

Chas. J. Henschen

Caracas Jan^y 7. 1860

C. J. Minister

R Feb 4/1/60



Charles White Esq.
15 Princes Street
Buckingham
London



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London

My dear Sir

I have not had a letter from you since your favour of Nov^r 16, ultimo. Three packets have come but not a line from England - which, under present circumstances is somewhat damping - and which I attribute to your being away - It is some time that I have not had a letter from our friend Mr. A. Harris. He then informs me of your friend's death shortly after the receipt of his pension - Well to get more than I could get for myself - and everything is hopeless in this country - of mad men - Religion is exhausting itself; Energy is wearing out; Enthusiasm is damped; and why? The Government is weak, the Law weak, the people demoralized, resources failing, resources unknown and restriction, that holy fire which alone exists in the breasts of the virtuous giving way to ignoble self; the Venegolam order of the day - Take these distressing truths as a basis and then tell me what must be the fabric be that is raised thereon -

The country is being destroyed in its full length and breadth - Robbery and murder, Rape and immorality are ripe throughout the land - These are the principles which constitute the programme of the Brandette that are devastating the country - And 'Tis strange to say the friends

of the Revolution exists with all its primitive intensity in
the Capital and principal cities of the Republic.

The President is a worthy and honorable man,
bound down to good by the natural impulses of his
heart: chained down to the impunity of crime by a
Constitution made for Angels, not men, and much left
for the innumerate friends of every hue and colour who
purchase destruction to property and death to civilization.
This is no longer a political war, nor yet is it a war for
preponderance and power - It is a war of the outcasts of
society for pillage and murder - a war of casts and
thus its true denomination - An apathy prevails here which
alone can be explained by a fatal ignorance of the
true character of the destructive storm which is laying
waste the land, and hurrying around our very hearths.

The loan of a million dollars has been created,
because it has not been applied to the legitimate purposes
for which it was obtained. The expense of the war, nearly
one half has been sent to pay the interest on the foreign
debt - while those who are fighting are both naked and
But this was a speculation & spent given in the expecta-
-tion of catching a salmon - I have resigned my
post at Sabagya owing to the conduct of the present
minister of war & complete knowledge of man's selfish

military
unfit for any post - but as he is a native, he may be
able to cling a little longer to that which, only in name
is a minister of war, quite enough to suit his conscience
& his vanity.

I am then King seriously of leaving the
country on account of the hopeless state of things, very wise
in the great difficulty, she will neither see, hear, or feel.
My Son is in the war and I hear not from him -
A sanguinary engagement has taken place between
the greatest forces in the field near Caracas, but without
any result - great losses on both sides - the constitutional
Chief officers yet killed, whilst those of the Bonapartes
never expose themselves - I know not where to go
or what to do with my family - so numerous, the
expenses will be enormous & fatigues to me - but
I believe we must start from the horror that we
surrounding us -

I trust that this will find you well
or company with your family to whom I make my
respectful compliments.

Yours, most truly

C. Minchin

P.S. Promotions were given with a prodigal hand, by the present
Castro & to many undeserving. The present government has its resources
and is about as well disposed as Moragas was to the end -
but justice if not to Native this done not so towards me