

forming the head-piece to them all extends one long and narrow panel of carving, a high relief of the natural stone on a crimson ground. The whole façade is composed of a series of these panels, from the straight line of the foundation-stone to the straight line of the summit, nine panels being on each side of the entrance, arranged in three tiers, divided by horizontal bands of the natural stone. In some of the panels, the ground retains still a faint tint of its former rich vermillion, in others, all color has subsided into the soft neutral shade of the freestone. The designs are wonderfully rich and varied, thirteen different patterns being represented on this façade alone; all these designs are remarkable for the straight lines in which they are executed and the absence of all curves. Throughout all the ruins, upon the walls of which appear twenty-three different models of carving, only two of these represent any curve in their design. In one of these two there is visible the form of the Arabic letter 'L' placed horizontally, and in the other a double curve 'S,' possibly intended to represent or suggest the snake. With these exceptions the designs are of the Greek key pattern, variations on this, or parallelograms.

"Behind this façade is a narrow court, roofless as all the courts are, and empty, save for six colossal pillars standing at even distances down the centre, and giving to this chamber the name of Hall of the Monoliths. Each pillar is one solid stone, eleven feet high and eleven feet in circumference. A low stone passage leads from this chamber northward to the smallest and richest court of all, entering it at the southeast corner. There is comparatively little trace of the destructiveness of the elements or the iconoclasm of man here. The court and all the four chambers opening from it are perfect and singularly rich in carving. The court is perfectly square and the chambers are entered from it, each through one square doorway, the roof of which is formed by a huge monolith, thirteen feet long and with a richly carved face. Of these four lintels each has a separate design. Each of the four walls has six panels, the uppermost extending the whole length of the wall, two smaller panels being on either side of the entrance, and one long narrow one above it. Between the panels stand out in high relief the horizontal and vertical edges of the freestone, forming a symmetrical frame to each panel.

"Within the four chambers the walls are designed differently, the carving running simply and evenly round the entire room in three straight horizontal bands, each band possessing a separate pattern and being about three feet in width. Beneath these bands of carving was originally, evidently, a dado of vermillion stucco, of such fine and delicate quality that the smooth and polished surface resembles marble. Portions of this delicate stucco still adhere to the crumbling walls in places and are of various colors, scarlet, black and white. In some instances this stucco seems to have been plain, simply bearing a brilliant polish, in others, there remains distinctly traced in white upon a crimson ground, a wierd, fantastic, yet handsome design, the head; half horse, half dragon, repeated in four inch squares. This latter ornamented stucco, however, does not appear except in the fourth palace, containing the Spanish church, where it is visible on the walls of one of the courts, now used as a stable for the padre's horse. Leaving the richest of the centre palaces, passing through a gap in the ruined wall on the south side, descending the elevation on which it is placed and ascending the opposite eminence, the patio of the second palace is reached. This is almost wholly in ruins; three of the façades that face the court remain indeed, but the great smooth slabs with which the walls were faced have been torn away at the base, and most of the beautiful panels of carving stripped from the front. Yet it is in this ruined palace that one lingers longest and to which one's feet return, drawn by an irresistible fascination; for this palace contains the tomb and the pillar of death.

"This subterranean vault is called by general consent a sepulchre, but there is no line of history, no record, no tradition even, left to explain to us its origin and use. It

may have been a torture-chamber, sacrificial hall, or tomb. The excavation is but a little below the surface of the court, now carried down so deeply that the light is wholly excluded. From the entrance there is enough to fill the interior with a sad, gray twilight. The vault is in the form of a simple cross lying north and south; its walls are massive and heavily decorated with panels of carving let into their sides, while it is roofed by enormous monolithic slabs that reach from wall to wall. In the centre of the cross, just where by descending a few steps one enters the tomb, stands the pillar of death, round which, the Indians say, should a man clasp his arms he must shortly afterwards die. Does not this very tradition, handed down perhaps through the long file of countless years, seem to indicate that this pillar was some ancient stone of sacrifice to which human victims were bound or chained, and from which death alone released them? As one gazes at the massive column, that one man's arms alone could not entirely encircle, the eye notices an indentation round the base where the column sinks into the floor. The stone is corroded and worn away as by the long friction of ropes or chains.

"Most of the panels do not consist of actual carving, though they produce that effect at a few yards' distance; they are formed in reality by small slabs of the freestone cut perfectly square and inserted edgewise into the wall, the remaining edges standing out at various distances from it and thus forming the different designs. This, although a work of infinite patience, does not necessarily presuppose a high stage of civilization, no instrument sharper than hard stone being required to cut the slabs of soft freestone; and that only a stone instrument was employed by the workers seems indicated by the fact that, in the large panels where the stone is actually carved, the edges are not sharp, but rounded, as if made with a blunt tool. The effect of the panels of inserted squares of stone, however simply produced, is that of the most finished and clear-cut carving and the designs themselves are rich and elaborate. There is no crudity, no harshness in them, no suggestion of the primitive savage's scratching on his native rock; but rather that of Greek work on some Athenian temple. The patterns have a complicated elegance and distinction of line that can only be produced by a people of cultivated mind and eye.

"Evidence, too, of what high grade of civilization in some ways at least they must have arrived at, lies in the gigantic stones that they have placed as lintels over their doorways and which in their immense weight and bulk have defied the greed or rage of all the succeeding races to remove or destroy. The mystery here is the Egyptian mystery of the Pyramids; that these enormous blocks of stone are resting here in positions and elevations where it would require all the modern knowledge of mechanics, engineering skill, and mechanical appliances to place them; and, as in Egypt, so here the mystery will never be solved, as the builders have passed hence and left no clue. The solid stone rests there upon its supporting pillars before the eye as it has rested for a thousand years, but how the perished hands lifted and placed it there remains its own inviolable secret.

"Leaving the palace court by the south side and following the road to the dry and stony bed of a wide river, if one turns aside here a little to the eastward he finds himself facing a Zapotecan mound, a solid base composed of earth and stones, in which are visible at intervals large slabs of cement, portions of terraces and tiers that originally formed its sides. Ascending this, from the summit one can overlook the whole valley."

## LANGUAGES.

About one hundred and fifty different Indian languages are known to have been spoken by the Mexican Indians. The Spanish monks accompanying the conquerors and who went to the country soon after-

wards compiled grammars and even dictionaries of some of these languages; but the Indians falling into a semi-barbarous state after the conquest, having lost their civilization and literature, their languages have either disappeared completely or become very primitive, and it is ascertained that some of them have become entirely extinct.

The Spanish is, of course, the language of the country and most of the Indians speak it, although very imperfectly and incorrectly; only a small portion of them speaking no language but their own.

The chief languages spoken in Mexico proper, excluding Chiapas and Yucatan, are as follows:

Nahuatl or Mexican (Aztec) with Acaxee, Sabaibo, Xixime, Cochimi, Concho and other members of the same family.

Seri, Upanguaima, and Guaima.

Papago, Opata, Yaqui, Mayo, Tarahumara, Tepehuan, Cora, etc.

Apache or Yavipai, Navajo, Mescalero, Llanero Lipan, etc.

Otomi or Hia-hiu, Pame, Mazahua, etc.

Huastec, Totonac.

Tarascan, Matlaltzincan.

Mixtec, Zopotec, Mixé, Zoqué, Chinantec.

Señor Don Manuel Orosco y Berra wrote a treatise on the language of the Indian tribes in Mexico entitled "Geography of Languages," which describes the languages of the races who inhabited Mexico, and Señor Don Francisco Pimentel enlarged upon that work, making philological comparisons, and from the data collected by both authors Señor Don Antonio Garcia Cubas a distinguished Mexican geographer made the following synopsis of the Indian languages spoken in Mexico.

SYNOPSIS OF THE INDIAN LANGUAGES OF MEXICO, FORMED ACCORDING TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF DON FRANCISCO PIMENTEL.

NOTE.—The sign \* indicates that the classification is doubtful.

GROUPS.	FAMILIES.	LANGUAGES.	DIALECTS.
MEXICAN-OPATA.	I. MEXICAN.	1st Order.—Languages polysyllabic, polysynthetic of sub-flexion.	
		1. Mexican, Nahuatl or Azteca.....	{ Conchos, Sinaloense, * Mazapil, Jalisciense, Ahualulco, Pipil, Niquiran.
		*2. Cuitlateco.....	
		3. Opata, Teguma or Teguma Sonorense.....	
		4. Eudebe, heve or hegue, dohme or dohemabatuco.....	
		5. Joba, joval ova.....	
		6. Pima, nevome, ohotama or Otama.....	{ Tecoripa. Sabaqui. Various.
		7. Pepehuan.....	
		8. Papago or Papabicotan.....	
		9 to 12. El Yuma comprising Cuchan, Cocomarcicopa or Opa, Mojave or Mahao, Diegueño, or Cuñeil, Yavipai, Yampai, and yampaio.....	
		13.* Cajueneche, Cucapa or Jallicuamay.....	
		14. Sobaipure.....	
		15. Julime.....	

GROUPS.	FAMILIES.	LANGUAGES.	DIALECTS.		
		1st Order.—Languages polysyllabic, polysynthetic of sub-flexion.			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	II. SONORENSE OR OPATA-PIMA.	16. Tarahumar.....	{ Varogio or Chini- nipa, Guazapare, Pachera, and others.		
		17. Cahita or Sinaloa.....	{ Yaqui, Mayo, Tehuaco or Zuaque.		
		18. Guarave or Vacoregue.....			
		19. Chora, Chota, Cora del Nayarit.....	{ Muutzicat, Teacucitzin, Ateanaca.		
		20. Colotlan.....	Various.		
		21. Tubar.....			
		22. Huichola.....			
		23. Zacateco.....			
				24. Acaxee or Topia, comprising Sabaibo, Tebaca, and Xixime, the last of doubtful classification.....	
		MEXICAN-OPATA.	III. COMANCHE SHOSHONE.	25. Comanche, Nauni, Paduca, Hietan or Getan.	Various.
				26. Caigua or Kioway.	
27. Shoshone or Chochone.					
28. Wihinast.					
29. Utah, Yutah or Yuta.					
30. Pah-Utah or Payuta.					
31. Chemegue or Cheme-huevi.					
32. Cahuillo or Cawio.					
33. Kechi.					
34. Netela.					
35. Kizh or Kij.					
36. Fernandezio.					
37. Moqui and some others spoken in the United States.....					
MEXICAN-OPATA.	IV. TEXANA OR COAHUILTECA.	38. Texano or Coahuilteco.....	Various.		
MEXICAN-OPATA.	V. *KERES ZUÑI.	39. Keres or Quera.....	Kiwomi or Kivome, Cochiteumi or Quime, Acoma and Acuco. Various.		
		40. Tesuque or Tegua.....			
		41. Taos, Piro, Suma, Picori.....			
		42. Jemez, Tano, Peco.....			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	VI. MUTSUN.	43. Zuñi or Cibola.....	Various.		
		44. Mutsun.			
		45. Rumsen.			
		46. Achastli.			
		47. Soledad.			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	VII. GUAICURA.	48. Costeño or Costanos and other languages of California.....	Various.		
		49. Guaicura, Vaicura or Monqui.			
		50. Aripa.			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	VIII. COCHIMI-LAIMON.	51. Uchita.	Various.		
		52. Cora.			
		53. Concho or Lauretano.....			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	IX. SERI.	54 to 57. Cochimi, divided into four sister languages, viz.: Cadegomo and the languages used in the missions of San Javier, San Joaquin, and Santa Maria.....	Various.		
		58. Laimon or Layamon.....			
		59. Seri or Ceri.....			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	X. TARASCA.	60. Guaima or Gayama.....	Various.		
		61. Upanguaima.....			
		62. Tarasco.....			
MEXICAN-OPATA.	XI. ZOQUE-MIXE.	63. Chorotega de Nicaragua.....	Various.		
		64. Mixe.....			
		65. Zoque.....			
		66. Tapijulapa.....			

GROUPS.	FAMILIES.	LANGUAGES.	DIALECTS.
FAMILIES INDEPENDENT AMONG THEMSELVES AND OF THE MEXICAN-OPATA GROUP.	XII. TOTONACA.	67. Totonaco (mixed language).....	Four.
		2d Order. Languages polysyllabic polysynthetic of juxtaposition.	
	XIII. MIXTECO-ZAPO- TECA.	68. Mixteco.....	Eleven.
		69. Zapoteco.....	Twelve.
		70. Chuchon.....	Two.
		71. Popoloco.....	
		72. Cuicateco.....	Two.
		73. Chatino.....	
		74. Papabuco.....	
		75. Amusgo.....	
		76. Mazateco.....	Two.
		77. Solteco.....	
	*78. Chinanteco.....		
	XIV. PIRINDA OR MA- TLALZINCA.	79. Pirinda or Matlalzinca.....	Various.
		3d Order.—Languages Polosyllabic Synthetic.	
	XV. MAYA.	80. Yucateco or Maya.....	
		81. Punctunc.....	
		82. Lacandon or Xochinel.....	
		83. Peten or Itzac.....	
84. Chañabal, Comiteco, Jocolobal.....			
85. Chol or Mopan.....			
86. Chorti or Chorte.....			
87. Cakchi, Caichi, Cachi or Cakgi.....			
88. Ixil, Izil.....			
89. Coxoh.....			
90. Quiché, Utlateco.....			
91. Zutuhil, Zutugil, Atiteca, Zacapula.....			
92. Cachiquel, Cachiquil.....			
93. Tzotzil, Zotzil, Tzinanteco, Cinanteco.....			
94. Tzendal, Zendal.....			
95. Mame, Mem, Zaklohpakap.....			
96. Poconchi, Pocoman.....			
97. Atche, Atchi.....			
98. Huasteco.....		Various.	
*99. Haitiano, Quizqueja or Itis, with their affinities, Cubano, Borigua and Jamaica.....			
XVI. CHONTAL.	*100. Chontal doubtful in its morphologic character.....		
XVII. DERIVATIVES OF NICARAGUA.	*101. Huave, Huazonteca.....		
	*102. Chiapaneco.....		
XVIII. APACHE.	103. Apache.....	North American Apache, Mexican Apache, Mimbrenño, Pinalenño, Navajo, Xicarilla or Faraon, Lipan Mescalero.	
	4th Order.—Languages cuasi-monosyllabic.		
XIX. OTOMI.	104. Otomi or Hiahiu.....		
	105. Serrano.....		
	106. Mazahua.....		
	107. Pame.....		
	108. Jonaz or Meco. (Perhaps the rest of the ancient Chichimeco).....	Various.	

POPULATION.

We have until recently taken a regularly correct census of our population. The first reliable census was made in 1795, under Revil-lagigedo's viceroyalty, the second in 1810 by Don Fernando Navarro y Noriega, the third one was estimated by Mr. Poinsett, United States Minister in Mexico, in 1824, and the others have been taken by the Mexican Government.

The following is a statement of the general results of our various censuses :

Years.	Inhabitants.
1795.....	5,200,000
1810.....	6,122,354
1824.....	6,500,000
1839.....	7,044,140
1854.....	7,853,395
1869.....	8,743,614
1878.....	9,384,193
1879.....	9,908,011
1886.....	10,791,685
1895.....	12,570,195

The population of Mexico appears to be, from our last census, taken in 1895, 12,570,195, which would give 16.38 for each square mile; but from my personal knowledge of the country, I am quite sure that it is not less than 15,000,000. It is very difficult to take a correct census in Mexico, because there is not the proper machinery in operation for that purpose, and especially because a great many districts are inhabited by Indians, who are impressed with the fear that if they inscribe themselves in the census they will be taxed or drafted into the military service, and they try to avoid registration.

A great many of our people live in such remote districts that they are practically cut off from communication with other portions of the country, and in fact are almost isolated; and this constitutes still another difficulty in the way of taking a correct census. These people generally raise everything they need for their living, as well as for their clothing. They also raise their domestic animals, and wear either cotton or woollen clothes, manufactured by the women. The configuration of the country, which makes transportation very expensive, together with the very sparse population, has caused their isolation, and this explains why some agricultural products which are very cheap in other countries are very dear in certain districts of Mexico, as prices can be easily controlled, there being no possibility of competition. While sugar, for instance, costs 25 cents per pound in some districts, it can be had in others for one cent. This fact shows also that a year of good crops was often a real misfortune to these districts.

The upper lands being the healthiest, most of the population in Mexico is settled in the central plateau; a relatively small portion lives in the temperate zone, while the torrid zone is very thinly populated. I imagine, at a rough calculation, that about 75 per cent. of the population make their abode in the cold zone, from 15 to 18 per cent. in the temperate zone, and from 7 to 10 per cent. in the torrid zone.

From the synopsis of our censuses, inserted above, it appears that the population in Mexico has duplicated during the last century, and although that increase does not keep pace with the increase in the United States, because this has been really wonderful, it compares favorably with the increase in other countries. Mexico also, as a new country and one full of possibilities, ought to have increased its population more rapidly, but its slow progress can be accounted for in several ways.

Under the head of Ethnology I enumerated the different races inhabiting Mexico and stated the number of inhabitants belonging to each, and I gave at length the reasons for the slow increase of the Indian population, which is the largest in Mexico. I will only add here that while the Indians lead a very abstemious and simple life, marry while very young and generally have a family of several children, they are at the same time subject to epidemics. Notwithstanding that the race on the whole is sturdy and little subject to disease, the mortality is very large among the children for want of proper nutrition and care. The losses caused by our civil wars could not at all explain the slow increase of our population, and the only way in which I can account for it is that they are not so well prepared as the people of the United States and other more advanced countries, to bear the discomforts of life and climate, and that, therefore, they cannot bring up all the children born in the family, among whom there is annually a great mortality.

*Classification of Mexican States.* Under the Spanish rule Mexico was divided into several provinces, the Spaniards trying to divide the provinces in accordance with the different nationalities of the aborigines found there, and each province possessing a very large extent of territory. After our independence and when we established a Federal government, each province was made a state, and since then some of the largest states have been divided into two or even three smaller ones. In the chapter on Political Organizations I shall give further information on this subject.

The Mexican states are classified in several ways, and generally as Northern, Southern, Central, Pacific, and Gulf States; but it is difficult to make a proper division of them, because there are several included in two denominations. I will, therefore, divide them into Northern States, calling so those bordering on the United States; Southern States,

those bordering on Guatemala and Belize; Gulf, Caribbean Sea, and Pacific States, those bordering on their respective waters; and Central States those which do not belong to any of the above denominations, although I do not consider this a proper classification, because the State of Tamaulipas included among the Northern States, and the States of Tabasco, Campeche, and Yucatan among the Southern States, are all on the Gulf of Mexico, and are, therefore, Gulf States, the latter being also washed on their southern side by the Caribbean Sea, and the State of Sonora, classified as a Northern State, borders on the Pacific; the State of Chiapas, included among the Southern States, also borders on the Pacific, and, therefore, is, like Sonora, also a Pacific State.

Our last official census, taken in 1895, gives the following results by States, which I compared with the census of 1879.

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES.

STATES.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.	POPULATION		POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE.	CAPITAL.	POPULATION.	
		in 1879.	in 1895.				
Northern States bordering on the U. S.	Tamaulipas .....	32,585	140,137	204,206	6.3	Ciudad Victoria.. 14,575	
	Nuevo Leon. ....	24,324	203,284	309,607	13.1	Monterey .....	56,855
	Coahuila .....	62,376	130,026	235,638	3.7	Saltillo .....	19,654
	Chihuahua .....	87,820	225,541	266,831	3.0	Chihuahua .....	18,521
	Sonora .....	76,922	115,424	191,281	2.4	Hermosillo .....	8,376
Southern States bordering on Guatemala.	Yucatan .....	35,214	302,315	297,507	8.4	Mérida .....	36,720
	Campeche .....	18,091	90,413	90,458	5.0	Campeche .....	16,631
	Tabasco .....	10,075	104,747	134,794	13.3	S. Juan Bautista.. 27,036	
	Chiapas .....	27,230	205,362	313,678	11.5	Tuxtla Gutierrez. 7,882	
Atlántic.	Veracruz .....	29,210	542,918	855,975	29.3	Jalapa .....	18,173
Pacific.	Oaxaca .....	35,392	744,000	882,529	24.9	Oaxaca .....	32,641
	Guerrero .....	25,003	295,590	417,621	16.7	Chilpancingo.... 6,204	
	Michoacan .....	22,881	661,534	889,795	38.8	Morelia .....	32,287
	Colima .....	2,273	65,827	55,677	24.5	Colima .....	19,305
	Jalisco .....	31,855	983,484	1,107,803	34.8	Guadalajara.... 83,870	
Sinaloa .....	33,681	186,491	256,414	7.6	Culiacan .....	14,205	
Central.	Aguascalientes...	2,951	140,430	103,645	35.1	Aguas Calientes . 31,619	
	Durango .....	38,020	190,846	294,366	7.7	Durango .....	42,165
	Guanajuato .....	11,374	834,845	1,047,238	92.1	Guanajuato .....	39,337
	Hidalgo .....	8,920	427,350	548,039	61.6	Pachuca .....	52,189
	Morelos .....	2,774	159,160	159,800	57.6	Cuernavaca .....	8,554
	Mexico .....	9,250	710,579	838,737	90.7	Toluca .....	23,648
	Puebla .....	12,207	784,466	979,723	80.2	Puebla .....	91,917
	Querétaro .....	3,558	203,250	227,233	63.9	Querétaro .....	32,790
	Tlaxcala .....	1,595	138,988	166,803	104.6	Tlaxcala .....	2,874
San Luis Potosí..	25,323	516,486	570,814	22.5	San Luis Potosí.. 69,676		
Zacatecas .....	24,764	422,506	452,720	18.2	Zacatecas .....	40,026	
Territories.	Tepic .....	11,279	.....	144,308	12.8	Tepic .....	16,266
	Lower California..	58,345	30,208	42,287	0.7	La Paz and .....	4,737
	Federal District ..	463	351,804	484,608	1046.7	Ensenada de Todos Santos .. 1,259	
	Islands .....	1,471	.....	.....	.....	City of Mexico ... 339,935	
Totals .....	767,226	9,908,011	12,570,195				

## RELIGION.

All Mexicans are born in the Catholic Church, that being the prevailing religion of the country; but there is no connection between Church and State, and the Constitution guarantees the free exercise of all religions.

While Mexico was a colony of Spain and for many years afterwards, the catholic religion was the only one allowed in the country, and anybody professing any other would expose himself to great hardships if he avowed that he was a dissenter, especially while the Inquisition was in existence.

The clergy became one of the principal pillars of the Spanish domination in Mexico. In the early part of the present century the Church was flourishing, and it was the high-water mark of clerical prosperity. The humble Mexican priests did the hard laborious work, while the Spanish-born ecclesiastics filled the great bishoprics and other great posts and lived at their ease, and the great convents in their most lucrative positions of control were practically in Spanish hands.

Huge convents occupied a considerable part of the site of the City of Mexico, Puebla, Morelia, Guadalajara, Querétaro, and other cities. The incomes of the convents were derived from endowments, amounting to a large sum. To support the high ecclesiastics, great sums were derived from tithes. The archbishop of Mexico had an income of \$130,000 a year; the bishops of Puebla, \$110,000; of Michoacan, \$100,000; and of Guadalajara, \$90,000. Meantime, the parish priests, who bore the brunt of Christian work among the masses, were living on very moderate sums. The Church erected in Mexico buildings which are remarkable for their dimensions and taste.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Charles Dudley Warner in the Editor's Study of *Harper's Illustrated Monthly Magazine* for July, 1897, speaks in the following way of the church edifices in Mexico:

"Somebody of authority, by the way, ought to explain why Mexico has so many church edifices that go to the heart of the lover of beauty, and why the United States has so few that are interesting. Aside from the great Gothic monuments in Spain, Mexico surpasses Spain in interesting ecclesiastical architecture. It has more variety, more quaint beauty, more originality in towers and façades. The interiors are generally monotonous, and repetitions of each other. The Spaniards, in an age of faith, built churches, convents, monasteries, all over the country, in remote and unimportant Indian villages, and as far north as their patient ministers of religion wandered, even to the bay of San Francisco. In these edifices the Spanish ingenuity and enthusiasm prevailed, but they were largely executed by Indian builders and artists; and if there is Sarasic feeling shown, there are also, especially in ornamentation, traces of that aboriginal artistic spirit which, long before the Spanish conquest, executed both in stone and in pottery singularly attractive work. Even within a hundred years of our own time Indian genius has been distinguished. Those who think that this genius is only exhib-

Not all the great dignitaries of the Church exhibited an unchristian selfishness, for many often spent their income in pious and charitable works, and in prosecuting missionary undertakings among the Indians of the remote distances.

The wealth of the Church was loaned out at a moderate rate of interest to landed proprietors, who formed the moral support of the Church among the laity and whose influence was prodigiously strong. The wealth of the Church was mostly in mortgages, while it held a large amount of real estate. In the City of Mexico and other places, the clergy owned a large portion of the real estate and held a great many mortgages, and, to its credit be it said, was not at all usurious, exacting only a fair rate of interest and being hardly ever oppressive in dealing with delinquent debtors.

After the Revolution which effected the independence of the country, the ecclesiastical life began to cease having many of the attractions it had before. While many men became friars from genuine inclination and vocation, not a few went into the religious life because it gave them support without hard labor, and because it was one of the best careers opened to young men at the time.

The nunneries sheltered a great many pious women, who effected some good as educators of the young, as almoners for the wealthy, and as nurses of the sick. There were abuses, of course, but on the whole the religious life afforded a refuge for many thousands of good women who felt drawn to works of charity and usefulness. Rich young girls were often over-persuaded to enter the convents, by avaricious and scheming priests, but such abuses are common to all religions. The Liberal party thought that the best way to destroy the Church influence in Mexico was to suppress convents, both of friars and nuns, because they

ited in bizarre forms, and in such small details of design and color as the potter can attain, should see at Querétaro the work of Tresguerras, architect, sculptor, and painter. Any modern architect, who is led away by straining after effect in a grotesque combination of distinct Greek styles with mediæval and early English, having no note of originality anywhere, could study with profit the simple elegance—as simple as the Old Louvre—of the Bishop's Palace in Querétaro, or the wood-carving in the church of the sequestered Convent of Santa Rosa. In my remembrance there is not, on such a great scale, any wood-carving in the world equal to it in freshness and largeness of execution and in beauty of design. It could not have been all done by the hand of Tresguerras, but it was all from his designs and under his superintendence. Of course, as to civic and ecclesiastic architecture, climate and lack of popular taste for the beautiful put limits upon our architectural work, but it is worth the while of the American architect to consider whether he cannot learn more from our sister republic below the Tropic of Cancer than he is likely to get from the well-studied structures of Europe. In many petty and poverty-stricken Indian villages are charming towers and curious façades which would be a most valuable education in the principles of taste to any American community."