

POLITICAL DIVISION AND POPULATION

THE present population of the Republic reaches the cipher of 9,495,157 inhabitants, distributed in the following manner:

FRONTIER STATES.		
I	Sonora,	115,000
II	Coahuila,	104,137
III	Chihuahua,	190,000
IV	New Leon,	190,000
		599,137
STATES ON THE GULF OF MEXICO.		
V	Tamaulipas,	140,000
VI	Vera Cruz,	520,000
VII	Tabasco,	95,597
VIII	Campeachy,	86,000
IX	Yucatan,	300,000
		1,141,597
STATES ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN.		
X	Sinaloa,	200,000
XI	Jalisco,	980,000
XII	Colima,	65,827
XIII	Michoacan,	618,240
XIV	Guerrero,	325,000
XV	Oaxaca,	661,706
XVI	Chiapas,	195,000
		3,045,773
CENTRAL STATES.		
XVII	Durango,	185,000
XVIII	Zacatecas,	414,000
XIX	Aguascalientes,	90,000
XX	San Luis Potosi,	525,110
XXI	Guanajuato,	900,000
XXII	Queretaro,	166,643
XXIII	Hidalgo,	427,340
XXIV	Mexico,	663,557
XXV	Morelos,	150,000
XXVI	Puebla,	700,000
XXVII	Tlaxcala,	122,000
		4,343,650
	District of Mexico,	340,000
	Territory of Lower California,	25,000
		9,495,157

The last reports from the State Governments have given the greater part of the data for the formation of the preceding

census, but part of them not being of a very recent date, on account of some of the authorities not having presented the respective documents, from not being required to do so by their particular constitutions, I have found myself obliged to obtain the necessary information by means of calculation, taking for my basis, previous data and the changes in the population. The relations which affect the annual increase, vary in distinct parts of the Republic, owing to the differences of climate, elevation, topographical position of the places, dryness or humidity of the soil, and the abundance or scarcity of timber lands principally exercising their influence in the increment of the population, in the altitude and consequent pressure of the air. Doctor Jourdanet, in the work he so conscientiously published,* established three divisions, denominating them: upper table lands, intermediate region and lower region, considering the first as at an elevation of more than 2,000 metres, the second from 800 to 2,000 metres and the third from the level of the sea to 800.

Comparing the census of the year 1810 with that of 1858, Doctor Jourdanet considers the annual increase of population in 3.06 for each 1,000 inhabitants in the upper table lands, and in 6.50 in the lower and intermediate regions; and again comparing the data relative to 1838 and 1857, he obtains 8.57 for each 1,000 in the first named region and 9.84 in the second.

Imperfect as may have been the data that served as the basis of these calculations, statistical results, as Dr. Jourdanet observes, contradict the general belief as to the superiority of the life of man in the higher regions, to those of the intermediate ones. The results he obtained cannot be considered as entirely correct. The imperfection of the census, and particularly that of 1810; the war of independence; the epidemics; the revolutions that have agitated the Republic; the foreign wars and other perturbing causes, as also the situation of the towns in which the difference of height changes suddenly; and the climatological conditions of each one of the three regions referred to, are so many circumstances that make a perfect calculation impossible.

* Influence of the pressure of the air on the life of man. — PARIS, 1875.

The more recent data, as a natural result of the advancement of the people and of more reliable statistics, and principally as a consequence of the state of tranquillity, which the Republic has enjoyed during the last seven years, and but slightly disturbed, offers most certainly a better basis for obtaining an annual report as to the increase of population. Whether comparison be made as to the census of distinct periods, in relation to certain localities, or whether they all be confronted together; in any way whatever, a result will be obtained, analogous to those acquired by Dr. Jourdanet, even although the numbers indicated by the reports be very different. Those that have reference to the latest data ought to be considered as approaching nearest to the truth, from the fact that they have been ascertained during a period that has not been interrupted by disturbances interfering with the natural increase of population. After having regularly observed this increase for the space of fifteen years, and comparing the latest data referred to, I have obtained 1.10 per cent of annual increase in the upper region and 1.85 per cent in the intermediate and lower countries.

The differences of dress, customs and language, in the Mexican Republic, make known the heterogeneity of its population, which may be divided into three principal groups; viz, the white race and more direct descendants of the Spaniards, the mixed race and the Indian race.

The habits and customs of the individuals who compose the first division, conform in general to European civilization, and particularly to the fashions of the French with reminiscences of the Spaniards. Their national language is Spanish; French is much in vogue, whilst English, German and Italian are greatly extended.

The bases of public instruction of which I shall speak hereafter, are composed of literary and artistical classical works, a knowledge of the Latin and Greek roots, and the great principles of science in all its branches. To the latter group in general, belong the exercise of various professions, and the vital element of capital, which forms the firmest support of agriculture, the arts, mining enterprises and trade, for the development of which, the Republic maintains close relations

with Europe and the United States. Existing these relations, as they really do exist, the unacquaintance as to our civilization in the old world, is incomprehensible, nor is it credible that some few books, written with inexactness and evil intention, should preponderate over the instructive pages and valuable conceptions emitted in good faith, by a Humboldt, a Burchart, a Sartorius or a Jourdanet. The works of many distinguished Mexicans are also deserving of praise, as they alone would suffice to make known the reality of our social status. The books that have been published in Europe, in regard to Mexico, well merit refutation from their misrepresentations, but as this is not the object of the present work, I shall only occupy myself with one publication, having tendencies to defame the character of the Mexican ladies, — a most despicable trait, — when, for their brilliant qualities, both in social and in domestic life, they are entitled to the highest commendation. The conjugal happiness enjoyed by many foreigners united to Mexican women affords the most solemn contradiction that can be given to similar detractors.

Mr. Figuier, in his work of "The human races," reproduces an engraving from another European publication, which represents the type of a woman of the people, and not that of one of the principal ladies of Mexico, as he supposes. This type is taken from a correct photograph by Mr. Jules Michaud and is the same that I have copied in No. 1 of my collection, plate No. II. I have also represented the type of another woman of the lower class who appears in Mr. Figuier's work as the servant of the former. On comparing Mr. Michaud's photograph with the engraving shown in the work referred to, I have formed the conviction that there has been bad faith in its reproduction. In the photograph, which has been transferred in the number referred to, a woman is seen of an agreeable and lovely figure, and not with the characteristics of the negro race, as she appears in the adulterated plate of Mr. Figuier's work. Moreover, this gentleman, who, doubtless, has produced many recommendable works, would have done well in abandoning the routine of classifying the Mexican nation among the red-skins.

It is to be supposed that the thirst of speculation has

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obliged the editors of similar writings, to excite curiosity, by presenting the most extravagant types, instead of those that in their equality with Europeans, would attract little or no special attention. Other works, such as those of Eyma and Chevalier, which recommend themselves by their elegance of style and just appreciations, tend but little, as an ultimate result, to enlighten their readers, being confined to the political object with which they were written. By these works it may be remarked that both the middling class as well as those of a higher position, in their style of dress, follow the French fashions, without any other alteration, than that which depends upon the time required by the Steamers to bring the plates and sketches of the latest changes.

As I have already mentioned, the nearest descendants of the Spaniards and those less mixed up with the native race in Mexico, belong by their complexion to the white race, for which reason their number, to-day, is more considerable than is supposed. The natural inclination of the mixed race to the habits and customs of their white brethren, as well as their estrangement from those of the natives, is the reason that many of them figure in the most important associations of the country, by their learning and intelligence, including in this large number, the worthy members of the middling classes. From this powerful coalition, the force of an energetic development naturally results, which is inimical to the increment of the indigenous race, not a few of the natives contributing to this fatal consequence, who by their enlightenment have ingressed into the body I have referred to, thereby founding new families with the habits and customs of the upper classes.

The white race is found to be specially concentrated in the larger centres of population, and is generally extended throughout the country, its individuals revealing in the towns, the large landed properties and the most humble villages, the social qualities that adorn them, by their politeness and agreeable manners, as well as by their hospitable character. If Mexican civilization is not known in Europe, the fault belongs to some of the foreign travellers, who have disdained to enter into relations with the intelligent classes of society.

Desiring to disseminate a thorough acquaintance with



Mexican society, such as it really is, I fix myself by preference on all those qualities that characterize it and are entirely unknown abroad, without disowning, notwithstanding, the defects it is subject to and which are inherent to all the communities of the world. The distinguished German, E. Sartorius, who resided for many years in the country, and was without doubt, one of the few well informed foreigners in all concerning the Republic of Mexico, in his interesting dissertation, "The importance of Mexico for German emigration," treats of the character of Mexicans, circumscribing their defects and vices to their true limits. This learned German, whose recent death we sincerely deplore, expresses himself in the following terms:

"Doubtless, there are many names for all the mixed races, according to their origin from white and black, olive and white, olive and black, etc., but these are entirely insignificant politically and socially. There cannot exist any doubt, but that the Caucasian race, by its intelligence and capacity are those that prevail in the country; and therefore, speaking in common, the population is divided into only two classes, namely: white and colored.

"In Mexico there is no slavery: every one who treads its soil is free, even though he may have lived in a state of bondage. All the inhabitants are free and equal before the law. Only by judicial sentence can men be deprived of their civil active rights. Every individual, without distinction of color, is eligible to public employments, etc. This is established solely by the constitution and is practiced. Hereditary titles and dignities are abolished.

"On examining how these two bodies are divided in society, we find that the white population forms the class that fills the first rank in intelligence and position.

"According to numerical proportion, they compose the smaller fraction, especially in the Southern part of the Republic, whilst in the Northern sections, the white race predominates. Since the independence of Mexico, the prerogative of being a Spaniard by birth has no political importance, and as there are no genealogical trees to show distinction of blood many consider themselves as pure creoles who are probably of a

mixed race, but who from their color might readily pass for white people. It is for this reason that their number has increased to a million and a half. According to official data the number of Europeans reaches thirty thousand individuals.

"The character of the Mexican creole assimilates considerably to that of the Spaniard from whom he descends, although he possesses more of the vivacity of the Andalusians than the gravity of the Castilians or Gallegos. He is active, jovial, ardent and gay, although frequently careless and prodigal. In their social behaviour, the creoles, both well and poorly educated, have much natural politeness, and in their mode of life possess many private virtues that render them worthy of esteem. I must mention, particularly, the respect paid by children to their parents; their hospitality: their humane treatment towards their servants, who are considered as belonging to the family, and their protection of orphans. Immediately a child loses its parents, it is adopted by its godfathers, and if these should be wanting, a rivalry is excited between other families to shelter the abandoned creature."

The mixed race, like that of the whites, occupy in general the larger centres of population, where they apply themselves to mechanical arts or are engaged as servants; they are also found disseminated over the whole country, employing themselves in agricultural labors, in mining, in manufacturing, and in mule-driving. As we see, this race as a whole, constitutes the working population of the Mexican people. Their language is Spanish, intermixed with a multitude of provincial expressions, of very distinct and marked accents, and composed in a great part of words derived from the Indian dialects. The Catholic religion is that which predominates, but it must be observed that it is among this class of people that the Protestant sects principally acquire their proselytes. Sagacious, intelligent and with a special gift for imitation, this race is remarkable for the taste and perfect construction of its manufactures: in printing and book-binding; in carpenters and blacksmith's work; in sculpture of stone and wood; in hat-making, boot and shoemaking, in the manufacture of cotton, woollen and silk stuffs, and to conclude, in all

the mechanical arts, the workmen reveal their ability and intelligence. Among them, the first rudiments of well organized education are not unknown, such as reading and writing, and not a few have acquired other accomplishments as useful in the arts as serviceable to the citizen.

The desire of improvement in their social condition and in their education has developed itself amongst them, in a most remarkable manner; the idea of forming associations, (which in Mexico do not have as their object the interruption of public order, but fraternity and mutual benevolence,) has been already carried into effect by some of the societies of the working classes, in their late strikes. Not only in the larger cities, but in some of the second and third order, well regulated associations are being founded, at which the artisans congregate, in places chosen for the purpose, at times to attend lectures and to promote discussion upon some interesting subject, not even excepting matters of science, and on other occasions to hold evening parties with their families. Nearly all these societies have their libraries which contribute to their instruction, and others have established Schools and classes of declamation.

The same gentleman, Mr. Sartorius, to whom I have already referred, confirms what I have previously stated regarding the mixed race, and the good qualities of the Indians. The following are his words:

"It is in the mixed race ("mestizos") principally that we find the field-laborers and smaller cattle-raisers, called "rancheros," who form a very important and meritorious part of the population, and are the most robust, and constitute the mediocrity of the farming people. Proceeding from this class, we have the greater part of the miners, the large number of "arrieros" or mule-drivers, pedlars, artisans, servants of every kind in the city and in the country, the sailors and soldiers and the huntsmen. The Indians agree with them, much less than with the white people, and call them "coyotl," (a kind of jackal.) The Indians are much addicted to fermented drinks, whilst the others are partial to gambling, to which they give themselves up indiscriminately. In general the "mestizo" possesses many excellent qualities: he is