SALT LAKE HERALD. PAGES 9 TO 12.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 7 1888.

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CENTRAL AMERICA.

Something of Her Various Little Republics.

CLOTHES THE LADIES WEAR.

Wretchedness Indescribable—Some of the Modes of Gambling—Beauty the Rule.

CARTAGO, Costa Rico, October 14, '88.

Special Correspondence of THE HERALD.

I have received many letters, asking information on all manner of subjects concerning

THE VARIOUS REPUBLICS OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

To all such and to any other inquiring friends, permit me to say right here that there are those who are employed to answer just such questions, and who can do so far more promptly and reliably than a wandering journalist could do, however obliging she might be in intention. If one writes to the state Department at Washington, enclosing an envelope addressed and stamped for reply, he will be given the fullest and most correct information, or be put upon the right track for obtaining it; or, better still, one may write to the American consul, who resides at the capital of each foreign country, and is paid a salary on purpose to attend to such business. For instance, if one desires information on any subject pertaining to this Republic, address the envelope in this way: "El Consul Americano, San Jose, Costa Rica"—and remember that the postage is 5 cents.

DESERTED AND DULL

as Cartago usually appears, there are two days in every week (Sundays and Thursdays) when the people shake off their enchanted stupor enough to go sleepily to mass and to market. Early on Sunday all the bells prove to distraction the metal they are made of, and clamor incessantly till nigh noon. Then out of the apparently uninhabited houses issue senoras and senoritas in their graceful draperies—the patricians with lace *mantillas* thrown over their heads and the plebians with cotton *rebosas*, and glide through the half-awakened streets toward the sanctuaries; while the district militia, having dutifully attended mass and made the old cathedral echo to the ring of saluting arms in honor of the elevated Host spend the remainder of the forenoon drilling on the plaza.

Everywhere in Spanish-America it is the Sunday fashion to perform one's religious duties early, and then to assiduously devote one's self during the remainder of the day. Cock fighting, is of course, the order of the hour for most of the male population, and bull fighting, (patronized by both sexes) wherever there is a *plaza de torros*, while the most respectable people, including the government and judiciary, indulge in la lotteria, vingt-un, and other

GAMES OF CHANCE

and skill, in booths erected conviently near the churches. In the evening the garrison band performs its beat in front of the governor's casa, and all the town are out in holiday attire to enjoy the music and moonlight dancing, flirting, frisking, or whatever may be in progress.

Thursdays are even livelier, for the middle and lower classes, though less musical, owing to the absence of band and bills. It is the market day of the district, when the plaza—that indispensible adjunct of all Spanish cities—suddenly blossoming into surprising activity, presents a vivid blending of the sharp contrasts of tropical life. The Cartago plaza,—shut off on one side by the massive white towers of the Parochial church, on another by substantial, one-storied houses, with projecting roofs and iron-barred casements, and fronted by the citadel and governor's audience hall,—the whole directly overhung by the frowning volcano, Irazu, and shadowed by the clouds collected around his cloven forehead.

Every Thursday, all the streets leading into the plaza are thronged with carts and oxen, muliteers, soldiers and wandering minstrels, peddlers male and female, beggars, innumerable and

of WRETCHEDNESS INDESCRIBABLE,

mostly cripples, whose distorted bones are profitable stock in trade. The usual conglamaration of articles is offered for sale, piled up in booths or spread out in the sun.

There are rainbow-hued silks brought from across the sceas, gorgeous shawls woven in near by Guatamala, sandy *zarapes* of home manufacture, brigand-like jackets fairly bristling with superfluous buttons; there are cocoa nuts in ox-hide hampers, which bare-legged fellows have brought all the way from Materia, and queer drinking cups, made of the shells of the *calabash* fruit, (a kind of gourd) carved with surprising delicacy of touch and richness of design. At other stalls English calico may be found; also crockery and cutlery. The United States contribute little but a few plugs of Virginia tobacco. Cartago herself furnishes excellent soft hats made from pita fibre, and a good deal of gold and silver filagree work, in chains, broaches, bracelets and small trinkets, among the most beautiful of which are fairy baskets, constructed with wonderful nicety and filled with lustrous pearls from the Gulf of Nicoya.

Among the infinate variety of fruits, there are blackberries, (the first I have seen in Central America); potatoes—even more rare in most portions of the country—ready cooked and steaming, not larger than a hickory nut, yet as good as any Irishman could desire; and edible palm-tapes, which by the way, make the most fragrant and delicious of salads.

In these Catholic lands the

LADIES WEAR THEIR PLAINEST CLOTHES

to church, but their best alike to opera and market, ball, bull-fight, and promenade, their bare heads protected by the airiest of sunshades. Each is followed to market by a female servant, who carries a basket on her plump, brown arm to contain her mistress' purchases.

The country women evidently believe in "beauty unadorned," the universal garb of the *Mestizos* (of Indian and Spanish blood) being a single short scant skirt, over a very low-necked chimese. Perched behind their *sirones* of fruit and vegetables, their wedges of cheese and loaves of coarse brown sugar, or beside a double row of bottles of *guarapo* (the fermented juice of the sugar-cane, they expatiate upon the merits of their merchandise in gib Casteliano.

The young women of Costa Rica are decidedly handsome, with regular features, fine complexions, and full, round figures. The exhilirating air of the mountains tones down the carnation richness of the Spanish blood and suffuses it with a pearly hue. There are some bronzed and mottled faces, even among young girls, and not a few cases of

THE HORRIBLE GOITRE,

but beauty is the rule. The old women, however, including those on the sunny side of forty years, are extremely ugly. Why in this charming climate females become octogenarian at an age which in northern regions has only served to give color and dignity to perfect womanhood—I am at a loss to comprehend. Probably it is due as much to excessive eating and smoking, little exercise and no thinking at all, as to the fact of very early maturity.

The Cartago Campo Santo: ("Field of Saints,") must not be unvisited, for within its walls of whitewashed adobe repose several of our countrymen. Passing in at the gate, through a chapel, whose door is always surrounded by beggars and venders of lottery tickets, we find ourselves in a grim and barren interior,—for these pious folk care nothing for the mortal remains after the soul has escaped therefrom, and do not beautify the resting places of their dead. In the corridor of the chapel, in an honored place among Cartago's "dear departed" lie the bones of an Englishman named Baillie, who, quite by accident, secured himself Christian burial in a community

WHERE HERITICS ARE HATED.

Just before he died, the Alcaldi was called in to draw up his will, and according to the customary form, asked the sick man if he was a Christian. Being a devout Episcopalian, Mr. Baillie promptly responded that he was, whereupon the Alcaldi, unable to conceive of a Christian who has not a Roman Catholic wrote him down as Senor Baillie Catolico, Romano, Apostalico, Christiano." Mr. Baillie had not contemplated this and knowing nothing of it died peacefully in the Episcopal faith. His friends, understanding the great difficulty here of obtaining any kind of decent burial for so-called heritics, said nothing—and indeed, I doubt if any protest on their part would have been received, for the Alcaldi's word was sufficient evidence of Mr Baillies' orthoydox.

So he was buried under the especial direction of the priests, with all the ceremonies of the Romish Church, and, as he had hitherto been considered not of the true fold, his funeral was made one of the greatest celebration ever known in Cartago. All the people attended. The procession was headed by drums and viols, priests followed with all the crucifixes, banners and figures of Saints that had been accumulating since the foundation of the city, and at the cornor of the plaza and all the principal streets, the train halted to sing hallilujas, representing the joy in heaven over

A BRAND SNATCHED FROM THE BURNING.

But not so well fared a young American who died in Cartago during the same year. He was a brilliant, whole-souled fellow, the only son of a wealthy New Yorker, who had strayed down here in a spirit of youthful adventure, and had fallen a victim to calentura. As he was not a Catholic, the Vicar refused to bury him in consecrated ground. Dr. Bridley,—who was then the only American resident in the place, and in whose house the young man died—rode over to San Jose, and, making an especial point with the government on the treaty existing between the United States and Central America, finally attained an order from the President for the New Yorker's burial in the Campo Santo. Still the frantic Vicar acting, he said, under a higher power than that of the President—refused to admit the corpse to the cemetery.

Then a messenger was dispatched to San Jose and two companies of Federal troops ordered out to escort the body to the grave. The people gathered in scowling groups and threatened to mob the soldiers, but the poor cadoun was safely interred, and for two months his grave was guarded by bayonets. The day after the funeral the disgusted vicar, with all the emblems and images of the cathedral, attended by a large concourse of citizens, went in solemn procession to

THE "FIELD OF SAINTS,"

and redecorated the ground that had

(Concluded on Page 12.)

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