

after the great patriot, Mariano Matamoros, whose bones lie with those of Hidalgo and Morelos in the cathedral at Mexico City.

Laredo is a name by which a line of *condes* of Spain was called. One figured under the Duke of Bexar in his campaign on the Levant, proving himself an able and gallant general, and it is probable the town was named in honor of him, whether on account of the Sanchez family, one of whom founded it, being descended from this gallant general, *conde* and grandee of Spain, or directly in memory of the *conde*, is not certainly known.

Captain Sanchez came from the Alamo on the Salado River with a number of families in search of a place to settle, and, being dissatisfied with the place on the Nueces, he obtained permission to locate, and remained several years before his little settlement was formally recognized as a town, in 1767.



PLAZA, TAMPICO.

The royal commission, called "Visita General," in that year laid out the town, giving it four leagues of land,—two on each side of the Rio Grande,—and laid off above and below the town tract, on both sides, the tracts now called *porciones*, distributing them to the settlers. Since that time Laredo has been recognized as a town with municipal powers. In the earlier days of its existence, savage Indians continually committed depredations on the surrounding country, and robbed the people

of their horses and cattle; but the citizens, inured to such hardships, often chastised the savages and killed many of them in battle, always maintaining a justly merited reputation for skill, courage, and gallantry. Laredo was a kind of supply station during the Texas revolution, but took no very active part in the war. It remained under the control of Mexico, as a part of Tamaulipas, until 1846, when it was divided into two towns, Nuevo Laredo, on the Mexican side, remaining a quiet, progressive town, whose principal industry has been stock-raising, horses, cattle, and sheep; and several handsome fortunes have been made in it.

While we were in Tamaulipas, Señor Don Alejandro Prieto was the governor, and extended to us many courtesies. To his wisdom and activity the state owes a fine penitentiary, a beautiful government palace, and many other substantial improvements. His term having expired since then, Señor Guadalupe Mainero is now governor of Tamaulipas, and is carrying on with great ability the excellent system of government to which he has succeeded.

The Tamaulipan Mexicans are brave, daring patriots, who are zealous to a man for the integrity and independence of their country. This state was the nucleus of the heroic army of the north during the French campaign, and the stoic bravery of the Tamaulipan soldiers will never be forgotten in the history of the siege and fall of Querétaro; many of their illustrious names will ever stand for the bravest and most inflexible of patriots.

CHAPTER XXII

NUEVO LEÓN

NUEVO LEÓN is an inland state, bordering on Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and San Luis Potosí. It has an area of about fifteen thousand square miles, and a population of about three hundred thousand. Its surface is irregular, as several branches of the Sierra Madre range come into it, and about one-fourth of the state forms a part of the great central table-land of Mexico. Its extensive and

beautiful valleys are divided between forest, pasture-land, and cultivated fields, which are intersected by numerous and precipitous rivers and streams. Among the larger of the rivers are the Salado, forming a boundary between Nuevo León and Coahuila, the Sabinas, Salinas, Santa Catalina, San Juan, Ramos, Pilon, Linares, and Blanco, besides which are numberless mountain streams and several small lakes, so that the state is exceedingly well watered.

Mineral productions abound in the mountains, and include gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, and cinnabar. Sulphur, nitrate of potash, several varieties of sulphate of lime, alabaster, and marble are also found, while salt is very abundant. Sulphur and thermal springs abound, especially near Monterey and Morelos.

The climate is hot and humid in the lowlands and some of the valleys, temperate in the elevated regions, and varied in the hill-regions. The soil is fertile, and yields three crops a year of maize, sugar-cane, and beans (*frijoles*). Wheat and barley are raised to advantage, although not so thoroughly and extensively as they might be. Manufacturing is carried on quite extensively, cotton cloths, hats, furniture, and shoes, all of excellent quality and style, being the principal results. Steam-power is used in many manufactories, and in the weaving establishments several thousand workers are employed.

There are good public and private schools, a civil college, a female college, and a seminary.

SEÑOR GENERAL BERNARDO REYES,
GOVERNOR OF NUEVO LEÓN



SADDLE MOUNTAIN.

In colonial times this state was called the Kingdom of Nuevo León, and divided into nine *partidos*, or districts,—Monterey, Cadereita, Villaldama, Salinas, Victoria, Doctor Arroyo, García, Morelos, Cerralvo, and Linares. The capital is Monterey. Other chief towns are Cadereita, Linares, and Morelos.

Every one has heard of Monterey, the Chicago of Mexico. The city has attracted unusual attention both in Mexico and in the United States, and interest in it is increasing. Prior to 1890 it was the nearest point

to the frontier that afforded the traveller from the United States an opportunity to peep into the life of a strange and interesting people: so that Monterey became more widely known than any other point in the Mexican republic. In 1889 the present governor, General Bernardo Reyes, assumed office, and from that date its progress has been rapid and striking. He has been re-elected several times, and has so well gained the confidence of the people that his failure or refusal to continue to serve as executive of the state would be regarded as a calamity.

The climate is perfect. The atmosphere is never chilled with frost, unless when it steals in at long intervals like a thief in the night, to disappear in the darkness ere the sun has risen. Such a thing as snow is unknown in the valley of Monterey, and is seen only rarely on the peaks of the mountains which surround the city; neither, from the rising to the setting of the sun, does the thermometer ever descend to the freezing-point, and it is rarely that the condition of the atmosphere prevents the weakest and most delicate consumptive from sitting or promenading in the plazas and inhaling the fragrance exhaled by the flowers which always grow out-doors in profusion and gladden and cheer and exhilarate the invalid.

Monterey is indeed charming beyond description. Nature



SAN PEDRO MINES, DIENTE CAÑON, NEAR MONTEREY.

is vested in gladness, expressed by beauty and wealth of color over which flows the mellow radiance of a semi-tropical sunshine. And when to such conditions are added the music which draws the populace to the public promenades on Thursdays and Sundays—supplied without expense to the citizens, as is the delightful custom—and the outpouring of the fair and the brave, is it surprising that all should find contentment, even those who as strangers turn their thoughts sometimes to their homes in the chilly and frozen north?

Monterey is rich in mountain treasures, and in time will be the city in which the wealth from the mountains will be invested. It will grow in population and become a city of beautiful homes, homes into which the warm sunshine and the fragrance of flowers will penetrate in winter as well as in summer.

It was a quaint old city, but has been made over, and now has all sorts of modern improvements; and it is surrounded by some of the most beautiful mountain scenery in the world.

Monterey is fifteen hundred feet above sea-level. The streets are regular, well kept, and well lighted; the houses are well built and tasteful both in architecture and in interior decora-



STATUE OF HIDALGO.

tion. The principal square has a marble fountain by native artisans. Among notable edifices are the cathedral, the handsomest church in the republic, and the municipal and government palaces. There are also a fine hospital, a good prison, an abattoir, a seminary, two colleges, and plenty of public and private schools.

New vitrified brick pavements, a complete water-system, electric railways, and modern hotels are but parts of the grand plan which will make Monterey an important centre of "the coming country."