

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

go out much at night, as the city was full of robbers and assassins. He gave us much good advice; and on our taking leave, he went a short distance with us to show the way.

It had been all along represented that here our lives would be in continual danger, that the city was full of desperadoes, and that murders and robberies were of daily and nightly occurrence. This report subsequently proved to be true only to a limited extent. I heard, indeed, of several robberies, and saw three dead bodies that had been found in the morning; but the kindness of this man set our minds at rest, in a great measure, as our first entrance here had been marked by an act of great kindness that was entirely unexpected and unasked for. We, however, determined to pay heed to some of the advice that had been given us.

After considerable trouble we found the Plaza, to which we had been directed. Here we presented ourselves to the colonel commanding the garrison in the quartel, and he gave us quarters with the non-commissioned officers. During the afternoon and evening several Irishmen came to the quartel to see us; they were deserters from the American army, and had been here some time. The appearance of one, in particular, deserves notice. He formerly belonged to the dragoons, was at the battle of Vera Cruz, and deserted just before the capture of Mexico. He was now teaching the sword exercise; and as he had a full school, he was making money. In excuse for deserting the American army, he said that, as an Irishman and a subject of the British crown, he could not

legally enter into a foreign service; that that very act would brand him as a traitor to his country; and that his enlistment in the United States service was a mere formality. His oath of fidelity he held to be a bugbear; he was not a naturalized citizen, he said, and his oath was not worth a straw; and it was, under these circumstances, morally and legally right for him or any other subject of Great Britain to desert the American army. As he appeared to be a leader, the rest echoed his opinions. For my part, as I did not wish them to know my real character, I said nothing in reply to this logic.

In the evening he and my comrade went to a grog-shop, and remained there most of the night. They became so drunk as to be unable to help themselves, and others were forced to carry them to the quartel to the rooms assigned them.

Next morning we were directed to go to the commanding general of that department, who would give us an order on the treasury for three dollars, the rest having received theirs. Accordingly, we went to his office and presented our passports. He countersigned them, giving us permission to go to San Blas, and then directed his secretary to write an order on the treasury for three dollars each. We then went to the building next to this, and entered the office, where were some twenty clerks. I presented my order to the first one I came to; he directed me to an officer who was sitting at the head of the room. To him I went. He read our orders, wrote something on the back, and sent us to another office, where were only two men. Here we presented our orders, and they

endorsed them, and paid us the money, when we thought ourselves rich.

The next day we presented our letter that had been given us at Lagos, and found that the gentleman to whom it was addressed was no less a person than the vice-consul of Spain. He read our letter, and gave us three dollars each. This was good luck doubly multiplied. After reading the letter, he said he could give us no definite answer until the morning following, at which time we must call again. We then left to take a stroll round the city.

It (Guadalajara) was more beautiful than we had expected, being regularly laid out in squares. The streets are mostly narrow, but all of them are paved. The houses are two and three stories high, well finished, and beautifully painted. There are some two or three convents, and a perfect host of churches. The Cathedral is one of the largest in Mexico. It has several entrances, and the high altar is on one side. Over it is a statue of the Virgin Mary, dressed up in gaudy colors, and inclosed in a glass case. Around her neck is a gold chain, and a golden dagger hangs at her side. On a wall opposite this is the image of Christ, as large as life, nailed to the cross. The blood is represented as running from his wounded side; the spikes through his hands are visible; and a crown of thorns is on his head. This also is inclosed in a glass case. In other parts are niches in the wall, in which are placed the twelve apostles. In parts not occupied by these images are numerous and valuable paintings. Some represent the death of Christ, his resurrection, and ascension. Another represents a poor

soul in purgatory, which is painted as a place of punishment, surrounded by a high wall. One old sinner is trying to crawl out; but there are devils stationed at certain intervals on this wall, with long spears in their hands, to push down any poor soul that should attempt to climb up the wall. Red, fiery flames play about them, and huge masses of black smoke curl over their heads. The whole is designed to represent the vengeance of the Almighty to its full extent. In the center of the floor, and elevated about two feet, was the pulpit. There were several ornaments of pure silver and gold, some of them very large and immensely valuable. This is the largest Cathedral that I ever saw, the best furnished, and the richest.

The inhabitants of Guadalajara, so far as I could ascertain, are better informed and more refined than in any other part of Mexico. The reason of this is probably its foreign commerce; for the intercourse with other countries from this city is quite extensive, and numerous foreigners were then residing there. I saw several factories, one of guns, another of paper, and another of cotton. All these were conducted by foreigners.

A very large and fertile valley surrounds the city. Provisions could be had very cheap; and fruit was supplied, even to excess, at a very low rate. But articles of clothing were very high. This is the case with regard to the other parts of the country also; and for this reason, the lower classes wear pantaloons and jackets made of goat skins.

Next morning, at the appointed hour, we waited on the consul. He then informed us that he had no bus-

iness for us to do, but if we would go to his hacienda—distant fourteen leagues—and work on his farm, he would give us what we earned. To this we made no answer, but left, promising to return and inform him of the result of our decision when it was made. This prospect we considered little better than none at all; to go on his hacienda, and place ourselves on a level with his ranjeros, who were not so well off as the majority of slaves in the United States, was an idea not to be entertained for one moment. American pride could not succumb to this. Bad as our situation was, it would have made us worse off than before to have accepted this offer.

My comrade at this time drank so very hard that I resolved to leave him. He had already betrayed me to his own companions, telling them what was my real character; but, as no prospect of bettering my condition appeared, I remained with him. By his excesses he soon spent all his money, and he was then dependent on me for what he ate and drank. We had been here now near a week, during which time he had spent over six dollars, and I less than two. Very soon he had taken all my money, and I resolved to leave him. To do this successfully, and without fear of exposure from him, required some management.

Some of this San Patricio company, through the influence of some officers, obtained work in the arsenal at making gun-stocks. One young man was here at work with whom I had become quite intimate. From the fact that he was an American, and free from the gambling and drinking habits of the rest of

his comrades, he knew my whole history, and made application for me to obtain work at the same place that he did. As I did not understand working with carpenter's tools, I was unsuccessful there. But as I had seen several harness shops, I went to one and applied for work. I was asked if I could stitch; and at the same time they handed me a trace, on which to make a trial. They had but few tools, and these were not like those that we use. However, I put the work in a pair of clamps, and went to work. It soon appeared that I could stitch as fast and as well as they, and I was then offered two shillings per day and board myself, this being the wages of all Mexican mechanics. I thought that if they were fools enough to work for such wages they might, but I would take a tramp first.

Thence I went to a coach-making establishment, conducted by a Frenchman. Of him I asked a job of work at trimming, having also, at a former time, worked a little at that. He asked my terms; I told him twenty dollars per month, as long or as short a time as I wished to stay. He would engage me, he said, but for a period of not less than six months; I could not possibly remain so long as that, and therefore I declined making a bargain. In fact, it was only my wish to get fifteen or twenty dollars, to enable me to pursue my journey in an independent manner.

My money had now given out, and I was reduced to great distress; over one day had passed, during which time I had nothing to eat. I knew not what to do; work could not be had at prices that would

keep soul and body together, and I felt ashamed to beg. In this emergency, a gentleman by the name of Jones, who had resided in the city some years, accidentally learning my circumstances, started a contribution for me, and I received five dollars.

I had previously left the quartel, and gone to the house of one of the two men who traveled with us a few days prior to our reaching this city. I had met him at the house of the old gentleman, on whom I had called according to agreement, and he invited me to go to his house. I did so; and a room was given me to sleep in free of charge. But I did not board with them. The young man who worked in the gun factory slept here with me. It was my intention to remain with him until he had money enough to carry us to the sea-coast, when we would start together. But we little know what a day may bring forth. I saw my old comrade daily. He had sold all the clothes that he could spare to furnish money for liquor. Rumors were in circulation that the Americans were landing at Mazatlan and San Blas, and that they contemplated an advance on this city. Consternation and alarm were depicted in every countenance, and the subject was discussed among the officers of government of forcing all the deserters from the Americans into their service. Five days would decide the matter whether it would be necessary or not.

This news came on us like a thunderbolt. Guards were to be sent to all the gates and all the streets leading from the city to watch and examine every person who should enter or go out. I now determ-

ined to leave forthwith, as this guard was to be set next morning. I went forthwith to the factory, where were some Americans. It was about three miles from the city. On my arrival there, I went direct to the office and inquired for the director in Spanish, as I saw but two clerks at their desks. Another gentleman, whom I had not seen, answered in English that he was the person for whom I inquired. I then told him my situation (omitting, however, that I was a prisoner), and that I was anxious to get out of the country. I asked him if he would afford me any assistance. He replied that he had been so much troubled with such characters—meaning deserters—and abused so often, that he had concluded to give them no more. He made several severe remarks about them, showing that, though he was now in Mexico, he was an American still. I then said, "Sir, are you an American?" He said he was. "From what state are you?" "Massachusetts." "Then, sir," I replied, "as you are an American, I can trust you with a secret which, were it divulged here, would cost me my life." I then added, "You probably have seen an account of the capture of a train of wagons by General Urrea on the 24th of February, 1847." He said he knew all about it. "Well, sir, I was taken with that train, and with my comrades marched to the city of San Luis Potosi, suffering on the road hardships almost incredible." I then stated how I came to be separated from them, and to pass this way. In proof of what I said, I showed him my passport, saying, "This reads that I am an Irishman, but you, sir, know it to be false."

I also showed him my notes that I had kept, and succeeded in preserving thus far. In addition, I showed him my card, drawn from the Odd Fellows' Lodge to which I belonged previous to my leaving the United States, and which I had kept by means of a belt that I wore next my skin. He then said that I was engaged in a dangerous and desperate enterprise, and that I could not have been aware of the many perils I had escaped. He also said that I was in great danger at the present moment, for, should I be detected, my life would not be worth one straw.

He then conversed with me about the situation of Mexico. There was no unanimity, he said, in the government; party feeling ran high, and always destroyed the effects of the wise and judicious measures that were often adopted by the government. As instances of this party feeling, he stated that Santa Anna was desirous of destroying the influence of the Church by depriving it of its property. This caused a revolution in the city of Mexico. He had avowed his intention of taking the property of the Church to supply his military chest, and when he was going to the city to seize what could soonest be made available, the priests engaged in their pay all the clerks and young men in the city to defend it. The streets were all barricaded, and old Santa was forced to abandon this project. Subsequent to the capture of Mexico, it had been rumored that Santa Anna was in favor of the United States, and that it was his intention eventually to deliver the whole country into the hands of the Americans. This rumor was believed among the Mexicans, and the priests formed another

party, which was by no means inconsiderable. This party was in favor of a foreign monarch, and its influence was great, as they had control of two thirds of the wealth of the country. Another party, by far the most numerous, but less wealthy, was in favor of a native monarch, with a strong and vigorous government. This comprised the middle and lower classes.

We had a long conversation on these subjects, and then changed it to one more in unison with my situation and feelings. I inquired if he could correspond with his friends in the States. He said he could, as a British mail went through once a month. The letters he sent went to Havana, and thence to the States. I asked and obtained liberty to write to my friends to inform them that I yet was in the land of the living. This was the first opportunity I had had to write home for nearly a year. I gave a short account of my capture, my travels, and escape up to that time. When I had sealed it, he took it and promised to forward it by the first mail, a promise which he faithfully performed.

He now gave me the additional information, already stated, that nearly every battle which had been fought with the Americans had been followed by one between themselves. One of these occurred near this factory on the 18th of May. This was a revolution got up by Paredes, who was a native of this place. I will give a short description of this general as I saw him riding through the streets. He was of short stature and very slender, so that when mounted on his horse he looked like a half-grown boy. He

was of a very dark complexion, with a high, prominent forehead, and keen, piercing black eyes. Altogether, his appearance was too insignificant to lead one to think that he could be capable of making so much noise in the world.

Of the object he had in view in instigating this revolution I am not fully informed. However, as its result was so comical, it will bear relating.

The two armies were maneuvering in the valley close to the factory for some days. At last both parties made preparations for an attack. There was a hill between the two encampments which both started to ascend at the same moment, each army supposing that the other was still in their camp; nor were they undeceived until they had met; then one fire was exchanged, and both parties retreated down hill, each supposing that the other was pursuing. After they had run some distance, one of the officers belonging to the insurgents looked back, and, seeing no one, ordered a halt. He then went back to see where their enemies were, when it was discovered that they, too, were running with all their might. This officer then claimed the victory, on the ground that he occupied the battle-field. This was a bloodless victory. It, however, did not end the revolution, for the government made great exertions to bring into the field its entire force, and they brought the insurgents to an action. After a sharp conflict, a large portion of the latter went over to their enemies, and this ended the revolution. I saw several houses that were literally riddled with cannon balls, and on the walls were marks of the musketry. Pa-

redes was banished from the state for a while, but at the time I was there he was back again.

By this time other Americans came into the office, to whom I was introduced. One of them I found to be an Odd Fellow. The director told them who and what I was, and they gave me one dollar each, and wished me all success in making my escape. As it was now noon, my brother Odd Fellow invited me to go with him to dinner, an invitation which I gladly accepted. He occupied a neat, beautiful house, on entering which he introduced me to his wife. As she was the first American lady I had seen for some time, I thought she was the most beautiful woman I had ever beheld. For the first time during a long period I sat down to a dinner cooked in good Yankee style. I now look back on this interview as one of the brightest spots in a long and dark captivity.

After dinner my friend gave me a coat, shirt, and pantaloons, and a dollar in money. I then left the factory to return to the city with feelings of deep gratitude to all the Americans who resided there. Should these pages ever meet their eyes, I would return them my most grateful acknowledgments for their kindness, well knowing that the consciousness of having succored an American in distress is a more ample recompense than I can possibly bestow.

When I came to the city I took a circuitous route to go to my lodgings, intending to seek my new comrade, but before getting there I met my old one, he being in search of me. He told me some news which caused me to decide to leave town instantly, or, at least, that night, and in his company. The