

money to the hospital, where I was assured that an excellent meal could be procured for fifty dollars."

The establishment of schools for boys and girls, and of hospitals—the reformation of the prisons, the building or restoration of hundreds of edifices, and the vigilance exercised in the guardianship of so many varied institutions, were far from exhausting the extraordinary activity of Garcia Moreno. Ecuador was not yet provided with highways. This statement, strictly true, will make known clearly enough to the intelligent reader the poor condition of agriculture, industry and commerce in this state. This want of communication was due not only to the negligence of preceding governments, but also to numberless obstacles put in the way by nature. For example, I may relate that between Quito and Sibamba, a distance of 155 miles, Garcia Moreno had to build one hundred bridges and four hundred viaducts.

When the heroic President made known his project of giving Ecuador highways, there was, as for every undertaking of his, an outburst of mockeries and contradictions—and still worse, of obstacles coming from every corner. But with a motto which he had made his own: "One against all, for the good of all," he put his soul into his project. For ten years, thousands of workmen, divided into disciplined bodies, provided with priests and physicians, and regularly paid, pursued the fight against nature in the darkness of forests, on the top and amongst the precipices of the Cordilleras, till finally, on the 23rd of April, 1870, the road was opened, with the blessing of the Archbishop, in the midst of an overjoyed people. Mockery changed into applause, and opposition into admiration, at the sight of an undertaking believed impossible, and now happily completed.

During this time also, four other enterprises of still greater difficulty, were carried on by Garcia. One was the road from Quito to the Bay of the Canaques, destined to give life to two provinces. The second, from Quito to Esmeraldas, to draw from their loneliness the provinces of Ibarra and Esmeraldas. The third,

from Cuenca to Naranjal, for the benefit of the provinces of Cuenca and Loja; the fourth connected the province of Loja with the maritime fortress of Santa Rosa.

But it is not possible to relate all this. Catholic regenerator of his country did for the glory and benefit of Ecuador. He spent not less than six millions for public works, and yet far from emptying the public treasury, he diminished the national debt. Since the war of Independence Ecuador had to bear its share of the burden contracted by Bolivar, in the name of Columbia. This debt had not been reduced under the former governments—on the contrary, it had been increased by the addition of an internal debt of thirty millions. Just before being murdered by Free Masons, Garcia Moreno said, in his message of 1875, "During the last six months we have paid nearly six millions on the Anglo-American debt, and in regard to the internal one, I have the pleasure of announcing that the bonded debt will be extinct next year, and the floating one reduced to-day to sixteen millions of dollars, will be covered within a few years.

And how did Garcia Moreno succeed in carrying on such extraordinary achievements? Not by increasing taxes. On the contrary, he reduced some and abolished others; and had even raised, by one-third, the salary of many public officers.

But, as F. Berthe shows, he repressed, with severity, the political agitators who had heretofore been ruining the country. He maintained peace with his neighbours; he prevented frauds and robbery; he gave a new life to agriculture; he created commerce; and, above all, he sought, first God and His justice, and deserved to see realized for his country the promise of the Lord: "And all the rest will be given unto you."

We will be glad if these few lines give our readers the desire of reading the book of Rev. Father Berthe. It will be soon translated into English by Lady Herbert. May it be read by many! They will see therein that a Catholic policy is the best adapted to cure the evils of modern society, and that true civilization is to be found in truth, and in truth alone.

—PHILOS.