

Northern Europe." There are beggars, but they are voluntary, and are decreasing. Motherhood is not looked upon as a degradation, and infanticide is absolutely unknown. Government orphanages (from which the suspicious reader need not argue a prevalence of immorality) are maintained, where the children are kept until they are able to go to the primary school. From this they pass to higher schools, and finally into the fine technical schools which have been established. Here they are taught a trade and thoroughly trained until they are twenty-one. Missions are tolerated but no religion is given any preference. The laws are just and well administered. No hanging or capital punishment is permitted except in the army and in the case of brigands. Brigandage, which used to be the curse of the country, has now however been almost abolished.

In the midst of all this marvellous development and activity Diaz is a Master. With his "inscrutable face," and air of reserve and sincerity there is none but loves him. He has no vices. Perfectly unselfish in his acts, he subordinates all personal affairs to the public interest. His justice to his foes is characteristic, and it was said that "all a *revolucionario* had to do to be a *persona grata* was to turn his talents to the uplifting of Mexico." His voice and speech are pleasing, almost fascinating, and his sentences so "marvellously diagrammatic" as to indicate unusual mental powers. While his knowledge of detail is another marvel, no fact or figure relating to Mexico appearing to be outside his knowledge, he is not yet afraid to say, "I do not know."

In his home-life Diaz has been singularly fortunate, though the loss of his first wife in 1880 was a great blow to him. The beautiful and clever woman who is known as the "idol of Mexico," and whom he married in 1883, is a devoted companion and helper in all his labours for the people who look to him as their ruler. He has been re-elected to the Presidency four times and will undoubtedly hold the office while he lives. And yet no simpler man dwells in all Mexico. He walks unattended, or takes the street car like an ordinary mortal. "They may do as they please," he said, "so long as they do not shoot me." And the graces of life naturally flourish under such auspices. When we look for great artists and poets and musicians and sculptors let us not forget to look in Mexico. It is a favoured land in which such a great Soul has found its epiphany.

BEN MADIGHAN.