

Supplement to the 44th No. of the Bee.
New-Orleans, November 16th 1829.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE BEE.

GENTLEMEN—

I have observed that when your paper, or the others of this city, speak of the Spanish division in Tampico, besides many inaccuracies published concerning their military operations, they express themselves thus: "That the commandant General Don Isidro Barradas took from the American citizen, Mr. Harrison, the sum of 10,000 dollars—the house of the inhabitants of Quintana was plundered, and in fine, that had not the American Corvet Hornet appeared, all the foreigners would have been victims." These are the charges and imputations through which they wish to stain the gallant conduct of the Spanish division, and of the General who led it. The honor of that body demands that I should oppose these charges, and to that end I shall apply all my exertions. Thoroughly acquainted with the most minute particulars which have occurred in Tampico, during the station there, for greater clearness I shall discuss fact by fact.

It is true that the American Consul reclaimed 10,000 dollars for the losses which he says himself, as well as Mr. Harrison, suffered in the engagement of the 20th and 21st August; but such reclamations were not made to Gen. Barradas, nor the division was commanded during the time of the action, they did not occupy the house, consequently they could not occasion any damage. This reclamation, which was made by the American Consul to the Mexican government, has been confounded with another event which happened a few days after. The Alcalde Quintana, retiring from Tampico, left 2,700 dollars buried in his house.—Mr. Harrison being aware of it, took out that sum and brought it to his house. The fact was announced, and the Intendant reclaimed the amount. He at first denied the fact, but at last he confessed it, and was compelled to deposit the same in the treasury of the division, and that without any prejudice to his right. A few days after, Mr. Harrison proved by his book, that Quintana was indebted unto him for a higher sum than the one which he had deposited, and consequently the 2,700 dollars were returned to him. This is the truth, and it results from authentic documents. Said General, so far from having ill-treated the inhabitants and strangers, treated them with the highest regard and politeness. Tampico being a reduced place, and there being concentrated the greater part of the division, who were in want of lodgings, the General had the goodness and generosity not to permit any individual of his expedition to inhabit the houses belonging to the citizens. The certificates which were delivered by the different consuls to General Barradas at his departure, is not a feeble argument against those who wish to calumniate, by their falsehoods, the good conduct of the Spanish division.

When the Alcalde Quintana left Tampico to go to Panuco, he brought away with him all the trunks containing his clothes, and left in his house but the furniture. When the undersigned arrived at Tampico, Mr. Harrison requested him immediately to take up his quarters in the house of Quintana; but he could not accept of this invitation on account of the distance of the house from the residence of the General—and it was shut up for twelve days, until, impetioned by the prayers of Harrison, he determined to occupy it, and took the same care of it as if it had been his own property, up to the

time of the owner's return to Tampico, to whom he delivered it in form. Sensible of the attention of the undersigned, the Alcalde Quintana evinced the utmost gratitude, and from that time he became the most ardent apologist of the troops of the division. The same sentiments were manifested, as well by the inhabitants of Tampico de Tamaulipas, Pueblo-Viejo, Tampico el Alto, as by the Generals, the chiefs and the officers of the Mexican troops—sentiments which were justified by the good conduct and behaviour of the Spanish soldiers, who regarded private property as sacred, and paid in specie for every thing they consumed.

The following anecdote will give an idea of the honesty and strict discipline which prevailed in the Spanish division: On their arrival at Tampico-el Alto, the army stood in need of a house in which to place the men who had been wounded in the action at Los Corchos, and the Sergeant who was charged with this duty made it known that he had found two dozen silver spoons and two watches in the drawer of a table. The General ordered these articles to be collected and deposited in the hands of the curate of the parish, in order that he might return them to their rightful owner, as soon as he should return to his house. Both before and after the arrival of the Hornet at the bar of Tampico, foreigners received just marks of consideration from the Spanish General and from the troops, which circumstance is asserted and confirmed by the certificates of the Consuls. After the action of the 20th to the 21st of August, the foreign merchants determined to withdraw to Panuco with their goods and money. The General gave them passports and furnished them with boats to transport their property, and with soldiers to carry it to the bank of the river. On quitting Tampico they left nothing in their stores but a few articles of furniture, some brandy, iron and other trifles, which they must have found untouched on their return, as care was taken that nothing should be stolen. The money of the Conducta from Mexico, when about to be shipped for Europe and North America, instead of paying the ordinary export duty of three per cent. was charged with two per cent., by a special favor from General Barradas. The undersigned cannot conclude this article without giving a short summary of the military operations of the division. From the time of their landing at the Point de Jerez, on the 27th of July, they had five combats, in which they sustained the glory of the Spanish arms, having lost only seventy-six men killed and two hundred and two wounded—as follows:

	Killed.	Wounded.
1st Aug. Combat in the plain of Corchos,	17	70
6th " Passage of the bar of Tampico,	00	00
17th " Do. of the lake de la Puerta,	1	5
20th 21st Combat of Tampico de Tamaulipas,	8	57
10th to 11th Sept. Combat at the fort at the bar of Tampico,	50	97
Total.	76	202

After the fourth combat, that is, from the 21st to the 27th August, 700 soldiers fell sick, and at the beginning of September there were 1200 men in the hospitals. Doctors and medicines were wanting, and the two apothecaries were seized with the prevailing disease. The division was compelled to act on the defensive—the whole effective force for the defence of the fort at the bar and the lines of Tampico de Tamaulipas amounting to only 600 men, worn down by

fatigue. There were provisions for only three days, and to crown their misfortune they were visited on the 9th and 10th of September by a terrible hurricane, of which the people of the country never witnessed the equal. It tore up by the roots the trees of the neighboring forest, overthrew houses and fences, overflowed the roads, overturned the breast works and batteries, and rendered useless the gunboats by the rising of the water in the river.

Such was the frightful picture exhibited at Tampico de Tamaulipas on the 9th and 10th of September, even had the division been able to withstand the three greatest calamities which can befall mankind—disease, the rigors of the elements, and famine. Reduced to this condition and deprived of all human succour, it was resolved to propose a capitulation to General Santa Anna, who was then at Pueblo-Viejo on the opposite side of the river, whose batteries the hurricane had also destroyed. Those who capitulated were not the robust and hardy soldiers who had landed on the soil of Mexico—they were real spectres.

[SIGNED]
 EUGENIO DE AVIRANETA.

BRITISH CONSULATE,

Tampico de Tamaulipas

The imperious circumstances of the day have obliged me to retire from this city, and to sail this very day for Vera Cruz, on board the packet ship of his British Majesty. Before leaving your Excellency I think it is my duty to express, on the part of the subjects of Great Britain, our gratitude for the protection you have granted, both to our persons and property, and for the perfect order we have enjoyed, on account of the good measures and strict discipline which have taken place in the army under your command, in such a manner that never did we experience the least want of consideration. Being now obliged (by the reasons which I had the honor to express to your Excellency) to leave our property at the care of your Excellency and that of the Royal army, I am confident in the certainty that although abandoned, they will always stand under the special protection of your Excellency, and remain in good order until the circumstances allow us to reoccupy them, and until our commerce be free again. Now, the only thing which I have to say is that the same protection has been granted unto all the strangers, whom, by the dispositions taken by your Excellency, have been allowed to remain in the city, or to remove from it with their interests and families. It is with great regret that I separate myself from your Excellency, beseeching you to accept the expressions of my high consideration and respect.—*Tampico, August 29th, 1829.*

JOSE F. CRAWFORD, *Vice Consul.*

CONSULAR AGENCY FOR FRANCE, }
In Tampico. }

The Consular Agent for France, obliged by the circumstances of the war, to abandon his functions and residence, and satisfied with the reason that none of the subjects of his C. M. have suffered injury from the troops under the command of the Brigadier Señor General Don Isidro Barradas, gives the present certificate for the effects which shall be convenient.—*Tampico, August 28th, 1829.* M. M. CHABERT.

AMERICAN CONSULATE,

Tampico, August 28th, 1829.

I do certify that the troops of the Royal vanguard army, under the command of Brigadier D. Isidro Barradas, were kept in the best discipline, and that none of the American citizens have been ill treated, either in their persons or in their property, for all which I give thanks to said Brigadier.

G. PRUGER, *Vice Consul.*

TO SENOR D. ISIDRO BARRADAS,

General of the Royal Vanguard Army.