

leagues, when an almost precipitous descent leads from the edge of this elevated platform into the valley of Sinapecuaro below. I thought that I should never reach the town, for during a whole hour I saw it below me without being apparently any nearer to it than I was when I commenced the descent. At last we arrived, and, after dismissing my guide, I followed at a rapid passo the road to Mārāvātīō, by which the coach had proceeded, about three hours before me. I overtook the party at Ācāmbārō, (six leagues from Sīnāpēcūāro, and eleven from Ozūmātlān,) and, after taking some refreshment, and changing my horse, we continued our route towards Mārāvātīō, where it was our intention to sleep. We were imprudent enough to loiter some time at Ācāmbārō, in order to see the town, which, though now nearly in ruins, was a place of importance before the civil war; and the consequence was, that we were benighted on our way to Mārāvātīō, (the distance being ten leagues,) where, after losing our road, and wandering over the plains for some hours, we did not arrive till near eleven o'clock. To add to our misfortunes, the cook, who had been sent on in the morning to lay in provisions, and get some rooms ready for our reception, seemed to have experienced the same fate. He was not heard of for three days, when he rejoined us at Tlalpujähua, very nearly starved, his horse having thrown him in the mountains, and made his escape, leaving him to find his way, as he could, to some

Pueblo, or village, in search of which he wandered about for thirty-six hours. As a proof of the honesty of the people, I may add that the horse, being known by some of the accoutrements to be English, was brought to me at Tlālpūjähūa by order of an Alcalde, to whom he had been safely delivered.

A case of preserved meat saved us from absolute starvation at Mārāvātīō; without it, we must inevitably have gone supperless to bed, as, at so late an hour, not even bread was to be procured.

Jan. 18.—Early on the following morning we set out for Tlalpujähua, accompanied by Mr. Moro, the principal engineer of the Company, who had been good enough to undertake to pilot us across the mountains. The carriage-road leaves the elevated ridge upon which Tlalpujähua stands to the right, and winds almost round it into the valley of Tepe-tongo, where it resumes the direction of the Capital, while the road to the Real branches off, for about two leagues, up the valley, or Cañada, of Tlalpujähua, which is impassable for any thing but horses and mules.

At the Hacienda of Tēpētōngō we were met by Monsieur de Rivafinoli, with a number of Mexicans, and other gentlemen in the service of the Company. They brought us a supply of fresh horses, with carga mules for the baggage, by whose assistance the contents of the coach were speedily transferred to Mr. de Rivafinoli's hospitable house. The children were carried on horseback by two servants; the maids

were mounted in a similar manner; and after a very little delay, the whole cavalcade took the road to Tlalpujahu by the new Hacienda of the Chīmāl, where we stopped to breakfast. Nothing can be prettier than the approach to the Real upon this side. The scenery varies at every turn in the Barranca, while the abundance of water, and the fine vigorous vegetation of the forests on the surrounding mountains, form a most delightful contrast to the monotonous plains of the Interior, by the recollection of which we were long haunted.

We remained at Tlālpūjāhūa two whole days, and I found everywhere proofs of the unwearied assiduity with which the labours of the Association had been carried on. Only four months had elapsed since my preceding visit, yet a sensible improvement had taken place in every direction. Buildings were completed, which I had left uncommenced; machines erected, of which I had only seen the first sketch upon paper; and mines brought into activity, the working of which in September could hardly be said to have begun. The great Hacienda of San Rafael was likewise concluded; and though the amount of valuable ore raised was not yet considerable, the most sanguine expectations were entertained by the natives with regard to the result.

In these expectations, I confess that I myself fully share. I have always regarded Mr. de Rivafinoli's system of management as a model: his activity is unceasing, and his influence over the natives, as well

as over the officers of the Company, unbounded; while the publicity with which every thing connected with the pecuniary concerns of the establishment is carried on, renders it impossible that this influence should be ascribed to any but the real cause; that is, a conviction, on the part of the Mexicans, of the advantages which the whole country has derived from the able manner in which the works of the Association have been conducted. More time has indeed been required to bring the mines into a profitable state than was at first thought necessary; but I trust that the details, of which the preceding books are full, will have had the effect of convincing my readers that, in undertakings upon so large a scale, where the issue is liable to be affected, not only by unforeseen difficulties, but by so many other circumstances, for which, though foreseen, no remedy can be provided, *time* is not the only criterion by which a judgment ought to be formed, either of the probable result of an enterprise, or of the ability displayed in its prosecution. I see, at present, no reasonable motive for discouragement amongst the Tlalpujahu adventurers. Their outlay is moderate; their mines are known to have yielded rich ores; and do so still, wherever the lodes are accessible; and although the district was abandoned for nearly sixty years, (after the removal of La Borde,) it must be recollected, that during those very years the great Bonanzas of San Acasio, (at Zacatecas), and the Pāvellōn, with the discoveries of Catorce, Guarisamey, and the Va-

lenciana mine, (at Guanajuato, and in the North, naturally diverted into other channels the capitals usually invested in mining discoveries.

The question is not, whether there are richer districts than Tlalpujahuá, but whether that district, now that capital and science are employed upon it, will repay the labours of those by whom the investment is made? And to this there is every reason to imagine that, within a reasonable time, a very satisfactory answer will be given.

On the 19th of January we visited the Hacienda of San Rafael, one of the most ingenious and complete establishments, now existing in Mexico. The stamping wheel has been already described. Its effect was really beautiful, and its construction does the more honour to Mr. Moro, because he persevered in his original plan, notwithstanding the discouraging predictions of those, who pronounced its execution to be impracticable.

There was rather a scanty supply of water when we saw it; but this was an evil not to be guarded against in a year, when the maize crops throughout the country had perished for want of rain.

On the 20th we assisted at the "Bendicion" of a new machine for raising the water in the mine of Arevalo, invented by Mr. Seidenstücker, a German "machiniste," who had already given proofs of much ingenuity in his department, and materially improved the machinery of the Company. In the present instance, by inverting the ordinary mode of

applying steam power, and making a rotatory motion produce a vertical one, he expected to put in motion, with one horse, a pump capable of performing the work of two Mälacātēs. Monsieur Martin and I had the honour of standing godfathers upon this occasion, for which the Galera was fitted up with a profusion of green boughs, and other decorations. An altar was raised, surrounded by flags of various colours, with all the silver candlesticks of the Church ranged on each side; and the Cura, in full canonicals, pronounced a solemn blessing upon the machine, sprinkling holy water upon every part of it; while the godfathers, with huge wax flambeaux, weighing at least six pounds each, were in close attendance upon his steps. The ceremony concluded by a distribution of wine and cakes, and a general discharge of fireworks, (cöhētēs) in the noise of which the Indians take a peculiar delight, although, at mid-day, their effect, as they hiss through the air, is entirely lost in the splendour of the sunshine.

We suffered severely from cold during our stay at Tlalpujāhūa, and not less so on our return to the Capital. We set out on the 21st, and rode across the mountains to the Hacienda of Tēpētītlān, (about seven leagues,) where we were most comfortably provided for by the Administrador and his wife, who welcomed us with that easy politeness of manner, which certainly distinguishes the Spanish race, wherever its descendants are found. The children

performed this long journey on horseback, without experiencing the least inconvenience, so inured had they become to every possible mode of travelling during their three months' wanderings. For their great "Coche" they had formed an attachment, which remains in full force to the present day. They looked upon it quite as their home, and were impatient, in the morning, for the hour to arrive at which they were installed in it, and released from the dulness of a dark and dirty room. Nor had they suffered in any other respect: the eldest little girl, a sad invalid when we quitted the Capital, recovered her health and strength while away; and as to the youngest, she was so fortified by living constantly in the open air, that her fat and rosy cheeks were the admiration of all beholders. Even at Zăcătēcăs, where no kindly feelings were entertained towards the parents, she was visited by a number of friars, who made interest with the Indian nurse to let them kiss her, and carry her about in their arms; and at several other places she and her sister were sent for by people of the town, whose desire to see them Chapita always complied with,—for fear, as she told us, that they might cast an evil eye upon the children, if refused.

We found our coach at Tĕpĕtĭtlān, to which place it proceeded by the usual coach-road from Tĕpĕtōngō. On the 22d, we started at five o'clock, (at which hour the ground was covered with a hard white

frost, and the water with a coating of ice,) and proceeded by Īstlāhuācā to Lerma, where we arrived without any other accident than the loss of two mules, which, having got loose while we were changing the "tiro" of the carriage, made their way to the river, and actually killed themselves by drinking to excess when hot.

We left Lerma on the 23d, about six in the morning, and arrived in Mexico at three, having been much delayed by the carriage, which, I thought, would never reach the summit of Lās Crūcēs.

The delight of returning to our beautiful home, after an absence of nearly three months, was great indeed; and the contrast between San Cosme and the villainous abodes to which we had been so long confined, made us regard it as little less than a palace. We were all exhausted too by constant locomotion, having averaged thirty miles a-day during the whole time that we were upon the road. Our horses, which had commenced their expedition fat and flourishing, were reduced to mere skin and bone; yet they all returned; not one knocked up so entirely as to oblige us to leave it behind; and many, after two months of rest, and green forage, recovered their good looks completely, and enabled me to sell them, on my departure, at a very trifling loss. Amongst the mules the damage was more considerable, many of my new purchases having turned out ill; but my original stock returned un-

injured, after carrying their loads the whole way, without a single day's relief.

I have endeavoured to comprehend in the preceding pages all the statistical details of any importance in those parts of the Federation which I visited during my mining tours, (La Pueblă, Quērētāro, Guānājuātō, San Luis Pōtōsī, Zacātēcās, Dūrāngō, Guādălājāră, and Vallădōlid,) with such additions respecting the more Northern Provinces as I have conceived to be most worthy of attention, and best entitled to credit.

A few particulars respecting the States of Mexico, and Veracruz, Ōaxacă, Tăbăscō, and Yūcătān, with some final observations upon the general prospects of the country, will comprise all that my present materials will enable me to subjoin, or indeed that the dimensions of my book will admit of.

The State of Mexico, with a population of nearly one million of inhabitants, is divided into eight districts, (Ācăpūlcō, Cuernăvacă, Hūejūtlă, Mexico, Tasco, Tōlūcă, Tūlă, and Tūlăncīngō.) These embrace a large proportion of valuable mines, as well as a number of districts celebrated for the richness of their agricultural produce. Réal dël Mōnte, Chīco, Căpūlă, Zimăpān, San José del Oro, El Căr-dōnăl, La Pěchūgă, the Rancho del Oro, Tăscō, Tě-păntītlān, Zacualpan, and Tětělă del Rīō, are all in

the State of Mexico; as are the valleys of Tōlūcă and Cuautlă Āmīlpăs, the rich plains of Păchūcă, and the fertile Vega of Tūlăncīngō. The capital of the State is Tězcōcō, Mexico having been declared a Federal City, and selected as the residence of the President, the Congress, and all the great authorities of the Federation. By this decision, the State was stripped of a very considerable portion of its revenue, which consisted in the municipal duties collected at the gates of Mexico; and the difficulty of raising an equivalent for these duties at once, has retarded the acquittal of its debt to the Federation, to which in 1827, 182,712 dollars were still due. But the resources of the State are so ample, that these embarrassments cannot be of long duration.

The Legislative Assembly is composed of nineteen deputies, elected in the ratio of one for every fifty thousand inhabitants. The districts are placed under the inspection of Prefects, and Sub-Prefects, one of whose duties it is to establish schools in every village, and to form a census, as well as a statistical survey, of the territory of the State. But the Constitution having only been published in February 1827, these provisions have not yet been carried into effect.

Veracruz is divided into four "departments," Veracruz, Jălăpă, Ōrīzăvă, and Ācăyūcām.

The department of Veracruz contains four "cantons," with a total population of 63,106 souls; (Veracruz 29,987, Tămpīcō 20,785, Păpăntlă 7,981,

Misāntlā 4,353,) distributed throughout the *Tierra Caliente* of the coast in fifty-three "Pueblos," Rancherías, or Congregaciones. The produce of these cantons consists in maize, frijoles, rice, cotton, sugar, woods of the most precious kinds, as mahogany, ebony, and cedar; salsaparilla, pepper, wax ūlē, (Indian rubber,) and vanilla, which is particularly abundant in Misantla, where twenty thousand roots of it were planted in 1826.

The department of Jālāpā is divided into two cantons, Jālāpā, and Jālācīngō, containing forty-one Pueblos and 53,061 inhabitants.

Ōrīzāvā comprises three Cantons, (Ōrīzāvā, Cōrdovā, and Cōsāmālūāpām,) with sixty-three Pueblos, and 84,148 inhabitants. The population of Orizava and Cōrdovā is employed principally in the cultivation of tobacco and coffee. The towns contain likewise several distilleries, and a number of Colmenares, (bee-hives,) which are increasing daily in importance.

In the department of Ācāyūcām there are three cantons, (Acayucam, Tustla, and Nūimanguillo,) twenty-three Pueblos, and 33,354 inhabitants. Cotton is the principal agricultural production, and twenty-five thousand "tercios" of it, (12,500 cargass,) were formerly the average annual amount raised. This is now reduced to about 800 tercios, there being no demand in the native manufactures, and the Cotton being without value as an export, until machines for cleaning, and compressing it, are erected, none of

which are at present known. Of its probable future importance, I have expressed my opinion in the third Section of the first Book.

The total registered population of Veracruz appears by the above statements to be 233,705 souls.

The receipts, from October 1824, to December 1826, amounted to 650,657 dollars, and the expenditure to 350,796 dollars.*

From the State of Oāxācā I have been unable to obtain returns similar to those given respecting other parts of the Federation. Agriculture is highly favoured by the mildness of the climate, which produces both cerealia and the sugar-cane; but of the mineral riches of the province very little is known. Mr. Glennie entertains a very high opinion of the new mines belonging to the United Mexican Company at Tēōjōmūlcō; (forty leagues South of Oaxaca,) but, in general, the mines in that State have been worked with so little science, and distinguished by so few great Bonanzas, that I am unable to give any positive information respecting them. Had I remained another year in Mexico, I should certainly have explored the whole territory of Oaxaca, and particularly the Mīstēcā, where the cochineal is raised. The Indians employed in its cultivation are said to be a race much superior to the other tribes upon the Table-land. The women are called

* Noticia Estadística submitted to the Supreme Congress by the Governor of Veracruz, Don Miguel Barragan, 25th of January, 1827.