

Among the world's rulers President Diaz, of Mexico, holds high place. He started his rule as Dictator. When we consider the appalling conditions and characteristics of the Mexico of a generation ago, General Diaz's dictatorial methods become easy of comprehension. He ruled by fear. He now rules largely by the appeal of reasonableness. He has a distinct genius for leadership, whether as Dictator or as constitutional President. He governs his country with wonderful skill. Hence he is respected and admired by most Mexicans. Not the least result of the thirty-year Diaz period of Presidential power is the growth of a strong middle class in Mexico—the hope of any country. Economically General Diaz has done as much for his country as he has done politically. He has encouraged the development of Mexican natural resources with such an efficiency as to win the admiration of those who disapproved, and who still disapprove, some of his political methods. He has the confidence of practically all foreigners. Not the least valuable feature of Señor Godoy's just-published and rather indiscriminately laudatory "Porfirio Diaz" are the pages devoted to the appreciations of the President by Americans. Of these the most important seem to be those written by President Taft and Senator Root. President Taft says:

It has been to me a pleasure and honor to meet that great man to whom more than to any other one person is due the greatness of the Mexican Republic.

And Senator Root says:

It has seemed to me that of all the men now living President Diaz, of Mexico, was best worth seeing.

Whether one considers the adventurous, daring, chivalric incidents of his early career; whether one considers the vast work of government which his wisdom and courage and commanding character accomplished; whether one considers the singularly attractive personality, no one lives to-day whom I would rather see than President Diaz.

General Diaz is now about eighty years old. Doubtless he deserves Mr. Root's glowing words. But so long as he lives an impartial biography of him may hardly be expected. In Señor Godoy's interesting volume, however, we did expect to find a nearer approach to that ideal. (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. \$2.)