# THE INDIANS OF MEXICO.

## OUR CHIHUAHUA CORRESPONDENCE.

CHIHUAHUA, Dec. 15, 1866.

Among the problems existing for the solution of the Mexican people, once they have established a stable government, is to reduce to a peaceable condition, or else exterminate, the Indian tribes of their northern States. The sufferings of those provinces have, especially for the past thirty-five years, been fearful from the fierce inroads of the savages existing within their own territory; but still more terrible from the incursions across the border from the United States. Especially during the continuance of our late civil war have the Indians of the United States had free access to the Mexican territory, and, like a whirlwind, they have swept across the border blasting everything in their track. Our frontier, badly protected in the most peaceable times, has since 1861 been entirely open

THE INDIAN COUNTRY OF MEXICO.

The Mexican States which are most affected by these depredations are:—

| | Square Leagues. | Inhabitants. |
|---|---|---|
| Sonora | 11,434 | 147,133 |
| Chihuahua | 12,857 | 160,000 |
| Coahuila | 7,868 | 67,590 |
| Durango | 6,743 | 156,519 |
| Total | 38,602 | 531,242 |

To the above might be added about 1,000 square leagues of northern Zacatecas, and about the same of northern Nuevo Leon, which together contain about 150,000 persons, which swell the total to 781,242 of the population of the country kept in constant dread of the savages, while the extent of the territory which they keep in an almost virgin condition it is seen is nearly one half of the Mexican peninsula, not counting Lower California, and fully one half, if we count the Indian territory, under warlike control in Yucatan, Chiapas and Tabasco.

INDIANS OF SONORA.

Sonora contains in its northwest part the Papagos, which number in Mexico about eight thousand. They are almost always at war with the whites. In the large island of Tiburon, in the Gulf of California, and on the adjacent coast of Sonora, is found the remnant of a once very powerful tribe known as the Seris. They number now about two hundred. They live by plundering the white settlements and by hunting and fishing. In the districts of San Ignacio, Altar, Arizpe, Montezuma and Sahuaripa are found the Gilenos, Mogollones, Chiricahuis and other tribes of lesser note, all belonging to the great Apache tribe, of which I shall speak further on. Of the other tribes, which are peaceable, and in general make good miners, cattle tenders and agricultural laborers, there are the Yaquis, who are divided into eight towns, and form the department of Yaqui. They occupy some magnificent agricultural lands in the valley and to the south of the Yaqui river, which flows into the California Gulf. They number about fourteen thousand. South of the Yaqui tribe and between them and northern Sinaloa is the Mayo tribe, which forms the department of Mayo. They have ten settlements, and number also about fourteen thousand. The Opatas have more than thirty settlements, and number about thirty-five thousand individuals. They occupy the heart of the spurs which shoot off into the central part of Sonora from the Sierra Madre, which, in the line of greatest elevation, forms the boundary between Sonora and Chihuahua. The Pimas, a tribe of similar nature to the Opatas, occupy the "Pineria alta," in the northwest part of the State, and the "Pineria baja," in the centre of the State. They have nineteen settlements, and number about fifteen thousand. They are not a warlike tribe, and have suffered in common with the whites from the savage incursions of the Apaches, who have entirely destroyed four of their former settlements.

CHIHUAHUA TRIBES.

This State perhaps suffered equally if not more than any of the others. Her whole northern border has been left open and is still exposed to the merciless inroads of a foe who thinks lightly of a ride of five hundred miles across the United States frontier to murder the "Blanlendados" and those whom they employ, to destroy ranches and plunder their contents, and to carry desolation into many a populous district. Little by little this process of Indian abrasion against the white settlements has been going on for many years, until in the rude work of civil warfare which has occupied Mexico the Indians have gained ground, and have, as it were, rolled back progress and industry upon itself, carrying their devastating work far southward to within sight of the spires of Durango. The warlike tribes which have kept up this work of desolation are the famous Apaches and Comanches, of whom more hereafter. The only peaceable tribe living in this State are the Tarahumares, who occupy the broken and lofty mineral regions of Guerrero, Hidalgo and Mina. But very little is known about them: around them, as around many other of the isolated Indian tribes of Mexico, there circles a vein of romance that should tempt the scientific societies of the world to delegate some able scholar, well versed in the study of the races of these countries, to pass two or three years among these tribes. An intensely interesting volume might be given to the world by any one who would devote himself faithfully to the object.

OF THE TARAHUMARES.

I have learned much from Mr. Charles Chipman, who has been working some silver mines in their district, and who is Superintendent of the Santa Clara Mining Company. He is an American gentleman of very trustworthy observation. His information agrees also with much that I have previously heard of this tribe. These Indians live in huts made of bushes, and sometimes of adobes. A log house may sometimes be found, but only among the aristocratic families. Many of them reside in caves among the rocks and mountains. They live mostly in a miserable condition, and without any of the conveniences of life. Their women are generally treated with the greatest deference, and appear to be more intelligent than the men; they generally manage the house, and are masters of everything, including their husbands.

JESUIT MISSION.

Some three hundred years ago the Jesuits settled at Guazapares, in the midst of this tribe; but, finding them very warlike and hostile, they located themselves upon the top of a high mountain, which they named San Miguel, and called it Mission No. 8. Here they found a small table land, which they cultivated, and also found a clear spring of excellent water. After building a little chapel, meanwhile defending themselves in their stronghold, which was accessible by only one well defended pathway, they commenced preaching, praying and persuading their converts down the mountain until they had worked themselves into the affections of the savages, and reached the valleys below. The Tarahumares were, at that time, perfectly wild and almost untamable; but Jesuit perseverance, admirable in its constancy, finally gathered the whole tribe under the wings of the order, and gave them complete control of the savages. The little chapel upon Mount Miguel, the cradle of their efforts, was now too small, and they erected a church upon the hillside. Then commenced the baptizing of the Indians by wholesale. The church now standing in Guazapares is the last of three which they built; it is now seventy-five years old.

A REVELATION.

Upon the descent of the Jesuits from their mountain fastness they told the Indians that the good Santa Teresa had appeared and revealed to them that treasures of silver lay buried where the town of Guazapares now stands. The Indians, under direction of the Jesuits, then set to work digging and soon developed the splendid silver district at that place. Here the Jesuits opened the first mine in that part of Northern Mexico, and called it Santa Teresa.

A SEASON OF INTOXICATION.

The tribe leads an agricultural life from April until November, raising, for the most part, crops of corn. This corn they make into an intoxicating beverage called tesduino, and without reference to what should be retained of the corn for the winter's supply. Very many of the principal Indians, who have laid in a good supply of tesduino for the cold snap, drink to excess, and, with their wives and families, frequently lie drunk for a month at a time. During the season of intoxication they generally have jolly fights, in which a great many are badly bruised, but rarely receive any fatal wounds, as the fighting is carried on in a "rough and tumble" way. From November until March many of them live out as laborers in the mining districts and upon the cattle farms, but return to their fields in the spring time. They number about thirty-five thousand individuals, are a very inoffensive people and said to be very honest. If a traveller passes among them and enters a house or hut they will generally flee from the place, either to the mountains or their cornfields, and watch him until he departs. Whatever he wants he can take, and leave in some conspicuous place in the hut the payment he may think proper. Many people passing among them have abused this opportunity to rob them.

NO TRADITION, BUT VAST FUNERAL PILES EXISTING.

The Tarahumares have no traditions whatever of their former existence, or how many centuries they have occupied these mountains of Chihuahua. The Jesuits found them there three hundred years ago, and suppose that they took possession of the district after the great Aztec tribes had swept southward in their march to the valley of Mexico. There are evidences here that this great southward march of the Aztecs was not peaceable, but that a terrible slaughter of the native races marked the line: for in the district occupied by the Tarahumares, and especially near the towns of Guazapares and Cerrocahui, are numerous large caves in the mountain sides which are packed full of Indian corpses, just as you would pile up wood. Thousands of these dried up corpses are sometimes found piled up in one cave. They have on the same clothing in which they were buried, and in many cases it is found quite well preserved. It is of wool and cotton fabrics, and is of a style unknown to any one who is acquainted with the ancient Aztec costumes. The air is perfectly fresh in the caves, and the corpses are dried like an Egyptian mummy. This is thought to be due to the presence of large saltpetre deposits. The best informed among the Tarahumares say that these piles of corpses existed in these caves when their ancestors took possession of the lands, and that they have never disturbed them. The bodies are of a much taller race than the Tarahumares. The Jesuits suppose them to be the slain in battle of one of the tribes which opposed the Aztec advance to Mexico.

A GREAT FOOTRACE BETWEEN WOMEN.

Among the Tarahumares footracing is a favorite diversion, and even the women compete in the lists. At times a great rivalry springs up between the adjoining towns of some district as to the relative merits of the contestants. Within a month a rivalry of this kind between the two villages of Baconia and Sesoguiche gave rise to the most famous footrace on record. Four of the fastest women from each town were selected, and, accompanied to an intermediate point between the towns, where there was an oblong mountain three Mexican leagues around it by measurement of the road; around this it was stipulated that the race was to take place, the prize to be conceded to those who made the quickest time in running round the mountain fourteen times—a distance, at the very least, of one hundred English miles. At fixed points within the circumference of the mountain guards were stationed, who were to see that the race was conducted with fairness. The whole population of the surrounding country had assembled, with whatever they could collect of value, that they might have the opportunity of betting something upon the result which was to bring shame or honor to the rival villages. They were also sufficiently civilized to have a large quantity of the intoxicating drink—the Tezuina.

STRIPPED FOR THE RACE.

As the eight athletic creatures took their places at the starting point the excitement ran high; they were, like the old Roman athletes, stripped for the contest, the only garment worn being a short petticoat, which reached within about six inches of the knee. Our informant, who stopped his travels for a day to witness this novel race, was struck with the magnificent development of muscle displayed by a swarthy looking belle, whose petticoat was a little shorter than the rest, and he forthwith bet his pile on Sesoguiche. There were other finely developed creatures in the lists, but none whose bright eyes, clean limbs, hard looking flesh and apparent gutta percha elasticity of motion drew so vividly upon his imagination, and so powerfully upon his purse.

THE START AND THE BETTING.

The whole bevy were off at the word go, amid the wildest excitement, and the betting commenced. The time was six o'clock and thirty-five minutes in the morning. The first, second, third, fourth, and even the fifth turn was completed without any great advantage upon either side; but during the next five turns it was evident that, with the exception of the fair belle above mentioned, Sesoguiche was losing ground. She, however, kept breast and breast with two wiry looking creatures from Baconia. At the twelfth turn of the mountain all but the three here mentioned dropped from the track. The multitude was now pretty well soaked with Tesuinla, and the betting ran to the wildest extremes; every one who had anything of value staked it on the race—hoes, ploughs and other agricultural implements, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, cats, dogs, and whatever else there was of value changed hands. The men bet their clothes, while the women pitched in and bet their petticoats. All was a wild uproar, and the Derby sweepstakes were nowhere.

The thirteenth turn was made; but it was evident that the Sesoguiche belle was getting out of wind, and after all had not so much bottom as the wiry contestants from Baconia. But she was not far behind, and although Baconia took the prize it was not a matter for much boasting.

ONE HUNDRED AND NINE MILES IN THIRTEEN HOURS TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES.

The two women from the latter town were received with the loudest shouts of joy by their townspeople. They had finished the race at eight o'clock in the evening, making the whole distance in thirteen hours and twenty-five minutes by the watch of our informant. One of the two Baconia women who won the race had given birth to a child only ten days before, and prepared herself for the contest by bandaging her breasts. The only stops made during the time by the contestants for the prizes were either to take a little water or eat frugally of *pinoli*—a simple gruel made of parched corn ground and sweetened with sugar. By the time the race was concluded nearly every Indian on the ground was drunk. The only exceptions were those who, according to custom, remained sober to take care of the intoxicated ones. There is generally one to each family who remains sober. It was universally conceded that it was the greatest foot race and the jolliest spree known to memory or tradition.

THE APACHE TERRITORY

is Northeastern Chihuahua, Northern Coahuila and Northwestern Texas, an extent of at least 100,000 square miles, of magnificent grazing, agricultural and mineral lands. From a little work, in Spanish, published not long since in this capital, as the result of long years of study of the Apache tribes, I have gleaned a portion of the following information:—These Indians are divided into nine principal tribes and numerous minor ones. The names of these, taken generally from the names of the mountains and rivers near which they locate their wandering villages, and sometimes from the fruits and animals which abound near them, are Ninietinen-né, Sagetaen-né, Ijusconjen-né, Yecujen-né, Intujen-né, Sejen-né, Cuelcajen-né, Lipanjen-né and Iyutagjen-né. The modern names substituted for these by the Saniards are, in their order:—Tontos, Chiricahues, Gilenos, Mimbrenos, Faraces, Mescaneros, Llaneros, Lipanes and Navajoes.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APACHES.

Although the tribes differ a little in their pronunciation they all speak the same language, which is guttural and poor in words. They are not a people whose manners and customs are similar throughout the different tribes. Before the time of the Spaniards they were more united, and had a more thorough and distinctive nationality; but each tribe now appears to possess its own laws, which are frequently separated from those of another tribe by wide desert tracts. Contact, too, with the white races has created a great diversity among them, although they still preserve their unity of action in any great warlike enterprise.

THE APACHES AND COMANCHES.

Under this heading I may include the greater part of all the devastation caused by the Indians within the States named in this paper. Coahuila has suffered from no other tribes, Zacatecas and Durango often feel the weight of their terrible system of warfare, and even Sinaloa has had her progress retarded in former times, and even lately, by the savage storm of desolation which has marked the lines of invasion. A bilious temperament, an astute, suspicious, wild and haughty nature, make them exceedingly jealous of their liberty and independence, while their bad faith makes it impossible for them to keep a treaty or to live in peace with the whites. The tribes differ a little in height and color, but are all brown and well proportioned, with quick eyes, long hair and beardless. Those whom I have seen are not above the middle height, broad and powerfully formed, with a wild, infernal expression of countenance, which is perfectly barren of intelligence; restless, flashing eyes, full of savage instincts, and wild, animal mouths. There is no ferocious beast with half their damnable wildness, and I wish that the soft-hearted philanthropists who live in the midst of a poetic imagery and vote away our cash in the United States Treasury, were forced to make a yearly pilgrimage to their Indian territory, and see the effects of their noble efforts to aid savages in their work of killing Christians. There is much lack of confidence among relatives; an Apache will not approach his brother even without his arms in hand ready for assault or defence. His extraordinary powers of endurance, incident to his wild life, his nomadic habits, his exposure to the climatic changes, give him such strength that not unfrequently you find men among them who can outrun a horse on rough ground. They treat their old people with perfect barbarity, and in this respect resemble the northern Patagonia tribes whom I have seen in South America. The tribes are divided into families or ranches; but these are very rarely extensive in number of inhabitants; for the jealousies arising with their increase soon breed dissensions which are rarely healed afterwards.

POLYGAMY IS PERMITTED,

and every Indian, as a general rule, has as many wives as he can build huts to keep them in—some have from six to eight. The method of getting a wife is very similar to that which rules frequently in the United States. The women are purchased, and, to carry out the resemblance, if the parties do not find themselves well matched or their natures congenial they dissolve the contract by mutual consent, and the woman returns to the home of her father. Other women, badly treated by their husbands, fly to the protecting arms of some Indian of acknowledged valor, and the husband rarely dares to attempt her recovery. They live usually in the most broken and rugged sierras, where there is wood, water and wild fruits. Their principal food is the result of their plundering of the Mexican and Texas haciendas of stock and the wild animals which they hunt. When the wood and pasturage give out they move to some other point, but always select the most inaccessible mountains, that they may station their outposts to guard against surprise from the whites or from their hereditary enemies, the Comanches.

NOTIONS OF RELIGION.

Their supreme being they call Yastasitasiten-né, or "Captain of the Sky." Without belief in the future, they think that death is annihilation. They, however, say that they like to be on good terms with the "Captain of the Sky," upon whom they think the success of any enterprise, good or bad, depends.

METHOD OF WARFARE.

Their principal offensive arm is the bow and arrow. Formerly this was their favorite weapon, and even to-day the most of them prefer it to the firearms which they can purchase along the line of the United States frontier or obtain through treaty with our generous government. The latter get out of repair, and then become useless, while the former are always available. When an offensive expedition against the Mexican frontier has been determined upon they leave their families hidden in some almost inaccessible mountain, with a very small guard. They then divide the expedition into small parties, and, by the most broken and unfrequented routes, travel on foot to the place of destination. Here, according to agreement, they meet upon a given day. Effecting their robberies, they flee with their plunder, with incredible rapidity, to the deserts or the mountains, travelling sometimes for days together without rest, food or water. If they have stolen a large number of horses, they invariably leave a few men in the rear mounted on the best of them, that, in case of pursuit, they may overtake the main party and give notice of the numbers of the enemy who may follow. When followed in such cases by superior forces and they find themselves liable to be overtaken, they kill the poorest of their captured animals, and, on the best ones, continue their retreat; if upon these they cannot escape they kill them and then on foot flee to mountains where they are very rarely overtaken. An instance of this occurred a few weeks since within three miles of this city of Chihuahua. The Indians stole seventy horses, were pursued, and, finding it impossible to escape commenced the slaughter; they had killed thirteen when the proximity of their pursuers caused them to flee on foot to the Sierra where they were perfectly safe. When they find themselves pursued by those who are familiar with their habits they divide, with their plunder, into several detachments, and, taking different directions, generally reach their headquarters with the greater portion saved. Frequently a party of from four to six Apaches will penetrate on foot far into Zacatecas and Durango; leaving Texas, they travel by night, taking the most broken country on the route, and, after committing their depredations, hide themselves in the mountains by day, and again travel by night back to the tribe.

COWARDLINESS AND CELERITY OF RETREAT.

The Apaches are not brave in attack, and will rarely face equal numbers; but when assailed without hope of escape they fight to the last; preferring to die rather than surrender. However numerous and encumbered a settlement may be they make marches on foot, and mounted, with such celerity that they rarely require more than a few hours to place themselves out of reach of their pursuers. They break camp with wonderful rapidity. If they have horses they load them in an instant with their household goods; the women put their nursing children in a basket and hang them to their heads; the men, armed and mounted upon their best horses, then direct their march to some secure position. If horses are wanting, the women become the beasts of burden and pack upon themselves all the property of the encampment, besides the children; the men then cover the retreat and upon front, rear and flank guard the little caravan from assault as it winds its way over the most rugged ground.

THEIR SIGNAL SYSTEM.

There exists in this tribe a system of warfare which has been perfected by long years of practical teachings, aided by the cunning brain of some prominent savage. There appears to be a system of communication kept up between the different ranches; and no matter what the distance may be that separates them, or how many times they may have changed their encampment, they still keep advised of each other's movements. This may be done through their signal corps—some of the signals are known. A little smoke upon the side of a mountain indicates that they are desirous of meeting some of their own tribe; another in response, half way up the side of a mountain, denotes that there they are and that free communication may be held with them. Two or three little columns of smoke sent up in succession upon a plain or in a valley, and in a given direction, manifest their desire to hold a parley with their enemies, who answer the signal in the same way if they agree to the consultation. A smoke raised in succession from height to height along the line of a road, or in any other direction, is a signal to people are to resist the march of the enemy or to attack him; that he is near, has been seen, and that his track has been recognized. All the ranches which see the signal respond with another in the same manner. An officer travelling from El Paso to Chihuahua, with an escort, told me that his line of March was telegraphed the whole way between the two points by the Apaches; that the smoke signals may be made and answered at any moment, nearly every man and woman go prepared to kindle a fire. Generally they have two sticks, one of sticle and the other of lechuguilla, well dried, which, when rubbed together, the point of one against the side of the other, produce a flame instantly.

THE LIPAN BRANCH OF THIS TRIBE

has always been considered the bravest and, from its numbers, the most powerful division. Constant warfare, however, with their hereditary enemies, the Comanches and the whites, has almost entirely annihilated it. There are now but very few of them left; and these occupy the northwest part of Texas and the northeast frontier of Coahuila. The Chiricahue branch of this great tribe was formerly very numerous, and waged a desolating warfare far into the interior of Sonora. The Gilenos and Mimbrenos also have been among the most warlike and bloodthirsty enemies which the Spaniards and Mexicans have had in northwestern Mexico.

THE COMANCHES.

This tribe, occupying a part of our territories of Arizona and New Mexico, is divided into four main branches, and these into minor subdivisions. The main divisions are the Cuchanticas, Jupes, Yamparicas and Orientales. The latter name was given to them by the early *conquistadores*; and it is this tribe that borders on Texas and occupies a small part of that State. Formerly the Comanches outnumbered the Apaches, but constant warfare with the tribes surrounding them and with the whites of both the United States and Mexico have greatly reduced their numbers, although they are still more powerful than the Apaches. During the time of the Viceroys in Mexico there sometimes existed peace between this tribe and the Mexicans. At such times the Governor of New Mexico confirmed the election of a general and a lieutenant elected from among their number by themselves. The Indians generally yielded the strictest obedience to these elected chiefs, and at that time very rarely broke a treaty. In matters of good faith the Comanches are very much superior to the Apache tribe. Moreover, they have some idea of hospitality, are more intrepid in war and manage their warlike expeditions with far more intelligence than the Apaches. They also dress with greater neatness, live in better habitations, enjoy each other's society and live with the other members of the tribe in perfect friendship. The four branches of this great tribe appear to be perfectly united—none, or very rarely any of the disputes resulting in death, occur between private individuals as in the Apache encampments.

The principal weapon of the Comanche is the bow and arrow; but both are shorter than those used by the Apache, and are much better made. They also use them with the greatest dexterity; and when wounded in one arm, can make use of one of their feet for the purpose of shooting their arrows. In every respect the Comanche is the superior of the Apache—taller and more symetrically formed, more intelligent by far, and possessing more manliness.

This tribe has not committed such numerous depredations in Mexico as the Apaches, but their superior organization and the large numbers which have composed their raiding parties have always made them more feared.

The Comanches have very rarely been at peace with the Apaches, but have waged the most bloody wars together, torturing their prisoners in the most inhuman manner. Bloody fights occur between them, especially during the season of buffalo hunting, at which time the Apaches enter the Comanche territory, where they find better huntine and encroach on what the Comanches consider their property.

THE COMANCHE AND APACHE

tribes have damaged Chihuahua, especially, very many millions of dollars and occasioned the loss of thousand not lives. The whole State was, twenty-five years since, filled with numerous herds of cattle and horses. Large wheat and corn farms also occupied the fertile valleys of the rivers, and in the northern part of the State were several very valuable and extensive vineyards which produced the finest of wines and brandy. The whole of this almost has disappeared as if by enchantment, and in a short time has gone down before the rude blast of savage invasion. In several cattle haciendas which I might mention, where there existed in former times from 20,000 to 50,000 head of cattle and horses, there is now not even the vestige of a habitation remaining. The land, returned to its virgin wildness, gives no trace of its having been occupied by man. Two-thirds of Chihuahua has been thus laid desolate, and even a greater part of Sonora and Coahuila. In the latter State there exists a large quantity of ruins all over the Northern and Central districts which were once blooming and productive, but to-day there remains naught but a mournful wreck of former progress. Throughout the north of Zacatecas and Durango the picture is of the same dark hue. There can be found in the whole of northern Mexico immense tracts of territory which were formerly well populated, and which, now, contain not a single human being.

In whatever mining district you choose to go within the limits of the territory I have specified as the scenes of these outrages, you will find the ruins of mining *haciendas*, of whole mining villages even, while the great number of valuable mines which have been abandoned, indicate the former prosperity in bold contrast to the present.

INDIAN WARS ON THE INCREASE SINCE FRENCH INTERVENTION.

Especially during the French invasion of this country, has the Indian war been carried on by the savages with more than its accustomed fury. There is scarcely a road in the indicated territory that can be traveled without a respectable escort. I have within six weeks seen whole villages in northern Durango filled with the rural population, driven in from the vicinity of the towns in which they took refuge against their merciless enemies. On my road from Saltillo to Chihuahua I witnessed many of the acts of savage ferocity that are such a curse here. Within two months more than fifty individuals have been murdered and scalped, many of them in their houses and within sight of the large towns and cities. Mapimi, a splendid mining district in Durango, is entirely dormant, owing to these savage inroads; and the magnificent district of Parral, in southern Chihuahua, is equally paralyzed. To add to all these Indian horrors, the French have in the State of Sonora roused all the peaceful Indian tribes, paid, fed and armed them against the liberal republican government. Many thousands of the Yaquis and Mayos under this organization have taken the field, and have been carrying desolation far into Sinaloa and the interior of Sonora. All mining enterprises have been crushed out, and at least $8,000,000 of United States capital here invested before the French invasion, has been swallowed up by these Franco-savage tribes.

Of late years the Apaches and Comanches have at times had a vague treaty, offensive and defensive, for the purpose of carrying on their depredations with greater concert; but it is an uncertain peace, which is frequently clouded into war between them.

UNCLE SAM EXPERIMENTING WITH THE RED MAN.

The Navajo branch of the Apache tribe appears now to be the pet child of the United States for experimenting purposes. Some eight thousand of them, caged or corralled at Fort Sumner, furnish splendid opportunities for government contractors to spring their traps upon the United States Treasury, and aid "the poor Indians" in their absorption of the $100,000 per month which is spent at this post to support the lazy cutthroats in their worthlessness.

WHAT THE TRIBES COST SPAIN.

In 1729 there was a troop of seven hundred and thirty-four men constantly engaged upon this northern frontier of Mexico against the Indians, at a cost of $283,930 annually. This force was found insufficient for the purpose, and it was increased to four thousand, and for many years maintained in the field in bloody warfare with the Apache and Comanche tribes. From 1729 to 1786 it cost Spain about $1,000,000 per year outlay for the support of troops dedicated to the frontier Indian fighting in these Northern States; but if we count the losses by the sweeping desolation of Indian inroads, it will swell the amount to a fabulous sum—a sum which in a century amounted to many hundreds of millions of dollars. In 1790 the Viceroy effected a peace with these Northern tribes; but it terminated in 1810 on the part of the Spanish government, which refused any longer to support them in their laziness and make a large annual outlay for the purpose of feeding such a pack of useless animals. Before terminating the treaty the Spanish government tried the Fort Sumner experiment, above mentioned, and wished to make them cultivate the lands around the different "presidios," but the efforts were ineffectual. War was then opened and carried on for a short time, when a new treaty was arranged; but in 1831 the Indians, dissatisfied, opened the war again with infernal fury. Bustamente, who wrote in the midst of this bloody tide of Indian outrages, says:—"The Apaches revolted and commenced hostilities with such fury that in a few days we counted many killed, and a scandalous number of estates plundered. With the greatest haste all the villages were depopulated, together with the ranchos and fields, in which there were few men able to resist the barbarians, and our rural population, unarmed and confiding in peace, were filled with surprise and grief, because misery and death were the only objects within view. We ourselves felt the rigors of such a situation. The *presidios* were reduced to five in the whole State (of Chihuahua), without troops, very miserable, and, moreover, compromised with the war which had been declared against the Comanches upon the eastern frontier of the same State; and no one hoped for consolation except from God, whom they desired to see repeat the miracles of the time of Gideon and Jonathan, because only with waves and with a single sword, which at most each ranche might contain, it would have been possible to repel the barbarians; and all the estates and lives remained, and have been ever since the above, to a certain extent, abandoned to the arbitrament of the Indians."

The pictures drawn by Bustamente were but the first shadings for the dark colors which, year after year, were laid upon these States. In 1832 there was a slight lull in the storm of savage onslaught. A peace of a few months was partly effected, but it only preceded the hurricane of desolation which was to follow. The savages were merely taking breath and baring their muscles for the extermination of the whites. From New Mexico, Arizona, California, Texas and Northern Sonora the wave broke loose and the storm opened. From that time to this there has never been an hour of peace. Ranchos, villages, towns, cities even have gone down in a wild wreck; farms, vineyards, cattle, haciendas and extensive cultivated estates have disappeared; mines, furnaces and reduction works of all kinds no longer yield their wealth; but all is a mournful ruin. The civil wars of Central Mexico have given no time to wipe out these plague spots of civilization, while the French invasion has stripped this whole northern frontier of all means for defence against the savages, who, especially in Sonora, have been incited to redoubled activity against the whites by the civilizing Frenchmen.

The war in the United States had also—happening as it did at the time of the French invasion—the effect to combine with the other elements for the free action of the Apache, Comanche and other tribes, giving them almost complete liberty to carry their plundering excursions where they pleased.

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN FRONTIER

is at best in time of peace but poorly protected. The troops are of the very worst class that can be gathered for such a style of warfare as is demanded of them. Heavily armed and still more heavily burdened with their equipments; put there, in normal times, not to fight Indians, but to feed upon the public revenues; in the regular forces composed of men who flee to the army as the last resort for laziness and freedom from hunger; broken down, used up and played out, they are about as fit to send upon a scout for an Apache or a Camanche Indian as the Congressmen who legislate to send them there and furnish the cash to maintain them in their indolence. Occupying forts for defence, instead of a movable camp for attack; well supplied by the government with everything that a dishonest government contractor can make money out of; the fort surrounded by fat mules and horses, which about three times per year the Indians kindly steal from under their very noses, thus making another opening for the irrepressible contractor, who sometimes manages to sell to the government its stolen mules and cattle; pampered with government rations, and whiskey soaked, they appear to be placed there as so many automatons for the amusement of the savages. I know a manufacturer of whiskey in a frontier State who intends to extend his works and ship large quantities to the military line of operations just so soon as all the posts are well garrisoned. A "big thing," he says. I think I may recommend his whiskey for the use of soldiers; it is pure grape.

And what of the officers who superintend all the posts upon our border? With a few honorable exceptions you might as well set a gilded snail upon the track of a Mexican mustang as to set one of them to catch an Apache Indian. An Indian attack is made upon a fortified post by perhaps fifty men; every animal belonging to the fort is captured before the officer can get up from his game of bluff. The result is the old stereotyped report as follows:—

HEADQUARTERS, SECOND BATTALION, ZERO REGIMENT, UNITED STATES INFANTRY, November 1, 1422.

General PHILANTHROPY, Commanding Department:—

SIR—I have the honor to inform you that a large force of Apaches, numbering at least one thousand (1,000), attacked this post yesterday. I beat them off after several hours of severe fighting. The attack was so sudden and severe that I had no time to corral the mules, horses and cattle, which were all stolen. The Indians, as is their custom, took their killed and wounded with them. Before pursuit can be organized I shall require enough animals to mount the men, and a sufficient number of pack mules to carry one day's rations. I beg to recommend Captain Roulette, of Company Y, and Lieutenants Bluff and Monte, of Company Z, for promotion for gallant conduct and great coolness while under fire. I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, CARL TON,

Major Commanding Second Battalion Zero regiment, United States infantry.

The truth is, our frontier appears to be the polishing-off school for West Point; and woe to the officer who puts the finishing touch upon his education amid such surroundings as are necessarily forced upon him. Will the commanders of battalions and the commanders of companies tell us how many times they drill their commands in the course of a year? Will they explain to us what measures they take to make aggressive warfare upon the Indian tribes, who are constantly stripping them of whatever surrounds their posts? Will they tell us what they do to educate themselves after the nation has given them the foundation upon which to build, and paid for it, too? or will they tell us that, despite the army regulations, they let the non-commissioned officers drill the men? that they let the Indians steal virtually what they please, knowing that Uncle Sam will make it good? that when they leave West Point education is complete, and that there is no further necessity to improve themselves, except in the science of cards, which will afford them a means of amusement and an avenue for the disposal of their salaries?

I call upon some member of Congress to demand from the proper quarter a report of the amount of property stolen from the government every year since 1850 by the Indians, and it will be advisable also for him to ask how much it costs the nation annually to sustain a body of troops upon the frontier who are totally unfit for Indian warfare. Let him estimate, at the same time, the outlay for the support of thousands of able bodied Indians, and the cost, also, of the arms and munitions of war that are furnished to them with which to commence their dread work of massacre whenever the whim seizes them. He might, at the same time, inquire what private individuals pay for all kinds of supplies upon the frontier, and compare it with what the same articles cost the government. Let him ask, too, what the government pay per ton for transportation of government stores, and compare it with the price paid by merchants. And while he is thus engaged let him switch his train of inquiry on to the Rio Grande side track, and load up every nook of his memory with evidences of bad management. Let him ask how much freight the government pays per ton upon King, Kennedy & Co.'s steamboats from Brazos, Santiago to Brownsville, and how much that, company charges to private individuals for the same tonnage. Let him ask why the United States troops at that point should be fed on beef that costs nine cents per pound more than the beef that is used upon the private tables of that virtuous town; and then, if he discovers any bad management along the line, let him ask if the nation is satisfied with the education of its military officers, who sit quietly down, under the shadow of their hard earned salaries and permit this abuse of the national generosity. Shining examples of honor and probity are found among many officers sent to our frontier; but I assure you they cannot stay long, for disgust fanned into a hot flame by every day life soon disposes of them.

Mexico endures a large part of the misfortunes occasioned by the bad management of our frontier and the bordering Indian tribes. These make the northern States of this republic their "dark and bloody ground," and too often use against the inhabitants the very weapons furnished to them by the United States through their unprincipled Indian agents.

It only requires a few years of Indian contact to learn that the poetry of Hiawatha is a perfect humbug when applied to the real Indians; that humanitarianism with reference to them is nonsense, and that the quicker they are wiped from the face of the earth the better for their own interests and those who are brought in contact with them. The Apache tribes never could be tamed even by the Jesuits, who two hundred years ago in Sonora gave them up as hopeless; and where the Jesuits failed to tame an Indian let no other man attempt it. Let our philanthropists at home remember that while they preach mercy to these cutthroat tribes of the Mexican frontier they preach murder to the white settlers.

## THE RAILROAD TROUBLES IN VERMONT.

The Bennington *Banner* gives the following statement of the facts in the railroad complications in that quarter:—The lease of the Western Vermont (now the Bennington and Rutland) Railroad to the Troy and Boston Railroad Company for ten years expired on the 15th of this month, and on the 16th inst. suit was commenced by the lessors, claiming heavy damage, for breach of covenants in the lease to keep the road in repair. Jasper Vial, formerly for many years Sheriff of this county, was authorized to serve the attachment, and attached, at North Bennington, three locomotives and quite a number of cars. Keepers were placed on each of the locomotives, and the switch was so adjusted that the locomotives could not be moved without moving off the track, and was locked with a padlock. About two hours after the attachment a large number of Irishmen, headed and directed by a man by the name of Wellington, roadmaster for the Troy and Boston road, forced the men placed at the switch away, unlocked it, throwing the rails in place, while a number more with engineers jumped upon two of the engines and started the engines for the State line, holding the keepers by force until they had crossed the line, when they put them off and allowed them to return to this State. The State line is about two miles from the depot where the property was rescued. Attached to one of the engines was a baggage car and a passenger car. The whole thing was done quickly and before alarm could be given. Those who aided in the rescue, we are glad to learn, are not citizens of Vermont, but were employés of the Troy and Boston company, and from Troy. The property rescued at North Bennington is estimated to be worth $40,000. The same day another writ of attachment against the same parties was placed in the hands of Mr Powers, our Sheriff, who attached early in the evening at Pownal a locomotive, one baggage car and a passenger car, and placed the whole in charge of keepers. About daylight the next morning an engine was sent up from Eagle Bridge with a gang of men, and by force took the whole of that property into the State of New York, and as in the other case took the keepers with them. We are informed the property was rescued from the Sheriff by express orders from the office at Troy, by telegraph. The property rescued at Pownal was valued at $20,000. On the 17th Wellington, who aided in the rescue at North Bennington, was arrested, and in default of bail is now in jail. It is not known that any other party engaged in either rescue is in the State, as they all, or nearly all, reside in the State of New York, and left with the captured property. The rescue of this property, under the circumstances, is the most lawless and high handed act we have heard of in our law-abiding State, and we hope the offenders will be brought to speedy justice. The owners of the Bennington and Rutland road appear to have leased it to Governor Smith and Mr. John B. Page, under the belief that they, from their connection with other railroads, would be able to run it to the satisfaction of our community and make it pay. But the day the managers took possession of the road the Troy and Boston Company gave notice that in future they would not run their road from Hoosick Junction to the State line, where the two roads connect, and since that time we have no train from the West, and our mails from New York and the West come to us two days behind time, by way of Rutland. We understand the excuse the Troy and Boston managers give for this action is that the trustees under whom they have run the road for the past ten years have sued them for a breach of contract. It seems a new and not very legitimate mode of defending a suit to stop running a railroad and shut up an avenue of trade which has been in use for the past fifteen years. Mr. T. W. Park, president and owner of the Bennington and Rutland road, in a published statement, avers that the Troy and Boston Company, during the ten years of their lease, wore out the rails and suffered the road, its buildings and fences to run to decay, so that at the end of the lease the road, which was comparatively new at its commencement, was nearly worn out.

WILL OF A HALF MILLIONAIRE.—A wealthy brewer, Julius Winklemeyer, of St. Louis, died recently dividing his estate valued at nearly half a million as follows:—

After providing for the payment of his debts and funeral expenses, he bequeaths to his six children, of whom Julia, the eldest, is aged fifteen years, the sum of one dollar each. To the South St. Louis Turn school, $100. The remainder of his estate, real, personal and mixed, is devised to his widow, Christiane Winklemeyer Von Eulfel; provided, however, that in case she shall marry again she shall be entitled only to such part as shall be legally due her by reason of her dower right; and provided again, that in case either of the children aforesaid shall come of age and then commence a business of his own, or shall marry, then the widow to pay to either of such children $5,000 in one year after the commencement of business or marriage.

# CUBA.

## OUR HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE.

**The Entrepot Movement—Free Labor—Centralized Sugar Plantation Scheme—Immigration and Its Drawbacks—French Commercial Enterprise in the Gulf, &c.**

HAVANA, Jan. 30, 1867.

The meeting of merchants, to which I called your attention in my last, took place on Monday evening at the residence of Don Francisco Fesser. It was very numerously attended, nearly all the principal firms were represented, and the chair was occupied by Don Jose M. Morales. Mr. Fesser opened the discussion, explaining in a few appropriate words the object of the meeting, the importance of attracting to this port the bonding and transit of cotton which for many years past had been abandoned in consequence of the royal order of 1847, until the blockade of the Southern ports of the United States, which partly had revived the traffic. Monsieur Clement Ca