

WONDERS OF MEXICO.

SWEEPING OUT THE DEVIL AND HIS COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

Hydraulic Engineering—A General Day of Resurrection—Immense Cathedral—Etc.

The cathedral at the city of Mexico occupies the south side of the square and the site of the great Aztec temple of Motecuhzoma. It is 500 feet long by 420 wide, and unlike the palace, is of splendid proportions. The style is Gothic, and that it might be as enduring as brass the walls were made several feet thick. A description of its magnificent works of art and expensive fittings would be nothing; sufficient that it is the grandest church edifice in America, and at one time threatened to absorb the wealth of nations as a tribute to the Divine. In the outer wall of this cathedral, near the corner, may be seen the famous calendar-stone of the Aztecs, called the Calendar Stone.

MOTECUHZOMA'S DIAL.

A large circular mass of porphyritic stone, ten feet in diameter. In the center is a human head cut in relief, with the tongue rolling out, and supposed to be in imitation of the stone dial which the Aztecs depicted four circles of hieroglyphic figures for the computation of the division of time. The civil year was divided into eighteen months, each month being divided to each month was added five intercalary days, while the fractions of hours were reckoned at the end of every fifty-two years, and in this way the calendar was kept in exact length to the year, as established by the accurate observations of modern scientists, aided by modern instruments, and the calendar was here again we are confronted with the anomaly of scientific advance straddled with a most sanguinary barbarism. The cycle of fifty-two years was the occasion for propitiating the sun god against extinguishing his fire and light, to which end a noble victim was dragged to the top of a mountain, his tongue cut out, and his body flung upon a roaring bonfire, from which new fires are set blazing all over the country. The priests had a calendar of the stars, and were adepts in astrology, of which they were professors and fully up with the Chaldeans.

THE CALENDAR STONE.

Of which they were the authors, attests the accuracy of their stellar observations. It is to be observed that the calendar stone, as pointed out by the Egyptians, their year commencing on the 26th of February, the same that was fixed for the beginning of the Egyptian year, and the date of the birth of Christ. This wonderful coincidence furnishes another clear case of quiescence in the illumination of which would prove a far greater value than the excavation of buried cities with written histories, such as Troy, Pompeii and Herculaneum. In such a case, the little attention paid to the study of the calendar stone attests a great profusion of Aztec hieroglyphics to be found in the palace museum, is a reflection on our antiquarian usefulness, if not their skill, when one cannot help believing that they were either telegrams bearing upon an important political contest, the mystery would be cleared up by a committee of Congress.

THE CALENDAR STONE.

The origin from which all terrestrial deities can be traced, is found in the figure of Coy, or the first woman, corresponding in her character to the bringing death upon mankind with her mother Eve, and she was worshipped in a part of the temple called Atlantid, revealing a large figure in the earth, and was worshipped by the Aztecs, as symbols of creative power. On her waist-belt was a skull ornament, representing the deity of death, which was supposed to receive the bodies of the dead, and she was the goddess of general resurrection. Many deities were descended from her, and a woman was sacrificed to her annually in a process called the "sacred marriage," a day of mourning and fasting. The old habitations of the gods is observed in the remains at Teotihuacan of two pyramids which were dedicated to the sun and moon, and which were partially destroyed by the Spaniards. One of them contains an apartment supposed to have been designed as a receptacle for sacred ashes.

A RECEPTACLE FOR SACRED ASHES.

Of chief orifice, and on the summit of the larger one, a statue of the sun, with a plate of burnished gold and silver in its breast to reflect the rays of the bright divinity. This statue was destroyed by the Spaniards in the present century by Bishop Zumarraga, whose broom swept cleaner in the destruction of the Aztec monuments than the hand of time. The pyramids of Cholula, which are now to be seen, except where the center of a temple stands, are the remains of a razor-backed hog roots up the head of an Aztec. In 1519, we are informed built this city, framed its religion and molded its idols; but who the Toltecs were, whence they came, and what became of them, only the faintest knowledge is left. A little resting on the ground, the Aztecs of popular legends. Another spot of extraordinary historic interest is the site of the once famous city of Cholula, which was said to contain the bones of the Aztecs. The leading personage who had come to greet him as friends, but as he was led to believe, with a treacherous intent. The ancient canals were destroyed by the Spaniards, and Cortes made a very great mistake in founding the present city on the ruins of the old one. He should have selected a loftier locality, such as might be had about six miles farther west. The problem is the subject of drainage, and it has formed a subject for investigation by the ablest minds in the country. At the time of the conquest, in 1519, the Viceroy attempted the artificial drainage of the lakes by constructing a tunnel, which has been considered one of the greatest feats in hydraulic engineering.

THE FAIR-HAIRED GOND, QUETZALCOATL.

Before referred to, spent twenty years in practicing the penitence of the righteous. The fair-haired gond, a pyramid of feet high, and 1,423 long, and surmounted with his statue, was erected to his honor, and dedicated to his worship. The city was thronged with pilgrims, and the temple of the fair god stained annually with the blood of 6,000 victims. In this city Cortes is said to have met the Viceroy, the leading personage who had come to greet him as friends, but as he was led to believe, with a treacherous intent. The ancient canals were destroyed by the Spaniards, and Cortes made a very great mistake in founding the present city on the ruins of the old one. He should have selected a loftier locality, such as might be had about six miles farther west. The problem is the subject of drainage, and it has formed a subject for investigation by the ablest minds in the country. At the time of the conquest, in 1519, the Viceroy attempted the artificial drainage of the lakes by constructing a tunnel, which has been considered one of the greatest feats in hydraulic engineering.

HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING.

That was ever undertaken. The plan embraced the construction of a gallery through the hills, and the excavation of the lowest of the great mountain wall bounding the valley of Mexico to the north. Enriquez Martinez was detailed to organize and carry out the project. He was a Viceroy applied the first pickaxe and 15,000 Indians followed suit. After eleven months continued labor, during which many Indians perished from the heat, the tunnel, four miles long, eleven and a half feet wide and fourteen feet high, was completed, and the water came rushing through it with a mighty roar. On the 17th of A. D. 1528, but it had hardly begun to flow toward the gulf of Mexico until the canal was found to be too small. Different remedies were tried, various plans for enlarging the canal were discussed, distinguished engineers differed on all these questions, the constant falling of earth was suiting up the gallery, and finally, a new Viceroy ordered the project dropped, and resorted to the old Indian plan of dikes to confine the water to the lakes. Martinez, as the result of his failure, was committed to prison. Years after, miraculously heavy rains falling, the city was inundated and remained flooded for five years, from 1529 to 1534. Much distress followed, many houses tumbled, the valley was shaken by heavy and frequent earthquakes, and the Crown became providentially convinced that

MARTINEZ WAS THE ONLY MAN.

Who could rescue the valley from the elements. He was accordingly set at liberty, with orders to enlarge the tunnel, but in 1537 a new Viceroy put the project in charge of Satia Ferrandiz. He was ordered to abandon the tunnel in favor of an immense cut through the mountain, from 262 to 328

feet wide, with a perpendicular height of from 31 to 164 feet. The monks retained control of the work for forty years, when Martin del Solis, a lawyer, obtained from the court of Madrid the administration of the great project, but he proved incompetent for such a gigantic undertaking. For the completion of the work, constantly obstructed by the falling of loose earth, two centuries would have been required, had not the monks been expelled, and the work proceeded by fits and starts, being pushed with energy in wet seasons and wholly neglected in the driest. Millions of dollars were expended in the chasm from the Spanish treasury. The Government at length hesitated between the cut and the Aztec dike, but the project was not completed until 1783. There are other stupendous works connected with this canal worthy of note, such as the stone dikes between Zumpango and San Cristobal, between the latter and Texcoco, and the great canal which empties the waters of the Guallatlan into the river Tula.—[Correspondent Galveston News.]

A LADY'S DRY STOCKINGS.

"Yes," said a Main street shoe store clerk to an inquisitive customer, a day or two ago, "we see all sorts of socks and stockings in our business, from silk to none at all." "None at all?" "Well, I don't mean that many people come to us here without stockings, but it sometimes happens that naked feet are exposed to our gaze, and women's feet at that." "How does that happen?" "I'll tell you of an instance. One rainy day last week a very stout lady came in here and wanted to get a pair of shoes. After looking her over, and calculating the amount to try on. I unbuttoned her shoe for her and tried to put on the one she had picked out, but, although evidently of the size she wore, it was impossible to put it on. The difficulty was easily seen, her stockings were damp; and I told her that it would be impossible to fit her while she had on her stockings. "Oh, I thought of that," she said, "and provided myself with an extra pair, but at the same time displaying a small parcel she said, 'I told her she had better put them on, and retired to the back of the store to give her a chance. Hearing nothing from her, I went looking for her, and found her sitting there in an awkward predicament. The fact was, she was too fat and too tightly laced to put on her own stockings. Well, sir, it was a singular case to see her in such a predicament, and I was obliged to reach her feet, and the ludicrous sidelong glances she cast around to see if any one was watching her, and the help standing and looking at her for a minute or two, although my duty in the case was clear enough. You see, there was no one else in the store, and she bought them, and then she must have on dry stockings, and it was plain that if she wore dry stockings she would be obliged to put them on. She was sitting. With her exertions and the mortification she felt, her face was the color of a well-boiled lobster, and I have never seen a more beautiful piz than was no faint relief of that kind." "Can I assist you, madam," said I in the politest tone I could muster. "Pull off those stockings and put on this pair, and be quick about it," she ordered, speaking quite savage like.

THE GIRL WHO DEVOTED HERSELF TO THE GALLANTS.

From his pledges, but in answer to his repeated requests gave him some slight hope that at a distant day, if he still remained of the same mind, she might consider a proposal of marriage. The circumstances of the work of breaking and working a farm in a new country was begun. The first year Fannie and her mother had no other way of raising money than their land was under cultivation, and the crops were poor indeed. This year, with the assistance of a boy, they did better. They got more than half of the wheat, and the crop was an exceptionally good one. Besides this, they had a fruitful prospect of raising money in other ways, and derived a small amount from their wheat, on which they had already borrowed money, which had been thrashed about the year, and the machine did not arrive and it remained in the barn near their barn. 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