

Journal

E. W. Nelson

La Trinidad, Chiapas.

Nov. 18th 1895 to

Aug. 14, 1896 (Carmatos, Coahuila)

Nov. 18th 1895.

The keeper of a small store in La Trinidad gave me the use of a hammock and I slept soundly. In the morning my two men with baggage came in at 10 a.m. so I had a late start up the mountain. My old German friend was up & off early in the a.m. with his Mexican wife & several small children. The latter, & the wife being carried in large wicker chairs on the backs of Indians. Other Indians were carrying baggage & various supplies. At about 4 P.M. after a long steep climb I reached "La Sombra" the new Copper plantation of Donenberg, Rau & Co. Here I was hospitably met by Henry Rau and ^{two young} Germans, ex-cavalry lieutenants, who have come out here to make their fortune in Copper growing. They are very pleasant & hospitably inclined but they are paying expensively for their education as copper planters as neither of them had any idea of the business or of any kind of agriculture when they began. Their plantation is being hewed out of the virgin forest among the sharp slopes of the mountains at an alt. of 4000 ft. Gigantic oaks occur along the ridges and in the humid cañon slopes ^{trunks,} ^{various other trees.} ^{many other species of trees.} ^{many other species of trees.} Here howling monkeys sometimes come in flocks & the Quetzal is found throughout the year. This slope of the mts. faces north & receives the damp winds from the Gulf and the moisture is precipitated in rains.

and clouds or mist that last for days & sometimes for weeks at a time. Although below frost line yet the climate is cool and often uncomfortably chilly during the cold storms. The abundant moisture causes an luxuriant vegetation and places this belt within my humid upper tropic zone. Birds & mammals taken at Jumbala & also plants belong here. The foliage along the water courses in the steep-sided cañons on this part of the mts. is very rich & varied in form and masses are abundant. The entire mt. range here is of limestone & the cap of soil often an indurated clay. Wherever the soil is soft coffee does very well. It is in this district when I heard of pig buyers coming from San Cristobal & buying from the Indians. I was informed that they gave the "maestro" \$1.00 for every pig bought & then took the pigs from the Indians almost by force at their own price - paying often less than half ~~the~~ ^{their} real value. The Indians are timid & easily bullied so they are imposed upon by their Spanish buyers. It is this kind of treatment that renders these Indians so shy even after 300 yrs. of dealings

with whites. There is great trouble
to get men on the plantations & much
aguardiente is sold & given them
in order to keep them working. The
result is that they are becoming poorer &
vitiates by the present contact with
whites. With the introduction of coffee
planting a train of evils for the natives is
coming. They will continue in their present
state of dense ignorance & lose the virtues
they had from living an independent life.

There is no national life or feeling among
them & they are sedentary corn & fruit eaters
with no desire or skill for hunting. They have
a trace of Catholicism mixed with old
beliefs but the custom of visiting for
their old festivals now remains merely
as the feast day of the patron saint of the
^{lower} villages where the people come in & get
drunk. A few Spaniards live scattered
among most of the villages keeping
little stores & trading. They have no
friendly intercourse with the Indians &
the latter hold aloof from any mixture
with them in nearly all places.

The Indians live in rude thatched
huts built of wattles daubed with mud
or covered with straw or corn stalks.
These Indians are very dark colored

and passing one on the road have a heavy sullen look, going by with down-cast eyes saying never a word to a white man but very polite in greeting one another. I frequently saw them go by in a string of a dozen or two each one of whom would be greeted by each person passing. At Jumbala they stopped at night in the corridor of the house we used & I saw the men coming in salute all those already there & when yq. men came they often went up to the old men they chanced to know & would take off their hats & bow their heads as for a blessing, often ~~with~~ kissing the back of the old man's hand. They were a quiet respectful lot among one another not talking loud or quarrelling except when drunk. Often they appeared to have much amusement talking & laughing. Women & often boys & girls of 10 or 12 yrs., all carrying a load in proportion to their strength, were frequently seen along with these parties carrying, sugar, baskets or pottery from the interior to trade for salt or other things near the coast.

Nov. 20th

Yesterday Goldman went to Jumbala with the mules & today I joined him there but the steady rain that was falling, made

it necessary to remain until tomorrow.

Leaving here on the 21st we descended to Hidalgo where we found the rains had raised the creek so we had to be ferried across on a raft swimming the horses & mules. Reached Yajalon in the afternoon.

On the 22nd we went on 8 miles to Chilon where we laid over to get our horses shod. From Yajalon to Chilon we pass through several belts of open pine forest.

Chilon is a town of some 1000 people in the narrow valley of a large creek. The streets are greasy & deep with mud after very hard rain. A few adobe houses with many jacales mud-daubed make up the place - the adobe houses having red-tile roofs. We reached here on a frost day & no one would shoe the horses until the next morning.

We found a vacant room in one house and at one of the small stores the people prepared our meals, beans, tortillas, dried meat and coffee. The next morning at sunrise a clumsy blacksmith shod our horses laming both of them by driving nails into the hoof. The air was delightfully fresh at sunrise here & the grass & bushes in the valley were

spangled with dewdrops making
a bright & attractive aspect to the
valley. We got away as soon as possible
and following back our old road
reached the village of Guaquitepec.
On the 24th we went only 4 miles to
Caucue. This place is set *trocon-tila*
on the top of a high ridge the white walls
of the church being visible for many leagues
across the surrounding mountain ridges.
On a mt. slope between Guaquitepec &
Caucue we passed a newly built
^{tomb-}vault of masonry beside the trail & learned
from the people at Caucue that it was the
grave of a yg. Mexican ~~who~~ from San Cristobal
who left Guaquitepec with some money
& was found murdered beside the trail with
machete cuts in head & body. At Caucue
the village has a location similar to many
of the ruins on the ridge of a steep hill & the
women bring up water for ~~near~~ half a mile,
in a cañon, in clay jars as shown by my
photo. Very few of these people understand
any Spanish & the Mex. official here talks
the native language.

Nov. 25th Today we made 20 m. to Teneg-
japa. At midday we stopped for lunch
at the cave where the river disappears under
the mt. The river comes roaring & foaming

down a narrow cañon cut with perpendicular walls some 500 ft. deep in the massive limestone & then the cañon ends abruptly at the entrance of a high arched cave 150 ft or 200 ft. at its mouth into which the river flows noisily & disappears at a sharp turn a hundred yds. within.

The coolness of this cavern was very pleasant & here we had our luncheon reclining on a broad shelf extending to the water & submerged when the stream is full. Here & there in the roof and about the mouth the white & light gray of the limestone was hung with the graceful fronds of some delicate ferns and other slender herbs.

On one of the cañon slopes near the cave a small field of beans is planted on a declivity so steep that the owner must be cautious in his work not to stumble or he could easily roll into the cañon below.

Just before reaching Tenijafsa we had to descend the rocky trail leading down the face of the steep bluff over the town & it required very cautious work to get the pack mules down safely. Goldman remained here to do a little collecting while I went on to San Cristobal where I arrived on the night of the 26th.

From November 27th to December 3^d, 1895

I remained at San Cristobal while my horse was being cured of the lameness due to the ~~Chileno~~ blacksmith. I found at San Cristobal that the remarkable Bible Agent-missionary, Fernandez, who was ~~then~~ when we were ~~there~~ here before is absent on a trip. This character was a man of extraordinarily violent temper. The language he used in Spanish was remarkable to say the least. For the time we were here his time was passed largely in gossiping at a corner store on the plaza. The amusing point to this fellow's language seemed to be the idea that no matter how vile the words & oaths used it was nothing so long as they were in Spanish. Even our moseo was surprised at this man's flow of verbal indecencies yet he is out under pay to scatter the gospel & bible literature among the heathen!

Goldman having rejoined me we left San Cristobal on

Dec. 4th and travelled 23 m. across the mts. For the greater part of the distance we travelled through open, park-like pine & oak forest with scattered madroño & a few alders in the higher parts. The trail lies along a ^{narrow} ~~valley~~ valley-like course between ranges of mts. rising 500 to 2000 ft.

on each side and covered with the same rather thin forest growth to the top. From the scantiness of the undergrowth it is evident that the dry season is long & severe. Most of the herbage is dead from sharp frosts & the leaves are falling from the oaks.

The forest is made up of scrubby & rather scrubby trees as a rule. In the afternoon we stopped for lunch by a small spring where two native violin players were waiting on their way to play for a dance at a neighboring Hda. They had several bottles along & had already begun their festival and were generous in offers of their liquor.

In these woods water is very rare as the surface water is ^{usually} lost in the numerous caverns of the limestone before it has a chance to form streams. In the afternoon we came out on the brow of a sharp slope leading down to a pretty basin-like valley lying at 6700 ft. & on one side of which could be seen the dark roofs (shake covered) of the village of Tepisca. The bottom of the valley is a slightly rolling surface drained by a small stream and surrounded by abruptly rising slopes to 1-3000 ft. pine clad. The valley bottom is open & grassy when not cultivated to wheat, corn, beans & potatoes. We passed through the village just before sunset and went on

2 or 3 miles to a ranch where we found comfortable quarters. The note of a "bob-white" was heard from the stubble near by as we unsaddled and the owner of the place said they were not uncommon here.

On the 5th we journeyed on 13 m. further crossing entering the mts. on the good side of the val. & going up to an alt. of 8600 ft. Soon after crossing the divide we went down a narrow canon-like valley to a ranch at 8100 ft. where we stopped to lunch & then remained all night. After leaving the val. today we had the same scrubby forest of oaks & pines as yesterday. About the ranch here the mt. slopes become very rocky with cliffs & ledges scattered over their slopes & the vegetation being very shrubby & stunted from lack of soil on the limestone. The men at the ranch went out for deer in the afternoon & killed a small one like those taken at San Cristobal. The roofs of houses at San Crist. & in Tepic & all this country are covered with pine shakes giving a pegged on with wood shingles & usually projecting over so the houses have a picturesque air. The owner of the ranch where we stopped was very hospitable, urging us to stop overnight and he with 2 or 3 neighbors who were there would go on a deer hunt the next day & get me some fine deer. They would also go out this afternoon. Wishing some good pieces of deer I agreed to remain. The party went out

two or three hours in the hills near by
& secured a small dog & then came in
as the neighbors started to go I asked about the
hunt tomorrow & everyone had some excuse to
offer why he could not go. The old Spanish failing
of promising everything in the moment of talk
heedless of what it is & then a slinking out of
the promises by lies & excuses when the idea gets
cold. My hospitable host wound up by charging
us hotel prices for our night's stay so we felt that
we had no special debt of gratitude to him.
Leaving the muck on the 6th oppr. we found the
road leading down the same ^{gully} canyon between
limestone hills covered with ^{some} oaks & some
madroños & scattered pines. Finally the
pines gave place to a species of juniper
and at about 6500 ft. the canyon broadened
into a narrow valley with park-like openings
interspersed among the round-topped oaks & cedars.
In the afternoon we came out to the end of the
valley on the brow of a steep descent facing
the broad plain of Comitán. On the edge
of the plain at the base of the descent lay the
town of Comitán at about 6000 ft. on a barren
open rocky slope. Winding about through
the town we finally found a hotel. The town
has several thousand people & is made up
of long rows of one story adobe houses with
tile & shingle roofs. At the hotel we found two
amenities - one a coffee-land hunter & the
other an itinerant dentist. The latter turned
up everywhere. Here I saw the *Jabá* Politics &

obtained a letter of recommendation to a hda. owner on our route. Comitán seems to be a tolerably prosperous place to judge by the neatly whitewashed & cared for houses on many of the streets. The place is noted for the liquor ^(brandy) made from a species of agave growing on the limestone foothills here. This is called "Comiteco" & is greatly prized as a drink throughout Chiapas & Guatemala. As we left Comitán on the morning of Dec. 8th we passed a chapel at the fork of two roads just out of town. Then we rode out on the surface of the broad, gently rolling grassy plain that forms the Valley of Comitán. Straggling parties of soldiers with their women & camp baggage were just passed soon after starting. They were just coming in from the Guat. border when they have been doing outpost duty since the trouble between the two countries last winter. The plain near Comitán is quite bare of trees but on the far side, some 10 or 11 miles away, we came to the border of scattered pine woods of two species of pine & a very few scrubby oaks. The pines were thinly scattered & grouped here & there leaving open areas so that beautiful park-like vistas were constantly opening out on every hand. For miles the scene was most charming. In the evening we came

alt. Juncaua 5700 ft.
alt. of San Vicente 4200 ft.

to the Hac. of Juncaua which is
22 miles from Comitán on the opposite
side of the plain. This plain extends many miles
to the north toward Ocoingo. To the south
it ends within a few miles in a sharp
descent to the valley of the Chiapas Riv.
flowing over 3000 ft. below. From the mts. near
Comitán a view of great extent & grandeur
is had down into the depths of this valley &
across to the buttressed range of the Cordillera
next the Ocean. Softened by the smoky blue
haze the outlines of these distant mts. are
of great beauty and the depth of the great
valley is very impressive. Very few people
were met on the road today & this is quite a
change from what we have been accustomed to
in Chiapas. Presenting my letters to the owner of the
Hda. we were allotted a small unfinished room
in a new house where we installed our effects &
prepared for a few days work. In the eve. the people
of the Hda. sent us some food and coffee with
one plate, one cup & a knife for two of us.
I at once went to the owner & told him that I was
not accustomed to such treatment as this &
was ready to pay for whatever I got. He made
a half apology & thereafter our meals were
brought to us nicely & we were treated well enough
and the charges very reasonable. I imagine
the trouble at first was the fact that I was
expecting to live 3 or 4 days at his expense & I find
the hospitality of this country rarely is visible
on those terms. In all our long experience we
have had so few instances of really hospitable

Along road from Jimcanaí to San Vicente was a scattered
wood of large cone pine, 2 sp. of small oaks, wild figs, maguays,
and Euphorbiaceous plants shrubs with white flowers.
Blue birds, Chip. Sparrows, Calif. Wd. pks, Centurus, Crested
Jay (Cyanurus) Piranga (aestiva)? Oriole, Turkey Buzz, Sparrow
hawk, the million flyc. Empidonax & Audubon's Warbler -

alt. 4200 ft.

treatment such as I have met in the western
U.S. that whenever we do find it it is always a
kind of a pleasant surprise. I do not con-
sider the Mexicans as hospitable people either
among the Indians or among the better classes.
Now one can be a more ^{pleasantly} courteous host
than a liberal minded Mexican when he
wishes & many of them are so by nature
but by far the greater number show a
repelling side to a travelling stranger even
though officially vouched for. Among the Indians
the white man is as a rule decidedly non
grata and one is left severely alone and
can get but little out of them. The negroes
& mixed bloods of the west coast of Guernoo
are more hospitably inclined than the neighboring
Indians. Some low mts. rise just back of the
Hda. with small pine oak woods. Clearings
are made on gentle slopes & corn grown there.
The main body of the land of the Hda. is on the plain
where a rich dark soil grows fine crops of wheat
& corn. ~~The~~ sharp frosts occur here. Finishing
here we left on

Dec. 12th & went on 16 m.
to the rancho of San Vicente located close
to the Guat. border at an alt. of 4200 ft.
This is a small collection ^{about} of houses & huts
where formerly existed a telegraph station
but where the line is now cut owing to an existing
agreement with the Cable Co. to the effect

that across land line shall be kept in
service. 700 ft. max. & 400 ft.

From Jucuaraná the trail led us ^{at once} into
rolling hills covered with low thin oak woods.
Many of the oaks ~~were~~ had their
branches covered with tall stalked red-
flowered Orchids 2-4 ft. long and two
smaller white flowered species.
The larger ones while coarse were
effective in giving the trees an
ornamental appearance. [#] Toward
the end of the journey we descended into
lower country leaving the oaks &
shrubs behind & entering an area
of ^{casahuate} cassias, acacias, & other dry
hillside vegetation including grasses.
This has recently been the station of
the soldiers we met on leaving Comitán.

On Dec. 13th we went on into
Guatemala to the first town - Neuton
situated 21 miles from San Vicente at an alt. of
3000 ft. The trail led us across rolling
rocky limestone hills covered with
grass at first with scattered brush
& then covered with dense growths of
low trees & brush ten to 25 ft. high
interspersed with limited open
grassy areas & basins ~~like~~ among
the hills. For several miles in the a.m.

we skirted the flank of the mt-
range close to a steep descent
leading down 1500 or 2000 ft. to a flat
grassy valley lying several miles
broad to our right and forming
the head of one of the branches of the
Chiapas Riv. This valley seemed to
be wet along one side judging from
the vivid green grass growing there.
From its shape & situation it was
evident that this valley was once a
lake. The view from this part of
the road was very extensive and
extended across ridge & cañon
in succession for many leagues
to the coast range toward the
Tapachula on one side while
before us towered up grim & gray the
wall-like ridge of the main Cordillera
of Guat. which we must cross.
Some rock wrens & a few flycatchers
were the only birds seen, and four or five
Indians were met going toward San
Vicente. This is a smugglers strip
where contraband goods & comitees are
smuggled into Guat. In the P. M. I
took the wrong trail & led the outfit off through
the broken plain to a small pond in
a little opening among the thickets.

Newton - Alt. 3000 ft.

Some half wild cattle & horses were gathered about this and a deer trotted slowly away. Turning back I found the right trail & just before dark came out on the top of a steep slope leading down into the river cañon where Newton lay crowded on a narrow strip between the river & the opposite bluff. It is a little place of ¹⁰⁰ one or two people - a custom-house & a few soldiers. Presenting my ~~letter~~ ~~to~~ telling the officials who I was I was hospitably received and given the unoccupied school room to sleep & work in during our stay. Then I had to arrange for some place to secure meals. I was referred to one house where I found a great crowd of people with several musicians & a table with bottles of brandy. I found the lady of the house, a fat half caste sitting on a bench with others & she told me she could not accommodate me as she was mourning - a neighbor then told me she had ~~just~~ buried a child - As the old woman spoke to me she began to cry & I left but before reaching the gate to the small patio I heard ~~the~~ some one make a joke & looked around & saw the old woman laughing quite heartily.

while another friend was busy pouring out a glass of brandy for her to take. Directly the music struck up and I thought the old woman in a fair way to be comforted.

After a time arrangements were made at the house of the Telegraph operator where we found very badly & paid an exorbitant price. We remained here for four days and found the birds & mammals to be those of the Pacific slope near ~~Tehuacan~~ Tehuacan, as a rule. They range up the entire course of the Chiapas from near Tuxtla. The little arid country mahogany was common & various other arid west coast plants.

We were struck here by the small size of the soldiers who seemed scarcely larger than boys of 16. The bugler here in making his calls executed them with a most remarkable set of variations. The commandant said he was just learning. The calls were much smoother than those of the Mex. soldiers who always get in a harsh blowing. The night calls here were wretched from the cliffs on the cañon sides & produced a delightful effect which the new bugler seemed

* (Larped trees, nauchi, 2 oaks,
wild fig, Cypress etc. at Jac alt,
5600 ft. alt.?)

to prolong with great good will as
his 'laps' sometimes lasted for minutes.
Only some 75 or 80 miles from here in a
northward course I was told that the Gulf
of Mex. slope could be reached when the
slopes are covered with the heavy forest
of the Jumbala belt with pheasants
and Quetzals & monkeys -
On Dec. 18th we left Newton
and went on 18 m. to the Indian village
of Jacaltenango situated at an
alt. of 5400 ft. on the outer base
of the main Cordillera.
Our route was among the broken hills
& small canyons of the foothills covered
with thickets of brush, small trees,
vines of many species. This
growth is mainly over ground once
used as corn fields but left to grow
up to wild vegetation when it became
difficult to keep the fields free from
intrusive weeds. Scattered fields now
in cultivation were common. At noon
we passed a village on the point of
a hill overlooking the low country
toward the Chiapas river. Then we
found the trail leading along the winding
contours of a long ridge leading down
from the main range that was now

in front of quite distinct.
To our view, we saw the town of Jacalte
range standing out boldly on the edge of
a shelf bordering the far side of a
deep cañon on one wall of which we
were travelling. Finally we descended
into the bottom of the cañon & found
a roaring stream of milky hued water
foaming down the rocky gorge from
the high range. As we entered the
confines of the lower cañon the
effect of the cold water was evident
from the sudden drop in the temp. of the air
and the presence of various species
of plants ~~properly~~ ranging in higher
altitudes. In the comparatively still pools
the water of this stream has a deep milky
blue color changing to white in the rapids.
Close above on the other side we climbed
up a zig-zag trail to the town. Near the
foot of this slope in a small damp field
were many comparatively slender com-
stalks reaching a height of over 20 ft.
Numerous small streams were found
along this piece of ground and
as the water comes from high up on the
range it is all very cold. In consequence
many scattered cypresses & numerous
small shrubs & herbs from the higher

country unite in sending a long
tongue of intrusive vegetation
down the cool damp courses of the
streams to below frost lines.

We found the town to be a large strag-
gling indian village scattered along
irregular streets bordering the shelf-like
ledge that juts out here on the top of
the cañon wall 1000 ft above the
stream whose roar is faintly heard.
An extremely beautiful view from this
ledge takes in all the lower country
over the headwaters of the Chiapas
river along the boundary of the two
countries & for many leagues into
Chiapas, ridges and cañons spread
out like a gigantic relief map
the heavier shading indicating cañons
& the ridges standing out in lighter
~~light~~ tints. Brown patches of brush
& low forest mottling the landscape
to its limit. At sunset when the
last light threw blue & purple
tones over this sea of broken ridges
the scene had a beauty impossible
to describe. At sunrise the view was
again different and the magical
effect of the first rays as they crossed
the summit of the cordillera behind & glared

across the great shadowy void
beneath bringing out in sharp relief
successive ridges & cañons was
a sight long to be remembered.
Below the noise roaring in varied tone
a mighty matine song into which
entered the high pitched notes of
thrushes & sparrows & the rattling
calls of the Chachalacas.

The people here are all Indians
except a few petty traders of Spanish des-
cent. But these are mostly married to Indian
women. Very few speak Spanish among the
natives. I found the ~~muerto~~ "Comisionado"
as the deputy jefe is called in Quetz.,
& presenting my letters was given a
room in the public building whose
only furniture consisted of a large pile
of stacked lime in the middle of
the floor. Here we arranged our chest
& other outfit for a few days' work
and then sallied out to arrange for
our food during our stay. We finally
succeeded in getting an old woman to
cook for us after much talk the burden
of which was that no one here could be
expected to prepare food for strangers, especially
if they wished to stay more than one night.
This old woman gave us constant annoy-

ance by her querulous complaints
and threats of not continuing to
serve us. As she was our only resource
~~she~~ we had no choice but to humor
her until the end. The mt. slopes about
this place were overgrown with thickets of
herbage & bushes but trees were only found
near their ~~heads~~ as the Indians have
gone over all the near slopes for corn
fields and the second growth is, as usual, ^{meagre}.
Opposite on the mt. forming the far side
of the Cañon from the town is a village
of nearly equal size on a bench-like table
somewhat similar to the one on which Joe-
allamayo is built. We passed close
to it just before crossing the Cañon on
the right of our arrival. On the steep
slopes above this village are miles of
corn fields aggregating hundreds of
acres all growing well with the summer
rainfall which is sufficient for crops every
year. Some zapotes, aguacates and
guavas grow here. While stopping here
an American trapper passed on his
way to central Guat. whom he claims
to expect to get work. While here the
president's birthday took place
and a local election. On the former
occasion a public holiday was announced

Just before sunrise all of the Spanish
half bloods in town gathered at the town building,
and were ^{in part} armed with some old muskets
and ranged up in ~~two~~ ^{one} rank a file facing
the building. The flag was brought out & ~~it~~
fastened to the halberd rod to raise.
At the first glint of sunrise the flag was
raised & a salvo was fired by the motley
soldiers. Several of the guns had to be snapped
twice or three times before responding &
as an example of firing by squad the
salute was not a success. It was
very amusing to see the wooden impaci-
bility of those whose guns had gone off
in the first irregular discharge while their
companions were snapping away to get off
their part of the salute. Color guard was
mounted at the staff & after roll call
the company was dismissed.
I was told that all the whites in this part of the
country at least are compelled to keep
enrolled on a kind of militia service
but that no Indians are accepted.
These men wore sandals almost with-
out exception & were a motley crew of
meagre, undersized little men who
acted extremely uncomfortable while
under arms and from the awkwardness
with which the guns were handled I

marimba playing by 3 men was the main amusement
of the day in combination with drinking.

was not favorably impressed with
their ability as soldiers.

~~On Dec. 23rd~~ The election was con-
ducted in front of the town building. In the P.M.
when the voting had closed the local telegraph operator
came over & told the "Comisionado" that he had just
rec'd a despatch from the chief authorities that a certain
man must be elected local judge. "But," he
added, "what shall we do, so & so - (naming another
man) has rec'd all the votes & this man was
not ~~even~~ a candidate." "They have ordered
him to be elected have they not?" asked
the official by my side & when the other
~~replied~~ replied, "yes," he said - "well, then
it must be arranged. Have it done
right away!" and the operator returned to
the election board. The Indians who
voted here many of them could not speak
Spanish & none with very few exceptions could
read or write it. The sexton of the Chapel, a
half bred, fixed all their ballots & from him
they went like sheep to the polls not one
knowing what was on his ticket. This I heard
by the conversation of the officials.

On Dec. 24th

We left Jacaltenango and
went on toward the mountains 16 m.
to the village of San Martin at an alt.
of 7000 ft. This is another Indian village

but smaller than the one we just left.
To reach it we ascended a long slope
rising sharply above Jacaltenango, then
down into a ^{deep} cañon on the other slope
and following up the cañon several
miles came to the village.
The tops of the ridges here at from 6000
to 7000 ft. have strips of oak forest with
scattered pines showing as far from
remnants of the wood which once
covered all these slopes.
Now scattered corn fields with broad areas
of matted thickets cover the main parts
of the slopes. We were given a lodging
in the vacant schoolhouse. Found the "Comis-
ionado" here just taking his wife over to
Jacaltenango from Huehuetenango.
The Indians here are like those of
the former village: inclined to
be surly & not friendly to strangers.
At the last place I took my camera
to the market & when I started to
catch some groups they at once broke
up & a number of the women, who were
the sellers, went home with their
articles. The people average small
& dark here. wear sandals & the
men the common cotton trousers & jacket
& women a skirt and the cloth petticoat

* The Indians of this part of Guatemala
about Huehuetenango & extending into
adjacent part of Chiapas are the Mamby
Their medicine man is called Sa-hua-rin
(Spanish sound of letters)



Fill in ?? word
on page 366 of
typed notes.

C
3
Ja
C

was unusually made
about the hips & legs &
by a sash at waist. *
we went on

i
n

From

up the ... of the same Cañon
to Todos Santos which is situated
on the slope above the creek 100 yds
or so and right in front of the
bold line of cold, gray, limestone
cliffs & ledges that form the brow of
the cordilla here & which have
been conspicuously in view ever
since we reached the vicinity of
the border. Thin lines of pines
and cypresses fringe the cliffs
along ledges and crevices along
the sawtooth like front of the mountain
and make a thin forest along
the summit. The lower slopes of
the cañon about Todos Santos
are barren of trees & dotted with
cultivated patches over the grassy
slopes on which herds of sheep &
goats are pastured. On the opposite
side of the cañon from the pine

Fill in ?? word
on page 366 of
typed notes.

The Indians of this part of Guat^a
about Huehuetenango & extending into
adjacent part of Chiapas are the Mamby
Their medicin man is called Sa-hua-rin
(spanish sound of letters)



called "inaguas" - usually made
of winding it about the hips & legs &
fastening it by a sash at waist. *

On Dec. 25th we went on

11 miles to the
Indian village of Todos Santos
which is situated at an alt. of 8000 ft.
From San Martin the road follows
up the side of the same Cañon
to Todos Santos which is situated
on the slope above the creek 100 yds
or so and right in front of the
bold line of cold, gray, limestone
cliffs & ledges that form the brow of
the cordilla here & which have
been conspicuously in view ever
since we reached the vicinity of
the border. Thin lines of pines
and cypresses fringe the cliffs
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the cañon about Todos Santos
are barren of trees & dotted with
cultivated patches over the grassy
slopes on which herds of sheep &
goats are pastured. On the opposite
side of the cañon from the pine

* In the hills here we found an Arvicola, some
skunks & other mice.

Joined Cliffs the summit of the ridge
is thickly forested with a belt of oaks.
These reach an altitude of about
9000 or 9500 ft. before giving way to
the coniferous forest of the higher
areas. Down the cañon bottom
tumbled over its rocky bed a foaming
ice-cold stream haunted by water
ouzels and overhung in many
places by ~~small~~ thickets of red
purple flowered sages among
which were feeding two or three
species of prairie birds. *

The mud walled, shake ~~and~~ thatched
roofed huts of the indians were scattered
along the irregularities of the hill slope
with narrow very irregular alley ways
serving as streets. The people here
are pure blooded indians few of whom
understand Spanish. At present they are
not troublesome to travellers but among
people of towns at a distance they still
have a bad name from their former
misdoings. Rufino Barrios during
his time came here with troops and
shot many of these people as a result
of their misdoings since which time
they have been more amenable to authority.
They retain their curious style of ancient

The men had broad rimmed hats but nearly always wore a common red cotton handkerchief tied about the head to keep confined the hair left 3 or 4 in. long. When out ~~on~~ the hills herding ~~or~~ working they very commonly leave the hats at home. In addition to the red-banded cotton clothing which is the summer suit they make of heavy dark brown, hand-woven wollen cloth a short waisted jacket & a pair of wonderfully awkward trousers that is worn over the white or cotton suit in cold weather, by the men. The women wear the white cotton huipil and ~~the~~ the enaguas of woollen cloth usually dark blue faintly striped. All use sandals more or less.

RTH

of garments! The cloth of cotton handwoven the trousers of men with broad checks by ^{cross} bands of red or stripes of red. The white shirt with similarly checked collar and the women with white huipiles with broad red banded & rosetted collar extending out on breast & shoulders. The men wear the hair cut in the ordinary fashion but the women have a coil made up behind each ear & then twist it about the head turban-like. The women are very small but well developed. The men are short but robustly built. Here as in Mexico the local authorities elected each year serve without pay & every day the President with all the minor officials & police were on hand about the Juzgado. We were met by the secretary a half blood sent here as a deputy Jefe Politico & called "el Comisionado". After presenting my letter he gave me the unoccupied part of ~~the~~ a room half full of oak wood stored here by the officials. In addition to the "Comisionado" I found 2 or 3 other "ladinos" living here engaged in employing men for the coffee plantations. We remained at Todos Santos until Jan. 7th 1896 and as this chanced to

By the time when these people were changing their officials - the old set going out & new ones coming in on Jan. 1st we saw some of their customs. These people are rather shy of strangers & at heart have a bitter hatred against the "ladinos" as the Spaniards & their descendants are termed. The Comisionado here told me that when the Indian villages in this part of Guat. celebrate feast days they become drunk & frequently go about shouting "muera dos ladinos" & other threatening cries and talk of their lands having been taken from them. In his dealings with the people I noticed that this representative of the government was very timid and cautious to not assume any decided stand against the wishes of the Indians. These Indians among themselves were constantly joking, laughing & the 15 or 20 yg. men who were the police force were playing practical jokes upon one another & having much boisterous good natured sport. Every morning at about 8 o'clock the ~~President~~ with his alcaldes (1st, 2^d & 3^d) with the other members of the council came to the Juzgado when they greeted one another formally and the young policemen all came up & with hats off would take the

hands of the higher officers & raise them toward their lips & bow the head a little at same time as if to kiss the hand but rarely doing so. At the same time each one mumbled a formal greeting which was replied to with equal formality by the alcalde or other officer, when the officials took seats on a bench beside the door of the juzgado in the corridor the seating being in the order of rank from the seat next the door toward the end of the corridor. Near by against the rail by the steps leading up to the corridor was a bunch of long staffs, ~~about~~ about 6 ft. long, which the police always carried in their hands as a staff of office when they went to perform any official business. Otherwise they were quite unarmed and in my efforts to get some of these villagers to hunt for me I found that guns were extremely scarce & the people seemed to know scarcely anything of hunting - agreeing in this with the Indians of Chiapas. A heavy tax is levied against guns in Guatemala in order ^{probably} to prevent the natives from generally keeping them. When the officials were seated several persons who had been keeping in the background or who appeared at various times during the day would come up - salute in great formality and then make known the trouble they

had come to settle. First one & then another
would talk & policemen in twos or fours
were sent off to summon other witnesses
& a regular patriarchal court was held.
~~At~~ As the two parties warmed up they often
would talk rapidly & loudly at the same time
and the judges would sit impassively through
it all & finally dismiss them with the promise
to settle the matter. The litigants usually
went away satisfied in appearance, at least.
The greatest calm & dignity always
characterized the judges during these cases
& now & then they gravely consulted with
one another but always the chief his
subordinates. If the case was important
then it was taken inside where the
chief sat behind a table with a secretary
(the Comissionado) & his subordinates on
a bench at one side. The "Habilitadores"
as the agents of the coffee plantations were
called living in the villages to their labor-
ers came up every time money was
given one of the men to have a contract
signed before the authorities. In the evening
just before dark the 6 or 8 of the policemen
with their ~~cliff~~ staves made a circuit
through the town & back & then the night police
a few in no. were left to keep watch at
night. These men kept a small fire burning in a

hut at the end of the Juggade for the nights were
very frosty. The small church here stands
on a small levelled spot near the lower
edge of the village and has a broad level
yard in front with a large wooden cross
in front of the church door. In the
church the altar was occupied with
the rude wooden saints about the feet
of which were ears of corn, small pumpkins,
flowers and other articles placed there
as offerings by the women. Before the
altar stood several women ~~and~~
swinging small clay censers with
burning copal gum while they muttered
prayers. Every morning & evening men
& women came also to the cross in front
of the church & kneeling before it burned incense
& made their prayers. The manner
of this reminded me strongly of the idolatrous
worship we saw at Mt. Zempoaltepec. Todos Santos
is situated on the site of an ancient pre-historic
village & on an artificially levelled area just
above the village on the hill slope are two
rude ~~pyramids~~ pyramid-like mounds
with bases a few yards across.
These pyramids are on the two sides of a
court-like ^{level} area. When I visited the place
I found two women kneeling ^{in the court} directly in front
of one of these pyramids with her censers of

burning copal gum before her. They were
muttering prayers but soon left. No sign
of a cross was seen about this pyramid. Just to
one side of the spot where the women were
kneeling is a pile of ashes from the censers
- each one emptying their censers before leaving.
As each censer ^{holder} only a small quantity this
pile of ashes amounting to several bushels in
bulk devoted a long & constant resort to this
spot. From the persistent praying of the people here
the Spaniards or Ladinos of this region think
this mound contains ancient treasures & have
made efforts to get the consent of the villagers
to dig in it but they always refuse & say that if
anyone digs their misfortune will come to the
town & the people will die. One Ladino lived here
for a considerable time & by various means
ingratiated himself so well into the regard of
the people that they voluntarily built him a
house & gave it to him that he might continue
to live among them. He then considered his
hold upon them strong enough and asked
the head men for permission to open these
mounds. This at once caused a reaction &
he was told that if he desired to do this he
had better leave the place for misfortune
would result from any attempt to disturb
the mounds. So he went away. Although not
generally armed the great numbers of these

indians and the very few ladinos in this region render them very poor & independent in their mountain homes although they become humble enough when they go in to the larger towns where the whites are numerous.

One of the customs here is to keep on hand a large stock of firwood & pitch pine for use of the guards at night & also for the use of the schoolmaster & secretary to whom they furnish fuel gratis. As the year came to a close in addition to the stock of wood on hand the police were hard at work with mules & burros bringing in more oak & pine. Early on the morning of ~~Jan 1st~~ ^{DEC 31st} a reserve stock of several cords was left in the room we occupied while the rest amounting to as much more was divided into over seventy equal portions in the court before the juzgado & at a signal each of the officials of all grades took one of these piles & carried it home. The drum is used here to call together people and on the morning of the first it made various rounds of the town after the wood was divided and the greater part of the population gathered about the courtyard of a large school-house back of the church. The women & children massed about the sides & the men in center & about the steps of the house. Several drums were

constantly booming and finally when everything was ready all the officials of the old year entered with those of the new year. The drums also entered & were heard inside while the front was tightly packed with hundreds of men in their bright red & white garments. After a considerable time the old officials came filing out & each one broke his staff & threw it on the ground & walked off. Then came filing out the new officials with the head men, together one of whom carried a small wooden box black with age and immediately behind the large drum sounded loudly. In long procession the new officials with their new wands of office escorted this box to the house of the new 1st Alcalde. From all I could learn the medicine man or priest of the old customs of the village (an old man) is in the schoolhouse & delivers the wands or staves of office to the new men with certain formulas of words and gestures & the box is transferred from the retiring alcalde to his successor. From a young fellow who had been one of the police & who went with me as guide through the nets. When we left this place I learned that this box contained papers (titles to village lands no doubt) also ^{some} community money held as a reserve fund for various expenses and a small figure

shaped like a human being. This figure is considered sacred & it is the duty of the alcalde to burn a candle before the box in which it is kept every night. It is the power to which the people look to give them good harvests & keep sickness away according to my informant, who was a native of the village.

During our stay here the nights were frosty and on the 1st of Jan'y a dense white fog enveloped the town & all the mountain summit so we were unable to start as we planned.

Jan'y 2^d

The fog cleared up last night and today we started out for the Hda. of Chancel on the summit of the range with a young indian for a guide. Our course led up the narrow cañon from Toldos Santos with the small stream rushing down over the rocks. We were surprised to find some small bridges over some of the crossings in this stream. Red flowered sages, yellow composites (mainly golden rods) & other flowers were seen along the first part of the ascent but these gradually gave way to pines, cypresses & cedars as we approached the top. At about 10000 ft. we came to a fine open grove of huge cypresses 4-6 ft. through & at least 150 ft. high with tall, long-coned

pinus scattered among them. Above this
were thickets of junipers & scrubby pines
of other species to the summit between 11 &
12000 ft. The trail reaches its highest point
here on a grassy gap at about 11000 ft. in
grassy openings dotted with a sessile
large flowered white daisy among the
cedar thickets. Leaving this trail, which
goes on to Huehuetenango, we turned to the
left & passed through several miles of cedar
thickets ~~where~~ & scrubby pine growths that
cover the slopes & rolling areas of this part of the mts.
Here & there these stunted woods opened out in
grassy park-like areas & sheep herders' huts
of boughs & rough sticks of wood were passed in
several places with the rude corral of pine
branches & logs close by. The herders were nat.
indians unkempt & wild looking. These
woods finally opened out & we found a long
rather level prairie before us ranging from
two to 3004 miles wide and 8 or 10 miles long.
~~This occupies the main part of~~ On the sides
this prairie is broken by rolling slopes &
low hills which are backed by the low
pine woods that sends out irregular
spurs here & there. This elevated plain
has an altitude of about 10000 ft. and
at its farther end we came to the
collection of buildings forming the headquarters.



~~Water is so~~ This plain is everywhere
overgrown with grass and this growth
extends into the low, open, pine woods on
the sides. The Hda. building form a small
group by the side of a reservoir where
the water of a small spring is caught. Every-
where on this tableland water is very scarce
the stock depend mainly on water caught in tanks.
We rec'd permission to remain a few days at this
Hda. known as Chancel and were given
a dungeon-like room in the massive walls
adobe & rock building where the superintendent
lives. Stables, a wool-shed & some rude huts
for the men formed the outbuildings.
The reservoir-pond is just in front & from
the broad wooden veranda of the main house
a fine view ^{is had} across the grassy plain with its
irregular border of low forest. The dwarfed
character of the trees and the irregular ^{of the} plain
over which much of the time were scudding
before the wind low gray clouds gave this
locality the appearance of some northern
tundra near the tree limit. Low, round-
topped hills, partly wooded here & there
added to this effect. A cool breeze was
always blowing & as our room had no
window but depended on the door for light
& air I often found it uncomfortable work
to prepare specimens or do the necessary

writing. Hard frosts occurred at night & in order to make the room habitable a large clay bowl a couple of feet across was brought in with a bed of glowing coals in it. This served very well to modify the temperature. We found here the same rice as at Tolu Santos which is some 20 miles away in a northwesterly direction. Coyotes are found here & were very numerous at one time but are now rather scarce owing to persecution with poison. I could hear nothing definite of gray wolves. In Feb'y & Mch. snow sometimes falls a foot deep on these plains. Sheep & cattle are raised here successfully. The former owner was killed by his peones because he refused to let them range their cows on the land. When any of their stock was found on his land he had it shut up in the corral until the owner redeemed it by a fine. One night the owner went to the door to reply to a knock & was seized, dragged out & butchered. This was two or three yrs. ago. The heir then sold the place to the present owner who does not live here. The assassins were never found although it must have been pretty well known who they were. On the southern slope of the range which drops away abruptly toward Huehuetenango just back of the Hda. buildings we found a heavy forest of large coned trees,

~~Grasses~~ & oaks. The undergrowth was abundant & many species of shrubs & herbaceous plants were seen. The fruits were less scarce than on the plain 500 ft. higher as many flowers were in blossom. A few squirrels & rabbits occur here and the birds are very similar to those found at San Cristobal. These highlands of Chiapas & Guatemala form one faunal region. While stopping here we made a trip to the farther side of the plain, in the direction of Teneo, one day to look for deer. We found a fine open forest of small pines covering the terraced slope of the mt. for many miles. Everywhere the ground was covered with grass with here & there patches of *Eryngium* & thistles. We saw a couple of deer but killed none. From skins seen I was able to determine that the deer here are the same as those at San Cristobal.

On the 8th of Jan. we left the main Hda. & went 3 miles down the slope to one of the outlying ranches. at about 9500 ft. where ~~we~~ ^{the outfit} stop^d for 2 nights while I went on to Huehuetenango to get letters from the Jefe Politico and get some supplies. The descent on this slope is a very steep one leading down to a table-land having an elevation of about 7300 ft. at Huehuetenango. This side of the range is dry near its base & has areas of small oaks of 2 or 3 species on the damper, slopes & sides of gulches

with a thin growth of pines elsewhere except
where the original forest has been cut
off to make way for corn or wheat fields or
on some of the drier slopes ^{ridges} where no
trees are found but a growth of grass or
herbage occurs. These latter places
often occupy the tops of hills & the
crests of the buttes-like ridges between
the cañons.

Looking down on the plain or lower country
from the slopes of this range the foreground
appears to be made up of broad, low
rounded ridges of hills covered with
scattered pines and enclosing
several park-like open valleys or basins.
In the largest of these - measuring
several miles across - the town of
Huehuetenango is situated. Beyond
ridge succeeds ridge of low mts -
always thinly pine covered until
~~a day~~ the horizon is bounded toward
the Pacific by a high steep sided range
about equally high with that of Chamical.
Toward Coban these ranges approach
but are separated by a pass. Huehueten-
ango is a town of several thousand people
& the center of a large indian population.
It is the head of the district & has the border cus-
tom house & the stores for all the business of

this section of Guat. All the business is in the hands of the Spaniards or their descendants called "ladinos". The Indians of this region talk little Spanish and are a rude mountain people. They have sheep & goats & raise corn & wheat. They wear woollen & cotton cloth & most of them use costumes of the ancient style. Throughout this part of Guat. the Indians have a bitter feeling against the "ladinos" which comes out when they are drunk. They are not a brave race however as was shown with the ease with which Alvarado conquered the country and their subsequent history has shown them to be far from a warlike people. Now & then they murder a traveller or commit some similar outrage but their ordinary attitude is of complete subjection except when the ladinos are very scarce as at Totulautas. Even then their attitude of independence is merely that of numbers & is gone at any show of ^{adequate} force.

So-called Huehuetenango is an ordinary Spanish American town of one story buildings mainly of adobe whitewashed with flat roofs. The plaza is paved with smooth slabs of stone about which are the stores & offices of the authorities. On the paved plaza is held a daily market the Indians coming in from all the surrounding region to traffic.

alt. of Huehuetenango 7200 ft.

and as in Mexico they squat about
their little store of produce or other articles
waiting for buyers. During the heat of the day
large umbrella like shades of mats
or cloth are erected on wooden frame
works standing in holes in the pavement.
Presenting my letters to the office of the Jefe I
found that he was ill & was referred to the Suroton.
By him I was treated very discourteously until
I asserted myself a little whereupon he became
very polite. I also visited the Chief of Customs
here & found him to be very polite & agreeable
so making an offset. On the morning of the
10th the outfit in charge of my assistant came
down from the mts. to join me. I was awaiting
them ^{at hotel} when I was suddenly summoned to
go to the Customhouse as ~~they~~ had been
taken there on entering town - mules & all.
Our packer afterwards told me that the customs
officer who took the outfit had confided to him
that ~~the~~ we would have to pay a heavy fine or
have our guns confiscated as had happened
to several foreigners. On my arrival
the production of the pass furnished me
by the Chief caused a blank look of disa-
ppointment and we rode off piloted
to the edge of town by a man sent by the
Customs Chief. We made about 12 miles
on the road to Tuzatlanango to the

alt 6500ft.

Village of Malacatan. The road led through a broken country of hills & low mountains rather rounded in outline & scored here & there by dry water courses. Scattered pines of small size formed a thin forest with scanty grass, some oak brush and dry herbage of last year's growth over the hills except where clearings had been made for wheat or corn fields. This is the border of the region of volcanic action - from ^{near} Chancel the cone peaks of Agua, Fuego & others were visible & from about Huehuetenango the road passes over deposits of gray & white ashes or soft tufa which forms a soft, deep dust and ^{with} which the winds have powdered all the vegetation so that the trees & bushes & ~~grass~~ dry herbage are all shaded with the dingy gray. Bird or other animal life was very scarce. We are now in the district when we have been warned repeatedly to look out for our stock. Riding on a little ahead of the outfit I entered the straggling village of Malacatan which is built in a narrow valley between the bordering hills. Riding up to the Juggado I left my horse & entered to present my letter of recommendation from the Jefe. The Secy had the letter while the other officials gathered about the chief alcalde reading the letter over the Secy's shoulder.

When he finished reading the letter, the Secy looked up
& in a very abrupt & insolent manner said "what
do you want?" (Zue Quirin). I was about to
reply when I felt myself suddenly seized about the waist
from behind & someone tried to remove my pistol.
Not knowing what this assault meant I threw up the
pistol & sprang back to face the ^{officials} crowd, among which
I had been standing & demanded to know what they
meant. I was then told that it was against the
law to enter the Juggado armed. I at once removed my
pistol & told them that they should have treated me
in a more gentlemanly way & told me of my infraction
& I would have at once complied for they knew from my
letter that I was a person worthy of respect at least.
They replied in a very impudent manner & imposed a
fine of \$500. I paid this at once & then went to the
telegraph office that chanced to be across the street &
notified the jefe in Huehuetenango of the affair
whereupon he ordered the fine returned to me.
My letter called for any assistance needed & I finally
had a room given me & a place for the horses & mules
but had to pay these authorities for everything. Later on
I sent in a complaint of this affair to Coban
& it was laid before the Guat. Minister (A.
Lazo Arriaga) & he said that I should not
have entered the Juggado armed & that the Guat.
General Gov't. had but little control over many
of the places in the Indian districts.
These officials at Malacatan however were all

"ladinos".
We left Malacatan early on the morning of the 11th and travelled over a slightly mountainous country covered with a thin growth of pines & very thinly populated for about 12 miles. We then began the ascent of the high mt. range that had towered up so conspicuously from the slopes at Chameal. A narrow winding mule path brought us along the course of a beautiful creek of clear, very cold water flowing down from the summit and bordered with willows, alders, madroños ~~and firs~~. The pine of the dry low hills & ridges lying between the bases of this range & that of Chameal now gave way to other species and scattered firs were seen along the banks of the stream. A short time before sunset we came out in a narrow sloping valley, along the creek at an altitude of about 10,200 ft. and found the little Indian village of Calel strung along the sides of the road in a straggling line of rough wooden & adobe huts thatched with grass or covered with "shakes". Here an Indian clerk who could read very imperfectly translated my letters to the Indian officials & we were installed in a large telegraph room in the Juggado building. This was surprisingly well made for such a little place.

alt. Calel 10,200 ft.

and had a shed alongside under which as well as in the porch of the Juggado the travelling Indians camped. The male population here was too small to afford a full set of officers so the two police were a couple of little boys about ten or 12 yrs. old who were playing in the trail as we came near but who at once rushed off to the Juggado and got their truncheons of office & stood about in a very dignified way while we were getting settled.

The signals for assembling or dispersal of the officials were made on a drum which was also beaten by a boy. All about Calal the rather steep slopes rising to the summit were overgrown with an abundance of "Sacoaton" bunch grass with ^{irregular} scattered areas of pine & fir forest and ^{patches of} large oaks on some of the ridges. On the slopes near the town were small cultivated areas where wheat ^{& corn} are grown. Owing to the past year having been a dry one feed has been scarce in this part of Guat. it was with difficulty that I arranged with the people for dry corn fodder for the stock. The prices asked were at the rate of about \$5.00 a ton or more. As our funds were very low I left my assistant the morning of June 2 and proceeded on about 23 miles to Quezaltenango to replenish by the sale of a draft. From Calal the road ascends at once up the slope to the summit of

On slope toward Sija the firs end at about 10800ft.

the mountain. I was surprised to find this to be 2013 miles across & in the form of a rolling & broken table-land nearly devoid of trees but covered with short grass.

Immediately on the descending slopes each way trees were found at the heads of the cañons and along their sides. At the alt. of from 9-11000ft. firs & pines with some oaks, madroños & alders occur. On the slope toward Quezaltenango the forest is heavier & much more extensive than on the Calal side. ~~On~~

The extreme summit of this part of the range is ~~at~~ ^{about 11500ft.} ~~11200ft.~~ As I began to descend the well-made trail through the forest I saw a party of about one hundred Indians, men & women, carrying heavy back-loads of hand-hewed fir timber to Quezaltenango. The loads of the women were a little lighter than those of the men but must have weighed about 100 lbs. each. Many of the men must have been carrying over 150 lbs. With these loads they make 15 to 18 miles a day across the mts. The loads are supported by a rawhide strap across the forehead. As many of the timbers were long & carried crosswise they barred the trail and it took me some time to get by them. As I passed all talk ceased & all looked at me with that peculiarly dumb, hostile glance that is common with the Indians of this region. Despite the fact that for

years these Indians have been going to work
on the copper plantations they still hold these
actors aloof & have as little to do with foreigners
as possible. When travelling in Mexico - outside of Chiapas
one is usually greeted by the people he meets out-
here he gets a hostile stare or else the people look
at the ground as they pass & say not a word.
From the slopes of the Calul-range a beautiful
view was seen across an open, rolling
country like a broken table land toward
the high range at Zugattunango where
the volcanos of Sta. Maria, El Quemado
and Zunil loomed up boldly.
Scattered here & there over the rolling
country were patches of ^{small} pine or oak timber
along some sheltered slope of hill or ridge
but nearly all the visible country
was covered with large bunches of sacaton
now dry & yellow & giving a curious dotted
appearance to the landscape. Here & there over
this broken plain could be seen the hatched
huts of Indians and the rectangular patches
of cultivated land when they grow wheat. Far
down the slope & partly hidden by the
bordering hills I could see the church & some
of the houses of the village of Sija. This
place has an evil repute as the home of horse-
thieves & robbers. So addicted are they to their business
that I was told at a neighboring village that they

alt. about 9800 ft. (Sija)

hang a lariat on the image of their patron
saint in the church that he may also help
them in their work. As I passed through it was
a sleepy enough place. Off to the left a couple ^{miles}
in the midst of a loose collection of huts
in the middle of a considerable area of cultivated
land I heard the dull beating of a large drum
and could see the glint of the sun on the guns of
ten or fifteen men who were drawn up in
line by one of the houses. Early in the
afternoon I rode out on the crest of a
low ridge thick grown up with oaks & pines
and saw before me a long narrow valley
lying a thousand feet below. The drop was
very abrupt when the valley stretched away
2 or 3 miles apparently almost level
to the mts. beyond where the town of Tuzatlan-
cugo sits at the foot of the ragged volcano
of El Quemado. Every foot of the valley seemed
to be under cultivation and was dotted with
huts & small adobe houses. Beyond the valley
the mts. rise abruptly again to a greater elevation
than that where I stood. At the foot of this
slope I passed through the small town of
Olintepeca, a quaint, sleepy place
strung along the winding trail leading
down from the mountain. A fine bridge across
the broad shallow creek here takes one to
a sharp rise leading up on the plain which

Alt. of Olintepeca 8600 ft.

Quezaltenango alt. 8500 ft.

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is 200 ft or so above the level of the town which lies in a gulch like situation of the stream. This place is neatly kept & the houses all in a good state of repair gave evidence of the state of prosperity which coffee growing has brought in all this region. Out on this broad valley-plain with its very gently rolling surface & loose almost ashy soil I was surprised to see the Indians at work with huge hoes laboriously turning over the soil for a new crop instead of plowing. I had seen men & women doing this along the road today at various places but did not expect to see it practiced here at the ~~sub~~ outskirts of Quezaltenango with its modern banks, electric lights and boasting of its numerous millionaires. From all parts of the valley east roads lead to the city. Crossing the plain Indians on foot returning from market & many of them drunk walking hand in hand or being led along by sober companions or their wives were numerous with now & then a lady on horse or mule back. Quezaltenango is in a narrow depression lying between base of mts. & the plain so that it is not visible from the plain until one is close to it. The streets are narrow & tortuous with constant changes of level as they follow the sinuosities of the slopes of the ~~the~~ on which they are built. The central plaza fronted by a fine 2 story town hall and other well made stores has a ^{little park} a ^{jean} kiosk for music stand in the center. This kiosk

Quezaltenango = place of the Quezal.

is a singular structure with a tall ^{planted} wooden
spire rising from middle of its domed roof & on
the corners of the kiosk hang a few feet from
the ground hang rude, framed oil paintings
allegorical of music with the Quezal perched
on the top of the scroll forming the background.
The effect of this is bizarre & absurd but
evidently pleases the authorities who have decorated
their town thus. After considerable inquiry I was
finally directed to a good hotel where I stopped.
Jan'y 13th I remained in Quezalten-
ango attending to business & then wandering
about the town. A number of fine stores with
large stocks of European & Am. goods are
found in the vicinity of the plaza and I
was surprised to see the handsome stone
buildings finished or in course of erection.
The stores were large & deep on the Am. style in
place of the shallow places so common in
most towns and the general air of bustling
activity here gave evidence of the fact
that a large amount of business is trans-
acted. This town is the residence of many wealthy
coffee planters and is the business & banking
centre for several coffee districts along the
slopes of the mts. one & two days journey on
horseback toward the coast. The situation of
the town at about 8000 ft. alt. gives it a cool
healthy climate & this has been the chief attraction

in causing its formation, many Germans
& German Jews (a number of whom came
from the U.S. too) are conducting some of
the main businesses. Many of the larger
Coffee plantations are also owned by Germans.
A number of Swiss are also here engaged
mainly in Coffee growing. Some Americans
doing building, electric installment, &
machinery work with a very few in the
Coffee business. Near the plaza is the
market, a very interesting place where
great numbers of Indians come in from
the surrounding country to sell pottery, produce
(fruit & vegetables) cloths for garments. These
garments of cotton are woven with colored
patterns in imitation of the ancient hand woven
cloth. The women wear a huipil with no
sleeves, & very short ones & enaguas.
The former is white with intricate pattern of
rectangular figures, conventional flowers &
scrolls & the enaguas are dull blue or black
with faint lines of lighter. The women
usually go barefoot as do the men but they
use sandals at times the string passing up
between the toes. Very often the women
wear a shirt of white drill & carry the figured
huipil folded on the head like a toque which
gives a very picturesque effect. Most of the
selling in the market is done by the women

although each woman is usually accompanied
by some male member of the family. Their articles
are brought in on their heads or backs in baskets,
cots & nets. The women are very small here
& a great many of them are scarcely more
than pigmies in size & could readily pass under
my outstretched arm. The men were larger &
were 5 ft or more tall. Great numbers of the
people in the market could speak no Spanish
& I noted that the market inspectors & many of the
people used their own language in speaking to
them. There is more strange local color
in this market than in the rest of the town.
The town site is on irregular ground & the
narrow, alley-like streets wind about in
irregular courses and the streets running
down the slope are paved sloping to a central
gutter for carrying off the water during
the heavy summer rains. Over some of these
streets at crossings in the lower part of town
are built high, ^{remote} arched bridges with iron railings
for foot passengers. These are made high enough
to permit the ordinary use of the street below.
I visited the neatly housed public library
in the town hall & was surprised to find a
considerable number of the best modern French,
English & American novelists. The arrange-
ment of the books on the shelves was strictly
according to the size of the volumes so that

they presented a most symmetrical front but a closer examination showed a surprising mixture. I ran my eye along one shelf & found Mark Twain's *Roughing it* hedged in by Mills' *Political Economy* and the *Civil Code of Chile* while a Yankee at King Arthur's Court had Humboldt's *Cosmos* and the *Obras Posthumas de Silvela* and other authors' works were scattered here & there in deference to the size of the volumes. The works of Howells, Hawthorne, Dickens, Baedeker, Bancroft, Emerson &c, &c, were there in good sets. From the appearance of the books it was evident that they were very little used. The town is badly lighted by electricity from a plant a few miles below on the river near Zunil. The new building of the Occidental Bank & the Town Hall are fine stone structures 2 or 3 stories high.

Sharp frosts occur in this valley in winter. The seasons here are as in Mexico. A dry winter & rainy summer. Here however the people of all Guatemala & part of Chiapas call the rainy months of June, July, & Aug. winter just as do the people of northern South America while here Jan & Feb. are 'summer'.

On Jan 14th I returned to Cabel to rejoin the outfit and as the locality was not turning out much of interest we decided to go on.

On Jan'y 15th we wound up the work
and on the 16th left Calel making 21 m.
to the town of Olintepec, where we rem-
ained over night. Although especial search
was made at Calel for Arvicolas no sign of
them was found although they were common
in parts of the Chaucal range. Perhaps the
^{recent} volcanic character of the Calel range may
account for this. None of the Cedars & Cypress
seen in the Chaucal mts. were here & many
other plants were lacking. The soil was a fine,
loose ashy character underlain by a soft
friable rock of volc. origin and at the
Chiapas end of the range one of the higher
volc. cones of the region is found. The grassy
plains from this range to the volcanoes
back of Huezaltenango are covered with the
same loose ashy soil characteristic of the
plains about the west base of mt. Orizaba in
Puebla. At Olintepec I presented my letter
to the authorities and was given a neatly white-
washed room with the walls frescoed in blue patterns
& hung with ornamentally cut tissue paper,
the place evidently having served to entertain
some official at no very distant date. Two
board cots or benches for beds & couple of chairs
& a table made up the furnishings of what we
looked upon as extra good quarters. As night
came on Indians gradually came in and camped in

the corridor until it was filled with men & women with their packs. In front the small plaza was lighted up with little fires built by these people for doing their simple cooking of heated tortillas & sometimes a little dried meat. Just before getting to town they gather a few sticks to make a little fire in the morning when we left the police had already cleaned the plaza so that no trace of the night's occupation was left. This is repeated every day by Indians passing here to & from Hueyatlangua & the coffee plantations. All along the road in Guatemala we noted two things worthy of praise - One that the roads through the mts. were better kept with bridges when needed and another that shelters for travellers are built at many of the smaller places where the corner of the public building is not large enough (or does not exist). In fact a number of such shelters with thatched (grass) roofs set on 4 - 6 or 8 posts, open beneath were seen away from towns near small ranches the owners of the ranch hoping to thus get people to stop over night & buy food for pack-mules &c. Leaving Olintepec early in the morning of the 17th we passed through Hueyatlangua & ascending the base of the volcano El Quemado crossed a gap in the mt. & descended rapidly on the far side to the cañon of the Rio Zunil - and down it to the town of Zunil which is some 6 miles from the city of Q. Zunil is in a narrow rocky-walled cañon of a swift mt. stream that

* near the waterfall in Zuni Canon we visited some hot springs where the water is in a constant state of ebullition with escaping steam & ^{small} deposits of alum, sulphur & iron are taking place. Close by these springs the steam is escaping ^{violently} with a loud rushing noise as from an escape pipe & the ground all about is hot & filled with deposited chemicals staining it yellow, brown, gray & white.

drains the valley of Tuzattunango into the Pacific. The town is at an alt. of about 7500 ft. and is built on both sides of the narrow cañon hugging the base of the steep slopes. Like most Indian villages it has a large church & a collection of miserable huts for the people. The little plaza in front of church & town house is lighted by electricity from the electric power house a mile or so above in the cañon. This is the source of the lights at Tuzattunango. The scene in the cañon is wild & picturesque in the extreme. To the left the river rushes down the centre over a rocky bed leaping a fine fall a short distance below. The cañon bottom is a narrow strip along which the wagon road from Tuzattunango to San Felipe (the end of R.R.) is carried & sometimes cut out of the cañon wall for lack of room. The cañon walls rise almost sheer for hundreds of feet on the right to the volcano of Santa Maria which towers up to about 12000 ft. almost on the edge of the cañon. To the left the wall rises very abruptly by a series of retreating slopes to the lower vale of Zuni about whose thick wooded summit long slopes & ridges of barren lava can be seen from which rise fitful, geyser-like puffs of steam that can be seen from the bottom of the cañon 2500 or 3000 ft. below. Along the sides of the cañon the rocky slopes are overgrown with

Saw steam issuing from crevices near
summit of El Quemado as we passed.

Bushes, herbs & grass with patches of scrub
oak bushes in places & higher up scattered
pines become ^{more} numerous until on the
higher slopes of the mts. on both sides a thin
forest of pines cover the ~~slopes~~ tops of the mts.
The Vol. of Sta. Maria which looms up so impending
over the Cañon well just below Zunil shows
yellow patches of grass everywhere on the upper
slopes among the pines. The Cañon descends
very rapidly toward the hot country & we heard of
the ravages of a deadly malarial fever that has caused
numbers of deaths in the hot coast towns the past
few months & has come up to within a few miles of
Zunil. ~~Finding~~ Finding Zunil a very
poor locality for work we left there on the
20th and returning through Quezaltenango
turned around the base of El Quemado and
after traversing an arm of the valley crossed
a spur-like basal ridge of Vol. Sta. Maria at an
elevation of about 10000 ft. descended to
9200 ft. at the western base of the mt. at the saw
mill of Mr. Adolfo Bentz, a Swiss living in
Quezalt. This place is known as Tixpachi.
On the way up the slope from the valley the
mt. is covered with a thin small growth of
wild cherry, two scrubby oaks and some pines.
Large magnolias are also conspicuous
but no large cacti. Over the divide large
oaks, cherry, 2 pines, Cypress & several

other trees unite to form a considerable forest about the base of the cone from 10000-9000 ft. On a little flat in the midst of this forest is the mill just beyond which the road drops down a steep slope toward the hot coast, passing through the coffee district first. The trees here are all full of knots, cracks, &c. so that it is very difficult to get good lumber but the prices are very heavy running from \$20 to \$240 a thousand in Guat. silver in Quezaltenango some 7 miles away. Above 10000 ft. on the volc. the timber is made up wholly of scrubby pines thickly scattered & becoming very short at the summit. Grass abounds everywhere. On extreme summit is a little hollow dug among the stones with signs of recent occupancy and it proved to have been the stopping place of an Indian medicine man who goes up there for days at a time performing ancient rites to obtain good weather & other supernatural aid. He is fed & paid by the natives. Several neotomas were harbored here to get advantage of the crants & were taken in traps set for them. A well worn trail to the summit showed that the medicine man & his followers frequently passed up & down. At about 9000 or 9500 ft. a heavy forest of oaks & other trees with dense undergrowth were found in a cañon coming down to the mill but water was extremely scarce here as well as on all

Law passed by Guat.^a legislature in
winter of 1896 fine of \$50⁰⁰ for killing Quetzal
which is the national bird on coat of arms.
They are called the bird of liberty & the people here
believe that they pine & die at once if de-
prived of their liberty. Their colors of red, white
& green are said to be emblematic.

parts of the mt. The Quetzal nests in the
woods about the mill & can be heard calling
then in spring. Penelopina & the Horned
Pheasant also occur in these woods.
The Guat.^a flicker, Junco, Sialia, Crested Jay
Rising titmouse, Collared robin, Amophila
&c. were the main birds. The Cerylepter
gets up to 9000 ft. here. A huge Geomys was
common with various other mice but no
signs of Arvicolas. Frogs occurred here
while we were stopping at the place.

On Jan. 29th we left passing by Zugalt^o
we turned up the valley to the left heading for
the mts at the west end. Juan found several
small towns or villages in the valley & at its
western end came to a deep gorge-like
baranca that we had to cross to get to
the foot of the mts. that limit the valley on
this side. Here we found a few large coned pines
the first seen about the valley. Down in the
bottom of the narrow baranca we found
a small straggling village through which
we passed and made up the steep slope of
the mt. wall by a tortuous but well made
trail. The pack-mules were tired & made slow
progress so that night was close at hand when we
gained the summit at about 10500 ft. among pines
& oaks. No water or grass were here & we
possessed on & just at dark I reached the

village of El Suj at 9700 on the other slope. Here I found a little place with the pompous title of Hotel & arranged to stop for the night - the outfit arriving a little later.

Early on the morning of Jan. 30th a fog shut in the hills & houses at El Suj. But by the time our mules were packed we had a fine clear sky & started off in a westerly course. For hours our road wound about over a slightly broken & rolling country with but few people living in it and toward 10 a.m. we came to the crest of a low ridge & saw before us a great rocky walled cañon some 2000 ft. deep which cut its rugged way down between the mts. toward the low country. Its dark rocky walls were strikingly wild and on the opposite side to the left arose a high volcanic peak. To the right our road wound ^{down} around the side of the mt. on which we stood and cut across the head of the cañon by a little indian village whose houses looked like ~~little~~ toy buildings of brown paint on view. Just beyond this village the road made an upward turn & came out on ^{an open,} a roughly oval, basin-like plain in the middle of which stood the large town of San Marcos with its churches looming up boldly. Following this road I left the outfit to follow & went in to San Marcos to make some slight purchases & then awaited the pack-train. The town is on a sloping site, with

The usual cobble paved streets. As I rode through one of the streets I was stopped by a group of mounted officers who were preceded by a band of drums & trumpets & followed by a file of soldiers armed & with whom walked two civil officials. At one of the street corners the procession stopped, the band made a flourish & then with the guard drawn up under arms at attention the officials read a long law that was to go into effect. This was its publication by "bando", an old Spanish custom that has given way in Mex. to the posting of printed copies of the law in public places. The outfit failing to show up I found they had taken another road & leaving the thrifty looking town hurried along the road to overtake them. From the town the road led up a gentle slope to the crest of the ridge bordering the plain on the S.W. side at an alt. of 9800 ft. There the road turned sharply down the slope toward the hot country. Down I hurried through a fine misty bank of cloud that had shut in against the mountain on its seaward face and hid everything except objects close by. From the pines, alders, oaks & madroños of the slope near the summit the vegetation changed to oaks, melastomas, ferns in profusion & tree ferns & then Ceibas, tree ferns, Pipers, Jiniquilis, Eupods,

and small palms. At 4000ft. we began passing through the coffee plantations & were in one of the best districts of Guat. The country had that wild appearance of uncultivated nature so characteristic of coffee districts. The mist now lay above me & the lush abundance of the tropical vegetation with the rushing streams & numerous springs along the wet mt. trail cut in the hillside was a striking change from the scanty pine soaks of the high country. Weaving foliage of infinite variety & richness overhung the trail and a dense wall of undergrowth filled in all the slopes except when the insignificant clearings for coffee plantations made a little break here & there. Flowers of many colors bordered my route & I soon had a pros carried at the saddle bow filled to its limit. Large yellow cassias, purple *Spones* and ^{as a rule} large leguminous flowers of white, red & purple were especially common. At 4 P.M. I reached the village of Rodeo situated at 2700ft but it was evident I was ahead of my outfit so I remained overnight. As I looked down on this place from the hill near by its numerous roofs of corrugated iron in the midst of the dense dark green foliage that surrounded & came up about the houses made an odd appearance. Many of the houses were in the midst of little coffee

rockhards. ~~The~~ It was with some difficulty that I found a place to stop here but finally succeeded in making the necessary arrangements to sleep in a dirt floored hut & get food from a house near by & horse feed from a third place. The morning of the 31st I started back up the trail & met the outfit a few miles back. They had taken another road yesterday so that I had passed them on my way down. We went on at once soon getting into the low belt of hills that form the extreme upper border of the coast plain. At Malacatan, at 1400 ft, we found ourselves on the gently sloping plain leading to the sea. This is the frontier town of Guat^a & has a custom house with a small detachment of soldiers stationed here. The houses were thatched facials with wooden doors & shutters for the square window openings. The vegetation is very plentiful here & has possession everywhere except where kept out of the streets & immediately about the houses by constant cutting or uprooting. Still the character & size of the trees & shrubs showed that the rainfall is much less here than higher up the slope. A few miles beyond we passed the Hoc. of Malacatan & rode through some neglected plantations of coffee and cacao. Several small rocky creeks or runs were passed today and in the afternoon we came to a broad

Juxtla Chico alt. 1400 ft. on Coast plain
Close to foothills.

Clear stream forming the boundary between Mex. & Guat.^a It was fortunately low enough to enable us to ford it as a slight rise with the rocky bottom & swift current would have rendered passage dangerous or impossible. An hour's ride beyond the river through forest paths & then through corn fields brought us to the town of Juxtla Chico, the border town of Mex. We found the place full of a crowd of people gathered to celebrate the annual fiesta fair. The plaza & adjacent streets were crowded with the usual motley assemblage of people selling & buying wares of all descriptions. Constant processions were passing in on foot or horseback & after having our baggage revised at the customs house we hurried to the only hotel in town just in time to secure the last available quarters. In addition to the aggregation of a great crowd of small traders with their little packs of goods the gambling & cockfighting that went on in booths prepared for the purpose seemed the only amusement offered except the never failing one of getting drunk.

Feb. 1st Today we went on about 11 miles to the town of Tapachula which is on the coast plain some 20 miles from the sea and at an alt. of 800 ft. We found this place to be a lively small town of some 6 or 7000 people. It is the center of the coffee districts of this part of Chiapas & has a considerable trade with Guat.^a

in dry cattle &c. which are sent hence for sale there. The plaza is a surprisingly pretty place with neatly arranged beds, walks & turf with a little lake on one side. This is the work of a German gardener who was employed for the purpose. The town is made up of ordinary small adobe, one story houses but is beginning to improve & will no doubt become a place of some small importance as the coffee plantations here develop. The largest coffee grower here at present is Lewis Brown, an American who has made a large fortune in a remarkably short period but mainly through a fortunate combination of circumstances. His plantations are a little above Tuxtla-Chicó less than 2000 ft. above sea level. The best situations here however are from 2500 to 4500 ft.

The 5th we left Tlapachula and went directly back into the mts. to the coffee plantation of "Las Chichenas" at an alt. of 3500 ft. This is a very fine place owned by Rafael Ortega and valued at \$1,000,000. We had a letter to the owner from Mr. Brown & were welcomed hospitably by Mr. Ortega who I found to be a very pleasant & friendly man. He has an extensive plant of machinery for cleaning the coffee & a finely built residence made of imported lumber by Am. Carpenters. From the broad verandas of the

house a magnificent view is presented on every side. Toward the coast the eye sweeps out across the plantations over the ^{wooded} foothills & plains to the sea where the going & coming of the steamers at the port of San Benito can be noted. Along the flank of the mountain several other plantations are in view, the houses perched like watch towers on the tops of the ridges and back of the house the long rows of quarters for the hundreds of workmen & their families nestle against the slope which rises rapidly, forest covered until the retreating curve of the slope a thousand feet above carries it from view. The supt. & some of the overseers are Germans. The stables, store, a garden the piped water supply & other details render this a place of great attractiveness in the midst of the wild tropical surroundings. The people of this neighborhood say the owner is heavily in debt paying as much as 25% per annum on 300,000 dollars. The next morning we went on following the trail through several plantations owned by Germans and camped at night under the grinding shed of a small sugar plantation at about 3200 ft. Made about 13 m. over very rough roads passing several new plantations. On the 7th we continued on following the trail for 12 miles mainly up steep slopes that were in

From Pinabite a gratulation is seen lying
between them & the large volcano of Tacaná on the
Guat^a frontier.

Some places almost impassible until
we came out on the crest of the mt. at an alt.
of about 8800 ft. at the rancho known as
Pinabite which is a little west of north from
Chicharras only a few miles in a straight line.
The forest was heavy all day & made up of oaks
& other trees with the pines coming in between ⁶⁰⁰⁰
ft. Near the rancho on the summit some firs were
found in cool sheltered spots. Most of the
summit of the mt. is a broken & irregular
plain-like country covered with grass with
patches of bushes here & there & pines in scattered
areas along the ridges & on cañon slopes.
We secured the use of a little room partly filled with
slacked lime in a small hut occupied by one
of the men engaged in hiring indian labor for the
plantations and bought ^{folded} corn for our stock from the
indians who grow wheat & corn on these
open uplands turning over the soil with
horses. The same system of employing labor
is used here as in Guat^a. no one working unless
he is in debt & the debt is passed on from one
employer to another, labor being so scarce that
any ordinarily fair workman owing ^{\$}3-500
can at anytime find plenty of men to take up his ^{part}
in order to get him in their service. Money in
sum of 10 to 20 or 30. is advanced to indians in
the villages among the mts. who sign papers to work
a certain no. of days being allowed 50¢ a day. This has

caused some trouble among them as they constantly desert after a day or two work & return home. Then a man is sent after them & they are forced to return by the authorities. A little later while I was at Chichon was I heard of the population of a village rising in revolt & maltreating seriously two men sent there to reclaim several runaway men. After doing some work here & finding that Green toucans, Doves, Hooped Pheasants & other birds reach an alt. of 8000 ft. here in the dense oak forest of the seaward slope we descended again to Las Chichonas when we arrived on the 13th of stopping one night at the Plantation "Mexico" where the Supt. is an ex-bullfighter. Chichonas is in the midst of the humid upper tropical belt. We found but few mammals here but the Collared Swift was very abundant. In a cage here were confined several yellowish rodents Dasyprocta. They were very gentle & it was interesting to see how readily they used their forepaws in picking up food & holding it to their mouth while sitting up in a squirrel-like attitude. On the 19th we left here & following along the range descended to a ranch near the base of the mountain at an alt. of about 1800 ft. This place contained considerable land & was one of several extensive tracts owned by a member of the Mexican Congress. In the evening the

Parasitifer monkeys & macaws en route.

owner came in and appeared like an ordinary country ranchman than a m.c. We obtained his permission to remain overnight and being short of provisions asked for some if they could sell us some meat or eggs. Finally two eggs were produced for which the m.c. charged us 6 cents & this, with the privilege of sleeping on the ground under the thatched porch of his house was the extent of his hospitality. Before we left in the morning however he gave me quite a list of the extensive possessions of land & cattle owned by him which I learned was quite true. He evidently does not believe in endangering the permanence of his wealth by any reckless generosity in the matter of eggs. Leaving this place we travelled directly down toward the coast plain for 10 miles to the edge of the plain where we came to the Indian village of Huehuetan situated 21 m. from Tlapachula on road to Tonala, and only 300 ft. above the sea. It is a scattered little town among coconut palms & various forest trees & bushes. The streets are grassy & muddy & the entire place made up of jacals & mud daubed huts or adobe huts thatched with palm leaves with a little church in the center has a sleepy folorn look. Dogs abound & in the evening troops of boys used to appear in the streets & collecting & shouting.

My horse spider bitten lost hoof & Goldmani's sun struck.

As I was informed these men are taken from jail at night by a guard & sub-officer with orders to take the man to the jail in a neighboring town but the order is so worded that the officer understands & at some convenient point, under pretext that the man is trying to escape he is shot & left where he falls. This practice was once very common throughout the country & we have been in several districts where it is still practiced. One ex-rural said that the order he rec'd in state of Vera Cruz were the simple words "Do your duty" written on a slip & enclosed in an envelope which was handed him at the time he had orders to transport a man there at night.

until 9 or 10 o'clock - a rare thing among Indians. My letters produced a favorable reception after they had been read by the schoolmaster secretary. Here we remained some days getting a good lot of birds & mammals. Deer, peccaries and Dasyproctas being common. Otter were said to occur in the small river but none were taken. On the 3^d of March we returned to Tapachula where we were fortunately able to dispose of our stock at once. Remained at Tapachula from the 4th to 10th waiting for steamer time in order to go to Tehuantepec. While here learned that the new jefe politico who just came in has begun a vigorous policy of suppressing robberies by having the offenders shot. I was informed by the best authority that 3 had been shot within a few days of our arrival & I heard the report of shots at the edge of town while we were there one evening, & the next day heard that another man had been killed. The people of the town in talking of it within my hearing remarked "well he has had one put out on every road leading from town so the thieves have been well warned." A meeting of the planters was called to discuss methods of reforming the labor question & putting it on a more stable basis. A committee was sent to the state capital to consult with the new gov. who is anxious to change the existing laws & state of affairs. Mr. Brewer told me that his foreman had just come

in from a small plantation owned by him
where 10 men were working & announced that
when he got up in the morning he found that every
man had run away & taken with them all
the chickens. These men ~~were~~ ^{were} from 1-⁸300
each. I heard of several such desertions of all the
men from a ranch. Ortega has a large ro-
brought from the state of Guanajuato but they are
inclined to be unruly & troublesome more than
those from this region. While at Chichenas
one day one of these men was seen leaving the
place without permission & men were sent at
once who brought him in while we were at
dinner. The guards were ordered to take him to
jail at a place just above where upon a
crowd of his fellow workmen from the table-land
lined up in the road & ~~refused~~ machete in hand
& refused to allow them to pass while one big
fellow came impudently into the dining room
& holding his machete in an ugly way
gave the people to understand that they would
not allow the man taken away. Finally the
man was locked up here in a jail room
& his companions after striking viciously
at the door several times went back to work
sullenly. Such mutinies were not uncommon
I was told. These workmen are held & guarded like
slaves not being permitted to leave the ranch
without a license. If they are caught off the ranch

without leave they are arrested & sent to jail
& made to work on the streets of the town (Tapachula)
& if they continue to run away they are taken
& forced to enlist as soldiers, a thing they detest.
Many of them run across the line into Guatemala
when they have made all the indebtedness they
can in Chiapas while others run from Guatemala
into Mex. They are a drunken worthless
lot of people without trace of self respect or
idea of honor, and the present system helps this
state of affairs to continue.

On March 10 we hired an ox cart and
loading our baggage on another we started
for San Benito the port for Tapachula 22 m.
away at dusk with a long train of similar
carts ~~even~~ loaded with sacks of coffee.
At midnight the train stopped to rest the oxen
and the men improved the time by stealing
coffee a little from various sacks in a number
of carts. They unsewed the sacks at one corner
& then re-sewed them again. They also rob almost
entire sacks replacing them with coon
& the fraud is not discovered until the coffee
cracks its destination Brown recently lost over
100 sacks thus recently. We expected to
make the trip more comfortably than on horse-
back but the jolting of the heavy springless
cart was very severe & we got very little
sleep on the way. Just at sunrise we reached

the miserable little line of jacales &
2 or 3 warehouses that are strung along the
beach here & from the "Post" although the
place is nothing but an open stretch of
sandy coast & the steamers lie out
a mile or more & receive & discharge
cargo in lighters of which there are two
sets here. Cacti & salt grass along
the sandy dunes with mangrove borders
lagoons just back & a low stretch
of sandy country with scattered groves
of large fan palms (Coccothrinax) make up the
uninteresting shore country here.
A jaguar came along the beach at
night & a few Brown pelicans & many
war birds at sea were the only breaks
to the monotony. On the 13th a great
crowd arrived from Tlapachula to take
the steamer among whom were Rafael
Ortega & family. People crowded the few
available jacales full of cots & ate as
best they could. Here we all remained
awaiting the delayed str. until
On Dec. 21st we took the steamer
& found it over crowded. I was given a
settee in a cabin with 2 others but
slept on deck with numerous others
by preference. When we got aboard
we found Prof. F. Stearns of the Univ.

of Chicago on board. He has just gone through Chiapas to City of Guat. our some of our recent route is now en-route for home. On Mch. 26th we reached Salina Cruz & landed going up to Tehuantepec in the eve.

The landing from the lighters on shore was very amusing to watch. The ladies were brought off decorously in chairs but the men had to mount the bows of the lighters & get astride the neck of one of a swarm of clamoring cargadores. Prof. Starr had his legs each seized by several hands & they began to travel apart alarmingly before he finally recovered possession of them & came riding up the beach on a dragging native. We remained at Tehuantepec for some days getting things needed to complete our series from there.

On April 8th we took a mixed train which landed us at Coatzacoacoas in the P.M. of the 9th. Remained at Coatzacoacoas till the 17th working the vic. & waiting for a boat to Miniatlan. On latter date went up there on a little passenger launch of remarkable make up. The pilot did not know how to steer & the boat yawed wildly & ran into the bank twice besides nearly running down a cañon.

Late in the eve. we reached our destination
& with some trouble found a curious hotel
known as the Birdcage. This is a 3 story
building so tall & slender that it has
been christened thus. Remained here
some days getting a fair set of specs.
This town is on the first knoll by the
river bank above the mouth & was
formerly a noted place for shipping mahogany
& cedar. This has been cleaned up pretty well
and the town is now dead. Several large
substantial 2 story houses scattered
about the town with its broad main street
give hint of the days of its prosperity. In
those days an American named Leech
was the main business man here but
he is dead & the family now represented by
his sons is far from its former status in
wealth. Their house is built on a terrace
backed by the front of the sandhill cut
down. In this only a few yds. from the house
& on the edge of the garden one of the
large Kingfishers has his nest & flies
out & in in great disregard of the people
constantly about. While here the little
golden sloth was brought me alive. It is
a curious, sloth-like creature. A ~~man~~
man also brought in a living porcupine
that had been caught in the back of the

Sharks catching fish in return
wash of small waves along beach in
evening.

telegraph office. April 23^d I was
sick with a slight hemorrhage of lungs
so had to give up a contemplated trip up
the river and sent my assistant. He was
fortunate & returned at night with 11 howling
monkeys. On the 24th I returned to
Coatzacoacoas where Goldman joined me
on the 26th. Many people from the U.S.
are buying small tracts of land on this
part of the Isthmus under the glowing
representations of the land companies as
to the profits of coffee growing. But few
are actually doing anything & many of
the purchasers are likely to regret it as
does a gg. woman from Missouri (Miss
Frontman) who is here now after having
visited her land. Coatzaco. is awaiting
the arrival of harbor works, &c. for a boom
meanwhile it is very dull. Leaving on
the 15th of May we took Ste. Jorke a
Cruz. It was on a Mexican, or rather Spanish
line, & the little vessel was crowded, dirty &
uncomfortable. Most of the passengers slept on
deck. Reached V.C. in the afternoon
of the 16th & left the next am for Orizaba
after a suffocating night. The change
at Orizaba when we arrived before
noon was very agreeable.

While in Mexico had curious evidence
of the antagonistic attitude assumed
by Alf. Herrera of Nat. Mus. to the work
we are doing in the country & afterwards
learned that he is making known his
objections to it characterizing it as a shame
to commit such an amount of killing
as our collection necessitates.

He is making use of the Proc. of the Society
Auto. Algate to issue squibs as well.

On the 18th we went onto City of Mex.
where we arrived in the eve & found
our old Doxaca companion Mr. Fringe
there. He being again at work on the
plants of the country.

May 22nd went to Masquez on Mex.
Cent. R.R. A bleak barren, windy spot
where we slept in the R.R. station office
got but little to eat.

May 26th went to San Juan del
Rio where we stopped over night & went
on again to Celaya, Guan., on the 27th, where
we stayed until the morning of June
1st when we returned to San Juan &
taking stage went out to Jiquisquiapan
in Queretaro a dist. of 13 m. This was
across the same barren rolling country
seen about San Juan. This town has some
opal mines in the vic. but although containing
3 or 4000 people has the usual narrow streets
& stifling air. Some warm springs here
are utilized as baths & give the town a little outside
repute. On June 4th I returned to City
of Mex. where I was rejoined by Goldman
on the 9th June 15th Goldman went to
Tula, Hidalgo where I joined him on the
16th & on the 17th we left for the town of
Silao on the Mex. Cent. R.R.

While at Siloos made a trip to the curious
old city of Guanajuato & its remarkable
catacombs of mummies. These are bodies that
have dried in the wall niches when buried &
at expiration of period of ritual - usually 5 yrs.
they are taken down & if they have not fallen
apart are stood up in a long row along
the walls of the vault. As they fall to pieces
the bones are stacked together at the far end of
the long vault & when a large amount has
accumulated they are taken out & burned.
The town has a peculiar situation in
a deep ^{narrow} basin like valley & the houses
occupy step like terraces on the steep
slopes. The streets are narrow & tortuous
& cobble paved with constant changes
of level rather bewildering at first.
I called on Prof. Alfredo Duges the
French naturalist who has lived here
so many years. He showed me his reptile
collection & later on the museum of the
state college which is of the usual type
of Mex. college collections. The new theatre
here is a building with a fine ^{Grecian} front & handsomely
finished interior. A row of ^{large} bronze statues ornament
the front of the building (allegorical). Cost of theatre
\$600,000. It is to be opened in Sept. It is a
state building & is out of all proportion to the
needs of the town. A similar & even worse waste

of money is done in the San L. Potosi
Opera house of greatest elegance & large
size done with public money while the
town has a perpetual water famine.

Guacaj, was once a wealthy mining centre
but has fallen back very much of late years
in its productiveness. The number of
well made two story buildings show the
signs of old prosperity.

June 23^d. Proceeded along the R.R.
to Lagos, Jalisco. This is a part of the same
valley as at Silao. It was a lively town
before the R.R. was built but the dry seasons
& loss of business have now greatly reduced
the population & the place is very dull tho'
having ~~many~~ ^{some} thousands of people.

Considerable areas in the aggregate are
irrigated here by norias worked both
by horse power & by means of long sweeps.
The latter are scattered everywhere.

July 1st went on to Chicalote
in Aguascalientes where we spent
some days. On the 4th I went into the
city of Aguascalientes returning on the 6th
On the 7th went to Perriozabal, Zac.
Here we found quarters in a small vacant
mud hut belonging to the R.R. & spent
some days. The continuous dry seasons
have reduced the country to a barren desert

+ various small rodents that Goldman found very com. here 3 yrs. ago are now very rare. Cattle & horses are dying of hunger in large nos.

On July 12th left for San Luis Potosí where we arrived on the 14th.

July 15-~~19~~ remained at San Luis attending to various items & on the 21st left San Luis with Geo. B. Whitton & joined by Goldman at La Ventura we got off train at Gomez Janias with letters to man in charge of Hda. de la ~~Encarnacion~~ Encarnacion. After some trouble we hired a mule wagon to take us & our outfit out to the Hda. some 13 miles.

Reached the place in the afternoon & found it in the center of a large dry plain in the midst of a prairie dog town.

On the horizon on all sides loom up barren ranges of dry mountains.

To the SW. of the Hda. rises the sierra de la Encarnacion which is our objective point.

July 23^d with our saddle horses, a baggage cart & several men we finally got started today and reached the base of the mts. where we camped among some stunted cedars & pinones. The next morning we moved camp up a couple of miles farther to be near our hunting

ground much to the discomfort of our
lot of lazy men who grunted & grumbled
but finally went. Found a good camp under
some piñon trees but with no water near
fox springs are very scarce in this
air range which reaches the vicinity
of 10000 ft. alt. has no pine but the piñon
& the oaks & scrubby bushes. In some
of the higher parts of the cañons small
madroños & small Cypress trees occur
but most of the mt. is either covered
with grass, yuccas & penitias or
by a hard, stiff growth of brush & penitias.
I shot a deer & a marten Aug. 9. Blk. bear.
Tracks of bears were very plentiful
in the cañons & about two little springs in
a retired cañon. We watched a spring one
night but the antics of an amusing little
spilogale were all that broke the monotony.
Cedar trees had bark bitten & scratched by
the bears in several cañons. This range
is on border between Zac. & Coch. & is the
extreme southern limit of bears in eastern
Mexico. On the 31st broke camp &
returned to Gomez Janas.

Aug. 12th. Took train to La Ventura
where Goldman & I found a room & remained
until the 10th working the vicinity.
Aug. 11th we left La Ventura & went

to Casuecos where we stayed until
the night of the 14th when I took
train for the U.S.
La Ventura, Gomez Faras & Encarnacion
are in a basin-like valley lying bet.
and mt. ranges. In its bottom is a
large Cynomys "town" which exists
here in isolation from its kind.
In trapping for Cynomys a Mephitis &
a Badger were caught. Speotyto was also
found living in the ^{abandoned} burrows
The sides of this plain on the slopes lead-
ing up to the foothills as well as over all
the more and part of the mt. slopes the
Yuccas are very numerous. About
the foothills they sometimes occur
in veritable forests.

From San Luis Potosi to Laguna sea
the country is that about San Luis with
large cacti (Opuntias) & Agaves but
north of ~~San Luis~~ Laguna sea Yuccas
increase in no & Larrea mex,
with several other desert shrubs
come in from the north. At 6800 ft
at Casuecos there is a snow fall
of several inches at a time during
some of the winter storms. The residents
of this region are suffering from a
long series of dry years & the country

is

is excessively barren in appearance.







