

In the beginning of the year 1827, the Peruvians, through their intrigues, effected a revolt among the Colombian troops, who made prisoners of their officers, and thus an end was put to the authority of the Dictator Bolivar, by which Peru was freed from the presence, as well as the expense, of foreign troops.

Immediately after this event, General La Mar was elected and proclaimed President of Peru. He was a native of Guayaquil, reported to be a mild and just man, had been brought up in the Spanish army, and was attached to General San Martin; but he appears to have been ill adapted to rule over such a people as the Peruvians. At first his election was popular, and his name took the place of that of Bolivar over all the gates, &c., in the City of Kings.

At this change every demonstration of joy was witnessed. The Colombian troops were sent to the neighbourhood of Guayaquil, when they attempted a revolution against the Colombian authorities in Guaymas and Quito, (about forming the republic of Equador,) in which they were partially successful, but were soon put down by General Flores. These acts led to hostilities between Colombia and Peru, and in the beginning of 1828, La Mar marched to the frontiers of Colombia, without any declaration of war, with a part of the Peruvian forces, leaving General Gamarra, a native of Cusco, who had been the cause of so much revolution and bloodshed in Peru, to follow with a second division of Peruvian troops. At this time General Santa Cruz (who had been for a short time President of Peru) was President of Bolivia, and he, together with Gamarra and Lafuente, conspired to overthrow La Mar, after which Santa Cruz was to be proclaimed President of Peru, Gamarra Vice-President, and Lafuente Minister of War.

With this plan in view, Gamarra joined La Mar on the frontiers of Colombia. The battle of Portete took place soon afterwards, when, in consequence of the treachery or cowardice of Gamarra, the Peruvians were beaten, and capitulated on the field of battle to General Sucre, who was opposed to them with a much inferior force of Colombians. A treaty was signed, but was soon violated by the Peruvians, and hostilities again commenced. Another division of the Peruvian army, one thousand five hundred strong, which had been acting in Bolivia, embarked from Arica, under Lafuente, to join La Mar, in the north. They arrived at Callao, and were disembarked against La Mar's orders, and shortly after Lafuente overthrew the government at Lima, whilst Gamarra arrested La Mar in the north,