

shares, which originally cost \$22,800, were still held by Spaniards and Mexicans. These mines were originally wrought by the state of Zacatecas; but, in 1836, Santa Anna took possession, by an alleged right of conquest, and rented them for twelve years, to the successful company. In the first half year of 1841, they produced \$1,025,113, at a cost of \$761,800, or a clear profit of \$263,313.

Mexico, under the colonial system with the immense product of her mines, and notwithstanding the richness of her soil for agricultural purposes, became almost entirely a silver producing country. The policy of Spain was, as we have already often stated, to be the workshop of the New World, while Mexico and Peru were the treasures of the Old. The consequence of this was natural. Mexico, one of the finest agricultural and grazing lands in the world, but with no temptations to export her natural products, as she had no markets for them elsewhere, and no roads, canals, or rivers to convey her products to seaports for shipment even if she had possessed consumers in Europe, at once devoted herself to her mines which were to be both wealth and the representatives of wealth. Her agriculture, accordingly, assumed the standard of the mere national home consumption, while the pastoral and horticultural interests followed the same line, except perhaps, within late years in California, where a profitable trade was carried on by the missions in hides and tallow. From this restrictive law of exportation we of course except vainilla, cochineal and a few other minor articles.

The sources of the wealth of the principal families of Mexico will consequently be found in her mines, and an interesting summary of this aristocracy is given by Mr. Ward in his "Mexico in 1827," to prove the fact. The family of Regla, which possessed large estates in various parts of the country, purchased the whole of them with the proceeds of the mines of Real del Monte. The wealth of the Fagoagas was derived from the great Bonanza of the Pavellon at Sombrerete. The mines of Balaños founded the Viban-cos. Valenciana, Ruhl, Perez-Galvez, and Otero, are all indebted for their possessions to the mines of Valenciana and Villalpando, at Guanajuato. The family of Sardaneta, — formerly Marqueses de Rayas, — took its rise from the mine of that name. Cata and Mellado enriched their original proprietor, Don Francisco Matias de Busto, Marquis of San Clemente. The three successive fortunes of the celebrated Laborde, of whom we shall speak hereafter when we describe Cuernavaca, were derived from the mines of

Quebradilla, and San Acasio at Zacatecas, and from the Cañada which bore his name at Tlalpujahuá. The beautiful estates of the Obregones, near Leon, were purchased with the revenues of the mines of La Purisima and Concepcion, at Catorce; as was also the estate of Malpasso acquired by the Gordoas from the products of of La Luz. The Zambranos, — discoverers of Guarisamey, — owned many of the finest properties in Durango; while Batopilas gave the Bustamantes the opportunity to purchase a title and to enjoy an immense unencumbered income.<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless, some of the large fortunes of Mexico were made either by trade or the possession of vast agricultural and cattle estates in sections of the country where there were either no mines, or where mining was unprofitable. The Agredas were enriched by commerce, while the descendants of Cortéz who received a royal grant of the valley of Oajaca, together with some Spanish merchants in Jalapa and Vera Cruz, derived the chief part of their fortunes from landed estates, cultivated carefully during the period when the Indians were under better agricultural subjection than at present.

Thus the mines, and the mining districts, by aggregating a large laboring population, in a country in which there were, until recently, but few manufactures, and in which the main body of the people engaged either in trades or in tending cattle, became the centre of some of the most active agricultural districts. "The most fertile portions of the table land are the Baxio, which is immediately contiguous to Guanajuato, and comprises a portion of Valladolid, Guadalajara, Queretaro, and Guanajuato." The valley of Toluca, and the southern part of the state of Valladolid, both supply the capital and the mining districts of Tlalpujahuá, El Oro, Temascaltepec and Angangeo; — the plains of Pachuca and Appam, which extend on either side to the foot of the mountains upon which the mines of Real del Monte Chico are situated; — Itzmiquilpan, which owes its existence to Zimapan; — Aguas Calientes, by which the great mining town of Zacatecas is supplied; — a considerable circle in the vicinity of Sombrerete and Fresnillo; — the valley of Jarral and the plains about San Luis Potosi, which town again derives its name from the mines of the Cerro de San Pedro, about four leagues from the gates, the supposed superiority of which to the celebrated mines of Potosi in Peru gave rise to the appellation of Potosi. A little farther north we find the district of Matehuala, now a thriving town with more

<sup>1</sup> Ward's Mexico in 1827, vol. ii, p. 151.

than seven thousand inhabitants, created by the discovery of Catorce, while about the same time, in the latter part of the last century, Durango rose into importance from the impulse given to the surrounding country by the labors of Zambrano at San Dimas and Guarisamey. Its population increased in twelve years from eight to twenty thousand; while whole streets and squares were added to its extent by the munificence of that fortunate miner. To the extreme north, Santa Eulalia gave rise to the town of Chihuahua; Batopilas and El Parral became each the centre of a little circle of cultivation; Jesus Maria produced a similar effect; Mapimi, Cuencame, and Inde, a little more to the southward, served to develop the natural fertility of the banks of the river Nazas; while in the low hot regions of Sonora and Sinaloa, on the western coast, almost every place designated on the map as a town, was originally and generally is still a Real, or district for mines.<sup>1</sup>

Such is the case with a multitude of other mines which have formed the *nuclei* of population in Mexico. They created a market. The men who were at work in the vein, required the labor of men on the surface, for their support and maintenance. Nor was it food alone, that these laborers demanded. All kinds of artisans were wanted, and consequently, towns as well as farms grew upon every side. When these mining *dependencias* are once formed, as Baron Humboldt justly says, they often survive the mines that gave them birth; and turn to agricultural labors for the supply of other districts that industry which was formerly devoted solely to their own region.

Such are some of the internal advantages to be derived from mining in Mexico, especially when the mines are well and scientifically wrought, and when the miners are kept in proper order, well paid, and consequently enabled to purchase the best supplies in the neighboring markets. The mines are, in fact, to Mexico, what the manufacturing districts are to England and the United States; and they must be considered the great support of the national agricultural interests until Mexico becomes a commercial power, and sends abroad other articles besides silver, cochineal and vainilla, — the two last of which may be regarded as her monopolies. The operation of this tempting character of *mines* or of the money they create as well as circulate, is exhibited very remarkably in the rapidity with which the shores of California have been covered with towns and filled with industrious population.

<sup>1</sup> Ward, ut antea.

The tabular statement on the next page manifests the relative production, and improving or decreasing productiveness, of the several silver districts of Mexico, during the comparatively pacific period of ten years antecedent to the war with the United States which commenced in 1846. Whilst that contest lasted the agricultural and mineral interests and industry of the country of course suffered, and, consequently, it would be unfair to calculate the metallic yield of Mexico upon the basis of that epoch or of the years immediately succeeding.

From the table it will be seen—omitting the fractions of dollars and of marks of silver—that the whole tax collected during these ten years from 1835 to 1844, amounted to \$1,988,799, imposed on 15,911,194 marks of silver, the value of which was \$131,267,354;—the mean yield of *tax* being \$198,889, and of the *silver*, 1,591,119, in *marks*, which, estimated at the rate of eight dollars and a quarter, *per mark*, amounts to \$13,126,735 annually.

Comparing the first and second periods of five years, we find a difference in the tax in favor of the latter, of \$113,130, on 905,042 marks of silver; showing that in the latter period \$7,466,596 more were extracted from the Mexican mines than during the former.

If we adopt the decimal basis of calculation the returns show, *approximately*, the following results for relative productiveness:

In Zacatecas,	33 $\frac{2}{3}$ per ct.	In Rosario, Cosala and	} 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per ct.
Guanajuato,	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	Mazatlan,	
San Luis Potosi,	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ " "	Sombrerete,	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " "
Pachuca,	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " "	Parral,	1 $\frac{6}{8}$ " "
Guadalajara,	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	Zimapan,	$\frac{2}{3}$ " "
Mexico,	4 $\frac{2}{3}$ " "	Alamos,	$\frac{2}{3}$ " "
Durango,	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " "	Hermosillo,	$\frac{2}{3}$ " "
Guadalupe y Calvo,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	Oajaca,	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "
Chihuahua y Jesus Maria,	} 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " "	Tasco,	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "

These statements do not include the precious metals produced in Mexico, which were either clandestinely disposed of or used in the manufacture of articles of luxury.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See report of the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations for 1846, at page 139, of *Documentos Justificativos*.

*TABLE exhibiting the places and the amount of Tax collected at each, on every mark of silver, during the ten years from 1835 to 1844, designed to show the relative productiveness of the various silver districts throughout the Mexican Republic.*

Places where the impost or tax has been collected.	Product of the tax from 1835 to 1839, both inclusive.	Product of the tax from 1840 to 1844, both inclusive.	Increase of yield of tax during the last five years.	Decrease of yield of tax during the last four years.	Value of total silver product in dollars, \$4 per mark.	Mean annual product of silver in dollars, at \$4 per mark.
Zacatecas.....	\$350,715.7.9	\$306,620.5.1	\$31,074.4.0	\$44,095.2.8	\$43,384,215.7.0	\$4,338,421.4.8
Guanajuato.....	197,423.5.2	228,498.1.2	1,680.3.4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	.....	28,110,838.2.0	2,811,083.6.7
San Luis Potosi.....	75,682.7.7	77,373.2.1 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	16,849.3.6 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	.....	10,101,716.7.9	1,010,171.5.6
Pachuca.....	58,805.1.4	75,654.4.10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	18,546.6.5 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	.....	8,874,345.1.9	887,434.4.2
Guadalupe.....	41,520.4.7	60,067.3.0 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	31,651.0.1	.....	6,704,804.7.3	670,480.3.1
Mexico.....	31,841.2.0	63,472.2.1	.....	8,747.2.3	6,290,691.5.6	629,069.1.4
Durango.....	49,416.0.9	40,668.6.6	.....	.....	5,945,603.6.6	594,560.3.0
Guadalupe y Calvo.....	10,328.5.5 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	63,733.0.6 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	53,404.3.1	.....	4,888,075.4.0	488,807.4.4
Sombrerete.....	32,405.6.9	19,385.6.4	.....	13,019.7.11	3,418,243.6.6	341,824.3.0
Chihuahua.....	23,293.5.9	19,940.0.7	.....	3,353.5.2	2,853,430.2.0	285,343.0.2
Cosala.....	24,073.7.1	15,980.1.2	.....	8,093.5.11	2,643,566.0.6	264,356.4.10
Jesus Maria.....	8,379.2.1 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	19,502.0.11 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	11,122.6.10 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	.....	1,840,171.4.1	184,017.1.2
Parral.....	13,258.6.11 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	10,716.3.9	.....	2,542.3.2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	1,592,372.2.9	159,237.1.10
Zimapan.....	8,523.6.4	9,279.7.4	756.1.0	.....	1,175,044.6.0	117,504.3.9
Alamos.....	.....	16,806.6.2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	16,806.6.2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	.....	1,109,247.1.9	110,924.5.9
Hermosillo.....	5,773.0.3	10,275.0.1	4,501.7.10	.....	1,059,170.6.0	105,917.0.7
Rosario.....	2,517.2.4	8,939.4.3	6,422.1.11	.....	756,150.2.6	75,615.0.3
Mazatlan.....	.....	4,100.5.4	4,100.5.4	.....	270,644.0.0	27,064.3.2
Oajaca.....	2,450.3.8	.....	.....	2,450.3.8	161,730.2.0	16,173.0.2
Tasco.....	1,474.0.10	.....	.....	1,474.0.10	97,290.7.0	9,729.0.8
Totals.....	\$937,884.4.2 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	\$1,051,914.6.3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	\$196,907.1.8 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	\$83,776.7.7 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>10</sub>	\$131,267,354.2.10	\$13,126,735.3.5

Deduct decrease.....  
Difference in favor of increased yield of tax (and of course of production) during the last period of five years.....  
See table No. 1, in the Report of the Mexican Minister of Foreign and Domestic Relations, for 1846.

MINT OF MEXICO

Comprised in four sections: 1st, coinage of gold and silver from 1690 to 1821; 2d, from 1822 to 1829; 3d, from 1830 to 1844; and 4th, coinage of copper only.

1690 to 1822, or, in 132 years, in silver,	\$1,574,931,650.1.10
1733 to 1822, . . . . . gold,	60,018,880.0.00
1822 to 1829, . . . . . silver,	23,179,384.3.03
" " . . . . . gold,	4,392,502.0.00
1830 to 1844, . . . . . silver,	18,829,250.4.02
" " . . . . . gold,	1,430,258.0.00
1814 to 1844, . . . . . copper,	5,323,765.0.09
Total, . . . . .	\$1,688,105,960.2.00

From this must be deducted on account of recoinage, &c. &c., according to statement of the mint, . . . . . 12,195,941.0.00  
\$1,675,909,749.1.08

And to this last sum must be added for gold coinage from 1609 to 1732, not included in the previous statement, . . . . . 24,237,766.0.00

Total coinage of mint in the city of Mexico to 1844, . . . . . \$1,700,147,515.1.08

From 1535 to 1690—it is estimated that there were coined in the mint of Mexico alone:

Gold, . . . . .	\$ 31,000,000
Silver, . . . . .	620,000,000
Total, . . . . .	651,000,000

Add the preceding result from 1690 to 1844, . . . . . 1,700,147,515

Total coinage in mint of city of Mexico from 1535 to 1844, . . . . . \$2,351,147,515

MINT OF CHIHUAHUA

Comprised in three sections: 1st, coinage of silver 1811 to 1814; 2d, of silver and gold from 1832 to 1844; 3d, of copper only.

1811 to 1814, . . . . . silver,	\$3,603,660.0.00
1832 to 1844, . . . . . " . . . . .	3,026,215.3.08
" " . . . . . gold,	368,248.0.00
1833 to 1835, . . . . . copper,	50,428.5.00
Total, . . . . .	<sup>1</sup> \$7,048,552.0.08

<sup>1</sup> These calculations are made in dollars, reales, or pieces of the value of 12½ cents, and medios, or pieces of the value of 6½ cents.



COINAGE of Mexico from 1535 to 1849, inclusive, omitting the fractions of a dollar.

MINTS.	SILVER.	GOLD.	COPPER.	TOTAL.
1535 to 1690.				
City of Mexico.....	\$620,000,000	\$31,000,000		\$651,000,000
1690 to 1844.				
City of Mexico.....	1,606,225,922	88,597,827	\$5,323,765	1,700,147,514
1811 to 1844.				
Chihuahua.....	6,629,875	368,248	50,428	7,048,551
1811 to 1844.				
Durango.....	21,815,913	1,986,069		23,801,982
1812 to 1844.				
Guadalajara.....	17,840,720	364,629	61,217	18,266,566
1844.				
Guadalupe y Calvo..	338,124	95,004		433,128
1812 to 1844.				
Guanajuato.....	50,998,241	4,370,700		55,368,941
1827 to 1844.				
San Luis Potosi.....	18,531,428		23,517	18,554,945
1810, 1811, and 1812.				
Sombrerete.....	1,561,249			1,561,249
1828, 1829, and 1830.				
Tlalpam.....	959,116	203,544		1,162,660
1810 to 1844.				
Zacatecas.....	120,375,366		107,949	120,483,315
All the Mexican mints, from the end of 1844 to the end of 1849, at the rate of \$14,000,000 per annum, which was the approximate total coinage in 1844 <sup>1</sup>				70,000,000
Totals.....	\$2,465,275,954	\$126,986,021	\$5,566,876	\$2,667,828,851

RESUME.

Silver coinage from 1535 to 1844, inclusive	\$2,465,275,954
Gold do 1535 to 1844, do	126,986,021
Copper do 1811 to 1844, do	5,566,876
General coinage, from 1845 to 1849, both inclusive	70,000,000
Total coinage of Mexico to present time, or in 314 years	\$2,667,828,851
Or, avoiding fractions, nearly	\$8,500,000 yearly.

<sup>1</sup>The actual coinage of all the mints in the republic in 1844 amounted, in fact, to the sum of \$13,732,861; but we assume \$14,000,000 as a fair annual average for a period of several years.

CHAPTER VII.

INCOME OF NEW SPAIN 1809 — EXPENSES OF NEW SPAIN 1809.

MINERAL PRODUCTIONS — MILITARY FORCE — AGRICULTURE — MANUFACTURES. — COMMERCE — EXPORTS — IMPORTS. — PRESENT COMMERCE — IMPORTS — EXPORTS. — NINETEEN YEARS TRADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO. — CHARACTER OF IMPORTS — CHARACTER OF EXPORTS — SILVER EXPORTED. — FAIRS IN MEXICO. — THE FUTURE PROSPECTS AND POSITION OF MEXICO — NOT A COMMERCIAL COUNTRY. — RAILWAY FROM VERA CRUZ TO THE CITY OF MEXICO.

FINANCIAL AND PRODUCTIVE CONDITION OF MEXICO OR NEW SPAIN BEFORE HER REVOLUTION, AND AT THE PRESENT DAY.

In order to exhibit a connected and comparative view of the financial and commercial condition of Mexico, we have assembled in this section a number of tables which exhibit, at a glance, the state of New Spain in relation to her mines, agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and the income and expenses of the viceroyalty in 1809.

TABULAR STATISTICAL VIEW OF THE INCOME AND EXPENSES OF THE VICEROYALTY OF MEXICO IN 1809, ANTECEDENT TO THE REVOLUTION — ITS MINES, AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES AND COMMERCE.

1st. INCOME.

Branches of income.	Clear product in dollars.
Duties on assay,	\$ 72,506
“ on gold and bullion,	24,908
“ on silver,	2,086,565
“ on vajilla,	25,716
Coining of gold and silver,	1,628,259
Tributes,	1,159,951
Taxes, (alcabalas)	2,644,618
Pulque, (a national beverage made of aloe,)	750,462
Powder,	370,829
Lotteries,	109,002
Novenos,	192,333
Saleable and remisable offices,	27,106
Stamped paper,	64,900
Medias anatas.	37,338
Amount carried forward,	\$9,174,493