

ISLE OF MARTINIQUE

ROMANTIC BIRTHPLACE OF EMPRESS JOSEPHINE. Description and History of a French Possession in the Caribbean Sea—Its Resources, Antiquities and Its Peculiar Customs.

Martinique, brought into prominence through the West Indies being the storm center of the present war, Port de France, of which we have recently heard so much, may not be known to the majority of our readers in the Caribbean as it was when French soldiers and sailors were friendly to our cause and aided us against the English.

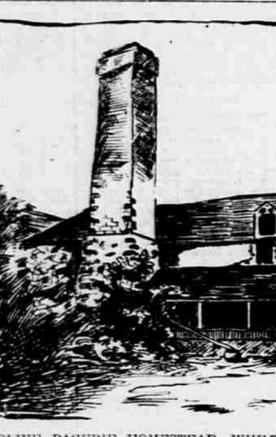


ST. PIERRE, THE COMMERCIAL METROPOLIS OF MARTINIQUE.

can alliance, as against a Gallo-Spanish one, may yet witness French and English fleets arrayed in battle against each other, and the walls of Fort Louis may again reverberate to the thunder of cannon, as in the days of a century ago.

Martinique from the time of its discovery by Columbus, in 1492, until 1635, when the French colonized it, was no different from most of the islands of the Caribbean sea during that period. Visited by buccaners and freebooters, it gradually became settled by the French, who drove the natives back into the mountains. From 1635 until 1762 it was held by the French, when it was seized by the English, who held it until the morning of the 23rd of June, 1763, when the booming of cannons announced its restoration to France, and, unwittingly, saluted the birth of the future empress of France.

For it is a singular coincidence that the life of the Empress Josephine, whose name in after years was linked with one of the greatest generals the world has ever known and who won his first spurs as an officer of artillery, should have begun at the moment when the cannons of the fortress across the bay from her home were booming out the glad tidings of the recession of Martinique to France. And not only did the sound of the guns bring joy to the hearts of Josephine's parents for their



OLIVIE PAGERIE HOMESTEAD, WHERE EMPRESS JOSEPHINE WAS BORN.

country's sake, but mainly for the reason that now indeed was their child a true daughter of France.

A Fertile Island. Martinique is about forty miles in length and from fifteen to twenty in breadth, a congeries of mountains thrust up from the ocean's depths. The island is one of the most fertile in the West Indies. Its products are the sugar cane, coffee, indigo, and vanilla. The soil is rich and the climate is healthy. The population is about 100,000, mostly French and of French descent.

Josephine's Birthplace. But it is of Josephine we think when Martinique is referred to. Her parents were descended on her father's side from the French family of Tascher, the first of which was settled on Martinique in 1725; and on her mother's from the Creole family of Anselmi, from whom their estate took its name. Josephine's father, who was a planter in the French service, but he retired at the age of 27 to live thereafter the life of a planter broken only by such struggles as are known to the pursuit of that avocation in the tropics.

The childhood of Marie-Joseph-Rose Tascher de La Pagerie—which formidable appellation was soon abbreviated to Josephine—was one calculated to enhance those physical charms for which she was always famous. The great house in which her father lived, was built on a terrace of one of the great hills overlooking Port de France. On this hillside, surrounded by all the beauties of nature, the young Josephine became the empress of a domain comprising her father's estate and all the slaves that well thence while she was yet an infant.

Two great events marked her childhood. One of these, and the most disastrous, occurred on her 3rd birthday. On the morning of that day a frightful hurricane swept over the island, completely wrecking the "kitchenhouse" of the Sannols, destroying nearly all the plantations, the slaves' houses and part of the mill.

This destruction took heavily on her father, who from that hour was a changed man. The loss he suffered was great enough to prevent his ever rebuilding the old home. The family went to dwell in the upper floors of the sugar house and for the remaining years of her life at home. The family went to dwell in the upper floors of the sugar house and for the remaining years of her life at home.

They furnish sets for innumerable fountains in entrancing gardens, where flowers flourish by millions and are all the life with song. They are turned on every morning at daybreak, and just as the dawns there issue forth from thousands of houses processions of soap carriers, who dump the contents of their tubs into the swiftly flowing brooks, and later on wash breakable dishes, also the babies, in the same turbid current. Sometimes a dish is carried away, again a baby slips from its nurse's grip, and is swept swiftly downward, amid great confusion and outcry from the passers-by. If either is recovered it is generally in a damaged condition, and not immediately presentable.

Picturesque Costumes. Perhaps there is no spot in the West Indies where the costumes of the people are so picturesque—that is, of the "common classes"—particularly the women, and the ostentatious of the latter sex. They delight in color, "blathers" of it—to use a painter's slang—and are of a "painted" color that "plain old color" are good enough for them, so they riot in it, and wear gar-

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The Prophecy. The second great event of her childhood was in her 10th year when the Caribbean Prophetess foretold so accurately what was to befall her. At that age she was almost arrived at woman's stature, very tall, but with an admirable figure, for which she was always noted throughout her life.

She was particularly fond at that time of taking long rambles through the woods with her faithful nurse Adee; and it was on one of these that she was invited to a stranger's expense, which is very curious to the stranger.

A mile or so from the city is the Jardin des Plantes, the once beautiful and valuable garden of acclimatization, with its rows of palms, its islets floating in the lake, its natural rock basin overtopped by tree ferns and plantains.

The alluvial here have witnessed many a (French) duel, as the perforated tree trunks attest, some of the bullets having gone as far as the French, who held it until the morning of the 23rd of June, 1763, when the booming of cannons announced its restoration to France, and, unwittingly, saluted the birth of the future empress of France.

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The capital of Martinique, Port de France, is reached from St. Pierre by a short coast voyage in a small steamer, and all the way a one has glimpses of the gloomy Morne Pelée, 4,300 feet high, its summit usually wreathed in clouds. Unlike the island of St. Pierre, formerly, in imperial times, known as Port Royal, lies sheltered in a deep bay, near the en-

trance to which stands the vast fortress of Saint Louis, built in the last century. An inscription telling you that her birthplace was on the hillside, the first of which was settled on Martinique in 1725; and on her mother's from the Creole family of Anselmi, from whom their estate took its name.

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FIESTA IN OLD MEXICO

NOTES MADE BY AN AMERICAN IN A MEXICAN VILLAGE.

How the People Observed the Birthday of the Patron Saint of Their Church—Their Games, Amusements and Pleasures.

In Mexico these holidays are always held on the birthday of the patron saint of the church of the village. The one we attended was the Fiesta of San Xavier. Early in the morning the people attended mass, then followed the padre to the grounds where the festival was being held.

It was a very pretty sight, the morning sunbeams touching the faces of the laughing, zany dressed people, wending their way behind the priest, in his full church vestments, followed by the acolytes carrying the holy water, with which the ground was to be blessed; this, the religious part of the festival, being finished, the greater part adjourned to their homes for breakfast.

About 10 o'clock we again returned to the grounds. By this time the place was pretty well filled; many of the people were from the country and adjoining towns. Hearing a tum, a-dum-dum, we, following a group of Indians and found the noise came from a rawhide drum of immense size, the sound produced by it being beaten upon. From the hour we first heard it until the end of the week that tum, a-dum-dum never ceased.

A blanket was spread upon the ground and the Indians seated around it. The game was a very simple one, consisting in bangs over the forehead, and in long, stringy ends down the back, turkey feathers stuck in at the top, in some instances making stiff with grease and dirt, it was separated in locks, with scarlet flannel twisted in. By their side was the gentle breeze which blew from the north, and reached his ears, was cut even all around and parted on one side. They are always dressed in their long, coarse hair hanging in bangs over the forehead, and in long, stringy ends down the back, turkey feathers stuck in at the top, in some instances making stiff with grease and dirt, it was separated in locks, with scarlet flannel twisted in.

Apaches and Papagoes. A blanket was spread upon the ground and the Indians seated around it. The game was a very simple one, consisting in bangs over the forehead, and in long, stringy ends down the back, turkey feathers stuck in at the top, in some instances making stiff with grease and dirt, it was separated in locks, with scarlet flannel twisted in.

MARRIAGE CUSTOMS. Greek Peasants Exchange Rings—Armenian Mother Chooses Her Daughter's Husband.

Modern Greek peasants exchange a gold and silver wedding ring, and they drink wine from the same cup. But the regular ritual of the Greek church ordains that solemn betrothal precedes the actual marriage. In which are used a gold and silver wedding ring blessed by the priest, the silver ring being given to the man, the gold ring to the woman. The form of the betrothal is a marriage of convenience, and is used to indicate a common ownership of property.

An Armenian mother usually chooses her daughter's husband. After all business preliminary to the betrothal, the bridegroom's mother, accompanied by a priest and two matrons, visits the bride and her father, from which the bride and with this ring the couple are ultimately married. Among the fishing communities of the coast, the betrothal is a marriage of convenience, and is used to indicate a common ownership of property.

WOMAN CLERGYMAN. The Rev. Mrs. Cornelia Stevenson, of Philadelphia, Wears Low Necked Gowns.

From the Boston Herald. All hail to the Rev. Mrs. Cornelia Stevenson, of Philadelphia. Mrs. Stevenson is a minister, which is one reason why she should be saluted. And Mrs. Stevenson wears low-necked

trunks—the regulation evening and dinner gowns—to these festivities where the regulation evening dress is customary. Therefore she should be twice saluted. Not even all men have the courage of their convictions, and it is particularly refreshing to find a woman who has. It requires a high order of moral courage to say, "I will dress as conventionally as my sisters and wear a corset, in which her father lived, was built on a terrace of one of the great hills overlooking Port de France. On this hillside, surrounded by all the beauties of nature, the young Josephine became the empress of a domain comprising her father's estate and all the slaves that well thence while she was yet an infant."

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MISS HORACE GREELEY PERRY.

She Began As a Newswriter in St. Peter, Minn., and Now Runs a Paper.

Miss Horace Greeley Perry is young and pretty and the proprietor and editor of the St. Peter Journal, of St. Peter, Minn. She is the only woman in the state who edits a paper, and she is also the youngest member of the press in Minnesota.

She says that she has risen from the ranks, having started as a news-writer selling papers on the street. At 12 years of age she began setting type, later doing job work, until, in 1891, she took charge of the paper she now owns.

Under her able administration the Journal secured the country printing contract after a contemporary's monopoly for twenty-one years. Politically this young woman is a Democrat.

Miss Perry is intensely interested in prison reform work, and is a member of the State Prisoners' Association. She visits the famous outlaws regularly, paying them a visit each month. Cole C. Younger, editor of the Mirror, and in a late number he paid the following tribute to his friend: "The State Editorial Association may well feel proud of its noble little daughter, who has so bravely assumed the responsibility of a newspaper career, and who, we firmly believe, is destined to inscribe in letters of gold upon our country's history the honored name of Horace Greeley Perry."

IS SKILLED AS A PILOT. A Master's Certificate Issued to Mrs. M. P. Doullut, of New Orleans.

Mrs. Mary Doullut, wife of Captain M. P. Doullut, a boatbuilder of New Orleans, is opening up a new field of labor for the fair sex. She has learned the trade of a pilot, and recently passed a brilliant examination in this profession. Not satisfied with merely being a licensed pilot, Mrs. Doullut has taken the step which all fine pilots take, and applied for admission to the American Association of Master Pilots, sending in her application to Crescent City Harbor.

The regulations are strict and the qualifications for membership high, but the gallant members unanimously elected Mrs. Doullut. Captain J. B. Alkman and Captain John Bourne, veteran pilots, were appointed on the committee of examination and they gave Mrs. Doullut a high rating, both as to knowledge and bravery.

When asked how she came to take up the pilot's life, Mrs. Doullut said that she took it up because her husband loved the water and she had been with him on so many of his trips during the past fourteen years of her married life that she had grown to love the water.

Mrs. Mary Doullut. Her real companions had ceased to be the men who were making and ruling the English empire and creating its science, literature and art. Her friends were those who called on her in their shirt sleeves and smoked a pipe in her drawing room.

Five years ago she astonished even those who knew her best by marrying Sidney Webb, the socialist, who set up a model home in the East end of London, all her fortune, beauty and talent being finally and irrevocably devoted to the cause of mankind.

Two years ago the fruits of her studies appeared in the form of a monumental work on the subject of labor and wages. In it no theories were advanced, no doctrines promulgated. It contained simply the mere facts out of which doctrine and theories might be built. This year another work, "The Social Question," in which she elaborates the conclusion she has drawn from her facts, and profoundly interested students of the social question by no means accept her theories; it is universally admitted that no more masterly and enthralling presentation of the question has been made of recent years.

A FASCINATING HINDOO. He Will Return to New York to Teach Philosophy—A Social Fad.

New York women will recall pleasantly the Swami Abhedananda, who last spring taught many of them the philosophy of the Vedas. He is to return to New York, and the Swami Abhedananda is not only the most learned but the most fascinating

Hindoo who ever sought disciples on this side of the Atlantic. His personal beauty is undeniable, and the charm of his manner is recognized by men as well as women. He has great magnetic force, these natural advantages, combined with his scholarly attainments, have made him a social success in the philosophy of the Vedas which New York has ever known. The swami has been compared to Emerson in his peculiar charm for women. Add to his beauty of face his dignity and the deference and courtesy of the Orient, and one may understand why he became a social fad in America last season.

The religious order to which he belongs has existed in India for 8,000 years, and is made up of mendicant monks. Instructed in this order are called swamis, and are honored according to their learning and rank.

"Am I the first man you ever loved, Ethel?" "Yes, you are; not one of the others was a soldier."

HERBERT SPENCER'S WARD.

A Lovely Young Socialist Who Lives Voluntarily in the Slums.

The possessor of what Herbert Spencer always declared to be the most remarkable female mind he ever encountered—rich, beautiful and an admirer of London society as long as she chose to be a figure therein—has taken up her abode among the very poor of the British capital, her beauty, fortune and great attainments being irrevocably devoted to the uplifting of the lowly. The woman in question is the seventh and youngest daughter of a wealthy English manufacturer named Potter, whose wife was herself noted for her talents and accomplishments. She was a religious woman, proud and persistent student, and was for many years a particularly intimate friend of Herbert Spencer, who consulted her on many abstruse philosophical and scientific questions. Mrs. Potter was credited with her own exceedingly high order of intellect. She fed her seven daughters with the most scrupulous care, watching every meal before they were allowed to eat it, and discovered by accurate experiment how little a crust of bread and a slice of meat and health and vigor. Later they confessed that they never until they had homes of their own knew what it was not to feel the sensation of hunger. Yet they thrived upon this severe system, all seven growing up tall, handsome and strong, with alert and brilliant minds, and retaining always the same vigour.

Of all the seven, the youngest, Beatrice, was the most remarkable. She pursued her studies under the direction and with the assistance of Herbert Spencer. She was the tallest of the seven, and when she was introduced to the society of London she was one of the most beautiful women of her generation. By accident her attention was directed to the mysteries of London's poor, and one day she disappeared from the domain of fashion, putting on a working girl's costume, she went into a sweet shop and for a time shared the miseries of those condemned to earn a bare existence. Two months later she reappeared, but with a mass of facts and statistics, which she embodied in an article in one of the London papers. Her article was made the subject of debate in parliament, and resulted in the appointment of a commission, which investigated and reported the sweatshops. From that day the poor sister returned no more to the world. Her sisters had all married men

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SPAIN'S COMING MAN

HE WILL BE PRIME MINISTER IF DON CARLOS SHOULD WIN.

Personality of the Marquis of Cerralbo, the Pretender's Principal Grantee Backer and His Choice for Premier.

From the New York Herald. Senator Cortina, the representative of Don Carlos in this country, has predicted that within a brief period his suzerain will be king of Spain.

The trend of events is every day making

SENATOR CORTINA. The representative of Don Carlos in this country, has predicted that within a brief period his suzerain will be king of Spain.

A Spanish Grantee. The marquis is a Spanish grandee of the first class. His lineage is a long and illustrious one. The family of which he is now the head boasts among other famous names in the past no less a personage than the great St. Dominic, who in the thirteenth century forsook rank and riches to found the Dominican order of monks.

The marquis himself was born July 15, 1851. He studied law, but has never practiced, preferring to devote himself to the study of literature and history and to the practice of politics. He is a member of many of the learned societies of Europe and has written some historical pamphlets. His erudition, as well as his talent, has been called to the aid of the field during the Carlist risings of 1872-73. He has symmetrical features, and his family, have always been with the Legitimist cause. As already noted, he has been the active editor of the Carlist paper, the leading Carlist organ in Spain, for the past fifteen years.

In this capacity he succeeded to Senor Novedal, editor of the Siglo Futuro, the leading Carlist organ in Spain, who had made himself unpopular among the younger and more ardent adherents of Don Carlos.

Valencia, the native town of the marquis, is the capital of the province of Castellon, where the immense majority of the towns and villages only exist out of fear of the authorities and more ardent adherents of Don Carlos.

His Ancestral Palace. The marquis spends a few of the winter months at Madrid. But his favorite residence is his ancestral palace in the city of Valencia, one of the most magnificent in all Spain. Fine paintings by Rubens, Salvator Rosa, Annibal Caracci, Ribera and Guido Reni make it a place of interest to students of art. Many of them, besides the usual curiosities, such as prehistoric vases, Christian relics dating back to the first centuries of the Christian era, and Byzantine vases, sculptures and pottery from the ruins of the Incas in Peru and the Aztecs in Mexico, appeal to the antiquarian and the historian. A collection of 2,000 rare coins, many of them beautiful, and unique, makes the place memorable to the numismatist. A magnificent library contains treasures rare and valuable as those in gold and silver, in bronze, marble, porcelain and earthenware. Spanish grandees of the church, the antiquarian and the historian, appeal to the antiquarian and the historian. 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