

Gulf. Its entrance is by a wide-spread bar of soft mud; the depth of water at low tide is thirteen feet, and fifteen at high tide. After passing the bar, vessels go to anchor near the island where the city of Cármen stands, and there the depth of water is from four to six fathoms. Vessels are sheltered in this port from all winds, and only a westerly hurricane can endanger the security of their anchorage.

The city of Cármen has about 5,000 inhabitants; its aspect from the port is very picturesque and beautiful. Mariners, on their entering, may be guided by a fine fixed light in the Indian village opposite the place, which light can be seen fourteen miles at sea. The principal commerce of this town consists in the extraction of logwood, the annual exportation of which is from four to six hundred thousand quintals. The price generally ranges from 75 cents to \$1 25, according to the demand, or the great or small supply in the market.

The logwood is carried to Cármen in canoes of from four hundred to a thousand quintals burden, from Tabancuy, Chiboja, Candelaria, Chumpan, the Ranchos of the East, Palisada, and principally from all the Ranchos on the river Usumacinta, passing through Palisada. The interior of the country is generally swampy, and its greatest production to this day is logwood. There is also in the interior of the country a large quantity of cedar, mahogany, and divers other kinds of fine and valuable timber, especially for ship-building; but, until now, they have not been an object of great extraction or exportation.

There are at present ten or twelve establishments for the elaboration of sugar and *aguadiente* (sugar-cane rum), and with time these articles may be produced in abundance for exportation.

What is now considered as the Territory of Cármen has about 20,000 inhabitants.

If the country was more thickly peopled, so as to facilitate labor for agricultural pursuits, it would probably be one of the richest tracts of country in the world.

Steam communications could be established from Cármen to the rivers of Palisada, Chumpan, Candelaria, Mamantel, and Caño de Tabancuy, by deepening a little the bars of these rivers, which could be done without any great outlay, and with lucrative results to any one who would undertake the enterprise.

The distance by sea from Vera Cruz to Laguna is two hundred and seventy miles; from Laguna to Frontera de Tabasco, by sea, forty-eight miles; or to San Juan Bautista, one hundred and fourteen miles, by sea and river.

Statement of Logwood exported from the port of Laguna.

1849	598,832 quintals.	1853	455,920 quintals.
1850	442,949 "	1854	466,561 "
1851	384,251 "	1855	678,988 "
1852	472,636 "	1856	584,810 "

Of the 584,810 quintals of logwood exported from Laguna in 1856, but 36,859 quintals went to the United States.

ZACATECAS.

Zacatecas, one of the central states of Mexico, is bounded north by Durango, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon; east by San Luis Potosi and Aguas Calientes; south by Guanajuato, Aguas Calientes and Jalisco; west by Jalisco and Durango. The boundaries of this state are the most irregular of any in the confederacy. The

mountains and peaks, more or less elevated, which occupy the greater portion of the state, are a prolongation of the Sierra Madre, and the gradual descent of these gives, in the lower part of the state, spacious valleys and fertile fields, deep barrancas and *cañones*, all of which form imposing and picturesque scenery.

The agricultural districts are not extensive, yet the fertility of those under cultivation is such that the products of the soil form one source of wealth. The forests afford an abundance of red and white oak, sycamore, ash, white wood, mezquites and all classes of pine.

The principal fruits are of the temperate regions, such as apples, pears, peaches, quinces, grapes, strawberries, &c.

The following is the report of the principal agricultural products in 1858.

DISTRICTS.	CORN. <i>Fanegas.</i>	FRIJOLES. <i>Fanegas.</i>	WHEAT. <i>Cargas.</i>	CHILE. <i>Arrobas.</i>
Zacatecas,	24,458	1,791	964	6,890
Fresnillo,	41,354	1,507	1,285	555
Sombrerete,	58,504	1,284	1,028	338
Nieves,	30,009	2,762	2,569	668
Pinos,	5,118	3,268	31	69
Juchipila,	171,075	4,256	353	81
Tlaltenango,	53,185	4,945	150	226
Jerez,	47,152	2,355	1,306	4,103
Villanueva,	81,206	11,604	531	864
	512,061	33,772	8,217	13,794

	VALUE.
Estimated head of ganado mayor, or horses, mules and cattle, 1858,	43,671
Estimated head in ganado menor, or sheep, goats, asses, &c.	392,222
	\$1,862,789

In its *mineria*, the state of Zacatecas has at various

epochs ranked first in the republic. This state and Guanajuato have for years been rivals in the richness of their veins and the *buena ley* of their metals, each claiming pre-eminence, and alternately standing first and second in the quantity of the precious metals produced. The amount yielded in Zacatecas varies with the causes that affect the industry of the inhabitants.

The three silver-mining districts of Zacatecas, Fresnillo and Sombrerete are the most celebrated in the republic.

The Zacatecas mines were discovered in 1546, by Captain Juan de Tolosa.

TERRITORY OF LOWER CALIFORNIA.

This territory is comprehended in that long, peninsular strip of land lying between the southern boundary of the United States and Cape St. Lucas. On the east is the Gulf of California, and on the west the Pacific Ocean. The peninsula is 700 miles long, and varies in breadth from 30 to 100 miles. It may be said that the entire peninsula is occupied by a chain of high, rugged and barren mountains, leaving a nook, corner or small valley here and there for fruits and agricultural products sufficient to support a sparse population. The rocks and arid plains, which reflect the rays of the sun, seldom obscured by clouds, would render the heat almost insufferable, but for the sea air, which, in breezes sometimes strong and sometimes mild, sweeps over the territory, rendering the climate in the habitable portions the most salubrious and healthy in the world.

The agricultural products are limited, and consist chiefly of corn, frijoles, sweet potatoes and chile, with

olives, grapes, dates, figs, quinces, peaches and pears. But the waters that surround the peninsula have been more profitable to the inhabitants than the land. The pearl-fisheries have long been prosecuted, and with great success. In the sixteenth century the pearl-fishery produced a valuable revenue, and towards its close, six hundred and ninety-seven pounds of the precious article were exported from this quarter to Spain. Of late years but little interest is manifested in this branch of industry. A beautiful quality of tortoise-shell is also exported from this territory.

The raising of cattle is one of the principal sources of wealth, and dried beef and hides enter largely into the articles of export.

But the chief wealth of this territory will eventually be found in the mines of gold, silver, copper, lead, &c., which are known to exist in great extent and richness. The whole country is volcanic, and the metalliferous manifestations are too plain to be mistaken. The people have no enterprise, and their government is so unsafe and uncertain, that others of enterprise and capital do not care, under the present order of things, to invest their labor and means in the territory. There are several good harbors on the Gulf and ocean shores. That of Magdalena Bay, on the Pacific side, is frequently resorted to by whalers, and it would be very valuable to the United States. Fish, shell-fish and water-fowl of the finest qualities are excessively abundant. In some respects, the peninsula of Lower California and its adjoining waters have a higher value than is generally placed upon them.

La Paz is the capital and principal port of the territory. It is situated on the Gulf, near the southern

extremity. It has an excellent harbor, and enjoys a delightful climate. Population, 1,274. The population of the entire territory is but 9,000.

DISTRICT OF MEXICO.

What is known as the district or valley of Mexico is limited on the north by San Cristobal Ecatepec, east by El Piñon Viejo, south by Tlalpam, and west by Los Remedios.

The valley is oval in its outline, eighteen leagues long and twelve wide. It is surrounded by mountains, in which abound the *tezontle*, porphyry, basalt, obsidian, and various species of lava. It is generally believed that the entire valley of Mexico is one enormous crater of an ancient volcano, covered over by a crust of earth of recent formation.

The highest of these mountains are called Talapon and Ajusco.

Nothing of the metallic or granitic order is found in this district. Vegetation is vigorous and varied, and the mountains present phenomena truly extraordinary.

The surrounding mountains yield an abundance of timber, especially pine, and various woods for building and manufacturing purposes. The valley is exceedingly fertile, producing corn, wheat, barley, frijoles, &c.; fine fruits—pears, perones, apples, peaches, figs, nuts, mulberries, cherries, chestnuts, zapotes, aguacates, and some of the tropical fruits, such as oranges, lemons, and chirimoyas. Vegetables flourish all the year in this climate, which is in fact a perpetual spring.

The valley or district is subdivided as follows:

DISTRICTS.	NO. OF MUNICIPALITIES.	POPULATION.
Mexico,	4	213,499
Tlalpan,	12	56,035
Tlalupantla,	3	73,949
Tezcoco,	3	122,340
	22	465,823

The larger portion of the inhabitants, except those of the city of Mexico, are engaged in agriculture. Many are employed in the manufacture of crockery-ware, silk, woolen and cotton goods, paper, beer, soap, liquors, oil, iron, &c. There are two establishments for the manufacture of fine crockery-ware, one at Tacubaya and one in the city of Mexico. There are four manufactories of paper located a short distance from the city.

The following is a statement of the cotton factories:

FACTORIES.	LOCATION.	NO. OF SPINDLES.	PS. CLOTH PER AN.
Magdalena,	San Angel,	8,472	67,200
Miraflores,	Chalco,	5,556	60,000
Tizapan,	San Angel,	4,094	6,000
Batan,	do.	2,300	71,948
Abeja,	Molino Prieto,	5,568	12,500
Tlalpan,	Tlalpan,	4,094	28,800
		30,084	246,448

Considerable attention is given to the raising of horses, mules, cattle, and domestic fowls.

CITY OF MEXICO.

The city of Mexico, capital of the republic, is situated in the centre of the remarkable and beautiful valley

which has been described. It is in latitude $19^{\circ} 25' 45''$ N., and longitude $103^{\circ} 45' 53''$ W. from Greenwich, but its elevation above the sea, which is 7,500 feet, secures to this region an even, salubrious, and delightful climate. The mean temperature of the city is 17° (R) 70° (Fahr.) The barometer varies between 23° and 23.2 English inches. The magnetic needle declines $8^{\circ} 30' 12''$ to the east. The prevailing winds are north-east and north.

The city is on a perfect level, but its plan is somewhat irregular. Length from north to south, 4,018 yards; breadth from east to west 3,276. There are 252 squares or blocks of buildings, 316 streets, 140 small, irregular streets, 12 bridges, and 90 plazas, great and small. The population is estimated at 200,000. The foundation of this city by the Aztecs dates 1160, and it bore the name of Tenochtitlan. Cortes and his followers conquered and destroyed it in 1521, at which time it may have contained 50,000 to 60,000 souls, though Munchausen accounts would make it appear that a million and a half of human beings swarmed about this locality. The official report of Cortes in 1524, three years after the conquest, gives 30,000 as the population of the new city of Mexico. For a century the city continued to increase in numbers, wealth, and power, so that when Captain John Smith and his followers were looking for gold mines in Virginia, and the pilgrims were planting corn in Massachusetts, an empire had been founded and built up on the same continent by Spaniards, and the most stupendous system of plunder the world ever saw was then and there in vigorous operation.

The capital of the republic has made but little progress since it became independent of Spain. In general terms, it may be said that the inauguration of the

republic brought no peace or prosperity to the country, or materially advanced the interests of the city of Mexico.

A glance at the map will convince any one that the geographical position of the city of Mexico is highly important and advantageous. It is in the centre of a country of surpassing richness and beauty. But the history of this capital from the day of its foundation by the Aztecs, precisely seven centuries ago, is one of constant revolution and warfare. No earthly record worthy of credence excels it. From first to last it has been the stronghold of political dissensions and bloodshed. At the present moment, the struggle between the progressive ideas of the masses and the determined bigotry and despotism of the priesthood and their followers, is going on as fiercely as ever. But it is to be hoped the dark night that has hung over this beautiful city and country so long, is nearly over, and that in our day the light of wisdom, truth, virtue and prosperity will dawn upon the people so much abused, and of whom so little is known by all the world.

The city of Mexico, with its surrounding district, is destined to possess a dense population and all the elements of power, by which it will figure largely in the world's history, and this at no very remote day. It is destined to become the great emporium between the Pacific and the Atlantic.

SYNOPSIS OF MEXICAN HISTORY.

AND

GENERAL REMARKS.

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IN making up the following summary, we are indebted for much valuable information to the MEXICAN EXTRAORDINARY, published in the city of Mexico, the NEW YORK HERALD, and the correspondence of the NEW YORK TIMES.

The Aztec empire in Mexico dates from 1160. Hernando Cortes, with a small band of followers, aided by some of the native Indian tribes, achieved the conquest of that empire in 1521. Montezuma died a miserable death in the hands of Cortes; and Guatemozin, the last of the Aztec emperors, was ignominiously hung by the Spanish conqueror.

From the year 1535 until the year 1821, when Mexico obtained her independence, the country was governed by sixty-one viceroys, whose terms of service extended over a period of 286 years, giving to each viceroy rather more than four years. Among these Spanish rulers there would occasionally be found one of benevolent disposition and liberal ideas. But it must be conceded that in the main, the Spanish rule in New Spain was one of iron despotism, in which priest and soldier bore an equal part, until several millions of human beings, the constitu-