

ant of the State of Vera Cruz, but at his own request was restored to the army. During the desperate struggle that followed with the French he passed through many vicissitudes. On one occasion in 1866 the French offered him the Presidency as a reward for his submission. To this he did not even reply. He finally triumphed when the capital surrendered to the patriot forces, 21st June, 1867. On the 15th July he married, and settled on his estate, La Noria, in Oaxaca. Here he remained till 1874, when Lerdo, then president, proscribed him. He had unsuccessfully contested the election against Juarez in 1867 and 1871. The campaign which followed his proscription resulted in the proclamation of the "Plan of Tuxtepec" in 1876 and the revolution which succeeded in the following year, when Lerdo and Iglesias fled and Diaz assumed supreme power.

There is no test for man like the possession of power. Diaz became the vehicle for the genius of his nation. It is recorded that a change came over his appearance, as though a new man had been revealed. He has been a willing and a worthy avatar.

What he has done for Mexico by the peace that he has imposed upon her boundaries will be better appreciated by most men in the language of the counting house. In 1878 the revenue was \$16,128,807; the expenditure was \$22,108,046. In 1899 the revenue was \$52,500,000; the expenditure was \$52,672,448. The internal customs tariffs which separated State from State have all been abolished, and internal commerce has grown accordingly. The public spirit which led men like Don Luis Terrazas to lend money for public purposes without interest, has been fostered. The retention of the silver standard has had the effect of an enormous protective tariff under which the manufactures of the country have grown to an extraordinary extent. Double prices are secured for everything exported, and only native products are in demand as they cost but half the price of imported articles.

President Diaz's policy of railway and harbour building has opened up the interior and afforded opportunity for over-sea commerce with the most wealthy of sub-tropical lands. Everything that could contribute to the prosperity and intelligence of the population has been done. Schools of every description abound, and not an Indian village, it is said, but has its public school. The old world courtesy and good feeling between all classes is maintained, and it is noted by a United States writer that the negro is "held to be human in all the republics." The condition of the peasantry is better than it was in the beginning of the century when Humboldt wrote that "the Indian labourer was poor but free. . . His condition is much preferable to that of the peasantry of a large part of