

BORDA GARDEN, CUERNAVACA.

tions of the water which constantly trickles from the roof. The vast labyrinth is indescribable. It is said that the first sala is about two hundred feet long, one hundred and seventy wide, and one hundred and fifty in height. The walls are shaded with different tints of green and orange; great sheets of stalactites hang from the roof, and white phantoms, palm-trees, lofty pillars, pyramids, porches, and a thousand other illusions, are on all sides. One figure, concerning which all agree, is a long-haired goat, the evil one in that form. But some one has broken the head, perhaps to show the powerlessness of the enchanted guardian of the cave. In the second sala the architecture is decidedly Egyptian, and the strange forms of the animals resemble those of the uncouth Egyptian idols. These, with the pyramids and obelisks, indicate that perhaps the ancient people took the idea of their architecture from some natural cave of this description, just as nature suggested the idea of the beautiful Corinthian pillar. Again, it seems to be a tract of petrified country. Fountains of congealed water, trees hung with frozen moss, pillars covered with gigantic acanthus leaves, pyramids ninety feet high, look like works of the pre-Adamites, yet no being but He who inhabits eternity could have created them. The second hall may be nearly four hundred feet in length. But why go on? It is said that this cavern has been explored for four leagues, and yet that no exit has been discovered. The skeleton of a man was once discovered by some travellers, lying on his side, the head nearly covered with crystallization. He had probably entered these labyrinths alone, either from rash curiosity or to escape from pursuit, lost his way, and perished from hunger. Indeed, to find the way back to the entrance of the cave is nearly impossible without some clue to guide the steps among these winding galleries, halls and issues, and entries, and divided corridors.

Among the celebrated Humboldt pictographs are some very interesting ones which are supposed to be relics of this region. These documents may have been a record of the methods of the early Franciscan missionaries, and were presented early in the nineteenth century to the Royal Library at Berlin by Baron Humboldt.

The pictographs consist of fourteen pieces, of different sizes and widely varying contents. One entire document and the fragment of another belong to a period prior to the conquest.

The former is a schedule of tributes paid to a certain temple. There is nothing to show what or where the temple was, but it probably belonged to a tribe inhabiting the state of Morelos. The tributes consisted of blankets, gold in plates and in dust, etc. The blankets may have been for the personal use of the priests of the temple, but not necessarily so, for blankets, like other articles in general use, were eagerly sought after as a species of money, or, in other words, as instruments of barter or exchange.



PLAZA, CUERNAVACA.

Cuautla de Morelos has been the theatre of important historical events. Here it was that the curate Morelos shut himself up with his troops until the Spaniards under Calleja besieged it and the priest and his party were compelled to abandon their position.

The state of Morelos has already thousands of bright, clever, pushing Americans and Englishmen engaged in active endeavor. All through the hot country one finds them growing cane, maturing their coffee-trees or gathering their fruit, raising maize and bananas, and leading the independent lives of small planters and cultivators, their manual labor being done for them



FIELD OF SUGAR-CANE IN MORELOS.

by the native Indian. One could easily enumerate scores of men who took only a few thousand dollars to start with, some less, who are now on the way to wealth, and not a few who are very substantial people indeed.

Cuernavaca is the home of Mr. J. Hamer, at whose factories in the city of Mexico a practical test is being made of successfully spinning the native flax and manufacturing linen cloths of all kinds. We visited this flax-factory and the residence of Mr. Hamer; and in this connection might say that we made the entire trip through Mexico in beautiful linen travelling costumes which were woven at this factory. While there we had the opportunity of meeting Governor Alárcon and his newly wedded bride, finding them both among the most charming people in Mexico.

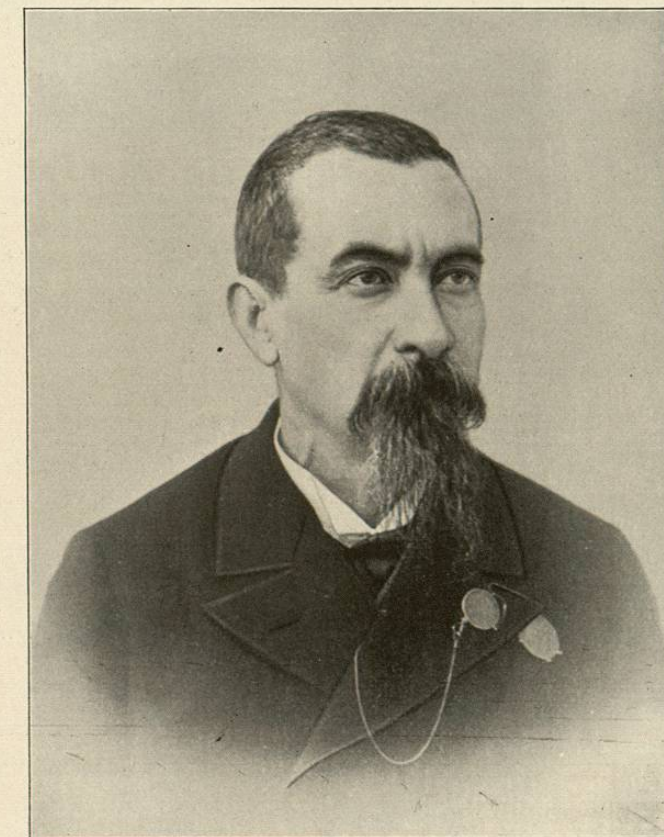
Although Morelos is the smallest state in Mexico, it certainly equals in importance even the greatest. In Governor Manuel Alárcon it has an executive head fitted to carry its industrial and its native wealth to a fitting climax, and make the region named after that noble patriot Morelos one of the most progressive spots, as it is one of the most beautiful, in the world.

CHAPTER XL

CHIAPAS

CHIAPAS is the most southern state in the Mexican republic, and presents an almost virgin field of unsurpassed natural resources. It is bounded on the north by the state of Tabasco, which separates it from the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the republic of Guatemala, on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by the states of Vera Cruz and Oaxaca. The Sierra Madre mountains run almost

parallel with the Pacific Ocean in their course through the state, there being between the two a stretch of level land which is uncommonly fertile, including the districts of Soconusco and Tonalá. North of these mountains, and exactly in the central section of the state, there are also fertile plains in the districts of La Libertad, Chiapa, and Tuxtla, and in Comitán along the Guatemalan frontier; and, finally, along the boundary of Tabasco are situated the humid forest-plains of the districts of Pichucalco and Palenque. From the southern limits of these two districts and toward the centre of the state the mountain-slopes begin to rise, finding their extreme height in the district of Las Casas, whose county-seat is more than seven thousand feet above sea-level; but the coast range in its descent to the sea slopes more abruptly. In the districts of Mezcalapa, Pichucalco, Simojovel, Chilón, Comitán, and Palenque the landscape presents a picturesque undulating country, with ridges of mountains of moderate altitude, and traversed by numerous navigable streams, such as the Grijalva, Mezcalapa, Tapijulapa, El Salto, and Usumacinta. The number of rivers of lesser importance is very considerable, and Chiapas may be counted among the best watered states of Mexico. As there are no really low or swampy districts, the climate is healthy, and it is generally tempered by prevailing breezes from the gulf and the Pacific Ocean, which supply the atmospheric moisture favorable to plant life and give abundant rainfall.



SEÑOR CORONEL FRANCISCO LEON,
GOVERNOR OF CHIAPAS.