (since only the repulse of Curupaity can be reckoned as a victory), until almost all have died, old, adult, and children!

Dr. Francia's efforts were directed into turning against independent Argentines the hatred felt for the Mamelukes (American Portuguese), and for the Spaniards who were proscribed as corruptors of morals, a hatred which the indigenous races nourish instinctively against the white race and foreigners.

After forty years of seclusion, it was not difficult to impress, through the calumnies and inventions of the *Semanario*, the notion that the Argentines and Brazilians, who composed the Allied army, were all monsters, some ridiculous, others niggers, and all hateful. The *Semanario* was Lopez's organ, and almost always his own work. The *Semanario* was an article of faith to the Paraguayans, most of whom, we may here mention, know how to read.

But the very nature of Paraguayan institutions explains better this state of things. The Paraguayan has been conceived in fear, nursed in fear, and has breathed fear all his life. This is the secret of his abnegation.

In the first rough book of orders of Lopez, under date of 1866, there is a list, occupying three pages, of 150 deserters, many of them with a marginal note of the day on which they were caught and shot. A few pages further on, perhaps to abate an evil inherent in all armies, there is an Order of the Day providing that for every deserter in a company his right and left rank and file should each receive twenty-five lashes, the corporal and the sergeant of the company respectfully forty and fifty. Thus, supposing there were only 1,000 deserters in the three subsequent years, 2,000 soldiers received their quota of lashes, and the sergeants and corporals their proportion of fifty or forty lashes, according to the number of soldiers deserted from their companies. What an honor to be a sergeant in that army! As for the commissioned officer, he was placed under arrest, and at the disposal of the Supreme. Latterly, a deserter was heard to say, with a sigh, "Alas! my poor companions, by this time they will have been shot." This would lead one to suppose that of late the order had become more severe, and shooting substituted for flogging. Thus, can the resistance of that army be explained, in spite of hunger and the certainty of defeat. Each soldier watched by five, and all and each a spy upon one another's movements.

In the city of Asuncion, before its occupation by the Allies,

the vestiges of other punishments have been found. A great number of houses, without a roof, others in ruins, many with the doors and windows broken down. On enquiring the cause of so much havoc, it turned out that it was the work of judicial edicts, which, at Lopez's dictation, ordered the demolition of the houses of deserters, or of citizens declared traitors, whose wives, mothers, or children were thrown into prison unless they gave up the delinquent.

Colonel Martinez, the officer entrusted with the defence of Humaitá, and married into Lopez's family, before hearing of his wife's death, stated in the War Office that the capital mistake of the Allies had consisted in not having since the beginning thrown a strong and large body of cavalry to the rear of Humaitá, and laid their hands on the women, because what kept the soldiers at their post was the dread of the fate that might otherwise have awaited their mothers, sisters, or daughters. The news of his wife's tortures and subsequent execution came to substantiate this opinion, which was still further confirmed by the intelligence that thousands of women were carried off to the mountains, and, verbally, by the many families rescued by Colonel Baez from the hands of the detachment that was driving them to Yberibi.

Such means explain the otherwise inexplicable submission of the Paraguayan, which is still further explained by the 30 traitors executed by forties and fifties during the latter times. How many have perhaps suffered the same fate, during the four preceding years, of which no record has been left. The traitors are not soldiers, because these were executed for desertion, disobedience, insubordination, or for uttering complaints or simple remarks, as proved by innumerable trials contained in small pieces of paper, only a few inches square. The traitors are those who were not in active service, brought from the city to the encampment, civil employés, merchants, not excepting clergymen, married ladies, and even unmarried girls, like Miss Herrera, who, when saved miraculously, after having been kept

four months exposed to the scorching rays of the sun in the encampment, ignored the motive that had led to her imprisonment, which some people explained by her being an orphan and heiress to a large fortune.

Three hundred traitors executed in five months, without taking into account those who escaped or were able to dissemble, represent a public opinion which, taken as it was from the most enlightened and the highest classes, demolishes the alleged unanimity in the people's approval of the acts of the tyrant.

The conspiracy invented by Lopez, in which he implicated his brothers and sisters, the wives of those ministers and generals, who had been previously accomplices and active partakers in all his despotic proceedings, embraced also a large number of merchants, both foreigners and natives, and was followed in pursuance of an ancient practice established ever since the times of Francia, by the confiscation of all the property of the accused.

If, therefore, the crime reduced itself, as could not be otherwise among unarmed people, to complain of so much useless suffering, the spoliation of their property and money, must have formed a strong inducement to denunciation, as in Spain the persecution of the Jews found an incentive in the confiscation of the wealth of the race of the Rothschilds, who held in their iron chests all the then circulating means. The causes, political and religious fanaticism, were the same then as now.

Proprietors of cattle could not escape, and were ranked as traitors after having been beggared. An order has been found decreeing that all the cattle that was found should be seized for the use of the army.

Colonel Martinez, Commandant of Humaitá, Dr. Stewart, chief medical officer, had been thus plundered, whilst devoting with zeal their services to the tyrant. Jealousy and envy towards his brother Benigno, who had been educated in Europe, who was pleading for his due share of his father's patrimony,

and who, before and during the war, always despised Lopez from the bottom of his heart, explain too well the brother's treason.

What is not so easily explained is the death of Carreras, of Telmo Lopez, of Saa's adjutants lately arrived, and of all the Argentines and Orientals in his service, unless the version of the Prussian, Von Versen, be admitted, giving as a motive the hatred which he entertained against all those who had impelled him into the war, or approved at first his senseless schemes, now that the reality had undeceived him.

VI.

Amidst all the privations which obliged ladies to go almost naked, because during four years all their clothes had been worn out, the army to cover its nakedness with raw hides, and the wounded to die by thousands for want of medicines, it were hard to believe, unless we had the undeniable evidence of all General Rivas' division, which took Lopez's quarters, that they found there in abundance, and in almost regal profusion, all the choicest wines and liqueurs of European manufacture, preserves, hams, and everything that the most refined luxury can accumulate in a sea-port.

Such are the principal facts that characterise this terrible struggle, provoked by the pride and iniquity of a miscreant who inherited the strange organisation of a nation emerged from the forests three centuries ago, brought up to a blind obedience, as if listening to God's command, without inherent or acquired rights, without free will, and accustomed to see moral transgressions punished as criminal acts.

All this, and more, is shown in the documents that follow, since the Paraguayan despotism, if this name can be given to that government, is so regular in its acts, and follows so closely

all legal forms, that not a single act, however arbitrary, criminal, or absurd, emanating from the Government, has taken place without being attested to by a lawsuit, a summary information, or a written order, in all of which the decision of H.E., the Marshal President, is invoked, and each document bears testimony to the strict execution of the orders, and at times the executioner spontaneously recognises that the crime he commits is a sacred duty, or exculpates himself for not having comprehended the serious consequences of a deed he considered innocent. Thus, the Simancas archives have revealed to the world, after the lapse of three centuries, the crimes of Philip II., noted, registered, and detailed with paternal care, by the secret and silent monster who had made of his own animosities, of his ambition, covetness, and cruelty, his gods, his religion, his conscience, and his moral guides.

VII.

The Allies have still a rude task before them, that of dislodging the tiger from his last den in the Cordilleras, where he has dragged thousands of families, who have to live upon the scanty distribution of rations, without a home, whilst the women are tilling the ground to support them, as even before the fall of Angostura the 900 women and children, removed under strong escort from one end of the territory to the other, were ordered to do.

Lopez may fall alive into the hands of the Allies. What will be done with him? Are the laws of international right, recognised by Christian and civilised nations, valid for a monster like him? Has nobody a right to call him to account for the death of 300 victims called traitors? The Argentine Republic must know how the 170 who died in the prisons came by their death, among whom were officers of its army and navy, and many

peaceful merchants, dragged from their homes to execution. Where are the Argentine prisoners of war, who ought and might have been exchanged for the 3,000 or more in our power, who are living free and happy, some working for their own account in Buenos Ayres, others voluntarily serving in the army, with rations and pay equal to those of the Argentine soldier?

If it be allowed to a horrible wretch to exterminate his own nation, why is this doctrine to be applied to the sacrifice of thousands of innocent Argentines, cowardly murdered by tortures and martyrdom? When the monster protested, because he believed his life in danger from the assassin's knife, aimed by his enemies, the President of the Argentine Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Allied armies, Brigadier-General Bartolomé Mitre, replied with dignity to so barefaced a calumny, that he made Marshal Lopez personally answerable for any transgression of the rules of war among civilised nations, as laid down by international right. It behoves the actual President of the Republic to see that warning fulfilled, thus re-vindicating outraged humanity, and as a legitimate retaliation upon a treacherous enemy.

The indictment is contained in the documents which follow, and which speak for themselves.

Henceforward, Lopez's defence, or his vindication, jeopardises, before mankind and civilisation, the honor of whoever should undertake it, and would militate against the right of peoples to exist, whether of those who bear the tyranny, or of their neighbors who, by immense sacrifices, escape such abject domination.

BUENOS AYRES, *June*, 1869.

PAPERS AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS
OF THE
PARAGUAYAN TYRANT,
SEIZED ON THE 27TH DECEMBER, 1868.

**TOUCHING LETTER OF VICE-PRESIDENT SANCHEZ TO
LOPEZ REFUTING HIS ALLEGED COMPLICITY IN THE
CONSPIRACY.**

In a declaration obtained through torture, Treasurer Bedoya, whom Lopez afterwards shot, stated that Vice-President Sanchez had been *influenced* by Benigno Lopez, the brother of the tyrant, who was subsequently barbarously sacrificed.

Lopez sent to Asuncion a commission to institute legal proceedings against the Vice-President, to whom, at the same time, he wrote a letter full of recriminations. Vice-President Sanchez wrote then the letter which follows, the original of which was lately found in the battlefield of Angostura.

“ Long Live the Paraguayan Republic !

“ Luque, March 27, 1868.

“ To H.E. the Marshal President of the Republic, and
Commander-in-Chief of its Armies.

“ Most Excellent Sir,—

“ In pursuance of Y.E.’s orders, transmitted to me through Major Francisco Fernandez, desiring me to furnish Y.E. with a statement relative to the points therein alluded to, I herewith proceed to reply with all sincerity.

“ Y.E. reminds me, first, that when you wrote me a letter at the beginning of January, dwelling at length upon the people’s fears concerning the Vice-Presidential authority, of which I was by law invested, upon my equivocal behaviour on the occasion of the glorious victory by our arms at Tuyuty, upon the report which had reached Y.E. of my having fallen under the complete control of Y.E.’s brother, Don Benigno, whose antecedents were so unfortunate, and upon the gratuitous accusations made by the public against Y.E., you had trusted to rouse me from my lethargy, and free me from an influence which, in the eyes of the people, was injurious both to Y.E. and to myself; but that you were soon forced to abandon this hope, because my reply was laconic and altogether insignificant. That, even then, Y.E. attributed my curt answer to the security of communication, and, remembering my many years of public service, Y.E. hoped that my subsequent conduct would show to the country,

and to the world, that, if what had happened was due to want of pre-meditation, after being so fully advised as I had been, my policy would undergo a great change. But that, afterwards, Y.E. has been undeceived, because you have been told that I still continue to be influenced by Don Benigno.

“Y.E. also tells me that I knew already that the ex-treasurer had been retained in the encampment, because his proceedings in Asuncion had not been satisfactory to Y.E., and you were afraid lest the influence he had acquired over public functionaries, myself not excepted, in virtue of the post he occupied, and of his easy access to Y.E.'s family, through his marriage with Y.E.'s sister, should obstruct the march of the Government.

“That, later on, Y.E. saw that your fears were well founded, and you continued to detain there the ex-treasurer, Don Saturnino Bedoya, and kept him separated from all public business, but without having then any reason to expect what happened, viz., that on the 19th ult. some ironclads forced the passage of Humaitá, and Bedoya, who until then had preserved his serenity, and borne without much trouble his not very honorable position, got alarmed, and foreseeing a political commotion in this place, declared, in a vague manner, to the Right Rev. Bishop, that a plan of conspiracy was being hatched here, for objects which he could not explain; and he would say nothing further, notwithstanding being pressed to do so by the Bishop and by General Barrios, by order of Y.E.

“That, subsequently, the news reached Y.E. of an extraordinary and surprising fact, viz., that I had convoked the Council on the occasion of the appearance before Asuncion of three ironclads, for the purpose of deciding whether they should be hostilised or not.

“That this fact called seriously Y.E.'s attention, and gave rise to the re-call of Minister Berges, and those acting with him, who all confirmed the news, by stating that the Commandant of Asuncion, abusing his official position, insisted upon the

convocation of the Council, and upon his being represented therein by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was seconded by my inexplicable docility, and by my having omitted, either unintentionally or not, to send for Councillor the Dean Bogado.

“That Y.E. learnt with shame that, at the instigation of the same Commandant, the Council met a second time in his private house, with my consent, because the previous resolution of hostilising the enemy had not satisfied said Commandant.

“That on account of these alarming antecedents, Y.E. ordered the accusation of Bedoya, from which had resulted that he, together with Don Benigno, were to form a revolutionary government, that should hand over the country to the enemy. And that in all this I was looked upon as one of the principal instruments.

“But when Bedoya was questioned as to the grave charge brought against me, he answered that I have not governed but made myself the wretched tool of his candidate, Don Benigno, and that, although he had no evidence of my participation in the conspiracy, my obedience, even in the most insignificant matters, was so blind, that there could be no doubt as to my readiness to fulfill Don Benigno’s orders, which would, no doubt, lead me to unmistakable treason.

“Here Y.E. cuts short a narrative extremely painful, leaving to me to make the fatal deductions that necessarily follow from what is already stated, and from the further details, of which Y.E. has desired I should be informed by Major Francisco Fernandez, by Benitez, and by Judge Orlellado, who have all touched with their own hands the festering sore with which the mother country is afflicted.

“Y.E. goes on to say—‘Oh! if all its children had shown only a particle of all the patriotism and abnegation of which they boast in the streets and public squares; and had, in however small a degree, assimilated themselves with those who generously shed their blood in the field, that blood would long ago

have been staunch, and the wounds healed; but, unfortunately, the enemy possesses the key of our debility.' You pray that the God of nations be merciful and not punish our faults, in order that our mother country should not, after so many sacrifices, disappear from the face of the earth. Y.E. also adds, that so grave a situation obliged you to abandon plans carried on until now with so much glory, and forced you to adopt others, thus giving to the enemy an unexpected advantage. That, nevertheless, Y.E.'s faith, both in the protection of our God and the decision and bravery of loyal citizens, is still unflinching.

"The paragraph which then follows, besides what Y.E. is pleased to order me in the same, with reference to another employé, and which I have already complied with, imposes upon me the duty of making the accompanying statement, which, if not as satisfactory as I might have wished, will have the merit of being ingenuous, as given by one who has his heart in his hand.

"I do not pretend to allude to the fears of the people with regard to the exercise of my authority, and upon my unequivocal behaviour on the occasion of the glorious victory of our arms in Tuyuty, because I was not conscious of my sin, and although I certainly omitted to hoist the national flag at first, I did so subsequently, and I feel more than convinced that all the acts of the people's rejoicings were prompted by myself.

"With regard to Don Benigno's complete control over me, and the gratuitous accusations against me in this respect that reached Y.E., it may be that my want of penetration has led me into the submission to his influence of which I am accused. If, however, from lack of memory, not from any desire to hide anything from Y.E., I cannot found my defence on special circumstances, I cannot understand how Don Benigno could have exercised so great a control over me, since there never existed between us any frequent or regular intercourse, which would appear necessary, unless it were during the time that he attended public meetings with the view of discussing and

agreeing upon matters affecting the national cause. Then, it is true my having said to him that I needed assistance, because I regretted to see at times that nothing was brought forward for discussion by those present, whilst nothing suggested itself to me, and then sometimes he would furnish us with matter for the purpose, in which I never could detect that his ideas had any other tendency save the general welfare.

“When citizen José de C. Urbiceta spoke to me, about two months ago, on his return from Paso Pucu, I referred to him what had occurred between Don Benigno, the ex-chief of Yaguaron, and myself, of which I have no doubt he informed Y.E. Don Benigno from that time left off attending the meetings, until the enemy's ironclads forced the passage of Humaitá, and then his attendance was not remarked upon by anybody, nor did it occur to me to inquire into it, which is not to be wondered in one of my sort. I remember that he occasionally showed me despatches from Y.E., and undoubtedly this, coupled with the respect I have always professed for all that belongs to Y.E.'s house and family, was enough to convince me that there was nothing improper in his attending the meetings. But this want of criterion on my part did not go beyond a certain limit, for, on the day that the question was mooted of calling the meeting for the ridiculous object of knowing whether we should be the first in opening fire on the ironclads that came to Asuncion, I consulted Benitez whether we ought to ask Don Benigno to attend, and I was answered in the affirmative. I did not make any further reply, but I had reason greatly to deplore my silence when, on reading Y.E.'s esteemed letter before Orlellado, Fernandez, and Benitez, I reminded the latter of the above circumstance, and he said that he was not aware then that Don Benigno had forfeited Y.E.'s good opinion, since I had omitted to acquaint him with the letter in which Y.E. disapproved Don Benigno's conduct, of which he only heard afterwards. My memory will not enable me to state anything positive in this respect, but I was under

the impression that nobody had been ignorant of this matter among us.

“With reference to the request of the Commandant that the Council should meet to deliberate whether the ironclads were to be fired upon, I remember feeling very much astonished, and considered it both impertinent and out of place, and I even think I expressed myself in this sense to Minister Berges, Dean Bogado, Rivero, and others. If I allude to these two instances it is not with a view of exonerating myself from the charge of having twice allowed myself to be enticed to this meeting, which was due to my inexperience and to my fatal propensity of mistrusting my own judgment, but only for the purpose of stating facts which I think may partly rebut Don Saturnino’s gratuitous and horrible supposition, that he could count upon my treason to hand over to his candidate the reins of government.

“How could he possibly count upon me to betray my government, without even the slightest reference to any act or expression of mine to make his inference probable? How, then, did he come to such an infamous conclusion? What motive could plunge into this black crime an old man who had nearly reached the term of his life, and who is on the brink of his grave, whilst during a lengthened existence he has never been known to have had any kind of aspirations? And against whom was I supposed to be conspiring? Nothing less than against Francisco Solano Lopez, the most worthy Marshal-President of the Republic, to whom, as well as to his illustrious predecessor, I owed a great deal more than I deserved, both as regards rank and wealth. I deny, therefore, with all the strength of my soul, this shameless and barefaced imposture of Don Saturnino’s, and I will do so to the last.

“My memory fails me with regard to what occurred with Dean Bogado, as to his having mentioned, either in the Council or out of it, that his opinion was against its being held, and I may have thus laid myself open to the charge of having

disregarded the opinion of so worthy a citizen, and thus incurred Y.E.'s disapproval. I can only, however, remember that I heard with pleasure citizen Riveros remark that the intimation from the enemy of bombarding a town could only be awaited for in case hostilities had not begun, but not in our case, when the belligerents have been at war for a lengthened and continuous period. It was principally owing to this remark that the original motion of firing upon the ironclads was unanimously confirmed.

“The motive brought forward by the Commandant before the Council for suggesting a different proceeding, was the scarcity of projectiles, and I have no doubt that even this consideration had in no way any influence in altering the resolution I had come to from the beginning, which was eventually agreed to by all.

“My fault in having omitted to make the slightest allusion to this anarchical plan, being fully aware of it, as Y.E. is pleased to state, has been altogether unintentional: I was ingenuous enough never to suspect that the Commandant's request for a meeting could have so foul a purpose, being inclined to think that it was due to ignorance on the part of the individual who convened the meeting. The motive of my not having informed Y.E. of it may be attributed on the one hand to this very imprudent indulgence, of which I am the victim, being plausibly deceived by the excuse of want of projectiles, and, on the other hand, to my bad memory and ignorance of the distribution of time, which is likely to give rise to still further charges against me, and yet I can conscientiously assert that in no instance has my silence been due to premeditation.

“I will stop here, most Excellent Sir, in order not to delay any longer in fulfilling your commands, and lose the chance of the mail steamer that leaves to-day; but implore you, as earnestly as I can, without asking indulgence for the many faults that weigh me down, that you may be pleased to grant

me absolution of my supposed readiness to conspire, in which Don Saturnino has thought he could implicate me, and which is what most deeply affects me.

“May God preserve Y.E.’s valuable life for many years.

“Most Excellent Sir,

“Your obedient servant,

“FRANCISCO SANCHEZ.”

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LOPEZ’ LETTER TO HIS MOTHER.

Her intercession in favor of his Brothers and Sisters pitilessly rejected.

“September 10, 1868.

“Señora Doña Juana Paula Cerrillo de Lopez.

“Dearest Mother,—

“I have received your much esteemed letter of the 3rd, and I am still alive to tell you so on the sixth anniversary of my father’s death, through the mercy of the Lord, who has been pleased to preserve me yet, notwithstanding the many machinations, in which even my own near relations have taken part.

“It is true that several weeks have elapsed without my writing to you, and I greatly value your kind rebuke, since on other occasions my remissness, even though of longer duration, has called for no remark. My silence is to be attributed partly to this bad habit or negligence, but more particularly to the heavy moral sufferings which I have had to bear for some time past. The extraordinary events that have occurred in our family of late fill me with shame before the world, and, but for your letter, I might, perhaps, still feel repugnance from taking up the pen to indite one single word on things as monstrous as they are horrifying. Nevertheless, you invoke the mournful memory of this day, and beg me to answer you. I cannot resist your request; and, although I know not what I ought to say, I find myself writing.

“I cannot express, Mother, all the grief with which I have read your letter, because, after all, I had asked Señor Sanchez to tell you from me upon the knowledge I have of the matters to which you refer, I might have expected more ingenuousness and sincerity, however hard for me to bear. Poor Mother! you perhaps do not know that I have already passed through the most bitter part of this monstrous affair, and you have dreaded hurting me. I thank you; but my trials have reached their highest point when I became acquainted with the facts of the case. It is my turn to dread; but I should still further embitter for you this day, by dwelling upon events not less painful, than that of six years ago. All my efforts have proved useless, all my hopes vain, and only now I can explain, or, to speak more correctly, others explain to me the cause. All were leagued against me, all were my enemies. But, God has granted that light should break through the darkness; they have been confounded, and I am still here. I am here for you; and, alas! alas! that I could be also for all those who did not think they needed me.

“Venancio, Benigno, and Inocencia are well in health.

“If I were allowed to give you an advice, I would recommend you not to show yourself too much alarmed at what is going on, since it would be highly imprudent for you to do so, however great may be the yearning of a mother’s heart.

“I look upon your esteemed letter as from a mother to her son, not from a suppliant to the magistrate, because in the latter case it would only help to do harm.

“Believe, Mother, in all the affection with which your blessing is asked for by your very obedient son.

“F. S. LOPEZ.”

OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OPINION OF EUROPE
HAS BEEN FORMED WITH REGARD TO PARAGUAY.

In a note from the Paraguayan Minister in Paris, Gregorio Benitez, found in the enemy’s archives on the 27th December, 1868, we read—

“It may have, perhaps, reached Y.E.’s knowledge that Don Luis Bamberger, formerly United States Consul in Asuncion, is engaged in publishing articles in the English press in favor of Paraguay, hoping, as he has frankly confessed to me, that once the war is brought to an end, the Government of the Republic will duly reward his labors. I must warn Y.E. that I understand that his expectations are rather high, and that now his contributions appear only in periodicals and reviews of small importance. Formerly, he was able to publish articles in the

Morning Post, Sun, Daily News, &c., but at present he only writes in third-rate and fourth-rate periodicals. Nevertheless, Mr. Bamberger's labors are not useless. This gentleman, like all people engaged in the press, has an insatiable thirst of money; he is always asking for it, and I greatly regret not being able to gratify him as he or I could wish. Once only I gave him £25 for cigars, and could give him no more. His applications for money are very embarrassing, because, as I duly value any help from the press, I should wish to be able to satisfy his wants."

Mr. Luis Bamberger's note, referred to in the Paraguayan Minister's communication, explains whence came, and what was the object of, the propaganda in favor of the despot, Solano Lopez: it is as follows:—

"27 Bush Lane. E.C.,
"London, August 8, 1868.

"To H.E. Marshal Don Francisco S. Lopez, President of the
Paraguayan Republic, &c., &c., &c.

"Most Excellent Sir,—

"Allow me to felicitate Y.E. and the Paraguayan people for the heroic defence of the Republic and its independence, and may a glorious triumph crown Y.E.'s arms.

"The long and gigantic war sustained by Paraguay for more than three years, has attracted the attention of Europe to a country which, for its exceptional history and geographical position, was more ignored than the rest of South American Republics, and the little that was known about it has never proceeded from either friendly or disinterested quarters.

"The enemies of Paraguay in Europe, I regret to say, are neither few nor despicable, consisting principally of the diplomatic agents of Brazil and of General Mitre, who, by their gold,

dispose of half the press of England, and have sought to buy all the most competent writers.

“All the news of the war came through them, and were published in such a form as to suit their interests; the greatest truths, well known in Rio Janeiro and Buenos Ayres, were distorted so as to suit the cause of the Allies.

“The only voices raised to contradict the false reports of Brazil, and present before the English, and, consequently, the European public, Paraguay and its government in a true point of view, were ours, that of my son Anthony and my own. For the last two years we have labored with pleasure in placing before the public the true history of the events of the war as they happened, according to the news we received by each packet, and we shall continue in our task to the end.

“Our labors have not been fruitless; because, for some considerable time past, the periodicals that were most hostile to Paraguay and its government have stopped publishing their lies, silenced by the simple truths we have published; and, I believe that it will be admitted, that we have contributed to the welfare of Paraguay.

“A pamphlet, published by me in the same sense, of which I had the pleasure of forwarding Y.E. some copies, which, I trust, have reached you safely, was well received by the public, and I was very glad of the criticisms and attacks it gave rise to, since it was a proof that my small work had fulfilled its object, viz., to exhibit to the public Paraguay and its illustrious government in its proper colors, which was only a duty we owed to a government and a country that have always treated us as friends.

“To prove to Y.E. the truth of what I say, I enclose a list of the newspapers published here containing articles or communi-

* This list comprises various numbers, during a period from August 14, 1867, to August 6, 1868, of the following London newspapers:—*Globe*, *Morning Post*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Morning Advertiser*, *Daily News*, *Sun*, *Standard*, *Morning Star*, *Observer*, and *Anglo-American Times*.

cations from us. One of us would have gone to visit Y.E., and taken the originals; but they will be remitted whenever a safe opportunity offers, although Señor Don Candido Barreiro, who has helped us not a little in our task, has copies of all of them.

“As we have done up to the present, we shall continue to sacrifice our time and means in the task we have undertaken, and in which we have assumed serious engagements with several editors, convinced that Y.E. will assist us in fulfilling them, and that Y.E. will recognise our efforts and labors in the interest of the Republic.

“We hope that soon the war will be over, and that Paraguay will again enjoy the peace which it has experienced for so many a year, and which placed it in a condition to struggle successfully with so many and such powerful enemies, rising, like a new Phoenix, from the ashes of this destructive war.

“I trust that Y.E. will accept with benevolence this letter of a friend, whom Y.E. has known for many years, and who will, with pleasure, execute Y.E.’s orders whenever in his power to do so.

“Y.E.’s most humble servant and friend,

“LUIS BAMBERGER.”

THE SPY SYSTEM. SUPERIOR OFFICERS AT THE MERCY
OF THEIR SUBALTERNS.

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 18, 1868.

“Ensign Vicente Goybuni has informed me that Corporal Silveiro Fernandez, 7th Regiment, a patient in the General Hospital, had reported to him several abuses committed in the hospital, viz., when Assistant-Surgeon Talavera was in charge of one of the hospital wards, he had with him a cousin of his, by name Zoilo Recalde, as hospital nurse, to whom he handed over all the provisions intended for the patients, and who used them at his own discretion. That, the informing corporal, being once present at the killing for meat, by order of Talavera delivered to Recalde all the fat of a bullock, which the latter employed for his own private use. That, said Recalde, through the influence of Talavera, has entered the Cerro Leon Hospital as a patient, when he was not sick. That, on one occasion, Assistant-Surgeon N. Gonzales, who was helping him in a ward, asked Talavera to cure him of a disease he was suffering from, but was not attended to.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 21, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, Assistant-Surgeon Felipe Talavera to receive fifty lashes in circle,* and to be attached to No. 40 Battalion, as common soldier.

F * Flogging in circle was when the culprit was made to stand in the middle of a circle of men, each armed with a flail, which they applied successively as they went round, until the prescribed number of lashes had been applied.

“Private Zoilo Recalde, one hundred lashes in circle, and to be attached to No. 3 Battalion.

“F. J. RESQUIN.”

“In compliance with the above Supreme Order, I, the undersigned, Captain Commanding the 9th Battalion, ordered Assistant-Surgeon Felipe Talavera, and rank and file Zoilo Recalde, to be punished respectively with fifty and one hundred lashes, afterwards telling off the first to serve as common soldier in Battalion No. 40, and the second in Battalion No. 3. in faith whereof I sign this, in the Camp of Pikysry, on the 21st of November, 1868.

“CANDIDO MERCADO.”

**MODEL OF A LIST OF PRISONERS, SPECIFYING THE CLASS
AND CAUSE OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT.**

Camp in Pikysry, October 17, 1868.

2nd Corporal Trifon Olmedo, 1st Battalion, in the stocks since the 29th of last month, for having given leave of absence to rank and file Clemente Duarte to go a short distance off to buy oranges, owing to which the latter was able to desert, and has not been captured up to this date.

Sergeants Concordio Correa and Marcelino Torres in the stocks since the 9th inst.: the first for having sent two soldiers alone to make wood, during which time one of them, called Ignacio Caballero, deserted, but was afterwards captured; and the second for having omitted to report the absence from muster of said deserter, thinking that he was in Sergeant Correa's hut. Both belong to the 13th Battalion.

2nd Sergeant Agustin Estigarribia in the stocks since the 11th inst., for having abandoned his corps at present.

Rank and file Eusebio Rindiar, 11th Battalion, in the stocks since the 11th inst., for the same motive as the preceding.

2nd Sergeant Felix Gonzalez, 11th Battalion, in the stocks since the 15th inst., for having, while on guard with Lieutenant Pascual Valiente, fallen asleep, and when ordered, in punishment thereof, to stand up at the door, having struck his officer.

2nd Ensign Policarpo Guillen, 53rd Battalion. placed under arrest on the 6th inst., on account of a soldier belonging to a fugitive party under his orders having deserted, who has since been captured.

2nd Lieutenant Saturnino Ortiz, 37th Battalion, placed under arrest on the 7th inst., for having given leave of absence to a soldier whilst on guard.

2nd Sergeant Leandro Acuña, 27th Battalion, in the stocks since the 4th inst., for having chopped of rank and file Baltazar Gavilan's finger, whilst assisting him to cut up some meat, both being regimental cooks.

Corporal Silverio Flores, 54th Battalion, in the stocks since the 8th of last month, for having, while on guard, allowed a soldier to desert, who has been re-captured.

Ten in all.

PUNISHMENTS FOR NOT ACTING AS SPY. ANOTHER
SPECIMEN OF THE SYSTEM.

29th Battalion.

“Camp in Pikysry, November 2, 1868.

“Ensign Elias Armoa, the sergeant, and two corporals of the same, having, while on guard at the Comisaria, failed to report the robbery of produce effected by Corporal Bolaño, in complicity with the sentry of said guard, Lazaro Cumbarity. By Supreme Order, said ensign to be reduced to the rank of sergeant, and do duty within the barracks of his regiment: the sergeant on guard to receive forty lashes, and reduced to corporal, and do duty in the trenches: the corporal of said guard to receive thirty lashes in circle, and be reduced to the ranks: Corporal Angel Bolaño to receive eighty lashes in circle, and reduced to the ranks, and do duty in the kitchen under surveillance: the sentry, Lazaro Cumbarity, who was an accomplice of Bolaño, to receive eighty lashes, and do duty in his company under surveillance. The two thieves are to be made to understand that they ought to have been shot, and the commutation of their sentence is due to the clemency of H.E. the Marshal President of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies.

“Rank and file Ventura Cano, who was on sentry near Lazaro Cumbarity, to receive fifty lashes in circle, for having omitted to report the circumstance to his corporal.

“The Commanding Officer of the corps, Major José Orihuela, is charged with the execution of the above sentence, having previously notified the criminals, and, after taking a copy thereof, will return the original.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Pikysry, November 2, 1868.

“The Supreme Order entrusted to me has been duly carried out, and I let the two thieves know that they ought to have been shot, but that sentence had been commuted through the clemency of H.E. the President Marshal of the Republic and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies; in faith whereof I sign this.

“JOSE ORIHUELA.”

**SPECIMEN OF PARAGUAYAN REPORTS. THE COHESION
OF THE ARMY EXPLAINED.**

Espinillo.

“Camp in Paso Pucu, January 13, 1868.

“To General Bruges.

“By Supreme Command, Sergeant Antonio Amarillo, 19th Battalion, is reduced to the rank of corporal.

“Rank and file Pedro Sarco, 4th Regiment of Artillery, 40 lashes, and to do duty under surveillance.

“Lieutenant Francisco Cespedes, and Ensign Rosendo Cespedes, to be admonished, and set at liberty.

“Lieutenant José Gamarce, to be admonished, and six double guards.

“Corporal Manuel Gonzalez, thirty lashes.

“Rank and file Eliceo Gimenez, one hundred lashes in circle.

“Sergeant Saturnino Veron, to be admonished, and set at liberty.

“Rank and file Valeriano Acosta, twenty-five lashes.

“Ensign Juan Largosta, 29th Battalion, eight double guards with musket, and to be deprived of his sword.

“Corporal Antonio Chamoro, twenty-five lashes, and reduced to the ranks.

“Rank and file Dolores Amarillo, 4th Regiment of Artillery, to be shot.

“Lieutenant Nicolas Ferreira, to be admonished, and four double guards.

“Corporal Claudio Palacios, and rank and file Olegario Laguardia, to be shot, severely admonishing Ensign Patricio Pereira for having acted with dilatoriness.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Paso Espinillo, January 13, 1868.

“Having received, with due consideration, the preceding list of sentences, by Supreme Command, I ordered the punishments and admonitions to be duly applied, and gave directions that the three corpses should be buried in the general army cemetery.

“JOSE M. BRUJES.”

INQUISITORIAL SYSTEM.

TRIAL ON A CHARGE OF HAVING DOUBTED THE SUCCESS OF THE WAR. THE PRETENDED UNITY OF ACTION AND VALOR OF THE PARAGUAYANS EXPLAINED. EFFECTS OF TALEBEARING. BOYS OF TWELVE AND FOURTEEN YEARS OF AGE THE PROSECUTING PARTIES.

“*Statement relative to the expressions uttered against our mother country by Pedro Gauto, a soldier of the Escuadron Suelto of Villa Franca, made by me, the undersigned, in compliance with Superior Orders, preceded by the official note of the Commandant of said town.*

“ Long Live the Paraguayan Republic!

“ Villa Franca, April 8, 1868.

“ To the Brigadier-General Commanding the Southern Division.

“ I have the honor to inform Y.E. that the telegraph employé of this provisional station, Juan Climado Valdovinos, reports to me that the youth Dionisio Galian had told him that about two months ago he heard Pedro Gauto, a soldier of the Villa Franca Squadron, employed in the State Farm of Bogadone, talking about the present war with a woman that was on her way to Villa del Pilar, whose name is not known, and that, among other things, Gauto had said that all the efforts of the Supreme Government of the Republic were useless, since the enemy was closing in upon us on all sides, and that the Government was now only making a show of resistance; that this conversation was also heard by a youth named Yegros, because they were both near the speakers. I, consequently, summoned before me the two youths, and their depositions, which I took separately, agreed with one another.

“ Subsequently, I called before me the accused soldier, and questioned him on the subject; notwithstanding, however, all my efforts to draw the truth from him, he denied everything, and at last I had him put in fetters, awaiting your supreme deliberation.

“ This is all I have to bring to your knowledge.

“ May God preserve you many years,

“ ISIDRO JOSE ARZE.”

“ Camp of San Fernando, April 21, 1868.

“ The youth, Del Pilar Yegros, having been questioned about Gauto's sayings, stated: That, being employed in looking after

the farm under the orders of Gauto, he was sitting one afternoon, about three o'clock, on a hide on the ground in the corridor of the farm-house, with another youth, Dionisio Galean, whilst Gauto was sitting in a hammock, conversing with a woman, and deponent heard the following words:—'Our superior is only acting for appearance sake, and that he may not seem to give in altogether, because he has but few people left.' That Gauto was not more explicit, but that deponent understood he alluded to the Marshal President of the Republic and our enemies; that the woman did not speak one word in reply, but only smiled when he spoke; that deponent does not know the name or residence of said woman, but, he presumed, she was Gauto's concubine, because she lived and slept with him for three or four days, and, after passing three or four days in another cottage, she used to come back to the farm; that he heard the above conversation three or four days before the arrival of the enemy's ironclads; and that one or two days after the woman went to the capital.

"That, subsequently, he (deponent) and Galean agreed between them that it would be proper to report the conversation they had overheard, but their occupations in the farm prevented them from doing so then, or until two officers of the telegraph service, by name Martinez and Valdovinos, happened to come to the farm; that Galean was the first who mentioned the subject to Valdovinos, whilst deponent was away, and, on his return, Valdovinos questioned him also, and they jointly reported all that had happened, and the following day they repeated the same thing in the Comadancia. Deponent stated that he was twelve years old.

"The youth, Dionisio Galean, being subsequently questioned, said that about four days before the arrival of the enemy's ironclads, whilst deponent and his companion, Del Pilar Yegros, were sitting on the ground upon a hide, they heard Pedro Gauto, who was sitting in a hammock, and a woman, whose name he ignores, conversing together, and he heard Gauto

talking upon the present war, and saying—‘Many of us have died, on account of the Marshal President of the Republic.’ He also said—‘Our superior is striving in vain, because he has no longer any chance, and, only not to appear that he gives in, he still makes efforts:’ then went on to say—‘It seems we are going to lose,’ alluding to the war. That these remarks of Gauto were addressed to the woman, but she did not reply a single word, nor did she show either that she was pleased or otherwise; that deponent ignores the residence of said woman, but believes her to belong to the Department of Villa Pilar; that about two days after this occurrence she left for Villeta. That Gauto did not again speak of these matters in deponent’s presence; that he only enquired of all who passed news of the war, and some told him that many of the enemies had died, but he never remembers in these conversations anything disagreeable; that deponent is a resident of Villa Franca, that he was employed in said farm as belonging to the urban militia; that the other soldiers employed in the farm besides Yegros did not hear what Gauto said; that deponent and his companion, Yegros, agreed to report what they had heard, but as they had no opportunity they could not do so at once, but only about twenty-two days afterwards, when two officers of the telegraph went to the farm, when deponent stated the case to one of them, by name Valdovinos, and they, hearing the report confirmed by Yegros, reported the circumstance to the Commandant of Villa Franca; that deponent recollects that three days elapsed before he made his declaration to Valdovinos; that the day on which he denounced Gauto he had had a dispute with him about some lead balls that were missing from his box; that, having come to words, Gauto said that deponent was a traitor and a descendant of the Canbai, and was answered that it was he who was a traitor, for having spoken against his own country; that, before this dispute, deponent told Gauto twice that he would denounce him for what he had said; and that ever since Gauto was more

exacting with him and Yegros as to the work in the farm; deponent added that he was fifteen years of age.

“In order to ascertain thoroughly all the circumstances of Gauto’s crime, denounced by Galian and Yegros, yesterday, 18th of April, about 8 p.m., Ensign Ignacio Caballero, 7th Regiment, with Corporal Antonio Guerren and two soldiers of the 12th Battalion, went to fetch Gauto and bring him to the prison of this camp. On their return they took the highroad to the west of the large corral, Gauto being tied on horseback, and before they had gone far Gauto’s conductors heard that he was cutting his throat. Ensign Caballero as quick as possible seized Gauto by the arm, but not before the latter had succeeded in inflicting a deep wound in his throat; no weapon was found, however, in the hand of the suicide. Gauto became faint, and Major José Palacios and Surgeon Julian Quevedo were sent for, the latter on examining the wounded man found him already unable to speak, and ordered him to be taken to the guard-house. Whilst he was there, I happened to be passing by, I endeavored to question said criminal on oath, but found that he was unable to speak, although he still had a great deal of strength, and kept turning himself over on the hide on which he was stretched; on seeing his condition, I exhorted him, by every means, to declare who had wounded him, and with what weapon, and, if he could not speak, told him to point by sign whether he himself had inflicted the wound, but I could not succeed in getting any answer, either by words or signs. Subsequently, I sent for the surgeon who had examined him, and, after having administered to him the customary oath, ordered him to examine again the wound and explain it. This he did carefully, and said—That the wound of the criminal, Pedro Gauto, was in the larynx, and the esofagus had been cut through, that it must have been made with a sharp cutting instrument, being three inches in length and one and a half in depth; that in consequence of it Gauto could not articulate; that, in his opinion, the wound was highly dangerous.

“The wound was sown up, but in the morning of this day Gauto was found dead. I then immediately ordered the same surgeon, Julian Quevedo, in the presence of the two corporals of the guard, to ascertain whether the criminal, Pedro Gauto, was dead, and Quevedo, after a careful examination, declared that Gauto was undoubtedly dead. The fetters were then taken off the corpse, and I ordered it to be buried in unconsecrated ground behind the cemetery of this camp, as a suicide.

“I had, some days previous, subjected deceased to an interrogatory, after receiving the depositions of the denouncing parties, and, although he at first denied everything, on my earnest and repeated exhortations to speak the truth, he declared that he certainly had spoken some words similar to what he was accused of having said, but I did not take any note at the time, having to attend to other business, and because Gauto said that he did not then recollect what it was he had said, but that it was more or less in conformity with the depositions of Galean and Yegros; at all events, Gauto seemed himself convinced that he was guilty of the crime imputed to him.

“The weapon with which the criminal, Pedro Gauto, inflicted his wound has been looked for from an early hour, by a sergeant, a corporal, and a soldier, in my presence, in the same spot where the event occurred, but no traces of it have been found.

“In order further to elucidate how the misfortune occurred, I sent for Ensign Ignacio Caballero, who was under arrest, and questioned him about it. He replied—That, yesterday, in the early part of the night, Major José Palacios sent him to the prison to fetch the criminal, Pedro Gauto, for the purpose of taking his declaration; that he was conducting him, guarded by a corporal and two soldiers, and they were coming by the rear of the barracks of the 9th Battalion, and, before having gone far, the soldier who was leading by a rope the horse on which the criminal was mounted, saw that the latter made a

motion to cut his own throat, and called out to deponent, who immediately rushed to seize Gauto by the right arm, but was too late, although Gauto had nothing in his hand; that, before starting, deponent did not examine whether the criminal carried any arms; that this was owing to want of precaution on his part, and because, knowing that the criminal had been in prison under a sentry, it never occurred to him that he could have any weapon on him; that, although the night was dark, deponent also saw Gauto with his hand up to the throat, as soon as the soldier that was leading the horse called out to him; that, as soon as the misfortune took place, deponent went to report it; and that the above deposition is in conformity with what happened, and the whole truth.

“Subsequently, I questioned Corporal Antonio Gueren, 12th Battalion, who was guarding the deceased, Pedro Gauto, and he said—That being on guard at the prison of this camp on the 18th inst., an officer, whose name he does not know, came to fetch a prisoner in irons, name unknown, and ordered deponent and Privates Andres Gonzalez and Antonio Zamudio, to accompany him, together with the officer of the guard; the prisoner went on horseback, and his horse was lead by a rope, held by Private Gonzalez, with deponent on his left, Zamudio on his right, and the officer behind; about a couple of hundred yards before reaching a guard-house on the edge of a wood, Gonzalez saw that the prisoner made a motion to cut his own throat, and at once gave the alarm; the officer rushed forward to seize the prisoner by the right arm, but found that his throat was already cut, although he had no weapon in his hand; he was at once lowered and searched, but no cutting instrument was found upon him. Afterwards, the officer went to the Commandant's office to report the occurrence. That, in taking the prisoner out of prison the officer did not search him; that on the road the deceased criminal did not say anything. Deponent thinks that Gauto himself inflicted the wound, and nobody else, and adds that what he has stated is the truth.

“To-day, April 21, I summoned before me Privates Andres Gonzalez and Antonio Zamudio, who escorted the deceased, together with Corporal Antonio Gueren, and, on being questioned, Gonzalez said that four days ago, being on guard at the prison of this camp, an officer, whom he did not know, came to fetch a criminal in irons, whose name he also ignored; then the officer of the guard, 2nd Lieutenant M. Leguizamon, 12th Battalion, ordered the sergeant to send Corporal Gueren, deponent, and Zamudio, to escort the prisoner; that deponent was leading the prisoner’s horse by a rope, the corporal and the other soldier being respectively one on each side, and the officer behind, urging on the prisoner’s horse with his whip; that when they were passing by the rear of the barracks of the 9th Battalion, deponent, who from time to time looked back to the prisoner, saw, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, that the latter was making a motion as if cutting his own throat, and deponent raised an alarm; the officer at once rushed forward and took hold of prisoner’s hand, but no sharp instrument was found, either in his hand or anywhere near on the ground, although they all looked for it. Deponent thinks it must have jumped out of prisoner’s hand when his arm was violently seized. Deponent did not see the prisoner searched when he left the prison, to ascertain whether he had any weapon; he, moreover, feels certain that the prisoner himself inflicted the wound, and declares that all he has stated is the truth.

“Private Zamudio deposed that all that Gonzalez had said is what occurred, and that he can neither add nor alter anything to the latter’s account, being the whole truth without the slightest falsehood.

“VICENTE ABALOS.”

**THE FORM OF LOPEZ' TRIALS. NO DEFENCE ALLOWED.
ALL SENTENCED TO DIE FOR ATTACHMENT TO THEIR
FAMILY.**

4TH REGIMENT.

*Deposition of Antonio Irala, a native of Quindy, who deserted on
the 18th inst.*

“Camp in Pikysry, October 31, 1868.

“Deponent states that on the morning of the above day he deserted from his corps, with the intention of going to his district, to visit the woman Teresa Almiron, who has nursed him, and whom he longed to see again ; but having entered the district of Villeta he was captured by a sergeant, who had been watching about there, as he himself said, and who delivered him to Lieutenant Casiano Roman, in Yaquito, and the latter sent him on here.

“For this reason, the above mentioned runaway is at present in the stocks in the guard house of his own corps.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysry, October 23, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, the deserter, Private Antonio Irala, 4th Regiment, captured in Tacuaty, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Pikysry, October 23, 1868.

“In pursuance of the above Supreme Order, the deserter, Private Antonio Trala, captured in Tacuaty, has been executed. In faith whereof I sign.

“BENITO ROLON.”

41ST BATTALION.

Deposition of Private Matias Vera, native of San Juan Bautista, who deserted on the 23rd inst.

“Camp in Pikysry, November 30, 1868.

“Deponent states that about noon of said day he deserted from his corps, without any motive, intending to go and live in the district of Iturigua, where he says he has his family; that, on the day following his desertion, he was captured in the Cañada de Aldana, jurisdiction of Itá, and was taken before the military commander, who put him in irons and then sent him on to this office.

“The runaway is, consequently, in the guard-house of his regiment, in irons.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysry, December 10, 1868.

“By Supreme Command, the deserter, Private Matias Vera, 41st Battalion, captured in the district of Itá, is sentenced to be shot.”

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“In pursuance of the Supreme decree of this date, the deserter, Private Matias Vera, 41st Battalion, captured in the district of Itá, has been executed; and, in testimony that the Supreme Order of the most excellent Marshal President of the Republic has been duly carried out, I sign this, in the camp of Pikysry, on the 10th of December, 1868.

“FRANCISCO ROA.”

2ND REGIMENT OF HORSE ARTILLERY.

Deposition of Private De la Cruz Chaparro, native of Quiquío, who deserted on the 13th inst.

“Camp in Pikysyry, October 22, 1868.

“Deponent states that in the evening of said day he left his corps, intending to go to his own district; but, before reaching his house, he was seized by two individuals, who took him to Major Mesa in Caapucu, and the latter remitted him in irons to this office.

“He states, moreover, that the only motive for his desertion was his wish to see his parents.

“This runaway is at present in irons in the guard-house of his regiment.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, October 23, 1868.

“By Supreme Command, the deserter, Private De la Cruz Chaparro, 2nd Regiment of Horse Artillery, captured in his own district of Quiquío, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

Camp in Pikysyry, October 23, 1868.

“In compliance with the above Supreme Order, received with due respect, the deserter, Private De la Cruz Chaparro, 2nd Regiment of Horse Artillery, has been executed.

“PEDRO HERMOZA.”

53RD BATTALION.

Deposition of Private Vicente Talavera, native of Asuncion, who deserted on the 30th of last month.

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 10, 1868.

“Deponent states that on the morning of said day, being told off to carry bricks to the trenches, and having, for some time past, felt distress at the absence of his three sons, who are in Luque, he thought of deserting, which he effected in order to go and see his sons; and two days after his flight he was apprehended, in the district of Itá, and taken before the commander of the district, who remitted him to prison in irons, and yesterday afternoon he was sent to this office, arriving to-day.

“This runaway is in the guard-house of his corps, in irons.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 11, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, the deserter, Private Vicente Talavera, 53rd Battalion, captured in the district of Itá, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 11, 1868.

“In compliance with Y.E.’s Supreme Order, Private Vicente Talavera, 53rd Battalion, has been executed.

“Which I beg to report for Y.E.’s information.

“ANTONIO P. GONZALEZ.”

45TH REGIMENT.

Deposition of the deserter Private Juan Yrala, native of San Ignacio de las Misiones.

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 24, 1868.

“Deponent states that about seven days ago he deserted from his corps after evening muster, from no other motive than a desire to see his family, living in Paraguari, where he was going, taking the highroad that goes through the jurisdiction of Yaguaron, when he was apprehended, without making any resistance, by a woman whom he did not know, and taken by her to the head of the department; he was thence remitted in irons to this office.

“In consequence whereof the runaway is at present in irons at the guard-house of his regiment.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 24, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, the deserter, Private Juan Yrala, of the 45th Regiment, captured in the Department of Yaguaron, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, November 25, 1868.

“In compliance with the commands of H.E. the President of the Republic, I ordered Private Juan Yrala to be shot, in faith whereof I sign this.

“BALBIN RIVAROLA.”

2ND REGIMENT.

Deposition of Private Leandro Sanabria, native of Villa San Pedro, who deserted about eight days ago.

“Camp in Pikysry, November, 10, 1868.

“Deponent states that in the afternoon of the 3rd inst. he deserted from his corps, urged by a desire to eat *bartimento*, to look for which he took the direction of the interior departments; but on the fifth day of his desertion he was captured in the Department of Itá, receiving two mortal sword cuts from his captors on the head and shoulders, when he tried to run away. He was subsequently led before the head of the department, who remitted him to this office.

“In consequence whereof this runaway is at present in custody in the guard-house of his regiment.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysry, November 11, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, the deserter, Leandro Sanabria, 2nd regiment, captured in the Department of Itá, after offering resistance, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Nandipay, November 11, 1868.

“The deserter, Private Leandro Sanabria, has been executed, in compliance with the Supreme Order transmitted by you.

“MANUEL MENDIETA.”

20TH BATTALION.

Deposition of Private Felipe Bogado, native of Caazapa, who deserted on the 26th ult.

“Camp in Pikysyry, October 23, 1868.

“Deponent states that feeling distressed at the absence of his children, he thought of going to his department to see them, and therefore deserted from his regiment at dawn on the above-mentioned day; but, when he got into the Department of Itapé, he was apprehended by a sergeant of the Urbanos, and taken before the military commander of the district. The latter had him placed in irons and sent him to the Adjutant-General’s office, whence he was remitted to this camp.

“He adds that the only motive of his desertion was his desire to see his children.

“This runaway is at present a prisoner in the guard-house of his regiment, in irons.

“HILARIO MARCO.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, October 23, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, the deserter, Private Felipe Bogado, 20th Battalion, captured in the Department of Itapé, is sentenced to be shot.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Pikysyry, October 23, 1868.

“In compliance with the above Supreme Order, received with due respect, the deserter, Private Felipe Bogado, 20th Battalion, has been executed.

“PEDRO HERMOZA.”

SYSTEM OF REVENGE. TALE-BEARING.

“ Long Live the Paraguayan Republic !

“ Camp in Paso Pucu, December 21, 1867.

“ With all due respect, I beg to inform you that Bernardo Encrito Pinto, prisoner of war, has reported to me that Sergeant Francisco de Pablo Montero, also a prisoner of war, had told him that he had heard Antonio Carballos de Sosa threaten Antonio Moreira de Sosa to denounce to the authorities his having, on several occasions, urged him to desert to the enemy’s camp.

“ In consequence whereof I subjected the two intending deserters to an interrogatory, from which it would appear that it was Antonio Carballos de Sosa who had first made the proposition, not Antonio Moreira de Sosa ; and, therefore, as the two seemed implicated, I ordered both to be secured in irons, with which I have the honor to acquaint you, for the ends that may follow.

“ May God preserve you many years.

“ MATIAS GOYBURU.”

“ Camp in Paso Pucu, December 30, 1867.

“ To the General Commanding the Southern Division.

“ By Supreme Order, the prisoners of war, Antonio Carballos de Sosa and Antonio Moreira de Sosa, who agreed to desert to the enemy, are sentenced to death, the execution of this sentence being entrusted to Captain Matias Goyburu.

“ F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Paso Pucu, December 30, 1867.

“The above Supreme Order has been duly carried out. send back to the General Commanding the Southern Division this order, with a statement of its having been complied with in faith whereof I sign this.

“MATIAS GOYBURU.”

THE EFFECTS OF TERROR. SERVILITY BEFORE LOPEZ

“*Long Live the Republic of Paraguay!*”

“Camp Brite, December 10, 1867.

“To H.E. the Marshal President of the Republic, and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies.

“Most Excellent Sir,—

“With due respect I communicate to Y.E. that I have shown Y.E.’s order to General Resquin, that he should teach me a lesson because I am myself so wanting in discernment. The General did in fact prove so evidently my shortcomings on this occasion that he has enabled me to see more clearly the benevolence which Y.E. is never weary of showing towards me; therefore most Excellent Sir, I deplore having had the audacity to ask Y.E.’s forgiveness, and repent the ingratitude with which I have corresponded to Y.E.’s kindness, and, prompted by the dictates of my conscience, I seek from Y.E. justice and no

pardon, because I am unworthy of it, and because I have not known how to behave myself: I would have undergone any sacrifice in order to please Y.E. under the circumstances, and, obeying strictly Y.E.'s orders, have marched forward; but I did not do so, which I know well, most Excellent Sir, is a blunder, and a blunder is degrading, unless remedied at once; therefore, Sir, I only ask for justice.

“This is all I have to communicate to Y.E. on the present occasion.

“May God preserve Y.E.'s life for many years for the good of the country.

“JULIAN NICANOR GODOY.”

“December 10, 1867.

“For the administration of justice solicited by Major Godoy, let this be remitted to Brigadier Resquin, in order that he may appoint a fiscal who, after due investigation, shall dictate the sentence and report the same.

“LOPEZ.”

BARBAROUS ORDER ABOUT DESERTION.

“*Long Live the Republic of Paraguay!*

“Camp in Paso de la Patria, March 25, 1866.

“By order of H.E. the Marshal President of the Republic, and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies, the following punishments are in force:—

“For all those who fall asleep on guard.

- “1. The officer to be arrested, and reported to H.E.
- “2. The sergeant to receive fifty lashes standing.
- “3. The corporals to receive forty lashes.
- “4. Privates to receive twenty-five lashes each.

“In case of desertion of a soldier when detached from his company.

“1. The rank and file next to him on each side to receive twenty-five lashes.

“2. The officer in charge of the company in which a desertion takes place, to be arrested and reported to the Supreme Government.

“3. The sergeant to receive fifty lashes, and do duty in his company for one month as common soldier and one month as corporal; at the expiration of these two months to be reinstated to his former rank of sergeant.

“4. The corporals to receive forty lashes in circle, and do duty in their companies as common soldiers for two months, after which to be reinstated to their former rank of corporal.

“This order is applicable to troops or detachments told off from their respective companies for any work or employment under the charge of their respective officers.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

DOCUMENTS EXPLAINING THE DE-POPULATION OF
PARAGUAY.

WOMEN DRIVEN ABOUT IN HERDS.

“ Long Live the Republic of Paraguay!

“ Camp in Pikysry, December 18, 1868.

“ To Captain Bernardo Amarilla.

“ By Supreme Order I despatch to your quarters, under charge of Ensign Ignacio Romero, and thirty armed men, 900 women, who are to proceed in the same manner to the Cerro Aruai, hence to Paraguari and Caacupé, on the other side of the Cordillera, with instructions to the Commandant of the Department of Caacupé to distribute them in the furthest districts of that part of the Cordillera, where they may be able to sow beans, andaices, &c. For this purpose you will forward this order to the Commandants of Paraguari and Caacupé.

“ May God preserve you many years.

“ F. I. RESQUIN ”

“ Long Live the Republic of Paraguay!

To the Captain Commanding the Detachment of Yuquity and the Commandants of Paraguari and Caacupé.

“ By Supreme Order, I despatch another batch of 640 women belonging to Villeta, and 170 belonging to different districts, in order that, as on a previous occasion, they may be safely escorted by thirty cavalry soldiers, well armed, under charge of an officer, from Paso Yuquity to the Cerro Aruai and Para-

guari; and if there should be no available forces at either of these points, as far as the district of Caacupé, with instructions to the Commandant of the latter place to distribute them, as soon as they arrive, through the other central districts of that Cordillera, and see that they be usefully employed in agriculture or other occupations, by which they may provide for their own sustenance; for this purpose they are to be allowed whatever assistance may be at hand.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

SHOOTING FOR NOT RISING EARLY.

“Camp in Pikysry, November 13, 1868.

“By Supreme Order, Lieutenant Manuel Sayas, 22nd Battalion, is sentenced to be shot, for having refused to get up for morning parade, for having struck two soldiers that were then singing in front of his room, and disobeyed the order sent by his commanding officer of giving up his sword to the officer of the day, saying that he would deliver it up after seeing said commanding officer.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in Ñandipay, November 13, 1868.

“Sentence of death has been duly carried out on Lieutenant Manuel Sayas, in compliance with the Supreme Order transmitted to me by you.

“MANUEL MONTIEL.”

HORRIBLE!

SHOOTING FOR CONVERSING AND FLOGGING FOR LISTENING.

Deposition of Private Candido Ayala, of the Grenadier Company of the 3rd Battalion.

“ Long Live the Paraguayan Republic!

“ Camp in San Fernando, April 4, 1868.

“ Deponent states that being last night round a camp fire, with other soldiers of his company, he was relating to them the sayings and offers of the enemy, which he heard when doing duty in the vanguard, under the orders of Major Benite Rolan, whenever they came within sight of each other. On one occasion some of the enemy said—‘ Come among us ; throw away your ponchos of hide ; here we live well, and you shall want nothing ; forget your President, that old big-bellied Indian.’ At this moment the Commanding Officer, who was near, overheard these words, and immediately rebuked him, saying—‘ Be silent ; who has authorised you to refer the words of those wretches, and what can they say or impute to our illustrious Marshal, who is the handsomest and most graceful sovereign in all the American Continent?’ Deponent was then asked by said officer what

induced him to refer such things, which were nothing but injurious personal attacks upon our Lord President, and he said that he repeated what he had heard without any evil thought, not knowing that he was incurring blame.

“The undersigned ordered deponent to be put into irons and imprisoned in the guard-house, where he at present lies; and reports the circumstance to the Commanding Officer of the Division.

“JULIAN D. GODOY.”

“Camp in Tebicuary, April 4, 1868.

“By order of H.E. the Marshal President of the Republic, and Commander-in-Chief of its Armies, the accused Private Candido Ayala, 3rd Battalion, is sentenced to be shot, and each of the soldiers of his company who listened to his conversation are to receive fifty lashes. The execution of this sentence is entrusted to the Major commanding said corps, who, in reporting its due fulfilment, will state the names of those who have been flogged.

“F. I. RESQUIN.”

“Camp in San Fernando, April 4, 1868.

“In compliance with the above Supreme Order, which I have received with due respect, I ordered sentence of death on Private Candido Ayala, 3rd Battalion, for the cause above stated, to be carried out this very day, also, that fifty lashes should be applied to Sergeant Faustino Sanabria, Corporals José Figueredo, Blas Gimenez, and Privates Baltazar Medina, Matilde Pino, Tomas Duarte, Cecilio Maciel, and Canuto Galeano, who all were listening when Ayala was speaking so irreverently. Private

Canuto Galeano was, by mistake of the corporal, punished with only forty-nine lashes, and I ordered the number to be completed to fifty, which being done, he turned round, as if offended, asking to be punished more if the number was not yet completed, for which display of pride I had him punished with twenty-five lashes more, and placed in the stocks.

“ All of which I respectfully beg to report to you.

“ JULIAN NICANOR GODOY.”

THE TABLETS OF BLOOD OF F. S. LOPEZ.

SIX MONTHS' EXECUTIONS.

EVIDENCE OF THE MOST ATROCIOUS TYRANNY.

Here follows a serial list of the murders committed, and the tortures applied, by Lopez, from July to December, 1868, taken from his own bloody archives. They reach the figure of 558 victims. Yet, no mention is made of his brother, of Minister Berges, of the Oriental Blaucos his friends, of the Bishop—all shot—and of the rest of the prisoners, of whom only fifteen escaped. No mention is made of his own mother's exile, of the imprisonment of his brother Venancio, of his own sisters, and other ladies flogged, &c., &c., &c.

It will be seen that these 558 victims were condemned upon simple orders of Lopez, without cause, trial, or sentence of a military tribunal, and all of them, both foreigners, prisoners of war, and Paraguayans, styled criminal "traitors," on the mere assertion of Lopez. That out of them some were shot, some lanced, others bayoneted, and those who died in prison were tortured by hunger, hard work, heavy irons, and the frightful torment called "cepo Uruguayano," which even surpasses the satanic inventions of the Inquisition.

Who is the real "criminal traitor?" Is it any of these wretched 558 victims?—No.

The "criminal traitor" is Solano Lopez and his satellites, and those who endeavor to screen him from human justice.

The "criminal traitor" is Francisco Solano Lopez, who has surpassed Nero, Caligula, Commodus, and Rosas.

No.—The "criminal traitor" to mankind, and to God, is he who has not respected either sex or old age, not even his own mother, neither children, nor God's ministers. It is Francisco Solano Lopez.

RESQUIN'S DIARY.

Camp in San Fernando May 31, 1868.

By Supreme Command, the deserters, Domingo Caballero and Juan Lopez, soldiers of the 13th Battalion, captured in the woods (the former having two wounds, one inflicted by himself and the other by his captors), have been executed in Villa Franca.

June 17.—By Supreme Command, the Brazilian Juan de Silva, a spy of the enemy, was executed. Also, for desertion, the artilleryman from Tebicuary, José Delvalle.

June 19.—The traitor Silvestre Silva died; his death was a natural one●

Also, by Supreme Command, the following traitors from the capital were executed: Esteban Homen, Vicente Cabrera, Apolinario Diaz, Nicolas Medina, Gregorio Ferreira, and Felix Diaz.

June 22.—By Superior Order, the deserter Antonio Babadilla, of the 43rd Battalion, was executed.

Also, by Supreme Order, the following traitors from the capital were executed: Juan Benitez, Antonio Barbosa, Francisco Pereira, Pio Ayala, Bernardo Pereira, Dionisio Gonzales, and José Devane.

June 23.—By Supreme Order were executed in irons the traitors Soto Diaz, Domingo Talavera, Bartolomé Mayo, Gaspar Morinigo, Miguel Gimenez, Tomas Vasquez, José Maria Quintana, and German Egusquiza, all brought from the capital.

June 28.—By Supreme Order were executed the accused traitors Vicente Ortigoza, Tomas Pedroso, Eugenio Caceres, Martin Morales, Tomas Cardoso, Galo Iturbe, José Manuel Otazu, and Vicente Lopez, all brought from the capital. Died, of natural death, in prison, the Brazilian deserter Pedro Antonio Alves.

July 1.—By Supreme Order, the deserter Victoriano Zaraque, of the corps of scouts, was executed.

July 5.—Died of natural death, in prison, the accused traitor ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Juan Gomez; also, the accused traitor Sotero Torres, cavalry soldier.

July 6.—By Supreme Order, the deserter Eugenio Nuñez, private of the 19th Regiment, was executed.

July 7.—Died of natural death, in irons, the accused Emilio Neumann, a German, from Hamburg.

July 9.—Died of natural death, in irons, the accused Pablo Beccari, an Italian; also, by Supreme Order, the deserter Basilio Rivarola, of the 23rd Battalion, was executed.

July 13.—By Supreme Order were executed the following accused traitors: Juan Bautista Lescano, Marcelino Marque, Salvador Martinez, Zacarias Pereira, José Ignacio Garay, Manuel

Cardoso, José Tomas Martinez, Serapio Escobar, Roman Insfrau, Juan de la Cruz Vera, Manuel Viera, Corporal Angel Alderete, Basilio Villalva, Nemesio Benitez, José Luis Botella, Manuel Montero Braga, Francisco Magallanes, Antonio Carlos da Oliveira, and Julio Bautista Dacosta.

July 14.—By Supreme Command, the accused traitor Cornet Miguel Gayoso, was executed.

July 15.—Died, the accused traitor Juan Lenzi Colomno, Englishman. Died, the accused traitor Manuel Madruga, Portuguese. Died, the accused traitor Policarpo Gallo, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor Trifon Cañete, Paraguayan.

July 16.—Died, the accused traitor Buenaventura Caceres, Paraguayan. The accused traitor Miguel Antonio Elorday, Paraguayan, was executed.

July 17.—Died, the accused traitor Manuel Bocanegra, Italian. Died, the accused traitor José Bedoya, Correntino.

July 18.—The accused traitor Tomas Pizarrelo was executed. The accused traitor Gregorio Escobedo was executed.

July 19.—Died, the accused traitor Isidoro Troche, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor Domingo Purniez.

July 20.—Died, the accused traitor Miguel Bergues, Paraguayan.

July 21.—Died, the accused traitor Agustin Elezdui, Spaniard. Died, the accused traitor Justo Benitez, Paraguayan.

July 23.—Died, the accused traitor Clemente Veloto, Paraguayan.

July 24.—Died, the accused traitor Raimundo Ortiz, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor Estevan Luisaga, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor Agustin Piaggio, Italian.

July 25.—Died, the accused traitor Carlos Orrute. Died, the accused traitor Ignacio Galarraga, Spaniard. Died, the accused traitor Escolastico Garesse, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor José de C. Fernandez, Paraguayan.

July 28.—Died, the accused traitors Estevan Idedusis and Antonio Susini, Italians.

July 29.—Died, the accused traitor José Angelo, Paraguayan. By Supreme Order, were executed the accused traitors Santiago Ozcariz and Manuel Cabral, Paraguayans, and Candido Vasconcellos, Portuguese.

July 30.—Died, the accused traitors Bernardo Artaza and Firmin Gonzalez, Paraguayans.

July 31.—Died, the accused traitor Francisco Rosas.

August 4.—Died, the accused traitors Manuel Coelho, Portuguese; Abdon Molinas, Paraguayan; and Pedro Anglade, French.

August 5.—Died, the accused traitor Sinforoso Caceres, Correntino.

August 6.—By Supreme Order, the criminal deserter Eusebio Herrera, Argentine, was executed; and the accused traitor Vicente Valle, Paraguayan, died.

August 7.—Died, the accused traitor Salvador Figueredo, Paraguayan.

August 8.—Died, the accused traitors Luciano Baez, Paraguayan, and Juan Fusoni, Italian.

August 9.—The following accused traitors were executed: Americo Varela, Angel Silva, Antonio Arna, Antonio Tomé, Antonio Rebaudi, Antonio Guanes, Antonio Taboas, Antonio Ivala, Aristides Dupart, Baldomero Ferreira, Benjamin Santerre, Cayetano Barbosa, Eugenio Maten Aguiar (Spaniard), Faustino Martinez, Feliciano Hermosa, Francisco Canteros, Francisco Samaniego, Francisco Sotera, Fermin Bazaraz, Gregorio Arguelles, Inocencio Gregorio, Isidoro Arriola, José Caravia, José Valle, Juan Schamper, Juan Fusoni (this last died a natural death a moment before being executed), Julian Rodriguez, Julian Aquino, Luis Avila, Martin Candia, Nicolas Casales, Nicolas Susini, Nicolas Delfino, Pedro Falcon, Pelayo Azcona, Roman Franco, Roman Capdevila, Serapio Pucheta, Venancio Uribe, Vicente Servin, and Vicente Galarza.

August 10.—Died, the accused traitor Juan Padilla, Argentine.

August 14.—Died, the accused traitors Agustin Viera and Eliseo Galeano, Paraguayans.

August 15.—Died, the accused traitor presbyter José Maria Patiño.

August 17.—Died, the accused traitors Pedro Burgos, Paraguayan; and Coriolano Margues, Spaniard.

August 18.—Died, the accused traitor Lieutenant Juan Caballero.

August 19.—Died, the accused traitors Damasio Cuevas, Paraguayan; and Alfredo Levret, French.

August 20.—Died, the accused traitors Florencio Uribe, Spaniard; and Benjamin Urbietta, Paraguayan.

August 22.—The following accused traitors were executed: Cipriano Duprat, Andres Urdapilleta, Carlos Recio, Constantino Barletto, Julio Carranza, Vicente Barletto, Sebastian Ibarra, Antonio Oneto, Lisardo Baca, Gregorio Vera, Narciso Lascerre, Felipe Milleres, Juan Vera, Alejandro Pinto de Souza, Nicolas Jubelini, Federico Anavitarte, Tristan Roca, Benigno Gutierrez, Raimundo Barraza, Leandro Barrios, Roman Silvero, Honorio Grillo, Mateo Muso, Ignacio Ruiz, Feliz Garcia, Feliz Arriola, Pastor Gonzalez, Juan Baeco, Juan Bautista Duré, Leopoldo Anglade, Francisco Cardoso, Miguel Lombardi, José Mino, Domingo Fernandez, Federico Gaciaga, Juau Gregorio Valle, Miguel Perujo, Manuel Espinola, Feliz Candia, Joaquin Fernandez, Enrique Tuvo, Lorenzo Graz, Francisco Molinas, Desiderio Arias, Juan Andreu, Egidio Ferreiro, José Remondini, and Pio Pozzoli. Total, 48.

The following accused traitors were executed on the same day: Francisco Rodriguez Larreta, Narciso Prado, James Manlove, Ulises Martinez, Francisco Laguna, José Garay, José Maria Astigarrago, William Stark, Bernardino Ferreira, Nicolas Troya, Leonardo Sion, Salvador Echenique, Santiago Delucchi, Pablo Kert, José Rustei, Joaquin Vargas Aldado, Celso Correa, Domingo Rojas Aranda, Enrique Garcia, Pilar Guaicochea, Juan Batalla, Pascual Bedoya, Juan Ferresi, Gregorio Molinas, Roque Cespedes, Marcelino Gomez, Francisco Vidal, José Rodriguez, Joaquin Romaguera, Pedro Polleti, José Maria Sancedo, José

Vicente Urdapilleta, Angel Ugale, Aurelio Manchuet, Guines Ranstei, Bernardino Cabral, Faustino Rodriguez (presbyter), except Nicolas Troja, who died before execution Total, 37.

August 23.—Died, the accused traitor Captain Roman Boga, and by Supreme Order the following accused traitors were executed: John Watts, Natalicio Martinez, Benigno Rosas, Luis Echevarrieta, Teodoro Gauna, Marcos Pernabe, Celestino Cattim, José Sanyur, Basiliano Lampini, Enrique Fenaus, José Haller, Charles Tevite, Alejandro Galeano, Francisco Sora, Francisco Balbuena, Bartolomé Albertoni, Esteban Meza, Antonio Lucero, Aureliano Capdevila, Melchor Costa (all foreigners), and Mariano Marques, Augustin Pires, Manuel Fernandez (the last three Paraguayans). Total, 23.

August 24.—Died, the accused traitor Jesus Lopez, country man. The following traitors were executed: Clemente Pereira, Martin Vera, Aniceto Duarte, Casimiro Aquino, Pablo Rojas, Francisco Roman, Miguel Garcia (Paraguayans), and Estifanio Palacios, Juan Moreira, Maximo Rodriguez, José Loco (foreigners). Total, 11.

August 26.—The following accused traitors were put to death: Francisco Fernandez, Paraguayan, ex-major; Captain Miguel Haedo, Lieutenant Anastasio Vallejos, Ensign José Villasanti, Ensign Dionisio Villalba, citizen Alejo Acuña, citizen Pablo Gonzalez, citizen Francisco Frutos, citizen Matias Montiel Italian, Silverio Botea, and the foreigners Antonio Fonseca and Hilario Sautanna. Total, 14.

By Supreme Order the following accused traitors were put to death: José Maria Bruges, ex-Colonel Mauuel Nunez, Major Vicente Mora, Lieutenant Ignacio Ramos, Major Candido Mora, Ensign Rosario Bobadilla, Captain Miguel Rosas, citizen Carlos Riveros, Manuel Cespedes, ex-Presbyter Vicente Bazau, Fidelio Davila, Juan Morles, Teodoro Vera, Ensign Jeronimo Delfin, Juau Madera, Sisto Pereira, Angel Cacens, Antonio Nin Reyes, and Antonio Vasconcellos. Total, 19.

By Supreme Order the following accused traitors were put to

death: Manuel Trete, Pablo Seracho, Blas Recalde, Juan Antonio Rodriguez, Francisco Decoud, Valentin Bargas, Prudencio Ayala, and Valeriano Ayala. Total, 8.

Camp in Cumaritú, September 4.

Died, the accused traitors Francisco Candia, Lieutenant José Martinez, and citizen Dionisio Figueredo.

September 5.—Died, in prison, the traitor Narcisco Nuñez, ex-Justice of Peace of Villeta.

September 6.—Died, in prison, the accused traitors Anacleto Gonzalez, Correntino, and Joseph Font, North American.

September 9.—Died, the accused traitors the soldier Nicolas Sanabria, Paraguayan, and Timoteo Correa, Brazilian.

September 10.—The spies Vincente Amarrilla and Inocencio Gonzalez, Paraguayan soldiers, were bayoneted.

September 11.—Died, the accused traitors Gustavo Haman, German; Lieutenant Patricio Gorostiaga, Argentine; and Antonio da Silva, Brazilian.

September 12.—Died, the accused traitor Ensign Tomas Cespedes, and citizen Roman Candia, Paraguayans.

September 13.—Died, in prison, Lieutenant-Colonel Gaspar Campos, prisoner of war, and the traitor Gabriel Coria, Argentine.

List of prisoners who died on the transit from San Fernando to Cumaritú, from August 27 to September 3.

Juan Pastore, Pedro Talena, Antonio Charman, foreigners; the traitor Jorge Kes, Swiss; Manuel Antonio del Espiritu Santo, the traitor Isidoro Martinez, Mexican; José Cayetano Beurro, Carlos Bueno, Jorge Daly, Antonio José de Mora, Pedro Lagarde, Andres Gonzalez, Eleuterio Enero, Manuel Peña, José Vicente

Jestono, José Maria Castro, Andreas Ibanez, Bolivian traitor ; Eustaquio Uriarte, Manuel Rivera, Juan Almayoa, Roberto Casimiro, Valentin Benitez, Raymundo Aquino, Manuel Borges, Miguel Silva, and Ensign José Gavilan. Total, 28.

September 14.—Lieutenant Alejo Ybero was bayoneted, and the accused traitors Natan Marischavel, Spaniard, and Carlos Moreno, Argentine, died. Colonel Bernardino Denis was set at liberty. Under date of September 4, the deserters from the enemy, the prisoners of war, and prisoners for other reasons, to the number of 190, were taken from prison to work in the trenches.

September 15.—Died, the accused traitors Jacinto Duarte, Paraguayan, and Balthazar de las Carreras, Uruguayan.

September 16.—Died, the accused traitors Augustin Trigo, Sebastian Insfrau, Eufemio Mendez, Antonio Ortiz, all Paraguayans, and Wenceslao José Maria, Brazilian.

September 18.—Died, the accused traitor Justo Caceres, Paraguayan. The following criminals were taken to work in the trenches: Simon da Silva, Antonio Luis de Noraes, Inocencio Monteiro de Mendoza, José da Silva, José da Costa Leite, José Justiniano, Indalecio da Souza, Manuel dos Santos, Manuel Antonio da Silva, and Manuel Carneiro, Brazilians (10 in number), and Roman Lescano, Antonio Sanchez, and Roque Sanchez, Argentines. Total, 13.

September 20.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Mauricio Gonzalez, Paraguayan, and the Brazilian deserter Juan Suarez de Araujo.

September 21.—Died, in prison, the traitors Fulgencio Gonzalez and Antonio Quintana, Paraguayans; Justino Lescano, Argentine; and Antonio da Silva, Brazilian.

September 22.—Died, the accused traitors Francisco Pintos and José Vega, Paraguayans.

Camp in Pikysry, September 22, 1868.

By Supreme Order, the soldier José Segovia, deserter from the 3rd Regiment of Artillery, captured in the district of Itá, was executed. Thirty dollars will be given to Police-Sergeant Luciano Recidias for his zeal in capturing the deserter from the 3rd Regiment of Artillery, José Segovia a present which the most excellent Marshal President of the Republic and General in-Chief of its Armies has deigned to grant him.

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September 23.—Died, the traitor Sebastian Salduondo, Paraguayan.

September 24.—Died, the Paraguayan traitor Ramon Marcos; put to the bayonet the chief of Yuty, José Lino Torres; Private Dolores Caballero, Brazilian, and José Vega.

By Superior Order, the culprit Lazaro Gonzalves, of Yaguaron, was set at liberty.

September 25.—Died, in prison, the accused traitors Juan Rodriguez, Brazilian, and Pedro Merolles, Italian.

September 26.—Died, the accused traitor Joaquín Patiño, Paraguayan; Antonio de Souza, Brazilian; a deserter from Yaguaron was put to the bayonet.

September 27.—Died, in prison, the accused José H. Varela, Italian. Sent to work in the trenches the prisoners brought from Yabebiry, Privates Deodato José dos Santos, Manuel Isidoro da Silva, and Pedro Leginaldo, Brazilians. Died, the accused traitor Facundo Salduondo, Paraguayan. By Superior Order the following accused traitors were put to death: Paraguayans ex-Major Matias Sanabria, ex-Captain Ignacio Garay, ex-Lieutenant Elias Ortellado, ex-Lieutenant Francisco Sosa, ex-Presbyter Martin Serapio Servin, ex-Presbyter Juan Evangelio Barrios, ex-Sergeant Dolores Vera, Bernardo Ortellado, Gumesindo Benitez, Manuel Leandro Colunga, Zacarias Rodriguez, Vincente

Dentella, Segundo Colunga, Isaac Alvarez, Francisco Ojeda, Julian Jacques, Matias Ferrera, Francisco Zelada, José Mariano Servin, Daniel Valiente, Miguel Ramirez, Jorge Centurion, José Franco. Antonio de las Carreras, Oriental. Brazilians—Francisco Javier de Matos, Juan Fernandez Contaduria, José Gomez Maciel, Francisco Eleuterio de Souza. Italians—Juan Beltiano, Francisco Invernisi, Juan Vsicaba, Julio Vega. Spaniards—Vicente Reina, Francisco Velas, José Maria Vilas, Enrique Reina, Isidro Cordina. Argentines—Ventura Gutierrez, José Cateura, Calisto Lezcano, Juan de la Cruz Lopez, Chrisostomo Carrano. Frenchmen—Leonardo Ruz, Miguel Alderey, José Philibert. German—Octavio Fulgraff. Russian—Francisco Ordano. Total, 47.

September 28.—Taken from prison to work in the trenches, the criminals Nicolás Lopez, Simon Vallejos, Correntinos; Luis Bernardo Mure Italian; José Maria Gomez, Santiago Romero, Justo Faria, Argentines; Caledonio Nanua, Spaniard; Celestino Leite de Oliveira, Francisco Joaquin, Ludovico Barraso, Brazilians. Total, 10.

By Superior Order, the following accused traitors were put to death: Maximo Falcon, Pablo Colman, Paraguayans; Cecilio Vallejos, Correntino. Total, 3.

By Superior Order, the following prisoners were set at liberty: Presbyters Facundo Gill and Mariano Aguiar, Sergeant Buenaventura Bordon, Paraguayans. Total, 3.

September 28.—Died, in prison, the Brazilian soldier Manuel Gonzalves.

September 30.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Tomas Gill, Paraguayan.

October 1.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Sergeant Roque Rivas, Paraguayan.

October 2.—Died, the accused traitor Andres Garcia, Paraguayan.

October 3.—Died, the accused traitor Vicente Robledo, Argentine.

October 4.—By Superior Order, the Brazilian prisoner of war, taken at Surubify, Captain Joaquin Gomez Peso, was set at liberty. Died, the accused traitor ex-Ensign Antonio Santa Cruz. Paraguayan.

October 6.—By Superior Order, the prisoners of war Major Maximiliano Versen, German, and Lieutenant Jeronimo de Amorim Valporte, Brazilian, were set at liberty. Died, the accused traitor Marcelino Sanchez, Paraguayan.

October 7.—Died, the accused prisoner of war Ensign Severo Gonzalez, Argentine. Died, the accused traitor Juan Carlos Lezensi, Frenchman.

October 8.—Died, the accused traitor ex-Ensign Manuel Baez, Paraguayan. Died, the accused Brazilian prisoner José Suarez.

October 11.—Died, the accused traitor José Riveros, Paraguayan.

October 12.—Died, the accused traitor Vicente Quadro, Italian.

October 19.—By Superior Order, the criminal traitors who deserted the flag-bearer of the 9th Battalion were executed: Private Luis Alcaraz, 30th Regiment, and Ramon Paredes. Died, the accused traitor Private José Palacios, Paraguayan.

October 21.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Fernando José Moreira, Brazilian.

October 25.—Died, the accused traitor Ribeiro Costa Leite, Brazilian.

October 28.—Died, the accused traitor Tomé da Costa, Brazilian.

October 29.—Died, the accused traitor Juan Moran Bueno, Brazilian.

November 5.—Died, the accused traitor Miguel Patiño, Paraguayan.

November 7.—Died, the accused traitor Benito Alvarez, Paraguayan.

November 8.—Died, in prison, the accused traitors José Manuel de Campos, Brazilian; Cipriano Gonzalez, Argentine; José Maria Franco, Paraguayan.

November 9.—Died, of pestilence (cholera) in the hospital, the accused traitor Valentin Fernandez, Paraguayan. Died, of cholera in the hospital, the accused traitor De la Cruz Cañete, Paraguayan. Died, the accused traitor Sinfiorano Martinez, Paraguayan.

November 10.—Died, of cholera in the hospital, the accused traitor Buenaventura Basquez, ex-Justice of Carapeguá. Died, in prison, the accused traitoress Maria de Jesus Egusquiza, Paraguayan.

List of criminals killed in the trenches.

Paraguayans—Mariano Lopez, Francisco Sanchez, Alejo Benitez, Sebastian Ferreira, and Buenaventura Soria—5.

Argentines—Santiago Romero, Cornelio Salazar, Luis Soto, Aniceto Corche, José Perez, Simon Romero, Roque Mansilla, Manuel Sanchez, Angel Agüero, Cipriano Alonso, Basilio Canoma, Marcelo Herrera, José Torres, Lazaro Chiarini, Santiago Avila, Andres Atuno, Primitivo Sosa, José Montero, Manuel Alvarez, Isidoro Agüero, Lino Tarella, Nicolas Vera, Antonio Sanchez, Baldomero Artaza, Francisco Agüero, Inocencio Mendoza, Juan Larrea, Zavino Pari, Ramon Mansilla, Martin Acevedo, Ramon Perez, Celedonio Fernandez, Esteban Guanes, and Maria Gomez—34.

Brazilians—José Costa, Antonio Francisco, Simon dos Santos, José Tertuliano, Manuel Sosa, Joaquin Soares, José Lucas, José do Nascimento, Vicente Correa, Lazaro Gonzalves, Joaquin de Souza, Emilio Alves, Francisco Pende, Vicente Fernandez, José Lautela, Basilio Dinis, Manuel dos Santos, Manuel Antonio, José Justiniano, Felipe da Silva—20.

Italian—Juan Canelo—1.

Total, 60.

November 12.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor ex-Presbyter Antonio Corvalan. Died, in prison, the criminals Candido Centurion, Paraguayan traitor; Buenaventura Maria de Mattos, Brazilian, deserter. Died, of cholera in the hospital, the accused traitors ex-Presbyter Santiago Narvaez, Pedro Barrias, and Private Francisco Ensina, Paraguayans.

November 13.—Died, of cholera in the hospital, the Argentine prisoner of war Captain Antonio Falcon. Died, in prison, the Argentine prisoner of war Lieutenant Mauricio Soto.

November 14.—Died, in prison, the deserter from the enemy, the Brazilian soldier Juan Pereira Campos.

November 15.—Died, of cholera in the hospital, the Brazilian deserter Private Raimundo Coelho. By Supreme Order, dated the 12th, the criminal Exequiel Duré, ex-Ensign of the 18th Battalion, was executed.

November 17.—By Supreme Order, the accused traitor Gustavo Guion de Libertad, Frenchman, was liberated and sent to the capital.

November 21.—By Supreme Order, the following criminal traitors, spies of the enemy, were put to death: Private Juan Gonzalez, of Carapeguá, and Basilio Escobar.

Died, in prison, the accused traitor Simon Conde, Correntino.

November 22.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Saturnino Tavares de Silva, Brazilian.

November 23.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor, Juan Cabrera. Died, the Brazilian prisoner of war Private Joaquin Manuel, Concepcion.

November 29.—Died, in prison, the accused traitor Eduardo Barrios, ex-lieutenant of cavalry.

December 1.—Died, the Brazilian soldier, prisoner of war Francisco Juan da Silva. Died, the accused traitor Vicente Gomez, Paraguayan.

December 10.—Delivered as prisoners to be conveyed to the exterior, the traitors Porter Cornelio Bliss, North American, and George F. Mastermann, Englishman.

December 11.—The following criminals were put to death: Captain Andres Maciel, Paraguayan traitor; Lieutenants Francisco Ortellado and Ignacio Ozeda, Paraguayan traitors. Presbyters—José J. Talavera, Antonio Valdovinos, and Juan Arza, Paraguayan traitors. Soldiers—Bernabe Sanchez, Donato Lescano, Aniceto Coete, Francisco Sanchez, Sebastian Alonso, Paraguayan traitors. Citizens—Francisco Sanchez, Victoriano Caprisa, Ignacio Vera, Basilio Pereira, Gaspar Lopez, Eleuterio Barbosa, Luciano Decoud, Simon Cespedes, Paraguayan traitors. Colonel Telmo Lopez, traitor, Argentine, from Santa Fé. Private individuals—Malaquias de Oliveira, Francisco Zalar de Oliveira, Juan A. Deante, Brazilians; José Maria Caceres, Correntino; Carlos Ulrich, Leon de Delme, French; Pedro Nolasco Conde, Correntino; Colonel Ulpiano Sotero, Correntino, prisoner of war. Lieutenants—Joaquin de Silva Guzman, Brazilian; José Romero, Argentine, prisoners of war. Ensign Paulino Baez, Correntino, prisoner of war. Sergeant Francisco Barreira, Brazilian, prisoner of war. Corporals—Francisco José de Oliveira, Jose Francisco de Amorim, prisoners of war. Soldiers—José Barroso, Manuel A. dos Santos, Antonio Manuel Rodriguez, Antonio José da Silva, prisoners of war. Deserters—José Porciam, Francisco Tavares (spy), Martin Machado, Brazilians. Raimundo Ruiz, Argentine, prisoner of war. Ireneo Alvarez, Uruguayan, prisoner of war. Honorio Camba, French; José Espiritu Santo Rodriguez, Serafin Gomez de Moura, José Ferreira Brandaó, Joaquin Gonzalves, José Tomas da Costa, Brazilian prisoners of war. Total, 49.

December 11.—Criminals set at liberty: Colonel Venancio Lopez and Presbyter Eugenio Bogado, attached to the staff.

December 14.—Lanced to death, the traitor Lieutenant Simplicio Lynch.

ABSTRACT TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS BELONGING TO THE PARAGUAYAN

REGISTER, FOUND IN THE CAMP OF CUMBARITY.

	Paraguayans.	Brazilians.	Argentines.	Oriental.	Italians.	Spaniards.	Portuguese.	English.	French.	N. American.	Mexicans.	Bolivians.	Swiss.	Russians.	Germans.	Foreigners.	Not specified.	TOTAL.
Executed by shooting,	289	50	48	2	2	6	1	1	6	..	..	..	..	1	1	26	...	433
Do., with the bayonet,	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Do., do., lance,	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Died in irons in transit from S. Fernando,	103	20	14	1	9	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	..	2	3	...	167
Taken from prison to work in trenches, ..	....	16	8	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	190	216
Given up as prisoners, Bliss & Mastermann	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Set at liberty,	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	11
	403	90	70	3	12	12	3	3	10	2	1	1	1	1	4	29	190	835

THE
PRISONS OF PARAGUAY

OFFICIAL DECLARATION OF A BRAZILIAN OFFICER.

The following account of the sufferings endured by Major Da Cunha Mattos, during fourteen months' captivity in Paraguay, will be read with interest. It is a summary of the official report addressed by him to the Brazilian Minister of War, the nature of which document gives authenticity to the horrifying details contained in it.

“On the same day on which I fell a prisoner I was taken to Paso Pucu, and, after a slight interrogatory, I was locked up in a rancho by myself, and with a sentry in sight.

“On the 4th of November, early in the morning, Lieutenant-Colonel Hirio (a Spaniard in Lopez' service), came to see me, and, by order of Lopez, requested me to make a full declaration of the amount of our force, of the Brazilian resources, and any other information that could tell on the prolongation of the war, stating that the right of war justified this demand. I replied, that although I knew something of the right of war, I never remembered reading anything of the kind, and that I thought it was recognised in modern warfare that such declarations had no weight whatever, and, moreover, I stated that the information asked of me was beyond my knowledge, because as a soldier it was not my business to inquire what means the Government was

able to dispose of. Colonel Hirio was in no way pleased with my reply, and insisted that I should write down something. I repeated I could not give the information required, but would obey the order, endeavoring to keep as near the truth as possible. In fact I did write something. It would be impossible for me to reproduce now exactly what I wrote; but, among other things, I stated that I did not know what means our country could dispose of, but that I could assert that the army was paid regularly, and that on the 2nd of November I had received my pay for October, and that up to that date the soldiers received full rations and were well attended. With regard to the strength of our army I stated the truth, at least what was reported to exist then. I said something also about the organisation of the army.

“Two or three days afterwards I had a visit from Captain Palacios (brother of the Bishop of Paraguay), who told me that Lopez was not satisfied with my declaration, and said that I wrote much but said little.

“I meanwhile was kept in the same room, and received daily very scanty food—a small amount of meat dirtily prepared, without salt, and musty fariña.

“On the 18th of November, Palacio came to see me again, and said that I could go out, but was not allowed to be out of sight of the guard.

“I must not omit to say that I had no news of the officers and men of my corps, from whom I had been separated at the time of my imprisonment.

“On the 19th of November I was called to Palacio's quarters, and asked whether I knew that an officer of my corps had escaped, to which I replied that I was completely ignorant of it. Palacio said it was Captain John Peter Correa, and that it showed great ingratitude on his part, seeing how well he was treated. I learned afterwards that Correa was in a worse condition than myself, kept almost naked, and without even a hide for a bed.

“On the same day, several Brazilian, Oriental, and Argentine prisoners and deserters were brought to the guard next to my room, who, after being flogged, were put in irons, taken before the fiscal, and again flogged. I was ignorant of the motive of these barbarous proceedings, which were repeated on the 20th and 21st. Among these poor victims I saw several soldiers of my corps, whom I could scarcely recognise, such was the change produced in them by hunger and the bad treatment they had received.

“On the 21st Captain Correa was apprehended again by the Paraguayans, outside the lines of Curupaiti. He was taken in irons to the guard from whence he escaped, where he was kept with his face turned to the east in the morning, and to the west in the afternoon. A few days afterwards he disappeared, and I heard nothing more of him until February, 1868, in Humaitá, when I was told he died of disease due to the atrocious treatment he had been exposed to.

“The sad scenes I had been a witness to during several days, and my moral and physical sufferings, affected me so much that in the beginning of December I was attacked with diarrhœa of blood, which prostrated me so much that I could not stand. I was then removed to the hospital, under guard, and accompanied by a spy, who never left me. There I met, thank Heaven, the humane Dr. William Stewart, who tended me with such care that he saved my life. In the hospital I learned that among the prisoners who had been executed was Count Machado, of the Brazilian cavalry. Before being shot he protested loudly against the proceedings of the tyrant, who caused him to be executed on simple suspicion, and without a single proof of his culpability. I remained in the hospital, under the care of Dr. Stewart, till the beginning of February. On the 8th or 9th of that month he advised my being removed to the hospital at Humaitá.

“On the same afternoon I was placed in a cart, and we started in the direction of that fort, but as the roads were in a frightful

state, we only arrived at 11 o'clock at night. The night was very dark, and I was surrounded by a strong guard, and it appeared to me I was being taken to the scaffold. Fortunately, however, my presence of mind never deserted me, and God gave me sufficient courage to stand all. Suddenly the cart came to a stop, and an officer informed me that we had reached our destination, and that I was to get down. Fatigued by the long journey, and still suffering from weakness and my late severe illness, I hastened to get off the cart, hoping to find some rest and comfort; but my flesh crept, and my hair stood on end, on seeing that the hospital was a dreary and stinking dungeon, full of dirt and filth, and where every now and then were heard the groans and lamentations of the unfortunate sufferers, who begged to God for death to free them from a life of so much misery. When I was installed in this infernal habitation, I found it impossible to conciliate sleep, and I had not been many hours with my wretched companions before falling a prey to the same miseries as themselves. I found myself covered with lice and every kind of disgusting insects that are sure to breed in a place where the accumulation of people is greater than the accommodation, without any regard to decency or cleanliness. Diseases of all sorts were prevalent; cholera made havoc, and hunger, and sometimes thirst, decimated the number of the unfortunate dwellers in that horrible prison. Men of all classes and conditions were brought to a level, officers were treated the same as common soldiers, and I saw myself surrounded by thieves, murderers, deserters, &c.

“Among the prisoners I met were Captain Cavalcanti de Albuquerque, Augusto José Alves, Lieutenant Gusmao, Campos, and Pesson. They related to me the sufferings they had endured in Paso Pucu, the greatest being caused by hunger, as they were only served with food sufficient to save them from starving. A few days afterwards Alves succumbed, under an attack of diarrhœa.

“The venerable Brazilian Consul, Barbosa, told me that during

the three years in which he had been a prisoner, he had received nothing beyond meat, without salt and water. Consul Barbosa, as well as all the Brazilians whose death I witnessed, gave up their ghost with tranquillity; it was never customary to afford spiritual consolation to the dying.

“A few days after this, on the 19th, at dawn, a great bombardment announced a movement on the part of the Allies. A few moments afterwards we saw our ironclads breaking through the Humaitá batteries. Later on, we learnt that while this was happening, our infantry had taken by assault the fortifications at Establecimiento, seizing all the artillery, and causing severe losses to the enemy. As Y.E. will recollect, our forces had previously occupied the important position of Tay, cutting off the enemy's communication between the river and the interior of the country. Lopez had ordered a road to be opened in the Chaco, from Monte Lindo to Timbo, by which he could continue to supply his troops with provisions. This road was not yet completed, so that the first remittances of cattle and other provisions had not yet reached Humaitá. In Humaitá, Paso Puca, and the other positions occupied by the stupified slaves of the tyrant, was felt the want of cattle and cereals of all kinds. The war appeared to us to be drawing to a close. In fact, the commanding officer of our dungeon ventured to say, in reserve to one of the prisoners, that in eight days more all would be decided. The Prussian, Major Von Versen, knew that Lopez considered himself lost, and had resolved to endeavor to raise the siege, an operation, however, in which he had but small confidence, because, in the late encounters on the left of his position, he had lost almost all his cavalry, and ours was numerous and well mounted.

“On the 20th, therefore, we were surprised with the announcement that Lopez had formed the resolution of passing to the Chaco, with all his army. I did not give much credit to this news; but after a time I was convinced that Lopez had escaped, having during the night passed over to the right

margin of the River Paraguay. Meanwhile, troops and horses daily appeared in Humaitá mysteriously, and disappeared in the same manner; afterwards, we learnt that during the night they were embarked for the new fort of Timbo.

“On the 6th of March we received orders to embark, and on the afternoon of that day we went on board the Rio Apa, and proceeded in the direction of Timbo, where we arrived next day at dawn.

“Lopez, having received information that our ironclads had gone to Tayi for fear of being boarded, gained courage and planned a scheme more efficacious than breaking through the siege, and which need not entail the loss of all his war material, &c. Unfortunately he was able to carry his plan into effect, and our fleet learned too late that the small Paraguayan steamer which had escaped on the 19th February, by hiding in small rivers, sailed with impunity between two positions occupied by the Imperial fleet conveying troops, artillery of all calibres, horses, &c. As I said, before I reached Timbo, on the 7th and in the afternoon of the 8th, although I was extremely debilitated, I received orders to march with the rest of the prisoners, who were all in the same circumstances as myself, almost naked and very ill. In the afternoon of that day we marched nearly two leagues, by roads covered with marshes, in some of which the water reached to our middle. Marching through the Chaco, we reached Monte Lindo, the last Paraguayan post, about the beginning of April.

“During this time several of our fellow-sufferers died, among them Captain Cavalcante de Albuquerque, whose corpse the prisoners were made to carry. Among the prisoners there was a deserter who called himself Lieutenant Simplicio Luiz. I have reason to believe that he was a simple cadet of some Pernambuco corps. This party had been appointed as capataz over the Brazilian prisoners; he spared no effort by which he could annoy us, contributing to the death of not a few, advising those who carried their exhausted companions to drown them in the

streams, and shouting 'Kill that nigger,' and flogging us whenever, from excessive fatigue, we could not walk. Simplicio had done great harm to our countrymen in Paso Pucu. Having learned to speak Guarani he acted as interpreter, and as such, in order to ingratiate himself with Lopez, he reported all he heard. This intriguing, infamous, and miserable Brazilian had been allowed by Lopez to keep his sword, and had taken employment in his service, receiving a salary the few times that the army was paid.

"From Monte Lindo we went to the river side, in front of San Fernando, and were taken across to the opposite bank, whence we marched straight to the camp, where we found that Lopez had concentrated all his forces. I remained some days exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and witnessed the death of 2nd Lieutenant Campos, who, like the rest, died without any assistance.

"Captain Palacio had been replaced by Major Franco, who treated me with a little more consideration, and supplied us with some comforts and better food. My health was, however, getting worse and worse. I had lost all hopes of living: all my clothing consisted of an old cotton shirt and poncho of coco thread, which was so full of lice as to make it a source of martyrdom rather than shelter.

"In San Fernando I lived with a little more liberty, but great reserve, until the march for Lomas Valentinas. My health, which at first had been getting worse, began, after two months, to improve, and whether, owing to change of air, or simply to Divine protection, I began to recover, after having suffered from intermittent fevers, cholera, and other diseases, for which water was my only cure.

"During my stay in San Fernando I had no news of my fellow-sufferers, except Major Aranda, Lieutenant Quinteros, both Argentines; Major Versen, Prussian, who occupied the same room with me, besides Major José Maria Martinez, Argentine, and Simplicio Luiz, above alluded to.

“On the 27th of August I left San Fernando. The conspiracy against Lopez favored me greatly. Not having been considered implicated (I ignored all about it), I was not sent to the dungeon, as several of my companions were, but allowed to continue in the guard house. Major Versen, upon whom suspicion had fallen, with great injustice, was removed to prison, and I supposed him dead. The march from San Fernando to Lomas was consequently very easy for me, although I had to walk bare footed day and night, and was obliged sometimes to feed on raw meat, as there was often barely time to kill. In less than six days we went over the distance between San Fernando and Lomas or Pikysry.

“During the transit I had occasion to witness the most afflicting scenes of horror and barbarism. Lopez, learning that our cavalry tried, by forced marches, to overtake the Paraguayan army on the road, had to hasten his retreat, and as the condition of the prisoners prevented their keeping up with the main body of the army, he ordered that all those who lagged behind from fatigue should be bayoneted, an order that was on several occasions carried out near me, and I had afterwards to tread over the corpses of my fellow-sufferers; at times I remarked that the order was executed with refined barbarism, as the tired prisoners were bayoneted and thrown into the wood only half dead! I remained in Lomas Valentinas until the day I was able to escape from the claws of the tyrant, the 27th of December of last year. Whilst I was there I spent the best period of my captivity: my health was better, the food had improved, and I enjoyed a certain amount of freedom.

“On the 23rd of September, the attack at the bridge of Turubyhy took place, at which Captain Joaquin Gomez Persoa, and a corporal of the 5th regiment of infantry, whose name I forget, fell prisoners. Captain Persoa was at once removed to Lomas, and he will be better able to inform Y.E. what happened to him till the 4th of October, when he joined me, and Commandant Marco made me responsible for his conduct.

“On the 1st of October, Lieutenant Amorim Valporto, in the reconnaissance of the lines of Pikysry, was also made prisoner, and a day or two afterwards handed over to me, under the same conditions.

“The reconnaissance of Pikysry, although without immediate advantage to the Allies, would, in my opinion, bring, as a consequence, the operation in the Chaco, which gave a result so glorious to our arms. The emissaries sent by Lopez to explore the ground had declared this operation utterly impossible. My confidence, however, was increased when I learnt that this arduous task had been entrusted to the brave General Argollo.

“In the first days of December, I heard that our forces had crossed the River Paraguay and landed at San Antonio. On the 6th, the engagement at Itororo confirmed this news. I was not deceived by the announcement spread by the Paraguayans that our forces had been defeated, and the number of wounded brought back strengthened my suppositions, these exceeded 3,000, and the hospitals were crowded beyond measure, and my barometer (the looks of the women) indicated fair weather for our cause.

“On the 11th, the battle of Avahy took place. At first I was greeted with the terrible news—‘The black men have been completely routed;’ but later on I learnt the truth. In an improvised ball of courtesans a woman told me that the Paraguayans had lost the action, leaving in our power all their artillery, that the rout had been complete, and only General Caballero had escaped, as in Tatayiba. The ball lasted but a short time, because the General, knowing that both the Paraguayan men and women had no inclination to dance, ordered the suspension of festivities.

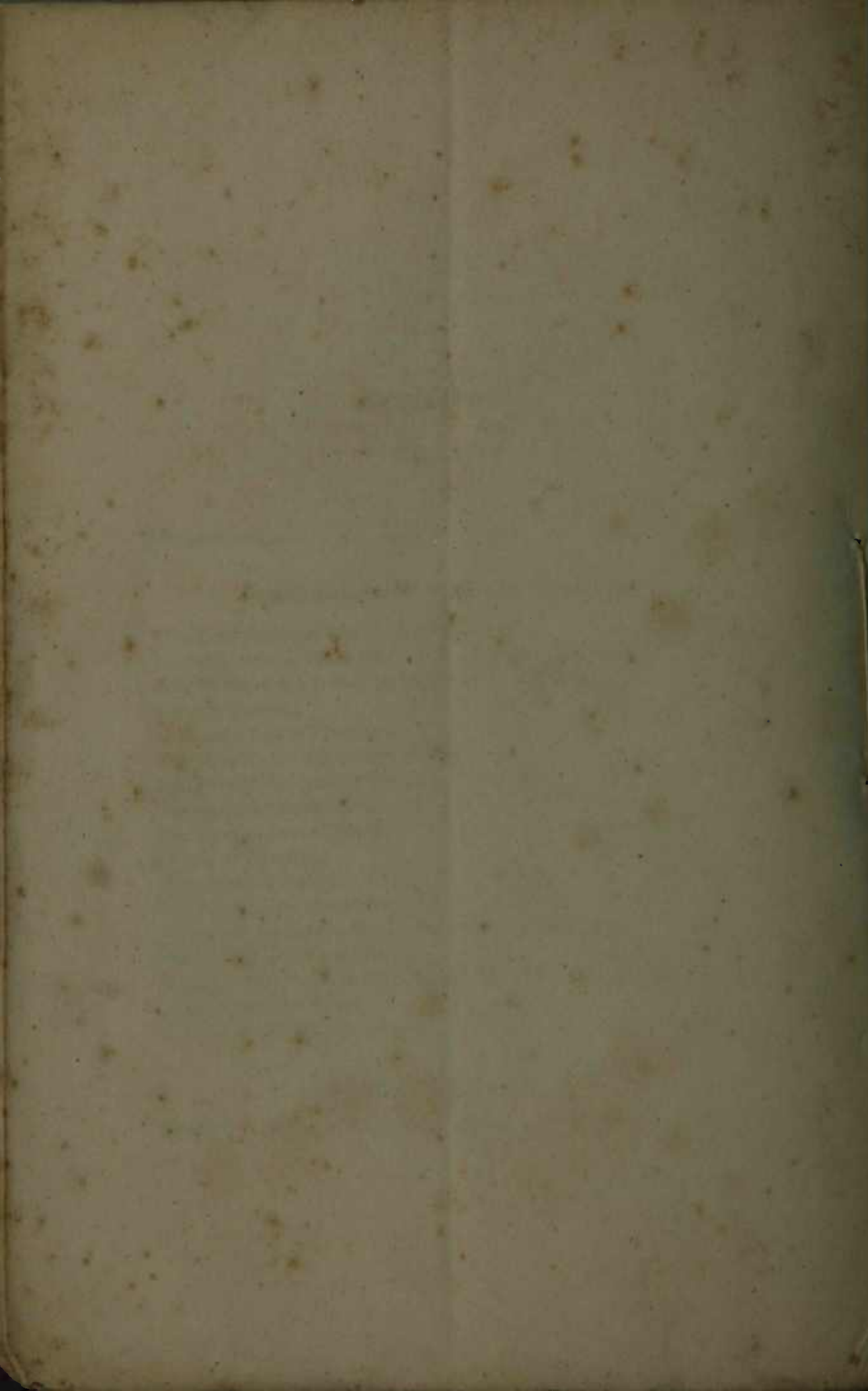
“A panic spread in Lomas. Carts were got ready for the retreat. My hopes sunk within me, and I at one time dreaded lest I should have to accompany the savages to the Cordillera. How often have I asked myself why is the enemy not pursued vigorously?

“After the battle of Avahy an incident occurred which I must not pass in silence. I was informed, if I mistake not, on the 12th of December, that the President of the Republic wanted to speak with me, and on account of this I received some clothes (a pair of drawers and a shirt). In fact I was next day taken by Commandant Marco to the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief; but we did not find the President, and Marco informed me that I should have to go again during the night. Fortunately, or unfortunately, it rained hard during the night, and I was not again called upon to renew my visit. On communicating to my companions the notice I had received, they expressed as much surprise as myself. It was indeed an extraordinary occurrence for a prisoner to go to Lopez’ quarters, and more so into his presence. We made all kinds of conjectures, among others Major Versen said to me—‘Lopez wants to escape, and wishes to send you to the Marquis.’ My interview with Lopez not having taken place a report spread in the camp that it was with Madame Lynch, and not with Lopez, with whom I was to have spoken. Be this as it may, this event had perhaps some important meaning.

“On the 21st Lomas was attacked, and I witnessed the fighting from the centre of the enemy’s army. The attack lasted till the 27th, when I managed to escape, with all my companions, eight in number.”

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