[Translation.]

Antonio Canales, brigadier general of the republic of Mexico, colonel of active militia, and in command of an auxiliary regiment on the northern frontier.

CITIZENS: An arbitrary power has been established in Mexico, derogatory to our legally constituted authorities. One part of the army (or, if you like, the whole of it) has been the author of so scandalous an achievement. Like the Praetorian guards, who destroyed the nationality of Rome, our soldiers have been made the arbitrators and regulators of the destinies of our country. Can you suffer this with supineness? The inhabitants of the northern frontier are not to be so persuaded. I am satisfied of their sentiments, and they will perish a thousand times before they will recognize a government without a national election, and without more authority to command than the ephemeral and momentary triumph of his arms over the capital of the republic.

CITIZENS: This is worthless, as we have before seen—a council of generals is not able to judge of the institutions of the country. These are not military crimes that the regulations will bring under their cognizance.

More than this it is useless to say of the grievances of those unnatural soldiers who have turned their arms against their country. But if you are sensible of it, what necessity for explanations? Eloquence and even language itself is superfluous. No one knows the intenseness of grief better than him who suffers. By your efforts, you passed from a federal to a central government, under which you were promised the loftiest riches, glory, and respectability, but a mournful and very grievous experience has convinced us that to nations once thus constituted, such a change, instead of
benefits, has brought nothing but humiliation before strangers, misery, and, if we succumb, our slavery and that of our children. The federal constitution was sanctioned in 1824, by the constitutional congress; let us turn and read its glorious manifest, and then hate more and more the authors of our disgrace.

Let us then declare an eternal war to the death; thus should the people do who rise against their oppressors. Let our voice be unanimous; liberty or death to our tyrants, and triumph will crown your efforts.

This plan which I have this day announced to my regiment has no other object. To save Mexico or perish is our resolution. God will help us; for his providence only, in wrath, has given these tyrants dominion over us.

These are the sentiments of the northern frontier, and those of your fellow-citizen and friend,

ANTONIO CANALES.

CAMARGO, February, 1846.