

**EXPERIENCES AND  
OBSERVATIONS OF AN  
AMERICAN  
CONSULAR OFFICER DURING THE  
RECENT MEXICAN REVOLUTIONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649579686

Experiences and Observations of an American Consular Officer During the Recent Mexican  
Revolutions by William B. Davis

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM B. DAVIS**

**EXPERIENCES AND  
OBSERVATIONS OF AN  
AMERICAN  
CONSULAR OFFICER DURING THE  
RECENT MEXICAN REVOLUTIONS**



**EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS**  
**OF AN AMERICAN CONSULAR**  
**OFFICER DURING THE RECENT**  
**MEXICAN REVOLUTIONS**

By  
WILL. B. DAVIS, M. D.

As Mainly Told in a Series of Letters  
Written by the Author to His Daughter



UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR, 1920

*Printed by Wayside Press, Los Angeles*

Price, \$2.00 per Copy, by Mail, from the Author, at Chula Vista, California

*added*

Copyright by Will. B. Davis, 1920

Price, \$2.00 per Copy, by mail, from the Author, at Chula Vista, California

GIFT

TO MISS  
ANNETTE

## PREFACE

The Author's daughter accompanied him to Mexico and resided there for several years, when she married and returned to the States. To keep her informed of the progress of affairs in Mexico—in which she had become considerably interested—he wrote to her from time to time, giving accounts of events as they happened down there. On his own return to this country, finding that his letters had been well preserved, and that they were helpful in refreshing his memory about particulars, he decided to make liberal use of them in compiling these chronicles. Therefore the reader is to understand that all unaddressed, and unsigned letters, or parts of letters, made use of in the preparation of these chronicles, were written by the Author to his daughter, Mrs. W. C. Carrington, of Pueblo, Colorado. Such other letters as may appear in these pages, whether copied from those of the Author to other persons, or from letters of others to the Author, will explain themselves.

The publication of these letters is not intended as a contribution to history, nor as even a pretense at giving a full account of the revolutions to which they largely refer, but it is done merely to gratify a personal whim, and afford to any one who may care to do so, the opportunity of living over with the Author, in retrospect, experiences which he and some other Americans had during the most turbulent times of the recent revolutions in Mexico.

WILL. B. DAVIS, M. D.

Chula Vista, California, January 15, 1920.

425260





## CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
1. A Few Preliminary Remarks with Some Reminiscental References .....	1
The Guadalajara Consular District .....	1
How the Author Happened to Be in Charge of the Guadala- jara Consulate .....	2
Pre-Revolutionary Anti-American Sentiment Manifested in Mexico .....	3
2. How Popular Free Government is Exemplified in Mexico...	8
3. Telling How Mexican Authorities Tried to Compel Ameri- can Citizens to Support Armed Forces.....	12
4. Other Mexican Ways of Expressing Their Anti-American Sentiments .....	15
5. News of the Fall of Vera Cruz; How it Was Received at Guadalajara: Some Interesting Incidents Thereto Apper- taining .....	18
Flight of Americans Out of Mexico: Guadalajara to Man- zanillo .....	22
6. Manzanillo to San Diego: How Great Inconveniences Were Disposed of .....	25
7. I Am Ordered Back to Guadalajara: I Make the Journey Un- der Difficulties Through a Devastated Country.....	33
8. How I Found Things in My Consular District on My Re- turn: My First Undertakings with the Carranza-Dieguez Government During Its First Term.....	38
9. Being Further Accounts of the First Carranza-Dieguez Ad- ministration .....	47
An Account of Some Recent Cases Well Authenticated—The Case of Filamon Lepe .....	47
The Case of Twenty-five Religious Devotees.....	51
Some Interesting Documentary Facts Relating to the Case of Filamon Lepe .....	52
Conditions Present and Prospective .....	55
Correspondence with Local People Bearing on American Interests .....	56
Conditions of Affairs at Guadalajara While in a State of Isolation .....	61
10. A Brief Account of a Short Interregnum.....	64
The Evacuation of Guadalajara by the Carrancistas.....	64
The Behavior of Some of the Local Consular Corps When General Dieguez Evacuated Guadalajara.....	67

Chapter	Page
11. The First Term of the Villa Administration.....	69
What General Villa Has Done Since Establishing His Government .....	70
Recent Military Movements: Their Effect on the Public....	73
Retaking of Guadalajara by General Dieguez, and His Re-entrance Into the City.....	76
12. The Carrancista Reign of Terror During Dieguez' Second Administration .....	81
More About the Recent Behavior of the Foreign Consular Corps .....	81
A Few Well Authenticated Cases of Assassinations During Reign of Terror: The Case of a Young Lover.....	82
The Case of Two Mexican Laborers—Assassinated.....	83
The Case of a Poor Laborer: Assassinated on Hidalgo Street .....	84
13. The Dieguez Reign of Terror—Continued.....	86
The Prevailing Terrible State of Affairs Causes the Consular Corps to Intercede .....	86
Author's Discourse Before General Dieguez, Beginning Near Bottom of Page .....	87
Author's Discourse Ended on Page.....	89
Author Receives the Thanks of Other Consuls.....	92
14. Some Rather Exciting Episodes Which Occurred During General Dieguez' Second Term at Guadalajara.....	93
Unsuccessful Attempts of the Villistas to Retake Guadalajara Arrest and Threatened Execution of French Vice-Consul, Eugene Pinzon .....	93
Eugene Pinzon .....	95
15. Second Term of Dieguez' Administration Comes to An End: An Account of One of the Author's Personal Adventures Confiscation of Firearms and Ammunition of Foreigners by the Carrancistas .....	99
16. Given as an Appendix to the Second Term of the Dieguez Administration .....	109
Some Miscellaneous Observations—The Case of a Young Armenian .....	109
The Case of Three Railroad Auditors.....	111
The Case of a Family of Six Destitute Spaniards.....	112
17. Second Term of Villa Administration: Its Entail of Political What-nots, and Its Success in the Perpetration of Its Share of Outrageous Murders .....	114
Outrages Towards Catholic Priests and Church Institutions. ....	116
The Present Political Situation Here.....	118
18. Telling Principally About How the Villistas Tried to Force Foreigners to Contribute to the Support of Their Army: Subterfuges Resorted to to Accomplish Same; With an Account of Some of the Villa Assassinations.....	121
Governor Medina's Decree Imposing an Extraordinary Tax on Foreigners for Military Purposes.....	123

Chapter	Page
Continued Effort of Villa Government to Have Foreigners Pay "Extraordinary Tax" .....	127
An Account of a Few of the Many Assassinations by the Villistas—The Case of Nine Political Suspects.....	129
The Case of Joaquin Cuesta Gallardo.....	130
19. Third Term of Carranza—Dieguez Administration: Former Reign of Terror Not Renewed .....	132
Second Evacuation by the Conventionatistas, and the Third Occupation of Guadalajara by the Constitutionalistas....	132
Present Political Situation: Action Taken by the Consular Corps .....	134
A State of Isolation at Guadalajara.....	135
Demand by Constitutionalist Faction Repayment of Taxes Paid to Conventionalistas .....	137
A Deplorable and Alarming Economic Situation .....	138
Second Attempt of General Medina (Villista) to Retake Guadalajara .....	142
The Sacking of Ameca by Carrancistas .....	143
20. Continuation of the Carranza-Dieguez Administration: Food Conditions, Present and Prospective, etc. ....	145
The Proletariat in the Saddle .....	152
21. Carranza-Dieguez Continued Without Betterment.....	157
Confiscating Everything Belonging to Church—that can be found: Padre Aspeita Palomar's Complaint.....	158
22. Carranza-Dieguez Continued: The Reader Can Judge as to Improvements, etc. ....	162
Something of the Author's Impressions After a Casual Talk With Governor Berlanga .....	163
Attack on an American and Britishers, Robbing Them All and Killing British Subject, Edward Fitzpatrick.....	166
23. Continuation Carranza-Dieguez: Introducing Some Side-Lights .....	169
Shipping Food Stuffs to the United States.....	169
Joseph Mulhall's Statement .....	170
Nakedness Among the Poor in Country Districts.....	172
Youthfulness of Some Mexican Soldiers.....	172
Interchange of Courtesies Between Villa and Carranza Bandits .....	176
Inflaming Soldiers Against Americans.....	176
Our Present Hotchpotch Situation—Politically Speaking....	177
24. The Recognition of Carranza, and Some Other Very Ugly Occurrences, Not Omitable .....	180
The Military Situation, Supplementing Letters Dated October 21, 28 and 30 .....	184
A Masqued Effort to Discriminate Against Foreign Investors in Mines .....	187
Robbing an Eight Year Old Girl of Her Shetland Pony, by a Carranza Captain .....	188