

prisoners; but I remember well my own sufferings while a prisoner in this same place, and I wish to prevent your being put to such straits. Go, then; you are free. All I ask of you is that you promise me to put yourselves at the disposition of the supreme government if you are so ordered. The nation will pronounce its sentence upon the empire, but it will be indulgent to its misguided sons."

This general amnesty, which only found its parallel at Appomattox, caused on all sides a great deal of satisfaction. Men who had before been enemies pledged themselves hereafter to be friends. Many turned away to hide their tears. General Diaz himself was profoundly moved. Among the prisoners was a colonel who was ashamed and fearful at the same time, and could not believe that he was free; for when Count von Thun had fixed the price of ten thousand dollars upon the head of General Diaz when he escaped from Puebla, this Colonel Escamilla (then chief of police of Izucar) had offered another thousand from his own pocket. The general understood well his captive's feelings, and said, "Colonel, that imprudent action was suggested by blind duty: let us forget it." From that time Escamilla was one of his most loyal partisans.

After the occupation of the city of Oaxaca, General Diaz marched to Tehuantepec, but the enemy overtook him at Lachitova, under command of Colonel Toledo, and on the 19th of December, 1866, General Diaz defeated him, driving him back. On the 26th of the same month he again defeated Colonel Toledo's forces at Tequisisitan.

General Diaz then returned to Oaxaca, where he reorganized his army and marched his forces to Puebla, which city was invested on the 3d of March, 1867, and was taken by assault on the 2d of April following.

His tempering with magnanimity the rigor of the law, avoiding the baptism of blood, had its influence on the fall of the city of Mexico, winning for Diaz great praise among friends and enemies. General Tamariz, who died shortly afterward, said, with emotion, "Twice Diaz has conquered me by his military talent and once by his generosity. With pleasure I would serve such a man, although it were as a common soldier."

After the capture of Puebla, General Diaz went to meet the Imperial General Marques, who had left Querétaro to relieve Mexico, and who was marching against Puebla. On the 5th of April General Diaz overtook Marques at San Diego Notario, where a battle was fought, ending in the defeat of Marques. General Diaz followed up his victory, and met Marques again at San Lorenzo on the 10th of April, defeating him completely. Marques came to the city of Mexico with a small force of Hungarian cavalymen.

General Diaz then came on to Mexico, establishing himself in Tacubaya, and commenced operations to put the city in a state of siege. On the 14th of May General Escobedo took Querétaro. Maximilian was tried by court-martial, and was condemned to death in accordance with his own decree of the 3d of October, 1865, that all officers taken prisoner should be shot. As General Arteaga and all the republican generals had been, so was he put to death.

Maximilian, the ex-emperor, with Miramon and Mejia, his principal generals, were shot on the 19th of June, 1867, victims of Napoleon the Little.

Diaz had continued with great vigor the siege of the capital, and on the 20th of June the Conservatives yielded, and he entered the city quietly and took a small house in the suburbs, having his office in the School of Mines. No banner of any sort was raised on the palace until the 15th of July, when Juarez himself hoisted the flag, for which occasion our loyal general had reserved twenty thousand dollars, with the object of making a celebration worthy of the occasion. The contrast between this spectacle and the modest asylum of the victorious leader

impressed the people in favor of one who, with utter forgetfulness of self, had thought only of the welfare of his fellow-citizens. On rendering his accounts, he delivered to the treasury one hundred and forty thousand dollars,—an act which caused great astonishment, as the expenses of the war had been so enormous compared with the resources at command.

The day following the surrender of Mexico Diaz presented his resignation as commander of the line and Army of the East, and after a few months returned to his native city, Oaxaca, which with open arms welcomed the hero home again. His was one triumphal march from the capital to his home. He was given by the legislature of Oaxaca the Hacienda de la Noria, to which he retired, living there quietly for two years, resting from his labors and fatiguing marches.

He had formed, even when quite young, an attachment for Delfina Ortega y Reyes, and on the day of the surrender of Puebla, the 2d of April, that memorable day in which he gave liberty to the captives, he was joined in matrimony to the woman of his choice. Señora de Diaz possessed great sweetness of character and kindness of heart, and her greatest pleasure was in works of charity and in aiding the elevation and education of her sex, taking upon herself the care of a college for girls which her husband had founded. She was naturally timid, which, combined with her inborn graces, made her a most attractive woman.

Benito Juarez was now president, and Diaz was elected as deputy to Congress for his state. The country continued in a state of revolution, and great judgment and tact were needed to keep the peace. On July 18, 1872, Juarez died, and Sebastian Lerdo de Tejada succeeded him. Lerdo was afterward elected to the presidency, but, there being much dissatisfaction by reason of his attitude against the Church party, and of a feeling among the soldiers that General Diaz should be the president, the revolutions continued throughout the country. General Diaz, on December 5, 1875, took steamer at Vera Cruz and went to the United States. Later, in company with others in whom he had confidence, he gathered an army in the states of Tamaulipas and Coahuila, and returned to Mexico. But he was overcome and obliged to make his escape. He embarked on the steamer City of Havana, having taken precautions to change his name and, as much as possible, his appearance. He knew many on board, but they did not recognize him, and all went well until their arrival at Tampico, where a company embarked for Vera Cruz, and he was recognized by them. Seeing that he was suspected and that the officers were making preparations to take him prisoner, at dusk he let himself down over the steamer's side into the water, hoping to escape the sharks and swim to the shore. But his enemies had been watching, and cried out, "Man overboard!" Soon the oars were plying; and, although he made good time swimming, he was overtaken and carried back to the steamer. As they were about to make him a prisoner, Diaz called the captain and asked protection under the United States flag. The captain acceded to his request until arriving at Vera Cruz. Although there had been a guard at his state-room, he went to the purser's room with a life-preserver, desiring to make his escape again, but the purser, Mr. Coney, persuaded him to hide himself in his sofa and let the life-preserver down into the sea, in order that they might think he had really escaped thereby. This was done, and the life-preserver was afterward picked up on shore, where many testified that there were blood-stains on it and signs that it had been bitten by a shark. An examination afterward proved the stains to be iron-rust.

Great was the commotion when it was discovered early the following morning that General Diaz had escaped. The troops and crew united in searching the steamer, and frequently were in very close proximity to him in his hiding-place. Finally an official report announcing his disappearance was sent out, making it appear that the general had been drowned. For one week he remained in his place of torture, as it was the custom of the Mexican officials



to gather in the purser's room and drink and play until morning, and he did not wish to have a stop put to that pastime, so that there should be no suspicion in regard to the state-room.

Although in Vera Cruz the steamer was surrounded by soldiers, Diaz escaped them, in the dress of a seaman, with some workmen in a cotton lighter. He passed through many vicissitudes, and at last, on November 16, 1876, with an armed force gained a victory over the Lerdist at Tecuac.

Lerdo, hearing of the loss to his party and of the brilliant victory of Diaz, started, with some of the faithful members of his cabinet and with what money he could lay his hands on, on November 20, 1876, for Acapulco, there taking passage for the United States. General Diaz



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entered Mexico on the 23d of the same month, and five days afterward assumed the executive power. He formed his cabinet, raised a loan of five hundred thousand dollars to commence the new administration, and, leaving General Mendez as president *ad interim*, went out to finish up with the revolutionary element.

There were then really three presidents of Mexico,—Lerdo, who, however, had abandoned the country; Iglesias, who had been chief justice, or vice-president, under the Lerdo government; and Diaz. Iglesias, realizing the desperate condition in which he was placed, followed Lerdo's example, embarking at Manzanillo for San Francisco, California, on the 17th of January, 1877. For two months General Diaz marched from the central states toward Guadalajara, capturing all the Lerdist troops without firing a single shot. At the end of the two months he relieved General Mendez and took his seat as the actual president of the republic.

Many radical improvements were made in all lines, and, with the exception of a few revolutionary movements, the country again began to enjoy peace and quiet. Friendly relations were established with foreign powers, and confidence was at last inspired in the new government. After having served his term as president, General Manuel Gonzalez, who had distinguished himself as a military man by the side of General Diaz, was elected to succeed him.

The popularity of President Diaz was heightened by the influence of his wife, Doña Delina, whose mission on earth was love and charity, as was shown by her interest in hospitals and schools. She had one son, and on April 2, 1880, the anniversary of the famous victory of General Diaz in Puebla, a daughter was born, to whom was given, in commemoration of the event, the name of Victoria. The whole country united in the double congratulations; but the child lived only a few days, and the mother followed immediately afterward, on April 8, being the first wife of a president to die in the National Palace. Her remains were deposited in the Guadalupe Cemetery with appropriate ceremonies. So that year of Diaz's presidency, so happy for the country and so glorious for him, was covered with a dark cloud of personal sorrow.

For a time under President Gonzalez General Diaz was Ministro de Fomento, but retired in May, 1881. Soon after he was elected senator from the state of Morelos, and governor of Oaxaca, which latter position he took November 30, 1881. Two years after the death of his wife he married Carmen, a notably beautiful brunette, eldest daughter of Señor Romero Rubio. They harmonized well,—he the personification of strength, she of beauty and purity. Simple, without affectation, she unites to a kindly heart a most admirable presence of mind and dignity. She speaks with facility English and French; every one is delighted with her affability and the sweetness and melody of her voice. They spent part of their honeymoon in the United States, where they were everywhere received with honors, special trains being put at their disposal and great courtesy shown them by all.

On December 1, 1884, the second presidential period of General Diaz was inaugurated. The ceremony took place in Congress Hall, formerly the Iturbide Theatre. The diplomatic corps were in full dress, while General Diaz had on a simple black suit. In five minutes after he appeared he had taken the oath of office and retired as quietly as he came to the palace, there to receive the congratulations of General Gonzalez and to appoint his cabinet.

Under President Diaz's administration many reforms in the constitution and laws of the country have been made, and the result is that there exists under him a security which was never before known in the republic. His liberal ideas, his enthusiasm for the development of the country, and his previous honest administration enabled him to begin his second term under much better conditions than existed during his first; and again the confidence of the public was not misplaced, since during his second administration Mexico progressed more than ever before.

Diaz's life has been identified with that of the Mexican republic for the last forty years. The life of this really wonderful man presents many points and lessons for future generations to study. He is to-day, as he has been for many years, the first soldier of the republic, and, what is better, its first citizen. From the very bottom of the ladder, from a young lieutenant at the age of twenty-three to the highest commission in the army, as its general-in-chief, his career has been spotless and brilliant.

But it is not most as a soldier that he has won the admiration and fame which he enjoys to-day, at home as well as abroad. It is as a statesman, in his civil duties, in the many political, financial, and diplomatic questions which he has so successfully solved, that the greatness of Porfirio Diaz must be considered.



It is a well-known fact that when he assumed the presidency the country was bankrupt and disorder reigned supreme throughout the republic. From the beginning he started to work with a will and check all the evils with which his country was afflicted.

All Mexico regarded him as the first soldier of the nation, but few, if any, thought that he possessed the quality of a statesman. Happily, he proved to be as good a statesman as he had been a soldier. He pacified the country. The public treasury, instead of being plundered, as in former times, was devoted only to the services of the nation, and at the end of his first presidential term, in 1880, the country began to observe the change which, like a magician, he had effected in so few years. Every industry had been helped by the government. Mining and agriculture had received a vigorous impulse. The national credit, which for many years had been an unknown quantity, was re-established, and the monetary centres in Europe, which a few years before would not lend Mexico a single dollar, were willing to lend millions to a country governed by so upright, honest, and iron-handed a president.

His countrymen regarded him as a soldier, but not as a statesman, yet this soldier has made the great pacific revolution of the century. Through his iron will and energy the most revolutionary country in the world has been changed to the most pacific, and those who regarded him as not possessing the qualities that go to make a statesman of the first order have seen their mistake, and to-day look upon him no longer as merely the first soldier but as the first statesman. To-day, as yesterday, no man is so popular as he; to-day, as yesterday, his whole aim, his great ambition, is to see his beloved country developed and respected and occupying among nations that place to which she is entitled by reason of her wonderful natural resources.

When Diaz was elected president in 1877 the country was in turmoil and revolution. The primitive roads and many of the towns to which they led were at the mercy of revolutionists and raiders, and there was but one railway, that from Vera Cruz to Mexico. Since the beginning of Diaz's *régime* railways have been reaching out into all parts of the country and new lines proposed and built. In 1876 Mexico had no means of constructing railways, and, having been regarded for so many years as incapable of paying its debts, it would have been impossible to raise money to build the desired roads. Business stagnation and financial disrepute were the conditions of the Mexico of that day. Thanks to the administration of General Diaz, the country is not only solvent but prosperous, its people are profoundly peaceful and contented, the foreign residents are in hearty co-operation with the Mexican citizens in promoting the well-being of the country, and both foreigners and natives see in the re-election of Diaz a guarantee of continued protection and encouragement and advancement in all forms of legitimate and useful enterprises.

In his daily life President Diaz is a remarkable man. He is a human dynamo, and infuses life and vigor into every department of his administration. To-day, although in the sixties, he is as alert and active as he was at forty. Take him all in all, he is one of the greatest men of the century. Whether he is at his city house, in Cadena Street, or in his summer home, in the castle of Chapultepec, occupying the apartments where Maximilian resided, his routine of life goes on with clock-like regularity. Everything is systematized in the daily life of the Mexican president. He gives from one to two hours every morning to a conference with his able and energetic minister of finance, Señor José Ives Limantour, one of the youngest cabinet ministers in America. General Diaz is determined to maintain the credit of the nation, and is as much interested in all the details of financial administration as he is in military administration. He is an early riser, and his accomplished private secretary, Señor Rafael Chausal, who opens the voluminous daily mail of the chief magistrate, by eight o'clock in the morning must be ready

to sit down with him to receive instructions for the immediate answering of even the most insignificant note. At half-past one he stops work and is driven in his coupé, unattended by military escort, to his home, where he dines at leisure. He is a simple liver, preferring a soup and a plain roast to the most elaborate *menu*, and drinking very sparingly. He cares little for tobacco, only occasionally indulging in the mildest cigars.

The private life and domestic relations of public men do not fairly belong to the public, but I may say that the family life of General Diaz is a happy one, and that his wife, Señora Doña Carmen Romero Rubio de Diaz, is the crown and solace of his home, where the Mexican president becomes the man of family and allows his social side full scope. He knows how to relax, as all great men do. The fun-loving side of his character, his sense of humor, his genuine kindness of nature, have free vent in the social circle.

In the afternoon, at half-past three, the president is again at the palace, where he receives the public railway managers, great lawyers, contractors of public works, and properly accredited representatives of the native and foreign press. He is a man of business, and every one whom he receives is treated with politeness. He is always dignified, and his manner is that of a soldier, softened by a sense of what is due to those who have business with him.

As is necessary with successful great men, he has a remarkable memory. He knows by name every man of consequence, even in the remotest villages; he knows the *alcaldes*, the judges of the minor courts, the planters, and every old soldier. His judgment of people is clear and precise. He knows how to be magnanimous to ancient foes: men who served Maximilian well he has all around him in close relations. As they served their imperial master faithfully, he reasons that they will serve him with equal loyalty. He likes a frank, opinionated, honest man.

In short, if a man is doing anything to help on the progress of Mexico, he will find General Diaz cordial and ready to aid; but if he is merely a selfish schemer, he will be found out and treated accordingly. No man or woman deceives him. He may indulgently play with a cunning, artful person, and that person may go away thinking he has got the best of him; but let that individual wait a week or a month, and he will find out that the president has sifted his schemes, and has already taken measures to outwit him. He communicates with politicians, governors of states, military men, by wire, and often in cipher. His book of ciphers—some eight hundred—is in the hands of his trusted secretary, and by means of it the president is able to consult on the same topic with a great many people. Among his confidential friends are many private individuals, with whom he communicates in case of necessity by cipher. Thus the Mexican president knows all that is going on all over the broad domain which he governs so wisely and so forcefully. He likes bright, active, enterprising foreigners, and would be glad to have them naturalized, so that he could utilize them in public office. The whole bent of his work is to build up modern Mexico, which is already taking its place among the progressive, solvent, and busy nations of the world.

He is the idol of the Mexican army, for the men who served under him are aware that he won his position and his fame by military genius and personal valor. General Diaz's object has been to develop Mexico's resources at home, to bring her into touch with foreign countries, to strengthen her not only materially, but in every other way that will give her a respectable standing before the nations. History will place him among the nation-builders.