

GARZA AS A MYTH.

The name of Garza, alleged revolutionist and bandit of Mexico, has figured in the newspapers at times as conspicuously and numerous as that of any other man in his own or our country. He has had a price upon his head for a long time, but the head presumably remains where nature placed it, for the reward has not even been claimed so far as the public are advised. Now comes the claim that all the trouble experienced on his account was groundless, as there is and has been no such person. A dispatch to the *New York World* from Panama gives the account of a traveler who recently passed through there and who shows that if Garza is not a myth he is little more than that, the name being a sort of generic one by which villagers are scared and troops kept moving about both shores of the Rio Grande.

This account says that while signifying no actual personality today, Garza is said to be a name with which bandits and evildoers of all shades conjure and succeed in attaching to themselves an importance that is ludicrous in its over-estimate. The original Garza, it is related, was a border ruffian of little consequence who was promptly scared away by the hue and cry that followed the first of his bolder escapades. Then came a dare-devil band who traded on the fictitious reputation accorded the outlaw. These were joined or followed by kindred spirits from across the border, and then ensued the long series of events for the most part most grossly exaggerated, that have given Garza a place in the history of Mexico.

Then we are coolly informed that the next chapter of this history as given out is not exactly complimentary to our American newspaper representatives beyond the border. It is in effect that when the army of reporters of northern newspapers arrived at the scenes of gory strife, armed brigandage, active rebellion, or whatever else the reportorial fancy may have conjured up to call the situation, they made the discovery to the great disappointment that there was not much out of the ordinary going on and no signs whatever of a revolution. But having gone on an errand requiring something of a sanguinary hue reported from their field of labor, it became necessary to discover a war somehow, and that in this emergency the correspondents combined forces—"pooled issues," so to speak—made common cause against the peace of Mexico and kept the border in a constant state of revolution—on paper, all of which was very wrong.

We are further interestingly advised that the news of the revolutionary movements of "Garza" in the northern Mexican provinces caused the prompt massing of troops in that section. The arrival of these troops occasioned no end of local ferment, until the inhabitants began to believe there was "something in it." When no revolutionists materialized, the natural inference was that they had fled beyond the border, and the actual flight thither of one or two bands of brigands who had no time to evade this sudden and unlooked for appear-

ance of national troops gave color to the assumption. Our government was then called upon to give an account of the "revolutionists" from the other side who had "violated our neutrality." Troops were sent out to hunt them up, and for a long time the armies of both countries were engaged in the fruitless work, and this seems to be all there is or was of the affair. According to this story, another sensational bubble thus collapses and leaves all of us who believed what we hear from Mexico for the present at least looking rather ridiculous.

THE COMING WAR.

A brochure just issued in London is entitled "The Great War of 189—," and while necessarily more or less fanciful is yet so reasonable and well based that it reads more like a real than an imaginary narration. It is described as an attempt to forecast the war which the authors believe is to take place in Europe in the immediate future, and as they are well known and recognized authorities on international affairs of a political and strategic character beyond the Atlantic and the work bears such astonishing resemblance to actuality, it is creating widespread interest and comment. The names of Rear Admiral I. Colomb of the royal navy, Colonel J. F. Maurice of the royal artillery, Captain Meade of the royal navy, and Messrs. Archibald Forbes, Charles Low and F. Scudamore are given as the collaborators, and one of them alone—that of Mr. Forbes—is all the guarantee of an interesting narration required in this part of the world.

The beginning of the disturbance leading up to general hostilities is given as the attempted assassination of Ferdinand, prince of Bulgaria, who is at the time visiting Semakoff, where the American mission is situated. It is to be remembered that this mission rendered great aid to the Bulgarians during the war between Russia and Turkey. Much irritation is caused which the press take no pains to allay, one of the papers calling on the powers to spare this century at least the general uprising threatened. It turns out that one of the would-be assassins is a revolutionary agent in the employ of Russia, who is promptly hanged, but the event is followed by great activity among Russian political agents and others, and shortly after war is declared between Serbia and Bulgaria, which is suddenly suppressed by the prompt action of Austria, whose troops cross the Save and take possession of Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. This action affords Russia a pretext for occupying the towns of Varna and Bourgas in eastern Roumelia, the Turkish government being notified that such a step is necessary, because of Austria's unneeded action, to the maintenance of peace. Russia issues a peremptory demand upon Austria for the evacuation of Belgrade, which, after some consideration, is refused, whereupon Russian forces at once appear upon the frontier of Russian Poland as though they had arisen out of the ground. German troops are immediately mobilized to protect Austria from threatened invasion, this action being in

accordance with the alliance of 1879. The narration of these events appears in the book in the form of telegraphic dispatches which are constructed with realistic skill.

The Russians proceed with the invasion by way of Lemberg and Stryj, so as to strike Austrian territory as far away from the German base of attack as possible. The forces of the latter concentrate at Thorn, on the Vistula, whither they proceed from Berlin, making their exit to the inspiring strains of "Die Welchesel Wacht." Emperor William takes command, declaring himself in a speech "the first German emperor who ever unsheathed his sword against the czar of all the Russias." Naturally enough France wakes up and the people are soon wrought to a furiously patriotic pitch. Various manifestations of hostility to resident Germans take place, and President Carnot makes a speech to the populace in which he demands of Germany that her menace to the French ally be withdrawn, also that Alsace and Lorraine be returned to France. It requires no author, diplomat or editor to tell the reader what Germany's reply to this is, and France thereupon declares war. William then chooses the French horn of the dilemma, leaving the eastern command to the king of Saxony. The German line of march is through Belgium, a secret arrangement having already been made, thus turning the Franco-German line of fortresses. William has thirteen army corps, the French sixteen, and of these latter three are sent to the Italian frontier, making the numbers about even. The first conflict occurs in the east at Alexandrovo, Russian Poland, which the Germans capture. At night the Russians make a desperate charge upon the German lines only to mase themselves against a wire fence which has been put up unseen by the Russians, and here they are mercilessly slaughtered. The attack is repulsed and 10,000 men left upon the field. Russia's losses are awful, but in the face of them all she is finally provoked into declaring war against England. Italy takes the field against France. The Turks take a hand against Russia. France declares war against England. The Germans win in Belgium but sustain a terrible defeat on French soil, being forced to retreat followed by the French who again inflict a great defeat upon them at Chaumont. England operates successfully in northern and eastern Russia and Bulgaria. Fighting is carried on in Afghanistan, and after a gory but not apparently prolonged struggle the war ends without the map of Europe having been greatly changed, the principal result accomplished being the liberation of Poland. France distrusts her northern ally and decides to withdraw from the struggle; Germany is willing to quit with the concession of Alsace-Lorraine being retained, Russia withdraws her forces from Afghanistan, and all is over. The collapse is due to the surprising weakness of Russia in actual warfare.

It is very entertaining and in places quite instructive reading. As to what degree it is prophetic each must judge for himself; but the signs of the times point to an outbreak among the powers before the century expires.