

‘I know that,’ he said, contemptuously ; ‘and just because they are such cowards they may go.’

‘But, General, the Emperor will then be utterly alone, and without anyone to assist him in his last arrangements.’

‘What good,’ he burst out, ‘can such old women be to a man ? Pretty people are the ministers ! Two of them have already run away without even waiting for their baggage.’

These two frightened representatives were, of course, Baron Lago and Mr. Hooricks. All the officers of Escobedo laughed at them, and the General himself told me later in Mexico, that if one of these men had requested him to see the Emperor and take leave of him, he would not and could not have refused. But they did not even make the attempt, and Baron Lago ran off with the codicil to the Emperor’s last will unsigned !

I of course have not the slightest scruple in stating that I consider the behaviour of these gentlemen as contemptible as possible, and that I fully subscribe what the Emperor said about the *mis*representative of Austria ; but if they or anyone else should doubt that General Escobedo expressed himself so undiplomatically about these diplomatists, I appeal to the General himself, who is not the man to deny what he said ; and to his whole staff, who heard it, and especially to Colonel Doria.

I saw nothing was to be done at present, and I