

THE SATURDAY READER.

VOL. I.—No. 5.

FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 7, 1865.

FIVE CENTS.

CONTENTS.

MEXICO—THE UNITED STATES—FRANCE.	
HISTORY OF U. S. CAV- ALRY.	PHILOSOPHY OF BREAD AND BUTTER.
MONTREAL POEMS.	AN EXCEPTIONAL PRO- PERTY OF WATER.
MYSTERIES OF EX- CHANGÉ.	A SUMMER BREEZE. (poetry).
LITERARY GOSSEP.	LITTLE HUGH AND THE FAIRIES (a story for little folks).
DAWN OF CANADIAN HISTORY.	FACTS IN NATURAL HIS- TORY.
THE YOUNG CHEMIST.	PUZZLES—CHARADES.
WHAT SHALL I OFFER THEE? (poetry).	ENIGMAS—CONUN- DRUMS.
A GRASS FIRE ADVEN- TURE.	RIDDLES—ANAGRAMS, &c., &c., &c.
A GHOST STORY.	SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL ANSWERS TO CORRE- SPONDENTS.
PROPOSED NEW CAV- ALRY REGIMENT.	HOUSEHOLD RECEIPTS.
A SAVAGE LEGEND.	WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.
CHINESE THOUGHTS.	
MOTHERS.	
LARGEST LEGACY ON RE- CORD.	

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.

BACK NUMBERS.

EACH number of THE SATURDAY READER has been stereotyped, and the plates preserved. All numbers, from the beginning, can, therefore, be had at any time; but as the expense and trouble of putting the plates on the press is considerable, the publisher, in order to save this expense, and, at the same time, accommodate subscribers, has opened a register of the names of parties requiring back numbers; and, at the expiration of three months from the issue of the first number of the READER, he will reprint and supply all the back numbers ordered up to that date. In the meantime, a sixteen page sheet containing the story "Half a Million of Money," from the beginning up to date, will be supplied free of charge to each person subscribing for or buying the READER.

MEXICO—THE UNITED STATES— FRANCE.

WE attempted to show, in a recent article, the ruinous consequences that would result from a war between England and the United States. We are inclined to think that a war by the United States to drive the French out of Mexico would be still more fatal, if possible, to the future welfare of the Great Republic. The act, in our estimation, and, we believe, in the

estimation of the world, would amount to a crime of no ordinary magnitude, while it would, at the same time, be one of those errors in policy which are said to carry their own punishment with them. Regarding the question in its moral aspect, we should consider whether the United States would be acting justly to the people of Mexico in expelling Maximilian from the country, even if they had the power to do so. To arrive at a full appreciation of this point, we must glance at the condition of Mexico since the separation from Spain. Mexican independence, properly speaking, dates from the proclamation by Augustin Iturbide, in 1821, of the Constitution known as "the plan of Iguala," by which the crown was to be offered to the Spanish King Ferdinand the Seventh, and, in the event of his refusal, to other members of his house. Eight months afterwards, Iturbide, through the agency of the army and the mob, was declared Emperor under the title of Augustin the First. In less than a year a revolt, in which the famous Santa Anna was the principal actor, overturned the imperial throne and forced Iturbide into exile. Mexico was then proclaimed a Republic, with General Victoria as President. In 1828, a contest for the Presidency brought on a sanguinary civil war, which resulted in the elevation of Guercera to that office, and in 1830 to that of Dictator, to repel a Spanish invasion. Refusing to resign his dictatorial power after the danger was over, a revolution was inaugurated against him by Bustamante and Santa Anna, which compelled him to retire from his position, and Bustamante took his place. Guercera, on his part, got up a rebellion, but he was defeated and executed in 1831. Revolution followed on revolution until 1833, when Santa Anna was made President, who sent whole troops of his opponents out of the country, including Bustamante. Though nominally President, he was, in fact, a Dictator. Texas seceded from Mexico in 1835, and Santa Anna having been made prisoner by the Texans, he was succeeded in the Presidency by Bustamante; but, returning after two years, he resumed his place. He was succeeded in 1839 by Bravo, who was President for a week. A period of confusion ensued. From 1841 to 1844 there was a succession of Dictators—Santa Anna, Bravo, Canaloze—who governed without law or check. A new constitution replaced Santa Anna as President in 1844. He was deposed by a revolution, almost immediately, and banished. His successor Canaloze was deposed by another revolution of the same year, as was President Herrera in 1845. Under the next, Paredes, war broke out with the United States, in the course of which several revolutions took place. In fact the defeats of the Mexicans by General Taylor and General Scott were scarcely more injurious to the country than were its internal convulsions. The American contest came to a close in February, 1848, when California and New Mexico were ceded to the United States. Santa Anna, obliged to fly, was succeeded by Herrera; Herrera by Arista, whom a revolution forced to resign. Santa Anna was recall-

ed, and placed at the head of the Government as President, but exercising dictatorial power, an insurrection against him was successful, and he was driven from the country in 1855. Carera succeeded, and was President for twenty-seven days. Anarchy reigned supreme, and Alvarez became President for about a week. After him came Comonfort, whose rule was interrupted by several insurrections. A new constitution was promulgated in 1857, which was set aside by a revolt of the army in 1858; and Comonfort being expelled from power, two Presidents were elevated to office, Juarez by the Liberals, and Zuloaga by the Conservatives. Each President assembled an army, and there was much fighting after the old ferocious fashion. Robles forcibly deposed Zuloaga, and Miramon displaced Robles—all in rapid succession. Other chiefs appeared on the scene, and the country was the victim of horrors seldom witnessed even in civil commotions. Robbery and bloodshed ruled throughout the land. Those whom the Liberals spared became a prey to the Conservatives, and those whom the Conservatives spared, to the Liberals, while bands of banditti abounded who spared no one. The native and the foreigner were visited with the same treatment; no treaties were respected; no representative of any country was safe from outrage, nor its flag from insult. No Christian or civilized country ever before presented to the world such an accumulation of evils. France, in the worst days of the great revolution, exhibited grandeur if she committed crimes; but the revolutions of Mexico are only farces, though the actors are steeped in blood, and indulge in unbounded robbery and theft.

Such is an imperfect sketch of the state of Mexico for nearly half a century, under what is called a Republican form of Government. We again ask if the United States "would be justified in expelling Maximilian from the country," and re-establishing the reign of anarchy, which has brought forth such bitter fruit in the past, and which certainly affords no hope of improvement in the future? The Republic has been a failure in Mexico, and any system of civilized Government would ameliorate the condition of its people. Admitting, for the sake of argument, that the Monroe doctrine is wise and sound in principle, it cannot sanctify injustice and wrong; and to deliver Mexico back to the miseries, misfortunes, and crimes which have marked the last forty-five years of its wretched history, would be both wrong and unjust. We shall not enquire into the means by which Maximilian acquired the crown: that is a question for the Mexicans to decide. Enough that he is there, and professes to desire to do all the good he can for the country. The task he has undertaken is arduous and difficult. Monarchy, on this continent, resembles "a pyramid resting on its apex;" and in Mexico this is doubly true. With no traditional prestige appealing to the affections or prejudices of the people, opposed or viewed with distrust by the Church, surrounded by none of those classes and institutions from which royalty