# THE DECADENCE OF SPAIN

Pall of the Greatest Empire Ever Scen on Earth.

## INSTRUCTIVE BIT OF HISTORY

Wealth and Extent of the Spanish State During the Days of Charles V. and Philip II.-How the Vast Dominion Has Collapsed.

From the Globe-Democrat. To the student of the philosophy of history no more thrillingly interesting chapter has ever been written than that penned by Buckle on the causes of the decadence of Spain, and no more significant words were ever spoken than those he used when contrasting the Spain of Philip II, with the Spain of today. As it is known to us, no country in Europe is of less consequence in the world's affairs. Little Portugal, that once acknowledged the dominion of Spain and formed a province in the Spanish emptre, is now of more importance. The Balkan states, which arose but yesterday out of the ruins of the Ottoman empire, are infinitely more po-Ottoman empire, are infinitely more potential. Even Greece and Denmark, both once great empires, and now, with Spain, in eclipse, cut a larger figure in the world's affairs, for each, by its geographical position, is able to command a respect that it not shown to Spain. The time was when the affairs of Europe and the world were directed from Madrid, but now, when the powers meet in conference to settle questions of sulphy import. Madrid sends tions of mighty import, Madrid sends no representative to the congress, for Spain has no influence, is not consulted. and so far as appears on the records, is not even thought of by the diplomats of the powers that now control the uffairs of the eastern hemisphere. From a position of supreme authority, Spain has sunk so low as to be utterly disregarded in the world's politics and ignored in the world's movements. THE SPANISH EMPIRE.

When the universal contempt into which Spain has fallen is remembered, it is difficult to realize that only three centuries ago Spain ruled the world. It was the Emperor Charles V. who first made the proud boast that on his dominions the sun never set, nor was it an idle word, but a plain statement of fact. At its greatest extent the Span. fact. At its greatest extent the Span-ish empire spread so far beyond the limits of the peninsula that the original boundaries of the Spanish state in-closed its smallest possession. The sway of Charles was acknowledged, not only over Spain, of which he was the hereditary monarch, but in a large part of Southern Italy, in Sicily, in Portu-gal and in the Netherlands, while as emperor he ruled over a considerable portion of the present possessions of Austria and all the small states, which, almost from the dawn of authentic history, have been grouped under the gen-eral named of Germany. In America the Spanish power was acknowledged over a territory so vast as to make the mightiest empires of antiquity seem contemptible by comparison. Charles contemptible by comparison. Charles claimed for his own the 8,000,000 square miles of North America and the 7,000, 000 of South America, a grand total of 15,000,000 square miles on this side of the Atlantic, while his possessions in Africa. Asia and the innumerable is-Africa, Asia and the innumerable is-lands that, in every sea, acknowledged allegiance to the Spanish throne, brought up, with the European states, the area of the empire to a grand total of not less, and perhaps more, than 17,000,000 square miles. Never before nor since has so vast a territory been governed by one man. The Czar of Russia rules a territory a little more than half the size of that which owned the sway of Charles; the British flag noats over much Jess than two-thirds that area: the Roman eagles, in the golden days of Trajan, were honored over a territory only one-sixth as large over a territory only one-sixth as large while the world Spain's weakest point, prosperity of a nation were neglected, and the enemies of the Spanish state while thousands of the young men, the that area: the Roman eagles, in the empires of Greece, and Assyria, and Babylon, and the great states, founded by the Moguls and Gonghis Khan, were petty by comparison with the Spanish dominions. Over 100 different political commonwealths have been carved out of the Spanish empire, and still the

### process is going on. A COMPARISON.

The overshadowing supremacy of Spain can be better understood by glancing at the relative positions held by other states orf Europe that have grown while Spain was declining. When Spain was at her best, France was hardly more than a vassal state. Hemmed in on every side by her powerful neighbor, the territory of France was much more limited than at present, while the crushing defeats of the French arms at the hands of the dreaded Spanish house caused, in Spain, the same contempt for France that is now felt in the latter country for Spain. Germany and German states of Austria were a part of the empire, while to the southeast, the Hungarians were so constantly engaged in battling with the Turk as to find no time for other occupation. The states of Italy not un-der control of the Spanish empire were under its political influence, while to the east of Germany, the kingdom of Poland, when not divided by civil strife among its nobility, was alternately waging war against the Turks to the south and the savage tribes in the great steppes which extended to the base of the Ural range, Russia was little more considered in the affairs of Europe than China is at present, being d as a savage state, while Denmark and Sweden were hardly more esteemed than Russia. Even England d not, at that time, come to be recognized as a first-class power, and, al-though Charles and Henry VIII, met on terms of equality as reigning sover-eigns, it was regarded at the time as a special condescension on the part of the former that he, the ruler of the world, former that he, the ruler of the world, should show such a courtesy to the king of a petty group of islands north of the channel. The English colonial period had not begun, and nothing was known of the marvelous ability of the English people as colonists in a new country; the English commerce and manufactures and banking institutions were alt in the future; there was no standing army on the islands; a few top-heavy ships, more dangerous to the sailors on board from a tendency to capsize, than to the enemy, represented the splendid fleets that now carry the British flag on every sea. Spain was the master of the world, and no proposal of inter-national consequence was made in any court of Europe without consulting the sador: nor was any carried out without the approval of his

## WEALTH OF THE EMPIRE.

The natural resources of the Spanish peninsula are in themselves so consid-erable that in the hands of an enterprising and industrious people the country would take high rank among the nations of the earth, but the recountry would take high rank among the nations of the earth, but the resources of Spain were but a trifle compared with those of the empire. The Italian and Sicilian possessions were wealthy, the German and Austrian portions were still more so, and the Netherlands were a constant source of revenue to the imperial treasury. All that Europe could give, however, was but a drop in the bucket compared with the incalculable sums sent to Spain from the almost limitless colonies in America. The native rulers of Mexico, Central America and Peru yielded up their treasures at the command of the military adventurers who conquered those countries, and the mines, worked by the labor of hapless Indian slaves, poured forth gold and silver in such quantities as the world had never known. Every galleon that crossed from Spain to America returned laden with treasure. It is estimated that in the century which followed the discov-

ery of the new world 2,000 tons of gold and three times that quantity of silver crossed the ocean to be squandered in Spain. Penniless knights, with only their arms, borrowed money to seek their fortune in America and returned their fortune in America and returned millionaires. Merchants and capitalists who invested their means in American ventures became enormously rich. Men who went out to America as common soldiers came back in a few years and paraded the streets of Madrid and Toledo and Cordova with processions of slaves and attendants such as befitted the state of a prince. In 1540 a Spanish soldier was married in Barcelona to the daughter of a nobleman and gave away in alms at his wedding lona to the daughter of a nobleman and gave away in alms at his wedding \$600.000 in gold and silver. Spain was literally intoxicated with wealth, and went wild with the expectation of more. In every town there were those who had made fortunes in America and returned to Spain to flaunt their ill-gotten gains before their former associates. The wildest extravagance prevailed. A returned Spaniard in 1557 stood at his window in Madrid and threw, a handful at a time, two barrels of silver coins into the street berels of silver coins into the street be low for the pleasure of seeing the peo-ple scramble and fight for the money. The wildest tales of spendthrift fancy during periods of abnormal develop-ment elsewhere seem tame when com-pared with the follies of the newly

BEGINNING OF THE DECLINE Extravagance, whether national or in-dividual, infallibly brings its own punthe rule. It is possible for nations, as for individuals, to become shiftless, and spain had become a nation of improvident gamblers. Agriculture and the instance of the Armada was the first great snock weakening for years, but the weakness here and there observable did not determine the property of the Armada was the first great snock weakening for years, but the weakness here and there observable did not determine the property of the Armada was the first great snock weakening for years, but the weakness here and there observable did not determine the property of the Armada was the first great snock was the

rich in Spain during the century after

the discovery.

at the opening of his reign. He was sick of the whole business and, so in disgust, turned it over to his son to manage as best he could.

THE GREAT ENGLISH WAR. The evil that Charles did lived after him and soon grew to mighty proportions under Philip II. Some of the mischlevous measures of this short-sighted king have already been alluded to, but the most disastrous and far-reaching mistake was the English war. His marriage with Mary had not endeared him in the least to the English people, and his conquest of Portugal and merciless campaigns against the heretics of the Netherlands showed the English what they might expect should he succeed in obtaining authority on the islands. The death of Mary did not put an end to his schemes, but his failure to contract a matrimonial alliance with Elizabeth enraged him, and, for re-The evil that Charles did lived after Elizabeth enraged him, and, for revenge, he planned the conquest of England. The story of the "Invincible Armada" has been often told and is familiar to every schoolboy, but not so well known is the fact that Philip was invited in 158 known is the fact that Philip was inspired to fit out the great fleet in 1588 by the success of a naval campaign against the Turks in 1571, in which the Spanish fleet, allied with the naval forces of all the Mediterranean states, put an end to the Turkish growth at sea and forced the Moslems to confine their military operations to the land. Philip dreamed of another Lepanto on the English coast, and, with sublime confidence in the invincibility of his fleet, was with difficulty restrained from accompanying it to England. The ruin of the Armada was the first great shock of the Armada was the first great shock

EMMA CALVE, THE GREAT SINGER. -From the Chicago Times-Herald. By the Courtesy of H. H. Kohlsan

best blood of the country, flocked to America to join those who had gone before in the search of gold. So great was the outflow of the bone and sinew of the nation that in 1594, mechanics in the cities of Spain commanded four times the daily wages that had been paid thirty years earlier, while, in the agricultural districts, labor could not be had at any price, and hundreds of farms remained untilled because of the lack of men to perform the necessary work. The stupid policy of the gov-ernment still further increased the dif-ficulty, for Philip II., affirming that he would rather not reign at all than reign over heretics and unbelievers, began a policy of expelling Dissenters Jews and Moriscoes, who took with them a large share of the industries and arts of Spain. The expulsion of the Moors in particular did infinite damage to the country, for whatever of industrial skill remained in it belonged to them, and the result of their emigration was the immediate annihilation of Spanish manufactures. This, however was only a part of the Spanish misfor tunes. The sudden exaltation of Spain produced a degree of pride that, to other nations, was unendurable, while the wealth of the Spanish monarch excited the bitter envy of all his con temporary sovereigns, and led to com-binations against the Spanish power Personal pique often plays as import-ant a part in national as in society affairs, and when the embassadors of England, France and Venice found the representative of the majesty of Spain claiming precedence over themselves because, to use the grandiloquent lan-guage of one don, "My master rules the earth and your kings are but his puppets,' it was natural, not only that they should report their grievance to their governments, but also that their indignant sovereigns should take up the quarrel and make it personal to them-

THE WARS OF CHARLES V.

The consequence was that even during the reign of Charles V. the empire became involved in war with all its neighbors, while the peace within was often broken on account of the zeal with which the state undertook to and the church in the extirpation of heresy There was a long and costly war with Francis I., arising from the jealous felt by France for her more powerful neighbor; there was a longer and still more expensive strife waged against the Protestants of Germany and th people of the Netherlands, while Charles, though eager to exterminate heretics, did not scruple to make war on the pope, and military operations on a large scale were also carried or on a large scale were also carried on against the Turks, Tunis and Algiers. The consequence was that even the enormous sums sent to the imperial treasury from Mexico and Peru were insufficient to defray the expenses of these campaigns, and Charles was forced to levy extraordinary taxes on the people. This caused revolts all over the people. This caused revolts all over Spain, and in several provinces a guer-rilla war was carried on by the people against the imperial troops for several of the later years of the reign of Charles. Even the extraordinary levies failed to produce funds in sufficient amount to carry out the plans of Charles and he was finally compelled to contract an enormous debt, for the payment of which he pledged the revenues of the state. There is abundant reason to believe that Charles clearly foresaw the approaching decline of the Spanish power, but there is no special evidence to show that he abdicated in order to escape his share of the responsibility. He was not a man to shirk responsibility. His abdication seems to have been the act of an old, broken, disappointed and thoroughly heart-sick man. He had seen all his plans fall. He had seen France once seen Protestantism apparently exter-minated in Germany, but having ten times more adherents at the close than

edge thus gained. The English, the Dutch, the French hastened to build vessels on the type of those in which Drake and his captains outmanoeuvered the unwieldy galleons that floated helplessly up the channel, and in less than a century three other great fleets bear-ing the Spanish flag had been captured or destroped by the small fleet cruisers or these constantly hostile nations, and innumerable Spanish vessels had been taken singly, whose treasure was spent as prize money in Amsterdam, Bordeaux and Portsmouth by elated sailors.

## INCOMPETENT RULERS.

In addition to these reverses abroad. a train of disasters came at home from the incompetence of the Spanish rulers. No country was probably ever so cursed with fanatical and imbedie kings as was Spain during the seven teenth century. Each seemed, if pos-sible, a little worse than his predecessor; a little more stupid, a little more bigoted, a little less able to see facts that were obvious to all others, until the like was ended by an idot scarce-ly able to master the knowledge necessary to sign his name to state papers The consequences were apparent, both at home and abroad. Travelers through Spain declared that the whole country seemed under a blight. Industry was dead, the farms were untilled, the pastures untenanted, the population had fallen off to an alarming extent, the roads between towns could not be The provinces and dependent states were in constant rebellion. There were insurrections in Italy and Sicily. Portugal recovered its independ the Spanish were driven out of the Netherlands, there were wars with France in which the arms of the were uniformly victorious, the American colonies were almost completely cut off from intercourse with the home government on account of the activity of English and Dutch cruisers, what news came was largely of mis-fortune, for the mines of precious metal were failing, rival viceroys and governors were fighting, and the pirates of the West Indies infested the coasts of Mexico, Central America and Venezuela to such an extent that only large and well-armed fleet could pass in safety through the gauntlet of pirate brigantines. To crown all, under Charles II., at the beginning of the following century, came the famous war of the Spanish succession, in which the best blood of Spain was poured out on distant fields in a quarrel in which the Spanish people felt little interest, and at its close the power of the state was still further reduced by the cessions which Philip V. was compelled to make in order to maintain himself on the Spanish throne.

## THE AMERICAN REVOLT.

The eighteenth century was a period of almost uninterrupted disaster. or almost uninterrupted disaster. Two unsuccessful wars were waged with Engand; during one, Gibraltar became an English possession; during the oth-er, when Spain took sides with France after the revolution, the Spanish flee was destroyed, all the ports of Spain were blockaded and the country reduced to abject misery. But these great misfortunes were small when compared to those which came in the first quarter of this century. The attempt of Napoleon to force a French king upon the Spanish people led to a guerrilla war against the invaders, which raged for years in every nook and corner of the peninsula and though successful, left the country a barren waste. officers of Wellington's army have left accounts of the pitiable condition of Spain and its inhabitants as witnessed during their campaigns against the French. Throughout whole provinces not a farm was under culti-vation; heaps of ashes and standing chimneys marked the sites of towns chimneys marked the sites of towns and villages, and a few ragged, starv-ing wretches, picking up ecorns in the forests, represented the population. Such was the state of Spain at the end

of Napoleon's wars, and worse was to come, for three years after Napoleon had been sent to St. Helena mutterings of revolt were heard in the American colonies. By 1820 the whole of Span-ish America was in open insurrection. Heroic attempts were made by the gov-Heroic attempts were made by the gove trnment to put down the rebellions that had sprung up all over the Span-ish colonies, but from Mexico to Chili the whole country was up and armed, and the few troops that could be sent from Spain accomplished nothing. The same policy that is now being prose-cuted in Cuba—that of extermination was attempted in America, but the Spaniards were too few to exterminate whole nations, and, though the war was prosecuted with as much vigor as could be shown by a degenerate race, before the close of 1826 the Spaniards had been driven from every position on the mainland of America and their splendid empire was gone. Since then the decline of Spain has been still more marked than before. Revolution has succeeded revolution; a war with France in 1822, civil wars in the Basque country, the Carlist war and other struggles have tended to weaken the nation, while industries are paralyzed, agricultue is at a standstill, and of its former greatness Spain retains only the pride of recollection.

### THE CAUSES.

So rapid a decline and a fall so great have not taken place without attract-ing the attention of philosophical minds which have exerted themselves to dis-cover and explain the causes of the decay of an empire that comprised more territory within its limits than any other known to the historian. It is in-teresting to observe that, in general, the historians have explained the phenomenon according to their own prejunomenon according to their own preju-dices. The Protestants uses the de-cline as an object lesson against the prevalent religion of Spain, finding a full and satisfactory explanation in the Inquisition and the suppression of the freedom of religious opinion; one Catho-lic historian, on the contrary, attributes the decadence to the leniency in deal-ing with heresy in its early stages, af-firming that had Charles V. exerted due diligence in stamping out the Reformadiligence in stamping out the Reforma-tion in Germany, Spain would be today what she was then, the greatest power on the earth. The political economist teaches that the enormous wealth brought from America, instead of enriching, really impoverished Spain, since it induced neglect of home industries and generated an extravagance which became the ruin of the nation. Buckle finds, or thinks he finds, the cause, finds, or thinks he finds, the cause, partly at least, in the superstitious reverence for authority which kept the Spaniards faithful to church and state, even while they knew the one to be corrupt and the other incompetent. Pride of character and an arrogance that excited the hatred of all foreign states, the warlike habits of the Spanish people, confirmed by eight centuries of constant conflict with the Moors, draining the country of its best men and leaving only the weakly and infirm, each and every one of these causes, toeach and every one of these causes, to-gether with innumerable others, have peen upheld by able advocates. Ex plain it as we may, the fact remains, that from whatever cause of causes the Spain of today is but a phantom of the Spain of three centuries ago; the splendid empire of Charles V. and Philip II. has not melted away. It has been vio-lently rent in pieces, and not a leading power in the world but has grown great, in some degree, at the expense of

### Notes on Science

and Industry.

A great number of people who can never cross the ocean without being prostrated by seasickness have come to look upon every reputed cure for that distressing mailady as a delusion and a snare. Whether the latest remedy, or rather preventive, is more efficacious than the rest remains to be proved. Dr. A. D. Rockwell says it is. He asserts that the rearemains to be proved. Dr. A. D. Rockwell says it is. He asserts that the reason to little attention has been paid to seasickness, especially by those not subject to it, is that there was a fallacious idea that to be seasick did a person good; that it cleared out the system, and therefore nature should be allowed to take its course. Dr. Rockwell holds that there is neither advantage or need for the allment. It must be prevented, and the battle of prevention must be fought on land before sailing. For three days before the voyage doses of bromide of sodium must be taken—in preference to bromide of potassium—and this course must be continued for three or four days after sailing. One pleasant effect of this bromization is the sound and refreshing nature of the sleep it induces. The dose recommended by Dr. Rockwell is thirty grains of bromide of sodium three times a day for three days before the voyage, and for three or four days after starting. He has invariably found this treatment an absolute preventive.

lute preventive.

Among the novelties in bicycle gear is a new foot clip, which has several good features. The construction is such that when the pedal is not in use and hanging downward, the toe-clip swings out of the way, so that the pedal may be caught by the rider's foot without any attention being paid to the clip. The instant the foot is placed upon the pedal the clip files into position, where it locks firmly. When the foot is removed, and the pedal turns with the clip on the underside, the mechanism immediately unlocks automatically, and is ready for further use. By the use of this clip the sideguards on the pedals may be dispensed with, as the clip is provided with a metal strip, which acts as a guard, and which can be made narrower or wider to suit the rider's foot. The clip weighs three ounces. It is simply and strongly made, and can be adjusted to fit almost any kind of pedal. The inventor of a new bleycle brake claims that his appliance, wheh can also be used as a foot brake, will not cut or wear the tire material. The brake frame, which is of metal, carries two flanged rollers, on which is tightly stretched a rubber band, the brake being attached to a stem which extends up the steering head. When the which is tightly stretched a rubber band the brake being attached to a stem which extends up the steering head. When the brake stem or rod is forced downward in the usual way the band bears with cor-responding pressure on the wheel tire. One of the rollers of the band is adjusta-ble, and can be so moved as to increase the tension on the hand.

It seems that, independent of the now much-mooted question of horseflesh for human food, there can be no doubt as to the value of that animal's bones for innuman food, there can be no doubt as to the value of that animal's bones for industrial and chemical purposes. An investigator of this subject states that the leg bones are so very hard and white as to be specially valuable for handles of pocket and table cutlery, and the ribs and head are burned to make bone-black after they have been treated for the glue that is in them; in the calcining of these bones the vapors arising are conderned and form the chief source of carbonate of ammonia, which constitutes the base of nearly all ammoniacal salts. To make glue the bones are softened in muriatic acid, dissolved in boiling water, cast into squares, and dried on nets. The phosphate of lime, acted upon by sulphuriacid and calcined with carbon, produces phosporus for matches. The roots are boiled to extract the oil; the horny substance is shipped to the manufactories of combs, and a variety of special articles. stance is shipped to the manufactories of combs and a variety of special articles.

stance is shipped to the manufactories of combs and a variety of special articles.

Dr S. G. Sterlin Ryerson has grouped together a few of the admonitions by which it is sought from time to time to warn the public against frittering away their eyesight. He says: "Don't read in railway trains or in vehicles in motion; don't read lying or in a constrained position; don't read by firelight, moonlight or twilight or by flickering gaslight or candlelight; don't read books printed on thin paper or books which have no space between the lines; don't read for more than fifty minutes without stopping, whether the eyes are tired or not; don't hold the reading close to the eyes; don't study at night, but in the morning when you are fresh; don't select your own glasses at the outset." Dr. Ryerson explains the reading while trayeling tires the clilary muscle because of the too frequent adjustment of the focus. In short, anything which tends to increase the quantity of blood in the organ favors the increase of the defect, leading in extreme cases to detachment of the retina and blindness.

Frederick Warde is the strongest favor-

Frederick Warde is the strongest favor-ite of any actor that visits the Pacific Coast. His San Francisco engagement is proving to be a hummer.

Spain's Collection of Peminine Matadors Who Pight to Kill.

A STUDY IN HUMAN DEPRAVITY

secount of Some of the Deeds of Blood and Daring Performed by Amason-Like Donnas of the Fire-Eating Kingdom.

From the Globe-Democrat, When the people of Barcelona fired the whole world with talk of war be-tween Spain and the United States by mobbing the American consulate in that city and dragging the Stars and Stripes in the dust they had just come from a buil fight. The ferocious sport had ex-cited their flery natures to the point of frenzy, and they were ready for any extravagant act to relieve their surplus excitement. If there had been no buil excitement. If there had been no built fight that day, Spain might not now be fitting up privateers to prey upon our commerce and spending money which it can ill afford to use. It was the built fight which suddenly brought on the crisis, otherwise the national differences would have been shuttled backward and forward in the devious channels of diplomacy, until all the bitterward and forward in the devious chan-nels of diplomacy, until all the bitter-ness of feeling had been dissipated. The Barcelona bull fight is quite dif-ferent from the same kind of sport in

other Spanish cities, for it is there that the woman bull fighter is born and bred and makes here introductory killing be-

WOMEN IN THE RING.

On the day set apart for the women buil fighters there are women only in the ring. The picadors ride in on the equine wrecks garbed in the costume of the Spanish knights of the middle ages. The women look very handsome and ride with considerable grace. Following the picadors are the chulos on foot, who wear wonderful cloaks, and enough ribbon to stock a small shop. They group themselves so that the swirling mass of variegated color will aggravate the buil. After a short pause, in comes the matador with a naked sword in her hand. She, of course, is the queen of the day. The right hand holds the sword and in the left she carries the muleta, a slender stick with a bit of scarlet slik attached. The picadors take up a position in the center of the ring with their long lances held firmly.

Then the buil is driven in. This is a critical moment. The avarianced ones.

in a moment can tell if the bull is a natural fighter or whether he is peaceably inclined. If the former, they know that they will get their money's worth in blood. If the latter, they have their doubts. The best fighting bulls are supplied by the duke of Veragua, the descendant of Christopher Columbus, who visited this country during the World's Fair. The duke's income is supplied by this business. If the bull is quiet, and shows no disposition to attack at once, the pica-

lives long enough to enter the ring the next day, but he is usually so weak that the bull makes short work of him. WOMEN IN THE RING.

Then the buil is driven in. This is a critical moment. The experienced ones in a moment can tell if the bull is a

of the built is quiet, and shows no disposition to attack at once, the pleadors ride around him, prodding him where they can with their long lances. The chulos excite him by the flashing of their gorgeous colors. It is not in the built nature to stand this for any



ETHEL IRENE STEWART, AGED 15, MARVELOUS CHILD SOPRANO. -From the Chicago Times Herald. By the Courtesy of H. H. Kohlsaat.

fore an admiring audience. Some of the aristocracy of the old regime de-plore the existence of the woman bull fighter, but the middle classes adore ner, and every year marks an increase in the ranks of the feminine dabblers n blood.

HOW IT USED TO BE.

In the old days the bull fighter was a gentleman of the bluest blood, who rode into the ring on an Arabian charger, worth almost his weight in gold. I was a great accomplishment in the ol lays, and the young gentleman who tasis, and the young gentleman who are need as the cleverest built fighter of his time was a man of vast social distinction. He was the pet of all the fine ladies of the land and the envy of all the way. the men. Kings, queens and princes smiled upon him and there was no favor too great to be heaped upon him. He was the idol of the people. He did not fight in the manner of today. He car-ried a simple javelin, four feet long, and slew the bull unaided, at the same time putting his spirited mount through a series of intricate evolutions to show off the paces of the animal and his owr

or the paces of the animal and his own horsemanship.

These were brave days for the young men of Spain. They were supplanted by the bull fighters who entered the arena for hire. These men at first tool more desperate chances than the others and, moreover, rode poor, broken-down horses, which were so slow and nerveless that they could not avoid the umbersome charges of the enraged bull. The horses were gored, and this added to the pleasure of the populace The more blood that is spilled and snattered about, the greater the satisfaction of the audience. If some poor picador s laid low their delight is supreme. It the matador is hasty and kills the bull early in the fight without giving the beast a chance to gore some one the au-dience is angry. It has been cheated of its share of blood.

THE NEXT STEP.

The next step in the degeneracy of the bull ring, according to Spanish au-thorities, came with the appearance of he woman fighter. From the ranks of the Barcelona mill hands, girls with agile bodies, handsome in face and form, come the women bull fighters. As mill ands they are virtually slaves, earning only enough to keep body and soul together. As buil fighters they are the idols of the people, the recipients of showers of adulation, with fine clothes and plenty of money to spend. They live under a halo of happiness and prosperity. No wonder it is the dream by day and night of all the pretty darkeyed girls slaving away in the mills that they, too, will enter the arena some day and kill bulls amid the wild enthusiasm of the best people of the

It is almost needless to say that the most popular of these Amazons are the prettiest and the shapeliest. They wear the same garb as men bull fight-ers, and they ride the horse astride. If they rode with the side saddle it would be a mest dangerous proceed-ing, for a firm seat is essential to safety of life and limb.

ring at some little distance it is quite impossible to distinguish the

has been worked into a perfect frenzy the mastador prepares for her dainty task.

To kill him at one blow is considered bad form, although it is most diffict t. The popular matadors stick him here and there until he streams blood it score of places. When he is at als wildest the matador by a few deft steps works to his left side and at the proper instant stands up on her little toes to her full height, and with a downward hrust of the sword sinks it to the hilt mmediately back of the shoulder blades. If the aim be true, the sword blade cuts the heart in two and bull drops dead in his tracks. Th considered a great feat, and the lucks matador who accomplishes it the first time is caught in a shower of jewels, coins and flowers from all sides of the

The cleverest women bull fighters in Spain today are Providence Almeda Maria Alvarado. They are great rivals and each has an immense of admirers.

## YOUR GOOD HEALTH.

Cheerfulness, first of all, is a duty a man owes to himself. Any physician will tell you that one of the best preventives of disease is cheerfulness, and one of the best curatives, when disase has set in, is that happy and hopeful disposition that feels it is all for the best, whatever comes, health or sickness, life or what they call death. Such a man will be restored to health under the most adverse circumstances, while the strong but despondent and melancholy disposition will weaken and fade away. All the doctors in the land cannot save a man who has not energy enough to will his own existence. Thinking of this, the great English historian said that cheerfulness was worth more than £5,000 a year.

The Dublin Journal of Medical Science quotes an interesting statement by Sir Benjamin W. Richardson concerning his observations on the duration of life of the offspring as compared with that of the parents. He considers that if the ages of the two parents and of the four grandparents be added together and divided by six, the age of the case in point will be told with an average variation of not more than two. If the ages of the parents are high, the offspring tends to improve on them; if low (say an average of 40 or lower), the life of the offspring will probably be shorter. be shorter.

Grape-fruit is an admirable tonic as well

Grape-fruit is an admirable tonic as well as a most appetizing breakfast or luncheon relish. The sharp stimulus of fruit is one of the best things to set the digestive organs in order for the day and the peculiar properties of the grape-fruit give it marked medicinal value. When eaten at luncheon it is prepared in a different way than for breakfast service. For the second meal the contents of two halves should be scraped out, the seeds and tough cone of dividing skin taken out and the pulp and juice thus obtained used to fill one of the halves, which it will just about do. A tablespoonful of sugar and one of rum or sherry, mixed with the juicy pulp, add the perfecting flavor. At breakfast, with the long, pointed orangespoon, the meat is eaten out as is that of an orange and very little sugar is used, many persons preferring none on the ground that its full medicinal value is better obtained.

In the ring at some little distance it is quite impossible to distinguish the sexes. The girls are quite as tall as the men, and almost as heavily built. There is nothing feminine about them, either, when the fight really begins. They do not sicken to gain ferocity by it, and they are happy in a scene which would cause the average American woman to faint in short order.

The horses which the women ride are the same broken-down wrecks which the men use. In fact, the management finds that women are more reckless in exposing the horses than the sterner sex. This has led to a practice which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would kill off in no time in any city in this country. It is this: When a horse has been horribly gored and staggers about the ring with his entralls hanging out, he is not killed to end his misery, but is led into one of the stalls, where his entrails are thrust back and the wound in the stomach sewn up. Sometimes he

## THE LATEST WAR CLOU

It Hovers Ominously in the Vicialty of Khartoum.

## GREAT TROUBLE'S SMALL START

The Successor of El Mahdi Is on the Way path and the Soudan Will Probably Soon Re-echo with the Clash of Swords.

Upon small events great results hings. A scandal in Rome two years ago threatened the safety of the Crispi ministry, and to divert attention Italy proclaimed war on the dervishes of the Soudan. The war to a certain point was successful; but the playing by Italy of a bunco game on Menelek II, king of Shoa, in Abyssinia, in the form of a gold-brick treaty, rolled that dusky sovereign into fighting humor, and the next thing that Italy knew, her crack commander, General Baratieri, had been ignominthat Italy knew, her crack commander, General Baratieri, had been ignominously defeated. This little incident cost Crispi his official head, nearly upset the throne of King Humbert, and last, but not least, it has filled with fire-eating belligerency every unhung savage in uncivilized North Africa, has given John Bull a long-sought pretext to make a new grab for territorial spoils, and threatens to set all Europe at dagger's points.

oints.
The victories of Menelek have evidently roused the war spirit of the ruler of the dervishes, and a bloody and re-lentless war with the forces of civiliza-

ROMANCE OF THE MAHDI.

There is no more interesting and romantic drama in history than that of the rise of the Mahdist power, which is now to be broken forever by English arms or to engulf Egypt.

Barely ten years ago the Soudan was under the rule of Egypt and open to civilization. In the chief towns were found European representatives.

civilization. In the chief towns were found European representatives. In Khartoum itself the foreign powers had representatives. Travelers could pass through the land unharmed. Telegraph lines and postal services facilitated intercourse. Mosques, churches and schools looked after the moral and intellectual training of the young. The land was inhabited by diverse tribes, many hostile to each other, but kept at peace by the strength of the Government.

ment.

Today this whole territory is under the despotic rule of Khalifa Abdullah, the head of the Mahdists. No European can venture to cross the limits of the land, which is cut off from every civilized influence. Death or life-long captivity would be his lot. The people are kept in the greatest subjection, while Khalifa and his chosen companions lead lives of luxury and licentiousness at the capital, Obdurman.

ilves of luxury and licentiousness at the capital. Obdurman.

The cause of this remarkable change of conditions was the Mahdi, who, taking advantage of the discontent due to Egyptian officials' avarice and misgovernment, led the Dervishes in a revoit, expelled the former rulers and made himself the autocrat of the region.

SUDDEN RISE TO POWER.

The man who announced himself as El Mahdi was Mahomet Ahmed, a low-El Mahdl was Mahomet Ahmed, a low-born Dongowali, whose family was laughed at for insisting that it was de-scended from Mahomet. This Ahmed became a fanatical recluse, renouncing the snares of the world and getting local fame as a holy man. He de-nounced the leader of his sect for de-parting from some injunctions of the prophet. The story of his defiance and stern opposition to the degeneracy of stern opposition to the degeneracy of the time spread far and wide among the tribes of the Soudan and made his name

a synonym for piety.

Ahmed began to think of himself as the Mahdi, had visions, asserted that Mahomet held long talks with him and finally confided to a few intimate friends, who believed, or pretended to believe, him. Soon he was working miracles with ease and frequency and carrying on a secret correspondence with leaders of disaffected tribes through the Soudan. Then came the revolt, which ended with the tragic death of Chinese Gordon on the day of

the storming of Khartoum.

After the fall of Khartoum the Mahdi ruled supreme, with the Khalifa Ab-dullah as his chief adviser. Both were ignorant bigots, pretending to be strict disciples of the religion, but secretly giving themselves up to shocking drunkenness and licentiousness. The Mahdi built himself a capital on the bank of the Nile, opposite Khartoum, on the site of the village of Omhurman,

and retained its name.

There he strengthend his army and announced that he was about to start on the expedition of conquest into Euon the expedition of conquest into Eu-rope and Asia. He sent letters to Queen Victoria and other European rulers, calling upon them to surrender and be-come his vassals and Mahdists. But a few months after the fall of

Khartoum the Mahdi died. He was taken off by typhus fever, which found him easy prey on account of his de-

KHALIFA ON THE THRONE.

The Khalifa succeeded him as leader of the Mahdists. To intrench himself he called the Western nomads, who are of his own blood, to come to his capital. They marched through the Soudan, robbing and murdering as they came. They rolled into the Nile district, drove out the peaceful farmer and took their lands, their houses and their slaves. The Khalifa promised their farmers compensation, but never gave it. He them instead the right to oppress and rob as they pleased.

and rob as they pleased.

The regions that are ruled by the followers of the Mahdi are bordered on the north by the Sahara Desert and Egypt, on the east by the Italian strip of Africa and by Abyssinia. To the south and west lie the Congo Free State and the English and French and German territories in Western Africa.

man territories in Western Africa. When the Mahdi first rose to power the entire country was with him heart and soul. Fanaticism burned in the heart of every soldier, and the Mahdist army inspired well-grounded fear in the Europeans that fought against it, for every soldier would fight until he

died, and flight was unknown, DECAY OF THE DESPOTISM. Since then there has been a change.

The Khalifa, with his eastern Arabs for backers, has ruled with a rod of iron, and the unfortunate tribes fairly long for a return to their former alleg-lance to Egypt. Seventy-five per cent. of the population has been carried off of the population has been carried on by war, famine and pestilence since the Mahdi's day; the remainder are little more than slaves. The terrible scourge, the slave trade, is rampant in the land. Nevertheless, the Khalifa is probably

securely intrenched against internal foes. He lives shut up in Omdurman, surrounded by guards, and spending a good part of the time in his harem, where he has no fewer than 400 wives and concubines. His throne is defended by a standing army of about 50,000 men, many of whom are fairly well

Chronic Rhoumatism Cured.

Chronic Rhoumatism Cured.

Dr. B. H. Hettinger, Indianapolis, Ind., says: "For several months after spraining my ankle I was severely afflicted with Rheumatism. I finally tried Detchon's 'Mystic Cure' for Rheumatism, and in 4 days could walk without my cane; two bottles cured me sound and well. I take great pleasure in recommending the 'Mystic Cure' to all who are afflicted with Rheumatism." Sold by Carl Lorenz, Druggist, 418 Lackawanna avenue, Scranton.

James K. Hackett has been engaged to James K. Hackett has been engaged to replace Herbert Keicy as the leading man of the Lyceum Theatre Stock Company, In two or three years, Manager Dan From-man expects to bring Hackett out as a