

Article
published in the
Mail & Express
of N.Y.
Jan'y 17th 1890

No 1

Subject
The Story of Antonio Azul
a Pima Indian

Presented to the
Library of Congress
by the
Author

Mr. George Washington
Washington

AMONG THE INDIANS

Gen. O. O. Howard Tells His Experiences in Arizona.

THE STORY OF ANTONIO AZUL

He Was a Descendant of Montezuma and Lived Up to His Ideas—Tale of an Indian's Revenge—Evils of the Liquor Traffic Among the Indians.

Almost anything which concerns the wild Indians interests readers. Arizona has usually been the hatching ground of trouble among them at this season of the year or a little later. But the wild ones have pretty much disappeared from the Southwest. This account will show what small influences germinate, even with the Indians, in a long series of years, to produce good and wholesome fruitage. The writer, when sent by President Grant to Arizona in 1872, in connection with the "peace policy," twice visited the Pimas, a tribe of Indians living upon the Gila River.

The Pimas were considerably advanced in civilization. They had then queer canvas or adobe huts of globular shape, with a single door upon the side and no window. The huts were adapted in size to the strength and wants of a single family. At the time of our visit the teacher of their children, Johannes Kock (John Cook), had gathered them into a rough school room; and, after first learning their language, he had then taught them in both Pima and English.

First we had an interview with the great Pima chief Antonio. It was a formal council in the presence of his people. He was an Indian of about five feet eight inches in height; had an abundance of black hair, with the least sprinkling of gray. He did up his hair in two braids like a young miss. No prince on his throne could be more dignified and conscience of rank than was Antonio on that occasion.

His son, Antonito, looked almost as old as his father, and sat mutely at his side. Antonio told us the history of his tribe. These Indians had a peculiar language, somewhat allied to the Spanish in sound. The interpreter, Louis, was a full-blooded Pima Indian. Taller than the chief, he was distinguished by the length of his own black braids of hair, which, falling over his back, reached below his knees. He spoke Spanish with fluency. His voice was sonorous and very pleasant when Louis was unangered.

One day Mr. Koch suggested that some conduct of his (Louis's) was not Christian. Louis was evidently very angry with Mr. Koch, and appealed to the writer to punish Mr. K. for the wrong he did him in this accusation. Yet poor Louis had no very clear conception of what Mr. Koch meant by "not Christian."

Louis stood by and rendered all Antonio's speech into English. It was substantially on this occasion as follows:

THE STORY.

"We are the descendants of the great Montezuma. He told our fathers to have but one wife at a time. He said we must not wander around like the wild Apaches. We must have little houses and only one family in a house. We must plant and sow beside the river, and so here we stay by the Gila; and we take out our asequias (ditches), water the land and plant it. When we get a good crop we are happy. Some wicked white men came along with wagons some years ago. They took away our wives and our daughters. The women acted like great fools. I do not know what evil spirits possessed them. You see the children were made sick (many of them were not robust or healthy and many were scrofulous.) These Indians have been made mad, and they have not always behaved well as the great and good Montezuma told them.

"Mr. Koch came. He is a good man. The agent is good, too. Mr. Koch has taught the children to read and to reckon and the children have told us about the great Washington government. We did not know anything of Washington before. We now know who we are and where we belong. We want to cultivate the land. We have a good school and we want to keep it. Mr. Koch has shown our children the Christian way. I want to thank much for my people. I like the Christian way. Bad white men and bad Pimas make bad work for us. I will do as you say. That is all."

Antonio's land was sandy and dry. Some times periods of three years would go by without a drop of rain. The Gila River often became very low, and in places it "sank" altogether into the sand, that is, all the water was absorbed by quicksands permeating the mass. The irrigating asequias were then for some time without supply. White men, principally Mexicans, could get above them and take out ditches and so shorten their necessary amount of water. How could anything be harder to bear? Antonio Azul was well disposed, but his people were but half civilized, and they were not yet angels.

About thirteen hundred members of these tribes are living outside the lines of their reserves, about one thousand just above it on the Gila, and some three hundred have moved to the Salt River Valley. Their close proximity to the whites is constantly begetting troubles of more or less importance between them, and in the opinion of many people the Territory it will at an early day lead to a war between the two races. The condition of affairs in this respect is illustrated in the following occurrences, both of recent date:

AN INDIAN REVENGE.

On the 24th of June, 1873, known and celebrated as San Juan's day by the Mexican population of the Territory, quite a number of that nation gathered at the town of Adamsville, some ten miles above this reserve, and spent the day in the usual manner—riding, feasting, etc., and a few of them getting drunk. In the evening they had a dance, which they continued through the night. A number of Pima Indians were in and about Adamsville during the day, watching the Mexicans in their sports, and several of them remained at night to witness the dance.

Among these Indians was the son of Antonio Azul (not Antonito), head chief of the Pimas. During the night they were in and out of the dancing room, behaving themselves properly; and, as far as I can learn, were all sober. About an hour before daylight the next morning one of the Mexicans, without any provocation whatever, struck the chief's son to the heart with a knife.

Later on in the day the Mexican was arrested, and it being shown by some Mexican witnesses that he was the guilty party, he was kept until the morrow for a preliminary trial. The next day came and with it several hundred Pimas, who in the mean time had been advised of the murder of their chief's son. About 10 o'clock the prisoner was taken into the court room, and the trial commenced. While one of the witnesses was being examined, or about to be examined, three or four Pimas entered the room, and, approaching the prisoner, motioned for him to stand up. He, paying no attention to the command, was suddenly lifted to his feet by the Indians and his hands secured by a rope. He was then led out of the court room to the edge of the town, about a hundred yards distant, and was there surrounded by other Pimas who joined the party. They then formed a circle around the prisoner and with little or no ceremony they killed him with their war clubs. The Indians then quietly returned to their homes.

Probably the good chief sanctioned this act of revenge. It was his son that was slain, and he, still with his old notions of right of vengeance, did not believe from past experience that the murderer would be punished by our white frontiersmen.

Antonio said that there never had been, till white people came, any drunkenness among the Indians. One report from Arizona confirms Antonio's declarations. It avers:

"There are some of them, principally the young men, who, having nothing to occupy their time on the reserve, leave it, and part of them usually gather about the settlements, where they earn their living by begging, pilfering and sometimes by working, when they can get anything to do. These are the men who bring reproach on the tribe, and by them the whole tribe is judged by many of the citizens of the territory.

EVILS OF THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

"The liquor traffic is still being carried on, and since my last report has increased in a degree that will soon make intemperance a general evil among the people. It had become so notorious that it attracted the attention of the United States Grand Jury some months since, and an effort was made to find out who were the parties engaged in selling liquor to the Indians, and though many witnesses were summoned before that body, nothing definite was elicited to lead to the prosecution of a single case. A few years ago to see a drunken Indian about the reserve was an unheard-of thing; but now, not to see one or more in the vicinity of the settlements near it would be equally strange. If something is not soon done to check the rapid growth of this evil, it will prove a powerful auxiliary to the ruin of the tribe. Our proximity to Mexico affords those who are so disposed ample opportunity to engage in the liquor trade with the Indians, and as they can bring the liquor within a few miles of the reservation, they dispose of it and return within the Mexican lines before any of the officers of the law can be rescued."

As we were leaving Arizona in the stage, Antonio gave us two little boys to take to an Eastern school. The lads started without complaint, for their father went with them a day's journey. They were perhaps of 10 and 12 years. When they were about to part with

their father they could not endure the trial. They began to cry aloud and to attempt to run back. As the distance increased they kicked and screamed and appeared more like angry cats than like Indian boys. We were obliged to surrender to their energetic opposition, and so sent them back from Maricopa. A few years later Antonio himself came East and brought with him several Apache youths, boys and girls. He stayed with them at Hampton Institute while they were there, and, though a grown man, he learned all he could of books and of mechanical arts. His conduct was as good as that of Peter the Great, for he also took a long journey and studied as an apprentice that he might return and teach or lead his own people into higher reaches of knowledge.

In bearing, in a steady purpose to do right, from which he was seldom known to deviate, in courage and straightforwardness amid the most unfavorable of circumstances, in suppressing his natural sentiments of hatred and revenge, and in striving to understand the new conditions of his tribe among our increasing white people, Antonio Azul has been a worthy disciple of Montezuma. Think of it, Montezuma! A man so great that four hundred years has not blotched out his rare precepts from the hearts of people who served him.

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General United States Army.

1888 1889 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900

See it grow! You won't have to look back far. 1877 was the year when *Pearline* started in to take charge of washing and cleaning. It was a new idea; people didn't know about it; when they did find out, they were afraid of it. But look at it now. Every year has been a big advance on the year before — and 1890 a bigger advance than ever. Against the biggest opposition—smooth—against, cheap prices and poor imitations of all sorts. But *Pearline* is there—and now it's farther like this. A dangerous thing if why *Pearline* grows. Ask for it.

JAMES PVLE, New York.

Best Breakfast Food
A. B. C. OATMEAL
(CRUSHED WHITE OATS.)
TRADE MARK
STEAM-COOKED
PATENTED
A. B. C. OATMEAL
WHITE WHEAT.
THE CEREALS MFG CO.,
83 MURRAY ST.,
NEW YORK CITY.
SOLD BY ALL GROCERS.

Spectacles and Eyeglasses.

OUR REPUTATION FOR STYLE AND PERFECTION IN THESE GOODS IS WELL KNOWN.
GaNun & Parsons,
OPTICIANS,
MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS,
5 West 42d Street,
BETWEEN 5TH AND 6TH AVES.

FINE FURNITURE SALE!
Our entire stock of fine Furniture, Curtains, Portieres, Coverings, Wall Papers, etc., must be sold before Feb. 1st, it being necessary to make repairs to our building, owing to a recent fire.
Prices greatly reduced.
NEUMAN & CO.,
263 Fifth Avenue.

FOREIGN TRAVEL.
ANCHOR LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMSHIPS.
GLASGOW SERVICE.
Steamers every Saturday from New York to GLASGOW AND LONDON.
From Pier 41, North River, foot of Leroy street.
ANCHOR, Jan. 24, 6 a. m. CIRCASSIA, Feb. 21, 3 p. m.
ETHIOPIA, Feb. 7, 3 p. m. ANCHOR, Mar. 7, 3 p. m.
Cable to GLASGOW or LONDON.
\$10 and \$20. Second class, \$30. Steerage, \$20.
MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE.
NEW YORK TO GIBRALTAR AND NAPLES.
From Union Street, Brooklyn, Hamilton Pier, S. S. BELORAVIA, Wednesday, Feb. 20.
Cabin, \$30 to \$100.
Circular Letters of Credit and Drafts issued at lowest rates.
HENDERSON BROTHERS, 7 Bowling Green, New York.
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.'S LINES
TO CALIFORNIA, JAPAN, CHINA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND MEXICO FROM NEW YORK, PIER FOOT.
For SAN FRANCISCO via the Isthmus of Panama. GOLDEN calls Tuesday, Jan. 20, Noon.
From SAN FRANCISCO, corner First and Brannan sts. FOR JAPAN AND CHINA.
CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO calls Tuesday, Feb. 3, 3 p. m.
For freight or passage or general information apply at company's office at the pier foot of Canal Street, North River.
H. J. BULLAY, Gen'l Supt.
NEW YORK AND CUBA MAIL STEAMSHIP CO.
From Piers 16 and 17, East River, at 3 p. m.
for Havana, Progreso, Camaguey, Frontera, Tampico, Turpan, Vera Cruz, Matanzas, Cardenas, Sagua, Cabaiguan, Nuevitas, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo and Cienfuegos.
YUCATAN, Havana and Mexican ports. Sat. Jan. 17.
C. OF ALEXANDRIA, Hav. & Matanzas. Wed. Jan. 21.
YUAGUI, Havana and Mexican Ports. Sat. Jan. 24.
NIAGARA, Havana and Sagua. Wed. Jan. 28.
Cienfuegos. Thursday, Jan. 30.
For full particulars, freight or passage apply to JAMES E. WALD & CO., 115 Wall St.
RED STAR LINE FOR ANTWERP AND PARIS.
Calling weekly between New York and Antwerp. ENLAND, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 21, at 5 p. m.
WESLAND, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 28, at 5 p. m.
First cabin, \$50 and upward. Excursions, \$35 and upward. Second cabin, \$25. Excursion, \$25 and \$17. Steerage at low rates.
PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents, 6 Bowling Green.
CUNARD LINE.
FROM NEW YORK TO LIVERPOOL, VIA QUEENSTOWN.
Etruria, Sat. Jan. 17, 11 a. m. Servia, Sat. Feb. 14, 10 a. m.
Gallia, Sat. Jan. 24, 3 p. m. Etruria, Sat. Feb. 21, 3 p. m.
Aurania, Sat. Jan. 31, 9 a. m. Aurania, Sat. Feb. 28, 9 a. m.
Umbria, Sat. Feb. 7, 3 p. m. Umbria, Sat. Feb. 7, 3 p. m.
Cabin passage, \$50 and upward, according to accommodation. Intermediate passage, \$25. Steerage tickets \$5 and from all parts of Europe at very low rates.
ELDON H. BROWN & CO., Agents, 6 Bowling Green.
WHITE STAR LINE AND ROYAL UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.
*CELTIC, Jan. 21, 3 p. m. *CELTIC, Feb. 18, 2 p. m.
*GERMANIC, Jan. 28, 7:30 a. m. *MAJESTIC, Feb. 24, 7 a. m.
*ADRIATIC, Feb. 4, 3 p. m. *ADRIATIC, Feb. 4, Noon.
*TEUTONIC, Feb. 11, 7 a. m. *TEUTONIC, Feb. 11, 7 a. m.
From White Star Dock, foot of West 10th st.
*Second Cabin on these steamers, Saloon rates, \$30 and upward, according to steamer and location of berth. Second cabin, \$25 and \$40. Excursion tickets on favorable terms. Steerage, \$20. Company's office, No. 41 Broadway, N. Y.
J. BRUCE ISMAY, Agent.
INMAN LINE U.S. AND ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS
FOR QUEENSTOWN AND LIVERPOOL.
CITY OF BERLIN, Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 a. m.
CITY OF CHICAGO, Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7 a. m.
First cabin, \$50 and upward, according to steamer and location of berth; second cabin, \$25. Prepaid, \$30; steerage, \$20.
PETER WRIGHT & SONS, General Agents, 6 Bowling Green.
COMPAGNIE GENERALE TRANSATLANTIQUE.
French Line to Havre every Saturday.
Company's Pier, No. 45 North River, foot of Morton st.
LA NORMANDE, Collier, Sat. Jan. 17, 10:30 a. m.
LA BRETAGNE, Frangul, Sat. Jan. 24, 6 a. m.
LA BRETAGNE, de Jowett, Sat. Jan. 31, 6 a. m.
A. FORGET, General Agent, No. 3 Bowling Green.

The pr
"Piper-Heids"
will shortly be
that of other
already
Keep a good s
of this famous