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*Documentos de la relación
de México con los Estados Unidos.
Volumen V. Tomo II. Documentos desde
la caída de la concesión de Garay hasta
la entrega a la empresa privada, 1848-1853*

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18. *La preparación para la llegada de Santa Anna*

8 de febrero de 1853. Martes. México. Alfred Conkling a Edward Everett. (Despacho 21, escrito por la mañana.)

This is emphatically a country where no one knows or can even conjecture "what a day or a night may bring forth". At the conclusion of my despatch No. 20, written last evening; I stated what everybody appeared to believe, that Mr. Cebbalos seemed likely to maintain his post, for some months to come at least. I have now to inform you of his resignation in the course of last night, and of the assumption of the Presidency by General Lombardini. They are this moment celebrating his accession by firing heavy pieces of American cannon in the Plaza. For a more full account of this change. I respectfully refer you to the accompanying newspaper of this date. General Lombardini was expelled from the Capital six or eight months ago, by General Arista for being engaged in treasonable designs. On the accession of Mr Ceballos, he retruned, & was placed in the chief command of the military forces, including the national guards, here. I am informed that he has heretofore filled the post of Minister of war under the Presidency of Santa Anna.

I have not been able to learn that he possesses a single qualification, either by nature or education, for the post he now fills. I am credibly informed, however, that he is very favorably disposed towards a suitable settlement of the Tehuantepec question, on the basis of the late contract.

The British mail steamer due at Veracruz at the end of last month, had not arrived by the last advices from that City through the mail [The telegraph is not in play] & fears are entertained for her safety. A letter from Mr. Yturbe, bearer of despatches, informs us, that he expected to be obliged to await the departure of the steamer *Albatros*, which probably will not sail before the 14th. instant. This will account for the probable accumulation of so many despatches of different dates, in the same hands.

I have just been furnished by the Minister of Relations with several printed copies of the Tehuantepec contract, three of which marked A I have the honor herewith to transmit.

February 9th.

The telegraph having been restored to activity gave information yesterday of the arrival and departure of the British mail Packet on the 7th, and the gentleman who has kindly undertaken to be the bearer of this and the accompanying despatches to the Department; having concluded to postpone his departure for Vera Cruz until tomorrow morning, which he believes will be early enough to enable him to take passage in the Albatross, I have deferred the closing of this despatch until today, for the purpose of containing my narrative of political events.

You will see by the newspaper "Siglo" of last evening, herewith transmitted, that General Lombardini has been appointed President by a Triumvirate consisting of himself, Uruga & Robles, who, as you will have seen by the foregoing is part of the military force of the Republic.

In the "Siglo" and the "Monitor" of this morning, also herewith inclosed, you will observe that it was the adoption by the Triumvirate of what is denominated the "Jalisco Plan" that led to the retirement of Mr. Cevallos. This plan, which seems to be acceptable to a large portion of the nation, proposes a radical change in the existing constitution, consisting in the partial abolition of the federal system, by the transfer of a large share of the power now rested in the several states, to the Central government; and it proposes also the recall of Santa Anna, now in banishment, at Cartagena. Mr. Cevalloa disapproving of these measures, refused his assent to them, & on this ground voluntarily retired from the Presidency.

He appears to have acted throughout with consistency & dignity... General Lombardini, you will see by the accompanying newspaper is appointed for the term of about 40 days, during which, there is to be a popular election of a President for one year, in which case there is said to be a probability of the election of Mr. Ceballos, who, I may observe,

in passing, has resumed his seat as President of the Supreme Court.

It is stated in the "Monitor" of the morning, as you will see, that commissioners are to be sent in a public vessel, & at the expense of the nation, to convey to Santa Anna the tidings of his recall, & to bring him back should he see fit to accept the invitation to return. Should he do this, you will notice that he is not to assume the reins of Government, of course, but abide the result of a popular election.

The manner in which the appointment of General Lombardini may seem to infer that I regard it as unquestionably valid; whereas I can not doubt that it will appear to you in the light of a farce. Tested by the principles which Americans are accustomed to regard as alone applicable to such a question, it must be pronounced a farce. But when it is considered that the history of the Mexican Republic, brief as it is, comprises so many analogous instances of the utter disregard of these principles, tacitly acquiesced in by the people, as this now seems likely to be, the question in what manner it ought to be received & treated by the Representatives of other nations, is one of no little embarrassment. One of the other Minister called to day to consult me in regard to it. who seems inclined to look upon the appointment of General Lombardini as altogether nugatory. I told him that I hoped the new President would be in no hurry to announce the change to us, and that in the mean time I thought it would be well for the members of the diplomatic body to meet and confer together on the subject. As the matter now appears the appointment is simply the unauthorized act of three or rather two individuals.

It is now evening; & I am interrupted by the receipt from the acting Minister of Relations of a note, a copy whereof, marked A will be herewith transmitted accompanied by the documents therein referred to, marked 1, 2, 3. The note, it will be seen, is a labored effort to vindicate what has been done, & if I mistake not, is indicative of an uneasy sense on the part of the actors, of the temerity of their conduct. But

as this despatch is to leave here at 4 o'clock tomorrow morning, & is yet to be copied, I must close it here.

Caja 97, rollo 17, vol. 16, p. 157-60.

9 de febrero de 1853. J. Miguel Arroyo a Alfred Conkling.

Le comunica que le envía tres ejemplares de los documentos oficiales que explican lo que ha sucedido en la Capital, los comenta diciendo:

“Éstos se reducen substancialmente a que habiendo llegado a Méjico el Sor General Dn. José López Uruga, General en jefe de las fuerzas que han sostenido el Plan proclamado en Jalisco, acompañado del Sor Coronel Dn. Manuel Robles a cuyo mando se halla otra sección de tropas, trayendo ambos un arreglo que juzgaron a propósito para dar fin a la revolución y restablecer la paz en la República, al cual con algunas modificaciones, se adirió [*sic*] la Guarnición de esta Capital, se propuso al E. S. Dn. Juan B. Ceballos, que desempeñaba la Presidencia de la Republica, continuase en ella, bajo las bases de tal convenio; y no estando S. E. conforme, reusó [*sic*] aceptar ese cargo por las razones que expuso en la nota respectiva, a consecuencia de lo cual se procedió según el mismo plan, a elegir la persona que temporalmente ha de ejercer el Supremo poder ejecutivo de la Nación, recayó la elección [*sic*] en el E. S. General D. Manuel Maria Lombardini, quien en la noche del 7 del actual prestó el juramento prevenido en el plan adoptado, y entró a ejercer sus altas atribuciones que desempeñará por el tiempo y modo que en ese mismo se expresan.”

Agrega que todos estos acontecimientos se verificaron sin “que en lo más leve se alterase el orden público”.

Caja 97, rollo 17, vol. 16, p. 160-1.

19. El nuevo tema de la Mesilla

5 de febrero de 1853. México. Texto del contrato para la apertura y comunicación del Istmo de Tehuantepec.