

THE OBSERVER

BRUCE DENNIS, Editor and Owner

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ILLITERACY AND REVOLUTION.

According to a bulletin of the bureau of education, department of the interior, notwithstanding the troubled conditions in Mexico, 167 government schools for the native population have been organized in the various states. The information is secured from a statement on Latin-American republics in the annual report of the commissioner of education. The lack of education of the peons or non-taxpaying native born Mexicans and Indians, has made possible the fostering of one revolution after another and the constant turbulent state of affairs in the Mexican republic. All of them have a grievance and this grievance is due to the advantage that has been taken of them by the more enlightened though less principled land holders who subject the peons to a sort of slavery that is no less vicious because the natives enter voluntarily into it, for once enmeshed there is no hope for them but revolution.

The education of these people would bring about a peaceful revolution that would lift them out of their bondage and the foreigners who have studied and are studying Mexican conditions are coming more and more to the conclusion that this is the only solution. 2 But at the present time the Mexicans are a class of people with whom it is next to impossible to deal argumentatively because they are naturally suspicious of any one or any set of people who interferes with the regular order of their lives, and their illiteracy makes reasoning with them out of the question. The only freedom that they know is that provided when the yare given arms and ammunition and are permitted to roam the country and plunder and destroy.

The extension of the government schools, under whatever administration, whether that of Huerta or his successor, will help them to a better understanding of life, the ability to reason and eventually the ability to set themselves free of bondage, but the process will be slow because it will be obstructed by the land-holders who see in it the approach of the end of their potentialities.

A new variety of dahlia has been named after Postmaster-General Bureson. Sulzer wants a brand of rose-mary named after him.

A New York man choked to death on roast beef the other day. Millionaire? Sure.

YOU CAN CURE THAT BACKACHE.

Pain along the back, dizziness, headache and general languor. Get a package of Mother Gray's AROMATIC-LEAF, the pleasant-tasting herb cure for all kidney, bladder and urinary troubles. When you feel all run down, tired, weak and without energy use this remarkable combination of nature's herbs and roots. As a tonic it is unrivaled. Mother Gray's Aromatic-Leaf is sold by Druggists or sent by mail for 50 cts. Sample sent FREE. Address, The Mother Gray Co., Le Roy, N. Y.

An eminent minister says profanity is on the decline. He probably don't own a second-hand motor car.

Suerkraut is now \$17 a ton in Chicago, but \$17 worth of it ought to last the ordinary man a lifetime.

MURDERED BY A MOTIL.

A Curious Case and the Evidence Upon Which It Was Decided.

In olden times it was not rare for animals to be accused and convicted of various offenses and given judicial trials, but there is a more recent case recorded, in which a moth was proved to have been a murderer. It was the case of the Princess Caravella, at Naples. After giving a dinner party she proceeded to her room to snatch a few minutes of rest. In order to refresh herself for a dance.

She was discovered lying dead on her bed, with a pistol wound in her heart. Her husband, Prince Caravella, had been noted for his jealous disposition, and as it was certain that no stranger could possibly have been in the princess' room suspicion pointed to him, and he was arrested.

The pistol was found lying near the murdered woman, which in itself was favorable to the prince, for no murderer, unless he courted detection, would thus leave the weapon to be discovered. In spite of this, it was probable that things would have gone hard with the accused but for the shrewdness of a Naples police officer. This man carefully examined the bed-chamber, and, lying on the floor by the bedside, he found one of those large moths that abound in Italy. A lighted candle had stood on a table by the bed, and the moth's wings bore evident marks of having been badly singed against the flame.

What was more important still, some of the powdery dust from the moth's wings was found on the trigger of the pistol, and pistol had lain in such a position that it covered the princess' heart. It was clear, argued this astute Sherlock Holmes, that the moth had burned its wings and had fallen on the table where, writhing in agonies, its wings had struck the trigger of the pistol, and the pistol had been thus fired. It was noted that the hair trigger worked with exceptional ease.

It should be remarked that these Italian moths are larger than any with which we are familiar in this country. On this evidence the prince was rightly acquitted. — Pearson's Weekly.

Hard to Decide.

Smithers—I am going to have my picture taken. A good deal depends upon the pose, don't you know. Now, what kind of a position do you think would be the best for me? Brownrig—Well, I don't know. I was going to say with your back to the camera, but then your hair is rather thin behind.—Boston Transcript.

Made It Clear.

"My second husband is no more like my first one was than day is like night." "But remember that you should never speak ill of the dead." "Oh, I had no intention of doing that. On the contrary." — Houston Post.

Never Suspected It Until Then.

"When did you find that you cared for him?" "About a quarter of a minute after I discovered that he no longer felt that life would not be worth living if he couldn't have me." — Chicago Record-Herald.

MUSIC.

Music has as little association with the other arts in respect of its contents as it has in respect to its materials. It has for its best and truest state no object of imitation, and because of this it stands isolated from all other products of the human mind. On the one hand are the things which are projected, grasped, comprehended by the intellect; on the other, an awe inspiring solitude outside the domain of reason, and therefore beyond its reason stands music, bodying forth the forms of reason.—Henry Edward Krehbiel.

THE PERFUME.

That you have once lived in my heart To remember forever I'm doomed. The vase which that perfume has held Remains always perfumed! —From the Spanish.

THE COMMON LAW.

It is our own common law which teaches us that excessive or unequal taxation is tyranny and that false economic legislation is in the end a deadly foe to labor and to that uplift of the workingman which all good citizens now so earnestly desire. In a country where the suffrage is universal the material and moral uplift of the voters is an imperative necessity, for no state can long endure the strain of an uninstructed and impoverished political majority. No statesman of this country is either wise or great if he has not the fear and respect of the common law in his heart. Show me a demagogue and I shall see a foe of the common law. That there are new economic wrongs to be adjusted in this as in every other land no thinking man denies. But these wrongs are not the product of the common law, but have come about through new agencies and in defiance of the common law.—Surrogate R. L. Fowler of New York.

BLUE.

The night has a thousand eyes And the day but one; Yet the light of the bright world dies With the dying sun.

The mind has a thousand eyes And the heart but one; Yet the light of a whole life dies When love is done. —Francis W. Bourdillon.

MAETERLINCK ON SPIRITS.

His Opinion About Those Materialized by Mediums.

Maurice Maeterlinck, writing about life after death in the Fortnightly Review, makes these remarks about the so called "spirits" that are materialized by mediums:

"It is a remarkable thing that they appear to be much more interested in events here below than in those of the world wherein they move.

"They seem, above all, jealous in establishing their identity, to prove that they still exist, that they recognize us, that they know everything, and to convince us of this they enter into the most minute and forgotten details with extraordinary precision, perspicacity and prolixity. "They are also extremely clever at unraveling the intricate family connections of the person actually questioning them, of any of the sitters, or even of a stranger entering the room. They recall this one's little infirmities, that one's mania, the eccentricities or tendencies of a third. "They have cognizance of events taking place at a distance. . . . but there comes from it all no breath, no glimmer of the hereafter, not even the something vaguely promised and vaguely waited for.

"We shall be told that the mediums are visited only by inferior spirits, incapable of tearing themselves from earthly cares and soaring toward greater and loftier ideas. It is possible, and no doubt we are wrong to believe that a spirit stripped of its body can suddenly be transformed and reach in a moment the level of our imaginings, but could they not at least inform us where they are and what they feel and what they do?"

Vindicated.

"Gentlemen of the jury," announced the attorney for the defense, "my client is accused of operating a speak-easy. I will have the defendant take the stand."

"Mr. Whistler, are you the defendant in this case?"

"Y-y-y-yes, s-s-sir."

"Will you pronounce your name for the jury?"

"T-t-t-tom-tom-tomas Wh-wh-wh-issler."

And without leaving the box the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.—Cincinnati Enquirer.



GLAD YULETIDE

Do You Realize How Near It Is?

Months before the little folks—yes and older folks too—begin planning and looking forward to the Merry Xmas time—when troubles and cares of every day life are forgotten in the joy of giving to loved ones and friends.

What Kind of Gifts Will You Give?

Will it be gifts of useless bric-a-rac and novelties to older folks and cheap toys to the little folks—or will it be sensible gifts of useful articles that will be pleasing and lasting for grown-ups and unbreakable toys for the children.

Our Line of Useful Gifts.

Was never so complete before. Every department offers many practical gift suggestions at attractive prices.

Just Received
A Beautiful Line of the Famous French American Hand Embroidered Underwear
One of these dainty Undergarments would be sure to please her
\$2.50 to \$5.00

Sole Agents for Steiff's Impt'd German Toys
Unbreakable toy animals and character dolls of every description. See them in windows and in our TOYLAND in Balcony
25c to \$8.00

What Better Gift Would You Give than a Chief Joseph Indian Blanket
Large Blankets \$5 and \$7.50. Small Blankets \$1.50 and \$2

New Line of the Popular PARISIAN IVORY NOVELTIES



Give Her a Set of GORDON FURS

Do You Comply With the BUTTER LAW?

If not, read the following law and have your Butter Wrappers nicely printed, with your name and weight of butter thereon.

CAUTION!

CHAPTER 179, SECTION 3.

"It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation to sell, offer or expose for sale, any short weight butter within the State of Oregon. All butter sold or exposed or offered for sale in rolls, prints or squares within the State of Oregon, shall be plainly marked: 'Eight ounces, full weight,' sixteen ounces, full weight,' 'twenty-four ounces full weight,' or 'thirty-two ounces, full weight', every roll, print or square sold, offered or exposed for sale shall contain the number of ounces marked thereon; and any person, firm, association or corporation violating any of the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine or not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$100.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than six months; or both such fine and imprisonment."

The Observer can furnish you with good parchment Butter Wrappers, printed according to law. We are printing for the best buttermakers in this valley, and would like to add your name to our list of satisfied customers. You can send your order by mail. Write plainly and state the size you wish.

The Evening Observer
La Grande, Oregon

La Grande National Bank
Organized in 1887.
DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY.
Capital \$100,000.00
Surplus \$130,000.00
Total Resources \$1,000,000.00
For twenty-six years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Valley.
We respectfully solicit your business.
La Grande National Bank
La Grande, Oregon