




The overturning of Mosquera—
The Colombian question—

From New York Herald, July 5, 1864.

The dictatorship of Mosquera has been so suddenly overturned as it was inaugurated. His plans, born in Europe in 1852 (sic), have suddenly terminated in a manner little expected by Carl Charendon and Louis Napoleon when they gave them their inception, and made Mosquera the tool to enforce them. General Santos Acosta, second designado, has, in absence of the first designado in Europe, struck a sad blow at all the cherished hopes of France, Spain and England, in Colombia and its province of Panama. This overturning of Mosquera is a blind stroke of the goddess Fortune in our favor; for, if she did not occasionally aid us in our Spanish-American affairs, our Secretary of State would soon ruin us in that direction.

The Mosquera plans date far back. In 1852 (sic) he was in Europe, and returned home to Colombia with many Utopian ideas of what the Monarchical Powers of Europe proposed to do, to assist Colombia in resisting the aggressive tendencies of the Colossus of the North. He, harping on his acknowledged relationship with the Empress Eugenie, was petted by royalty; and Louis Napoleon, Charendon and Isabella II found him a ready tool. The latter wrote to him July 1, 1852 (sic):—"Should you determine to become an absolute monarchist, (as appears clearly to be your inclination), you can rely upon being rewarded according to the services you may be willing to render us in America." The scheme was hatched at that time by France and England to control Panama, and make that all-important transit of the world's commerce the boundary line of United States extension, providing subsequent events gave no possibility of confining us to the line of Rio Grande or splitting us into contesting fragments. Following all these finely traced theories came the intervention of the three Powers above mentioned in Mexico; and the Colombian project became a secondary barrier, to be used in case of the failure of the pet Mexican scheme. The whole animating force of European policy with reference to the United States and the Spanish-American States was duly developed in Napoleon's letter of instructions to General Forey, July 3, 1862. Said he: "We have an interest in the republic of the United States being



being powerful and prosperous; but not that she would take possession of the whole of the Gulf of Mexico, thence command the Antilles as well as South America, and be the only dispenser of the products of the New World."

We have seen the royal efforts against us fell in Mexico by the tragic end of their too ready tool furnished by the retrograde House of Hapsburg. On the same day the news was published, by the Herald alone, of the present failure of the allied Powers to erect a barrier against American influence at Panama and in Colombia. But the last Colombian effort was undertaken when the bayonets of twenty five thousand American troops on the Rio Grande reflected the western sunlight upon the French throne: Mosquera was then in Europe; and in 1864 and 1865 a consultation for a new cloy upon American progress took place. Napoleon and English influence perfected the plot. Robinson Fleming & Co. with other European bankers, furnished the means for the usurpation of the Colombian government by Mosquera, who, from the confiscation of Colombian Church property, agreed to pay one hundred thousand dollars per month to liquidate the debt. Vessels were contracted for on the continent, and the R. R. Guylor, which was bought in the United States on Mosquera's private account, was delivered well armed, at a port of New Granada. The plans of Mosquera were backed by his European allies; but in a weak moment he revealed them. Among other things he said, in October 1866, "It would not be impossible to obtain the support of Europe for the reestablishment and the consolidation of Colombian unity." * * * Colombia would become the barrier sought for by the world against the United States—the strong intermediate power between them on the one hand and Brazil on the other." The publication of these words by the New York Herald drew the attention of the Colombian Congress, who charged Mosquera with a plot to overthrow the government. They demanded what his war purchases in Europe and the United States meant; and finally forced a rupture which resulted in his seizure of dictatorial power, of which he has now been deprived by being made prisoner, thanks to the progressive sentiment of the people of Colombia. They have, true to the instincts of Spanish America, determined to cut aloof from the European Powers who appear to have leagued themselves against the progress of the Western World. They have good reason to be jealous of European interference, for they have seen it result in more curses than blessings; and mine
forgets of

tenths of all the civil wars of those countries which we condemn have been caused by the foreign machinations of the civilized Powers which we hold up to the Spanish American States as examples of national elevation which they should imitate.

Mexico has taught Europe a memorable lesson for which the whole of the Spanish America will bless her. Colombia should be urged by the United States, and aided, if need be, to say to Europe: Hands off! We have a great future staked out for us, and let no Power or combinations of Powers in the old world dare to impede our progress. Especially do we say this of New Granada and the Isthmus of Panama; and we echo, with reference to this great commercial transit, what Monsieur Billaut, in the Corps Legislatif of France, said of Mexico on the 7th of February, 1854: "There also great political vistas are opened to clear sighted eyes; "divine interests come in contact, and it is not opportune to neglect them." —



