

and fled to Europe, where, for three years, in the University of Paris, he devoted himself to the study of all the modern sciences most necessary to the material progress of a country. His object was to bring them back, together with their applications, to his unfortunate country so rich in talent, but so barbarized by intestine discords and the misgovernment of rapacious tyrants clothed with the dress of popular tribunes.

After having related in detail the arduous labors of this modern Peter the Great in the first part of his book, Father Berthe depicts the public life of Garcia Moreno in the second part. It would be impossible for us to follow him in the intricacies of the political and military events by which our hero succeeded in regenerating his country and in placing it upon the foundations of Christian policy. It is a drama wherein may be witnessed the most adventurous and varied scenes of exploded conspiracies, of heroic feats, of magnanimous mercy and inflexible justice, of disasters and triumphs, of gigantic public works, of scientific institutions and economic foundations, a drama too long to relate, but in which the unheard-of activity of this Christian hero succeeded in making him the prominent actor.

Although we want to leave to our readers the pleasure of following up in Berthe's book the varied events of his life, we will endeavor to convey to them a faint idea of the prodigious activity of Garcia Moreno. We will do it with the guidance of the author.

When Garcia Moreno took the reins of government there was hardly anything like public instruction in Ecuador. The new champion of Christian policy made it his first and principal duty to remove from his people the disgrace of ignorance, and to enable talented men to reach the highest grades of science. The people of Ecuador had to become the most enlightened people of South America and Quito their Athens. During the first and second terms of his presidency he called from France a large number of Christian Brothers, built school-houses and founded, under the care of the Brothers, a normal

school for the training of teachers. In 1869, 200 schools had already been opened by him; there were no less than 400 in 1873, and their number had increased to 500 in the beginning of 1875. Before Garcia Moreno there were throughout all Ecuador but 8,000 pupils in the elementary schools; at his death they numbered 32,000.

At the same time, in order to revive literary studies, he committed to the Jesuits colleges wherein one thousand students were initiated in the classics, and to the Sisters of the Sacred Heart the education of young ladies in Quito and other principal cities.

An industrial school for boys was also opened by Brothers brought from New York, and one for girls by Belgian Sisters of Providence.

To complete the system of education there was still wanting a university. The first care of Garcia Moreno, on assuming the Presidency had been to close the University of Quito, which was imbued with ideas more revolutionary than scientific, but he reopened it as a university truly Catholic and truly progressive. It caused him much trouble to obtain from the General of the Society of Jesus an entire body of professors who could teach all the branches of a theoretical and practical polytechnic course. He succeeded at last, and the people of Ecuador saw a full generation of engineers, surveyors, manufacturers, chemists and their instructors spring up in their midst. It required indeed laboratories and museums; but in a few years all was provided for and in working order. One day the agent of Garcia Moreno remarked to him that one of his orders amounted to 100,000 francs: "Buy what is best," he answered, "and look to nothing else."

The foreigners who visited the halls of the University were greatly surprised to find on the summit of the Cordilleras scientific apparatus more perfect than in many of the most advanced cities of Europe. Still, while foreigners were praising him, his people were repaying the restorer of their country with venomous criticism. The ignorant were ask-