



Pio Pio  
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## PIO PICO'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT 1846-1848

INTRODUCTION

*By George Tays*

Don Pio Pico, the last Governor of California to be appointed by Mexico, found himself in sore straits during the spring of 1846. He and General José Castro had been quarreling for a year over the political supremacy, and the territory was now threatened with political and economic ruin.

During the early months of 1846 the Governor had made every effort to recruit an army, but in spite of all his work he was able to assemble only 150 men; and so with that motley force he set out for the north to subdue his hated rival. The impending war between the United States and Mexico also weighed heavily on the Governor's mind as he marched on to Santa Barbara. California was in danger and her war resources were small indeed. What to do?

Hardly had Pico arrived at Santa Barbara than a travelworn messenger on a jaded and foam-flecked steed staggered into town with a report from Castro stating that American filibusters had captured Sonoma and requesting the Governor to go to the rescue. Pico was dumbfounded by the news and believed that the General was trying to trick him, but reports from other sources soon confirmed the truth.

The Governor now sent his brother Andres Pico on ahead with his army,

while he stayed behind long enough to issue orders to the Territorial Legislature and all local municipal authorities in the south, to mobilize all resources in men and supplies and prepare for war. Then he continued on his way to join his troops.

When he arrived at San Luis Obispo he was met by Prefect Manuel Castro of the Monterey district bearing the even more startling news that Commodore Sloat had occupied Monterey and that all of northern California was in American hands. Once more Pico continued his northward march, to be met a few hours later, at Santa Margarita, by General Castro and his army in retreat. There the Governor and the General publicly embraced and set aside their personal quarrel for the sake of the common good.

Thoughtfully and sorrowfully the two leaders with their combined army of 250 men turned towards the capital city of Los Angeles to make their last stand. On arriving, Pico presented the matter to the legislature for action, requesting money and supplies with which to carry on the war. The deputies talked much and did little, nor had they ought with which to do anything. In vain did Pico wax eloquent in patriotic exhortations to the authorities, but with negligible results. In vain did Castro appeal to the pride of the Californians to join his ranks in defence of the fatherland. But they met with only a profound apathy on the part of the inhabitants. That was not due to any love that they had for the Americans, or any desire to see the enemy possess itself of their country; but to the realization that their poor and meager equipment and incompetent leadership would not allow them to carry on a successful campaign against a powerful foe.

Throughout July and early August, 1846, Castro and Pico labored to put Los Angeles in a state of defence. By that time Commodore Stockton and Major Frémont were storming the gates of the capital. Slowly and painfully the General and Governor realized that they could not successfully defend their territory and that it would be a useless sacrifice of men to try it. Castro had 500 volunteers, it is true, but only about 100 of them had even serviceable arms. The rest had only lances or their *riatas*, poor weapons indeed with which to face a fully equipped army. To save his face and that of his country from an ignominious surrender, Castro proposed to Stockton that they should declare an armistice until the war was over. Stockton declined, demanding a complete surrender, unless General Castro would consent to declare California independent under the protection of the United States and raise the American flag over the territory. Such a proposal was like a slap in the face to Castro. In a stinging reply he rebuked the Commodore for making such a degrading proposition which would make Castro a traitor to his country.

On August 9, Castro, realizing that the game was up, suggested to Pico that they leave California and go to Mexico to solicit aid from the Central

Government. Pico agreed, and asked the legislature for permission, which was granted that same day. On the 10th the Assembly and all local authorities were declared nonexistent so that the Americans would find no one with whom to treat. That night Castro and Pico with twenty men set out for Sonora by way of the Colorado River. A few miles out the leaders separated, Castro continuing on while Pico went to his Rancho Santa Margarita near Capistrano. The popular version has it that they separated because they quarreled. That is untrue. Pico went home because he had no money with him, and he went to get what he considered a sufficient sum to pay his expenses for a trip of several months.

While he was at home, the American pursuing parties cut him off from the Colorado River road, so for the next month he went into hiding, aided by his brother-in-law, John Forster. On the night of September 7, Pico finally managed to escape across the Lower California frontier in company with his Secretary, José Matias Moreno, and one Macedonio Gonzalez. After some six weeks of wandering over mountains and desert, on October 22 they arrived at the port of Mulegé on the east coast of Lower California opposite the mainland port of Guaymas. From there Pico reported all preceding events to the Central Government.

When Pico left California he sincerely believed that once he presented the state of affairs in the territory to the Government, it would give him the necessary men and supplies with which he might return home to drive out the Americans. It was with high hopes of a speedy return that he arrived in Mulegé, only to find all Mexican gulf ports blockaded by the American squadron. All vessels had been captured, so Pico was unable to cross. He had to wait in Mulegé for some opportunity to arise. Some days later, on November 11, Pico received a message from California reporting the glorious news that the Californians had defeated the Americans between September 23 and October 1, at El Chino, Los Angeles, San Pedro and San Diego. The Governor at once braved the stormy waters of the Gulf in a small launch and crossed to Guaymas. On November 15 he reported the good news to Mexico, begging for just a little aid which would give the Californians new courage. His hopes ran high, for surely the Government would not neglect his country now. Mexico received the news with joy and the Provisional President ordered the War Department to send the aid. Foreign Minister Lafragua wrote to Pico on December 19, 1846, that help was being sent. Pico was elated and sat down to wait for it to arrive so that with it he might march back to California in triumph. Unfortunately for him, all those matters had to be referred to General Santa Anna, who as Commander-in-Chief was fighting Taylor in northeastern Mexico. He was hard pressed at the time, so had little sympathy to waste on so distant a territory as California. He then ordered the Cabinet to help California in any other way but not to neglect his own army which was badly in need of men and sup-

plies. That put all ideas of help for California out of the mind of the Mexican Government.

Month after month now passed by, and Pico heard no more about the expected aid. Time after time he wrote to the government throughout 1847, repeating his request in urgent terms and wondering why he received no replies. In Mexico, of course, the situation had become critical; its armies were being defeated and frequent changes took place in the cabinet posts. When Pico's letters arrived they were passed about from one department to another for action. Replies were ordered made but those went no farther than the files of the Foreign Office.

Meanwhile affairs in California took a turn for the worse. Their resources having become exhausted, the Californians became discouraged, seeing that no help came from Mexico. In January, 1847, they began to quarrel among themselves, whereupon General Flores departed for Sonora in disgust and there was nothing else for the Californians to do but to surrender to the Americans.

It was a sad day for Governor Pico when he received the news. Little by little he was coming to realize that he could expect no help from Mexico, since he saw how the fortunes of war were going. Nevertheless, though discouraged, he decided on a last desperate plan. In May, 1847, he gathered up what money he had left and sent his secretary, Moreno, on to Mexico City to make a personal plea for the aid that California needed. Moreno went as far as Tepic before his funds gave out. There he was stranded, so he appealed for aid to the Central Government and also to General Anastacio Bustamante who commanded the Western Division. The Mexican Government, always adept at "passing the buck," replied with liberal promises but sent him no money, although his salary had not been paid for many months. After months of weary waiting, Moreno finally begged his way back to Sonora and reported the failure of his mission to Pico. Throughout the latter part of 1847 Pico had watched and hoped, but with each passing day his hope diminished and uncertainty took its place. His funds had long ago become exhausted. He could no longer draw on California because it was in enemy hands. His salary had not been paid for three years, so there he was in want, stranded among strangers. He asked the Governor of Sonora for help, but the official gave him a cool reception. Then, late in 1847 he appealed to Mexico for financial aid for himself; but to that bequest, as to all his others, the government replied with a contemptuous silence. By that time all of Pico's hopes had faded and turned to despair. Then when he saw Moreno return empty-handed, his emotions, pent up for all those weary months, burst out in one great explosion.

Moreno had told Pico that General Bustamante had said that he was no longer recognized as Governor of California. That was the last straw. Burning with indignation, Pico wrote a farewell letter to the Foreign Minister

on March 29, 1848, in which he bitterly berated the government in a hot denunciation. In it Pico opened his soul and let his suppressed emotions flow unchecked.

It is evident that Pico was intensely sincere in his desire to help the Californians. He had not run away from California to avoid capture, but to get aid that he had promised his countrymen. His keen disappointment was evident as he wrote: "Let California be the sacrificial goat whose blood shall atone for all the sins of the people." It was a pathetic figure that he presented as with a heavy and sorrowful heart he turned his steps homeward to face his countrymen empty-handed, to surrender to a foe he deeply hated, and burning with a lasting resentment for a government that had so cruelly betrayed his native land.

This correspondence here presented for the first time, was found in the files of the Mexican Foreign Office archives while I was doing research in 1929 under a "Native Sons of the Golden West Traveling Fellowship in Pacific Coast History." At that time it was all in one folder that had been kept in the confidential files of the Foreign Office. Lately, it seems, the whole folder has been stolen from the archives and the documents are being offered for sale by a Mexico City dealer at an exorbitant price. It is claimed that they came from the private papers of a Sonora bishop. But since the dealer has the originals which were the ones in the archives, and also the correspondence that passed between Departments, which was never sent to Pico, and could exist only in the archives, there seems to be little doubt that the documents were stolen from the archives. Such a practice goes on continually in Mexico in spite of all official efforts to stop it.

## THE CORRESPONDENCE OF PIO PICO

### I

Excellent Sir:

So that you may see fit to inform His Excellency the President of the Republic, I inclose to Your Excellency certified copies of the official communications which I received today from the Prefect of Monterey, which are marked with numbers 1 and 2 [Documents I-a and I-b, *infra*].

The uncertainty in which we find ourselves in this Department concerning the true state existing at this date in the political affairs between our Government and the Republic of the United States of the North, the excessive introduction of armed adventurers from that Nation, leaves us no doubt of the war that we shall have with the North Americans. The critical situation in which we find ourselves constrains me more and more to politely arouse His Excellency the President through Your Excellency's mediation so that he may take care of us efficaciously; providing us with the necessary resources for an honorable resistance, that may serve as a warning to the depraved plans of that piratical Nation.

The Departmental Treasury is exhausted and there is no hope whatever of pecuniary aid.

May it please Your Excellency to make the contents of this note known to His Excellency the President, to whom equally with Your Excellency I offer my obedience and esteem.

God and Liberty, Los Angeles, May 25, 1846.

PRO PICO.

His Excellency the Minister  
of Foreign Relations, Interior and Police.

I-a

(No. 1)

Prefecture of the Second District.

I inclose for Your Excellency a copy of the letter which the Sub-Prefect of Yerba Buena has addressed to me dated the 6th of the present month [Doc. I-b], reporting that in the neighborhood of the establishment of the Sacramento there has been a large assembly of armed foreigners promoted by the Captain of the army of the United States of the North, Mr. J. C. Fremont. The reports of an approaching declaration of war between Mexico and said States; the ambitious aims which the government of those same has, for infamously seizing the Territory of our Fatherland; and the recent acts of said officer in entering with an armed force and daring to raise the Flag of his nation within the boundaries of this district, together with the gathering mentioned, must catch the forceful attention of Your Excellency and must persuade you that although war has not yet formally been declared between both Republics, it is undeniable that this Department finds itself invaded by a multitude of parties that threaten its desolation throughout this section.

God and Liberty. Monterey, May 11, 1846.

MANUEL CASTRO.

His Excellency the Governor  
of the Department, Angeles.

I certify that the preceding copy is faithfully copied to the letter from the original which is found in the Secretary's archive in my possession.

God and Liberty, Angeles, May 25, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

I-b

(No. 2)

Prefecture of the Second District—Sub-Prefect of the Second District.

On this date I have received from the Judge at Sonoma the following note.

The Neophyte Antonio, resident of the town of San José Guadalupe, has presented himself at this place under my command and has reported as follows:

That, finding himself with two companions at a ranch located north of the estuary of the Sacramento, as a servant of Mr. Frank Dye, a resident of Monterey, he and his two companions were invited by a foreigner, owner of a nearby ranch where a blacksmith named Pedro lives, and where there was a feast or entertainment given by the Captain of the United States of the North, Mr. J. C. Fremont, to the people whom the latter had assembled under arms and who numbered about two hundred men, including some of the soldiers of Governor Micheltorena's Battalion; and that he heard from these same, that that assembly of men was being made with the object of falling upon Monterey and robbing all the ranch owners.

That he also saw at the end of the feast, that said Captain Fremont departed with fifty men bound for the Columbia with the object of bringing Indians from those tribes to fill his ranks, and to put into effect the idea of taking Monterey and of robbing the wealth of the country, which was their plan.

Said Antonio has also told me, that one of his companions was killed at the time of the feast, from a pistol-shot fired by the blacksmith Pedro, already mentioned, because Pedro wanted to take away from the man who was killed a pagan woman whom the latter had; and because of the fear that said Antonio had over the conduct of those people, he fled from there, leaving his wife and other property abandoned.

And I report it to Your Excellency for the measures that you may deem convenient, having ordered that the informer be held until the arrival of Your Excellency's reply, offering you the considerations of my distinguished esteem.

God and Liberty. Yerba Buena, May 6, 1846.

Sr. Prefect of the Second District  
Don Manuel Castro.

FRANCISCO GUERRERO.

It is a copy of the original which I forward.  
Monterey, May 10, 1846.

Manuel Castro.

His Excellency the Governor  
of the Department, Angeles.

I certify that the above copy is a faithful reproduction to the letter from its original, which is found in the Secretary's archive in my possession.

God and Liberty. Angeles, May 25, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

## II

Most Excellent Sir:

This Departmental Government not being able to rely on resources of any kind to enable it to prepare a defence against the external war that threatens the Mexican Republic, of which this Department is an integral part, I have



resolved to dispose of the Missions in accordance with the enactment of the Most Excellent Departmental Assembly in the year 1844, when a declaration of war was feared from the same power that today tries to invade us; because these establishments are considered as the only ones that can furnish the necessary funds for so important an object. The Government, in deciding to take this step, does so based upon the proposition that when the country is in danger no measure should be omitted in order to save it. Furthermore, I have at hand to this end the authorization from the Most Excellent ad interim President in a note of March 10 which was sent through the Ministry of War.

For that reason, on recommending to Your Excellency that you be pleased to place this before the Most Excellent President, I trust that His Excellency, mindful of the cause that motivates my decision, will find it convenient to give his approval to this and to all that may bear upon this matter.

I reiterate to Your Excellency the sincere protestations of appreciation and respect.

God and Liberty. Angeles, May 25, 1846.

Pio Pico.

Most Excellent Sir: Minister of  
Foreign Relations, Interior and Police.

### III

Excellent Sir:

On April 3 last, I had the honor of addressing Your Excellency through the Commissioner of the Supreme Government in this Department, Don Andres Castellero, in which [letter] I informed my Government of what had occurred up to that date with the Captain of the United States Army Mr. J. C. Fremont.

Now I have the sorrow of informing Your Excellency of the invasion and assault which part of the multitude of adventurers from the United States of the North have committed in the town of Sonoma in this Department, as Your Excellency will see by the copies of the documents 1, 2, and 3, which I attach [Docs. III-a, III-b, and III-c]. This Prefecture is well informed that this treacherous crime has been committed with the consent or by the order of the said Fremont, who is now camped at Sutter's establishment, and also with that of the Captain of the United States war frigate *Portsmouth* that lies anchored in the Port of San Francisco, for said vessel has sent to the invaders of Sonoma a launch full of ammunition. By what is said Your Excellency will know the treacherous intentions of the United States Government toward this Department.

Notwithstanding the notorious and great lack that this country suffers of every kind of supplies to carry on a war against these iniquitous and perfidious invaders, this Prefecture, in concurrence with the Commandant General of the Department who has established his General Headquarters at

Mission Santa Clara, has called to arms all citizens of the Department under its command, to the defence and integrity of our Territory; and Your Excellency may be convinced that the sons of the Department of California will make all possible efforts to defend their independence and liberty; and that they count on the protection and aids that the Supreme National Government will send them at the earliest possible moment, and that they are confident that they will not be abandoned in the great conflict in which they find themselves at present, nor will their blood be permitted to be shed in vain.

Today I depart from this port at the head of its citizenry, so that I may be joined by the citizens of the towns through which we pass, to join with the small party of troops which the Commandant General has at the indicated place.

Your Excellency will kindly place what I say here before His Excellency the President of the Republic, and receive my respects and considerations.

God and Liberty. Monterey, Alta California, June 19, 1846.

MANUEL CASTRO.

Most Excellent Minister  
of Foreign Relations, Interior, and Police,  
Mexico.

III-a

(No. 1)

First Justice of the Peace Court of the Town of San José Guadalupe.

I inclose to Your Worship the note which the Judge of Contra Costa has sent me, so that knowing its contents you will order what you deem convenient.

God and Liberty. Town of San José Guadalupe, June 16, 1846.

DOLORES PACHECO.

Sr. Prefect of the 2nd District,  
Don Manuel Castro.

It is a copy of the original. Monterey, Alta California, June 19, 1846.

Manuel Castro.

III-b

(No. 2)

Prefecture of the 2nd District  
of the Department of California.

First Court of Justice of the Peace, of Contra Costa of the Union.

I have just now heard, it being eleven o'clock at night, from the citizen Rafael Feliz who was sent as a messenger by Don Jesus Vallejo, for his brother Don Guadalupe, that yesterday Don Guadalupe and Don Salvador Vallejo, Don Victor Prudon and Mr. Jacob P. Leese were surprised in their homes by the American foreigners, and were immediately taken as prisoners to the Plumas River, the same Feliz having seen them as they passed by the ranch of Cayetano Suarez guarded by twelve foreigners, including amongst these Merritt, who was acting in the capacity of Captain, the town of Sonoma having remained occupied by the foreigners; which important news I impart

to you so that without loss of time you will, as I am doing, forward this same document to the Prefecture for its knowledge.

God and Liberty. San Leandro, June 15, 1846.

JOSÉ JOAQUIN ESTUDILLO.

Sr. Justice of the Peace, Town of San José,  
Don Dolores Pacheco.

This is a copy of the original, Monterey of Alta California, June 19, 1846.

Manuel Castro.

III-c

(No. 3)

Sub-Prefecture of the Second District.

At this moment I have received the verbal message from the 2nd Justice of the Peace of the Town of Sonoma, that the American foreigners had taken as prisoners Don Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Don Victor Prudon, Don Salvador Vallejo and Mr. Jacob P. Leese, after having overpowered the guard, and he says that the foreigners number about seventy men, and that said 2nd Justice fled as a fugitive as soon as he saw them going to capture the 1st Justice, and that at the same time he observed that they took all the horses of Señor Vallejo; that those who took the leadership were one known as the doctor [Semple] of the Sacramento, and another whom Don Salvador knows [Merritt] due to a quarrel that he formerly had with him. All of which I communicate to you for your knowledge offering you my esteem and consideration.

God and Liberty. Yerba Buena, June 15, 1846.

JUAN GUERRERO.

Sr. Prefect of the 2nd District.  
Don Manuel Castro.

It is a copy of the original. Monterey, Alta California, June 19, 1846.

Manuel Castro.

#### IV

Excellent Sir:

His Excellency the ad interim President, desirous of furnishing that Commandancy General with the pecuniary resources which it needs for the defence of the Department against any foreign attack, has seen fit, using the authority that has been granted to the Supreme Government, amply to authorize Your Excellency so that you may obtain those same resources for the indicated purpose.

I inform Your Excellency by Supreme order and I repeat to you the sureties of my consideration.

July 4, 1846.

P.

His Excellency the Governor  
of the Department of California.

Memo:

For His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Relations.

To the Governor of the Department of California ample power so that he may obtain resources with which to aid the Commandant General.

V

Government of the Department of California.

Excellent Sir:

Numerous times I have reminded the Supreme Government, through the Ministry under Your Excellency's worthy charge, how exposed this unfortunate Department was to being a victim to the ambitions of the Cabinet in Washington, and subsequently I despatched to the Capital a commission to Your Excellency which I entrusted to the Secretary of my office, Don José Maria Covarrubias, who after discharging it arrived in this country on the 2nd of the current month and delivered to me Your Excellency's note of May 20 last, which informs me of the measures dictated by the Supreme Magistrate of the nation, for the safety of the Department. Unfortunately, Your Excellency, today we see the fulfillment of the predictions which I made to the Executive of the Nation, and all that the Commissioner disclosed to Your Excellency, concerning the imminent danger that California would lose its beloved nationality by the defenceless state in which it has been and now finds itself; Indeed on the 7th instant, Commodore (Mr.) John D. Sloat, Commander of the Naval forces of the United States in the Pacific, possessed himself of Monterey by means of landing a military force, seized the archives of the courts, customs, and Departmental Treasury; and as a climax to the misfortune, he raised the starry flag on that Mexican soil. A similar unfortunate fate has been the lot of the Port of San Francisco, and immediately said Commodore offered in his proclamation, of which I inclose Your Excellency a copy [Doc. V-a], to carry the same banner throughout all of California.

Before such a serious attack was committed on behalf of the United States there appeared at the town of Sonoma a considerable number of armed adventurers from the United States commanded by Captain Fremont, who committed the crime of imprisoning Colonel Don Mariano Vallejo, Captain Don Salvador, brother to the former, and Lieutenant-colonel Don Victor Prudon; put the second one to death, according to the news we received, having had him executed, and also took the lives of fifteen Mexican natives of this country. These events at once engaged the attention of Messrs. Don Manuel Castro, Prefect of the Second District, and the Commandant General, Don José Castro, who immediately left Monterey with what force they could muster, to the aid of those unfortunates who were in the power of those adventurers; a circumstance which contributed greatly to the defenselessness of the Port of Monterey where today wave the stars of the United States.

Hearing of such lamentable misfortunes, I set out immediately and in great

haste toward the northern regions of this Department with a force of one hundred and fifty armed and mounted men, not taking a greater number for lack of arms and ammunition, and today I have had the pleasure of embracing Don José Castro, Commandant General, at the Santa Margarita ranch, which is eighty leagues distant from the capital, who with a force of two hundred men retired from the northern district due to the numerous parties of enemy riflemen who pursued him in the vicinity of Santa Clara and San José Guadalupe. We have both agreed to defend at all cost the integrity of the national territory, our native rights, and the independence which cost the Mexican heroes so many sacrifices, hoping that the Supreme Government will not abandon us in such painful circumstances; because, no matter how great our patriotism may be, in spite of all the efforts that we may make to save the rights of our beloved fatherland, unaided and without supplies of any kind to make war on a nation which possesses great resources, it is indubitable that we shall never be able to reconquer what is lost nor avoid losing the rest of the towns.

I do not enlarge on this because my time does not permit me to write, owing to the departure at this moment of a person who has offered to place this in Your Excellency's hands, whose contents I beg you to make known to the Most Excellent President, of whom may you earnestly request not to look with indifference upon the unfortunate situation of the Californians, worthy, because of their loyalty, of the consideration of all Mexicans.

To that end I offer Your Excellency the assurances of my personal regard.  
God and Liberty. San Luis Obispo, July 13, 1846.

Pio Pico.

His Excellency the Minister  
of Foreign Relations, Interior, and Police.

#### V-a

[Commodore Sloat's proclamation of July 7, 1846, has been printed many times, so is not included here. See, for example, this *Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 4, pp. 352-54; 29th Cong., 2d Sess., *House Ex. Doc. No. 4*, pp. 644-45, and *No. 19*, pp. 102-3.]

#### VI

[A letter from the Minister of Foreign Relations to the Minister of War, dated August 3, 1846, transmitting Governor Pico's letter of May 25 (Doc. I) and enclosures, in order "that on seeing them you may order such measures as you may deem convenient."]

#### VII

I have notified His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Republican army entrusted with the executive power, of Your Worship's letter of July 19

last in which, with reference to the documents attached, Your Worship reported the occupation of the town of Sonoma by the adventurers from the United States, which assault has been committed with the aid of Mr. J. C. Fremont; and His Excellency, knowing of such an unpleasant event, and of the measures which you took, as well as those taken by headquarters, to maintain the independence and liberty of California, attacked by the United States, he orders me to tell you that you must never doubt the good inclinations of His Excellency the General-in-Chief to sustain the rights of the Fatherland, and that from the moment in which he took charge of the Government he has had no other aim, than to order the army to march to the frontier in order to preserve the integrity of the National Territory; and that in spite of the difficulties that stand in the way of accomplishing it, he has made ready to march to the aid of that Department sufficient forces to punish the audacity of the adventurers who have entered it. That in consequence he expects from your patriotism that it will exert itself in conserving the unity of that Territory, until such time as the indicated help arrives.

August, 18, 1846.

[MANUEL CASTRO?]

Sr. Prefect of the 2nd District  
of California. Monterey.

## VIII

Ministry of War and Marine.

Excellent Sir:

His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the army of the Supreme Executive Power, being informed of Your Excellency's note dated August 3 last [Doc. VI], in which you inclosed the one dated May 25 last [Doc. I], addressed to you by His Excellency the Governor of California, attaching the copies which Your Excellency inclosed to me of the official notes of the Prefect of Monterey, and in which he certifies on the same date concerning the conditions which exist in that Department with respect to the war of the United States, and urges the Supreme Government to furnish the necessary resources to carry on the National cause in an honorable way, has ordered me to say to Your Excellency, as I now have the honor of saying, that His Excellency has taken some measures to protect that state.

God and Liberty. September 2, 1846.

[JUAN N.] ALMONTE.

His Excellency Minister  
of Foreign Affairs.

## IX

[A letter from the Minister of Foreign Relations, Interior and Police, to the Minister of the Treasury and War, dated September 3, 1846, forwarding to him Doc. II "for your knowledge and corresponding measures."]

## X

From the Minister of Foreign Relations, etc., to the Minister of Justice, September 5, 1846, enclosing Doc. II "for your knowledge and corresponding effects."

## XI

Minister of Foreign Relations, etc., to Governor Pico, September 9, 1846, forwarding Doc. VIII "as a result of your letter of May 25 last."

## XII

Government of the  
Department of California.  
Most Excellent Sir:

In my notes of June 29 and July 13 last [Doc. V], I gave Your Excellency an account of the aggressions begun by the naval and land forces of the United States of America, in which official reports I have spoken extensively of all the events that have occurred, and which I suppose now must be in the exalted knowledge of the Superior Government.

The Commandant General and I, having united at the ranch of Santa Margarita, seventy leagues to the north of the Departmental Capital, we agreed to return to the City of Los Angeles, as a central and more appropriate point, where we might fortify ourselves and expedite our operations more successfully with the purpose of obstructing those of the enemy, who with rapidity was making great progress towards the Capital, on the 22nd of the same July; at the head of three hundred auxiliary troops, we instantly took all the measures which were within our means and which the department could furnish for its defence. Moreover, unfortunately all the means of defence being exhausted, and having taken stock of our small materials of war, we found ourselves too weak to oppose the powerful sea and land forces that threatened us on all sides. Mr. R. F. Stockton, the Commodore of the United States, was aided in the Pacific Ocean by six large warships, which he distributed all along the coast, occupying the ports of San Francisco, Monterey, Santa Barbara, San Pedro and San Diego, at the same time that Captain J. C. Fremont, with more than two hundred riflemen approached the capital with a piece of light artillery. In such a conflict, the Commandant General located himself on the field of La Mesa, at a league's distance from the Capital, and although he counted on nearly four hundred volunteer troops, he faced the great handicap of not having arms or munitions that could last two hours of firing and give glory to the national arms which were operating in its defence. With such an idea it was decided to send a commission to Commodore Stockton at the Port of San Pedro, composed of Captain of the regular Cavalry Don José Maria Flores and the administrator of the Maritime Customs of Monterey Don Pablo de la Guerra, asking said Commodore for explanations of the violent means with which he proceeded in

occupying California, since there was no advance notice of a declaration of war between Mexico and the United States, and further proposing to him the negotiations of a treaty that would prevent the consequent horrors of a rupture. Moreover, the Chief, Stockton, being obdurate and sure of the victory which the superiority of his forces made him expect, refused, closing the doors to all attempts at conciliation, and replied by the note, a copy of which I inclose for Your Excellency as number 1 [Doc. XII-a]. At the same time that he wrote, he was also sending his troops on their way to the Departmental Capital, leaving the seaports of which I have spoken above, well reenforced.

The Commodore's aforesaid note did not allow, I repeat, for an agreement, making in it proposals that were too shameful for all those who truly call themselves Mexicans. Consequently, the Commandant General sent him the note which I also forward as number 2 [XII-b] along with the others that I likewise inclose numbered 3 and 4 [XII-c and XII-d].

The resources and means of defence being exhausted, the Most Excellent Departmental Assembly in the session of the 10th of August decided that, the country not having resources of any kind with which to make war, the Governor in company with the Commandant General should leave the Department and should go to the Capital of the Republic to report to the Supreme Government of all that had happened, for the final dispositions of the Supreme National Authorities; its proceedings I also attach marked as number 5 [XII-e].

In virtue of all this I ordered that all the subordinate authorities in the Department should cease their functions, and I issued a circular note to the Consuls of the friendly powers residing in California, as is evidenced by document number 6 [XII-f], and I gave the proclamation to the public which I likewise attach as number 7 [XII-g]. And consequently the enemy to the number of more than five hundred men effected his entry into the City of Los Angeles on August 13, raising its flag, which today waves over all of California. Their Commander, on the 17th, published the document which is marked number 8 [XII-h], which I inclose. These documents will inform Your Excellency, and through you His Excellency the President of the Republic, of all that has occurred and of the lamentable condition of that Department which at this time is dominated by Mexico's enemy.

In consequence of the Assembly's resolution and of my decision, I took my departure from the City of Los Angeles the night of the 10th and 11th of August, at which time our forces that were gathered there dispersed by order of the Commandant General, leaving the field, as likewise the whole country, at the mercy of the invaders; the Commandant General taking the road to Sonora by the Colorado River escorted by twenty men, and I having to do the same. Moreover, as it was necessary for me to tarry for some days so as to provide myself with means with which to undertake such a long journey,



I was unable to follow the aforesaid Chief, because I was delayed due to the fact that various enemy parties had cut off the road when they spread throughout all the Department in our pursuit. This circumstance obliged me to remain in hiding until some favorable opportunity presented itself for my escape, which I was unable to accomplish until the 7th of September, doing so across the frontier of Lower California, crossing the Sierra and more than three hundred miles of desert, over extremely rough roads, devoid of all human necessities, being accompanied by the ad interim Secretary of my Government, Don José Matias Moreno, who knew how to scorn the enemy's flattery to the honor of the Fatherland. I can assure Your Excellency that in all the inhabitants of that Department there burns an intense anger against its invaders, encouraged by a great enthusiasm to sacrifice themselves in its defence, awaiting some small opportunity to contribute to the reconquest of that part of the Republic, as soon as they see themselves supported by the aid of troops sent to them by the Supreme Government.

It cannot be beyond the comprehension of the Supreme Government that it is imperative to provide immediately for the recovery of California, because the enemy is increasing greatly, building fortifications and strengthening its armed forces with the multitude of parties of adventurers that daily enter that Department by the overland route, which makes me suppose with some basis, that the same thing will happen here as took place in Texas; as it is happening almost at this instant. All the Californians and other Mexicans residing there are held in the unhappy state of prisoners of war, a forced neutrality having been demanded of them.

I do not believe it superfluous to place in Your Excellency's Superior knowledge, that the enemy daily wisely invents a thousand means of seduction in order to win the Californians, with the object that they may demand their independence from Mexico, attaching themselves to the United States, undoubtedly in order to have some shield by which to defend their usurpation; which they have been unable to obtain notwithstanding that they find themselves aided by the influence enjoyed by two or three Mexicans who traitorously embraced the enemy's cause in dishonour of the Mother Country, they being Don Juan Bandini, deputy of the Most Excellent Assembly, Don Pedro C. Carrillo, receiver of the Custom-house of San Diego, and the 2nd Ensign of the Presidial Company of San Diego, Don Santiago E. Arguello, who is now in that port exercising the functions of civil official and of Military Commandant of that post, under the Government of the United States, as Your Excellency will learn by the note which I attach under the number 9 [XII-i], when this officer came to the frontier of Lower California in my pursuit and to raise the enemy flag, trampling that of Mexico on September 23 last.

Resolved on my part to continue my journey on to the Capital, I have arrived at Moleg  as the first port of Lower California with the object of

embarking for some other port on the mainland; furthermore, on arriving here I have learned with great sorrow on my part, that the enemy warships have come to occupy this peninsula, as they have done in fact, capturing all the Mexican ships to be found in these waters and intercepting the navigation of the Gulf, for which reason I see myself detained, unable to continue nor to retrace the long road that I have just traversed; for that reason I have decided to remain in the ranches of the interior of this port until I find an opportunity to embark for the other coast, or to await here Your Excellency's reply, according to the resolution of His Excellency the President, upon the course I am to follow in the present crisis.

I have the honor of paying Your Excellency my attention and appreciation.  
God and Liberty. Moleg , October 27, 1846.

Pio Pico.

His Excellency the Minister  
of Foreign Relations, Interior and Police.  
Mexico.

XII-a

(No. 1)

United States Frigate of War *Congress*,  
Bay of San Pedro, August 7, 1846.  
To the Commandant General of Alta California.  
General:

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your letter and I with you deplore the war that is now waging between Mexico and the United States. But, General, I do not want to do other than what is demanded by my duty. [I do not wish to war against California or her people—but as she is a department of Mexico, I must war against her until she ceases to be a part of the Mexican territory. This is my plain duty]\*

I cannot therefore delay my operations to negotiate under any other principle than that California shall declare her independence under the protection of the United States flag, therefore if you will consent to raise the American flag over California I shall stop my forces and shall negotiate a treaty.

Your obedient and humble servant. [Signed] ROBERT F. STOCKTON.

It is a copy, Field of la Mesa, August 9, 1846. [Signed] Jos  Castro.

His Excellency the Governor of California.  
Don Pio Pico, Angeles.

It is a copy of the original that I certify. Moleg , October 27, 1846.

Jos  Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

\*The part in brackets, from the Letter Book of Stockton's Correspondence in the Templeton Crocker Collection, California Historical Society, was omitted (perhaps intentionally) from the copy sent by Governor Pico to the Minister of Foreign Relations. The version given by Bancroft (*Hist. of Calif.*, V, 269) agrees with Stockton's copy, both differing slightly, but not materially, from the above which is a retranslation from the Spanish.

Commandancy General of Alta California.

Excellent Sir:

Today I said to the Commodore of the Naval forces of the United States of America, anchored in the roadstead of San Pedro, what I literally copy.\*

"With indescribable surprise I have learned of the reply which Your Excellency gave to my official note relative to my request for explanations concerning the conduct which you proposed to follow in the invasion which the naval and land forces of the United States, now under your command, have perpetrated in this Department under my command.

"The insidious content of that note and the degrading propositions which it implies, have obliged me to reproduce for you the last of my communications, because the honor of my arms demands it thus, as well as the honor of what I represent, and to make clear to you to what extent I wish to sacrifice myself in order to preserve unstained the office which I fill.

"Inasmuch as war exists between the United States and Mexico, and that you are duty bound to make war on this Department which is part of its territory, I as a Mexican and commander of the forces that are under my orders, am resolved to defend its integrity at all events and repel an aggression such as yours, which has no parallel in the civilized world; and more so if one considers that there is no definite declaration of war between the two nations.

"You say that you cannot arrest your operations in order to negotiate under any other principle, than that California shall declare its independence under the protection of the United States flag. Never shall I consent to commit the baseness of doing such a thing; but supposing that I should try it, I should fail to carry it out under the degrading conditions that you impose. And what should be its liberty with that protection which is offered to it at the cannon's mouth? I do not understand it; furthermore, you may rest assured that while I live I shall see to it that this part of the Mexican Republic in which I first saw the light shall not seal in this way its infamy and slavery.

"Yet more! Believing no doubt that not a single drop of Mexican blood flows in my veins and that I might forget the orbit of my duties, you offer me the most shameless of your propositions, which is to raise the American flag in the Department under my command. Never, Never, Never! I would say much to you in this respect, but permit me only to ask you; what would you do if the proposal were reversed? Finally Mr. Commodore, I repeat that I shall not spare any sacrifice to oppose your intentions, that if by some misfortune the flag of the United States waves in California, it shall not be by my acquiescence nor by that of the last of my compatriots, but only if due to force or by force; with the idea that I solemnly protest before the whole

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\*Castro's letter to Stockton of Aug. 8, 1846, is quoted in full in Bancroft, *Hist. of Calif.*, V, 274, n. 21, q.v.

world, against the means that have been practiced or shall be practiced in the future to sever this Department from the Mexican Union, to whose flag it wishes to belong; holding Your Excellency responsible for all the ills and misfortunes that may take place in so unjust a war as the one that has been declared against this peaceful Department.

"Mr. Commodore of the Naval Forces of the United States of America in the Pacific and at anchor in the roadstead of San Pedro.  
"It is a copy, Field of la Mesa, August 8, 1846."

[Signed] José Castro.

I have the honor of paying Your Excellency the homage of my personal esteem.

God and Liberty. Field of la Mesa, August 9, 1846.

[Signed] JOSÉ CASTRO.

Most Excellent Governor of the Department of California, Don Pio Pico, Angeles.

It is a copy of the original which I certify. Molegé, October 27, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.

## XII-c

(No. 3)

Citizen José Castro Lieutenant-Colonel of Cavalry of the Mexican Army and ad interim Commandant General of the Department of California, to its inhabitants.

Fellow citizens: A month and a half ago I notified you of the war that a horde of bandits, paid and led by agents of the Government of the United States of America, brought to our soil; and today I have the sorrow of reporting to you that that same Government which not long ago protested its friendship and which said it had no part in the acts at Sonoma, has joined with them and has perpetrated an iniquitous invasion.

But nay there is yet more! The American Government, not content with the unjust usurpation that it has consummated in the Department, intends to snatch our honor from us; it wants us to betray our Mother Country, to separate from her bosom, taking up our servitude under the American flag, and to fasten upon ourselves forever the shackles of our slavery.

Compatriots: Who of us does not feel his heart swell with ire at knowing that not only do our oppressors wish to make us tributary slaves, but moreover they have the affrontery to order that we should voluntarily proclaim this slavery ourselves, as a benefit which our gratuitous enemies offer us?

Fellow citizens: I am very pleased with you; a grateful fatherland will some day reward your loyalty, your valor and your sacrifices; but yet it demands, moreover, your faithfulness, your courage. The unfortunate situation in which the Department finds itself, the lack of resources to carry on the war against a powerful nation, will perhaps make it triumph over our

weak forces; but nevermore over our hearts; always conserve in them as you have done thus far the same sentiments, the same vigour to sustain the sacred rights of our liberty and independence, and be what may the fate that the war may leave us, do not belie ever the glorious name of good Mexicans. I exhort you anew, compatriots, so that ignoring all the false promises that our enemies may make to you, you shall give to the whole world an example of loyalty and courage, maintaining constant in your hearts, the love for your liberty and the eternal hatred of our invaders.

Long live the Mexican Republic! Death to the invaders!

Angeles, Field of la Mesa, August 9, 1846.

[Signed] JOSÉ CASTRO.

It is a copy of the original which I certify.

Moleg , October 27, 1846.

Jos  Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

XII-d

(No. 4)

Commandancy General of Alta California.

Most Excellent Sir:

After having made on my part every sacrifice that has been in my power, to prepare the defence of the Department and to oppose the invasion that by land and sea has been made by the United States forces, today I find myself in the painful necessity of informing Your Excellency that it is impossible for me to do one or the other, because, in spite of Your Excellency's efforts to furnish me whatever has been at your disposal, I count on only one hundred poorly armed men, worse munitioned, and discontented because of the hardships which they suffer, which makes me fear with some reason, that not even these would fight if the occasion came.\*

With that idea and lacking every kind of resource necessary to carry on the war, I am resolved not to expose the safety of the people, nor the honor of the arms under my care, leaving the country so as to report to the Supreme Government, therefore, I appeal to Your Excellency because I believe you are animated by like sentiments and by a true interest in the preservation of the people whom you rule.

In order to save the honor of the Department and that of the office which I occupy, as well as my responsibility before the Supreme Government, I have sent the Commodore of the Forces of the United States the reply which Your Excellency will see in the copy marked number 1 [Doc. XII-b], number 2 [Doc. XII-c] being the proclamation which I addressed to the inhabitants of the Department in consequence of the humiliating propositions which are contained in said Commodore's note which he addressed to me yesterday and that is marked number 3 [Doc. XII-a].

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\*Quoted thus far in Bancroft, *Hist. of Calif.*, V, 273.

As we have not even a single moment to lose, I entreat Your Excellency to give me your answer at once as to what you expect to do so that I may be guided by it.

God and Liberty. Field of la Mesa, August 9, 1846.

[Signed] JOSÉ CASTRO.

His Excellency the Governor of the Department of California  
Don Pio Pico, Angeles.

It is a copy of the original that I certify. Molegé, October 27, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

XII-e

(No. 5)

Session of August 10, 1846.

The proceedings of the previous day having been read, His Excellency the Governor, who presided, presented an official note from the Commandant General that the latter had addressed to him with yesterday's date from the field of la Mesa [Doc. XII-d], with the object of telling him that in spite of the sacrifices that he has made, aided by all the resources that had been within His Excellency's power to send him, it was not possible to succeed in making an honorable defence of the country and to oppose the American invasion; that essential war supplies were lacking which are of prime necessity for the purpose, and that, the force upon which he counted being so small in number, he did not wish to expose the National Arms knowing that he could not expect any victory whatever; that in consequence he was thinking of going to the capital of the Republic to report to the Supreme Authority, and to this end he invited His Excellency, being sure that the latter had similar feelings.

To the above note are attached three documents marked with their respective numbers, the first is a copy of the reply that said chief gave to the Commodore of the United States of America anchored in the roadstead at San Pedro, designed not to accept his propositions and threatening to defend at all odds the integrity of the Department as part of the Mexican Nation. The second is a proclamation that the same Commandant General addressed to the inhabitants of the Department exhorting them never to consent to make room in their hearts for the pernicious aims and falsehoods of the invaders and to conserve forever, even though they suffered, their well-known patriotism; and the third is a copy of the note sent to the Commandant General by the cited Commodore, the contents of which demanded that California should declare its independence under the protection of the United States, inviting him to consent to raise the American flag in California, and [stating] that only under such conditions will the hostilities cease in the Department.

The reading of the aforementioned documents having been concluded; His Excellency the Governor said: that although the sad plight of the country

was deplorable he might not lament its condition so much if it were not that he sees the impossibility in which it finds itself to carry on a long war against the perfidious invader; that he was sorry not to have attained the glory which he desired to get as the fruit of his earnest efforts and great sacrifices, which was to maintain their independence, of which efforts all his compatriots are witnesses; that within the range of his authority and with the ample powers which this body saw fit to confer upon him for so important an end, he has tried everything within his reach; moreover, lacking the resources that are absolutely indispensable and with small hope of receiving even a little aid, desirous of conserving the honor of the government in full as one of the principal duties, he has believed that the only means to do that is to depart in company with the Commandant General, to report to the supreme government the condition in which the Department finds itself, and that having made that decision he proposed that the Assembly should adjourn to the end that the enemies might not find in office any of the constituted authorities, and to leave the representation of the people in safety, and he concluded by offering this body his gratitude for the noble behavior that had been observed at all times by the distinguished citizens who composed it.

The Most Excellent Assembly, in view of the documents referred to and the proposal of His Excellency the Governor, which was accepted, each one of the Honorable Deputies made his patriotic speech, sorrowfully lamenting the unlucky fate that had been meted out to the country by the machinations of the ambitious usurper, but not dismayed in their sentiments nor distrustful that the day of happiness will come, succumbing for the present to the force of circumstances; it was resolved by a decided plurality, to dissolve the corporation and to protest, as it solemnly does, against the violent and unjust seizure of this part of the Mexican Territory by the naval and land forces of the United States of America, holding the perpetrators responsible for the act and its subsequent consequences, full satisfaction for which the Supreme National Government must exact in its due time; ordering likewise that this resolution shall be made known to all the peoples which they represent for their information, and so they may know that their representatives have fulfilled their duty in conserving their rights and national honor, that they had the goodness to entrust to them, as far as they have been able in the midst of imminent danger.

Having discussed the present resolution at once, because it was thus agreed upon, it was approved unanimously, whereupon the business was declared finished and the session adjourned.

[Signed] Pío Pico.

Agustín Olvera, Deputy Secretary.

President.

It is a copy of the original which I certify, Molegá, October 27, 1846.

José Matías Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

## XII-f

(No. 6)

The undersigned Constitutional Governor of the Department of California has the honor of addressing the Honorable Consul Louis Gasquet for the last time, informing him that as soon as the unjust invasion that the Squadron of the United States was making in this Department came to his notice, he tried as was his duty to oppose it with all the resources at his command. In effect, for so just a cause he raised and put into action the small elements which the country possessed. Moreover, great difficulties having been encountered in trying to carry on a long war against a powerful nation, and considering the weakness of this part of the Mexican Territory, it has seemed more prudent in some way to suppress the patriotic sentiments which Mexican hearts must naturally hold and to await some more propitious time, which although dangerous, will steer the ship of this unfortunate Department into the haven of true safety.

There is no doubt that it would be a great responsibility to the Departmental Government, and very sad in the eyes of all, that men should rashly give themselves up to be victims of their enemies without hope of humbling them seeing that there was no assurance even of the smallest victory.

On the other hand I feel the act committed in California by the Government of the United States as dishonest, lacking in reasons and unparalleled in the present century. There burns in the inhabitants a profound ire and in consequence it is not their intention to betray their patriotic sentiments. Thus it is that we have tried to remove every pretext from that nation so that at no time may it be able to validate its rights over a country that has been satisfied with its lot and does not aspire to its aggrandizement in an underhanded manner.

With such a motive, the undersigned, who desires to conserve intact the sacred rights of the Mexican Nation and who is certain that there will be a sure positive change, being unable in any way to prevent the occupation of California, has decided to abandon the country, leaving his family and all that he holds dear, and to go to the Capital of the Republic to report to the Supreme Government on the condition in which he leaves the Department. For such a reason the undersigned has seen fit to notify the Honorable Consul Louis Gasquet of his final decision, making known to him that the Department remains headless in all its representation because its authorities have been dissolved, and consequently at the mercy and domination of the invaders.

The Undersigned has the honor of reiterating to the Consul Louis Gasquet the sureties of his high consideration.

God and Liberty. Angeles, August 10, 1846.

[Signed] PIO PICO.

A letter of the same tenor was forwarded to the Gentlemen, Mr. James A. Forbes, Consul of H. B. M.; Don Cesareo Lataillade, Consul of H. C. M.;



and Mr. Louis Gasquet, Consul of His Majesty the King of the French, residents of Monterey.

It is a copy of the original, which I certify. Molegé, October, 27, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

XII-g

(No. 7)

The Constitutional Governor of the Department of California, to the people under his rule.

Fellow citizens: For many years now the United States of America have given an inkling of the drift of their ambitions to dismember the Mexican Territory, and to effect the spoliation of the most fertile and valuable parts of it. And with that motive they have omitted no means whatsoever to put into operation their sinister ends. Texas presents to us the details of the whole body of ills produced by its generous hospitality in sheltering the foes that some day were to tear the bosom of the Fatherland.

Compatriots: Our Department finds itself today invaded by powerful forces of the United States of America. The efforts which have been made by the Departmental Government to provide for the national defence are well known, and my compatriots will do me the justice of believing that if they have not achieved their purpose, it has been not because of omissions, but due to the unfortunate and difficult situation in which the Department finds itself, completely lacking in all resources to carry on a war.

Mexicans: The Commander of the invasion has put into practice (perhaps to wash away the crime he has committed) means of seduction, wishing by flattery and shameless promises to have us declare our independence under the starry flag; or if we do not, he will attack the Department as an integral part of Mexico. Such a declaration should justly anger our hearts whether we consider the first or the second of his proposals, because being all of us true Mexicans, never, oh never, must we commit an act of treason.

Inhabitants of California: Your Governor being placed in the hard alternative of ignominy or migration, has chosen the latter and from today he separates himself from you, taking with him the acute sorrow that he leaves you in the power of the unjust conqueror. I order you and beg you never to be taken in by flattery, cunning and false promises of the cringing enemy. Prove to the nation and the whole world, that your difficult situation, and not your consent, make you bear the oppressive chain of the usurper. Conserve ever in your bosoms the sacred fire of liberty, and without shame the glorious name of good Mexicans.

My friends: Farewell! I take leave of you, I abandon the country of my birth, my family, property and everything that a man holds most dear, all, to save the National Honor; but I leave with the sweet satisfaction that you will never favour the deceitful ideas of the crafty foe; that your loyalty and

courage shall be the impregnable wall against which the machinations of the invaders shall dash to pieces; conserve your honor at all cost, and observe that the eyes of the entire universe are fixed upon you, and that your fidelity will gain the sympathies of the nations of the earth.\*

Fellow citizens: I recommend unity, order, and civility to you so as not to give the enemy the least occasion to judge you of being anti-social, and that you may not be the object of his chastisement.

Californians all: Have confidence in the high National Government; it has sworn to perish or to save the Republic of all domination, and there is no doubt that this will be accomplished. Be persevering, and be not dismayed even in the face of torture. Let *Mexico* be your motto. The Supreme Being that guards over the future destiny of nations, will provide us the glorious day in which we shall again see our dear Fatherland free and happy. That will be for me, beloved Compatriots, the fulfillment of all my happiness and the only thing to which my heart aspires; in the midst of the bitter sorrow that it feels in telling you Good bye!

Your fellow citizen and friend. Angeles, August 10, 1846.

PIO PICO.

XII-†

(No. 8)

To the inhabitants of California.

As I neared this post with the forces which I command, Don José Castro, Commandant General of California, buried his artillery, abandoned his fortified camp of la Mesa, and fled, it is believed, toward Mexico. With the sailors, soldiers, and marines and the California Battalion of mounted riflemen, we entered the city of Los Angeles, Capital of California, on August 13 and raised the flag of North America.

The flag of the United States waves over all the territory of California; it now belongs to the United States and as soon as circumstances permit, it shall be governed by its corresponding authorities and laws consistent with the rest of the territories of the United States, and shall be likewise protected and governed.

But until the Governor, Secretary and the Council are appointed and the various civil departments of the Government are formed, it shall be ruled by military law and the Commander-in-Chief shall be the Governor and protector of the territory.

In the meantime I ask the inhabitants for the present to assemble in their respective Districts so as to proceed to the free election of their civil authorities according to their former customs, to replace the present authorities who do not wish to continue to occupy the offices.

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\*This paragraph is quoted in Bancroft, *Hist. of Calif.*, V, 275.

†For the original version of this proclamation, see *29th Cong., 2d Sess., H. Ex. Doc. No. 4*, pp. 669-70, of which the above is a retranslation from the Spanish.

In case the people do not proceed to hold their elections the Commander-in-Chief and Governor shall appoint those whom he may consider suitable.

All persons of whatever religion and whatever nation who freely adhere to the new Government, shall be considered as citizens of the territory, and as such shall be zealously and completely protected in their liberty of conscience, persons and property.

No one shall be allowed to remain in the territory who does not agree to obey the present Government. All officers who wish to remain must take an oath not to take up arms against it, nor to do or say anything that will disturb the peace.

No person whatever, no matter from where he may come, shall be permitted to establish himself in the territory without previously pledging obedience to all the laws that may emanate from the corresponding Authorities.

All persons found outside their homes with arms without a permit shall be considered as enemies and shall be expelled.

Every thief shall be placed on public works and shall be held there until he has reimbursed the value of the amount stolen. The California Battalion of mounted riflemen shall be maintained in the service of the Territory, and constantly employed to prevent and punish any aggression of the Indians or other persons against the individual property or Public peace, and California shall henceforth be governed and defended in such a way as to give security to its inhabitants, and repel the power of Mexico. All persons are required to remain in their homes from ten o'clock at night until sunrise, while the territory is under martial law.

City of Los Angeles, August 17, 1846. [Signed] R. F. STOCKTON.  
Commander-in-Chief and Governor of the Territory of California.

It is a copy of the original which I certify. Molegé, October 27, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

## XII-i

(No. 9)

Military Command on Campaign in the service of the United States.

At this moment there has arrived here a party of troops. I expect that without fail tomorrow, the twenty-fourth, you will be here. I also order you to send a circular to all the residents in those parts, that is to say as far as Rosario, so that they may present themselves at this place without fail on the twenty-sixth day of this month.

God and Liberty, General Headquarters

at San Vicente, September 23, 1846. [Signed] SANTIAGO E. ARGUELLO.

1st Justice of the Peace,

Don José Ygnacio Arce, Santelmo.

It is a copy of the original which I certify. Molegé, October 27, 1846.

José Matias Moreno.  
Provisional Secretary.

## XIII

Most Excellent Sir:

The State of California which, due to the disagreeable events that took place between July 7 and August 13 last, as I have already notified Your Excellency in a note of October 27 just passed, had succumbed to the power of the United States of America, has lately given a proof of her spirit, defending nobly the just rights that belong only to Mexico. Thus California, finding herself unarmed and with very small stores of war, has arisen en masse and, overcoming vast difficulties, has succeeded in dislodging from the City of Los Angeles and the ports of San Pedro and San Diego, the forces of the United States of America which occupied them, fighting gallantly on the 26th and 27th of September at the ranch of "El Chino" in the vicinity of Los Angeles, and in the latter place on the 28th and 29th of the same month, where they won a complete victory, causing the enemy many casualties in dead, wounded, missing and prisoners, besides forcing the remainder to capitulate, and embarking them at the Port of San Pedro. This important news, that arrived by special overland messenger from California at the port of Moleg  on the 11th instant (where I found myself), has made me hasten to place it in your Excellency's knowledge so that you may see fit to inform His Excellency, the General-in-Chief of the Liberating Republican Army in charge of the Supreme Executive Power of the Federation, to the end that His Excellency may understand that the Californians are truly Mexicans without any other desires than to be faithful defenders of the rights of their Fatherland, to which alone they wish to belong forever.

The document marked Number 1, which I attach, will inform Your Excellency of the Capitulation entered into by both belligerents, and the one marked Number 2 is the note sent to the authorities of the frontier of Lower California by the officer who has assumed command at San Diego since the reconquest of that port.

The victory, which the national arms have achieved so gloriously by the heroic effort with which the Californians, my countrymen, have punished the audacity of the infamous North Americans, is worthy of praise and of the immediate consideration of the Supreme Government. The straightened circumstances in which that State finds itself, due to the large number of enemies that prey upon it, necessitates the speediest and most efficacious protection from the Supreme Government, such as aiding those inhabitants with troops and arms which they need so much, in order to reenforce the Californian spirit and to cover the Northern frontier so as to dam up the numerous immigrant parties of adventurers of that [American] nation that in the guise of hunters enter the territory, being nothing less than soldiers of the United States.

The glory attained by the Californians is due mainly to the patriotism, zeal and energy of Se ores Don Jos  Maria Flores, Captain of regular cavalry,

Don José Maria Segura, Lieutenant-Colonel, and Don Leonardo Cota, Lieutenant of the defenders of the National Independence, who, facing all kinds of dangers and with very small amounts of war material, sprang into the arena, leading the brave Californians and defying the power of the United States which already believed itself absolute master of that fertile territory. To the consideration of the Supreme Government I recommend those citizens, because they are worthy of it.

The State of California finds itself unarmed for the most part, without ammunition or other articles of war so indispensable in sustaining a long conflict and in such a vast territory as it is; so that, although the country may pretend to shake off the ominous yoke of the usurper, perhaps it may not be possible for it to prolong its resistance without having to succumb to the colossal power of the enemy which is quite strong along those coasts, and much more so along the Northern frontier—a sure key for the United States; especially when within the same country may be established about four hundred North Americans, who are precisely that many more enemies who cooperate at the behest of the Washington Cabinet. All these well-grounded fears, about which we should be forewarned, stimulate me to entreat from the Supreme Government the most prompt aid of men, arms and munitions, that, no matter how small in amount they may be, will be sufficient to reinforce the public spirit of those inhabitants who want no other country than Mexico; and with this aid the security of California, whose territory it is so important for Mexico to conserve, would be obtained beyond a doubt.

Yesterday, which was the day of my arrival at this port, I informed His Excellency, the Governor and Commandant General of this State, of the latest news from California, and I have requested from him two hundred men, which I believe necessary for the time being. I do not know for certain as to the resources upon which this Chief can count, but I flatter myself that he may grant me his aid, and also that Your Excellency may issue the superior orders which His Excellency, the General, intrusted with the supreme executive power, may choose to give.

I shall not move from this port until I receive from Your Excellency the satisfactory reply to this note, and to that of October 27 which I sent from Molegé [XII], referring to the events in California during the months of July, August, September and October.

I beg Your Excellency kindly to place before the Supreme Government the aforesaid, and accept the protestations of my regard and high consideration.

God and Liberty, Guaymas, November 15, 1846.

Pio Pico.

His Excellency the Minister  
of Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.

## XIV

Government of the  
State of California.

Most Excellent Sir:

Lieutenant Colonel Don José Maria Segura arrived on the 28th of last October at the town of Guadalupe in the presidio of Altar, coming from Alta California commissioned by the citizenry of that State to the Supreme Government with the only and important object of soliciting some prompt aid of armed forces which can protect the national integrity, [at present] highly crumpled and compromised in that part of the Mexican Territory by the invading forces of North America.

In my note of yesterday I gave Your Excellency an account of the glorious victory gained in California by that motley citizenry who, without any other elements than their patriotism and blind love for the Mexican Nation, have opposed their feeble forces against the colossal power of the United States, exposing their naked breasts against the destructive lead of the audacious and vile North Americans. The Divine Providence that supports the just cause made those poor inhabitants cover themselves with glory in two days of fierce fighting, making the enemy bite the dust, and giving them an example that if a people wishes to be free it can be, even though it is opposed by the whole world.

A grateful country, and all the nations of the world will cast, I doubt not, a tender glance upon the Californians. Carrying victoriously the tri-colored flag given to us by the God of the Free, with what enthusiasm would they run in haste to the field of battle? And can it be possible, Excellent Sir, that the heroic Californians will not be aided by some prompt resources of men, arms and munitions? With what words, with what characters, with what phrases, might I, in the end, paint for Your Excellency, the urgency, the value and necessity there is in attending to California even though it may be with only a little aid. Arms and ammunition, Excellent Sir, and two hundred men will assure the liberty of California. Those people, I repeat, want arms, powder, and lead, and California shall be free, or will lose its people; there the infamous Yankee shall not rule them except over the cold bones of his victim.

Permit me, Your Excellency, to point out that the State of Sonora is the one that can attend promptly to California; a few days of travel by way of the Colorado River is all that it takes, to which effect Your Excellency can issue your superior orders to whom they may concern, in order to obtain the desired results.

By the inclosed printed document Your Excellency will know of the bad faith with which the vile North Americans have violated the laws of war in use among civilized nations, breaking their faith in the agreements made on September 29, and of the great uncertainty in which those inhabitants find themselves because of it. The National Honor and all humanity will be

resentful if California is not aided with the forces which it requests and which it so badly needs.

Your Excellency please give a report of all this to His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Republican Liberating Army intrusted with the Supreme Executive Power of the Federation, for his superior determinations, and accept at the same time new protests of submission and regard.

God and Liberty. Guaymas, November 16, 1846.

PÍO PICO.

Most Excellent Sir, Minister  
of Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.

## XV

Excellent Sir:

This Ministry has received Your Excellency's communications and attached documents that you saw fit to send me from Guaymas dated the 15th and 16th of last month [XIII and XIV], in which you report what occurred in California on the 26th, 27th, and 29th days of last September, on which our brothers in that part of the Republic fought heroically to the point of expelling our infamous and perfidious enemies, the North Americans, from the city of Los Angeles and ports of San Pedro and San Diego, and the arrival at the town of Guadalupe of Lieutenant-Colonel Don José Maria Segura proceeding from California, who comes as a commissioner of the citizens of that State to solicit some immediate aid of armed forces from the Supreme Government that will protect it [California] from the invasion which has been made by the forces of the United States; Your Excellency requesting at the same time the resources that His Excellency the General entrusted with the supreme power may judge opportune for such ends, to whom I have reported on said communications. And he has seen with great appreciation the noble and heroic conduct of the Californians who have given a glorious day to their fatherland, showing their enemies that they are truly Mexicans, lovers of their liberty and independence and undeserving of a foreign yoke, be what flag it may under which it is tendered; and with respect to the aids which Your Excellency indicates in your cited notes, on this date they are being forwarded to His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Liberating Republican Army, recommending to him that he issue immediately his orders to that end.

December 19, 1846.

His Excellency the Governor  
of the State of Californias.  
Guaymas.

LAFRAGUA.

## XVI

His Excellency the Vice-President of the Republic, being informed of the spirit that animates the inhabitants of that Territory to conserve the National unity, and of their decision to show the invaders of what the patriotism and

valor of the Mexicans is capable when an attempt is made to enslave them under a foreign domination, has decided that one of his first acts on taking control of the Supreme Government will be to make known to all that territory the appreciation and just esteem with which their noble effort has been received, and the valor with which they have maintained the honor of the Republic.

So that they may be made more efficacious and to the end that the enemy may not manage to gain any advantage, His Excellency the Vice-President will charge himself with furnishing the Californians all kinds of aid, and especially the necessary armaments, munitions and troops, sending at once by Señor Limantour the necessary war supplies that he has been able to gather.

His Excellency therefore relies upon the fact that the enthusiasm and public spirit will not die down for any eventual cause; and so that Your Worship will make it known to those inhabitants, he has ordered me to say this, as I do. So please acknowledge the corresponding receipt.

December 26, 1845.

[MANUEL DE LA] PEÑA Y PEÑA.

Sr. Prefect or Alcade of the City of Los Angeles;  
To the Political or Military Authorities of Alta California,  
Defenders of the Supreme Mexican Government.

## XVII

EJERCITO LIBERTADOR  
REPUBLICANO.

General en Gefé  
Secretaria de Campaña.

Excellent Sir:

By the note that was addressed to me on the 19th of this month by Your Excellency's predecessor I am informed of the commendable events which have occurred in California, whose inhabitants have begun to punish our unjust invaders and for which I congratulate myself along with the whole nation.

In regard to the wishes manifested by said gentleman, that I may send those distant States the necessary aids, Your Excellency will understand that, being at such a great distance and this army being in need of its most indispensable resources, it is impossible to attend to them, and Your Excellency will be pleased to make this known to His Excellency the Vice-President entrusted with the Executive Power, so that he may see fit to dictate other measures with the object that those States may be properly attended to, but in no way must that interfere with the ministrations to this army under my direct command, or with the aids which it needs so badly.



With this motive I repeat to Your Excellency my consideration and esteem.  
God and Liberty. General Headquarters in San Luis Potosi.

December 30, 1846.

ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA.

His Excellency the 1st Secretary  
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Interior, in charge of its office.

## XVIII

Guaymas, January 4, 1847

Most Excellent Sir: Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.

Most respected and esteemed sir:

Full of sorrow and to a great degree moved by the painful ills which today are suffered by the Territory of Alta California in the active war waged against it by the United States of America, which has determined to conquer it at all cost, notwithstanding that I have done everything within my power to save it, as I have officially stated by repeated notes to the Supreme Government, today I have decided to give my countrymen the last proof of my good intentions in favor of their just cause, sending as commissioner Señor Don José Matias Moreno, Secretary of my Government, to the end that by word of mouth he may inform the Supreme Government of the lamentable state of that country, notwithstanding the bravery with which its inhabitants fight to maintain the national liberty and independence, and to entreat from the same Supreme Government prompt aid of arms and war supplies which California needs so much, that, small though those resources may be, they would undoubtedly be the saving anchor of that vessel, about to shatter itself among the rocks of that stormy sea.

I flatter myself that the Supreme Government and Chief and your worthy Ministry which today rule the destinies of the Nation, and whose sentiments tend only towards the public happiness of the Fatherland, will, therefore, not be indifferent to the laments of California, considering that she is unarmed, without provisions of war, far from the current of peoples, and bearing in mind the heroic effort with which she maintains the national honor and the bloody and unequal struggle.

Therefore, Sir, I expect that this, my envoy, will receive the favorable welcome which I desire, being attended to at once because it will thus suit the general interests of the nation.

Allow me, Your Excellency, to take the liberty to remind you in particular about Señor Moreno, to the end that he may be aided with financial resources on account of his salaries as secretary, so that he may be able to complete his mission, because he carries with him not even a sufficient amount for his necessary expenses.

Will Your Excellency please overlook so much annoyance and receive the

fond regard from him who with honorable pleasure subscribes himself your most attentive friend and faithful servant who humbly kisses your hands.

Pio Pico.

## XIX

Most Excellent Sir:

A deplorable state prevails in the precious territory of California, which is invaded from all quarters by the powerful forces of the United States of America which attack it simultaneously by land and sea, while the country is unable to maintain a long struggle because it finds itself absolutely unarmed, without war supplies or money, in which condition it cannot even dream of signs of a victory over so colossal an enemy, if it is not speedily aided by the Supreme National Government.

The sons of that country, notwithstanding the grave deficiencies in which they find themselves in carrying on a war, have mastered all the dangers and faced all sorts of difficulties, and invoking the august names of Fatherland and Liberty, have arisen en masse, arming themselves in the manner that chance may provide in order to maintain a terrible and unequal struggle under the plan of offensive and defensive guerrillas, by which they have caused the enemy heavy damages, thus bringing about a state of affairs wherein the invaders may not count as theirs any but the territory upon which they momentarily stand. The garrisons of those towns daily suffer frequent changes, being sometimes occupied by the enemy and at other times by the natives, and [in these conflicts] blood is shed without hindrance because war to the death has been proclaimed, each party swearing not to desist from the enterprise until it has been exterminated or has triumphed over its enemy.

With such a conflict raging I have not hesitated to send Señor Don José Matias Moreno, Secretary of the Government of that Department, as Commissioner to the Supreme Government, so that, presenting himself before Your Excellency, he may by word of mouth lay before you the afflictions of California, and entreat from the Supreme Chief of the Nation the indispensable resources of war which that heroic people need. This Commissioner, who is minutely informed of all the ills suffered by California and of the salutary measures that must be applied, will inform Your Excellency in detail so that by your mediation it may be transmitted to the knowledge of His Excellency the General entrusted with the Supreme Executive Power of the Nation, by whose zeal and patriotism I have the most flattering hope to see cured the grave ills of that country so worthy of a better fate which is the due of a Fatherland which I love so well.

I believe it is not amiss to place in Your Excellency's superior knowledge that on the 18th of last month there passed to California along the frontiers of this State of Sonora three hundred armed North American colonists, without their having been molested in their transit notwithstanding that advance notice of it was received.

It only remains for me to inform Your Excellency that said Commissioner Señor Moreno does not have with him even the necessary funds for his indispensable expenses on such a long trip, a reason that makes me entreat Your Excellency to see fit to order that he be given the sum that may be conveniently spared, on account of his salaries as Secretary, until he has fulfilled his mission.

Your Excellency please accept the most cordial protest of attention and distinguished regard.

God and Liberty. Guaymas, January 4, 1847.

Pio PICO.

Most Excellent Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.

## XX

On this date I say to His Excellency the Minister of War and Marine what I now copy:

"Excellent Sir:

"On having the satisfaction of addressing Your Excellency for the first time with the object of reporting to you the conclusion of the war that was started in this country against the American forces for its defence, I beg Your Excellency not to look upon my statements with vexation, because although they may be simple they are stamped with the character of truth. It is very probable that Captain Don José Maria Flores, who was invested with the political and military commands of this Department when the citizens of this town, with daring hand, launched the cry of liberty and independence to which we were bound by the sacrifices of the Fathers of the Country, must have informed the Supreme Government in full detail of the state in which the country was left at the time that Don José Castro, who was the Commandant General, departed, of the manner in which the uprising that took place in this city began, as well as the situation in which the Department found itself at the moment of departure of the aforesaid Señor Flores for interior points of the Republic; and for the same reason I omit mentioning those facts more especially since I have seen in a period of time part of the events that occurred in California, consequently I pass along to my principal and real object. After the last battle had taken place in which we fought as far as possible and in which the valiant defenders made a vigorous resistance, it became necessary for Don José Maria Flores, Commandant General and Chief of the volunteer companies, to take his departure from the country, as much to save his life, which would have been in danger at the hands of our enemies if he had had the misfortune to have been taken prisoner by them, as well as because the morale of the people had fallen, due to the total lack of resources, and also that he might report to the Supreme Government; I was left, for that reason, in command of the small force of volunteer defenders of the Fatherland, by

virtue of the fact that I held the rank of Major General, although without hopes of even the smallest success, because I no longer flattered myself that we might attain a victory. Consoled by the thought that Señor Flores might be listened to and that with him present the first magistrate would not abandon us, and managing to prove that force and force alone would prevent us from yielding to the domination of our uncalled-for enemies, together with my compatriots we made the last efforts, notwithstanding the extreme lack of powder, arms, men, and all kinds of supplies. Thus it was that, seeing ourselves, some one hundred and eighteen men including the officers, poorly armed and without any more ammunition than two cannon shots and a few for our muskets, threatened by more than seven hundred soldiers and marines who were occupying this city and lay at my rear under the command of Commodore Stockton, and very close to six hundred on my front not far away under orders of Colonel J. C. Fremont, both forces with good armament, sufficient ammunition of all calibers and superior pieces of artillery, well manned and with all equipment; I nevertheless wished to give the last impulse to save the country and to guarantee the lives and properties of the inhabitants that had been for some time at the mercy and will of the occupying force since the revolt of the country. We accomplished this in the most honorable way that we could in times as difficult as those that surrounded us, as Your Excellency will see by copy Number 1 [XX-a] of the treaties which I inclose for your attention. Likewise there remained in our hands, in spite of the fact that it is not expressly so declared, all the arms that were considered personal property, which consisted mainly of lances that, with a great deal of effort, had been made in this same country during the rule of Señor Flores. Of the number and kinds of armament that we delivered according to the agreement in the capitulation Your Excellency will learn from the copy of the receipt which I have the satisfaction of inclosing for you marked Number 2, that one of the pieces of artillery was the identical gun lost by General Kearny in the action at San Pascual. Your Excellency will observe that in the accompanying copy there appear only the articles of capitulation without the preamble giving the reasons or grounds upon which I supported myself in entering into the treaties, which reason I have already shown, moreover, to be this, that, finding ourselves in a place utterly lacking in stationery supplies, and it being necessary according to the agreement to conclude that same day, it was agreed that on arriving at the capital the terms would be set down in a more formal fashion, making such modifications as might be necessary, I being pledged to agree to this in spite of the fact that I distrusted the carrying out of the above, for the reason that the enemy had news of the dispersion [of our forces] which I feared, and of which he took advantage to make claims about things which had been satisfactory before. The result was that we saw ourselves obliged to yield and remain silent until the longed-for day shall come when we shall again see ourselves free and happy beneath the shadow of our symbolic flag.

“This was the end, Excellent Sir, of the struggle carried on by the inhabitants of California against the invaders of our Country, during the space of four months, by dint of great sacrifices, without any other help than their loyalty in suffering the vicissitudes and hardships of war, nor any other protection than that of Divine Providence who seemed to protect the sacred cause that was heroically defended by a handful of men who sprang to arms to recover their lost liberty. I suppose that Your Excellency has found out that, since the movement that was led by Señor Flores was made with great suddenness, it prevented a reunion here of the officers of the army who had scattered from this place clear to Sonora, that being the reason some of them were prisoners during all the time of the revolt and would have been unable to obtain their freedom if the capitulation had not been made, after which time they were again able to breathe more freely. Subsequent to the treaties I had the idea of assembling said officers so as to go and present myself with them before the Supreme Government, but this has unfortunately been prevented by the state of misery in which they find themselves because it is now more than a year since they have received their salaries, and because there have been no opportunities, due to the lack of vessels sailing from here to the coasts of Mexico, for even the foreign vessels that have come from those same coasts are being detained here with the limitations that they cannot touch at them [Mexican ports] in the meantime. And although we might have been able to take our departure by land, today it is impossible due to the general uprising of the Indians of the country clear to the Colorado River.

“This then, Excellent Sir, forces me to recommend to you these officers as well as the volunteers and some families that were left orphaned in consequence of the war, and I beg Your Excellency to have the goodness to place all this in the superior knowledge of His Excellency the President of the Republic. Likewise [I wish to report] that since the time that the treaties were made up to the present date, although there have been frequent removals of the military authorities on land, of commodores and of some who have been called governors, whose rules have been very short, said treaties have always been respected and complied with on both parts. This occasion gives me the opportunity to offer Your Excellency my attention and to assure you of due respect and subordination.”

I forward this to Your Excellency to the end that through you it will be sent to His Excellency the President of the Republic, for the uses that may be found convenient.

God and Liberty. City of Los Angeles in Alta California.

April 5, 1847.

ANDRÉS PICO.

His Excellency the Governor  
of Alta California, Don Pio Pico.

This is a copy of the original.

Pico.

## XX-a

Articles of Capitulation entered into on the thirteenth day of January of eighteen hundred and forty-seven, by Don Antonio Carrillo, Squadron Commander and Don Agustin Olvera, Deputy, Commissioners named by Don Andrés Pico, Commander-in-Chief of the California forces belonging to the Mexican Government, and P. B. Reading, Major of the California Battalion, and Louis McLane, Captain of Artillery, and W. H. Russell, Staff Captain, Commissioners named by Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army of the United States of North America, J. C. Fremont, Military Commander of the Territory of California.

Article 1. The Commissioners on behalf of the Californians pledge themselves that on presenting their forces to Lieutenant-Colonel Fremont, they will deliver the arms that they have belonging to the Government, also the artillery. And that they will retire peacefully to their homes, conforming to the laws and regulations of the United States of North America, and will not take up arms again during the present war between Mexico and the United States and will keep and promote the peace and pacify the country.

Article 2. That the Commissioners, on behalf of Lieutenant-Colonel Fremont, pledge themselves to fulfill the first article and guarantee the lives and properties of the people under oath.

Article 3. That until peace is made between the Governments of the United States and Mexico, no Californian or Mexican citizen shall be obliged to take an oath of allegiance.

Article 4. Any Californian or Mexican citizen who may wish to leave the country will be permitted to do so without let or hindrance.

Article 5. That in view of the preceding articles, the Californians shall enjoy equal rights and privileges with the citizens of the United States of North America.

Article 6. All the officers and citizens or other foreigners shall enjoy the protection and guarantees according to Article 2.

Article 7. It is understood that these treaties shall not serve as obstacles to the settlement of matters which in the future and in justice may be required by both parties.

Field of Cahuenga, Thirteenth of January, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-seven.

Signed:

JOSÉ ANTONIO CARILLO, Squadron Commander

AGUSTIN OLVERA, Deputy.

P. B. READING, Major California Battalion.

LOUIS McLANE, Commanding Artillery California Battalion.

W. H. RUSSELL, Staff Captain California Battalion.

Approved, Andrés Pico, Squadron Commander and Chief of the National forces in California.

Approved, J. C. Fremont, Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. Army and Military Commander of California.

Additional Article. All paroles given by the officers and citizens of the United States or other persons and by the citizens and naturalized Mexicans are mutually canceled by the present Capitulation and all conditions attached to said paroles become null and void from this date forward, and all the prisoners on both sides are set entirely free.

City of Los Angeles, Sixteenth day of January, Eighteen Hundred and Forty-seven.

JOSÉ ANTONIO CARRILLO, Squadron Commander. AGUSTIN OLVERA, Deputy.

P. B. READING, Major California Battalion.

LOUIS McLANE, Commanding Artillery California Battalion.

W. H. RUSSELL, Captain of California Battalion.

Approved. Andres Pico, Squadron Commander and Chief of the National Forces in California.

Approved. J. C. Fremont, Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. Army and Military Commandant of California.

This is a copy of the original.

Pico.

## XXI

Most Excellent Sir:

His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Western Division, Don Anastacio Bustamante with the date of the 24th of last month says the following:

"Excellent Sir: Don José Matias Moreno, Commissioner coming from California, on the 23rd of the present [month], tells me:

" 'Excellent Sir: I have before me Your Excellency's Superior note of the 21st of this month, and I see with inexplicable sorrow the very compromised circumstances of the Supreme Government, which prevent it at present from being able to aid Alta California.

" 'Sir, on departing from that country due to the commission on which I have come, I left there the only resources upon which I depend for my living; they being now in the power of the rapacious usurper, I have no other recourse than that of appealing to the Superior Government through Your Excellency so that it may be pleased to use my worthless services in this place, or wherever it may deem it convenient, for I am resolved never to return to my country while the war lasts or while it is held by the invaders, even though I may have to lose everything and to suffer whatever privations and hardships may follow a man without funds in places where he has no acquaintances. Your Excellency knows my position and I hope that you will do all that lies in your power in my behalf.

" 'This occasion gives me the honorable satisfaction of renewing for Your Excellency all my consideration and esteem.'

"And I have the honor of inclosing it to Your Excellency so that the Supreme Government, taking into consideration the services rendered by Señor Moreno, may help him if you believe it just and convenient, because it is not within my authority to do so, because the interested party does not follow the profession of arms, previously having been the Secretary to the Territorial Government of California.

"I repeat for Your Excellency the protestations of my esteem."

And I have likewise to forward it to Your Excellency by order of His Excellency the Provisional President, recommending that you see fit to order, together with His Excellency, what is to be done with this individual.

God and Liberty. Mexico, May 3, 1847.

GUTIERREZ.

Most Excellent Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.

## XXII

Excellent Sir:

The General-in-Chief of the Western Division, well deserving of the Country, Don Anastacio Bustamante, on the 15th of the current month tells me what I copy literally.

"His Excellency the Minister of War on the 3rd of the present month tells me:

" 'Excellent Sir: On this date I inclose to His Excellency the Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations Your Excellency's official note number 202, of the 24th of last month, in which I forward another one from the Commissioner of Alta California Don José Matias Moreno, in which he requests that his services be employed, to the end that Your Excellency may decide with His Excellency the Provisional President on the necessary order. I inclose it to you for your knowledge as a result of your official note relative to it.' "

And I have the honor of forwarding it to Your Excellency with the object that if you see fit you may be pleased to obtain from His Excellency the Provisional President the order that he may think convenient, in the knowledge that I find myself stranded in this city of Tepic, being unable to return to California because it is occupied by the enemy, and where we, the Mexicans who have fought for the National integrity, are exposed to the persecution of the invader; and wishing on my part to continue to lend my services to the defence of the Fatherland, I hope that Your Excellency will let me know what His Excellency the Provisional President may have seen fit to order.

I have the honor of offering Your Excellency my highest subordination and respect. God and Liberty, Tepic, May 22, 1847.

JOSÉ MATIAS MORENO.

His Excellency the Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.



## XXIII

Excellent Sir:

In the rôle of Commissioner from Alta California to entreat aid from the Supreme Government for the defence of that country, notwithstanding that I have considered my mission completed because of the impossibility in which the Government now finds itself to furnish the supplies considered necessary, and with my heart burning with patriotism and a vehement desire to punish the ambition of our invaders, I cannot remain silent since finding out the condition which exists in that part of the Republic that ignominiously groans beneath the rule of the cruelest vandalism. The English Brig *Williams* that, coming from Monterey, anchored at San Blas on May 26 of last month with 14 days of sailing, has given the news that the forces that maintain the rule of North America in those places are few, giving assurance that they do not amount to two thousand men, although it does abound in European people such as English, French, Spanish, etc., that is, adventuresome people who are looking only for a means to make a living; and that, in consequence of a new Governor having arrived there from North America, those that were there first were discontented to the degree of offering the natives of the country to espouse their cause. They also say that, due to a rumor that circulated there that Colonel Don José Castro was on the march in company with His Excellency General Don Anastacio Bustamante with an army, the patriotic spirit of those inhabitants is revived and some two hundred have departed, driving some thousand horses toward the Colorado River to meet them. All this, Most Excellent Sir, gives me to understand that with the least effort being made by Mexico, even the sending of six hundred men, the natives there would rise generally and the victory for our sacred cause would be assured. An expedition such as this, that would not cost over ten thousand pesos, and that would produce the most satisfactory results, I believe should be furnished by the Supreme Government without objections. They also state that it is said there that this summer they expect six hundred wagons, which are already on the way. Thus it is that what today can be done at such a small cost, will later be impossible and we shall lose even the hope that there shall ever wave over that country again the tri-colored flag, emblem of Mexican liberty.

I would be unworthy of the precious name of Mexican if I did not hasten to place this news in Your Excellency's superior knowledge; begging you that on elevating them to that of His Excellency the President you will give credit to my intentions if you thus esteem it convenient.

I protest to Your Excellency the assurance of my respect and singular esteem.

God and Liberty. Tepic, June 5, 1847.

JOSÉ MATIAS MORENO.

His Excellency the Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.

## XXIV

His Excellency the Provisional President having been informed of your official note of May 22 of last month [XXII] in which, on forwarding the one dated the 15th of the same which His Excellency the General-in-Chief of the Western Division saw fit to send you, you manifested your wishes to continue to give your services in the defence of the Fatherland; His Excellency orders me to tell you in reply, that he has already ordered that you shall be aided so that you may come to this Capital.

God and Liberty. June 5, 1847.

[*Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

Señor Don José Matias Moreno.

## XXV

Your note of the 5th instant [XXIII] in which, after reporting the news received by the English Brig *Williams* coming from Monterey, you ask for aid in men so as to expel the foreign enemy from the Territory of California, I forward on this date to the Minister of War so that through him the corresponding decision shall be made.

I have the honor of telling you [the above] in reply.

God and Liberty. June 14, 1847.

[*Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

Señor Don José Matias Moreno.

Tepic.

## XXVI

Excellent Sir:

Señor Don José Matias Moreno says to this Ministry with date of the 5th instant what follows [XXIII]:

"Excellent Sir: In the rôle of Commissioner, etc."

and I forward it to Your Excellency for your knowledge and so that you may see fit to order the corresponding resolution.

God and Liberty. June 14, 1847.

[*Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

His Excellency the Minister of War.

Mexico.

## XXVII

Excellent Sir:

His Excellency the Provisional President has been informed of Your Excellency's official note of the 14th of the present month in which you indorse the one addressed to you by Don José Matias Moreno Commissioner of Alta California, in which he discloses the actual condition of that part of the Republic that finds itself invaded by the North American enemies, and that by the aid of six hundred men and ten or twelve thousand pesos, it would be

easy to achieve the reconquest of that country. His Excellency has seen fit to decide that I should reply to Your Excellency as I have the honor of doing: that the estimate of said Señor Moreno is extraordinarily mistaken; but nevertheless taking into consideration the situation in California and the patriotic wishes of the same gentleman, agreeing with them, the Supreme Government in the midst of the grave difficulties in which it finds itself is meditating exclusively on the ways of acquiring the pecuniary resources, as well as the forces, so as to carry out the proposed expedition, and will notify the Commissioner about it at the proper time.

With that motive I reiterate to Your Excellency the considerations of my esteem.

God and Liberty. Mexico, June 17, 1847.

ALCORTA.

[*Minister of War.*]

His Excellency the Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.

## XXVIII

With today's date His Excellency the Minister of War tells me the following [XXVII]:

"Excellent Sir: His Excellency the Provisional President etc." And I forward it to you as a result of your official note relative to it.

God and Liberty. June 17, 1847.

[*Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

Señor Don José Matias Moreno.  
Tepic.

## XXIX

Excellent Sir:

From Mulegé, Port of Lower California, on October 27 of last year I had the honor of addressing to Your Excellency a brief summary of the state of affairs in California, of the reasons that had forced me to abandon the country, and of the measures that in my opinion should be taken to wrest it from the hands of the infamous invaders that conquered it [XII]. As proof of my statements I attached at that time nine documents for Your Excellency. Subsequently and with dates of November 15th and 16th of the same year [XIII and XIV], on my arrival at Guaymas in the State of Sonora, I made similar statements to Your Excellency, telling you at the same time of the victory won by the Californians over the North American invaders, and soliciting, with the urgency demanded by the circumstances, the resources of men and arms which, if despatched at an opportune time and united with the inhabitants of the state under my rule, would have operated successfully and would have reconquered the country, of which only by superior force could the enemy regain possession against the laws of civilized nations.

The Most Excellent Señor Lafragua, at that time exercising the duties of Your Excellency's Ministry, saw fit to send me a reply dated the 19th of last December [XV], to my two last notes which I have mentioned, generously praising the conduct of the Californians and promising me that in regard to the aids that I requested, the corresponding and necessary orders were being issued so that they might be executed at an opportune time.

This happy hope, Excellent Sir, has made me stay in Guaymas awaiting to be notified about further measures that His Excellency the President of the Republic might be pleased to order, so that I might take them to my country, where with my presence and that of the aid that the Supreme Government might give me, the courage of those inhabitants might be kindled anew and we would undoubtedly have made the audacious conqueror bite the dust, thus giving the whole Republic a day of glory and making the whole world see that California wishes to belong only to the great Mexican confederacy.

Finally, to make my statements to the Supreme Authority clearer, in January of the present year I ordered the Secretary of my Government, Don José Matias Moreno, to go to the Capital and verbally inform the Supreme Government of the situation in California, of the most adequate means for its defence and the urgent necessity that there was for the immediate dispatch of the resources that I had solicited.

Unfortunately, Your Excellency, I have seen and felt the unhappy events that have taken place in the Republic due to the same invasion, happenings that, because they are so near and of such transcendental danger, have necessarily and preferably claimed the attention of the Supreme Government; for which reason I have not wished to annoy it further by informing it of the state of discouragement in which the patriotic Californians find themselves, considering themselves abandoned to their unfortunate fate. Therefore, I shall limit myself for the present to my individual self; assuring you as before, that if California is aided opportunely with help in men and armaments, it will recover its lost liberty, it will oust the infamous Yankee from the country and it will again be able proudly to call itself a Free State of the Mexican Republic.

The hurried departure that I was forced to make, leaving my family and interests abandoned, I have already made known to Your Excellency in my note of October 27 already cited. Although I enjoy some wealth in my country, the abandonment of my property which I was forced to make, my hasty departure and the hope of my speedy return, made me bring only the necessary funds for the expenses of a short sojourn; but now, ten months since I arrived in this strange country, with the communications cut between it and the one of my birth where I have my modest fortune, and unable to foresee when and how my return will be accomplished, I find myself obliged to solicit from His Excellency the President a positive order, whether it be for my stay in Sonora to await the aids promised to California, furnishing me in this case

the funds for my maintenance, or perhaps a remittance so that I may return to my country, where against all my feelings I would be forced to submit to the ominous yoke that has been imposed upon us, and that I could endure only after all hope had been removed, with the intention of saving my limited property in California and rejoining my family.

Your Excellency please make known to His Excellency the President of the Republic what I have disclosed, accepting at the same time the considerations of my high esteem.

God and Liberty. Guaymas, July 8, 1847.

Pio Pico.

His Excellency the Minister of  
Foreign Affairs and Interior.  
Mexico.

XXX

Excellent Sir:

By the documents numbered 1, 2, and 3, copies of which I have the honor of duly inclosing to Your Excellency, you will learn of the last events that took place in Alta California between the Mexican forces and those of the United States of America. Be pleased if you think it pertinent to give an account of them to His Excellency the President of the Republic so that on perusing them he may inform himself of the unfortunate circumstances to which the people of Alta California find themselves reduced.

This occasion furnishes me the opportunity to offer Your Excellency my highest consideration and esteem.

God and Liberty. Hermosillo, October 25, 1847.

Pio Pico.

Most Excellent Minister of  
Foreign Relations, State and Interior.  
Mexico.

XXXI

Excellent Sir:

Many times, and recently with date of July 26 of this year, I manifested to Your Excellency the lack of funds to which I am reduced due to the migration that I had to make because the forces of the United States of America had occupied the State with the object of capturing me. Unfortunately up to date I have not had the honor to know the decision made by His Excellency the President in regard to my indicated statement, and as the honor of the Nation demands my residence as a public employee outside of the States occupied by the enemy of our independence, and that I must await the last decision of His Excellency the President, I find myself obliged to repeat to Your Excellency the plea that you make known to His Excellency the President of the Republic the unfortunate situation to which I am reduced, to the

end that he may be pleased to issue an order so that in the State of Sonora I may be aided and ministered to, as an employee who is dependent upon the Central Government.

With such a motive I extend to Your Excellency my greatest appreciation and consideration.

God and Liberty. Hermosillo. October 25, 1847.

PIO PICO.

Sir: Minister of Interior  
and Foreign Relations.

### XXXII

Excellent Sir:

The Gefe Politico of Alta California in official note of the 25th of last month tells me what I copy [XXX]:

"By the documents numbers 1, 2, and 3, etc."

And I forward them to Your Excellency for your knowledge, and attach copies of those cited.

November 30, 1847.

PEÑA Y PEÑA.

[*Minister of Foreign Relations, etc.*]

His Excellency the Minister of War.

### XXXIII

Excellent Sir:

With date of October 25 last, Don Pio Pico writes me from Hermosillo saying what I copy [XXXI]:

"Excellent Sir: Many times, etc."

And I forward it to Your Excellency so that you may be pleased to aid Señor Pico with whatever may be possible as a reward for the good services which he has rendered in favor of the National independence.

December 18, 1847.

PEÑA Y PEÑA.

[*Minister of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

His Excellency the Minister of the Treasury.  
Mexico.

### XXXIV

With this date I forward to the Minister of the Treasury Your Excellency's official letter of October 25 last [XXXI] so that in conformity with your request you may be aided in any way possible.

I inform Your Excellency by superior order in reply to your official communication cited above.

December 18, 1847.

PEÑA Y PEÑA.

Señor Don Pio Pico.

## XXXV

Most Excellent Sir:

Forced by the scarcity of resources that besets me and that increases daily, I have patiently awaited for Your Excellency to communicate to me the decision of the Most Excellent President of the Republic respecting the pecuniary aid which I entreated in my official note of October 25 of last year [XXXI]. Your Excellency is informed about the situation facing the State of California over which I ruled, occupied by the North American enemies, and you will be equally convinced of the impossibility of my presenting myself there, at least not until I know the last decisions of the Supreme Government of the Nation, the result of which is the indispensable necessity, so I believe, for my stay in the State of Sonora, and I trust in Your Excellency's zeal to see that I am given the aid that I have solicited in my above note; entreating, if it please you, an order from the Most Excellent President of the Republic so that I may be aided in the State of Sonora.

On addressing myself this time to Your Excellency I offer anew my distinguished regard and consideration.

God and Liberty. Hermosillo, February 28, 1848.

Pio Pico.

Most Excellent Sir:

Minister of Interior and  
Foreign Relations.  
Mexico.

## XXXVI

Excellent Sir:

On the 18th of last December this Ministry said to that under Your Excellency's charge, what I copy [XXXIII]:

"Excellent Sir: With date of October 25, etc."

And that Ministry having made no reply on the matter I am forced to remind you of it, inclosing the letter which in respect to the subject was addressed to me by Señor Pio Pico with date of February 28 last [XXXV] and is as follows:

"Excellent Sir: Forced by the lack, etc."

All of which I place before Your Excellency by Superior order, expecting that you will let me know the results.

April 18, 1848.

Rosa.

[*Of the Ministry of Interior and Foreign Relations.*]

His Excellency the Minister  
of the Treasury.

## XXXVII

Excellent Sir:

Many and repeated have been the times that I have addressed myself to that Ministry, giving an account of the events taking place in the unfortunate State that has been committed to my rule, without having obtained

even one single reply to my communications. And if on this present occasion I am resolved again to trouble Your Excellency's attention and that of the Most Excellent President, it is much more to fulfil what I consider a sacred obligation, and because I am moved by anguish and desperation, rather than because I should expect some favorable decision for those unfortunate people, undoubtedly worthy of all the consideration and protection of the Supreme Government of the Nation, more so than any other portion of the Republic.

The Californians have revealed in their struggle against the North American enemies a heroism unequaled in the history of the present war, and have been deserving of, if not the protection of the Supreme Government, at least its sympathy and consideration. But until now the recompense for their heroic efforts in behalf of the independence and honor of their country has been neglect and silence.

Self-esteem suggests to me that surely many of my communications have not arrived at their destination, because had they been received by that Ministry, they would not have been looked upon with so much disdain. Therefore, I shall write a very succinct account of the events that took place in Alta California and a summary of the contents of some of my communications to the Supreme Government; for all of which I beg Your Excellency's earnest attention and that of the Most Excellent President of the Republic, as also for the reflections that may naturally emanate from consideration of them.

In my notes of June 29 and July 13, 1846 [V], I gave an account, for the information of the Most Excellent President, of the aggressions begun in the State under my command by the land and sea forces of the United States, and spoke extensively of the events which had occurred, imploring the aid of the Supreme Government.

The immense distance from the center of the Republic, and the fact that no aid was hastened to us, forced the Californians to entrust the country's defence to their own and isolated efforts; but notwithstanding their heroic work, the result was the lamentable one of which the entire Republic has heard. Of all these happenings and of subsequent ones I have informed that Ministry in detail, in the communication dated at Molegé, Lower California, October 27 of the same year [XII].

On the 9th of August of the aforesaid year, the Commandant General Don José Castro notified me officially of his decision to leave the country [XII-d], impelled to this step because he had no hopes of coming out victorious in any encounter with the superior forces of the enemy, since he was convinced of the absolute lack of all the materials and supplies of war, notwithstanding the aid which the State Government had been able to furnish him. He invited me to go with him before the Supreme Government to entreat the necessary aids to repel the invaders. A copy of this communication has been forwarded to that Ministry.

As a consequence, on the following day, August 10, in a session of the hon-



orable Assembly [XII-e] it was informed of the Commandant General's communication, and it was unanimously resolved that, considering the lack of implements with which to carry on a war with good success, and to the end that the enemy might not find in office any of the established authorities (leaving the towns without representation), the Assembly should be dissolved, and that the Governor and the Commandant General should leave the State, going to the Capital of the Republic, in order personally to place before the Superior Magistrate of the Nation the condition in which the State was left, it having succumbed for the time being to the force of circumstances. All the subordinate authorities likewise ceased their functions; a circular note was sent to the Consuls of the friendly nations resident in Alta California [XII-f], and I issued a proclamation to the public [XII-g], informing it of the reason for the departure of the principal authorities, promising them my prompt return with the aids that I would entreat from the Supreme Government. Copies of all these documents have been forwarded to that Ministry.

The enemy to the number of more than five hundred men made its entry into the City of Los Angeles, Capital of Alta California, on August 13, and on the 17th issued the proclamation [XII-h], a copy of which has been forwarded to that Ministry.

In consequence of the resolution of the Assembly and my decision, I took my departure from the City of Los Angeles, and the Commandant General did likewise, taking the road to Sonora by way of the Colorado River. I found myself obliged to remain in hiding for some days until my family might accumulate the indispensable means for so lengthy a journey, and later, finding the roads cut off by enemy parties, I was obliged to depart for the Lower California frontier on September 7, and after traversing mountains and deserts, I arrived at Moleg  on October 22, from which port with date of the 27th of the same month [XII] I placed before that Ministry all that had happened up to that date, forwarding copies of all the documents necessary for your information.

From Moleg , having embarked in a launch and in imminent danger of falling into enemy hands, I was able to cross to the port of Guaymas, in the State of Sonora, from which port I addressed diverse communications to that Ministry. In that of November 15th [XIII] I gave a report of the reaction of the Californians and of the victory won by them under the command of Captain Don Jos  Maria Flores, during September 26th and 27th, when by their courageous behavior they gave new proofs of their adherence to the rest of the Republic, to which alone they want to belong; and I entreated anew, with all the persuasiveness of which I am capable, for the protection and aid from the Supreme Government. To this communication Se or Lafragua, on June 19, condescended to reply to me in a laconic way that "The Minister of War had taken some measures for California's aid."

Hope made me stay in Guaymas awaiting to be told of the measures that

might have been taken by the Minister or His Excellency the President, so that with knowledge of them or accompanying the aid I might return to my country where with my presence and other new resources the fire of patriotism in those inhabitants might have been kindled anew. Unfortunately, however, no further word has been received, and I have not had the honor of receiving any other reply or communication of any kind in answer to my repeated representations.

In a subsequent communication dated November 25 I made known to that Ministry my feelings, finding myself in the necessity [of writing] as I was unable to carry out my resolution of presenting myself before the Supreme Government to give it a verbal account of the ills suffered by my unfortunate country, and begged that my situation be made known to the Most Excellent President, the which being taken into consideration, he would see fit to order a payment in my favor of some amount on account of my salary, against the collectors' offices of Guaymas or Mazatlan. Nothing was replied to my request.

Later, in January, 1847, I decided after great sacrifices that the Secretary of my Government, Don José Matias Moreno, should go to the Capital of the Republic to reveal verbally to the Supreme Government the condition of California, [to set forth] the most adequate means for its recuperation and defence and the urgent necessity that they be promptly and effectively attended to with the necessary resources. But the mission of Señor Moreno had as unfortunate a result as my repeated representations. When I was flattering myself that he might be discharging his commission, he presented himself before me on his return to Guaymas, telling me that, having appeared in Tepic before the General-in-Chief of the Western Division, Don Anastacio Bustamante, the latter dissuaded him from proceeding on his mission, stating verbally that I had already ceased to exercise my functions as Governor of California and that it was impossible that any aid could be given to that unfortunate State.

I at once addressed myself to that Ministry, with date of July 16, relating all that had occurred, expressing, as best as my dejection and despair allowed me, my sorrow at seeing my country abandoned to its invaders without giving even one blow to save it, as well as my grief because of the unfruitful results of all my struggles and sufferings in its behalf. I reiterate now what I said at that time, for it is impossible for me to remain silent, and before Your Excellency and the Supreme Magistrate of the Nation I repeat that I expect a definite statement regarding the insinuations of Señor Bustamante, who, I cannot persuade myself to believe, has authority from the Supreme Government to ignore my representation and to sever the thread of all hope of aid for my country. I have considered and do consider the verbal reply (because he excused himself from putting it in writing) of the General-in-Chief of the Western Division as very depreciative to my character and principles, and I believe myself with the right to insist as a public official that the Supreme

Government should undo such lies. I am not impelled to this by the ambition for authority, I aspire only to the good of my Fatherland, and for this I have faced dangers and risks and privations of which it is useless to give Your Excellency an account.

What a disappointment, Excellent Sir, for me and for my countrymen the Californians to have to return to my country and to make them see the lack of welcome which their outcries have had with the Supreme Government, and the worthlessness of all their valorous efforts and of my struggles. It is well and good that I be deprived of my investiture, since it is useless as it is at present and will be more useless in the future when California shall cease to be a fragment of the great Mexican family; but most regrettable it shall be for me to appear in that unfortunate country without taking even some document with which I can make them see that I have been deposed by that Supreme Authority from the office with which my fellow citizens honored me.

My personal situation is such as may be imagined to be that of a man away from his country, his family and his kindred; in a strange land in which he has neither acquaintances nor friends, and is lacking in all resources even for subsistence. I do not wish to distract Your Excellency's attention with my complaints, but allow me to say this, that for three years I have served the office of Governor of California without having seen during all that time one single *real* of my salary; furthermore, I have paid out of my private purse the salaries of the Secretary of my Administration, the cost of stationery, and various other expenses that have been necessary in my emigration. In my country I possess some wealth, and now with all communications cut between this State and that of my birth I am unable to furnish myself with resources of any kind. This has forced me to request, from Guaymas, that that Ministry might furnish me with some amount on account of my credit, but it has already been seen that no notice has been taken of my request.

I have gone to the Governor of this State to solicit some aid even though it may be in the form of a reimbursement, but the public hardships have been pointed out to me in reply. But what I suffer here is not comparable to the sufferings of my spirit, seeing my honor outraged, and in mine that of my compatriots, and recalling the lack of attention that has been given my outcries which are but the echo of those of the unfortunate inhabitants of California. Diverse other petitions have I sent to the Supreme Government, from Guaymas as well as from this place, where I had to come in consequence of the bombardment of that port by the Americans and the resulting abandonment by its inhabitants; but all these are only restatements of what was said in the communications which I have already cited, and I abstain from making further reference to them.

I now entreat from His Excellency the President permission to return to my country, since I am not permitted to be of any use or service here, and

that I be allowed to withdraw in a way honorable alike for me and for the people whom I have had the honor of governing.

California will undoubtedly cease to belong to the Mexican family, it seems as if Fate has thus decreed it, but let the rest of the Republic take leave of it with decorum, and let it not be delivered to its new brothers, the States of the North, as if it were a flock of sheep or a band of horses. Let its Governor be treated, and in his person the people of California, with dignity. We want and have always wanted to be nothing if not Mexicans, and we have given brilliant proofs of our affection, but let not our cup of sorrow that our separation naturally brings us be embittered more by humiliating and scorning us.

If our dismemberment is necessary for the health of the rest of our brothers, let us be the victim, the sacrificial goat that shall pay for all the sins of the people. Providence undoubtedly wishes that it shall be thus; but although separated, we would like to conserve some remembrances of past relations and not to remember only that we have been objects of scorn abandoned to misery.

This occasion gives me for the last time the opportunity to offer Your Excellency the expressions of my highest consideration and esteem.

God and Liberty. Hermosillo, March 29, 1848.

Pio Pico.

Most Excellent Minister of  
Interior and Foreign Relations.  
Queretero.

## HISTORY DEFERRED

The promised History of Monterey will appear in a future issue of the *Quarterly*. Due to illness, Mrs. Laura Bride Powers was not able to complete her article in time for its inclusion in this number.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

In August the members of the Society will be notified by mail of a forthcoming series of lectures on California History to be given at the rooms of the Society beginning September 13, 1934, by Prof. Herbert I. Priestley under the auspices of the Extension Division of the University of California.