

Sonora. At Veracruz there is also a small floating dock which can accommodate a vessel of 1,500 tons. The Arsenal at Veracruz was constructed in 1892, and has some of the most modern machinery worked by compressed air. The docks at Guaymas were inaugurated in 1897.

An excellently-equipped naval school is situated at Veracruz, which was also inaugurated in 1897, its progress having been as remarkable as it is commendable. A target-shooting practice department is now attached to this school, and cadets receive a thoroughly sound and efficient training, including a severe scientific course of instruction, after which they are sent for a term of practice on the two training-ships *Yucatan* and *Zaragoza*.

CHAPTER VII

Porfirio Diaz—Monarchy v. Republic—Birth and early education—Trained for priesthood—Meeting with Benito Jaurez—Military career—First presidency—Revolt against Santa Ana and Tejada—Differences with Benito Jaurez—Election for first term—His successful government—Subsequent re-elections as President—Foreign distinctions—Diaz as orator—His character and disposition—Popularity in Mexico—Daily occupations—Madame Carmen Rubio Diaz.

PERHAPS no more deserving commentary could be bestowed upon Porfirio Diaz than the recalling of Ovid's beautiful words to be found in that Poet's "Metamorphoses"—"Os homini sublime dedit cœlumque tueri Jussit; et erectos ad sidera tollere vultus" ("God gave man an upright countenance to survey the heavens, and look upward to the stars"). Upright and erect have been his life, his deeds and his aspirations; and no praise too high could be awarded to a man who has lived as he has lived, and who has fulfilled as he has fulfilled, the sacred and onerous trust imposed upon him.

Even the most rabid of anti-Republicans would admit that no more admirable representative of the Presidential chair has yet come forward to occupy it than the present Chief Magistrate of the United States of Mexico. It may be urged that Republics are and must be subject to corruption on the part of their officials from the highest to the lowest; that under such régimes there is actually less liberty, since no hereditary monarch dares to act as arbitrarily as do some Presidents of Republics; that in Republics snobbery of birth becomes snobbery of wealth—an even more repellent form, especially when masquerading under the cloak of liberty. All this may be true—and indeed *is* true of some Republics, especially of the Republics of South America, but it is certainly untrue as applied to Mexico, and will continue to

be inapplicable so long at least as the present Head of the Executive lives.

I have no intention of setting forth here the career of General Porfirio Diaz, firstly because I have not anything like the space at my command that would be requisite for the telling of such an eventful and remarkable career; and secondly because it has already been told by other authors, and far better than I could ever hope to do. I may, however, briefly summarise the principal events which have distinguished this really great man, one who has been the architect of his own fortunes, and who thoroughly realises the poet's ideal of—"a man of soul and body, formed for deeds of high resolve."

Porfirio Diaz was born in the city of Oaxaca, in the State of that name, on the 15th day of September, 1830. The house in which he first saw the light exists no longer, having been pulled down and a fine public school erected on the site. It was, however, situated in the Calle La Soledad, No. 10. Diaz' father was one José Faustino Diaz, of Austrian descent, his ancestors having come over to Mexico with the first Spanish Conquerors. He died about 3 years after Porfirio was born. The mother, who was of Mixtecan origin, was Doña Petrona Maria, a lady of great force of character, many and estimable virtues, extremely religious, and resolved to bring up her son as a priest. Unfortunately, however, or perhaps I should say fortunately, the youth himself had other views; and, shortly after he had reached the age of 17, Porfirio broke away from his priestly guardians and entered upon the career of a law student. Financial restrictions prevented him from making any great headway, although he struggled bravely for some time against adversity, eking out a small pittance by himself taking pupils and accepting from his good friend the Governor of Oaxaca the position of Librarian. In due course he graduated, and then entered the employment of Benito Juarez, one of Mexico's greatest lawyers and most worthy sons, thus forming an alliance which practically lasted all the years that the latter lived.

But young Diaz was cut out for a soldier, and a soldier he became upon the first opportunity. This occurred when the

people at length revolted against the tyrant and usurper General Santa Ana, and, under the leadership of the plucky Herrera, Diaz joined the standard of rebellion. How justified was Diaz in not only opposing but fighting against Santa Ana, may be gathered from the list of horrible atrocities committed by that individual at the Alamo, Refugio, Victoria, and Goliad, where he ordered all prisoners taken in battle to be shot. He likewise caused many innocent people daily to be executed, and on entering the town of Zitacuaro entirely unopposed he set it on fire, sacked it, and put the inhabitants to the sword without any distinction of age or sex. His brutal soldiery took a number of prominent men of the town, tied them to the tails of their horses and dragged them through the streets until their bodies were battered, bruised, and disfigured beyond recognition. Women and little children were treated in a precisely similar manner.

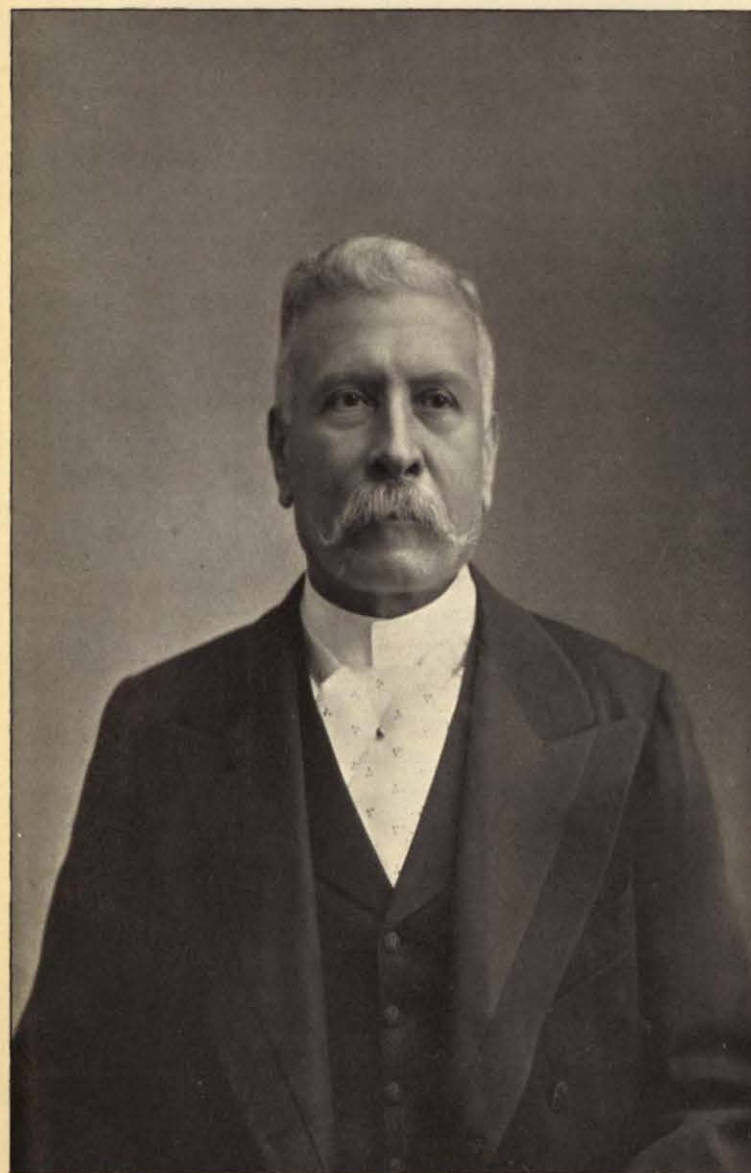
The revolution proving successful, Diaz was appointed Chief (Jefe Politico) of the town of Ixtlan, and in this capacity he continuously drilled the half-clothed local Indians, and succeeded in making quite respectable soldiers of them in time. The opportunity to put their discipline to the test came soon, that is when one Garcia attempted to become President, and in fact succeeded for one hour. Diaz led his Indians against him, with the result that he fled. For his services the young soldier was promoted Captain of the National Guard. Having suppressed the rebellion which broke out at Jamiltepec, Diaz, who had been seriously wounded, enjoyed a brief spell of inactivity. During the next few years, however, he served in many exciting affairs, such as the Cabas attack upon the defence of Oaxaca (Diaz' native town) in February 1858; the engagement at the Hacienda de las Jicaras, in the month of April of the same year; the successful action at Mixtequilla, June 1st; the capture of Tehuantepec in November 1859; the defeat of Cabas at Mitla, January 1860; the victory over Marquez at Mexico City, in June 1861; a further success over the same individual two months later, August 1861; his check to the French at the siege of Puebla in the spring of 1862; and his brilliant share in the great victory of the Cinco de Mayo (5th

of May). It is perhaps one of the most famous in the year's events, for not only does it celebrate the defeat of the French at the hands of the Mexican patriot-party under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza, but it always brings to memory the great services rendered by General Porfirio Diaz and General Felix Berriozabal, who was for some years Minister of War. The battle then fought is known as the "Battle of Puebla," the French having been defeated before the gates of that place on May 5th, 1862, the event being further commemorated by a fine equestrian statue to Zaragoza erected in Puebla City. General Diaz secured another equally brilliant victory at Puebla on April 2nd, 1867.

Further military successes achieved by Porfirio Diaz included his feats at the siege of Puebla by the French General Forey (January 1863); the capture of Tasco, the rescue of Oaxaca and his rapid improvement of the Mexican army, all of which transpired in the same year; a continuation of skilful manœuvres against the foreign enemy during 1864 and until the end of 1865, when he found himself shut up with his remnant of men in Oaxaca, with no less brilliant a foe to encounter and oppose than Marshal Bazaine.

For many months Diaz confronted this doughty soldier, and it was only after the most stubborn resistance, and when both he and his brave troops were actually dying of starvation, that Oaxaca capitulated and Diaz made an almost miraculous escape, a reward of \$10,000 being offered for his capture, a reward which was never claimed.

In the same year, namely September 1865, the now seasoned soldier, who had been shut up in Puebla, again made his escape, and with the few troops he could secure besieged and captured the garrison of Tehuicingo. He defeated Maximilian's troops, and having secured the necessary horses and men he next turned his attention to Vioso, whom he also put to rout. Gradually he got together quite a respectable following, and in the end Vioso, formerly his opponent, became his ally, and these two fine soldiers together were responsible for quite a number of brilliant and successful achievements. January 1866 saw the commencement of the end, so far as the Imperial régime in Mexico was concerned. The French troops were withdrawn, and the luckless



GENERAL DON PORFIRIO DIAZ, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF MEXICO.

Maximilian left to his fate. This, a year afterwards (1867), took the form of his execution. Bazaine, who had learned at Oaxaca in 1865 to respect his brilliant young opponent, offered the Presidency of the newly-declared Republic to Diaz; but as the latter did not recognise the right of the French Government and its representative to make any such offer he even declined to reply, more especially as the legally-appointed, and by Diaz and other patriots the loyally-acknowledged, President, Benito Juarez, was still wandering about the country. Fighting continued through the first half of the year of 1867, until the long-exiled President returned to Mexico City in the month of July.

Instead of seeking some reward and promotion for his invaluable services, Diaz determined to retire, and actually did so. For about two years he lived in peaceful seclusion in his native city of Oaxaca; but the new elections for President occasioned fresh outbreaks on the part of the discontents. Diaz himself was the innocent cause of these to some extent, since it was his followers who would have set him up as President against Benito Juarez. The latter, who was and always will be known as the "Indian President," who had been the Head of the State since 1857, was permitted to again return to office, and Diaz served him loyally until his famous "Pronouncement" of November 1871, pointing out the complaints of the nation respecting the non-fulfilment of the promised reforms under the Constitution of 1857.

In 1872 Juarez died, but none of the expected troubles connected with the succession presented themselves. Lerdo de Tejada, who was the proper successor, was duly elected, but it was not long before he showed his incapacity as a ruler and a diplomat. Among others who revolted against de Tejada's rule was Porfirio Diaz, and with good reason. Revolution stalked through the land, and it seemed as if Mexico would yet again become one great battlefield. In 1876, Diaz came from North America, whither he had been forced to fly by the persecution of de Tejada, with a small body of followers which soon increased to an incipient army; but although he and they made a gallant fight for it the odds were too seriously against them, and once again Diaz had to fly. This time he went to New Orleans, but shortly came

back and landed at Veracruz. Thence, after numerous adventures, which in telling would alone form an interesting and exciting narrative, he made his way to Oaxaca, where he was always sure of a hearty welcome, and a following from among his fellow-townsmen. Speedily he found himself at the head of some 4,000 loyal followers, and he made a splendid resistance at Tecoaac against General Alatorre, who with about 5,000 men had been sent against him by de Tejada. So pronounced was this victory (November 1876) that Diaz found himself master of the situation. Lerdo de Tejada fled to the United States as soon as he heard that Diaz was on his way to Mexico City.

Here he arrived in triumph on November 23rd, 1876, and assumed the Presidency provisionally on December 1st, 1876. In the month of April following (1877) he was elected to that position by a large majority, and from this date forward may be reckoned a new and intelligent régime in Mexico, and the commencement of its regeneration.

After almost a half-century of fighting, rebellion and foreign invasion, the country began to breathe freely. Those who regarded Porfirio Diaz as a makeshift only, soon found out their error. Having seen for himself the horrors of revolution, and having recognised the necessity for a thoroughly firm and unrelenting hand to guide the future destinies of the country, he speedily made manifest his ability and strength of purpose. Almost before they knew what was happening, the professional discontents found themselves in the grip of their masterful opponent, and their capacity for causing further trouble was promptly put an end to. Diaz recognised with the poet Schiller that "nought but firmness gains the prize," and to that great strength which he then displayed, and which he has since never lacked when occasion required, may be attributed his own pronounced success as a ruler and the country's immense prosperity to-day.

It has been said that the best peacemakers are those who have made war. Those who detest powder the most are those who have smelled it. To them more than any others are known the horrors and hardships of war, and what it entails upon the innocent and the guilty alike. Even while profiting, maybe, by the ephemeral advantages which military success

may have brought with it, the tragedy of empty homes and nameless graves, of fleeting popularity and temporary triumphs, are well enough known and acknowledged by the heroes of war. General Sherman, who once declared that "the main thing is to first deal as hard blows at the enemy's forces as possible, and then cause so much suffering to the inhabitants of the country that they will long for peace and press their Government to make it," likewise admitted that "war is hell." Both President Roosevelt, at San Juan, and President Diaz at Miahuatlan, acquired that conviction, and even such confirmed fighters as Hannibal, Marlborough, Napoleon and Grant knew and deplored the horrors of war which they themselves so largely helped to perpetrate.

Perhaps the most brilliant trait displayed by Diaz has been his ability to recognise even in his opponents good points and virtues, capable and worthy of development. Thus, to all except the most pronounced irreconcilables, he has displayed a generosity and a willingness to let bygones be bygones; with the consequence that, as was the case with Vioso in 1865, his enemies became his friends and his opponents his most loyal supporters. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, he bound together the formerly-antagonistic States, and by judicious appointments, sympathetic investigation and unswerving justice he brought about order where there had been wild chaos, prosperity where there had been disaster, and hope where there had reigned nothing but blank despair.

In 1880, his term of office having expired, Diaz made way for his successor, Manuel Gonzalez, who, however, retrogressed as much as his predecessor had progressed. Diaz was not, however, lost to the public service, inasmuch as he served in Gonzalez's Cabinet from December 1st, 1880, till November 30th, 1881, as Secretary of Fomento (Industries, etc.), as well as acting as Governor of his native State of Oaxaca (from December 1st, 1881, till November 30th, 1884), and as Senator for Morélos.

In 1884 (December 1st) Porfirio Diaz was re-elected President of the Republic, and from that time onwards he has been re-elected upon the termination of his legal period, the present term being his fifth. He has said more than once that it is to be his last; but the whole nation with one voice—

I might say the whole of the civilised world who recognise his many merits and his value to the cause of peace—trust that it will not so prove to be. Diaz has not inaptly been dubbed the Washington and the Lincoln of his country; but to many who have studied the histories and characters of these great men Diaz seems to have been rather superior to either of them. Assuredly he has proved himself both a brilliant soldier, a true patriot and a clever statesman, having united a shattered nation at a moment when probably no one who knew anything of the people composing it would have believed such an eventuality as within the bounds of any man's capacity. It took him a long time and many a painful act upon his part before he accomplished the task; but he did it, and he lives to see the result of his resolution,

It would be almost impossible to think of Mexico continuing on the path of progress deprived of the long-existing counsel and guidance of Porfirio Diaz. That he is fully entitled to that peace of retirement for which he pines, and which he has so nobly earned, no one will for a moment question; but while he may well argue that, having set the feet of his people on the path of progress and seen them lifted out of the region of doubt into the more solid realm of actual prosperity, he may now confidently retire from the field, I believe that the unanimous call of his people to remain with them so long as Providence grants him health, strength, and life, will not be disregarded. Porfirio Diaz cannot and never will be forgotten. He belongs to the nation, and the nation are glad to think that their welfare is due to him. To give any idea of the numerous timely and tactful acts performed by President Diaz a separate and substantial volume would be requisite, consisting not only of a daily but an hourly record of his life. Nothing that can in any way conduce to the public welfare, to the happiness of an individual, or to the satisfaction of a friend, is overlooked by this remarkably humane man, and possessed as he fortunately is of an extraordinary vitality and great bodily endurance, his entire day is on occasions filled with engagements of a nature which means work for him, but pleasure or profit to others. Any great constructional or commercial undertaking, such, for instance, as the opening of the Drainage Works of the

Valley of Mexico in March 1900, the inauguration of Veracruz Port works in March 1902, the inauguration of the industrial plants at Guanajuato in October 1903, or the inauguration of the Isthmian Railway at Tehuantepec in January 1907, is certain of his support and encouragement, as well as of his personal attendance and official participation in the accompanying ceremonies.

Among other decorations which the President wears, including crosses, medals, ribbons, and "cordones," are the following:

Foreign.—Great Britain, the Order of the Bath; France, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour; Spain, Cross of Isabel the Catholic, of Carlos III., and Cross of Military Merit; Portugal, Decoration of the Tomb and the Sword of Valour, Loyalty and Merit; Italy, Cross of San Maurecio and Cross of San Lazaro; Belgium, the Order of Leopold II.; Prussia, Order of the Red Eagle; Austria, Order of St. Stephen; Norway and Sweden, Sword of Honour; Japan, Order of the Chrysanthemum; Venezuela, Decoration of the Libertador.

Mexican.—Decorations respecting the Battle of Pachuca; the Battle of Acultzrigo; the Battle of Puebla (April 2nd, 1867); the Battle of Puebla (May 5th, 1862); Siege of Puebla (1862); the War of the Intervention (1865); three Decorations for "Constancy," from the States of Guérrero, Chihuahua, Oaxaca, and many others from Associations, Societies, etc.

That General Porfirio Diaz is as eloquent and earnest an orator as he is a brave and skilful soldier is proved by the splendid speech which he made to the Representatives of the Circuto Nacional Porfirista, when, in June 1903, they called upon him to serve another term as Chief Magistrate. The President in replying said:—

"In all the years of my life which I have had the honour to devote to the service of our country, I have endeavoured to make up for the deficiencies of my intelligence by hard work. I made a compact with myself that I would push forward the progress of the country, notwithstanding my fatigue, and the fear lest the falling-off of my physical and

mental faculties should become apparent at a more or less immediate future. I made this solemn declaration three years ago on an occasion similar to the one which now constrains me to repeat it, for then, as now, the people spoke; and when one speaks to the people on matters so grave as that which you now propound to me, one ought to tell the whole truth.

"Nevertheless, if, after the solemn declaration which I now repeat, all my compatriots—that is to say, the Mexican people, clearly defined—were to insist in imposing upon me their sovereign will, in the form and at the time indicated by law, I would bow to it with respect, rising superior to my fatigue, just as our people rose superior to their fatigue when I called upon them to put forth extraordinary efforts in maintaining a war in which no quarter was given us, in which we were destitute of food, of money and of arms, save those which we took from the enemy, and in which our only prospect, after an obscure and tragic death, was to be stigmatised as 'bandits.'" (Here the President alludes to the iniquitous law of October 3rd, 1865, under which all Republican chiefs caught in arms were summarily shot as "bandits.")

"Such was the tremendous six-year war, during which the Mexican people dyed with their blood the red of our flag into a richer hue, and waved it again and again victoriously over the heads of a foreign army, accustomed to conquer and deservedly acclaimed in the military world.

"To the will of that people, of whose abnegation and valour I was so often witness, I bow respectfully, not without once more proclaiming that any one of my fellow-citizens possessed of patriotism, good intentions and integrity, and less-tired than I, would serve the people better, if they would impart to him the same unlimited confidence and powerful moral co-operation that they have accorded to me since the days, when, by order of the great Juarez, I began to reorganise and govern the States which we recovered one after the other from the invader.

"In fine, Messieurs Delegates, the honour which you confer upon me at this moment is as great as it is unmerited. In this light I appreciate it and will treasure it while I live.

"It is a fact, as you are well aware, that I gave to my country my earliest and best years. That fact is a guarantee to the National Convention that I would never commit the gross impropriety of withholding from my country my last years—the years which I never thought to attain—when I first consecrated my life to the fatherland."

The entire absence of pretence or sophistry in this declamation is characteristic of the man, who is sincerity itself, both in his acts and words. How forcibly do such words as his compare with the blatant and false utterances of such men as the ex-President Battle y Ordonez of Uruguay or the reigning President Cypriano Castro of Venezuela, who cannot speak but what is false and boastful! History would never record the fact of either of these worthies being asked by one entire nation to accept a second term of office, nor could the mind grasp the possibility of their refusing it if they were.

Not the least important factor in the love and veneration with which General Porfirio Diaz is regarded by the ignorant but impressionable natives, and especially the Huichols, is the strain of Mixtec blood in his veins. His whole imposing bearing and physique suggest this, while it may also account in a measure for his strength of character, striking personality and benevolence of heart. No one can see and speak to the President of Mexico and remain unmoved by his marvellous vitality and earnestness of manner. He is moderately tall, I may say exceptionally tall for a Mexican, extremely dignified and graceful in his carriage and all his movements, and in spite of his seventy-seven years he still shows as much energy and enthusiasm as a man of one-half his age. His hair is quite white, and worn closely cropped and brushed straight up on his well-shaped head, leaving his broad, intellectual forehead well exposed. Beyond a snow-white drooping moustache, General Diaz' face is clean-shaved. His eyes are perhaps the most striking part of his physiognomy. Black, bright and full of intelligence, they look straight into your very soul, unblinking yet not unkindly. I doubt whether the most pronounced disciple of Ananias could tell, or at any rate could persist in, a lie with those searching eyes upon him. The great sagacity of his mind has been abundantly proved

by the unexampled period of his presidential reign. General Diaz is not only a great man and a clever man, but he is a good man, a true man and a gentleman. I regard the fact that I have known him and spoken to him as one of the greatest pleasures of my life, and a circumstance which will linger agreeably in my memory when many other experiences will have passed into oblivion.

The iron-hand which General Diaz has occasionally made felt among the turbulent and the troublesome has been supposed to have earned him hatred in certain parts of the Republic, and the *quidnuncs* will confidently assure you that, although popular enough in the Capital, the President "dare not visit" those districts where his hand has lain heavily. In Yucatan, Veracruz and Oaxaca, I was informed, his presence among the Indians would be fraught with great personal danger to himself—yet have I seen him fearlessly moving about in both of the first named, and I believe that he contemplates a brief visit to the last—his birthplace—very shortly. So much, then, for the gossips.

The remarkable hold which General Diaz possesses upon the Government officials, from the highest to the lowest, the celerity with which news of any national importance reaches him, and the promptitude with which, owing to this splendid "intelligence department," the Government is enabled to act, have frequently occasioned surprise, not unmixed with admiration, among the uninitiated. As a matter of fact, the whole origin and explanation of this system of well-organised activity may be found in the one great factor—"freemasonry." Some twenty years ago General Diaz became a Scottish Rite Mason, and he has since risen to high degrees in the craft. Moreover, he has, by moral persuasion and irresistible argument, induced practically the whole of the Governing classes to follow his example, and while this meant leaving the fold of their Church—for, as is well known, no Catholic can remain a follower of Rome and be a mason at the same time—they have almost to a man accepted the President's advice, the Vice-President, Governors and *Jefés* of nearly all the States being brethren of the craft. That they are better and more useful citizens, as well as better officials, for this, cannot

be doubted; for a good mason can never be anything but a good citizen.

Kings, Princes, and Presidents are accustomed to seeing their deaths discounted and their successors nominated, which, however painful to them individually, must be recognised as inevitable in a world which is ever changing. Thus, it is with no disrespect to the illustrious Head of the State in Mexico that frequent discussions take place as to who shall be his successor. The choice at one time lay between M. José Y. Limantour, the distinguished and clever Minister of Finance, and General Bernardo Reyes, formerly Minister of War, and now Governor of the State of Nuévo Leon. I am not so sure whether the gallant General is still considered to be in the field; but there is little doubt that M. Limantour would be the favourite candidate in the event of a Presidential election becoming necessary, or that his candidature would be strongly supported by General Porfirio Diaz. So long as the latter can be induced to remain in the Presidency, no one would ask or desire a better occupant; but his Excellency is no longer a young man, and naturally feels that the time has come when he may reasonably look for a peaceful retirement, earned after nearly thirty years' service as the Head of the State.

General Diaz, although seventy-seven years of age, is remarkably vigorous and even youthful both in his daily work and his recreations. He is in his Cabinet frequently sixteen hours a day; he can outwalk most of his companions; he eats and sleeps well; his eyesight is almost, and his hearing is well-nigh, as perfect as ever, while the sturdy grip of his powerful hand shows that in physical strength at least he has lost but little of his former splendid bodily vigour. His sensible motto, "Little politics and much administration," has borne abundant fruit; and when the time does come for him to relinquish the helm of State there is not one single living soul, in Mexico or out of it, who will not regret the fact, but, at the same time, admit that General Diaz has lived up to Mrs. Norton's axiom—"They serve God well who serve His creatures."

The position of the wife of the President of any Republic is anything but a sinecure, since everyone, even those who may

have absolutely no personal acquaintance with her, consider that lady as the necessary go-between in matters requiring "persuasion" or "family influence." It is to her, as a rule, that other women apply, tearfully it may be, flatteringly it must be, for remissions of judicial sentences, the granting of valuable concessions, and the conferring of enviable appointments. In a word, the President's wife is regarded as the power behind the throne, and, as a matter of fact, she very often is. Not so, however, is or ever has been Madame Carmen Romero Rubio Diaz. Possessed of many natural charms and sterling virtues, not the least of these has been her rigid abstention from interfering with or attempting to influence in any way the public actions of President Porfirio Diaz, much as she may have felt inclined on those occasions, not rare either according to all accounts, when subjected to the importunities of her female—and even male—acquaintances.

Señorita Carmen was one of the three pretty and accomplished daughters of Don Manuel Romero Rubio, at one time a political opponent of Porfirio Diaz and an ardent supporter of his great rival, President Lerdo de Tejada. The young girl always admired the heroic figure and romantic fame of General Diaz, notwithstanding the disparity of age between them; and unlike with most young ladies addicted to hero worship, what was so fondly hoped for by her actually occurred. Señorita Carmen met General Diaz, and promptly fell very earnestly in love with him, and he with her. They have now been married over five and twenty years, and the romance of their early days has continued and the mutual affection between them has become intensified. Madame Diaz is the President's second wife, he having had two daughters and one son by his first mate, all of whom have long since grown-up and are well married; but no children were born to him by his second marriage. Madame Diaz is a remarkably pretty and graceful woman, as sympathetic as she looks and perfectly fitted both by temperament and education to fill the high and difficult position which she occupies. The lady is, moreover, a splendid housekeeper and even an accomplished cook, while she speaks two or three languages, and especially English, with almost a perfect accent and as fluently as her own. Her

influence socially is naturally very great, and, being endowed with much natural tact, a remarkably even temper, and no little sense of humour, Madame Diaz succeeds very often in healing family jars, social squabbles, and even more serious troubles which may come under her notice and within her particular province.