

Tortures of Mexican Penitents.

SAGUACHE, Col., April 16, 1876.—Exciting mining news from this San Juan El Dorado has been completely overshadowed this week by the most terrible and disgusting performances of the "Penitentes."

In Saguache County there is quite a numerous Mexican population, and during the last three days of Lent, in Holy Week, their penance culminates in the most atrocious acts. These "Penitentes" are never members of the community in which they do their penance.

Penitentes from the neighborhood go to other Mexican villages at a distance, and these from other plazas come here to perform their acts. They make their appearance usually in the night, heavily masked, and the members of the community wherever they present themselves never ask or care from whence they come, but receive them without a word.

These Penitentes are supposed to be people who have committed some heinous crime against the Church or State, and are sentenced by the priesthood to certain acts of self-torture.

Early in the week here it was reported in town that a man was to be crucified on the Friday following. To the south of Saguache, about fifteen miles, there is a large settlement of Mexicans, called Carneros. It sits close to the foot of the mountain range, and its inhabitants are engaged in stock herding and agriculture. In company with ex-Mayor Barker, of Denver, your correspondent left Saguache at ten a. m. to witness this strange performance. We arrived at Mr. Royal's ranch at about 1 p. m., and, after a hasty lunch, repaired to the scene which was taking place about a mile up the creek from his house, and immediately back of his ranch. We were informed by Mr. Royal that the fun had just commenced, and were in time.

Four heavy wooden crosses, about fifteen feet high, had been erected at intervals of about 800 feet, each, with one exception, bearing a Latin inscription.

On the first cross was this legend—"Nil nisi Cruci," naught but the cross. On the next, "Nisi Dominus frustra," Lest God be with you, toil is vain; and on the third, "Omnia ad Dei gloriam," All things to the glory of God. The fourth your correspondent has forgotten. There were eighteen penitents, divided up into groups of four, and six attendants in each group. Each penitent, with two exceptions, wore a black mask or sack drawn completely over the head and fastened about the neck; the other two wore red masks. Whether the difference of color in the masks represented a different degree of crime or not we failed to ascertain. The leader of each band carried something resembling a watchman's rattle. He was followed by another attendant playing a small reed flute. The other four attendants chanted in a low monotonous tone, some Spanish words that we could not understand. Aside from the mask, the penitents wore nothing but a pair of the thinnest kind of knit drawers. Each one of the group, penitents and attendants, carried an "azote," or scourge, made from the leaf of the soap-weed. It is very tough and fibrous, and was braided into clubs, about four inches wide and perhaps three feet long. The line of march was from one cross to the other, and at each cross a halt was made of about five minutes.

At every step they lashed themselves with these "azotes," until the blood fairly spirted from every pore. They took sharp pieces of flint, and lacerated the fleshy parts of the body until they were literally a mass of bleeding flesh.

Whenever one fell down from exhaustion and loss of blood, which occurred every moment or two, one of the attendants took his scourge and beat him until he got up again.

In one group a heavy log chain was fastened to each ankle of the penitent, and the attendants took hold and dragged him feet foremost over beds of cactus, or prickly pear plants, which abound in this country. Occasionally they would all give a sudden jerk together, and fairly lift him from the ground. This dragging would continue perhaps ten minutes each time. Another penitent had a cowhide cut up into strips, and would wind it as tightly as possible around his arms and legs until the circulation was completely stopped, and the flesh seemed to be bursting and black.

He remained, or was to remain in this condition twenty-four hours. Every time they reached a cabin that stood near the upper cross, an attendant came out, and with a large sponge washed them with vinegar. Occasionally the monotony was varied by a penitent taking on his back a huge cross and bearing it until he fell prostrate under its weight. This cross was about a foot thick either way, about eighteen feet long, and the arm about nine feet. On this cross was actually painted in letters of blood, "La Passion en Credo," Spanish, and signifying "Suffering by Faith."

Two Penitentes had died the night before we got there from this treatment, and one had been actually crucified. We were not permitted to go to the spot where the crucifixion took place, as, being total strangers, they feared our mission on the grounds. The only American gentleman who saw the body on the cross was a ranchman living in the immediate neighborhood. Nails had been driven through each foot, just above the ankle, and through the hands. A gentleman who was on the ground on Saturday says that three more will not recover.

Last year on this same spot, a man was crucified also, and these same atrocities perpetrated. No one dared say a word, and the whites in the vicinity are powerless to interfere, as their stock, barns and houses are at the mercy of these people.

These Penitentes believe that if they die undergoing this self-imposed torture they and all their relatives go straight to heaven. If they survive, their sins are pardoned for the remainder of their lives.

Is this religion? we may ask. * * * This is no romance. Every word of it is susceptible of proof. Mayor Barker, of Denver, with your correspondent, witnessed most of this—all but the crucifixion—and we can produce five other witnesses, good and true, who can testify to the facts—*Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

THE EMPRESS QUEEN.

Victoria's New Title Proclaimed to the People.

BY THE QUEEN—A PROCLAMATION.
VICTORIA R.

Whereas an act has been passed in the present session of Parliament, intitled 'An act to enable Her Most Gracious Majesty to make an addition to the royal style and titles appertaining to the Imperial crown of the United Kingdom and its dependencies,' which act recites that by the act for the union of Great Britain and Ireland it was provided that after such union the royal style and titles appertaining to the Imperial crown of the United Kingdom and its dependencies should be such as His Majesty by royal proclamation, under the great seal of the United Kingdom, should be pleased to appoint, and which act also recites that by virtue of the said act and of a royal proclamation under the great seal, dated the 1st day of January, 1801, our present style and titles are "Victoria, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, defender of the faith," and which act also recites that by the act for the better government of India it was enacted that the Government of India, heretofore vested in the East India Company in trust for us, should become vested in us, and that India should thenceforth be governed by us and in our name, and that it is expedient that there should be a recognition of the transfer of government so made by means of an addition to be made to our style and titles, and which act after the said recitals enacts that it shall be lawful for us, with a view to such recognition as aforesaid of the transfer of the government of India, by our royal proclamation under the great seal of the United Kingdom, to make such additions to the style and title at present appertaining to the imperial crown of the United Kingdom and its dependencies as to us may seem meet; we have thought fit, by and with the advice of our Privy Council, to appoint and declare, and we do hereby, by and with the said advice, appoint and declare that henceforth, so far as conveniently may be, on all occasions and in all instruments wherein our styles and titles are used, save and except all charters, commissions, letters patent, instruments not extending in their oper-

ation beyond the United Kingdom, the following addition shall be made to the style and titles at present appertaining to the imperial crown of the United Kingdom and its dependencies, that is to say, in the Latin tongue in these words, "Indice Imperatrix;" and in the English tongue in these words, "Empress of India."

And our will and pleasure further is that the said addition shall not be made in the commissions, charters, letters patent, grants, writs, appointments and other like instruments hereintofoe specially excepted.

And our will and pleasure further is that all gold, silver, and copper moneys now current and lawful moneys of the United Kingdom, and all gold, silver, and copper moneys which shall on and after this day be coined by our authorities with the like impressions, shall, notwithstanding such addition to our style and titles, be deemed and taken to be current and lawful moneys of the said United Kingdom; and further, that all moneys coined for and issued in any of the dependencies of the said United Kingdom, and declared by our proclamation to be current and lawful moneys of such dependencies respectively, bearing our style or titles, or any part or parts thereof, and all moneys which shall hereafter be coined and issued according to such proclamation, shall, notwithstanding such addition, continue to be lawful and current money of such dependencies, respectively until our pleasure shall be further declared thereupon.

Given at our Court at Windsor, the 28th day of April, 1876, in the thirty-ninth year of our reign.

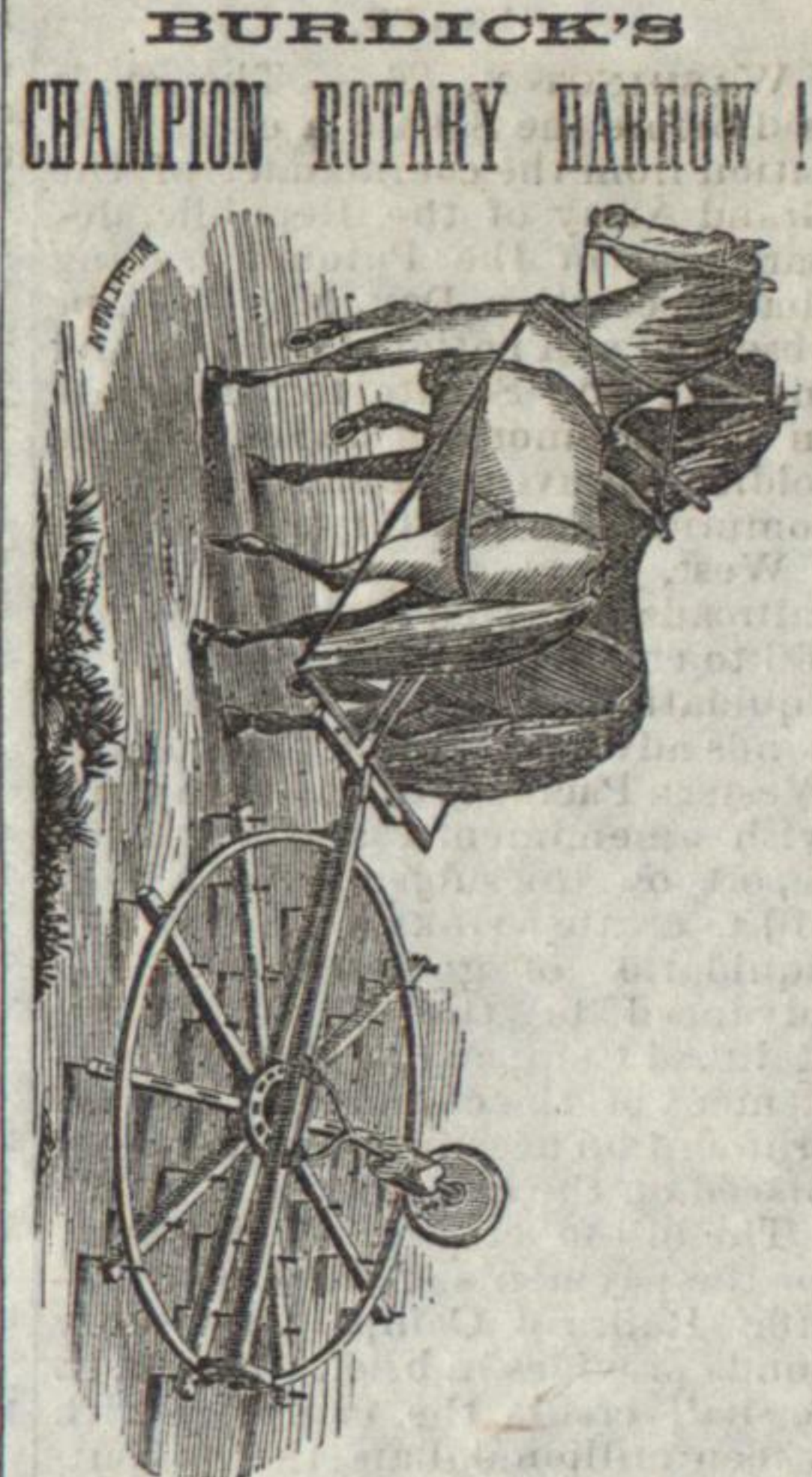
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

—London Gazette, April 28.

The Coming Crash.

The monstrous accumulation of scandals since the investigating committees have been at work is producing a temper of the public mind of which nobody can yet see the ultimate effect. Everybody perceives whither such exposures tend, but nobody can foretell with any precision when the final crash will come. During the memorable winter and spring of 1861 the busy preparations of the South occupied public attention without any apparent effect on political parties, but when the first gun was fired on Fort Sumter the effect was electric, the pent-up feelings of the North exploded with overwhelming force, and the tide of feeling swept down all obstacles. There is something similar in the terrific operations of nature. Descriptive writers tell us that an avalanche in the Alps is slowly loosened by the superincumbent weight of snow, and when at last it is ready to fall so slight a disturbance of the atmosphere as is caused by the discharge of a pistol detaches the stupendous mass and precipitates it in overwhelming ruin upon the valleys below. Political forces often operate in this sudden way. Historians trace the first French Revolution to an accumulation of causes which had been in quiet operation for the preceding half century. The sudden dethronement of Louis Phillippe is another case in point. When a vast mass of combustibles have long been accumulating and decaying everything may seem secure until a chance spark falls among them and starts a devouring conflagration. Chicago, to all appearance, seemed as secure on the afternoon preceding the great fire as at any period of its history, although two months of dry parching winds from the prairies had converted its structures and its wooden pavements into tinder, but the accidental upsetting of a lamp in a stable suddenly swept away the city in a whirlwind of flame. The republican party is becoming a similar inflammable mass which any accidental spark may kindle and consume. This recent exposure may not be "Mrs. O'Leary's cow, but the combustibles are dry and ready and from some source the fatal spark is pretty sure to come.—*New York Herald.*

A newspaper published in Bolton, England, contains the following advertisement: "Wanted, immediately, an idle, drunken, carter. The advertiser has had so many sober carters that he wants a change; but a moderately sober one would not be objected to. Inquire, etc."



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