

\$16,829,775, up to January 1st, 1855; but as certain amounts, paid previously, and the value of credits formed by after-conventions, which figure separately, were taken after the above calculation, this debt did not amount, at the beginning of 1857, to more than

	\$30,000,000
To amount credited for interest on fund recognized, up to January 1st, 1856	2,491,395
The debt contracted during the five years preceding the above calculation, up to the 31st December, 1855, supposing that not more than three million dollars per annum have remained owing to military and civil obligations, and adding to this the debts contracted by the chiefs of the late revolution, which have been recognized by the present government, will amount to	17,000,000
British conventions	\$4,323,428
Of Padre Moran	855,210
Spanish convention, including bonds in circulation and those to be emitted	5,178,638
French convention	6,680,000
	600,000
	<u>\$61,950,033</u>

RECAPITULATION.

Interior debt	\$61,950,033
Foreign "	55,816,991
Total	<u>\$117,767,024</u>

NOTE.—The sum of \$768,123, the amount of one dividend on the British convention debt, may be deducted, as it has been paid since the above estimate was made.

Since the above statistics were made up, the French convention debt of \$600,000 has been liquidated.

GOVERNMENT REVENUE.

Notwithstanding that a law was made November 24, 1856, designating the revenues of the Supreme Government and those of the States, it has not been put in practice, nor are the anterior laws on the subject; the consequence of which is, that many of the States not having a systematized revenue, take such sums from the general fund at their disposal, as they may require for their own wants. This being the real state of affairs, it is well to present, without any deduction, what the established taxes and revenue will produce, in order that a comparison may be made between them and the total amount of expenditure, which will clearly show what the true state of the treasury is:

Import duties	\$4,500,000
Twenty per cent. for material improvements	900,000
Twenty-five per cent. for sinking-fund of the interior debt	1,125,000
Ten per cent. internal duties on \$3,500,000	350,000
Twenty per cent. register duty on ditto	700,000
Tonnage dues	90,000
Light-house dues	20,000
Exportation duty	500,000
Circulation duty	300,000
Atcabala or interior duty	3,500,000
Three per cent. coinage and mint duty	450,000
One real per mark on same, (12½ cents)	220,000
Mails	150,000
Direct taxes	1,200,000
Stamp duty	150,000
Post-office	60,000
Lotteries	80,000
Tolls	300,000
Pawnbrokers' house, foreign licences, legacy duty, salt duty, card duty, discount of salaries and sundries	405,000
Total	<u>\$15,000,000</u>

COMPARISON.

Expenses	\$24,819,203
Revenue	15,000,000
Deficit	<u>\$9,819,203</u>

ANNUAL EXPENSES OF GOVERNMENT.

Sr. Lerdo de Tejada, in his work published in 1856, says: Notwithstanding that, under our present form of provisional government, we cannot well define the obligations which weigh upon the general and State government, the latter have already assumed the responsibility of these internal expenses and administration, and the former has done likewise as relating to the whole nation, following the order observed under the federal system of 1852.

The total annual expenditure of the general government, according to the statistics published by the "Minister of Hacienda" on the 31st December, 1856, was \$14,228,325, as follows:

Government offices, public establishments and im- provements	\$5,294,181
Army and navy	4,309,377
Revenue officers' and government necessities	765,327
Public debt, interest and sinking fund	3,584,690
Municipality of Mexico	274,750
Total	\$14,228,325

But as economical reforms have been introduced into this estimate, which have not been and cannot be carried out, many expenses not being taken into account, such as the repair and preservation of the roads, the payment of interest on the interior debt, besides which, no allowance having been made for extraordinary disbursements, which the present state of the country demands; I think that, without exaggeration,

the wants of the government during the present year, notwithstanding the reductions in the army, will amount to not less than \$20,000,000. The following table exhibits the average expenses of the several States, according to their own estimates:

Aguascalientes 1858 . . . \$33,000	Puebla 1852 . . . \$448,130
Chiapas 1856 . . . 42,523	Queretaro 1856 . . . 131,114
Chihuahua 1850 . . . 162,476	San Luis Potosi 1856 . . . 87,115
Coahuila 1850 . . . 48,192	Sinaloa 1850 . . . 132,500
Durango 1852 . . . 156,091	Sonora 1850 . . . 140,906
Guanajuato 1850 . . . 596,347	Tabasco 1856 . . . 48,240
Guerrero 1856 . . . 78,554	Tamaulipas 1851 . . . 52,020
Jalisco 1850 . . . 456,477	Vera Cruz 1850 . . . 196,603
Mexico 1850 . . . 496,414	Yucatan 1856 . . . 182,504
Michoacan 1856 . . . 227,865	Zacatecas 1856 . . . 675,671
Nuevo Leon 1852 . . . 69,880	
Oaxaca 1852 . . . 354,491	Total \$4,817,113

RECAPITULATION.

Expenses of the General Government	\$20,000,000
" " State Governments	4,817,113
Total	\$24,817,113

Clergy.

The statement of the Minister of "Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs," presented in 1852, gives the following figures relative to the clergy of the Republic:

3,232 secular ecclesiastics.

83 secular ecclesiastics distributed in eight oratories of San Felipe de Neri, the convent of San Camilo, and the House of the "Company of Jesus."

1,043 regular ecclesiastics, distributed in 144 convents, 32 curacies, and 40 missions.

252 regular ecclesiastics, distributed in 6 colleges "propagating the faith."

4,610 individuals.

The number of nunneries is 58, of which 48 are subject to the ordinary ecclesiastical jurisdiction, and 10 to the "*regulares*," containing a total of 1,484 nuns, 533 girls, and 1,266 maid-servants, besides which, there are five establishments belonging to the Sisters of Charity, with 37 matrons and 41 novices. The government of the clergy is divided into one archbishopric, that of Mexico, and thirteen bishoprics, which are those of Puebla, Michoacan, Jalisco, Nuevo Leon, Oajaca, Durango, Yucatan, Chiapas, Sonora, Lower California, and "Our Lady of Guadalupe," which last bears the title of "Abad." In nine of the cathedrals belonging to the above mitres, there are 183 prebendaries, and these dioceses are divided into 1,222 parishes.

Revenue of the Clergy.

The general revenue destined for the support of the clergy in the Republic, may be divided into four great classes, viz.: 1st. Those corresponding to bishops and canons, who form the bodies belonging to their respective cathedrals. 2d. Those belonging to private ecclesiastics and chaplains, 3d. Those belonging to curates and vicars; and, 4th, those appertaining to various religious communities of both sexes. The first are principally composed of taxes known as tithes, or *diezmos y primicias*, the product of which was formerly very great, consisting of one-tenth of all produce gathered in the Republic, and on the first breedings of cattle. Latterly, however, this revenue has much decreased; as, by a law passed on the 27th October, 1833, all farmers and labor-

ers were released from obligation to pay it. Notwithstanding the law, there are many persons who, from conscientious motives, still continue to pay tithes. So many, indeed, are there who do so, that the income to the clergy from it is very considerable. This body also receives the interest of large bequests left by devoted persons for annual performances, called "anniversaries," out of which the expenses are defrayed. The bishoprics of Sonora, Lower California, New Leon, Chiapas and Yucatan, enjoy government pensions, amounting together to the sum of \$32,200. The College of "Our Lady of Guadalupe," has besides twenty-five lotteries, which are drawn annually, with a fund of \$13,000 each, some estates, and a capital of \$621,000 recognized by the Government.

The private ecclesiastics support themselves by revenues derived from chaplaincies, which are sums subscribed by religious persons for that purpose, amounting generally to about \$3,000, lent out at interest. This, with the various sums received in charity and for saying masses, forms their means of subsistence.

The revenue of curates is derived from parochial dues for births, marriages, deaths, etc.; from masses performed in the churches by the desire of devout persons, and lastly from the profits arising out of the sale of *rosarios*, medals, wax, etc., to the same class.

The revenue of convents is obtained by charity, masses, and burials in their own churches, besides the income from their valuable estates. The nunneries are also supported by the produce of their extensive estates, with the exception of one or two, which do not possess

any property, and are entirely supported by charity. Besides these revenues spoken of, there are several cathedrals and parishes deriving revenue from estates and investments, which is appropriated to the wants and service of the clergy in general.

Owing to the want of publicity in the management of the affairs of the clergy, it is difficult to arrive at the exact value and revenue of their property; still, an approximate estimate may be made, by taking as a basis the data within reach—such as the annual value of agricultural produce, the number of births, marriages and deaths, and the number of devout rites and fêtes which are still habitual and common with most of the inhabitants. According to these tables, it can be safely computed that the total amount collected at this date by the clergy of Mexico, under the head of tithes, parochial dues, charities, ecclesiastical *fêtes*, and sale of devotional articles, is not less than from six to eight million dollars annually. So far as regards the property of the clergy, some writers have estimated it as one-half of the whole real estate in the country; others at one-third. Setting these statements aside, the total value of their property—including sums subscribed for chaplaincies and gifts, estates, houses, churches, and other resources—to-day, may be computed at two hundred and fifty to three hundred million dollars, notwithstanding the great losses which they are said to have suffered for some years past. In the city of Mexico alone, which contains five thousand houses, valued at eighty million dollars, the clergy own at least one half. The income of the above, added to the tithes and parochial dues, etc., etc.,

warrant me in stating that the Mexican clergy collect throughout the Republic annually, a sum of twenty millions of dollars.”

GENERAL REMARKS RELATIVE TO THE RESPECTIVE STATES.

AGUASCALIENTES.

This State, situated in the centre of the Republic, is bounded north by Zacatecas and San Luis Potosi, east by San Luis Potosi, south by San Luis Potosi and Jalisco, and west by Zacatecas. The climate is temperate and healthy; the eastern section of the State is for the most part level, and contains beautiful plains, while the western division is mountainous. Corn, wheat, fruit and vegetables are produced in great abundance. The State contains mines of silver and other metals, but they are neither rich or abundant.

There are numbered in this State, one city, one villa, three pueblas, three *minerales* or mining districts, 37 haciendas and 288 ranches. The capital of the State is Aguascalientes, a city of 39,699 inhabitants.

CHIHUAHUA.

Chihuahua is bounded north by United States, east by United States and Coahuila, south by Durango, west by Sinaloa and Sonora. The State is 430 miles long from north to south, and 337 miles wide. The configuration of the State is very unequal, the greater portion being more or less cut up by mountains. The great *Sierra Madre* runs entirely through the western section, and is known by the name of Tarahumava. In

the interior are the mountains *de Carcay de la Escondida*, and *del Nido*, and to the east of these is the *Sierra de la Campana*. The principal river, *El Bravo del Norte*, rises in the *Sierra Madre* and forms the boundary line between the State and Texas.

The climate in general is agreeable and healthy, but there is a great variation in the temperature, the higher regions being subject to severe cold, while the low plains at certain seasons of the year are excessively hot.

The agricultural districts are numerous, but none of them are very extensive, owing to the scarcity of water. The land is cultivated solely by irrigation. The principal productions are corn, wheat and barley, with frijoles, lentils, and peas, to which may be added the moderate production of sugar-cane and cotton, the yearly yield of the latter being estimated at 322,775 lbs. Of fruits, there are in considerable abundance, grapes, figs, oranges, lemons, pears, peaches, quinces, &c., &c.

Chihuahua has remarkable facilities for the raising of stock. Her hills, plains and valleys afford sustenance for cattle, horses, mules and sheep throughout the year, and in no section of the habitable part is the climate such as to require shelter for stock, the raising of which has always been one of the principal sources of wealth in the State.

But it is for its mines that the State of Chihuahua is destined to be most distinguished. Sufficient progress has been made in the working of these, principally silver, to prove that they are of surpassing richness. The coinage at the mint in the city of Chihuahua during the year 1855 was, of gold \$17,536, and of silver \$475,500,

giving the total coinage of \$493,036. This is, in reality, a small exhibit for the mint of a silver-producing State, but it must be taken into consideration that a large amount is carried out of the State in bars, and furthermore, this branch of industry, as well as all others throughout this region, has been brought to the verge of ruin by hordes of wild Indians, of whom the Apaches are the principal, and who for many years have followed their thieving, destructive calling, almost without let or hindrance. The State is, in fact, partially abandoned by reason of this great scourge.

The capital of the State is the city of Chihuahua. Population 12,000.

Something relative to the trade of Chihuahua, and the system under which it is conducted, may be learned from the following letter:

The U. S. Consul at Chihuahua writes Nov. 1, 1858:

"There passes the custom-house in this city, a million and a half of dollars (in value) of goods annually, the majority of which come from the United States. There is but one manufactory in this State, and it manufactures only unbleached domestics; there is now another in course of erection, prompted probably by the success of the first.

One factory cannot supply the demand in this city.

The cotton is grown in this State, and those engaged in raising it say the crop never fails. The climate and soil are adapted to cotton raising. Cotton is also taken from this State to the southern manufactories.

The climate and soil are also well adapted to the raising of tobacco.

In minerals this State exceeds any other in the Republic. There is coined in the mint in this city \$1,000,000 in silver annually. Of the silver taken from the mines not one-third comes here for coinage. One-half of the metal taken from the mines of Jesus Maria comes here to be coined; the other half is smuggled out of the country at Guaymas and exchanged for goods smuggled in there. One-half of the Coralitas silver comes here; the other is smuggled out at El Paso, thence to New Orleans."

COLIMA.

The small State of Colima, recently a territory, is situated on the Pacific Ocean, between the ports of Acapulco and San Blas. It is bounded N. & E. by Jalisco, S. & W. by the Pacific. The physical configuration of this State is very singular. It is traversed by *barrancas* or ravines of immense depth with but few passes, while its bleak mountains and volcanic peaks pierce the heavens, giving to the country in general a barren and gloomy aspect. The climate for the most part is healthy, though at the base of the mountains the heat is excessive.

The natural productions in agriculture are cotton, indigo, coffee, rice, frijoles, cacao, Chili, tobacco and sugar-cane, with fruits, such as palm of coco, oranges, lemons, plantains, pine-apples, pomegranates, &c., &c.

The principal branches of industry are, after agriculture, the manufacture of sugar, aguadiente, soap, and several species of cotton and woolen fabrics, for which there are two or three small factories. No mines are

worked in this State, though it is considered rich in silver, copper, lead, iron, sulphur, nitrate, &c.

Manzanillo, situated immediately on the Pacific, is the only port. Its harbor is deep and quite secure, but owing to the low back country, full of lakes of stagnant water from which comes up a pestiferous miasma, the port of Manzanilla is, perhaps, one of the most unhealthy and fatal to Europeans that can be named. It has recently acquired some importance from the fact that the California steamers occasionally touch there, and receive considerable amounts of specie brought from the interior.

Colima is the capital of the State. It is located inland 28 leagues east of the port of Manzanillo. The city is healthy, enjoys quite a large trade, and contains 31,774 inhabitants.

CHIAPAS.

Chiapas, situated at the southern extremity of the Republic, is bounded north by Tabasco and Yucatan, east by Guatemala, south by Guatemala and the Pacific, west by the Pacific, Oajaca and Vera Cruz. The State is traversed throughout its entire length by the Sierra Madre, three branches of which run nearly parallel, presenting a considerable depression in the south. The climate is agreeable and healthy. The country is diversified, and in many sections very beautiful, but Chiapas is one of those Mexican States which has not been fully explored. To the pen and pencil of Stephens & Catherwood are we indebted for those sketches which

afford us nearly all the information we have of that mysterious region, and the relics of peoples whose origin, life, and disappearance will probably forever remain a secret. The evidences that Chiapas has once been densely populated are abundant, and it needs but the opening power of trade and commerce to bring those deserted regions again into life and activity. The population is mostly of the pure Indian—the Zoques, Zeldales, Teochiapanecos and Mames being still quite numerous.

The lands are very fertile, but agriculture languishes. The productions are corn, cocoa, sugar-cane, tobacco, vanilla, pimento, coffee, indigo of the finest quality, and tropical fruits in great variety. The forests of Chiapas supply in considerable abundance, cedar, mahogany, oak, ebony and other valuable woods. Medicinal herbs of the most desirable descriptions are also found.

Tradition gives to Chiapas rich mines of gold and silver. Recent explorations have also produced evidence of this fact. But at present no mines are worked in the State. Iron and lead abound in the vicinity of San Cristobal.

Salt is produced in great abundance at Tonala, on the Pacific coast, at the fountains or springs of Islopa and Zinacautlan.

Transportation throughout the State is difficult for the want of roads or trails. It has no port on the Pacific, and its imports and exports are through the State of Tabasco on the Gulf.

The capital of the State is San Cristobal, which contains a population of 7,649.

Among the notable ancient ruins in Chiapas are those of Palenque, and with the exception of those at Mitla, in the State of Oajaca, the most remarkable, perhaps, of any on this continent. The first bishop of Chiapas was Bartolome de las Casas, renowned for his humanity to the natives of the country, and for his writings relative to the events of his day.

COAJUILA.

CoajUILa, one of the northern frontier States, is bounded north by Texas, east by Texas and Neuvo Leon, south by Neuvo Leon and Zacatecas, west by Durango and Chihuahua. This thinly inhabited and neglected State formed a part of the Mexican province of Texas, until by victory in battle, the citizens of the latter made the Rio del Norte the dividing line between them and Mexico.

No branch of industry is flourishing in this State. There are some good agricultural lands, but they are quite limited in extent, and the production is at present confined to corn, wheat and beans, sufficient merely to support the population. The vine flourishes and is cultivated to some extent. The trade of the State is principally in horses, mules, corn and wine.

The whole State lies on the western steps of the Sierra Madre, but the southern part especially is very mountainous and broken. The climate, though not very equable, is healthy.

In other times the mining interests of this State were quite important, but in common with the other northern