

inevitably have perished but for the courage and humanity of a party of *Rurales*. One poor sailor was swept out of their reach, though they made superhuman efforts to save him.

The President of the United States, through Mr. Bayard, and in appreciation of their valor, forwarded to the *Rurales* memorials, consisting of a gold watch and chain for the chief, with this inscription :

"Presented by
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
to
PEDRO MIRAMONTES,

Chief of the Rural Guard, Ensenado, Mexico,

For humane and praiseworthy services in behalf of a boat's crew of the U. S. steamer
'Ranger,' January 18, 1886."

Silver medals were given to the others of the rescuing party.

Upon the subject of American interests in Mexico, I am glad to introduce the opinion of Judge J. F. Crosby, of Texas, who was at the Mexican capital during my stay there, and in an interview with a representative of the *Two Republics*, thus freely expressed his views with regard to the prospects and safety of American enterprise in Mexico :

"I do not only believe but know from actual observation that American enterprise has a most promising future in Mexico. The people of Mexico are not nearly as prejudiced against Americans as superficial observers would have the people of the United States believe. That they are down on men who claim to be Americans, but are devoid of gentlemanly instincts, and show no respect for the religion and customs of a people whose hospitality they ask ; who slander their wives and daughters, and charge the Mexicans with being dishonest and treacherous, is not to their discredit. But they are anxious for the good will of the American people, and if the Americans who have visited this country had been half as anxious to win the respect of the Mexicans, both countries would be better informed about each other than they are now. The upper ranks of the Mexicans are the

equals of anybody in culture, patriotism, and human virtues, while the lower classes, although seemingly degraded, are as law-abiding, intelligent and gentle as any people could be under similar circumstances. I know of what I speak when I say that these people, high and low, have fought harder and suffered more for the establishment and maintenance of republican institutions than the much exalted founders of our own republic ever dreamt of doing. Being forced, ever since they first asserted their independence, to defend it against invaders and conspirators, these people have not had the opportunity to pay that attention to the interior development of republican institutions which in the United States has taken a natural course, excepting the forcible removal of the curse of slavery, which, by a little good judgment on both sides, might have been brought about in a quiet and peaceable manner. Indeed, the Mexican people, as such, are entitled to the highest respect on our part. But the trouble has been, and is to-day, that people come here from the United States expecting to make fortunes in a day, and believing that everybody has to receive them as superior beings, and very often act in a highly offensive manner. There are such people now here, right here in Mexico, who misrepresent the American character, and in their talks to visitors misrepresent Mexico in a scandalous manner. I am glad to know that *The Two Republics* accepts it as a duty to neutralize the harm such people are doing."

On being asked if he considered it safe for Americans to make investments in Mexico, he said :

"I do indeed, and have proven it by my own acts. The Mexican Government is ever ready to encourage American enterprise, and has quite often got the worst of its bargains. It has been led to promise support to enterprises beyond its power of fulfillment. And this makes me think of the charge that Mexican officials are corrupt and are bleeding American investors. It is quite possible that concessions have been bought, and that some Mexican officials have betrayed their trusts ; but that is as much the fault of the investors, familiar with the crooked ways of legislatures, both State and national, in

the United States, as of the officials. As a rule, I am free to confess that, as far as integrity is concerned, Mexican officials compare very favorably with their counterparts in the United States. My advice to investors is, to avoid middlemen of all kinds, and to deal directly with head-quarters. They will find how easy and pleasant it is to deal with the Mexican Government. Treat a Mexican like a gentleman, and he will treat you the same."

He is very sanguine as to the opening of lands for settlement in Mexico. He says :

"I believe that the present government fully appreciates the necessity of breaking up the large estates. My opinion is, that Mexico must very soon open wide to immigration, the same as the United States have done. It is only a question of time, when a foreigner will have the chance to acquire full political equality with the native citizen. In the mean time, I know that many estates have passed and will pass into the hands of American and other capitalists, who will naturally break them up into small homesteads, in order to secure the largest returns for their investments. The spirit of the times is felt by the Mexican leaders, and it will not be long before, through their efforts, the Republic of Mexico will be as much the home of the free and the brave, in the sense used in the United States, as the latter. I repeat it once more, Americans who mind their business, who behave like sensible men, and treat the Mexicans with the respect they deserve, will find a splendid field for enterprise in Mexico. Their property and their lives will be well protected, as far as the government can afford such protection, that is, to the same degree as they are protected in the United States. But they must obey the laws of the land, and always realize that they are enjoying the hospitalities of a country which still considers everybody not a native a foreigner."

Judge Crosby lived for many years on the frontier of Texas, and as early as 1854 became judge of the immense district comprising all the territory west of the Pecos. Since then he has held important relations with our railway system. Eminent in scholarship, in legal lore one of the brightest lights of the Texas bar, and with exceptional op-

portunities for knowing the subject thoroughly, Judge Crosby's opinions are entitled to the highest consideration.

He says further : "During my judicial career nobody gave me less trouble than the Mexicans, but I have to confess that I was very often called upon to protect them against sharp, not to say dishonest practices, on the part of the Americans who flocked into that country. The criminal branch of my court was almost exclusively occupied by the trial of offenses committed by lawless men who claimed to be Americans, and the only time I was in danger was when these outlaws tried to assassinate me while holding court. My life was saved through the intervention of Mexicans from both sides of the Rio Grande, who had heard of the conspiracy in time, and, forming a guard around the court-house, kept the scoundrels off."

In a recent letter to the author Judge Crosby says :

"My acquaintance with Mexico and her people dates back to a period of forty years, when, as a sixteen-year-old youth, I served under Jack Hays, the original Texas ranger, at the battle of Monterey. From that period to the present, I have never ceased to interest myself in all that has concerned Mexico and her future. I have made a study of her constitution, her laws ; the manners, customs, traits of character, etc., etc., of her people, as well as the characteristics of this most beautiful and virgin portion of the North American Continent. Mexico is certainly the newest and yet the oldest of all North America."

Judge Crosby is at present engaged with some New York capitalists in developing the Corallitos property in Chihuahua, one hundred and fifty miles southwest of El Paso, which comprises 800,000 acres of farming and mining lands, and in which thus far \$700,000 have been invested.

I am glad to testify to the fact from personal experience that ladies may with safety and propriety travel on any of the lines of railway throughout the country, getting off at any city or town and inspecting it to their satisfaction. Only this suggestion I would make : at the hotels where you stop procure a guide, who knows all

the places of interest, and pursue your way quietly, not making undue remarks nor laughing in a loud tone at what may seem ludicrous.

Mexican affairs have been severely criticised by many writers; and objections of every character have been urged. It will be found, however, that there is neither fairness in statements made, nor is there much display of deep study into causes.

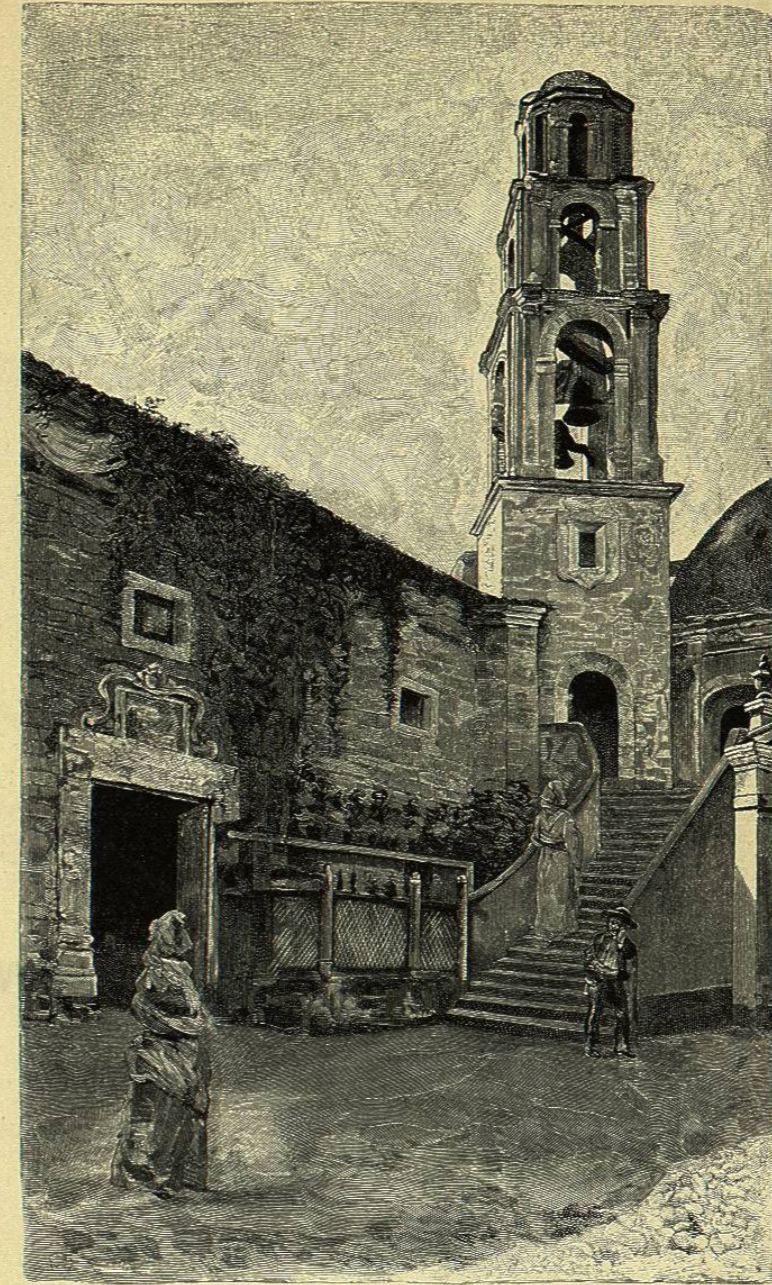
Among the chief complaints are: (1) The instability of the Mex-



THE CITY OF MEXICO.

ican government and the proneness of the people to revolution. (2) Border troubles between Mexico and Texas. (3) Non-progressiveness of the Mexican people. (4) Want of wholesome internal laws conducive to the happiness of all classes.

History shows that the government of Mexico has been unstable; and that the beautiful country has, until within a decade or so, been the scene of oppression and strife, ever since the day when Hernando Cortez first unfurled the Spanish flag, and burned his ships on her shores. But when it is considered that the country was filled with independent peoples, each with its own traditions and customs, living



CHURCH OF SACRE MONTE, AMECAMECA.

in great cities, and with independent governments, and not nomadic in their character, but holding the soil of their ancestors, it is not surprising that the change from the ancient civilization of the aboriginal races to the modern has been slow, and that governmental disturbances have been frequent. No race that was fixed has been ever suddenly induced to adopt the laws, customs and religion of its conquerors; and the tardy progress of Mexico has been largely due to the restraining influences and prejudices of the original inhabitants, who slowly discard the habits of their ancestors for the teachings of modern civilization. It takes centuries to work such a transformation. Then, too, the immutable doctrines of the Church, with its unvarying teachings and ceremonies, serve in a measure to influence the people to receive with caution and by slow degrees anything that would change their social and political condition. These remarks, of course, apply particularly to the original races that occupy Mexico—remnants of the ancient tribes. Mexico has progressed as rapidly as could be expected, when the large number of her aboriginal inhabitants is compared with the feebler bands of European strangers that mastered the government, and engaged in the attempt to indoctrinate the people with a new religion, new government, and strange customs.

The English in North America had none of these difficulties, because they met a nomadic people, and there was no decided attempt to assimilate the Indians with the Europeans; hence the seeming advance in the United States and Canadas. There were no fetters on progress, and the new world kept pace with the old in North America, while Mexico, Central and South America were held retarded by the almost invincible customs of the aborigines.

With races mixed, revolutions are inevitable for a time. The situation of the country, and the remarkable dissimilarities of the people, render a strong central government impossible. Rival parties with interests dissimilar, headed by bold leaders, are the natural concomitants of an unstable government; and they multiply and more frequently collide where government is in a transition state, perfect-