

the Mexicans are so prejudiced, that, when at war, they do not spare or protect private citizens, or any who belong to the enemy of their country.

It was amusing to witness the commotion of feeling produced, upon the news of every arrival of a ship at Vera Cruz. A thousand well-authenticated different rumours would be circulating at the same time among the people, and it did occasionally seem that the good people of Mexico almost heard the British bomb-shells, cracking over the castle of San Juan de Ulloa.

Nevertheless, it proved that, up to the 5th day of January, no English fleet had arrived off the coast. The government, in anticipation of the desperate result, had ordered troops to Vera Cruz, to fortify the fort and the city; but men and officers positively refused to obey orders, declaring that it would be certain death for them to undertake to defend the city.

The government had therefore to send a dispatch to the British Queen, announcing its willingness to surrender the Jack to any of the English authorities empowered to receive it, with the exception of Mr. Doyle. Thus making a personal affair of the whole difference between the Charge de Affaires and the Mexican Dictator. I should not be surprised, however, if her Majesty obliged the Mexicans to deliver the Union Jack, with a royal salute, to his Excellency, upon the Plaza.*

* Since the above was written, the British Sovereign has received the apology of Santa Anna, and Mr. Doyle was recalled.

CHAPTER IX.

Indisposition of some of the Deputies. A failure of a quorum. The Deputies installed. Speech of Canalizo. Reply of Ximenes. Celebration of the installation. How things are done in Mexico. Worship of the Golden Sun. Firing of cannon. Splendid illumination of the Cathedral and Plaza. Installation of the President elect. Canalizo, the proxy of Santa Anna. Celebration of the installation of the President. The worship of the Christian, a happy exchange for the native. Grand parade of all the military. My stay in the city of Mexico. If the will of the people was known. Mr. Green gave me notice not to leave the city. Copy of the secret order. Determined to take the advice of General Thompson. General Thompson's negotiation. My opinion. Mexican persecution. Two Americans imprisoned at Guymas. Who are the Mexicans? Union of the European and Indian blood. Comparative difference of the Christian and Savage worship. Mild disposition of the Mexican. Love of the country. The Mexicans are a motley race. Solemnity and sadness of countenance. Mexican politeness. Confidence in no one who cannot blush.

In consequence of the indisposition of some of the deputies of the Mexican Congress, as communicated by letter to the Dictator *pro tem.*, a failure of a *quorum* occurred. Therefore, upon the day in course for the regular instalment of the members, the house could not be organised. This indisposition of the deputies was supposed by some to have been more the result of a mental than a bodily cause, in consequence of their disgust with the politics of the country, and their want of confidence in the Dictator; as they, during their last session, were driven from their seats by military force. And I was forcibly reminded, by their excuses, of the Seminole chief Sam Jones, who, when commanded by General Jessup to come in and surrender, returned word that he was lame, and could not walk.

The deputies were not installed until the first day of January. I took the opportunity of visiting the palace in company with an American gentleman,—who, from a long residence in the country, not only knew men and politics, but understood the Spanish language well,—and witnessed the opening of the session of the house for the first time under the new constitution.

After the speaker had called the house to order, General Canalizo rose from his seat, and, in a handsome manner, in-

formed the deputies of the state and condition of the Republic. During his speech, he remarked that the commerce of the country was in a flourishing condition, and that the agricultural and mining interests were never in a more prosperous state, or yielded larger profitable results. He concluded by eulogising the manufactures of the country, appealing to the honourable body to protect the industry of the nation.

The grave and accomplished gentleman having taken his seat, the majority of the Deputies appeared, by their smiles of approbation, to be gratified with the flattering account which General C. had been pleased to give of the happiness and prosperity of the Republic.

But when Ximenes, the President of the Senate, rose up in his place, which was a throne, under a royal purple canopy, fringed with gold, (as often seen from the pulpit, the only throne in the United States,) he most unexpectedly, soon put to the blush many of the high coloured assertions of the honourable Dictator pro tem.

In his reply to his colleague of the Executive, he most respectfully requested leave to differ with his excellency, who had taken his seat. For, in the first place, he stated that, so far from the commerce of the country being in a flourishing condition, it had been almost effectually destroyed by the recent decrees, leaving a prohibitory tariff on most of the articles of manufacture, which were formerly imported into the country. He also said, that he had not been able to discover the good results the protective system had given to any portion of the Republic; for the consumer was obliged, under the decree, to pay from two to four times as much, in many instances, for the elegancies and necessaries of life, as those articles formerly cost his fellow-citizens.

Besides, he said, what the more disparaged him was, after they had protected the manufacturer, he was yet complaining of his manufacture yielding no profit, and still demanding the aid of the government, while he was unable to pay any bonus for the monopoly he enjoyed; at the same time, he remarked, that the decree was extracting largely from the pockets of the people.

He also stated, that he was of the opinion that agriculture was on the decline; for although there were no duties levied upon exportations of the products of the farmer, yet, as almost all trade had been lopped off from the country, and foreign powers were compelled to turn the tide of their importations to other parts of the world than their own, and in consequence needed not their surplus produce—inasmuch as other nations were maritime, and Mexico possessed no shipping—

the former had to receive a reduced price from the manufacturer for his grain, or else suffer it to rot in his granaries. Hence it was, he said, that numbers of farmers would lose their places upon the Hacienda campus, and would not find employment in the manufactories or the mines; for the plain reason, that there was already a sufficiency of labour, in those branches of industry.

He concluded his remarks by saying, that the mines also had not yielded as in former years; and notwithstanding all these facts, the national debt was increasing, while at same time the Executive, who in reality was the government, was making demands for increased expenditures and protection.

The reply of the President of the Senate, to the speech of the Dictator, turned the smiles of some into frowns; and while others dared not approbate the remarks, at least every learned and profound member looked as if he just had his eyes skinned. After these speeches of the two high functionaries, the house adjourned; for this was all that constituted the installation of the Deputies.

At two o'clock in the afternoon commenced the celebration of the occasion; for nothing in Mexico can be performed without having rejoicing, and the results of such moves have always happy effects in the benefits which they afford the ambitious with the multitudes of every country, and in winning the favour of the people.

Bonaparte was not deficient in having his bonfires and shows at the corners of the streets, to bribe the common herd; as also his grand parades. And I am heartily persuaded, that processions and shows of rejoicing can be corrupted for ambitious and inimical purposes, to the detriment of the people. It is to be regretted that the people of the United States are suffering the innovation of such humbuggery.

But that the world may know how things are done in Mexico, I will give some detail of my observations on the grand occasion of the celebration of the installation of the Deputies. At the appointed time, the citizens had assembled in considerable numbers on the Plaza, as if they had congregated to worship the golden sun on the palace, or the eight six-pounders which were drawn before that ancient building. As I cast my eyes around, I observed the bewitching smiles of many fair faces, who were blessing some hopeful few; and it was with some sympathy that I noticed the convulsed nerves of the lovely ones, as the thundering peals of the cannon reported volley after volley. The firing of the cannon and the playing of the music continued until the closing of the day.

When night came, a splendid illumination of the cathedral, the palace, and all the houses around the Plaza, took place. I could not refrain from going to witness this grand scene. The windows and the tops of the portals of the houses round the Plaza and the palace, all shone with a brilliant illumination, while the margins of the flat roofs of the buildings presented an extensive line of blazing torches, appearing like streams of fire as seen at a distance on mountain heights. But as I turned my direction towards the cathedral, it was then that my eyes caught the full blaze of light; for from the earth to the top of the two high steeples, it was studded with burning lamps, casting wide their light over the city. And as the illuminations shot its rays high in the heavens, like eternal fires on the Aztec temple, that once covered the same ground, the distant mountains of porphyritic rock seemed to have caught the red glare. It called to my mind the period when all Anahuac worshipped the sun, and when, as the blazes of the torches ascended up to the bright luminary of the heavens, the censers on the fires before the altars contained the hearts of thousands of human victims sacrificed to appease blind and imaginary gods. I thought of that unfortunate period in the history of the conquerors, when forty of their number, who had been taken prisoners by the barbarians, were marched in long procession, within the distant view of their companions, who could not come to their rescue, and with solemn chant were seen to wind their way around the high temple up to its top, there to be extended upon the jasper sacrificial stone, and with breasts protruded and frantic screams, have their hearts torn out, held to the sun, and then thrown to the altars of their sanguinary deities.

Although the illumination revived in my memory those past historical events, yet the present temple, I reflected, was erected to the one, true, and living God of the adorable Trinity,—the Christian's God, proclaiming "peace on earth, and good will to man," and if corrupted in its purity, still it is the Christian religion which is preached within its walls; a happy exchange for the idolatry of former eays.

On the following day the President elect was to be installed. General Santa Anna was not in the city, but had returned to Mango de *Clavo*, immediately after the period of the big national ball, when he made the fatal mistake with the British Jack, in making it a glorious trophy. Doubtless the vanity of the man, in his desire for fame, had persuaded him, as well as it wished to impose upon the credulity of his people, that he had achieved a victory over the red coats, when every body knew that he had never done any other fighting,

besides the massacreing of his own people, saving the mishap of San Jacinto, and the gallant loss of his leg at Vera Cruz.

Santa Anna, the President elected, under the constitution of his own creating was empowered to appoint the elector, and of course they were obliged to return the compliment by electing him who had appointed them, their president. The installation was by proxy,—General Canalizo, his man Friday, representing the President elected.

Although Santa Anna had, upon that day, laid down the absolute powers of the Dictatorship, yet it was a mere farcical exchange of names; for the title of President, under the instrument which he called the *constitution*, gave him all the dictatorial functions that he might require.

The day which ushered the *quondam* Dictator to the presidency had likewise to be celebrated, and as morning dawned, it was hailed by the firing of cannon, continued at intervals during the day. Ten thousand troops, which had been stationed in the city, were taken to the private residence of the president, where, it is said, the wily chieftain quartered them to consume the cattle of his well-stocked haciendas. This left remaining, for the protection of the President *pro tem.*, a force equal to the entire standing army of the United States, of five thousand men. These troops, consisting of artillery, infantry and cavalry, well equipped, paraded the streets early in the morning, marching and counter-marching through every avenue of the city.

The bands of music accompanying the military were excellent. The soldiers were all good looking fellows, and in the pride they appeared to take in the parade, looked as if they had been well drilled and disciplined. The military are devoted to their master, President Santa Anna; and it is by them, not by the suffrages of the people, that he maintained his power. As I viewed the pompous procession, my bosom was kindled with feelings of native republican pride, and I renewed my resolve, that as long as the spirit of a Virginian dwelt in my breast, I would never tolerate military usurpation and dictatorial despotism.

It is related by historians that seventy thousand human beings were sacrificed at the coronation of Montezuma.

In the pageantry of the celebration of the installation of the President, and the exhibition of his extraordinary powers, it was perceptible that the people did not have much heart: for at night, when the illumination took place in the Plaza, I did not see more people assembled than on ordinary occasions. On the contrary, when this spectacle was in honour of the instalment of the house of Deputies, there was an almost im-

penetrable crowd. Besides, they seemed to have been as much rejoiced as if they had just obtained their liberty and independence. Whereas, when the truly imposing spectacle of the soldiery was presented in the streets, there were few people to be seen,—considering their fondness for show;—and all the day I observed that the inhabitants confined themselves more to their houses, than it was their habit of doing on their festival occasions.

I heard it stated, by more than one Mexican, that the parading of the military was only a stratagem of Santa Anna to intimidate the Deputies in their deliberations; and all the world knew that he had, previous to their installation, issued a decree, that they, the representatives of the people, should not investigate his acts, and that he, as Dictator, *was not responsible to them!* And they had good reason to fear, for they well remembered that the last Congress of Mexico was annihilated and dispersed by Santa Anna's having a regiment of his grenadiers, commanded by Captain Cortes, stationed at the door of the deliberative chamber, to prevent their meeting. Captain Cortes is a native of the state of Louisiana. He described to me the history of the day, and remarked, that whenever a Deputy demanded of him admission into the chamber, he was obliged to avert his head with shame, when refusing the supreme representatives of the people entrance to their hall; so that by their rightful deliberations, they might preserve the liberties of their country. I heard a Mexican say also, that the soldiers might fire their cannon, and the priests illuminate the cathedral; but if the will of the people was expressed, the palace and the cathedral would both be hung in sable.

My stay in the city was much longer than I had wished, or expected it would have been. My destination to San Francisco, Upper California, being about two thousand miles north of the capital of Mexico, it was with no degree of pleasure that my delay was extended to a period of nine weeks. The difficulties and dangers I should necessarily be obliged to encounter in the hazardous journey, inland, which I contemplated, were continually oppressing my mind, and I daily desired to commence the undertaking, so that, by the toils to be endured, and the change of scene, I might obtain relief.

In the first place, my baggage, that had been promised me by the conductor at Vera Cruz, should be delivered in the city of Mexico, in eighteen days, from the time of my departure from that place, did not reach me under thirty-six. Next, in consequence of a communication to General Thompson, from one of the northern departments of Mexico, I received notice

through his secretary, Mr. Green, not to leave the city on my journey, until the subject of difficulty, originating from the communication which he had received, had been settled with the government of Mexico. For the entire satisfaction of the public, I will give the order, the subject of negotiation, as furnished to me, by the Secretary of the American Legation, in Spanish and English.

“Ministerio de Guerra y Marina.

“Es' mo Sr.

“El E. S. Presidente provisional usando de los facultades, q. le concede la ley de 22 de Febrero de 1832, y con vencido de q. no conviere q. los naturales de los E. U. del Norte tengan su residencia en ese Departamento del mando V. S. se ha servido resolver que salzan de el, en el termino prudente q. V. S. les fine al efecto, y q. en lo sincero no se admite en el mismo Departo. á mix un individuo perteneciente á los Espresados Estados Unidos; debiendo entenderse esta prohibicion aun pava los limitrofes á ese de Californias; á cuyo fin, con esta fecha, bajo las respectivas comunicaciones; lo que tengo el honor de decir á V. S. para su conocimiento, recomendandole mui eficazmente el cumplimiento de esta suprema resolucion.

“Dios y Libertad. Mejico, Julio 14, 1843.

“(Firmado.)

TORNEL.

“E. S. Gobernador

y Com. Gen. de Californias.”

“En la misma fecha.

“Se inserto esta orden á los gobernadores de Sonora, Sinaloa, y Chihuahua. El Sr Urrea contestó al Gobierno, asegnandole q. yu habid comenzado á obrar.”

“Department of War and Marine.

“The President *pro tem.*, by virtue of the powers granted him by the law of the 22nd of February, 1832, convinced of the impropriety of permitting the natives of the United States to reside in the Department, under the command of your Excellency, has resolved that they should be ordered out of it, within such time as it may appear most prudent to you, and that in future no individual belonging to the above named United States be permitted entrance into said department; it being understood that this order is to apply also even to the frontier of the department, to which, and under this date, I have the honour to make known to your Excellency, recom-

peaceful population, who should have demanded the protection of the laws of the country for their enterprise and industrious habits.

The secrecy employed by the insidious minister of war and navy, in issuing the order to the different departments for its enforcement, must appear to the minds of all, to have been a deed of the darkest treachery which the powers of one nation could have betrayed towards another while in friendly relations. And I am convinced, by long reflection and the accumulation of facts, that so wicked, premeditated and wanton an act, on the part of Mexico, should not have been permitted to be explained away, without the assurances of an indemnity for our citizens, for loss and damages, which might have been sustained by the enforcement of the order.

I do not express my sentiments with a view of giving utterance to any unkind feelings towards General Thompson; for that gentleman must be aware, that his own friendship and politeness, extended towards me, would be an honourable barrier against so base a deed. On the contrary, I have the highest respect for his acknowledged talents, his years, and long experience in public life, and the services, during which, he has rendered his country. Still, I have no doubt, he will excuse me when I say that, although he had the United States executive and senate to think with him, I would much rather he should have demanded his passport instead of receiving the explanation; and thus, by refusing an apology, and the false pretensions of the Mexican diplomacy, he would have made them feel in want of our friendship, and caused them, like France, to fear offending again.

The American citizens, who had settled in the Californias, were mostly of that harmless of all communities, namely, farmers. And, by one dash of the pen, a decree went forth from the national palace, by which they were all, at the same time, obliged to sell their crops, stocks and lands at a reduced price, in consequence of the glut of the market. This, perhaps, was the design of those in authority, owing to the many expulsions of the old Spaniards, who, escaping with their lives, yet lost their property and valuables.

It would seem that the Mexican government, in their animosity (for I can find no other name to apply to it) towards the American people, take great pleasure in persecuting and oppressing them whenever an opportunity offers to exhibit so unfriendly a feeling. I am entirely at a loss to conjecture the cause, unless it has its origin in the fact that General Santa Anna was defeated at San Jacinto, and that his present minister of war and the navy, when in the United States in the

capacity of Mexican minister, received a horsewhipping before Barnum's hotel in Baltimore. And I would here express the opinion, that I know of no power on earth that Mexico should make her best friend more than the United States.

But as I was about to remark, the disagreeable affair of the order was hardly over, before the American minister obtained information, through a highly respectable Spanish gentleman, that in the department of Sonora, of which General Urrea, of Texian memory, is governor and general, at the town of Guymas, there had been, for some time, two Americans loaded with chains and confined in prison.

The information reported to the American legation was, that while the prisoners professed ignorance of having offended against the laws of Mexico, they had respectfully demanded a trial, feeling innocent of any real or unknown allegations; but then, in every instance, they had failed in obtaining justice under the Mexican laws. They had repeatedly written to the American minister at that capital, calling upon him to aid them in obtaining their liberty, and redress their grievances.

As the American minister never received their letters, it was concluded that they were intercepted. It was therefore agreed between the prisoners and the Spanish gentleman, that, while on a visit to the city of Mexico, having to remain there some time, they should address their letters to him, and thereby the legation would become possessed of their appeal. My departure from the city taking place before any action had been commenced in favour of the unfortunate prisoners, I never learned their ultimate fate.

If I am asked—Who are the Mexicans?—of what people are they?—I would reply, that they are the descendants of the Aztec and Tezcuan races, partly mixed with the Spanish blood; and the Mexican has no reason to be disparaged in being reminded of his ancestry, for an admired historian has remarked, “enough has been said to show, that the Aztec and Tezcuan races were advanced in civilization very far beyond the wandering tribes of North America. The degree of civilization they had reached, as inferred from their political institutions, may be considered, perhaps, not much short of that enjoyed by our Saxon ancestors under Alfred. In respect to the nature of it, they may be better compared with the Egyptians; and the examination of their social relations and culture may suggest still stronger points of resemblance to that ancient people.”

I have been taught to believe that a mingling of the European with the Indian blood in North America, and particularly in my own state of Virginia, was a good cross of the human

species. For in the Old Dominion there are numerous individuals who pride themselves on their Indian parentage, and who, for their acquirements and position in the civil and military history of the country, stand unrivalled by any of their fellow-citizens.

In the primitive history of every nation, there is mention made of their barbarous and superstitious rites in the worship of their deities. The Mexicans, when the country was first discovered by the Europeans, had many claims to the character of a civilized people. And I cannot conceive why more odium should be attributed to the religious worship of Aboriginal Americans, who sacrificed human victims at the shrines of their altars, without the light of truth and revelation; while with every denomination, and every nation in Christendom, the smoke of hecatombs of martyrs has blackened the heavens, amid the frantic shouts of fiendish priests.

When we contemplate the comparative difference in the advance of civilization of the Christian race, who continually hold a direct communication with heaven, through the patriarchs and prophets, and lastly, by the presence of the Son of God himself, and then draw a retrospect of the Mexican, shut out from a communion with his Maker, with nothing but the light of nature to illuminate his benighted way; confined on a narrow strip of land, between two vast oceans, and the ceremonies of whose faith partake, in some instances, of those of the Christian Church; I cannot but admire his majesty, and consider him a part of the noblest workmanship of the great Architect of creation.

As an author, whom we have before quoted remarks—"One may perhaps better understand the anomaly by reflecting on the condition of some of the most polished countries of Europe in the sixteenth century, after the establishment of the modern inquisition; an institution which yearly destroyed its thousands by a death more painful than the Aztec sacrifices; which raised the hand of brother against brother, and setting its burning seal upon the lip, did more to stay the march of improvement, than any other scheme ever devised by human cunning. Human sacrifices, however cruel, have nothing in them degrading to their victim. It may be rather said to ennoble him, by devoting him to the gods. Although so terrible to the Aztecs, it was sometimes voluntarily embraced by them, as the most glorious death, and one that opened a sure passage into paradise. The inquisition, on the other hand, branded its victims with infamy in this world, and consigned them to everlasting perdition in the next."

I am persuaded in the opinion, that if the present race of

Mexicans were taught a just abhorrence of fraud and crime, so that a committal of such deeds could be reached and punished by the laws of the country; and if they were instructed to dread the anger of heaven for such acts of wickedness, his mildness of disposition, and native sincerity of manners, would make him one of the most amiable of the human species. No one can visit Mexico without becoming forcibly impressed with the polished politeness and kind demeanour of the inhabitants, while at the same time they are ever ready to offer their kind services to forward the intentions of the traveller.

But I would here caution those intending to journey through that country to beware; as under the most accomplished *debonair* of manners and offers of friendship the darkest deeds are concealed. A foreigner cannot be introduced to a Mexican without having his immediate proffer to be of service to him, and an inquiry of in what manner his assistance may be required.

And again I would say, that from the experience of the toilsome journey, and my intercourse with the people of Mexico for many months, the stranger should judge well of the individual in whom he may place confidence.

I once heard an American citizen express his desire, that the abrupt, and often overbearing deportment of his fellow-countrymen, could be exchanged for the due deference, and agreeable easy politeness of the Mexicans. But as I am not writing a book upon the manners and customs of my own country, I shall not express my sentiments on this interesting subject.

The egotism and love of country of the Mexicans is unparalleled. While he thinks his native land the best on the globe, his opinion of himself does not degenerate; for he believes that his people are the most learned and pious in the world; hence his prejudice to foreigners, and opposition to improvement. When a foreigner has embraced all his sentiments and maxims, and in every thing fashioned himself after his ways, he will then be tolerated, as all proselytes are by the opinionated and bigoted, as having been redeemed from ignorance and superstition.

The Mexicans are a motley race, reflecting a complexion in proportion with their mixture with the European blood, and exhibiting, as it were, numberless hues in the same crowd.—At the city of Mexico, I beheld every imaginable colour of skin that human beings possess, excepting that of the African; for of this latter race I met with none, as negroes are hardly ever to be seen at any distance from the coasts; and also,

from an early antipathy of the Mexicans to the black man, but few have ever been imported into that country.

But to redeem my promise, as made in the second chapter of this book, I will now attempt to give some reasons for the great solemnity and sedateness of the Mexican's expression of countenance. Mr. Prescott remarks that, "In their faltering steps, and meek and melancholy aspect, we read the sad characteristics of a conquered race."

There is another reason assigned by historians for their gravity of aspect, which supposes it to have been imparted by the loathsome and revolting oceans of human sacrifices so frequently presented to the public view. And again, notwithstanding they had obtained the Christian religion, after the conquest, yet the introduction of the inquisition along with it, continued to keep among the people the oppression of spirit and dejection of countenance which has been engrafted upon posterity.

If I should venture to give my own opinion, I would say that this peculiarity of feature is to be mostly attributed to the climate; for in all nations of tropical regions the population exhibit a languid and grave appearance. And if an artist, judging from what I have seen of painting, attempts to represent a being oppressed by heat, he delineates very much of the same expression visible on the countenance of the Mexican.—A learned philosopher once remarked, that he would never have confidence in any one who could not blush; and I am of the opinion that he would find few in Mexico in whom to confide.

CHAPTER X.

Climate of the Valley of Mexico. The Climate of the Republic of Mexico. Plains without water. Artificial dams. Monopoly of Agriculture. Interference of the law. Landed estates of Mexico. Table of population. Wealth of the inhabitants. Majority of the people in poverty. Different causes. Want of confidence. Previous to the revolution. The golden age. Embezzlement of Canalizo. Products of the Mines. Solvency of Mexico. Forced loans. Anecdote. The people of Mexico easy to govern. A correct idea of the ministry of Mexico. Captain Cain. Deformity in Church as in State. The Bishop bribed. Matrimony.

THE climate of the valley of Mexico is considered to be the most delightful and desirable of any known region. The valley of Mexico is 7,550 above the level of the sea. The capital from its elevated position, and its being no more than 190 deg. north latitude, is never excessively hot in summer; but to the contrary, as long residents in that country informed me, it is agreeably warm—sufficiently so to make vegetation generate luxuriantly, as I observed it also will in the winter months. Yet it cannot be supposed to compare during the winter months with that state of perfection which the summer season produces. The nights are cool, sufficiently so to render the couch pleasant, was it not for the fleas and other insects.

The climate of the republic of Mexico is by no means universal. The plains have a temperature generally of 62 degs. Fahrenheit. The phenomena of climate that exist in Mexico are singularly peculiar to that country, not being known to any other regions of the earth; for the traveller cannot cross a mountain, without finding its opposite sides varying in temperature. This results from the higher elevation of some plains above others; and thus it is, that from the minimum of 62 degs., many of the valleys, as likewise the coasts on either side of the continent, vary in temperature to the maximum of 120 degs. of heat. Hence it is that the stranger in Mexico will hear of the tobacco—the sugar—the cotton—and the cocoa regions.

The best tobacco regions are said to be in Tobasco, and in the vicinity of the Orizava mountains. The sugar regions are principally in the valleys south of the city of the Mexico, adjoining the Popocatepe mountain, as also in the hot countries of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Cotton grows to its