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THE MEXICAN HERALD.

FRIDAY, OCT. 4th, 1895.

COFFEE AND WORK AT HIGH PRESSURE.

MEXICO need not be alarmed at the onslaught the Parisian doctors are making on the fragrant berry upon which all of us here are basing great hopes of future prosperity. For centuries the savants and the moralists have inveighed against alcoholic stimulation, with little result, for the world's annual drink bill is much bigger than its bread bill! Mankind craves a fillip to life and finds it in the various presentations of alcohol, in tea and coffee, in the betel nut, in coca leaves, etc. It is the poet in man, which, bored by the everyday and sordid side of existence, demands that the imagination be provided with a magic steed which can carry it into the domain of fancy. This is the true reason for getting drunk on rum or whiskey as with men, or on tea as with women! The doctors all agree that tea is a diabolical alkaloid about as bad as morphine in the long run, but we see the stolid English nation go on with their "five o'clocks" and morning imbibings from the sacred urn. Now the doctors are trying to scare us away from the most fragrant of beverages, that which gives wings to the spirit of the writer and poet and a glow of pleasure to the tired laboring man, We were led to these reflections by the following extract from an article in a foreign paper:

At a recent meeting in Paris of the Societe Medicale des Hopitaux, Dr. Gilles de la Tourette and other medical men of note spoke of numerous cases of "coffee-poisoning" that had come within their experience; and they urged the necessity of giving more careful attention to the symptoms of chronic *cafeisme* as these were too often confounded in diagnosis with phenomena of alcoholic poisoning It was, moreover, declared that the two forms of "intoxication" often produced effects that were nearly identical. Such language must sound unpleasantly in the ears of those total abstainers from alcohol who have persuaded themselves and others that tea and coffee are innocent beverages. As it is ordinarily used in England, coffee is no doubt harmless enough. It is the strong coffee without milk to which the French are addicted, and which is drunk before the volatile properties of the berry have had time to escape, that acts so powerfully upon the nervous system. Women, it appears, are the chief sufferers from *cafeisme*, on account of their weaker nervous organisation, and the majority of those whom it sends into the hospital are laundresses. Certain bad habits become, without any special reason, associated with certain occupations, and it is well known that coffee-drinking is the little vice—the *peche mignon*—of the Paris washerwoman. Zola, who before he wrote "L'Assommoir" evidently studied these people very closely, did not overlook the important part played by the coffee-pot in their daily life. It would seem that the work of ironing produces a craving for coffee, for even the young *repasseuse* who is just out of her apprenticeship must have a clear understanding as to the number of *petits noirs* she shall have a day before taking up the iron in the service of a fresh employer. And the employer is shrewd enough to know that nothing is lost by letting the coffee-pot circulate freely among the women. It "winds them up," and sets them working with redoubled energy.

The laundries of Paris where the *blanchisseuses de fin* are at work present a spectacle of nervous activity wonderful to witness. Wound up so to say with frequent potations of black coffee, the women gesticulate like energumens and their arms move to and fro like those of marionettes. It was to the large number of cases in the hospitals of Paris of laundresses afflicted with nervous troubles that first drew the attention of Dr. TOURETTE and other physicians to the immoderate use of coffee among this class of workers. Having been put upon this track, they were not long in coming to the conclusion that coffee was responsible for a great deal of disease that had been commonly attributed to other causes—notably to the abuse of alcohol. For instance, a form of dyspepsia arising from excessive coffee-drinking or tea-drinking—the active principle of both plants is much the same—produces phenomena hardly to be distinguished from those of alcoholic gastritis. The worst stage of coffee-poisoning is described by the French doctors as *cachexie cafeique*. But none of us, we fancy, will abandon a morning beverage which throws a glamor of happiness over the coming day, which makes the sad old world momentarily brighter, and, whether we are miner or banker, railway manager or clerk, parson or school teacher, gives us a daily pleasure, something not to be disregarded in a world where all of us are like prisoners sentenced at some undetermined day to die, and, naturally, not over-elated at the prospect. So, in cheerful morning voice, we shall continue to call for our Coffee! and so start the day with good humor in our hearts and a pleasant word for our friends of street or office.

THE Journal des Debats of Paris criticises severely the management of the campaign in Madagascar. It declares that the two great mistakes of the campaign were the arrival of the river material two months behindhand, and the employment of the Lefebvre wagons. By the first of these mistakes all sorts of unforeseen expenses were rendered necessary, and all the soldiers who arrived in Madagascar before the barges and gunboats were ready had to march with their haversacks from Mojanga to Suberbieville under a burning sun and across a most unhealthy country. This march might have been endured had not the soldiers been called upon to construct a road for the Lefebvre wagons. With the 3,000,000 francs or 4,000,000 francs spent on the vehicles 5,000 miles might have been purchased, and the expedition would have reached its destination by the first week in July. The sick are badly cared for in the hospitals where the tents used afford scarcely any protection against the great heat, and at one point there are only seven attendants for 470 invalids. A correspondent of the Temps writes that the troops were exhausted utterly by the labors of road-making, that half the Chasseurs were in the ambulances, and that of 800 sappers and miners only 120 were fit for service. General SHERMAN's dictum, that "war is all Hell", would seem to apply to the Madagascar campaign.

DON MANUEL ROMERO RUBIO.

THE country was inexpressibly shocked, yesterday morning, on hearing the news of the sudden death—not, however, unanticipated by Science—of the Hon. MANUEL ROMERO RUBIO Minister of the Interior, and father-in-law of President DIAZ. A statesman of vast acquirements, of a surprising erudition, eminently *simpatico* in the best sense of that untranslatable word, was our friend now gone into the shadow. He contributed to the progress of his beloved Mexico, and his political sagacity was constantly at the disposition of our soldier President who, as son-in-law and Chief Magistrate as well, most deeply feels his loss. The MEXICAN HERALD begs to extend its sincere condolences to the illustrious first lady of the land, Mrs. CARMEN ROMERO RUBIO DE DIAZ, in this hour of her profound affliction. The country has lost a great statesman and the family an indulgent, loving, and charming friend, father, and husband. We desire for the widow of our friend the consolation of Heaven in her sad bereavement.

JAPAN finds motive for anger against Germany in what the Tokio press calls "the needless interference" of the Kaiser, and, as for France, the Japanese journals are just exhausting their copious vocabulary to express their contempt for a country which, they aver, is "incapable of any serious achievement." For Russia, the Japanese have, oddly enough, a good word, saying that that country has interests really conflicting with their own, but the officious intermeddling of the other Powers enrages the gentle Japs *sobremanera*.

MR. DANA of the New York Sun, just back from England, says that BRET HARTE, now long time a resident of London, leads a quiet, dignified, useful existence, that he goes into society less than any other conspicuous American living there, and that he never threw over the humblest of his acquaintances for the highest or the richest. This is a pretty good certificate of character, and people will be glad to know that Mr. HARTE is still an unspoiled and genial fellow, the same old HARTE who won us all with his plain tales of the California mining camps.

THE Diario del Hogar is giving the statistics of the Inquisition in Spain, and it reckons that TORQUEMADA, that atrocious butcher—let us see if the Tiempo will sally forth in his defence—killed people off by the thousands. TORQUEMADA burned a lot of decent people, but, at the same time, he must have got rid of many cranks, and so have prevented their propagating themselves. Editor MATA is a newspaperman with whom a discussion is agreeable for he is a gentleman. However we shall not defend TORQUEMADA, not this trip!

THE Tiempo is mistaken in its criticism of our note regarding the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by Spain, but its remarks savor of the old-time style of newspaper controversy and we do not propose to enter into a fruitless discussion with a journal that forgets its manners the moment it begins one. There are times when the Tiempo, a good all-round hater, takes a shy at the United States which is big and does not note it any more than an elephant does a flea on its back.

IT must have surprised our missionary friends to see General SOSTENES ROCHA take up his editorial lance in their defence. General ROCHA is a chivalric fighter and a brave man, but we never expected to see him fomenting a Protestant propaganda. El Combate, the general's newspaper, is strongly anti-clerical, in fact it hates a priest as the Tiempo does a Yankee, which is saying a great deal. Probably because of its anticlerical inclinations, the missionaries have found an unexpected ally.

IT is very suspicious, the certificate of good behavior given the bond syndicate by the New York papers which have applauded that mysterious transaction from the beginning. According to these cuckoo journals, MORGAN and his associates only made about six per cent. So moderate! But in reality the profit was at the rate of thirteen per cent a year.

IT is rumored that a financial kindergarten will be soon established in the National Palace which Mr. CARLISLE and certain American congressmen will be invited to attend. Mr. LIMANTOUR will hardly wish to take time to teach these infants in political economy and fiscal matters, but he might turn the class over to some minor employee.

SPAIN is trying to help the silver market by coining 20,000 kilogrammes for home account and 90,000 for Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands. This is equivalent to two and three quarters million ounces, worth about $2,000,000 gold at present prices.

EL Noticioso, which is the great penny morning paper of the city, and crammed full of news, is, we hear, a profitable venture. The editors and reporters sit up all night to make a lively paper of it, and they succeed.

THERE's nothing slow about Chicago. After proclaiming the Irish Republic, it proceeded to boom the Cuban Republic. Chicago's heart beats fondly for its native land and a big advertisement.

THE Government of India has decided to raise the pay of the native troops by about two rupees a month, with a view to attracting a better class of men to the service.

EMPERORS and Kings in Europe are embracing and kissing like a lot of boarding-school girls. This means that trouble is brewing.

WELL, well, well! Who'd have thought of seeing General ROCHA and Rev. Dr. BUTLER in the same pew!

PEOPLE AND THINGS TALKED ABOUT.

"Bob" Fitzsimmons was injured in the leg recently at Atlanta Ga., by the claws of his pet lion. He doesn't agree with Gov. Morton and others regarding the delights of being lionized at Atlanta.

Sir Ernest Mason Satow, the new British Minister to Japan, is one of the best Japanese scholars among all the English-speaking peoples of the world. He was trained under Sir Harry Parkes and understands how to make himself acceptable to the Japanese. Under his diplomacy England expects to restore her former friendly relations with Japan.

Things are queerly mixed in some parts of New York, especially in the two blocks of Lafayette Place. At one end of it is the excellent statue of the Rev. Father Drumgoole, the "newsboys' Friend." Near the other end of it is the charming See House of Bishop Potter, opposite to which are the offices of an infidel paper, a Prohibitionist paper, a Socialist paper, and two papers for tailors.

Chief Justice Fuller is visibly improved in looks as a result of his vacation in Maine. He spent most of the time in Sorrento, where he met a number of old Bowdoin College friends. His face is as bronzed as a Justice's could get, and there is no trace of any tired feeling about him. In respect of his large head and small body the Chief Justice has many points of resemblance to Stephen A. Douglas.

The Miner-Donegan episode at Syracuse is said to be history repeating itself. A Philadelphia newspaper asserts that at the Bryn Mawr Hotel recently Richard Harding Davis registered for himself "and valet," and that later in the day the following inscription was found beneath Mr. Davis's chirography: "Barclay Harris Warburton and valise." The ultimate sight of the valet-valise legend promises to become as much of a historical controversy as the question of Homer's birthplace.

Denver is having a very exciting time over the methods of a poor shoemaker who deems himself inspired and a healer of men. For four days he has been treating all who call on him, and it is claimed has effected wondrous cures by the mere pressure of his hand. He declares he will continue his ministry until November 16, when he will go to Chicago. The people are wild about his powers and a line forms in front of his house as early as 6 A. M., and from then on until late in the afternoon the great crowd pushes past, hoping that the supposed virtues of the old man will heal their ills.

Sir Richard Webster, who was compelled the other day to withdraw a charge of pecuniary corruption which he made in the House of Commons, had been called to order previously for the use of language of an unparliamentary character. Thus, while speaking in debate at the time of the Pigott disclosures, Sir Richard, who was then Attorney-General, on being interrupted from the Irish benches, exclaimed vehemently, "Of course I do not expect fairness or courtesy from that quarter of the house," an expression for which Mr. Speaker Peel exacted a withdrawal and apology.

Elijah Walker, of North Carolina, is one of the oldest Confederate veterans known. He is now 101 years old and enlisted when he was 67. He fought all through the war, and was severely wounded several times having been shot in both hands, which latter wounds partly disabled him. Notwithstanding this fact, however, he has refused to accept the pension he was entitled to from the State on the ground that he "did not think it right as long as he was able to support himself." Now, however he says that he is no longer able to "make a living," and he applied for the pension for the future, but for no "back arrearages." His application has been granted.

The New York police authorities are much concerned over a letter which was received there the other day, addressed to Rev. C. H. Parkhurst. It had been sent to Switzerland and as the divine had left for home, was returned to police headquarters, as the envelope was a department envelope. When it arrived and before it was turned over to Dr. Parkhurst the officials did a little detective work in trying to fathom who the great reformer's correspondent at headquarters was. Whether they like it or not outsiders connect Dr. Parkhurst with New York's police force, and recently a letter from Vienna was received at headquarters addressed to Herr Parkhurst, Captain of Police of New York. The writer asked for some important information.

About 2,000 persons in France are marked as Anarchists and are constantly watched by the police of the various European countries, according to "Le Figaro," of whom 500 are French and 1500 are foreigners, Italy leading with 540, followed by Switzerland with 300, Germany and Russia with 240 each, Austria and Belgium with sixty each. As regards occupation, shoemakers, carpenters and day laborers of all nations furnish large proportions of the Anarchists, while the educated professions hardly appear. German tailors and printers, Swiss watchmakers and farmers, Italian clerks and bakers, and French waiters and persons without avowed business tend more to anarchy than those of other nationalities. The Russians differ from all the others in that 30 per cent. of the persons under surveillance are students, another 30 per cent. professional man and hardly 1 per cent. have occupations requiring no education.

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