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AZTEC HABITS SURVIVE

INDEPENDENCE AND INDOLENCE CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS.

Natives Are Still Primitive, Retaining Old Customs and Preserving Ancient Language.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

(Copyrighted, 1902, by C. M. Pepper.) CITY OF MEXICO, February 10, 1902. Its omnipresence is the most patent fact about the Indian population of Mexico. From the Texas border to the gulf of Mexico and Isthmus of Tehuantepec I have had that fact impressed upon me. In a general way it is said that of the fourteen million inhabitants, ten millions are of the aboriginal race. A Mexican authority tells me that this is only partly so and that of the Indians something like half have a mixture of other blood. Whether that is true or not it is one of the surprises to find how much of this country still is Indian. Sixteen or seventeen dialects are recognized and

It has seemed to me that the assimilation with the Latin race is not very deep. Many of the Aztec customs survive and the indithan it was two or three hundred years ago

the native population wears more clothes than then; or the bright colthe family folds himself in, or the reboso, which serves as a shawl for the women, its wearer than formerly, yet clothes clearly are not to their mind one of the essentlals of a happy existence. On many of the great ranches or haciendas fairly strict rules are enforced which secure at least the toleration of the notion that garments have something to do with dignifying man or woman, and these rules make it easier for modest Americans to poke their noses into odd places when they are seeking to

see the country and learn its customs. The peons, as the native laborers are called, in the country impress me as of a bit better class than in the cities. Their across the long strip of desert and looking in vain for jack rabbits to break the monotony of the journey, it is an agreea-Then there is the real humble Mexican life along the wayside, with the women making the tortillas or corn pancakes which form sometimes it is difficult to determine which | tain. is the man and which is the woman, because the women wear the peaked straw is a property in common, apparently.

Chief Characteristics.

I have been told that independence and indolence are the chief characteristics of this native Indian population, though the traits vary widely in the different parts of the country, as is natural enough in a land which covers an area equal to a fifth of the United States. From the standpoint of political economy their chief drawback to their own advancement is that they are contented with what they have. They ask no more. Over and over again the claim is heard that a raise in wages is no benefit to the working classes of Mexico, because this simply means that they will shorten their working days.

I am not inclined to accept this broad generalization or to believe that the economic future of Mexico does not lie in a gradual increase in the price of labor and the consequent stimulus to better living and greater capacity for consumption, though those most interested and whose judgment must be given weight insist that the contrary fact already is demonstrated. They say that with wages at 40 cents a day in silver, they can count on perhaps five days' labor out of seven, but if their pay were 50 cents in silver, they would get just four days' labor, and they give innumerable instances to prove the view they take.

It should not be understood that 40 or 50 cents is regular wages in the country, because often it is 20 cents. An American who has had a good deal to do with clearing off and developing some of the interior sections, told me that his company paid 17 cents, mostly in corn, and that it got along very well, indeed. He believed in cheap labor, because he was not selling anything

For Singers and Speakers

THE NEW REMEDY FOR CATARRH IS VERY VALUABLE.

A Grand Rapids gentleman who represents s prominent manufacturing concern and travels through central and southern Michigan relates the following regarding the new catarrh cure. He

"After suffering from catarrh of the head, throat and stomuch for several years I heard of Stuart's Catarrh Tablets quite accidentally, and like everything else I immediately bought a package, and was decidedly surprised at the immediate relief it afforded ne, and still more to find a complete cure after several weeks' use.

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on my return home from a trip I gave him a few of the tablets one Sunday morning when he had complained of hoarseness. He was delighted with tiel: effect, renewing all huskiness in a few minries and making the voice clear and strong. "As the tablets are very pleasant to the taste. I had no difficulty in persuading him to use then

"Our family physician told us they were an an tiseptic preparation of undoubted merit and that he himself had no heaftation in using and recommending Stuart's Catarrh Tablets for any form of

"I have since met many public speakers and professional singers who used them constantly. A prominent Detroit lawyer told me that Stuart's Catarih Tablets kept his throat in fine shape during the most trying weather, and that he had long since discarded the use of cheap lozenges and trockes on the advice of his physician that they centained se much tolu, potash and optum as to ret der their use a danger to health."

Stuart's Catarrh Tablets are large, pleasanttacting lozenges composed of catarrhal antiseptics, like Red Gum, Blood Root, etc., and sold by drugglats everywhere at 50 cents for full treatment. They act upon the blood and muceus membrane sad their composition and remarkable success has wos the approval of physicians, as well as thouareds of sufferers from pasal catarri, throat trou-

A little book of treatment of catarrh mailed free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

in the country, but developing certain of its resources which found a market outside. He also told me of the popularity of St.
Lunes all over the country. Lunes is simply Spanish for Monday, and as Monday follows Sunday, it is also observed, according to my informant, as a saint's day, St.
Lunes being the patron saint of rest from

Illuminating ideas regarding the native race were given me one night under the shadow of the great pyramid of Cholula. While waiting for a delayed train there the station agent, an intelligent young Mexican who had spent several years in the great haciendas, in some of which the white visitor rarely is seen, told me a little of what he had learned. Some of us had climbed the pyramid to the church, which was erected on its summit by the monks who followed in the wake of Cortez, had bargained with the lads of the town for idols, stone gods and other relics, and had secured unimpeachable evidence—the word of the venders-that they were legitimate and not the product of a civilization later than the Aztecs. We also had discussed learnedly the theory of Ignatious Donnelly that the pyramid of Cholula was the Tower of Babel and had ended by accepting the statement of Mr. Chavero, one of the most learned of Mexico's antiquarians, that probably it was erected before the Christian era by Indian tribes which came up from the south.

Furthermore, we had moralized on the memories of Cortez's massacre of the natives, had watched the lizards climbing the ancient walls and had taken in the view of mountain peaks and the corn fields and green gardens in the valley, as well as the golden tiled church domes, which still are monuments to the zeal of the early Catholic missionaries and those who came after them. Everybody does this and then turns to the tourist's guide of the railway folder for proper language in which to clothe his admiration, but since both tourist guide and rallway folder were not then at hand, the time was more profitably spent in the talk with the station master.

Native Population Still Primitive.

From him I gleaned that notwithstanding the evidences of Spanish conquest which every village in the valley offers in the form of churches, old forts and thick walled houses and plazas or parks, the native population of that section was still viduality of the native, dwelling in his primitive. It was true, he said, that there jacal, or hut, seems scarcely less marked | was a democracy of saints because the Indians have so many of them, but he if the chronicles of Mexico have been read thought that a connection could be traced between this large number of saints and their old idols instead of crediting it to their religious devotion. He explained to ored serape, blanket, which the head of | me that their marriage customs, which are not exactly in conformity with either modern civilization or modern legislation, and may be a little more capable of enveloping | described their relations to the government. They recognize the civil authority which is over them and are peaceful, but he said that the influence of their own local headmen was greater than that of the regular civil authorities. Their language is the Mexican language, which I

of natives. These Indians, gathered in silent groups at dusk, seemed to me melancholy, but the station agent said this was not quite correct. Rather they were reflective and philosophical. They had their own ideas of life and they somewhat pitied the queer faces are winning and hospitable. Coming | people who had different notions of living. They were very firm, he said, in their landholdings and in this district the small landholders were innumerable. Some of the ble sight to encounter a pleasant, kindly properties which were held tenaciously vere not worth more than a dollar. further told me that back in the country they keep the hospitable custom of hanging at the door of their cabin a basket the staple food, and the baby strapped to which has something to eat for the wayfarthe back, while the other offspring sprawl er. I hardly think they go that far, but carelessly around. The man seems to do it is true that they never deny one another his share of work in the fields, though the hospitality of what their homes con-

believe is spoken by the largest number

Another opportunity was given to learn something of the native population one hats just like their lords and master. This day in a trip to Xochimilco. Lake Xochimileo is the head of the system of natural canals thirty miles from Mexico. A fellow excursionist told me it was the best day of all for seeing the picturesque and unchanged native life. Certainly it was a revelation to find how the old civilization exists right within the shadow of Mexico

> My previous knowledge of La Viga canal. which is the outflow of the natural canals and is the drainage channel, had been confined to the factories and filth along the lower border. This day, which was an official one, for the Pan-American delegates, we took the electric cars out toward Tlalpam, stopping at the hacienda of Coapa and driving down its long poplar or willow lined avenue through an immense cornfield, to the canal landing. Here stretching to the horizon was a vista of what seemed a swamp lake, with the slim poplars or willows shooting up everywhere and the whole shut in by a circle of irregular mountain peaks, hog backs, sugar loaves, and truncated cones, with the snow-capped volcanoes dominating all.

Floating Islands.

We took the barges and canoes toward the head waters and at once were in the midst of the chinampas or floating islands. It may be that in Cortez's time the gardens really floated, but I doubt it. They are great and small patches of low land green with freshening vegetation, intersected everywhere with connecting canals and but the cheers were even more frequent for checkered by straw-thatched chozas or cabns, often half hidden by small plantain or banana groves. These floating islands are is the affection of the Indian population the market gardens of Mexico, and the for their president. It recalls that the truck barges and canoes carry the produce | Spanish blood has not dominated entirely

On this special occasion all the inhabitants were out and we saw native Indian life in a mass, and as it is rarely seen, in holiday attire. The Pan-American fleet of of Indian blood, yet the fact that he has barges was surrounded by a mosquito fleet of canoes. It seemed as though there were a thousand of them. Some were regular flat boats, hewn from a single tree trunk, with whole families aboard, and others a rude log which had been hollowed out and which had a single barefooted and peaked straw hat boatman, with his pole, as cap-

tain and crew. The banks everywhere were lined with the natives in their best, the men wearing white blouses and breeches and the women smart-colored rebosos or shawls and gay with earrings, necklaces and other ornaments. Ruddy faces and wide-open eyes followed the excursion from the shore, but the native population affoat was even more animated. Many of the larger canoes contained three and four generations of a single family, and they poled merrily along. enjoying the scene, while some of the women cooked the meals on the charcoal braziers and performed other household functions, including looking after the babies, with the frank unconsciousness of inborn innocence and independence.

Several of the canals are crooked and the passage through them was quite interesting. Finally the head waters or th springs which furnish the source of th lakes that feed the canals were reached. These are called the Eyes of St. John and are ninety to one hundred feet deep. The hillside was lined with pleased and wondering natives when we went ashore for what ordinarily is called a banquet, but which in this case was designated as a Mexican meal, because everything was native, from the guajolote or wild turkey to the chile or pepper sauce which served to season the dishes, and the pulque, which was tasted cautiously by those who wanted to learn something of Mexico's famous beverage. When we floated back at sunset our hosts apologized for the paucity of popples and other bright-colored flowers, saying it was the poorest month of the year. Yet there were enough of these to make the richest rose garden of the north in June appear 'skimpy."

On the return voyage, while not forgetting the odd and strange, I sought a little practical information. It had been indeed a revelation to discover that a Mexican Venice lay at the gate of the capital city, and that a couple of hours or even less were sufficient to reach the enchanted land. "Typical, typical," was the explanation given us of everything we saw.

In my quest for knowledge the intelli-

gence was given me that there were 10,000 of these Indian market gardeners, and that there were too many of them, because as the families multiply they will not go out and seek other lands, but keep on subdividing their property. They are very jeal-ous of parting with their holdings and the outsider is not welcomed among them. He cannot get their land. Although there are too many people to cultivate what there is of the soil, yet this market gardening gives them a very comfortable living, and they are satisfied.

Preserve Their Language.

Mr. Chavero told me that these Indians speak the language they did in Cortez's time, which is the Mexican; preserve the partment for a rural free delivery route traditions and to a degree follow the cust from Chevy Chase, Md., to the suburban traditions and to a degree follow the customs of their ancestors. Their cabins, he said, probably were a little better and they perhaps enjoy more comforts, but essentially they were the same that they have been for centuries.

Going back there were many flags waved for some unforcement obstacle—not later

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The regular quarterly dividend (No. 27) of 1% per cent on the preferred capital stock of the American Graphophone Company will be paid on FERRUARY 15, 1902, to stockholders of record February 1. By order of the directors, F. E. WINCHELL, E. D. EASTON, 22, 84 w. 48 Secretary Programment Pro ja22-8t, w&s Secretary.

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Deal in all stocks, bonds and investment securities that are listed on any regular exchange ja9-tf,16 throughout the country. Porfirio Diaz. These caused me to think of what I had noted elsewhere, how deep the Mexican people. Juarez was Indian without taint or mixture, but while this is not true of President Diaz, who, I be-

lieve, only lays claim to the fourth portion

this strain illustrates that the native race has not lost its vigor. It is very clear that this is one source of the president's strength with his people. He is not simply of the conquering race, but of that race which never was conquered completely. He understands them and they understand him. Probably their progress is not all that he would have it, yet there is progress among them. That itself is justification for the enlightened policy which respects the customs and traditions of centuries and does not seek to make over native races in a single generaion. To plan broadly and wait patiently for results is a rare trait of the soldier in civil affairs. Where the quality exists it marks the soldier statesman. It has made the sway of President Diaz pre-eminently an era of constructive statesmanship. The masses are being uplifted slowly, so slowly that the passing visitor sees nothing of the movement. But the uplift is going on

the more careful observer. CHARLES M. PEPPER. RIOTING IN TRIESTE, AUSTRIA

and some signs of it may be discerned by

Strikers Defy the Police and Are Shot A dispatch from Trieste, Austria, yesterday says: This city is practically in the hands of rlotous strikers. All the factories are closed and the few stores which opened for business were compelled to close owing to the mobs which paraded the streets.

Traffic on the street railroads was suspended. The headquarters of the Australian Lloyds Steamship Company, whose firemen were the first to strike, were protected by a strong force of police, who repeatedly charged and attempted to drive back the rioters. The military have occupied the public squares and other points of vantage. The mobs frequently stoned the police and some shots were fired.

A meeting held this afternoon in the Piazza Grande was followed by a street fight, during which the troops fired a volley into the mob, six of whom were killed and twenty severely wounded. The meeting was attended by 4,000 strikers. It was addressed by the labor leaders. who spoke in a pacific vein, but owing to the singing and hooting they could not obtain a hearing. After numerous scrimmages the constantly growing mobs of ricters attacked a company of troops in the rear with volleys of stones. A lieutenant was severely wounded and fell. His men then opened fire, with the above result. The further disposal of the rioters was accomplished by the police with drawn swords, during which many more were

Rural Free Delivery Wanted. Application has been filed with the rural tree delivery officials of the Post Office De-Going back there were many flags waved for some unforeseen obstacle-not later and many "vivas" for the Pan-Americanos, I than July 1.

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