

obtained permission to remain till the next morning, to recover from the fatigues of the preceding night and day. The inhabitants, though poor, were quiet and inoffensive people. I related to them the adventures of the night before, when they said it was a miracle that we had not been killed, as the mountains were full of ferocious animals. They also said that the road we should have taken would not have been half as tedious as the way we came, and that we were now some twenty leagues from the road that we had left. We offered one of our informants a dollar to go with us to the other side of the mountains, and leave us at a place whence we might easily find the way to the road. This offer he accepted.

At this ranch we had a good rest; and the next morning, feeling fresh and vigorous, we set off by day-break. Our guide did not go directly over the mountains, but took a winding route, gradually ascending, and then descending. He did not go over the highest parts, but kept near the base. About sunset we got through, and our guide led us to a ranch where we remained that night. In the morning he showed us the way to the main road; and, after paying him his dollar, we parted, he no doubt as much pleased at his gains as we were with the services done us.

Our road was now mostly level, but the chapparal grew so thick that we could not see any distance from us; we therefore guessed at our course as best we could, and it happened that we were right. We came to the road about noon, and pushed on with renewed vigor.

That night we came to a small town, the name of which I do not now recollect. The alcalde gave us rooms at the meson; and here we found our old acquaintance, Michael Burns, as drunk as a lord. He had come in company with some Mexican officers, who were nearly as ragged as ourselves, and so poor that they begged their way as they went along.

The next morning we started in company, and kept together until noon, when we arrived at San Juan de los Lagos. Here we presented ourselves to the authorities, and had our papers countersigned. Our late companions were getting rather too drunk to be pleasant company, so we left them. As we were going out of town, we passed an old woman who was selling honey. This being the first I had seen, I bought some, and we ate it as we passed on. This proceeding attracted the attention of some youngsters, who followed us, crying, "*See the Yankees! see the Yankees!*" We turned around several times, intending to give some of them a rap with the cane; but they, considering discretion the better part of valor, would as often retreat to a respectful distance. At length we got out of the town, and the rabble left us.

Before us was a high and very steep hill, the road leading to the top by winding round it. On the outside of the track, which was some twenty feet wide, was a solid wall. When we came to the top, a wide and level country was exposed to our view. No houses were in sight; but seven leagues distant was a hacienda, as we had been told, where we resolved to remain all night. We arrived there after sunset, without any thing worthy of note having occurred.

The proprietor generously furnished us what provisions we needed and a room to sleep in, for which he would take no pay. Some time after dark the company that we had left behind came up. We heard them talking, but did not speak to them, having resolved to keep clear of them, if possible.

The next morning we rose early, and started before they were awake, intending that day to go to Tepatlán, a long day's journey. We were here informed that the road was much infested with robbers, scarcely a traveler passing without being molested. This gave us some uneasiness; and we were advised to wait for the rest, as we would be more safe in going in larger numbers. I, however, determined to go on, thinking that we would be as safe alone as in the company of such vagabonds; so on we started.

The road was well beaten and easily followed, which was a great advantage to us, for no houses could be seen on the road side at which we might inquire should we become bewildered. In the afternoon we were suddenly surrounded by six men, and before any resistance could be made we were thrown down and our hands tied behind us. Two of them stood with loaded guns pointed directly at us, and they threatened to fire should we attempt to make any resistance. As this was useless in our situation, we of course submitted quietly. They then proceeded to search our pockets, and took all our money, and all our clothes except what we had on; but they left us our blankets, which was a great favor; they also gave us some meat and tortillas; but the gourd in which we carried water they appropriated to their own use.

They then left us, without untying our hands, with the usual *adios, caballeros* (adieu, gentlemen).

We now set to work to untie ourselves, which was no easy matter. By great exertions with my teeth, however, I managed to get my comrade loose, and he, in turn, loosened me from my bonds. We had some cigars in our pockets, and even these they took. The amount of money we lost was a trifle over four dollars; but the loss of our clothing was the greatest of all. This was the second time I had been robbed, and the only wonder is that I had escaped so well, for I had repeatedly heard of murders being committed; and, in fact, every day's travel furnished evidence of this, in the crosses that were placed beside the road.

We looked in every direction, in the hopes of seeing something of our late acquaintances; but they were not in sight, having probably concealed themselves behind some of the large cactuses, or in some deep arroyo or gulley. As we did not fear a second visit from them, we felt quite easy, but at the same time made the best of our way toward the town where we should stop. We arrived there after dark, and went to the *alcalde's*, who gave us an order on a *meson*. As we had no money, we went without our supper, being too tired to go out to raise any.

The next morning we went to a merchant, and told him what our situation was, and how we came so. He then gave us some breakfast, and directed us, in order to raise a little money, to go to the bishop who lived in the place, and who could talk English. We first went to some stores, where we received considerable aid, then to the bishop's. We were told to wait

a while. There were several poor, ragged Mexicans, apparently waiting for admittance likewise. We remained over an hour, when, becoming tired, we rose and left. We had gone but a few yards before we were called back, and at once ushered into the august presence of his honor. There were several priests in the room engaged in writing. Some of them, I thought, were quite young to wear the gown. However, they looked as though they were well kept. The bishop spoke to us in English, and asked what countrymen we were. We told him. He then asked how we had been treated on the road. We told him of the misfortune of the day before. He expressed great regret, and told one of his secretaries to give us two dollars each. We then took our leave, the old bishop asking us to pray for him. That he was no bigot, I learned from his own lips; for when I was conversing with him, he asked whether there were not many Protestants in my country. I told him there were. He seemed to pity their condition, and said that he prayed God would not cut them off, but convert them to the true faith. This sentiment was not in unison with that of other priests whom I have heard express themselves toward Protestants; for they would denounce them, and consign them, without judge or jury, to the lower regions of Purgatory, subject to the concentrated vengeance of the Almighty. I sincerely believe that, were the rest of the priests in Mexico as liberal in their principles as this bishop, there would be less suffering and much less crime than there is.

We were ready to start about noon. But, before

leaving, we were informed that the road to Guadalupe was worse and more dangerous than any we had passed. This alarmed us; and our alarm was increased when they told us of some companions (meaning some of the San Patricio company) who had been killed on that road. With heavy hearts and gloomy forebodings we pursued our way; but we had gone only a short distance before my comrade came to a halt. The stories he had heard had made such an impression on his mind that he was fearful to proceed; and, in fact, I was in some such predicament also. So, after a few moments' consultation, we resolved to go back and wait till some traveler should be going that road, in whose company we might proceed more safely. Accordingly, back we went. We stopped at the same meson we did the night before. After we had made the necessary arrangements, we went to the other mesons of the city, but did not hear of any one. At sunset we went again, and fortunately found a gentleman with two servants going the next day. With them we engaged to go. They had an extra horse, which they said we might ride, and we started in their company the next morning.

The extra horse we were to ride by turns. Before leaving, however, my comrade, unknown to me, bought a bottle of liquor, and drank several times before starting. After we had left the city he kept drinking until he became a little more than gentlemanly drunk. As soon as his bottle became exhausted, he then would stop at every house we came to and take another horn, so that before night he was so drunk that we had to hold him on the horse. This conduct

so disgusted our new friends that they declared he should not ride any more after that day. And it was with much difficulty that I could persuade them to let him remain on the horse even that day. The next morning they reprimanded him severely for his ill conduct the day before, and then told him that if he drank any more, he must leave their company. All this my friend took in good part, well knowing that he deserved it; he was as humble and penitent as a poor sinner could well be, and made all sorts of good promises for the future.

After a while all was ready for a start, the gentleman leading the way, and the servants, with the mules and baggage, following after. On the road to-day I observed the old gentleman look at his pistols as though examining them. He would then fire, discharging the six barrels in rapid succession. He appeared to be aiming at something; but, in reality, I think it was more for effect than any thing else, for it is well known that the rancheros are terribly afraid of a revolver, and, should any be lurking in our immediate vicinity, the knowledge that one was in our company would rather cool their ardor and keep them at a respectful distance. We were not molested, however, though we passed through some places where the inhabitants looked as though they would really like to have the pleasure of cutting our throats.

The second night of our journey from Tepatatlan we stopped at a hacienda. It looked more like a village; but I was told the inhabitants were all servants to the dueño or master. Here one of those scenes occurred that show the expertness of a Mexican on

horseback with the lasso. This is a rope, some thirty feet long, one end of which is made fast to the saddle, and the other formed into a noose, which slips with ease. When in pursuit of cattle or horses, they approach sufficiently near, swing the lasso (which is coiled up in their hand) round their heads until it has a sufficient impetus, and then, with perfect aim, throw it over the animal's head.

Children practice with the lasso as soon as they begin to walk by throwing it over a post, or catching cats, dogs, or any thing that comes handy. In this manner they become perfect adepts in its use. At this place they wished to catch a horse which was a little wild and gave them some trouble. By frequently changing horses, they at length run him down so that they could approach him near enough to insure success. One of the Mexicans then gathered up his lasso, swung it round over his head until a favorable moment, and then, with unerring accuracy, threw it over the horse's head. The animal he rode seemed to understand the business as well as his rider; for, when he saw the lasso had gone, he suddenly stopped, braced back with all his strength, and was absolutely immovable. The rope now so severely choked the other horse that he could not move another inch. He was soon broke so as to lead well, and within an hour after they rode him with the saddle. He was now completely subdued.

The next morning we pursued our journey. My comrade had so far regained the good-will of the Mexicans that they permitted him to ride. As we passed through several small places, we were somewhat

abused by the people; some would hoot at us, and others would throw stones or dirt, exclaiming, "Curse the Yankees." And I verily believe that, had it not been for the presence of the Mexicans in whose company we were traveling, our lives would have been in danger. Burns, whom we had left behind, in coming through here was beaten so severely that his head was swelled up, and for some time he could scarcely see, so that on his arrival at Guadalajara he was compelled to go to the hospital.

That night we stayed at a small town only a day's journey from Guadalajara. So many dangers had we passed through, that the prospect of a few weeks' rest, which we determined to take, raised our spirits above our present condition. The old gentleman in whose company we were kindly gave us all that we needed to make us comfortable. With me he became quite familiar, and would frequently urge me to go to his house, where, so long as I should remain with him, I should never want. This show of unusual generosity I afterward was taught to estimate at its right value. The Mexicans frequently use a thousand such expressions, but with no idea of ever being called upon to fulfill them. At a period subsequent to the time of which I am writing, I was once expressing my admiration of a gentleman's horse. He replied, "There it is; you may have it." This was a mere show of liberality; for he would have been very careful how he made that offer had he thought there was any danger of my accepting it. I, however, did not so understand the old gentleman. Still, I declined his offer.

We did not start so early as usual this morning, as we had but a short distance to go. The road was rough and rocky, and the country, in most places, was entirely uninhabited. The few people that I met looked more like a set of cut-throats than any I ever saw before. Near noon we came to a small town called San Pedro, about three leagues from Guadalajara, which was most decidedly the prettiest Mexican town that I had yet seen. It was regularly laid out; the streets were wider than usual; the buildings were only one story high, but beautifully finished, and its churches were large and gorgeously ornamented, both inside and out.

Here our Mexican friends were going to stop for the day, and we parted. I could not leave the old gentleman without expressing the deep gratitude I felt for his great kindness toward me. I was fully sensible that I could not have got along alone as safely as I had in his company. This continued kindness made a lasting impression on my mind, and I now take great pleasure in recalling this and similar instances. After leaving the old man we went round the town, got us a dinner at a fonda or eating-house, and then started for our journey's end.

Just as we were leaving the town, a Mexican came running up to us, asking if we would take a ride on a donkey. His charge to carry us three leagues was one shilling each. This was cheaper than to walk, so we engaged him. A number of others pressed round us, all having something to say, one asking to be employed, and another—all together making a noise equal to the runners at the landings of our

steam-boats or rail-roads. We, however, succeeded in mounting the donkeys that were brought out to us, and started. The road was level, and on each side, all the way, were some large and beautiful shade trees. The country, as far as the eye could reach, was as level as a floor, yet only small portions were cultivated. Here and there was seen a cluster of trees, and within these were houses belonging to the different haciendas. This portion of the country was the most beautiful of any I had yet seen. The seats, placed along by the road side, under the trees, at regular intervals; the situation of the houses, almost concealed from sight by the forests of fruit-trees; and the surrounding fields, covered with cattle and horses, altogether presented a scene worthy a painter's pencil.

Our driver kept hurrying onward, urging the animals to their utmost speed by the frequent application of his club, accompanied with the usual vocabulary for urging them forward.

In about two hours we came to what is called the *garita* or gate. Here a guard of soldiers was stationed; and here we dismounted, paid the man of donkeys, and walked on we knew not whither.

## CHAPTER IX.

Unexpected Hospitality.—New Acquaintance.—Description of Guadalajara.—The Cathedral.—Remarkable Picture.—Resolve to part from my Fellow-traveler.—Applications for Employment.—Bad News.—Fall in with an American.—Political Parties.—Paredes.—His Insurrection.—A Comical Battle, followed by a Bloodless Victory.—Run of good Fortune.—My Safety is endangered by an Order of the Authorities.—I am betrayed by my new Acquaintance.—But, warned of my Danger, I defeat the Plot.—Leave Guadalajara secretly with my old Fellow-traveler.—Wretched Appearance of the Country.—Singular use of a Thirty-two Pounder.—La Venta.—Etztlan.—Scene at the Meson.—I procure Employment.—Part with my Fellow-traveler.—Mexican Sabbath.—Start with my Employer for his Residence.—An Accident.—The Secretary.—Arrive at Iztlan, my Employer's Residence.

We were now in a city which ranks second in size and commercial importance in Mexico, but where to go or what to do we knew not. A short distance from the gate, as we were passing a house, a man came to the door and called us in. We went, some chairs were handed us, and soon after some native wine was given us to drink, of which we partook. A woman soon came in, bringing some bread and cheese, on which we made a good meal. After some conversation, we inquired if there were any of the San Patricio company in the city. He replied there were, and told where they might be found. He also gave us the desired information as to what we should do; and added, that it would be very dangerous for us to