



If the asseverations of Mr. Carranza and other constitutionalists were not confided to the newspapers and other means to deny the charges against them of their past and present furious persecution towards the Catholic Church and the Clergy, persecution born from hatred merely passional, no credit should be given to it, as it is known their public notoriety for their attacks against the church, their injustice, cruelties and profanation they committed and are committing at present, notwithstanding their promises to Mr. Wilson, and their manifesto for protection greater than the protection they have at present from the White House.

One cannot conceive the idea of Mr. Carranza assurances that -- the High Dignataries of the Church in Mexico have left the country smitten by their own conscience ,(according to what he says) for their breaking of the laws of the country, when it is hard to count the number of the iniquities of which the priests have been victims, and even though, many of these venerable members of the clergy, cannot give proofs of these infr actions and other calumniant imputations that are absurd.

As a proof of the above related we are going to refer to some of the facts, the most prominent facts that have occurred in Queretaro , that have been confided to us by some one who deserves credit, with the assurances that perhaps something worse has taken place in other towns if not in all the towns through which the carrancista avalanche has crossed.

- ATROCITIES COMMITTED AGAINST THE PRIESTS.-

When the carrancista troops invaded Queretaro in July 1914, they captured Rev. D. Jose Arvizu on their way to the town "El Capulin" , without any cause whatever; they made him join the army and committed so many cruelties to him and even made him believe they were going to burn him alive, that the poor priest arrived to Queretaro out of his mind. There he was made prisoner until the neighboring people begged for his release and he was set free without even being able to prove any thing against him. He was taken in by a family who took care of him and nursed him until his reason came back to him.

They also captured Rev. D. Higinio Garcia, of Jalpan, and took him to Queretaro forcing him to walk through the main streets of the town, a foot and surrounded by soldiers as a criminal. After this iniquitous desire had been satisfied, and after holding him in jail for a few hours, they released him and told him to go back to his church, and effectively, he did so, riding on a donkey as he could not find another vehicle..

In the town of Santa Rosa Jauregui, they captured Deacon D. Anastasio Martinez and made him join the army taking him to Queretaro and then to Pachuca.

When they entered Queretaro, they arrested the Rev. Souza (Franciscan) Gabriel (Carmelitan) and Fidencio Arroyo, Secular Clerigman whom they met on the street. This was done merely because they were priests; they conducted the first two the Quarters of la Cruz, and they were forced to join the cavalry troops that had to parade in front of the Gubernal Palace, then, they brought them back to the Quarter, where Father Gabriel was detained for two days without giving him food nor bed to sleep on; he had to pay one of the soldiers for a rock to serve him as pillow; he gave two pesos to another soldier and asked him to buy him some food but the soldier took the money but did not bring him any food. Father Arroyo after few hours spent in the Municipal Palace was set free.

REV. Jesus Rabago, was also arrested while at the Hospital where he excercised his duties as a minister, and conducted him to the Municipal Palace and was held for two days where he slept on a bench without any cover, and suffering the satira



and insults of the soldiery. The patience of this priest won the praises and admiration of those savages and gave him his liberty, proclaiming his virtue. The dean of Santa Ana was hit on the face with some strings they had in their hands because he begged them not to molest the flowers that grew in the yard of that establishment.

The rest of the priests hid themselves but the soldiers searched for them and when they learned that said priests or some of them were hiding in the Vice-Consulate of Spain, the house of the Vice-Consul was searched or raided as they surrounded the house with soldiers and placed some of them on the roof. There, several Spanish priests were found who were taken by force and made to walk up to the hacienda of "La Griega" with threats of execution. Through the influence of the Vice-Consul they were brought back to Queretaro and in a short while they were expelled from the Republic in a train where they were placed to bring them to the U. S.

Few days later, the Mayor of the City, in the name of the Commander in Chief of the Army, published a notice and had it placed on each corner of the streets, this notice stated that all the priests were required to appear at the National Government Palace within twenty-four hours. At the hour fixed and amongst the masses, came all the priests; the multitude attracted by the news anxious to see the result. Governor Elizondo was in a way nice and attentive to the priests and only ordered to have them searched; when this was done their were sent to their homes at liberty; but were recalled by Dr. Siurob, Chief in command of the Contributory War Department, and entreated one by one of them to give certain amount of money. The Capitular Vicar was called three times, insistently, to come forth and give up the Ecclesiastical riches, adding with cynical intension that by doing so he could give a sample of honesty and then threatened him seriously.

As they passed by San Juan del Rio, they entered the Church of the Beaterio where the celebrated Rev. D. Manuel Gomez Mesa was found and captured and held until he gave the amount of money required of him. Rev. D. Jose Borja was also captured there and made to join the army forces and taken to Puebla where was given his freedom, after he was able to produce the money required.

At the end of October of the same year, Canon D. Pedro Vera, Secretary of the Diocesi, was placed in jail under pretext that his house conspired against the Government. Fifteen days later he was set free when they found him to be guiltless.

On April 1915, when Dr. Siurob entered Queretaro again, he gave orders to have all the priests expelled from the country only five of them being allowed to remain to exercise their ministry under certain conditions. When Federico Montes returned and took his place as Governor of the State, he permitted the return of the exiled priests offering guaranties that have never taken effect.

On the second day of Feb, 1916, Canon Daniel Frias was calumniated and accused of having preached against the constitutionalism and sent to prison for eight days, but he could not be proven guilty.

The Parishioner of San Juan del Rio, Reverend Ezequiel Contreras, was captured when the constitutionalists passed through that town again, and was taken amongst other persons to be shot; the others went ahead of him and when his turn came, the squadron did not fire but frightened him by aiming in his direction.

On the last day of August of this year, Governor Montes notwithstanding the guaranties offered sent ten priest out of the country without any cause. This order has not been recalled.



- ATROCITIES COMMITTED ON PEOPLE OF RELIGIOUS IDEAS. -

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One of the first acts of the constitutionalists at their arrival at Queretaro, was to go to the Catholic Institute that was on the hands of the Brothers of Christian Schools, and notwithstanding the fact that these establishments were under the French flag of which nationality were the brothers in question, Dr. Siurob brought an armed company and had all the brothers escorted through the streets to the Municipal Palace where they were notified of their exile. Some of them were deported on freight cars not giving them permission to take anything along.

The convent of the Sisters of the Beaterio ( San Juan del Rio) was ransacked and the correspondence of the nuns was an object of laughter for the soldiers.

These Sisters, thanks to their quick get-away could not be captured, having taken refuge in some friendly homes.

The second time the carrancistas entered the city, the Sisters of Mary, of the Civil Hospital or City Hospital were taken away from the Hospital by soldiers, and locked in a room without furniture, during fifteen days. The rest of the nuns of the town hid somewhere, and the others ran off to hide.

PROFANATIONS OF SACRED OBJECTS AND PLACES.

The first thing the Carrancistas did was to gather the keys of all the churches and to take hold of the confessionals after which they set them on fire amidst the most blasphemous language. All the ornamental vases and precious things that could not be hidden on time were stolen. Immense wealth was the church as someone denounced it, but it was returned. But even the a soldier was executed because he ransacked the church, declared that they were not doing so on account of the robbery committed by him but only to set an example, for (according to their views) the wealth should not be stacked up in the church. While this was done other churches were robbed: Master-pieces and sculptures of merit were taken and sent to the Academy of Belles Arts. They have not been returned.

The cassocks were used as horse-blankets, a crucifix was hung on the neck of a horse; other garments belonging to the ecclesiastics were used as handkerchiefs; in fact, many so many low tricks were played with the sacred ornaments and vases that the only recollection of it makes one blush.

ROBBERY OF THE ECCLESIASTIC TREASURE.

Such was the main object of the carrancistas and for this purpose they looked for the Father Overseer of the Diocesi, and Collector of Fithes. The priests were called upon many of the seculars were detained, and an office established to confiscate the riches of the Clergy.

Took hold of all the funds of the Clergy as well as the buildings. The Bishopric, the Catholic Institute, the Convent of San Francisco, Home of San Felipe Neri are still the army headquarters; the the Councilliar Seminary, Direction of Public Instruction; the house of the Fathers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Health Office the Schools of the Sacred Family and Saint John the Baptist of la Salle are Public Schools. The rest of the houses are rented to private families, the Government drawing the rent money; and not satisfied with all this they have taken the private wealth of several priests.

\* ATROCITIES TO CATHOLICS. -

Violating the Constitutional laws and the rights granted to each individual for the liberty in religion, all the churches remained closed during a fort-night notwithstanding the protests of the catholics who had a manifesto organized to ask for the acknowledgement of their rights and only one more church was opened

