

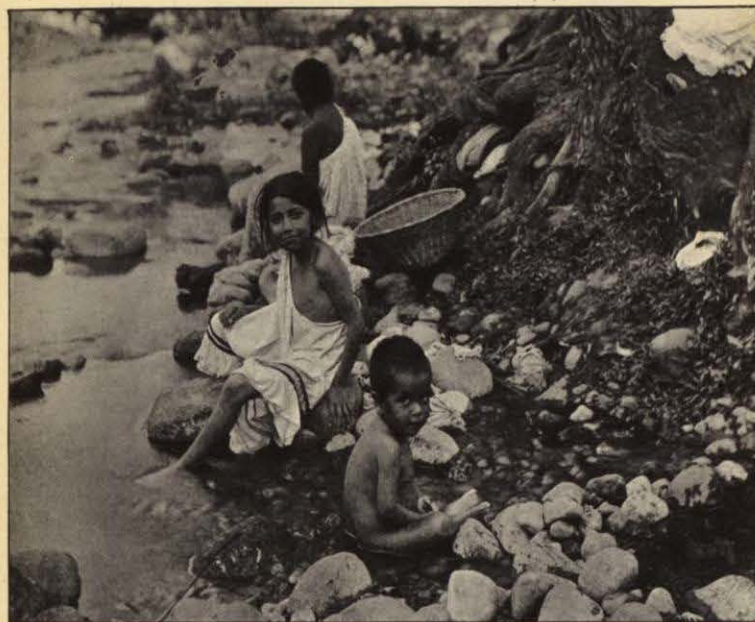
CHAPTER XIV

Diplomacy and diplomats—The old school and the new—Ambassadors and Ministers—Their different influence—British and American salaries compared—U.S. innovations—Diplomatic corps in Mexico City—The British Minister—The American Ambassador—European and South American representatives—The former Mexican Minister in London—His successor.

It has always seemed somewhat remarkable to me that the Anglo-Saxon race should have held, and should still hold, in such light esteem that great body of public servants known as diplomatists. I think the average Briton, as well as the average American, deep down in his heart entertains but the scantiest respect for the diplomat, and usually classes him either among the stage-type of individual, who is depicted as a pompous, platitudinous and pedantic ass, or else as a scheming, sinister and wholly saturnine official with all the evil attributes of Heinrich Heine's gentlemanly devil:—

“A diplomatist, too, well skilled in debate,
And talks quite glibly of Church and State.”

It was Richard Cobden, the fetish of the Free Traders in Great Britain, who openly questioned the utility of diplomatists, for this very much out-of-date politician, seconded, of course, by his faithful Achates, John Bright, observed on one occasion: “If you go back two or three hundred years when there were no newspapers; when there was scarcely such a thing as international postal communication; when affairs of State turned upon a great intrigue, or a caprice of a mistress, or a pope's bull or a marriage, was it not of a great deal more consequence at that time to have ministers at foreign courts than it is in these constitutional times, when affairs of State are discussed in the public newspapers and in the legislative



NATIVE CHILDREN WASHING CLOTHES IN THE RIVER.

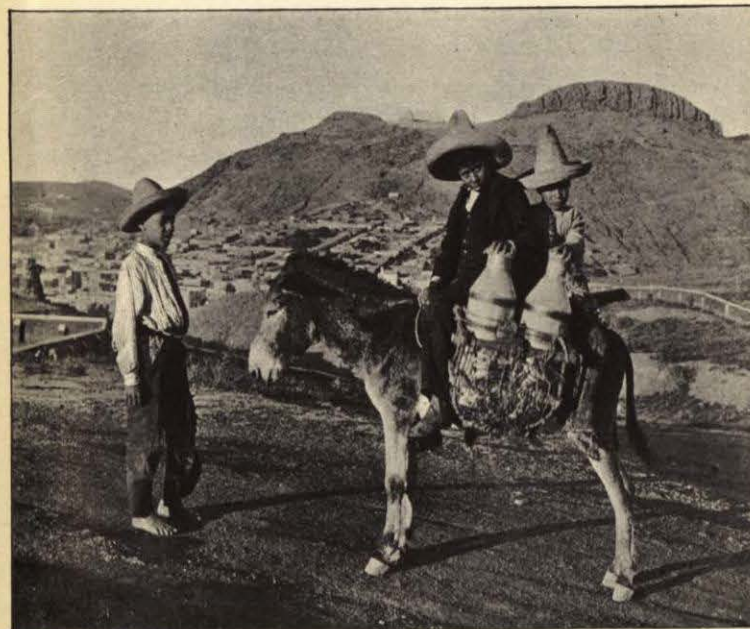


Photo. Winfield Scott.

PEON BOYS CARRYING MILK TO THE CITY.

assemblies? Under these circumstances, are not the functions of an ambassador less important now than they were two or three hundred years ago?"

When this startling conundrum was put by Richard Cobden, there were no doubt many other Englishmen, members of the Manchester School, who agreed with him, as they agreed with practically everything that he said and did; but while to-day opinion has fortunately changed in so many matters of moment it has by no means wholly veered round in the direction of approval of foreign diplomats. In the U.S.A. the same feeling is prevalent, and, as the public newspapers amply prove, the American diplomatic service is not stamped with the seal of public approval. Scarcely an appointment takes place but it is cavilled at, either on account of the individual selected or the amount of remuneration which he receives.

It is true that an able advocate for the defence has presented himself in the person of the Hon. J. W. Foster, who may be regarded as a type of the plain-dealing, common-sense Anglo-Saxon, who says things clearly and without prejudice, who hates duplicity, shams, and subterfuge, and who, moreover, does not hesitate to condemn where he finds cause. Mr. Foster, in his able work, *The Practice of Diplomacy*, which may be regarded as a complement to his other work, *A Century of American Diplomacy*, unhesitatingly pronounces for the diplomat and the diplomatic service. According to him, no other department in the U.S. Government is conducted with so small an expenditure, and no other can show greater results for officials employed nor expenses incurred. Perhaps the same can be said on the whole for the British Diplomatic Service.

Mr. Foster points out, that the diplomatic representative is pre-eminently a peacemaker, and if he can, through his efforts, postpone a great war or shorten it by a single day, he will save to the public treasury much more than the cost to the country of its diplomatic establishment for an entire year, without taking into account the loss of life and the destruction of property.

No doubt wars have been occasioned as well as saved by the good or ill will, the patience or the malevolence of a particular Minister, and as our own history shows, the

character of the diplomat most in favour with the reigning sovereign has had far-reaching effect upon important current events. In Spain, for instance, the unexpected marriage of Queen Isabella was admittedly brought about by the violent and arbitrary interference of the French Ambassador; and in 1848, when Lord Palmerston instructed Sir Henry Bulwer to represent to the Spanish Minister that the Government would be well advised to adopt a more liberal policy and a more constitutional form of Government, the Minister was promptly presented by General Navraez with his passports. A British Envoy has been more than once sent away from Washington in disgrace, notably in connection with a too zealous recruiting for Her Majesty's service during the Crimean War of 1855.

Sir Henry Wotton's caustic observation, "An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the commonwealth," is perhaps rather too severe a criticism of an indispensable public servant. The type of diplomat sent abroad to-day is at least very different, both in character and social position, from what he once was. He does not merely represent the monarch apart from the country at large, nor is he any longer selected as a particular favour to himself nor as an act of grace towards the sovereign's favourite, nor "pitchforked" into the post to keep him out of further trouble.

His Majesty the King has himself been pronounced the "first diplomat in Europe," and M. Cambón, the French Ambassador to Great Britain, at the anniversary dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund, held in London in the month of May last, gracefully observed that "King Edward inspired throughout the world admiration for his high qualities and credit for the services which he has rendered and every day renders to the great cause of peace." "He is," declared the Ambassador, "the first diplomat in Europe, and it is a great honour for us diplomats to have him for our model, for we recognise in him all the gifts which are too often wanting in ourselves, amenity of disposition, clearness of ideas, and that supreme tact of which he offers the most perfect example."

International intercourse and domestic government have undergone as complete a change as have members of the diplomatic corps themselves, and, whether it be a monarchial or a republican form of Government, the type of man selected

to represent it abroad is an immense improvement upon that of former days; but then as now, as Guicciardini succinctly observed:—" *Gli ambasciatori sono l'occhio e l'orecchio degli stati.*"

The difference between ambassadors and ministers is, perhaps, not as clearly understood as it should be. Both high functionaries are accredited plenipotentiaries, the difference existing being one of person rather than of power. The ambassador nominally represents the person of his Sovereign or his President, while the minister represents the Government. An ambassador can demand an interview with the ruler of the country to which he is accredited, while the minister has to wait until one be accorded to him. The privilege of having free access at any time to the ruler of the country is, then, the principal difference between an ambassador and a minister, and, generally speaking, matters of state can be transacted more expeditiously by an Ambassador than by a Minister for this reason. In all matters of social functions, to which so many diplomats of the old school attached the greatest importance, thinking, indeed, more of their gold braid and their plumed hats than of the object with which they were sent by their Sovereign, ambassadors take preference over ministers, and where there happen to be two or more ambassadors in a country, they are given precedence in accordance with the dates of their appointment.

In Mexico the American Ambassador ranks first among all members of the diplomatic corps, for the simple reason that he alone is an ambassador, all the rest being ministers. The wives of ambassadors enjoy the same privileges as are accorded to their husbands, but the sons and daughters of ambassadors have no privileges of the kind. This point has been settled for all time both in republic and monarchial countries, although the question is still occasionally raised, especially where an ambassador is a widower, and his daughter has to act as lady of the house. A case of this kind was brought up in connection with Count Münster, who for many years was German Ambassador in London, and afterwards in Paris. The whole time that he was at the Court of St. James's it was a moot question whether his daughter, the Countess Marie Münster, should take rank as ambassadress; but the consensus of opinion of diplomats was against the claim, and,

strangely enough, the late Queen Victoria always declined to decide—as she alone could have done—the matter. Nowadays, it is understood that the daughters of ambassadors have no official rank, and this was instanced in the case of the daughter of the former American Ambassador to Mexico, General Powel Clayton, the lady now being married to the Hon. Arthur Grant-Duff, British Minister to Cuba.

The Diplomatic Corps in the City of Mexico is a large one, but probably at no time has it ever been fully represented, nearly one-half of its members being absent on leave, for some reason or other. As a matter of fact, out of forty-seven duly accredited representatives, some twenty are absent at the present time. The members of the diplomatic corps, almost without exception, have their residence in the south and south-east portions of Mexico City, most of the buildings used for the purpose having at some time been the residences of wealthy Mexican families. It seems, however, an extraordinary oversight upon the part of the British Government that it should have neglected to purchase, or at least to have rented, a suitable residence for its diplomatic representative. The present British Minister to Mexico, upon his arrival at the city in August of last year, had to hunt about for some weeks for a suitable house, the efforts of several of the Legation officers for weeks previous to his arrival having proved fruitless. In the meantime he was compelled to find lodging where and how he could, most of the hotels being full. Finally he selected a handsome residence in the Avenida de Paris. Fortunately, Mr. Reginald T. Tower is a man of independent means, and he has been enabled to make the British Legation fully equal in appearance and elegance to that of the United States or any other foreign Legation. The British Minister is allowed, in addition to his salary of £2,500, the "princely" sum of £600 a year for the rent and maintenance of an establishment which, if difficult in most countries, is impossible in Mexico.

Shortly before Mr. Tower came to Mexico the British Government had an exceptionally favourable opportunity of purchasing a fine residence in the best locality of Mexico City, but this chance was lost on account of the proverbially slow methods of Downing Street. The house was first offered at £10,000 (\$100,000 Mex.), but before the Home Government

could make up its mind to send a definite reply (this eventually came by mail, as it would seem a cablegram was deemed too expensive) the owner of the house had accepted a cash offer, which amounted to £7,500 (\$75,000 Mex.), at which price the British Government might have had it also, had it acted smartly in the matter. This house is to-day worth exactly £17,000 (\$170,000 Mex.).

In both the diplomatic and the consular services, the U.S. Government has introduced new features. In regard to the diplomatic service, probably the most salient feature has been the rearrangement for the collection and dissemination of news. Up till now the diplomatic service of the U.S.A. has not been as efficient as might be desired in this respect, a fact which was quoted as a reason for the disinclination of Congress to increase the budget for the diplomatic corps. As it has been found necessary to keep down the cost of maintaining the intelligence service as low as possible, a scheme has been adopted for establishing exchange agencies. For the whole Continent of Europe London is made the exchange, and at that Embassy information is received from all the various embassies and legations of the U.S.A. on the Continent, while each one is also informed of the events which transpire in other capitals. The information is collated and forwarded to the State Department at Washington. Information of a general character, intended to be sent to all legations and embassies by the State Department, is first cabled to London, and thence disseminated among the various legations and embassies on the Continent. It has been found that by following this system a great amount in cable tolls is saved. Similar exchange agencies have been established by the legations and embassies in Asia, and in the various Latin-American nations. The above idea is not, of course, an original one, but it is undoubtedly to be commended as the most intelligent system to be followed.

The U.S.A. pays its Ambassadors and Ministers less generously than does Great Britain. The former receive \$17,500 (gold) (£3,500) and \$7,500 (£1,500) respectively; but they receive no allowance for house-rent or entertainment. European Governments generally own or lease official residences for their diplomatic representatives, and addi-

tionally make them allowances for the purpose of suitably entertaining. While the U.S.A. pays its ambassadors to France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia and Mexico \$17,500 (£3,500) a year, and those to Brazil, Italy, Austria and Hungary \$12,000 (£2,500) a year, the salaries and allowances of European countries to their ambassadors are as follows :—

GREAT BRITAIN :

At Paris ...	...	...	...	...	£9,000
At Berlin ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000
At St. Petersburg ...	...	...	...	...	£7,800
At Rome ...	...	...	...	...	£7,000
At Vienna ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000

The British Government owns residences in all places except St. Petersburg, where it has taken a long lease on the premises occupied by the Embassy.

GERMANY :

At Paris ...	...	...	...	...	£6,000
At London ...	...	...	...	...	£7,500
At St. Petersburg ...	...	...	...	...	£7,500
At Rome ...	...	...	...	...	£5,000
At Vienna ...	...	...	...	...	£6,000

The German Government owns residences in all cases.

FRANCE :

All ambassadors are paid at the rate of £1,600 a year, with the following allowances for entertainment and expenses :—

At Berlin ...	...	...	...	...	£4,000
At London ...	...	...	...	...	£6,400
At Rome ...	...	...	...	...	£3,200
At St. Petersburg ...	...	...	...	...	£6,400
At Vienna ...	...	...	...	...	£5,200

The French Government owns residences at Berlin and St. Petersburg, and has a long lease of the house in London.

AUSTRO-HUNGARY :

All ambassadors are paid £1,000 a year, with allowances as follows :—

At Berlin ...	...	...	...	...	£5,200
At Paris ...	...	...	...	...	£6,000
At London ...	...	...	...	...	£5,600
At St. Petersburg ...	...	...	...	...	£6,000

The Austro-Hungarian Government owns residences at Paris, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, and has a long lease of the house in London.

ITALY :

All ambassadors are paid £800 a year, with allowances as follows :

At Vienna ...	...	...	...	...	£3,600
At London ...	...	...	...	...	£3,600
At Berlin ...	...	...	...	...	£3,600
At St. Petersburg ...	...	...	...	...	£3,600
At Paris ...	...	...	...	...	£3,800

Where the Italian Government does not possess its own residence, the ambassador receives an adequate allowance for house-rent.

The Russian Government owns and maintains embassies at Rome, Paris, Berlin, London and Vienna, at a cost in each instance of from £6,400 to £8,000.

RUSSIA :

At Paris ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000
At Berlin ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000
At Vienna ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000
At London ...	...	...	...	...	£8,000
At Rome ...	...	...	...	...	£6,400

The British Representative at Mexico City, as before stated, is Mr. Reginald T. Tower, C.V.O., Envoy Extraordinary, who succeeded Sir George Greville in that post. Sir George retired on June 11th, 1905, and received his knighthood on the occasion of the King's birthday of that year. Mr. Tower was born in 1860, and had been Minister Resident at Munich and Stuttgart up till 1905. He was second Secretary of the British Embassy at Washington in 1896, and Secretary to the Alaskan Boundary Commission in 1905. Mr. Tower came to Mexico from Siam, where he was seriously ill, his life, at one time, being despaired of.

No happier selection could have been made than that of Mr. Tower, who has proved himself one of the most popular representatives of Great Britain who have yet been in Mexico. One of his first public acts was to present to General Diaz, on behalf of His Majesty the King, the Grand Cross of the Bath.

He has always taken the keenest interest in all matters appertaining to Britishers in Mexico, and by his kindly sympathy and generous help he has conduced greatly to increase the scope and utility of British charities; nor is it only among British subjects that Mr. Tower has established a firm popularity. By Americans and Mexicans he is equally highly esteemed. He has shown no less intelligent energy in furthering British trade and commerce, personally visiting every part of the Republic for the purpose of making himself acquainted with prevalent conditions. These efforts upon Mr. Tower's part must necessarily result hereafter in benefit to British interests generally throughout Mexico.

The United States of America is to be congratulated upon the happy choice made in her diplomatic representative. Mr. David E. Thompson, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, only arrived in Mexico in the month of March last year, but speedily gained the esteem and good-will of his own countrymen and that of all foreigners. Although of humble origin, Mr. David Thompson is a fine specimen of his country, and shows both vigour, shrewdness, and discernment in all his actions. His wife is a lady of great charm, and the American Embassy at the Colonia Roma has become the centre of much whole-hearted hospitality of late months.

The German Legation is represented by Baron von Wangenheim, a diplomat of the "old school," who believes more in the *fortiter in re* than the *suaviter in modo*. He is a notable specimen of the German militant, stern, strict, and thoroughly in earnest, a man of good character and but little humour. Baroness von Wangenheim is a lady much given to social entertainment and travel, very popular among her own class, but little known outside of it. The Legation is at Calle 1^a de Arquitedós.

The Italian Minister, Count Césare Romizzi-Segni, presented his credentials as recently as last February. He has been First Secretary of Legation in London, Copenhagen, Belgrade and Berne, and Chargé d'Affaires at Munich. Italy has been represented in Mexico City since 1864.

Brazil is represented by Señor Alfredo Moraes y Gomez Ferreira as Minister Plenipotentiary. He has been in the



PATIO OF A MEXICAN HOTEL.



MARKET DAY IN MEXICO.

diplomatic service since 1885. There are but very few Brazilians in Mexico. Señor Ferreira's duties are not destined to prove very arduous.

Guatemala and Mexico are far from being friends at present, owing to the Government of the first-named Republic shielding General José Maria Lima, who is more than suspected of participation in the assassination of General Manuel Lisandro Barillas in Mexico City in the month of April last. Nominally, Guatemala is "represented" by Señor Manuel Giron; but as he is a personal friend of President Manuel Estrada Cabrera of Guatemala, and is anything but *persona grata* at Mexico City, he finds it convenient to be absent, and is likely to remain so.

Dr. Manuel Delgado occupies the difficult post of Salvadoran Minister, having been accepted as late as last April after the tri-cornered war between Guatemala, Honduras, and Salvador, in which Mexico at one time was threatened to be dragged. Dr. Delgado is an able and finished diplomat, and should help to keep things from becoming further entangled. He has himself been Minister of Foreign Relations, and has been representative of his country at the Pan-American Congresses held at Rio de Janeiro and Mexico City.

The French Legation, formerly represented by the Chargé d'Affaires, Count Peretti de la Rocca, and who retired last April, is now in the hands of M. Georges Chivot. He has been three years in Rome and some time at Washington as third Secretary, being an official of the French Academy, and having held an important post in the political branch of the French Foreign Office. He occupied the responsible position of Editor of the Department of Politics previously to being sent to Mexico City.

Austria-Hungary sent Baron Jules de Forster as her Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* in December of 1905, there being no Minister appointed until last March, when Baron Karl von Giskra, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, arrived. This gentleman is likely to prove a great acquisition to Mexican diplomatic circles, as he has already evinced a strong desire to strengthen the friendly relations already existing between his own country and Mexico, and will leave no stone unturned to accomplish his object. Baron

Maximilien de Pelrino has for long acted as Chancellor, and the Legation is at 1,814 Avenida Congreso.

The Belgian Minister, who is also a comparatively newly-appointed representative, is M. Charles Constantin Wauters, a polished and accomplished gentleman with a complete knowledge of English. M. Wauters is Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, his appointment dating from February 6th, 1906. The Legation is at present in the former building of the British Legation. M. Wauters is a bachelor.

Spain was until recently "represented" in the country which once was her most valuable over-seas possession by the Marquis de Prat de Nantouillet, as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary. He was but seldom to be found, however, in Mexico City, the Legation being in the hands of the *Chargé d'Affaires* and first Secretary, Señor José Romero Durmet. Last March, Señor Bernardo J. de Cologan y Cologan presented his credentials, to the great gratification of the large Spanish colony to be found scattered throughout the Republic of Mexico. He has had a very distinguished career, and nearly lost his life in China during the Boxer riots of 1894. Minister Cologan has been in Tangier, Lisbon, Washington and Pekin, as well as *Chargé d'Affaires* at Bogatà, Colombia. There are two honorary *Attachés*, MM. Hipolito Adalid and José de la Horga. The Legation is at 420 Calle de Dinamorea.

The other principal Diplomatic Representatives at Mexico City are as follows: Bolivia, Señor Fernando E. Guachala; Cuba, General Carlos Garcia Velez; Chile, Señor Joaquin Walker Martinez; China, Liang Hsun; Ecuador, Señor Felipe Luis Carbo; Honduras, Dr. Baltazar Estupinian; Nicaragua, Señor Luis F. Corea; the Netherlands, Jonkheer B. de Merees von Swindesen; Persia, Morteza Khan Momtazel Molk; Peru, Señor Manuel Alvarez Calderon; Portugal, el *Vicomte de Alte*. Several of these diplomats live permanently abroad, and seldom come anywhere near Mexico.

Russia is represented by a *Chargé d'Affaires*, M. J. de Thal, who, besides being an extremely able diplomatist, is an accomplished linguist and a brilliant musician. Like most of his countrymen, M. de Thal is a very cultured and delightful companion. He is a bachelor.

Japan is usually very happy in the choice of her diplomatic representatives abroad, and no more striking instance of this could have been found in the selection of her late Minister to Mexico. M. Koichi Soughimoura is a man of great culture and considerable experience, having represented his country in various parts of the world, including several English-speaking communities. Both the late Minister and his charming wife, Madame Soughimoura, speak our language very well; but unfortunately the climate of Mexico City did not suit the latter, who was but seldom well in so extreme an altitude; consequently they were compelled to leave Mexico towards the end of last year. With all classes of society M. and Madame Soughimoura were genuinely and deservedly popular. Of late months the number of Japanese arriving in Mexico, to work principally on the railways being constructed on the Pacific side, has materially increased, and the duties of the Legation have become correspondingly heavier. In a year or two the settlement promises to become even larger, as many of the Japanese labourers, who come over on contract, prefer to remain as permanent residents. The new Japanese Minister, Baron Minozi Arakawa, arrived in Mexico last November from London, where he had for some time acted as Consul-General; he has been in the Consular Service of his country for altogether twenty years. He is not only a diplomat but a soldier and an engineer of repute, having graduated at the Engineering College of Tokio, and served under Marshal Oyama, as well as being engaged in the diplomatic and consular service at Tien-Tsen and Wei-hai-wei. Baron Arakawa is accredited both to Mexico and Peru, but makes his residence in the former country.

The President of Mexico last May filled the vacant position of Minister to Great Britain by appointing Señor Miguel Covarrubias Minister to the Court of St. James. General Pedro Rincon Gallado resigned the position of Minister, which he had filled since 1899, on account of ill-health, returning to Mexico in the month of November last accompanied by his wife, his son Manuel, Mrs. Refugia Terreros V. de Rincon Gallado, her daughter Maria and Señorita Maria Luzarraga.

The new Mexican Minister has hitherto been Minister of Mexico to the South American countries on the Pacific, with

headquarters at Santiago de Chile. Señor Covarrubias is fifty-one years of age, but has had considerable experience in the diplomatic service, covering a period of twenty-seven years. His first appointment was as third Secretary at Washington, then second Secretary in Italy, Great Britain and the United States. He has also filled the position of first Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires in the U.S.A., first Secretary in Belgium, first Secretary and Chargé d'Affaires in Germany and Russia, and Minister to the Pacific Slope countries of South America.

Señor Ing. Miguel de Beistegui, first Secretary of the Legation in London, and who has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires since the departure of General Rincon Gallado, has been appointed to the position vacated by Señor Covarrubias, and will leave London shortly to take up his new position. Señor de Beistegui began his diplomatic career in 1884 as an attaché of the Legation in France, of which he was soon made Chancellor. Later on he served as second Secretary in Belgium, then as third Secretary in France, returning to Belgium as first Secretary, then second Secretary to the Netherlands, from which country he was transferred to London as first Secretary. It was hoped that the vacant position in London might have been filled by Don Guillermo de Landa y Escandon, Governor of the Federal District of Mexico, who is a thoroughly accomplished English scholar, and exceedingly popular with English residents in Mexico.

CHAPTER XV

Consular matters and Downing Street—Improvements introduced—Long-standing grievances—Mexico-City Consulate—Mr. Jerome—The Vice-Consul—Increase in Consular duties—British Consular Authority—Important powers conferred—American Consular Service—New Regulations—Candidates' qualifications—Consuls' salaries compared—British and American—United States Consuls in Mexico.

A PROMINENT feature in the reviews of my last book, "Through Five Republics of South America," was the almost unanimous attention drawn by the critics to the "Conclusion," in which I commented unreservedly upon the prevailing condition of the British Consular Service abroad. In every instance my criticisms were endorsed or pronounced timely and justified. It is, therefore, with no small amount of satisfaction that I am enabled chronicle the improvement which has taken place in the Service since I last wrote, a cause for congratulation, indeed, when one considers the vast influences which a properly-organized Consular System can have upon the trade and industry of a country, especially like that of Great Britain.

By common consent of the people of this country it was recognised that foreign affairs should be based upon a national basis, and it is due to the present Government to add that they have recognised their responsibility in the matter a great deal more fully than did their predecessors in office. I pay Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Government the merited compliment of saying that they took the earliest opportunity of showing their desire to improve the Consular Service, which they unmistakably have done. It is perfectly true that the late Government had taken the matter in hand previously, but in so half-hearted, shilly-shallying a way as to rob their policy