

morning. I showed him the signet ring of the Emperor, told him what it meant, and requested him to accept it, and to return it to the Emperor at night. He took it and put it on his finger; but after awhile he took it off again, remarking that he could not accept it. He must think it all over. He became confused, and went on speaking of his honour, of his wife, and his child.

‘Well, Colonel,’ said I, ‘you are not well-disposed. Reflect about it, and remember your word of honour and your oath. You know that without you nothing can be done, and to betray me would serve no purpose whatever.’

Colonel Villanueva came to see how matters went on, but without betraying that he was in the secret. Directly after him came Dr. Basch, sent by the Emperor, but without any money; and Palacios left me about ten o’clock, not knowing whether I might hope or not, but rather inclined to hope. I told Dr. Basch I believed all would be right, but that I should not know it for certain before the morning.

In reference to the two cheques which the Emperor gave me I must mention a circumstance illustrating the character of the Austrian minister, Baron von Lago. The Emperor had desired that the two papers might be signed by the foreign ministers, especially by that of Austria, who were so free with their promises of money. Dr. Basch was entrusted with that commission. When he entered the room