

Biographical Sketch

GENERAL LOPEZ: THE CUBAN PATRIOT!!

[From the United States Magazine.]

Within the past year and a-half the name of General Lopez, of Cuba, has been familiar to the press and people of the United States, as the projector and chief of a revolutionary movement contemplated in that island, which was to have broken out in the summer of 1848, but which was frustrated by the discovery on the part of the government. Many arrests were suddenly made, and he himself, after being informed that his principal friends had been arrested, (to the number of two hundred, as the account was first brought to him, though it proved afterwards to have been greatly exaggerated,) had time to escape on board a vessel bound for Bristol, R. I., (Rhode Island, not Round Island;) feeling himself reluctantly compelled to take that step to save his friends from being shot, a fate which would certainly have awaited them in 3 days if he had at that moment, with premature suddenness, raised the standard of the revolution.

Having obtained from the friends of General López some interesting particulars of his life and career, we propose to employ them as materials for a brief biographical sketch, which will serve to make known to our readers the brilliant career and noble character of a man whose name is probably destined at no distant day to occupy no small space in the history of our times—so far at least as that history has to deal with the political condition and changes of the American side of the Atlantic.

General Narciso Lopez was born on the south side of the Atlantic. His father, a young man, was then only a little over fifty years of age, having been born in Venezuela, in the year 1798 or 9. His father was a wealthy landed proprietor, owning large estates on the *llanos* or plains, swarming with cattle, horses, and *llanos*. His mother, who is still living, is one of those women of rare elevation of moral dignity combined with mental strength, whose children, imbued with that noblest inheritance of nature, are stamped from the outset as born for command. General Lopez was their only son that lived beyond childhood; though of daughters his parents had some fourteen or fifteen; and, according to the habitual life of the *llanos*, passed almost from the cradle to the saddle; or rather, we may perhaps say, to the back of a wild horse without any saddle—a tramping well calculated to lay the foundation of that character and habit of fearless hardihood, energy and resolution, which has been illustrated by his subsequent military career.

Though so successful as a soldier, and though that success was achieved only by the display of extraordinary capacity and energy, General López was singular that General López has never been fond of the military profession and life. He did not enter it from choice, but simply as a resource of desperation, under circumstances forced upon him at the age of fifteen, by the civil war then desolating all the Spanish South American provinces. His father had been stripped of nearly all his property, or had seen it rendered wholly unproductive, through the operation of that cause, and with such means as he was able to realize had entered into commercial life at Caracas, assisted by his son, who, boy as he was, was able to bear the burden of a large share of its responsibilities. At the town of Valencia, in the interior, he had the charge of a branch of his father's main establishment at Caracas, at the period of the sanguinary, and for the time decisive, battle of La Puerta, in 1814, in which Bolívar, at the head of the insurgent troops, was defeated by the Spanish army under General Boves. Bolívar, though routed, sent orders to the garrison of Valencia to maintain the place, which was done with heroism to the last moment; so long as resistance was possible; the inhabitants who knew that massacre and plunder would immediately ensue on the entrance of the victorious army, uniting in the defense with the

few soldiers of the garrison. The town being an open one, this consisted simply in defending the approaches to the 'plaza' or square, into which were hastily collected all the property and effects which it was considered most important to protect. The house of Lopez's father happened to be situated at one corner of the square, and the boy took an active part in the defense at that point, and before long found himself recognised by those collected at that point, soldiers and citizens, without selecting it himself, as their leader *de facto*. His father, however, who was in Valencia at the time, but a man of different mould from the boy who then made his maiden trial in arms, took no part in it. The resistance was prolonged three weeks, but no relief came from Bolivar, who meanwhile abandoned indeed all that part of the country which he had thus compromised, and made his way along the coast towards Barcelona. The in-

inhabitants of Valencia felt bitterly resentful at this treatment by the Patriot leader, who had sacrificed them for the escape of the routed fragments of his own force, by directing them to make a resistance only justifiable on the idea of his coming to their relief; while it could not fail to provoke a redoubled degree of the usual ferocity with which, in that terrible civil struggle, the conquering party was in the habit of treating any town falling into their possession. Massacre of the men was the general rule—a rule often enough made to include a proportion of women and children. After the surrender of the place, Lopez was separated from his father, being turned off as a child, while his father was herded with the men, supposed, in spite of the capitulation, to be reserved for massacre that night. The boy himself, indeed, escaped that fate very narrowly. With some other companions he had joined a couple of negroes, slaves of his family, among a great number more who had huddled

gathered in a spot for safety, that class not because they concluded the misdeeds of such occasions, but during the night, he fortunately issued forth with his two servants in the hope of being able to do something for his father, or to hear something of him. In this hope indeed he was mistaken [though his father, as he afterwards learned, did succeed in effecting his own escape,] but the next morning on returning to the place which they had left for that purpose, they found the ghastly spectacle of eighty-seven bodies with their throats cut like sheep. After hiding about for some time, feeling himself constantly liable to the same fate, and reduced to a condition of entire desperation; he determined to seek safety in the only situation in which it was to be found, by

enlistment as a soldier in the army; and selected an opportunity of offering himself to a sergeant of more encouraging countenance than the others, by whom, not without some entreaty, he was accepted as a recruit,—the sergeant little suspecting that the boy of fifteen, and small in stature at that, whom he at first told to be off and play, was hereafter to become one of the most distinguished officers in the service. The former did not indeed like to see it, for this good-natured sergeant fell shortly afterwards, it having been Lopez's lot to convey to him, amongst others, the order for the service which was his last.*

Such were the circumstances which threw Lopez into the military career, and which threw him on to the Spanish side of the civil war of that time. On the Spanish side he was a mere boy, and it was the only chance for life: while at the same time there was probably then no substantial Viceroy, a chief who would have hesitated to shoot Bolívar, the chief of the Patriot side, as the bitterest of enemies, had they had the opportunity. Spain was then moreover under the republican Constitution of 1812, so that, in the civil war at that period, the cause of liberty did not appear to be solely on the Patriot side. The battle of La Puerta was deemed then to have completely crushed the rebellion in that region, though in fact the struggle was renewed and protracted, with various success till the final evacuation of Caracas by the Spanish army in 1832.

At the end of the war Lopez, who had thus entered in the ranks, found himself a colonel having attained that rank at the age of twenty-three through the brilliancy and daring of his services. The first occasion that attracted his attention to war was shortly after his enlistment, during an attack upon a certain place which was defended by field works, there being two bastions connected together by a curtain of about fifty yards in length. The Spanish force being divided into two portions, engaged in attacking the two bastions, the ammunition of the one portion gave out, and signal being made to the other to that effect, the commander called for volunteers to lead three mules loaded with ammunition from the one end to the other, a service requiring a passage along the line of fire of the enemy stationed behind the curtain connecting the two. Lopez was the only one who volunteered, and he set out with the three mules in a string according to the custom of the country, the head of each fastened by a cord to the tail of the one before it. At about half the distance across, one of the mules fell dead. The mule killed being unluckily the middle one, it was necessary to untie the cord, and re-fasten the first and third together, all under a severe fire, which was anxiously watched by both parties. He succeeded, however, in reaching his destination unharmed, though his gun was broken by one ball, his captations cut by the second, and his horse killed by a third, with the other mules wounded, but not to death; and the place was taken. The next day inquiry was made, in a general order, for the volunteer who had offered for this decisive service, with a view to receiving an officer's commission. The commission, however, he declined. Considering himself not entitled to be thus raised above the heads of many men both grown and better qualified, for an act which had proceeded more from the despair and recklessness of his situation than from any other spirit; and, in truth, still hoping for escape from that situation, and from the service, to which he was still strongly averse; and the only reward he accepted was that of exemption from the drudgeries of a soldier's work, and of being mounted instead of marching on foot, to which he had never been accustomed. Still, once in the service, the genius of the soldier, and the spirit and emulation of military honor, prevailed over his own aversion to the career; and, at nineteen, he found himself commander of a squadron of horse, a select force, designed for critical occasions to decide pending contests, a corps into which none but picked men were admitted, and with which it was a point of honor never to turn the back; and at the age of twenty-three, a highly esteemed colonel of a regiment of cavalry.

Besides other distinctions, he received during his war the rare military honor of the cross of San Fernando of the second (the most distinguished) degree; a reward not bestowed at pleasure, but which is to be obtained only on a public demand by the person claiming it, and on the institution of a formal process for and against his right, every body being free to interpose an objection, or to deprecate the merit of the act for which it is demanded. In the whole army there was but one other individual who possessed this cross. Lopez, not attaching much importance to the act for which he was urged to apply for it, and moreover caring little for the honor itself, was only induced to demand it by the Commander-in-Chief, Morillo, who haunted him with being afraid of a rejection of the demand, and who directed his Secretary to draw up the application, almost forcing the reluctant young officer to sign it.

ing the negotiations for the withdrawal of the Spanish army, he contributed much to cause the Spanish General (who could have practiced the contest much longer, though with no hope of eventual success) to "leave the country from the further pressure of the evils of war, by his influence exerted in every manner consistent with military honor; and it is no small proof of what must have been the appreciation of all his character, conduct and motives, entertained even by those against whom he had thus served, having been thrown by the circumstances above explained on the Spanish side in the civil contest thus terminated, that on the conclusion of hostilities he was invited by the patriotic government to enter its service, in the same rank held by him in the Spanish army. He declined the offer, not considering that that honor which had kept him in the service permitted him to accept; and he retired with the evacuating army to Cuba, in the year 1823.

Since that date he has been a Cuban, having married and established himself in the Island.—The re-establishment of absolutism in Spain, by the aid of the French intervention overthrowing for the second time the Constitution of 1812, wholly prevented his resumption of service, though retaining his nominal rank. The system then adopt-

*This was on the occasion of the first battle of Matruh, when the Spanish General, Morales, who was defeated, made good his retreat only by sacrificing a column which he ordered to defend a certain position, a service which was certain death, in a battle in which invaders expected no quarter and were not disappointed. Exactly three months afterwards, a second battle was fought near the same spot, in which Morales was victorious, and they found the bodies of the column in question, that is to say, their bleached skeletons, to the number of six hundred, laid out in the ground in regular rows, by the Pariaots, the Bedouin tribes, to the great surprise and horror of the British and American troops.

fel was to require a "purification" from all the officers of the army, especially those suspected of too much liberalism, a process consisting in the abridgment of such sentiments and in an oath of devotion and support to the new order of things. Always not only liberal but democratic, in heart as well as in principles, he would never consent to compromise with his conscience in that respect; and he accordingly remained in retirement until, on the death of the old King, Ferdinand VII., the long smothered liberal party broke forth from under the despotic incubus which had pressed it down, and assumed the ascendant in the government of the country. Maria Cristina, the brilliant, bold but unprincipled widow of the old King, after having caused the latter by his will to devise the crown to her infant daughter Isabel, in disregard of the Salic law which had heretofore regulated the succession to the throne of Spain, and therefore to the exclusion of the rights of Don Carlos, the King's brother and next male heir, threw herself on the Liberal party for support, and even resuscitated from its grave the Constitution of 1811. The absolutist or royalist party soon prepared to rise for the maintenance of the right of Don Carlos, whose character and views made him moreover their natural head. Cristina, in anticipation of the severe

civil struggle which all knew to be about to ensue, adulated the vigorous measure of disarming at a blow the whole royalist party throughout the kingdom, so far as it was practicable; a service which the people were summoned, and came forward eagerly enough to perform, with the aid of the troops that could be counted upon by the Government. This movement, beginning at Madrid, was at each important point the work of a day, and by its suddenness so successful, that throughout the kingdom six hundred thousand stands of arms were wrested from hands in which they would otherwise have soon been employed for the re-establishment of Don Carlos, the priests, and absolutism. It was in the midst of the tumult of this memorable day at Madrid, that Colonel Lopez, (who happened to be at the capital with his wife, to reclaim a large sum of money arbitrarily seized from the family of the latter by the Government in Cuba,) re-appeared on the scene, signally distinguishing himself by the activity and boldness which he exhibited, in heading bodies of the people in this operation of disarming the royalists. Always a thorough republican in heart and conviction, he was one of the most enthusiastic to welcome the revival of the old Constitution and the constitutional party, and his joy took the natural form of a zealous daring in the performance of this practical service to the cause of his principles; a service which was not all one-sided, a considerable part of the National Guard and some of the troops being royalists, and several attempts being made by the latter party to rally and make a stand, but they were all repulsed, and finally overbore all resistance. More than once in the course of the day Lopez was seen driving before him singly with his sword, considerable bodies of the royalists, armed with their guns, to the principal guard-house, to deliver up their arms, treating them with little ceremony, and making them acquainted with the result of his sword, and indeed cowing them into obedience to his command as though he had been their own officer.

The consequence of this day was, that he was speedily despatched to join the army, as first Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Valdez, and after taking a most active part in the war, being usually selected for the most daring military work, he found himself at its close a General, and covered with military decorations among which were the highly distinguished ones of the grand-sons of *St. Hermenegildo* and *Rabel la Católica*.* Between himself and Valdez (who was afterwards Captain-General of Cuba) a devoted friendship arose, which has never sustained any diminution. The only pure and upright Captain-General sent to Cuba within the memory of man, and therefore necessarily too good to be long left by the Government in that post, Valdez has always been regarded by Lopez as the most virtuous man breathing.

In his political sentiments, General Lopez never wavered from his fidelity to the democratic party, as known in Spain as *the liberal exaltado* party. As a known and reliable member of that party, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the National Guard of the kingdom, a post created for him at a critical period. He at different periods filled the posts of Commander-in-Chief of various provinces. Though excessively carried by the Queen Mother Cristina, he early learned to despise and distrust her, and her false, selfish, intriguing politics.

On the occasion of the popular insurrection at Madrid which resulted in the expulsion of Christina from the Regency, Gen. Lopez was earnestly solicited by the people to assume the command of the capital, as Governor of Madrid, which, when he found it incumbent on him as a duty of humanity at a difficult and critical moment, he consented to do. The city being threatened by the army, he made the most energetic preparations for its defense; but happily the withdrawal of the obnoxious Queen Mother to Paris averted the necessity of the struggle, for which he had braced the nerves of the people by the firmness of his resolution and the vigor of his measures. Espartero, on whom the government then devolved, and who was soon afterwards appointed Regent by the Cortes, was anxious to induce Lopez to retain the post of Governor of Madrid; but the latter would not remain, beyond the period of emergency for which he had been called upon by the people themselves, in a situation in which it might become his duty to act against the people for the repression of tumults, and three months pressed upon the Regent his resignation; which was only accepted when he positively refused to take a negative answer, and had relieved Espartero from the difficulty of filling his place, by himself recommending a competent successor.

Anterior to this period he had been appointed a senator of the Kingdom, by the Liberal city of Seville. Authorized by the constitution to nominate three persons for the Senate, from whom the crown had to select one, Seville took effectual means to make good its desire to be represented by Lopez, by naming as his colleagues, in the nomination, two candidates whom it was impossible for the court to adopt, the one being the Infant Don Francisco de Paula, the uncle of the

*Even Carlist historians speak with high praise of their own most formidable enemy, Lopez; relating, among other acts, the manner in which he saved the army and the honor of General Aragondelet, who, almost beaten, by a surprise, allowed Lopez, though only a colonel, to rally the flying troops, assume the entire command, virtually supersede the general, and to a great extent retrieve the disaster of the day.

young Queen and brother of Don Carlos, and the other being a distinguished Carlist Bishop.

His office as Senator afforded General Lopez an opportunity of studying the politics of Spain, the spirit and action of its government, especially in reference to its American Colonies, (Cuba, his country by adoption and marriage, being the principal one) which amidst the clash and splendor of arms, he had never before possessed ; and he willingly for a while, forgot the latter, glorious as they had been to him, to avail himself of the advantageous facilities of his position for the former. Disgust and indignation were the first fruits ; resolution to be the Liberator of Cuba, the next. The repulse of the Cuban deputies from their seats in the Cortes—a Cortes existing by virtue of a constitution which gave to those deputies the same rights with those whose votes repulsed them—had already awakened a deep feeling of resentment in his breast, as in that of all his Cuban compatriots. Though a soldier from childhood, he had never had other than an American heart, and he soon

learned to regard with self-reproach his own glory acquired in the Spanish service, and to despise the glitter of his own uniform as a mere livery, no more honorable in his eyes than that which be-
 100
 101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200
 201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300
 301
 302
 303
 304
 305
 306
 307
 308
 309
 310
 311
 312
 313
 314
 315
 316
 317
 318
 319
 320
 321
 322
 323
 324
 325
 326
 327
 328
 329
 330
 331
 332
 333
 334
 335
 336
 337
 338
 339
 340
 341
 342
 343
 344
 345
 346
 347
 348
 349
 350
 351
 352
 353
 354
 355
 356
 357
 358
 359
 360
 361
 362
 363
 364
 365
 366
 367
 368
 369
 370
 371
 372
 373
 374
 375
 376
 377
 378
 379
 380
 381
 382
 383
 384
 385
 386
 387
 388
 389
 390
 391
 392
 393
 394
 395
 396
 397
 398
 399
 400
 401
 402
 403
 404
 405
 406
 407
 408
 409
 410
 411
 412
 413
 414
 415
 416
 417
 418
 419
 420
 421
 422
 423
 424
 425
 426
 427
 428
 429
 430
 431
 432
 433
 434
 435
 436
 437
 438
 439
 440
 441
 442
 443
 444
 445
 446
 447
 448
 449
 450
 451
 452
 453
 454
 455
 456
 457
 458
 459
 460
 461
 462
 463
 464
 465
 466
 467
 468
 469
 470
 471
 472
 473
 474
 475
 476
 477
 478
 479
 480
 481
 482
 483
 484
 485
 486
 487
 488
 489
 490
 491
 492
 493
 494
 495
 496
 497
 498
 499
 500
 501
 502
 503
 504
 505
 506
 507
 508
 509
 510
 511
 512
 513
 514
 515
 516
 517
 518
 519
 520
 521
 522
 523
 524
 525
 526
 527
 528
 529
 530
 531
 532
 533
 534
 535
 536
 537
 538
 539
 540
 541
 542
 543
 544
 545
 546
 547
 548
 549
 550
 551
 552
 553
 554
 555
 556
 557
 558
 559
 560
 561
 562
 563
 564
 565
 566
 567
 568
 569
 570
 571
 572
 573
 574
 575
 576
 577
 578
 579
 580
 581
 582
 583
 584
 585
 586
 587
 588
 589
 590
 591
 592
 593
 594
 595
 596
 597
 598
 599
 600
 601
 602
 603
 604
 605

recovery of his own dignity,—measuring the latter by a far higher standard than the vulgar one of rank, military distinction, power or court favour. Resigning his seat as a Senator, he insisted with Espatero on being allowed to return to Havana; a permission which he did not obtain without extreme difficulty, nor till after long resistance on the part of the Regent, it being contrary to the jealous policy of Spain, in the government of her rich colony, the Queen of the Antilles, to allow any *American* born officer of rank or importance to go there. An intimate friendship with Espatero, and the head of the Liberal or Progressive party in Spain, was the only protection he could hope for, and he was not without influence by his intimacy with which General Lozano insisted on his demand, which he even enforced by making it the alternative to a resignation of his commission;—and it cannot be denied that his own determined purpose in going, and the consequences which have resulted from it, prove clearly enough the policy of that rule, on the part of the Spanish Government, to which he thus succeeded in causing himself to be made the fatal exception”

General Valdez was at this time the Captain-General of Cuba, to which post he had been shortly before appointed, to a great extent through the influence of Lopez, who had urged it strongly as a means of elevation to himself. General Valdez, the most intimate and devoted friend, solicited permission that Lopez should accompany him, but without success; and it was not till several months afterwards that he finally effected his object, as before remarked, partly through his threat of resigning his commission and partly from the Regent's personal attachment.

It was, we believe, in 1839, that he returned to Cuba. During that period of the Captain-Generalship of Valdez, honor, friendship and gratitude combined, to require him to postpone any steps towards the accomplishment of the great purpose, which never slept within his breast. The downfall of Espartero, and the restoration of Maria Cristina to power, supported by Narvaez and the Valm, by causing the recall of the virtuous Valm, (who was succeeded by O'Donnell, the predecessor of the present, Roncali), released him from his personal obligations by which at first he had felt fettered; and his friends in Havana were enabled to give him a freer content and cheerfulness, with which he received a change of parties necessarily depriving him of the posts which he held in the military government of the Island. Under Valdez, he was Governor of Trinidad and Commander-in-Chief of the Central Department, as well as President of the Military Commission. He gladly laid down these posts on the arrival of the period of opportunity and freedom for which he had impatiently waited; and creating a pretext for his return to the Central Department, he retired.

On returning to the Central Department in retirement, (retaining of course his position as General, though not on duty,) by undertaking the working of an abandoned copper mine, he devoted himself mainly to his object of organizing preparations for his intended rising of the people against their oppressors; an object which, it is scarcely needed to say, required extreme caution and tact as well as boldness, though he well knew that the general sentiment of the people was already strongly predisposed to a movement for independence. With this view he exerted himself in many ways to establish a personal popularity and personal relations, as extensively as possible with the country people of all the surrounding region, the *guayiros*; very one of whom is more accustomed to the saddle than to any other seat, so that they may be called a population of cavalry, whom a very little training under the inspiration of such a leader would make a mounted force inferior to none in

the world made abundant provision for him in the new world. He employed every mode in his power to make himself personally familiar with them, to win their confidence and to attach them by services and favors;—an operation in which, always lavish and careless of money, he spent with an unreserved hand.

Another mode adopted by him of bringing the country people together and mingling with them, was by making matches for cock-fighting at various points. This favorite popular amusement had been forbidden by the Government, for the purpose of preventing such gatherings of the country people; but having contrived to extort a license from O'Donnell for the occasion of the *royales fiestas* or holidays, though the latter had refused many other applications, he not only got up, with a few of his friends, a grand exhibition which brought together half the country, but he managed to keep it up for the year round at many different places, without being interfered with by the local authorities,—using the shade of some broad patron for the place for meeting. Mingling thus so familiarly among the *guajeros*, in their own costume, and as one of themselves, he thus prepared them to be in readiness for the approaching day.

*Lopez's secret wishes and views, early adopted, had made him an object of at least so much suspicion, in reference to Cuba, that, several years before, by a proceeding emanating from Havana, and from Tacón, then Captain-General, he had been subjected to a formal trial on the charge of conspiring for the independence of that colony; and of having, at a dinner, proposed as a toast a sentiment to that effect. He succeeded, however, in baffling his enemies, and was acquitted.

Aided by the respect due to his rank, the brilliancy of his military reputation as the well-known bravest and boldest officer of Cuba, his generosity and character for humanity and good nature, he thus established an influence such, that he has always been confident that region would rise at his voice, whenever he should summon the people to rally round the flag of liberty and independence.

Having determined early in 1841 that at the proper time had arrived, he was only induced by some friends to postpone his intended rising for a short time, in order to await the results of some communications which had passed between him and the Government, and to give time to some of his friends, and the consequent necessity, as explained above, of his being obliged to leave the country precipitate embarkation for this country, from whose friendly shores he hoped soon to be able to return. His plan for Cuba has always been Independence and Annexation to the United States, and he has never been known to be condemned to death. Against the persons who had been arrested, (some of them perhaps with reason and some without,) no evidence existed, and the greater

The rest of General Lopez's life has to be written by a future biographer. To the slight outline we have here given, we will only add a few anecdotes illustrative of that inspiring fearlessness which, mixed with a quick and accurate knowledge of the tactics of war, knowledge of men and gift of command, are to be ascribed the rapid and brilliant honors of his military career ; respecting which, the most extraordinary circumstance is, that while it was commenced perforce, and as the only chance for his life, his heart has never been in it, and he has never desired better than an opportunity of withdrawing altogether from the military profession itself.

On one occasion in South America, landing with an expedition, somewhat *a la* Cortez, in a wild and unexplored region, occupied by a highly warlike tribe of wild Indians (*Indios bravos*) who never had, nor ever have been tamed, and with whom they had a severe engagement on landing, the whole party came well nigh perishing for want of water. Striking into the interior in quest of water, after marching in a tropical climate for a whole day without finding stream or spring, they were at last approached, at about sunset, by an Indian warrior mounted on a magnificent horse, cream-colored, with black mane and

grainy horse, cream-colored, with black mane and tail, and a white blaze on his face, and who, when the commander summoned him to consultation. The vessels from which they had landed the afternoon before had sailed, so that they had no return. A number had already died of exhaustion and thirst. They contrived to convey to the Indians that they were to be conveyed to them that he could conduct them to water, which they could reach by day-break. But here arose the perplexity, how far he was to be trusted. His purpose might be to decoy them away from the relief which he had sent to their aid, and then to turn upon them. They were pursuing, and to lead them off astray to a certain and horrible fate. In the midst of this anxious uncertainty Lopez solved the difficulty in a mode little likely to occur to another, by proposing to mount himself, and his companions, upon the backs of the Indians, the latter, and to go at the utmost speed in quest of the water, to verify what was understood from the signs of the Indian; telling the commander that if he returned all would of course be well, while if he did not return it would be a sign that the Indians were deceiving him, and that therefore they should in that case infer, that by rushing on in the direction they were going, and, his companions remained on the shore, were to be rescued, and that he would be able to find his way back, if they lay relaxed. As it resulted, the Indian conducted him truly, though of course Lopez had to plunge into the depths of the forest and of the night, mounted behind a number of the natives, and to wade through the water, and to save the lives of the whole expedition. It proved that the Indian was of a true hostile to those against whose territory their expedition was proceeding. Some of his wives, but not his children, accompanied him. When he returned, when he came upon the strangers whom he supposed of course the enemies of his enemies, and therefore his friends. The Indian Orpheus was rewarded not only by the recovery of his two or three lost Eurydice's, but by liberal presents, and he afterwards proved himself a faithful friend.

permissible guide. . . . which he received the cross of San Fernando, above alluded to, was as follows. Morillo, at the head of a force of seven or eight thousand men, was pursuing the Patriot army of Paez, numbering about 1,500 men, and was about to engage them. Paez, in order to avoid the latter the latter to an engagement. This the latter had of course no difficulty in avoiding, his whole force consisting of first-rate cavalry, which he had at this period as has been above mentioned, at the head of a picked squadron, reserved for decisive moments, with which it was a point of honor to engage the enemy. On the morning of the 20th, he had a severe engagement that morning, and with the rest, thirty-eight in number, was marching on the extreme flank of the army, when he received an order from Morillo to retire, and he accordingly retired, to the rear of Paez's retreating army. Morillo had not recognized, at the distance, the fragment which remained of Lopez's squadron; which he would never otherwise have done, had he not been apprized of the retreat of the Patriot force. Rask as the order was, it was of course obeyed. On the perfectly level prairie which was the scene of the operation, what ensued was in various respects singular. Paez, with his little squadron, halted, and put himself in person at the head of a splendid corps of about 300 men, his guard, the well-known force

his army, in scarlet uniforms, and every man superbly mounted; and this corps was seen in the distance from the heights of the mountain. The little and the big destruction seemed inevitable before the swoop of that force. Lopez asked his men if they would stand or turn. The reply was that they would do as he should. His answer was to fling himself from his horse, and command them to do the same. They did so, and then he ordered them to form his men in line, to stand their ground as long as they could with the lances and carbines which were their arms. He thus repulsed the charge of Paez and his guard refusing to surrender, and maintaining himself till Montecillo could hasten upon his career. The result was that the Spaniards were not so much treated as of much more importance than the annihilation of this handful of gallant fellows, whom none admired more than himself, withdrew his guard, and left Lopez, with what remained of his dismounted squadron, to receive the cordial embrace of the victors. The latter consisted of the whole army, who had witnessed the scene.

ny, who had witnessed the scene.

• • • • • In all the acts of heroic daring on the part of Lopez which are familiarly current among the Spanish soldiers, and which, together with his humanity, kindness, and freedom the arrogant pride habitual to the Spanish officers, have made him so popular with them, it is to be remarked, that the boldness is never recklessness, but is always elicited by a worthy occasion, and combined with that quick and acute calculation of the possibility which is the essence of military genius.

of General Lopez was the essence of military genius. He was a man of few words, but his military sense of General Lopez, in which our readers will not fail to recognize the "high Roman fashion." Together with a large number of others, he was at one time a prisoner of the forces of the anarchists, at a place named Antavieja, a fortified place in the mountains of the Sierra de Guadalupe, which was supposed a safe place of custody. There were about seven hundred prisoners collected there—General Lopez was the highest in rank among the prisoners, and he was treated as a small man apart from the rest. Of the four other super officers, only one, the governor of the place was a brutal and bloody wretch, who lost no opportunity of outraging his prisoners. He was greatly enraged over the Cristino army, under General San Miguel, now one of the best of the army, who had been sent to take the place to besiege it, overcoming by extreme exertions the difficulties which had been supposed to make it inaccessible. The governor thereupon declared that the first gun fired against the place should be the signal for the attack. The governor of the place, however, was not in an act perfectly in accordance with the system of war of Cabrera, who commanded for Don Carlos in that quar-

*Among his papers, seized by the government, was a letter to the queen, resigning his commission, which was to have been sent to the Captain-General a day or two before his rising. This has been described by a friend who had seen it, as a very noble and beautiful production, finely reconciling the duty of military honor with that of patriotism.

guel to that effect—in the belief, of course, that he would dissuade him from the enterprise. Lopez accordingly wrote, indeed, simply meeting-point the fact which he had just learned, that General San Miguel would of course carry out his own plans, without regard to this circumstance, which was, moreover, a proof that the governor was afraid that he would not be able to maintain the place against the Carlists, and that he would therefore have to appear before Cantavieja, and began to throw up his seige works. The governor then went to the room in which Lopez was confined, and told him that he deeply deplored the necessity under which he was now placed, and that he would do all in his power to prevent his falling into another chain, by saying that General Lopez might go out to San Miguel's camp, to explain in person the state of things, so as to induce the latter to withdraw; giving his word of honor that he would return immediately. Lopez accepted the offer, and presenting himself at the governor's door, he was received with the greatest of favor, and, after a short stay, sat down to cheerful breakfast, at which he explained the errand on which he had been sent. He executed it, however, in his own way, by advising San Miguel of the best mode of attacking the town, of storming, giving him the benefit of the observations he had been able to make of its defenses inside; and it was agreed that the attack should be made the next day. The prisoners had contrived to obtain the promise of some forty muskets from some of the Carlist officers, and were now prepared to make a gallant resistance. At least some resistance to the amiable purpose of the governor; a resistance which might thus afford a useful diversion during the attack. This being all discussed, together with the breakfast, Lopez rose to depart, which he did in the afternoon, and on the way he was met by an opponent he encountered, by the declaration of his inflexible resolution. The governor confessed himself very much astonished to see him back. The town was vigorously attacked the next day, and taken by assault; the prisoners escaping in great numbers, and the Carlist officers, who were the priest was one of the principal Carlist officers in the garrison, was the most eager to inflict; by the rapidity of the operation, and the terror with which the garrison were impressed. "They had no time, and they were not in a position to make any resistance," he said in his commentary, on a recent occasion, when the inquiries of some friends (who happened to observe on his table a letter directed to General San Miguel at Madrid) elicited the particulars of this story—in which we see at least a ray of the classic glory of Julius, though the innocent

[illegible][illegible][illegible]