

# THE AMERICAN.

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

"AMERICA FOR AMERICANS."—We hold that all good men Americans who possess allegiance to the United States without a mental reservation.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

VOLUME VIII.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1898.

NUMBER 35.

## BLOODY ROMAN CATHOLIC SPAIN.

### History Has Simply Repeated Itself In Cuba to the Disgrace of Spain.

#### Natives Gagged, Bound and Hung Up So That Their Toes Barely Touched the Ground, Then Cut Them Into Pieces With Their Swords.

In the August Forum there is a very instructive article entitled "The Re-creation of History in Our War with Spain," written by S. L. Thurlow. Following are a few extracts therefrom:

Spain has been the cruel oppressor of many peoples. History is full of her crimes. It records how Philip II. condemned three million Netherlands to death; wishing they had but one neck, that he might exterminate them all at a single blow.

It tells of the expulsion—the extermination, almost—of the Moriscos, early in the seventeenth century. Through the active instrumentality of the Holy Inquisition these people had, of course, all been "converted." Still there remained harassing doubts as to their sincerity. Among the many minor persecutions to which they were subjected, they were forbidden to indulge in their national amusements or to wear the national amusements or to wear the national dress. They were a cleanly race, and had numerous public baths. As bathing was a heathenish custom, these baths were all destroyed, as were even the baths in the private houses.

Finally, in 1602 it was resolved, by the advice of the bishops, to expel what was left of the Moorish people. As the Archbishop of Valencia put it, in a memorial to Philip III:

"All the disasters that had befallen the monarchy had been caused by the presence of these unbelievers, whom it was now necessary to root out, even as David had done to the Philistines and Saul to the Amalekites."

There was some difference of opinion as to methods. The Archbishop of Valencia, for instance, thought that children under seven years of age need not share in the general banishment, but might, without danger to the faith, be separated from their parents, and kept in Spain. But the Archbishop of Toledo was opposed to this; being unwilling, he said, "to run the risk of having the pure Spanish blood polluted by infidels." And he declared that "sooner than leave one of the unbelievers to corrupt the land, he would have the whole of them—men, women, and children—at once put to the sword."

By this edict of Philip, it is estimated that a million of the most industrious inhabitants of Spain were hunted like wild beasts from their homes, simply because the sincerity of their "conversion" was doubted.

Totally painlessly to the coast, thousands of Moriscos were murdered on the way, or died from exposure and starvation; for so steeped by a cruel and insane fanaticism were the hearts of the people of that dreadful age and country, that they could refuse to give to these helpless little as a cup of cold water. Of those who reached the coast and embarked to cross to Africa, many were butchered by the Spanish crews, who ravished the women, and threw the children into the sea; a remnant only reaching the Barbary coast.

Thus was the work begun in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella, completed. The last of the Moors was driven from the Iberian peninsula. A united church and state, another step had been taken toward the rule of Spain.

In culture these Moriscos were at that time far superior to their descendants of the present day, and were almost the only skilled artisans in Spain. As farmers, and especially as manufacturers of textile and other fabrics, they were in rivalry in Europe.



THE AMERICAN RIVER GANGES.

### Still Clamoring for the Children.

They had established numerous factories containing thousands of looms at Seville, Toledo, and other places. All these industries were wiped out at a blow, and whole districts laid waste, which to this day have never been repopulated, except by brigands. That Spain persecuted the Jews mercilessly, goes without saying. There are other alleged Christian nations, however, who have frequently vied with her in that "pious" work, even down to the present time. As for the Spanish dons themselves, but two vocations in life were possible—the army or the church. All other occupations were regarded with supreme contempt.

In the old cathedral of Granada stands the tomb of Ferdinand and Isabella. The traveller of today may read thereon an inscription, of which the following is a translation:

"To the Most Catholic Don Fernando and Dona Isabel, King and Queen of Spain, of Naples, of Sicily and Jerusalem, who conquered this Kingdom and brought it back to our faith; who conquered the Canary Islands and the Indies, who crushed heresy, expelled the Moors and Jews from these realms, and reformed religion."

In this epitaph we find the key to Spanish history, to the causes which led to the downfall of a great empire. As the ages pass, the marvel will grow that such hideous crimes should have been committed in the name of religion.

But the most awful part of Spain's record is that made up by her own historian, Las Casas, a Spanish priest, who has left a full account of the occupation of the West Indies, and especially of Cuba. This work has been but recently translated. The natives of these islands, unlike the fierce North American Indians, were a gentle and peaceful race; leading a life of Arcadian simplicity, and sustaining themselves, almost without labor, by the spontaneous products of that garden spot of the earth.

This helpless race was completely exterminated in less than thirty years, and negro slavery substituted. Thus was introduced in this free western hemisphere a false and wicked system, for the perpetuation of which our own great Republic has been called to a fearful account; expiating the sin in the blood of her sons and at a cost of untold millions.

Some of the statements of Las Casas hardly bear recital, and would seem incredible, were it not for the added light thrown on the Spanish character by recent events in Cuba. The unfortunate natives were divided among the

Spaniards by a "repartimiento" (an allotment) of slaves—so many slaves to so much land. There being an abundant supply of labor, and Indian lives being considered of no value, it was considered cheaper in the cultivation of certain of the crops to work an Indian to death under the lash and replace him with another, than to give him any care. When they rebelled, as they naturally did occasionally, they were murdered by the hundred, buried alive, impaled, or torn to pieces by bloodhounds. On one occasion, in retaliation for the killing of one of their oppressors, the hands of fifty Indians were chopped off by the Spaniards. Little children were drowned like puppies, as useless locusts.

Las Casas writes thus of "the mingling of religious ideas with the shrewdest deviltry." He says that once, in honor and reverence of Christ and His twelve Apostles, they hanged thirteen Indians in a row, at such a height that their toes just touched the ground, and then picked them to death with their sword-points; taking care not to kill them too quickly, and first gagging them, in order that their cries and groans should not too much disturb the Spaniards. A favorite amusement was a test of their Toledo blades by deciding who could most readily cleave an Indian in twain at a single blow. "Repartimiento" then, "reconcentrado" now, the result is the same—extermination.

In that "Pearl of the Antilles" which Spain has worn so proudly; which she has so sadly misruled, she is at last to find her Nemesis. For the murder of her own people, for the blood of those slaughtered millions of long ago, the terrible cry of whose suffering will not be stilled, but comes ringing down through the centuries, a just retribution is at hand. Great as has been the punishment of Spain, the end is not yet. For "with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

Removed from its home environment to far distant lands, and brought under the influence of a better civilization, the Spanish character is modified, becoming more energetic, broader minded, more tolerant.

Lately many American travellers who have visited Mexico have spoken in enthusiastic terms of the Mexicans, of the progress they are making; and they tell us of the great work accomplished by their noble President, of their grand, their magnificent country. Indeed, we seem to be getting quite proud of our sister republic. Yet the Mexicans are of the same Spanish stock

that has shown itself capable of such crimes against civilization and humanity as those of which I have written. But they are now free men, have been for several generations, and are learning to make good use of their freedom.

We also hear the shallow assertion that the downtrodden Cubans are an ignorant lot, unfit to govern themselves. Perhaps they are; but they are what centuries of oppression have made them.

Forty years ago Thomas Buckle, in his remarkable "History of Civilization," wrote:

"As Spain is the country where what I conceive to be the fundamental conditions of national improvement have been most flagrantly violated, so also shall we find that it is the country where the penalty paid for the violation has been most heavy, and where, therefore, it is most instructive to ascertain how the prevalence of certain opinions causes the decay of the people among whom they predominate."

The fiery ordeal of battle is again throwing a search-light on the Spanish character, and we can see what the intellectual suppression of generations of men does for them. In Spain inquiry and freedom of thought have always been systematically discouraged. The Spaniards have had little part or interest in the magnificent achievements of modern science. A people so suppressed and oppressed, so stunted mentally, can not produce the best soldiers, merchants or mechanics.

#### A Sample Newspaper Opinion of Anti-Romanists.

The preliminaries for peace had only begun when several volcanses that had been invisible in war leaped into the conflict and became inviolable in peace. That organization of amiable idiots known as the International Peace Association is claiming recognition and making of itself a splendid nuisance by meddling like a lot of grandames in matters that require the attention of vigorous men. We heard little of these people while hostilities were going on, excepting that some of the members sent a crack-brained young woman to Madrid to see the queen regent and arrange for peace. We will hear of them now, never fear. Another nuisance is the band of patriots known as A. P. A.'s who are banded together ostensibly to protect the country and defend the little red school houses. These worthies did not go to the war. When the call was made for volunteers they did not respond. They had lost no Spaniards

and did not propose to look for any. They hid out. But they are coming back. With the destruction of the Spanish navy and indications of an early peace, they ventured forth again. The first of these asses to bray was a brainless bigot near Annapolis. During one of his pulpitering exercises he took occasion to assail the government in the severest terms because it had treated Admiral Cervera and his fellow prisoners with that consideration so becoming to chivalrous victors. The reason given by this pulpit non-combatant was that the Spaniards were Catholics and that they should be treated like beasts of the field. Such sentiments expressed in a pulpit are a disgrace to religion and a disgrace to human nature. People can leave his church and refuse to listen to such vulgar ranting, but they can not escape belonging to the same species with this ecclesiastical quid nunc. The last candidate for long-eared fame is a patriot who feels outraged because a certain stamp issued by the government has the likeness of the illustrious pere Marquette on it. Some time since a few of these rancorous-voiced goose-grabblers rose up in wrath because one of the states had sent in to the pantheon at Washington, as its contribution to the art treasures of the place, a statue of this intrepid explorer and missionary. Marquette's status in Washington, it was argued, would turn every little red school house in the country topsy-turvy and place the pope of Rome in the White House. It was then hoped that this delightful out had exhausted its supply of animosity, but in this the country was sadly disappointed. The cry now is against the appearance of the counterfeit presentment of the venerable padre's face on a stamp for the reason that he was a foreigner. Of course the real reason is because Marquette belonged to a particular church, but the fellow had decency enough to be ashamed of his sentiment and the curious courage to lie about it and put it on the ground that his objections were based upon the idea that the much venerated pioneer was a foreigner. If we are to honor only the autochthones we will have a good many monuments to tear down and a good many to erect to the memory of the now neglected Indian chiefs, Aztecis and Mound-builders. When pere Marquette was penetrating the trackless forests and exploring the Mississippi River carrying the light of the Gospel and the seeds of civilization to the tawny savages almost every white man

in that part of the country was a foreigner. There were no Americans then, nor for one century afterward, because the people were English colonists. His services to humanity, civilization and religion are as great as those of any man in the history of the country, and his bones now sleep beside one of the magnificent lakes which he loved so well. We had hoped that the stinking cowardice displayed by these venomous varlets during the war would shame them into silence ever after, but it seems that we are to have them as soon as peace is restored. It is sickening to see men made in the image of their creator so morally deformed and mentally hideous. Caliban was a Prince Charming in comparison.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

#### Will the Priests Claim It Was a Patriotic Council?

A considerable number of distinguished Catholic dignitaries are in the city. Their presence here has aroused curiosity, not to say alarm, in certain circles which froth at the mouth every time there is a Catholic council anywhere in the United States, and particularly in Washington. These dignitaries are very busy, and SEEM TO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF BUSINESS WITH HIGH OFFICIALS AND WITH OTHER PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE. Their industry gives rise to the claim that they are trying to "MAKE THEMSELVES FELT" IN THE CREATION OF A PEACE COMMISSION, so that it may DEAL GENTLY WITH CATHOLIC INTERESTS IN CUBA, PORTO RICO and the PHILIPPINES. It would not be criminal if this were true, for the Scripture tells us to look after our own first. The Review of Reviews, which is rated as a publication of the most careful and conservative sort, stated in a recent issue that \$60,000,000 of the funds of the Catholic church was invested in Spanish bonds, for the payment of which Cuban revenues were pledged. This would account for the worldly concern which the high officials of the church are showing in the composition of the peace commission. The church interests are heavier in the Philippines, however, than anywhere else; Agulnaldo claims that his and previous insurrections were directed not so much against the Spanish government as to OVERTHROW THE "MONASTIC TYRANNY" which has long been in control of the islands, and whose exactions upon the native population have been most onerous—Washington special to Chicago Evening Post.

#### The Nebraska Republican Bohemian-Jew Boss Dictated That 1-Cent Stamp.

A number of letters have been received at the post office department complaining of one of the Omaha exposition stamps. It is one bearing the figure of Father Marquette in his canonical robes. The A. P. A. is especially strong in its denunciation of this selection to adorn one of the stamps, and the third assistant postmaster general, who has immediately charge of the stamps, is accused of being responsible "for this outrage upon Americanism." The selection of designs for the stamps was made by the third assistant postmaster general after due consideration. He thought Father Marquette represented a period in the history of the west and without thinking of his creed recommended the design. Postmaster General Gary at the time looked over the designs, and he, too, thought the Marquette stamp well selected. Neither of these gentlemen is a Catholic and it is said that the design originated with Editor Rosewater, of the Omaha Bee, who is also a Protestant.—Washington, D. C., Times.

Out of town Americans when visiting Omaha can save money and get a pleasant room by applying at this office. Room can be secured in advance by deposit of \$1.

Truth is always ready to go to war; error will run at the first opportunity.