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TRAVELS IN MEXICO.



1871



TRAVELS IN MEXICO,

DURING THE YEARS 1843 AND 44;

INCLUDING

A DESCRIPTION OF CALIFORNIA, THE PRINCIPAL CITIES  
AND MINING DISTRICTS OF THAT REPUBLIC;  
THE OREGON TERRITORY, ETC.

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BY ALBERT M. GILLIAM.

LATE U. S. CONSUL TO CALIFORNIA.

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A NEW AND COMPLETE EDITION.

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ABERDEEN:

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FONDO  
FERNANDO DIAZ RAMIREZ

## P R E F A C E .

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In compliance with the general custom of writing a preface, it is my desire to say, that I should not publish my Travels in Mexico, but for the flattering solicitations of some friends.

My journey in that interesting country, was of long continuance. Individuals in Mexico informed me that it was unknown, that persons in a private capacity had ever accomplished so great a distance of internal travel at any one period; and not unfrequently it happened, that in parting with acquaintances, many apprehensions and doubts would be expressed of the success of my enterprise.

Although much has been written upon detached portions of Mexico, as seen by other travellers, yet I have written with a hope, that a journey of about four thousand miles, in a country that has for nearly four hundred years engaged the attention of the world, will not be read without exciting some interest.

The ignorance of the geography of Mexico, has resulted from the fact, that no scientific individual has ever traversed its extended territories, which would enable him to locate rivers and cities, or to describe mountains, valleys and lakes,—it is from the want of this knowledge that a map has never been taken of Mexico; and the only one bearing the name that can be relied on is that of Baron Humboldt, which was in the main sketched from the imagination. I have taken care to draw as accurate a map of my travels, as my time and observation permitted.

It is to be regretted, that whilst other countries have industriously had their geographical, geological and mineralogical surveys, Mexico has remained inert, and satisfied with the gloom and ignorance in which the first revolution found her—the philosophic stores of her dominions are locked up from the world, and only probed here and there by foreign research.



Since my return to the United States, my time has been so much occupied that I have not been enabled to devote due attention and study to the composition and arrangement of my manuscript, but since it has gone forth, I can only regret, that haste has compelled me to publish its imperfections with whatever good qualities it may possess. I fear that my knowledge of the Spanish will be sentenced by the classic eye—yet in apology, I hope I may be excused; and permit me to say, that I have given it in the most grammatical manner that my limited opportunity of learning it would allow.

My feelings of gratitude will not permit me to conclude without expressing my thanks to my friends in Virginia. Their generosity I have often had reason to acknowledge. The Executive to whom I was introduced, distinguished in a nation's confidence and patronage, I shall always cherish.

I am happy in congratulating my fellow citizens on their prosperity; on their possession of a land unequalled in its resources and above all, as they are the only people truly enjoying constitutional liberty and freedom of conscience, where the laurels of victory unrestrained by power, and uncorrupted by gold, deck the brow of the triumphant in the great contention of the field of principle.

ALBERT M. GILLIAM.



## TRAVELS IN MEXICO.

### CHAPTER I.

*My Journal.* The plain and unsophisticated narration of facts is of interest to the reader. Incidents as happening the more beautifully and naturally are illustrative of cause and effect. Commission by President Tyler, as Consul of the Port of San Francisco, Upper California in the Republic of Mexico. Embarked Oct. 15, 1843. Three casualties in three months. First day's travel in the Natural Bridge Stage. Arrived, the 18th instant, at Guyandotte, on the Ohio. Voyage down the river, having a view of several States of the Union. Arrived at Cincinnati, on the 23d inst. Yellow Fever in New Orleans. Determined to spend one week in Cincinnati. Entertained by hearing the Rev. Nicholas Cobbs, D. D., preach. On the 29th instant, frost at New Orleans. My departure from Cincinnati. Steamer James Madison. On the 1st November, beheld the magnificent meeting of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. On the night of the 7th inst., arrived in sight of New Orleans. Splendid view of the city.

HAVING, with care, kept my Journal, from the day of my departure from home, I shall, therefore, give it to the world in the style of the original manuscript.

The plain, unsophisticated narration of facts, as at the moment noticed by the traveller, I have presumed to be not only the more intelligible to all, but of greater interest to the general reader.

The studied system that some have aimed at, by an over-cultivation of elegance of diction and "far-fetched" classical illustrations, have often failed to entertain more than the concise, connected history of incidents, which always the more beautifully and naturally illustrate "cause and effect," and thus, by intuition, guide "the mind's eye" of the peruser to see as the tourist beheld.

With such views I shall endeavour to avoid isolation, not with the hope of pleasing the imagination, and affording a