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NEUTRAL IN NOTHING

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## TWO WAYS OF PUTTING IT

The sultan awoke with a stifled scream; His nerves were shocked by a fearful dream;

An omen of terrible import and doubt— His teeth in one moment all fell out.

His wisemen assembled at break of day, And stood by the throne in solemn array. And when the terrible dream was told, Each felt a shudder, his blood run cold.

And all stood silent, in fear and dread, And wondering what was best to be said.

At length an old sage, wrinkled and gray, Cried: "Perform me that which I have to say."

"Tis an omen of sorrow sent from on high; Thou shalt see all thy kindred die."

Wrath was the sultan; he gnashed his teeth, And his very words seemed to hiss and seethe,

As he ordered the wiseman bound with chains, And gave him a hundred stripes for his pains.

The wisemen shook as the sultan's eye Swept round to see who next would try:

But one of them stepping before the throne, Exclaimed, in a loud and joyous tone—

"Exult, O head of a happy State! Rejoice, O hear of a glorious fate!

"For this is the favor thou shalt win, O sultan—to outlive all thy kin!"

Pleased was the sultan, and called a slave, And a hundred crowns to the wiseman gave.

But the courtiers they nod, with grave, sly winks, And each one whispers what each one thinks—

"With an iron rod and a wooden block, I'll give thee a lesson in the school of wit."

Quick to catch all their sly, cunning words, "So much may depend on the way things are said!"

## [Harper's Young People.

## SONORA.

So much has been said about the State of Sonora in Mexico that we may be pardoned for publishing the following account of it taken from the St. Louis "Globe Democrat." The famous old "De Bow's Review" has been revived, and we have before us the first number of the new series. In it is the first translation from Spanish into English of a work upon the geography and statistics of Sonora, published four years ago in the City of Mexico. The origin of the first inhabitants is lost in the obscurity of ages, and the richest and most prolific imagination loses itself in the confusion of conjectures, more or less well founded, regarding the condition of the numerous and diverse tribes, which formerly inhabited this soil so invaded by the hand of the Conqueror. This portion of the Mexican territory was discovered by a subject of Spain in 1530. Upon his report an expedition to explore the country was fitted out, at an expense of over \$650,000, but it was unsuccessful. Between the date of this failure and 1596, four other attempts at the conquest of the country were undertaken, at an aggregate cost of \$9,240,000. Like the first invasion they resulted in failure.

During the subsequent 150 years the Jesuits, by means of missions, succeeded in converting Sonora into a theocracy, comprising 66 towns, governed by 24 missionaries. In 1824, after many internal wars and rebellions, Sonora and Sinaloa became a free and independent State, as regarded its domestic government. In 1839 these were divided and Sonora became an independent commonwealth, extending from 26 deg. 39 min. 41 sec. to 32 deg. 25 min.

north latitude, and from 9 deg. 19 min. to 15 deg. 49 min. 52 sec. longitude west of the meridian of Mexico, and bounded north by the United States.

The climate of Sonora is rather hot than temperate, although in the central and northern portions sharp winds blow and snow sometimes falls. The chief malady is small-pox, which is seldom epidemic. The prevailing winds are very pure, and there are no marshy lands or stagnant waters. The medium duration of life among the natives is from 70 to 75 years, and among those not born there it is from 60 to 65 years; but there are many cases of life much more prolonged. Wheat, maize and most of the American vegetables are produced abundantly in this soil. Of fruits there are oranges and lemons, both sweet and sour, peaches, pears, figs, pineapples, coconuts, limes, dates, bananas, and many others.

There may be counted more than a thousand indigenous plants known to the natives which contribute to the cure of the various diseases, some of which are the true antidotes against the bites of poisonous insects and reptiles. Besides many kinds of timber common to the northern latitudes, Sonora grows in abundance Brazil-wood, sandal-wood, balsam, rose, ebony, mahogany and aloe.

Cotton is raised, although not all the seed has been two years in the ground. It is liable to be destroyed by an insect which attacks the root. Rivers large and small, cross the country in every direction. In the esculent and nutritious pasture of the beautiful valleys, mules, cattle, swine, sheep and horses grow rapidly and increase abundantly.

Wild sheep, deer, wild boar, bear, the Mexican bull and buffalo are found in different parts of Sonora, while the otter, the water-dog, beaver, crocodile and alligator frequent one or the other of its various streams. The lion, leopard, tiger, panther and other wild beasts roam its forests. Vipers, centipedes and tarantulas are among its reptiles. Salmon, shrimp, trout and other exquisite fish abound. On its coast occurs pearl-diving, and white coral and ambergris are gathered.

The eastern portion of Sonora comprises the grand range of the Sierra Madre mountains, on whose elevated summits and sloping sides grow huge pines, nut-pines, and odiferous cedars (common and those of Lebanon), which, mingling with vigorous live-oaks and the mighty live-oak, form gigantic groups of silent spectators contemplating the grandeur of the balastic rocks the perfection of the marbles and porphyry. the extraordinary magnitude of the grains of gold, and the enormous masses of virgin silver, found almost on the surface of the earth, to compensate the toil and labor of those who seek, in occupation without degradation, the gifts which prodigal nature lavishes upon her sons.

## General Land Office Report.

WASHINGTON, November 11. The annual report of the General Land Office has been handed in to the Secretary of the Interior. It shows that during the fiscal year ended June 30th. last 6,333,333 acres of public lands were disposed of. There were 9,484,906 acres surveyed, in addition to the 34,601,336 acres previously surveyed. The total number of acres of public domain still unsurveyed is about 1,080,000,000 acres.—*Union.*

## Texas Pacific Rail Road.

On November 11th. a telegram relative to the City's railroad land reservation was forwarded to the President of the Texas Pacific Railroad by the President of the Board of City Trustees. A reply to this dispatch has just been received by mail, and at the adjourned meeting of the Board yesterday afternoon it was presented and read. The telegram and Col. Scott's letter in reply are as follows:

SAN DIEGO NOV. 11, 1879.

THOS. A. SCOTT, President Texas and Pacific Railway Company, Philadelphia, Pa.—Confide in your integrity and standing among the leading business men of our country, and upon your promise to construct a railroad to our Bay and put it in operation by July 5th., 1876, we entrusted you with a deed to nearly 10,000 acres of valuable lands within our city limits. We also expended large sums of money in the purchase of right of way and depot grounds, and in assisting you to procure Congressional aid for the said road. These expenditures, and your failure to build the road, have embarrassed our whole community and ruined many of our best business men. In your dispatch to us of December 18, 1876, you said: "If you can secure a railroad line in any better shape than I can, I should be very glad to have you take it up and adjust it with any party, or on any terms you may think best; but in taking these steps, I shall expect you to relieve me of all possible obligations." Three years having elapsed since the date of this offer, and you having done nothing in the way of construction upon this end of the line, and are not even within five hundred miles of the western boundary of the State of Texas, we are therefore compelled to ask compliance with your promise made in said dispatch, having in our city parties willing and able to construct the road on terms satisfactory to us. The deed held by you being a cloud upon the title to the lands honestly belonging to our impoverished people, we therefore respectfully ask you to re-convey them to the city, thereby saving us the expenditure of large additional sums of money in expensive litigation, and maintaining the friendship and good opinion of our citizens so generously given.

D. O. MCCARTHY,  
President Board City Trustees.  
TEXAS & PACIFIC R. R. Co.,  
Office of the President,  
Philadelphia, Nov. 25, 1879.

D. O. MCCARTHY, Esq., President of Board of City Trustees, San Diego, Cal.—"My Dear Sir,"—Your dispatch of the 11th inst. arrived during my absence West. I need hardly remind you that our Company promptly commenced the construction of its line from your city Eastward, and that a continuous and rapid completion of the road was, we had reason to hope, assured until all new railroad work was arrested by the financial crisis of 1873. Since then no effort has been spared to secure aid from the United States Government to construct the line, but our bill failed for a want of co-operation on the part of those whose active support we fully expected. We still expect that the line will be constructed. Pending further proceedings however, we have no disposition to delay your securing railway connections with any responsible party, and when such a result is assured by the completion of one hundred continuous miles of railway Eastward from your city, in a manner satisfactory to you, I will re-convey to you one half of the lands, but not so as to embarrass the location of our line, or impair our terminal facilities at your city. This suggestion is of course conditional upon a discontinuance and amicable settlement of the pending litigation. Very truly yours,

THOMAS A. SCOTT,  
Pres. Texas Pacific Ry. Co.  
—San Diego Union.

It is very magnanimous on the part of Scott to offer to re-convey one half the land donated to him by San Diego, upon the completion of one hundred miles of track, which must meanwhile be located on other land. The quasi threat that unless pending litigation is discontinued, this offer

will not be ratified, is very like Scott. Evidently he does not see his way clear to win the lawsuit.

The San Diego Court has no lobby you know.

The fact is, and has been, Scott will build when the country is sufficiently settled to assure local business. He is not a pioneer and will not build ahead of the country's development.

## Relics of the Mound Builders.

During the grading for the Chicago & St. Louis railroad, four miles up the Kankakee river from Wilmington, Illinois, a bank or mound of stiff, clayey sand, about forty feet in diameter and ten feet in height was cut into by the graders, and skeletons, pieces of pottery, and copper implements were found. The mound, which is situated near Forked creek, about a mile east of the Kankakee, is very compact, and is known generally as Smith's Indian Mound. The skeletons which have been unearthed are in a poor state of preservation, the largest and hardest bones only being found; and, by comparing their condition with that of bones found in a similar soil and latitude, whose ages have been determined, the only conclusion to be arrived at is, that these are those of the Mound Builders, and were placed in the ground over 2,000 years ago. On each side of the head of the skeletons, near where the ears were, were found pieces of copper about an inch and a half in thickness, and these, it is supposed, were used as ear-ornaments or ear-rings by the ancient owners of the skulls. They are well shaped and have a circumference greater than that of the average skull of the present day. By the length of the thigh-bones it is judged that these aborigines were five feet high, and that some of them were probably warriors, as they had skulls with the horns of the horns found, was seen in a human in Chicago.

By the side of the skeletons, rather where the skeletons were placed, to the skull was found a large kettle containing several flint arrow-heads and a copper-blade. The blade is about four inches in length and half an inch in thickness, tapering towards the edge from the center. It is now in the possession of Frank Larned, of Wilmington. As Lake Superior is the nearest point from which copper can be obtained, this metal was probably brought from the Gulf of Mexico. The vases seem to have been made of pounded shells mixed with blue clay. Some of the vases are ornamented by scroll work, nearly the same as the engravings on the outside of water-cases, and others by fancy but regular indentures. Dr. E. R. Willard has in his possession one about five inches in its greatest diameter, four inches high, and four inches through the top, with places on the sides showing where the handles had been. Most of the skeletons are found at a depth of five or six feet, lying face downward, with the head toward the northwest. Pieces of burnt red clay, varying in shape and size, and placed about eight inches apart, surround the skeletons.—*M. & S. Press.*

## A Hot Place.

On the 2,000 foot level of our San, they have been unable to get inside the face of the south drift (and in fact the account of the discovery of hot water in the drill-logs) upon the 200-foot level. The barometer will never be reached since the water burst in, but an effort is to be made to recover it. In order to overcome the difficulties at the face four mattresses are being constructed, each six feet by four, and six inches thick, and filled half with charcoal and half with saw dust. These will then be attached to poles and placed up against the face of the drift to stop the water from coming in, so that the Purleigh standard can be removed and the drill withdrawn. The heat at this point is so great that men muffle their faces with woolen shirts, and put socks on their hands, and then file in, each holding to his fellow, so that in case any one is overcome a retreat can be made, and he can be carried to the cooling station.—*Virginia Enterprise.*

Chief Engineer M. C. Murtrie, of the D. & R. G. R. R., has seven full locating parties now in the field on the Southern and Albuquerque extension. One of the latter has just found a splendid line below here where the cañon of the Rio Grande is entered on the old maximum grade and which has heretofore been a bad stumbling block to get over.—*Grant Co. Herald N. M.*

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