HAYTI'S REVOLUTIONS.

They Have Made the Republic a Subject of Ridicule.

The Pride and Glory of the Great Columbus Has Become a Gigantic Farce—A Degenerated Country.

Not the least interesting feature of the place is the barracks, where is quartered a portion of Hippolyte's valiant army, says a correspondent of the Providence Journal. The only attempt at uniform is a suit of blue overalls, generally in the last stage of dilapidation, and a cap, ornamented with red, yellow or blue braid, according to the fancy of the wearer. Some few have shoes or straw slippers, but the majority are barefooted. They are armed, however, with fairly good muskets and many of them carry ugly-looking knives. I saw large numbers of these "soldiers" on the plaza, or public square, some playing at dice or cards, some talking, others sleeping, and all lazy, dirty and ragged. This plaza, which was originally well laid out and which actually boasted an ancient fountain in the center, was littered with refuse, rooted up by hogs and filthy with house offal and dung. The ancient paved walks which originally traversed it were badly broken, and the loose stones were widely scattered by the hogs. Outside the town, as far as the eye can reach, extends a hilly country covered with forest. In a long tramp through this country we saw no cultivated land. And yet this land is said to be extremely fertile and to yield largely any tropical product that is planted upon it. From an examination of an outcropping ledge of rock I decided that the soil was underlaid with limestone, and such a soil is nearly always rich. But the richness of this island is wasted. For even the old plantations which were well set with coffee, oranges and cocoanuts are grown up to tropical forest and yield next to nothing. Right in the midst of a jungle of wild trees and bushes I found traces of an old orange and mango grove, indicated by the remains of straight rows in which these trees were originally planted. And with the decline and ruin of the plantation has declined everything in connection with them. Even the old carriage roads which originally traversed the island and formed a channel for conveying the produce to the ports are now only bridle paths, being completely overgrown with forest and bushes.

And this is Hayti, the Hispaniola of Columbus, the pride and glory of the great admiral! For it will be remembered that, after examining the other large islands of the West Indies, Columbus decided that this one was the richest and best. And later, when under French rule, it was one of the fairest and wealthiest spots in the civilized world. The whole republic, in fact, is a gigantic farce—and a farce, too, which may well make all enthusiastic advocates of the colored race and its possibilities pause and consider. For no nation has ever considered itself more utterly incapable of self-government than the black republic. In some eighty years of Haytian independence there have been more than ninety revolutions; the children, with a few exceptions, grow up in absolute ignorance, and with a deep, inborn hatred of the white man; the rulers are bloodthirsty tyrants, and the country has degenerated into a tropical wilderness.

GOLD FIELDS OF THE YUKON.

Plenty of the Precious Metal, But It Is Difficult to Reach.

Some destitute Alaskan miners who were recently landed in San Francisco by a United States revenue steamship brought a dismal account of the gold fields of the Yukon country. They do not dispute the claim that mineral wealth exists there, but say that a great part of it lies under impenetrable mountains of ice. Moreover, the high cost of living renders the prospects of the average miner extremely dubious. Flour sells for twelve dollars a hundred pounds and sugar twenty-five cents a pound, and other necessaries of life are proportionately as dear. For a meal of corn beef and beans in the settlements seventy-five cents is charged. Inclement weather, too, limits the mining season to three and a half months each year. "Mining in Alaska," said one of the prospectors, "is different from mining in any other region I ever heard of. In prospecting for a claim you first have to dig up from six inches to three feet of moss, and beneath that is a mass of ice of questionable depth which has to be thawed before you strike bedrock. I have seen men thaw out thirty feet of ice and then not get anything." He admitted, however, that occasionally the gold-seeker "struck it rich." "We learned before we left," he says, "that there were four men who had each taken out ten thousand dollars' worth of gold dust this summer. There are several others who will carry away five thousand dollars' worth of gold dust, but then some of those men have been prospecting all through the Yukon district for several years past without scraping up more than enough to live on. The miner who secures enough dust to pay his passage back to San Francisco is doing well."

A Giant Spear.

M. de Sarzac, who has been carrying on excavations in Chaldea with the permission of the Turkish government, recently made an interesting discovery in an ancient Assyrian royal palace. It was the colossal head of an immense lance, made of copper or bronze, fourteen centimeters wide and eighty long, with six holes to attach it to its handle. At the point of the spear-head is engraved a lion with its claws in the position of attack. Below it is an inscription which, however, gives no clew to the former owner of the weapon. Learned archæologists who have examined the lance-head are of the opinion that it was once carried by Isdubar, the Chaldean Hercules.

THE year '03 began on Sunday, and it will end on Sunday, thus giving fifty-three Sundays to the year.

UNCLE SAM makes more paper than any other country in the world. The largest paper mill is at Westbrook, Me.

IN Great Britain the annual sick rate for each inhabitant is ten days to the year; in the United States eight days.

THE PRILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.

Wells of That City Are Among the Principal Sources of Cholera.

Apropos of a dispatch from Tunis which says that out of a body of nine thousand pilgrims who visited Mecca one-half died of cholera, and that of the seven hundred Turkish soldiers sent after the pilgrims to bury the dead and help the living five hundred perished, the New York Herald gives some account of the sacred city and the sacred processions. It is estimated that the pilgrims annually number from fifty to seventy thousand. They come from all parts of the Mohammedan world, for every Moslem is bound under certain conditions to pay at least one visit to the holy city. Mecca, as is well-known, lies in the heart of a mass of rough hills, intersected by narrow valleys. Its regular population is supposed to be about fifty thousand, but the city always contains many more persons, for before the pilgrims to one festival have left those to another begin to arrive. The streets are fairly spacious, but very poorly kept. There is a good supply of pure water, brought by an underground conduit, but this is furnished freely only to townspeople, the pilgrims having to pay for it. As a result the latter patronize the wells which are supposed to be principal sources of cholera. One of these is the well of Zemzem, which is the holiest place in the city after the Kaaba, or temple. According to Mohammedan tradition this well is the source from which Hager drew water for her son Ishmael. It is now inclosed in a massive vaulted building, paved with marble. The water is eagerly drank by the pilgrims, poured over the body to give miraculous refreshment, and carried away in jars. As though the water and the city's filth were not sufficient cause for cholera, the sacrificial slaughter of thousands of animals, whose carcasses are left for the sun to act upon, complete the work of germ propagation.

The caravans approaching and leaving Mecca are picturesque sights. The members are full of faith in Allah, and proud of having attended the great festival. In the midst of the procession a guard of honor escorts the pyramidal wooden structure which, under a gorgeous canopy and borne by a camel, contained on the outward journey the sacred carpet which is left in the Kaaba, Mecca's holiest of holies. On the return journey the great casket is empty, but even then it remains an object of veneration, and a military guard of honor accompanies it.

FARMER IMMIGRANTS WANTED.

The Experiment Which an Ohio Capitalist Will Try in Nebraska.

A plan for securing farmer immigrants has just been put in operation in Nebraska by a wealthy Ohio manufacturer, and it is the understanding of the South that Gov. Northen, of Georgia, advocates a similar experiment in his state. Some time ago the Ohio man purchased 12,000 acres in Nebraska. In the center of this tract 160 acres are laid off for the village site, and in the center of this forty acres for a public park. Facing the park are the school, church or churches, public halls, stores, shops, etc. The remainder is cut up into 240 lots of about a half acre each for dwellings for the farmers, storekeepers, mechanics and others who may seek a residence in the village. After providing for the village the rest of the 12,000 acres is divided into 150 farms of about eighty acres each, with roads so laid out as to give each farmer an open highway to the village. It is proposed to sell these farms on time, giving ample time to the purchasers to pay for them, and to assist in the building of the village by helping to build the schoolhouses, churches and such other public buildings as may be desired. If this idea is carried out, there will be a village with 150 families of farmers, and perhaps fifty or more other families of storekeepers, mechanics and others, say a village of 200 families, or 1,000 people, which would make a considerable place.

Gov. Northen suggests that land owners form joint stock companies, purchase a central tract for the village, build a church, a schoolhouse, a store, have a post office established, and then let those nearest the village site either build, or if practicable move their dwellings to the village site, thus giving it a start. Then subdivide the large farms into small ones, and invite settlers to come, purchase and become residents of the village.

Waltzing Mice.

Lately the employes at the Philadelphia zoological garden have been amused by the antics of some queer little animals which are not on public exhibition. The newcomers are white and black Japanese waltzing mice, seven in number. When let out of their cages they wink at each other and step gracefully forward with a movement which some of the beholders declare is a bow. Head Keeper Manley whistles "Annie Rooney," and the mice skip away in pairs with a queer whirling motion. When he strikes up "The Bowery" they revolve so fast that nothing can be seen but little gray balls. "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-aye" causes them to "swing corners" and dance "all hands around." Once the owner ventured to play the "Dead March" while they were dancing. With a whisk of their tails the little rodents fled to their cages like a man pursued by a nightmare.

Abolishing One Curse of the Orient.

The maharajah of Mysore has decided, if possible, to put an end to marriages between children, or rather infants in his kingdom. He issued an order recently forbidding girls under eight years and boys under fourteen to marry. In the future no [illegible] aged fifty or more dare wed a girl under fourteen. The edict has aroused much opposition in Mysore, but the ruler is said to be an energetic man and capable of executing regulations which he is pleased to promulgate.

SLAVE TRADING STILL EXISTS.

One Form of It, Called "Blackbirding," Carried on by Adventurers.

It is high time that the attention of our naval officers in the Pacific was directed to the "blackbirding" raids that have lately been made upon the Gilbert Islands, says London Truth. "Blackbirding," I should perhaps explain, is the local euphemism for the form of slave trading that is carried on in the present day under the British and American flags. Some three or four raids of this kind appear to have been made upon the Gilbert islands within as many years by one American adventurer. The natives—men, women and children—are decoyed on board by specious promises of the blessed prospect open to them. They are landed on the hospitable coast of Gautemala, and there, after a few months of virtual slavery, the bulk of them speedily die—from climatic or other causes. A Vancouver newspaper states that out of the last shipload thus transported, not more than thirty per cent. were alive at the end of the year. The enterprising mariner who has carried out the previous raids was reported a few weeks ago to be fitting out a fresh expedition at San Francisco. The Gilbert islanders now enjoy the proud privilege of being British subjects, and we ought to protect them against this form of buccaneering.

Eugenie and the Artist.

It is said that Emperor Napoleon III. was desirous of bestowing the cross of the Legion of Honor upon Rosa Bonheur, the eminent artist, but hesitated, fearing the popular judgment might condemn the giving of it to a woman. Leaving home in the summer of 1865 for an excursion, he left the empress as regent. From the imperial residence at Fontainbleau it was only a short drive to By. The countersign at the gate was forced, and, unannounced, the empress entered the studio where Rosa was at work. She rose to receive her visitor, who threw her arms about her neck and kissed her. It was only a short interview. The imperial vision had departed, the rumble of the carriage and the crack of the outriders' whips were lost in the distance. Then, and not till then, did the artist discover that, as the empress had given the kiss, she had pinned upon her blouse the cross of the Legion of Honor.

IN digging a well in Carroll county, Mo., recently, a farmer claims to have found at a depth of ten feet a stream of water in which were floating numbers of white walnuts, together with leaves from the trees.

A BRIDEGROOM of Salem, Mass., was so overcome by the novelty of his position during the marriage ceremony that he fainted. The bride looked so mortified that she seemed to be meditating a severe Candle lecture for his benefit.

IN a dispute with a member of her family, Miss Emma Lindsay, of Ohio Falls, Ind., became so excited that she fell to the floor in a swoon. She has since been blind and speechless, although the quarrel occurred several weeks ago.

ACTIVE VOLCANOES.

Burning Mountains of South and Central America That Do Deadly Work.

The volcano of Abina, in Peru, which for a century and a half had been considered extinct, suddenly awoke from its long sleep the other day and began pouring forth lava, smoke and ashes in such quantities as to obscure the sun up to the date of the last report, says a Panama correspondent of the Philadelphia Press.

Together with this news comes an account of remarkably severe earthquakes in Ecuador that shook the whole Pacific slope and extended far into the interior. A series of rapid, violent shocks continued one minute and some seconds. It created the greatest terror in Guayaquil, where at every convulsion it appeared as though the pile-built structures must go over. However, no damage to speak of occurred there, but several accounts of disasters had arrived from the interior. At Canar seven families and their homes are known to have been swallowed up by the earth. One curious incident at Guayaquil was the bursting open of the doors of the penitentiary. Many convicts escaped before the demoralized guards could pull themselves together to prevent it. Then the guards fired indiscriminately on the prisoners, those fleeing from crumbling walls as well as those escaping. The city waterworks were so damaged that a water famine was imminent. This series of shocks was felt over an area of eighty thousand square miles. At almost the same time Cotopaxi and Turgurahua burst forth in such a terrible activity as has not characterized them during the last two centuries. The South American volcanoes frequently ravage their immediate neighborhood, but it is believed here is another instance that they are safety valves that render the continent habitable.

Reports of unusual volcanic activity all along the line of the continental backbone have been coming in since the beginning of the year, and those more recently to hand indicate a steadily increasing disturbance. Alarming accounts arrived last week from Mexico of the condition of Colima, which, pouring forth vast volumes of lava and a regular bombardment of rocks and ashes, had sent the people of Jalisco fleeing in terror from their houses. Only a few months ago dispatches from Chili and Peru told of fierce outbursts among the volcanoes of the southern Andes, and, later yet, of the seismic disturbance in the volcanic region of Cauca, in Colombia, by which an entire mountain ridge was swallowed up and a deep depression left, while elsewhere in that same region two rivers were buried by the side of a mountain tumbling into the valley.

HE WARMED UP.

The Bank President Lost That Chilly Feeling Very Suddenly.

A well-known contractor walked into a bank in this city the other day to cash a check for forty dollars, says the Washington Post. The paying teller looked at the check a few minutes, then counted out four hundred dollars, and handed it to the contractor, who, although he noticed the error, said not a word, but rolled up the bills and wadded them down into his pocket. This happened in the morning, and about two o'clock the same afternoon, before the officials of the bank had an opportunity to discover the error, the contractor walked into the office of the president of the bank.

"Is this bank responsible for the errors of its clerks?" he asked the president.

"If it can be proved that any of our clerks have erred," replied the president, in a very chilly manner, "we will make the correction."

"Well, nobody saw this error made but myself," continued the contractor, "and my word ought to be sufficient proof, I think."

"I am sorry, sir," said the bank president, "but we shall have to have additional proof. We require this in order to protect ourselves; that is all."

"Very well, sir," replied the contractor, rising to leave. "I am sorry I cannot furnish what you demand. The error I referred to was the payment of four hundred dollars for a check that called for only forty dollars; but, as no one saw me receive the extra three hundred and sixty dollars, I suppose you will not want to correct the mistake. Good day, sir."

"Hold on! Come back!" shouted the bank president, who by this time was very wide-awake to the abyss to which he had been led.

The matter was soon adjusted satisfactorily, and now when any person reports an error at that bank the first question asked is: "In whose favor?"

Temperature of Swiss Forests.

For twenty years the Swiss government has been making observations through its forestry stations on the temperature of the air, of the trees and the soil in the forests. These observations show that the temperature in the forests is always below the temperature outside. The temperature also varies according to the trees composing the forests. A beech forest is always cooler than a forest of larch. As to the trunks of the trees, they are always cooler than the surrounding air. Regarding the temperature of the soil, it is found that in the forest the temperature is invariably below that of the air. Outside the forest the soil is always warmer than the air in summer and colder in winter.

Brittany's Big Electric Light.

An electric light of forty million candle power almost surpasses comprehension. Yet this great mass of light is to issue from a lighthouse tower on Penmarch point on the coast of Brittany. The beam will be seen twenty-five miles before it strikes the horizon, and after that it will be reflected on the sky for a distance of thirty-eight miles further. The largest light on the coast of the United States can only be seen twenty-eight miles in clear weather.