

**SPEECH OF EDWIN MARKHAM.**

I will not call you ladies and gentlemen. I know you too well for that. Henry George has always been to me one of the supreme heroes of humanity. There are patriots you know of countries—patriots belonging merely to their national allegiance; then there are others who rise to a high and beautiful atmosphere and look upon the human race as one family. These are patriots of humanity.

Now, without detaining you very long, I will read to you a verse of mine which I have been asked to read. It is entitled "A Comrade Called Back."\* If Henry George had been the one at that time in my mind the poem should have been directed to him. It was instead written for one of the noblest men that has ever appeared upon this planet; a man who is known to every one of you.

I am not so specially concerned about the particular kind of dogma or doctrine that a man holds, so long as he holds to it with all his soul. The great trouble is that the most of us are too comfortable ourselves to take a vital interest in our pressing social problems. Ernest Crosby is the exception. Crosby, poet and reformer, died January 3d, 1907. He is one of the beautiful memories of my life. I like to look back on that high erected spirit, that beautiful face so perfectly frank and so absolutely concentrated on something bigger than the individual. Little souls, you know, are concentrated on themselves. We must become concentrated on something bigger than ourselves in order to live a true human life, and that was the case with this beautiful spirit that I shall never forget until the River of Death closes over me.

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**ADDRESS OF GUTIERREZ DE LARA ON "CONDITIONS IN MEXICO,"  
BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, TUESDAY, 24th.**

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Mr. de Lara said he came from his brothers in Mexico who were trying to solve the land problem for their country. In the United States we had the ballot by which sociological problems can be settled, but in Mexico they had the same problems, more pressing, but they did not have the ballot. It had been absolutely refused them. They were compelled to appeal to revolution.

It was wonderful to see how in the history of Mexico, since the conquest of Spain, all social movements ran round one pivot, the land question. Five years ago, four hundred families controlled the great bulk of the land and allied to them were all other privileged classes. They were supported by the psychological force of the Catholic Church. The Catholic clergy used their religious influence to hold down the large majority of the people. They preached submission.

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\* A Comrade Called Back. (See any authorized edition of Markham's Poems).

Referring to Carranza, Mr. de Lara said that he may have done well or badly, but that did not concern him. What have the people accomplished? That was the question. Answering his own query the speaker said, the people had overthrown the Catholic Church. The bishops had fled. In San Antonio, where he had recently been, there were twenty-three bishops—the “whole gang were there.” The priests of Mexico had grown rich at the expense of the common people, but the common people had now kicked them out. Still the majority of the people were Catholics and would continue to be, but they are going to have no more mediaeval superstition in the name of religion. These things had not been accomplished by Mr. Carranza or Mr. Villa or by Madero, but by the common people. In the old times, everywhere you could see being taken for the army the strongest men—taken from their wives and families. That system was gone. Now men fought for Mexico because of their will to fight, not because they were forced to. Today the lands of Mexico were in the hands of the people. The farm products do not now go to a few land owners, but to the man who tills the soil. The feudal class was gone, but they had the speculator, and these speculators are the men who are making all the trouble in Mexico today.

In reply to a question with reference to Villa, the speaker said he had proved a wonderful organizer and fighter, but the propertied class had got his ear. They backed Villa. One Los Angeles wealthy man gave Villa \$5,000,000 in one day. This was the beginning of Villa's defeats. He became a strong man, an iron leader. But the day of the strong man in Mexico was gone. The people were awakening to their own power. Never in history has a revolution been the work of one man. It has always been a social growth. Revolution was always the work of purification. So it was in Mexico. Americans should not be impatient. Mexicans were not impatient of American revolutions—and reforms!

The present revolution would bear wonderful fruit—the people would reap the harvest. In the two previous revolutions, the fruits had been lost to the people because of foreign intervention. Now Europe was too busy to bother about Mexico, and the United States, with Wilson at the head, could be trusted. If they were allowed to finish this revolution, violence in Mexico would be a thing of the past.

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### COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE, SHOWING THE PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

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HON. J. J. PASTORIZA.

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I regret exceedingly that my duties as tax commissioner prevent me from remaining in San Francisco so as to be present at the Convention, or rather Single Tax Conference. No doubt everyone who attends the Conference has been a reader of the *Public*, and therefore is posted as to the