

santly diffused,—scarcely a shadow is perceptible.

Church and monastery of St. Dominick. —This, like that of St. Augustine, is large and plain in the exterior, except the dome of the segrario, which is covered with painted and gilt tiles. The interior is very spacious; the high altar (which is placed on a flight of steps), with its ornaments, is entirely of silver, and near the rails are two dogs, of the same metal, the size of life, on pedestals of silver and gold. The sacristy, on the left side of the church, is one mass of carving, painting, and gilding, in the rich style of some of our ancient buildings. The tabernacle, in the centre, is 30 feet high, the materials of which are gold, silver, and marble, the balustrades or rails are entirely of silver, the walls of the cloisters are covered with

pictures of the miracles of the patron Saint.

It being Maundy Thursday, a great holyday in the Catholic religion, I attended at the cathedral, and saw the ceremony in commemoration of Christ's washing his disciples' feet. The bishop was out of town, but the same usages were gone through as if he had been present. After several prayers and ceremonies, twelve poor men, in new clothes, were escorted each by a gentleman of the city to where the dean, attended by his clergy, knelt and washed the feet of every one in succession in a large silver vessel. The whole was conducted with much religious pomp, and, at the conclusion, each poor man was conducted home by the gentleman who had clothed and introduced him, and who undertakes to maintain him for the year.

The little church of the convent of St.

Monica, for the richness of its vaulted roof, and walls which are entirely encrusted with elaborate carvings, deserves to be mentioned. It also contains a few pictures, statues, and silver ornaments.

Puebla is governed by four Alcaldes or Mayors, (and sixteen officers under them,) who may be considered as corresponding with the aldermen of our cities. The police seems to be good, and well regulated. Handsome hackney-coaches, drawn by mules, are standing ready for hire in the great square. Here too the market is held, and is well supplied by the Indians with every article of food, except fish, which is very dear and scarce, owing to the distance from the sea, and the want of rivers or lakes. Even fish, however, is often received from great distances, enclosed in coarse paste pies, half baked to preserve it. The markets here, as in most

Mexican cities, commence with the dawn of day, and it is an interesting sight to a stranger to see them thronged by the various Indian tribes, busied in arranging and displaying their different commodities to advantage; the whole placed on the ground, and protected from the sun by a rude umbrella. The Indian women, clean, and neatly dressed, surrounded by their children, expose for sale the fine tropical fruits and vegetables, which are often brought a long way from the warmer districts (Tierras callientes). The poultry, which is plentiful and cheap, occupies another division of the market, and the cooked meats a third—here the Indians, with fires of charcoal, prepare in large quantities, and in a variety of ways, meat, poultry, and vegetables; their cooking is in general highly seasoned with chili, the favourite ingredient of the natives. Great

quantities of earthenware are also exposed in the markets, and the stranger will be pleased to observe the beautiful way in which Indian women produce a variety of liquors, of every colour and flavour. A vase, much larger than any made in Europe, of red earthenware resembling the Etruscan, is filled with water, and nearly buried in wet sand. A variety of flowers, principally poppies, are stuck in, among which stand the glasses containing the showy-coloured beverages, which, with chocolate, pulque, and ices, are served out for a trifle by clean and respectable-looking females. Bread is prepared of a variety of forms and materials, and Europe cannot produce better than the wheaten which is found here: indeed, the necessaries of life, and most of its luxuries (fish excepted) are to be had at a reasonable rate.

Puebla was formerly celebrated for its

manufactory of coarse woollen cloths, but it has now fallen off in this branch of manufacture. We visited the manufactory of earthenware and glass; at the former we saw large ornamental pieces, in colour and pattern much resembling the china brought from the east. The painting is executed by men seated on the ground. The machinery for grinding the flint used in the glaze, and for turning the ware, is very simple and rude. They were much pleased with our visit, and without hesitation explained the whole process. They were aware how greatly they were behind the manufactories of Europe, and told us, that no clay fit for the *fabrication* of porcelain or fine earthenware had as yet been found in Mexico; but in the coarse red ware they excel, both as to the elegance of the forms and patterns, and as it regards the size and lightness. The whole of

their cooking utensils are formed of earthenware, metal vessels being unknown in their kitchens; to which, indeed, the former is preferable, and so cheap that a few shillings will furnish all the requisites of a gentleman's *cuisine*.

The manufactory of glass has been lately much improved, and it is probable that shortly, with the adoption of some of our machinery in the preparation of the materials, the importation from Europe will be discontinued. They copy the forms well, and in the texture and colour of their glass they already rival us.

Soap is a considerable article of traffic in Puebla, being sent from thence to most cities of New Spain. It is made in the shape of birds, fishes, beasts, fruits;—indeed they give it a thousand fantastic forms.

The Mexican confectioners excel in their

sweetmeats and cakes, which are articles very much in request on Spanish tables. I was told that, at the coronation of the Emperor, upwards of five hundred kinds of dulces were served up in the dessert.

That many of the inhabitants of Puebla are wealthy is attested by their equipages and retinues: handsome carriages, drawn by mules richly caparisoned, and attended by servants in showy liveries, parade the streets, and almedas, or public walks, particularly on Sundays and holydays; but the promenade is not worthy of so fine a city, and loses much of its interest in the eyes of Europeans by the almost total absence of females, except such as are in their carriages; indeed, it is only in processions, and in going to and from church, that the higher order of women are to be seen in the streets,—which, on the former occasion, are crowded to excess by

all ranks. Temporary seats and elevated standing places are let for money, and though these showy and imposing ceremonies are by no means unfrequent, yet their interest and attraction remain unabated.

Intelligence having been received that the Emperor had resigned the government into the hands of the republicans, we left the city in a coach, drawn by eight mules, and driven by two Indian postilions, father and son. We avoided the direct road for the purpose of visiting the ancient city of Chollula, about six miles distant.

CHAPTER VII.

Chollula.—Its Pyramids.—St. Martin's.—Rio Frio Ayotla.

WE arrived at Chollula after a pleasant ride over plains covered with corn-fields, interspersed with plantations of the Agava Americana. This city was, before the conquest, one of the most considerable belonging to the Mexicans. It was famed for its idols, its sanctity, and its idolatrous worship. The Teocalli or Temple is composed of alternate layers of clay and sun-burnt brick, forming an immense pyramid, divided into regular strata stages, or platforms; but time, and the growth of the prickly pear, the tuna, or nopal, and other vegetables, have left but little of its original form visible, and it now resembles a natural hill; the