

AFFAIRS IN MEXICO

Opening of a New Railroad—Official Assassination

Correspondence of the N. Y. Post. CITY OF MEXICO, October 16, 1881.

During the past week one could remark groups of Mexicans standing around the street corners eagerly reading the advertisements in which the Mexican Central Railroad Company offered to the public the capital of the first pleasure trip on the recently finished line to Tula.

The line is constructed of steel rails, weighing 45 pounds a yard. The gauge is 4 feet 8 inches. The trains run first, second and third class cars, built in Wilmington, Delaware.

The six engines were constructed in Philadelphia. The road runs for about twenty miles through flat, swampy country. At Huehuetoca it runs for a few miles parallel to the Sullivan line, the lines being but six metres apart at several places.

Upon entering the Taché de Notchistongo there is an immense wall of masonry on each side of the road, and a deep precipice at the left. To avoid accidents strong walls have been constructed to prevent the sliding of the earth, and one thousand men are yet constantly at work to lower the wall and fill the precipice.

El Taché de Notchistongo is the place where the Spaniards constructed an immense tunnel for turning off the water of the Valley of Mexico into Tula River. Ten thousand men have constantly been at work for years, over night the working Indians were imprisoned in an immense yard especially constructed for the purpose.

After five thousand Indians, by the falling in of the tunnel, had been killed, the work was abandoned to be taken up again in our day. After having passed the Taché de Notchistongo the train runs a few miles through a picturesque country and arrives at Tula. The length of the line is sixty-three miles.

The passengers, numbering about three hundred, well provided with American lunch baskets, had to make the best of their time, though Toulou offers little of interest to the stranger, except to those who care to visit the ruins of an ancient Spanish church discovered by Charnier.

The travelers seemed to be well pleased with the excursion, for the train was run with great care by American mechanics, assisted by Mexicans, and everything had been done to make the travelers comfortable. My impression of the road was that it had been most carefully constructed, and I did not feel the least uneasiness with regard to accidents, though the dreadful Moules accident is yet remembered.

I was surprised to hear, after having arrived in the City of Mexico, that the very train on which I had travelled had been precipitated into the abyss of Notchistongo.

lighten men, but those in inferior positions ought to bear the same character. A plan projected at various times by the Aztecs and the Spanish conquerors, the draining and the canalization of the valley of Mexico, seems to be on the point of execution.

On the 3d of October a contract was signed by General Pacheco, representing the Government, and Senor A. Miery Collis, representing the Drainage and Canalization Company, limited, of the valley and city of Mexico.

The publication of the contract has produced an excellent effect in this city, as property will rapidly increase in value and the city of Mexico will be provided with proper water accommodations, not to mention the benefits derived from the enterprise as to the sanitary improvement of the valley and the city.

Two millions of the Spanish Man-of-war have lost their lives in Vera Cruz, yellow fever having been the cause of death. A certain Dr. Licht has arrived from New Orleans to claim the \$100,000 promised by the City Council for an efficient antidote against the terrible plague.

Dr. Licht is the sixth applicant this season. The duty on importations in Vera Cruz has produced during the last fortnight in September \$524,000, the largest amount ever produced in that period. The Mexican treasury seems to be in a flourishing state, for it had in its vaults the first of this month \$1,200,000 in cash.

The total subvention hitherto granted to railway companies by the Government is reported to be \$87,000,000. A new colonization contract has been signed by General Pacheco and Senor Rizzo, who binds himself to import Italian families to Mexico, he is to receive \$40 for each emigrant, male or female, over twelve years, and \$30 for each child under twelve years.

Beside, a premium of \$15 is promised on every imported Italian. The concessions made to the immigrants by the Government are not to be excelled. It is a pity that the Government, though animated by the very best intentions, limits its generosity to Italian laborers, while there thousands of industrious Germans and Englishmen who would readily come to this country if proper inducements were offered by the Government.

One of the improvements introduced into this capital is the foundation of a large hospital constructed on the best modern plans; Governor Fernandez would merit the thanks of the healthy if he would put the thoroughfares in a better condition, as he might otherwise be obliged to construct a special edifice for those whose limbs have been injured.

On the 25th of this month the wedding of General Porfirio Diaz will take place. He is promised to Miss Carmen Rubio, a charming young lady of the capital. Among other gifts the General has bought for his bride a diamond set worth \$25,000. Diaz will spend the honeymoon at Oaxaca, the seat of State Governor of the Province of Oaxaca.

MURDERERS' MOTIVES. Some Strange Causes Assigned by Killers for Their Acts. New York Dispatch. There is probably no civilized country in which life is held so lightly and murder committed as wantonly as in the United States.

In this connection it is interesting to investigate the causes which inspire our red handed malefactors to the crime they commit. The fantastic fancy of the romanticist could create no stronger reasons for murder than those some of our murderers afford. The theory held by many that a madness comes over some men, whose fury can be only quenched in blood, receives ample indorsement in such cases as we give below.

Take the one, for instance, reported from Wyandotte, Kas., recently. A notorious young scamp of that place, named Grant Green by name. One afternoon Green started to go hunting. A little boy 8 or 10 years of age followed him, and would not go back when ordered to do so by Green.

tion with this gentleman that he was hunted down the coast by a vigilance committee till his craft capsized in a gale and left him to enjoy the same fate as his two victims had experienced. Down in the same country, at Indian river, an alligator hunter walked into a store and bargained for an iron stove pot. There were two kinds, one for \$1.50 and the other for \$2.

The alligator annihilator craved for a \$2 one, but refused to pay more than \$1.50 for it. The storekeeper refusing this offer, the saurian slayer laid the money he offered on the counter, shot the obtuse tradesman through the lungs and carried off his pot in triumph to his forest home.

In a bar room in Paxagoula, Miss., two lumber cutters got into a dispute over the length of a tree one of them had felled. The dispute ended after a few minutes in the death of one of them. After a time and numerous drinks a fresh topic of discussion displayed this one. Next morning one of the timber men met the other in the street. He walked up to him and said, without any preliminary explanation: "A hundred and fifteen."

"A hundred and fourteen," replied the other. And he blew the first speaker's brains out before he could use the knife he had stealthily drawn when he opened the conversation. Scores of murders arise out of just such trivial disputes. In Galveston two negroes sat on the cotton dock last month, eating watermelon and counting the bales being loaded on a steamer at the wharf. They counted aloud. One tallied forty and the other forty-one, and they fell into a wrangle over who was right. It ended with one whipping the other and disemboweling the other in his tracks.

That night the brother of the murdered man went to the house of a brother of the murderer, and in the fracas which ensued both men were slashed to ribbons by the vigorously applied favorite weapons of their race. At Texarkana a bully of the Jim Currie type stopped at a store and pointed to a red flannel shirt in the window, asked the proprietor, who was standing in the doorway: "How much do you want for that blue shirt there?"

"That red shirt you mean, I suppose," responded the storekeeper. "I'll teach you what I mean, you—" replied the ruffian. And seizing the poor Israelite by the breast the miscreant drew his bowie knife across his neck. CUTTING HIS THROAT FROM EAR TO EAR. Charles Bolles, in Minneapolis, missed fire in trying to kill a dog, and his wife's laughter so enraged him that he aimed at her. The weapon still refusing to go off he tried it on himself in his ungovernable fury, and it sent him where he will trouble the dogs no more.

A colored woman at Dyke's Mill, Ark., ordered her 10 and 12-year-old children to go into the house. They lingered, and their disobedience rendered her so frantic that she beat their brains out with a pine knot. Her neighbors roasted her alive for the crime. At Whittemill, Va., a farmer named Williams had a quarrel with his wife last month. The wife sued out a warrant for his arrest, but his daughters made sure of being revenged upon him by chopping his head off before he could be arrested. "He had no right to treat mother so," they are reported to have said.

At Louisville, in a quarrel between two brothers, Louis and Henry Basset, over the loan of twenty-five cents, the latter shot the former, killing him instantly. Before the shooting the two had fought, during which Henry was so badly cut that he will die. The row began in the room of their mother, and ended in an adjoining room. A California jury will soon have a queer case to pass on. E. R. Sproul, of Oroville, lay in wait with a shot gun for J. H. Espy, who had invaded his domestic preserves. In the darkness he shot James Andrews instead. The intended victim had learned of his design and sent Andrews to the rendezvous in his place. It will strike the average reader, doubtless, that the intended victim ought to be indicted as an accessory to the murder.

Win. Smith, R. P. prospector, visited Silverton, Col. He signaled his coming to town by shooting the first man he met, and went on popping at every one he encountered till his seven-shot revolver was emptied. He then stepped into a store, purchased some cartridges, and was loading for a new deal when he was arrested. One man killed and four wounded attest his prowess as a shot. His only excuse for his wholesale slaughtering was: "I'd been in the woods these seven months and I came to town to have some fun. I've had my fun—now you can have yours."

A considerable assassin was Martin Probasco, of Deadwood. He met a fat German mounted on a jackass on the lonely trail, and drew on him. The intemperate Teuton descended from his courser and Probasco mounted in his place. He then asked: "Where are you going?" "To Red creek," replied the intended victim. "Good God!" exclaimed Probasco, "you're too fat to walk that far!" and he saved him the weariness of the journey by shooting him through the heart.

A much more extraordinary case of the same sort comes to us from Nebraska. At Smalley station a tramp applied for entertainment at a lonely farm. It was denied him by the farmer's wife, who was alone in the house with her little baby. The vagabond thereupon brained her with a stick of cordwood, and proceeded to entick himself. He held the qualling baby in his lap while he ate, and when he went away tucked it nicely up in bed. It was being raised on the bottle, and that receptacle being empty he went to the cow house, milked a cow, filled the bottle, and went on his way in search of some one else to murder, leaving his victim's orphan comfortable and well provided for.

Guiteau is not the only assassin who claims to have been DIVINELY INSPIRED to his crime. A miller in Maine fell upon a stranger who was passing his door and beat him to death with an iron bar. The only explanation he could give for his act was that God had whispered to him that the victim was a bad man, and ought to die. A school teacher in Idaho strangled one of his scholars on the same sen-

der motive, and the wife of an Iowa farmer brained her five children, and tried to chop her hubby into mince-meat, because the Lord commanded her to do so.

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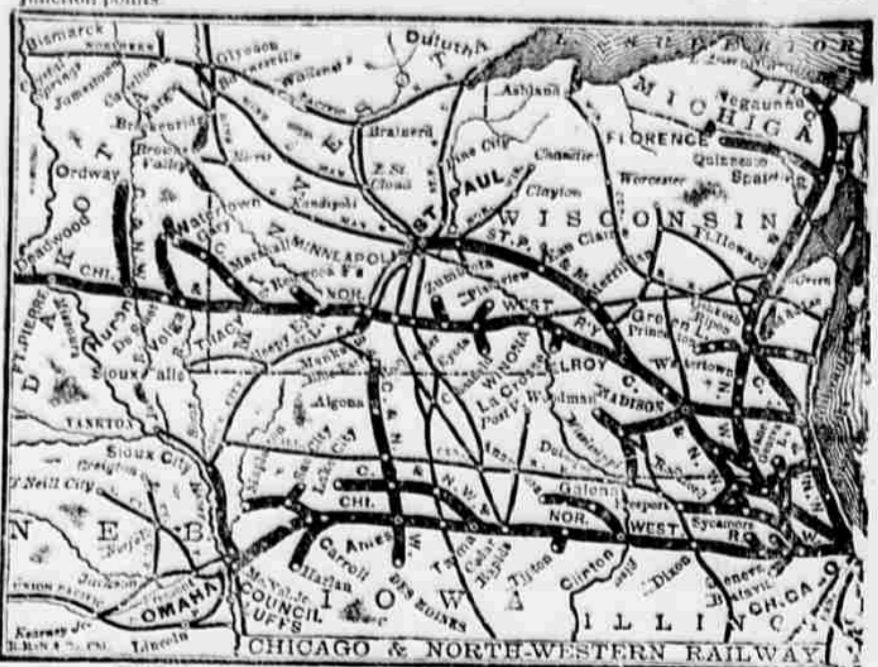
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