

MEXICO'S PUBLIC PORTERS.

A CHARACTER SEEN EVERYWHERE IN CITY STREETS.

United in a Guild, and Honest—Prodigious Loads That They Carry—The Question of Pay.

Throughout Mexico the cargador is the universal public porter. On the corners of city streets where traffic is most dense, three or four cargadores always are standing waiting for a job. To summon one, it is needful only to step to the window, or out upon the balcony, and clap one's hands. All within hearing respond instantly to this call, and the first of the several difficulties which attend employing a cargador is that of segregating the man who is wanted from his companions who are not wanted, but who insist upon being hired. As a semi-public functionary, each of these public porters is duly licensed by the civic authorities, and is compelled to wear conspicuously a brass badge on which the number of his license is exhibited. Theoretically, he can be held responsible, under the police regulations, for loss or breakage of articles while in his charge. Practically, however, this legal provision is without value—inasmuch as the entire sum of his earthly belongings seldom is more than his white cotton shirt and trousers, his battered straw hat, the cushion that serves to save a little his back, and the meager with which he swings his load. All that can be gained, therefore, by judicial proceedings against a delinquent cargador is the mixed pleasure of compelling him to forfeit his badge and to spend some weeks or months in jail.

Fortunately, the need for such extreme action very seldom, almost never arises. In every city and in every large town the cargadores are united in a cofradia, a guild, that is governed within itself by severe laws. Professional honesty absolutely is insisted upon; and it is much to the credit of these men—who frequently are entrusted with articles of value which would suffice to keep them in comfortable idleness for a year—that dishonesty among them is unknown. There are cases on record, indeed, of cargadores who have given their lives in defence of the property confided to their care. In less essential matters of morals, matters not affecting the reputation of the profession as a whole, the individual cargador is free to conduct himself, so far as the cofradia is concerned, pretty much as he pleases. If he sees fit to drink more pulque than is good for him, and thereby becomes so oblivious to the orders of his employer as to go lopsidedly wrong with his load, or so at odds with the law of gravity as to come down by the run and involve himself and his lading in a general wreck, his fellows are far from reproaching him. A cargador made of such base stuff soon finds himself in enforced idleness; and, as there always are more men than there is work, his loss of custom is some one else's gain. In point of fact, however, injury to the load is almost as rare as is deliberate theft. Even when the heads of these carriers are muzzy with overmuch pulque, their legs continue firm under the most prodigious and the most heterogeneous loads.

The extraordinary collection of things that a cargador can carry upon his back and dependent from his person is truly surprising. A trunk, or a bale of goods, or any single large article, he disposes of easily. It is when he is engaged in moving household furniture that he really shines. In such a case, his base of operations usually is a chair. This is an article that readily may be swung on his back, and that lends itself to the attachment of a miscellaneous load; a bed and bedding, rolled up together, placed on the seat and surmounted by a picture or two, a rose-tree in a pot; a hat-box; and hung to the legs and rungs a roll of matting, domestic utensils, a sword and several pairs of shoes—in addition to all of which he will carry on his left arm, raised that his left hand may steady his load, an iron pot; under his right arm an umbrella and a broom, and in his right hand a parlor lamp or a tin cage containing a live cockatoo. To see a cargador walking along the streets in the middle of an iron bedstead is a sight to remember; and still more memorable is his appearance beneath a perfect mountain of rush-bottomed chairs. Yet with loadings of this stupendous and perilous nature he will work his way through crowded streets—dodging successfully foot-passengers, carriages, carts and tram cars—and come triumphantly to his journey's end.

Excellent though the service rendered by the cargador almost invariably is, the normal foreigner shrinks from employing him because of the inevitable fight that must be fought before the difference between what he wants to be paid and what he ought to be paid can be adjusted. This is a matter that cannot be reduced to a system, and that defies all rules. In every case his pay must depend upon the distance to be traversed and upon the size and weight of his load—factors of argument that practically is limitless. The safe rule is to compel him to name his own price, always a difficult matter to accomplish, and then to offer him half as much as he demands. Ordinarily, after a sharp discussion, these terms are accepted; but a brisk little wrangle is sure to take place when the case is reopened, the job being completed, by a presentation of excessive claims for drink money. Yielding at this stage of the proceedings is a fatal error; the only safe course is to meet such claims by firmly declaring that pulque to the value of three tacos, that is to say four and a half cents, is as much as any cargador ought to drink at one time.—Harper's Weekly.

A Canadian clergyman has advanced the theory that the walls of Jericho fell from the blowing of the keynote by the horns of the besiegers, just as bridges have been known to collapse from the rhythmic tread of soldiers' feet passing over them.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Demosthenes was the son of a cutler. Cardinal Wolsey was the son of a butcher.

The raven has been taught to retrieve most creditably.

Dublin is better provided with open spaces than any other town in the United Kingdom.

One dog of the Convent of St. Bernard is said to have saved more than forty human lives.

A pension has just been granted to an Oregon man who is a veteran of the War of 1812. He is 102 years old.

Chinese pheasants were introduced into the vast forests of Oregon ten years ago, and now it is estimated that there are 1,000,000 of them in the country.

The rapidity with which a hawk and many other birds occasionally fly is probably not less than at the rate of 150 miles an hour, when either pursued or pursuing.

Lemons originally came from India. They were used by the Romans to keep moths from their garments, and in the time of Pliny were considered an excellent poison.

Swifts and swallows fly every year from England to Southern Africa and to the Moluccas, and the restless, wandering flight of various oceanic birds is still more surprising.

"Better late than never" was used over three hundred years ago by Thomas Tucker in his "Five Hundred Points of Husbandry." Later on Bunyan used it in his "Pilgrim's Progress."

The Confederacy issued eleven kinds of postage stamps. They are all, if unused, worth double their face value. The ten-cent blue stamp of 1863, if unused, brings \$3.00, or if used \$2.50.

In Paris there are professional trunk packers who can be hired to pack a trunk artistically, folding expensive gowns and other garments in tissue paper and stowing away delicate bric-a-brac in the safest way.

A man in Fort Wayne, Ind., was detected a few days ago stealing a pair of shoes. In twenty minutes he had been committed for grand jury action, and in forty-five minutes he had begun serving a sentence in jail.

The hump on the back of the dromedary is an accumulation of a peculiar species of fat, which is a store of nourishment beneficially provided against the day of want, to which the animal is often exposed. The dromedary or camel can exist for a long period upon this hump without any other food.

F. Heap, a keeper of the Glendale National Cemetery, near Richmond, Va., has a desk, made in 1610, which has been in possession of the Heap family, of England. It is said to have been used by Oliver Cromwell in 1647-48 when fighting Charles I. It is of antique oak, beautifully carved and highly polished. The stupendous monuments upon the plain of Memphis and the "mountains made with hands" upon that of Cholula seem like the two ends of a chain of human thought and intent, of which the connecting links are to be found throughout Tartary, the eastern peninsula, China, Japan and the isles of the northern Pacific.

Use of the J in Holland.

But if the scenery of Holland is thoroughly delightful the language is quite another thing. The Dutch have, in the first place, a love for the letter "j" which amounts almost to madness. They do not always pronounce it, for they have relieved it of all labor as a consonant. They spell ice "ijs," and then pronounce it as we do. The capital of France becomes "Parisj" in their hands, and in a general way it is safe to affirm that they regard any word spelled without a "j" as a lost opportunity. The signs fairly bristle with their favor letter. One of the most common signs which meets the eye at every corner is "Tapperij on Slijterij," the sight of which produced upon the doctor the most alarming effects. He was convinced that "Tapperij on Slijterij" must be something wicked indeed, and with a curiosity inherent in all men since the fall, he ardently longed to know exactly what it was. He was secretly afraid, however, that Dutch wickedness might sit but ill upon an American stomach, and he never really mustered sufficient courage either to "tapperij" or to "slijterij," although he still regrets that he was not bold. How a telephone can be used in a country where such a language obtains I cannot understand, unless there be some sort of a filter by which the j's are kept from the wire.—Chicago Tribune.

Buddhist Butcheries.

It is a curious fact that the governments of the universal-mercy practicing Buddhist nations are anything but scrupulous in the use of legal manslaughter as a means of social reform. In the Buddhist provinces of Southern China the headsman is a busiest of public functionaries, and the last monarch of Buddhist Burma scandalized even his pagan neighbors by the wholesale butcheries of star-chamber tribunal. The same official, however, who would not spoil his appetite by the execution of twenty or thirty political offenders, might conceive serious scruples about killing a cockroach, and throughout Buddhist Asia the slayer of a monkey would probably be mobbed on the spot.—New York Voice.

The Red Man's Revenge.

Indian dialects have done much in the introduction of new sounds into our language. To illustrate, these are a few of the countries in the new State of Washington: Kliekkit, Chehalis, Skagit, Skamania, Yakima, Wahkikum, Kittetas, Suohomish.

The American Red Man has not lived in vain, and his revenge on the white man is something terrible when it is considered that the latter must go on trying to pronounce such names as the foregoing forever.—Chicago Globe.

Malaria

Believed to be caused by poisonous miasms arising from low, marshy land, or from decaying vegetable matter, and which, breathed into the lungs, enter and poison the blood. If a healthy condition of the blood is maintained by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla one is much less liable to malaria, and Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured many severe cases of this distressing affection even in the advanced stages when the terrible chills and fever prevailed. Try it. And if you decide to take Hood's Sarsaparilla do not be induced to buy any substitute.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. L. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.
100 Doses One Dollar



Some Children Growing Too Fast

become listless, fretful, without energy, thin and weak. But you can fortify them and build them up, by the use of

SCOTT'S EMULSION
OF PURE COD LIVER OIL AND HYPOPHOSPHITES OF Lime and Soda.

They will take it readily, for it is almost as palatable as milk. And it should be remembered that AS A PREVENTIVE OR CURE OF COLIC OR COLDS, IN BOTH THE OLD AND YOUNG, IT IS UNEQUALLED. Avoid substitutions offered.

ENTITLED TO THE BEST.

All are entitled to the best that their money will buy, so every family should have, at once a bottle of the best family remedy, Syrup of Figs, to cleanse the system when constive or bilious. For sale in 50c. and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists.

Money invested in choice one hundred dollar building lots in suburbs of Kansas City will pay from five hundred to one thousand per cent the next few years under our plan. Cash and \$5 per month without interest controls a desirable lot. Particulars on application. J. H. Bauerlein & Co., Kansas City, Mo.

PITS stopped free by Dr. KLINE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORER. No fits after first day's use. Marvellous cures. Treatise and \$2 trial bottle free. Dr. Kline, 601 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Lee Wa's Chinese Headache Cure. Harmless in effect, quick and positive in action. Sent prepaid on receipt of \$1 per bottle. Adeler & Co., 322 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo.

Do You Ever Speculate? Any person sending us their names and address will receive information that will lead to a fortune. Lewis & Co., Security Building, Kansas City, Mo.

Guaranteed five year eight per cent. First Mortgage on Kansas City property, interest payable every six months principal and interest due and realized without expense to lender. For sale by J. H. Bauerlein & Co., Kansas City, Mo. Write for particulars.

Timber, Mineral, Farm Lands and Ranches in Missouri, Kansas, Texas and Arkansas, bought and sold. Tyler & Co., Kansas City, Mo.

Oklahoma Guide Book and Map sent any where on receipt of \$1. Tyler & Co., Kansas City, Mo.

Beecham's Pills cure Sick-Headache.

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