

Mexico and the War.

Propositions of the United States for Peace—Public Opinion in Mexico—The Plan of La Playa—A Bold Experiment in Embryo—The States to Repudiate the Authority of the Central Government.

We have already given the substance of the propositions made by the United States through Señor Atocha to obtain a peace. We now give them at length as they appeared in the *Diario del Gobierno* of Mexico. They are as follows:

A commission shall be named to arrange the conditions. This commission shall be composed of Messrs. Benton and Buchanan and one member of Congress of the opposition, and two Mexican Commissioners. The Commission shall assemble wherever the Government of Mexico may appoint.

The United States demand the parallel of 25 degrees of latitude from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific, as the dividing line.

The United States will pay fifteen millions of dollars in cash for the territory occupied, solemnly engaging not to exact or claim any expenses of the war. These expenses are estimated at about thirteen millions; consequently the United States consider that they would pay twenty-eight millions of dollars for the territory described.

The United States guaranty that it will never consent that any territory or State of Mexico shall be annexed to the American Union; it equally guarantees the sovereignty of Mexico, especially her territory south of the parallel of 20°.

The United States will place ten thousand men, infantry and cavalry, upon the boundary line, to prevent smuggling and the incursions of the Indians.

The United States engage to adjust all disputes about old claims—we give the remainder of the sentence in Spanish—[*por el territorio cedido por tierras, deudas extranjeras, &c.*]

An alliance offensive and defensive shall be signed between the United States and Mexico to repel all European intervention in the affairs of America.

Atocha is authorized by the Government of the United States to adjust the terms of the treaty of peace.

Correspondence of The Sun.

VERA CRUZ, March 30, 1847.

"If I can rely on the full and well supported opinions of my friends at the Capital, the appointment of Mr. Benton to a special and money-distributing mission to this distracted country will not prove a judicious one. The Clergy, who clearly hold the balance of power, and represent at least nine-tenths of the people, are disposed to favor peace, and even make some sacrifice of territory to obtain it, on two conditions:

1st. *The release of the mass from the oppression of their military leaders. They wish the army dissolved.*

2d. *They desire in some form a guaranty that the laws and constitution shall be sustained, and private property, including that held by corporations and the Church, should be respected. This is prevented by keeping up a military despotism.*

They were discussing the probability of a peace when the arrival of Atocha alarmed their fears and opposition. He was known to be the creature of Santa Anna, and if his propositions were accepted, the enemies of their people and the Church would be confirmed in their destructive and unlimited power.

The announcement of Mr. Benton with money to enable Santa Anna and his soldiers to keep the country in slavery, was met in Mexico with a decided increase of the war spirit.

VERA CRUZ, March 29, 1847.

What there is of Republican utility in Mexico has roused itself for a final effort. Now it is that the United States has to decide whether it will save or destroy the last hope of the Mexican people. I do not mean the thirty thousand officers and empuados who have devoured her wealth and strength in the day of her prosperity, and fled from her defence in the days of invasion and adversity. Not for them, but for the sake of her long-suffering and hardly-treated working classes, the United States should act with firmness and liberality. The day of brighter hopes or of deeper gloom is near—it rests in the decision of her sister Republic.

The people wish to throw off the yoke of that galling military despotism which has its headquarters at the City of Mexico, and radiates thence its evil influence to every corner of the Republic. The inefficient and impracticable powers of the State Governments have never been enabled to cope with the armed mercenaries of centralism, and never will be while the central powers have money to pay an army. Several of the most populous and influential States in the Confederacy have settled on a bold experiment.

The plan of La Playa was not framed by the unprincipled soldier-politicians who have reduced the country to its present unhappy position. It is the work of her best citizens and most honored clergy. It is this: the States, despairing of the patriotism and fidelity of the Central Government, will withdraw in such sections as can act well together, and organize effectively their several and distinct Constitutions, and demanding each for itself an arrangement with the United States. The basis of this arrangement is to be the abandonment of the United States of California and all the territory north of 26° as an equivalent for the expenses of the war, and the protection the new States will receive against the Indians on the boundary.

The ports now taken to remain in the hands of the Americans until their claims against the Government of Mexico shall be paid from the revenues of those ports at the American tariff, with the addition of a slightly increased tonnage duty on foreign vessels. This Plan of La Playa is not yet promulgated, though the leading members of the States of Oaxaca, Puebla and Vera Cruz have exchanged favorable opinions upon it, and there is no doubt that Gen. Scott has been consulted. This is so much better than anything Benton can do with his millions of bribe-money that he will be certain to oppose it. The States known to be ready for united action on the Plan of La Playa are included between 18° and 24° West Longitude, from Washington, and extend from 24° North Latitude to the Pacific.

This area embraces in compact a rich and populous region abundantly able to sustain an independent position as a distinct Republic. It meets Chiapas and Tabasco just on the line of the great Canal which is to unite the Pacific with the Mexican Gulf, and a full and unobstructed right of way to the United States at that narrow point, whether by Canal or Railroad, will be worth to our commerce the whole cost of this war. The succeeding Republic will include a great part of the State of Mexico, and will assume, in all probability, that name; and the City of Puebla is talked of as the Capital of the new Government.

MONTGOMERY.