

# MEXICAN INDIANS.

Statesmen, Soldiers, Jurists and Poets in the L'st.

Life Among the Peons Who Work in the Haciendas and Ranches.

A City of Mexico letter to the Chicago Herald mentions some of Mexico's civilized Indians who have achieved distinction. Among them are the late patriot, President Juarez; the present President, General Diaz; the Indian judge, Altamirano, who is also a poet and historian; Ramirez, an Indian scientist, and others. Continuing, the correspondent says:

I might mention a score of "learned" Indians who would be an honor to any country. For the present I desire only to refer to "the short and simple annals of the poor;" to the obscure mountaineers and peons, because the characters of these lowly people are rarely known or studied by tourists, or else when not described as "stupid brutes," are depicted as "savages."

I admit that great numbers of the "Populacho" or lower class of Indians in the large cities are idle, lazy, dissipated and worthless, but the wonder is that centuries of Spanish oppression did not brutalize them still more. These people, however, are very different from the peons, who perform all the labor of the haciendas and ranches and work on the railroads. Throughout the rural districts the Indians are sober, industrious and extremely honest. In the "pueblos" or tribal settlements there are some communities which are models of virtue and industry. Only twelve leagues from this capital there is a large Pueblo up in the mountains which is governed by a "Council of Twelve," formed by six aged "wise-men" and six "venerable matrons." No cure or priest is allowed there, although about two centuries ago Jesuit missionaries did manage to effect entrance and finally taught the Indians to believe in the existence of an omnipotent God, a self-sacrificing Redeemer and a "Great Mother." This belief they still retain; nevertheless their religion is partly that practiced by their Ottomanic ancestors and is also imbued with some of the milder Aztec superstitions.

In fraternal love and Christian charity these mountaineers surpass us—for example, every Saturday each able-bodied man, woman, grown boy and girl leaves his or her grounds, or usual avocations and all, under the direction of "the venerable fathers and mothers," devote that entire day to the culture of the lands belonging to the widows and young orphans, or else to laboring for the benefit of the old, sick, blind and helpless members of the community. In order to attain the dignity of "patriarch" a man must submit to "a judgment," or a review of all his past life, and will only be elected if, upon strict investigation, it is proved that during youth and early manhood he has been honest, laborious, and truthful.

A matriarch must be a respectable woman who has brought up a large family properly and has never been known to steal, or to have been addicted to lying or gossiping.

Through the Jesuits these Ottomanic Indians long ago learned the existence of a great city, which replaced Tenochtitlan, the far-famed capital of the Montezumas, and at times some ambitious youth yearns to seek fortune there; or, perchance, some father of a large family, fearing that his allotment of land will not support all, is willing to allow his eldest or second son to go out into the world. When the hour of departure has come the young would-be emigrant is accompanied to the brow of a certain hill and there the entire com-

munity take an affectionate leave of him. When his own parents have blessed him the patriarchs and matriarchs bestow their benedictions upon him, and then admonish him "to be sober, honest, industrious and truthful," and never to commit any act which would be a disgrace to his native Pueblo.

The poor, Ottomanic emigrants, being utterly ignorant of the Spanish language, usually feel very unhappy here for awhile, but they are intelligent, and in the course of time gain a foothold which they studiously maintain, for they are honest and soon inspire confidence.

Whenever these exiles from home have an opportunity to send back a message to their Pueblo their greetings to the venerable fathers and mothers are always as warm as those to their own blood kindred.

## A Man With a Glass Eye.

"Speaking of glass eyes," said an old lawyer, "brings to mind a little incident that occurred in Chicago. Among our young professional men is one whose brilliant black eyes would attract attention anywhere. He goes much into society and is quite a favorite among the ladies because of his eyes. One of these beautiful black eyes is glass, but it seems so much the counterpart of the other that not one person in a hundred would detect its artificiality. Among the members of his profession not one knows that the young man has only one good eye.

"On one occasion he escorted a young lady to the refreshment tables and entertained her with pleasant chat in a way that he thought was making a favorable impression. As they were taking ice-cream he looked up as she gave utterance to some startling exclamation, and was surprised to see her eyes fixed on him with a look of mystified intentness and horror. She was a well-bred girl, but something had so astounded her that she continued to look at him in a way that raised the question of his sanity. A fly had lit square in the centre of his brilliant black glass eye and remained there, he, of course, unconscious of its presence. The spectacle of that eye looking at her with a fly on it and the owner making no attempt to brush it off was too much for his companion. His explanation, even, was not quite satisfactory. She had believed so implicitly in those magnificent dark eyes that she has since that time regarded him as something of a fraud."—*Inter-Ocean.*

## General Emory's Boots.

Mosby, who has returned from enjoying the salary of a well paid United States Consul in China for several years, is now at San Francisco writing his war reminiscences. He was an audacious trooper and showed no mercy to his Union prisoners. Among other stories told of his audacity is one about his performances just before the battle of Winchester, when, with a dozen of his men disguised in blue overcoats, he would ride into a Union camp or picket, fire a volley and gallop off. One evening after the halt of the army for the day, just after the headquarter tents had been put up, a dozen of these reckless fellows rode at full gallop through the space enclosed by the tents of General Emory's headquarters, fired half a dozen shots, and were off before the astonished captain of the guard could order his company to take arms. The general heard the commotion and came out; and learning how narrow had been his escape from capture, he poured out the vials of his wrath upon the head of the unlucky captain. "Confusion, sir," he roared, "do you call this guarding my headquarters? Those scoundrels might have stolen my boots as easily as not." "General Emory's boots" were often referred to after that, in connection with the audacity of Mosby and his followers.

There is a better than the great man who is always speaking, and that is the great man who only speaks when he has a great word to say.

In the United States Senate, during a recent debate, Senator Vest, of Missouri, paid a high tribute to the merits of St. Jacobs Oil. Other prominent men have also found it prompt in its cure of rheumatism and neuralgia. Price, fifty cents a bottle.

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Throat troubles yield promptly to Red Star Cough Cure, as vouches for by U. S. Architect Clark. Its ingredients are purely vegetable and free from opiates. 25 cents.

With every exertion the best of men can do but a moderate amount of good; but it seems in the power of the most contemptible individuals to do incalculable mischief.

## How to Save Money.

and we might as well say—time and pain as well, in our advice to good housekeepers and ladies generally. The great need is a safe, reliable, convenient for the relief and prompt cure of the ailments peculiar to women—irregularity, constant pains, and all the symptoms attendant upon uterine disorders—induces us to recommend strongly and unqualifiedly Dr. Pierce's "Favorite Prescription"—woman's best friend. It will save money.

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## Loss of Flesh and Strength,

with poor appetite, and perhaps slight cough in morning, or on first lying down at night, should be looked to in time. Persons afflicted with consumption are probably unconscious of their real state. Most cases commence with indigestion, leading to bad digestion and imperfect assimilation of food—hence the emaciation or wasting of the flesh. It is a form of scrofulous disease, and is curable by the use of that greatest of all blood-purifiers, anti-bilious and invigorating compounds, known as Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery."

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