

The Phantom Crown



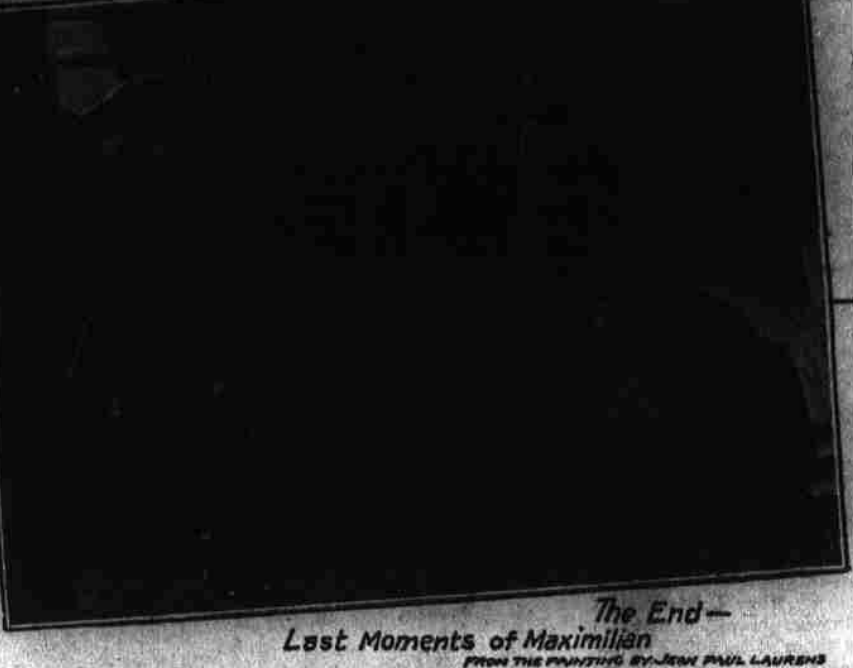
The Beginning—Reception of the Emperor and Empress on Landing in Mexico



Maximilian



Carlota



The End—Last Moments of Maximilian

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

"HERR JOHANN STRAUSS of Vienna was very busy composing waltzes."

So begins chapter one of a new book, "Phantom Crown—The Story of Maximilian and Carlota of Mexico," written by Bertita Harding and published recently by the Bobbs-Merrill company.

A dreamy Strauss waltz, played in the romantic city on the Danube, is an appropriate theme song for the main character in the drama that is about to begin. Maximilian was like that—a dreamer, an idealist, a man of extraordinary purity and simplicity but lacking utterly the clear vision and the ability to deal with practical matters. If he had been otherwise, some North American history—even a part of the history of the United States—might have been different.

"Phantom Crown" is an appropriate title, too, for the story of Maximilian and Carlota, who made "the last grand, bewildered gesture of royalty on the American continent" and who attempted a "visionary conquest which ended so tragically for them both." For the theme song given to the Austrian archduke in the opening chapter of the Harding book soon changed. The notes of a Strauss waltz were drowned out by the crackling of the flames of rebellion and that sinister sound rose to a crescendo in the crashing volley of rifle shots on the Hill of Belis in Queretaro where he who would be emperor of Mexico died facing a firing squad.

Maximilian wore his "phantom crown" only three years. Carlota wore hers for more than fifty. Maximilian, facing death, declared "I die in a just cause. I forgive all, and pray that all may forgive me. May my blood flow for the good of this land. Long live Mexico!" In his last few moments on earth, he heard a faithful subject salute him with "Hail Emperor, farewell!" Carlota lived to become the "mad empress," to linger on in the twilight of insanity, to cherish a delusion that she was still a sovereign and to talk with the imaginary members of an imaginary court.

Who, then, can say which was the greater tragedy—Maximilian's or Carlota's?

Archduke Maximilian, the youngest brother of Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria, was born at Schonbrunn on July 6, 1852. In 1857 the tall, fair-haired, blue-eyed young archduke was married to seventeen-year-old Princess Charlotte Marie Amelie Augustine Victoire Clementine Leopoldine, daughter of King Leopold I of Belgium. When Franz Joseph made the archduke viceroy of the Austrian-ruled provinces of Venice and Lombardy in Italy, his bride changed her name to Carlotta, the Italian for Charlotte.

After two years of rule in the Italian provinces, Maximilian was glad enough to retire to the ease of private life in the splendid Chateau Miramar at Trieste. Meanwhile affairs across the Atlantic which were to affect the destiny of the Austrian archduke were rapidly taking shape. Mexico had thrown off the yoke of Spain but was troubled by the internal strife which was to characterize that turbulent land for the next century. Because of these unsettled conditions European loans became so endangered that in October, 1861, France, England and Spain signed a joint agreement to intervene in Mexico in order to protect the investments of their citizens.

Other factors, however, entered into this decision—at least, so far as France was concerned. For France was ruled by Napoleon III, "Napoleon the Little," a master of intrigue and political scheming. Besides desiring to collect the French debts in Mexico he was dreaming of a French empire in America to save Catholicism, as well as the Latin race, from being engulfed by the Anglo-Saxon culture. True, the Monroe Doctrine had been a warning to the European nations to keep "hands off" in the New World, but at this time the United States was in the throes

of a civil war and therefore in no condition to back up that doctrine. Or at least, Napoleon thought that this was a good time to put its strength to the test and England and Spain too no doubt were willing enough to see it tested.

On December 14, 1861, Vera Cruz was occupied by Spanish troops; soon afterwards the French fleet arrived with a large force of soldiers and Great Britain sent ships and landed 700 marines. When it became apparent, however, that France was intending to interfere in domestic politics in Mexico, especially in regard to the relations of church and state, beyond the scope of the agreement, Spain and Great Britain withdrew their forces in March, 1862, leaving France to go it alone. France thereupon increased the number of her troops by many thousands and set about to conquer Mexico.

The following spring her army besieged and reduced Puebla and on June 7, 1863, entered the city of Mexico. A provisional government of Mexicans was set up as the puppets of the French and this temporary organization voted in favor of a monarchical form of government. It was Napoleon's idea to offer the crown to Archduke Maximilian of Austria. But Maximilian, enjoying his books and the life of a private gentleman at Miramar, refused to accept the honor and went off on a botanical expedition to Brazil.

Returning from Brazil he was approached again. Napoleon was persistent. The giant shadow of Bismarck, which loomed with an increasing menace across the Prussian border, was causing both France and Austria some concern and the French emperor hoped that an alliance with the House of Hapsburg might lessen that menace. But Emperor Franz Joseph was suspicious of this upstart emperor in France and he strongly advised his brother against having anything to do with Napoleon's schemes.

But Carlotta was ambitious. She had tasted the delights of being a ruler, even though a minor one, during the time her husband had been viceroy of the Italian provinces. She was dazzled by the idea of being an empress. For all her youth, she was a stronger character than her husband and she exerted all of her influence over him to get him to accept Napoleon's offer. At last he yielded to her persuasion and, after renouncing his rights of succession to the Austrian throne, accepted the title of emperor of Mexico. On May 23, 1864, the new emperor and empress arrived at Vera Cruz and although their reception was not as ardent as they might have hoped for, yet they were warmly welcomed by the clergy and the military elements which hoped, through the monarchy, to regain some of the prestige and the property they had lost.

Prior to the establishment of the empire Mexico had known two factions. One was the liberals led by Benito Juarez, an Indian patriot who had been exiled by Santa Anna, the dictator, and returning to Mexico after the fall of Santa Anna, had succeeded to the presidency upon the death of Jean Alvarez and in 1857 had promulgated the great reform measures which brought about a complete severance of church and state.

The other party was the conservatives, or the church party, to whom Maximilian owed his crown and it had the support of the military—the French troops maintained there by Napoleon and commanded by Marshal Bazaine, who was almost as much the ruler of Mexico as Maximilian was.

As the civil war drew to a close, it became apparent that the North was sure to win. The United States then would be able to turn its attention to enforcing the Monroe Doctrine. Napoleon saw the handwriting on the wall. Utterly forgetful of all his promises to Maximilian, he prepared to abandon him to his fate although for some time the French ruler kept up a pretense of supporting his puppet emperor across

the sea. Finally in 1866 in response to urgent representations by the United States, Napoleon promised to withdraw his troops from Mexico.

In the meantime open revolt had sprung up in Mexico! In October, 1865, Maximilian had issued a proclamation threatening death to all who offered resistance to the government. It was aimed primarily at the bandits who had been ravaging the country. But the imperialist and French officers took advantage of the proclamation to execute many liberals who were classed as brigands after their capture and the strengthened the hand of Juarez in his revolt against the usurper. It gained rapid headway and Maximilian, realizing at last that Napoleon could not be trusted to support him, saw that the end was almost in sight.

For a long time he had been blind to the fact that he was an unwanted ruler in Mexico and that his reign was destined to failure. Even blinder was his empress Carlota, (she had changed to the Mexican spelling of her name upon becoming empress). When he proposed to abdicate his throne, the empress stormed at him.

So it was decided that she should go to Europe for a personal appeal to Napoleon to abide by his promises of support and protection to the ill-fated imperial venture. Falling in her efforts to win such a promise from the wily Frenchman, Carlota went on to Rome to appeal to the pope for aid.

In the Vatican she developed her first traces of insanity and so violent did she become that it was necessary for her to spend the night there. This history records her the honor of being the only woman ever to remain overnight in that historic building.

Having failed utterly in her efforts to gain support in either Paris or Rome and with her health and her mind failing, Carlota was removed to her castle in her native Belgium. Meanwhile back in Mexico events were drawing to a swift close. In February, 1867, after the departure of the French troops, Maximilian withdrew from Mexico City and went to Queretaro where he assumed command of a small army. There he made a last desperate effort to break through and escape but he was betrayed by a Colonel Lopes and taken prisoner.

A month later he was court-martialed and after a trial that was something of a farce he was sentenced to die. The end came for him on the morning of June 19, 1867. The following winter they brought his body "to Vienna and the Kapuzinergruft—another crypt of Capuchin monks. A long line of Hapsburgs slumbered here and he was laid quietly among them.

And while he slept eternally, she roamed through the corridors of a distant Belgian castle, as far removed from him as their separate childhoods. At times it was as if he had never been. . . . Five empresses crashed while she sat in her garden. . . . Brooding in her armchair, she watched the sunset of five dynasties: Bonaparte, Braganza, Romanov, Hapsburg, Hohenzollern. Would there be a sunrise?

"Death came quietly on January 16, 1927. . . . Until that moment, however, hers was an epic hold on life. She knew herself to be a monument to Maximilian and while she lived she would not allow men to forget him. To all who paid her formal visits she would whisper: Let them remember the fair-haired stranger who gave his life for the ambitions of that grasping, unscrupulous Napoleon! Let them know that we acted in good faith; and may God grant that our memory be sad but never hateful. . . ."

In Mexico they remember Carlota as "the ill-fortuned Mexican Empress, who was an innocent victim in the game of European politics. . . . She will remain engraved upon our history by her goodness, her nobility and, above all, as the most loving of women." The world remembers her and her emperor as "two royal wretches of chance" whose tragic misadventure calls more for pity than for blame.

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WASHINGTON

A LIBERTY, not a license. Placed in the wilderness to lead To give man strength, To destroy the power Of grasping kings, of petty kingdoms, "A shield by day, A pillar of fire by night." Of old, Moses was led By faith through the carrying seas Walked by the will of God. So the waters of man's covetousness Ralled back. Our forefathers, Like the children of Israel, In faith and trust Followed their leader To freedom.

Immortal Washington! Today the nation Of thy upholding Still follows in thy footsteps While the world stands at odds.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHPLACE



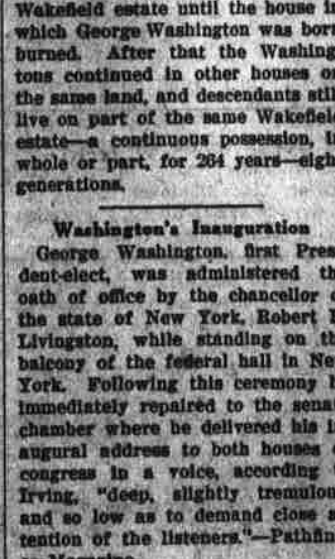
WASHINGTON was born in a house facing Popes creek, in Westmoreland county, Virginia, but the house burned on December 25, 1780. The old homestead has been included in the George Washington Birthplace National monument, and the house restored between 1930 and 1932 on its original site.

The old family burial ground, containing the bodies of Washington's father, grandfather and great-grandfather, is included on the 400-acre reservation. The George Washington Birthplace National monument is 90 miles from Washington on United States route 1 and Virginia state route 3.

The Washington family first settled at Wakefield in 1683, a full century before the Revolution. Col. John Washington, great-grandfather of the President, had come to Westmoreland, Va., in 1658. He died and was buried there in 1676. Maj. Lawrence Washington and Maj. John Washington, his sons, succeeded him.

After their marriages the family lived on separate parts of the Wakefield estate until the house in which George Washington was born burned. After that the Washingtons continued in other houses on the same land, and descendants still live on part of the same Wakefield estate—a continuous possession, in whole or part, for 234 years—eight generations.

Equestrian Statue of First President



Of all the heroes of American history, none perhaps has been more liberally honored by various governments and municipalities than George Washington. The equestrian statue in the park at Washington, Pa., Pennsylvania Ave., in Atlantic City, N. J., and in the city of New York, N. Y., are but a few of the many monuments erected in his honor.

Empire of Russia Made Over by Peter.

Speaking of courageous reformers, Peter the Great, of Russia, in the eighteenth century, set one of the best patterns in all history. Heinrich Van Loon, the historian, says: "It is not easy to give a list of the reforms which he brought about. The czar worked in furious haste. He followed no system. He issued decrees with such rapidity that it is difficult to keep count of them. Peter seemed to feel that everything that had ever happened before was entirely wrong. The whole of Russia therefore must be changed within the shortest possible time. The old system of government had been abolished over night. The duma or convention of nobles had been dismissed and in its stead the czar had surrounded himself with an advisory board of state officials called the senate. Russia was divided into eight large provinces. Roads were constructed. Towns were built. Industries were created wherever it pleased the czar. Canals were dug and mines were opened in the mountains of the East. In this land of illiterate, schools were founded. Dutch naval engineers and tradesmen and artisans from all over the world were encouraged to move to Russia. Printing shops were established, but all books must be first read by the imperial censors. The duties of each class of society were carefully written down in a new law and the entire system of civil and criminal laws was gathered into a series of printed volumes. The old Russian costumes were abolished, and policemen, armed with scissiors, watching all the country roads, changed the long-haired Russians suddenly into a pleasing imitation of the smooth-shaven west-Europeans. While the czar was away from home a sudden rebellion sprang up. The czar appointed himself executioner-in-chief and the rebels were hanged and quartered and killed to the last man. Sister Sophia, who had been head of the rebellion, was locked up in a cloister. When Czar Peter was away on a second trip, to increase his knowledge of the outside world, there was another rebellion. This time the reactionaries followed the leadership of Peter's half-witted son Alexis. Alexis was beaten to death in his prison cell and the friends of this rebellion were marched thousands of dreary miles to their final destination in the Siberian lead mines. After that no further outbreaks of popular discontent took place. Until the time of his death, Peter could reform in peace."

Chew the Cud

Animals that chew the cud are called ruminants, and the division of the animal world to which they belong is called the Ruminantia. Among the ruminants are the oxen, sheep, goats, antelopes, giraffes, deer, caribou, camels and their close relatives.

Abbe Pierre's Life

Pierre the Venerable, abbe and reformer of Cluny, was born in Auvergne in 1092 or 1094. He died at Cluny in 1135. He was raised to the rank of abbe of Cluny in 1122. His title of venerable was given him as a memorial of his great spiritual gifts.

Cardinal Virtues

According to the ancients, the cardinal virtues were the virtues of justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude. An attempt to modernize them led to classification: Benevolence, justice, truth, purity and order.

Germany's Quota of Sugar for U.S.

Going, going, gone!—all the sugar Germany will be permitted to import into the United States in 1935, all 70.8 pounds of it, U. S. W. Cole, auctioneer, is shown turning over the entire bag to B. F. Welch, after several minutes of feverish bidding. The sugar was purchased by Lamborn and company, New York brokers, at the Northern Sugar Bazaar, Frankfurt, Germany, and brought to Chicago for exhibit during the convention of sugar refiners.

How Calotabs Help Nature To Throw Off a Bad Cold

Millions have found in Calotabs a most valuable aid in the treatment of colds. They take one or two tablets the first night and repeat the third or fifth night if needed.

How do Calotabs help nature throw off a cold? First, Calotabs are one of the most thorough and dependable of all intestinal cleansers, thus cleansing the intestinal tract of the germ-laden mucus and toxins.

Second, Calotabs are directly to the point, removing the cause of colds. These Calotabs were the double purpose of a purgative and direct to the point of which are needed in the treatment of colds.

Calotabs are gentle, economical, only twenty-five cents for the family package, ten cents for the individual package. (Ask)

METROPOLITAN BRAND

1-45 P.M.