

FLORA OF MEXICO.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SOME STRANGE VEGETABLE GROWTHS.

The "Fever Flower" Tree—The "Fever Flower" of Vera Cruz—A Quaint Concept of Floral Nature—The Deadly "Palto de Leche."

In the year 1787 there was in Mexico a Spanish botanical commission, headed by Martin Sesse; and the gentlemen of this corps received from the Indians of Toluca an unknown plant which the Indians called Macpalochicahuatl (the formable morsk being a compound word, from elements meaning "hand" and "tree").

In the sub-tropical regions of the state of Vera Cruz there is a plant known as the "fever flower," whose blossom, which is a fleshy spathe, somewhat similar in shape and size to that of the calla lily, is lined within with a hue like the cheeks of a fever-dashed patient, while at noon it is, even in the dense shade, burning hot to the touch, and toward evening it becomes thickly beaded with drops like those of a dense perspiration.

The "fever flower," so called, is another quaint concept of floral nature. It is a climber, or twiner, with large cordate leaves, not unlike those of the "morning glory," but as large as one's two hands. The flower is perhaps a foot long, and its contours are very suggestive of a delicate "Koppe" daisy.

There is a curious story current in Northern Mexico of a tree which would seem to be closely akin to the fabled yucca tree. It is described as of the size of a large apple tree, with similar foliage, and it is said that the ground around it is liberally carpeted with butterflies and other insects that are killed by its distilled venom.

The "PALTO DE LECHE" Loss mythical, and perhaps more striking are the accounts given of the palo de leche of Tierra Caliente—the hot coast lowlands. The term palo de leche means simply milky plant, and is applied from the milky character of the sap exuded from the plants of this genus.

The principal use among these people, however, is as a deadly poison, which causes, according to the way it is prepared and administered, death or insanity. It is popularly supposed that the madness of the ill-fated Empress Carlota was caused by palo de leche. Mexicans often deny this statement, but they are not far from the truth.

It is strongly ascertained that the Indians can prepare the poison as to regulate the period of time in which it will prove fatal. Foreign chemists with whom I have talked scold at this idea, but it does not seem so utterly improbable, in view of the exactness with which can be determined the operation of various gases and microbes.

Strength of the Army. Surgeon General Moore, in his annual report, says that the mean strength of the army for the past year, including officers, was 21,851; of which 21,600 were white and 251 were colored. There were 514 deaths and 743 disabilities for disability during the year.—Frank Leslie's.

If we would have powerful minds we must think; if powerful muscles, we must labor; if sound lungs, we must take Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup. For cuts, bruises, sprains, burns, scalds, frost-bites, and chilblains nothing equals Salvation Oil. It annihilates pain. 25cts. a bottle.

THE RUSSIAN ARTIST.

VERESTCHAGIN AMID THE CARNAGE OF THE BATTLEFIELD.

Interesting Reminiscences of an Eye Witness—A Look Upon Pleyna—Scobleff at His Toilet After an Assault—A Realistic Battle Scene.

It is many years since I first saw M. Verestchagin. It was during the Russo-Turkish war, on the battlefield of Pleyna, and the memory of my first glimpse of him is intimately connected with that of the famous Scobleff, the White general, and of J. A. MacGahan, the greatest of war correspondents. Verestchagin was in an official capacity as artistic historian of the war, and many of the pictures he exhibited were his own sketches of the battles.

"I know where the grapes grow plentifully. Let us go thither!" And I followed the genial invitation, and we rode together along the pleasant Bulgarian valleys, while yet the two opposing armies were quiet, and the day for the Russians delivered the assault had not been decided upon. Finally we came to the crest of a plateau, where the grapes grew in delicious flavor, and the big maize stalks hid us entirely from view.

"I will show you something you have never seen," he said, and with that he led me to a point of the plateau from whence we could look fairly down upon the little city of Pleyna, only two miles away. What was my surprise three days afterward, when accompanying the Russian headquarters staff, to find that the very place had been selected by Krudener from which to direct the conflict. It was MacGahan who had told him where the grapes were of delicious quality, and where the best view of the city of Pleyna and the whole battlefield could be had.

It was a brilliant group of officers who formed a semi-circle round the commander-in-chief that day and watched the battle from 11 o'clock in the morning till late in the afternoon, and then began to retire, followed by the vast army that had been repulsed all along the line, except on the right flank, where Scobleff had held his ground, and continued to hold in spite of the commands sent to him. In the group collected in front of Pleyna that day were two brothers of Verestchagin, the one a captain of Cossacks, Alexander; the other, Sergius, a staff officer, both of whom were some. Alexander accompanied Scobleff to his position, and while riding with him was wounded, and had then to be sent back to Bucharest. Sergius met, unfortunately, a terrible end, slain by the Turkish Circassians. It is a delight to read Alexander's recollections during that campaign, to follow him with Scobleff and to read his curious stories.

On the morning after Krudener's defeat, while Scobleff still held two redoubts on the Green mountain, MacGahan was up early and ready to go and look for the White general. It was a long search for him, and it was not till nearly 4 in the afternoon that we got near him, and then he was too busy in directing the retreat to be approached. We waited until nearly 6, when Scobleff had his ground, and continued to hold in spite of the commands sent to him, thousands of wounded borne on stretchers or assisted along by their companions. Near by, seated on a bank, was a handsome, brown bearded man, sketching the scene.

"Look!" said MacGahan, "there is Verestchagin." The visitors to the exhibition will see the painting for which the celebrated artist was there making his sketches, will see the handsome general of whom Colonel Messemmer reminds you somewhat in appearance—as he appeared dashing hither and thither on his white horse, keeping his beaten forces in order. Then we lost Scobleff's agent, and it took us an hour after darkness had spread all round before we discovered him again, and about his tent was pointed out to us, planted in a small ravine, guarded by a few companies of his Cossacks.

The scene inside Scobleff's tent was a curious and interesting one. The famous general groaned warmly in fluent English, his language interspersed with a goodly number of thoroughly Anglo-Saxon swear words. "The dash, dash, dash, dash; if I had had only done all round what my men have done you poor fellows in Pleyna to-night. They are a poor lot, but they are 5,000 of them at the least sacrificed to incapacity!" And the tears streamed down his cheeks.

It was a strange scene. Not an hour before he had been directing the retreat of his army, and there he was in his tent, standing before a mirror combing his toilet. He had taken a bath, his valet had brought him a complete change of linen, which he had donned. We watched him carefully brush his flowing beard, and then he picked up his manicure set and began polishing his long, suggestive nails, of which he was extremely proud. Four hours before he had been in the last redoubt and had his horse shot under him, and there he was, not three miles away from the battlefield, as calmly attending to his personal appearance as if he were about to attend a banquet or a public ball.

They Raised Too Much Cotton.

There is less corn in this community now than ever before known at this season of the year. Not twenty-five bushels have been sold at this place this fall, and not a store in our town has a single bushel for sale.

None is brought here from the surrounding country simply because none, or at least very little, was made this year. There are probably not a dozen farmers in this township who will have any corn for sale this winter. The meal that is now being sold here is brought from Richmond and other cities. How some of our people will struggle through this winter is a mystery. There will certainly be much suffering.—Chatham Record.

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300 acres of land on both sides of the railroad, 4 miles from Rockingham. Price \$1 per acre. 9 acres of land inside the incorporation of the town of Rockingham, with two dwellings and a good barn. Land in a high state of cultivation. Will be sold cheap. 50 ACRES in Laurel Hill township, adjoining the lands of Mrs. Whitfield McIntosh and Mrs. Milton McIntosh. One third of land in cultivation.

Condensed Time Table.

To Take Effect Monday, June 11, 1893.

Table with columns for Trains Moving North and South, listing destinations, times, and passenger/freight status.

Factory Branch.

Table with columns for destinations, times, and passenger/freight status for the Factory Branch.

W. E. KYLE, General Passenger Agent.

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Administrator's Notice.

THE undersigned having qualified as Administrator of the estate of Caroline C. Covington, dec'd. before the Clerk of the Superior Court of Richmond county, hereby notifies all persons holding claims against said estate to present them to him, duly authenticated, for payment on or before the 1st November, 1893, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will make immediate payment to him.

J. A. COVINGTON, Adm'r of Caroline C. Covington, dec'd. Oct. 22, 1888.

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