

AMONG THE MEXICANS

CELEBRATING THE NATION'S BIRTHDAY IN SPANISH STYLE.

Story of the Cure, Miguel Hidalgo Costillo, and His Celebrated "Grito de Dolores."

(Special correspondence of the BEECHER (1888).)

Mexico, September 16, 1887.

Bells are ringing, cannon booming and great drums going on all over the country...

Montezuma care little how old Tempas may proceed with his fighting, and make life pretty much a holiday.

Without dipping into history, a brief summary of the important events of that stormy time will enable us to enjoy this tumultuous jubilee with "the spirit and understanding."

At the beginning of the nineteenth century a most abominable state of society existed in Mexico.

Which became the watchword of the Liberals throughout their long and weary struggle.

After all the disabilities so first long-tongued upon them, their first long-tongued upon them, their first long-tongued upon them...

Many a covert council and many a midnight meeting these Criollos held to obtain their rights and the means of obtaining them.

When to Mexico would be born a son whose name should be Emanuel, the deliverer.

The expected offspring was provided for with the determination that when his birth should be heralded the child of Liberty would be defended at any cost.

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THE BLACK ROT.

THIS HIDDEN ENEMY TO GRAPE VINES AS SEEN IN FRANCE.

The Extent and Effect of Its Visitation—Its Long Residence in America and Injuries Inflicted.

Public attention in France, so far as it can be diverted from General Boulanger, is pretty generally directed to the new scourge which is threatening to devastate the unhappy vineyards of the West before they had full time to recover from the fatal impact of the phylloxera.

It has been recognized during the past season that a fungus hitherto almost unknown in Europe, but singularly fatal to the vine, has made its appearance over a large district of the Garonne, and has very naturally caused extreme alarm among the already half-ruined wine-growers.

The first suspicion that any one had of the existence of this plague in France goes back no further than two years ago.

When the grapes were ripening in 1885, the manager of an estate on the southern slope of the Cevennes, near Ganges, in the Hérault, observed that his grapes were shriveling, and presently that they were withered.

He collected some specimens of the sick grapes, and took them down to the college of Montpellier, where there is a special school of viticulture.

They were examined there by experts, and at last pronounced to be stricken with the malady known in America as black rot.

This name has been officially recognized in France, without any attempt at translation.

The Director of the Montpellier School of Viticulture recognized at once the danger which this pest would make an attempt at destroying the fungus.

Elaborate efforts were made in the late autumn and winter of 1885 to eradicate the pest, and it was hoped with success.

But next year it appeared not only in the original vineyard near Ganges, but in several other estates in the uplands of Hérault.

Under these circumstances the danger became more than a local administration could venture to deal with, and the Government was appealed to.

Agriculture instructed M. Prillieux, who is well known for his practical and theoretical researches into the principles of that science, to proceed to the Hérault, and to report on the matter.

His first experience was propitious. He found that the black rot had not extended to so great an extent as was feared, that the atmospheric conditions were such as to be unfavorable to it, and that really there was little sign of the malady left.

Further than certain small tawny spots, on the leaves alone, which were not considered, were found to be full of little black dots. The grapes themselves escaped, and the loss to the vintage of 1886 was little or none.

The affair was reported to the public notice, and the report that it had almost disappeared in the second year tended to make the danger completely forgotten.

M. Prillieux returned to his customary duties. Unhappily the restoration of public confidence was premature.

In July of the present year M. Prillieux received news to this effect from the Hérault, that from the far richer Atlantic watershed, which caused him immediately to communicate again with the Government.

The result was that he was ordered to proceed at once to the valley of the Garonne; and his report, which has just been published, is sufficiently grave to cause, as it has done, something like a panic.

The black rot, which had never been heard of west of the Cevennes, was suddenly perceived last July, simultaneously, in several of the vineyards which surround the city of Agen, in the Tarn-et-Garonne.

The suddenness of the apparition was extraordinary. According to the evidence of a number of witnesses, the black rot was not seen until the middle of July, on which date, after an extremely hot day, followed by a storm, there appeared shriveled grapes on bunches which had not previously been perceived.

These rapidly spread until the entire bunch was destroyed. It is suggested by M. Prillieux that, although the local men assert that the confidence that the pest had not hitherto known in the valley of the Garonne, it has probably been lurking there for some time, although unsuspected and even undetected.

The vineyard, which is under the proprietor whose vineyard lies under the classic towers of Montepellier, that his vines withered in 1885 in a mode which was supposed to be due to some malarial fever, and that the malarial fever was a lateral canal to aid the navigation of the stream.

The upper part of the island formed by the river and this canal—M. Prillieux is of opinion that the typical slimy girl of 17—see *his letter in Scientific News*.

Ice Caves. J. H. Mayfield furnishes us with information concerning an ice cave in the southern portion of this county, as follows:

The cave was discovered by Mr. Mayfield about the year 1870, and is situated in the middle of July the plague made its appearance; before the end of the month three-fourths of the grapes in most of the vineyards in the district were withered.

The malady spread at the same time up the valley of the Baize, to the valuable vineyards which surround the city of Nérac. The reader who glances at the map, and draws an equilateral triangle with the center of Lot-et-Garonne, with Agen, Albiouin, and Nérac at its three points, may realize how important the district is within which the black rot has hitherto been known.

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GENERAL NOTICES.

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Hay Fever is an inflamed condition of the lining membrane of the nostrils, throat and bronchus, affecting the lungs.

I was afflicted with Hay Fever for seven years. My Dr. Cream Balm cured me entirely.

If you want a Number One Carpet, call on J. J. Johnson, 202 1/2 St. Sacramento, Cal.

If afflicted with Sore Eyes use Dr. Isaac Fromm's EYE WATER.

WHO'S KILLED? Why Nobody.

It is ONLY THE CROWD THAT IS RUSHING!

Mechanical Clothing Store!

MECHANICAL STORE, CLOTHING!

REAL ESTATE, ETC.

W.P. COLEMAN

FARMS

CITY PROPERTY

FOR SALE!

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