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A Lost Gem

"The world," said Hannington, pulling at his mustache and looking down, "is generally lenient to a—romantic marriage." "Where there is love on both sides," said Lady Val, quickly, "the world is lenient. But it will soon find out that you married her for her money, and it will revile you when it finds out that she has none."

of its joy. I love you, Val, and you love me, can we not be happy together yet?" "May I ask," said Lady Valencia, "what you intend to do with Mrs. Hannington under those circumstances?" She was utterly unmoved by the fervor of his pleading. Her eye was cool, her mouth steady. Hannington restrained himself with difficulty from uttering an angry imprecation on poor Molly Moncrieff.

GOOD ROADS. Editor Pattullo Discusses an Interesting Subject—How to Make Better Highways. Woodstock Sentinel-Review. There are some good points in a letter from Mr. T. C. Pattullo which appears in these columns the other day (but which we had no space to comment on at the time). We agree that a good deal of the discussion or agitation in favor of better roads has not produced practical results up to date. But still, all this discussion has been absolutely necessary—and much more will be necessary—before we can procure such practical results as Mr. Pattullo and others have pointed out. We are thoroughly satisfied that had roads been a loss to them and that good roads would pay, there are a good many of them of whom this cannot be said. The money sent out through the Department on if they are to be soon convinced. No improvement can be hoped for in the present system of making roads, much less can a new system be instituted, until the Canadian farmer—controls our municipal machinery—is made to realize that better roads would put money into his pocket. Even a prospective addition to his comfort and pleasure of life will not make him a road reformer until he is convinced directly through his pocket. There is still an enormous amount of work to be done before this happy time is reached. Most of us will admit the necessity for better roads can scarcely be induced to make them.

NICARAGUA. A Country of Small Population and Size, but Rich in Resources. The total population of the republic of Nicaragua is put by the best authorities at 310,000, or about one-sixth as large as that of New York, according to the census just taken. Of the inhabitants of the country, one-tenth belong to uncivilized aboriginal tribes, while the main body are classified as "Indians," Zambos or mulattoes, negroes, mixed races, and Europeans, the latter being but few in number. The area of the republic is only about 49,500 English square miles. There are few towns, and all of them, with two exceptions, are small and rude. The population of Managua, the capital, 25,000. The town of Corinto is the principal port on the Pacific, and the ladino element (a mixture of white and Indians) predominates there. The most important industry of the inhabitants of Nicaragua is the raising of cattle, the hides of which are exported; and among the other exports are coffee, bananas, sugar, indigo, coconuts, cacao, Brazil wood, and codar. The head of cattle number over 400,000. The greater part of the imports are from England, and the greater part of the exports are to the United States. There are over 100 mines worked by American companies, in nearly all of which gold is found mixed with silver, and in a few silver mixed with copper. A good deal of American capital has been sunk in them. Nicaragua is especially rich in valuable woods, the mahogany, rosewood, granadillo, and ronron, also medicinal trees, besides other commercial trees, including the castillo elastica, from which India rubber is made; the gutta percha tree, and several trees which produce gums. Wild animals, monkeys, alligators, lizards, and snakes abound, besides tropical birds to the number of 150 species. Mosquitoes swarm in all damp places, and there are fierce wasps. The foraging ants move in large armies. The seas, rivers, and lagoons are alive with every variety of tropical fish. There are numerous volcanic peaks, a few of which are still active, but most of them have long been extinct. The last great eruption was that of 1835, when Cosiguina scattered its hot ashes over a circle 1,500 miles in diameter. Near some of the extinct craters are vast beds of lava and orise and numerous vents called infernillos, which emit smoke and sulphurous vapors. On the Pacific coast the soil is very rich, and the climate is essentially that of the central zone; but the amount of cultivated land is not in proportion to the arable area of the country. Maize, the principal food of the natives, is very prolific, and the fruits and vegetables grow in abundance. The form of government is constitutional and republican. There is a Congress of two branches, the Senate and the House of Representatives; the members of both of which number only thirty-nine, who are elected under the Nicaraguan system of universal suffrage. The President now in power, Gen. Santos Zelaya, was elected in the Nicaraguan way, last year and holds office for four years. He has a council of four Ministers, who have charge of that number of departments of the government. The active army of Nicaragua consists of 2,000 men, with a reserve of 10,000, besides a nominal militia force of 5,000. The active troops are poorly equipped and appalled and the reserves are unfit for any service in the field as against a European force. The dispatches about the anger of the Nicaraguans against their readiness to fight, English must be interpreted with an understanding of the mixed elements of the population. There are about 100 miles of railway open in the country, which were built at a heavy cost. One line extends from Corinto, a distance of 58 miles, and another from the capital to Granada, 33 miles. A number of concessions for new lines of greater length have been granted to contractors, who are blamed for delaying their construction. There are a fair number of schools for the population. The finances of the Government are always in bad condition, on account of the extravagance that often prevails, and in many years the expenditures for the army have been beyond the total receipts. Two-thirds of the total annual revenue are derived from Government monopolies on spirits, tobacco, and gunpowder, and the remainder chiefly from import duties and a tax on slaughtered cattle.

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