

MEXICO'S RULER.

PRESIDENT DIAZ IS A POPULAR IDOL AMONG HIS PEOPLE:

His Official Life and Residence—Mrs. Diaz—Martial Spirit of the Mexicans—The Country's Standing Army.

SPEAKING of the recent dispute between Mexico and Guatemala, a Mexico correspondent of the Washington Star says:

Mexico has a population of 12,000,000, a standing army of 85,000 men on a peace footing, and 165,000 men that can be called into service in case of war. Guatemala has just one-tenth of the population of Mexico, with a standing army of 3000 men, which might be increased, of course, in time of war.

General Diaz is considered the best soldier in the republic, capable of active service. He is sixty-four years old, but he looks twenty years younger. He has an erect and athletic figure, and appears, physically, perfectly capable of undergoing the hardships of a campaign. Diaz is the popular idol here. The present indications are that he can continue in the Presidency as long as he chooses. There is practically only one party here, and that is the Diaz party. Ever since he drove Lerdo from power and became President, in 1877, Diaz has had the people with him, and he has



PRESIDENT DIAZ.

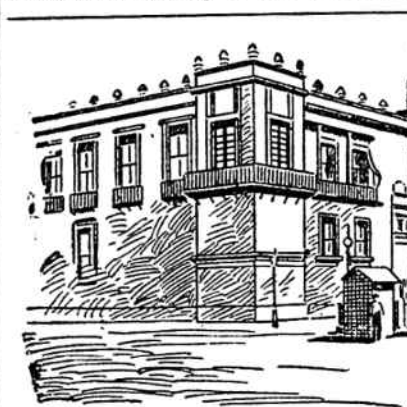
been President ever since that day, with the exception of the term from 1880 to 1884, when General Gonzalez was President. His present term will expire in 1897, but it is said he will succeed himself, there being now no law or precedent limiting the number of terms a President may serve.

General Diaz derives great strength from the fact that the business men of the republic and the foreign capitalists interested in Mexico, as well as the people at large, demand his continuance in office. There is an impression that it would be dangerous to the republic to have Diaz retire. It might mean revolution, or a series of small wars inaugurated by men ambitious to rule. Confidence in popular government is not yet thoroughly established in Mexico. In fact, it is doubtful whether one can say popular government is yet firmly established, for the elections seem to be largely matters of form only. So Mexico is fortunate in having at the head of her affairs a man with a record brilliant enough and a spirit and bearing dashing enough to make him a popular hero, and at the same time prudent enough to win to his support the men who appreciate the value of a stable government. His administration has been one of progress in Mexico. The discouragements once met by Americans and others desiring to engage in business in the republic have largely disappeared.

In fact, the principal duty of one of the Government departments is to encourage immigration and promote the development of the country. Every inducement is offered to foreign capitalists. There are many Americans in Mexico, some of them representing large investments, and they all praise Diaz and hope for his continuance in office. President Diaz has a comparatively modest home of his own in the city, but his residence as President, which he occupies nearly all the year, is at the Castle of Chapultepec, a place known in school histories, because it was here one of the fiercest fights of the war of 1847 took place. Chapultepec is a rocky and precipitous hill rising out of the plain, at the edge of the city, just at the end of the famous Paseo de la Reforma, the broad and splendid avenue laid out by Maximilian and inherited from the empire by the republic. The hill is crowned by the palace and castle, together with the building and inclosure in which is located the National military school, or Mexican West Point.

Spreading around the hill is a spacious park, adorned with many giant cypress trees, beneath which winds a beautiful driveway, one of the favorite resorts of the fashionable and wealthy people of the capital. At the foot of the hill on the city side is a fine marble memorial, on which is engraved the names of the cadets who fell in battle at the storming of Chapultepec. The palace, which stands where once stood an Aztec temple, overlooking the city, is a low

from intrusion. This is a long-established custom, and, of course, gives no offense. At the President's city house, however, he is obliged to admit callers at night or offend them. The President does not have regular hours for public receptions, and people who have to see him on business must cultivate the virtue of patience. Appointments are made days in advance. The explanation for this made to me by a prominent Government official is somewhat singular. It is not because the President is exclusive. It is because the customs of the country are such that he cannot stop a man from talking or cut short an



NATIONAL PALACE OF MEXICO.

interview. When a man gets admission to the President the President is obliged to listen to all he has to say or else give mortal offense. As a consequence the President is unable to see more than three or four persons during the hours he can give to interviews. I know of one young Mexican Congressman who was waiting in the city for over a week merely to have an interview with the President.

Mrs. Diaz is quite famous for her beauty and much liked for her vivacious and cordial manners. She is much younger than the President, being only about thirty years old. She has a neat figure, a Spanish face, with well-cut features, and dresses in simple but excellent taste. She is the daughter of Romero Rubio, the Secretary of the Interior, and one of the richest men in Mexico. I saw the President and Mrs. Diaz and Mrs. Diaz's unmarried sister, a young woman also remarkable for beauty, at a private reception a few evenings ago. Of course the President and his wife were the central figures of the gathering, but they bore themselves in a most unassuming manner, chatting easily and pleasantly with the guests.

Mrs. Diaz speaks English quite fluently. When they took their leave the President shook hands all around, and Mrs. Diaz following a pretty Mexican fashion, kissed each of her lady friends twice, first on one cheek and then on the other. The only evidence of the presence of a person of unusual prominence was a file of mounted guards drawn up in front of the house.

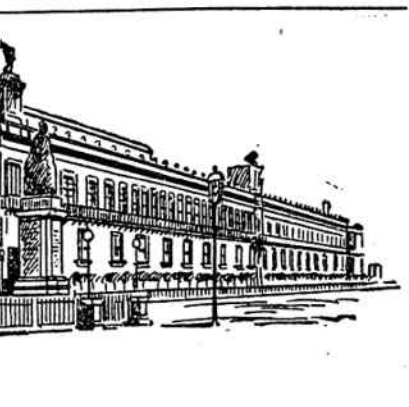
The Mexicans have a martial spirit, but the ordinary Mexican soldier, as seen even about the National palace, is not an inspiring object. He is all or half Indian, as a rule. He is somewhat undersized, and is ragged and dirty. Often he is barefooted or wears only sandals made of rawhide and bound to the soles of his feet by leathern thongs. Those on guard at the palace and around other public offices usually wear shoes, and look as though they had been partially cleaned for this duty. There is a big barracks in the rear of and attached to the National palace, which, by the way, is a long, rambling building, occupying all one side of the Plaza de Armas, and accommodating the principal departments and offices of the Federal Government.

A visit to the barracks at most any time will show a crowd of very untidy-looking soldiers. Their garments need patching as well as cleaning. At meal times there will be a throng of women at the big gateway, bringing baskets of provisions. The Mexican army has no commissariat. The common soldier is paid twenty-five cents a day, and he gets his pay every day. When he gets his silver quarter, such is his suspicious nature, he bites it to see if it is good. That is all the Government gives him to bite. He has to "find" himself. In recent years the Government has supplied the means of cooking provisions, but the soldiers have to supply the raw materials.

This is the regular standing army of Mexico. There is another body, which is virtually a military body, but is under the direction of the Interior Department. This is the corps known as "the Rurales"—a sort of mounted police that patrol the country outside of the cities. Lieutenant Dwyer, the military attaché of the American Legation, told me that these Rurales formed probably the finest body of cavalry in the world. They are picked men, every one being unusually skillful as a horseman, even in this country, where half the people live on horseback. The Rurales wear tawny leather suits, big Mexican sombreros, heavily ornamented with silver, and besides their sabers and pistols, carry carbines. They have a rakish, devil-may-care appearance. It is considered quite an honor to be a member of this troop. When a man joins it he has to furnish his own horse, and give a bond for the proper care of the arms and equipments supplied him by the Government.

On great public parades the Rurales are given the post of honor. In reality, though not now under the War Department, they form a very effective

The Mexican Indians or half-breeds, who compose about nine-tenths of the population, and from whom the army is recruited, are a patient and hardy people. Many of them own nothing in the world but their zarape and big sombrero. The zarape is their cloak by day and their blanket by night. It is said that they can and will go three or four days without food and not complain. They are inured to hardships. They are lithe and active, though of small size, and are said to be courageous, because they have little or no fear of death. It is supposed for these reasons that they make good soldiers. Santa Anna's troops were



COTTON BALLING.

omy in raising and marketing this crop, says the New York World. In no direction is reform so urgently required as in the manner of baling cotton strongly, so that it may be shipped abroad in good condition. The packing of American cotton is a source of fruitful complaint by manufacturers. The work is so carelessly done that when the bales reach their destination several of the iron bands are missing and the jute covering is so torn that the cotton is exposed to mud, fire, water and theft. These losses, it is needless to add, do not fall upon the manufacturer, but on the producer; and, as if these were not enough, he must also pay extra freight, as his imperfectly pressed bales occupy more than double the space needed by the compact Indian and Egyptian bales. The illustration shows plainly the great difference in the method of baling and the insufficiency of seven hoops to the bales averaged used by the Southern planter. It is plain that a more secure packing, a much closer pressing and greater care in covering or wrapping up would be of inestimable and permanent benefit to the cotton trade of the United States.

A Remarkable Herring. In many respects the herring is one of the most remarkable of living things. It was calculated three years ago that no less than 11,000 miles of herring netting were cast yearly in the North Sea alone.

Two of the species of whales feed exclusively upon herrings, while the cod is a most voracious foe. Dr. Neil, the naturalist, calculated that the one colony of gangetts at St. Kilda consumed annually 214,000,000 of herrings. Yet it is not, as fishes go, gifted with very large fertility in its production. While the mackerel has been estimated to produce 500,000 eggs, the sole 1,000,000 and the cod 3,400,000, the herring is said to spawn only 39,000 at a time.—Mail and Express.

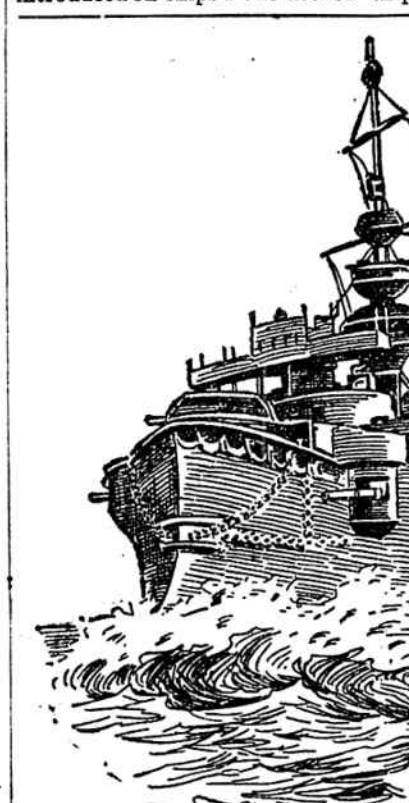
Kentucky Mutton Prized by Epileptics. A few butchers in this town make a specialty of Kentucky mutton. It is killed on the farm, kept there a suitable time, shipped with great care, and when it reaches New York it is hung for several weeks by the butchers. It is then sold to special customers that demand particularly fine mutton. It fetches a high price, but the epileptics think it worth the money.—New York Sun.

Beauregard Wilson, who lives near Yazoo City, Miss., raised 300 bales of cotton last year, and though he has sold it at five cents a pound he has cleared \$3950 from it.

The German Kaiser has sent to the Russian Czar as a wedding present a magnificent porcelain table service made at the royal factory.

A THREE-DECK IRONCLAD FOR NAVAL WARFARE.

A well-known English expert on naval matters, Mr. Laird Clowes, urges the building of three-decked ironclads. The old wooden three-decker was one of the most magnificent ships afloat. The new one would be the most tremendous. It has been pointed out that the three-decker has been the highest form of fighting ship in the many periods of naval history. The tireless, the most complicated fighting machine of classical times, had three banks of rowers. When guns were introduced on ships a one-decked ship



THREE-DECK IRONCLAD.

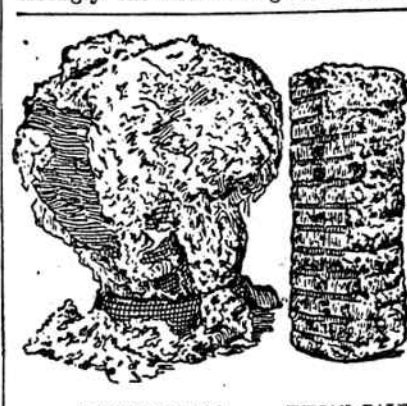
was at first necessary, but in course of time the line-of-battle ship with her three tiers of guns was evolved. Then came steam and one deck again.

An Italian ironclad, the Sardegna, launched recently, is almost a three-decker, but Mr. Clowes wants a more complete one for the British Navy. He proposes a ship to carry 101 guns. These are the other general details of his plan:

"Speed, twenty-three knots; tonnage, 12,000; guns, sixteen six-inch quick-firing, twenty four-inch quick-firing, twenty-two-pounders quick-firing, twenty six and three-pounder quick-firing, twenty-five improved Maxim guns."

The ship would be completely covered with six inches of steel armor,

Cotton Baling. The ruinous low prices which prevail for cotton only emphasize more strongly the need for greater economy in raising and marketing this crop, says the New York World. In no direction is reform so urgently required as in the manner of baling cotton strongly, so that it may be shipped abroad in good condition.



AMERICAN BALE, 500 POUNDS. INDIAN BALE, 400 POUNDS.

The church is a fortress divinely built. Now, a fortress is for defense and for drill, and for the protection of the people. It must sometimes be on the march far outside the fortress. In the campaign of conquering this world for Christ the time has come for an advance movement, for a "general advance." The church is the great institution this world ever saw, and their pastors have no superiors this side of heaven, but there is a work which must be done outside of the church, and to that work I join myself for awhile. "Let I build on another man's foundation."

In laying out the plan for his missionary tour Paul, with more brain than any of his contemporaries, and more courage than any of his, sought out towns and cities which had not yet been preached to. He goes to Corinth, a city mentioned for splendor and vice, and Jerusalem, where the priesthood and sanhedrin were ready to leap with both feet upon the Christian religion. He feels he has a special work to do, and he means to do it. What was the result? The grandest life of usefulness that man ever lived. We modern Christians, working almost apt to imitate Paul. We build on other people's foundations. If we erect a church, we prefer to have it filled with families all of whom have been baptized, and all these multiplied families, we want good boys and girls, hair combed, faces washed, manners attractive. So a church in this city is apt to be built out of other churches. Some ministers spend all their time fishing for other people's ponds and jerk out a Methodist, and throw the line into another church pond and bring out a Presbyterian, or there is a religious row in some neighborhood church, and the whole school of fish swim off from that pond, and we take them all in with one sweep of the net. What is gained? Absolutely nothing. The general advance is only as in an army, when a regiment is transferred from one division to another, or from the Fourteenth Regiment to the Sixty-ninth Regiment. What strengthens the army is new recruits.

The fact is, this is a big world. When in our schoolboy days we learned the diameter and circumference of this planet, we did not learn half. It is the latitude and longitude, and the circumference of the world, and we see and feel that no figures can calculate. This one spiritual continent of wretchedness reaches across all zones, and if I were called to give its geographical boundary I would say it is bounded on the north and south and east and west by the great heart of God's sympathy and love. Oh, it is a great world. Since 8 o'clock this morning at least 50,000 people have been born, and all these multiplied populations are to be reaped of the gospel. In England or in Eastern American cities we are being much crowded, and an acre of ground is of great value, and 500 acres is a small farm, and 20,000 acres is no unusual possession. There is a vast field here and everywhere unoccupied, plenty of room more, not building on another man's foundation. We need broken-hearted or hardly bettered, that they will not be welcomed. "No," says some fastidious Christian: "I don't like to be crowded in church. Don't put any one in my pew." My brother, do you think no man can number assemblies, they will put fifty in your pew. What are the select few to-day assembled in the Christian churches compared with the millions of millions outside of them?

At least 3,000,000 people in this cluster of seaboard cities, and not more than 200,000 in the churches. Many of the churches are like a hospital where the patients are the broken-hearted or hardly bettered, that they will not be welcomed. "No," says some fastidious Christian: "I don't like to be crowded in church. Don't put any one in my pew." My brother, do you think no man can number assemblies, they will put fifty in your pew. What are the select few to-day assembled in the Christian churches compared with the millions of millions outside of them?

and Mr. Clowes says: "No ship in existence could stand up against her and from her no ship in existence could escape."

At a moderate computation she could from one broadside fire 400 aimed shell every minute. In the midst of a hostile fleet she could discharge a dozen shells in a second, and at the same time ninety bullets from her Maxim guns. Steaming only five minutes between two hostile vessels, she could aim at each of them in that time between ten and twelve thousand shots of all kinds.

It is as though after a great battle there were left 50,000 wounded and dying on the field and three surgeons gave all their time to three patients under their charge. The major-general comes in and says to the doctors: "Come out here and look at the nearly 50,000 dying for lack of surgical attendance." "No," say the three doctors, standing there and fanning their patients, "we have three important cases here, and we are attending them, and when we are not positively busy with their wounds it takes all our time to keep the flies off." In this awful battle of sin and sorrow, where millions have fallen on millions, do not let us spend all our time in taking care of a few people, and when the command comes, "Go into the fire," say practically: "No, I cannot go. I have here a few choice cases, and I am busy keeping the flies off." There are multitudes to-day who have never had any Christian worker look them in the eye, and with earnestness in the accusation say: "Ourselves, or they would have been in the kingdom. My friends, religion is either a sham or a tremendous reality. If it is a sham, let us cease to have anything to do with Christian associations. If it is a reality, then, great as our people have been in the kingdom, and the next ten years to get our people to know as much as we know, and at the end of that time neither of us knows anything as we ought to know. We are thousands of people, and dying people who need to realize just one thing—that Jesus Christ came to save them, and will save them now. But we go into a profound ignorance of the definition of what justification is, and after all the work there are not outside of the learned professions 5000 people in the United States who can tell what justification is. I will read you the technicalities of our religion. When we talk to people about the hypochondriac and French encyclopedian, we are as impotent and little understood as a physician who tells an ordinary patient about the pericardium and intercostal muscle and scorbutic symptoms. Many of us come out of the theological seminaries so loaded up that we take the first ten years of our people's lives, and then we know, and the next ten years to get our people to know as much as we know, and at the end of that time neither of us knows anything as we ought to know. We are thousands of people, and dying people who need to realize just one thing—that Jesus Christ came to save them, and will save them now. But we go into a profound ignorance of the definition of what justification is, and after all the work there are not outside of the learned professions 5000 people in the United States who can tell what justification is. I will read you the technicalities of our religion. 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