

*éclat*, and which I enjoyed accordingly. Indeed, the *réunion* was so agreeable—all so nicely managed both by Monsieur le Ministre and Madame—that we did not leave till two in the morning. So, instead of being up at six, as usual, my father had actually to awake me at ten, by throwing my packet letters into the room! No event brings such interest with it as the packet! I could do nothing till I had read all my letters; and then, having made my *toilette*, I joined Mr. F—, Mr. B—, and my father, who, in the library, were deep in the European news; and so much had we to talk about, that, to my surprise, three o'clock struck when our friends retired. So quickly had the hours flown past!

“On the 9th, Mr. M— gave a farewell dinner, on the occasion of Mr. Falconnet and the Marquis de Raddepont leaving Mexico. It was a most agreeable party; it included Mr. T—, of our legation; Mr. W—, of that of the United States; Sir J. L—, and Mr. Beraza. I need hardly tell you that we spent a pleasant evening.”

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PART IV.

REAL DEL MONTE.

LETTER XXXV.

REAL DEL MONTE.

*Real del Monte, 18th August, 1851.*

At noon of Monday last (13th), I finished my correspondence for the packet, and walking over to Beraza's house, found him packing his mails, and about to take his departure for Vera Cruz.

On Tuesday, I was busy preparing for our trip to Real del Monte, writing about my mission, and taking leave for a week of my political antagonists, through the medium of the newspapers; and with other matters. We were obliged to be stirring—with a lady in the case, no small affair—at five A.M. the next morning. At the coach-office, we found Mr. Escandon and Mr. G—, our fellow-visitors to Mr. Buchan; and at five minutes past six, we were all in the *diligencia*, rattling over the stones of Mexico, *en route* for Real del Monte.