

filled with water, were hung over the backs of burros.

The street cars are all drawn by mules, sometimes one to a car, then another with two or three side by side, again they are driven one ahead of another. The drivers have small tin horns which they blow at street crossings, making it seem quite lively. They have first and second-class cars, also funeral cars, but we did not see any of those. We saw several coffins being carried on the shoulders of three or four men, followed, perhaps, by half a dozen persons. These were of the very poor. The coffins are gaily painted, and are hired for the occasion, the remains being removed when at the burial place and the coffin returned, borne on the head of one man. On one were quite a profusion of flowers, which were for sale as soon as they were taken off the coffin. We noticed the drug stores as being very clean and nice, making a fine appearance. At one place, where our train stopped, we saw men by the side of the track loosening the dirt with shovels and other tools, a square of cloth lay on the ground, the dirt was put upon it, the four corners gathered up, and it was carried away by a man. We are told that the earth taken out of the great cut of Nochistongo, twelve miles long, with greatest depth 180 feet, and width at this point of 400 feet, was taken out on the backs of men. This gigantic canal was built to protect the City of Mexico from inundation. It did not answer the purpose, and a second one is nearly completed. Our train stopped, so we had a good opportunity to see the first one. In the National Museum in the City of Mexico we were much interested in the Stone of Sacrifice, the Calendar Stone, and many stone images, the solid silver dinner service of Maximilian, also his coach of state, a grand affair. At Queretaro carriages took us to the "Hill of the Bells, where three granite blocks mark the spot where

Maximilian and his brave generals, Miramon and Mijia, were shot."

The Peons, dressed in white, with their crude plows, drawn by oxen, with a yoke fastened to their horns, excited our curiosity until an opportunity offered for a closer inspection; it seems wonderful how straight they plow with the piece of a log, with a handle fastened to it. Their houses are of the easiest construction, of reeds woven together, with thatched roofs, and the furniture very simple; no stoves, a fire built outside, of a few sticks or charcoal in an earthen pot, over which is a bit of tin or something of the kind; when they bake thin tortillas, made like thin cakes, from corn, which has been soaked in lime water over night, and then washed in several waters, after which it is rubbed with a stone on a slanting dish, until it is fine and soft, when it is made into thin cakes, by patting in the hands. Pulque is the universal drink of the country, made from the green-leaved Mague or Centaury plant, when the blossom stalk shows; it is cut out, in the hole thus made the juice collects, into this one end of a rubber tube is inserted, the other end is placed in the peon's mouth, to draw out the air, it is then put into a pig skin, which is prepared for the purpose, being entire except the head and feet; when two of these are filled they are fastened on the sides of a burro, ready for transportation. Many car loads of it are taken into the City of Mexico each day. It soon begins to work when it is distilled, and it becomes a very intoxicating drink. We saw a great many acres of this plant under cultivation, and could but admire the straight rows and absence of weeds.

(To be continued.)

The meanest, most contemptible kind of praise is that which first speaks well of a man and then qualifies it with a "but."—Henry Ward Beecher.