

Republic. For many hopes and ambitions were founded on its dismemberment, too many hands were extended to clutch the spoils, to sit down tranquilly without any plunder. Mexico will soon be a seething caldron—she is now a hopeless bankrupt. The soldiers who devour the life of the country under pretense of protecting it, have but an empty treasury, and the money for their immediate use and enrichment, must be robbed from the church and charitable institutions. Like Gomes Farias, Arista and his friends are opposed to the Union of Church and State—this is the right side of their creed—and want to despoil the church—which is the wrong side. They are more than ready to replenish their exhausted finances by seizing the property of the religious institutions, but they are not careful to provide for the hospitals and charitable asylums, founded and supported by what is indiscriminately called church property.

We must be excused in the United States for not understanding this distinction between property consecrated by the church to the support of asylums for orphans, for the sick, the blind, and the lunatic, and that for the priests since the Mexicans and their legislators do not, and plunder them all alike with the same impartiality. The church interests, however, like the politics of Farias and Arista, have their lights and shadows. While on the one side there is a crowd of idle, useless, ignorant conventuals, drawing away the income of lands that would support in thrift and intelligence hundreds of valuable communities, there are still larger incomes devoted to the poor hapless ones, whom it is the unsearchable pleasure of our Divine Father to delegate to the care of their favored brethren. Whenever the *Puros*, or Anti-Church Party want to raise money they snatch at both classes of church property with an indiscriminating hand. Thus it is that the church, appealing at once to the justice, the self interest, the charity and the superstition of the masses, for the protection of that which sustains their altars, asylums, and religious pageants, never appeals in vain. The people see that the democracy" (*Puros*) rob for the sake of robbing, and that their charitable institutions, and the daily service of the altar are no more spared than the indolent and useless friars.

When Arista's party drives him to make war on the Church, the Church will recall Santa Anna, or raise the banner for Almonte,—the able and popular Representative of the Mexican race and then Arista will be driven from the Capital. His strength does not lay in the center and south of the Republic. There the Church is rich and strong and her numerous and excellent charities stand in living appeal to the people, and the people will pronounce against the plunderers of their cherished institutions. At the North, Arista will not feel the opposition of the Church, for it is feeble and impoverished, and has nothing to lose or to fear. Neither have the Priests of those remote Provinces much sympathy for the ecclesiastical aristocracy of the cold far off-capital.

If therefore Arista is driven by the poverty of mismanaged and bankrupt Mexico, to press hard upon the Church, either he will drive the Southern States into secession from, or they will drive him from the City of Mexico. If the first takes place there may be a patching up of the broken crockery, but if Arista retires from the Capital Northward, it will be to erect the ripe and impatient States of the Sierra Madre into a permanent independent Government. So far from thinking the election of Arista having averted the disruption of Mexico, I believe 1851 will not die of old age before we learn that it has given to the secessionists the power to make the execution of their long planned independence prompt, efficacious and permanent. CORA MONTGOMERY.

MEXICO.

Mexico—Gen. Arista's Position.

Correspondence of the Tribune.

EAGLE PASS, Saturday, Dec. 14.

The election of Gen. Arista to the Presidency is received with much satisfaction by Northern Mexico. More interest has been manifested for his success than is usually seen among the Mexican people on any public matter, for there is a strong general faith that he has the will and the capacity to repress the Indians and give some repose to this suffering frontier. Civilization has been retreating before the savages on this upper line of the Rio Bravo settlements for the last 30 years—or, in fact, ever since the firm, though heavy and cruel, hand of Spain let go its grasp. Ranchos and Pueblos, deserted and crumbling into dust, dot the abandoned line, and mark, with skeleton fingers, where ten thousand times ten thousand cattle, sheep and horses once ranged in security under the stern vigilance of the soldiers of Old Spain.

If Arista had not been elected, the Northern States of Mexico were fully and openly prepared to secede from the "Central Despotism," (that is the common phrase,) and form an independent Republic. The first act of the new-born State would be to ask for the closest treaty of amity, if not absolute annexation, with the United States, with a liberal concession of right of way to California and entire relief to our trade along the frontier. These two things our Government forgot to take care of, in their very remarkable Treaty of Peace, as well as that "Indemnity for the Past and security for the Future," for which we pitched blindfold and headlong into the late war.

Now it is by no means clear to me that the election of Arista will prevent the breaking up of the