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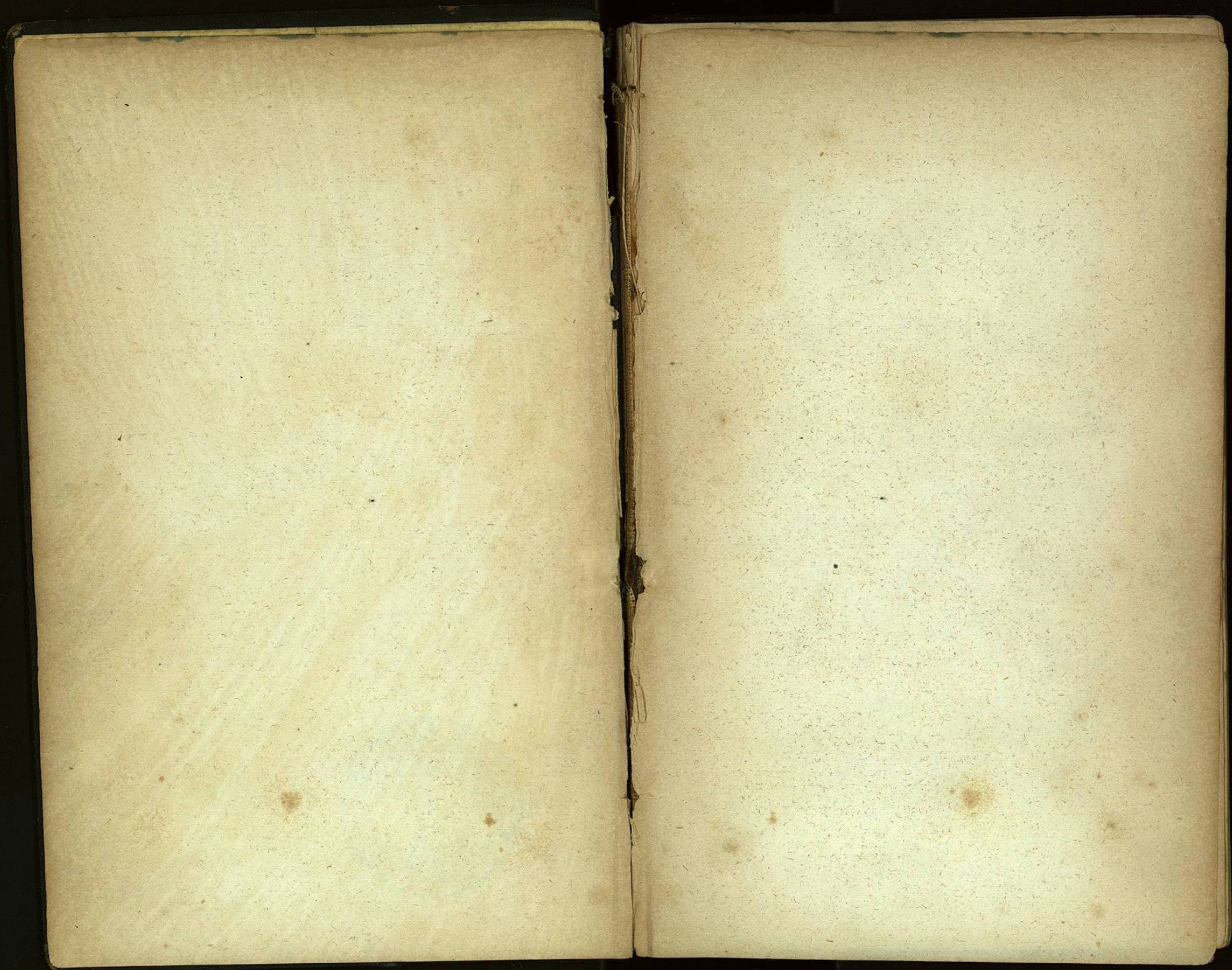


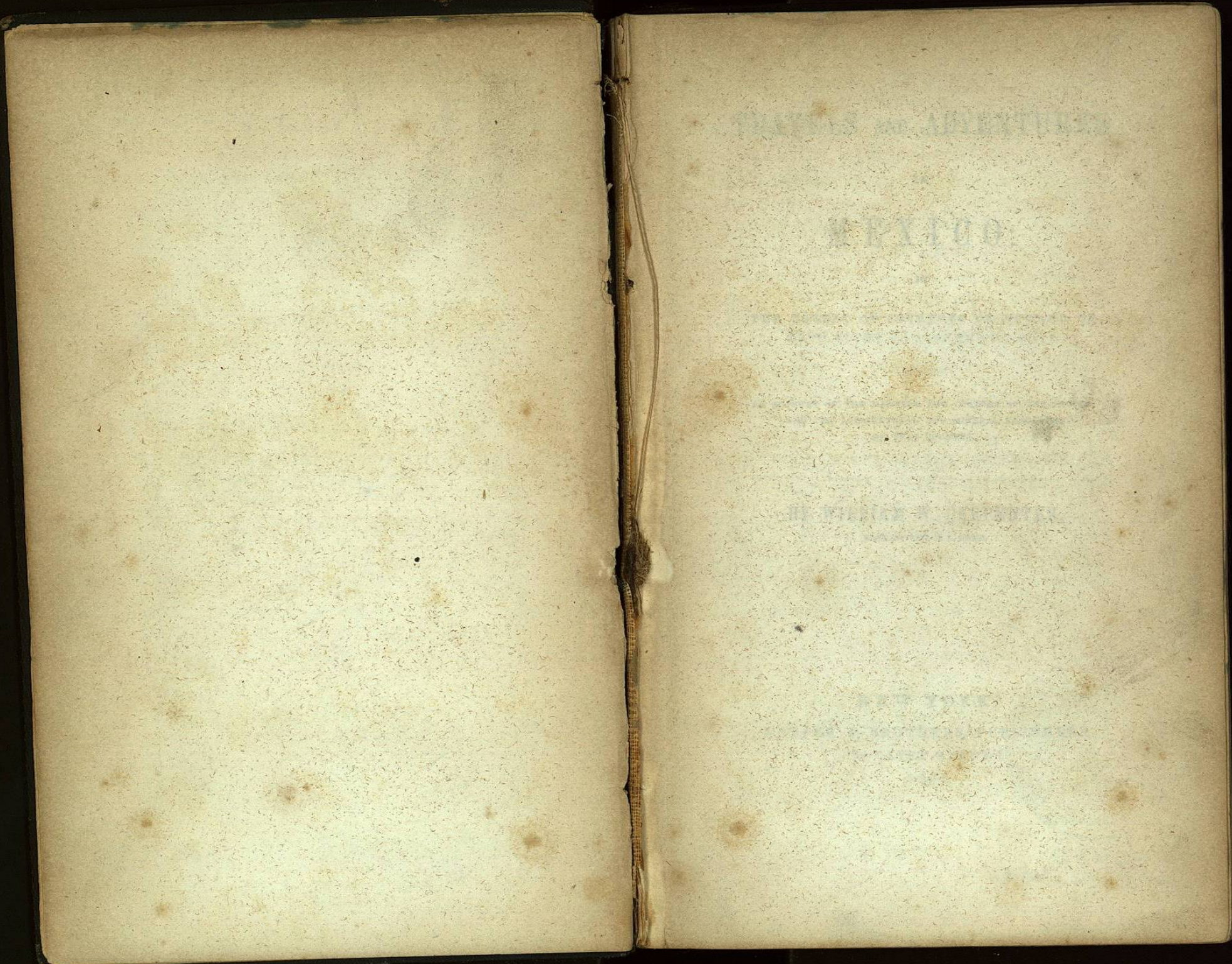
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TRAVELS AND ADVENTURES

IN

MEXICO:

IN

THE COURSE OF JOURNEYS OF UPWARD OF
2500 MILES, PERFORMED ON FOOT.)

GIVING

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE,
AND THE AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES
OF THAT COUNTRY.

BY WILLIAM W. CARPENTER,

LATE OF THE U. S. ARMY.

NEW YORK:

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FONDO
FERNANDO DÍAZ RAMÍREZ

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FONDO
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

PREFACE.

In taking the liberty of laying before the public the following narrative, I deem it proper to make a few preliminary remarks. This is the first effort at composition, destined for the public eye, that I have ever attempted. I therefore beg my readers to remember that they must not expect to meet with high-wrought descriptions or well-rounded periods, but a plain matter-of-fact narrative, drawn from my note-book, which was often penned by stealth or in haste, and always obliged to be reduced to such a small compass as to enable me to conceal it in an inside pocket. The notes I was compelled to make with a miserable pencil and on worse paper. Combine these difficulties, gentle reader, with a hungry stomach, an aching head, and ofttimes a miserable stable or shed for a night's shelter, and you will then have some idea of the circumstances under which I have often been compelled to write my notes.

I venture to lay the ensuing narrative before the public because I believe that it will tend to increase the stock of useful knowledge regarding a country of great natural resources with which we are now closely connected, and that it contains much to gratify the

lovers of adventures and incidents. I have been placed in circumstances which afforded me unusual opportunities of learning the character, customs, and domestic habits of the higher classes among the Mexicans. My extreme poverty and apparent insignificance prevented any suspicions of future disclosures; and I frequently had access to their domestic circles when those cloaks of reserve were laid aside which are generally worn before foreigners. My path has also led me among all the humbler classes of society, whose pursuits and dispositions I have carefully observed, while they considered me unworthy of notice.

In the course of my journeys I have passed through several towns seldom described by travelers, such as Salamanca, Guanahuato, Guadalajara, Ahuacatlan, and Tepic; and I have likewise examined the mineral and agricultural resources of the various sections which I visited. At the same time, the narrative abounds with incidents. I trust, therefore, that my readers will have no reason to regret the time they may spend in perusing the following pages.

I can not conclude these remarks without observing that I consider myself indebted solely to a benignant Providence for the preservation of my life amid the numerous perils through which I have passed. I was a stranger, destitute of money, and surrounded by numerous bands of troops, which were constantly scouring the roads and passes. I was subject to the jealous scrutiny of every prying alcalde and his

horde of myrmidons, while I had to encounter the innumerable parties of banditti with which that country is infested; men who would never scruple to rob a traveler of his last shirt or shilling; and I have frequently suffered the extremes of hunger and thirst, besides being exposed to heat and cold, and the heavy rains and pestiferous dews of a tropical climate, with clothing hardly sufficient to cover my nakedness.

Etna, N. Y., 24th April, 1851.





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Country.—Silver Mine.—Canales.—Mariné.—First Firing.—Incidents
at the Battle of Monterey.

At the commencement of the Mexican war I was at Louisville, Kentucky, when orders were received to raise in that state a regiment of volunteers, to proceed at once to the scene of action. Having many friends who had volunteered, I was by them easily persuaded to do the same; and in the short space of one week we were on the way to New Orleans, whence we shipped for Brazos Santiago in two vessels, which were towed by a steamer into the Gulf. When we were at a sufficient distance from the land to catch a breeze, the steamer left us, and we arrived at the Brazos in four days. The other vessel had arrived the day before, and we hastened to join our comrades.