

This state is thoroughly diversified by mountains and table-lands. The former are the most grand and imposing in the republic. Near the eastern border are the Pico de Orizaba and the Coffre de Perote. On the west are Popocatepetl and Iztacciuatl. The Sierra de Malinche, near the city of Puebla, is also magnificent. The climate is for the most part temperate and very healthy. In the higher districts the weather is wintry.

The table-lands and valleys are remarkably fertile. They yield corn and wheat in great abundance. The State of Puebla is famous for the fine quality of its wheat, and such is the feracity of the soil in the district of Atlixco, that one bushel of wheat yields twenty-five bushels. Barley and frijoles are also extensively cultivated. Sugar-cane is produced to a moderate extent. No finer apples, pears, peaches, oranges, and many other varieties of Mexican fruits, can be found in the republic than those which fill the market of the city of Puebla.

There are several rich mining districts in this state which produce a mixture of silver, gold, and copper, but at the present time they are not extensively worked. Five haciendas, with arastras, ovens, and mortars are now in operation.

The laboring classes of the states of Puebla (aborigines), are very industrious, and their productions are numerous and varied. The soap made in this state is the best in the country. There is also much earthen and crockery ware fabricated. At the time of the conquest by the Spaniards, these people were skilled in the fabrication of a species of earthenware, which, in its beauty of design, variety of colors, and quality of material, was considered equal to that of Florence.

The flour manufactured in this state is superior, and bears a high reputation throughout the neighboring states.

The city of Puebla is the capital of the state, and contains 70,000 inhabitants. It is delightfully located on a plain, beautifully laid out, and altogether presents a peculiarly pleasing and inviting appearance. The climate is salubrious and healthy, the temperature being about the same as that of the city of Mexico. There are several cotton-factories in this vicinity, which turn out considerable quantities of brown cotton cloth.

The Indian town of Cholulu, with its ancient mound, or pyramid, is six miles west of the city of Puebla.

#### QUERETARO.

This state is bounded north by Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi, south and east by Mexico, west by Michoacan and Guanajuato. It is a small state, and lies entirely in the central plateau of the Cordillera, and is consequently intersected by numerous mountain spurs and elevated hills. The plains are frequently cut up by deep *barrancas*, rivers and streamlets. The soil is very productive in the agricultural districts of San Juan del Rio, Queretaro, Cadereyta, Amealco, Toliman and Jalpan.

Queretaro is remarkable for its picturesque scenery, and the beautiful sites of its cities, haciendas, and ranches.

The products of the soil are similar to those of the other states on the central plateau. In the valleys some

of the tropical productions are found, but grain and cattle are the chief resources of the landowners. In the whole state there are 124 haciendas, or plantations, and 392 ranches, or farms. Very thick forests are seldom found, and many sections of the state are entirely bare of vegetation.

The only mining district of any note in this state is that of *El Doctor*, in the district of Cadereyta. These mines were once famous, but now they are considered of little consequence.

The industry of the inhabitants, after agriculture, consists principally in tanning leather, manufacturing cloths, cassimeres, carpets, serapes, blankets, &c., &c. The goods turned out by the looms in this state are considered the best in the republic, and the articles above enumerated form the principal commerce of the place.

The capital of the state is Queretaro, a well-built city of 50,000 inhabitants, picturesquely located on the summits and sides of converging hills 7,000 feet above the level of the sea. A magnificent and enduring evidence of the munificence of the Viceroy, the Marquis de Valero del Aguila, is found in the noble aqueduct, two miles long, with arches ninety feet high, spanning a plain of meadow land, and joining a tunnel from the opposite hills, thus supplying the city of Queretaro with excellent water from a distance of six miles.

The treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico was ratified by the Mexican Congress in the city of Queretaro, in 1848.

## SONORA.

Sonora is bounded on the north by Arizona, east by Chihuahua, south by Sinaloa and the Gulf of California, west by the Gulf of California.

The physical configuration of all this region of country is peculiar. Lofty, rugged, barren mountains, coursing in every direction across this state, rise abruptly out of barren plains. In proportion to its great area, the state of Sonora furnishes but little land fit for cultivation. The agricultural districts are confined to the valleys of the Yaqui, Mayo, Sonora, San Miguel and San Ignacio rivers. The valley of the Yaqui is the most extensive and fertile. All the others are quite limited in extent, but they all produce abundantly of the cereals and fruits, and, in the aggregate, Sonora would support a larger population than the casual observer might be inclined to believe.

The staple productions are wheat, corn, barley and frijoles. The principal fruits are oranges, lemons, figs, grapes and peaches. Sonora will eventually be a wine-producing country.

There is a great scarcity of timber in this state, and in some districts it is difficult even to obtain sufficient fuel for household purposes.

The raising of horses, mules, horned cattle and sheep, has always been one of the principal occupations of the inhabitants. The breed of mules is very superior, but the horses and cattle are of an inferior order.

The mines of Sonora have a peculiar reputation—something bordering on the mysterious. The geological evidences of mines, as manifested on the surface, are

abundant, more so perhaps, than those of any other state in the republic. Practical experience has also demonstrated the existence of silver mines of extraordinary richness. How enduring or extensive these veins may be has not been thoroughly proved. The silver mines at Alamos, in the southern part of the state, have been the most extensively worked, and they continue to yield abundantly. There are other mines of note, such as San Juan de Sonora Bacuachi, Antunes, Babicanora, Batuco, Santa Theresa, Sahuaripa, la Trinidad, &c. There is but little attention paid to mining, however, in Sonora at the present time. Mining in this region always was conducted in the most primitive style; generally speaking, it has been but little more than surface scratching. When water is reached, or a depth that renders the labor more than ordinarily difficult and laborious, the mine is abandoned. For this and other reasons, a great many mines have been abandoned in Sonora. They are to be found all over the state. Silver is the principal metal sought after, though gold is found in considerable quantities in placers and quartz veins. Copper, lead and iron can be produced in great abundance.

The people of the United States have an exaggerated opinion of Sonora. The state has its good qualities, but it also has its drawbacks, which have not been duly estimated. One of the most necessary articles of life, *water*, is exceedingly scarce. Not an ear of corn, a spear of grain, or a fruit, can be produced without irrigation. A large portion of the best mining districts in the state are totally unavailable for the want of water. All branches of industry suffer from this want. The rainy season prevails during July, August, and September,

but even then the rains are light and precarious, the clay strata are wanting, and the soil holds no water. The streams are *intermittent*, i. e., they appear and disappear throughout their courses at intervals. Travelers through the long and dreary wastes of this region, are in many instances dependent on the natural water-tanks in the mountains, called *tenajas*. Mr. Dunbar, in his published letters upon Sonora and Arizona, thus speaks of the country and its natural reservoirs:

“I cannot leave this portion of the country without referring to the *tenajas*, or tanks, which are found in the mountains of the volcanic districts of Sonora and Arizona, and upon which those who traverse these dreary wilds are mainly dependent for water. In the universal upheaving and rending of rocks and mountains, natural reservoirs are formed, capable, in some instances, of holding thousands of gallons. In the season of showers they are filled, and when full, afford the weary and thirsty traveler refreshment indescribably grateful. As the hot and dry season advances, the water evaporates, and deteriorates in quality until it becomes thick and filthy, so much so as to be excessively repulsive even to a famishing stomach. The two principal routes from Sonora to California are supplied with water from these sources, and when they fail, the journey cannot be made except at great hazard, there being one stretch of one hundred and twenty miles without water.”

“It is the peculiar locality of these tanks that renders them interesting. They are usually found near the base of mountain gorges, where the rocks on every side are piled one upon the other to the region of the clouds, in the wildest confusion, giving the imagination full scope in discerning the outlines of domes, turrets, castles,

churches, colossal statuary, and all sorts of monsters. When all nature is at rest, the power of *silence* in these mountain recesses is awfully impressive, and at twilight the earthly grandeur of the scene is such as to affect the hardest natures. I never saw a merry evening camp at the *tenajas*.

"Desert country as it is, there is considerable interest attached to it, but it requires the whipcord sinews and power of endurance of a Bedouin Arab to find and enjoy it.

"Sonora is the land of romance, the land of tragedy, the dream-land of the filibuster. It is overrated, and yet not so much overrated as misunderstood. The mines constitute the principal resource of the state, and they have been developed only to a very limited extent, and quite imperfectly. Its facilities for the raising of cattle and horses may be considered extensive, while its agricultural resources, in proportion to the great area of country, are very limited."

The population of the state, according to the Mexican estimate, is 147,000. This is doubtless above the truth. The inhabitants of Sonora, in honesty, industry and energy, may be considered superior to those of any other state of the republic. As laborers, the Opata, Yaqui and Papago Indians, with the mixed breeds, are well adapted to the peculiar necessities of the country in developing its resources.

But Sonora is a land of mourning. Apaches, revolutions and filibuster expeditions have scourged the people until the moan of despair comes to our ears. Mines, haciendas, and ranches in great numbers, are abandoned, and the industry of the state is completely paralyzed.

Hermosillo, a city of 10,000 inhabitants, beautifully located in the interior, is the capital.

Guaymas, the only port, is located on the Gulf of California, and contains about 5,000 inhabitants. The harbor of Guaymas is very good, and before many years it will be of great commercial importance.

## SINALOA.

Sinaloa is bounded, north by Sonora, east by Chihuahua and Durango, south and west by the Pacific Ocean. This state comprehends a strip of country lying between the grand Cordilleras of the Sierra Madre and the Pacific Ocean. The eastern section is quite mountainous, while that portion bordering on the Pacific is a series of plains, watered by the rivers Fuerte, Sinaloa, Culiacan, Piastra, &c. The climate is generally hot. The natural productions of the soil are numerous and abundant. They consist of corn, frijoles, coffee, rice, sugar-cane, tobacco, plantains, oranges, and pine-apples; Brazil and other fine woods, in considerable quantities, are exported from the port of Mazatlan. In 1854, 82,000 quintals were exported.

Sinaloa is likewise famous for its mines, especially of silver. In the *Mineral del Rosario*, which pertains to the district of Mazatlan, there exist mines of gold, silver, platina, copper, lead, verdigris, &c. At the present time the mines of silver and gold in this district are only worked to a moderate extent. There are other sections of the state noted for rich mines. In Culiacan, there is

a mint which from 1846 to 1855, coined in silver and gold the sum of \$9,252,736. Culiacan, the capital of the state, contains 10,000 inhabitants.

Mazatlan is the only port. It has improved considerably of late years, which is more than can be said of any other town in the republic of Mexico. The harbor is not very good, but the location commands the trade of an extensive back country.

SAN LUIS POTOSI.

This state is bounded north by Zacatecas, Coahuila and Tamaulipas; east by Coahuila and Tamaulipas; south by Queretaro, Guanajuata and Zacatecas; west by Zacatecas. The western portion of the state is quite mountainous, but the Cordillera is somewhat broken toward Tamaulipas, and a low, hilly country, which is not very healthy, stretches out toward the south-east.

Agriculture forms one of the principal branches of industry, and an abundant yield is obtained of corn, wheat, barley, frijoles, &c. The raising of horses, mules and cattle, as in Durango and Chihuahua, is followed extensively. Considerable attention is given to the manufacture of woolen and cotton fabrics. Glass, leather, pottery and metallic wares are also made in large quantities, and a valuable traffic is carried on in foreign goods with the port of Tampico and the neighboring states, as San Luis Potosi, the capital and chief town of the state, is favorably located for this kind of business.

This state has its full share of the various kinds of

mines that abound in other states of the republic. The *mineral* of Catorce is one of the most famous in the whole country. The town of Catorce is situated upon the top of a bleak and rugged mountain 8,788 feet above the level of the sea. The mines are of silver. The mine of San Augustine gave metals that yielded \$1,000 to the carga (300 lbs.). The mine of Señor Zavala produced a species of earth worth \$1.00 per pound, and \$7,000,000 were obtained from it. The mines of San Geronimo and Santa Anna have produced \$6,000,000; La Luz, during the last year it was worked, \$2,000,000; Medellin, more than \$4,000,000. According to Humboldt, the *Mineral del Catorce* has produced, one year with another, three to four millions of dollars.

San Luis, the capital of the state, contains 35,000 inhabitants. The mint located here coined, in 1855, \$1,849,794.

## TLASCALA.

The small State of Tlascala forms a notch in the State of Puebla, which surrounds it on every side except the west, where the State of Mexico forms the boundary.

No portion of the Mexican confederacy has a more interesting history than that of Tlascala. The Spaniards, on their arrival, found it an independent republic, and bidding defiance to the power of Montezuma. In obedience to their instinctive hatred of that monarch and his people, the Tlascalans joined Cortes, and took an important part in the conquest of Mexico. Indeed, without their powerful aid, Cortes would not have been successful.

In remembrance of the assistance thus furnished by the Tlascalans, the Spaniards erected their country into a distinct province, with certain privileges, and it thus remained until 1824, since which period it has been district, territory and state, the latter degree having been conferred by the constitution under Comonfort.

Tlascala comprehends a superficial extent of 400 square leagues. It contains 1 city, 109 villages, 18 settlements, 168 haciendas, 94 *ranchos* or small farms, 8 grist-mills, 2 iron-works and 1 woolen factory. The climate is salubrious and healthy. The country is diversified with mountains, table-lands and valleys. The Sierra de la Malintzin, which is very high, has a particularly sacred place in Tlascalteca mythology, and there is upon its crest, when viewed from a certain position, that which resembles a human body lying in sepulture and partially covered with a shroud. At times, the clouds, illuminated with electricity, hang over this mountain, adding much to the impressive grandeur of the scene.

The numerous relics of antiquity found in this State are very interesting.

The cereals are principally cultivated, though in the valleys the products of hot countries are found. Mines of silver, copper and lead are moderately worked.

The ancient town of Tlascala is the capital. There are but 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants remaining within its ancient limits.

## TAMAULIPAS.

The State of Tamaulipas, called in the time of the Spaniards, the Province of New Santander, extends from 22° 14' 4" N. lat., to 27° 30' N. lat., and from long. 1° 39' 3", to long. 2° east of Mexico.

Its limits are, on the north, the United States (the Rio Bravo forming the boundary line), on the northwest, the Departments of Coahuila and Neuvo Leon, on the west and southwest, San Luis Potosi; on the south, Vera Cruz, and on the east, the Gulf of Mexico.

*Productions.*

Tamaulipas produces cotton, rice, sugar-cane, corn, frijoles, barley, sweet potatoes, &c., &c., also tropical fruits in abundance. Vanilla is very extensively cultivated by the French colony about half way between Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Horses, mules and cattle are raised in great numbers, and driven to different parts of the republic for sale.

*Mines.*

Of late years the mining interest has been almost entirely abandoned, and few mines are at present being worked. In San Nicolás there are twenty-five abandoned mines, and four in operation. The product of these, one year with another, is two hundred marks of silver and twenty thousand pounds of lead. The average value of a mark of silver is \$8 50.

In Mizachuana are four abandoned mines, in one of which is found alabaster.

In Bustamante are twelve abandoned mines—eight of silver, one of copper, and three of lead.

It is supposed that the silver mines were very rich, from the amount of the tithes or duties paid to the Spanish crown.

In Villagrau are abandoned mines of gold and silver. Not far from this place are found seams of coal, which have never been worked.

Near Tampico is found very transparent alabaster, also jasper, and, at a short distance, slate in great abundance.

Extensive salt-works are found near Soto La Marina, both natural and artificial, from which there are generally taken out about ten thousand “cargas” yearly—3,000,000 lbs.

The value of cattle and agricultural products of the soil of Tamaulipas, for the consumption of its inhabitants, and that remitted to other parts of the republic, in the purchase of articles of importation, may be calculated as follows :

Home productions consumed.....	\$1,429,451
Home productions exported to other parts of the republic.....	128,536
Importations from other parts of the republic for consumption.....	698,792
Foreign importations for consumption.....	1,156,568

*Interior Navigation.*

Rivers.	Depth in feet.					Aggregate miles.
	9	5	4	3	2	
The river of Tampico to Tamsunchal.....	mi. 117	mi. 47	mi. 32	mi. 39	mi. 63	293
Into it flows the river Tamui.....		21	10	26	47	104
Also the San Juan.....		18	26	31	52	127
Also the Tancialot.....		32				32
Also the Tamesin.....		91				91
Lake del Chairel.....			65			65
Total miles.....	117	209	133	96	162	717

*Foreign Commerce of Tampico.*

The foreign trade of Tampico during the year 1856 was as follows :

Total number of vessels from all foreign nations entered, 136.	
Total value of inward cargoes.....	\$2,845,091
Total value of outward cargoes.....	4,562,837
Total foreign trade.....	\$7,407,928

Total number of American vessels included in the above, 34, with an aggregate of 4,115 tons.

Value of inward cargoes.....	\$653,451
Value of outward cargoes.....	613,349
Total trade in American vessels.....	\$1,266,800

Total number of British vessels 20, aggregate tonnage not ascertained; of these, 12 belonged to the British