

GLEANNINGS.

STATISTICAL VIEW OF MEXICO.

The United States of Mexico formed their Constitution in 1824, on the plan of our federal Union. The deviations were few and inconsiderable—19 States and 4 Territories formed the confederation. A president was elected every four years, and could not be re-elected. A senate of two members from each State, and a deputy for each 80,000 population.

According to that constitution, every man at 18 years of age became a voter; no other qualification was required.

Indians and Mestizoes, negroes and mulattoes were equally free citizens and voters.

The population of Mexico is at present about 8,000,000. In 1791, it was 5,000,000; in 1806 it was 5,500,000; in 1825, 6,850,000. The population is divided as follows:

1. Indians, 4,000,000.
2. Mestizoes, that is, descendants of Indians and Spanish, 2,000,000.
3. Creoles, Spanish descent, born in Mexico, 1,200,000.
4. Zambo, Indian and negro descent, and mulattoes, 600,000.
5. Negroes, 1,000,000.
6. Guachupins, or natives of Spain, 10,000.
7. Estrangeros, or strangers, American, English, French, Italian, &c., 15,000.

By the relative population we perceive that Indians and Mestizoes form the bulk of the nation, and with equal privileges are sure to rule it at a future time.

They are at present, however, regarded with extreme contempt, and are by the whites opprobriously denominated irrational. The number of Indians remain nearly the same as when first discovered by the Spaniards, three centuries ago, and their manners and religion have been little affected by their white intruders.

The land in Mexico is generally much superior to that of the United States. Almost all the productions of other climes grow there in rich luxuriance.

The produce of maize is wonderful—an acre has been known to produce 200 bushels, and some stems are 20 feet high, with 5 or 6 large ears.

Wheat grows well only on table land, but there it commonly yields 25 to one. In the irrigated lands of Mexico, it has even yielded 50 to one; while in Europe, only 10 or 12 to one. It is considered the average production; and the best lands in Kentucky yield only 22 to 1.

To produce 1,000,000 pounds of sugar, only 150 labourers are required, while 300 are requisite in Cuba and Louisiana.

The production of Coffee is still easier in Mexico; 20 men can attend 200,000 trees, which on an average, produce 500,000 pounds.

Cotton also, of a quality far superior to ours, can be purchased in many parts of Mexico, in greater quantities by one third, than can be obtained from the best lands in Louisiana.

The silver mines in Mexico are perhaps inexhaustible; \$3,000,000,000 of silver have been drawn from them during 300 years past, averaging \$10,000,000 per annum.

The first English mining company was established in 1823; there are now 10; English 7; North American 2; German 1. The business however has been unprofitable.

The great source of wealth in Mexico, is her eminently productive soil. All the productions of southern Europe abound there in the greatest state of luxuriance and perfection.

Horses, cattle, sheep, &c. of the finest quality can be raised at a trifling expense, the climate being remarkably congenial to their nature. The expense of winter feeding is avoided, there being no winter there; horses of the

best quality can be obtained for 15 or 20 dollars per head.

The Mexicans have 1,000,000,000 acres of good land to be sold to colonists on six years' credit, at a few cents per acre. Any poor man therefore, without a cent in his pocket, can purchase his thousand acres of the very best land in the world, and from the productions of that land, if he be industrious, at the expiration of six years, find his payments all made, and himself independently rich.

Agricultural labor can be obtained throughout Mexico, at the average rate of 25 cents per day. These low rates operate eminently to the advantage of the enterprising agriculturalist; but the consequence is, nine-tenths of the natives for ever remain in the most abject poverty and servitude. Like the ancient Israelites, they sell themselves to pay their debts; a small debt of a few dollars often forces them into a servitude which, in consequence of the high price of clothing and the low rates of labor, they are never able to extricate themselves from.

Mechanical labor is performed mostly by foreigners, at \$2 to \$4 per day.—Soldiers of infantry have \$1.25 per day, and of cavalry \$2, but they have no rations allowed; they must therefore clothe and feed themselves, the government furnishing nothing but arms and ammunition. Their pay however is always in arrears, and very difficult to collect. They seldom receive any thing but clothing, charged to them at an extravagant rate, and that only when reduced to the last extremity. As to their food, they are often compelled to borrow, beg, or levy it by military contributions. The Mexican forces are at this time in a very disorganized and turbulent condition, reduced to rags and beggary, without resources—their pay several months in arrears, and the national treasury exhausted.

Such is the nation with whom the brave Texans are at war, and such the country they possess.

EXPLOSION EXTRAORDINARY AT THE LIVERPOOL POST OFFICE.—Several letters, weighing about two ounces, or two ounces and a half each, were some days ago put into the Post Office, Liverpool, addressed to the Havana. As the postage had not been paid on them they were detained, and on Saturday evening were made up into two parcels—four in one parcel, & three in the other—to be transmitted, to the Dead Letter office in London, where they would have been opened by the proper officer, and then returned to the writers. About half-past nine the parcel containing the four letters was stamped in the usual manner and put into the London bag; but at the moment the other parcel was stamped, a tremendous explosion took place from the letters, which were blown to atoms and Barnard, the stamper, was knocked down with great violence to the ground, and the heavy stamp which he had in his hand driven to the farther end of the office. A clerk at the next window, about 10 yards from Barnard, was also knocked down, and several of the office windows were blown into the street. Mr Banning, the postmaster, sitting in one of the back offices, felt as if he had received a violent blow at the side of his head. The moment he recovered he rushed into the office where the explosion took place, and found Barnard on the floor, bleeding from the head, and insensible. Mr Banning at first supposed that somebody had fired a pistol from outside of the office, and hastened into the street to secure the murderer. He soon returned to Barnard's assistance, and medical aid having been obtained, it was then discovered that Barnard's hands were shockingly lacerated; the finger-nails were blown off, and in some parts the flesh was torn away

and the bone left bare. His face was scorched and cut, and one eye so much injured that the surgeons stated on Sunday he would lose the use of it. A copper sprig (a sort of small nail) was extracted from his face, and pieces of paper were taken from his eyelids. It is not expected he will again be able to attend to his business. The letters were addressed in Spanish, to persons holding official situations at the Havana. It is supposed that the writers had prepared the letters with detonating powder, intending to injure those persons they were addressed to when opened there. In the confusion, the other parcel, containing the four letters, was afterwards sent off in the mail from Liverpool that night. Between twelve and one o'clock Mr Banning was apprised of it, and he instantly dispatched an express to the post office in London. It is hoped that means may be found to identify the hand writing of the letters, and lead to the discovery of the writers. A similar circumstance took place a few years ago, when the stamper was very much hurt. The individual who sent the letter then, intended to alarm the person to whom it was addressed, but he paid dearly for his folly, he was proceeded against criminally, and the stamper recovered damages for the injury.—*Liverpool paper.*

The monster who deposited in the Liverpool post office letters which exploded, has been discovered and arrested. He is a Portuguese named Josef Gomez Pelayo, and went from this city as a steerage passenger, in the Virginian. His object was to cause the death of several persons living in Havana, to whom the letters were addressed. A number of packets likewise charged with fulminating silver, and addressed to persons in Havana and Matanzas were found in his trunk. A chemist who was examined, stated that they contained powder enough to blow up the whole post office.—*New York Paper.*

RAIL ROAD ACROSS THE Isthmus of Darien.

—The prospect of opening a channel of communication across the Isthmus of Darien, which has for many years been a subject of newspaper comment and conjecture, appears now in a train at no very distant period to be realized. It appears by recent intelligence, that the congress of New Grenada, during its last session, which terminated in May, passed an act making a large appropriation of land for a Rail and McAdamised road, and granting the same, with the privilege for forty-five years, to Col. Charles Biddle, a Citizen of the United States, who it is said has acted in soliciting the contract as the agent of several large capitalists in this country. The distance across the Isthmus, from Porto Bello to Panama, is only 37 miles;—but it is interrupted by a considerable rocky elevation, forming a part of the chain of the Andes.

The advantages to commerce, should this project finally succeed and be carried into operation are thus alluded to in the N. Y. Com. Advertiser:—"The voyage to the Pacific, by the way of Cape Horn, will be in a great measure done away with; and the teas and silks of China, the spices of Polynesia, the furs of the North West coast, and the valuable products of the whale fishery, will reach us by a navigation abbreviated to half its present length and consequent expense. The commerce of other nations, too, will of necessity be directed into this new channel of communication. The capes of Good Hope and Horn will no longer be the trial-points of weather beaten mariners; monsoons and trade winds will lose mightily in interest; a vast city will spring into existence with unexampled celerity at either extremity of the road, proudly standing like the citadels of trade, one upon the margin of the Pacific and the other upon that of the Atlantic,