

CHAPTER IV.

1810.

PRELIMINARIES OF 19TH APRIL — EVENTS OF THIS DAY — MADARIAGA CONGRESS — FIRST ACTS OF THE JUNTA SUPREMA OF CARACAS — COMMISSIONERS — BOLIVAR GOES TO LONDON — CONSEQUENCE OF HIS LABORS — DECREE OF DON ROSCIO TO THE OIDOR HEREDIA — CONTRA-REVOLUTION OF THE LINAGES — FATAL EVENTS AT QUITO ON THE 2d AUGUST.

WE have now arrived at the beginning of the year 1810: dawn of glory as also of unheard of misfortunes, as some one has said.

Emparan is the Osâe of the Captain General of Venezuela, last and unfortunate relic of that succession of Governors which, beginning with Ambrosio de Alfinger, Aleman, and Jorge Spira, in 1528, should close with him. Worse than many of his predecessors, he, without doubt, is the most unfortunate, because he was the last.

The months of January, February and March of that providential year were passed in anxieties and suspicions. The patriots could assemble, with the greatest precaution, only of nights, in the country, by plausible pretexts, at the house of the Señora Juana Antonia Padron, mother of the Montilla, a lady of high spirit, of amiable intercourse, and wide connections with society. They even arranged to have festive parties in celebration of their birthdays and other events of their families, so as to be able to communicate under this appearance with more frequency and without danger.*

* Among the dates which Señor Andres Bello furnished to Señor Amunátegui for his biography furnished in Chili, there is one in relation to the epoch which I sketch, and which confirms the fact of these family meetings, in which friends could communicate with more ease. In the date referred to, Bolivar is spoken of, only transiently. I thus copy with double purpose. It says: "It was the custom then at Caracas to conduce more to the pleasures of the table, to read literary essays, by the means of which the poets substituted the publication which printing would have facilitated them if it had existed." "It was during two of these sumptuous repasts with which Simon Bolivar accustomed to feast his friends, where Don Andres Bello read two long-winded translations of verse, viz: the fifth book of the *Eneid* and the *Zulina*, a tragedy of Voltaire. The first pleased exceedingly, particularly Bolivar, whose vote in matters of taste was worthy of esteem; but not thus the second, which was badly received, not because the translation was defective, but for the small intrinsic value of the work itself. Bolivar criticized Bello that he should have chosen this one among the rest of the works of this same author, and Don Andres, agreeing in the inferiority of the *Zulina*, confessed to him that the reason of such a choice was because the remaining tragedies of Voltaire having been translated, and not having dared to compete with the intelligences who had transferred them to our idiom."

Emparan, enraged at this pretention of liberty which the Venezuelans entertained, and which was plainly written on the countenances of many, became a tyrant, and redoubled his persecutions. Bolivar was obliged to retire to his country-seat in the Valley of Tuy, so as to evade being banished by one who had before been his friend. The Captain Juan Pablo Ayala and his brothers received orders to leave Caracas; the brothers Carabafios were imprisoned at Maracaibo; Captain Don Diego Julon, at Margarita; Florencio Palacios, at Barcelona. Notwithstanding, the patriots were determined to strike a blow for redemption, even if it would cost their lives.

The successes of the Imperial arms in the Peninsula made it certain that the conquest and submission of Spain were inevitable. Sevilla had fallen into the hands of the French. The Junta Central had taken refuge at Cadiz; and even this place was suffering a terrible siege by General Sebastiani. All hopes of salvation were disappearing; and even the rumor was circulated that Cadiz had been taken, this conjecture being based on the fact that a schooner, "The Rosa," had cleared from that port without the necessary documents. On so important an occasion, the patriots, Bolivar, Martin Tavar, Sojo, Blanco, Montilla, Anzola, Ribas, Diaz Casado, and others, assembled at three o'clock in the morning, at the residence of the Dr. Don José Angel Alamo, and there resolved the last measures*

Two days anterior there had arrived at La Guayra, by the Spanish Mail, the following gentlemen, the Count Don Carlos Montufar, and the post Captain Don Antonio Villavicencio, commissioned to announce the installation of the Council of the Regency at Cadiz, which had succeeded the Junta Central; and also, the first, to pacify the Kingdom of Quito, and the second to a similar mission in New Granada. *This power which fluctuates in such a manner in the Peninsula, said Bolivar, and does not secure itself, invites us to establish the Junta of Caracas and be governed by ourselves.* These Commissioners arrived at Caracas the 18th of April (Holy Wednesday), at 12 M. "They were surrounded and received with open arms by Montilla, Bolivar, Sojo, and their companions," as says Diaz, "because these Commissioners were naturally seditious, and the most appropriate to give an impulse to the rebellion. The Regency did not know these men." This is merely asperity. Bolivar, Sojo and Montilla surrounded Villavicencio and Montufar not because these were seditious characters (ridiculous pretensions), but only with the idea of being informed about the true state of affairs in Spain, so as to act in accordance. The news, in effect, finally decided them to proceed with vigor and strike the blow soon.

On the morning of the 19th of April the Corporation assembled according

* There were also at different hours meetings at the house of Don Valentin Ribas, and at that of Don Manuel Diaz Casado, not only to agree to the definitive execution of the plan, as much as to assure themselves of the good faith and firm determination of the battalion of militia of the valleys of Aragua, of which the Marquis del Toro was Colonel; of some companies of the Grenadiers of the battalions of militia commanded by the Spaniard Don Francisco Osorno, quartered outside the walls of Caracas, and to which belonged the patriotic officers Miguel Ustaria, Juan Vicente Bolivar, Leander Palacios, Tranaris and others. These forces were the base of operations; the worshipful Corporation the focus of this revolutionary combination.

to custom, to assist at the divine offices at the Cathedral to celebrate Holy Thursday, and invited the Governor, Emparan. Still more haughty and overbearing as he was, than watchful and on his guard, he appeared in the Council Hall at the first call. There, whilst they were preparing to set out, he was conversed with on the state of the Peninsula, of the necessity of establishing at Venezuela a government of their own which would defend the common cause and preserve the legitimate rights of the Monarch; and even with unpardonable carelessness the names of several persons were named who were to compose the future Junta. The Governor listened quietly to the proposal, but eluding it, with haughtiness he observed that, after the divine offices he would talk further on this somewhat delicate subject. Saying this he put on his hat and went out of the hall with a determined air.

The revolutionists looked at each other astonished; they followed Emparan mechanically, foreseeing misfortunes and persecutions. It was evident that the Captain-General would order their imprisonment at the Church, as he already knew several of the names.

With more than necessary politeness and affability had he been spoken to, but at the same time the word Junta had been mentioned, which was equivalent to despoiling him of his power. And most surely, such views were ill in accordance with the pride and impatient violence of Emparan. The moment was solemn.

Conceiving themselves lost, the revolutionists bitterly accused themselves of being too open and imprudently confiding; and, although they did not repent of their noble thoughts, they imagined their wishes frustrated.

The Cathedral was opposite the Council Hall, in the middle of the Plaza; on one side were drawn up the Guards. Perhaps Emparan would put himself at the head of these troops to overthrow their plans of revolution. They all knew it. What suspense! They are troubled. Emparan passed. The troops saluted him. At the door of the Cathedral was another guard of Grenadiers of the Queen's regiment. New fears even more founded. More time had been allowed for reflection.

What will happen? Panic was depicted in the countenances of the revolutionists; their eyes were fixed on Emparan as if awaiting some prodigy that would be displayed by his person.

As he was entering the temple, the intrepid patriot Don Francisco Salias took him by the arm, and, detaining him, prayed him to return to the council-room, as the public good demanded it. At this instant, the sergeant and grenadiers of the guard prepared their arms to punish such a daring attempt; but the captain, Don Luis Ponte, who commanded them, and who was ignorant of the plans of the day, ordered them to return their arms, and was obeyed. On this, the revolutionists repeated the intimation of Salias: the populace was agitated and ignorant of what was occurring, increased the confusion. Emparan, in the midst of all these scenes and confusions, had said nor done nothing, but returned to the council with Salias. He plainly perceived the loss of his power in these forerunners of his ruin. On the way back the guard, who had just saluted him, now refused. This circumstance completed his perturbation.

When he re-entered the council-room he was no longer Governor.

He opposed no resistance when the formation of a Junta Suprema was proposed to him by the Dra. Juan German Roocio and Felix Soza, and it did not even occur to him to remark that these two individuals took seats in the council:

and spoke without any right not belonging to the body. Such was his perplexity!

New dangers, however, threatened the revolution, and was on the point of being defeated. The respect in which the majesty of the Spanish authorities was held, was such, that, in spite of all, they were about to name Emparan as President of the Junta. Already Roscio, even Roscio, so wary and prudent, was in the act of writing it off in this sense, when the man presented himself, who had been chosen by Providence to complete this great deed of the revolution. This man was the Dr. Don José Cortes Madariaga, a native of Chili, and deacon of the cathedral of Caracas. He was, at that moment, confessing, when he was informed by some one of what occurred. The weakness of the municipals inflamed him.

He, on the instant, set out to the corporation-house, entered, and took a seat, calling himself a "deputy of the clergy," and, in the presence of Emparan, forcibly and energetically reprehended the unwary members who, with unheard-of blindness, were on the point of placing themselves and others at the mercy of the Captain-General, and to sacrifice forever the project of sovereignty, which they had begun to put into practice under such happy auspices.

Cortes was a man of a daring nature, of a passionate and energetic condition, naturally fluent, and when excited by peril or an obstacle, self-possessed and thundering. His peroration terrified Emparan, who began to recover from his first surprise. Madariaga depicted the true state of affairs in the Peninsula, and enforced the necessity of forming in Venezuela a self-government; and concluded, demanding the deposition of the Governor as a measure of vital importance for the public weal. "Yes," he said, with sparkling eyes, "*I demand it in the name of justice and of the country; in the name of our liberty.*"

The noble energy of this meritorious American ecclesiastic and his just appreciation of the value of things and the moment, is one of the incidents of greatest interest and attraction which were shown in the great panorama on the 19th of April, 1810.

There was now no compromise in the situation of affairs brought about by the manly words of the Deacon of Chili. Either they would betray the movement or break off with Emparan. This one resorted to the people, judging that he would find less severity from the populace than he had met with from the council; and in a loud voice, he asked them from the balcony whether they were contented with his rule. Madariaga, meanwhile, knew too much to confide the result of so difficult a subject to the ignorance or fickleness of a populace, and remaining a little distance behind Emparan, he made signs to the people to say, No. Several of the parties interested then cried out, "No, no, we do not want you; we do not want you;" words which were taken up by the people with more expressive clamor, and to which Emparan discouraged answered, "Then I also do not want you."

Thus ended this transcendental act forever memorable!

The revolution was consummated by the daring of Salias and the patriotic adherence and the timely warmth of the Deacon Cortes de Madariaga.

Good as well as evil live in the minds of men. The history of Salias and Madariaga is united to that of Emparan; but these live in triumph, this one in infamy!

The Junta of Caracas at first worked on the principle "of the right of self-government by the provinces of America in default of a general govern-

ment." The Corporation did not recognize the authority of the Regency established at Cadiz, and announced that Venezuela, "by right of her natural and political rights, would proceed to the formation of a government which would exercise authority in the name and in representation of Ferdinand VII."

This agreement is dated 19th April, 1810. Many of the population of South America imitated the example given by Caracas. Bogota formed her Junta Gubernativa on the 20th of July; Chili the 18th September.* The revolution for the Independence of America had taken its first step! The acts with which our Junta inaugurated their existence and declared it to the world, are remarkable.

Emparan, Basadre and other authorities of the old rule, they expelled, embarking them with due safety to the United States, paying their salaries, and presenting them with all they required for the expenses of their voyage.

To the Spanish residents they spoke in an exquisite proclamation, informing them that they should be treated with the same affection and consideration as the Americans, as they were all brothers, cordially and sincerely united by the same cause.

To the Venezuelans they tendered an invitation to union and fraternity to which mutual duties and interests impelled them.

To the Americans of the several sections of the continent they proclaimed their glorious revolution, saying to them: "Venezuela has placed herself in the ranks of free nations, and hastens to announce this fact to her neighbors; so that, if the dispositions of the New World are in accordance with our views, they will contribute to help her in the great and difficult career which she has undertaken. *Virtus and moderation* has been our motto; *fraternity, union and generosity* should be yours, so that, by your participation in the combination of these great principles, be produced the great work of RAISING AMERICA TO THE POLITICAL DIGNITY WHICH SO RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO HER."

And by these means abolished the hateful tribute of the Indians, freed from the excise tax all articles of first necessity, prohibited the introduction of *slavery* into Venezuela, caused to be formed patriotic societies for the improvement of industry and agriculture, and organized the different branches of public administration.

Such was the generous spirit which animated the first revolution of South America—a revolution without bloodshed, without hatred or vengeance.

Another of the cares of the Junta was that of sending confidential commissioners to Coro, Barinas, Maracaibo, Barcelona, Margarita, Cumana y Guyana, so as to invite these provinces into the Union. It also wrote to the Regency and sent envoys to the Antilles, to Santa Fé, to the United States of North America and Great Britain to make known the action of Costa Firme and to search for help and sympathies for the revolution. The Commissioners to His Britannic Majesty were the Brevet-Colonel Don Simon Bolivar, and the Commissary Don

* In Buenos Ayres, more or less the scenes which happened were the same as at Caracas. There the movement took place the 23d May, on which day the Don D. Juan José Castelli, a speciality similar to our Madariaga, declared at an end the Spanish government, illegitimate the installation of the Regency, and dangerous to public liberty the Captain General D. Baltasar Hidalgo de Cisneros, whom they embarked in an English sloop. Buenos Ayres proclaimed the right of constituting a government itself by its own laws, and by men born in the country.

Luis Lopez Mendez, and, as *attaché*, Don Andres Bello, Commissary of War and Officer in the Department of the Secretary of State of the Supreme Junta. These sailed for London about the middle of June in the British sloop of war "General Wellington," Captain George, which was offered to the Junta by Admiral Cochrane, commanding the British Naval forces of that department. The results of these commissions were different. The greater part of the provinces which formed the Captain Generalcy of Venezuela easily followed the example which Caracas had given; but Guyana, Coro and Maracaibo did not attend to the invitation, but remained for a longer time slaves to fanaticism, and were opposed to it.

The Commissioner to Coro, Don José Antonio Anzolo, was listened to with contempt, and refused with indignation, by the Brigadier-General Don José Ceballos, Governor of that province.

The emissaries of peace and friendship, Don Vicente Tejera, Don Diego Juno and Don Andres Moreno, for Maracaibo, were detained at Ancon by the Governor, Don Fernando Miyares, without being permitted to enter the city. They were afterwards put into the Castillo of San Carlos, from whence they were sent in a vessel, under arrest, to Puerto Rico, where they were judged, and condemned as rebels. Don Salvador Melendez, Governor of Puerto Rico, immediately sepultured them in the subterranean cells of the Morro, where they remained for six months; and did not leave their prison only at the efficacious solicitation of Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane. Don Mariano Montilla and Don Vicente Salias were better received at Curaçao, Jamaica, Barbadoes and the other Antilles; but Don J. R. Revenga and F. Orea, Commissioners to the United States, were not received so favorably, the Government manifested coolness and very little sympathy. Who would have believed it!

The Deacon Cortes Madariaga, Commissioner to Santa Fé, who, from the moment he left Caracas, had begun an apostolate of liberty, encountered several obstacles on his way. At Merida he got into predicaments; but, owing to his resolute mind and to his intelligent expedients in difficulties, he managed to come out safely.*

Bolívar and Lopez Mendez met a warm reception at London from the

* In a letter dated 10th February, 1811, from the hacienda de Estanques, in the jurisdiction of Merida, and directed to Don Francisco Berrio, Cortes wrote: "We continued on our journey without having met with any danger in the midst of the imponderable inconveniences and risks through which we have passed, which we are still left to suffer, and you may believe it, that if I had not taken the charge of the commission which I carry on, already would the devil have scoffed at the emancipation of Caracas; never will the province repay me the efforts and fatigues which I pass through for her welfare. You will esteem it as such, calling on Roscio, and informing yourself of the dispatches, &c. Napoleon has conquered by the means of arms, and if I have not conquered with them, at least I have opened the road to the champions who wish to take advantage of it from the people by constancy and fiery oration. I have seen myself arrested and excommunicated by that old dotard Milanés (*this was the Bishop of Merida*), but by presence of mind I have triumphed over all his attempts. Had it not been that the mission would have been endangered, this satrap would now be on his way there, riding on an ass; he merits nothing else, in company with his Secretary Talavera and other persons of his troupe." Nothing discovers so forcibly the strength of mind and intelligence of the Deacon Don José Cortes Madariaga.

Marquis of Wellesley, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, the most pleasing assurances having been offered them by the aforementioned minister, his son, Mr. Wellesley, member of Parliament, by Sir A. Cochrane and his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester. They confirmed them to that effect, by their letters of the 3d and 4th August, 1810. But England was allied to Spain, and it was only possible for them to go so far as to authorize the Governors of British Antilles to help and assist with such means as should be judged necessary to sustain the Governments of America, *whatever they should be*, against the intrigues and attacks from the despot of France.* At the same time that Bolivar was endeavoring to procure favorable answers from the British Government to the propositions made by him and his worthy colleague, he was also writing, and caused to be published in the *Morning Chronicle*, articles against the decree of blockade issued by the Regency, demonstrating to all the true character of the revolution of Venezuela. The letter published in the *Morning Chronicle*, the 5th September, from "A Spaniard in Cadis to a Friend in London," is written by Bolivar. The contents treat of the decree of blockade of Costa Firme, ordered by the Spanish Government; an injurious decree, which disagreeably surprised our Commissioners in London.

Afterwards, considering that he would be of more use in his own country, he thought of returning, leaving in London Señor Mendez. Bolivar had the pleasure to assist with all his power the Commissioners sent by Buenos Ayres to solicit from England the friendship and alliance of that powerful and liberal nation. Spanish America, when she had broken the fetters which bound her to Spain, turned her eyes to that people friendly to liberty; presented to them the occasion to give to the world a brilliant testimony of their love of justice, and to exercise their powerful influence in favor of a weak and afflicted people.

When, as has been seen, Miyares insulted in the imprisonment of Tejera, Jugo and Moreno by his arbitrariness, the rights of people, an auditor, Don José Francisco Heredia, deputed by the Junta Central of Spain to the Supreme Court of Caracas, communicated to this Government his desire of going there, with power from the Captain-General of Cuba to negotiate a reconciliation with the Venezuelan authorities. Here, then, was an occasion for our Government to display its noble manner of proceeding, and to shame Spain for her base conduct. Thus it was that Dr. Roscio answered Señor Heredia, inclosing him a safe passport, in this sense: "Whilst our Commissioners have been most grossly abused and insulted, from the Coro to the Castle of Lapara and the Morro of Puerto Rico, your worship shall, by the inclosed passport, be secured a safe and inviolable passage from the same Coro to Caracas, by the sacred word of the worthy commander of our forces of the West, and under the invulnerable shield of moderation and decorum of all those who exist under the regenerating influences of the new system, incapable of violating the sacred character of ambassador, which your worship now fills." †

It was fortunate to have this occasion of displaying itself; and the Government accredited itself, having properly taken advantage of this singular stroke of fortune.

* Circular directed by Lord Liverpool, Secretary of the English Colonies to the authorities of the Antilles (8th August, 1810).

† Decree of 26th September, 1810, inserted in the "Gaceta of Caracas," and reproduced in the "Diario político of Santa Fe," No. 37.

Such was the state of affairs when the Junta was presented with a new and more sublime opportunity to display its magnanimity and the moderation of its principles. Encouraged by the co-operation of Ceballos and Miyares, and advised by Dr. Don José Bernabe, Diaz of the College of Lawyers of Caracas, Don Francisco and Don Manuel Gonzalez de Linares, Spaniards, natives of Santander, projected a reaction which should remove the power from American hands and re-establish the former rule. The plot was ripened and was about to be put into effect, when the confession of two officers of the Queen's Regiment, Don José Ruiz and Don José Mires, who were implicated, frustrated the attempt. The trial was actually proceeded with; it was transmitted to the judge on the 31st October, and sentence was rendered shortly afterwards. The penalty of capital punishment was not imposed upon any of them; they only suffered that of being expelled. The Junta did not desire blood, lenient penalties being considered sufficient to punish with.

This took place at Caracas. The conduct of the Junta was praised by all, when the mail from Santa Fé brought the unhappy news of the bloody tragedy which occurred at Quito.

The most lively feelings were expressed when the official communication of the news was made known.

The inhabitants were mourning without waiting the order of the Government, in demonstration of their profound sorrow for the slaughter of the first martyrs of liberty. On all sides, energetic words of feeling, mournful songs, were heard; terrible threats were uttered against those who had stained their hands with the innocent blood of the Quitonian patriots

What happened at Quito I will describe in brief terms.

The brave Ecuatorians participated in the same revolutionary ideas, universal in all America, and which will always be the symbol of oppressed nations; and by reason of mere circumstance it was reserved to them to make the first effort at throwing off the yoke. A preliminary meeting had taken place the 25th October, 1808, at the plantation of Chillo, under the direction of Don Juan Pio Montufar, Marquis of Selva Alegre; and they agreed to form a Junta Suprema that should take charge of the destinies of the country. This project was kept secret, although it was confided to the Rector of La Merced, Fray José de Torresana; and this was the evil, as the good Rector divulged it (always in secret) till it arrived to the ears of Don Francisco J. Manzanos, Amecor-general of the Government. By the 9th March, 1809, the Marquis Don Juan de Dios Morales, former Secretary of the Presidency; Don Manuel Quiroga, lawyer, and the Captains Juan Salinas and Nicolas Peña were all imprisoned. Nothing however could be proved against them in the trial; and the process, although noisy, ended favorably. The conspirators returned to their homes, and to prosecute with redoubled vigor their patriotic plans. On one side they were encouraged by their success: on the other, by the sympathy with which they met among the people, and thus advised to better season their plans, and always to rely upon them.

The ringleaders of this projected revolution, although closely watched by the authorities of Quito, persevered in their plans; assembling at the house of the Señora Doña Mabella Canizares, a lady of manly character, elevated spirit, and of great influence, as much on account of her grace and beauty, as for the charm and ease of her manners.

Towards the end of the month of July, 1809, the minds of all being so exalted

that they were already degenerating into imprudence, caused the principal authors of the movement to think that it was necessary to precipitate the end of the undertaking, so as not to expose the cause to misfortune.

The 10th August was the day fixed.

On the night of the 9th, at a quarter past midnight, the conspiracy took effect. In consequence of which Don Manuel Urriz, Count Ruiz de Castillo, President of Quito, his Assessor Manzanos, and the other magistrates and military officers, were imprisoned.

On the spot, a Junta with the title of Supreme was constituted.

The patriots of Quito did not spare any efforts in manifesting and declaring, by luminous proclamations and speeches, that their revolution had no other object in view but that of saving those dominions, rescuing them from the hands of treacherous and frenchified Europeans; contesting at the same time the right of the Junta of Sevilla in appropriating to itself the authority of the King during his captivity. But it happened, in spite of these sincere and spontaneous expositions, that the Governors of Guayaquil, Ouenca and Pahayan, did not favor the movement; that the inhabitants of the capitular district of *Pasto* considered it against their conscience to declare themselves against the old man King de Castilla, notwithstanding his weakness and well-known hatred of the Americans; that the Viceroy of Santa Fé, D. Antonio Amar threatened the Junta that he would march to destroy them, if they did not restore affairs to their former state, and finally that the Spaniards contrived to organize, with the co-operation of some of the natives, a contra revolution in the country, south of Quito. Thus all seemed to work against the new edifice erected by the free Quitonians.

In such an emergency, the president of the Junta (then D. Torcuato Guerrero) stipulated with *Ruy de Castilla*, to concede the presidency on condition that he should always preserve and maintain the Junta. The old Count agreed to this, giving his word of honor to keep it unchanged, and added that he could not even remember what had passed. But scarcely had he the power in his hands, when he dissolved the Junta, and infamously imprisoned in filthy cells sixty persons. Persecutions were actively begun, and the reinforcements of troops, which *Ruiz de Castilla* received from the Viceroys of Peru and New Granada, gave him more courage to oppress those who had committed no other fault than that of wishing to be men, and to enjoy the dignity of such. The trials were proceeded through with surprising activity; the judge demanded the penalty of death against those tried; and confiscation and the cruelties and injustice of the old man *Unies Count Ruiez de Castilla* were such, that the Viceroy of Santa Fé saw himself forced to take into his own hands the trial, from the claws of those tigers of unhappy Quito.

The reader may then judge what were the enormities of the trial!

This intervention of the Viceroy of Santa Fé was censured as being impolitic, and that it only encouraged traitors, taking from them the fear of punishment. The trial was at last transmitted, as they could not do otherwise; but then they imagined nightly cabals to rescue the prisoners and prepare another political explosion; they affirmed disturbances that never existed, alarms, conspiracies and gave orders that the prisoners should be murdered in cold blood on the announcement of the least attempt.

The order being once given, the execution was not long delayed.

On the 2d of August, at half-past one o'clock, six unknown men, armed with

knives, caused a disturbance and those meritable and innocent patriots chained down in the most obscure and filthy dungeons, were all assassinated without the least pity, in violation and utter contempt for the most solemn promises! Morales, Salinas, Ascáubi, Quiroga, the priest Rio Frio, and numerous others were murdered in the most cruel manner, and their bodies stripped nude and insulted by the soldiers who had executed this horrible crime.* The government of the mother country recompensed with rank and distinction those who had ordered and executed this infamous atrocity what horror! "To bestow distinction on those who do well, is right," as one of the wisest kings of Spain said, "because justice is not only to prevent evils, but also to distinguish action." But alas! on this most sorrowful occasion, the ideas and principles of right in antagonism, evil was recompensed, honors bestowed on the executioner, and distinctions on those who had quenched their raging thirst with innocent American blood! Unhappy America, which in all cases and by all means was always destined to be the victim. Bitter tears she shed, on beholding her people cut down by the sword; witnessing the unfortunate fate of her best children, sacrificed in prisons.

And even yet she was forced to rejoice in the prize conferred on her executioners and assassins!

* By the suggestions of Don Pedro Calisto, an unnaturalized American, the lifeless bodies of Morales, Quiroga, &c., were about to be hung on the scaffold. Such a barbarous measure, worthy of being executed by the Spanish authorities who in Quito opened a long career of crime which they should have to commit during the war for independence, was abandoned on the mournful supplications of the Bishop Cuero and his Provisor the Señor Calcedo.