

authority, he had only about two hundred men at his command, yet in less than three months the whole country had recognised his authority and government. In his short public career he certainly displayed violent passions, and he evinced cruelty in many of his acts; but he seems at times to have had impulses of generosity, though they may have been but feeble. When he assumed the command, and declared himself Supreme Chief, he banished General Nieto, a superior officer. The captain of the vessel in which he went was induced to land him in the north of Peru, where he collected some troops, and made war upon Salaverry, who immediately marched against him, vowing vengeance for what he termed his ungrateful conduct, in return for his lenity. On Salaverry's approach, one of Nieto's followers betrayed him, and he was surprised and captured. Salaverry immediately invited him to his tent; they supped and slept together on the same hide, but he afterwards banished him from Peru.

Another act, which does not show him in quite so amiable a light, was his ordering General Valle Reistra, an old companion, an estimable and good officer, to be torn from his wife at midnight, and within her hearing shot in cold blood, for no alleged crime, but it is supposed merely for the purpose of striking terror into his opponents. Salaverry was full of energy, both to determine and execute his plans, and evinced talents which, had they been controlled by judgment and guided by moral principle, might have consolidated his power and saved his country from the anarchy which has since existed. He possessed the true spirit to rule the Peruvians, so far as energy was concerned; and before Peru becomes settled, she will need some military despotism, in order to break down the small and numerous contending chiefs, who prove, as each gains the ascendancy, the worst of tyrants. The mode of his death has already been spoken of.

Santa Cruz was in the Spanish service at the commencement of the revolution, and being captured by the patriots, was for some time a prisoner in Buenos Ayres. On his liberation he espoused the popular cause, and was for a short time at the head of the government in Peru, where he had been placed by Bolivar, and continued until the setting aside of that chieftain's authority, and the election of La Mar as President. Santa Cruz was expelled by the intrigues of his enemies, but was afterwards employed as minister to Chili. His subsequent elevation to the presidency of Bolivia has led to the suspicion that he participated in the assassination of the former President, Blanco; and his patronage of the known actors in that affair, gave strong grounds for believing the truth of the report.