

THE YUCATECAN.

From an ethnological point of view, the difference between the lower orders of the Yucatecans and the Mexicans is very striking, this peculiarity being so great that in no other part of the Republic can the type of the Yucatecan Mestizo be seen, the Spaniards found the Mayas their progenitors a finer body of men, and much more difficult to conquer than the fierce Aztecs of Central Mexico, and even after they were reduced to submission, it was found that hunger and civil war were in reality the principal factors in effecting their rendition, besides it having taken fully twenty years of hard fighting before they were actually overcome. There are remnants of the descendants of this ancient people still existing in Quintana Roo, that are at the present moment in arms against the Government, but as it is stated elsewhere in this paper, it is safe to say that it is only a matter of time, when all will become peace abiding citizens.

The intelligence of the average indian being generally considered of so low an order, demands that it should be recorded that not only did the Mayas distinguish themselves as men of war, for we read that some indians were notable for using their writing materials as well as their fighting implements, to wit Gaspar Xiu, who not only acted as royal interpreter, but was author of various important works, which unfortunately have been lost.

Various other characteristics are described in this article, particularly their notable honesty and notably that the popular and mythical San Lunes, or Saint Monday, who in Mexico has numerous votaries, or in other words, those who do not work on Mondays, as they require that day to get over their drunken sabbath day debauch, is a trait never to be seen in Merida, where as many people work on Mondays as on any other