

Admiral Blanco was next named President by the Congress then in session, and Don Augustin Azyguine Vice-President. Blanco was one of the vainest of men. Fortunately for the country, he was so much mortified at the opposition shown to some of his fancies, that he resigned, two months and three days after his appointment. The Vice-President succeeded him. Such dissensions, however, prevailed, that he also became disgusted and resigned. Pinto was charged with the presidency, which he exercised from the 5th of May, 1827, till 14th July, 1829, when, on the plea of ill health, he resigned, and went to his estate.

In conformity with a law of 1826, the President of the Senate acted as president until the middle of October, when the elections took place, and General Pinto was returned to the office. During his acting presidency, two military revolts had occurred, and the country was full of factions. As the elections to Congress were considered to have been illegally conducted, the general opposition to its measures was ascribed to that cause. Pinto, therefore, on being elected, informed them, that he would only accept on condition that the Congress should be dissolved, and that new elections, according to the constitution, should take place. They did not concur in this, when he declined occupying the office, and it went begging again. Vicunea, President of the Senate, entered upon the duties of President; the clamours throughout the country increased; the whole population was in movement, a party behind pushing it on. Town meetings were held, and representatives sent to Santiago.

The government refused to receive their committee, and on this being communicated to the meeting, a *junta gubernativa* was appointed, and the country was pronounced to be against the Congress, as an unconstitutional body. Collecting a great number of all classes, they again went to the President's house, and found he had set out in the night, with all his ministers, for Valparaiso. The greatest confusion prevailed in the capital; orders were received at the public offices from the Junta and from the acting President, both claiming to be representatives of the people. In the mean time, the southern army, under General Prieto, approached the city. It had declared for the Junta. The troops in the city, under General Lastra, considered themselves subject to the order of the President for the time. The armies met on the field of Ochagavia, and the first blood in civil war was shed. Both parties claimed the victory, after a sharp contest. A convention was, however, entered into, and Freyre was again called forward, to aid in restoring tranquillity to the country. Nothing satisfactory grew out of this arrangement. Freyre became disgusted