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Mexican Politics.

There are in Mexico three great leading parties, answering to the type of party wherever that product of imperfect civilization exists. The first, because the eldest, is the CONSERVATIVE, with principles cognate with its name; strenuously adhering to ancient realism as distinguished from modern speculation; anxious to concentrate power in individual hands, and therefore to weaken the authority of popular constitutions and popular legislation; dependent upon the sympathy of the Church and the superstitious of the masses for its material strength; and suspected, probably without justice, of a willingness to restore monarchy, if not in favor of the Spanish crown, of some scion of European royalty. This party was in power, in the person of Santa Anna, from April 20, 1853, to August 11, 1855. It was again in office only a few months since, in the person of Felix Zuloaga, whose administration was an exhibition of arbitrary authority amounting to actual Dictatorship. The second great division consists of the Radicals, or Puros, who discover the necessity of reform in every department of the Government; advocate a resort to pure democracy, and regard the Church, in its unbowed wealth and malign influence, as the mother of the manifold evils which afflict the people. The Puros were in power in the person of Juan Alvarez, in the fall of 1855. Among the leaders of that important faction have been Lerdo de Tejada, Vidaurri, Degollado, Zarco, Arriaga, and Mata. Intermediate between these extremes is the moderate party—the MODERADOS—in power from 1851 to 1853, in the person of General Arista; and from December, 1855, to January, 1858, in the person of General Comonfort. Juarez, Zamora, Garza, Parrodi, Casteneda, Yanez, may be named among the more conspicuous of the moderate party, although many of the Moderados of 1856 have, by the drift of subsequent events, been carried into the ranks of the Radicals. For immediate purposes, indeed, the Moderates and Radicals are in strict alliance, under the comprehensive names of "Liberals" and "Constitutionalists;" the restoration of the Liberal Constitution adopted by the National Congress at the City of Mexico, Feb. 5, 1857, but set aside in the subsequent December by the joint effort of Zuloaga and Comonfort, being the common object.

The three great parties, thus discriminated, enjoyed vigorous existence in Mexico at the moment when, in 1855, Santa Anna was driven out afresh. A lively contention for the succession followed. The Radicals triumphed; Alvarez became Provisional President, surrendering the office, however, at the end of a few weeks' tenure, to Gen. Comonfort, understood at the time to be as thorough a Radical as the hero of Guerrero. The earlier measures of Comonfort answered the expectations of his friends. His programme of reforms was undeniably radical. It enacted the Constitution of February, it opened a long vista of legislation before which the power of the Church and the insubordination of the Army would alike succumb. But it was not long ere the incapacity of the new President for the great task he had assumed became evident. He appeared terrified at the storm he was provoking. To counterbalance a measure offensive to the Conservatives, he adopted measures offensive to the Radicals. The law of demortization drove the Church to frenzy; he endeavored to equate the mischief by a decree abridging the liberty of the Press. The Liberals bade him proceed with his mission; he drew back, and cast himself into the hands of the Conservatives. His whole Administration, its earlier days excepted, was a rapid retrogression from Radicalism to Conservatism; from the people, suffering under the weight of an intolerable hierarchy, into the arms of the hierarchy itself. It was Comonfort who aided Zuloaga and the Conservatives in overthrowing the Constitution. It was Com-

onfort who only abandoned power to place all its resources at the command of the enemies of popular rights; and, to whose weakness more than to any other cause, Mexico is this day indebted for the lamentable confusion into which its affairs have fallen. If the events of the past year have proved anything, it is that the Liberal cause is predominant everywhere outside of the capital; and that the Constitution which Comonfort betrayed met, in a general sense, the wants and wishes of the people. The only point unattainable to the popular party is the City of Mexico, which it was in the power of Comonfort to have secured to them. He gave it to their adversaries, and hence this protracted series of woes.

Since the departure of Comonfort to the United States, there has been a constant state of warfare between the opposing factions, with varied success, until very lately, when the Conservatives are reported to have triumphed, and elected General Miramon President. We may, however, still look for a continuance of this strife between the various parties.

Condition of Mexico.

The London Times uses strong language in its articles on Mexico. In an article written directly after the reception in England of the President's Message, after a sketch of Mexico of the sixteenth century, the Times continues:

"There is literally no spot in the entire American continent, from the Arctic Seas to Cape Horn, which presents such a spectacle of disorganization and ruin. The Indians of Patagonia are better ordered than the Mexicans of 1858. In the old seat of American civilization there is now no Government, no recognized polity, no public order. Life and property are insecure, not through the accident of a political revolution, or as the consequence of a transient convulsion, but necessarily and permanently, from the utter default and break-up of all the institutions designed for their protection. We cannot find in any European history—not even in that of Spain itself—any parallel or illustration of the present state of things in Mexico. The Mexicans can neither govern themselves nor find anybody strong enough to govern them; and the State, if it can still be called a State, is simply tumbling to pieces for want of anything like vitality or cohesion.

"The ordinary interest which might attach to a spectacle like this is materially enhanced by two important considerations. On the northern frontier of Mexico lies a formidable neighbor already aggrandized by large acquisitions of Mexican territory, and prepared for the absorption of more. What gives this contingency still greater weight is the fact that the internal politics of the North American Union will be intimately affected by any further annexation towards the South, and its wisest statesmen are apprehensive of the results which might ensue. Certainly, up to the present time the Government of Washington has exhibited considerable forbearance in dealing with the provocations to which the anarchy and license prevailing throughout Mexico have naturally given rise.

"In Mexico there is not a vestige of nationality. Of its seven or eight millions of population, about one million only are whites, the rest being Indians or mixed breeds; and these Mexican Spaniards have not succeeded, like the French Canadians, in preserving the spirit which they brought across the seas. Mexico has broken up from pure incapacity for self-government. The license which ensued on the extinction of absolutism forty years ago has never been exchanged for any regular or stable Administration, so that what should have been a mere temporary suspension of authority has proved a permanent abeyance of order. Despotism might have relieved the country, but no Mexican has been strong enough for a despot, and affairs, therefore, have gone from bad to worse, with interminable convulsions, hopeless wars, losses of territory, and, at length, with such absolute political disorganization that no stage of decline can be more ruinous, and men are only looking to see what may follow."

THE MINIE MUSKET.—G. W. Kendall writes to the New Orleans Picayune, that in one of Lindsay's recent scouts against the Navajos, one of the latter was killed at a distance of four hundred yards and another wounded, with a shot from one of the new Minie muskets now used by the U. S. troops.

THE WINNINGS OF MR. TEN BROECK on the English turf the last season, are reported to have exceeded \$15,000.

Leech's Wagon Road.

Before Congress grants further appropriations for "wagon roads" we venture the suggestion that some official investigation be instituted as to the expenditures made and the work done by late expeditions. If no more good was accomplished by the northern wagon road companies than was effected by Colonel Leech and his corps on the Southern line, the money might as well be kept in the Treasury.

From El Paso, along the old road to Tucson, to the point where Leech's road strikes off to the Gila, the amount of labor performed was very trifling. As to the road along the Gila, we doubt very much if it has ever been traveled by a wagon since the expedition left, and the faint tracks made by the expedition wagons are rapidly growing up to grass. Col. Leech's ox train, under the superintendence of a sea captain, was eleven months making the distance from Fort Belknap to La Mesilla and arrived just in time to be sold out, not having been of the least benefit. There are circumstances connected with the sale, which do not speak very well for the management, to say the least, of such operations.

The "water tanks" made by Leech's expedition, concerning which there has been so much said in the Eastern papers are the meanest apologies for "water tanks" ever laid out—mere shallow, contracted holes, dug out in the ground, and generally located in places where it is almost an impossibility for water to drain into them. These celebrated "tanks" excite the ridicule of every one who beholds them, and if any dependence was placed upon their supply of water, trains would perish from thirst.

We are in favor of "wagon roads" across the continent wherever they are needed, and would not be understood as saying anything to discourage them, but at the same time feel called upon to protest against the useless and extravagant manner in which the appropriations are usually expended, and confess a thorough disgust for the small amount of labor and the immense quantity of bloviation which usually follows.

Lieut. Beale, with his party, wintered at Albuquerque, and before this time has started out on his route along the 35th parallel. He intends to make a good road and construct bridges wherever they are needed. He has a strong force of men and animals, and being an officer of great skill and energy will doubtless make a fine route to California.

"News" from Arizona!

The Washington correspondents of the New York journals possess wonderful facilities for obtaining intelligence from this region. In fact, those journals publish so much that is original, rare and strange, from this far-off portion of the Union, that it is quite a treat to read it!—Looking over a late number of the New York Daily Times, we discover an array of "news" from Arizona, a portion of which we quote, confident that it will be interesting to people hereabouts, since the intelligence is eminently "new" and no less wonderful! In reference to the Gila river gold mines, we find the following:

At the date of these advices—about the middle of December, there were over six hundred men at work with the rudest means of operation, and making from four to a hundred and fifty dollars per day! A few of the miners had struck the "bed rock," at the depth of over twenty feet, and were taking out an average of over fifty dollars per day to the hand.

The above paragraph is a tissue of humbuggery. No such number of men as is stated above have ever been at work on the Gila at one time—not over three hundred at the very highest estimate. At present there are but few persons at the diggings, and most of the number are barely clearing expenses. A few ener-

getic individuals may have made "four" dollars per day, which is a very fine average yield of the diggings, but the "hundred-and-fifty-dollars-per-day-men it would puzzle even a "Washington correspondent" to discover.

We are next enlightened to the effect that a new silver "lead" had been discovered on land belonging to Lieut. Mowry, which pays as richly as, if not richer, than the celebrated Heintzleman silver mine. These more recent discoveries had produced an excited mining fever throughout the country.

In view of the fact that silver mining is receiving considerable attention in this section of Arizona, we should really be glad to know by whom that identical "lead" (on land belonging to Lieut. Mowry,) was discovered, when, and where? We feel confident that such information will be "new" to our readers, and no doubt highly gratifying. We shall also be equally gratified if the New York Times will designate some particular locality in this Territory where a few cases of the above mentioned "mining fever" may be found!

Although well aware that to contradict one-half the false and mischievous "news" published in reference to Arizona would be a weighty task, we cannot refrain from noticing such erroneous statements as the above, which must inevitably result to the damage of the Territory.

LIEUT. IYER'S EXPLORATIONS OF THE COLORADO. Lieut. Iyer publishes a preliminary report of his exploration of the Upper Colorado, by which it appears that he ascended the river with his small stern wheel steam boat to a stream called the Rio Virgin, five hundred miles from the mouth. He then proceeded overland to Fort Albuquerque, nine hundred miles. Most of the route traversed was wild and dreary, abounding in rugged mountains, gigantic canyons, and vast stretches of barren land, sparsely inhabited by a few wretched Indians. Some few valuable minerals were discovered, but in such inhospitable regions that they can never be profitably worked. This is the substance of the report. We do not see that any important discoveries have been made.

News Items.

LATE papers from the States announce the death of Ex-Governor Slade, of Vermont, whose labors in behalf of education have given him a wide-spread reputation.

GEN. MIRAMON.—This new President of the Mexican Republic is an addition to the list of those who have reached the summit of ambition in early life. Born in 1832, he is now in his 27th year. He first figured conspicuously in the insurrection of Zuloaga, last winter. Upon the death of Gen. Osollo, he was placed at the head of the army, signaling his promotion by a great victory over Gen. Vidaurri, near San Luis Potosi, September 29th. More recently, he has beaten the Liberal Degollado without the gates of Guadalajara, and forced his way into that city.

AN enterprising showman is exhibiting a company of trained fleas in the cities of the Atlantic States, to crowded houses. Their feats as described in the papers, are truly surprising.

It is rumored at Washington that a proposition for the sale of Sonora and Chihuahua has been received from President Miramon. The price named is said to be sixteen millions. We do not credit the rumor.

THE neutrality of the Atlantic Cable, which caused so much discussion in the Senate, one year ago, has been fully established. *It hasn't a word to say on either side.*

KANSAS GOLD MINES.—The reports from the South Platte gold region announce new discoveries of the precious metal, and a large yield. The gold is fine float, or scale gold, intermixed with boulders, coarse gravel, and sand, the whole of which is from sixteen inches to two and a half feet in depth, and deposited upon a hard cement, resembling in appearance burnt clay or lava; this is termed the bed rock, and is reached at a distance of from three to six feet below the surface.