

gives the provinces the right of local legislatures to regulate their provincial concerns, independently of the general government.

The manner in which the reforms in the constitution were effected, will give some insight into the mode of conducting business, and exhibits the power of this party. The plans, after being long under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, were referred to a committee of that body, who reported upon them, and they were finally passed, under a decision by the Chambers that the Senate and Regency had no right to vote, control, or even deliberate upon the question. They thus assumed to themselves the whole power of legislative action on so momentous a subject, totally disregarding the constitutional claims of the other co-ordinate and co-equal branches of the government, whose concurrence was necessary to legalize all their acts under the constitution, and whose authority was then in vigour, and could not be suspended, although it was susceptible of modification in the proper form. This subject was recommended to the attention of the people in 1833, with a view to party action on it; and new elections were ordered, for the purpose of deliberating upon a new constitution. But from some circumstances, the regents were not willing to accede to the measure, after it had passed the forms of legislation in the Chamber of Deputies; they steadfastly adhered to the determination of withholding their sanction to the law, opposing all terms of compromise. For a long time the tranquillity, if not the destiny of the country, was in jeopardy. The regents were finally, as was supposed, and generally believed, brought over by pecuniary considerations. The Senate also ineffectually attempted to interpose a protest against the measure (the election of a regent to hold office for four years), not only to sustain their dignity but maintain their rights; neither was it satisfactory to the people generally, nor to the national guard, who it was well known would have supported the regents in their opposition. All impediments, however, to the passage of this favourite and important measure, were overcome by the power and management of this band of leading men, who contrived to unite with them the most opposite characters, and to neutralize personal animosity, as well as party strife, absorbing all other subjects, and enlisting them in support of this measure. They thus clearly manifested their influence, in being able to set aside constitutional restraints, overcoming the executive power, and controlling the senatorial aristocracy.

The new constitution seems to operate satisfactorily under these leaders. There are, however, some features in it which give its warmest friends many fears respecting the stability of the government. One of these is the difficulty of making the provincial legislatures