

cree of the Spanish Cortes, 1814—English Association, 1825—Spirit
 of the English Press, 1846—Action of the French Government, 1845
 —Views and Aims of Napoleon III., 1846—Canale Napoleone de
 Nicaragua—The Pope and the Isthmus Canal, 1848—The Mar-
 quis de Magny—The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, 1850—Action of
 the French Government—The Convention of Rivas, 1858—The
 French Scientific Expedition in Mexico, 1864.....320-348

PAGES

CHAPTER II.

THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.—THE AMERICAN-ASIATIC SOCIETY, 1865.

Communication of the American-Asiatic Society to the Government
 of the United States, 1866—Application to Congress—Memorial
 of the Society to Napoleon III.—Reply to the Memorial by Baron
 Moustier—Policy of the United States and Mexico.....348-368

CHAPTER III.

CONCLUSION.

The Issues of the Mexican Conflict—Enemies and Difficulties of the
 Mexicans—The Results of the Mexican Struggles—The Declara-
 tion of Rights and the Constitution of 1859—The Future of
 Mexico—The Work to be Done—Its Difficulties—The Foreign
 Relations of Mexico—The Pope's Nuncio to Mexico—The Pope's
 Encyclical, 1864—The United States—France, the Ancient Friend
 of American Republics—Louis XVI., Vergennes, La Fayette—
 Napoleon I., on the Death of Washington—General Policy of the
 United States and of Mexico—Mutual Interests of the two Re-
 publics.....368-391

MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES.

PART I.

THE GREAT QUESTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL VIEWS OF THE WESTERN CONTINENTS, OF THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.

The great "Western Question."

ALL Europe has been moved for years with the
 "EASTERN QUESTION,"—TURKEY, and the transit
 for the commerce of Asia, between the Mediterranean and
 the Persian Gulf.

All America should not be less concerned with the
 "WESTERN QUESTION,"—MEXICO, and the transit of our
 great Isthmus, for the commerce of the Western Hemi-
 sphere, between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

English statesmen have called British India, with its
 vast commercial interests, the 'jewel pendent' of Asia.
 Mexico is the 'jewel bracelet' of the New World. To
 understand this, it is necessary to consider the double con-
 tinent, North and South, the great connecting Isthmus,
 and the mutual relations of the three.

If there had been no Continent for Columbus to dis-
 cover, there would have been, from Spain westward to
 Japan, one vast, unbroken waste of waters, covering more

than two hundred degrees of longitude, and an area of some fourteen thousand miles square.

The Conti-
nents of Ame-
rica.

The Continents of America, North and South, connected by their narrow Isthmus, divide this watery waste. "The United States and Mexico," interposed between Europe and Asia,—“The Middle Continent” of all, flanked by the two great oceans, that are destined to bear the great trunk commerce of the nations, stand in their geographical and relative position, as if ordained by Divine Decree to become the great maritime and commercial powers of the future.

The relations
of the Conti-
nents.

They stand in their relations to the rest of the habitable globe, and to oceanic communication with the civilized world, much as the narrow projection of Italy into the Mediterranean Sea stood to the dominion of the Roman Empire, East and West. Then, the Mediterranean Sea was the centre, and its surroundings constituted the Roman world. Now, “The middle Continent” is to be the centre, and its surroundings for the future development of commerce, civilization and Christianity among the nations, are the oceans and the hemispheres.

North
America.

The Continent of North America contains eight millions of square miles. South America, seven millions. The aggregate, FIFTEEN MILLIONS of square miles, is about four times the size of all Europe, and equals about three-tenths of the whole land surface of the globe. The Eastern portals face the rising Sun, stand “vis à vis” to Europe, and the golden gates of the West are opening wide towards Asia and Oceanica. This territory covers in the Western hemisphere, the entire historic zone traced in the Eastern, by the course of empire and the progress of civilization, from the cradle of the race in the “Mother Continent,” down to the present time.

Territorial
Characteris-
tics.

Unlike other Continents, where three-fifths of the whole surface are covered with inaccessible mountains and high table lands, scarcely habitable for man, in North and South America, three-fifths of the surface consists of vallies, prairies and plains of inexhaustible fertility. The area of the basin of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers alone, is estimated at one million three hundred and fifty thousand square miles,—nearly twice the aggregate of all Great Britain, France, Spain and Germany combined. The coast line of the Continent is estimated at between forty and fifty thousand miles; that of Europe, is twenty thousand miles, of Asia, thirty-six thousand.

The United
States.

The territory of the United States embraces an area nearly equal to that of all Europe. The great continental outlines of its geography, no less than its unique geographical position, indicate its destiny. The grand divisions of the land, their respective physical features and capabilities, are now defined and understood.

The Eastern section of this territory,—the Atlantic slope, thirteen hundred miles in length, by an average of one hundred and fifty miles in width,—the great Continental incline towards the vast interior,—has been mainly the theatre of the first half century of its settlement and civilization.

The Great
Valley.

The valley,—a thousand miles square, guarded, as it were, on the East and the West by the ranges of the Alleghanies and of the Rocky mountains, our mighty continental bulwarks, shows the progress of enterprise in the second half century.

The Pacific slope, not yet a quarter of a century old, has almost staggered human credulity, by the magic growth of its agriculture, commerce, wealth and cities. Imagination is baffled at any attempt to forecast its future.

Geographical
Relations and
its Institutions.

This united land, inter-oceanic, in respect to all the conditions of maritime supremacy, inter-continental, in respect to the population, productions, manufactures and commerce of the world; with its inexhaustible internal resources of every material and product that affords food, clothing, or comfort for man; with a diversified climate adapted to every race and temperament; with political, civil, social, moral and religious institutions favoring universal education and the protection and security of every man in the enjoyment of his "inalienable rights," all foreshadow a development of humanity on these shores, within half a century to come, transcending all the dreams of statesmen or philanthropists.

The Government and people of the United States have no reason to envy any other government, or people, or land of the earth; and least of all, to covet any Naboth's vineyard. It is not surprising that monarchs and nobles, and the despotisms of the old world, should look with anxious apprehensions at the growth of this great power, at the kindling of this great light, at the influence of the *great ideas* that underlie our institutions, and are the secret of our prosperity and happiness.

But we turn to Mexico.

MEXICO.—TERRITORIAL EXTENT AND PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Republic
of Mexico.

The Republic of Mexico extends from about the 15th to the 30th degree of North Latitude, and embraces in its range, its plains, table lands and mountain ranges, all the climates and productions of the tropics and of the temperate zone. In its extent, resources and capabilities, in varieties of climate and soil; in its

known, and in its yet unknown treasures of precious metals and gems; and in the exuberance of its supply of every article needful for the food, clothing, medicine, comfort, and luxury of man, it has no superior.

Extent of
Territory.

Its extreme length is two thousand miles; its extreme breadth eleven hundred miles. It has a coast line on the Gulf and on the Caribbean Sea of sixteen hundred miles; and on the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California, of four thousand two hundred miles;—a larger coast line, it is believed, in proportion to its area, than any other country of equal extent in the world. It joins the United States by a coterminous boundary of eighteen hundred miles.

The Mexican
States.
Area of
Territory.

The twenty-five States, the Federal District, and the Territory of the Republic contain an area of 862,460 square miles—an aggregate equal, within a fraction, to all the twenty-five United States east of the Mississippi river. It is a territory ten times larger than all Great Britain, and nearly equal, in extent to all France, Spain, Austria, Lombardy, and the British Isles combined.

Physical
characteris-
tics.

The area of Mexico is divided by nature into three clearly defined and separate regions; the highlands, or mountain districts; the table lands, or temperate regions; and the lowlands and basins, having the varied characteristics of the torrid zone. Above them all, peer the volcanic summits, and peaks of perpetual snow.

The mountain ranges arrest the moisture wafted by aerial currents from the Atlantic and the Gulf; the lofty crests congeal it in eternal snows; the mountain breasts condense it in fertilizing rains; and the lowlands receive the descending streams that enrich a soil of inexhaustible fertility.

Of this immense region, more than three-fifths enjoy rather a temperate than a torrid climate. The proximity of the oceans, the peculiar conformation of the land, its elevation above the level of the sea, and the sweep of mild, aerial currents from the waters, temper the severities both of cold and heat, and make, for large sections of the territory, one of the most balmy and delightful climates in the world.

Physical conditions.

The peculiar characteristics of this territory, in respect to climate and productions, are determined less by latitude, than probably those of any other portion of the globe. Its physical geography and peculiar relations to the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, make it altogether a country "sui generis." The oceanic and atmospheric currents determined and defined by the continental conditions, and the motion of the earth, and especially by the marked depression at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the great range of the Cordillera of the continents, together with the diversities in the elevation of different districts, give this little range of about fifteen degrees of latitude, all the varieties of climate, soil, and productions of the torrid, the temperate and the frigid zones. Its volcanic peaks and mountain regions, its plateaux and lowlands, diversified in countless forms of beauty, magnificence and sublimity, have long been the themes on which travellers and historians have lavished their admiration.

The following tables exhibit the areas, and the population of the Mexican States, and those of the United States, east of the Mississippi river. A slight comparison is sufficiently suggestive of the extent and the importance of the Mexican Republic, and of the inducements of European monarchs to destroy its independence, and erect an Empire for themselves upon its ruins.

TABLE OF THE AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, AND THEIR POPULATION IN 1860.

	SQUARE MILES.	POPULATION.
Maine.....	32,000	628,000
New Hampshire.....	9,000	326,000
Vermont.....	9,000	315,000
Massachusetts.....	7,800	1,231,000
Rhode Island.....	1,200	175,000
Connecticut.....	4,700	460,000
New York.....	47,000	3,881,000
New Jersey.....	8,300	672,000
Pennsylvania.....	46,000	2,906,000
Delaware.....	2,000	112,000
Maryland.....	9,300	687,000
Virginia.....	61,000	1,596,000
North Carolina.....	45,000	993,000
South Carolina.....	24,500	703,000
Georgia.....	58,000	1,057,000
Florida.....	59,000	140,000
Alabama.....	51,000	964,000
Mississippi.....	47,000	791,000
Ohio.....	40,000	2,340,000
Michigan.....	56,000	749,000
Wisconsin.....	54,000	776,000
Illinois.....	55,000	1,712,000
Indiana.....	34,000	1,350,000
Kentucky.....	38,000	1,157,000
Tennessee.....	43,000	1,111,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	841,800	26,832,000
The British Isles.....	122,000	
France.....	205,000	
Spain and Portugal.....	219,000	
Austria.....	257,000	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	803,000	

TABLE OF THE AREAS OF MEXICAN STATES, WITH THEIR POPULATION, IN 1860.

STATES.	SUPERFICIAL OR SQUARE MILES.	POPULATION IN 1858.
Aguascalientes.....	2,739	88,329
Chiapa.....	18,679	167,472
Chihuahua.....	83,512	164,073
Cohahuila.....	36,572	67,590
Durango.....	48,489	144,331
Guanajuato.....	11,396	729,103
Guerrero.....	32,003	279,109
Jalisco.....	48,591	804,058
Mexico.....	19,539	1,129,629
Michoacan.....	22,993	554,585
Nueva Leon.....	16,688	145,779
Oajaca.....	23,642	525,938
Puebla.....	8,879	658,609
Queretaro.....	1,884	165,155
San Luis Potosi.....	28,142	397,189
Sinaloa.....	33,722	163,714
Sonora.....	100,228	139,374
Tabasco.....	12,359	70,628
Tamaulipas.....	30,344	109,673
Vera Cruz.....	27,415	349,125
Yucatan.....	48,869	668,623
Zacatecas.....	27,768	296,789
TERRITORIES.		
Lower California.....	60,662	12,000
Colima.....	3,019	62,909
Isla de Carman.....	7,298	11,807
Sierra Gorda.....	3,127	55,358
Tehuantepec.....	12,526	82,395
Tlaxcala.....	1,984	90,158
DISTRICT.		
Federal District.....	90	269,534
Total.....	862,460	8,400,236

CHAPTER II.

MEXICO UNDER THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.—HISTORICAL SKETCH.

WHATEVER may be the speculations in regard to the origin of the inhabitants of Mexico, the character and degree of their civilization are unmistakable. When first discovered, Mexico was more thickly peopled than any other portion of the continent. Cortez found an Empire, cities, palaces, pyramids, like those of Egypt; temples, ruins, hieroglyphical inscriptions, and all the traces of an ancient and idolatrous civilization. Gigantic and magnificent monumental remains told of a former race, and of their achievements in architecture and art.

The history of the early inhabitants, of their origin and races, religion, manners, customs, wars and conquests, is involved in great uncertainty. Humboldt, and many others, have supposed that the ancient Mexican races were of Asiatic origin, and that the migration from Eastern Asia by way of the Pacific Ocean or Behring's Straits, commenced with the "Toltec Tribes" about A. D. 700, and was followed by other migrations, and finally by the "Aztecs," about A. D. 1200. The physical organization of the people, the character of their civilization, hieroglyphic records and Mexican traditions, rather support this opinion.

The "Toltec Dynasty" is supposed to have lasted 400 or 500 years, when for some reason unknown, they moved further south to the provinces of Central America, and were succeeded in Mexico by the "Aztecs." Prior to the Spanish conquest, the Toltecs were the most civilized of all the Mexican races. But when Cortez ar-

Ancient Mexico, prior to 1520.

Early History.

The Toltecs. A.D. 700.