

Carta de Ezequiel A. Chávez a Charles William Dabney, 24 de julio de 1916.

IISUE, AHUNAM, Fondo Ezequiel A. Chávez, Caja 107, Exp. 321, doc. 22.



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3 Craigie Circle, Cambridge, Mass.,
July 24, 1916

President Charles William Dabney
The University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

My dear President Dabney:

I have carefully read the paper on "Educational Conditions in Mexico" which you sent to me with your favor of the 11th inst. I send to you here inclosed that paper, and I have interleaved in it, in accordance with your wish, numbered corrections, complementary observations, and suggestions, corresponding to pencil marks and numbers on the pages.

My general appreciation of the paper is favorable. The author expressly recognizes several of the efforts carried on in Mexico for the improvement of education. Nevertheless, his notorious lack of knowledge of the great work done by the Federal District during all the nineteenth century and particularly during the last fifteen years of the Diaz regime is extremely surprising. One is tempted to think that for all the time since the beginning of the nineteenth century the geographical area covered by the study of the writer does not extend south of Guadalejara City. However, the *Congresos Nacionales de Educacion* that he considers as the most important factor for guiding the educational systems of the Republic were a part of the great work done by the Federal government in the time of Diaz. The constant attention given to public instruction in all the grades by the government of Diaz may be easily understood by including in the paper the few statistics and facts that I have interleaved in front of page 65 and page 67.

At all events, the writer apparently has not familiarity with the educational endeavors of the Federal government, and has been perhaps the victim of the general bias regarding the regime of Diaz which has recently prevailed and which has not yet fairly judged him, on account of the tempest raised by political passions. The writer presents, however, on the whole a certain satisfactory understanding of some of the efforts made for the benefit of education, at least by a part of the Mexicans, and a right appreciation of the immense necessity for education for Mexico, and of the opportunity and value of the aid of the United States.

My experience in the matter, however,--- as you know I have consecrated all my energies to education in Mexico,--- and the

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genuine and profound love that I have both for Mexico and for the United States, oblige me to add that the indispensable condition for getting a full moral success must lie in the establishment of new schools (and they must be many, principally normal schools), which realize their work in these two ideals: (1) giving boys and girls a real preparation to be practically useful in life principally through agriculture and industry; and (2) above all, giving the pupils a sincere and well-rooted feeling of the urgent necessity of union among all the Mexicans without distinctions of religious creeds, political opinions or economic classes.

That is, my dear President Dabney, my candid opinion in the matter. Certainly I think that the paper is calculated to do good, but I must insist on rigorous justice, and I feel confident that if the writer will accept the observations which I have interleaved in the study, all of which are offered in a constructive and sympathetic spirit, this result will be achieved.

If I can be of any further service in this matter, I should be honored to be called upon. At all events I hope that in some manner my opinion will be useful for the realization of the excellent purposes that you and other high-minded Americans have for the moral aid of my country.

With repeated and heartfelt thanks, I am, as ever,

Very respectfully and sincerely yours,

Gregorio A. Chávez