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Replies From Soldiers and Others

Reply From "a Southern Woman." El Paso, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: I want to reply to those who espoused the "Mexican mother's" cause so feelingly, and I think the Southern Girl is more interested in upholding the Mexican respectability than the majority of the southerners are. I, too, respect all women that command respect, and what I said in my letter in reference to the actions of the Mexican women is just what I have seen, and, too, I have been in other countries, and I can tell you a genteel American is not (or I don't think ever will be) a disturbing element (in foreign lands). Far from it, I was treated with every respect and courtesy, and if we ever have a separate compartment in the above mentioned places it will be one of state. She should take a trip herself and see the respect we command.

And as to going on the Fort Bliss car late at night, on soldiers' pay day. Why I have no occasion to do so and do not court insult; but had I gone on the car and been subject to insult from the soldiers (which I doubt) I would have gone to the proper authorities and made complaint and not waited for a Mexican woman to do so, then followed. There must be some things those "champions" of Mexican women do not know, or else they (the champions) are more adaptable to their ways than I am. I see they (the writers) mentioned their mothers and sisters. I honor mine too much to do so, in a subject like this. I still take the soldiers' part and that of all other respectable people, but in this case I know what I am talking about and, too, I said in my letter that there were exceptions, but I thought very few. I still make the same assertion. Now I'll tell you to go out on the smelter car line or over at the dam at the river, the Mexican women assemble Sunday afternoons to do their washing; then, if you care to, tell us what you saw, and think if the soldiers have not some very good reasons for their behavior toward the Mexican women, could tell you other things just as bad about this disturbing element. And if those people are such desirable citizens, why are they arrested and watched so closely for shoplifting and other petty things. This subject has been either misconstrued or there is a reason for the come backs. I wrote about Mexican women, and the studied criticisms are considered as an act of over sensitivity, and I do not reply to them for possibly the writers have good reasons for same. Yes, I fully comprehended the meaning of the "Respecter of Women's" letter; it was not too steep.

A Southern Woman.

From a Mexican Woman. El Paso, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: In reply to a letter of July 7, which appeared in your paper signed "A Southern Woman," I wish to state that I think she was wholly unwarranted in making the wholesale attack on the Mexican women which she did. It is an easy matter to find fault but, before we express our findings, let us remember that it is written: "Let him who is without fault cast the first stone." We live in a country made up of all classes and races of people. We are all striving for upbuilding and prosperity for its progress, and we all have a right to live here so long as we obey the laws and conduct ourselves in the proper manner. And if there be "one" or any to whom we are objectionable, and we materially interfere with their peace of mind, since they are in the minority, it might be advisable for them to move to some other climate or to provide for themselves a special car. The evil instinct is not confined to any one race or class, but we find good and evil in them all. It is not the clothes or the complexion which makes a woman pure and entitled to respect, but it is the heart and character of the woman herself. I do not believe that the American soldiers or the soldiers of any other nation have a right to insult a woman, be she a Mexican, American, or a woman of any other nationality. And in conclusion I might refer the writer of the letter to the words of the poet: "There is so much bad in the best of us, And so much good in the worst of us, That it hardly behooves any of us, To speak ill of the rest of us." Marguerite Garcia.

Thinks "Southern Woman" Right. El Paso, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: I, too, have read both letters, the "Southern Woman's" and the "Mexican Mother's." I think the Southern Woman makes, and, too, she did not class our mothers and sisters in her letter which was very sensible. For I have been in El Paso a few years myself and will say that the conduct of the Mexican women (generally speaking) is a little too much for an American woman to see and approve. Of course, those who take their side must either have Mexican wives or husbands or associate with them socially; if such is the case why they are congenial and would naturally uphold the Mexican ways. A Subscriber.

Replies From Soldiers. Fort Bliss, Texas, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: After reading several letters published by your paper regarding the conduct of the soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss, I don't believe it would be justice to the service to allow the criticism to pass unnoted by the element that go to form the army. In the first place, the lady in question was not insulted by a soldier and I have proof to exonerate said soldier. If there were to be an investigation of the case, I am sure the citizens of El Paso would change their decision. Instead of regretting the occurrence of this, as some would call it, I beg to say a Chinaman was the cause of it all, and as usual the soldiers were to blame.

Now in regards to the party that referred to the soldiers' pay day, he happens to be one of the unfortunate lot who has cast his opinion through ignorance, and was too cowardly to publish his name. I'll admit that there are some men in the service who, after taking a few drinks, can't control themselves, and do disgrace the uniform, but such men are being weeded out of the service as undesirable, and such men are not to be considered soldiers. If the parties who have been trying to slander the service had taken different measures, and taken the case up to the military authorities, instead of publishing it in the papers, the offender would have been punished, for such cases will not be tolerated by the military authorities. For a soldier is subjected to the most rigid discipline. There have been cases of the most outrageous kind committed by the element that go to form the inhabitants of El Paso that have not been brought to the notice of the public at large. I am not criticizing all the people of the city of El Paso, but the ignorant class that under cover are calling themselves citizens. The saloons and dives of El Paso are furnishing the soldiers this vile stuff called intoxicants, are the cause of so much trouble. It is hoped that in the future, such cases will be brought to the notice of the military authorities. Citizens surrounding the many army posts are committing such offenses every day that go unnoted by the public at large. But let a man in uniform commit himself and the whole public is up in arms against him, and the whole service is blamed. It's the ignorant class of people who judge all by one, and not the intelligent class. Hoping that this may receive some consideration by the intelligent class of people in the city of El Paso, I beg to call on all to join in upholding the character of the feminine sex. But not condemn every one for something that one man has done. George W. Favors, Private Company "H," 23rd Infantry.

Frequent Discourtesy. Fort Bliss, Texas, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: While we are on this street car question it may not be amiss to say a few words from a soldier's point of view. I have no desire to enter the "Mexican Mother's" controversy, and will drop that as settled, but what I do want to discuss upon is this: Many of our El Paso women get on the cars with the notion that they are entitled to a seat, which they are, if the seats are not already occupied. If a soldier gets up and gives a woman his seat, does he get a grateful "thank you"? He is in nine cases out of ten the unwilling witness of the upturning of a pretty but disdainful nose.

Now, I, with a great many others, may be laboring under a delusion in considering ourselves gentlemen and expecting treatment as such. But for any woman to consider it her privilege to brand us impostors by the public snub route, for a well meant act of kindness, is certainly the height of absurdity. H. C. Jorgensen, Co. G, 23rd Infantry.

Wrong to Blame All. Fort Bliss, Texas, July 11.

Editor El Paso Herald: Perhaps some of your readers have been interested in the controversy which has been carried on in your paper for the past few days relative to the moral state of the soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss. Coming as it does from one of the soldiers stationed at this post, I sincerely hope, in justice to ourselves, you will allow this the same prominent place in your esteemed paper with which you were so kind as to favor "A Mexican Mother." Evidently the lady in question doesn't seem to make allowance for the fact that there are several hundred soldiers at this post, coming from every state in the union and all the different walks of life. Under these circumstances, there are bound to be a few black sheep in such a large herd of men and it was evidently one of these poor lost lambs who had strayed from the fold, who was so unfortunate as to make some remark that was highly insulting to the lady. I am sure that these remarks are few and far between, whether the soldiers are on the car on pay night or any other night. If the lady had looked at this soldier's button, found out what company he was in and reported the matter to the commanding officer, all of us would not be carrying this stigma around with us, and the guilty one would have been punished. Instead of doing this, she publishes the fact to about 35,000 of your readers, that a drunken soldier had used vile language in her presence. This doesn't seem to be fair to the rest of us. Ask any lady that rides on the Fort Bliss car every day, whether she has ever been insulted by a soldier and you will find two out of a hundred that won't say that they have. In conclusion I hope your readers will recall to mind that the Mexican mother stated that it was one soldier who had insulted her. This should not affect the rest of us here. The majority of us regret the occurrence just as much as the lady herself does, and an article given as much publicity as this has, reflects on all of us. A Soldier.

MAGONISTAS CANNOT CONVERT SOLDIERS Their Literature Has No Effect on the Men in Juarez. The Magonista party is ever present in Mexico and takes advantage of every opportunity to get in its work in furthering interests of the cause of the "red" party. On Juarez, Tuesday afternoon, a little senorita dressed in blue was sent to the border city with a large bundle of the official organ of the Magonista party, the "Regeneracion" and distributed them freely among the inhabitants of the city. The policemen at the comandancia were presented with the papers as were members of the insurgent army in Juarez, but they did not take its contents seriously and the little occurrence seemed to be more of a joke among them than an attempt to revolutionize the citizens. Chief of police Pascual Arellano, of Juarez, called the little senorita to his office and had her explain the meaning of the distribution of the papers, and had her read the contents thereof to him. He laughed at the roastings of the "red" Magon, and let the Mexican maid proceed with her duties, as Mexico is now free and the press is no longer censored. The attempts of the socialists to turn the convictions of the police force and the insurgent forces in Juarez by giving them socialistic literature to read, has no effect on the men of that city as they now have their own free government, and are thoroughly satisfied with it, and the railings in the Magon paper against the Maderista government are taken as a joke by his staunch followers of the border city.

Editor's Note—The anti-statewide prohibition organization recently published and widely circulated a pamphlet containing 120 questions and answers, constituting the principal campaign document of the anti; J. L. Campbell, of El Paso, an ardent prohibitionist, has undertaken to answer the anti's statements and arguments, and as he quotes in his articles the anti-statewide pamphlet practically entire, it is felt that in printing this series, to run daily until July 22 (election day), The Herald is fairly presenting to voters both sides of the great question at issue. In no event are the opinions here expressed or quoted to be taken as an expression of this newspaper.

THE LIQUOR CATECHISM—VI. Editor El Paso Herald:

Question 77 and answer read: "77. The Anti-Saloon league quotes Gov. Stubbs, of prohibition Kansas as stating that "one may walk down the streets of Topeka and never see a saloon," and that "he has not seen a drunken man in Lawrence for several years." Can this be true? It is not true. The governor lives in the small town of Lawrence. The district court records of the county in which Lawrence is situated show that there were 10 arrests made under Kansas prohibitory laws during the period from January 1, 1910, to December 31, 1910. They also show that during the period from January 30, 1910, to April 10, 1911, there were 61 arrests made in this county for violation of the Kansas prohibitory laws. The same records also show that 30 persons who were convicted at the February, 1911, term, for violations of the Kansas prohibitory laws, were sentenced by the court to be confined in the county jail and to pay certain fines and costs of prosecutions. They were paroled by the court in so far as the jail sentence was concerned, it being explained that this was found necessary in order to make room in the jail for other and more dangerous prisoners. In other words, the jail in Lawrence, the home of governor Stubbs, was not large enough to hold the violators of the liquor laws and at the same time confine the other prisoners. Either governor Stubbs walks through his town and the state capital, Topeka, blindfolded, or he never goes on the second floor of a building or down an alley. Like the ostrich, he seeks to avoid trouble by putting his head in the sand, and seeing nothing objectionable states with great emphasis that it does not exist. There is one thing the governor could have seen, and that is the court records, but he evidently did not want to. Sixty-one arrests in an entire county in 15 months is less than one per week—a very good record. This is what governor Stubbs actually said: "I assert that drunkenness in Kansas has been reduced to such a point that I have not seen a drunken man in the city of Topeka, a place of 50,000 inhabitants, during the last 12 months; that I do not have any recollection of having seen a drunken man in my home city of Lawrence, a place of 15,000 people, for several years; that in making a campaign throughout the entire state and delivering public addresses to 82 counties I do not recall seeing a drunken man during the year. I assert that the prohibitory law is as easily enforced as any other law on the statute books. I have letters from 38 of the 38 district judges of the state. These letters are substantially of the same character and fully confirm my statements." In a letter to governor Stubbs, written March 24, 1910, the chief justice of the state says: "The closing of the saloons and joints has had an excellent effect upon the morals and material interests of the people of the state. Among the consequences of prohibition are better homes, happier families, higher standards of intelligence and education, and, of course a great reduction in crime. No statement or proof is needed to support the claim that these results follow the closing of saloons and the effective enforcement of the prohibitory law. They are the natural and inevitable results and these have been realized in Kansas. Yours very truly, W. A. Johnston, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas." Please note that governor Stubbs is advised that he will have to walk in the alleys and on second floors to find violators of the law. J. L. Campbell.

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Both Sides of Prohibition

CONTRIBUTED BY J. L. CAMPBELL.

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Ready to Appeal. A criminal from the rural districts who had heard all about appeals to the supreme court and who had been convicted of a penitentiary offense was asked by the judge if he had anything to say. "I jest want ter ax one question, judge." He stooped down, picked up his slouch hat from the floor, as though ready to depart, and said, "Whar 'bout is this here supreme court?"—San Francisco Argonaut.

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