

THE SATURDAY READER.

VOL. I.—No. 6.

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14, 1865.

FIVE CENTS.

CONTENTS.

MEXICO—FRANCE—THE UNITED STATES.	HAME, HAME (POETRY). EXTRAVAGANCE IN DRESS.
LAST DAYS OF THE CONFEDERACY.	MAGGIE AND THE ALBION (A TALE.)
LITERATURE AND LITERARY GOSSIP.	SINGULAR WILLS.
LITERATURE ON THE ATLANTIC.	GOSSIP FOR LADIES ONLY.
CATCHING THE WILD HORSE.	COMMON SALT.
DAWN OF CANADIAN HISTORY.	PUZZLES—CHARADES.
TRIP TO CACOUNA.	ENIGMAS—CONUNDRUMS.
THE YOUNG CHEMIST.	RIDDLES—ANAGRAMS, &c., &c., &c.
CHOLERA.	SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.
SLIPS OF THE PEN.	WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.
COMFORTS (POETRY.) AN OGRE.	ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Continued from week to week, the New Story,
"HALF A MILLION OF MONEY,"
written by the author of "Barbara's History" for
All the Year Round, edited by CHARLES DICKENS.

TO OUR FRIENDS.

ANY person getting up a Club of five will be entitled to a free copy of the READER, during the existence of the Club; and if a yearly Club of ten, to a free copy of the paper, and a handsomely bound copy (two volumes) of Garneau's History of Canada, which is published at \$3.00 by R. Worthington, Publisher and Bookseller, next door to Post Office, Montreal.

MEXICO—FRANCE—THE UNITED STATES.

(SECOND ARTICLE.)

IT is difficult to arrive at anything like a correct estimate of the population of Mexico, but it is probably between eight and nine millions. Of these something over a million and a half are of unmixed European origin; while the remainder consist of pure Indians and half-breeds of almost countless varieties, from the descendant of the Conquistador and his aboriginal bride, with the smallest possible tincture of red blood in his veins, to the progeny of the Indian and the Negro. If Mexico were conquered by the United States, the restless population of the Union, from Maine to the Rio Grande, would pour into the country in greater or less numbers, according to circumstances, joined by detachments from endless reinforcements of immigrants from Europe. The superior race would assume and maintain an ascendancy over the mongrel breed, of which, as we have stated, the Mexican population chiefly consists; and among the results would be the gradual extinction of the latter, who, in the meantime, would be subjugated to a condition that would be one of slavery in all but the name, and worse than even slavery in many respects. The fate of these unhappy people would be the same as that of the Indians of the Islands and the continent under the old Spanish rule;

the causes and the mode of their operations would be different, but the result would be alike in both instances. Nor would the natives suffer alone; the invading hosts would not escape unscathed from the ordeal. The deteriorating effects of the admixture of races, joined to the influence of climate, would, by a process of steady decline, lower them physically and intellectually in the scale of humanity, in accordance with the universal law of nature, of which we have had so many examples in the history of mankind. The men of the North and the West deteriorate as they advance, by conquest or otherwise, in a southern or eastern direction, as witness the Persians and the Greeks in Asia; the Moguls and the English in China and India; and the Spaniards in South America, although their Gothic blood was so largely mingled with that of the Arabs. We may mention, by the way, in connection with this part of the subject, that, as an able American writer points out in a recent work, the fact of the people of China and other Asiatic countries being destined to find their way to the Atlantic shores of this continent, as they have already to California, will prove another disturbing element in the admixture of races. Again, if Mexico be annexed by the United States, it will be with them as with the English in Hindostan. Annexation will follow annexation, until the Republic will absorb all that was once Spanish America, with the contamination of its abject races. With them, as with England too, this will become a necessity, if it should cease to be an object of desire, or a deliberate policy. These are some of the reasons which induce us to believe that the Americans would not act wisely in seeking to extend their territory in a southern direction. The deterioration of race, by admixture with inferior blood, and from the effects of climate, arises from natural causes over which human laws can exercise little or no control. In a contest between man and nature, the victory, in the end, always remains with nature.

There is another consideration which ought to have the utmost weight with the American Government and people in deterring them from interference in the affairs of Mexico, and from casting impediments in the way of letting the Empire have a fair trial. While Americans boast of the success of democratic institutions in their own country, the enemies of the system have always pointed the finger of scorn at its operation in Mexico and the other South American Republics. Ought they to wish that this standing reproach should continue? On the contrary, would it not be more for their interest, more in the interest of the institutions they so dearly love, that the ridiculous scarecrow should doff its Republican rags and assume some costume which might cover its nakedness and shame? One blot on American institutions has been erased by the extinction of slavery; the extinction of the spurious South American Republics, if not an equal benefit, would at least serve to

moderate the unbelief of the sceptic and the laughter of the scorner. In France, it is said that the Emperor Soulouque, with his Marquis of Marmalade and his Count of Lemonade, or some such titles, tended in no small degree to bring monarchy into disrepute at an important crisis in Europe.

A war against Maximilian means war with France. We need not dwell on the calamities that would spring from such a contest to both countries, in the injuries to their commerce, were that the sole consideration. The United States would have a manifest advantage in being able to reach the battle ground of Mexico without having to cross the ocean; but, even on this side of the Atlantic, France is not an enemy to be despised. She is the greatest naval power in Europe, next to England; and her army, for numbers, bravery, discipline, and equipment combined, is unequalled in the world. Her officers are renowned for their talents, knowledge of their professions, and the fertility of their resources. The Gallic eagle is strong of wing and has sharp talons. But it would be unprofitable to speculate further on this branch of the subject. Would England be drawn into the quarrel? Not if she could help it. But she might not choose to accept the favour conceded by Polyphemus to Ulysses, that, namely, of being the last to be eaten.

We imagine that, for the present at least, the American Government would not willingly undertake a war for the conquest of Mexico, or to drive the French and Maximilian thence. But it may be forced on them. The people of the United States are thorough believers in the Munroe doctrine as part and parcel of the still more favourite dogma of Manifest Destiny. It was doubtless in obedience to the popular sentiment that General Sheridan was sent to the Mexican frontier at the head of a large force. The language attributed to General Grant, and which several other American Generals certainly did utter, must find a response in the bosoms of the immense masses of men whom they lately commanded in the field, or it had never been spoken. French and American armies are confronting each other across a narrow stream; and accident or intrigue may at any moment bring on a collision. The Mexican people and their chiefs have been reared and educated in revolution; insurrection is the business of their lives, and they cannot easily settle down to any fixed occupation. To hope, then, an early pacification of that country would be vain. There may be temporary truces between parties, but not, we fear, a lasting peace for years to come. For these and other reasons there is danger that the United States may drift or rush into a second Mexican war. But, aside from this, the position assumed by the American Government towards the Government of Maximilian is highly detrimental to the interests of Mexico. The refusal or delay to acknowledge the Empire, the army on the Rio Grande; the threats of generals fresh from the