

arranged that the general should be escorted to the city on the 7th; one hundred and one guns were to be fired from the castle, and workmen actually began to build triumphal arches preparatory to decorating the city. All this was surmised rather than known at the time, but so many stories were bruited about that on the morning of the 7th Captain Pritz-buer of the "Phlégéton" started up to town in his fast gig, and as usual stopped alongside of the "Tacony" to offer a passage to Captain Roe in case he thought of going. Such courtesies had been constantly exchanged between the three ships, and in this case the offer was gladly accepted, as Roe, feeling uneasy about the condition of affairs, was preparing to go up in the sailing launch.

So they went up and joined Mr. Saulnier at the English Consulate, with several persons, including Captain Aynesley. They found the city in a condition of great excitement; the presence of Santa Ana was being forced upon the people by his partisans, and they were angrily opposing him. While affairs were being discussed at the British Consulate, a note was received announcing that a revolution was on the eve of breaking out in favor of this new (or rather old) interloper, and a serious effort would be made to land him that night. This threatened to produce disastrous results and cause terrible scenes to be enacted in Vera Cruz. Bureau when informed declared his intention not to permit the

landing, and claimed to be still master of the situation. But as this was very doubtful, and as the slightest weakness, feigned or real, on his part would have been fraught with evil consequences, Captain Roe determined to take the law in his own hands and resort to prompt and vigorous measures.

He had no boat at hand, and as the day was well advanced and one could not be had from the "Tacony" for some hours, he asked Captain Aynesley to grant him the use of his cutter, which was cheerfully done. The English ensign, of course, could not be lowered from an English boat, and Roe could not do what he wanted under any but the American colors. The problem was solved by borrowing the consular flag, and lashing it to the boat's flagstaff alongside of the English. In this way, with both colors flying, with the English midshipman in charge of the boat but the American commander directing her movements, they pulled alongside of the "Virginia," and asked to see General Santa Ana, who was seated on the quarter-deck. Roe, on being presented, asked him politely if he would not like to go and pass a quiet night on board the "Tacony" at Sacrificios. The general was naturally surprised at so sudden and cordial an invitation, and asked for an explanation. This led to a dispute, only ended by Roe finally saying, in a tone perhaps more forcible than polite, that he had no further explanations to make; it was intended

for an order, which, if not obeyed voluntarily, would be enforced. At the same time two of the English seamen advanced in a threatening manner. One of the general's aides then came up to him and said in a low tone that it would be most prudent for him to take his arm and get into the boat rather than let the men lay hands upon him. So, without active violence, but under certain compulsion, the old firebrand was induced to go into the "Jason's" cutter, accompanied by his interpreter and body-servant, and was taken on board the "Tacony."

There every civility was shown him, and the cabin placed at his disposal. This was not appreciated very highly, however, and the state of his mind was shown by the following conversation with his unexpected host.*

COMMANDER.—General, here you have my room, where you will be comfortable, and you can ask for what you want.

GENERAL.—Thank you, Commander; but I wish to know first why you took me forcibly from the "Virginia" and prevented me from going ashore as I intended? Without being at war, why have you taken me prisoner?

COMMANDER.—No, General, you are not a prisoner. I wished to spare the shedding of blood in Vera Cruz, when enough has been shed in the country already.

* Dialogue certified to by Edward Gottlieb, interpreter.

GENERAL.—But by what authority and right do you thus proceed against my person, when I am a Mexican returning to my country after a long absence, with the intention of serving it, as I have always done, and now as a mediator for the restoration of peace?

COMMANDER.—It has been said in the city that the General was sent by my government, and it is my duty to prove the contrary, having an understanding with General Benavides.

GENERAL.—It is not true that I said I was sent, for the government at Washington could not employ me, nor would I obey the commands of a government not my own. I heard that the American consul prevaricated for the purpose of preventing me from landing, and I thought proper to satisfy him and dispose him to a neutrality that he ought to observe; for that purpose I said to him, substantially, that my mission was one of entire peace, and that his President was not ignorant of my journey, nor of my intentions.

COMMANDER.—Well, but your presence prevented the surrender of the city to General Benavides, who was besieging it, after Commissioner Bureau had agreed to it.

GENERAL.—And what is it to you whether the city is held by this or that Mexican, when you have no right to interfere in Mexican affairs? I doubt if your government will approve of your conduct;

and, besides, what is the reason of your insult to my person this evening? As long as I am compelled to remain in this ship I will consider myself a prisoner.

COMMANDER.—(Angrily, and rising) I have acted as I thought proper. I have no more explanations to make.

GENERAL.—Will you use force against me? I have no rifled cannons, and consequently you have me completely in your power.

COMMANDER.—Good-night, General; you have my room to rest in, and you can call for what you want. (And taking off his cap he bowed politely.)

The general passed a sleepless night, not stirring from the chair he had taken on first entering the cabin. He had indeed food for bitter reflection, over the complete frustration of all his plans, and the dashing of all his hopes of once more occupying the presidential chair. A gaudy, decorated uniform, displayed through the awkwardness (?) of the cabin steward, showed how complete had been all his preparations, even in such matters of detail. His reception at the castle, and the demonstrations that his officers had succeeded in eliciting from the turbulent part of the community on shore, had seemed to augur favorably for the success of this new attempt to seize the reins of government. But, at the eleventh hour, forcible intervention by the representative of a neutral power had put an end to it all, and his bright dreams were rudely dispelled.

His secretary, Colonel Luis de Vidal y Rivas, who was on shore at the time of his leaving the "Virginia," did all in his power to have him released. Immediately upon hearing of the occurrence, he called upon the Imperial Commissary and related to him what had been done, dwelling with emphasis on the great disrespect shown to the authorities in plain sight of the town and in presence of Mexican officials. Señor Bureau was probably not very much grieved over the turn affairs had taken, and replied that he could do nothing lest the two steamers should bombard the city. The colonel then went to the United States Consulate to make a formal protest; but Mr. Saulnier contented himself with replying that what had taken place had been done without his knowledge, but that he had just been assured that the general would be released the next day.

The detention of the general was indeed to be only temporary; but when released he was not to be put on shore, but sent out of the country. General Benavides sought to have this intention given up, and to have him guarded until affairs could be arranged. In his letter urging this upon Captain Roe, he represented that the general was a fugitive from justice. "You know he has fled from debts, and that he is at liberty under a bond of thirty thousand dollars, which he laughs at. This conduct is not strange in Santa Ana. He is a man who does

not know modesty, and he is a trickster. Well, then, I believe you would do right to secure his person, since he is a fugitive, and hold him pending the action of the tribunals of the United States. You will permit my friendship to give you this indication and advice. Besides, it is in the interests of humanity that we secure this fatal man, who has caused so many evils in the world."

These representations, however, did not influence Captain Roe. Whether or not Santa Ana was a fugitive from justice was of no interest to him in his line of duty. But he deemed it necessary to distinctly prove to Mexico, and to the world, that the government of the United States had not in a day changed its entire line of policy, as had been asserted by the general, and lent the moral support of its countenance to such schemes. To do this effectually, he had decided to simply send him out of the country, and had ordered the "Virginia" to stop at Sacrificios on her way to sea the next morning, and anchor off the "Tacony's" port bow. This was done, and Mr. Saulnier came down in her to announce that her papers were settled and that she was ready for sea. General Santa Ana was transferred to her, and Captain Deaken was directed to proceed on his way to New York. Permission was given him to touch at Sisal and Havana, his ports of call, but he was positively ordered not to land Santa Ana anywhere in Mexico.

At about noon the "Virginia" started out, followed by the "Tacony." Every precaution was taken to prevent any communication being had with the shore, an officer, Acting-Ensign Bell, being put on board with a boat's crew as a guard. The pilot, on leaving, was thoroughly searched, even to his boots, to make sure that no papers were concealed about his person. When twenty miles had been made, and Vera Cruz had sunk below the horizon, this officer returned on board the "Tacony," and the two vessels parted company, the man-of-war heading up to the northward, the merchantman steering away for Sisal.

Bad luck seemed to follow the latter and her illustrious passenger. They reached Sisal on the 11th of June, and Santa Ana's presence on board attracted the attention of the authorities of the port, and naturally caused some alarm. His constant passion to provoke disturbances, seize on command, and use it to his profit, were recollections too alarming not to arouse suspicion. These suspicions were fully verified by his despatching a letter by Colonel Hilario Mendez, one of his staff, to General Martin Cepeda Peraza, governor of the state of Yucatan. With this letter was a copy of a revolutionary address to the people of the state, which, on his way to Vera Cruz, he had sent on shore to be circulated there, and to which he now invited the governor to give publicity. Colonel Medina, the captain of the

port, stationed three armed schooners around the "Virginia" to watch her, until he could communicate with General Peraza. The next day, in obedience to instructions, General Santa Ana was invited to land. Captain Deaken of the "Virginia" protested against this, stating that he was a passenger in transit, and a prisoner to the United States, and was to be delivered at the city of New York. The three schooners had their guns trained on the steamer, however, and a file of soldiers came on board, which settled matters, and Santa Ana succeeded in landing on Mexican soil.

He immediately despatched a letter to the governor relating the circumstances, and adding: "Now I am at your disposal, and I hope I shall soon see you. . . . An old veteran places himself under your orders to be sent where you think he can be of the greatest service to the nation. . . ." The result of this, however, was even more disappointing than the outcome of his appearance at Vera Cruz, for General Peraza's opinion of his services was such as to prompt him to place the old veteran under arrest with a view to the safety of the Republic; and for greater security he was sent off to the neighboring state of Campeche in custody, to await the action of President Juarez.

This unexpected finale caused reclamations to be made by various parties in the United States, and as it was uncertain whether or not the "Virginia"

was within the marine league from the shore at the time of the seizure (as some termed it), many American journals denounced the affair and called upon the government to take proceedings against the government of Mexico to cause the restoration of Santa Ana and his secretary within the jurisdiction of the United States. Other appeals were made also, one being on the distinct ground that the creditors of the general in the United States had large pecuniary interests in the safety of his person. His financial status certainly seemed in a complicated condition, and many different stories were rife regarding him. Some journals suggested that he was the victim of a well-arranged conspiracy by which large sums of money were fraudulently obtained from him ostensibly to fit out an expedition to reinstate him in power in Mexico, but really for division among the conspirators.

Regarding the legitimacy of the "Virginia's" proceedings it is certainly strange that she neither took in nor discharged cargo at Sisal, although that was presumably the object of her touching there, and this with other things seemed to point to the possibility of her having been chartered specially by Santa Ana for a filibustering expedition, and that she was not on one of her customary, peaceable, commercial trips. A discussion of that question, however, would lead into deeper water than this story was intended to navigate.

To wind up Santa Ana's history in a few words, he was tried for the fourth time for treason and sentenced to be hanged; but the extreme penalty was commuted by President Juarez to banishment for eight years. Taking advantage of the general amnesty in 1871 he returned to Mexico, and passed the remaining five years of his life in obscurity and neglect.

On leaving her consort on the 8th of June, the "Tacony" shaped the course for Pensacola. She had lingered on in Mexican waters longer than was convenient or prudent. Her hold contained now but few provisions for the crew. Amid all the anxieties and distractions connected with the situation and the progress of events, her commander had been counting the weeks, then the days, finally the hours which remained to him. The possibility of a mishap to the machinery, or of delay caused by a northerly gale, or by the many accidents liable to happen on the sea, rendered it imperative to allow some slight margin of time for the passage across the gulf. On the other hand, what momentous events might not supervene during his absence and nullify all his endeavors. With the deepest regret had he seen at last that further delay was inadmissible. The old double-ender started northward under full steam, and arrived before daybreak of the 13th, with two days' bread on board.

One can imagine the vexation felt on board on

learning that on the same day that they had been compelled to leave their station, the tug "Yucca" had left Pensacola, to call at Vera Cruz, with provisions for them. The delay in sending that supply-vessel seemed strange and was most unfortunate; but there was no help for it then, and all that could be done was to coal and provision ship and execute a few repairs with all possible despatch, so as to return and take further part in the interesting scenes of the last days of the Empire.

The part that the "Tacony" had already taken in the stirring events just related became the subject of much criticism, both adverse and favorable, and Captain Roe had to run the gauntlet of much censure from various quarters. It seemed, indeed, to be a high-handed proceeding to remove by force a pretender to the throne of a country, however much embroiled at home and abroad. That country, after a disheartening and desperately protracted struggle, had at last begun to triumph over all its enemies, including that most intolerable of all political evils, foreign armed intervention, and to have reached a crisis when, if left alone, it might be expected to restore tranquillity and reorganize itself upon permanent foundations. A notorious agitator, backed by adventurers who would ruthlessly sacrifice country to party, and perhaps both to money or gain, was about to undo in a day what had been accomplished by years of bloodshed and suffering.

On general principles an officer of a foreign government could have nothing to do with either side of the question. The mere judgment of right or wrong, or the desire to help a friendly nation, should not even for one moment influence the action of a naval commander compelled to decide and act for himself. But the circumstances in this case made such action seem imperative, and the more closely the matter is studied, the more proper does it appear.

As the United States had never ceased to acknowledge the Republican government of Mexico, and Benito Juarez as its President, it was fair to suppose that Santa Ana's assertion of being backed by President Johnson was false. Furthermore, the relations of the two countries were really very delicate, in spite of the fact of the United States having caused the departure of the French army. Many Mexicans were inclined to still regard their powerful northern neighbor with great distrust. Therefore, to allow the idea (which he knew to be false) to gain ground, that material aid and assistance was to be afforded by his government to influence their internal affairs, would have brought about complications, and, however vigorously refuted afterwards, would probably have reacted on the party that had been recognized since the beginning of the troubles. It would also have placed the United States in a false light before the world. By acting as he did

Captain Roe was certain not to thwart the desire nor run counter to the policy of the State Department, however much it might disapprove his taking positive action.

In the history of many a diplomatic tilt it has been found necessary to disapprove publicly a certain line of action taken by an individual officer, however much such action may have been secretly applauded. In this particular case the United States was certainly interested in having Santa Ana's incipient revolution nipped in the bud; should international complications demand it, the officer guilty of over-zeal could afterwards be reprimanded or, if necessary, temporarily disgraced, but the object would have been gained. No single-minded officer would ever hesitate before such an alternative; the only difficulty would be in accurately divining the wish of the government.

The press were somewhat divided on the subject, and, as usual, did not fail to express their various opinions with greater or less warmth. But what was of most importance to Captain Roe was the following paragraph in a memorandum published by the Secretary of State: "In the opinion of the President, Commander Roe has truly stated the character of the transaction which occurred in Vera Cruz, in these words: 'The attitude then of Santa Ana was this: He was on board of an American ship, under the flag of the United States, in a city

besieged by the government of Mexico, declaring and fomenting the civil war against that government, with which the United States are in friendly relations, under an assumed authority from the United States ; and while he claimed to be under the protection and shield of their flag, he prevented the act of surrender of Vera Cruz, after the terms of that surrender had been agreed to and accepted by both parties ; and this under the declaration that he was acting under the authority of the United States.' In this view of the subject, this department not only does not disallow nor censure, but it approves the proceedings of the United States consul and of Commander Roe, at Vera Cruz."

A copy of this memorandum was sent to Captain Roe, personally, by Mr. Seward, thus becoming a direct message of approval.

CHAPTER IV.

DURING the few days that were needed for the "Tacony" to fly to Pensacola, take in coal and provisions, and return to her station, the great drama of Mexican affairs was swiftly drawing to a close. As the curtain was about to fall on the tragic finale, the telegraph and the mail were busy in conveying requests, petitions, and answers between the various high parties, so deeply interested both in the personal welfare of the young ex-Archduke of Austria, and the standing among nations of the struggling, bleeding Republic south of the Rio Grande.

We have seen that as early as April 6th, Count Wydenbruck had requested the good offices of the American Department of State to secure respect for the person of his emperor's brother. These had been rendered ; a special and able courier being found in Mr. Frederick Hotze, late a lieutenant-colonel in the Mexican corps of Austrian volunteers, who, in refusing to accept the post of chief of staff to the sanguinary General Marquez (the "Tiger"), had drawn upon himself the displeasure of Maximilian, and had retired to the United States. Well acquainted with Mexico and with Mexicans, and