

## Poetry.

[For the DESERET NEWS.]

## A WISH.

Let me offer a wish, as we linger here,  
Not the hackneyed phrase of a formal tongue,  
But one as fervent, as deep and sincere  
As e'er from a truthful bosom sprung.

I would not wish you a lot as still  
As a peaceful lake on a summer's eve;  
Nor your life to glide like a trickling rill,  
With naught to trouble and naught to grieve.

I do not wish you may always sip  
The cup of bliss unalloyed with pain;  
Nor that naught but nectar may touch your lip,  
To quaff and linger and quaff again.

I do not wish that your sun of life  
May always shine in a cloudless sky,  
With no winds of trouble to meet in strife,  
No rains of sorrow to rim your eye;

Nor yet, that your path may always be  
O'er velvety lawns begemmed with flowers,  
With a mind unburdened with thought, and  
free

To recline at will among rosy bowers.

'Twere foolish to wish for aught like these,  
Which All-wise Heaven would never give,—  
'Twere vain to seek in ignoble ease  
To win the prize for which true hearts live.

But I wish you strength and vigor and power,  
To combat and conquer every sin;  
That your soul may be in the darkest hour  
Illum'd by "the light divine" within.

That when troubles and trials before you lie,  
You may grapple them boldly face to face;  
And strong in a faith firm-fixed on high,  
Fling them off, and on in the heaven-ward  
race.

And still as you travel life's rugged road  
May your strength, your faith and power in-  
crease,

With a love for truth and a trust in God,—  
A love and a trust that will never cease.

May the sorrowing hear your gentle voice,  
The weary ones feel your kindly hand,  
As you bid their drooping souls rejoice,  
And point the way to a better land.

May the sun of love and the flowers of hope  
Brighten your path as you travel on,  
With a fond arm ever to bear you up,  
Till the goal is passed and happiness won.

APIS.

G. S. L. City.

## MEXICO.

## EXTENT AND POPULATION.

Mexico comprises, since the date of the American war, 797,403 square miles; we took in 1848 more than half the entire empire. Two broad ranges of mountains inclose this peninsular kingdom, with connecting links, or *sierras*, holding between them high, basin-like table lands. Eternal heat and eternal frost will at any time be encountered in crossing the diameter of the country—say from Vera Cruz to the Pacific.—The valley of the City of Mexico itself is 7,548 feet above the sea; but the mountains looking down upon it are 10,700 feet high. Mexico is divided into the *tierras calientes*, the *tierras templadas*, and the *tierras frias*; or hot, temperate and cold lands. The mass of the country consists of bleak and lonely moors, except where the streams filter through; the hot parts are adjacent to the coast.

## POLITICAL DIVISION.

Mexico at present consists of twenty-one States and three Territories. The Rio Grand, its principal river, is one thousand eight hundred miles long. The Colorado, on the west coast, emptying into the Gulf of California, is two hundred and fifty leagues.

## ETHNOLOGY.

The population consists of whites, Africans, and Indians, with the mixed breeds *Leperos* and *Rancheros*. The representative creole, or native Mexican, is voluptuous, lazy, and often vicious. He is talented, unenterprising, improvident, and proud.

"*Paciencia y barajar*." (Patience and shuffle the cards) is their common motto. They are fatalists, and do not take the bull by the horns. All who can get into them seek the army and the government; they are gamblers as a race, and their women are bad house-wives and indifferently educated. At the same time, in their revolutions, the Mexicans have shown patriotism and some courage, and personally they are both hospitable and affectionate.

The *Lepero* is the Mexican Bohemian; he has no home; his wife or *amiga*, lives on the road; he likes to drink and to sing, he spends his money before he makes it. He begs well, and has some fugitive ability, partly artistic. But he steals the best of all. The *Ranchero* is

a small farmer, and a good man to forage upon, although he is a natural soldier, and generally insists on a war after every harvest. The common field laborer is the Simon pure Indian, who plows with a stake and uses his back for a wagon. One of McCormick's reapers would exterminate this race in a year.

## RELIGION.

The people of Mexico, Indians and all, are Catholics, devotedly. There is no slavery by law in Mexico, but plenty of it by custom; the Indians are whipped over the backs. There are 143 separate tribes in Mexico, and some thirty castes.

The population is about six millions, one sixth of which are white. Only one-eighth of the whole number can read and write.

## CLIMATE AND AGRICULTURE.

There are only two seasons in Mexico. As there is not enough rain, the people depend upon irrigation, and spend much money in forcing wheels and aqueducts. The corn lands yield twenty-eight bushels for one; but in good places, eighty bushels for one. The roads are bad, owing to frequent wars, and transportation is carried on by caravans of mules. Corn sells for from one dollar to two dollars for every one hundred and fifty pounds; there is no national market to fix the price of products. Birds, blight, and fungus are the enemies of Mexican maize. In the hot districts, the banana grows bountifully. Humboldt says that an acre of wheat will supply three men, but an acre of bananas will supply fifty. Mainoc, rice, olives, grapes, capsicum, are also staple products. All our United States vegetables grow there, the tomato being prodigious, and the frizol, or brown bean, as big as a pretzel. Pulque is the common drink; we mention this for the benefit of would-be-soldiers; it is made of the aloe, and stands for our whisky. The sugar plantations of Mexico rank among the finest in the world; coffee is also cultivated—a single tree frequently producing twenty-eight pounds.

## GOLD AND SILVER MINES.

The mines of Mexico have been wrought from the earliest periods. The early Mexicans before Cortez knew how to prepare them, and mined them precisely as we do. They possessed, even then, gold, silver, lead, tin, copper and cinnabar, and used metallic currency, which we do not do at present. The mining districts are divided into eight groups, all placed on the western slope of the great Cordillera, occupying a space of twelve thousand square leagues, or one-tenth of the whole extent of the country.

Tobacco and indigo, wax and cotton, are indigenous. In 1853 there were fifty-three cotton factories in the republic, with one hundred and thirty-one thousand two hundred and eighty spindles. The water-power of the country is abundant. The vanilla bean grows wild there; jalap, cacao, cochineal and silk are in excess of the industry to get them. The semi-slave industry of Mexico has ruined it. Under wiser dispensation the fruits and products of the land would improve to a great degree.

## COMMERCE AND NAVY.

Mexico has no commerce whatever, not a merchantman, nor a navy; a Yankee skipper going there, and buying out a plantation could soon become a peer.

Under the Spanish domination, the Mexican mines produced annually twenty-three million dollars worth of silver, and three thousand five hundred pounds avertedpois of gold. The Mexicans mined better than we have done. We attempt to use excellent machinery, but it cannot be transported on the backs of mules, and most mining operations conducted by Americans have failed there.

Humboldt says that "when these superb countries enjoy perfect peace, new metallic deposits in quantities will be discovered and developed."

A single family, that of Zagoaga, derived in five months from a small mine out cropping, \$4,000,000, and one Juan Flores, a priest, in a potato patch got \$3,500,000.

The Zaacatecano-Mejicano Mining Company of Frisullo produced in 1841 \$1,025,113, at a cost of \$761,800. There were only one hundred and twenty shares in it. Almost all the rich Mexicans have been made so through their mines.

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

In 1835 our imports from Mexico amounted to \$9,490,000; exports in the same year \$9,028,000. Mexico imports linens, cotton goods, silks, woollens, millinery paper, glassware, quicksilver

and liquors. Business is carried on by fairs to a great extent.

## IMPROVEMENTS.

There are no railways in the country of consequence. A road from Vera Cruz to Mexico could be built for \$5,810,000.

## FINANCES.

Nine per cent is the government interest there of loans ordinarily. \$25,000,000 a year was the common national expenditure, before the conquest of Maximilian making a national deficit of seventeen millions a year.

## MARTIAL FOOTING.

The curse of Mexico has been a standing army; its officers are desperate actors like Wilkes Booth; almost all the battles are massacres; Indians compose the rank and file mainly. They never attack with the bayonet, and although the best horsemen in the world their lances are awkwardly and ineffectually used. Troops are raised by peremptory conscription. There is a military school at Chapultepec, but disorganized, and the officers have no education.

## CHURCH FOOTING.

There are 190 ecclesiastical establishments, 9,200 monks and nuns.

## CRIMES.

Assassinations are common in Mexico even among rulers and priests. Chain-gangs parade the streets; the prisons are filthy and murderous. The women are very pretty, and easy in their manners.

In the Mexican war, our troops, vastly outnumbered, clove the country diametrically and longitudinally, and drove out the most able Mexican of the century, Santa Anna.

Caste has been the cause of Mexico's troubles; the people have no homogeneity. The best commentary on them is that of their leading political writer:

"In Mexico there neither is nor can be a national spirit, because there is no nation."—[N. Y. World.]

[From the New York Sun.]

## CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

Washington, May 22.—The Committee on the Conduct of the War to-day adjourned *sine die*, submitting their report to the Secretary of the Senate. General Sherman's testimony was taken to-day. The first part of the evidence collected is in regard to the Army of the Potomac, concluding as follows:

Your Committee could not forbear asking the witnesses before them if the army after all these indecisive advances and retrograde movements still retained confidence in its Commanding Generals.

Various answers were returned to this inquiry; all however tending to establish the fact that much discouragement had been felt by the army at these ineffective operations, and but for the highly intelligent character of the rank and file it never would have retained its even then effective condition. General Pleasanton stated that the cavalry under his command did not retain confidence in the ability of General Meade. Gen Birney states the same about his corps, stating that while General Meade was rather liked as a man, he was not regarded as a man of resolution, or one who is willing to assume that responsibility required by the position he occupied. General Howe states that in his opinion Meade is possessed of that zeal, activity and energy necessary to carry on an offensive warfare generally; but he admits that most of the corps commanders would probably say that General Meade was eminently qualified for the command he now holds. That opinion General Howe qualifies however, by stating that so far as he has observed, the most of the principal officers of the Army of the Potomac, including the Commanding General, are governed by the same sympathies, feelings and considerations which have been infused into the army by its commander during the Peninsular campaign. General Birney says that many of the principal officers believed that General McClellan was the only General who should command this army, although there is not as much of that feeling now as formerly. Gen. Doubleday bluntly says, "There has always been a great deal of favoritism in the Army of the Potomac; no man who is an anti-slavery man can expect decent treatment in that Army as at present." Gen. Warren states after the battle of Gettysburg the army was deprived of many of its best corps commanders—Gen. Reynolds having been killed, Gens. Sickles and Hancock wounded, and Gen. Meade made commander of the Army; that

since that time the corps commanders have not been all equal to their position, and consequently the army had been less effectual in its operations.

The Committee also gave the results of their inquiries on the Red River Expedition saying in conclusion:

"Your Committee would state that while the object had in view by Gen. Halleck in urging this expedition was a military one, with the expectation, perhaps, of accomplishing some important political result by the occupation of some point in Texas, the General commanding the expedition (Banks) appears to have had in view the two objects of carrying out measures for the establishment in Texas, and of affording an egress for cotton and other products of that region of country, and many of the witnesses express an opinion, in which the Committee concur, that the attention directed to the accomplishment of those objects, exerted a most unfavorable influence upon the expedition. This expedition presents many remarkable features. It was undertaken without the direction of any one, so far as the evidence shows, the authorities at Washington did not furnish the troops which the General commanding the expedition considered necessary for the purpose, but suggested that they might be obtained as a matter of favor from Generals Grant, Sherman and Steele, and it appears from the evidence that General Sherman "loaned" for the expedition ten thousand men, for thirty days, under the command of General A. J. Smith. The only orders emanating from Washington, in relation to the expedition, as developed by the evidence, were those of the President contained in a permit he gave to Casey and Butler "to go up Red River and purchase cotton," in which he directs the officers of the army and navy to furnish such assistance as might be desirable. In the absence of all orders requiring this expedition to be undertaken, and after the refusal of the authorities at Washington to furnish the troops asked for, it was entered upon by the commanding general, as shown by the evidence, against his judgment, and in the belief that it must necessarily fail; and it was prosecuted at immense sacrifice of property, of life, and of valuable time, that after the developments of facts utterly precluded all hopes of success. It did not seek to accomplish any distinctly avowed military object, and as a military movement, it seems to have been conducted without capacity or discretion. Its only results in addition to the disgraceful military disasters that attended it, were of a commercial and political character. The commercial transactions were conducted by those who ascended Red River by authority of the President's permit, as before stated, and in part by speculators, who without any permit or other authority, so far as is shown by the evidence of the commanding General, came up on the headquarters boat of the army, bringing with them baggage and rope for the cotton they might secure. The political transactions were shown by the holding of elections in the camps of the army while engaged in the expedition, with the view of reorganizing a civil government in Louisiana. The attempt to do this was clearly a usurpation on the part of the military authorities, the execution of which was as weak and inefficient as the attempt was improper and illegal.

The report is signed by B. A. Wade, Chairman, and by Z. Chandler, Geo. W. Julian, and B. F. Soan. D. W. Gooch dissents from the views of the majority.

The Committee in their report on the Fort Fisher expedition says:

From all the testimony before them, that the determination of General Butler not to assault the fort seems to have been fully justified by all the facts and circumstances then known or afterward ascertained.

As regards the light-draft monitors, the Committee report that when it was found they were a failure they were altered—five into torpedo boats, at an expense of \$50,000 to \$60,000 each, and the other fifteen into vessels, at \$80,000 to \$100,000 each. These latter proved very serviceable, but the torpedo boats are of little utility. The Committee think it was unwise to order so many vessels built on an untried plan.

In relation to the massacre of the Cheyenne Indians, the Committee express their horrified astonishment that U. S. soldiers could commit or countenance such cruelty and barbarity. There were hostile Indians not far distant against whom Col. Chivington