THE INQUISITION IN MEXICO

As Described by Miss Laura M. Latimer.

The heavy, massive door of the Inquisition creaked upon its hinges as it opened and shut me in. I passed up the broad stone stairway, along the wide corridor, under the arches of the lofty stone columns, to the room my friends had prepared for me. It had been the covered way to the Inquisition, and was of most astonishing proportions for a bedroom. In the centre of the room was a large brass bedstead. Beautiful lace curtains were gracefully draped around the brass rods, that reached nearly to the ceiling, and with such an imposing canopy it looked as though it might have been the couch of an empress. In the light of the tiny lamp the dark, uncanny corners seemed to me to be the hiding places for the shadowy forms of those cruel monks who had been driven from Mexico years ago. I passed back again down the stone stairway, through the open court to the dining-room. The room had been enlarged. Twelve cartloads of human skeletons my friends found in that mysterious wall four yards thick. The mortar had been made out of the dust of dead men's bones. The horrors of the place oppressed me, and I was glad when the evening meal was over and my friends led the way to the parlor. The theological students had gathered around the organ with violins, cornets, and flutes, and as I entered the room they commenced playing so gayly the air "Bonnie Annie Laurie," that I soon forgot the ghostly terrors of the gloomy building. But how strange it seemed to me—the inquisition of Mexico transformed into a theological seminary of the Methodist Episcopal church! The great, gloomy, sunless stone structure with its grated windows and brick floors and unwritten histories of untold horrors, erected to crush Protestantism, had become the training school for missionaries.

The Roman Catholic church in Mexico had become very rich. The cathedrals were ablaze with gold and jewels. A statue of the Assumption was said to have cost $1,089,000. It required two men to lift the candlesticks of solid gold. The statues of the saints were covered with precious stones. The high altar was the richest in the world. The crosses were studded with amethysts and diamonds. The annual revenue of the clergy from gifts, charities and parochial dues, was more than the entire aggregate revenues of the country, derived from all its customs and internal taxes.

The wealth of the church was hundreds of millions of dollars, but the nation was impoverished. The war of independence had devastated the country. The treasury was empty, and the soldiers were unpaid. The widows and orphans of the noble patriots were suffering for bread. At this time of dire necessity the government asked of the Catholic church a loan of $14,000,000, but it was refused.

Congress decided to confiscate the church property in order to save the country from bankruptcy, and convents, nunneries and monasteries were offered for sale. And then commenced the struggle between the Roman Catholic church party and the "Liberals," and there followed a series of revolutions that plunged the country deeper and deeper in misery. A few miles from the city of Oaxaca are the ruins of the wonderful palaces of Mitla, the home of the ancient Zapotec kings. The rocky spur of the Sierra Madre has a wildness of beauty here that is unsurpassed. Near Oaxaca, in the year 1806, Benito Juarez was born. The little Zapotec Indian boy was left an orphan when only three years old, and at the age of twelve, he fled from his cruel master and was sheltered by a good Franciscan lay brother, who taught him to read and write. In the year 1834 he was licensed to practice law, and soon became judge of the supreme court. He rose rapidly to distinction; was for several years governor of his state, and in the year 1858 he was president of Mexico.

Juarez was the leader of the "Liberal" party. The liberals fought for free schools, a free press, and universal religious toleration.

The Catholic party appealed to the pope at Rome for help to overthrow the republic. An army of French troops were sent to aid them, and Maximilian, archduke of Austria, was crowned emperor of Mexico. Juarez was driven to the very boundary line of Mexico, and there he appealed to the United States for help. Our president sent a messenger to Napoleon III., demanding the recall of his French troops, for no foreign army would be permitted to remain on American shores. The French army left the country, Maximilian was besieged at Queretaro, tried by a court-martial and condemned to be shot.

The Princess Salm-Salm, rode one hundred and sixty miles in a carriage, to San Luis Potosi, to see President Juarez, to plead for the life of the emperor. She said: "It was eight o'clock in the evening when I went to see Juarez, who received me at once. He looked pale and suffering himself. With trembling lips I plead for the life of the emperor. The president said that he could not grant it; the emperor must die tomorrow. I fell on my knees sobbing, and plead with words that came from my heart, but which I cannot remember. The president tried to raise me. With tears in his eyes, he answered in a low, sad voice: 'I am grieved, madam, to see you thus on your knees before me, but if all the kings and queens of Europe were in your place I could not spare his life. It is not I who take it. It is the people, and the law, and if I should not do its will, the people would take his life and mine, too.' The wife of General Miramon came into the room, leading by the hand her two little children. It was a most heartrending scene to hear the poor wife and little ones praying for the life of their father. Senora Miramon fainted and was carried out of the room. These trying scenes were too much for Juarez. For three days he kept his room and could see no one."

Maximilian, emperor of Mexico, was the brother of the emperor of Austria. He was brother-in-law of the king of Belgium, cousin of the queen of Spain, cousin of the queen of England and empress of India. The man who made every throne in Europe tremble when he signed the death-warrant of the emperor, was a Zapotec Indian. This man, kind to a fallen foe, tender to the suffering, was nevertheless formidable. With black, piercing eyes, a mouth of inflexible decision, the face calm and serene, he had a bearing as royal as those Zapotec kings, among whose deserted palaces he had played in his childhood.

Juarez had paid his generals and soldiers in script, to be redeemed by the sale of the confiscated church property, and convents, monasteries, and inquisitions were offered for sale. No Catholic dare buy this sacred property, for the archbishop had forbidden it. With the fall of the empire the way had been opened for the missionaries. But no Catholic would sell any property to a Protestant, and so it came that many of those costly buildings were purchased at a very low price. The old convents and monasteries purchased by the boards of foreign missions were often of startling proportions, and with an overwhelming air of grandeur about the lofty columns, broad corridors, and spacious courts; and so this is the way it came about that the inquisition is the property of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Again I visited the theological seminary at Pueblo. A large, beautiful garden, in the heart of the city, covering half a block, and which had once belonged to a famous convent, had been purchased for the students. Surrounded by a high well, nothing of the noise and confusion of the city could be heard within those thick, high, gray stone walls. The fig-trees were laden with their purple fruit. The vines hung full of luscious grapes. The jessamines and rose-bushes were clinging to the crevices of the walls, just as fragrant and pretty as they were more than a hundred years ago, when gentle nuns trimmed the vines and rested in those rustic seats under those great forest trees. I could see the theological students with their books everywhere in the garden—on the stone seats by the fountain, or under the shady trees, or on the broad corridors or balconies of their new home. The damp, dark cloisters of that sunless, cheerless, gloomy building had been abandoned. The inquisition was vacant and deserted, but the huge key hung upon the wall, as harmless now as the bloody key of the Bastile, that I saw at Mount Vernon, the present Lafayette to Washington.

Elected Officers.

At the regular meeting of American Lodge No. 221, L. O. L., held Thursday evening, March 2d, the following officers were elected:

CHARLES UNITT, Worshipful Master.
A. J. PIERSON, Deputy W. M.
M. L. ZOOK, Secretary.
B. H. OSTERHOUDT, Treasurer.
GEO. L. GOOLD, Chaplain.
WM. HODGES, Sr. Committeeman.

The order is in a very flourishing condition, its membership having more than doubled in a few months. There is hardly an order in existence which is held in higher esteem that the L. O. L., and its membership is generally found among the most thrify and law-abiding citizens, and their patriotism is above question.

The Methodists on applying for space at the fair learned that they could have but 400 square feet, while the Catholics had been assigned 20,000. The Methodists claim that their application was in before that of the Catholics. They are indignant, and say they probably will not exhibit. They add: "The 20,000 square feet does not represent all the space given to the Catholics. That is given for their educational exhibit only. They have space for other shows."

Camole Juniper is reliable for females.

Attention, Orangemen.

Brothers who are expected to attend the meeting of the Grand Lodge in Minneapolis next June, are requested to notify Wm. Watson, 723 Nicollet avenue, Minneapolis, chairman of the committee on transportation. This information is needed at once, so that the committee can make arrangements for reduced rates from Chicago to Minneapolis.

A Faithful Officer Resigns.

OMAHA, Neb., March 8, 1893.—GEO. M. D. GRAVES, Esq., 2519 Poppleton Ave. City—Dear Sir: At a meeting of the board of fire and police commissioners held March 6th, 1893, the following proceedings were had:

"On motion, the resignation of Sergeant Geo. M. D. Graves was accepted to date from March 7th, 1893, as requested, and it is with great regret the board accepts the resignation of Sergeant Graves as he has been a most faithful and efficient officer."

Respectfully,
HOWARD B. SMITH, Sec'y.,
Per B.

To L. O. and R. A. P. Brothers.

There will be business of importance at the regular meeting of American Lodge No. 221, L. O. L., Thursday evening, March 16th, at which all brethren are required to be present. By order of the W. M.

M. L. ZOOK, Secretary.

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The Lonesome Man

Was the fellow that went the other way; all the rest got to the Pacific Coast a day ahead of him. They went fishing for a whole day along the resort places on the Union Pacific, the World's Pictorial line, and then beat him. And they traveled on cars lighted by Pintsch Gaslight and heated by steam. 3-10-3

HO! FOR TEXAS!

50,000 ACRES of Southern Texas land sold since last September. Now is the time to buy. Next excursion Thursday, March 9th. Lowest rate, quickest time, best accommodation and through connection. For particulars see or address,

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See Dr. Withers about your teeth. 4th floor Brown Block.

B. H. Osterhoudt will do you good Carriage Painting and Repairing. Take your work to him.

18th and Cass Streets.

Have your old shoes made as good as new, by shoemakers that have learned their trade. We have them at 103 South 15th Street.

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Go to Dyball's for fine candies, 1518 Douglas St.

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For sale by the following dealers:
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Christ Haman, 512 S. 16th street.
Henry Anderson, N. W. corner 16th and Leavenworth streets.
This cigar is worthy of a trial. tf

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Spring is coming, if not already here: and we are prepared for it. We have opened a choice line of negligee shirts ranging in price from 25 cents each up. You should see them.

Our line of underwear also is complete. In socks and suspenders and so forth we are strictly in it, and strange we say in all of the above we are simply *out of sight*.

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Pledgee's Sale.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will, on the 1st day of April, 1893, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the main entrance to the Sheely Block, corner 15th & Howard Sts., in the city of Omaha, offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash, three promisory notes, as follows: One of $150.00 dated September 5th, 1892, given by J. H. Chilson to Ed. L. Bradbury, and by said Ed. L. Bradbury endorsed in blank, without recourse. One of $250.00, with $50.00 endorsed, dated November 18th, 1891, given by R. G. Wallace to E. G. Gunsoles, and one of $130.00 dated September 16th, 1892, given by H. C. Dupey to The Inter-State Stock Exchange Co., and endorsed in blank, as follows: ("Inter-State Stock Exchange Co., E. H. Clark, Secretary.") All assigned, transferred and delivered by one J. N. Hartrauft to the undersigned as collateral security for the payment of said J. N. Hartrauft's notes in the sum of $44.70, one of $3.20 and one of $31.50, dated November 12th, 1892, due respectively December 12th, 1892 and January 12th, 1893, in favor of the undersigned, bearing 10 per cent. interest after due; which notes have long since matured and are still unpaid.

Dated March 9th, 1893.

3-10-3 C. DE ROBERTS.

B. F. THOMAS.
Attorney, Commercial National Bank.

SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER'S Sale.—Under and by virtue of an order of sale on decree of foreclosure of mortgage issued out of the District Court for Douglas County, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 18th day of April, A. D. 1893, at 1 o'clock P. M. of said day, at the north front door of the County Court House, in the City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit:

The west one-half (½) of lot two (2) in block two (2) in Drexel's sub-division of lots fifty-one (51), fifty-two (52) and fifty-three (53) in S. E. Rogers' plat of Okahoma, an addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, as surveyed, platted and recorded.

Said property to be sold to satisfy Mary C. Vroom and Etta G. Vroom, plaintiffs herein, the sum of nine hundred and ninety dollars ($990) judgment, with interest thereon at rate of seven (7) per cent. per annum from February 1st, 1892.

To satisfy George W. Scott, defendant herein, the sum of two hundred and sixty-eight and 25-100 dollars ($268.25) judgment, with interest thereon at rate of eight (8) per cent. per annum from February 1st, 1892.

To satisfy the sum of ninety-two and 61-100 dollars ($92.61) costs herein together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the District Court of said Douglas County, at its February term, A. D. 1892, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Mary C. Vroom, Etta G. Vroom and others were plaintiffs, and Michael Donnelly and others were defendants.

Omaha, Nebraska, March 9th, 1893.

E. C. PAGE,
Special Master Commissioner.

B. F. Thomas, attorney.
Vroom, et al., vs Donnelly, et al.
3-10-5 Doc. 26/22 No. 34/114.

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