

MEXICO. A Visit to General Porfirio Diaz and His Army. Kane O'Donnell, who is roving through Mexico as a special correspondent of the New York Tribune, gives the following interesting account of a visit to General Porfirio Diaz and his army: "During our stay in Tehuacan, for the past few days, we have seen more of what is known as the Army of the Orient, both in field and in quarters. The troops are principally disposed of in the convents of the town. Strong, tending to pass out some distance from the main body, the army numbers a division of about 4000, or five regiments. It is small but historic. Evidently it is as poorly equipped as it was fed, though on parade certain regiments are remarkably presentable and impressive. The rations are a potpourri of all sorts, a floating dish of mixed vegetable elements called *chero*, and perhaps an olla podrida of some kind, and other things unattractive, the whole being plentifully seasoned with the torture of red pepper or chile, greatly relished, however, by the Mexican soldiers. Shoes are scarce, and sandals common, showing that the Mexicans, like other patriots, have to march barefoot to glory and to liberty. At the review held yesterday, in honor of his Excellency, Mr. Romero, the troops appeared to decide advantageously evincing lameness on the plain outside of the town; their small arms are of the Enfield and Springfield patterns; and the best of their field-pieces are the mule guns captured from the Austrians, their other armament being mainly too heavy for field, and especially for mountain service. Grey and blue coats, yellow epaulettes, white breast-straps, and chasseur caps were their uniform—too much by half, since the best and cheapest uniform is next to none at all. But the Mexicans, like other patriots, have a fondness for color—though with no greater weakness in this respect than some of their commanders. The General's staff appeared in gold embroidered jackets, gold-laced caps, silver-laced red pants, and a style of wear entirely contrasting with the poverty of the private soldiers; but these precious equipments were captured from the French. The Commander-in-Chief, in his simple suit of grey, was as modest as any man I have seen in military life. I am told, receive 25 cents per day; cavalry, 50, owning their horses—not so bad wages, considering the needs of the Mexican Government. As for the moral and physical condition of the troops, they are Indians, offered by Mexicans, so-called. Regular features are very rare among them. As a rule the faces indicate only physical intelligence, which is but another way of saying that Mexico has few schools, and that her Indians are ignorant. Their physique, however is of the toughest and most durable sort, well made for mountain marches, tropic suns, muddy roads. With education such men might become all that could be desired in soldiers; nor need this education be military, for the warlike spirit appears to be superabundant in Mexico. I am not too far surprised at hearing General Diaz say that he has executed some of his troops more than fifty miles in a single day, a march unknown at the North. You must measure this fact by the sandalled feet of the Indians. They are not only the greatest walkers, but the greatest trotters in the world. "Let me speak of General Porfirio Diaz, sometimes called the Great of Mexico. By the accord of all parties, he is, undoubtedly, the best and bravest soldier, one of whom the Liberal cause has the greatest need. In the North he might have made one of the most popular and brilliant corps commanders; but his countenance gives no instant impression of the very high position which he occupies as a public man in Mexico. The want of features has been the objection made to him at every step of his career; so, too, perhaps, it has been with the subtle and patient President of Mexico; but both men have won their due in spite of appearance. His fine, nervous frame, excellent stature, cropped head, keen eyes, thin nose, rather narrow face, and countenance at an angle, convey, if anything, the picture of a soldier—one who pursues rather than retreats. By all acknowledgment he is a man without pretense, and what he has won he has won honestly and thoroughly. Some points of his biography will not be amiss. "General Diaz is now thirty-seven years old, having been a soldier for twelve years. He was a collegian with Romero, Benites, and some other well known Mexicans, in the college at Oaxaca, of which Benito Juarez was President. He was at one time, therefore, a pupil of the Chief Magistrate of Mexico, of whom he was a personal friend. He has been prefect of one of the Oaxaca districts, and for a brief time deputy to Congress, prior to becoming what he had been a lawyer. The crisis of the recent war found him near Oaxaca, whence with an inferior force of men he took the city, having previously with 300 men defeated about five times his number. From this point proceeds the most brilliant chapter in the career of General Diaz. When the arms were at Oaxaca, he marched with an augmented army through the valley in the direction of Puebla, where two years before he had assisted against the French the brave generals Zaragoza and Liave, who were the real heroes of Puebla, and not General Ortega. Seated near Puebla, and for a moment in doubt whether his strong garrison would come out to attack him, he hesitated whether to attack the garrison boldly or march to meet a force of 4000 or 5000 men, a number equal to his own which, under Marquez, were coming to relieve the garrison. His troops were at this time in rags, and even with a train of artillery which joined him from Oaxaca, his armament did not exceed thirty pieces against 150 of the enemy. It was after having deceived his enemy outside of the walls by a feat upon the city of Mexico, that Diaz began his operations against Puebla, without once retreating an inch. After twenty days of action, more or less severe, he effected a final assault, thirteen columns of troops attacking the same number of points in the perimeter of the enemy's fortifications. The assault was carried on in the same direction as that from which Marshal Forey commenced his operations—that is to say, the West, it being next to impossible to capture the high and steep strongholds guarding the front roads—namely, Forts Guadalupe and Loreto, Diaz succeeded in capturing them, the result of which was that the French, cut off from water and compelled their surrender. It was a daring and almost desperate action, the most brilliant performed by any Mexican in the late war. With his thinned forces, Diaz could not at once return with the fresh troops of Marquez, but his pursuit of this ferocious leader was as effective as any pitched battle. He forced him into Mexico with the loss of all his trains, and one-third of his army killed, wounded, or prisoner. There he kept him up, and after two months of siege, during which the inhabitants suffered the pangs of famine and the cruelties of Marquez, compelled the city's surrender with little or less loss of life. This victory was highly appreciated, as it showed prudence and moderation in the commander. Great commanders it will not be claimed Mexico has produced. Of the kind of Diaz men she has had many—Santa Anna, Miramon, Marquez, were all of this kind. Diaz is a man of different stamp. He has moderation as well as courage and shrewdness, and he has been a marvellous victor. It should be understood that his recent nomination for both Presidency and Vice-Presidency has been unsought and even unwished, and that he acquiesces frankly in the election of Citizen Juarez. Not very long ago the General was married to a lady whose intellectual and mental presence will be welcome in the United States, should the General ever feel inclined to pay a visit North.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL NOTES. THE HANLONS AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC. In these latter days of the world, when the earnest and ardent has, as a general thing, fallen into the hands of a class of persons who present but little of him upon the co-intelligence and encouragement of the public. When, therefore, we find the thoughtless to such a rare and classical entertainment as is now presented by the Hanlon Brothers, we cannot refrain from giving the attention more than usual prominence. The Hanlons are masters of every branch of the acrobatic science, and many of their feats are as original as they are startling. For downright audacity they certainly have never been excelled, and rarely, if ever, equalled by any similar troupe; of a kind certainly we have had no performers of the like in this city, for years past, who approach them. The marvelous skill which they exhibit in "The Three Flying Men in the Air," is equaled only by the danger incurred by those who participate in the feat, life and limb being boldly risked—and yet not risked, for science has reduced their perilous movements to a degree of certainty which is equivalent to safety. One of the most novel features of the entertainment is the Man-Frog, a mysterious creature who dives about beneath the water, while luxuriating in tobacco smoke. In addition to the acrobatic feats, they participate in the evening's entertainment are a number of dogs whose quaint performances are almost equal to those of their masters. Altogether, an evening cannot be more entertaining, and scarcely more profitably spent, than at the Academy of Music during the present engagement of the Hanlons. AT THE CHESTNUT STREET THEATRE the fairy spectacle of *Genarito* still holds its sway deservedly. A number of modifications in the scenery of late have been made, and to its decided improvement. The thread of the story is the ever popular romance of "Cinderella, and the Little Glass Slipper," with which the dramatist has taken considerable liberties, placing Cinderella's father in the unfavorable position of a hen-pecked husband, whose relations add not a little to the interest of the romance. While the chief attraction of the play consists in the ballet which figures so prominently in it, there is still considerable opportunity for the legitimate drama, which is almost lacking in the famous *Back Creek*. AT THE ARCH STREET THEATRE the delightful drama of *Curs* will continue the attraction during the remainder of the week. The vivid character-form and the picturesque incident which have lost none of their original attractiveness. This evening Mrs. John Drew will take a benefit as "Mary Netley" in *Curs*, and at the matinee and evening performances to-morrow, the same will be presented for the last time. On Monday evening next, according to the announcement, long since made, Colonel Fitzmaurice's new Irish drama of *Light as a Leaf; or, The Shadow on the Cusmeral*, will be produced, and curiosity will be put at rest. AT THE WALNUT STREET THEATRE Miss Lucille Weston is still engaged in serving up *East Lynne* to the unwearied admirers of that never ending sensation. This evening she will take a benefit, and *East Lynne* will, as usual, be the attraction. AT THE AMERICAN THEATRE the holiday week is being characterized by even more than the customary variety of entertaining performances. A matinee is given to-morrow afternoon. AT THE SEVEN H STREET OPERA HOUSE *Santa Claus* made his appearance on Christmas evening, and he has not yet disappeared. The interest of the entertainment is greatly increased by the lavishness with which Old Nick scatters his toys among the audience. This evening Mr. William Allen will take a benefit. AT CONCERT HALL the Morris Brothers' troupe of minstrels have been performing throughout the week to large audiences, whom they have in no case failed to please. SACRED CONCERTS OF SUNDAY EVENING.—The first of a series of Sacred Concerts on Sunday evenings will take place at Concert Hall on next Sunday evening, the 29th instant, under the direction of Mark Hasler, and the preparations are being conducted on a very grand scale. It will be one of the finest musical reunions that has taken place in the city for many years. Mr. Hasler has fortunately secured an engagement with the great prima donna, Madame Elisa Lumley, lately arrived from Europe, who has taken prominent part in the grand operas of Paris, Milan, London, and other European cities. Madame Lumley has had the honor to sing before a number of the crowned heads of Europe, and as an oratorio singer she stands unequalled. A grand orchestra of fifty first-class performers has been engaged, and a choice programme of sacred songs has been prepared, which will be found in another column. The Home Missionary Society will be the recipients of the entire net proceeds of the first concert. THE GERMAN ORCHESTRA will give their regular public rehearsal at the Musical Fund Hall, to-morrow afternoon, commencing at half-past three o'clock. The following is the programme:— 1. Overture, "La Dame Blanche" (by request), Beldieu. 2. Concerto for Violin, op. 41 allegro molto and andante, performed by William Stoll, Jr., Mendelssohn. 3. "Coronation Song" by J. Lasser. 4. Adagio cantabile, from *Tristram and Isolde*, II. w. v. 5. Overture, "Egmont" (by request), Beethoven. 6. *Marche Militaire* (from *Les Huguenots*). 7. Finale from "Lucia di Lammermoor" Donizetti. HASLER'S ORCHESTRA will, on Monday afternoon next, give another of those popular instrumental and vocal concerts, which have found such ready and hearty favor with our musical public.

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