

Santa Cruz is a man of ordinary talents, but of sound common sense. From his education (which is superior to that of his countrymen) he is far in advance of them in his knowledge and appreciation of the institutions of other countries. He is indefatigable in his labours, and always exacts the attention of others to their duties. His passions are strong and his temper unforgiving. Mercenary in his disposition, and economical in his habits, he has always been lavish of the public treasure to promote his own views. From his liberal cast of mind, he generally manifested a strong desire to forward the introduction of improvements, and to adopt such measures as would tend to improve the state and its people. His measures undertaken for this purpose, were sometimes arbitrary, and by them, and his desire to engross all the power in his own person, he lost much popularity. Foreigners esteemed him as one of the most efficient chief magistrates that have ever presided over this unfortunate country.

For the purpose of elucidating the character of the proceedings of the chiefs in this country, I will conclude by giving a translation of one of the decrees, establishing the government of South Peru, by Santa Cruz.

Considerando.

1. That the government of South Peru remains incomplete by the death and absence of some of the persons composing it.

2. That the necessity exists, that that government should have an organization more simple than it has yet enjoyed.

It is decreed.

Article 1. That the government of South Peru be composed of a Provisionary President, and a Secretary-General, who shall transact all the ordinary affairs of the Interior and Hacienda, agreeably to the laws, orders, and existing decrees.

Article 2. The Provisional President will place his rubric to all the resolutions and official papers, and sign, with the Secretary-General, the decrees which he may issue.

Article 3. The Provisional President and Secretary are responsible for all the acts of his administration.

Article 4. There shall be two Secretaries, one for the Interior, the other for the Hacienda, with the necessary subordinates.

Article 5. The Provisional President will fill all the vacant places, and displace any from bad conduct, or the neglectful performance of his duties, or transfer them to other posts, as he may deem best for the public benefit.