MISCELLANEOUS.

HIDALGO AND MORELOS THE FORERUNNERS OF MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE.

To-day hangs over the entrance of the palace of Dictator President Diaz in Mexico City the most sacred church bell of all the myriad church bells of this be-churched country—the sacred bell on which the priest Hidalgo sounded the tocsin of revolution against Spain in 1810. I have been examining a marvellous collection of manuscripts offered to me for three thousand dollars gold, and cheap at the price, were it not for the too obvious evidence that they have been stolen from the secret archives of the Government here in Mexico. One is a holograph letter from Hidalgo to Morelos, explaining the withdrawal of his army after his fight before the Capital, a withdrawal which proved the beginning of disasters which finally cost him his life. Hidalgo here says he did not retreat defeated; far from it. His army of roughly a hundred thousand, mostly pure natives, say Aztecs, on capturing the city of Guanajuato had slaughtered the Spaniards and now again in the fight before the Capital the whole body of Spaniards, estimated at three thousand men, had been killed, only one officer, on horseback, escaping.

Hidalgo says that finding his horde uncontrollable, he feared to trust them in an attack on the great city, and with some idea of training them he deviated from the advance movement.

The idea spread among them that perhaps they had been defeated, and the vast army melted like snow.

Hidalgo was not long after captured, tried, unfrocked, and executed (1811). The hero priest Morelos, after four years of victory, was defeated (in 1815) by Iturbide, who was afterward (in 1821) destined to finish the work of liberation from Spain, when he reigned for a brief space as emperor (1821–1824). Morelos, confined in a corner room of the winter palace of Cortez in Cuernavaca, afterward so dear to Maximilian, was then himself tried for heresy, that he might first be unfrocked and degraded from the priestly office, before suffering death as a traitor. These manuscripts are of historical interest, some contain the original and only record of this strange trial, hitherto an undivulged secret.

Here are all duly recorded the changes, the questions, the answers of Morelos. A few excerpts from these marvellous answers will show the hero wrestling vainly with his fate. "You charge me here," says Morelos, "with disbelief in an actual hell in a future life. Yet further on you equally charge me with maintaining that
the late Pope is burning now in the eternal fires of hell. These two charges con-
tradict each other.

"Again you charge me with being a Lutheran, yet further on you charge me
with rejecting the authority of the Bible. These two charges likewise contradic-
each other, for Luther bases his entire position on the authority of the Holy Scrip-
tures as against the Pope and the Catholic Church."

No wonder it was wished that this trial might be kept secret. Morelos con-
fesses to having hoped for aid from the United States, but says that no such aid
came.

The whole manuscript is fascinating. These few lines may be perhaps even
now the only part of it which will ever reach the world.

GEORGE BRUCE HALSTED.

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF MATHEMATICS.

The publication of an Encyclopaedia of the Mathematical Sciences, Both
Theoretical and Applied,1 under the auspices of the Scientific Academies of Mun-
ich, Vienna, and Göttingen, is announced by Teubner, of Leipzig. The Encyo-
pædia is to fill six volumes containing from four to five installments each, pub-
lished at the rate of one volume a year.

To judge from the character and the number of the collaborators, the work
will be a monument of erudition, and will constitute the most complete existing
reference work of the mathematical sciences. On its historical, philosophical, biblio-
ographical, and didactic sides also it will be exhaustive, particularly in regard to the
developments of the present century (Vol. VI.). The applications of pure mathe-
matics to mechanics, physics, astronomy, geodesy, engineering, and the industrial
sciences are to be considered in the fourth and fifth volumes. The first three vol-
umes, which are devoted to pure mathematics, will treat of arithmetic and algebra,
analysis, and geometry. The scientific committee to whose charge the execution of
the work has been committed are Prof. W. Dyck, of Munich; Prof. G. von Esche-
rich, of Vienna; Prof. F. Klein, of Göttingen; Prof. L. Boltzmann, of Vienna,
and Prof. H. Weber, of Strassburg. The editors are Dr. Heinrich Burkhardt, of
Zürich, and Dr. W. Franz Meyer, of Königsberg, Prof. A. Schoenflies, of Göt-
tingen, and A. Sommerfield, of Clausthal.

We are in receipt of the first article on The Foundations of Arithmetic, by
Prof. H. Schubert, of Hamburg, with whose views our readers are familiar from
our mention in the last Open Court of his latest English essays2 on the same sub-
ject. The remainder of the first installment (112 pp.) is taken up by Professor
Netto, who writes on Kombinatorik, and by Professor Pringsheim, who treats of
Irrational Numbers, and Convergency.

1 Encyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften mit Einschluss ihrer Anwendungen. Mit
Unterstützung der Akademien der Wissenschaften zu München und Wien und der Gesellschaft
der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, sowie unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachgenossen, heraus-
gegeben von Dr. Heinrich Burkhardt, O. Professor der Mathematik an der Universität Zürich,
und Dr. W. Franz Meyer, O. Professor der Mathematik an der Universität Königsberg i. Pr.
Leipzig: B. G. Teubner. 1898.