

*Zoölogy.*—All kinds of stock are raised in this State with little or no expense. Game and fish are abundant, and there are rich pearl fisheries on its Pacific coast.

*Mining.*—This State possesses many mines rich in silver, gold, quartz, jaspers, marble and other valuable minerals; but in former days the principal revenue of the State was derived from cochineal and aniseed.

This State, in 1856, had a population of 489,969 inhabitants, and of 733,556 in 1881.

*Principal cities and towns.*—The City of Oaxaca was founded in a beautiful valley by Juan Nuñez del Mercado in the year 1628. Its streets are laid off at right angles. On the main square is situated the Government palace, the cathedral, worthy of note on account of its elegant style of architecture and the porticos of our Lord and of the Star (*la Estrella*). Its population, in 1856, was set down at 28,000 souls.

*Principal towns.*—Teotitlan, Huahuapan, Ejutla, Jamiltepec, Teposcolá and Villa Alta.

Among the distinguished men born in this State was President Juárez, who was a pure Zapotec Indian, educated at the Jesuit college of Oaxaca, and whose memory will live in the minds of all lovers of liberty as one of the great figures of this continent.

## THE STATE OF PUEBLA.

### BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

This State is bounded on the north by the States of Vera Cruz and Hidalgo; on the east by the State of Vera Cruz; on the south by the States of Guerrero and Oaxaca; and on the west by the States of Morelos, Mexico, Tlaxcala and Hidalgo.

Area, 1,725 square leagues.

Puebla was created a State in 1824.

Population, 697,788 inhabitants in 1857.

Population in 1881, 784,466 souls.

*Mountains.*—A wide chain of high mountains, cut at intervals by fertile valleys or plateaus, like those of San Martín, Puebla, Alixco and Chalchicomula, gives this State a peculiar topographical aspect without monotony. The mountains of Huauchinango, Zacapoaxtla, Zacatlán and Tezintlán are among the principals. On the eastern boundary of the State are found the Cofre de Perote and the peak of Orizaba; and on the west, the Popocatepetl and Ixtlahuatl; and on the north, the mountains of Zacatlán and Huauchinango.

*Rivers.*—The principal rivers of this State are the Atoyac, that rises in the mountains of Tlaxco, which in its course is also known as the Río de las Balsas, and those of Vinasco, Pantepec, Cazenes and Zempoala.

*Climate and natural productions.*—Climate generally temperate and healthy; the soil, very fertile, produces all kinds of graminea, corn, wheat, barley, oats, cotton and sugar.

*Mining.*—In this State are seven mineral districts that produce gold and copper, argentiferous lead and iron; stone-coal is supposed to exist in this State. The names of those districts are Tetel del Oro, San José, San Miguel, Ixcamastetlan, Tlalchachalco Huecapan, Tlachiaque, Izucar. The ores of these mines are worked by both the smelting and amalgamating processes.

*Principal cities and towns.*—Puebla de Zaragoza (formerly of the Angels), capital of the State and seat of the Bishopric, is situated in a fine valley, at an altitude of over 7,000 feet, in latitude  $19^{\circ} 2' 45''$  north, and longitude  $2^{\circ} 4' 45''$  east, from the City of Mexico. It was founded on the 28th of September, 1531.

Puebla, on account of its industries, is in importance generally considered as the third city of the Republic. Surrounded by the Atoyac, the San Francisco and Altezeca rivers. It has an abundance of good water. It possesses 26 squares. Its cathedral is one of the finest in Mexico; its sculptures and ornaments are extremely gaudy. Puebla has a fine museum—interesting for the numerous antiquities it contains. In 1856, the city contained 71 churches and chapels. Its population amounts to 76,817 souls. A railroad connects this city with that of Mexico and the port of Vera Cruz. It has factories of unbleached cotton, thread, crockery, glass and soap. Among the principal towns of this State are those of Alixco, Cholula, Izucar, Tehuacan, San Martín and San Andrés.

Cholula is celebrated on account of its pyramid of the same name, which resembles very much the Egyptian pyramids.

## THE STATE OF QUERETARO.

### BOUNDARIES, AREA AND CLIMATE.

This State is bounded on the north by the State of Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi; on the east and south by the State of Mexico, and on the west by the States of Michoacan and Guanajuato. It contains an area of 506 square leagues.

Queretaro was created a State in 1824.

The climate in general is temperate and very healthy.

*Rivers.*—There are none of much importance, although the State is well watered, we will only mention the Rio de la Silla and Santa Lucia.

*Natural productions.*—Wheat, corn, beans, cotton and all kinds of vegetables and fruits proper to European and American climates do remarkably well in this State. There is in the mountain forests a great variety of first class timber.

*Industry.*—Queretaro has had quite a name in Mexico for its manufactures of wollen cloth, casimires, carpets, blankets, and unbleached cotton. It possesses one of the largest factories on this continent; it is a cotton factory and a mill that we have described in our itinerary from San Antonio, Texas, to the City of Mexico; this factory is known as the "Herculus." The artisans of the city have the reputation of being the best stone-sculptors in the Republic.

*Population.*—The population of this State was set down at 147,119 souls in 1856, and in 1881 at 154,000 souls.

The City of Queretaro which we have described in our itinerary from San Antonio to the City of Mexico, is the capital of the State. San Juan del Rio, a large manufacturing city of some importance; Cadereita and other small towns.

The Mexican Central Railway, which is to connect with the United States Railway system at El Paso, is now running four daily passenger trains from the capital to the City of Queretaro.

## THE STATE OF SAN LUIS POTOSI.

This State is situated between the  $21^{\circ} 40'$  and  $24^{\circ} 35'$  north latitude, and  $0^{\circ} 36'$  east and  $3^{\circ} 15'$  west longitude from the City of Mexico. It is bounded on the northeast by the States of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas; on the south by Guanajuato, Queretaro and Mexico; on the west and northwest by Zacatecas. It has an area of 10,792 square miles. It was created a State in 1844.

Various chains of mountains cross this State, forming many fine valleys, among which that of San Luis is noted for its large area; that of Valley del Mais and Rio Verde are among the richest. The ravines and mountain chains in this State are spurs of the Cordillera chain, which covers the eastern portion of the Mexican Republic and forms the natural boundary line between the States of San Luis and Tamaulipas.

This State enjoys all climates, that is the warm, temperate and cold; but the greatest portion of its territory is favored with temperate and warm climates.

But few rivers are found in this State, the most noted are the Santa Maria, the Montezuma or Zimapan, the Rio Verde and the Tampaon.

The most remarkable chains of mountains are the Sierra de San Luis and the Sierra Gorda; that on the south forms the boundary lines between this State and those of Guanajuato, Queretaro and Mexico.

*Natural productions.*—In the temperate climes of this State, cedar, balsam, ebony, rosewood, mahogany, juni, cypress, oaks, millon and other woods are indigenous.

There are many fruit trees, among which the following can be noted, viz.: lemon, peach, pears, oranges, apricots, zapote, small-white and black zapote (*achras mammosa*), mulberries, chirimoja (*anana Humboldtiana*) and others.

Among the grains that can be cultivated with success in this State is corn, wheat and oats, and all kinds of vegetables.

Coffee, cotton, tobacco and sugar-cane of good quality can be produced with profit.

Horn cattle, goats, sheep and horses do well in this State, and are raised in large quantities, as well as poultry.

Among the wild animals of the mountains and forests are found the jaguar or Mexican tiger, the puma or Mexican lion, panthers, wolves, deer, fox, monkeys and antelopes.

Among the birds are found the following species, viz.: eagles, eaglets, larks, linnets, wild turkeys, golden pheasants, mocking-birds, sparrow-hawks and vultures.

The mountains of this State are very rich in minerals; but, like other portions of Mexico, they are not worked properly for want of capital and enterprise on the part of their owners, who do nothing or little with them, and will not allow any one else to extract the mineral. The principal mines are those of Catorce, Guadalupe, Charcas, Ramos, Ojo Caliente, San Pedro and Santa Maria del Penon Blanco. The above mentioned mines produce gold and silver, copper, lead, mercury and sulphur, the minerals being mostly of the kind called in the country red and bine silver.

Santa Maria del Penon Blanco has also very rich salt deposits.

And also the following mines: Blancas, Los Pozos, Matehuala, Ramos, Rio Verde and San Luis Potosi.

There is a mint at San Luis Potosi, and during the Maximilian rule one was also established at the City of Catorce, which was suppressed in the year 1865. The mint at San Luis Potosi coined \$1,849,794.95 in silver in 1855.

*Political divisions of this State.*—This State is divided in four prefecturas, known as those of San Luis, Rio Verde, El Venado and Tancanhuz, and eleven districts. Population, 650,000 inhabitants.

*Public instruction.*—In 1875 there was in this State 252 schools, attended by 9,676 boys and 3,343 girls—in all, 13,019 children—carried on at a cost of \$91,400.

The price of public lands, as fixed by law for the year 1875, was \$1,755.61 per sitio, or 4,605 of our acres.

The City of San Luis Potosi, capital of the State and district of the same name, is situated on the east side of the great plateau of Anahuac, in a valley extending from north to south about 45 miles, in latitude 22° 8' north, and longitude 1° 40' west, of the City of Mexico. Its streets are narrow, and run at right angles. Among the principal buildings are the City Hall, the Granary, the Market, the Theatre. This city contains churches which for their sculptures can rival any in Mexico, particularly those of "El Carmen," the

Cathedral, San Francisco, San Augustin, La Merced, the College of Loretto and San Nicolas, the Hospital of San Juan de Dios, the Chapel of El Rosario and Los Remedios, and the Sanctuary of Guadalupe, situated at the end of the Alamada public walk, well adorned with shade trees and sidewalks.

Its population is 45,000 souls. It has not prospered lately, although it has always held a certain rank among the Mexican manufacturing cities. It is of easy access, north and south, and any railroad constructed from Texas to the City of Mexico must necessarily pass through it. It is, in future, destined to be a railroad centre, and will be the great commercial centre of Northern Mexico and the frontier of Texas. Its climate is healthy; it is temperate, being never very cold nor very warm.

Its principal commerce consists in Mexican groceries, seeds, bagging, leather and shoes.

After the Royal Decree, dividing New Spain—as Mexico was then called—into Intendencies, the City of San Luis Potosi was made the capital of the Intendency of the same name, of which Texas formed one of the provinces. It was also the headquarters of the Tenth Military Brigade, at the time of the revolution of Hidalgo against the Spanish rule, on the 16th of September, 1810; and it was to the energy of its then distinguished Spanish commander, Gen. Calleja, that the revolution was suppressed and the independence of Mexico set back eleven years.

*Other cities and towns.*—The present State of Texas formed part of the 10th military brigade.

Matehuala, situated within a few miles of the *Cerro de los Frailes* and the Catorce mountains, is fast improving. It has a population of 25,000 souls.

Cedral, situated six miles north of Matehuala, is also a mining town. It has a population of 15,000 souls.

Catorce—the *real de Catorce*—is only distant four leagues from Cedral, in the mountain of Catorce, one of the richest mining districts of Mexico. It has a population of 20,000 souls.

Charcas, also a mining town, beautifully located; population, 4,000 inhabitants.

El Venado, a city of 10,000 inhabitants; Ciudad del Maïs, Rio Verde, Valle of San Francisco, Moctezuma, and many other important and thriving towns.

One of the largest haciendas (estates) in the Republic of Mexico belongs to the jurisdiction of this State; it is known as the Hacienda of Salado, situated on the main highway between the City of San Luis Potosi and Saltillo. Its lands belong to the four States of Zacatecas, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon and San Luis, and contain an area of over 200 leagues in one block, or 885,600 acres. It is one of the best properties situated on the table lands of Mexico, being well adapted to all kinds of stock raising, and to the cultivation of all small grains and corn, the grape and all the fruits of the temperate climates. This hacienda is well watered by springs, wells and tanks, and water is found at a depth that varies from five to fifty feet. Its mountains, which are really the foothills of the Sierra de *Catorce*, contain over two thousand metallic veins; some of its mines produced immense bonanzas last century; they are principally silver, lead, copper, cinnabar, and some gold, also a rich iron deposit. The building materials, such as marble, rock suitable for hydraulic lime, fire-brick, and earth for the best kind of brick and crockery, are found in abundance for all purposes. Brushwood and small timber fit for fuel abound in the mountains. Its natural productions—if properly worked, would alone pay a large income—they consist principally of the plants known as the maguey, the lechuguillas, the zotole, the zolmandoque, the palmetto, the cactus, all of which abound over the hills and valleys of this immense estate, and all of which produce a valuable fiber, and whose roots or fruits can be distilled profitably into alcohol. The line of the Palmer-Sullivan Railway will traverse the lands of this estate from south to north on its section between the City of San Luis Potosi and Saltillo, passing through the ranches of El Gallo, Salado, San Miguel and San Salvador, all properties belonging to said hacienda. As poorly as it is worked to-day, it brings to its owner ten per cent. on a capital of one million dollars. The name of this vast estate is *San Rafael del Salado y Agua Dulce*, more commonly known as El Salado. It is the property of General Don Juan Bustamante, ex-Governor of the State of San Luis Potosi.

## THE STATE OF SINALOA.

### SITUATION, BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

The State of Sinaloa, or country of the *Ostimuro*, is situated between the 22° 30' and 28° of north latitude. It is bounded on the north by the Yaqui and Sonora rivers; on the east by the State of Durango and Chihuahua; on the south by the Rio de los Cañas and the State of Jalisco; and on the west by the Gulf of California. It contains an area of 3,825 square leagues.

Sinaloa was created a State in 1834.

*Topographical aspect and climate.*—South of the City of Culiacan, capital of the State, there are barren hills; some portions of the State are level, with some high hills scattered about the plains. The climate of Culiacan is rather warm, but very healthy.

*Rivers.*—The principal rivers are the Culiacan, which takes its rise in the Sierra Madre mountains of the State of Durango, and in this State unite its waters with the Humaya River, that empties into the Gulf of California at the port of Altata.

*Natural productions.*—Among the most important are the following: Coffee, sugar-cane, tobacco, corn, rice and beans are raised with great profit. There are many fine trees in the forest such as the Brazil-wood, etc., and all fruits raised in tropical and temperate climates abound.

*Mining.*—Rich mines are worked in this State. They contain gold, silver, copper and lead. From the year 1846 to the year 1853 the mint coined \$4,620,422 in gold, and \$1,963,636 in silver, making a total of \$6,584,058.

*Population.*—The population of the State was set down at 250,000 inhabitants in 1856.

*Principal cities and towns.*—Culiacan, capital of the State and district of the same name, was founded in 1532, by Nuño de Guzman. It is situated in latitude north 24° 48', and 8° 15' 32" west longitude, from the City of Mexico. The city is built on the left bank of the river of the same name. Its streets are straight, and cut each other at right angles. It has a fine square, on one side of which is situated the cathedral, and on the other are fine porticos

and magnificent (for the country) private buildings. The population of this city was set down at 9,647 in 1856.

Mazatlan, a seaport of some importance, which has a great future, and will be probably the greatest port of Mexico on the Pacific. Its population in 1856 was registered at 31,000 inhabitants.

## THE STATE OF SONORA.

### SITUATION, BOUNDARY AND AREA.

The State of Sonora is situated between  $26^{\circ} 40'$  and  $33^{\circ} 50'$  north latitude, and  $8^{\circ} 50'$  and  $14^{\circ} 55'$  longitude from the City of Mexico. Its boundaries are, on the south, the State of Sinaloa—the Rio del Fuerte being the dividing line—and the Gulf of California; on the east, by the State of Chihuahua; on the north, by the United States of America; on the west by the Gulf of California. Its superficies contains an area of 11,953 square leagues. Sonora formed a part of the State of Occidente from 1822 to 1830.

*Topographical aspect and climate.*—A large portion of this State is composed of vast plains separated by low mountains or hills. The climate, particularly along the coast of the Gulf of California, is warm.

*Rivers.*—The principal rivers are the Rio del Fuerte, the Yaqui, the Mayo, and the Colorado of California.

*Natural productions.*—The northern portion of the State is well adapted to agriculture; corn, wheat, beans, peas, lentils, sugar-cane and tobacco produce good crops. Among the fruits cultivated are dates, peaches, figs, pears, grenades, lemons, and many others.

Among the timber are found the logwood, the ebony, the elm, brown and Brazil-wood.

This State is rich in medicinal plants. Some used by the natives, like the tomenagua and the root of canaguat, are a sure cure for fever.

*Zoology.*—This State is well adapted to stock raising. The vast amount of wild lands, forests, and its large water courses are

full of game and fish. The Yaqui and Mayo Indians subsist mostly by hunting and fishing. Among the wild animals are the bear, tiger, wolf, the coyote, buffalo, otter, hare, rabbit and others.

In the Gulf of California, the following fishes abound: the doree, the horse-mackerel, herring, the tunny-fish, whales, and many others for whose name no equivalent is found in the English language.

In the rivers, carps, eels, bagres, and a variety of the trout called robalo, are found in abundance.

This State is considered the richest in Mexico, and wonderful tales are told about its hidden wealth; until lately, mining was almost abandoned on account of Indian depredations; fortunately, but few Apaches are left to do harm, and the construction of the Southern Pacific Railway, with the investment of American capital and industry, will soon again develop its mining wealth. [*See Catalogue of Mines.*] The following minerals abound, particularly in the eastern portion of the State, viz.: gold, silver, copper, lead, sulphur, carbonate of soda, tin, antimony, alum, salt, potash, marble, and gypsum; pearls are found on the coast of the Gulf of California.

This State is divided into nine partidos or districts, known as Hermosillo, Salvacion, Ures, San Ignacio, Altar, Moctezuma, Opoursa, Sahuaripa, Arispe and Alamos.

In 1856, this State assessed four cities, two towns, seventy-seven villages, fifty-two mining places, two Indian towns, and two hundred and fifty haciendas and ranches.

*Population.*—In 1856, it was put down at 124,000 inhabitants. 110,000 are either pure or descendants of Indians, and the balance white. The present population, official, is 141,000. Among the various nations of Indians who inhabit this State are the Opata, who live in the centre of the State; the Pimas, the Papagos and Yumas, who live in the northern portion of the State; the Yaquis and Mayos, who live in that portion of the State watered by the rivers of the same name, are corpulent; their women are generally pretty, kind and of a jovial nature. They preserve to this day their traditions and customs; they are also very industrious, and are good carpenters, blacksmiths and good sailors, and form the best laboring class of the State.

The Opatas are half-civilized and very friendly to the whites.

They are a true, sober, and warlike race. They are mostly addicted to agriculture. Inveterate enemies of the Apaches, whom they used to fight with success, they are notwithstanding good and law-abiding citizens.

The various tribes of Apaches that have constantly warred upon the people of Sonora and desolated the northern States of Mexico, were the Tontos, Chiricahuis, Gileños, Mogollones and Mescaleros. The Spaniards were never able to subdue or induce them to become Christians.

*Principal cities and towns.*—The City of Ures, the capital of the State, is situated on the east bank of the Sonora River; was originally a missionary establishment, and among the earliest in the State. The town presents a lonely aspect. There are no edifices worth mentioning—the Legislative Hall being a large adobe house, distinguished by a flagstaff from the other buildings. The Jesuits, before their expulsion from Mexico, had commenced building a large church, which was never completed. It has a population of 8,000.

Alamos is of some importance on account of the mines situated in its neighborhood. It possesses a few churches and a Government mint.

Hermosillo is the modern name for the old Presidio of Pitic. It is thirty leagues distant from the nearest point on the shore of the Gulf of California, and thirty-six leagues from the port of Guayamas, which lies nearly south. It is probably the finest city in the State. In 1856 it had a population of 15,000 people. The climate is dry and exceedingly hot, but nevertheless healthy.

Guayamas stands on the eastern shore of the Gulf of California, in latitude 28° north, and 110° 40' west longitude, from Greenwich. It is completely shut in from the sea, as well as from the winds. Mountains protect it on the main land, while islands with elevated hills surround it by sea. Next to Acapulco, it is the best port on the Mexican coast. The entrance from south to north is formed by the Island of Pajaros on the east, and by the islands of San Vicente and Pitayas and the mainland on the west. There is another entrance, called Boca Chica, from the southeast, having the Island of Pajaros on the south, and the shore of Cochori on the north, which terminate at the Morro Ingles, or English Hammock. From the principal mouth to the mole is about four miles, and the bay is of about the same extent. The bottom is so muddy that

ships which are to remain some time, find it necessary to raise their anchors every week or so to prevent their becoming too deeply imbedded to be extricated. The soundings commence with seven fathoms and diminish gradually to two at the mole.

The bay abounds in fish of great variety and delicacy; also with shrimps, crabs, lobsters and oysters.

The town stands close on the margin of the bay, occupying a narrow strip about a mile in length, and not exceeding a quarter of a mile in width, when the mountains rise and hem it closely in. It is entered from the north by a single avenue, which forms the main street; and this is intersected by short lateral ones leading to the bay. The houses are built of stone, brick and adobe. The water-supply comes from wells situated in the suburbs; it is somewhat brackish, but is considered wholesome.

Although Guayamas has one of the finest ports in the world, and is the key to the interior of Sonora, it has never enjoyed much trade until of late years. When it will be connected by railway with the Southern Pacific, it will become the greatest port of the Gulf of California.

La Magdalena, a well-built town, Arispe, Presidio del Altar, in a rich grain valley, and Satmaripa, all capitals of the districts of the same names, are among the important cities of this State.

## THE STATE OF TABASCO.

### BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

The State of Tabasco is bounded on the north by the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the State of Campeche, on the south by the State of Chiapas, on the west by the State of Vera Cruz. Its area contains 1,876 square leagues.

The name Tabasco is derived from the Cacique that governed the country at the time that it was discovered by the Spaniards. It was conquered and reduced to Spanish vasselage by the Spanish captain, Vallecilla.

The climate is warm and generally unhealthy.

Water communications along the coast by the bars of Puerto Real, Puerto Escondido, Punto de Zicalango; bars of San Pedro and San Pablo, and bar of Tabasco are of easy access for small crafts.

The population of the State, in 1856, was set down at 63,580 inhabitants.

The capital of the State, the City of San Juan Bautista de Tabasco, contains a population of 8,000 souls. The present population of the State is 104,759 inhabitants.

## THE STATE OF TAMAULIPAS.

### BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

The State of Tamaulipas lies between latitudes  $22^{\circ} 14' 4''$  and  $27^{\circ} 30''$  north of the City of Mexico. It is bounded on the north by the United States, or rather by the Rio Grande river, which is the boundary line; on the northwest by the State of Nuevo Leon; on the west and southwest by the State of San Luis Potosi; on the south by the State of Vera Cruz, and on the east by the Gulf of Mexico. Previous to the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, in 1848, a large portion of the present State of Texas, in the United States, belonged to Tamaulipas, the Nueces river being then the boundary line.

*Climate.*—In the greater portion of the State the climate is warm and moist. In that part of Tamaulipas, situated west of the Sierra Madre mountains, it is cooler and dryer. Exclusive of a small strip of country bordering on the Gulf of Mexico, subject to yellow fever, the climate is salubrious.

*Rivers, lakes and mountains.*—The principal rivers and streams in Tamaulipas are the Rio Grande del Norte, Panuco, Concha, Rio de la Purificacion, San Fernando, Goyalejo, and a number of others of minor importance. Of these rivers, the Rio Grande del Norte, the largest and most important, is navigable for a distance of about 250 miles from its mouth, while the Panuco, the

next largest, is navigable for the distance of eighteen miles for steamers. The only lake worthy of mention is the Laguna Madre, which connects with the Gulf of Mexico. Tamaulipas is traversed by the continuation of the Sierra Madre range, which crosses the State from the southeast to the northwest, from the Hacienda del Chaburo, on the division line between this State and that of San Luis to the town of Villagran, near the division line of Nuevo Leon, forming an almost impenetrable barrier. From this range of mountains, spurs extend in different directions, forming many beautiful valleys, among the principals of which are those of Santa Barbara and the Chamal Valley. The products are corn, cotton, rice, sugar-cane, beans, peas, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes (the latter being indigenous to the soil), all of which can be raised with but little trouble, and when properly cultivated yield prodigious crops. The maguey (*Agave americana*) is grown in large quantities. The principal fruits are peaches, bananas, mangos, the goayaba (from which the celebrated guava jelly is made), citron, the aguacate (a fruit resembling a pear, of which a delicious salad is made, the technical name being *Paurus persea*), the chirmoya (*Anana humboldtiana*), the most delicious fruit in America. Timber is for the most part confined to the mountain regions. Besides abundance of timber fit for building purposes and fine cabinet-work, there is the ebony tree and the anacahuite. The latter is, however, more like a bush than a tree, and its use is purely medicinal; the bark and root being remarkable for their curative properties in cases of diseased lungs and throat.

*Stock raising.*—The eastern portion of this State, as well as that bordering on Texas, is admirably adapted for stock raising. Horses, horned cattle, sheep and goats are raised in large numbers. The mules raised in this State are the finest in Mexico.

*Game.*—Game is abundant, and includes deer, turkey, hares, rabbits and quail. The feathered creation is well represented, the trees being filled with parrots and many other kinds of birds. Among the wild animals, wolves, leopard and mountain cats may be enumerated. The rivers abound with fish.

*Mineral products.*—Tamaulipas is very rich in minerals, which are found exclusively in the mountainous regions. The supply of gold, silver, copper and other minerals is almost inexhaustible. Marble and jasper have also been discovered. In the year

1856 the mines of Trinidad, Providencia, Los Pastores and Colorado were worked with great profit. The copper mine of San Carlos is also very rich, the copper ore containing a large percentage of gold. One great advantage this mine possesses, is the facility with which the metal could be exported, as the seaport of La Carbonera, on the gulf, is only 120 miles distant. There are 25 abandoned mines in this State which could be worked, under more favorable local surroundings, with great profit.

*Territorial divisions.*—This State is divided into three districts (*prefecturas*), in which are thirty-four municipalities. The former are called the Southern, Centre and Northern. The municipalities are Santander, Tamaulipas, Villanos, Aldama, San Antonio, Tancasnequi, Magiscatzin, Xicotencatl, Morelos, Santa Bárbara, Ciudad Victoria, Tula, Jaumave, Palmillas, Bustamente, Miquihuana, Llerra, Guemez, Casas (Croix), Padilla, La Marina, Abasolia, Jimenez, Hidalgo, Villagran, San Carlos, Matamoros, Reinos, Mier, Guerrero, New Laredo, San Fernando, Crucillas, Burgos and San Nicolas.

*Principal cities and towns.*—Matamoros, one of the principal ports of entry of the Republic of Mexico, is situated on the west bank of the Rio Grande, opposite the town of Brownsville, in Texas, and about 30 miles from the mouth of the river. Matamoros contains about 18,000 inhabitants. During the days of the Confederacy this city had an immense trade in cotton from Texas, but at present its commerce is for the most part with the northern States of Mexico. Ciudad Victoria, the capital of the State, is a town of some 8,000 inhabitants, beautifully situated at the foot of a high mountain. It is well watered by a large clear stream, and lies in the midst of gardens, and fields of sugar-cane. A graveyard surrounded by a high wall, provided with port-holes, and bearing the marks of shot and shell, occupies a commanding position near the town. The only object of interest about the place is the old church, built by the Spaniards, but which has never been finished entirely. This city has been desolated for the last forty years by the civil wars that have been almost constantly waged in that part of Mexico. It is a desolate, dreary place, almost destitute of commercial life and enterprise. There is no wagon-road through the Sierra; what trade and travel there is has to be carried on through the mountains over the almost impassable mule-path. The road, or rather

trail, that leads to the port of Soto la Marina, runs for the entire distance, 150 miles, through dense forests. This portion of the State of Tamaulipas is subject to heavy rain storms, called, in the language of the country, *temporals*. These storms last for several days, and the rainfall is so great that the whole country is placed under water, the damage done at times being very great.

Croix, named in honor of the Marquis of Croix, is an old Spanish town, of which but few traces of its former importance are still visible. On the ruins of the villas and stately residences of its former inhabitants a growth of thatched hovels has sprung up. The town of Croix is now called Casas, it being the native town of Col. Casas, who was shot at Monclova for having headed the revolutionists who took San Antonio and captured the Spanish garrison, in 1812. The name of the town was changed to Casas after the Spanish were driven out, similar changes were the case with nearly all towns in Mexico.

Soto la Marina was, in the time of the Spaniards, a flourishing little town, but it has dwindled down to an insignificant village. Small as it is, it presents quite a gay appearance, consisting of about one hundred houses, and a very pretty little church. The Corona River runs through the town, which is about 35 miles distant from the Gulf of Mexico. Soto la Marina lies midway between Matamoros and Tampico, on the Gulf, and has a far better bar than either of these seaports. Its harbor affords to shipping complete immunity from the violence of the northers, by which this part of Mexico is visited. This port will some day become a place of great importance. That it is not so already is due to the great difficulty in crossing the mountains between it and San Luis Potosi, but as soon as the railroad takes the place of mule-transportation in the traffic and travel of Mexico, Soto la Marina will be one of the most important of Mexican seaports. In 1864 the trade of this port was carried on by a few American merchants, the principal item of export being hides. Soto la Marina enjoys a kind of mournful celebrity from the circumstances of it being the place where the brave but unfortunate Gen. Mina and the lamented Emperor Iturbide landed, the former in 1817, and the latter in 1824. Both were shot, shortly after their landing, by their political enemies. The town was founded, September 3d, 1750.

Padilla is also an old Spanish town, of which but little remain-



to be seen, except ruins. It was on the public plaza of Padilla that the unfortunate Iturbide, the first emperor of Mexico, was shot, in 1824, in compliance with a decree of the Mexican Congress, which the rebel General Gutierrez de Lara, who was the Governor of the State, took great pleasure in enforcing. Gutierrez de Lara is the same individual who ordered the butchery of fourteen Spanish officers, prisoners of war, among them two governors, Herrera and Salcedo, at San Antonio, Texas, in the month of April, 1813. The population at Padilla is estimated at 1,500 souls, and it has no commerce to speak of.

Tampico, on the Gulf of Mexico, is second only to Vera Cruz in importance. It is situated at the mouth of the Panuco river, which is navigable as high up as Altamira, a distance of eighteen miles from the mouth of the river. Tampico has quite a large trade with Europe. The population is about 12,000. It is visited by yellow fever annually.

*Area and population.*—The area of Tamaulipas is 11,102 square miles. According to the census taken in 1871, and published in the Perez Almanac of 1875, the population of Tamaulipas is set down at 108,788, which is rather under than over estimated. According to latest statistics, it is of 120,000.

*Schools.*—In 1865 there were within the limits of the State sixty primary schools, attended by 3,600 pupils, and carried on at an annual cost of \$10,000.

*Public lands.*—Public lands can be purchased from the General Government at \$363.34 per sitio, or league, containing 4,428 American acres. Even better terms can be made with private individuals.

According to the statistics compiled by Garcia y Cuba, the State of Tamaulipas contained, in 1856, 6 cities, 128 towns, 18 congregas (Indian settlements), 118 haciendas, nearly all of which are in ruins, and 984 ranches.

*Historical.*—About the year 1720, the Indians made war on the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Leon, at present the State of Nuevo Leon. This portion of New Spain (Mexico) was so completely overrun by hostile Indians from Tamaulipas that it became apparent that the only way to save Nuevo Leon was to colonize Tamaulipas, and by this means divert the minds of the Indians into other channels. In the year 1738, several Spanish gentlemen made application to the viceroy, and also to the court of Spain, to colo-

nize this territory, but little attention was paid to their desires until about the year 1747, when Don José Escandon, having been appointed Governor of the new colony, and also Vice-Regent of the Mexican Gulf coast, entered this territory from the south with a body of troops and a large number of colonists, subduing some Indian tribes and driving others before him. He founded missions and towns in all parts of the country, but as the Indians, as a general thing, objected to being brought under the dominion of the Spaniards, an immense number of them retired to the rolling plains of Texas, so that very soon after the colonization of Tamaulipas, the State of Nuevo Leon became free from Indian invasion from the east. From that time on, the Indians carried on a frontier war, which is kept up to the present day. Until after the declaration of Mexican Independence, this colony was known as New Santander, when its name was changed to that of Tamaulipas, the name of a mountain.

## THE STATE OF TLAXCALA.

### SITUATION, BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

This State is situated between  $19^{\circ} 1'$  and  $19^{\circ} 41'$  of north latitude, and the  $0^{\circ} 37'$  east longitude from the City of Mexico, and is bounded on the northeast, east and south by the State of Puebla; on the west by the State of Mexico; and on the northeast by the State of Hidalgo.

Its territory contains an area of 221 square leagues.

*Topographical aspect.*—Part of this small State presents fine valleys like that of Huamantla, and in others is rugged, being cut up by mountains and ravines. Among the curious features of this State, is the Sierra de la Malitzin, a high mountain that occupies an important place in the Tlaxcaltecan mythology, on account of its top being so shaped, by nature, as to represent a corpse lying in its grave and partly covered up with its shroud. At times the clouds, loaded with electricity, gather on the top of that mountain,

and burst with a tremendous crash; for that reason the Tlaxcaltecs gave it the name of their favorite god. The sides of the mountain are cut up by deep ravines and rocky bluffs, covered with a luxuriant vegetation. Part of this State is well irrigated by the waters of the rivers of Zahuapan and Atollac.

*Lakes.*—The small lakes of Acuitlapilco; the Rosario and Tonceula, are the only ones worth mentioning.

*Natural productions.*—Grain is produced in abundance; such as corn, wheat, barley, oats, peas, lentils and chili-pepper. Fruits of all climates are also produced in abundance.

*Climate.*—Is agreeable and healthy.

*Mining.*—In the mountains of San Ambrosio and San Mateo: silver, copper, stone-coal, and lead have been found.

*Political divisions.*—This State is divided into three districts, those of Tlaxcala, Huamantla and Tlaxco, which are subdivided into twenty-two municipalities.

*Population.*—In 1856, it was put down at 80,171 people.

The City of Tlaxcala, the capital of the State, has a population of 5,000 inhabitants, and at the time of the conquest was the capital of the Republic of the same name, and occupied, by its industry and wealth, a distinguished place in ancient Mexico, as a rival of the Mexican Empire. Some interesting antiquities are found in its neighborhood.

*Commerce.*—Consists principally in exporting to other States, grain and hides, and some woolen manufactures, for which is imported in return groceries and linens.

*Census.*—In 1856, this State assessed 1 city, 4 sanctuaries, 112 villages, 26 neighborhoods, 150 haciendas, 153 ranches and 16 (ventas) markets.

#### THE STATE OF VERA CRUZ.

This State is bounded on the north by the State of Tamaulipas; on the east and southeast by the Gulf of Mexico; on the east by the State of Tabasco; on the southeast by the State of Chiapas; on the southwest, by the State of Oaxaca; on the west by the

States of Puebla and Hidalgo, and on the northwest by the State of San Luis Potosi.

It was created a State in 1824.

*Area.*—3,501 leagues.

*Population.*—552,918 inhabitants. It possesses 620 primary schools and nine colleges, attended by 24,000 scholars.

Value of real estate: \$6,202,928.91.

*Principal cities and towns.*—The City of Vera Cruz, formerly the capital of the State, and the principal seaport of the Republic of Mexico, is situated on a sand beach surrounded by lagoons, which, on account of its burning sun, makes it very unhealthy; yellow fever reigns there the greatest portion of the year. Population, 20,000 souls.

Jalapa, surnamed by all those who have seen it, the paradise of this continent, is situated on the side of the mountain of Macuiltepec, in latitude 19° 31' 26" north, and 2° 10' longitude east of the City of Mexico. It enjoys a fine and temperate climate. Its principal buildings are the old convent of San Francisco, the church of St. Joseph, an Hospital, and substantial public buildings.

Cordova, a town of some importance, surrounded by rich coffee plantations.

Orizaba, a city—the principal of the district, 90 miles from Vera Cruz and 80 miles from Jalapa—to-day the capital of the State, is located in a beautiful, healthy and rich country. It has good public buildings. Its population amounts to 20,000 souls.

*Natural productions.*—Among them are tobacco and coffee of superior quality, vanilla, sugar, rice, corn, Chili pepper, all kinds of tropical fruits in abundance, as well as vegetables of tropical climates; valuable timber of great variety, also dye and gum woods, and many valuable medicinal plants.

*Mines.*—Gold, silver, copper, iron and lead exist in this State. There are good smelting works at Zomelahuacan and Tenepanoya.

## THE STATE OF YUCATAN.

This State is bounded as follows: On the north by the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the southeast by the Republic of Guatemala, and on the west and northwest by the State of Campeche.

*Etymology of the name Yucatan.*—According to some, it originated from the word *Yucaltepen*, which means a pearl or necklace; and, according to others, from the words *Nathan cubiatan* "We don't understand what you say," (answer given by the Mayas, the nation of Indians that inhabited the country, when the Spaniards asked them what was the name of their country.)

The Mexicans called the peninsula of Yucatan and Tabasco, *País de Onohualco* (country of Onohualco).

*Principal cities and towns.*—District of Merida, 49,749 inhabitants. City of Merida, founded by Francisco de Montejo in January, 1542. Its principal buildings consist of a Government palace, palace of justice, city hall, jail, hospital, soldiers' quarters, a theatre, a public walk, a literary institute, Catholic college, medical school, school of pharmacy and jurisprudence, seminary, a conservatory of music, public library, museum of antiquities, various schools, a Catholic cathedral, four parochial churches, nine other churches, and a population of 56,000 souls.

In the District of Progreso, the city of the same name, founded in 1856. Population, 1,900 inhabitants.

The City of Motul de Zepeda Paraza, 2,900 inhabitants, in the District of Motul.

The City of Valladolid, in the district of the same name, founded by Francisco de Montejo, with sixty-three colonists, in May, 1543, at a place called *Chauachaa*, and removed to its present site in March, 1544. Its principal buildings consist of a city hall, hospital, six churches, a public walk. Its population numbers 3,000 souls.

The City of Tical, in the district of the same name, has good public buildings and a population of 6,000 souls.

The City of Ixamal, in the district of the same name, has also good public buildings. Its population numbers 4,797 inhabitants. There are many other towns of importance.

The total population of this State amounts to 422,365 inhabi-

tants, who reside in 7 cities, 13 towns, 152 villages, 1,136 haciendas or estates, 363 ranches, and 831 farms.

*Natural productions.*—Corn, rice, beans, a great variety of fruits and roots, all kinds of vegetables. Among those of more importance are the anil, tobacco of superior quality, coffee, cotton, vanilla, various gums and dye-woods.

*Industry.*—In this State it consists principally in the manufacture of sugar, in the working of a variety of the palmetto that produce a fibre called *hennequen*, in the exportation of logwood which is carried on in a large scale. It also produces a large quantity of wax.

## THE STATE OF ZACATECAS.

This State is situated between the 21° 2' and 24° 29' north latitude, and 1° 46' and 4° 54' longitude, west of the City of Mexico. It is bounded on the north by the State of Coahuila, on the east by the State of San Luis Potosi, on the southeast by the State of Guanajuato, on the south by the State of Jalisco, and on the west and east by the States of Jalisco and Durango.

Its area contains 6,270 square leagues.

*Population.*—470,000 inhabitants.

*Configuration, topographical aspect, and climate.*—The interior of this State is rough and mountainous to its western boundary, and presents a succession of plains cut by mountain chains in its eastern portion, among which are found rich valleys.

The temperature is cold in the mountains and pleasant in the valleys.

*Mountains.*—This State, as all mineral countries, is rather mountainous. Its principal chains are those of Mazapil, Norillos, Guadalupe, Mesa del Fraile, Palomas Pinos, Monte de Garcia, Concepcion del Oro, Matehuapil, etc.

*Natural productions.*—Among the timber: mountain cedar, oaks of various kinds, elm, millons, cotton-wood, ash, and many others. Excellent fruits: among them, pears, apples, peaches, apricots, grapes, etc. All kinds of vegetables, corn and wheat. Cattle, horses, mules, sheep and goats thrive well in this State.

*Minerals.*—This State ranks among the first in the Republic. The most noted districts are those of Bolaños, Carcamo, Cedros, Chalchihuites, Fresnillo, Mazapil, Noria, Nieves, Sombrerete, San Juan de Guadalupe, Sierra Hermosa, Pinos, Rio Grande, Teul, Pico de Freire, Zacatecas, Matehuapil, Concepcion del Oro and others.

*Principal cities and towns.*—Zacatecas, capital of the State, is situated in latitude  $22^{\circ} 46' 3''$  north, and  $2^{\circ} 47' 39''$  longitude, west of Mexico, at an altitude of 7,500 feet above the level of the gulf. This mining district was discovered by Captain Juan de Tolosa on the 8th of September, 1546. Philip the Second granted it the title of city in April, 1585. This city is built in a ravine situated in the middle of a mountain. Its streets are very irregular. Among its principal edifices are the Government palace, city hall, markets, hospital, jail, mint, soldiers' quarters, a theatre, a public walk, a cathedral and fourteen churches, an amphitheatre for bull-fighting, and thirteen squares. Population, 62,000 inhabitants.

City of Fresnillo, mining district discovered in 1569, possesses a city hall, jail, a handsome theatre, a parochial church, market and well-adorned squares. Population, 15,000 souls.

City of Sombrerete, mining district discovered by Juan de Tolosa in 1555, obtained the title of city in 1570 under the name of Town of St. John the Baptist of Yllerera, city with the name of Herrera, in 1824, which name was not maintained. Has a city hall, a hospital in ruin, various churches, thirteen chapels, and a population of 5,173 inhabitants.

City of Nieves, also a mining district discovered in 1559, 1,500 inhabitants.

City of Garcia, founded in 1531, under the name of St. John of Galicia. In 1572, the name of Jerez de la Frontera was given to the place on account of its being the residence of the military chiefs sent by the Viceroy of New Spain to prevent the invasion of the interior by the Nayarit Indians. Its present name was given it in 1856. Population, 7,255 inhabitants.

City of Villanueva was founded on the 7th of November, 1691, under the name of Gutierrez del Aguila. Has good public buildings. Population, 6,065 inhabitants.

City of Sanchez Roman created with its present name in 1860. Its Indian name was *Tlalli* (land) or *Tenamill* (wall). Mazapil,

discovered in 1582, is a rich mineral district, with public buildings. Its Indian name was *Mazatl* (deer), and (*pilli*) small.

Albaradon and Guatemapile have rich mines in their vicinity. Population, 1,780 souls.

The State of Zacatecas has 7 cities, 14 towns, 33 villages, 4 Indian villages, 18 mining districts, 120 haciendas or estates, and 1,068 ranches or farms.

## THE TERRITORY OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

### SITUATION, BOUNDARIES AND AREA.

Lower California is situated between the  $22^{\circ} 53'$  and  $32^{\circ} 42' 30''$  of latitude north, and the  $10^{\circ} 12'$  and  $18^{\circ}$  longitude west from the City of Mexico. Its greatest length is 240 leagues, and its mean width 32 leagues. It is bounded on the north by Upper California, now a State of the United States of America; on the east by the Sea of Cortez or Gulf of California; and on the west and south by the Pacific Ocean. It contains an area of 8,000 square leagues.

*Topographical aspect and climate.*—The peninsula of Lower California is properly a chain of mountains bathed by the sea, although in the centre there is a small interception, which forms the two great divisions of the Territory. The country is broken, its plains barren, and the landscape disagreeable and unpleasant to the eye.

The climate is temperate in its northern portion and extremely warm in the south.

*Islands.*—The principals are those of the Guardian Angel (Angelo de Guardia), which is over 60 miles long, and of Salsipuedes and del Carmen.

*Capes.*—In the Gulf of California, those of San Gabriel, south of the islands of Las Animas; Cape Virgenes, Cape San Marcos, on the same parallel of latitude as the port of Mazatlan, and Cape Porfia. San José and San Lucas on the Ocean; Cape Falso and other few smaller ones.

*Bays.*—The principal ones in the Gulf of California are those of San Luis Gonzaga, Los Angeles and Mulugé; and on the

Ocean those of San Barnabé, Santa Maria, Almejas and La Magdalena, of some importance as a rendezvous for whalers.

*Ports.*—The principal ones are those of Loreto, formerly capital of the Territory; Escondida, Pichilingue, and on the Ocean that of San Bartolomé, situated on the 27° 45' north latitude.

*Natural productions.*—They are but few, for the want of streams, the scarcity of rains and the barrenness of the soil. Some few fruits are produced, sugar-cane, olives, corn and grapes do very well.

But little stock is raised in the Territory.

*Mining.*—It is supposed that mining would pay well if it was developed properly. The mines of Flores, Santa Ana, Valle Perdido, San Antonio, Mulegé and La Guella were at one time worked with great profit. The untold wealth of mines in this Territory is equal to that of any of the Mexican States.

La Paz, capital of the Territory, is situated in latitude 24° 6' 40" north, and the 11° 1' 15" west longitude from the City of Mexico. Population, 4,000 souls and increasing.

The whole population of the Territory, in 1862, was set down at 12,000 people, but according to later statistics the population is now 21,645 inhabitants.

#### THE FEDERAL DISTRICT OF MEXICO.

*Limits.*—The Federal District of Mexico extends northward to the town of San Cristobal Ecatepec, westward to the town of Remedios, southward to the town of San Augustin de las Cuevas or Tlalpan, and eastward to El Piñon Viejo.

*Area.*—50 square leagues.

*Population.*—315,906 inhabitants.

*Political divisions.*—The Federal district is divided into four sub-districts, viz.: Guadalupe Hidalgo, Tacubaya, Tlalpan, Xochimilco.

The total value of real estate in the district is set down at \$51,650,464. The expenditures of the municipality of the City of Mexico amounts yearly to the sum of \$856,000.

#### THE CITY OF MEXICO.

The City of Mexico, capital of the Republic, seat of the Archbishopric of the same name, and one of the finest cities of the New World, is situated in 19° 25' 45" north latitude, and 101° 25' 30" west longitude, from the City of Paris, France, at an elevation of 7,108 feet above the level of the sea. Its site is in the centre of an oval-shaped valley about forty-seven miles long by thirty-two miles wide. It enjoys a healthy, temperate climate; the temperature of the city averaging 17° Réaumur; the atmospheric pressure being 585<sup>mm</sup>. The winds that prevail are from north and northwest. The longest day in the year has 13 hours 10 minutes, and the shortest 10 hours and 50 minutes.

The vegetation in the valley, as in the mountains that surround it, is noted for its vigorous growth and its endless variety. The winter is hardly felt. Thus it will be seen that the environs of the city are charming in the extreme, and well deserve to be visited.

"The soil of the valley," says the Count de la Cortina, "is composed of debris of modern alluvial soil, with beds of calcareous sweet-water, and other living-beds covered with humus or vegetable soil." In some places saline efflorescence predominates with an occasional covering of sand. At about three miles from the city in a northwest direction, springs of naphtha or fluid bitumen are found and eight miles north are found good thermal springs.

Mexico, according to the most reliable data, was founded by the Aztecs, on the 18th of July, 1327. Its origin, like Rome, has a curious tradition.

It appears that after a vagabond life, which lasted about fifty years, the Aztecs came in contact with the Alcohuas, who, being pursued by them, started for the lagoons, which in those days covered most of the valley. Among the Aztecs was an oracle, who, in one of his answers, had said to them that they should not found their city until they came to a place where they would find an eagle standing on a rock. The Aztec nation, led by the priest, reached the margin of the lagoon, they undertook to find and select the most convenient place for their city. Going ahead they explored the banks and canebrake about the lagoon so well that they soon came across the headland, upon which stood the *Tenuchtli*, or the real-