

THE CITY OF CASTLES.

The Highest Lighthouse on the North American Continent.

BEAUTY, BEAUTY EVERYWHERE.

Music, Palms, Flowers and Birds of Brilliant Plumage—Who's Sonnet Hospitality of the Mexicans.

MEXICO, Nov. 11, 1889.—[Special correspondence of THE HERALD.]—I doubt if anywhere on earth can the traveler find a more beautiful scene than that unfolded in the gradual approach to Mazatlan by sea. First, he discerns three ranges of mountains, rising one behind another, veiled in misty blue and purple, their shadowy shapes faintly mingling with the clouds. Scattered about everywhere in the broad bay are small islands, each

A MOUNTAIN OF SOLID ROCK, rising precipitously out of the waves, from three hundred to one thousand feet in height, but green with verdure from base to summit. On one of them, in which are two immense wave-washed caves, is the highest lighthouse on the North American continent—so near the clouds that the winding road leading thereto in zigzag fashion looks like a tiny thread and the man in charge (who seldom comes down from the airy abode) appeared like a pilgrim when standing in his doorway. The deep caverns in the rocky pyramids from which this remarkable lighthouse stands, show horizontal stripes of dark red in their steep sides—owing to the peculiar geological formation hereabouts. The native fishermen row up into these shadowy recesses, and take the finest hauls in dark and silent places. The lighthouse island, called El Creston, "The Helmet," has a sheer wall on one side straight up from the blue water of 450 feet, and the brightly-glowing star in the tower that surmounts the

WHITE MASS OF SOLID MASONRY on top may be seen by mariners thirty-five miles away. Though so picturesque in a scenic point of view, because of its mountain islands, that do the sea in every direction, the harbor of Mazatlan is by no means a safe one, its only available being the small space between El Creston on the west, and the island of Cleron on the east. Even there vessels are exposed to the sudden and violent storms, that come up from the southward with hardly a moment's warning, sweeping all before them. Sailing vessels are never safe at any season here, and steam ships keep on a full head of beam-sailing power, prepared to weigh anchor at the slightest sign of a squall; yet wrecks are frequent, particularly during the rainy season. Anchored directly under the shadow of the colossal "Helmet," we await the arrival of the commandants of the port, the customs and health officers, and the American consul, after which we are permitted to row ashore.

CLAMBERING UP THE STEPS of an old wharf, and over the long seawall that has been built to protect the streets that reach to the water, we accompanied the gentlemanly consul, Mr. Kilton, through narrow, winding, sandy streets, in a perfect ecstasy of delight at the quaint figures around us, the squalid exterior of the solid, square-fronted houses, through whose open portals we catch glimpses of fairyland, and the warm sweet air after the woman's chilling breezes. Beautiful beauty everywhere! Beautiful women and beautiful children; handsome men and picturesque peasants. Nowhere may one see more artistic dresses, more graceful poses, more perfect blendings of color. The very hicksters in the streets would serve well the palette of an artist, while the city of their forms is a masterpiece of well-wooded hand that accompanies the words makes you feel that the welcome is sincere. The extreme heat of the climate demands high ceilings and expansive rooms. As a rule, the houses in Mazatlan every house forms a hollow square, and in each central court are

EXCELLENT MUSIC EVERYWHERE, as common as the balmy air we breathe, and quite as much expected as a matter of course. Military bands seem to be playing solemnly in the public places, and every afternoon and evening the people promenade to sweet strains of the world's most famous masters, admirably rendered with the best of instruments. And then the interiors of these forbidding-looking houses! No people under the warm, broad rays of the southern sun, which a stormily temperate hospitality, are more thoroughly and wholeheartedly generous in that respect than the Mexican lady and gentleman. You appear at the door of the house, and the "Bueno! Señor!" or "Bueno! Señora!" (this is your honor name), is equally cordial whether you are a friend or stranger; and the low, well-wooded hand that accompanies the words makes you feel that the welcome is sincere. The extreme heat of the climate demands high ceilings and expansive rooms. As a rule, the houses in Mazatlan every house forms a hollow square, and in each central court are

PALMS AND FLOWERS AND BIRDS OF BIL-LIANT PLUMAGE. In one of these, the dark-eyed hostess, whom I had seen for the first time hardly half an hour before, placed me on a bench of rose-tinted roses and pink azaleas, growing beside the corner fountain under the shade of a giant acacia tree. The lofty and spacious apartments, with their tiled floors and barred windows (without glass), are strewn with straw mats woven by native Indians, with straw shades at the casements to keep out the glare of sun, sofas and chairs of cool, clean wicker-work, instead of hot, varnished mahogany, and everywhere are slung bunches of sweet-scented grass, in which are taken the long siestas that here seem to constitute the chief business of life for the upper classes. Mazatlan has a present population of about twenty thousand. Its official title is La Villa de los Castillos.

THE CITY OF CASTLES, but whence it derived the name, no man can tell. The castles of today are mostly of one story, white, painted outside in tints of pale blue, pink, gray or yellow. The city occupies a peninsula, about fifteen hundred feet above sea-level, and is extremely well Garrisoned, well fortified, and protected by a strong fort. It has two big hospitals, one civil, the other military; a board of health, several public schools, and a reading room especially for foreigners. Mazatlan is said to have a larger percentage of foreigners than any other town on the coast of Mexico, the German predominating. There are a number of Englishmen here also, mostly engaged in trade, and large quantities of goods are yearly imported to this place, direct from England. The leading commercial house, that of Harting & Brown, "Britishers" of the first water, has a big warehouse of brick and iron just off the long pier, for the building of which, by the way, they were compelled to obtain

A SPECIAL CONCESSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT, and will be permitted to retain it only a certain number of years. Through the Harting & Brown, built by their own money, at the end of twenty years from the date of the concession, the whole thing becomes the property of the government, which takes upon itself all the expense of the property for allowing foreigners to benefit its poverty-stricken country by bringing into it capital, enterprise and some of the comforts of life. However, judging from the high prices—very justly charged, under the circumstances—Messrs. Harting will doubtless have realized enough from the operation of the concession to enable them to order a carriage in which to drive the square with a hawk, bare headed, white robed driver to point out the objects

of interest; and as his "finger" was mostly Aztec, and even

MY SMALL STOCK OF SPANISH was soon shaken out of me, I was glad to return to the more sensible way of the natives and accomplish my slight seeing on foot. There are horse-cars and gas works in Mazatlan. The great new cathedral is an imposing structure, architecturally, but tawdry and common to the last degree in the matter of decorations, and not nearly so interesting as the neglected old one, which nobody saw visits. The city hall and barracks are both fine buildings; the new hospital is an immense affair; and the custom house—a long new rambling structure near the river—is really beautiful, with its arched corridors of white plastered walls that shine like purest marble. The swarm of oil-lamps and candles all ways congregated about the interior structure, gives evidence of plenty of business.

The business of a sea-port, cargador, besides carrying parcels and packages about the city, includes the loading and unloading of vessels. These of Mazatlan do not burden themselves with unnecessary garments, their costume consisting only of short, WHITE COTTON TROUSERS reaching midway between knee and thigh, a pair of sandals, and a wide sombrero—the wider the better. They frequently dispense with the sandals—which are merely a piece of ox-hide, cut half an inch larger all around than the foot, laced with strips of leather passing between the toes and around the ankles; and sometimes the shirt is also discarded, the man standing, contented in nothing but his hat and the abbreviated breeches aforesaid. Each wears a round cushion upon his shoulders, kept in place by a wide band of leather laid across the forehead, whose tapering ends are fastened to the ends of the cushion. Great quantities of indigo, sugar, rice, etc.—each larger than one would believe a man could lift—are lightly hoisted to these cushions by the cargadores, and carried through the streets to the regular landing of the ships, or from the lighters to the custom house.

The Mexican navy, as seen at this port, is certainly pleasant to look upon, although the handsome black fellows, in suits of dark blue bannel faced with red, are not particularly awe-inspiring. Their chief occupation appears to be in a regular attendance at the great amphitheatre, near the center of the town, wherein are conducted the ever-popular Sunday ball-dights. I noticed that the high adobe walls of this amphitheatre were cracked and in places of broken glass, indicating that the sidewalk "small boys" here as elsewhere, is inclined to see the sights without paying for the privilege.—FANNIE B. WARD.

The sanction of physicians has been accorded to that standard disinfectant Gien's Sulfur Soap. "Hill's Hair and Whisker Dye," black or brown, 50c.

CHRISTIE MURRAY, the novelist, is a very clever artist.

WILLIAM O'BRIEN, M. P., is engaged in writing an Irish political novel.

The late Wilkie Collins seemed to care nothing for the opinions of critics, and never kept a scrap book.

Capt. King, the novelist, has been a gallant soldier, but he says his bank account shows that the pen is mightier than the sword.

For many years Scott wrote in the evening, but later he avoided working at night, and would write from 6 to 12 in the morning.

The health of Lord Tennyson is now completely restored. The aged poet may almost daily be seen frequenting the beautiful drives in the neighborhood of Haslemere, while it is not unusual to see him walking.

B. P. Shillaber, better known as "Mrs. Partington," now lives in Chelsea, one of Boston's many suburbs. He is 74 years of age, and crippled with rheumatism. He walks about the house with a cane, and goes out of doors only in a carriage.

Edgar Fawcett, the novelist, is a small, clean shaven man, with a large head and a deprecatory, almost piteous manner. He is high priest of the Union club, is pathetic on the subject of growing fat, and parts his hair in the middle.

The poet and critic, Richard Henry Stoddard, is no longer the robust man of a few years ago. Few men of equal age have of late years done so much continuous work. The announcement is made that Stoddard will shortly lay aside the critic's scalpel.

Emile de Laveleye, the European publicist, says in the October Forum that a hundred years hence, leaving China out of the question, there will be two colossal powers in the world, beside which Germany, England, France and Italy will be as pigmies.—the United States and Russia.

Prescott, the historian, wrote parts of "Ferdinand and Isabella" and the "Conquest of Mexico," at his house on "Fifteenth Head," Nahant. Annoyed by the exactions of fashionable company, he once said: "How can I escape it, tied like a leech to a stake here? I will devise some way another year, or Nahant shall be naught of mine."

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