

Dear Signor Basave

I am ashamed of not having answered your obliging letter of 2.8.23. Somehow I rather got out of the habit of writing much while at Inzeñada, partly from being out of doors a good deal in an ideal climate, partly from worry about our unfortunate Amide. I had expected I have found something definite on my return here (this morning) But there is not a trace. The whole thing is a most unpleasant mystery. Had Sr Pillay reached home safely it is quite impossible that he should not have written to me on the other hand the English & the not-admirable individuals they are fools enough to let themselves be fleeced & degraded by an act present in a most objectionable state of mind. I have the conviction certainly that they had a young friend & pupil of mine at Lestré Lavante, murdered in the most brutal & disgusting way to discharge their vivid fanaticism against what & whom who knows. And their General Election during which they go even madder than they are normally is now on & till it is over it is useless to try & get enquiries made. I had a letter from the artist Henry Bernard from Guadalupe & whom you have I think made the acquaintance of dated Hotel Casa Blanca 22 Oct<sup>r</sup>. Apparently he finds Guadalupe so attractive that he is loath to leave it, & quite expected to have forced him here, as apparently there have been several boats from Manzanillo to Orizaba

have come by. However, it was much the same whether he stayed in Mexico or here. All the same after the considerable rain of the last few days, La Paz is looking really beautiful and is not now at all too hot, so there will be much for him to do and when he turns up he may be sure of a hospitable reception.

I think when & if you get through Sacrificia you will find the general idea of the plots & working out of it not amiss. It may, however, appeal more to the Anglo Saxon blood & stronger loving mentality than the Latin. I believe the 1<sup>st</sup> (small) Edition is sold out and a 2<sup>d</sup> larger one is or has been printed.

Heartily congratulations for the happy family event.

Please let me know how much I owe for the subscription & I will send it. Also do not forget to remember me most kindly to your brother <sup>Calley</sup> 125 Van Haraing Mexico when you write.

I am sorry that I shall most likely not be able to visit Mexico City again and visit him there. Insuada is a beautiful place but small & very dull. It is perhaps not humanely speaking much improved by its proximity to the Phytocracy of the Yanks & cranks, not that I have anything the least to say against <sup>personally & individually</sup> Americans generally. The state of public opinion in the western states seems just now such that I did not throw away 20 pesos, for the privilege of being held up, autod or having my stomach finally ruined by their testolal food & fanaticisms. As Bert Hunt put it - The Calvinists' idea of liberty is to enjoy his own religion in peace & prevent everyone else from doing the same."

Yrs ever W. W. Strickland  
La Paz B.C. 15.11.23