

## SPANISH NEBRASKA.

A few days ago THE CONSERVATIVE, having been introduced for the first time to Mr. Hempel's notable collection of Nebraska antiquities in the court-house at Plattsmouth, sought to describe to a certain well-informed person a very singular wrought-iron trident therein contained, which is said to be of Spanish make; and in so doing, let slip the unlucky word "Coronado." To this the authority objected. "It is easy to say Coronado," he said, "but hard to prove that individual's connection with any given relic of Spanish times. Nor is it necessary, for so far from Coronado's expedition being the only one that ever penetrated to Nebraska from Mexico, it is probable that there were many; and the last one of which there is record only occurred in Jefferson's second administration. Also there is a little room to doubt that there was pretty constant intercourse, whether in the way of peace or that of war, between the Indians of Kansas and Nebraska and those of the southwest, at all times."

Mr. Hempel's trident is sufficiently curious to be looked into further; but as to there having been military expeditions despatched from the Spanish provinces in comparatively recent times to points that now lie within Nebraska, it is easy to satisfy ourselves. Captain Pike tells us all about this in his account of his travels "in the interior of Louisiana" (which included Nebraska) in 1806.

Captain Pike traveled across Missouri, and then north-westerly through Kansas to a place called the Pawnee Republic, which was the headquarters of one of the four divisions of the Pawnee nation. The Indians of this tribe were called the Pawnee Republicans, and they gave their name to the stream on which they dwelt, the Republican River. Their village must, by Pike's map, have been somewhere between Bloomington and Red Cloud, Nebraska. Captain Pike reached this settlement on September 25th, 1806, and found that he had been anticipated by a large Spanish party, which had preceded him so recently that the grass was yet beaten down along their trail. This party interested the captain very much; they seem, in fact, to have been sent forth to head off his expedition, of which they had gotten wind, and the objects of which are about as much a mystery to us of today as they may have been to those Mexico-dwelling Spaniards.

He therefore tells all that he knew about them, having probably learned many particulars in the course of his later captivity in Mexico.

The expedition was under the command of Lieutenant Malgares, and set out from the province of Biscay, wherever that may have been; there is no

province of that name on the maps at present. It consisted at first of one hundred dragoons, regulars, but at Santa Fe, where they fitted out for the remainder of their journey, they were joined by five hundred mounted militia. They were supplied for six months, and their horses and mules numbered over two thousand. Among the things which they were expected to accomplish was an exploration of the Missouri river between the Platte and the Kansas. They were also to visit the Pawnee, Omaha and Kansas Indians, present the chiefs of those nations with flags, medals and other valuable considerations, and "with all of them to renew the chains of ancient amity."

This was a brave expedition, but it contained no men of the type of that almost unknown hero, Zebulon Pike. It failed of its object. A part of the host fell out when the Arkansas river was reached; a part pushed on as far as the "Pawnee republic;" but none of them got any farther. They said their horses gave out, but Captain Pike hints a suspicion that they were afraid of the Indians. When his horses gave out that winter, in the mountains of southern Colorado, he only pushed on further into the snow.

So Lieutenant Malgares, having raised the flag of Spain for the last time on the soil of Nebraska, made his way back to Santa Fe, where he disbanded his force some time in October.

Since these Spaniards wished to "renew ancient amity" with the Indians of the Republican and Platte, and since they manifestly knew just where they were going and how to get there, it seems clear that there must have been pretty continuous dealings between the two districts. And it would be strange if, in case of so frugal a folk as the Indians, there were no material souvenirs of this intercourse still in existence.

Furthermore, Captain Pike makes the direct assertion that the Pawnees frequently purchased horses of the Spaniards. He also speaks of them as being "equi-distant between the Spanish population and that of our settlements of Louisiana," and mentions the wide range of territory they covered, in the way of warfare, in the west and southwest. All this makes it not only possible that they might, but entirely probable that they would, have articles of Spanish manufacture in their possession, and accounts for a large share of any discoveries of that kind that may be made, in a very simple manner.

There is, notwithstanding, another class of finds on record, unmistakably more ancient, and so hard to account for otherwise that one may hope to be excused for still suggesting "Coronado." One of these has already been fully described in THE CONSERVATIVE, and it may perhaps be reverted to again later.

## ALEXANDER MAJOR'S LAST DAYS.

As articles have appeared in newspapers speaking of the poverty of Mr. Alexander Majors, may I ask you to give this statement publicity?

After the retirement of Mr. Majors from more active business life, whatever the simplicity of his surroundings, when writting his book or at other times, rest assured it was chosen by him. I know that he was the most welcome guest of his children, who were ever solicitous of his continued presence with him, but Mr. Majors was essentially a "traveling man," as all know who were acquainted with him. Though born and reared in the south, no caustic Yankee could denominate him a "mossback." Ever on the alert and interested in whatever appertained to the welfare and progress of the age, he desired to be "in it." He was not the protege of Pity, but might have been at any time the ward of sons amply able and willing to further any project near and dear to his heart, and at the time of his sudden illness was becoming a partner in and manager of a business of prospective importance.

Concerning the burial, the body was shipped from Chicago directly to the resting place of his wife, in harmony with feelings expressed by him when in perfect health. Any tribute of respect that the public he served choose to offer can as well be given as if the body were the center of attraction to curious gazers, or to the warmest friends who regard not more his crumbling clay than the risen spirit of this ever useful, lovable and monumental character.—E. C. ADAMS, in Kansas City Star.

## FALSELY ACCUSED.

The charge that Mr. Bryan induced the "plutocratic" Carnegie to open his purse strings ought to be repudiated forthwith by his friends. It carries with it the imputation of too intimate an association with the "money power." THE CONSERVATIVE cannot believe that Mr. Bryan would receive or even ask a donation from one identified with the cause of "greed." It is so foreign to the expressed "convictions" of the man, who has been battling to prevent a wholesale crucifixion of humanity on a klondyke cross and trying to protect the bare brow of labor from a thorny head piece.

## OMAHA POLITICS.

If the object of the recent municipal contest in Omaha was to determine the two meanest and most disreputable citizens, people within range of the Omaha newspapers, are ready to admit that the two gentlemen, named as mayoralty candidates, have maintained their right to the distinction.