

First Part

The Home And The School

Chapter I

Summary - A young man relates the most important events of his life and education - How his mother inspired him to study and learn - How his mother made him respect other's people property - Some ^{of the best} youthful recollections -

Before an assembly of eager children, the main character of this true story, a young man twenty five years of age said:

My parents were from Nicaragua, our fatherland. They were very proud of the natural beauties and geographic position of our country.

I am a law student and shall graduate at the end of this year. I have studied with the greatest application, for I earnestly wish to have a profession to enable me to ~~to~~ support my parents.

Is ambition a noble thing? I can only say that ~~ambition~~ ^{ambitions} lives within me, that it is deep rooted in my heart and that it inspires & gives me strength to work. This ~~ambition~~ ^{ambitions} seems to drive me to dream of accomplishing great and noble deeds -

I remember very well what my mother used to tell me about the education of youth in ancient Greece -

"Know thyself" the greek parents used

to tell their children" learn what we were where we are going, and what we are at present" Be like ourselves; be noble of deeds and will; be beautiful; beautify yourself by accomplishing heroic and generous deeds which may fill the world with gladness" "Work, be brave and enterprising" Whether warrior or poet, singer or athlete begin early on your calling and do not weaken" "Be ready to change from peace to war"

This last saying is beautiful since it warns children about the necessity of being ready for any emergency, but the ideal of humanity today is not war but peace. So awakened sentiments of brotherhood is the true ideal to be taught to the youth of the world - War is an evil which should be made to disappear from the face of the earth -

My mother always told me that the mother is the one called to educate her children. My mother instilled in me my love for my brothers and fellow beings, and also my love and devotion for my country. Upon the mothers rest the fate of men; their being a source of pride or a disgrace to their families.

Although still young I already have great ambitions and ideals - - - My mother used to whisper at my ear when holding me in her arms: "Learn

study, always try to improve yourself so that you may be a good son and a good citizen!

And she never tired of advising me. And her tender caresses gave strength to her words. At the beginning, when very young, I did not realize the full meaning of her words. Vague ideas crossed my mind. It was little by little that I came to understand the meaning of my mother's words, and they have made me love the ideal they represent and the way they showed me toward the future. Some times as in a dream I can see my mother, I see her standing, her hand raised and saying:

"Here is the pinnacle where ^{some day} I hope to see you. Go forward and be great!"

Now I fully understand the meaning of her words. When a little child my mother kindled in my soul my love for what is beautiful and good. This love has grown in me and is deeply rooted in my heart. It has ^{also} taken possession of my mind - I can say that this love for what is beautiful and good is a part of my being, it is my soul, my only ambition. Therefore, this great love to know what is good and beautiful I owe it to my mother. I read & study with great eagerness and I never tire to think and think. I remember what has past with fervor and this

past becomes sacred ⁽⁴⁾ when it is filled with the memory of my mother. Teachers say that to think intensely may do you physical harm; that a sound mind, or a normal intelligence, is only found in a sound body. But thoughts crowd my mind in spite of myself, they seem to seek me, and this I can not help.

I remember very well how my mother educated me as well as my brothers. Each morning right after getting up she made us take a bath, or when this was not possible, wash thoroughly our hands, heads, seeing that our teeth + finger nails were scrupulously cleaned. After this done, she would summon us to the dining room where she would serve us breakfast teaching us, with great patience, how to eat and how to act when at the table. We all respected each other's portion of ~~food~~ food which she had placed on our plates, and if any one of us happened to have an extra fruit, she advised us to be generous and share it with the other brothers. She never approved that one of us should take by force what belonged to the other. How severely she reprimanded me, and even slapped my hand, when on one occasion I took a piece of gold which did not belong to me & owed out; It is mine!

— "No, said my mother, never take what does not belong to you. That is the way children get into the habit of taking what does not belong to them and this bad habit finally leads them to disgrace leading the life of a criminal

(5)
and finally ending their lives in a prison or the gallows.
Never take what does not belong to you unless it is
to return it to its owner. If there is anything
you wish ask for it to your parents, but never ask
for anything to anyone else. Begging should
always be humiliating to a man.

One day I took some cherries, which
belonged to my brother Juan. Some of my
school chums have told me that to take any-
thing from your parents or brother was nothing
wrong. Juan told my mother what I have
done and when my mother asked me about it
I told her the truth, although I was very much
afraid. So this my mother said: Your truthfulness
has won you forgiveness. Return the cherries to your
brother. You have told me the truth and it would
be unjust to punish you. Always tell the truth.
Love ~~the~~ truth as you love your own life. Truth
brings us nearer to God.

On certain occasions her words made
a profound impression upon me. The more I
feared the consequences of my wrongdoings,
the more lasting the lesson was to me. Other
times it was just enough for me to look at
her eyes, and understanding what she wanted
from their expression I would obey, without
uttering either one of us a word.

When we are children our attention is
never focussed on anything long enough.

Everything passes ^{as rapidly} through our mind ~~like~~ as
film before our eyes. We pass just as easily
from joy to sorrow, from weeping to laughter.
However, those experiences which were
painful leave upon our mind unforgettable
imprints, and they are, many times, in later
life sources of reflection and thought. When we
have already passed the threshold of infancy
and look back on what has been more signif-
icant during those years, we find that
those experiences which made us feel
regretful or pained, and for which we
were severely punished, have made on
us a greater impression than those which
afforded only a temporary and childish
joy. There are in our souls certain
experiences ^{so} closely woven with pain and
sorrow, which seem to give us impetus of
strength & this, makes me think that
those who know what suffering and
struggle is in their early youth grow up
firmer and stronger of will and heart
than those who have lived a life of
idleness and pleasures -

Chapter II

Summary - Excursions - Cultivation of
the land - The steam engine - A delinquent child -
The child's mother wrong behavior - Justice -
Birds, love owed to them -

Often my mother used to take long walks with us through the city and country joyfully we went across the streets or fields, some time holding our dear mother's hands, others rumping, stopping some times before a blooming corn field to admire the striking brilliance of its yield, made more so by the glittering rays of our tropical sun, and softly waved by a gently breeze. My mother, then, used to explained us about the many things made out of corn, of how flour is made and also the bread which fed our population and others of the world.

Other times we admired a small garden planted with "yuca" or "casabe" from which starch is made. Then the potato fields, vegetable which men grows for his daily sustenance -

Since ancient times, my mother said men has tilled the soil, planting and reaping the grains which gave him food. A biblical story says: He who here on earth builds a house, keeps going a fire, stores grain in it, supports a wife + children, keeps cattle, is we can

8

say a saint". He who makes the soil yield harvests of wheat, who grows the fruits of the earth, that one cultivates purely and is worthy before the eyes of the Lord"

The country is given of health with its pure and fresh air. This air gives life as it does the sun. These two elements make our blood rich & healthy.

My mother was a born teacher. We always learned a great deal from her during our walks with her. She loved to show us everything and was tireless in explaining us all. She called our attention to the beauty of the flowers, the brilliant ~~hues~~ hues of their petals and also she made us watch very carefully the beautiful birds whose songs delighted her. She used to explain the use of the plow, and related us ~~the~~ history of its ancient use from ^{the time of the} ~~egyptians~~ times up to the present. She made us realize what an important service the ox has fulfilled in helping man to plow the earth!

On the day we visited a sugar or coffee plantation, she used to speak to us about the steam engine, its different applications and its invention by Watt. She explained us the process by which the coffee bean comes out of the cleaning machine, cleaned, polished, of a soft, beautiful blue color.

Another day she would take us to

to a cacao plantation, whose owner was a very good friend of our parents - The workers peeled the bean, piling it to be fermented. From these piles it went to the courts where it was dried by the sun rays, this last process being done with great care so as to preserve the aroma peculiar to the cacao bean. The cacao plantations are very large, being provided with a system of sprinklers to water the plants during the dry season. The most important cacao plantations are located in Nicaragua in the Department of Rivas.

Cacao is for the country, with coffee, one of the sources of our national wealth -

I remember very clearly two or three very severe lessons from my mother when we were once walking by the town. On the street several children of about our age were playing. One of them hit the other with a stone on the head. Blood came profusely from his forehead. My mother ran toward the wounded child and with the love and tenderness of a mother took him in her arms. "Poor child", she said to me, "hurry to the next house and get some water" then she washed the wound and securing a bandage, bandaged the forehead, carefully, as if the little boy were her own -

Meanwhile the police took charge of the delinquent child. We felt sorry and fearful for him. The child cried and rebelled against his captors. Suddenly the mother of the wounded child appeared. Weepingly she embraced her son while at the same time she reprimended the culprit. -- At that moment the later's mother appeared, who in turn insulted the officer in charge of her son. I immediately noticed on my mother's face an expression of disapproval. I should never forget her great indignation. Then, ^{thus} she spoke: "Let us go away from here" --- And then she added:

"Notice carefully what has happened. That is the way to make bad citizens, and the mother of those children are to be blamed for it. That lady who insults the officers of the law is doing a wrong to society. The officer is only obeying ^{to} his duty; to carry out the laws of society of justice. The child who ^{intentionally} hurts somebody else should be punished. Otherwise society could not exist - Men live in what is called "a society or community" to secure mutual protection to its members, friendship, peace, charity, and respect. A well organized society is like a good family, where

There are no quarrels, jealousy or envy. In a society the officers of the law are in charge of maintaining peace and order. In a family authority is in the charge of the parents.

A good mother, although sorrowfully, should give up a guilty child to justice. The laws of a community are made to represent justice and the officers of the law to carry out justice whenever needed.

The laws of a country are laws of good order and all good citizens should respect and abide by them. When you children play your games, you have to abide by the laws of the game and play fair, otherwise there is no cooperation and harmony in what you are doing. The same thing is true of all things. For example you know how the earth and the moon rotate around the sun. In their course none of the planets moves either faster or slower, since this would spell disaster. Therefore everything in the universe is subject to laws of cooperation and mutual obligations. Only in this manner peace and order can exist on earth. Any lawless society would end in disaster and death. You do not realize now the full meaning of a crime, prison with its

honor and punishment. You are still too young to understand all this, however, what you have seen today, I trust, would never be forgotten by you! The officers of the law will question the guilty child, there are going to be witnesses to testify and finally punishment would be administered to the little boy. Small children are not taken to ~~the~~ prisons for adults. There are ^{special} prisons for minors. The same procedure is followed at home. When someone of you does anything wrong, I, who is in charge of administering justice at home, make inquiries, try to secure the truth, and once I have all the necessary facts I punish the guilty one. In this manner I carry out an ancient law of justice which parents keep and practice in order to bring up their children properly. Primitive communities when parents fail to do this, are in a state of barbarism.

On another occasion some children amused themselves by throwing stones to a beautiful little bird, who fearfully tried to escape its attackers by flying from limb to limb of a tall tree. On seeing this my mother ^{thus} spoke ^{thus}

That is wrong and should never be done. Birds are defenseless creatures, they are children of God. They live and in the majority of cases are harmless.

The life of harmless creatures is sacred. Birds are not like beasts and snakes which harm people thus deserving death. Do not harm children, to those who do not harm you. To do wrong intentionally hardens the soul. Birds are weak and innocent creatures. To kill them is to offend God!

Chapter III

Summary - A lesson about a drunkard - His family - A sad picture of sorrow and misery - Will and its importance to men and women -

One day a drunkard passed by our house - He zig-zaged all along the street. He could hardly stand. Foolish words he said - His clothing was worn out, soiled. His eyes were feverish his whole appearance disgusting.

- Repugnant sight, my mother said, on seeing him - See to what state of degradation can sink a man who indulges in drinking alcoholic drinks - no one wishes even, to approach him.

If he has family; wife, children, mother, brothers or sisters, or property of any kind, are not safe under his trust. Everything is menaced to end in ruin. - Must probably his wife has to work day and night to support her children who doubtless are sickly and anemic and defective. - Great calamities threaten that home - Disgrace and degeneration await at the door of that poor man's family -

Who can be so cruel and weak as to
sink so low and dragg along innocent
children?"

A policeman came after the drunkard.
He overtook him. -- He handcuffed
him, since he struggles. -- finally he
is taken to prison. --

My mother was not satisfied with
the sight of such painful incident to
teach us a lesson. Without telling us to
what part of the city she was going
to take us, the following day, very early
in the morning she took us for a
walk - We came to a wretched looking
house in the outskirts of the town -

What I saw in that house I will never
forget. A sick woman laid on a ^{shabby}
bed. She was being cared for by one
of her little daughters. "And where is
your husband?" my mother asked her. Oh!
The poor woman, answered sadly, I hate
to tell you. . . . I do not know where he is.
He is somewhere. . . in the street, I suppose -
It is very unpleasant for me to say it,
but everybody knows it. --

He is to be pitied. He is controlled by an evil habit -- drink! When he comes home he must treat me and the children, he wants things done immediately -- and if we are not prompt to satisfy his wishes he leaves again, excitedly, always angry. We are all afraid of him. His children do not feel that he is like a father to them, but a cruel tormentor. --- and I, myself, even forget that that wretched man is the father of my children!

And the woman wept ---

my mother tried to console her as best as she could and gave her a little money. After this we left ---

Can you guess, my mother said, who is the husband of that poor woman? Her husband is that man we saw yesterday being taken to prison. Today he is in prison. I did not want to tell her this. There was no need to make her feel worst. A woman always has if not love at least pity for the man whom she has united her life. Why does that man lack the will power to change his life and become a useful citizen good father and husband? The answer is! Because his parents did not bring him up properly.

Because that man lacks will power, self respect and a sense of responsibility - He is ruled by evil passions. Will power, my children, is a quality of the soul, which we have to strengthen since early childhood, so that it may become a habit and the invisible guide of our actions. Will power can be developed. It should be exercised by doing good and never wrong -

Every man wishes to become a good citizen and to be ready to help all those in need, to be of service to his country from which we derive our daily joys and comforts. Maybe, you do not as yet understand my words, but I trust that what you have seen in connection with this incident will never be forgotten by you. I would like you not to forget my words - try to keep them in your mind and occasionally to repeat them over to yourselves. The more you think about them the easier you will understand them. Our will power grows in us little by little through constant practice. This can be done by doing our work

well, by being obedient to our parents, teachers, and elders by trying to follow the good examples set by them. If we are surrounded by hard working men, their good example inspire us to do likewise, to consider as noble occupations their daily tasks, whether in the fields the shop or the school. Our will power is ~~the~~ the habit to fulfill all our obligations; to love what is good and beautiful and to try to practice goodness and kindness by all means possible. We need will power to accomplish our work, to abstain from doing what is harmful to our body; to keep away from vices which will bring disgrace and ruin to our families, as you have seen the drunkard doing. We need will power to study; to succeed in some noble enterprise; to live in harmony with our fellow beings; to be intrinsically honest to adhere to our best traditions, ~~and~~ to keep our self respect, and to safeguard ^{the} integrity of our country. "Do not harm any one so that you may not be harmed". Thus said Jesus Christ.

You, being still young, should try to strengthen your will power. If your teacher gives you a lesson, study it, one and many times. Learn it well, so not stop repeating it until you feel sure you have mastered it. This is to possess a strong will power, to persevere in whatever we undertake and which is honorable and good work makes a man worthy of all honor. Little by little we acquire good habits if we only wish to improve ourselves. Having in our heart the firm desire to succeed and to raise ourselves from the common level is enough to make us reach the pinnacle of our lofty ambitions—

I never forget this lesson about the drunkard. It was so effective that it has left on my mind an indelible impression.

I feel a great repulsion toward the vice of drinking, so ^{base} degrading. I believe that a man lowers himself to most wretched creatures on earth, when he lets himself be dominated by such vice—

Drink enfeebles the mind and the soul.
and destroy health and it corrupts
all those in contact with the man
thus under the influence of this most
evil vice through bad example
and influence -

Chapter IV

Summary - Thrift - How to develop thrifty habits -
 - In the School - Work as a habit - Gardening - What
 the ancients said - Misfortune in our family -
 - Our duty to be strong in time of distress -

I have read that it is very difficult to develop the habit of thriftiness, and that is exactly what my mother used to tell us.

Our Sundays were always happy days for us. On this day she always gave us a few pennies. We were not allowed to spend them at once. They should last all week and on the following Sunday we had to give her an account of our weekly expenses and to show that something was still saved. ~~On this subject no one could break down our parents' set principles~~ If this had not been done we lost our allowance for that Sunday. And on this subject our parents' set principles were unshakable!

I must confess that at the beginning it was rather hard for me to practice the habit of thriftiness. I used to count and recount the pennies when there were not many of them left. In my childish imagination

it seemed to me that (22) may be the next time I counted them some new one would be found to increase their number

Our mother used to question us daily about the manner in which we were spending our capital, and in this way she kept checking whether we had invested wisely our funds - We were always truthful in our answers on this subject, since truthfulness had already become a habit with us. Moreover we would have never deceived her on any subject - She used to remind us the ancient hymn which says: "On one of the scale's plates I have placed the truth and on the other a thousand sacrifices and offerings to the deity, but the former was always more weighty!"

In this manner it became a habit with us the way in which we spend our money in sweets and goodies. Many days and weeks passed when we had to exercise a great deal of self control

in order to live up to our thrifty practices.

Finally nothing would tempt us to spend our money unwisely, and our dear mother was always punctual in giving us our allowance.

To carry out what we promise she used to say, is a matter of honor and self respect - This virtue should be developed and strengthened since it is the one which compels us to the exact fulfillment of our obligations.

To fail in the fulfillment of our promises is dishonorable. It is honorable to meet our obligations with exact punctuality.

Later on, when I left home to go to school, my mother always sent me my small allowance, and as usual I took the greatest care in spending it.

My mother always encouraged us on whatever task we undertook. She used to tell us - "Work - Work always carefully - do not hurry to finish your work - work done in a hurry is never

beautiful^{!!!}

She used to give us tools with which to make toys or a small plow and spade to work in the garden. She loved flowers and we had to help her raising them - I remember very well her favorite flower - It was the jasmijn. This flower is beautiful in its pure whiteness and has a mild delicate perfume. In our home or in our small farm no bird or harmless creature suffered from want - We children were always anxious to care for them since we knew that this would please our mother, and would deserve from her praise and a tender caress -

About the cultivation of the soil she used to speak to us with the greatest enthusiasm. She used to read us from her favorite book beautiful sayings of the Persians, people who are said to be the ancestors of the human race -

"The man who plows the earth from right to left and left to right is said: may you harvest from your field all what may feed you and your many cities be laden with all kinds of blessings"

"Let us plow and sow. He who tills the soil fulfills a law. He who puts good seed in the ground is as worthy as the one who had done ten thousand sacrifices!"

I pray, I invoke the waters and the springs which emanate from the heart of the earth and which rise to the surface and break bubbling. Pure and clear water, fresh playful stream, blessed be, since thou give life to the trees, be good and always run!"

From what I have said you may think that sorrow was unknown in our family. Is there a home misfortune never enters?

Where is that earthly paradise where every morning the sun smiles brightly and there are never tears to obscure its beautiful rays?

There were days of mourning for us. Our little sister Maria was one night taken from us never to return again. She was the victim of a malignant fever.

I shall never forget her features, her half closed eyes, the whiteness of her robe, the coffin which seemed to be wrapped in a gauze made of snow. My mother watched all night by the mortuary bed -- my father deeply touched was at her side -- and we, children, weeping quietly stood by dazed with sadness!

In the evening of the following day Maria was buried. A touch of deep sadness seemed to have taken possession of us all. It seemed as though joy & happiness would never dwell among us any more - the sun did not seem

so bright, and something very dear was missing to make us happy! At the moment the funeral procession left our home my mother said just a word: Farewell! But it was said with such infinite sadness and tenderness than on hearing it I could not but feel that my heart was being torn to pieces - I approached my mother as gently and respectfully as I could, I try to caress her tenderly. What else could I do? I could not comfort her, I just could share with her her infinite grief and loneliness!

My sister Maria was a beautiful, fine girl. She was always mindful of our appearance, and mended our cloths with great care. She was the eldest of the children and as such was as kind to us as our mother - she was always working. She never grew

impatient and never unkind words came out from her mouth. My mother always saw to it that we never used coarse language. She was extremely strict about this.

If an older person should say something improper or rude my mother always disapprove of it, and if we children, through ignorance, should repeat it were promptly corrected and warned never to do it again -

After Maria's death, many days of mourning passed, but one afternoon my mother called us to her apartment and thus she spoke:

"It is necessary to return to our normal life. Your father and elder brother are going back to day to the farm, and you should go to school."

I shall attend, as usual to the care of the family. Since birth man is condemned to man.

suffering and weaknesses and to return
there. whence he came from!

Danger is always with him, death
 lingers closely until finally it
 annihilates him. Let us be brave!
 Let us dry our tears! Let us continue
 with the fulfillment of our duties! If
 sorrow is inescapable let us be
 stronger than sorrow and in this
 way conquer it! Let us lift our-
 selves from this chaos of sadness
 and go forward with our duties!

Duty! This word was always
 on my mother's lips. She always
 said it with a kind of sacred
 devotion. It is our duty to work,
 to be cheerful, to help others carry
 their burdens, to contribute to
 the support of our families and
 later on to contribute to the
 development, and prosperity of the
 State.

What is the State? At that time we did not realize the meaning of this word. We could only fancy that it had a great deal to do with our lives, with all the duties we had to discharge, with the laws of the country, with the general welfare of the community, with the freedom and independence of the fatherland. But all these things were hard to understand at that age when we were nothing else, but just children —

Chapter V

summary - History lessons. The 15th of September
 1821 - Declaration of Independence. The
 Spanish Conquistadores - Other nations -
 The American Indian

Whenever the 14th of September was near
 our mother used to give us simple but interest-
 ing lessons in history. Her words awakened
 in us a deep love for our country, Nicaragua,
 and the other Central American States.

We used to sit near her on the night of
 the 14th of September, the anniversary of the battle
 of San Jacinto. This battle was fought
 by one of our national heroes, in 1856,
 against the American filibusters who
 wanted to take possession of our country.

Don José Dolores Estrada was
 in leader of our countrymen during
 this memorable battle, ~~and~~ which he
 won. Don José Dolores Estrada is
 one of our most revered patriots.
 He won for us our second
 independence -

" You do not understand yet what the word Country means, our mother used to say. Our country is the place where we were born. It is like the common home of all the people. Nicaragua is our Country. To our land we owe love and devotion. It is like your own home which in turn is a small country. We also call our country, Mother Country, since it was here that the sun rays caressed us for the first time, and it is its soil which offers us all what we need for our sustenance and comfort. We have another Mother Country: Spain. Spain gave Columbus the necessary aid to find a new world, and it was Spain the nation which gave us our inheritance of blood, Customs, religion, ideals, and institutions.

In one word Spain gave us life, as much as a mother gives it to her children - the word Patria, which means country, has been, since ancient times a sacred symbol.

It could be said that our country was really born to a new life on the 15 of September 1821. Since that

date it has been a free nation, master of its own destiny. At that time it was larger than it is now. It was formed by what today are Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua & Costa Rica. Guatemala was the seat of the Government, and was called Capitanía General during colonial times and Federal Government from the day of its independence up to the time when the Federation came to an end. The "Capitan General" or Governor of the Central American provinces was appointed by the King of Spain during colonial times, as were also those in charge of carrying out justice.

On the eve of our independence the then Capitan General, Don Gabino Yainza, said in an invitation addressed to high rank officers and to the people in general:

"Matters of great interest, which have a great bearing on the happiness and welfare of the nation are at

present occupying the attention of the Government". And then ended by inviting the Archbishop and all those occupying high offices to a very important meeting which was to be held the following day, the 15th of September 1821, at the Government Palace!!

On the morning of that day, about eight o'clock, the halls, rooms, and courts of the Palace were already filled by a most eager crowd. Among those present were the illustrious citizens Don Jose Francisco Barrundia, Doctor Don Pedro Molina and Don Basilio Porras, who immediately proceeded to 'open the meeting'.

Later also arrived the Archbishop, Prelates, two representatives for each municipality, officers of the Army and a committee representing the most important civic organizations and headed by Don Yalino Yainza. The latter read the minutes of a similar meeting held in Chiapas, Mexico, in which

It had been held that Mexico ~~and~~
~~Central America~~ was no longer a
 dependency of Spain -

Don José Cecilio del Valle, one
 of the leaders, then addressed the
 audience saying that it was not
 wise for Central America to proclaim
 its independence until the provinces had
 expressed their opinion. However
 the majority was against that motion
 and the Act of Independence of the Central
 American state was immediately drawn
 up - The "Capitan General" swore to carry
 out the wishes of the patriots and declared
 Central America an independent nation
 altogether free from Spain, Mexico or
 any other foreign power. All those
 present sworn allegiance to the new
 government and amid the greatest
 enthusiasm couriers were dispatched
 to all the municipalities informing them
 of the step taken by the Federal Govern-
 ment. The 15th of September 1821 is
 for the Central America ~~the~~ day to
 be honored, and on which all the
 citizens should rekindle the

ideals which prompted fathers of our country, to make of it a free, prosperous and happy nation.

The history of our country before it was discovered by the Spanish Conquistadores is the same as that of the other American countries. Nicaragua was inhabited by Indians. These Indians had developed a most wonderful civilization whose ruins can still be seen in Honduras and Guatemala - these Indians were the Mayas whose main stronghold was in Mexico - the Mayas were one of the most intelligent and civilized races of the earth - their history is filled with wonderful and amazing achievements. The Mayas developed in many ways a civilization far superior to that of the Asiatic or European people -

You already know how many countries there are now ^{on} the American Continent. This continent has been blessed with all the gifts of God. It has all the natural wealth to be found in all other sections of the earth, and its skies, and rivers, and mountains and

lakes are a magnificent proof of the grandeur and majesty of their Maker.

Columbus was the first one of the Spanish Conquistadores to put foot on Nicaraguan soil. He first came to a little Bay on the North Eastern part of Nicaragua. He was driven to land here by a storm, and having found refuge in this hospitable place he named it: Gracias a Dios - (Thank God) After Columbus many Spaniards by Spain to discover and colonized new lands in the New World. Among them are: Hernan Cortes, Conqueror of Mexico; Pedro de Alvarado, of Guatemala; Pedrarias Dávila, of Panama and Nicaragua; Cristobal de Olid; Hernandez de Cordoba, who founded in Nicaragua the cities of Leon and Granada, and many other brave and intrepid Captains, who no matter what their faults were, brought to the New World what was best in the Mother Country, Spain and which we still honor and revere as a most precious legacy -

Chapter VI

Summary - Lessons given by the eldest brother -
 Advices from the Mother - Home and Country -
 The flag a symbol of the country - The National
 Shield

Joaquin, the eldest brother, who was in charge of looking after the farm, usually came home to be with his family during the patriotic festivities of the 14th and 15th of September. He was of great service to my father whose support and that of the family he derived from the cultivation of a small farm which he had inherited from our grandfather -

On one of these days my mother said to Joaquin! Listen, my son: You already know the origin and meaning of our patriotic celebrations. You are old enough to understand all these and to instruct your brothers in the significance of our historical events. Tomorrow, I beg you, take your brothers to those public places where are kept the relics of our national life and history. Be ready to answer your brothers' questions; advise them about how to be good citizens; ~~to~~ to respect the laws of the

Country upon which rest the welfare and peace of the country - To morrow you may proudly watch our flag, symbol of our nation, being waived by the our tropical breeze over all the public and private buildings - Show your brothers our beautiful white and blue flag, whose sight has been an inspiration to me in my task of making of you good citizens - ~~The~~ The sight of our flag unfurled under the brilliant radiance of our tropical sky is to me a source of strength

And you, my son, continue in the task began by me. Help your brothers to become good citizens. It is a duty worthy of praise to influence others to be good citizens. Every ^{government} father, mother, teacher and any one capacitated to do it is under obligation to see that those under them turn out to be good citizens. You should be the spiritual guide of your brothers with your good example and kind advise - Talk to them as I used to talk to you when you were a child and when I tried to bring into your mind little rays of what was best for your soul and for your happiness!

Your brothers listen to my words because they are from my lips, but do not grasp their full meaning. Tell them that Nicaragua is only a part of Central America sinwisely divided, and that whenever our brothers of Central America should be menaced by the enemy we should all rally to their help, since we are all members of the same family. Once they came to our help, and we should also aid them in their moments of need - Don Juan Rafael Mora from Costa Rica freed us from slavery when in 1854 William Walker tried to rule over Nicaragua.

Instilled in your brother's the ambition to accomplish what is worth while and noble, to become great, to be just and unselfish, sharing always with their fellow beings in their greatness and prosperity. To love all our fellow-countrymen, no matter whether they are humble or rich, powerful or poor. In the same manner to regard all those from the other Central American States, since they are our brothers, and the Central

American States should some day come together and form a larger nation and symbolized by the same glorious flag:

Teach your brothers how the ^{man} who are good citizens tries to build a home, bring up a family having the best ideals; ^{is} ready to cooperate in the welfare and development of the state; is proud to have his rights respected and is humble in carrying out his duties; is ready to admit his own errors and correct his mistakes; is brave and unselfish in defending the lives and property of those dear to him or entrusted to his care. Above all he wants justice to be supreme in his own country and if possible everywhere on earth -

One can not think of the individual without thinking of the State with all its different departments among which harmony and cooperation must prevail -

This is the Central Government which governs the country and which is empowered to look after the welfare of all its citizens - The State has, like an individual its own personality -

The state has its own wealth and income made up by public taxation. The state has one task to accomplish and that is to guaranty the liberty ~~and~~ education and welfare of its citizens -

The State has a flag which is the symbol of a nation. Our flag is white and blue. It is the sacred symbol of our country. Tomorrow, the 15th of September show it to your brothers and tell them that it is the representation of our national liberty and pride. See that they remain uncovered when in the presence of our flag.

Beautiful flag which inspires in us the most noble and greatest love for our country, we shall always be thy defenders!

Explain to your brothers what the shield symbolizes. The shield has since ancient times meant a great deal to the people. The warriors of ancient times used to shield their bodies. Thus they protected themselves from their enemies. This is the reason why our flag has a shield. It represents an idea, to defend

our institutions and territorial integrity
from any foreign invasion. On the
background of our shield can be
seen five volcanoes. Each volcano
represent one of the five countries of
Central America, one day united
under a Federation - The memory
of this union still lingers in our
minds and it fills our hearts with
the cherished hope that some time we
shall again unite if we wish to
see ~~that~~ our country respected by
~~those who~~ those who see
strength in large territorial
extensions —

Chapter VII

Summary - The 15th of September - Joaquin awakens his brothers very early - The hoisting of the flag - The National Anthem of Nicaragua - At the City Hall - The reading of the Proclamation of Independence -

Alfredo, Juan, said Joaquin at 5 o'clock in the morning of the 15th of September, get up. The sun is shining on this most glorious date in all its radiance! The bells of the churches ring triumphantly, there is music on the streets and also fire works filled the earth with their merry noise! Let us hurry to the plaza to see our flag hoisted at 6 o'clock over the city hall.

Obediently and hurriedly we got up and went into the street - The whole city had a holiday atmosphere - Everywhere flags could be seen. At the foreign legations had displayed their own flags. When we came to the plaza there was already a large crowd. There was ^{also} the military band ~~standing~~ ^{at} attention in front of the National Palace.

At six o'clock a cannon shot was heard and immediately the band played our national Anthem. Everybody rose and uncovered most respectfully -

Slowly our flag was hoisted and ^{majestically} unfurled ~~to~~
~~be~~ over a background of crimson
 produced by the first rays of the morning.

|| Beautiful flag, sacred symbol of our
 country Nicaragua, we shall always depend
 by honor; may no one dare tread ~~trifle~~
~~on~~ our mountain ridges; or the
 peak of our majestic volcanoes, or
~~the~~ the beauty of our smiling valleys.

Unfold thy beautiful colors over our
 clear blue sky, thou noble emblem of our
 Country and Liberty; extend thy wings
 over our fatherland from end to end &
 protect thy children over valleys, ~~mountain~~
 mountains, ~~and~~ rivers and seas !!!

Thus spoke ^{in a loud voice} our brother Joaquin.
 His words were a prayer, the prayer of
 a free and honest citizen.

Once our flag had reached its
 place a voice was heard: "Long live
 our flag. May it be like a royal
 eagle; always free, unhampered and
 raising onward to heaven!"

Our flag was slowly hoisted over our national Capitol. While our flag was hoisted the sun was beginning to tint the crimson the horizon of our country.

|| Beautiful flag, immortal flag. Symbol of our sovereignty, ^{most} cherished relic of our Nicaraguan soil, we shall defend thee, as thou symbolizes our national dignity

In the afternoon our brother Joaquin took us to the City Hall. There we attended the reading of the Declaration of Independence. It reads thus:

» National Palace - Guatemala, September

15, 1821 -

Being a matter of doubtless and public knowledge the desire of the Central Americans to become an independent State, free from the rule of the Spanish Government, ^{the local authority} expressed by word and writing, and having received ~~from~~ ^{communications} from the municipalities of Ciudad Real, Comitán y Tuxtla to the effect of having the said municipalities proclaimed their independence from the Spanish Crown, the authorities and citizens of Guatemala City after due deliberation voted:

1^o That in view of the unanimous desire expressed by the ^{municipality} leading citizens of Guatemala, the Governor of the Province of Guatemala wishing to avoid

serious consequences in case their wishes are not granted, ~~and~~ makes it be known, subject to the ratification of Congress, the following:

2. That that all the different provinces of Central America should elect representatives to a Congress to be held in Guatemala City to ratify the Declaration of Independence from Spain and to decide upon the form of Government which Central America must adopt.

3. That in order to facilitate the election of the said representatives to Congress, they should be elected by the same electoral board previously in charge of the election of Deputies to the Cortes at Spain.

4. That a Representative be elected for every 15,000 people without exclusion of those natives of Africa -

5. That the Electoral Boards in each province, should decide on the number of representatives to be elected in accordance with the last census -

6° That in view of the seriousness of the matter to be considered by the Congress and the urgent need of its prompt settlement, the election of the said representatives should take place as soon as this communication is received by the different Electoral Boards, Congress holding first session on the 1st of March 1822 at Guatemala City -

7° In the meanwhile, there should be no change among those in charge of the administration of justice or government, but that they should continue in the administration of their duties in accordance with the law until they should be notified otherwise by resolution of Congress.

8° That the Brigadier Don Gabino Yainza, should continue as head of the Provisional Government in cooperation with an Advisory Board made up of the following citizens: Don Miguel Farreynaga; Don José del Valle; the Marquis de Aycinena; Dr. Don José Valdes; Dr. Don José Angel Candina;

and Don Antonio Robles. The first of the mentioned citizens to represent the Province of Leon y Nicaragua; the second, the Province of Comayagua, Honduras; the third, the Province of Guatemala; the fourth, the Province of Solola and Chimaltenango, Guatemala; the fifth, the Province of Sonsonate, Salvador, and the sixth, Ciudad Real, Chiapas -

9° That this Provisional Board should consult its President, Sr Yainza, in all matters of government.

10 That the Catholic religion, which has been our established religion, and which we shall profess on following centuries, should be kept pure and without changes, keeping alive the same religious spirit which has always so distinguished Guatemala, showing great respect and consideration for the Prelates of the Church granting them protection to their persons and property.

11^o To ask from all Church Prelates their cooperation in advising their congregations to keep peace and order and to help in carrying out the laws of the new Government, having in mind the welfare of the majority and abstaining from any personal expressions of discord or selfish interest

12 That the Provisional Government should take the most careful precautions to avoid any