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THE
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

IN

1882

With Revised and Corrected Map

BY

LORENZO CASTRO

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New York

THOMPSON & MOREAU, PRINTERS

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INTRODUCTION

The author of this little work has resided in Western Texas, the frontier of Texas, and the interior of Mexico for the last thirty-five years. His father, Henry Castro, for services rendered to the Republic of Texas in early days, received several grants of land in Texas, one of them now comprising the county of Medina, and part of Bexar, Bandora, Uvalde, Frio, Zavala and McMullen; he colonized his grant with immigrants brought principally from Alsace and Lorraine and the Rhenish provinces. Having brought to Texas, in 27 ships, 5,200 colonists from the year 1842 to 1847, he founded the town of Castroville, the present county seat of Medina County, and the villages of Quihi, Vandenberg and Dhanis.

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Before Henry Castro brought his people from Europe to Texas, the country west of San Antonio was a wilderness only inhabited by the Lipan and Comanche Indians. The San Pedro Creek could then be considered the frontier. The difficulties that Henry Castro had to overcome to induce his people, after he had brought them from Europe, to remain, would hardly be believed. After spending a large fortune and several years of arduous labor, his settlements were permanently fixed, and are now in a high state

of prosperity. The State of Texas honored his memory as the pioneer of Western Texas by giving his name to one of the new counties.

The writer, who assisted his father in his efforts to colonize Western Texas, has, since the Confederate war, resided and travelled all over Mexico. He is well acquainted with the country, its language, laws, customs and the manners of its people. He has, since the War of Secession, devoted his entire time to make Mexico better known than it is by the generality of the American people; to develop its untold mining wealth, its agriculture and industry, and promote immigration which will be well supported and encouraged by the best and most respectable citizens of the country.

The writer has consulted the following distinguished authors: Baron Humboldt, Lucas Alaman, Michel Chevalier, Lerdo de Tejada, Jesus* Hermosa, Alvarez y Duran, Dr. Eleuterio Gonzales, Carlos Maria Bustamante, the Reports of the Minister of Public Works, and lastly the valuable data collected by the distinguished statistician Don Adrian Busto.

Americans who desire to emigrate to Mexico can consult this little work with confidence, and if they find the same useful, the undersigned will have accomplished his object.

LORENZO CASTRO.

NEW YORK, April 5, 1882.

MEXICO.

ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

THE Government of Mexico is a Federal Republic, composed actually of twenty-seven States, one Territory and the Federal District.

The independence of Mexico from Spain was proclaimed for the first time on the night of the 15th of September, 1810, in the Town of Dolores, State of Guanajuato, by the curate of the parish, Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, seconded by Captain Ignacio Allande, Mariano Abasolo, Don Juan Aldama and other persons of distinction. The independence was finally effected by Don Augustin Iturbide, commanding the Army of the Three Guarantees, on the 27th day of September, 1821.

The present Constitution of Mexico was promulgated on the 5th of February, A. D. 1857, and is generally known as *the Constitution of 1857*. It was amended September 25th, 1873, establishing the Senate, and prohibiting the reelection of the President of the Republic and the Governors of States to a second term of office, May 5th, 1877.

The Mexican Government is actually divided in three bodies entirely independent from each other, viz.: the Executive, the Legislative and the Judiciary.

THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

The present incumbent, Constitutional President Citizen General Manuel Gonzales, was elected July, 1880, for the term of four years, from December 1st, 1880, consequently his term of office will expire on the 30th of November, 1884.

In case of death of the President, the Constitution of 1857 provides that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court becomes the President of the Republic.