



PUBLIC FOUNTAIN AT ZACATECAS.

is freer than it was ever before, with free schools, free speech, free press. There is progress everywhere—material, intellectual, moral.

“In every public school of Mexico above the primary grade, in every private school, training school, and college, English is a compulsory study. In another generation,” says Mr. Lummis, “Mexico is going to be equipped for business and pleasure in two languages.”

In 1877 General Porfirio Diaz was first elected President. At that time the country was in great disorder, on account of the French intervention and the revolutions immediately succeeding it. President Diaz has ruled with a strong hand, meting out justice to all revolutionists and bandits.

Including classes for instruction in the arts and trades, there are in the republic 10,746 government schools, with an attendance of 545,000. There are also many private schools and colleges. The

National Library at the capital contains 265,000 volumes. Mexico issues more than three hundred and fifty periodical publications, including the daily and weekly newspapers, also magazines, literary reviews, and organs of the various industries and interests.

One of the pleasures of travel in Mexico is that every Canadian or American dollar is worth two, so that travel and entertainment are relatively cheap. The tourist immediately doubles his capital.

Before the construction of the railways Mexico was a giant without bones, but it is now a very well articulated young athlete. The Mexican Central Railway may well be called the backbone of the republic. It is one of the greatest factors in the making of modern Mexico. The Central is the only standard gauge line in operation between the city of Mexico and the United States border. The most satisfactory way to receive a knowledge of the country and its