

IN HONOR OF THE PATRIOT
DON MANUEL TORRES

1764-1822



COLOMBIAN LEGATION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

1926



ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

on the walls of which a bronze tablet was placed July 20, 1926, in commemoration of Don Manuel Torres. This tablet was presented by the Government of Colombia and by some of the descendants of the Philadelphia friends of Torres, who asked the privilege of joining in this tribute. The tablet is seen next to the door on the right of the picture.

IN HONOR OF THE PATRIOT
DON MANUEL TORRES

In homage to the memory of Don Manuel Torres, first Minister of the Republic of Colombia in the United States of America and as such the first Latin American diplomatic agent officially received by the Washington Government, there was unveiled in Philadelphia on the twentieth of July, 1926, a beautiful bronze tablet, which bears the following inscription:

In memory of

MANUEL TORRES

1764—1822

As Minister of the Republic of Colombia
he was the First Latin American Diplomatic
Representative in the United States of America

Tribute from the Government of Colombia and
from Philadelphia Descendants of his Friends
July 20, 1926

This tribute to one of the foremost protagonists of Latin American independence was placed on the walls of St. Mary's Church, not far from the spot in the churchyard where the remains of Torres were laid to rest on July 17, 1822.

The unveiling ceremony was opened with a fervent invocation by the Rev. Father J. Cassidy. Following the prayer, addresses were made by the Minister of Colombia, by Mr. Joseph R. Wilson, Director of the Educational

Section of the Sesquicentennial Exposition, representing the Mayor of Philadelphia; by Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union; by Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, who accepted the tablet in the name of St. Mary's Church; by Mr. Milton Campbell, president of the H. K. Mulford Company who, in the name of that honorable firm, announced the creation of the Manuel Torres Prize, to be awarded for the best thesis on the prevention and treatment of tropical diseases presented on graduation by a student in the School of Medicine, Bogotá, Colombia; by Mr. E. T. Stotesbury, of the Executive Committee of the Sesquicentennial Exposition; and by Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler, secretary of the Manuel Torres Memorial Committee. The ceremony closed with the benediction, pronounced by the Rev. Father Burke, Coadjutor of St. Mary's Church.

The Government of Colombia thus recorded anew its gratitude toward one who devoted his brilliant talents and his life to the achievement of emancipation in the American Continent and the recognition of the Independence of Greater Colombia. With this testimonial are warmly associated a number of Philadelphia's sons, descendants of those eminent and good friends of Torres who, in that city, labored with him in the transcendent task which he so successfully completed.

Foremost among those who professed for Don Manuel Torres a friendship compounded of admiration and affection was Colonel William Duane, an eminent son of the former capital of the United States and one of the first of the intellectuals of this country to comprehend the benefits of an international policy which would bind together in sincere and loyal friendship the Anglo-Saxon democracy and the Latin peoples in the remainder of the Continent.

As a result of conversations between Torres and Duane there sprang up in the latter a marked enthusiasm for the nations to the southward and for the great deeds which were there achieved during the notable historical period com-

prising the first five lustrums of the nineteenth century. After South American arms had obtained the victory and the new Republics were admitted to the concert of free and sovereign nations, Colonel Duane expressed the following ideas which today, after the lapse of a century, appear almost prophetic:

Thirty years ago I became acquainted with some men of virtue and intellect who were preparing the way for that revolution in South America, which is now realized. Those intimacies had, by exciting my sympathy, led me to bestow more earnest attention on the history, geography, and the eventual destiny of those countries. I perceived the commercial and political importance of those rich regions to the United States—countries possessing everything that nature had bestowed on the other parts of the globe, and much more which none else possessed. A new creation springing out of chaos, inviting the republic, which had only a few years preceded, to communicate its institutions, exchange its useful products, and promote a family of republics whose institutions must eventually regenerate humanity.

Torres was one of those “men of virtue and intellect” mentioned by Duane. So vivid and eloquent appear to have been the former’s descriptions of Colombia, that in 1822 the distinguished Philadelphian, accompanied by his daughter Elizabeth, undertook a journey to that country. Of this journey he left a delightful account in his book *A Visit to Colombia*, published in 1826. In those pages the name of Torres often appears, and his memory is evoked in the following poignant lines:

The mountains of the great chain west and east, which, after leaving Nare, very soon disappear altogether, excepting two pyramidal clumps of rocks, which appear to block up the channel in the passage to Mompox, are not seen but in questionable shapes on the right and the left, till in sight of Teneriffe; the indistinct but unvarying line of dark blue shade mixing

with the clouds of evening, shows the Sierra of Santa Marta; but below, and nearer, the morning lights mark lower ranges, and, still lower, and more near, green and undulating. I looked towards these vine-covered hills and once gay regions, whose north bound marks the valley Dupar, with a mixture of delight and sorrow. I had before me the map traced by the hand of the late Manuel Truxillo y Torres, first minister of the Colombian Republic to the United States. His former estate—his residence—the scenes of his married years, and the birth-place of his child, a daughter whose death was one of the arrows which quickened the current of life; here he had, by his own mild, kind, and consummate temper, redeemed the Indian of the forest, and formed a native population, mild, industrious, ingenious, and, as he himself said, the best gardeners and cultivators in the world; here he had founded a new little world of his own—the land was a gift from Charles IV of Spain, on the presentation of the Viceroy, Archbishop Gongora; here he married, and here he often said he ought to have lived and died—but he was called to supply different stations *ad interim*, upon the removal or resignation of intendants or others, and on confidential commissions at Santa Marta, Cartagena, La Hacha, and frequently at Bogotá and Tunja. His education, and the force of his intellectual and moral principles, made him a friend of his species and of human liberty. General Nariño was the last of a band, of which Torres was also one, who had, with the early dawn of the revolution of North America, prepared the way for that of the South—which he just lived, after thirty-four years of exile, to see recognized as independent, and, at the moment when all his labours were consummated, to close his living career. He was among those who were ordered to be seized, imprisoned and sent to Europe, but he was too much beloved, wherever he had authority, not to have friends; his escape was connived at; and, after reaching with his funds an island of the West Indies, where he remained some time, he removed to Philadelphia, where he lived in various degrees of good and evil fortune to his death. He had entrusted his funds, in order that they should produce a respectable subsistence without waste, to persons in trade; he was fortunate

sometimes in the adventures, but in others was defrauded by those to whom he had committed them; by one person, since deceased, he lost 70,000 dollars—it was his all. He had occasional remittances from his wife while she lived; but the information communicated by Yrujo and Onís, of his zeal in the revolt of South America, and the efforts he was making to furnish the patriots with supplies, caused his estates at San Carlos to be confiscated a short time after the death of his last living ties.

The hacienda of San Carlos was not more than sixty miles distance, I was told; but what should I see there? for Torres was no more, his ashes slept in the cemetery of St. Mary's, Philadelphia; and what gratification could be derived from seeing the desolation that followed confiscation? I enquired; and learned there was not a vestige of a habitation: the forests which he had felled, and the gardens laid out and cultivated under his own eye, in which were collected and collecting all the riches of the botanical regions; the avenue of cotton trees and oranges, the groves of foreign firs on the lofty peaks, and the palms in the valleys, had lost their order and their disposition: the cotton tree sheds its pods in such profusion as to diminish into dwarfs, and the orange had become bitter and deformed, as if in anger or despair: the poor Indian too had lost his earthly providence; and, when his race was run, the progeny who followed became like their progenitors, ignorant, indocile, and wild. A wilderness was to be seen on all sides; there was no charm left to replace the paradise that had been created by my friend: I did not go; I could not but cast an eye to the hills, which the bright moon revealed; and when we reached Barrancas about three in the morning of the 18th, I preferred going to sleep for a couple of hours to escape the feelings which perhaps were the more acute from the irritation of watching and keeping the watermen awake and at their oars.

In delineating for the present generation the high character and spirit of Don Manuel Torres, it would indeed be difficult to find better or more faithful words than those of Colonel Duane and of other eminent contemporaries. The eulogies which today, a century after his death,

exalt his name in the churchyard of St. Mary's, are but the echoes of the constant gratitude of his country and the admiration of posterity, unchanged and undiminished down the years.

The Manuel Torres Memorial Committee has contributed to this concerted homage the most lively and generous enthusiasm, and it is my pleasant duty to express to Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler, secretary of that committee, the thanks which he deserves for his valuable cooperation in organizing the commemoration described in the pages of this pamphlet.

ENRIQUE OLAYA HERRERA,
Minister of Colombia.





THE UNVEILING OF TABLET

The Minister of Colombia and Madame Olaya immediately after the unveiling of the memorial tablet to Don Manuel Torres.

ADDRESS

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER OF COLOMBIA,
HON. ENRIQUE OLAYA

*Mr. Mayor,
Members of the
Manuel Torres Memorial Committee,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

We are gathered here, today, to render homage to the memory of an illustrious man who passed away in this city of Philadelphia a little more than a century ago after having devoted his best energies to the liberty and independence of Spanish America. Through these streets which stretch before our view passed the funeral cortège of Don Manuel Torres, and his mortal remains lie buried in this cemetery of St. Mary's Church, on the walls of which we are about to dedicate a bronze tablet recording his name and deeds.

On that day, June seventeenth, 1822, the ships anchored in the Delaware lowered their flags to half-mast in sign of mourning; special representatives of the Federal Government and of the United States Army and Navy joined in the expression of grief over the passing of this friendly diplomat; while the City of Philadelphia, in which Torres had made his home for more than twenty-five years, rendered its tribute in honor of the statesman and gentleman who by reason of his outstanding gifts of intelligence and character had won the esteem and affection of so many hearts. So remarkable were his merits and so great were the virtues which adorned the moral character of Don Manuel Torres, that time has failed to obscure them; and, today, after the passage of a century, the Government of Colombia and the citizens of Philadelphia—some of whom are the descendants of friends of this illustrious man—are renewing in this place the testimony of their admiration and gratitude.

A few days before his death, Torres placed in the hands of the President of the United States of America the credentials of the Colombian Government by virtue of which he became its first Diplomatic Agent in Washington. That act, namely, the official reception for the first time in Washington of the representative of a Latin American Republic, in full sovereignty and independence after a long and cruel war, was the crowning point of prolonged labors conducted by an expert hand. It not only marked the official friendship existing between the two Republics but, also, the initial point in a Continental policy destined to reach extraordinary proportions.

The reception of the new minister at the White House was attended by very moving circumstances, for Torres was so near the end of his physical strength that it was with difficulty he could stand, according to the memoirs of John Quincy Adams. When Torres spoke to President Monroe of the transcendent importance to the American Continent of the recognition of the new Republic, he was overcome by emotion, and the President was hardly less moved as he, in turn, spoke of the great interest of the United States Government and people in the future of the Nation whom Torres voiced on that historic day. Thus was initiated a new era which, overcoming the inevitable difficulties in the development of any great idea, will end in the ultimate triumph of the purposes and the ideal unfalteringly followed by the statesman whose memory we honor, namely, the unity of interests and rights of all the peoples of the New World.

The clear-sighted spirit of Torres never for one moment doubted the wisdom of this orientation of American international policy, and in his efforts toward its realization he became the prophet and man of faith who won a clear title to the gratitude of the peoples whose ultimate greatness and felicity justified all his vigilance and anxiety. The epoch in which the mission of Torres was developed is one of those decisive periods, which, in the history of

the New World, determined the fate of the nations. It was the good fortune of Colombia and of the entire American Continent that the generation which then had the direction of affairs was, in heroism and clear-sightedness, in unselfishness and faithfulness, worthy of the high duties of the hour. If on the field of battle heroic deeds were necessary, if the combat had to be carried to the ultimate limits of sacrifice, the labor of intelligence and prevision to be realized in the cabinets of the statesmen was no less necessary and demanded the most brilliant qualities of mind and spirit. In this civil and diplomatic activity the task of establishing the friendship of the United States of America with the new nations to the South on the principles of justice and equality occupied a place of prime importance. This task, in so far as it concerned Greater Colombia, was entrusted to the hands of Torres, and he accomplished it with such skill, such foresight, so clear an understanding of its transcendent importance for the future, that not only did his contemporaries recognize his ability and achievements but the judgment of history has subsequently confirmed their opinion. The communications which he addressed to his own government and to that of the United States, as well as the accounts preserved of his conversations with President Monroe, give him a place in the first rank among the historic personages who at that time laid a firm foundation for the foreign policy of the American Republics. Those documents, whose main objective, invariably one and the same, constituted one of the most valuable contributions in raising that fabric of moral principles which enables the people of this Continent to press forward, moved by one and the same conception of international harmony.

The legislators and statesmen in the United States who shared the same high ideal found in Torres a collaborator who was as able as enthusiastic. When, therefore, the Congress of the United States authorized the

sending of diplomatic agents to the newly independent nations of South America, Henry Clay—one of the most generous and eloquent leaders of the movement for such action—addressed Torres in words of fervent rejoicing. “The cause of South America has at last prevailed,” wrote Clay in informing him of the auspicious news; “the House yesterday by a majority of 80 to 75 adopted my Resolution, which has for its object, substantially, the recognition of the Independent Governments. I congratulate you on the occasion. It has been to me a day of proud and deep satisfaction. What is much more important, its moral tendency everywhere will be deeply felt.”

From that time to this, the sentiments which Henry Clay thus expressed and which Torres had served with complete devotion have gained in power and significance. Each passing day has but thrown into higher relief the justice of those ideas and the clear vision of the minds which gave them being. Posterity but renders them due justice, and when we assemble for such a tribute as this, it is not only proudly to recall the initiators of that movement, but to draw strength and inspiration from the example of their great deeds. If to Torres, as to Clay and to all the men who shed luster on that period of Continental history, it were now given to return to life, we could be certain, knowing what they were, that their most heartfelt desire would be to behold the American Republics closely united under the protection of liberty—liberty which, 150 years ago, received here in Philadelphia one of the most important affirmations in the history of the human race; that those Republics should enjoy the prosperity springing from that liberty which, while it materially strengthens the peoples, also exalts them morally; and that, finally, under the aegis of justice which, reinforcing and cementing the mutually indissoluble bonds of fraternity and friendship, the approximation of all the nations of the American Continent may be achieved.

REMARKS

BY THE HONORABLE W. FREELAND KENDRICK,
MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA

One of the privileges of the Mayor of Philadelphia is the acquiring of what might be termed an intensive historical education in our local points of interest. Few phases of this have more appealed to me than the study of the early links which bind this city perhaps even more so than almost any of our older American ones to our friends and neighbors to the South of us. It has been my particular concern in this Sesquicentennial year to do everything possible to have these points of contact marked and some definite record made of them for future generations, in order that the children of the present citizens of Philadelphia should know what part their ancestors have played in bringing about friendly relations with our sister Republics in the Western Hemisphere.

Over a year ago my attention was called to the fact that the last resting place of the Colombian patriot, Manuel Torres, had been discovered in the churchyard of Old St. Mary's Church, which is not merely one of the most historic religious edifices in this city, but is also one of the most striking living proofs of the earlier relations of Philadelphia with many foreign countries. Here are buried a number of refugees who came 130 years ago from the island of Santo Domingo; here are to be found many other proofs of our early foreign contacts, such as the memory of John Leamy, for many years a Trustee of this Church, who was the first citizen of the United States to send a ship to what is now the Republic of Uruguay. The "John," of Philadelphia, was the first vessel flying the Stars and Stripes ever to enter the broad waters of the Rio de la Plata.

But while these early mercantile contacts are important, we should never forget that this Church has

always preserved as a hallowed memory the story of a man to whom perhaps more than anyone else of his countrymen, or of the people from Latin America, the recognition of their independence is due. It has always been a matter of great pride to those Philadelphians who believe that this city is an inspiration in the advancement of freedom and liberty, to know that Manuel Torres resided in this city for at least twenty-five years. He was not a man of wealth, though he attracted some of our most prominent citizens to his support. He was a man whose far-seeing, generous and indomitable persistency brought about, after repeated endeavors, the recognition of his country by the United States as an independent government on June 14, 1822. Torres, who had worn out his never robust strength by his efforts for freedom, died soon afterward, on July 15, 1822, and was buried two days later not far from the bronze tablet which the Government and people of Colombia have honored the City of Philadelphia in presenting to us in his memory.

It gives me particular pleasure to thank his Excellency, the President of Colombia, the honorable members of Congress of Colombia, and their distinguished Minister of Foreign Relations, Dr. Restrepo, and through them the people of our sister Republic of Colombia, for this very generous gift to our city. We are particularly honored by the fact that the presentation of this tablet in its historical surroundings is made by the distinguished Minister of Colombia in Washington, Dr. Enrique Olaya, a man who is not merely most highly regarded in his own country, but who has already made many warm friends in our own, by his cordial and sympathetic manner and the unremitting attention that he gives to his duties. In the name of the two million people of the city of Philadelphia, I thank you most heartily, Mr. Minister, for the great honor and compliment that your country has paid us, and I wish to express the hope that all of our citizens might see this tablet and learn from it the lesson of patri-

otism and self-denial which is taught by the memory of the martyr—Manuel Torres.

In closing I wish to state that since I became Mayor of Philadelphia I have done everything in my power to increase our friendly relations with the South American countries. We have spent large sums of money on the improvement of the Port, effecting what we consider to be a distinct advance over our former facilities, and we greatly hope that merchants and shippers from Colombia will make full use of the facilities of our Department of Wharves, Docks and Ferries. We possess ample warehouses for the storage of Colombian coffee, goatskins, and other products of your great land. I shall always remember as one of the most pleasant features of my administration that during it our steamship facilities with Colombia have been greatly increased, and that we now have direct sailings from Philadelphia to a number of Colombian ports. Many of our manufacturers have constantly developed the volume of their sales to Colombia and I have been informed that in many of the smallest Colombian cities articles are found which bear the slogan "Made in Philadelphia." I am glad to state that this commerce is reciprocative, and that we are continuing to buy from your great land, as well as to sell to you. You will find that the merchants of Philadelphia are displaying the same honesty and energy today as they did in the days when he whom we are commemorating here first drew for them the picture of the development of South American trade.

At the funeral of Manuel Torres 104 years ago, the Mayor of Philadelphia at the time was unfortunately indisposed by illness and could not attend. We read, however, that the City Council attended in a body and many other city officials accompanied them to honor the memory of that great patriot. Today I am sure that I am speaking for the City Council, as well as for all the citizens, in assuring you that the memory of Manuel

Torres will never die, and that our friendly relations with the great country which your Excellency so worthily represents will continue to grow as long as we are united by the blue ocean, and by the free air of the Andes. I hope it will not be long before we can extend our aeroplane service to Colombia to intensify these friendly relations in a manner never dreamed of in the past.

ADDRESS

BY DR. L. S. ROWE, DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

I deem it a high privilege to be permitted to participate in this simple but impressive ceremony. To anyone interested in the development of closer relations between the United States and our sister republics to the south, the memory of Manuel Torres possesses a significance and carries with it an inspiration more vivid and powerful as the years go by. He saw with a clearness of vision vouchsafed to but few statesmen the fundamental unity of interest of the Republics of America, as well as the importance of developing unity of purpose and unity of sentiment. No greater tribute to his statesmanship could be paid than simply to recite the fact that he realized, long before our own statesmen, the necessity of developing an American international system which would preserve the peace of this continent and which would also become, in the course of time, one of the most important factors in the maintenance of world peace.

When in 1822 he was received by the President of the United States as the accredited representative of Greater Colombia he saw therein the fulfillment of one of his great hopes. The scene in the White House on that eventful day in June, 1822, when, broken in health, he was officially presented to President Monroe, carried with

it a great promise as well as the fulfillment of a hope. Although the Monroe Doctrine had not as yet been promulgated, the purposes for which Torres had labored were coming to rapid fruition.

Manuel Torres will always remain a great figure in the annals of international relations on the American continent; he will always rank amongst the first of those who had the vision of a constructive Pan Americanism, and it is, therefore, but fitting that the Pan American Union which, in a very real sense, is the logical outcome of his efforts should on this day bring the fullest measure of tribute to his memory. In the name of the Pan American Union I place this wreath in memory of a great patriot of the Americas.

ADDRESS

BY MR. CHARLES LYON CHANDLER

MANAGER OF THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, CORN EX-
CHANGE NATIONAL BANK, PHILADELPHIA, AND
SECRETARY OF THE MANUEL TORRES COMMITTEE

On the heights of Boyacá, nearly two thousand meters above the level of the sea, lie the mortal remains of thousands of heroes who struggled for the freedom of their Fatherland.

This humble corner of earth preserves what is mortal of the remains of another Colombian patriot—Manuel Torres.

For more than fifty years he was even as the Unknown Soldier, to whom great cenotaphs were erected in London, Paris and Washington after the World War.

The Holy Bible says: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Horace says: It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country (*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*).

There is an English hymn which reads:

“The martyr too, whose eagle eye
Could pierce beyond the grave.”

“Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.”

Let us inspire ourselves for a few minutes by a short backward glance at history.

In the time of Viceroy's such as Mendinueta printing presses coming to Colombia from 64 North Front St., Philadelphia, were confiscated; portraits of Franklin and Washington were destroyed; and pamphlets dealing with Liberty were burned.

But the words Liberty! Liberty! Liberty! re-echoed from the summits of the eternal Andes.

Twelve years of oppression followed by twelve years of incessant civil wars exceeded the seven years of hunger and exile of the Hebrew people in the desert and in their Babylonish Captivity.

But even as from Babylon they “opened their windows unto Jerusalem,” so the “day of wrath, the day of yearning” was transformed amidst the shouts of joy which told the world of the birth of a new and glorious Nation, borne by the winds of the plains and the palm groves, from that Fertile Zone

Surrounded by the Sun, straight onward moving;
How many are the beings that grow glad
Illumined by thy light, and through her born!
Sons are these, children of that mighty host
Who have as Conquerors crossed
The Andes' summit.

While all this was taking place, a Colombian, far from his home, was toiling incessantly for freedom, not merely for Colombia but for all the countries that were then bestirring themselves in Latin America. He met with effective aid in the Philadelphian William Duane, the grandson of Franklin—whose name had been evoked by the Colombian patriots in 1792.

The distinguished Colombian historian and diplomat Nicolás García Samudio has shown us in great detail the steps by which Torres acquired greater and greater influence over the people of the United States. Finally, he became the first Minister of a Latin American country received by the United States—and died a month afterwards. As the old Greek song says:

A Crown, a Crown from Athens won,
A Crown that none may wear,
Save great Latona's son.

“O Death, where is thy sting? O Grave, where is thy victory?”

Let us dedicate our hearts and our lives to fulfill the ideals of Manuel Torres.



THE RECEPTION OF TORRES BY PRESIDENT MONROE

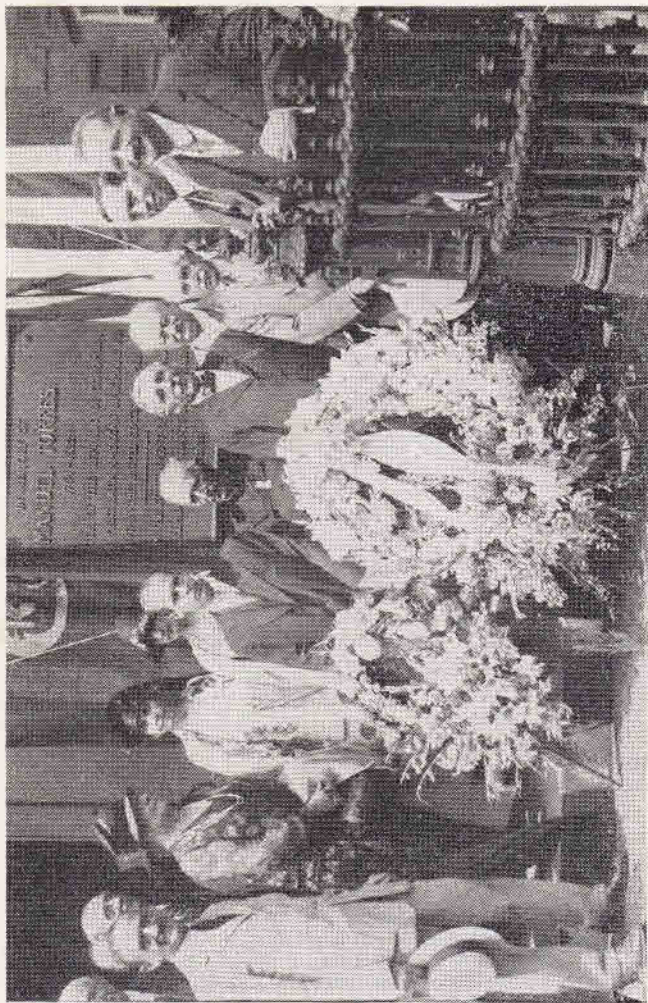
June 19, 1822.

At one o'clock I presented Mr. Manuel Torres as Chargé d'Affaires from the republic of Colombia to the President. This incident was chiefly interesting as being the first formal act of recognition of an independent South American Government. Torres, who has scarcely life in him to walk alone, was deeply affected by it. He spoke of the great importance to the republic of Colombia of this recognition, and of his assurance that it would give extraordinary gratification to Bolívar.

The President invited him to be seated, sat down by him, and spoke to him with kindness which moved him even to tears. The President assured him of the great interest taken by the United States in the welfare and success of his country, and of the particular satisfaction with which he received him as its first representative. The audience was, as usual, only of a few minutes; and Mr. Torres on going away gave me a printed copy of the Constitution of Colombia.

—*Memoirs of John Quincy Adams, Vol. VI, p. 23.*





DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AT THE UNVEILING CEREMONIES

From left to right: Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Director General, Pan American Union; Hon. Joseph R. Wilson, Director Foreign Participation Sesquicentennial International Exposition; Mrs. Stanley Griswold Phleger, Ladies' Committee Sesquicentennial Exposition; Mrs. J. Willis Martin, Chairman Ladies' Sesquicentennial Committee; Señora Teresa Londoño de Olaya, wife of the Minister of Colombia; Mr. William Duane, great-great-grandson of Colonel William Duane; Rev. José Ramón Buitrago, Manizales, Colombia; Mr. Milton Campbell, President H. K. Mallory Company; Dr. Lawrence F. Flick, Trustee of St. Mary's Church and former president of the Catholic Historical Society; Hon. Edward T. Stotesbury, Chairman Sesquicentennial Entertainment Committee of Philadelphia; Dr. Enrique Olaya, Minister of Colombia; and Mr. Charles Lyon Chandler, Member of the Colombian Academy of History, Secretary and Acting Chairman Manuel Torres Committee.

THE TOMB OF MANUEL TORRES

(*The Philadelphia Inquirer*)¹

Some years ago I gave the first news of finding in Philadelphia the grave of Manuel Torres, which had been lost for a century.

Tomorrow a beautiful bronze tablet upon the walls of historic old St. Mary's Church in South Fourth Street will be unveiled to commemorate that Benjamin Franklin of South America.

For Colombia, the finding of the grave of Torres was like the United States finding in Paris, a few years ago, the tomb of John Paul Jones, unknown for more than 100 years.

You recall the solemn ceremony which attended bringing home the dust of that old naval hero.

The body of Torres remains where it was laid a century ago, and Colombia appropriated funds to mark the spot where rests South America's first Ambassador to the United States.

Colombia's present Minister will make an address here tomorrow. Rupert Brooke, the gallant soldier-poet of England, wrote:

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is forever England.

Killed by a sunstroke on the route to the Dardanelles, six feet of the Greek island of Skyros, true to that prophecy, have become "forever England."

In the same way a little nook in the heart of business Philadelphia is forever Colombia, since it is the grave of Manuel Torres.

* * * *

The two Americas could well unite to honor that man.

¹ July 19, 1926.

He and a noted Philadelphian, Colonel William Duane, did perhaps more than any others in the world except President Monroe to bring about the Monroe Doctrine.

Torres was, as I have said, the first South American received by the United States as a foreign Minister. He came to Philadelphia while Washington was President and while this was still the national capital.

Here he remained until his death, about twenty-five years afterward. When Colombia won its freedom it named Torres its first Minister to this country.

Torres's reception by President Monroe was a triumph tinged by tragedy, as he was then a feeble old man who, like our country's foremost Ambassador, Franklin, had spent years of his life in a foreign land in behalf of his own country.

The Colombian patriot was unable to stand, and the scene made a deep impression upon all, especially the big-hearted Henry Clay.

The great Kentuckian told Torres that his Ambassadorship was a tall milestone to mark the progress of all South America as well as the United States.

* * * *

Duane, descendant of Franklin, was a close friend of Torres. The two worked in unison and worked hard to have President Monroe take a positive stand on behalf of the new nations in South America.

And the Monroe Doctrine came on the very morrow of Torres's death in Philadelphia.

Colonel Duane later went to Colombia, taking with him his daughter Elizabeth. His book about that country contained a prophecy which was almost inspired.

The Philadelphian predicted that coffee, just then introduced into Colombia, would one day form an important factor of trade with the United States. To show how good Colombia's coffee was, Colonel Duane brought home with him a couple of goatskin bags of it.

Sequel to that prophecy: Last year the United States bought of Colombia more than fifty-seven million dollars' worth of coffee.

* * * *

Some may contend this is due to Mr. Volstead.

Indeed one South American banker does so contend, adding, to Charles Lyon Chandler:

"We in South America can well afford to endow Mr. Volstead for almost any amount."

He was thinking of the immense increase in coffee and cocoa consumption in the United States since the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect.

Philadelphia has always had a peculiar stake in South America. The "John," of Philadelphia, was the first American ship to trade with a port of the southern continent.

No one did so much to develop South American railways as the elder Charles J. Harrah, of Philadelphia, who spent many years in Brazil.

* * * *

Of practically all South America, except Brazil where Portuguese is the language, Spanish is the official tongue.

In this respect, Philadelphia has also a peculiar bond with those southern republics. Harvard College was the first in America to teach the Spanish language. Henry W. Longfellow was the instructor and he was succeeded by that other man of letters James Russell Lowell.

But next to Harvard, I believe Girard College stands as a teacher of Spanish.

Girard himself was a Frenchman by birth, but he saw far ahead and believed that our trade with South America would some day make a knowledge of the Spanish tongue an asset for an American business man.

That's why Girard College had been teaching Spanish to its boys for half a century before the Cuban War made that language appear generally essential at other colleges.

* * * *

Torres had one distinction not shared by many other South Americans who made history there a century ago. He was not a soldier.

Here again he resembled Franklin, one of whose direct descendants will tomorrow share in the ceremonies at the tablet unveiling.

The search for Torres's grave began some fifty years ago. The effort then failed, but it was resumed two years ago and ended successfully at St. Mary's Church.

This Torres memorial may prove to be one of those things, small in themselves, yet potent in producing a friendly sentiment.

* * * *

As a promoter of an international agreement or policy such as the Monroe Doctrine, Manuel Torres certainly led all other South Americans of his time.

A resident of the United States for a quarter of a century, he enjoyed personal intimacy with such men as Clay, Duane and other spirited leaders of thought far beyond that of any other man from the southern continent.

He and Duane were real chums, and Duane was the sort who let no grass grow under his feet when in pursuit of any object.

So, in honoring the long-lost grave of Don Manuel Torres, we are memorializing one of the creators of the Monroe Doctrine.

—GIRARD.



MANUEL TORRES PRIZE

PHILADELPHIA

July 22, 1926.

HIS EXCELLENCY DR. ENRIQUE OLAYA,
The Colombian Legation,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR DR. OLAYA:

At the unveiling of the tablet at St. Mary's Church in Philadelphia, in memory of Dr. Manuel Torres, on Tuesday, July 20th, at which you presided, the writer was privileged to announce the plan the H. K. Mulford Company had in mind to submit to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bogotá, in the interest of keeping alive the memory of Dr. Manuel Torres that future generations might be benefited by his life.

In order that this prize may be increasingly valuable each year and more sought by the youth of your country attending the medical school of the University of Bogotá, we propose awarding a handsomely engraved gold medal to be known as the Manuel Torres Prize in commemoration of the life and deeds of that great man, to be presented by the President of the Faculty of Medicine at the graduation exercises yearly, to the member of the graduating class who submits the best original thesis, approved by the faculty, on a subject connected with the Prevention and Treatment of Tropical Diseases.

In doing this, it has seemed to us that such an act would have pleased Dr. Torres, since we believe that he would have sympathized with the effort to stimulate an interest among the medical profession of Colombia in doing original thinking in connection with combating tropical diseases, which work may perhaps be the foundation of research and achievement of material benefit to the afflicted not only in the Republic of Colombia, but in other countries of the world.

Philadelphia has always held in high esteem the memory of Dr. Manuel Torres. His effort to promote the cause of freedom in our country and the sincere sympathy he showed as a representative of your country in our struggle for liberty, has endeared him to us. We are proud that this city should be the one to hold and guard his last resting place.

We would ask that you convey to the President of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Bogotá the contents of this letter and, in the meantime, if you will be kind enough to advise us his name, we shall forward a similar communication direct to him, in order that the Faculty may notify us whether or not the presentation of a gold medal for the purposes enumerated in this letter will be agreeable to themselves.

Very respectfully yours,

H. K. MULFORD COMPANY,
MILTON CAMPBELL,
President.

LEGATION OF COLOMBIA
WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 847.

July 26, 1926.

MY DEAR SIR:

I have the pleasure of answering your good letter of July 22nd confirming the announcement which you made at the commemorative ceremony incident to the unveiling of the tablet in memory of Don Manuel Torres, with respect to the idea suggested by the H. K. Mulford Company of establishing a prize—to bear the name of that illustrious patriot—for the best graduation thesis presented yearly to the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Bogotá on the prevention and treatment of tropical diseases.

I take pleasure in renewing, here, the expression of sincere appreciation of my Government in your noble

idea of associating scientific development in Colombia with the memory of Don Manuel Torres, that great patriot who was bound by so many ties with the City of Philadelphia. The cultivation of a closer spiritual unity in the intellectual relations between our two countries, in the form you have indicated, is one of the best methods of strengthening the cordial and solid friendship now existing between the two peoples.

I have already informed my Government by cable of your elevated proposition, information which I am confirming by this same mail, remitting a copy of your letter which I have the honor to answer. Permit me to interpret, here and now, the grateful impression which such an announcement will cause in the Faculty of Medicine of Colombia and in all the student youth of that nation, an announcement which I hope to supplement before long by a direct response from Bogotá.

Meanwhile, with the assurance of my consideration and esteem, believe me

Sincerely and faithfully yours,
(Signed) ENRIQUE OLAYA HERRERA.

Hon. Milton Campbell,
President, H. K. Mulford Company,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.