

THE MEXICAN TIMES!

MEXICO:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1865.

We issue to-day, the first number of the "MEXICAN TIMES," and ask for it only that patronage which we shall endeavor to deserve. This journal will be devoted to the best interests of the Mexican Empire. Its special object will be to advocate immigration and progress in their fullest meaning and extent. For many years Mexico, convulsed with her own internal dissensions, has remained inactive in regard to immigration, railroads and internal improvements.—While other nations have advanced rapidly on the great highway of progress, Mexico has taken no steps forward. Today the son drives the same wooden plow used by his father a quarter of a century ago. The patient burro, followed by the faithful peon, still constitutes the motive power of Mexico. We shall urge with all our influence, emigrants from the United States and Europe, who wish rich, productive and cheap lands, to come to this country without delay, and accept the very liberal offers now made by the Imperial Government. Come and settle where you can grow sugar-cane, coffee, indigo, cotton, cacao and tobacco, with all the tropical fruits. Come where the climate is an eternal spring, and where, strange to say, there are no fevers—no epidemics of any kind, except in the tierra caliente of the sea-coast. Bring with you, your engineers and mechanics, and such implements of husbandry as may serve as patterns for others. Here you will find iron, steel, copper and timber all ready to be turned into such utensils as you may want. The more precious metals—the silver and the gold, are here in great abundance, awaiting the reward of your industry and enterprise. Coffee, sugar, cacao, cotton, tobacco and indigo will always find a good market the wide world over. The best article of cotton is grown in every part of the Empire—the sea-land being very productive on the Gulf and Pacific coasts.—The coffee and sugar of Vera Cruz, Tampico, Iturbide, Tabasco and other departments, are of the most superior quality. The "Flor de Orizaba" rivals the best tobacco of Cuba,—while the chocolate of Mexico is the most delicious in the world. It is to our personal knowledge, that an acre of sugar-cane at Cordova or Cuernavaca will produce three thousand pounds of good, white sugar and five hundred gallons of molasses. The lands in the tierra templada, yield large crops of indian corn, wheat, rye, barley, oats and potatoes, which always find a good market at the door. The tobacco planters are making fortunes—the coffee and cacao haciendas are still more productive—yielding large profits to their owners.

To the hardy sons of Ireland, we say come to Mexico, for we have railroads and canals and turnpikes to make—we have mountains to tunnel and lagunas to drain. To the industrious, fair-haired children of the Rhine, we say come.—We want your literature, your learning, your music and your labor. To the joyous and enterprising sons of France, we say come,—this is truly the land of the vine. Here you can plant your vineyards to an unlimited extent, and reap in a short time large profits for your labor. To the hard-working practical farmers of England and Scotland, we say come. The rent which you pay yearly for one acre of land, will buy here a respectable farm. To the enterprising sons of New England, New York, Pennsylvania and other manufacturing States, we say come. Bring with you your cotton and woolen manufactures and exchange them for the staple commodities of Mexico, so much in demand in your own country. Bring with you your machinery of all kinds and your educated labor,—this wonderful country wants it all and will pay you well for it. To those in the United States,

whose fortunes have been swept away by the terrible tempest that has so long raged in that afflicted land,—to those who have drank the cup of bitterness to the very dregs—we say come to Mexico. Here you can get homes without money and without price. Here you will find a shelter as did the Huguenots who fled to England—as did the Puritans who came to the bleak shores of America. The Huguenots infused new life into the manufactories of England, while the Puritans made the dreary wastes of America to blossom as the rose. What they have done for those countries, you can do for this. The fortunes which you have lost can be regained here by a few years of industry and enterprise. Come then, and bring with you your families and your house-hold gods. Let the maid and matron—the aged sire, the tender son and hired servants all come. Here you will find liberty of conscience and freedom of religious worship fully guaranteed. Here you will find a Monarch with expanded views and liberal ideas. In fact we may call him a Republican Emperor; for his daily labors are devoted to the good of his Empire, and the happiness and prosperity of his people. The good people of Mexico of all parties are now alive to the great importance of immigration. The large land-proprietors are offering the most liberal terms to all who will in good faith settle on their Haciendas and become citizens of Mexico. Such liberality was never known before in any country. For Mexico there is reserved a most brilliant future. Governed by a wise, liberal and humane Monarch, her course must be onward. Her magnificent lands—her rich mines—her delightful climate—her peculiar geographical situation will make her what she of right ought to be, the garden spot of this continent. Her destiny is fixed. The Empire is an accomplished fact.

Learning Spanish.

We are informed that there is at present great demand in this city, for Spanish and English Dictionaries, grammars, Ollendorff's and other books for beginners in acquiring the Castilian language. We are glad to see that our friends from abroad, who are daily arriving in Mexico, are evincing a great desire to learn our beautiful language. They will, we know, pardon us for a little pleasantry.—One of the distinguished arrivals, who has been the Chief Magistrate of a great State, purchased an Ollendorff and went hard to work. In the very beginning, he came to this sentence—"yo no tengo apetito,"—(I have no appetite.) This little sentence he could not pronounce; but after many terrible efforts would say "yongo to appletoto." Although he had been often told that he must say "bastante" "for enough," he will insist upon saying "bustamente." A gallant General who has plucked laurels from many a battle-field, said in our presence a few days since to the waiter of a Restaurant—"mozo, yo quiero comida por tres amigos y otros caballos." (Waiter, I want dinner for three friends and other horses.)

Notwithstanding these little mistakes which are to be expected from all beginners, we trust that our friends who are now emigrating in large numbers to Mexico, will press on with their Spanish studies, "Labor vincit omnia." Which being literally translated, means, that Spanish can be acquired in a few months by application. Talk with your landlord—talk with your land-lady—talk with the señoritas—talk with the market people—with the servants—with everybody, and our word for it, you will find yourself in a few months talking Spanish very well. It is our intention to publish in every issue of our paper, easy lessons in Spanish for the benefit of beginners. We commence with the Lord's prayer, and recommend that our readers will commit it to memory. This prayer is the loveliest jewel in the English language. It is still more beautiful when translated into the Castilian tongue.

"Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos sea santificado tu nombre. Venga tu reino; sea hecha tu voluntad como en el cielo así también en la tierra.

Danos hoy nuestro pan cotidiano y sueltas nuestras deudas, como también nosotros soltamos a nuestros deudores, y no nos metas en tentación; mas líbranos de mal; porque tuyo es el reino y la potencia y la gloria por todos los siglos—Amen."

Decree of Immigration.

We publish below, the Decree of His Majesty, the Emperor, and the accompanying Regulations respecting immigration. This is assuredly the most important state-paper that has ever issued from the Supreme Government of this country. It will be read with great interest by all in the Empire, and we doubt not it will send a thrill of joy to the hearts of many who are now seeking homes in Mexico. His Majesty, actuated by the noblest impulses of the human heart, and rising above the prejudices of party, has taken the only practical course to people the sparsely settled portions of the country. The introductory language of the Decree is terse and to the point.

"Considerando la escasez de poblacion en el territorio Mexicano relativamente a su extension; deseando dar todas las seguridades posibles de propiedad y libertad a los inmigrantes, a fin de que sean buenos Mexicanos inderamente adictos a su nueva patria.

Oido el parecer de nuestra junta de colonizacion decretamos."

If the wise policy of His Majesty is carried out—soon, very soon—the country will be filled with enterprising and intelligent immigrants. They will bring with them capital, machinery and skillful labor—they will bring the plough, the anvil and the loom—the spindle and the shuttle, with all their latest improvements. Then will soon be heard the loud whistle of the "Iron Horse" as he takes his departure from the capital, through the mountains, to the waters of the Mexican gulf. Once start the tide of immigration—once induce immigrants by liberal offers to come and settle in our country, and soon the rich plains, where now are only seen the cactus and the musketeer, will be covered with smiling fields of corn and wheat and sugar-cane—of coffee, indigo and tobacco. Mexico possesses great facilities in water power. No portion of New England is better supplied with this motive power. From her mountains flow numberless streams admirably adapted to machinery of every description. These will be brought into requisition. Labor of all kinds will be in much demand—the condition of the poor will be improved—owners of large Haciendas, whose estates are now unproductive, (many being almost abandoned,) will find them doubled, trebled in value—while the professional man—the merchant—the mechanic and the day-laborer will find their respective avocations far more profitable and much more secure. Then this rich, wonderful and neglected country, will rejoice in the fact, that she has something else to export besides silver. Her sea-ports will be filled with the shipping of all nations, eager to exchange their manufactures and their silver and gold for our coffee, sugar and cotton—our indigo, cacao and tobacco—our vanilla—our dye-woods and our tropical fruits. All this immigration can do—all this immigration will do. Look at Texas and California. Only a few years since they were dreary wastes—now they are great and powerful states. Let the people of Mexico of all classes, give their hearty and undivided support to His Majesty in this noble work. Already we are pleased to see that many patriotic large land-proprietors have offered Haciendas to the government on the most liberal terms, for the purpose of immigration.

DEGREE.

WE, MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO, in consideration of the sparseness of the population in the Mexican Territory, in proportion to its extent; desiring to give to immigrants all possible security for property and liberty in order that they may become good Mexicans, sincerely attached to their new country; and having heard the opinion of our Board of colonization, do decree as follows:

- Art. I. Mexico is open to immigration from all nations.
- Art. II. Immigration agents shall be appointed, who will be paid by the government and whose duty it will be to protect the arrival of immigrants, and install them on the lands assigned them, and assist them in every possible manner in establishing themselves. These agents will receive the orders of an Imperial Commission of Immigration specially appointed by us and to whom through our Minister of Improvement, (Fomento) all communications relating to immigration shall be addressed.
- Art. III. Every immigrant shall receive a duly executed title incommutable, of landed estate and a certificate that it is free of mortgages.
- Art. IV. Such property shall be free from taxes for the first year and also from duties on transfers of property, but only on the first sale.
- Art. V. The immigrants may be naturalized as soon as they shall have established themselves as settlers.
- Art. VI. Immigrants who may desire to bring laborers with them or induce them to come in considerable numbers, of any race whatever, are authorized to do so; but those laborers will be subject to special protective regulations.
- Art. VII. The effects of immigrants, their working and brood animals, seeds, agricultural implements, machines and working tools will enter free of custom-house and transit duties.
- Art. VIII. Immigrants are exempted from military service for five years, but they will form a stationary militia, for the purpose of protecting their property and neighborhoods.

Art. IX. Liberty in the exercise of their respective forms of religious worship is secured to immigrants by the organic law of the Empire.

Art. X. Each of our Ministers is charged with carrying out such parts of this decree as relates to his department.

Given at Chapultepec on the 5th Day of September, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN.
To the Minister of Improvement, (Fomento)
By the Emperor—
Manual Orozco y Berra,
Sub-Secretary, in the
absence of the Minister of Improvement.

REGULATIONS:—

- Under Article 6th, of the foregoing decree we ordain as follows:
 - I. Under the laws of the Empire, all persons of color are free by the mere act of their touching Mexican Territory.
 - II. They shall make contracts with the employer who has engaged, or may engage them, by which such employer shall bind himself to feed, clothe, and lodge them, and give them medical attendance and also pay them a sum of money according to whatever agreements they may enter into with them; moreover, he shall deposit in the savings bank hereinafter mentioned, for the benefit of the laborer, a sum equivalent to one-fourth of his wages. The laborer shall, on his part, obligate himself to his employer to perform the labor for which he is employed, for a term of not less than five nor more than ten years.
 - III. The employer shall bind himself to support the children of his laborers. In the event of the father's death, the employer will be regarded as the guardian of the children and they will remain in his service until they become of age, on the same terms as those agreed on by their father.
 - IV. Each laborer shall receive a book certified by the local authority, in which book, his description, the statement of his place of labor and a certificate of his life and habits will be entered. In case of a change of employer, the consent of the former employer shall be entered in this book.
 - V. In case of the death of the employer, his heirs, or whoever may acquire his estate, shall be bound to the laborer in the same manner in which such employer was, and the laborer on his part shall be bound towards such new proprietor on the same terms as in his former contract.
 - VI. In case of desertion, the laborer when arrested, shall be placed without pay on public works, until his employer presents himself to claim him.
 - VII. In case of any injustice of the employer towards the laborers, he shall be brought before a magistrate.
 - VIII. Special police commissioners will watch over the execution of these Regulations, and officially prosecute all violators thereof.
 - IX. A Savings Bank will be established by the Government for the following objects:
 - X. The employers shall deposit in said Bank every month, for the benefit of the laborers, a sum equivalent to one-fourth of the wages, which each is entitled to under his contract of employment.
 - XI. The laborers can deposit in addition, in the Savings Bank, in money, such sums as they may desire.
 - XII. These deposits shall bear interest at the rate of five per-cent per annum.
 - XIII. At the end of his engagement, and on presentation of his book, the laborer shall receive the entire amount of his savings.
 - XIV. If at the end of his engagement the laborer wishes to leave his money in the Savings Bank, he can then receive the interest accrued, or, if he wishes to leave this also, it will be added to his capital and also draw interest.
 - XV. In case a laborer should die intestate or without heirs, his property shall pass to the Treasury of the Government.

Given at Chapultepec, on the 5th day of September, 1865.
MAXIMILIAN.
To the Minister of Improvement,
(Fomento)—By the Emperor,
MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA,
Sub-Secretary in the absence of the Minister of Improvement.

Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico: Considering that there exists in the district of Cordoba, department of Vera Cruz, various rural estates, which, in consequence of insolvency proceedings and other legal questions raised about the ownership of them, have been neglected in their principal parts, thereby depriving agriculture and the population of the fruits which they ought to produce;

Considering that said estates secure large sums of money by mortgage in favor of the clergy, which now belong to the public treasury, by virtue of the laws of "desamortization;" and that, in consequence of the abandonment in which these estates have been left, their actual value does not, in any manner, suffice to cover these claims;

Considering that, notwithstanding the number of years that the said questions have been at issue, it has not been possible to terminate them, because the interest of the debtors is opposed to the clearing of the rights of their creditors, thereby doing much injury to the public treasury;

WE DECREE:

- Art. 1. The rural estates designated as follows, and which are situated in the district of Cordoba, shall be taken possession of on the ground of public utility:
 - Haciendas del Rosario, de San Antonio, de Ojo de Agua Grande, de Ojo de Agua Chico, de Santa Ana, de la Concepcion Palmillas, de San Francisco, de Toluquilla, rancho del Buen Retiro, hacienda de Guadalupe a la Punta, de Cacahuatl, and de San José del Corral and Venta Pasada.
- Art. 2. Our Minister of Improvements, (Fomento,) will order these estates to be appraised, in order that the interested parties shall receive the indemnity to which they may be entitled by the laws, as soon as it will be made clear by legal process what is due the public treasury upon the said estates for the mortgages of the clergy, and who are the legitimate proprietors of them.
- Art. 3. The same Minister will appropriate the said estates to colonization, dividing them into small lots, and taking care to secure their value, in order to pay it over, as part of the indemnity due for them, to those who may be entitled to it, when the investigations mentioned in the preceding article will have been made.

Given at Chapultepec, on the 5th September, 1865.
MAXIMILIAN.

By the Emperor:
The Minister of Improvements, In his absence
the Sub-Secretary,
MANUEL OROZCO Y BERRA.

Our Hotels.

There are in this great city, many elegant Hotels, where the weary traveler or the resident citizen is well taken care of and sumptuously fed by the very polite and attentive Administrators. All of these Hotels are kept on the European plan; there being no table d'hôte. The eating or Restaurant apartments are entirely separate and distinct from the lodging. Among the best, Hotels of

the city, we mention—the Iturbide, the Gran Sociedad, the San Carlos, the Bazar, the Nacional, the Refugio, the Bella Union, the San Augustine and the Europa. The price of board and lodging in this city is about one half that it is in the large cities of the United States. There are also many elegant Restaurants—French, German and Spanish, where the most choice dishes and delicious wines can always be had. The Tivoli Gardens, near the Plaza de Toros, is much frequented by those who delight in the pleasures of the table. Neither the Trois frères Provençaux in Paris—Delmonico's in New York, nor Victor's in New Orleans can give a better dinner than can be had at this fashionable resort.

September 16th.

This is the most important day in the calendar of Mexico. It is the anniversary of the nation's Independence. It is to Mexico what the 4th of July is to the United States—an ational festival. Greece, Switzerland, and the Netherlands—Brazil and the Central and South American States have their national festivals, commemorative of the days on which they declared that they "were, and, of a right ought to be separate, free, and independent States." All heart burnings with the mother countries have long since passed away in this enlightened age. We have seen the Englishman in Boston join in the celebration of the 4th of July with a hearty good will. His Majesty, the Emperor, has ordered this day to be celebrated with becoming respect for the heroic dead who were the Patriot Fathers of their country, and for the glorious reminiscences of the nation's birthday.

Mysterious indeed are the workings of Divine Providence. The tocsin of independence was sounded by Hidalgo. He, with his compatriots Morelos, Matamoros, and Bravo, were taken and shot. The cause of Independence seemed lost, till the ever illustrious Iturbide declared for Mexico, and like a second Washington gained the liberty of his country.—He was unanimously proclaimed Emperor by a grateful people. His melancholy fate has excited the sympathy of the civilized world, and now, in Mexico, his memory is perhaps more revered than that of any other man.

Our prince.—To-day his grandson, Agustín Iturbide, two years old, born of an American mother, from Georgetown, D. C., is adopted by their Majesties as the successor to the throne of the Mexican Empire.

16TH SEPTEMBER.
Celebration of the Mexican Independence.

We take from the "Ere Nouvelle" the following succinct abstract of the Programme of the day:

An artillery salvo, fired at the Citadel, will announce the solemnity at sunrise.

At 5 o'clock in the morning all the military music bands will assemble on the square, where they will execute the national hymn; then they will march through the streets until 6 o'clock.

At eight o'clock their Majesties will repair to the Cathedral in full train, in the following order: The Second Secretary of Ceremonies, the Chamberlain on duty, the Ladies of the Palace, the Grand Master of Ceremonies, the Intendant General of the Civil List, six Palace Guards, Officers a Aid-de-Camps, II. M. the Emperor, the Grand Marshal of the Court, the Generals of Division, II. the Empress and her Great Chamberlain.

Marshal Bazaine and his Staff will repair directly to the Cathedral as well as Mr. Detryat Director General of the Navy.

The Emperor and Marshal Bazaine will attend on horseback, after the religious ceremony, to a defile of the troops, which will take place in the square.

The Empress will be placed at one of the colonnades of the palace.

Their Majesties will afterwards re-enter the apartments, where a grand reception will take place. The persons who are to assist at it will assemble in the rooms of the Lions, in that of a Council, and in the Gallery of Pictures, until the opening of the reception-rooms.

The Emperor and Empress will afterwards pass into the room of the Throne, where they will receive the congratulations which the Minister of State, by interims, will address to them: the sovereign will distribute the decorations that he will grant on the occasion.

In the afternoon there will be a bull fight, a half past three o'clock, on the square of the Paseo Nuevo. At the same hour gratuitous representations will take place at the Iturbide, Principal, Oriente, and Nuevo Mexico theatres.

From two o'clock festival mast-poles will be erected on the Las Viscaínas, Santa Ana, and San Pablo squares. Music will be played on the public walks.

Their Majesties will drive in an open carriage through the city from half past two o'clock.

In the evening, at seven o'clock, rockets will be fired on the Plaza de Armas. At half past eight o'clock grand exhibition at the Imperial Theatre. At the moment their Majesties enter the room the National Hymn will be executed—afterwards the first act of *Traviata* and the third act of *Ernani* will be played.

At eight o'clock the Iturbide Theatre will give a gratuitous exhibition to the soldiers of the French army.