

**SPEECH of Don Manuel Lorenzo de Vidurre, Minister from Peru, at the opening of the American Congress at Panama, on the 22d June, 1826.**

[TRANSLATED FOR THE NATIONAL GAZETTE]  
[After a few introductory remarks, the speaker said:]

This day the great American Congress, which is to be a council in the hour of conflict, the faithful interpreter of treaties, a mediator in domestic contentions and which is charged with the formation of our new body of international law, has been organized and invested with all the power competent to attain the important and dignified end for which it is convoked. All the precious materials are prepared to our hand. A world regards our labours with the deepest attention. From the most powerful monarch, to the humblest peasant of the Southern Continent, no one views our task with indifference. This will be the last opportunity for the attempt to prove that man can be happy. My friends! the field of glory trodden by Bolivar, San Martin, O'Higgins, Guadalupe, lies open to us. Our names are to be recorded either with eternal honor or perpetual shame. Let us then proudly stand forth the representatives of millions of freemen, and inspired with a noble complacency, assimilate ourselves to the Creator himself when he first gave laws to the Universe.

Animated with celestial fire, and looking steadily and with reverence to the Author of our Being, difficulties the most appalling shrink into insignificance. The basis of our confederation is firm: *Peace with the whole world; respect for European principles are diametrically opposed to those acknowledged in America, free commerce with all nations, and a diminution of imposts on the trade of such as have acknowledged our independence; religious toleration for such as observe different rites from those established by our constitution.* How emphatically are we taught by the blood which fanaticism has spilt from the time of the Jews to the commencement of the present century, to be compassionate and tolerant to all who travel to the same point by different paths. Let the stranger of whatever mode of faith come hither; he shall be protected and respected, unless his morals, the true standard of religion, be opposed to the system given us by the Messiah. Let him come and instruct us in agriculture and the arts. Let the sud and abject countenance of the poor African, bending under the yoke of rapacity and oppression, no longer be seen in these climes; let him be endowed with equal privileges with the white man whose colour he has been taught to regard as a badge of superiority; let him, in learning that he is not distinct from other men, learn to become a rational being. Immortal Pitt! eloquent Fox! interrupt for a moment your slumbers, and, raising yourselves from the tomb, behold that the regions, once emphatically the regions of slavery, are now those where your philanthropic precepts are most regarded.

As respects ourselves two dangers are principally to be avoided: The desire of aggrandizement in one state at the expense of another, and the possibility that some ambitious individual will aspire to enslave and tyrannize over his fellow citizens. Both these are much to be apprehended, as the weak efforts of the Spaniards are to be contemned. Human passions will always operate and can never be extinguished; nor indeed should we wish to stifle them. Man is always aspiring, and never content with present possessions; he has always been iniquitous and can we not once inspire him with a love of justice? I trust we can;—he has had a dire experience of the ravages which uncontrolled passion has caused.

Solly and Henry IV, projected a tribunal which should save Europe from the first of these calamities. In

our own day, Gordon has written a treatise on the same subject. This assembly realizes the laudable views of the king and the philosopher. Let us avoid war by a common and uniform reference to negotiation. The consequence of war is conquest; one state increased by the destruction of another. By each victory Napoleon added new territories to France. The first symptom of war in our plains and mountains, will sound like a peal of thunder throughout the continent and islands. For what, indeed, are we to contend? Our products are everywhere abundant; our territories extensive; our ports commodious and safe. One republic has no cause to envy another. Shall the rich shepherd dare to rob the fold of his poorer neighbor? What injustice! The diet will never consent to it.

As alliances have frequently given birth to wars, America will enter into none but by the common consent of all the contracting parties. I however abstain from pursuing the subject here, as anticipating the decision of the Congress.

The second danger may be provided against by simple precautions. 1st. Let the confederated republics guarantee the liberty and independence of each other. 2d. Let no greater power be entrusted to any individual, than is necessary to the end for which it is confided. 3. In proportion to the extent of that power is given be always responsible to the people as distinct from the military. 5. Let no standing armies be allowed in time of peace. 6. Let us avoid generally the evil to which I have alluded, so little reconcilable with the interests of society, by all the means that our ability enables us to employ and honor and prudence recommend.

I have not forgotten that in a secure corner of the Escorial or the palace at Aranjuez, plans for new expeditions against us are now forming. The history of Spain, however, gives abundant proof that they will be unavailing. Did Philip II, and his grandson reduce Holland to subjection, or could Philip IV ever recover Portugal? Would Catalonia have been recovered but for the generosity of France? Has Gibraltar or Jamaica ever been restored? The history of her treaties is little else than that of successive renunciations of her rights and territories. What she gained at the battles of Pavia and St Quintin, she lost by the treaties of Vervins, Westphalia, the Pyrenees, Nemours and Aix la Chapelle. The North Americans compelled her to surrender the Floridas which she had acquired by the treaty of Paris.

Let us recall to memory other circumstances.—Philip II permitted his troops to support themselves by rapine, and thus gradually exhausted the patience of the Hollanders. Charles II. exacted taxes to the amount of fifteen per cent, and trafficked away the Viceroyalties of Mexico and Peru to support his armies. Such was the policy of the Spanish monarch when the sun always shone on some portion of his dominions, and when passive obedience characterized his subjects. At this day what can he accomplish, striped of his colonies, without union at home, and with a hundred thousand Frenchmen quartered in the Peninsula. We all know by what means the expedition of 1820 was fitted out; the indemnities paid by the French, the privy purse of the king, all were appropriated. Every resource has been exhausted; vessels of war are wanting; the last decayed hulks in the service have been despatched to the Havana; arms are not to be procured, and Spanish troops evince little disposition to perish on our shores by either the swords of enemies or the mortality of the climate.

It is not my intention to advise our disarming ourselves: on the contrary, our military and naval forces should be increased and not allowed to remain inactive and in quarters. We should strike a blow which may appal a nation at once so obstinate and blind to its own interests. To wait to be attacked would be to wait for the Messiah, and to remain eternally

in arms. Let us rather, by decisive measures, compel our enemy to give up his rashness and caprice. All Europe disapproves of his conduct. Not even the princes of the house of Bourbon venture to hold out the least encouragement. No nation feels an interest in the continuance of the war: the general wish is for peace. Without it commerce is interrupted generally, to the prejudice of industrious and trading communities. How different was the situation of Great Britain when she recognised the independence of the United States! Wise English teach and guide these blind Spaniards!

Whilst Spain obstinately resists the mediation of the powers that protect us, the products of her soil of all kinds, as well as her manufactures, are totally prohibited. They are seized wherever they are discovered; and those who are convicted of breaking a law, with which we cannot dispense, uniformly lose their cargoes. The manufacturers of Valencia and Barcelona have ceased, unable to export their goods: their industry is paralysed. Ferdinand VII, persuading himself, that by withholding his recognition he forces on us enormous expenses in maintaining our armies, at the same moment destroys the remaining energies of a kingdom already torn by discord, and groaning under a foreign yoke. If ever be persuaded how useless is the attempt to recover what it is impossible to retain—if he could be convinced that in America there are no factions and strong holds of which he can avail himself—Americans would then use a different language towards him. We will not buy our independence. Our souls revolt at the name of freedmen. Our communities are constituted

European States. We are men spontaneously united, and only bound by the compact, which in the full exercise of reason we have formed. If Ferdinand will recognize us and enter into terms like those which are offered in a spirit of perfect generosity, we will forget the injuries he has done us, and the day of peace will be a day of sincere reconciliation. It is with extreme reluctance that we continue the war. We will end it with the most lively satisfaction, if we can end it without dishonour.

But, my friends! recognition is not the point of most importance to us. Holland was rich and victorious before her recognition. Switzerland formed alliances with the sovereigns of Europe before the house of Austria acknowledged her as a nation. The existence of a state depends on other circumstances; recognition only procures the extension of her foreign relations; its being much more depends on its internal political organization. Let us secure the best. Let us maintain a propriety of demeanour; let us admit no foreign agents without regular diplomatic credentials. Within our harbours no flags are permitted to wave, but those of the Sovereigns and Republics that allow the entrance of our vessels.

Above all, let us form one family and forget the names of our respective countries in the more general denomination of brothers; let us trade without prohibitions—let articles of American growth be free from duty in all our ports—let us give each other continual proofs of confidence, disinterestedness and true friendship—let us form a body of public law, which the civilized world may admire; in it, a wrong to one state shall be regarded as an injury to all, as in a well regulated community injustice to an individual concerns the rest of the republic. Let us solve the problem as to the best of governments. The form, which we adopt, securing to individuals all possible benefit and to the nation the greatest advantages, is that which, beyond doubt, reaches the greatest felicity of which human nature is susceptible, the highest perfection of human institutions.

And when our labours are concluded, let us return to our homes, and surrounded by our children and grand children, let us select the youngest of

these beloved objects, and uplifting it, a fit offering to the Supreme Being, teach it in tender accents to give thanks for the inestimable benefits we have received. Let the Greek celebrate his exploits in leaving Troy in ashes; the representative of the American Republics will boast of having promulgated laws, which secure peace abroad as well as the internal tranquility of the states, that now confederate.

Panama, 22d June, 1826.—1st of the Great American Congress.

Germany.—A series of letters from Germany is in a course of publishing in the Utica (N. Y.) Sentinel and Gazette, in which the writer gives many interesting particulars of the Colleges in that country, and of the manners, habits, &c. of the inhabitants. In his thirty eighth letter he thus describes the modes and means of obtaining a subsistence by the poorest classes:

A company of ten or twelve from the dukedom of Nassau, (it is the principal employment of that poor district) were following a cart loaded with wares, from the potteries of Hesse Marbourg, which were destined to Hamburg, a distance of nearly two hundred miles there to be exchanged for goods which these People were to retail through different sections of the country on their return. Half of this company were women, dressed in the peculiar costume of that district, the petticoats reaching not half way down from the knee, and the whole dress so fastened about the waist, that the figure had the appearance of two sugar loaves, placed one on the other, the upper one being inverted. They carried their baskets on their heads, and presented a very singular appearance. The average pay of the men and women was scarcely three quarters of a dollar a week, and yet this must be a prodigiously hard service. But the following instance, which occurred the next day, seems of a still harder character. It was that of a middle aged woman, from the Harz, the seat of the great Iron works of the country, who was carrying about nails to sell by the pound. These she carried about on her shoulders in a large basket, containing also her provisions, the whole weighing at first eighty pounds, and still, after travelling 30 or 35 miles, the weight was but half diminished. This she did every two or three weeks, and it commonly took her a week to dispose of her stock. She earned about a sixpence a day; the family at home lived chiefly on potatoes; but, when travelling, she treated herself to a little rye bread. This is, probably, a fair specimen of the mode of living of a majority of the large population of the Harz. We know, in our country, nothing of poverty and hardship but the name."

**PLEASURE.**

Pleasure is to woman what the sun is to the flower; if moderately enjoyed, it beautifies, it refreshes, and it improves; if immoderately enjoyed, it withers, violates and destroys. But the duties of domestic life, exercised as they must be in retirement, and calling forth all the sensibilities of the female, are, perhaps, as necessary to the full developing of her charms as the shade and the shower are to the rose, confining its beauty and increasing its fragrance.

Without virtue, good sense, and sweetness of disposition, the finest set of features will, ere long, cease to please—but, where these with the graces are united, it must find an agreeable and pleasing contemplation.

Mr Fox, in a canvass, having accosted a blunt tradesman, whom he solicited for his vote, the man answered, 'I cannot give you my support; I admire your abilities, but conform your principles.' Mr. Fox replied, 'My friend, I applaud you for your sincerity—but confound your manners.'