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MONEY TO LOAN.

W. S. STEWART, K. C. | A. A. CAMPBELL,

July 8, 1911—717.

J. b. Printing at the Herald

Office.

Morocco.

The world has been so busy for the last few years in following the various phases of the fight of France in Morocco that it has almost come to forget that the republic has no interest in the Dark Continent than what concerns the northern seaboard. As a matter of fact, "her sphere of influence," says E. Alexander Powell, a recent American explorer, "extends over 45 per cent. of the land and 25 per cent. of the population of Africa."

Independently of what it was along the Mediterranean, the trifolite fronts over the colonies of Senegal, French Guinea, the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, and Upper Senegal-Niger, all of which taken collectively represents an area not far from that of European Russia. Then there is the great colony of Equatorial Africa, and before you arrive at the Sahara you cross the African States of Kanem and Wadi, both of which France subjugated about eight years ago. Finally, there are to be counted the million and a half square miles of the Sahara, at which we must not insist, as if that country were merely a boundless continuity of sand, endless and arid plains as flat as a billiard table, as we were taught to regard it in our old geographies. On the contrary, the Sahara region has a remarkably varied surface; here rising into plateaus like those of Tibesti and Abaggar, there crossed by chains of large and fertile oases, and again broken into mountain ranges with peaks eight thousand feet high, greater than the Alleghenies and very nearly as great as the Sierra Nevada. Now are these oases merely a clump of palm trees beside a beaming well, or a cluster of date palms? Not a few of these stopping places are great stretches of well-watered and cultivated soil, many square miles in extent and rich in figs, pomegranates, wheat, apricot and olive trees. The oasis of Kasser, for example, with its one hundred thousand date palms, furnishes subsistence for the inhabitants of a score of straggling villages, with their camels, flocks and herds. There are said to be four million date palms in the oasis of the Algerian Sahara alone. Moreover, experiments have shown that, like the Great American Desert, the Sahara has an ample supply of underground water, which in many cases is reached at a depth of only forty feet. For transportation across it, the six-wheeled motor sledges, invented by French engineers, which are driven by a light but powerful aeroplane engine that maintains a speed over the sand dunes of twenty miles an hour, remain one of the best inventions which preceded the railroads that built up our own Great West. We Americans remember how shocked we were when the Government purchased Alaska. But we think differently of the measure now, and like Alaska, the Sahara may soon prove an immense source of wealth to its owners. Then, apart from all these possessions on the continent proper, it must be remembered that the French own Madagascar, the second largest island in the world, and convenient to it is the French Somaliland, the sole gateway to Abyssinia, the last fragment left of "The Black Man's Africa," which may yet be French.

"So silently, swiftly and unobtrusively," says the author above referred to, "have the French empire builders worked that even those of us who pride ourselves on keeping abreast of the march of civilization are fairly amazed when we trace on the map the distances to which they have pushed the Republic's African frontiers. Did you happen to know that the fugitive from justice who turns the nose of his camel southward from Algiers must ride as far as from Milwaukee to the City of Mexico before his own path beyond the shadow of the frontier and the arm of the French law? Were you aware that if you start from the easternmost boundary of the French Sudan you will have to cover a distance equal to that from Buffalo to San Francisco before you can hear the Atlantic rollers booming against the breakwaters at Dakar? It is judged not the slightest exaggeration to say that French influence is today prominent over all the expanse of the Dark Continent lying west of the Nile basin and north of the Congo—a territory one and a half times the size of the United States—this forming the only continuous empire in Africa, with ports on every seaboard on the continent."

All this acquisition of territory has been accomplished generally, but not always, by what is called "pacific penetration." Perhaps the chief instrument of this marvellous conquest are the railroads that have been constructed in this land of darkness. Indeed, it is by word in Africa that when an Englishman arrives in the country he builds a custom house, a German builds a barracks, and a Frenchman builds a railroad. Hence in French Africa there are already 6,000 miles of railway, 45,000 miles

of telegraph, and 10,000 miles of telephone, the two latter being the almost necessary appendages of railroad construction. But there are other schemes to be realized, and perhaps the most magnificent of all is the one that is now being planned. It is no less than a railway from Tanager on the Mediterranean to the French port of Dakar, in Sahara. It would first connect with Fez, then cross the Sahara and go down to the Niger at Timbuktu.

Three hundred miles of this route would be through a most hopeless desert country. From Timbuktu the line would go to Dakar, where there is a splendid commercial and naval harbor looking out into the Atlantic. The last feature in this daring scheme is to establish a line of fast steamers which would reach Pernambuco, in Brazil, in three days, the distance being only 1,300 miles from Dakar. So that by this route the traveller could leave Madrid and in twelve days find himself in Rio Janeiro. The project is dazzling.

However, this is only the old French character revealing itself in another field. The same adventurous spirit which once so splendidly explored the French colonies de bols roamed, or rather rushed, through aboriginal America, is again in evidence in Africa with the practical element added. He retains, besides his natural sociability, and just as he had no difficulty in fraternizing with primitive red men who he did not think himself commissioned to kill, so he is at home with the blacks of Africa, and they prefer him to any other European.

What concerns us now, however, is that part of Mr. Powell's book which gives us new and unexpected information about Morocco. That section of Africa, with its frequently vanishing Sultanate, the diplomatic journey of Germany, France and Spain struggling for possession of the country; the bloody battles that have been fought; and perhaps the mystery that has hung over Morocco for centuries, and finally the terror that its terrible conquests inspired even in America in times past cannot fail to be of interest.

The same Morocco is a European corruption of Marokko, as the principal city of the country is called. Notwithstanding the common impression, Morocco is not a desert. On the contrary, it is a rolling country that reminds the traveller of Ohio and Indiana. The soil is extremely fertile, though not cultivated, for the Moore have no reason to raise crops which will disappear in a single state visit of their Sultan. For these royal progresses are generally made with an army of 20,000 or 30,000 men, who have to live off the land. The result is a wide spread desolation such as would follow one of the town raids on the lands of the Christians. Neither are there any trees which might afford shade or fruit for the inhabitants, for no Moor ever planted a tree to replace the one he had cut down, but, unlike Algeria, Tunisia and Tripolitania, it has superb navigable waterways which run hundreds of miles inland. The Muluya, for instance, can be travelled for 400 miles from its mouth; but none of these magnificent water courses are used either for traffic or irrigation.

The spate of the inhabitants of this insular district of change explains the neglect of these natural advantages. The climate is extremely healthy, and malaria, the scourge of other parts of Africa, is unknown in the regions lying between the central range of Atlas, which runs east and west, and whose snow capped summits reach the skies, the thermometer seldom rises above 40 degrees, or falls below 40 degrees, the mountain wall serving as a protection against the scorching winds of the Sahara. The winter is the season of rains, and they are terrible, but when they have ceased the soil is carpeted with flowers of every hue. There are minerals in plenty in the Set and other regions, but they are the two danger points of Morocco. The latter is in the Atlas mountains, and the former in the valley by the sea. The inhabitants of the country are not homogeneous. They are made up of Berbers, who are unmistakably a white race. They are mountaineers and fierce fighters.

These come the Arabs, who live in the cities and plains. A white section consists of the imported negroes, whose blood has circulated both races, finally the Jews. As for the general morality of the people, the writer does not hesitate to say that "these degenerate Moors are probably the most degenerate race in both thought and act in the world. Compared to the inhabitants of Judom and Constantinople were positively 'prudent'." Added to this, there is a bitter racial antagonism. The only bond of unity is their religion, and that succumbs only in producing a hatred of the non-believer. It does not make for peace or public much less private decency. The French have a difficult problem before them in dealing with

such a composite horde, but they have a way of flattering these warring chiefs by bestowing decorations on them, bringing them on ceremonial visits to France, teaching them the science of war, for which the Moors, especially the Berbers, have a passion. So that to all appearance the system of pacific penetration may succeed here as it has in other parts of Africa.

Back of this peaceful method, however, there is said to be a warlike purpose, and it is suggested that Germany's demonstration at Agadir was prompted by fear that the armies of France might be increased by countless levies from the mountainous warriors. Indeed, has not the proposal been seriously made in France of bringing outless black legions even from Senegal?

The Sultan of Morocco, of course, will remain ostensibly in power, but the country will be ruled by the French Resident General. F. Youssef, the present ruler, governs only in his imagination, for his predecessor, Mulai Haddid, on March 30 plausibly signed the paper which turned "the tail of the peacock," as Morocco is called, into the "tail of the Gallic cock." If he or any other subsequent Sultan ever attempts a rebellion he will be promptly transported to a villa in Algiers near the residence of the ex-governor of Madagascar and the ex-king of Annam.

What a contrast all this is to the disastrous failure of French colonization in America in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Those wonderful pioneers had explored and taken possession of by far the greater part of North America. From the Atlantic out to the Rockies or out to the Vermilion Sea they roamed unobscuredly. New York State was theirs, and down the valley of the Mississippi to where the great river empties into the Gulf the redskins welcomed them. And yet all this vast domain has slipped from their hands. A few regiments of soldiers might have kept them in possession against any invaders. But the regiments never came, and even the citizens of Quebec were for years in a state of drowsy. They were not practical men. But neither was the world in which they lived practical. The age of great material development had not yet come. But in any case, the success of the French in Africa today dispels the delusion that the Latin races have not the business and administrative capacity of their Anglo-Saxon rivals.—X in America.

The Greater Eye.

(By Rev. Joseph H. Stewart.)

This is a small volume of six essays on the position of Mary in Catholic theology. The author says that he publishes them because he has never come across a similar book covering the same ground. This crisis, no doubt, from the origin of the work, which is an amplification of notes written for a coast island. The book, therefore, is most suitable for Protestants; for, with God's blessing, it will root out the prejudice that the worship paid to the Mother of God and to the Saints detract somehow from the worship due to God. Again and again the author brings his reader to the directly opposite conclusion and shows admirably that false notions regarding the place of the Blessed Virgin in the economy of grace either come from false premises, or from the impression we lead to. We may, however, suggest a couple of points on which we think the excellent book might be improved. On page 24, the reader is told, "It took me eight months, three hundred years to bring the doctrine of St. Louis's Divinity to a stage of clear definition, and another century to include the unity of His Person and the quality of His nature." To those who understand the meaning is clear, but we think it might have been more happily expressed. Brevity and obscurity go together often, as Horace tells us, and this must be the case when the matter is delicate and those to whom it is explained lack something for its apprehension. At the top of page 134 the sentence beginning, "Does any Catholic?" is unintelligible, probably through defective proof reading, though "ever" contributes to the obscurity because it can be taken in two arbitrary senses. When we say that the Book will be found very useful to Protestants we do not say that it will not be useful to Catholics. On the contrary it will help their devotion greatly, and so we recommend it to them unreservedly.—America.

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